

Metropolitan Fire Research

Last updated: June 6, 2017

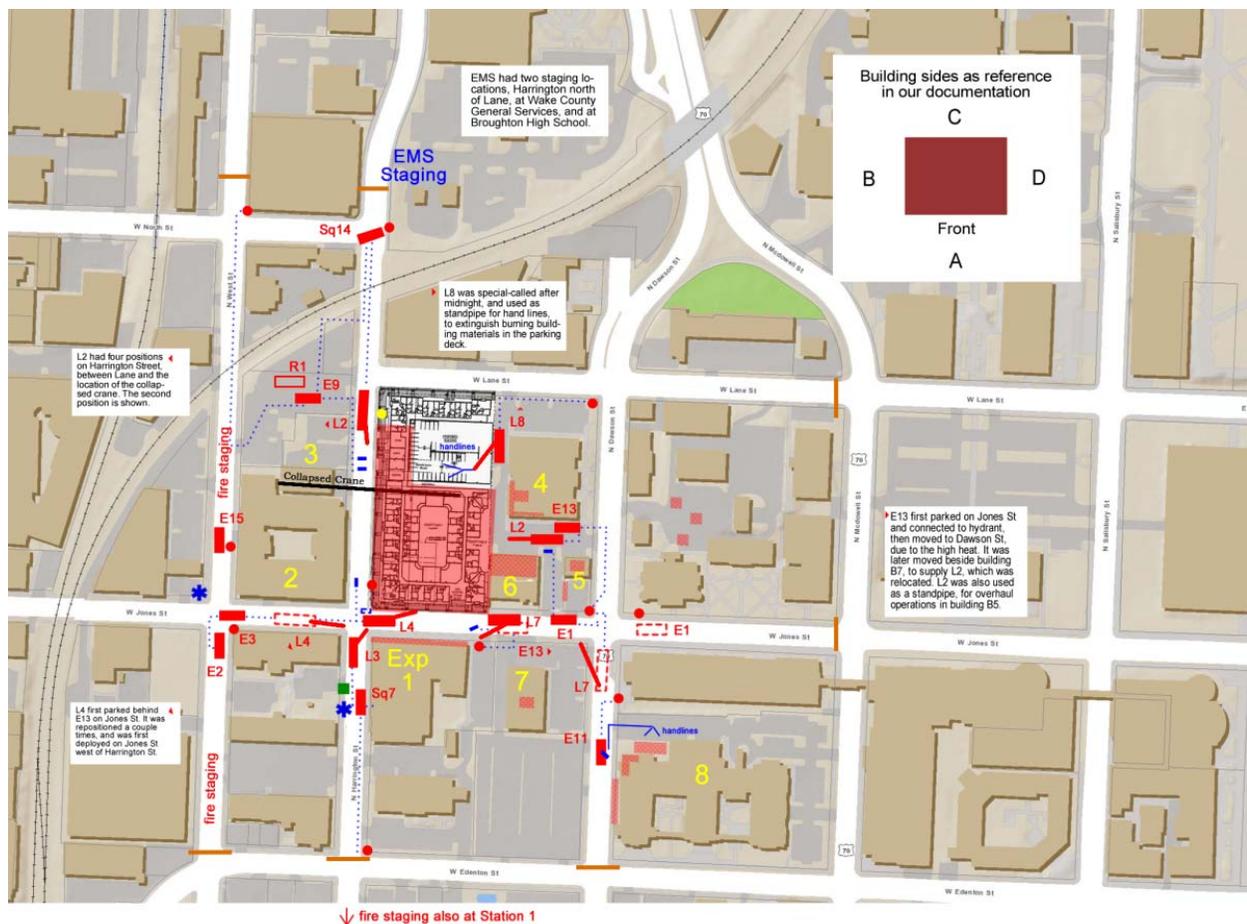
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Updates

- April 2 - Still updating details of the fire and aftermath. Need to create a short version/summary as well, across the first few days of the fire.
- March 30 - Incorporate details of the fire and aftermath, from parsing the numerous news stories.
- March 22 - WNCN news links added, more suppression details, incident notes formatted, canteen service added, need to add to diagram "A/B/C/D explanation."
- March 21 - Added more news links, more damage details and times, etc.
- March 20 - Adding more photo and video links, more details to the incident details, etc.
- March 19 - Added more incident notes:

