

## Comparing the Biggest Fires in Raleigh

Work in progress. Base criteria is within city limits, which excludes suburban/county fires during early decades. Also omits great fires in the small towns of Wake County. Considering adding columns for comparisons of...

- Total personnel
- Total buildings affected
- Length of suppression
- Others?

Alarms	Lines	Date	Address	Occupancy		Square Footage (total structure / burned)	Loss	Exposures / Notes	Alarm Level at the time were...
6	N/A	3/16/2017	400 N. Street	Metropolitan Apartments		274,959 / ?	TBD	Ten other buildings damaged; 270+ residents displaced	1 – 4E, 2L, 1R 2 – 4E, 2L 3 – 3E 4 – 3E 5 – 3E
6	N/A	2/22/2007	3535 Oneonta Avenue	Pine Knoll Townes		~62,700 <sup>1</sup> / ?	\$4M+	32 homes serious damaged/destroyed, 29 families, 72 people displaced	1 – 4E, 1L, 1R 2 – 3E, 1L, 1R 3 – 3E, 1L, 1R 4 – 3E, 1L 5 – 3E, 1L

<sup>1</sup> Each four-unit building averaged 5,700 square-feet. Total estimate based on 5,700 x 11.

Alarms	Lines	Date	Address	Occupancy		Square Footage (total structure / burned)	Loss	Exposures / Notes	Alarm Level at the time were...
5	N/A	6/24/1970	122 E. Hargett	Peebles Hotel		~12,000 / ?	\$110,220	3rd floor destroyed, smoke/water extensively damages rest	1 – 2E, 1T, 1R 2 - ? 3 - ? 4 - ?
4 <sup>2</sup>	N/A	3/4/1959	2516 Hillsboro Street	Manmur Bowling Center		~18,225 / same?	\$1M+	Church, homes, residents wet roofs with hoses	1 – 2E, 1T ? 2 – 2E, 1T ? 3 – 2E ? 4 – 2E ? 5 – 2E ?
4	N/A	2/19/2011	Falls of Neuse near Garden Hill Drive	Wakefield Plantation Golf Course		n/a – golf course		Many, but not (?) damaged	1 – 3E, 1L, 1R 2 – 3E, 1L, 1R 3 – 3E, 1L, 1R 4 – 3E, 1L
4	N/A	1/23/1991	118 E. South	Meserve Hall, Shaw University		~9,600 / ?		Two top floors gutted	1 – 2E, 1T, 1R 2 – 2E, 1T, 1R 3 – 2E, 1T 4 – 2E, 1T
4	N/A	3/18/1990	316 Fayetteville Street Mall	Wake County Courthouse		276,300 / couple rooms		No exposures	1 – 2E, 1T, 1R 2 – 2E, 1T, 1R 3 – 2E, 1T 4 – 2E, 1T

<sup>2</sup> Chief Keeter told the newspaper that the blaze “could be termed a four-alarm blaze.”

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4	N/A	7/7/1981	120 Fayetteville Street Mall	Mangel Building		24,940 / same	\$418,000	Many with smoke damage, most opened next day	1 – 2E, 1T 2 – 2E, 1T 3 - ? 4 - ? 5 - ?

Are there other 4+ alarm blazes not listed here? Could be a couple of the known larger ones, from the 1950s or 1960s, that haven't yet been identified/classified as multi-alarm.

What about three-alarm fires, that involving large structures, large volumes of fire, loss large loss, should some of those be added here? Or non-alarm categorized fires, such as with county mutual aid? Yes, probably.

