

Rescue Rigs By Comparison

06/11/06 246 W - + 16 - 13

To supplement discussions and speculations about Raleigh's rescue rigs, with respect to medium-duty (what we have) versus heavy-duty (what some think we should have), here are what North Carolina's other largest cities are operating. It seems heavy rescues are the exception, not the rule: .

Cary

Light rescues (2):

<http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/cary/appgal.shtml>**Charlotte**

Heavy rescues (2):

<http://www.charneck.org/Departments/Fire/Stations/apparatus.htm>**Durham**

Light rescues (3):

<http://www.angelfire.com/nc3/hazmat/apparatus1.html><http://www.angelfire.com/nc3/hazmat/apparatus2.html><http://www.angelfire.com/nc3/hazmat/apparatus4.html>

Plus technical rescue truck:

<http://www.angelfire.com/nc3/hazmat/apparatus7.html>**Fayetteville**

? (web site is down)

Greensboro

Medium rescues, if memory services. Two or three of them, possibly with pumps and small water tanks.

Plus one heavy rescue gained when Guilford College FD merged with Greensboro City FD.

Alas, their new web site doesn't show any apparatus pictures that I could find: <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/Departments/Fire/>**High Point**

Light rescues (2) and a third rescue of unknown type

<http://www.hpfirefighter.com/Pages/STA2.htm><http://www.hpfirefighter.com/Pages/STA7.htm>

Plus technical rescue trailer

Raleigh

Medium rescue (1) and not-quite-medium rescues (2):

<http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/appgal.shtml>**Wilmington**

Medium rescues (2) and light rescue:

http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Portals/0/fire_squads.pdf**Winston-Salem**

No rescues (!)

Four truck companies, however. New web site, too: <http://www.ci.winston-salem.nc.us/default.aspx?mod=article&level=233>

Raleigh, of course, also has USAR rigs. Other cities may have USAR or technical rescue rigs that I have not listed.

Asheville

Heavy rescue (1):

<http://www.ci.asheville.nc.us/fire/equip..>

Rocky Mount

Medium rescue (1) and light rescue (1):

<http://www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us/fire/opa..>

Legeros - 06/11/06 - 15:59

To clarify, Greensboro now has a beautiful Pierce heavy rescue (Rescue 5).

Durham had a medium rescue, but it was disbanded shortly after Otis Cooper became Chief. I can say first hand, that move killed morale. Coincidence that Cooper came from Winston Salem, a dept. that doesn't have a medium/heavy rescue, then disbanded the one Durham had? Now, Durham's ladder companies are tasked with extrication duties. The 3 "squad" units were placed in service right before the EMT-I program arrived in Durham.

For Raleigh, I'd love to see 2 heavy rescues for the city. Now that ladder companies all have a full compliment of extrication equipment, some burden has been lifted off of the rescue units. Now that both cities that Raleigh is always compared to (Charlotte and Greensboro) have heavy rescues, will we be next?

Guest - 06/11/06 - 18:58

It's not even an ISO requirement for a dept. to even have a rescue unit so I don't see the city council approving some heavy rescue units for Raleigh when all the trucks have everything needed.

guest - 06/11/06 - 20:30

Just keep in mind there is a huge amount of equipment that can be carried by a heavy rescue that will not fit on a Ladder/Truck company – especially when that company is a quint. A quint doesn't have a tremendous amount of storage space.

Noah Rogers ([Email](#)) - 06/11/06 - 20:55

Why not buy/use equipment based on what works for your department and operations rather than what ISO thinks you should have? Typically, there is not enough room on a Ladder/Truck company that is a quint to store such items such as high/low pressure airbags, struts, dive equipment, and additional cribbing/shoring for trench or structural collapse. Some rescue companies also have cascade systems and compressors onboard for filling air bottles, or running air tools at a scene.