Incident Summary



Five alarms in downtown Raleigh
Thursday, March 16, 2017

Created by Mike Legeros
Version 5.1 - June 6, 2017

■ Aerial apparatus
■ Engine, pumping
■ Engine, deck gun
- Portable monitor
□ Other apparatus

● Hydrant used
--- Apparatus later moved
... Supply lines

■ Command Post
★ Medical Rehab

General

- Largest downtown fire in decades and/or since 1920s
- Dispatched 10:03 p.m. Controlled at 1:10 a.m.
- 35 degrees, clear skies, calm winds.
- As the night turned to morning, the temperature dropped into the 20s.
- Five alarms in first half-hour.
- Unfinished five-story apartment building with 241 studio, one-, and two-bedroom units.
 - Framed but without sheet rock.
 - Sprinkler system not yet installed.
 - Estimated half completed. [[WNCN](#)]

- First 911 call was from a person across the street from the fire.
- Fire could be seen for miles.
- Controllers at airport thought a "light show" was happening downtown.

- Rapidly spreading fire, entire building consumed
- Four exposures on three sides: office, apartment, and mixed-used, multi-story buildings including one high-rise.
- Other structures also impacted by airborne embers that started fires.
- Ten buildings with significant damage. [[WRAL](#)]
 - Five severely damaged. [[WRAL](#)]
 - At least three evacuated. [[WRAL](#)]
 - More than 205 apartments and 37 condos damaged, across three buildings. [[WRAL](#)]
 - At least 257 residents displaced from Link and Quorum. [[WRAL](#)]

- Road closed for two blocks in all direction.
- Power disrupted for about 250 customers, after fire disrupted equipment. [[WRAL](#)]
- Four people injured and examined and/or treated by EMS, including one firefighter with falling glass that punctured his chest [[WTVD](#)], minor injury.
- Five people treated for smoke inhalation, and one firefighter cut by falling glass. [[N&O](#)]

- Fire resources included: 24 engines (include 2 squads/rescue pumpers), 7 ladders, 1 rescue, 2 air units, 5 BCs, 3 ACs, Fire Chief.
- Fire personnel: 130 firefighters.
- EMS resources: 12 EMS units, 5 DCs, 1 APP, special ops support unit, mobile ambulance bus.
- EMS personnel: ~32 medics.
- Fifteen mutual aid departments provided coverage at Raleigh fire stations
- Total 119 calls received at ECC.
- Suppression included deck gun (1), portable monitors (5?), aerial streams (4), and hand lines. :

- Some minor apparatus damage to Engine 13 and Ladder 4.
- Controlled in three hours

- Suppression operations continued into morning
- Overhaul operations continued into second day
- Firefighters continued assisting occupants, investigators, and performed other functions on third day
- Legeros first photo approximately 20 minutes after dispatch, took about 2,000 pictures.

Times:

See chronology page.

Command locations:

- Fire at Jones and Harrington, initial
- Fire at Harrington, south of Jones, second location
- EMS at Harrington, south of Jones, next to fire
- Police in parking lot, west side of Harrington, between Jones and Edenton

Staging locations:

- Fire included West Street at Jones (42nd Street), then Glenwood Avenue.
- EMS at two locations: GSA/Fleet Services for units arriving from south, Broughton High School from north and west.

Rehab locations:

- A/B corner, for temporary
- Jones and West, at 42nd Street, for permanent

Closed roads and perimeter:

- Police block roads for two blocks in each direction.
- Police warned bystanders of the danger of sparks and flying objects. [[N&O](#)]

Initial conditions:

- Glow by firefighters as soon as they turned onto Harrington Street.
- Heavy fire seen inside the structure, on the third floor, centered on the right side (Division D).
- No fire yet on the front exterior (Division A) of the structure.
- Within a minute or abouts, the fire inside the structure had extended across the center of the building to the left side (Division B).
- Within a few more minutes, the fire extended forward, and was showing across the entire front exterior (Division A) of the building.

