Duplicate Unit Numbers in Wake County

08/30/06 59 W - **+** 18 - 14

As suggested by a reader, how many duplicate unit numbers are there in Wake County these days? .

LADDER 1
Raleigh
Cary
Fuquay-Varina
Garner
Holly Springs (?)

ENGINE 1
Raleigh
Cary
Apex
Durham Highway
Eastern Wake
Fairview
Fuquay-Varina
Garner
Holly Springs
Morrisville
New Hope
Swift Creek

BATTALION 1
Raleigh
Cary
Apex

RESCUE 1
Apex
?

TANKER 1
Apex
Fuquay-Varina
Garner
?

etc.

Rescue 1:
Fairview
Garner
Holly Springs

Truck 1:
Fuquay-Varina
Morrisville
Rolesville
Swift Creek
Western Wake

one that's kind of always been confusing to me

Truck 11:
Eastern Wake
Wendell
CFP 7021 - 08/30/06 - 21:08

Truck 11: Raleigh
Silver - 08/30/06 - 21:10

naw, ladder 11 now :-)
CFP 7021 - 08/30/06 - 21:15

Holly Springs rescue is now Rescue 2.
Mike - 08/30/06 - 21:40

Engine 3
Raleigh
Durham Highway
Farview?
New Hope?
Garner
DHFD - 08/30/06 - 22:12

All departments should go to station numbering for example falls is station 21, and there trucks are like E212 E211 TA217 B219 BO2.. etc.
guest - 08/30/06 - 22:13

Add to Engine 3:
Apex
Fuquay Varina
Morrisville
Cary

Aslo, Rescue 2:
Holly Springs
Apex
Garner
???
Luke (Email) - 08/30/06 - 22:26

7021, As you can see, I work for the city and still not used to the change in verbage!!! Thanks for the correction….
Silver - 08/30/06 - 23:54

Garner does not have a Tanker 1, but we do have a Rescue 1 and Rescue 2.
Mike (Email) - 08/31/06 - 08:13

Rescue 2:
Cary

Mike, a comprehensive list would be very interesting on this topic…

CFP 7021 - 08/31/06 - 09:03

Obviously, this points out a major problem with all these agencies on one radio system with multiple units having the same identifier.

The bigger question: how does this get fixed? It's not rocket science. Durham County just went through the same thing.

harkey ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/31/06 - 10:13

make the decisions at the county level, eliminate local chiefs from having a say, you want the county $$$ you do it the county way, it steps on toes, but gets the job done. now as for the municipalities it gets tricky, but at the very least every unit, EMS, LE, FD should all have a unique county identifier that can be used during MCI's or other large events. You can still be Raleigh FD E-1 or Cary E-1 during calls that just involve your agency and are on your system, but if it's a multiple agency response you revert to your county assigned number. IE if Cary E-6 was running with the county then it would be E-56, Apex E-3 would be E-43, etc… medic units would use the #7# designation, cary Medic 1 would be 571, etc… it's a rough draft, but it could work

CFP 7021 - 08/31/06 - 11:03

I still say look at P.G. County, MD. They use a county wide number system, all of the time, and it works. City units use their own system, but, county units use the county system. And I agree, take the Chiefs out of the decision process, if you want the money and want to use the dispatch center, you WILL use the county system.

Silver - 08/31/06 - 15:06

Many department around the state use a format of the station Number & unit Number. Example station 8 Truck-812. Every truck in the county in Alamance have different units number to avoid confusion due to being on the same radio cad system.

