

**Reader Question: First Fire Departments in Wake County?**

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Question:

Which fire department was the first one organized in Wake County? Both municipal and county?

Answer:

Those milestones include...

1819 - First fire company, volunteer, Raleigh. It's municipal-affiliated, but is it "municipal" ? Let's instead cite...

1852 - Raleigh reorganizes fire companies, and forms what I would call the first real FD organization. So, that's a good year for first municipal fire department in Wake County. They were volunteers.

But what about non-Raleigh municipalities?

1908-1912 (?) - Wendell

1910s - Zebulon

Those dates are based on [my research of some years ago](#). Maybe someone knows more accurate start years? Those were also volunteer.

What was the first career fire department in Wake County?

1912 - Full-paid fire department formed in Raleigh.

What was the first rural-era volunteer department? When Civil Defense funding was available, starting in the 1950s?

1952 - Garner Fire Department organized.

But what about the first rural, non-municipal affiliated department?

1956 - Six Forks Road Fire Department organized.

Clear as mud?

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Fuquay Springs? I think was the name formed in 1925, merged with Varina community to become Fuquay-Varina Volunteer Fire Department in 1938. Then the Fuquay-Varina Rural Fire Department was formed in 1954. Then the rural department took over the town department in 1972 & finally the department finally merged back with the town in 1999.

**southsideengine** ([Email](#)) - 05/19/13 - 15:42

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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