

# Raleigh Fire Department History – 1792 to 1925

**1792** City of Raleigh created.

**1819** First fire engine purchased; first volunteer fire company formed.

**1843** Second fire engine purchased; second volunteer fire company formed.

**Hand engine** – Hand-pulled & powered pumping engine, first delivered in 1819.

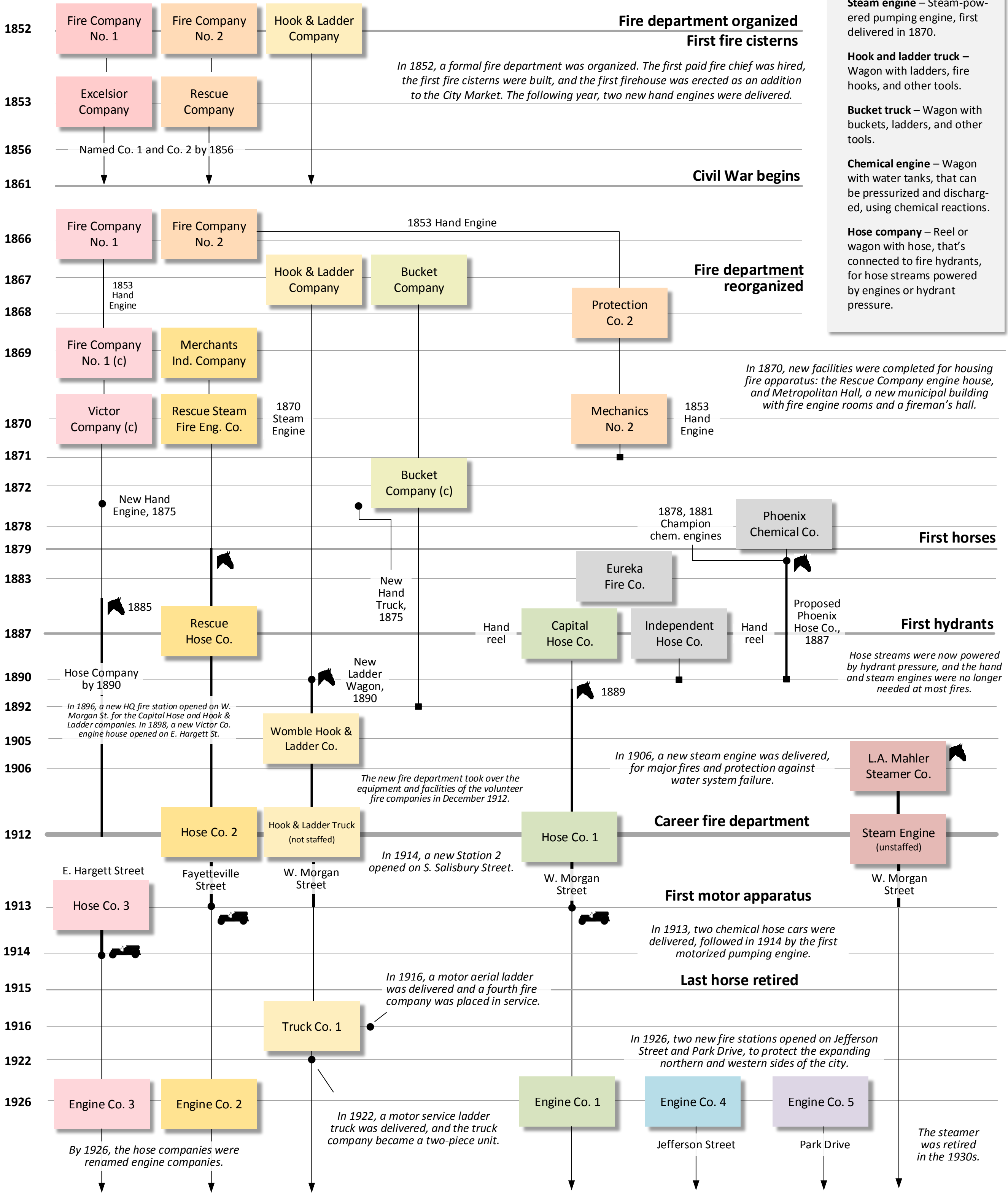
**Steam engine** – Steam-powered pumping engine, first delivered in 1870.

**Hook and ladder truck** – Wagon with ladders, fire hooks, and other tools.

**Bucket truck** – Wagon with buckets, ladders, and other tools.

**Chemical engine** – Wagon with water tanks, that can be pressurized and discharged, using chemical reactions.

**Hose company** – Reel or wagon with hose, that's connected to fire hydrants, for hose streams powered by engines or hydrant pressure.



Notes: The notation (c) indicates a colored fire company. The first fire engine was suggested in 1802. Funds were solicited, but the apparatus was apparently never ordered. The fire companies in 1853 took their names from the two newly delivered engines. Fire company organization during the Civil War is not known. Before the Rescue Company received a dedicated horse team in 1879, they used private horses or the city horses for parades or at some fires. The steamer was hand-pulled for most of the time. In 1888, the first fire alarm boxes were installed. They triggered the city bell housed at Metropolitan Hall.

## Raleigh Fire Department - By Decade

	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<b>Fire Stations</b>	3	5	5	6	7	9	15	18	22	27
<b>Engine Companies</b>	3	5	5	6	8	10	16	19	21	28
<b>Service Ladders</b>		1	1	1	1	2	3			
<b>Aerial Ladders</b>	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	5	8
<b>Rescue Companies</b>					1	2	2	2	2	3
<b>Battalion Chiefs</b>							3	3	3	4
<b>Fire Chief</b>	Horton	Holland	King	Lloyd	Keeter	Keeter	Keith	Pickard	Fowler	McGrath
<b>Personnel</b>	~30	56	51	84	123	196	325	355	431	568
<b>Total Calls</b>	99	458	448	1,050	1,608	2,804	4,326	10,898	24,076	38,151
<b>Starting Salary</b>				\$2,280	\$3,216	\$5,580	\$12,300	\$19,173	\$27,850	\$32,673
<b>Budget</b>	\$37,982	\$93,611	\$90,117	\$192,095	\$576,055	\$1,397,628	\$4,657,414	\$11,859,094	\$22,262,873	\$50,481,355
<b>Square Miles</b>	6.96	7.25	10.88	10.88	33.67	44.93	55.17	91.40	118.71	143.87
<b>Population</b>	24,418	37,379	46,897	65,679	93,931	122,830	150,255	212,092	276,093	403,892

Raleigh Fire Chiefs: Sherwood B. Brockwell (1912-14), Charles D. Farmer (1914-19), Hubert H. Horton (1919-23), Lewis F. Hicks (1923-26), W. Ernest Holland (1926-39), Ellis D. King (1939-41), W. Ralph Butts (1941-47), Alvin B. Lloyd (1947-55), John B. Keeter (1955-73), Clarence R. Puryear (1973-74), Rufus E. Keith (1974-82), Thomas T. Kuster (1983-86), Sherman A. Pickard (1986-95), Jonny B. Sandy (1995-99), Earl F. Fowler (1999-2005), John T. McGrath (2006-present).

## Raleigh Fire Department Today

Fire Stations	28	Personnel	609
Engine Companies	29	Total Calls (2015)	39,145
Rescue Engine (Squad) Companies	2	Starting Salary	\$32,673
Ladder Companies	9	Budget	\$56,926,303
Rescue Companies	1	Square Miles	146.00
Battalion Chiefs	5	Population (2015)	439,896
Fire Chief	John T. McGrath	Historian	Mike Legeros