

St. Matthews Fire Protection District

North Oldham Fire District History

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. of the St. Matthews Fire Protection District. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Al Ring with the help of the St. Matthews Fire Department Alumni Association, Inc. The Association's members are Rick Albers, A. E. "Bill" Andriot, III, E. Gar Davis, Clarke Fenimore, Jack Monohan, Mike Noon, Russ Rakestraw and Al Ring.

The purpose of this "collection" was to create the background and research for the book *St. Matthews Firefighters, 84 Years of Firefighting in St. Matthews, Kentucky*, written by and published by Al Ring in 2004. The collection is continuing today, so if you should have old or new information on the St. Matthews Fire Department, please contact Al Ring.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc. Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. *The Courier-Journal*, *The Louisville Times* or one of the *Voice* publications.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they must get permission from the source.

The Association would like to thank the St. Matthews Fire Protection District and various newspapers including *The Courier-Journal*, *The Louisville Times*, and *The Voice-Tribune*. Our appreciation is also extended to the various citizens and firefighters who contributed to the gathering of this information.





NORTH OLDHAM



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Summer Attic Fire

7/17/2010 - NOFD Responded to a report of smoke in a home at 7:30AM on Jul 17, 2010. The first units arrived to find smoke showing from the attic. An attack line was pulled and the fire was quickly extinguished. There was little damage to the home and there were no injuries during the incident.



Electrical House Fire

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The members of the **North Oldham Fire Protection District (NOFD)** proudly serve and protect a permanent population of 12,500 people as well as commuters and visitors, within a 47 square mile fire district. We operate from two stations, protecting a predominantly rural and residential area.

We protect the communities of Prospect, Goshen, and Skylight in Oldham County, Kentucky (approximately 15 miles northeast of Louisville, KY). The district consists primarily of residential areas, with a few retail strip centers, commercial office buildings, light industry and also includes a significant portion of the Ohio River. One of the most beautiful aspects of our district includes numerous thoroughbred horse farms and stables as well as typical agricultural farming operations. The district has experienced significant growth over the past 30 years, especially within the last 10 years.

In 1951, the first year of operation for the North Oldham Volunteer Fire Department, the department answered 2 fire calls with its 15 volunteer firemen and one fire engine.

In 2008, NOFD responded to 543 incidents. Approximately half of these incidents were fire responses, 20% were EMS responses, and 25% were combined Fire/EMS responses. Included in the totals were 3 working structure fires, and 19 river rescue runs. We experienced three firefighter injuries (two minor and one serious) and no fire fatalities.



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General Information

Our department is a fire protection district funded by a small property tax levied on real estate and personal property. By utilizing a mix of paid and volunteer firefighters and EMT's, we are able to provide a high quality service in a highly cost-effective manner. Our ISO Public Protection Class is 5 for all properties within 1000' (feet) of a fire hydrant and 9 for properties beyond 1000' feet of a hydrant. The ISO rating is used by many insurance companies to determine the premium paid by you, to insure your home or business against fire. We continue to work towards lowering the ISO rating so your insurance costs are reduced.

In fact, our firefighters are currently training and working to improve our capability for rural water supply in the areas without fire hydrants. Our goal is to exceed the ISO requirements and reduce the class 9 areas as much as possible, to provide those property owners with much lower insurance premiums. When you stop and think about it, the fire district tax is the only one you pay that "gives you a return" for your investment in lower insurance premiums. NOFD's members are proud of the high quality service we provide for you at such a low cost.



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Membership and Staffing

NOFD's membership is made up by:

-  3 Full-Time Firefighters
-  1 Part-Time Administrative Assistant
-  20 Part-Time FireFighters/EMTs
-  53 Volunteer Firefighter/EMTs
-  6 Fire Support Volunteers
-  5 Explorer Scouts

Since our department is largely a bedroom community, the majority of our volunteers members are away at their jobs during the work week. To ensure that we are able to deliver an effective response to fires, rescues, and medical emergencies during that time, we utilize paid Firefighter staffing.

This staffing arrangement ensures that the following resources are available every Monday through Friday with the exception of regular holidays:

-  One 4 person engine company at our Goshen Station from 6AM to 6PM.
-  One 3 person engine company at our Skylight Station from 8:30AM to 4PM.
-  Two Chief Officers from 6AM to 6PM.

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NOFD's Fire Apparatus and Other Vehicles

Our present fleet of fire apparatus consists of three engines, three engine/ladder combinations (2 Quads & 1 Quint w/ a 75' aerial ladder) two 2,000 gallon water tankers, one brush firefighting vehicle, and one technical rescue unit. We also have a 14' covered trailer containing a mobile breathing air refilling station and cascade system, two utility vehicles, and one OCEMS ambulance. The age of our major fire apparatus range from 1982 to 2007. The two oldest pumpers are reserve engines, used to replace one of the front line units when down for service or repairs. All apparatus, regardless of age, are maintained to the highest and most current standards for emergency vehicles. The safety of our citizens and responders is our highest priority which is the biggest reason that our maintenance program is so thorough.

Just What is a "Quad" and a "Quint" ?

Modern fire apparatus are multi-functional and complex vehicles. However, the basics of today's fire truck are essentially the same as that of the very first motorized apparatus; they're just packaged a little differently today.

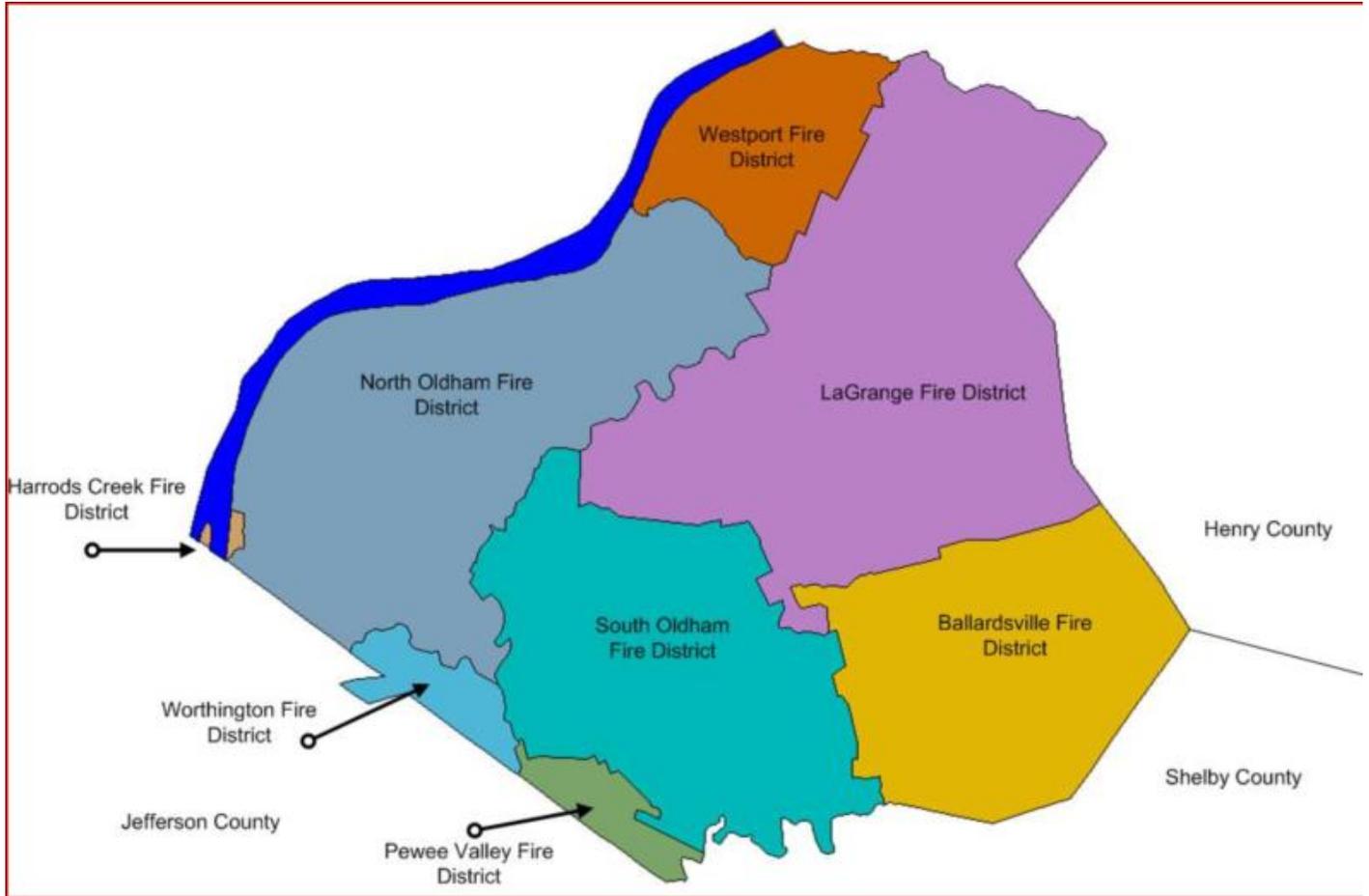
In horse and buggy days it took at least three apparatus to carry the same items that are now carried on one fire truck:

- Horse drawn chassis with a large steam powered fire pump or engine.
- Horse drawn "Hose Wagon."
- Horse drawn "Hook and Ladder Truck" or wagon.

There were horse drawn "chemical" wagons that carried a small tank of soda and acid, a slightly larger tank of water, and a small diameter fire hose. These chemical wagons were used to extinguish small fires or to begin attacking structure fires while the steamers and hose wagons hooked up to a water source and began pumping. To use the chemical wagon, a hose line was laid and the soda, acid, and water were mixed through the fire hose. It worked just great until the tanks were emptied.

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North Oldham Fire District— Started early 1951



Courtesy—http://www.oldhamcountyhistoricalsociety.org/history_1950.html

Oldham County History Since 1950
Composed by Dot Carraco
Oldham County History Center

This list was composed by Dot Carraco in response to a request by the Oldham County Public Library to construct a timeline of events in Oldham County over the last 50 years in celebration of the new opening of the Oldham County Public Library this year. The list is not inclusive and we invite anyone who would like to add to the list, email us at ochstryctr@aol.com, and we will add it to the list and keep it ongoing on our website: <http://www: oldhamcountyhistoricalsociety.org>.

1950: *LaGrange converted to dial phones

*LG&E gas available to LaGrange

1952: *The Oldham Era completes its 75th year of publication

*Skylight and Goshen communities organized the North Oldham volunteer Fire Dept.

1953: *Ballardsville Fire Dept. was formed (in 1976 became the Ballardsville Rural Fire Protection District.

*A single Oldham County High School was established and housed at Buckner by the consolidation of grades 9-12 of both LaGrange and Crestwood Schools.

1955: *Ky. State Police builds post headquarters on Hwy. 146 in front of the Kentucky State Reformatory.

1956: *Little Colonel Theatre is formed in Pewee Valley.

1959: *The Oldham County Historical Society is founded.

1961: *Election voting machines (instead of handwritten ballots) are used at the polls.

1962: *The LaGrange Project Guild is founded.

1967: *Train derailment at Crestwood, 356 feet of track is ripped out- 24 wrecked railroad cars are derailed. The railroad cars were filled with powdered propellant bound for army arsenal. When the cars derailed the propellant acted like fire-bombs and at least 100 automobiles were destroyed along with roofs of houses.

*The Duerson Library becomes renamed to the Duerson Public Library.

1969: *Library obtained a brand new bookmobile.

*Air Filtering Testing Lab opens in Buckner. The lab renders independent evaluations of air filter systems of gas turbines, off road equipment, diesel locomotives & nuclear power plants.

*Interstate 71 opened.

1970: *Oldham County Day was inaugurated.

*Buckner Christian Church celebrates 100 year anniversary.

*Rescue ambulance services begins in Oldham County.

*The Confederate Memorial Day observance is revived at the Confederate Cemetery in Pewee Valley.

*Pewee Valley Fire Dept. converts surplus army truck into a fire truck

*Northland Corporation lumber company is established in LaGrange

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1973: *Crestwood Baptist Church celebrates its 100 year anniversary.

1974: *Oldham County gets an official flag.

*Construction begins on U of L Observatory near Brownsboro.

*Tornado strikes throughout Oldham County.

*Baptist Hospital takes over Mallory Taylor Hospital.

*Plans are announced for a new county park.

1975: *Cedar Lake Lodge facility opens.

*LaGrange Square opens with 4 stores.

*Operation Identification, a statewide program, is initiated in Oldham County.

1976: *Burger Queen Restaurant opens in LaGrange.

*The Old Yager Hotel in Crestwood is torn down.

1977: *East and Westbrook Construction Company opens in Buckner.

1978: *The Oldham County Police Department is established.

1980: *TARC Bus Service begins in Oldham County.

*Oldham County gets 911 emergency number installed.

1981: *South Oldham Public Library opens in Crestwood.

1982: * A statewide survey indicates that Oldham County has the highest proportion of high income households (\$50,000 and up) of all counties in the state.

1985: *Mr. Tabor Methodist Church in Centerfield celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

1986: *The Humane Society of Oldham County was incorporated.

*Youth basketball leagues are formed for elementary school children.

*St. James Episcopal Church in Pewee Valley is named to the National Register of Historical Places.

1987: *Adult education reading program is established in the Oldham County School System.

*Tri-County Hospital opens.

1989: *Two districts in Pewee Valley, Central and Ashwood were accepted into the National Register of Historical Places.

*Crestwood By-Pass opened connecting Hwy. 329 to Hwy. 146.

*The Oldham County Board of Education moved its central offices from the old Ballardsville School to Buckner.

Courtesy—http://www.oldhamcountyhistoricalsociety.org/history_1950.html

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*Cedar Lake Lodge Group Home opened.

*Oldham County Fiscal Court purchased the Citizens Fidelity Bank Building on the corner of Hwy. 146 and 53.

*The City of LaGrange passes a historic preservation ordinance.

1990: *Oldham County opened a new 71 bed regional jail.

*Goshen becomes a 6th class city.

*The \$5 million dollar WAVE Tower begins operation.

1992: *The east and west wings of the Oldham County Courthouse are torn down.

*Full-time paramedic service begins operation.

*The home of Louise Head Duncan was purchased by Chilton Barnett for the Oldham County Historical Society.

1995: *Ground is broken for the North Oldham Middle School.

1997: *A historical landmark, the United Methodist Church (1988) is sold to county government.

1998: *The Oldham County Community Convention and Aquatic Center (now called John Black Community Center) opened.

1999: *The Recycle Center opened.

*Crestwood is hooked into the Metropolitan Sewer District.

*The Oldham County Historical Society opens the Peyton Samuel Head Family Museum.

2000: *The Sellersburg Lumber Company opened in the Oldham County Business Park.

2002: *LOCATOR, the Lost Child Alert Technology Resource begins operation in the Oldham County Sheriff's department.

*North Oldham High School opens.

2003: *Oldham County Government buys 228 for the Morgan Conservation Park.

*South Oldham Government Center opens.

*Dynergy Inc. power plant is completed.

*CVS Pharmacy opens in Crestwood.

*Oldham County Intervention and Prevention Unit Center opens.

2004: *The Oldham County Health Dept. moves to its new facility on Commerce Drive.

2005: *The Cherry House Furniture Gallery in LaGrange closes.

Courtesy—http://www.oldhamcountyhistoricalsociety.org/history_1950.html

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2007: *The Oldham County Historical Society begins its Living Treasures Program with the Oldham Era to recognize and honor local mentors who are 70 years or over.