- Sound of the flames was as loud as a freight train or jet engine. Crews had to shout at each other, even when just a few feet from each other.
- Flames reached around/at least 200 feet into the air. Source as estimated as 40 to 50 feet above the penthouse level, as estimated by a resident of the 15-story Quorum building.

Crane collapse:

- Tower crane in the center of the Metropolitan collapsed at 10:09 p.m.
- Fell on Division B side of structure, in front of Ladder 2.
- Landed across roof of building at 201 W. Harrington.
- Severed power lines along Harrington, and caused subsequent transformer explosion nearby.

Link Apartments

- Treated as a separate high-rise incident
- Windows were broken or falling.
- Exterior of building was smoldering, and some patio materials burning.
- Crews assisted with evacuation.
- High-rise packs carried into building.
- Lines connected on sixth floor, and small fires extinguished in east-facing apartments.
- Sprinklers had activated, but some fires still burned above the sprinkler assembly.
- Power was lost early into the incident [when the crane collapsed?]. [\[N&O\]](#)
- One resident recounted being in the elevator, when the power stopped. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Others were watching the end of an NCAA basketball game, and noticed the bright light coming through the curtains. [\[N&O\]](#)
- See below for description of building damage.

Quorum Building

- Treated as a separate high-rise incident.
- Windows were broken or falling.
Exterior of building had fire or melting, from ground level (ATM machine) to roof (building sign).
- Crews assisted with evacuation. Encountered people evacuating the building, including a half-dozen or so in the parking deck, as they were exiting their condos.
- High-rise packs carried into building, and staged at standpipe connections in stairwells.
- No lines charged.
- Sprinklers activated in most/all street-side rooms.
- Crews found some burning materials and moved them under operating sprinkler heads to douse.
- Power remained on, through entire incident.
- See below for description of building damage.

Command

Chief Officer	Name	Assignment(s)
Battalion 1	Smith	Not at scene, remote assist with logistics, coverage, etc. from Station 19.
Battalion 2	Whitley	Division C operations command, then Assisting operations command on Division B, Division D.
Battalion 3	Rich	Incident command from E13, then Quorum Building operations command, then Assisting IC
Battalion 4	White	Not at scene, remote assist with logistics, coverage, etc., from Station 23. Incident command from ?, from 0500 to 0830.
Battalion 5	Page	Division A/D operations command, also Moving resources for exposure protection
Car 01	McGrath	Assisting IC.
Car 02	Harvey	Incident command from Bat 3
Car 03	Poole	Division B operations command.
Car 04	Tessinear	EOC
Car 05	Hocutt	Assisting at church fire, Edenton and Dawson, then Assisting at IC, then Division D operations command.
Car 14	Bridges	Staging Links Apartments branch from C20, for salvage and overhaul.
Car 20	Fanning	Links Apartments operations command.

Suppression

Deck guns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edenton Street Methodist Church (E11)
Portable monitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/B corner (E3), spraying Quorum, Links. • B/C corner/B side #1 of 2 (E9), spraying Metropolitan, protecting L2. • B/C corner/B side #2 of 2 (E9), spraying Metropolitan, protecting L2. • C side (E1), protecting exposures. • D/A corner (E13), spraying between Metropolitan and LoM building • others?
Aerial streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/B corner (L3, L4) • B/C corner (L2) • D side (L2) • D/A corner (L7), previously Dawson at Jones, for exposures
Hand lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edenton Street Methodist Church, courtyard lay, two 2 inch lines, from E11, for trash fires. • Parking deck for burning building materials, two 2 inch lines, using L8 as stand pipe. • LoM building, for overhaul, using L2 as stand pipe.

Hydrants

1	Jones and Harrington, NE corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside construction fence. Used briefly (?) by... ? Later used during overhaul.
2	Jones, south side, halfway between Dawson and Harrington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engine 13, supplying portable monitor used on C side, then on Quorum. • Then Ladder 7, for aerial stream.
2	Jones and Dawson, NW corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engine 1, supplying portable monitor on C side. • Then Ladder 7, for aerial stream. • Also Engine 13, supplying Ladder 2, in alley off Dawson Street.
3	Dawson, between Edenton and Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engine 11, using deck gun on church roof, and courtyard lay for trash fires.
4	Lane and Dawson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladder 8, for aerial standpipe, for hand lines on parking deck.

