



HISTORY OF HAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

JAN. 1861 – HAMPTON FIRE DEPT. IS ORGANIZED AFTER A FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH THE INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICES WAREHOUSE. LOCAL TREE FARMER BRUCE QUINN IS APPOINTED AS THE TOWN'S FIRST FIRE CHIEF.

MAR. 1861 – HAMPTON BUILDS ITS FIRST FIRE STATION ON MAIN STREET IN OLD TOWN, PURCHASES ITS FIRST FIRE ENGINE, AND STAFFS THE DEPARTMENT WITH 12 VOLUNTEERS OF LOCAL TOWNSMEN.

FEB. 1865 – HAMPTON FIRE DEPT. MAKES A VALIANT SAVE OF THE RAIL SERVICES WAREHOUSE. IT WAS SET ABLAZE BY TROOPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF UNION GENERAL WILLIAM T. SHERMAN AS HE WAS MAKING HIS INFAMOUS MARCH TO THE SEA AND BACK THROUGH NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

DEC. 1889 – HAMPTON'S FIRST CITY HALL IS DESTROYED BY FIRE.

NOV. 1891 – AT AGE 68 FIRE CHIEF BRUCE QUINN PASSES. THE DEPT. REIGNS ARE HANDED OVER TO HIS SON BRUCE QUINN JR.

JAN. 1908 – 275 ACRES BURN ON MAOF MOUNTAIN. THE FIRE DEPT. IS UNABLE TO CONTROL THE FIRE DUE TO THE TERRAIN. LUCKILY NO STRUCTURES WERE LOST.

JUNE 1914 – HAMPTON REMODELS ITS FIRE STATION IN OLD TOWNE.

AUG. 1931 – HAMPTON PURCHASES ITS FIRST MOTORIZED FIRE APPARATUS. A USED 1926 AHRENS FOX.

APRIL 1942 – WHILE MOST OF THE TOWN'S MEN WERE OFF AT WAR WITH JAPAN, HAMPTON FIRE DEPT. LOSES 5 SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS FROM A FIRE PUSHED BY 30 MPH WINDS. A LACK OF WATER PRESSURE HAMPERED FIREFIGHTERS. INCIDENTALLY THE FIRE WAS STARTED FROM A FAULTY OIL FURNACE.

JUNE 1947 – WITH THE RETURN OF THE MEN OF HAMPTON FROM THE WAR IN JUST A FEW YEARS THE ECONOMY SHOWS SIGNS OF LIFE IN HAMPTON. THE CITY STEPS OUT ON A LIMB AND HIRES THEIR FIRST FULLTIME FIREFIGHTER. FIRE CHIEF JACK DANIEL IS PAID \$2200.00 PER YEAR.

OCT. 1952 – HAMPTON PURCHASES ITS FIRST NEW FIRE ENGINE, A 1952 SEAGRAVE. THE FIRE DEPT. STILL OPERATES IT AS A PARADE TRUCK.

AUG. 1958 – JACK DANIEL RETIRES AS FIRE CHIEF. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FIRE DEPT. IS HANDED BACK TO THE QUINN FAMILY. ISAAC QUINN IS APPOINTED FIRE CHIEF.

OCT. 1969 – HAMPTON ADDS TWO (2) MORE FULLTIME FIREFIGHTERS TO THE DEPARTMENT BRINGING FULLTIME STAFFING TO THREE (3).

NOV. 1970 – HAMPTON BUILDS A NEW FIRE STATION AT THE CORNER OF MAIN ST. EXT. AND NORTH AVE.

AUG. 1971 – THE LAKE NOAH TRAIN TRESTLE CATCHES FIRE, IT TAKES FIREFIGHTERS SOME 80 MINUTES TO REACH THE TRESTLE. IT IS TOTALLY DESTROYED.

OCT. 1972 – ISAAC QUINN RETIRES TURNING THE DEPT. LEADERSHIP OVER TO HIS SON GARY QUINN.

FEB. 1974 – HAMPTON SUFFERS ITS FIRST CIVILIAN CASUALTY BY WAY OF A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING FIRE. THE CITY FIRE SERVICE WENT 113 YEARS WITHOUT A CIVILIAN FIRE DEATH.