The members of a rescue company usually have more training in the fields of rope rescue, dive, trench/collapse rescue, and confined space rescue. Also, why spend the money to have all of this equipment every ladder/truck company when you can equip a small handful of rescue trucks for a smaller price tag, especially when some of this equipment is used so infrequently. Weight is also an issue. A typical ladder truck and equipment is topping out at around 70,000 Lbs. Why continue to overload an already heavy truck. This is why you need a rescue unit, even though ISO says there is no need for one.

Rides A Truck - 06/11/06 - 22:16

I agree. You can't base the way you run a fire dept. based on ISO and ISO alone. What's practical also has to come into play. I have pictures of Rescue 14's (Raleigh) box and the stress cracks it has suffered from overloading. Plus, in a city the size of Raleigh, each crew needs to have a company officer and members, not just a firefighter and driver like they do now.

With Chief McGrath in the lead, I think you'll see Raleigh to start acting like a "big city". With that, hopefully Chief Aides, heavy rescues, and minimum staffing requirements of 4 will become a reality.

Rides A Truck Too - 06/12/06 - 00:19

Next question, with regard to RFD rescues, what's broke that needs fixing? Other than the overloaded Freightliner/ALFs? Snap your fingers and swap them with two more medium-duty units, like Rescue 7. What duties or responsibilities remain unmet with three two-person medium-duty rescue units?

Legeros - 06/12/06 - 00:49

RUMOR has it that Chief McGrath has requested a heavy rescue to be ordered ASAP, apparantly he was rather disappointed with the

number/type/equipment? of the current rescues, I would say that staffing for rescues also needs to be beefed up, with RFD riding two and CFD assigned three, but normally riding two (and they are the designated RIT at structure fires!). Rumor has it that the new Cary Truck 7 will have a limited amount of extrication equipment on it in prep for I-540 coming through its district in the future, that and the distance for Rescue 4 to travel to get out to that area for a call. Having TWO USAR teams in the area is a nice feature for the more specialized rescues such as trench, confined space, collapse, etc... a very very good asset to have in this county.

CFP 7021 - 06/12/06 - 02:04

I understand what y'all are saying about the practicality of a heavy rescue. But my point is that the city council will not go by what the firefighters want/need when the "professionals" (ISO) say it isn't needed.

guest - 06/12/06 - 02:32

Not to start up the rumor mill, but, I think Chief McGrath pretty much has a green light from city government to make some operational changes. Let's compare also; Charlotte rides 5 on a rescue, Greensboro rides 4. Look at every other city on the east coast and what they staff their rescues, I bet you'll find very few that have only 2 members on them. It's behind the 8-ball and old school, and time to change.

Guest - 06/12/06 - 23:14

Remember the key word in heavy rescue is heavy... Charlotte's rigs (Rescue 3&10) are so heavy and over loaded that they change the brakes out on them about every 2 months or so and the talk is that they are going to a tandem axle rig on the next go around and possibly add another Rescue (just rumor at this point). Not to mention the fact that the geographical location of the units can leave them running from one end of the county to the other... All Charlotte ladders carry a full compliment of rescue tools, basic rope rescue equipment and then there are the USAR rigs. In the end go with what makes sense, proper equipment to fit the needs of the city and department and staff it properly.

guest - 06/13/06 - 03:13

So what are RFDs needs with regard to rescue vehicle / rescue infrastructure capabilities? Greater capacity than a "true" medium-duty rescue (a la Rescue 7) affords? More equipment carried on the rescue trucks, versus on the truck companies or USAR rigs? Additional equipment that is not presently carried on the rescue trucks or other apparatus? Basically, again, what's broke that needs fixing, improving, or enhancing? (Ditto for personnel needs, e.g. four- or greater person companies versus just two-person.)