5	Lane and Harrington, SE corner (inside construction site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladder 2, connected but hydrant not (yet) functioning.
6	North and Harrington, east side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squad 14, boosting Engine 5. Then Squad 14, also/later supplying Engine 9.
7	North and West, NE corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engine 9.
8	West just north of Jones, east side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engine 15, connected to Links FDC. System not charged.
9	Jones and West, SE corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engine 2 (reserve), boosting Engine 3. Engine 3 (reserve), supplying Ladder 4.
10	Edenton and Harrington, NE corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squad 7, connected to Quorum FDC.

Pumping engines included:

Engine 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones just east of Dawson. No connections or pumping (correct?) Second location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones just west of Dawson. Connected to hydrant at Jones and Dawson. Portable monitor into alley, on Division C side. Also used booster reel, to extinguish fire impinging on hose line.
Engine 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones and West, at hydrant, boosting Engine 3.
Engine 3 (reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones and West, at hydrant, supplying both Ladder 4 and portable monitor at A/B corner, but not simultaneously. One or the other.
Engine 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harrington and Lane, supplying Ladder 2.
Squad 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harrington, just south of West. Connected to hydrant on Harrington and Edenton. Supplying Ladder 3. Supplying Quorum Building FDC, but the system wasn't activated.

Engine 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrington, just south of Lane, in parking lot on west side of Harrington. • Connected to hydrant at North and West. • Also supplied by Squad 14.
Engine 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawson, south of Edenton • Connected to hydrant on Dawson, between Edenton and Jones. • Deck gun for church roof. • Hand lines via courtyard lay, for trash fires in alley.
Engine 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First arriving. • Capt. Paul Wyatt, incident commander. • He knew immediately it would be pointless to focus on the burning Metropolitan. [N&O] • "It made my job easier to write that building completely off." [N&O] • First location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jones, south side, halfway between Harrington and Dawson, at hydrant. ○ Supplying portable monitor. ○ First aimed at LoM building, adjoining Metropolitan. ○ Stream directed between the Metropolitan and LoM building. ○ Then at Quorum, when they noticed the second floor was on fire. ○ "As we were doing that, the radiant heat was starting to melt my gear," said Capt. Paul Wyatt. "I could smell it." [N&O] • Later location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dawson, halfway between Lane and Jones, alley between buildings on west side of Dawson, connected to hydrant at Jones and Dawson. ○ Supplying Ladder 2.
Squad 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrington, at dead end of North, at hydrant. • Supplying Ladder 2. • Supplying to Engine 9, after Ladder 2 repositioned.
Engine 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West, just north of Jones, at hydrant. • Connected to Link Apartments FDC. • System not charged.

Five aerials used, plus others during overhaul:

<p>Ladder 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ B/C corner. Harrington at Lane, facing south. ○ Supplied by Engine 5, then Squad 14. ○ Spraying Metropolitan and Links. ○ Moved four times at this location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First, at approximately location of crane collapse. Moved due to heat, before crane collapse. ▪ Second, at Lane Street. ▪ Third, about 50 feet forward (south), as they extinguished fire beside them. ▪ Fourth, about 50 feet forward again, to the spot of the crane collapse, now spraying the Links. ● Second location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ D side, alley between B5 and B7, facing east. ○ Supplied by Engine 13. ○ Spraying C side of Metropolitan. ○ Also used as aerial standing pipe, for overhaul in LoM building.
<p>Ladder 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suppression location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A/B corner. Harrington at Jones, facing north. ○ Supplied by Squad 7. ○ Sprayed Links. ● Overhaul location on Friday morning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ B side. Harrington north of Jones, facing north. ○ Moved there about 3:30 a.m. ○ Supplied by hydrant at Jones and Harrington.
<p>Ladder 4 (using reserve Snorkel)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jones St, east of intersection, facing east. Behind Engine 13. ○ No connections, no deployment. ● Moved a couple times, as fire spread, and better position needed, and as fire progressed and threatened apparatus. ● Next location, deployed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A/B corner. Jones west of Harrington, facing west. ○ Supplied by Engine 3. ○ Moved east, for better reach and position. ● Next location, deployed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A/B corner. Jones at Harrington, still facing west. ○ Supplied by Engine 3.

