

The Command Post

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Station 23 Grand Opening



Contributed by Brittanye Gyce and Captain Warren Robinson
Photo contributed by Tim Sittler

The Little Rock Fire Department has come a long way from its humble start of using a steam-operated fire engine that weighed over 5000 pounds and required 50 men to pull it to structure fires. Accommodations had to be made for the horses used to pull the engine to the fires before they switched to engine-powered units. In a report from 1899 directed to the mayor and city counsel, it stated that, "Little Rock should be proud of its fire department...it has met victory after victory."

Fire Engine Red

In 2012, Whiffle Powder Productions, a local film group, created a short film dedicated to the men and women of the Little Rock Fire Department. The film was a part of the 48-Hour Film Project, Inc. This company tours cities around the world, giving local film makers the opportunity to gain exposure by creating a short film within 48 hours. Parts of Fire Engine Red were shot at Central Fire Station. The film competed with several other films and led for quite some time in online votes. According to www.48hourfilm.com, Fire Engine Red was the winner of the 2nd Chance Competition and will be aired at the Filmopalooza in Los Angeles in March 2013. Special thanks to Whiffle Powder Productions for choosing to dedicate this film to the LRFD. We congratulate them on their success and wish them the best of luck in Los Angeles.

To view Fire Engine Red visit, www.cinema48.com.

Even in this day, it can still be said that the LRFD has met victory after victory. After much anticipation, the Little Rock Fire Department opened its newest Fire Station, Fire Station 23 on Monday, December 10th. Construction of the new station took approximately 12 months to complete. Station 23, which is located at the intersection of Taylor Loop and Rahling Road, will help the LRFD increase its coverage of the expanding west Little Rock area. The station is approximately 8000 square feet and houses Engine 23 and Brush Truck 23, the Department's first and only brush truck. Amenities of the new fire station include a training room which is available for citizens to use for community meetings, and a foyer with a water fountain and restroom that is accessible to citizens from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Since its opening, Station 23 has had over 200 responses.

The opening of Station 23 illustrates that the Little Rock Fire Department continues to evolve and move forward. Photos of Station 23's interior and the grand opening can be viewed on page 8.

From the Fire Chief



2012 in Review

We have experienced enormous success this year, and each of you should be proud of the contributions that were made in these accomplishments. The African proverb “it takes a village to raise a child” can be attributed to our success as a Fire Department. It takes all of us working together to make this fire

department not only the best in the State of Arkansas, but one of the best in the country. The following list represents the accomplishments we have made in 2012:

- Our apparatus committees did an outstanding job in the designing and specifications process of three new 1500 gallons per minute E-One pumpers and one 100-ft E-One aerial truck. Your efforts were awesome!
- The Training Division continues to enhance our capabilities of being able to provide the best training for our personnel. In 2012, we purchased a Drager Flashover Simulator, and through grant funding we were able to purchase a Doron Driving Simulator. Additionally, the members of the Training Division, with the guidance of Captain Steve White, designed an enhanced two-story Class A burn building.
- Improved greatly on working relations through a collaborative effort by Labor and Management in forming an active Labor/Management Committee.
- Improved upon our professional development opportunities by sending more Chief Officers and Company Officers to the National Fire Academy. All of our Chief Officers have attended at least one course at the NFA, and some have attended more than one.
- Placed into service our first ever Brush Truck and John Deere XUV, providing our firefighters with off-road capability to extinguish and control brush fires.
- Graduated 13 recruits
- Dramatically improved our Arson Arrest Rate and Clearance Rate
- Implemented our Targeted Community Disaster Preparedness Program for the Elderly. We have available Blackout Box Safety Kits for distribution in case thunderstorms, tornadoes and power outages. The kits consist of a weather band radio, First Aid kit and flashlight.
- Implemented our grant-funded Fire Corps Program for Home: Safe and Sound, whereby sixteen community volunteers assist the Fire Department by conducting home inspections, fire safety presentations in schools and installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Successfully partnered with the Little Rock School District to take the initial steps to implement Little Rock’s own Fire Cadet Program, designed for students attending Little Rock Schools who demonstrate an interest in a career as a Firefighter/EMT.
- Opened Fire Station 23, Little Rock’s first new fire station since 1992. Located in west Little Rock, this station will help reduce response times in the western corridor of the city.

When we look back over all that we have accomplished it is clear and concise that “we” together can make this the best fire department in the country. Thanks for all that you do for this organization and the citizens we serve. As we embark on 2013, I know that our dedication, professionalism and commitment to excellence will once again shine even brighter this year.

