

Fire Station 8:
Historical Perspective
and Legacy
Presentation

February 25, 2016

Sun Gazette 9/14/2008

OLD NO. 8



Photo Collection of Capt. Ruddy Higgins
Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Old Fire Station No. 8

The Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department protected Hall's Hill - a historic African-American neighborhood in the northern part of Arlington County.

Hall's Hill is "situated on land that was an antebellum estate" and "a number of current residents are descended from the estate's slave families," according to the web site arlingtonarts.org. The residents of Hall's Hill "endured the era of segregation and the struggle for civil rights," the web site said.

Until the early 1960s, the Arlington County Fire Department was also segregated and only black firefighters - paid and volunteer - were assigned to old Station No. 8.

The old station was replaced in 1963 by the current firehouse, which is located adjacent to the site of the old structure.

Read more about Hall's Hill and the book "Up On The Hill" at

Organized in 1918

Volunteer until 1941

First paid firefighters hired

1951-1954

Segregated until early- to mid-1960s

Agenda

Introduction

Hope and History on the Hill

Historical Significance of Fire Station No. 8

Closing and Q&A

Historical Perspective and Legacy
Presentation

Fire Station No. 8 History and Legacy

Introduction

- Presenters – Lydia Cole, Donald Reed, Dale Smith, Kitty Clark Stevenson
- Objectives –
 - To educate and inform the Task Force with historically significant facts about HH/HVP Volunteer Fire Department and Fire Station No. 8;
 - To be taken into account during their deliberations and reporting; and
 - To correct misinformation previously shared
- Definitions –
 - History is a story or tale of what has happened or may have happened in the past.
 - Legacy is about life and living, learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future; taking stock of your possessions, accomplishments, and disappointments.

Precincts Served by FS8, and Percent Voting June 9, 2015 Democratic Primary, and November 3, 2015 General Election

Precinct	6/9/15	11/3/15
024	9%	28%
029	13%	37%
031	13%	36%
033	12%	36%
034	13%	31%
035	11%	38%
037	14%	35%

COMPONENTS OF LEGACY

Taking Stock – Make tick marks under Component as you listen.

Possessions	Accomplishments	Disappointments

Sun Gazette, Arlington: March 3, 2005

“Hall’s Hill rich history of citizen participation has made life better for the neighborhood and the county as a whole.”

For years, the Hall’s Hill fire station struggled under an official benign neglect, which showed its effect in hand-me-down equipment and understaffing. However, Schwartz said the station volunteers persevered.

“Today, they serve as a lesson for those who want to serve their community and will not be deterred...” (Former Fire Chief James Schwartz. *Ryan Self, Staff Writer.*)

Northern Virginia Sun, Wednesday, March 9, 1960, (Vol. XXIII, No. 133)

Headline: “Spirit of Dedicated Service is Hall’s Hill
Dept.’s Badge”

Quality and caliber of professionalism and skilled
expertise of firefighting services, fire rescue, arson
investigations.

Negro/African-American rank officers: Captains Clark,
Jones, and Reed; and Lieutenants Deskins and A.
Syphax; Battalion Chief Smith, Assistant Chief
Middleton, Deputy Chief Barksdale.

Hope on the Hill

- Presenter: Lydia Jones Cole



**HOPE AND HISTORY
ON THE HILL**



HOPE AND HISTORY ON THE HILL



A Legacy of Hope

History and Self Preservation





In 1918
Arlington, it
was every
community for
itself.



HALL'S HILL
STATION NO 8
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT.

A.C.F.D.
ARLINGTON, VA.