They include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1964 - 301 W. Martin - Warren's Restaurant - 3</li> <li>1965 - 1018 E. Davie - Lucille Hunter School - 3</li> <li>1970 - 2815 North - Holiday Inn North restaurant - 3</li> <li>1971 - 100 W. Martin - Andrew Johnson Hotel Annex – 3 30 FFs</li> <li>1976 - 500 Glenwood - Pine State Creamery – 3 ~33,000 square-feet (very rough)</li> <li>1980 - 215 S. McDowell - News &amp; Observer building – 3 \$4M damages. 45 FFs</li> <li>1980 - 424 S. McDowell - Hunt General Tire – 3 \$700K+ losses, 10,000 tires, 4E, 2T, 2R, 50+ FFs</li> <li><b>1984 – 112 W. Lane – Howard Building – 3 Nearly 100 FFs, six hour fire</b></li> <li>1986 – 1021 Raleigh Blvd – Apts – 3</li> <li>1988 – 2014 - Fairview - Piggly Wiggly - 3 alarms</li> <li>1988 - Fairview - Hayes Barton Cleaners – 3</li> <li>1989 – 3153 Kings Ct – Apts - 3 6E, 3T. 33 FFs. Four units gutted.</li> <li>1990 – Crab Orchard</li> <li>1990 – 3705 Edwards Mill – 3 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm for manpower</li> <li>1991 – 550 W. Cabarrus – Clancy &amp; Theys – 3 (MJL there on E5) Battle blaze for more than 2 hours</li> <li>1991 – 3939 Wake Forest - Montecito Apts – 3 12 units involved, 4 destroyed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1992 - 6205 Waterside – Condos – 3 Controlled in 20 min.</li> <li>1992 - 600 S. Bloodworth - Institute for Cosmetology Building – 3 Controlled in 3 hours. 40 FFs.</li> <li>1992 - 206 Loft Ln - Apts - 3</li> <li>1992 - 718 N. Person - IGA Grocery – 3 Hours to control.</li> <li>1993 - 3911 Beryl - Martin Architectural Building Products – 3 105 min to control</li> <li>1993 - 1300 Kirkland - Business – 3 Plus grass fires</li> <li>1993 - 435 Daniels – Bryan Building – 3 Plus recruits</li> <li>1993 - 3114-3118 Avent Ferry Road - Gorman Crossings Apts – 3 Six of eight units destroyed. 103 heat index</li> <li>1993 - 750 Bashford – Bashford Place Apts - 3</li> <li>1994 - Crown Court - Crown Court Apts - 3</li> <li>1994 - 1600 S. Saunders - Caraleigh Furniture Warehouse – 3 Controlled in 60 min. 40 FFs.</li> <li>1996 - 4004 Twickenham - Village of Pickwick Apts – 3 12 units involved, incl. 9 destroyed.</li> <li>1998 - 5045 Falls of Neuse - Quail Corners Shopping Center – 3 Controlled in two hours</li> <li>1999 - 601 Creekside Drive - Auto Dealer - 3</li> <li>2000 – 2423 Wycliff Road - Meredith Village Apts – 3 Damage \$500K</li> <li>2002 - 115 Salem Circle - North Hills Terrace Apts – 3</li> <li>2002 – 111 Friendly Drive – University Towers - 3 High-rise fire, contained to one room. Limited damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2003 - 2815 Capital Boulevard - Old Holiday Inn – 3 Confined to two-story addition</li> <li>2003 - 201 Penmarc Drive – Warehouse – 3 Over \$300K damage</li> <li>2004 - 3101 Kings Court – Apts – 3 Heat index of 100, lots of manpower needed</li> <li>2004 - 214 E. Martin Street - Greenshields Pub – 3 Built 1914, controlled in 60 min</li> <li>2004 - 1400 Diggs Drive – Commercial/storage - 3</li> <li>2006 - 2200 Banks Hill Row – Apts – 3 2 story, 4 unit building</li> <li>2006 – 544 Rose Lane – House – 3 1 story, well-involved, one fatal, two rescued</li> <li>2007 - 3833 Bonneville Court – Apts – 3 3 story, 11,898 sq. feet, 120 min to control</li> <li>2007 – 4708 Fargo Court – House - 3</li> <li>2007 - 1201 Trillium Circle – Apts – 3 21 residents displaced, six units damaged</li> <li>2007 - 6904 River Run – Apts – 3 75 FFs, 12 units involved, 60 min to contain</li> <li>2008 – 11705 Dellcain Court – House – 3 Exposures on either side. 90 min to control</li> <li>2008 - 1022 Hammel Drive – Warehouse – 3 10E, 4L, 3R – 31,634 sq. feet</li> <li><b>2010 – 2860 Armadale Lane – Houses – 3 12 E, 3L, 2R, 80 FFs. 8 hydrants. 7 homes involved.</b></li> </ul>
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Alarms	Lines	Date	Address	Occupancy		Square Footage (total structure / burned)	Loss	Exposures / Notes	Alarm Level at the time were...
N/A	15	4/10/1926	Dix Hill	Insane Asylum		~86,400 <sup>3</sup> / half?			N/A
N/A	15	7/3/1928	300 block Fayetteville Street	Yarborough Hotel		46,500 / most			N/A
N/A	9	2/17/1926	227 S. Salisbury	Commercial Printing Company					N/A
N/A	9	12/17/1931	321 S. Blount	Sanders Motor Co.					N/A
N/A	9	3/23/1939	235 Fayetteville Street	Ammon's Clothing Store					N/A
N/A	9	3/3/1952	118 E. Davie	K&W Motor		~24,000 / all		Two bldgs., 29 autos	N/A
N/A	8	7/15/1925	215 Fayetteville Street	Almo Theater		~20,000 (very rough)			N/A
N/A	8	4/18/1927	112 W. Hargett	Store					N/A
N/A	8	3/25/1935	210 Fayetteville Street	Efird's Department Store			\$250,000	Called largest fire since City Auditorium blaze in 1930	N/A
N/A	8	1/26/1943	108 E. Martin	Quinn Furniture		~18000/?			N/A

<sup>3</sup> Square footage of main building, each wing, each wing annex. Not counting buildings/spaces adjoining main building, and adjoining annexes.

Alarms	Lines	Date	Address	Occupancy		Square Footage (total structure / burned)	Loss	Exposures / Notes	Alarm Level at the time were...
N/A	8	12/28/1943	239 S. Wilmington	Bellas-Hess Clothing Store		~11,700 / ?			
N/A	8	11/18/1948	324 S. Blount	Graphic Press Incorporated			\$100,000		N/A
N/A	8	3/23/1952	416 Hillsboro	A&P Store		~8,800 <sup>4</sup> / all?		Five fire companies	N/A
<p>Are there other fires with 8+ lines? Could be, since fire records with lines used are only available beginning in the 1920s. What about 7 line fires or such? They include...</p> <p>1930 – City Auditorium – 1-19 E. Davie - ~23400 square-feet (very rough)  1948 – Coca-Cola plant – 511 W. Morgan - ~19,600 square-feet.</p>									
N/A	N/A	1816	Fayetteville Street, first two blocks	Various					N/A
N/A	N/A	1832	Fayetteville Street, started on east side	Various					N/A
N/A	N/A	1832	Fayetteville Street	Various					N/A
N/A	N/A	1832	Fayetteville Street, east side	Various					N/A

<sup>4</sup> Square footage based on 1950 Sanborn Map, for one-story unidentified building on NW corner.

Alarms	Lines	Date	Address	Occupancy		Square Footage (total structure / burned)	Loss	Exposures / Notes	Alarm Level at the time were...
N/A	N/A	1851	Fayetteville, Wilmington, Hargett	Various			\$20-\$30K	Remaining wood buildings on block ordered removed, due to new city ordinance enacted day after fire	N/A
Note these are multi-building conflagrations. Not listing individual structure fires of note, notably the State Capitol in 1831.									