Ladder 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dawson at Jones, facing north. ○ Supplied by hydrant at Jones and Dawson. ○ Spraying roofs of exposures. • Second location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ D/A corner. Jones Street midway between Harrington and Dawson, facing west. ○ Supplied by hydrant on Jones midway between Harrington and Dawson. ○ Spraying Quorum and Metropolitan.
Ladder 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C/D corner. Alley between B1 and B7, facing south. • Supplied by hydrant at Lane and Dawson. • Used as aerial standpipe for hand lines on parking garage roof.
Ladder 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhaul • Friday morning, first location: D/A corner, facing west • Friday morning, second location: D side. Alley between B1 and B7, facing south.

Buildings in diagram



<p>314 W. Jones Fire building, destroyed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Apartments - 5 stories - 274,959 (?) square-feet surrounding a courtyard, and over nearly two acres. Apartments. • 241 units, featuring studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, a rooftop deck, and a golf simulator. [N&O] [N&O] • Fire building, most of structure destroyed. • Under construction. • Four upper floors made of wood, and first-floor, parking deck, stair wells, and elevator shaft of concrete. [N&O] • Architect J. Davis. Builder Clancy & Theys. Developer Banner Development, based in Chicago. [N&O] • Had been inspected 50 times to date, including the Monday before the fire. Was up to code and passed each inspection. [WRAL] • Had been inspected 91 times. [N&O] • Neither fire sprinklers nor fire-retardant walls had been installed. [N&O] • Crews were in "rough in" stage, installing plumbing and electrical services in the wall cavities, prior to adding sheetrock. [N&O] • \$50 million project, was scheduled to open in early fall. [WTVD] • Building about 40 percent complete. [N&O] • \$51 million. [N&O] • Loss estimated at over \$12M. [WTVD] • Built on 1.72 acre site of former Greyhound bus terminal (cost \$4.8M), plus two adjoining properties (cost \$1.385M) totaling .27 acres. [N&O] 	<p>\$360,718 Source -- Note: Loss cited in news over \$12M</p>
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<p>Exposure 1 - 323 W. Jones</p> <p>Fire exposure, across street.</p> <p>Heavy exterior damage. Minor interior fire damage. Heavy interior water damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum Center - 15 stories, 317,521 square-feet, built 2006. Mixed use. • Includes The Residences at Quorum Center. • 15 floors, but effectively 17 stories, with mechanical rooms • Office space on lower floors and 37 condominium units. [N&O] • Many windows were shattered by the heat. [N&O] • Smoke seeped into the building, once the windows shattered. [N&O] • In the Quorum, the sprinklers activated in some rooms. Puddles remained Saturday, as residents returned. [N&O] • In one 11th floor condo that faced the fire, "the blinds had melted, the floors had buckled and the paint had bubbled on the walls. The heat had blasted open the windows." [N&O] • Standing water inside the building prevented crews from immediately restoring electricity. [N&O] • Sprinklers activated in many rooms on many floors, notably those most directly exposed to the fire (facing north, and closer to east than west side of building: ----XXXXXXXX) • Heavy water damage due to the sprinklers, and extended to the lower-rise section of the building, on the south side. • Windows broken or lost on many floors. • Firefighters saw whole unbroken panes falling from the building, and within minutes of arriving. Like sheets of plywood, but made of glass. • Among those displaced was the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association on the fourth floor. They received extensive damage from the activated sprinklers. NCSFA Executive Director was able to enter the building about midnight, and remove servers and other files. [WTVVD] 	<p>A - \$2,632,601</p> <p>B - \$11,355,075</p> <p>C - \$326,741</p> <p>D - \$2,065,010</p> <p>M - \$2,556,559</p> <p>Total \$18,935,986</p> <p>This one's complicated, multiple tax cards.</p> <p>Unsure about total, still seems low.</p>
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<p>Exposure 2 - 414 W. Jones</p> <p>Fire exposure, across street.</p> <p>Heavy exterior damage. Minor interior fire damage. Some interior water damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link Apartments - 6 stories, 139,445 square-feet, built 2015. Apartments. • 203 apartment units. [N&O] • Renters all had insurance, as required by the property managers. [N&O] • Many windows were shattered by the heat. [N&O] • Smoke seeped into the building, once the windows shattered. [N&O] • Standing water inside the building prevented crews from immediately restoring electricity. [N&O] 	<p>\$18,727,464</p> <p>Source</p>
<p>Exposure 3 - 201 W. Harrington</p> <p>Fire exposure, across street.</p> <p>Structural damage after tower crane on roof.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warehouse - 1 story - 5,356 square-feet, built 1967. • Houses telecommunications equipment. 	<p>\$514,444</p> <p>Source</p>
<p>Exposure 4 - 215 N. Dawson</p> <p>Fire exposure, separated by alley.</p> <p>Fire damage to interior, fire damage to roof, burned landscaping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Coates Local Government Center • One story, 24,279 square-feet, built 1979. Offices. • Housed HQ of N.C League of Municipalities and N.C. Association of County Commissioners. [N&O] • Several offices gutted. [N&O] • About half of interior damaged by smoke, heat, and water. [N&O] • Roof was damaged by heat and falling debris. [N&O] • Roof requires replacement. [N&O] • Unoccupied at time of fire. [N&O] 	<p>\$2,082,129</p> <p>Source</p>

