

Why Are Barnstead's Fire Trucks Green?

Did you ever wonder why Barnstead fire trucks are green? It is a rather unusual color for fire trucks, don't you think?

Well, the answer comes from merger activities back in 1995. That was when Barnstead Parade Fire Company, No.1, Center Barnstead Fire Department, Inc. and Barnstead Rescue, Inc. all merged into one independent entity known as Barnstead Fire-Rescue, Inc.

It was a difficult merger to accomplish. There were many years of pride and tradition vested in each of the two fire companies. Barnstead Parade Fire Company, No. 1 was first organized in 1909. The Center Barnstead Fire Company dated from back in 1924. Each group was fiercely loyal to its village, its fire company, its equipment and the color of its fire trucks. The Parade's fire trucks were yellow. The Center's fire trucks were red. There was a considerable amount of rivalry between the two fire companies, replete with disparaging comments about the color of the other company's trucks.

When Barnstead Rescue, Inc. was formed in 1989, that organization should have been awarded some sort of diplomacy award. Barnstead Rescue, Inc. purchased a white rescue truck with one yellow stripe and one red stripe. Peace was maintained, for the time being.

But, after the merger was completed, the new Barnstead Fire-Rescue, Inc. organization was about to accept delivery of a new fire engine. The group had to decide what color the new truck would be painted. Many discussions were held on the topic. Finally, it was decided to have open nominations for proposed colors and the new color would be selected by majority vote.

Motions were made and seconded to consider the following colors; emerald green, burgundy, white, blue, red and yellow. Yes, there were still some members clinging to their former company colors. After much discussion, a first vote was taken to narrow the field from six choices to three. The results of that vote were: emerald green, burgundy and yellow. A second vote was taken to narrow the field down to two. The results were: emerald green and burgundy. The third and final vote resulted in emerald green favored over burgundy by a vote of 20 for the green and 9 for the burgundy. So, Barnstead fire trucks are emerald green – Emerald Green Metallic, to be precise!

Since that time, each truck that was repainted or has been purchased new has been painted Emerald Green Metallic. And, each green truck has been lettered with a phrase borrowed from Kermit the Frog, "It ain't easy being green..."