2006:

July 2006 - Open range Indoor Gun range and Paintball Arena opens for business in Crestwood

2008: * The Oldham County Schools opens Locust Grove Elementary School making it the 9th elementary school of the Oldham County School System.

*The Oldham County Public Library opens its new green facility in LaGrange.

*The Hwy. 393 Bypass opens from Centerfield to I-71.

Photographs of Historic Places and People of Oldham County Kentucky

The photographs in this slide show are the property of the Oldham County Historical Society and are not for commercial use.



The Goshen Store as we know it today was built in 1874-5 as a grange hall. It has a long and colorful history dating back to its earliest beginnings as a station trading post in 1789. The Nail Keg Club, a political debating society, met here. The store also held the Goshen post office.

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

What would you do if you called the fire department and nobody came??

1950's

Some citizens learned the answer to that question early in 1951 in Skylight, in Northern Oldham County when a barn loaded with corn burned to the ground. A call was made to the LaGrange City Fire Department who refused to respond outside of the city limits. Neighboring communities of Harrods Creek and Westport did not have fire departments at the time. South Oldham Fire Department in Crestwood was just getting started. Other area fire departments were much too far away to respond.

Reacting to this devastating fire, the people around Skylight decided to establish a volunteer fire department. An organizational meeting was held at the Liberty School. At that meeting it was agreed to ask residents of the area to contribute money for a volunteer fire department. Their contributions would be in proportion to the number of buildings on their farms. These contributions ranged from \$25 to the smallest farms to \$400 for the largest ones.

About 50 farmers signed up for the department and only a few declined. The organizers decided that following the initial contribution, each property owner would be asked to make a small annual contribution of \$5 to \$10. The new department also would receive \$400 per year from the Oldham County Fiscal Court. The original area covered by the department "ran about 3 or 4 miles north and south of Highway 42 and 6 to 7 miles in each direction from Skylight. This method of funding for the NOFD remained basically unchanged until the Fire Protection District was created in 1976.

The original, founding Board of Directors of the NOVFD consisted of Harry Nelson, President, Douglas Potter, Secretary-treasurer, directors Charles Bottorf, Raymond Wilborn, Robert Clore, William Fallis, F.T. Clausen, John Robert Bottorf and C.W. Brickley. John Leet was appointed as the first Fire Chief in 1951, a position he held until 1967.

The original fire station on Axton Lane just south of US42 was constructed in 1952 at a cost of \$2,200 for materials on land donated by William Axton. Labor was almost free, as the construction was done by inmates from the LaGrange Reformatory who were paid 12 cents a day. The first fire apparatus was a 1937 Chevrolet with a pump and a tank, purchased used from the Buechel Fire Department of Jefferson County. The department only used this truck for a short period of time.

A 1951 Ford chassis was purchased and the pump and 500 gallon tank from the Chevrolet were mounted on it. A wooden hose body was installed. This truck remained part of the NOFD fleet until it was sold in the mid 1990's. In 2001 it was donated back to the NOFD by the Oldham County Historical Society. Plans include restoration of the truck.

The first method of dispatch was a railroad engine bell donated by the L&N Railroad. The bell was mounted on a pole near the fire station. In case of fire, Chief John Leet, who lived near the station, took the call on his telephone and went to the station to sound the bell alerting the volunteer firefighters who lived close enough to hear the alarm. This alarm

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

system survived only a few years. An entry in the fire run logbook dated August 24, 1952 indicates a barn fire and states “the first time the big siren was used for a fire.” (The siren was overhauled and reinstalled as an emergency weather siren by the City of Goshen, at NOFD’s new Goshen Station in 2004).

Although early records are few, it appears that the new fire department responded to two fire runs in 1951. Fire destroyed the Sulphur Methodist Church. All the fire department could do was prevent the fire from spreading, which they did successfully. The other fire that year was a field fire.

Although the department was inexperienced and had minimal equipment, they were effective as shown by two articles that appeared in the Oldham Era on Friday, August 22, 1952. They read:

“A truck of the American Chemical Company of Cincinnati was partially destroyed by fire Monday when it caught fire at the junction of U.S. 42 & KY 53 north of LaGrange. The North Oldham Volunteer Fire Department headed by Harry Nelson prevented a complete loss. The truck was loaded with bleach in gallon bottles. One tire on the dual wheels blew out and the blaze was caused by friction when the two tires rubbed against each other. The department prevented the spread of the blaze to the motor and gas tank. Traffic on the highway was blocked until the fire was extinguished.”

“A fire which started in the woods on the farm of Mr. & Mrs. Everette Shearer on Highway 42 burned over 20 acres of brush and undergrowth Tuesday morning before it was extinguished. The North Oldham Volunteer Fire Department answered the call and stopped it’s further spread. The origin of the blaze, which for sometime threatened barns and other nearby buildings, is unknown.”

Although records describe the area covered by the department as running “about 3 or 4 miles north and south of Highway 42 and about 6 or 7 miles in each direction from Sky-light” run log entries show runs as far away as LaGrange and Westport.

Run records indicate 2 in 1951, 16 in 1952, 16 in 1953 and 17 in 1954. Run volume averaged about 15 per year from this point until the mid 1970’s. The majority of the runs were field fires, barn fires and house fires. An occasional vehicle fire occurred but there were no haz-mat runs, EMS runs, extrication runs or other situations we now face.

Once in awhile the early volunteers would experience a unique call as evidenced by an entry in the log on January 28, 1953, which simply states “pumped out well and helped get Mr. Becker’s body out of the well”. NOVFD also provided mutual aid in the early days just as we do today. On May 14, 1955 they were called to make a “run to LaGrange, helped on big fire in town!”

It also appears that the early NOVFD faced some of the same problems that today’s volunteer fire departments face. This is indicated by a fire run entry in the log on April 5, 1957 for a “Buick Car on fire at the service station, I made run alone.”

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

A new 1957 International fire engine went into service late that year. This chassis was purchased and the pump and tank from the '51 Ford were transferred to it. A 1000 gallon tank was then mounted on the 1951 Ford. The department now had two fire apparatus. The new engine made it's first run on December 26, 1957, responding to a car fire on Buck-eye Lane.

NOVFD experienced major fires on occasion in the early days. On January 11, 1957, La-Grange was called to assist with a structure fire in a roadside motel court. An entry in the log on November 18, 1959 describes a barn fire where "both engines were used". On March 19, 1960 fire destroyed an "old school house at Goshen, took both engines." Some of the runs that are more familiar to us today are not new to the NOVFD, such as a false fire alarm in Oldham Acres on October 28, 1960.

1960's

The North Oldham Volunteer Fire Department operated with very limited funds, usually only \$2,000 to \$3,000 of revenue per year. This continued well into the 1960's. A financial report from the annual meeting of 1967 shows total revenues of \$2,900, expenditures of \$2,400 and total assets of \$13,000. The department was still funded by soliciting annual subscriptions of \$5 to \$10 from property owners. Those that paid were called "members." If the department responded to a fire at a "member's" property the service was provided free. If the response was to a "non-member's" property they were billed between \$100 and \$200. Property owners were encouraged to subscribe to the department by mail drives and calls from the board members. (Also, in 1967, NOVFD's first Fire Chief, John Leet, stepped down for health reasons. George W. Carter was appointed Chief and would hold that position until his retirement in 1981.)

Mailings often read like this: *"We serve the North Oldham area from Prospect east to Highway 53, including the many lanes that lead off of U.S. 42. We have a capable group of volunteer firemen who man our pumpers around the clock, whenever a call is received on our short wave equipment. We have never refused to make a run when called, by member or non-member, since our organization in 1951. Our membership includes most of the property owners in our area and we would welcome you as a member. The initial fee to join is \$50 which is non-recurring and is \$10 per year thereafter."*

Mailings also included stickers with the NOVFD's phone number (228-1315) for people to place on their phones so they could promptly call the fire department in the event of a fire. Calls for fires were answered by the Melrose Inn desk clerk on duty. The clerk used a base radio transmitter to dispatch the firefighters and activate the roof siren at the station. This proved to be a much more efficient method of alerting the fire department than by siren alone. However, it was not without flaws.

