

April 1, 1980

02/06/07 81 W - + 12 - 9

That's the date the Raleigh Fire Department First Responder program was expanded city-wide. The program was started on a trial basis at Station 3 earlier in the year. The *Raleigh Times* article reported this familiar exchange: "Exactly one minute after his wife called for an ambulance, a red pumper truck pulled in front of the Edwards home. 'I called for an ambulance, not the fire department!' a distraught Mrs. Edwards told firefighters as they rushed past her into the house."

And when compared to the fire/EMS relationship in other parts of the country, we are fortunate to have the excellent working relationship between RFD and WCEMS.

Now, for a little trivia:

Who was the first department in the county to go online as a First Responder agency? And why were they chosen?

And, who was the first fire department to be regularly and routinely dispatched to medical emergencies simultaneously with (or prior to) EMS?

DJ - 02/08/07 - 22:29

Oh yeah, the trivia question does not include the MVC responses only. I am looking for who responded to sick calls, cardiacs, and other MEDICAL emergencies

DJ - 02/08/07 - 22:30

DJ, I think it was Fairview if I'm not mistaken.

JT ([Email](#)) - 02/08/07 - 23:15

[Fairview] becomes first rural fire department in Wake County to offer First Responder service. Chosen due to location between four rescue districts (Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, and Garner). (March 1982)

Legeros - 02/09/07 - 05:54

Figures Mike would go and pull the news article...OK...now who can answer the second part of the trivia question?

DJ - 02/09/07 - 09:26

"And, who was the first fire department to be regularly and routinely dispatched to medical emergencies simultaneously with (or prior to) EMS?"

RDU CFR if I am not mistaken.

Olson - 02/09/07 - 12:28

RDU is correct. Medical emergencies were called directly into the fire station. Most of the time an RDU unit proceeded to the call and called for Cary Area Rescue. Most of the time, the calls then were for very minor stuff. Although, up until around 1983, RDU was the only airport between Miami and New York that had EMTs 'on the field', and during that time a lot of jets used to divert in, many with full arrests on board. I personally worked more full arrests during nine years at RDU than I have since I left.

DJ - 02/09/07 - 13:35

Durham Highway went first responder in 1986.

DHFD - 02/09/07 - 17:27

DHFD- Who were the first two members of DHFD to get EMT certified? And up until about 1979, who were the only EMTs on DHFD? (Hint- there were only 4 at that time)

DJ - 02/09/07 - 17:29

Give me another hint. Were they members of Six Forks Rescue at the time? I have a few names in mind.

LtEng3 - 02/10/07 - 22:38

No...none of them were members of Six Forks at the time. At that time you could only be a member of SFRS if you (or your spouse) was a member of the Six Forks Rd VFD.

DJ ([Email](#)) - 02/10/07 - 23:29

Vernon Jones, Nick Slobodzian, Charles Holloman...?

LtEng3 - 02/11/07 - 17:12

Vernon Jones, Charles Holleman, Nick S. and yours truly (I was a member 1978-1979)

DJ ([Email](#)) - 02/11/07 - 17:18

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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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'?

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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