Operationally Speaking

Contributed by Assistant Fire Chief Doug Coney



I recently attended a Post Incident Analysis of an apartment fire that injured two of our members. Although their injuries were somewhat minor, we still had members injured and it possibly could have been avoided. I remind each of you to continue to watch out for each other and use a risk vs.

benefit model to determine if the is the risk really worth the benefit. I can appreciate aggressive firefighting; sometimes that is what has to be done to cut off a fire and prevent further damage. However, it should never be done at the cost of injuring any of our members. I am in no way suggesting that is what has occurred or will occur in the future, just a simple reminder that the expectation is that "Everyone Goes Home"!

Recently, we placed in service three new Top-Mount E-ONE engines and one new HP-100 E-ONE aerial truck. All of these units combined, cost the city a little over two million dollars. The new engines are equipped with a 1500 GPM 2-stage waterous pump, 720 gallon water tank, and 30 gallons each of Class A and Class B foam. They have a lower hose bed, 3-speedlays and a front bumper lay. Preliminary indications from the crews are that they are pleased with the new design! A special thanks to the members of the aerial and engine committees as well as Fleet Services for the long hard work in designing the new apparatus.

We also placed into service a John Deere XUV equipped with a tank and pump to assist with brush/woods fires in areas that cannot be reached by our regular apparatus. Brush Truck 23 will assist us with providing much needed wild land interface capabilities.

We are now in discussions with Fleet on our 2013 purchases and have asked that the city consider another short-term financing note to help the Department with the replacement of apparatus. We are asking for another aerial, three engines and a Heavy Rescue for 2013 and will continue to lobby for funding to address our concerns.

I would like to thank each of you for your continued hard work and dedication to our citizens.

Driver Simulator

Contributed by Captain McKinley Davis

Yes, it's about time to hit the road. The Training Division is about to put your driving skills to the test. We will be introducing our newly acquired Driving Simulator to the entire department. This simulator will challenge all of your skills. It will test your driving, vision, reflexes, muscles, and of course your stomach. So be ready when you are called upon to perform.



Flashover Training

Contributed by Captain McKinley Davis

What is flashover? Flashover is a sudden event that occurs when all the contents in a container or room reach their ignition temperature nearly simultaneously. Our flashover simulator allows firefighters a chance to witness an actual flashover occurrence. We also have the capabilities of creating these occurrences back-to-back. Students are briefed on potential flashover signs and symptoms beforehand. There are four main elements to look for when witnessing a potential flashover. They are (1) high intense heat, (2) thick heavy smoke, (3) fire fingers developing, and ultimately (4) free burning fire.



NFA Review

Contributed by Captain Michael Doan

This National Fire Academy Training Report serves as an accounting and review of my recent and first experience at the National Fire Academy at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Indeed, this occasion will always remain one of my more memorable professional debuts. I would like to add that the town of Emmitsburg truly caters to the men and women of the fire service. The family-owned restaurants and other places of interest were more than friendly, and the merchants and their assistants went far beyond the standards of customer care to make us feel at home.

Category Protocol

The class I attended was titled “Command and Control of Incident Operations.” The six-day course was an introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) and proper fire command techniques for control and extinguishment of fires ranging from small, residential structures to multi-occupancy, commercial complexes. Highly structured, as one would imagine, the protocol for the six-day program progressed as follows:

- Problem-Solving and Fire Command
- Interagency and Mutual Aid
- ICS, Incident Management
- Size-Up and Strategy
- Tactics and Action Plans
- Truck Company Operations
- Engine Company Operations
- Building Construction and Fire Behavior
- Pre-Incident Preparation
- Incident Organization
- Strategic Command

Special emphasis was placed on firefighter safety.

Introductions

The first two days of the course included introductions of the students and instructors, in order to

learn more about the individual departments represented by class attendees. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation that addressed the above subjects.

Simulations

The final four days of class were spent in the simulation labs on the campus. Individuals were each given roles ranging from a company officer on an engine or truck company to battalion or deputy chief. The roles changed after the completion of each simulation. After reviewing the pre-incident data and plot plans for the structure, and viewing a 360 video loop of the structure on fire, the first in command role players developed a quick action plan and subsequently the simulation began. Units being dispatched and arriving on scene were also simulations.

ICS Organizational Chart

The ICS Organizational Chart was filled out according to the assignments and growth of the incident. The decisions and actions taken by the role players in command determined how quickly the fire was extinguished and how much property and/or lives were saved. In all, 13 simulations were covered, beginning with a small two-story residential structure, and progressing to a grand finale of a chemical plant. Of course, at the conclusion of each emergency, we had a post-incident debriefing. This allowed us to discuss the decisions made, and what each of the students and instructors felt could have been improved upon.

