

USAR and Haz-Mat Updates

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On the USAR front, Task Force 8 some new equipment. Look for a new tractor-drawn USAR-1 with some additional rescue equipment, and a tractor-drawn "Base of Operations" unit(s). Each TF8 department-- Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Cary-- is also receiving a cache of water rescue equipment and vehicles. e.g., boats, trailers, and trucks. Each department will store their new equipment within their departments. On the haz-mat front, CFD, Morrisville FD, and Parkwood FD are negotiating to form a tri-agency hazardous materials team. More information on that as it is known.

Cary and Parkwood were both in the hazmat business before, do you think it will work? Does anyone know what sparked the interest again?

Guest - 02/07/07 - 19:23

With Wendell getting out of the Hazmat business due to a lack of utilization by the local and state resources, especially after the implementation of the RRT in Wake County, what motivation would another FD have to get into the business? Keeping up with the Jones's is expensive for the taxpayer.

Guest - 02/08/07 - 11:35

Yeah, so is duplication of service....(2 USAR teams located in the same county, 10 miles apart; Apex and Raleigh).

Guest - 02/08/07 - 14:07

How hard would it be for an agency outside of Raleigh Cary, Chapel Hill, and Durham become part of TF 8

Adam Brown - 02/08/07 - 18:21

The impetus for the new haz-mat team, we're told, is a recently identified need for the Cary Fire Department to have closer haz-mat resources.

Legeros - 02/08/07 - 18:24

As most know Cary was one of the first in the County to have an operational hazmat team. Parkwood was the first local RRT. After a run in the RRT business Parkwood decided not to renew the contract, thus it was awarded to Raleigh. In the wake of that departure, Parkwood had numerous resources that were purchased via grants by virtue of having a Hazmat Team. These items were not property of the state, so they remained at/with Parkwood. These resources (suits, a second truck, support trailer, QRV, miscellaneous equipment, etc....) are not being put to use per the requirements of the grant. In order to use these ALREADY IN PLACE & FUNDED RESOURCES and to comply with the grants, Parkwood began to look for a partner to help rebuild the skeleton of a team that was remaining. With the equipment from Parkwood, (and a few remaining members) and a more solid staffing and deployment option from Cary, there is a hope that the team may have more of an opportunity for service. Morrisville has been invited to participate but has yet to commit. In addition, with Cary growing by leaps along with the rest of western Wake County, and Cary now bordering Parkwood's district, another team may just be justified. I hadn't heard about Wendell getting out of the business, but that may just justify it even more. With a county the size of Wake, two teams could definitely be utilized based solely on potential.

PVFD123 - 02/08/07 - 19:00

Mike, "impetus"? Please, its a blog. You could have used, lets say....."reason", just as easy and only cost yourself 5 cents.

guest - 02/08/07 - 19:36

Apex USAR team is a part of NCTF 4 which is based in Troutman NC (western NC). We got our equipment by virtue of another organization going out of business. It has cost our citizens next to nothing to get the resources that can be used in our district as well as other parts of the state. With this equipment we got a fully equipped rescue truck which primarily serves Apex and Wake County.

Apex Batt Chief - 02/09/07 - 11:29

To fund the team out of Apex/Troutman, where does the money come from for equipment, equipment upkeep, training and such?

Guest - 02/09/07 - 18:54

From NC EM, just like all the other TF's in the state

CFP 7021 - 02/10/07 - 02:11

CFP 7021, I would suggest that you check your department's USAR budget (if you are on a team) and see how much is NOT funded by EM. All departments who are part of a Task Force Team (TFT) have a certain level of responsibility for equipment and training. Its not as "free" as many think. Some of the TFT 8 teams' departments are budgeting in excess of \$75,000 annually from their operating budgets. Smaller teams such as TFT 4 have the same responsibility, on a smaller scale but from a smaller budget. So per capita, small are paying the same as the big.

guest - 02/11/07 - 16:35

Pretty silly if that's the case for the Apex taxpayers to fund a team, even though there's one 10 miles away (Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh).

Sortasilly - 02/11/07 - 18:31

The equipment was originally funded by a rescue squad that went out of business. We got the equipment for free. The upkeep is very minimal other than our rescue truck. It is used in our district and very rarely goes out of district. If a team gets deployed on an assignment by the state then EM reimburses the department as they did when we went to mountains for flooding in 2004.

Apex Batt Chief - 02/11/07 - 21:16

I actually just saw equipment and stopped, with most of the equipment being funded by the State. I understood that there are costs that are absorbed by the participating agencies. But yes, as far as training and upkeep it is absorbed by the departments. For what you get it is a lot of bang for the buck.

CFP 7021 - 02/11/07 - 21:58

There's an interesting pattern to these and other comments, and irrespective of the particular issue being presented. Basically, everything or everyone is seemingly presumed wrong, incorrect, or inefficient until proven otherwise. Is that just the nature of the beast, skepticism before optimism more often than not?

Legeros - 02/11/07 - 22:50

Wow, Mike, that's kind of deep...I'll have to think about it before I respond to that one...

DJ (Email) - 02/11/07 - 22:58

Somehow I doubt that the residents of Apex will start complaining any time soon that Raleigh offers something that Apex does too, especially after recent incidents in Apex.

Luke - 02/11/07 - 23:31

While we're on small departments, my eyes are on Wake Forest. Very impressed with Chief Swift and how he's taking things back to the basics and focusing on FIREFIGHTING....

Guest - 02/12/07 - 00:08

Anyone on here from Winston Salem? Or, anyone know when they put Rescue 1 in service? Give some details please!

Silver - 02/12/07 - 00:17

^^So Chief Swift doesn't believe in hiring people with 4-year degrees in underwater basketweaving so they can "talk" the fire out? Amazing concept he has!

pal - 02/13/07 - 14:24

Name: (real name preferred)
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/ [Textile](#)