On one occasion, the Melrose desk clerk was obviously experiencing her first day on the job as a motel clerk/dispatcher. It was apparent by the radio traffic that this new clerk had probably been trained how to check in guests, give them a key and take their money...and, oh by the way....this is the fire phone and radio. If someone reports a fire, just take the information, push this button and announce the fire run over the radio. After that, anytime

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

anyone calls North Oldham base, just say “10-4” and give the call letters.

On one occasion, firefighters heard the tones and after a long pause, the mic was keyed and the next thing you heard was someone clearing their throat. Then she struggled to announce a barn fire. It sounded like she read from a card and just filled in the blanks with the location of the fire. After a few minutes a fireman called by radio “North Oldham Engine 2 to base, where’s the fire?” Her reply; “10-4, KEW-951.” Again, with great patience, this fireman calls again “North Oldham Engine 2 to base, where’s the fire?” Again.....”10-4, KEW-951.” The third and fourth time this guy called in he wasn’t as patient or polite as before. After about 5 minutes of this, and sorry to say, a lot of laughter by those listening, a rather loud and irritated, booming voice took over the base radio and told the units the location of the fire. No one recalls hearing that particular desk clerk’s voice on the radio again.

The Melrose Inn dispatch system remained in service until Oldham County Central Dispatch become operational in May, 1977. Since then, the old monitors and sirens have been replaced by pagers, computer aided dispatch and enhanced 911 systems.

In the late 1960’s the North Oldham area began to change. Growth brought on by people migrating from Louisville/Jefferson County to Oldham County resulted in new subdivisions and posed a challenge to the fire department. The NOVFD still operated just two fire trucks from the Skylight station, yet the development was occurring 7 to 8 miles west, near Prospect. As a result, the area’s Insurance Rating was Class 10 and response times were lengthy.

1970’s

As the NOVFD moved into the 1970’s, it was becoming apparent to Chief George Carter that the department needed to make significant changes in order to serve a growing area and improve the insurance rating. He knew that additional apparatus, equipment, firefighters and a second station would be needed to meet the demands of the growth.

In 1974, Chief Carter purchased a third fire apparatus, a 4 wheel drive Ford truck with a small tank, a pump and hose, to be used for brush fires and a quick response to other types of fires. The department struggled to pay for this truck and it is said that Chief Carter himself, mounted a door-to-door campaign to raise the money to buy it. This truck remained in service until it was sold in July, 2001. The Axton Lane fire station was expanded to house this truck and make room for a future new pumper.

The Chief and the Board realized that the old “membership” method of funding was no longer adequate. In 1975, talk of forming a fire protection district shifted into action. The Board became alarmed when River Bluff and Countryside Subdivision, which NOVFD had protected since their development in the late ‘60’s, created their own fire district, collected property tax and contracted with Harrods Creek Fire Department of Jefferson County. The Board feared losing more territory and potential revenue to another jurisdiction.

The drive to establish the fire protection district shifted into high gear with the circulation

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

of petitions. The district was created in February, 1976. The original members of Board of Trustees are John Hampton, Frank Lyons, Martha Oliver, Hugh Crouch, Gilson Guyton, Norman Dick and Robert Hoops. The new district collected \$23,256 in tax revenue for 1977. By 1980, that had jumped to \$51,869 as a result of all the growth in the area.

With guaranteed revenue for funding, the department, under the leadership of Chief George Carter, purchased a new Ford/E-One fire engine in 1977 for \$32,000 and began efforts to build a second fire station in Goshen. This would be essential in order to reduce the insurance rating from Class 10 to Class 9.

It was about this time that the department began training EMT's to respond to injury vehicle accidents and medical emergencies. Up to this point, South Oldham and LaGrange provide ambulance service to North Oldham's district. While their EMT's were very capable, response times were too long. North Oldham Fire Department's initial EMS efforts were first responder EMT's who went to the scene and provided care until South Oldham or LaGrange arrived.

There were difficulties in funding construction of another fire station and purchasing another new fire engine for that station, even with the new fire district revenue. A fund drive was conducted in 1978 to raise funds to build Station 2 and purchase a new pumper at a combined cost of \$133,000. Initially, the fund drive was disappointing. Finally, sufficient funds were raised and the remainder borrowed to build the station and buy a 1979 Ford/Darley pumper.

Run volume was increasing around this time also. In 1976, NOFD responded to 29 runs. The total for 1980 was 63 runs. More volunteers were needed to staff the two stations, answer an ever-increasing amount of runs and gain a lower insurance rating for the district.

With the opening of Station 2 and the arrival of a new pumper, the majority of the fire district was now within 5 miles of a fire station. The department finally had two Class A pumpers. That, along with other improvements finally resulted in the insurance rating being improved to Class 9.

1980's

In 1981, long time Chief George Carter turned the reins of the department over to new Chief Lewis Nugent. Richard Nugent became the Assistant Chief. Chief Nugent continued to expand the department to keep up with the rapidly growing community. Under his leadership, the department bought hydraulic rescue equipment (jaws-of-life), expanded Station 2 in 1984, obtained a certificate of need and activated ambulance service in 1985 and improved the department's insurance rating to Class 6 in 1988. In 1989, the original Axton Lane fire station was replaced by a new Station 1 at 8615 W. U.S. 42. In 1990, the department accepted delivery of its first diesel powered apparatus with a crew cab, a Ford/Grumman 1250 GPM pumper. This new pumper cost \$105,000.

1990's

One of the most significant changes in the department occurred under the direction of

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Lewis Nugent and Assistant Chief Richard Nugent. On April 30, 1990, the NOFD employed its first paid firefighters. Six part-time firefighters made up the original “day staff.” Rich Nugent was among the original day staff employees. The others were full time firefighters with the Louisville Fire Department. The original program provided two paid firefighters at the station weekdays from 8AM to 5PM, to maintain equipment, care for the building and grounds and provide a guaranteed response to runs during the daylight hours when most of the volunteers are at their regular jobs.

One original day staff member, Louisville Fire Captain Scott Hogan, has been continuously employed at NOFD since the inception of the program. Another original day staff member, Rich Nugent, returned to employment status from volunteer status in 2003. In addition to Captain Hogan and Rich Nugent, the other original paid firefighters hired in 1990 were Tom Cornelius, Mike O’Leary, Denny Lange and Dennis Wilson, all full-time members and Captains of the City of Louisville FD.

By 1991, the Fire District’s revenue had grown to \$162,000. Fire/EMS run volume was approaching 200 per year. The department continued to plan for future growth and the accompanying demand for services.

Lewis Nugent stepped down and Chief Phil Schaad took over in 1994. Chief Schaad continued to plan for future growth. He added additional apparatus, including a new brush fire unit and ambulance, improved the department’s communications equipment, made the switch to large diameter supply hose, expanded the day staff and added the department’s first full time day staff supervisor, Captain Michael Morgan. He also began to plan to improve the department’s insurance rating.

During the 1990’s the department lost two members with the death of retired Chief George Carter and the tragic loss of Sergeant Chris Combs in an accident. Station One in Skylight is dedicated to Chief Carter. Engine 1436 (1990 Ford/Grumman pumper) and the flagpole at the Goshen Station are dedicated in memory of Sergeant Combs. Both of these dedicated firefighters and friends are sorely missed.