Decision-Making/ICS Benefits

All of these simulations and role playing modules provided students an opportunity to practice decision-making, and to explore the benefits of ICS on small and large scale incidents. Logically, we were able to observe how the benefits of ICS could be applied to our own organizations. Remarkably, the personal benefits I derived from the class were

NFA Review "continued"

Contributed by Captain Michael Doan

indispensable. In this regard, I believe it would be accurate and safe to say that the ICS simulations have given me essential experience in command and control of emergency incidents that would have otherwise taken years to acquire.

Social Atmosphere

In addition to the time spent in the classroom, there was an abundance of knowledge gained from the social atmosphere of the Academy. The interactions and information-sharing in the Command Post Pub on campus were equally as informative as the knowledge obtained from the classroom. The week-long class was similar to a short fire recruit school, and there was definitively a strong bond of goodwill formed among the students.

Conclusion

One thing is for sure, after being in the presence of

hundreds of firefighters representing departments across the nation, and of all ranks and experience, I am proud to be a Little Rock Firefighter. Although Emmitsburg, MD is the home of the National Fire Academy at the National Emergency Training Center, at no time were there any apprehensions or reservations regarding the caliber and quality of the Little Rock Fire Department. In fact, more times than not, I felt as though I represented a more progressive and advanced department than those of my peers, considering the stereotypical image of Arkansas being a "small rural state."

I strongly encourage all members to take advantage of such a wonderful opportunity and resource that the Little Rock Fire Department has made available to us. It will recharge your desire to master our profession of firefighting, and you will be even more proud to be a member of the Little Rock Fire Department.

Recruit Graduation

The graduation ceremony for the Recruit Class of 2012 was held on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at the Statehouse Convention center in the Wally Allen Ballroom. Several recruits were honored for their outstanding achievements during recruit school. PFF Joey Baldwin was awarded the Outstanding Physical Fitness Award; PFF Lee Brandon was awarded the Outstanding EMT Award. PFF Stuart Swearingen was awarded both the Outstanding FF Award and the Overall Recruit Award; and PFF Emily Kennedy and PFF James Joy were awarded the Chief's Challenge Award. All of their hard work and diligence has paid off, and the recruits were placed on company as Probationary Firefighters on Monday, December 10th. Congratulations to the Recruit Class of 2012!

Recruit Class of 2012

Edwin Harris	Brennan Duke
Kenneth Rappold	Jesse Shelton
Stuart Swearingen	Dwight Stegall
Anthony Natali II	Ashley Coleman
Emily Kennedy	Willie Joe White
Benjamin Hammond III	Joey Baldwin
James Joy	Zachary Williams



Promotions



**Captain
Charles Austin**
Promoted to Captain
on August 21, 2012



**Captain
Timothy Dudley**
Promoted to Captain
on October 2, 2012



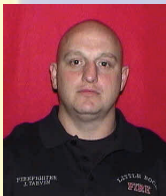
**Captain
Jason Ashmead**
Promoted to Captain
on December 6, 2012



**Captain
Brad Jones**
Promoted to Captain
on December 6, 2012



**Captain
Johnny Hill**
Promoted to Captain
on December 6, 2012



**FAE
Jerald Tarvin**
Promoted to Engineer
on August 22, 2012



**FAE
Jay Meeks**
Promoted to Engineer
on September 17, 2012



**FAE
Kenneth Golden**
Promoted to Engineer
on October 4, 2012



**FAE
Franklin Livingston**
Promoted to Engineer
on November 1, 2012



**FAE
George Rappold**
Promoted to Engineer
on December 6, 2012



**FAE
David Wilson, Jr.**
Promoted to Engineer
on December 6, 2012



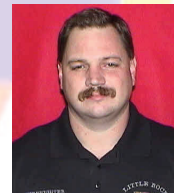
**FAE
Rodney Rickett**
Promoted to Engineer
on December 6, 2012



**FAE
Frederick Newman**
Promoted to Engineer
on December 6, 2012



**FAE
Nathan Travis**
Promoted to Engineer
on December 6, 2012



**FAE
Marcus B. Steele**
Promoted to Engineer
on December 13, 2012

Retirements



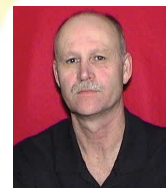
**Captain
Kenneth Grumbine**
Retired on
August 10, 2012
after 30 years of service