<p>Exposure 5 - 300 W. Jones</p> <p>Fire exposure</p> <p>Fire damage on roof, and burned landscaping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Sutton Insurance. • Smoke damage and some interior damage. [WTVD] • Roof damage, and burned landscaping. • One story, 4,136 square-feet, built 1986. Offices. • Unoccupied at time of fire. [N&O] 	<p>\$374,588</p> <p>Source</p>
<p>Exposure 6 - 308 W. Jones</p> <p>Fire exposure, adjacent to fire building.</p> <p>Heavy fire damage to upper floors, rooms and contents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Reynolds Building - League of Municipalities • Three (five?) stories, 32,551 square-feet, built 1997. Offices. • Damage to five floors. [WRAL] • Structural damage to roof and third-floor corner [N&O] • Most heavily damaged of the three buildings used by the League of Municipalities. [N&O] • Unoccupied at time of fire. [N&O] • City has deemed structurally unsafe after the fire. [N&O] 	<p>\$3,365,313</p> <p>Source</p>
<p>Exposure 7 - 301 W. Jones</p> <p>Fire exposure, across street, diagonal.</p> <p>Fire damage to roof.</p> <p>Heavy water, smoke damage inside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edenton Street United Methodist Church youth center. • Two stories, 9,408 square-feet, built 1980. School. • Heavy water damage, heavy odor from fire, where it entered through roll-up doors to gymnasium. Embers burned holes in the roof, which led to extensive water damage. [WRAL] • Water and smoke damage to the second floor. [SN] • Damage \$150,000. [WTVD] 	<p>\$1,017,468</p> <p>Source</p>
<p>Exposure 8 - 228 W. Edenton</p> <p>Fire damage to roof, landscaping burned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edenton Street United Methodist Church • Three stories, 87,348 square-feet, built 1959. Church. • Some roof damage, landscaping burned. • Slate roof tiles damaged by embers from the fire. [WTVD] • "Sidewalks were stained black and gray with ash" [N&O] • Lost power, and was closed the day after the fire. [N&O] 	<p>\$15,725,242</p> <p>Source</p>

Also impacted		
2 W. Edenton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture • Cracked windows. [WRAL] • Lost power. [SN] 	
217 W. Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environmental Quality • Green Square office building. • Heavy smoke, lost power. [WRAL] • West entrance closed, blocked with tape, in case any glass panes fell. [WTVD] 	
11 N. Harrington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial • Roof damage (from fire, correct? Saw repairs underway) 	
200 Hillsborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred Heart Cathedral • Hot embers on roof 	
115 W. Morgan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley & Adams PLLC, at the old water tower • Mulch fire 	
99 Salisbury St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Baptist Church • Burned leaves on roof. • Started due to insulation from the fire, that became airborne. [N&O] 	