Chris - 08/31/06 - 21:35

that's kind of how the current Wake County system is supposed to work:

first # or ## is county station number
last number indicates what type of apparatus: 1-4 is engine, 5 is truck/ladder/rescue, 6-8 is tanker/pumper-tanker, and 9 is brush truck

CFP 7021 - 08/31/06 - 22:45

this may be an redundant question, but who would be recognized as a municipality within Wake?

harkey ([Email](#)) - 09/01/06 - 09:00

Municipal Departments within Wake County are:
Apex
Cary
Raleigh
Morrisville
Fuquay-Varina
Holly Springs
Zebulon
Knightdale Public Safety

The following are associated with a municipality, but are private corporations:
Garner
Wendell
Rolesville
Wake Forest

Leaving the unassociated depts being:
Fairview
Swift Creek
Western Wake
Durham Highway
Stony Hill
Bay Leaf

Wake-New Hope
Hopkins
Eastern Wake
CFP 7021 - 09/01/06 - 09:54

They tried the number system here in Wake back in the 80s. As I recall, Bay Leaf, Falls, Stoney Hill, Six Forks, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Zebulon, Wendell, Apex, Fuquay-Varina, Fairgrounds, and Yrac signed onto it. Cary did a modified version. Raleigh, Garner, Knightdale, New Hope, Durham Highway, Holly Springs, Fairview, Swift Creek, Morrisville, and RDU ignored it. I think Apex and Fuquay have since gone away from it. I cannot remember if Hopkins ever took part in it or not.

The EMS agencies used to do it, but Cary and Eastern Wake (Knightdale, Wendell, and Zebulon) have gone away from it, while Wake County EMS never took part.

From a field provider's perspective, it is very confusing trying to say the long, drawn out names associated with the various equipment, let alon all of the time it takes to sound out the entire name.

I like the idea, although I doubt it will happen, for the county commissioners to say "You use our money and support, you do it our way". That would take care of anyone that operates in Wake County, since they all either use the RWCC or are under the county medical director (all fire and EMS personnel are using defibrillators which brings them under county control), or both.
[Dale] - 09/01/06 - 18:01

Hopkins did, and still does for the most part
CFP 7021 - 09/01/06 - 18:18

In Cumberland Co, they use the station number plus a identifier number for the type of apparatus on the dispatch, for example, station 2 (vander) the pumper-tanker would be 231,232,etc… the unit types are:

1… engine
2… tanker
3… pumper-tanker
4… brush
5… arial device
6… squad or truck (service)
7… medical
8… air truck or specialty
9… command vehicle
Michael - 09/01/06 - 21:06

Thanks CFP7021. I never recalled hearing Hopkins get many calls back in the day, and there is so much going on now my tired old ears can't keep it all straight.

Anyway, a few years ago I was in Anne Arundel County, MD, running out of stations 11 & 28. Their system (that was adopted county wide, including the City of Annapolis)-

Example used is station 28/ Odenton (combination)-

Engine 281, E282, E283
Truck 28 (110' ladder)
Brush 28
Ambulance 289 (BLS unit)

Station 5 (career)
Engine 51
Paramedic 5 (paramedic ambulance)

Station 11-
Engine 112, E113
Telequirt 11
Brush 11
Floodlight 11
Paramedic 11

It worked really well. They did not have multiple units running out of a station, except for pumpers (engines) and ambulances. If there were two BLS ambulances, for example at #11 they would have gone by Ambluance 118 and ambluance 119. Also, since there were career and combination stations, they also divided the county into battalions, however the battalion chiefs were county employees.
Dale - 09/02/06 - 07:55

Greensboro and Guilford County are going through this process now, as they are combining city fire and county fire units into a centralized dispatch. Of course they have their own little deal over there that's **not** playing with anyone else: High Point.
harkey ([Email](#)) - 09/02/06 - 09:18

Let's think about the NIMS compliance when we are talking about this topic. If E-43 (as noted above) arrives on scene outside the county, do you really think they will know who it is. I feel it would be less confusing just to say "Apex engine 3" I understand what everyone is saying, but I think we are going backwards at the same time.
Guest ([Email](#)) - 09/05/06 - 10:01

Then of course you get into ENGINE, PUMPER, UNIT, or TRUCK (I have heard all four of these used to describe a pumping engine within a 50 mile radius of Raleigh). Wake County uses their multiple systems, Harnett and Chatham County use station number realted IDs, Johnston COunty is just as mixed up as Wake. I don't know what Durham and Franklin Counties use.

