

KNIGHTDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT FAMILY TREE

1927

1927
First police officer

KPD



February 7, 1940 Business section burns

At about 2:40 a.m., residents awoke to find the Robertson's General Store on fire. Flames soon spread to two houses, two stores, and a hot dog stand. Townspeople formed a bucket brigade to carry water using every available pot, pan, bucket, or tub. The Raleigh Fire Department sent a pumper that got stuck in the mud on Smithfield Road and didn't arrive until 4:30 a.m. Several buildings were still saved including the post office, a drug store, and a beauty salon.

1940

1950

1954 Knightdale Volunteer FD

KVFD

1956 - First fire station, Hester Street **A**

1959 - Station expanded, third & fourth bay

1960 - FD divided into Town and Rural sections

Though operating as a unified department at fires, KVFD had separate officers for the Town and Rural sections, including separate residency requirements and roles for maintenance and training with respective apparatus. This continued as late as 1985.

1967 - Station expanded, second story

1971 - Station expanded, fifth bay
Fire tax district created

1976 - Station expanded, sixth bay
First utility van
Ladies Auxiliary formed

1980 - Water shuttle system added

The department's two tankers were upgraded for "quick dump" operation, with modifications to the 1973 Ford/Atlas (1400 gallons) and 1976 International (1500 gallons).

1985 - Station expanded, two rear bays + living areas **B**

1987 - Town begins contracting with KVFD

In 1993, disputes over contract talks led town officials to consider alternatives including contracting with a different FD or forming their own department.

1990 - First paid personnel

Two full-time firefighters were added in April 1990 for weekdays, a Firefighter I and the Fire Chief as a Firefighter II. Paid part-time personnel were soon added to supplement staffing.

1991 - First aerial ladder

1996 - Second station, Clifton Road **C**

1997 - First Responder added
Rescue services added

Starting January 1, 1997, KVFD took over the role of rescue services provider from Knightdale Area EMS.

1999 - Second aerial ladder **D**

In 1993, the department's 1991 E-One ladder was traded for a new E-One pumper. Six years later, KVFD added a 1975 Mack/Hamerly/Maxim ladder from Mastic Beach, NY.

2002 - Town ends contract

In the February 2002, town officials voted to sever ties with KVFD. They initiated a plan to create their own fire department; to buy apparatus, hire and train personnel, and convert a Public Works building into a fire station.

2002 Knightdale Public Safety

KPS

Fire Division Created **E**

Public Safety Program started with one full-time firefighter per shift supplemented by police officers as Public Safety Officers, along with a roster of volunteer firefighters and several public works employees with fire training.

2003 - Fire inspections started



Mike Legeros photo

2006
Public Safety Center
Second FF added per shift

After the move to the new Public Safety Center, one engine remained in service at the Public Works facility on Robertson Street, now Station 2.



Mike Legeros photo

2009 - Aerial Ladder Added

2010 - Third FF added per shift

1960



Lee Wilson

1970



David Raynor



KVFD

1980



Lee Wilson



Lee Wilson

1990



Lee Wilson



Lee Wilson

2000

2003 Eastern Wake Fire-Rescue

EWFD

2005 - LODD, Todd Blanchard

2006 - Eastern Wake EMS co-located at Station 1



Mike Legeros photo



Mike Legeros photo

2018 - Rescue-pumper (squad) added.

Chief Guffey to EWFD - 2019

2010

2013 Water Rescue Team added First merger proposal

The first proposal for a merger with the town was presented in April 2013. Discussions ended several months later, with no actions.

Rescue Provider Certification - 2015 **G**

EWFD expanded their rescue capabilities in the mid-2010s, as a NCARAE certified Heavy Rescue Provider, along with added capabilities in Agriculture Rescue and Rope Rescue.

2020

Merged with town
July 1, 2020

KFD

Timeline of merger: Nov. 2017 - Town hires consultant for fire study. Fall 2018 - Study released, includes recommendation of merger with EWFD. Feb. 2019 - Exploratory committee formed with town + EWFD board. Mar. 2019 - Committee begins regular meetings. Jun. 2019 - County joins committee. Jan. 2020 - EWFD members vote to continue merger discussions and seek action date of July 1. Feb. & March 2020 - Public meetings held to receive feedback and answer questions. March & May 2020 - EWFD Board and membership vote to cease operations and merge with town. Jun 2020 - Town enters into agreement with county, for protection of Alert Fire District.

KFD

2012 - First Responder service upgraded to EMT level

2015 - Fourth FF added per shift

2012
Fire and
Police Split



Lee Wilson photo

The town's first reserve pumper was a 1975 Mack, former City of Raleigh, added in 2004.

Fire Chief Loren Cone
2019 to present



Town of Knightdale photo