

THE CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SERVING
THE QUEEN CITY SINCE 1887.
ITS PRIMARY MISSION IS TO PRESERVE LIFE AND PROPERTY
THROUGH RAPID EMERGENCY RESPONSE,
CODE ENFORCEMENT,

DID YOU KNOW? CFD IN 2014:

- Responded to **103,473** calls
- Average response time **4 minutes, 34 seconds** (from call receipt to arrival on scene)
- Answered **200,000** 911 calls - 99% within 10 seconds
- Completed **100%** of state-mandated fire code inspections (42,000 inspections and 7,000 building-plan reviews)
- Provided fire education to **100%** of CMS third-graders: **14,725** students **PLUS 81%** of private/charter third-grade classrooms
- Arson investigations cleared **56%** of incendiary fires, compared to 20% nationally

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

500 Dalton Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28206





Insignia of the Charlotte Fire Department

The official emblem of Charlotte Fire Department has a very special history that goes back nearly 250 years. The emblem is based on the traditional symbol of the fire service, the **Maltese Cross**. The center border and side panels feature tools of the firefighting trade: **the hydrant, hook and ladder, and hose and nozzle**.

The center seal was developed in 1875 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the **Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence**. The Charlotte mayor and members of the Centennial Celebration Committee asked the director of the U.S. Mint to create

dies honoring the 1775 Mecklenburg Declaration, when Mecklenburg was the first government body in America to declare independence from the Crown of England. The request was approved, and the Philadelphia Mint struck commemorative medals in silver and bronze.

The centerpiece of the emblem is the **Tree of Liberty**, used by the Boston Sons of Liberty as a rallying point for resistance to British rule. Emitting from the tree are **rays of light**, symbolic of the rays of the morning sun.

The tree supports a **Liberty Cap** and a **hornet's nest**, surrounded by seven flying hornets. The hornet's nest is a reference dating to the Revolutionary War, when British General Lord Cornwallis referred to Charlotte as a "hornet's nest of rebellion" after his troops unsuccessfully fought local militias in the 1780 Battle of Charlotte.

The **Liberty Cap**, also known as a Phrygian Cap, is a symbol of freedom and liberty. In ancient Rome, slaves who obtained their freedom wore similar caps. The Sons of Liberty wore red liberty caps during the American Revolution.

The **Clasped Hands** located below the tree represent the post-Civil War reconciliation of the North and South, unified under one common government and flag.