This leads into another quagmire about regionalization and standardization, and no one wanting to change their ways, and the radios that won't communicate with each other, etc. etc. etc. In the end, its us grunts on the front line that will have to make do and do what we can with what we have.
DJ - 09/05/06 - 12:27

To address both mr guest's and DJ's comments, which are both valid, I ask this: At what point do those in charge stand up and make the needed changes to the system(s)? It is not hard at all, all that is required is that people drop their egos and quit worrying about what the goldleaf lettering/numbering on the side of their truck says. I nor the public cares what name or number is on the side of the apparatus, just so that it gets there, fully trained and staffed, and I can talk to them on/over the radio.
I agree with utilizing a numbering system because it simplifies and reduces the radio traffic. Don't believe me, just listen to the difference between a county dispatched structure fire and a city of Raleigh dispatched structure fire (both are using Locution, so that's why I am using them as the example)
To address the issues of unit designations, just standardize them too. Clearly define what is an Engine; Truck; etc and ENFORCE it.

To address multiple county response, that is pretty easy too. When responding with other counties you could use something like this:
Wake Co.: County assigned number ie- Apex FD running with Chatham Co. E-41, E-42, etc, Wendell FD running with Johnston Co. E-113, E-112, etc
Durham Co.: 100 series numbers ie Bethesda FD running with Wake Co. E-1521, etc.
Granville Co.: 200 Series ie- Brassfield FD running with Wake Co. E-2160, etc
Franklin Co.: 300 Series ie- Youngsville FD running with Wake Co. E-346, E-341, etc
Johnston Co: 400 Series, ie- Corinth-Holders FD running with Wake Co E-401, etc
Harnett Co: 500 Series,
Chatham Co: 600 Series

I moved here from the Metro DC area, where a similiar system was in place and it worked great, that's how/why I know that it can work. I have seen it work in a much larger area, with A LOT more apparatus and calls.
Wayne - 09/05/06 - 15:35

I agree with Wayne. I don't really see where responding "out of county" on a mutual aid call would be much of a problem. More than likely, you will be responding with an outside department that borders your district and has a mutual aid agreement with the responding department;

therefore, they should be fairly familiar with your unit identification number, etc. In cases such as an MCI or larger incidents, the IC should have access to that information via the Liaison Officer.

Luke - 09/05/06 - 15:52

Luke and Wayne make great points. So I will throw another curve in. I used to teach ICS back when it first came about. One of the things I stressed in every class to every department was that EVERYONE had to be able to step into the IC role. That goes for FD and EMS response. If I, as a paramedic, am first on the scene of an incident, I need to be able to initiate ICS and step into the IC role. So now, here I am, up to my ears in sh#*, and I need to know what is coming, and what the call signs are. And I don't need to be trying to remember that one department's ENGINE is another department's UNIT, or whether the SQUAD that is coming is a rescue truck or a first responder truck. Nor should I have to try and figure out the difference between EMS (paramedic level, basic level) units, MEDIC units (transporting or non-transporting). My staging officer may be a firefighter on the second engine or a paramedic from my second ambulance. We need to have that infomration ready for us at our fingertips (the technology is already here) and it needs to be EASY to use. And we have to be able to talk to them with communications that is EASY and SIMPLE to use when the chips are down!

Seems like I read somewhere that several states out west have standardized call signs in large regions. Anyone ever heard about that?

DJ - 09/05/06 - 17:58

If anyone has any suggested methodologies for naming or numbering resources, I'd be interested in your suggestions. You can post them here or email directly to me at jolson@co.wake.nc.us

In particular, I am looking for systems that may be in place today within another jurisdiction

[jaolson] (Email) - 09/07/06 - 17:12

Eastern Wake Truck 11 is now Rescue 11

300EW - 10/16/07 - 15:20

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / **Textile**

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

(Register your username / Log in)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Small print: All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.