Legeros - 06/13/06 - 03:41

The way Charlotte runs it's Rescues, it's a really bad day when they end up running all over the place (e.g. bad storms moving through the area causing multiple incidents, etc.). And in those cases, any city would be running around like crazy. If Raleigh wanted to, they could easily split the city and run two Heavy Rescue trucks and rarely ever have cases where one is running all over the city. It all boils down to how they choose to run the Rescues. Just as a side note, I have to agree that 2 man Rescue Companies are simply a joke. I agree with others in saying that the Rescue Co should be manned with (at the very least) a four man crew. Hopefully Raleigh can get on board with the new Rescues, I'm sure some more good changes are on the way.

guest - 06/13/06 - 07:08

Comparing other US cities with similar populations (but not necessarily population densities, nor, of course, geographic size):

Minneapolis, MN

373,188

19 stations (19/5), 2 heavy rescues

Colorado Springs, CO

370,448

20 stations (18/5), 1 heavy rescue

Arlington, TX

355,007

?

Wichita, KS

354,617

18 stations (20 engines and 10 two-person squads that respond to small fires, service calls, and medical calls/? trucks), 1 heavy rescue

Santa Ana, CA

342,510
10 stations (10/4), 1 technical/USAR rescue

Anaheim, CA
332,361
10 stations (11/6), 1 USAR team (it seems)

St. Louis, MO
332,223
30 stations (30?/4?), 2 heavy rescues

Pittsburgh, PA
325,337
35 stations (30 engines and 3 quints, 11 trucks), 2 heavy rescues

Tampa, FL
317,647
21 stations (?/?), technical rescue team

Cincinnati, OH (first paid FD in USA)
317,361
26 stations (26/13), 1 heavy rescue

Raleigh, NC
316,802
26 stations (27/7), 3 medium rescues

Toledo, OH
308,973
17 stations (17/4), 2 heavy rescues

Aurora, CO
290,418
13 stations (13/4), technical rescue team

Buffalo, NY
285,018
Site under construction

Riverside, CA
281,514
13 stations, unknown apparatus, also has USAR team

St. Paul, MN
280,404
16 stations (17/7), 3 rescue squads (750 or 1250 gpm pumpers with rescue bodies)

Corpus Christi, TX
279,208
15 stations (16/3), 1 heavy rescue

Newark, NJ
277,911
19 ? stations (19/10), 1 heavy rescue

Legeros - 06/13/06 - 12:58

Just to add to Mike's original post, High Point FD's other Rescue is a Quadcab Frieghtliner (<http://www.hpfirefighter.com/images/Trucks/Squad%204.jpg>). They used to operate two identical units until the new Chief came in and ordered the "ambulances." Quint 4 (stationed together with Squad 4) also carries Technical Rescue Equipment, as it is a part of the TRT. Here is a picture of the TRT truck/trailer (<http://www.hpfirefighter.com/images/Trucks/Image00002.jpg>). It is housed at Station 12, as all members of Station 12 are also members of the TRT. In all, five stations are part of the TRT.

Just a side note, Ladder 2 and Ladder 13 both carry extrication equipment.

guest - 06/13/06 - 17:48

Something interesting about Greensboro's new rescue: <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/NR/rdonlyre..>

Legeros - 06/17/06 - 04:17

Yes.. Greensboro has the right idea about how and when to run a rescue truck.

guest - 06/17/06 - 08:00

I agree....

Silver - 06/17/06 - 18:04

Here are some pictures of greensboro new & only heavy rescue.

<http://hpfirefighter.com/Pages/greensbor..>

chris king ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/18/06 - 15:33

Too bad they didn't put a Rotoray on that big truck

jolson - 06/20/06 - 00:29

That's all she needs! I have a funny story about the Roto-Ray. When Apex FD first got their HME Rescue with a Roto-Ray, while en-route to a call we were called by Apex Dispatch; "Rescue 1, check your rotating lights, a police officer thinks one on the front is loose".

Silver - 06/20/06 - 01:28

That's the funniest thing I've heard in a long, long time...

Legeros - 06/20/06 - 02:00

Yeah, we all got a kick out of it as well....

Silver - 06/20/06 - 04:13

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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