In 1996, Phil Schaad stepped down and David Wade became Chief. He served in that position until 1999. During his term, the department hired an additional full-time firefighter, Charles Fudold, a volunteer with the Worthington FD and promoted Captain Morgan to Assistant Chief/Administrator. The department also hired a part-time administrative assistant. Chief Wade continued to update apparatus and equipment. Two 1996 Freightliner/Monroe 2000 gallon tankers were delivered in 1997 at a cost of \$105,000 each. In 1998, a new KME 1250 GPM pumper was delivered at a cost of \$234,000.

In the spring of 1999, Chief David Wade stepped down. Assistant Chief/Administrator Michael Morgan resigned to take a Chief’s position with another department. Deputy Chief David Stoltz was appointed interim Chief. After a great deal of consideration, the Fire District Board made the decision to hire a full time Fire Chief. This was a significant change for a department who’s membership had always elected their Chief. Chief Stoltz’s leadership during this period was superb and instrumental in making the transition to a paid chief a smooth one.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

In September, 1999, Richard H. Albers became NOFD's first paid full-time Fire Chief. His background in the fire service dates back to 1971 and includes experience in paid and volunteer fire departments. He most recently served as Fire Chief for Florence, KY from 1990 to 1999. He began his fire service career in 1971 as a volunteer with St. Matthews Fire Dept. and joined the Louisville Fire Dept. in 1976.

The new Chief continued to expand services and plan for the future. The department acquired high-tech equipment including 3 thermal imaging cameras, lightweight breathing apparatus, new state of the art protective gear for firefighters and better rescue/extrication equipment.

2000's

In October, 2000, NOFD hired a full-time Training and Fire Prevention Coordinator to replace Captain Charles Fudold, who left to pursue a career in law enforcement. Donald A. Dahl was selected from a group of highly qualified applicants. Mr. Dahl has been in the fire service since the early '80's and served as a fire officer and training coordinator in two fire departments. In addition, he served as a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy for 20 years where he was responsible for development of training programs and the training of Navy recruits. His experience and education make him ideal for this new position.

In June, 2001 the NOFD suffered a significant loss with the death of a founding member, Mr. Norman E. Dick. Norman was one of those who organized the meeting in 1951 at the Liberty School, which got the department started. Norman served from day one as a firefighter, for 25 years. He then served as a charter member of the Fire Protection District Board, remaining as a trustee until his death. Norman served the North Oldham Fire Department with enormous dedication for 50 years. He is sorely missed and will always be remembered as a firefighter and friend. Fire District revenues exceeded \$550,000 in 2001 and \$715,000 in 2002 and \$925,000 for Fiscal Year 2004/05. Much of this revenue reflects the significant growth in the district. In 1951, NOFD answered 2 runs. In 2001, NOFD answered 436 runs. In 2005, NOFD answered 479 runs.

In 2000, we expanded our scope of services to include fire and rescue service on our 11-mile stretch of the Ohio River. NOFD operates a fire/rescue boat which is located at the Rose Island Yacht Club. Our original "fire" boat was a 21' cabin cruiser donated to the department by NOFD Captain Kris Krohn and his wife Joni. The boat was modified to fit its new role, outfitted with water rescue and EMS equipment and a 250 GPM fire pump, hose and foam.

As river activity continued to increase, repair and maintenance costs on the original fire-boat began to soar. Additionally, serious reliability and safety issues began to become evident with the old craft. In 2008, the Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of a new fire/rescue boat, specifically designed for our mission with a focus on safety, simplicity of operations and speed.

As much of our emergency work on the river involves rescue and medical emergencies, a unique craft was chosen for the mission at hand. A new fire/rescue boat was placed in

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

service in Spring of 2009. It is a 28' "Munson PackCat" catamaran hull design equipped with a bow drop down ramp similar to a military landing craft. It is powered by two 225 HP Honda outboard engines, carries a 500 GPM fire pump with a bow mounted deck gun, a 3.5kw generator and various items of EMS and water rescue equipment.

The unique "landing craft" design improves our rescue and EMS capability by enabling an injured person to be brought on board from water level instead of being "manhandled" over the side or rear of the craft. It provides for all "work" to be done from the bow of the boat, away from the engines and props. This is crucial when dealing with a patient who may have a spinal cord injury, which is a high risk in boating accidents.

The hull design provides for extreme stability on the water and the two 225 HP engines proved a maximum speed of 45 MPH. The firefighting capabilities are designed to allow our personnel to safely attack a burning boat facilitating entry to rescue trapped occupants. The ability to safely travel on the water at 45 MPH enhances the ability to promptly deliver a seriously injured person to shore to an awaiting ambulance or helicopter. The boat's cabin is climate controlled and capable of carrying two seriously injured patients if necessary. This craft will definitely improved the NOFD's river response capabilities. We also operate a 14' john boat in support of the larger craft. The department has over 20 members trained in water rescue techniques.

In addition to water rescue and river firefighting, NOFD has initiated a fire and life safety inspection program. The Chief of the Department is "deputized" by the Kentucky State Fire Marshal. This allows NOFD inspectors to operate with the same authority and resources of the State Fire Marshal. Inspections were initiated in August, 2001. The goal of this program is to ensure that all properties subject to public entry are maintained according to state fire codes and life safety standards.

The expanded services of the NOFD have been achieved through the commitment of the Board of Trustees to provide the best possible service to the community. The North Oldham Fire Department currently operates two fire stations, 3 engines, 2 quads, 1 quint, 2 tankers, 1 brush fire unit, 1 technical rescue unit, 1 utility vehicle, 1 28' fire rescue boat, 1 14' john boat, and a 14' enclosed trailer containing our breathing air refilling system, rehab and command post equipment. We are staffed by 3 full-time, 20 part-time and 53 volunteer firefighters and EMT's.

In June, 2002, NOFD took delivery of a new Quint fire apparatus with a 2000 GPM pump and a 75' aerial ladder, built by Seagrave Fire Apparatus of Clintonville, WI. This truck is designed as a multi-purpose vehicle with firefighting and rescue capabilities. The aerial ladder is necessary for access to and rescue from the upper floors and roofs of the many large dwellings, condominiums and other significant structures in our district. The truck has a number of innovations in its design and was displayed by Seagrave at the International Association of Fire Chiefs annual Fire/Rescue International Conference in Kansas City in July of 2002. It cost \$514,300 and is assigned to the Goshen Fire Station.

In July, 2004, the Board of Trustees approved the Chief's request to expand paid firefighter

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

staffing levels to no less than 6 personnel on duty per day, Monday thru Friday from 6AM to 6PM. All other times are staffed entirely by volunteers.

In April of 2007, NOFD took delivery of a new “Quad” fire apparatus for the Skylight Station. This apparatus featured a 2000 GPM pump, carried 1000 gallons of water and 30 gallons of firefighting foam, a variety of ground ladders, heavy rescue tools for vehicle and machinery extrication and an extending light tower powered by an on board 25kw generator for lighting an emergency scene at night. The truck was built on a Spartan Gladiator fire apparatus chassis by Custom FIRE Apparatus Company of Osceola, Wisconsin and cost \$457,300.

The “Quad” quickly became the pride of our fleet, constructed according to the latest safety standards and equipped with state-of-the-art tools and implements. The NOFD’s insistence on safety and its investment in a very sturdily built fire truck paid huge dividends on the morning of January 17, 2010.

At approximately 1:20 AM on that morning, while en-route to an alarm of fire in a residence, the Quad was involved in a rollover accident on US 42 in Goshen. The truck left the road, shearing off two large utility poles and then rolled on its side as it came to a rest. The accident knocked high voltage wires down and knocked out power from Goshen all the way into Trimble County.

The truck was a total loss. However, no area of the cab was breached by the poles or any other object with which it collided. The three firefighters onboard were all seated and belted in with safety restraints.

The net result was that three firefighters walked away from a potentially fatal accident with only bumps & bruises. Had this occurred with one of the older, open-cab trucks, or had the firefighters not complied with our strict safety belt policy, the outcome of this wreck would likely have been much worse.