APR. 1975 – HAMPTON PURCHASES A NEW FMC FRONT MOUNT FIRE ENGINE. IT IS KNOWN AS ENGINE 1. THE FIRE DEPT STILL MAINTAINS THIS UNIT AS “RESERVE FRONTLINE AS NEEDED.” IT’S PRIMARY FUNCTION TODAY IS FOR DRAFTING WATER FROM LAKE NOAH TO SUPPLEMENT THE WATER SUPPLY FOR MAJOR FIRE SUPPRESSION IN OLD TOWN.

AUG. 1978 – A MAJOR FIRE AT THE BATTLEFIELD DIVISIONS PASSENGER STATION OCCURS NEARLY DESTROYING THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE.

FEB. 1986 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES A NEW FIRE ENGINE. IT IS A SUTPHEN BODY ON A TWO (2) DOOR FORD C-CAB CHASSIS. 1500 GPM W/ 750 TANK. IT IS CURRENTLY THE PRIMARY ENGINE AT STATION 2.

MAY 1987 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES A NEW RESCUE TRUCK. A SAULSBURY WALK-IN RESCUE ON A TWO (2) DOOR FORD C-CAB CHASSIS. IT IS STILL THE TOWN’S PRIMARY RESCUE TRUCK.

AUG. 1990 – CHIEF QUINN RETIRES. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FIRE DEPT. REMAINS IN THE QUINN FAMILY WHEN CHIEF QUINN’S OLDEST SON STEVE IS APPOINTED AS FIRE CHIEF. HE CONTINUES TO LEAD THE DEPARTMENT TODAY.

SEPT. 1991 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES TWO NEW PUMPER TANKERS. THEY ARE ON TWO (2) DOOR INTERNATIONAL CHASSIS WITH 1500 GALLON TANKS AND 1000 GPM PUMPS. BOTH REMAIN IN SERVICE TODAY, WITH ONE (1) BEING AT HEADQUARTERS AND ONE (1) BEING AT STATION 2.

APRIL 1995 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES ITS FIRST LADDER TRUCK. A 65’ TELESQUART ON A TWO (2) DOOR FORD C-CAB CHASSIS. IT IS THE PRIMARY LADDER AT HEADQUARTERS TODAY.

APRIL 1996 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES A NEW PUMPER. ANOTHER SUTPHEN BODY ON A CANOPY CAB FORD C-CAB CHASSIS. 1500 GPM W/ 750 TANK. IT IS THE PRIMARY ENGINE AT HEADQUARTERS TODAY.

DEC. 2010 – FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMPTON IS DESTROYED BY FIRE. WATER PRESSURE HAMPERED FIREFIGHTERS.

JAN. 2011 – CHIEF QUINN APPROACHES HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL REQUESTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER TOWER TO AID THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM IN NEW TOWN. AFTER 2 MONTH'S OF HAGGLING THE TOWN AGREES. THE WATER TOWER IS LOCATED ON PROPERTY ALREADY OWNED BY THE TOWN ON BATTLEGROUND HIGHWAY. TODAY IT SITS BETWEEN STATION 2 AND THE HFD TRAINING GROUNDS, KNOWN AS "THE PROVING GROUNDS."

MARCH 2011 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON AGREES TO BUILD A SUB-STATION IN NEW TOWN AFTER A SERIES OF SERIOUS FIRES IN NEW TOWN.

MARCH 2012 – THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MOVES INTO THE NEW SUB-STATION.

MAY 2019 – THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS RIBBON CUTTING ON THE NEW TRAINING FACILITY LOCATED IN NEW TOWN ON BATTLEGROUND HIGHWAY BESIDE STATION 2. "THE PROVING GROUNDS."

DEC. 2020 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES A NEW LADDER TRUCK FOR NEW TOWN. A 100' LADDER ON A PIERCE ARROW CHASSIS. 2000 GPM W/ 500 GALLON TANK.

CURRENTLY – THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ENJOYS ABOVE AVERAGE STAFFING. THE FIVE (5) YEAR PLAN CHIEF QUINN HAS PRESENTED TO TOWN COUNCIL CALLS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) NEW SUTPHEN PUMPERS, A NEW SUTPHEN RESCUE, AND A NEW SUTPHEN TOWER. THE DEPARTMENT ENJOYS 21 PERSONNEL PER SHIFT FOR A TOTAL OF 63 SUPPRESSION PERSONNEL, WITH THE CHIEF, ASST. CHIEF, TRAINING OFFICER, FIRE MARSHAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT M-F 8-5. THIS IS A TOTAL OF 68 PERSONNEL.