Early Paid Fire Departments

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Who were the first fully paid fire departments in America? Here's an interesting list, compiled by a retired Richmond firefighter and obtained while researching historic firehouses in that city. More on that later. I've added Minneapolis, Charlotte, and Wilmington. What about other, bigger NC departments? They formed after the turn of the last century. Asheville, 1924; Durham, 1909; Fayetteville, 1947; Greensboro, 1926; Raleigh, 1912; Rocky Mount, 1938; Winston-Salem, 1923. As for big cities nationally, here's a Wiki page listing cities by population.

City	Date
Cincinnati, OH	4/1/1853
Providence, RI	3/1/1854
St. Louis, MO	9/14/1857
Louisville, KY	6/1/1858
Chicago, IL	8/2/1858
Richmond, VA	10/25/1858
Boston, MA	1859
Memphis, TN	1859
Indianapolis, IN	10/1859
Baltimore, MD	12/1859
Detroit, MI	1860
Nashville, TN	7/24/1860
Dayton, OH	1864
District of Columbia	5/19/1864
Covington, KY	7/7/1864
New York, NY	6/24/1865
San Francisco, CA	4/3/1866
Philadelphia, PA	12/1870
Norfolk, VA	12/15/1871
Minneapolis, MN	7/1879
Denver, CO	12/1880
Tacoma, WA	1880
Charleston, SC	1/1/1882
Atlanta, GA	1882
Spokane, WA	1884
Los Angeles, VA	1/12/1886
Jacksonville, FL	7/15/1886
Charlotte, NC	1887
Evansville, IN	1888
San Diego, CA	8/15/1889
New Orleans, LA	12/15/1891
Salem, OR	1893
Seattle, WA	1894
Houston, TX	1895
Tampa, FL	5/10/1895

Wilmington, NC	1897

Cary 1922
cfd - 07/10/09 - 19:15

That is incorrect. The Cary Fire Department did not hire its first full-time members until the early 1960s. The volunteers were phased out in the early 1980s.
Legeros - 07/11/09 - 12:21

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preferred)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

(Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Small print: All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.