Safety
First
for Hall's
Hill and
Beyond



Vision and Values
are meant to be
built on and
expanded



Vision and Values
are meant to be
built on and
expanded

Excellence and
Innovation are
shared with the
future



The Hope and
Possibilities
Realized from
Slavery to
Freedom



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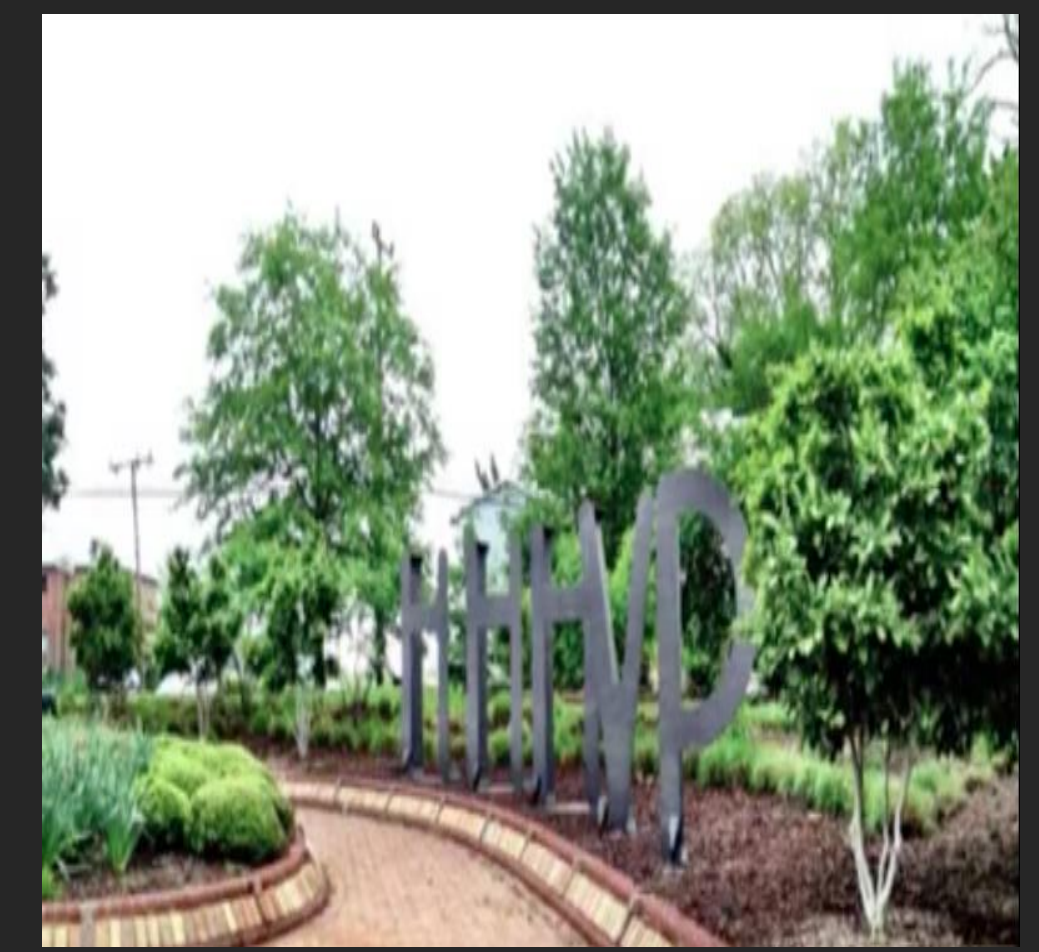
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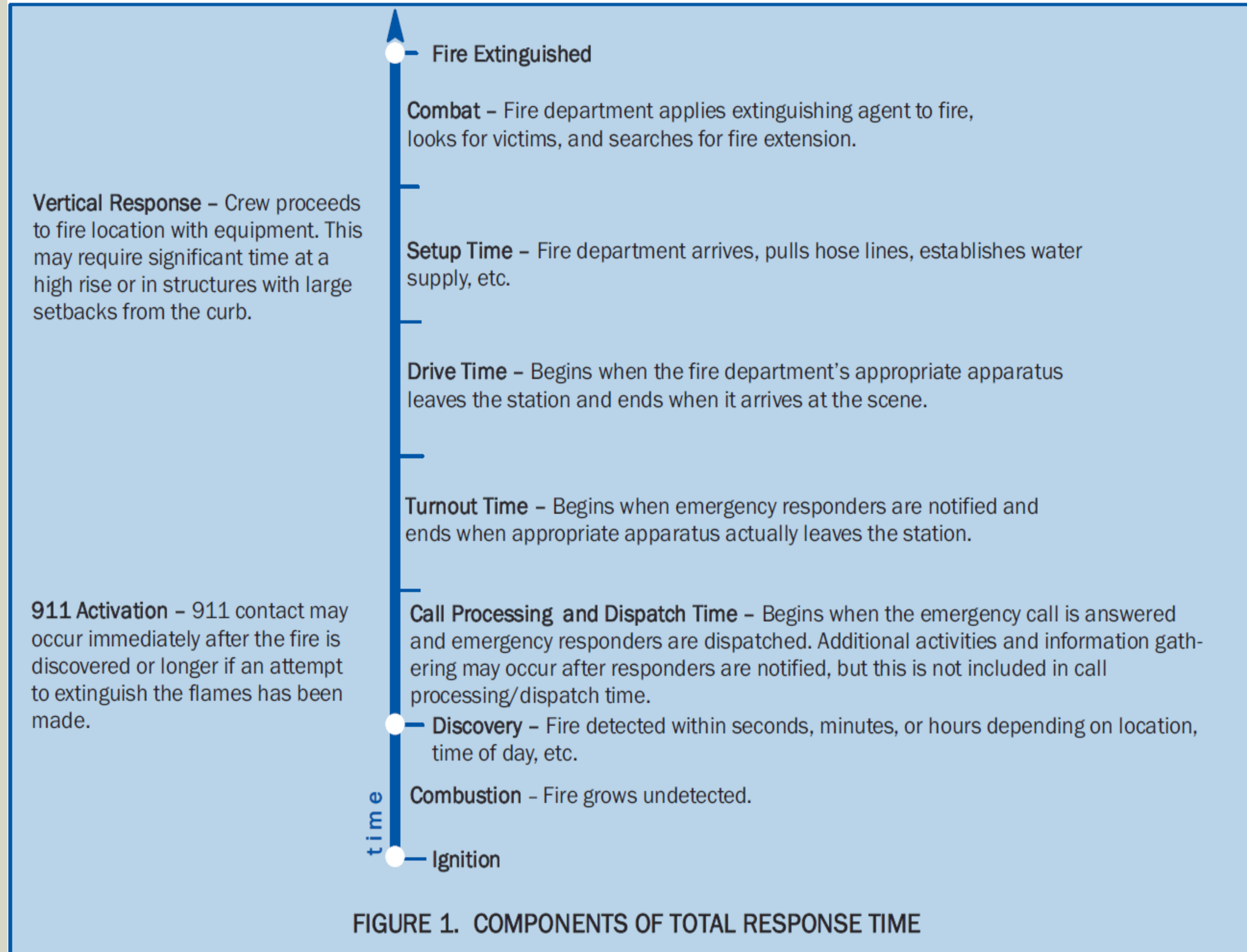
Fire Station 8
Second to None
in Experience,
Excellence and
A History of
Life-Saving
Service