Displaced residents:

- Red Cross volunteers and staff were helping people since the night of the fire. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Red Cross assisted about 40 people who needed place to stay. [\[WRAL\]](#)
- By evening of March 27, Red Cross had assisted more than 100 people, providing meals, medication, counseling, and financial assistance. [\[WRAL\]](#)
- On March 27, Red Cross was directly helping 110 victims, and have served more than 520 meals. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- Businesses provided aid:
 - Hampton Inn at Glenwood South and on Hillsborough Street, and Holiday Inn on Hillsborough Street also hosted evacuees. [\[WRAL\]](#)
 - Raleigh Chamber made their office available Friday, for displaced business owners and leaders who needed a "downtown base of operations." [\[WNCN\]](#)
 - Google Fiber in Glenwood South has free internet, food and open desks for people put out by the damage. [\[WRAL\]](#)

- Bamboo Realty on Peace Street is offering free guidance on information about short-term rentals to those displaced by the fire. They are also offering their office to those who need quiet place to work downtown. [\[WRAL\]](#)
 - The VCA Triangle Tower Animal Hospital is offering to board pets. [\[WRAL\]](#)
 - Crank Arm Brewery held a clothing drive Friday, Saturday, Sunday at its Davie Street location. [\[WRAL\]](#)
- Wake County Emergency Management member Steve Newton said that a shelter was opened at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 125 Hillsborough Street. [\[N&O\]](#)
- On Saturday morning, the Red Cross was able to close its temporary shelter, opened the night of the fire. [\[N&O\]](#)
- On Saturday, the Red Cross brought mental health counselors to the municipal building, to comfort any residents emotionally struggling since the fire. [\[N&O\]](#)
- On Saturday, March 18, began returning to their homes, to collect belongings.
- Firefighters escorted residents, and used flashlights, as both the Links and the Quorum were without power.
- RFD passenger vans [two], from training, shuttled residents from the Municipal Building (pick-up) to the Links or Quorum (drop-off).
- Municipal was used for parking, instead of having residents drive to the scene. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- About 250 residents came to the municipal center, to be escorted to their homes. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Residents were asked to wear protective clothing and eye ware, due to glass, debris, and water on sidewalks and inside apartments. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- On Sunday morning, the fire department again provided an opportunity for displaced residents to retrieve belongings from the Links or the Quorum. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Total of 83 visited their apartments. [\[WRAL\]](#)

Disrupted Businesses:

- The day after the fire was St. Patrick's Day, and the second day of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and nearby bars and restaurants were debating if they should open.
- Jones and West streets were closed most of Friday. And though patrons could park elsewhere and walk around the yellow tape and barricades, the businesses feared it might keep customers away. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Phone and cable services were disrupted by the falling crane, which left some businesses without a working phone. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Thursday night, the Tobacco Road Sports Cafe at Jones and West abruptly closed, evacuating about 200 people. It opened on Friday an hour later normal, to clean up from the night before. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Other businesses also opened later on Friday. More, which along with Cloud, fed the responders, decided to close Friday night, and expected to be closed Saturday. The owner decided to close the kitchen to be on the safe side, since they were already closed on any Sunday. [\[N&O\]](#)

Canteen service:

- Barry's Cafe, went to scene around 12:30 a.m. [WNCN]
- Edenton Street UMC members went to scene Friday morning, handed out food and coffee. [WNCN]
- Local restaurants went to scene the next day, and handed out food:
 - Daily Planet Cafe - Pastries and Coffee [WNCN]
 - Panera Bread - Pastries and Coffee [WNCN]
 - Chick-fil-A downtown location - Gave food until 3:00 p.m. [WNCN]
- More Kitchen and Wine Bar on West Street - Closed Friday and Saturday, and provided food to responders on Friday. [WNCN]
- Other local restaurants offered free food to responders in uniform.
 - Rise Donuts in Cameron Village on Friday, offered free sandwiches and drinks to emergency responders. [N&O]
 - Jersey Mike's on Wake Forest Road, Peace Street, Hillsborough Street [WNCN]
 - Flying Biscuit Cafe, free food for responders on Saturday. [WNCN]

Damaged Apparatus

- Engine 13 - Numerous light lens melted, burned/melted sections of light bar on cab, cracked window on rear of cab, hose bed cover burned, some sections of hose burned, some equipment inside compartment burned, some crinkling of reflective chevrons on rear of engine.
- Ladder 4 - Lens on rear light bar melted.