The truck is fully covered by insurance and is now being replaced with a new one. The three firefighters have all returned to duty but will recall their harrowing experience for many years to come.

Many improvements in the department over the last several years paid off in late 2005 when the department was evaluated by the Insurance Services Office. We were successful in obtaining a lower fire insurance classification for the district. Effective April 1, 2006, our Public Protection Class was lowered from Class 6 to Class 5. This means lower insurance premiums for property owners in the district. The acquisition of Goshen Utilities by the Louisville Water Company has resulted in the implementation of badly needed improvements in the local water system. This capital investment by the Louisville Water Company results in better service to its Goshen customers as well as improving the firefighting water supply system. This has helped significantly towards a reduced insurance rating for our area.

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Even with the resources we have available, we depend on our neighboring fire departments for assistance at major emergencies. Those departments include Harrods Creek, South Oldham, Westport, LaGrange, Pewee Valley and Worthington. They willingly provide mutual aid for NOFD 24 hours a day. In fact, each surrounding district provides automatic mutual aid to NOFD upon initial dispatch, for a significant part of our fire district. This effort is reciprocal and we often respond to assist our neighboring departments for emergencies in their respective districts. It is reassuring to know we can rely on each other and we deeply appreciate their willingness to share their resources.

In August, 2003, the Fire District began construction of a new headquarters fire station to replace the old Station 2 on KY 1793. Mr. David A. Jones and Main Street Realty, Inc., owner of a large tract of land across the street from Station 2 donated approximately 4 acres for the station. The department outgrew the old Station 2, having moved the Chief's office into a small trailer at the rear of the building. Apparatus and equipment were crammed inside the station's bays. Very little room existed for training and administrative functions.

Our beautiful facility was designed by Cole+Russell Architects of Cincinnati, Ohio, to meet our existing needs as well as future growth. The District hired King, Bridgeman, Bosse Constructors, LLC as our general contractor. Construction was completed and the NOFD proudly occupied our new fire station on November 1, 2004. The station was formally dedicated at a celebration and open house on May 21, 2005.

This facility is an attractive, yet practical facility that blends well within the community. It contains many innovative features, including indoor training props, large apparatus bay space, equipment storage and maintenance areas, offices and conference areas for administration, a state of the art classroom facility and a fitness room for firefighter health and safety programs. The new station is a facility in which the entire community can take pride.

NOFD assists with the operation of an ambulance as an extension of Oldham County EMS, to serve the Goshen area. On July 1, 2005, NOFD and OCEMS began operating a jointly staffed ambulance with Advanced Life Support capabilities, every Monday through Saturday from 6AM to 6PM (which are peak run activity times). NOFD provided an on-duty firefighter/EMT and OCEMS provided an on-duty paramedic.

In 2007, this service was again expanded by OCEMS by adding their own EMT to the 6AM to 6PM schedule, 7 days a week and expanded the paramedic duty at Goshen to 24 hours. NOFD volunteer EMT's help staff the ambulance along with the paramedic every night from 6PM to 6AM.

In addition to fire, rescue, and emergency medical services, NOFD provides members for the Oldham County Technical Rescue Team, which is made up of volunteers from all six fire protection districts as well as Oldham County EMS. This team specializes in high-angle and low-angle rope rescue, water rescue and confined space rescue. The team was

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

organized in 2003 as a joint venture of the Oldham County Fire Chiefs Association and its subsidiary, the Oldham County Fire Instructors Association. Future plans for the team include branching into trench and collapse rescue. This team too, provides mutual aid to neighboring communities.

On September 23, 2006 very heavy rains moved through the metro area resulting in rapid flash flooding all over Louisville. In response to a mutual aid request from Metro-Louisville, more than a dozen NOFD Water Rescue Technicians and a like amount from other Oldham County Fire Districts responded into Jefferson County to assist their teams. NOFD members made several live rescues of persons trapped or swept away by rising waters. In addition, NOFD's Chief and Deputy Chief assumed the command and control coordination of all of the water rescue resources operating inside Louisville that night. This was done from the NOFD's Goshen Station which is designed to serve as such a coordination center during major emergencies.

NOFD members also have the opportunity to join the Region 6 Hazardous Materials Response Team. This regional team was one of several established across Kentucky using Homeland Security grant funds to purchase equipment and train responders. It is still in its formative stages but the team is growing and the training and opportunities are expanding continuously. Both the Technical Rescue and Haz-Mat Teams are regional in scope and the responsibility for operating these special units is shared by each participating agency.

On April 21, 2007, NOFD took delivery of a new state-of-the-art fire apparatus called a "Quad" at a cost of \$457,103. The truck is a 2007 Custom Fire Apparatus built on a Spartan Gladiator Cab and chassis. It has a pumping capacity of 2000 GPM, carries 1000 gallons of water and 30 gallons of foam on board. The cab is designed to safely carry up to six firefighters. The truck also carries a complete array of hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws of Life), high pressure air bags, stabilization equipment, medical equipment and rope rescue equipment. In addition, the truck is equipped with 126 feet of ground ladders in varying lengths. A 15 kilowatt built in generator provides electrical power for high intensity portable lighting as well as a top mounted light tower on the truck for providing lighting at emergency scenes. NOFD members designed the truck to fill a need in the Skylight area. The truck is housed at the Skylight fire station.

NOTE: This apparatus was destroyed in a rollover accident while responding to a house fire in the early morning hours of January 17th 2010. The truck went off the road, struck and sheared off two 36" round utility poles before coming to rest on its side in a ditch. All three firefighters on-board escaped with only minor injuries. This is a testament to the solid design and safety features built into the truck. It also reinforces our strict policy requiring the use of seat belts in all fire department vehicles. Experts state that had this accident occurred with one of our older apparatus and/or had the occupants not been belted in their seats, all three would have likely experienced life-threatening injuries or even fatal injuries. That justifies the worth of the truck, when someone questions the high cost of new fire apparatus. The loss of the truck is 100% covered by insurance and an identical brand new rig is being built with delivery anticipated around mid-September 2010. All three firefighters involved in this accident have recovered and returned to duty. Heaven was definitely watching over all of us that morning.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

HISTORY OF THE NORTH OLDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

WE NEED YOU! The NOFD is a “substantially volunteer” fire department and depends heavily on residents of our community to serve as firefighters in order to deliver an effective service. You will see signs at the boundaries and at both stations that identify the district and carry the slogan “Neighbors Serving Our Community Since 1951.” Our district encompasses 47 square miles, bounded by the Indiana State Line (Ohio River) on the north, Harrods Creek on the south, Louisville/Jefferson County Metro on the west and the WAVE TV tower property on the east. Consideration is being given to the possible consolidation of the North Oldham Fire District and the Westport Fire District into one district, served by the Goshen, Skylight and Westport fire stations.

The present members of the North Oldham Fire Protection District Board of Trustees are Chairman Bob Martin, Treasurer Joe Schoenbaechler, Secretary Brann Clore, Trustees Randy Scherer, Gregg Cobb, David Stoltz and Larry Dunn. The Fire District’s Attorney is Raymond Simpson. The district’s tax rate is 10 cents per \$100 of property valuation. This rate is capped by statute and cannot be raised above 10 cents. Your NOFD is a BARGAIN to the taxpayers we serve.

The district operates solely off of property taxes. The above rate is expected to generate approximately \$1.2 million in revenues for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Each year, we develop our budget to be at least \$100,000 under projected revenues. The difference is set aside each year in a fund for capital improvements, which enables the district to maintain its fleet replacement program and equipment/facility improvement program without incurring excessive debt. The Board of Trustees is a historically conservative group serving as excellent stewards of the taxpayer funds they are entrusted with. As state law caps our tax rate, we work very hard to ensure that we live within our means.

