

## Raleigh Apparatus Accident in 1984 (and Some History)

11/06/14 640 W - + 7 - 2

On January 21, 1984, Engine 7 was one of three trucks responding to a reported house fire at 901 Lane Street. As the apparatus was heading west on Oakwood Street at the intersection with Hill Street, it was struck by a passenger car.

Engine 7 had come to a partial stop at the light and "was starting up again" when the northbound 1979 Ford Thunderbird came through the intersection. The vehicles collided and the impact threw Firefighter Phyllis Webb against her jump seat.

Rescue 7 was subsequently dispatched and they transported her to Wake Medical center for treatment of possibly fractured ribs. Reported the Raleigh Times, she was in "satisfactory condition" said a hospital spokesperson.

Damage to the apparatus was minor: left from bumper and headline. The car was badly damaged. As for the fire on Lane Street it was quickly extinguished, noted District Chief Ronnie Atkinson. Cause was a gas stove and damage was minimal.

Chief Atkinson declined to indicate if the apparatus had come to a complete stop, or if the siren was operating at the time of the incident.

### Histories of Accidents

Now for the historical question, how many other apparatus accidents in Raleigh have resulted in firefighter injuries? Let's take a look. (See my [fire department timelines](#) for more detail on each these.)

#### Motor Apparatus

- 2011 - Aug 19 - Engine 2 struck by passenger car while operating on I-40 at Hammond Road. Two firefighters transported with minor injuries.
- 2009 - July 10 - Ladder 4 overturns at Dawson and South streets - Three firefighters transported with minor injuries.
- 1990 - Feb 25 - Engine 5 overturns at Wilmington and Smithfield streets - One aboard, driver with minor injuries.
- 1985 - Jan 20 - Engine 13 versus building at South McDowell and Lenoir streets. Driver transported with minor injuries.
- 1984 - Jan 21 - See above blog post.
- 1982 - Jul 4 - Engine 5 leaves roadway on Pullen Drive near Cates Avenue. Two firefighters transported with minor injuries.
- 1979 - May 31 - Truck 7 collides with automobile at Raleigh Boulevard and Milburnie Road. Two firefighters transported for observation.
- 1952 - Nov 14 - Engine 6 overturns on Brooks Avenue at Lewis Farm Road. Five aboard, three with minor injuries, plus Captain James White with serious injuries, and Driver Vernon Smith with very serious injuries, including leg amputation. He underwent over two dozen operations before succumbing to his injuries on March 10, 1956. He was the first line-of-duty death for the Raleigh Fire Department.
- 1952 - Jul 7 - Engine 6 collides with telephone pole on Beechridge Road near Lochmore Drive. Two firefighters injured. One is treated at hospital. The 1950 Mack is removed from service for repair. The replacement reserve truck is a 1926 American LaFrance pumper that suffers a mechanical failure in November. See above.
- 1951 - Feb 8 - Engine 3 collides with city bus and building. One firefighter transported with minor injuries.
- 1947 - Sep 11 - Squad truck collides with Greyhound bus at Blount and Edenton streets. Two board, both thrown from apparatus. Driver Roy High and Fireman Harold S. Stephenson, both with serious injuries. Both recover but High does not return to active duty, and becomes a veteran dispatcher who serves for two decades until retiring.

#### Horse-Drawn

- 1912 - Dec 21 - Hose wagon collides with street car on Blount Street. Two injured, along with horse. The horse is euthanized.
- 1912 - Nov 12 - Hose wagon accident on South Dawson Street. Firefighter thrown, uninjured.
- 1912 - Jun 10 - Hose wagons collide at Fayetteville and Hargett streets. One firefighter injured.
- 1911 - Dec 30 - Chief buggy accident on Hillsboro Street. Fire Chief and firefighter injured.
- 1911 - Jul 1 - Hose wagon accident on East Davie Street. Firefighter thrown, injured, minor.
- 1910 - Feb 8 - Hose wagon accident at Fayetteville and South streets. Firefighter thrown, injured.
- 1907 - Jan 21 - Hose wagon accident on North East Street. Three firefighters thrown, injured.
- 1903 - Jul 29 - Hose wagon overturns on New Bern Avenue and Person Street. Three firefighters injured.

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Hmmmm. Poor timing with this posting and the news of a Gaston County apparatus accident. Might pull this and repost at a later date.

**Legeros** - 11/06/14 - 20:56

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