**Captain
Hugh Alan Ford**
Retired on
October 24, 2012
after 32.5 years of service



**Captain
Ricky Fay New**
Retired on
October 1, 2012
after 36 years of service



**Engineer
Randall Moore**
Retired on
September 15, 2012
after 26.5 years of service

New Apparatus

Contributed by Captain Danny Smith, Captain Mike Johnson and FF Bo Hagar

In 2007, the Little Rock Fire Department saw its first round of newer apparatus under the Kerr Administration, with a fleet of seven new Pierce Contender Engines. The Department is now progressing a step farther under the Summers Administration, with a fleet of top-of-the-line E-ONE apparatus. The Department first saw this new fleet hit the streets when the Truck 9 crew stepped aboard their new E-ONE, 100-ft Aerial back in 2009.

"We've had Truck-9 since June 2009. The first month we had it we had several fires and extrications. We really liked the sharp turning radius and the ease of setup."-Capt. M. Johnson

The streets of downtown, west, and southwest Little Rock are all being protected by a newer, bigger, louder, better fleet of E-ONE Fire Apparatus. Engines 1, 8, and 9 started off the New Year with their 2012 E-ONE Cyclone Fire Engines.

"Some of the new features include: top mount pump

controls, speed lays instead of cross lays, greater on-scene lighting, electrical deck-gun operations and control, greater storage, vehicle stability control, and cleaner diesel exhaust system. So far, the ride, handling, power and pumping abilities have been everything one could ask for. Sometimes, change is good..."-Capt. D. Smith

Station 11 now houses the newest of the Department's Ladder Trucks. Truck 11 upgraded to a 2012 E-ONE, 100-ft Aerial Truck. The new truck offers better maneuvering, lighting, electric nozzle controlled from the turntable, as well as numerous other benefits.

With the opening of Station 23, we have placed in service the new John Deere XUV 4x4 that can be dispatched to woods or large brush fires. This unit is equipped with a high-pressure skid unit that holds 75 gallons of water and 5 gallons of Class A foam. It will flow at 1400 psi through a high pressure wand. This will be very beneficial in the dry summer months.



Above (left to right): Photos of all five (5) new E-One apparatus that were recently purchased and its B-Shift crews. Below: The new Brush Truck 23. Photos provided by Capt. W. Robinson and FF M. Witherspoon



Did You Know?

According to our NFIRS system, the Little Rock Fire Department had approximately 26,791 responses in 2012.

The Fire Prevention and Community Outreach Division conducted over 500 fire prevention programs in 2012.

As a result of the snow storm that swept the Little Rock area on Christmas Day, the LRFD responded to 925 calls from December 25th through December 30, 2012. Calls ranged from power lines down, structure fires and numerous EMS calls.

Station 23 Grand Opening Photos



From left to right (top to bottom): A view of the Training Room, the lounge/TV area, the dining area and the kitchen area.



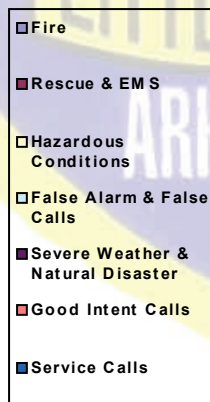
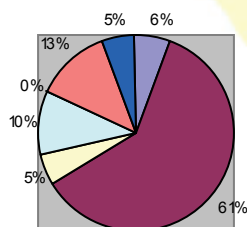
Above: The Firefighters of Sta. 23 uncoupling the hoses for the official opening.
Below: Firefighters pushing Engine 23 into its new home.

2012 Annual Statistics

Total Company Responses for 2012

Engine 15	3031	Engine 6	2162	Engine 18	1584	Engine 10	1189	Hazmat 11	411
Engine 7	2719	Engine 17	2158	Engine 12	1564	Truck 9	1111	Truck 4	288
Engine 3	2687	Engine 11	2101	Truck 1	1558	Engine 21	1062	Red Ball 1	122
Engine 9	2528	Engine 14	2044	Engine 16	1549	Truck 11	932	Engine 23	113
Engine 8	2523	Engine 19	1991	Engine 20	1541	Truck 18	634	Red Ball 3	37
Engine 1	2455	Truck 7	1891	Engine 13	1463	Engine 4	484	Red Ball 2	34
Engine 2	2348	Rescue 2	1749	Truck 15	1402	Truck 21	462	Red Ball 4	17

Summary of Incident Types 2012



Battalion Chief Responses 2012