The Chief Officers are Chief Rick Albers, Deputy Chief David Stoltz, Assistant Chiefs Charles Hebel and Don Dahl. Captain Mitch Slaughter commands our 1st Battalion, Captain Kris Krohn our 2nd Battalion, Captain Rich Nugent our 3rd Battalion and Captain Phil Schaad our 4th Battalion.

We would welcome you as a member of the NOFD team.

We are proud of the accomplishments of all the members of the NOFD as well as all who have served before. The citizens of Skylight planted a seed in 1951 and it has grown steadily for more than 50 years. We look forward to the next 50 years with excitement and enthusiasm. We are proud to be “Neighbors serving our Community.”

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



NOFD Engine 1435 - 1977 Ward LaFrance 1000 GPM pumper, 500 gallon booster tank. Purchased from Middletown FD of Jefferson County in 1995 for \$1. Replaced in 2002 by a 1982 Mack pumper purchased from St. Matthews FD. Donated to Kentucky Community Technical College system's fire science program. Later donated to a small volunteer fire department in Mississippi, that was wiped out by Hurricane Katrina.



NOFD Engine 1424 - 1977 Ford/E-One 1000 GPM Pumper with 750 gallon tank. NOFD purchased new in 1977. NOFD's first ever "real" fire engine. Took over as primary pumper from 1957 International "home built" pumper. Sold to Westport FD in 2002.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



NOFD Forestry Unit 1473 - 1974 Ford 4x4 with skid mount 250 GPM pump for brush fires. Purchased new by NOFD. Sold as surplus in 2000.



NOFD Engine 1434 - 1998 KME 1250 GPM pumper with 1000 gallon tank. Currently in service at the Goshen Station as primary pumper. Will become reserve status in January 2011 upon delivery of 2 new Custom pumps.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



NOFD Engine 1432 - 1984 E-One Hurricane 1250 GPM pumper with 750 gallon tank. Purchased from Harrods Creek FD in 2005. Utilized as a reserve pumper. Will be sold as surplus in January 2011 upon delivery of two new Custom pumpers to NOFD.



NOFD Engine 1436 - 1990 Ford/Grumman 1250 GPM pumper with 1000 gallon tank. Currently as reserve pumper at Goshen Station. Will transfer to training pumper upon delivery of 2 new Custom pumpers in January 2011.



NOFD Forestry 1477 - 1996 Ford F-250 4x4 with 250 GPM skid pump and 300 gallon tank. Currently assigned to the Skylight station as the brush fire unit.



NOFD Quad 1442 - 1982 Mack semi-quad 1500 GPM with 600 gallon tank. Purchased from St. Matthews FD in 2002. Sold in 2010 to Knifely Area Volunteer FD in Adair County, KY and is in service as their primary engine.



NOFD Quint 1455 - 2002 Seagrave Meanstick Quint with 75' aerial, 2000 GPM pump, 500 gallon booster tank, 20 gallon foam tank. First out of Goshen Station for all structure fires.



NOFD Tanker 1461 - 1997 Freightliner/Monroe 2000 gallon tanker with 500 GPM pump and two 2500 gallon portable tanks. Primary mission - haul water for fires in rural areas. Assigned to Skylight Station.



NOFD Tanker 1432.



NOFD Rescue 1481 - 1997 Ford/Marque light rescue - carries technical rescue equipment and manpower.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



NOFD Quad 1441 - 2010 Spartan/Custom 1500 GPM semi-quad with 1000 gallon tank. Delivered in September 2010. This truck replaces an identical 2007 model which was destroyed in a traffic accident on January 17, 2010.



NOFD Engines 1431 and 1432 - one of a pair of identical 2011 Spartan/Custom 1500 GPM pumpers due for delivery in January, 2011.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:

NOFD Engines 1431 and 1432 - one of a pair of identical 2011 Spartan/Custom 1500 GPM pumpers due for delivery in January, 2011. At the factory in December 2010.





NOFD Fireboat 1491 - 2009 Munson 28' PackCat high speed landing craft, twin 225 HP outboards, 500 GPM fire pump, rescue capable. Covers 11 miles of Ohio River first due and approximately 35 miles mutual aid. Top speed approximately 45 mph.



NOFD Engine 2 – 1957 International – home built pumper with WWII vintage 500 GPM CD pump, powered by separate 4 cylinder gas engine. 1000 gallon booster tank. Chassis purchased new by NOFD. Pump and tank moved from 1951 Ford by firemen. Served as primary pumper from 1957 to 1977.



NOFD Tanker 1 – 1951 Ford – home built tanker. 250 GPM portable pump, 35' ladder, 1500 gallon tank. Chassis purchased new by NOFD. Wooden hose body, 500 GPM pump and tank placed on it by inmates of Kentucky State Reformatory in La-Grange. Converted to tanker in 1957 when pump was moved to 1957 International chassis.



NOFD Rescue 1481 – 1974 Chevrolet Step Van – purchased in early 80's from the Middletown FD of Jefferson County. Carried rescue tools, manpower, breathing air and other equipment. Sold in mid-90's to a contractor.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



NOFD old Station 2 at 1721 S. Hwy. 1793 in Goshen, KY, circa 1984.



NOFD Engine 1425 – 1979 Ford/Darley 1000 GPM pumper with 750 gallon tank. Sold to Westport FD in late 90's. Now privately owned by NOFD's Deputy Chief David Stoltz.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



Interior of old NOFD Station 2 during a fire run.



NOFD trash fire circa 1980 or so.

Courtesy—North Oldham Fire District:

Random photos:



Chief Rick Albers



Fire circa 1980 or so.

July 16, 2003: *The Courier-Journal*, by Tonia Holbrook: Pink office shows firefighters' humor. When North Oldham Fire Chief Rick Albers returned to work last week from his honeymoon, he found his firefighters had given him a wedding gift he'd like to give back.

Albers' office, a construction trailer behind North Oldham Fire Station No. 2 in Goshen, had been painted pink with white polka dots and a soft lilac trim. The mailbox was likewise adorned with a new name for Albers' office — "polk-a-dot palace."

"In his younger days, he would have been the first person to do stuff like this," said Maj. Don Dahl, Albers' second in command. "We owe this to him on behalf of all the fire chiefs he terrorized coming up through the ranks."

Albers' trailer, where he moved his office when space was at a premium at the fire station, has been an ongoing joke among the firefighters and is among the features Albers said he can't wait to lose when their new station is built.

The department plans to build a \$2.5 million station across Ky. 1793 that would boast 16,735 square feet, more than triple the size of its 23-year-old station. The new station also will include a tower and other amenities for training. The department hopes to break ground in mid-August and have it functioning by next summer.

And Albers will finally get an indoor office.

Until then, the 58 men and women under Albers' command probably will keep teasing him, Dahl said.

Last year, when Albers missed a training exercise, those who attended filled a 2,000-gallon portable water tank and placed it in front of his trailer door so he couldn't get in, Dahl said. In the tank were a scuba diver and several plastic pink flamingos.

And until last week, the mailbox in front of Albers' trailer was marked "tornado alley" — a jibe for the rough weather that makes Albers a little nervous when he's in there.

So after Albers' wedding on June 28, a committee of unnamed firefighters began planning a fitting gift, Dahl said. The committee members pooled their money and bought the most garish paint a local store had to offer, he said.

Capt. Phil Schaad said this and other pranks on Albers are part of the department's positive atmosphere. "That we can do this sort of thing and everybody gets a good laugh is indicative of the strong morale we have," he said.

Dahl agreed, adding that Albers is "very good-natured."

But after Albers saw his pink trailer last week, he ordered his crew to return it to its original battleship-gray luster. In defiance, they said it was too hot to paint outside.

"But for firefighters, you can't really say that with a straight face," Dahl said with a laugh.

So they've changed their story, telling Albers they can't find gray paint anywhere in town.