Investigation:

- Raleigh fire.
 - Capt. Preston Gaster, lead investigator. [N&O]
 - Looking at social media postings, for pictures and video of the fire. [N&O]
 - Requesting anyone with information contact the department via e-mail. [N&O]
- Raleigh police
- State Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
 - Including national response team
 - "Team consisting of certified fire investigators, forensic mapping specialists, canine teams, electrical engineers and forensic chemists € is expected to arrive Saturday. [WNCN]
- Fire appeared to have started on the second floor [based on citizen photos posted to social media]. [WTVD]
- Investigators typically follow "methodical process" established by NFPA:
 - Secure site, by cutting any electric lines, and making sure rubble is cool enough to inspect.
 - Search for and talk to witnesses.
 - Source: [N&O]
- Actions/tasks:

- Interviewed firefighters Saturday and Sunday after the fire. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- Residents who called 911 would be interviewed. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- Interviewed witnesses the night of the blaze
- Canvassed/contacted local residents/businesses, to ask for witnesses/accounts < did you do that?
- Contact local cellphone services, to find out which mobile devices were being used in the vicinity. Contacted owners, to ask if they had photos or videos of the fire.
- Issued public statement, requesting photos or videos of fire.
- Collected footage from all security and construction cameras at the sites.
- Collected meteorological data, notably checking for any reports of lightning.
- Photographed and video-recorded the fire scene, from all sides, all angles, and in detail. Including using a UAV
- Used sensors and sensing devices (right?), sniffing/looking for such things as... (explain)
- Performing physical inspection of fire area, looking for such things as... (explain)
- Reviewed all paper docs / building records / inspections / etc., related to the building???

City accommodations:

- Streamlined system for contractors to obtain permits to repair damage. [\[N&O\]](#)

News and media:

- Wood construction was an immediate topic of local news stories.
- In 2009, a change in the national building code, adopted by North Carolina, increased the number of wood-frame stories that can be built on a pedestal or slab, from four to five. [\[N&O\]](#)
- "Mid-rise light wood buildings" are economical, because of savings in materials and labor. They are also considered "green" because wood is a renewable resource. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Once the frame is enclosed in fire-resistant materials, and a sprinkler system is installed, they are as safe as any other type of structure. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Firefighting groups, however, have expressed concern over the growth of these buildings as multi-family structures. [\[N&O\]](#)
- Since 2006, sprinklers also required in all [new?] apartment buildings in the state. [\[N&O\]](#)

Recognition

- Isaac Hunter's Tavern, Clyde Cooper's BBQ, and the Big Easy, planned to host a dinner at the Tavern on Friday night, to raise money for the fire department and residents affected by the fire. [\[N&O\]](#)
 - Raleigh firefighters could eat for free. [\[N&O\]](#)
 - Had a "thank you card station." [\[WTVD\]](#)

- Hibernian on Glenwood South held a block party on Friday, with portion of proceeds planned to be donated to charity of RFD choosing. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- On Thursday, March 23, the NC Legislature and NC Senate recognized Raleigh firefighters on “A” platoon, which had fought the fire.
- Both groups took time to recognize about a dozen of them, who attended in the upstairs galleries.
- Rep. Billy Richardson, (D) Cumberland County, and his wife Barbara were among those displaced. They were renting a condo at the Quorum Center.
- Thank you cards were dropped at Station 1 and other fire stations, from children and adults, from local schools and businesses, and business events, such as a fundraiser held the weekend of the fire, by Clyde Coopers BBQ and the Big Easy, that raised money used for \$500 in grocery store gift cards for five fire stations, \$500 for the NCFPP, and \$500 for the Triangle Red Cross. [\[WTVD\]](#)
- On Tuesday, March 21, at the regular City Council Meeting, the Mayor read a statement of appreciation about the responders to the fire. [\[WTVD\]](#)