Significance to History and Legacy

- Presenters:
 - Dale Smith, Battalion Chief, ACFD, Retired
 - Donald S. Reed, Captain, ACFD, Retired

Historical Perspective of Response Time & Automatic Mutual Aid Response



Consequences of Moving Fire Station 8

**Northern Virginia Fire Buffs**Like Page▼

17 mins · 🌟

****Fairfax County****

McLean

Box : 142

Channel : 4 Hotel (Operations)

Call : Swift Water Rescue

Address : Chesterbrook road and North Albemarle road

Dispatched Details : Report of a van stuck in water w/ an adult and 4 children still inside, Fire / EMS on scene

Units : E102 TL104 R401 SW418 SW433 M110 EMS402 BC112 SAF403

Time of Dispatch : 18:25



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👍 2

Top Comments ▼



**Northern Virginia Fire Buffs** Update - BC112 (Command) advised that the female occupant and her 4 children have been safely removed from the vehicle and are on dry land being checked out by M110. Command now 25 minutes into the incident. 18:45

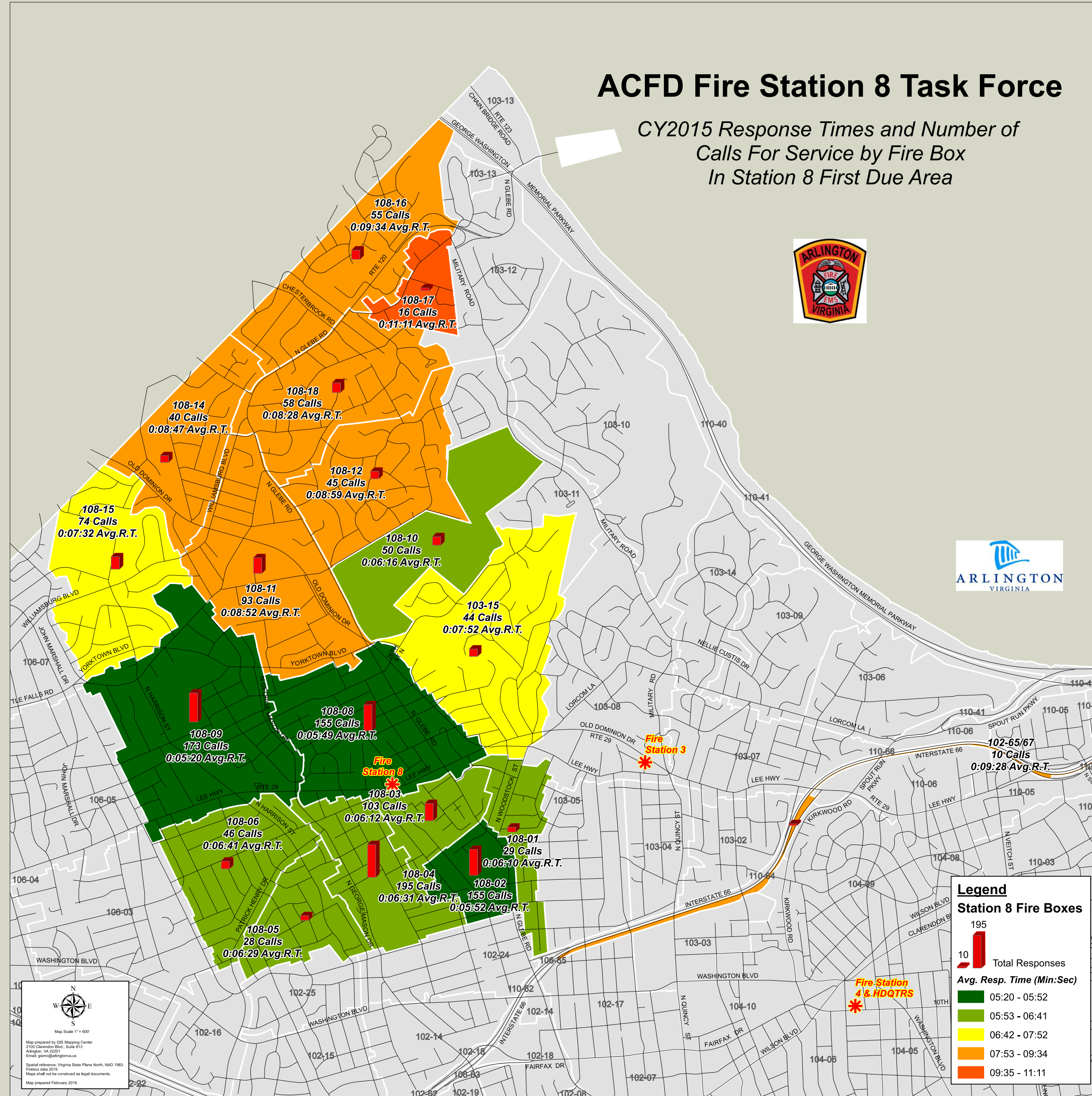
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Local County/City Comparison

Locality	# Fire Stations	Square Miles Covered	Population
Arlington County	10	26	229,000
City Of Alexandria	10	15	140,000
Fairfax County	38	406	1,137,538
Montgomery County	39	507	1,030,447
Prince George's	48	499	863,000
Prince William	22	348	486,000

ACFD Fire Station 8 Task Force

CY2015 Response Times and Number of Calls For Service by Fire Box In Station 8 First Due Area



Legend

Station 8 Fire Boxes

195 Total Responses

Avg. Resp. Time (Min:Sec)

- 05:20 - 05:52
- 05:53 - 06:41
- 06:42 - 07:52
- 07:53 - 09:34
- 09:35 - 11:11

Map Scale 1" = 600'

Map prepared by GIS Mapping Center
2100 Cleveland Blvd., Suite #13
Arlington, VA 22201
Email: gis@arlingtonva.gov

Statistical information: Virginia State Plane North, NAD 1983
Emission date 2015.
Map will not be considered as legal documents.
Map prepared February 2016.

Closing Remarks

- Several petitions have been circulated through canvassing and social media, with the majority of respondents supporting keeping FS8 where it is, and providing necessary resources Arlington citizens have the right to expect – equipment, staff, and facilities to support a 3-bay station.
- Adverse operational impacts will occur if FS8 is moved:
 - farther North to an area that has experienced very little change in the past 50 years;
 - which historically experienced the lowest number of fire responses;
 - away from the first-duty area that receives 4xmore calls, with plans for HH/HVP expansion and Lee Highway corridor redevelopment;
 - while increasing the workload for FS2, the second busiest engine company that also serves Virginia Hospital Center;
 - while increasing more service to Fairfax County under the Mutual Aid Response Agreement; and
 - while decreasing availability to Arlington County citizens, homes, and businesses.
- The appropriate way to honor the legacy of those men who dedicated their lives to serve and save their families and neighbors, committed and dedicated to a community segregated under Jim Crow as volunteers for a decade more than other ACFD White firefighters were being paid, is by bringing FS8 up to 21st century standards for professional careers in firefighting, emergency medical, and public services – *end the benign neglect*.