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1959-2004 PHOTO ARCHIVE



Kent D. Parrish

RICK ALBERS' NORTH OLDHAM QUINT

This is a 2002 Seagrave Meanstick quint has a pump rated at 2000 GPM, with a 500 gallon tank and a 20 gallon foam cell. The 3 section ladder has a maximum height of 75 feet and a tip load rating of 500 pounds with the ladder fully extended in any position. The prepiped waterway is capable of delivering 1000 GPM to the remotely controlled nozzle. The nozzle can be used at full flow at any angle, including 90 degrees off the side of the ladder. The nozzle can be used attached to either the top (3rd section) or attached to the top of the middle (2nd section). When needed, a rapid attack can be initiated by stabilizing the vehicle, raising/rotating/extending the ladder, engaging the pump, opening the tank to pump valve and the valve to the ladder pipe nozzle.

In addition to high side compartments on both sides of the vehicle for the storage of a huge amount of equipment, there is a compartment in the cab between the front and rear seats (where the EMS emblem is).

The following ladders are carried inside of the vehicle on one beam:

35 foot 3 section and two 16 foot roof ladders to the right of center

24 foot 2 section and a 15 foot A-frame ladder to the left of center

Two 10 foot collapsible folding attic ladders are also carried.

It carries 900 feet of 5 inch hose, 600 feet of 3 inch hose, plus two 1 ½ inch and one 2 ½ inch preconnect in cross lay beds. It also carries short 1 ½ inch preconnects in the extended front bumper, plus additional 1 ½ lines for extending hose and other purposes.

January 7, 2010: Former STMGD member hurt in Crash—Chief Rick Albers, North Oldham Fire

Courtesy, Oldhamera.com—Rollover crash injures three North Oldham firefighters responding to alarm. By Jacquelyn Stoess Hack

When a fire truck slammed into a series of utility poles early Sunday, an Oldham County dispatcher coordinating rescue efforts from a call center in Buckner had no idea her husband would be the firefighter loaded into a helicopter bound for University Hospital in Louisville.

Three North Oldham firefighters were injured as a fire truck crashed about 1:30 a.m. along U.S. 42 in Goshen while headed to Paramount Estates on the report of an alarm sounding.

NOFD Deputy Chief David Stoltz said all three men on board were taken to area hospitals.

At the time of the crash, crews assessed the injuries of firefighter Tom Woosley as the most severe and requested a medical helicopter to airlift him from the scene.

Woosley's wife, Miki, an Oldham County dispatcher, coordinated rescue efforts between EMS and flight personnel from the call center in Buckner long before she learned her husband had been injured, Director Kevin Nuss said.

Nuss said Woosley normally works at the call center during second shift but had volunteered to stay late because OCD was short staffed.

Crews transported the other two men on board, NOFD Chief Rick Albers and Capt. Mitch Slaughter, to Norton Brownsboro Hospital by ambulance.

Nuss, who lives near the crash site and serves as the county's emergency management director, said when he arrived at the scene and learned the names of the injured men, he notified Miki Woosley and relieved her of her duties.

All three men were alert and conscious after the crash, Stoltz said. Albers climbed out of the fire truck through the windshield and personnel quickly extricated the other two men, he said.

NOFD Capt. Charlie Hebel said as of 11 a.m. Sunday, all three men have been released from area hospitals and are home resting with their families.

The cause of the crash is under investigation. Stoltz said he believes one of the vehicle's tires dropped off the edge of the roadway, causing the truck to strike a series of utility poles and roll into a ditch in the 11900 block of West U.S. 42.

It came to rest on the passenger's side about 20 feet from the entrance to an LG&E substation.

The crash left miles of U.S. 42 surrounded by darkness, with the only light visible for miles streaming from emergency lights inside schools on the North Oldham campus.

Nuss said hundreds of LG&E customers from Hillcrest subdivision to Sligo in Henry County lost power. The crash also knocked out lines to traffic signals at the intersection of U.S. 42 and Ky. 1793 and U.S. 42 and Ridgemoor Drive near Goshen Elementary.

The power outage could impact Sunday worship services in the area. Churches without power at the time of the crash include St. John United Methodist Church, Goshen Baptist Church, Shiloh Methodist Church and River Valley Christian Church.

Nuss said when LG&E clears the scene, wrecker services will begin to pull the fire truck from the ditch. As of lunchtime Sunday, dispatchers said a section of U.S. 42 will be closed until 6 p.m.

Traffic is being rerouted from U.S. 42 to Club Drive, following Spring Meadow Lane, Cliffwood and Goshen Lane before returning to U.S. 42.

Stoltz said the truck involved in the crash is NOFD's primary truck from the Skylight station and is known as Quad 1441. Purchased in 2007, it is the department's newest.



January 7, 2010: Former STMF member hurt in Crash—Chief Rick Albers, North Oldham Fire

Courtesy, WHAS11.com: Three North Oldham Firefighters taken to hospital after crash.

Courtesy WLKY.com

by Mike Whitlow

Posted on January 17, 2010 at 5:37 AM

(WHAS11)- Three North Oldham county firefighters were taken to the hospital overnight after their fire truck crashed.

It happened on U-S 42 in Goshen around 1:30 Sunday morning.

Firefighters were responding to a call when the fire truck went off the road, crashed into a utility pole, and turned on its side.

Two firefighters were taken by ambulance to the hospital, and a third was airlifted by helicopter.

No word on their conditions yet, the accident knocked out power to a nearby subdivision.



January 18, 2010

Three Oldham firefighters injured after fire truck crash

By Andrea Uhde
auhde@courier-journal.com

A North Oldham Fire Department truck hit two utility poles Sunday morning on U.S. 42, shutting down power in the area and causing minor injuries to three firefighters.

The firefighters were responding to a fire alarm in the Paramount Estates Subdivision at 1:19 a.m. when the truck struck the utility poles and overturned on its passenger side, Oldham County Police said.

The accident happened at the 11900 block of U.S. 42 and stopped traffic in the area, Lt. Col. Billy Way said in a press release. The accident also cut off electricity in a large area of the U.S. 42 corridor from Oldham to Henry County, Way said.

Fire Chief Rick Albers, the truck's driver, and Capt. Mitch Slaughter were taken to Norton Brownsboro Hospital and firefighter/EMT Thomas Woosley was taken by air ambulance to the University of Louisville Hospital, Way said.

The three injured employees were treated at local hospitals and are doing fine, North Oldham Fire Department Capt. Richard Nugent said Monday.

He said none of the injured firefighters were admitted into a hospital, and all are working or ready to return to work on their normal schedule.

Nugent said he's not sure how badly the fire truck was damaged.

Reporter Andrea Uhde can be reached at (502) 582-4663.

3 Firefighters Injured In Fire Truck Crash

Crash Knocks Out Power To Oldham, Henry Counties

POSTED: 12:20 pm EST January 17, 2010

UPDATED: 12:33 pm EST January 17, 2010



OLDHAM COUNTY, Ky. -- Several firefighters are recovering after crashing their fire truck on the way to an emergency call.

Officials said the crash happened at about 1:19 a.m. Sunday 11900 block of U.S. Highway 42 in Oldham County. The vehicle crashed between Club Drive and Goshen Lane.

Investigators said the North Oldham Fire Department vehicle was heading westbound on the highway en route to a fire at a home in the Paramount Estates subdivision.



Police said the vehicle left the road, struck two utility poles and overturned, landing on the passenger side of the truck.

Chief Rick Albers was driving the fire truck. Medics said he was taken to Norton Brownsboro Hospital. Capt. Mitch Slaughter was also taken to that hospital.

Firefighter Thomas Woosley was flown to the University of Louisville Hospital. Officials said all three only suffered minor injuries and were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

The crash caused a power outage to a large portion of the U.S. 42 corridor from Oldham County to Henry County. LG&E crews are working to restore service.

The highway was shut down for the repair and investigation efforts.

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North Oldham's Quad
North Oldham Fire Department - Goshen, KY
Thu August 12, 2010 8:59 am

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Photos



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