

## TriData Study of Wake County Fire Protection, 1994

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Last month, we were discussing the [TriData study of 2004](#), and in the [context of station closures](#). We've since received a copy of the original 1994 study, also by TriData, and have uploaded a copy of that as well. Titled *Comprehensive Review of Wake County Fire Protection*, the report was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners on September 28, 1994. The document is immensely interesting, and from a variety of perspectives. It's certainly required reading for anyone with an interest in the county fire service.

An international consulting firm that specializes in the operation and organization of fire departments and emergency medical services, TriData was tasked to those years ago with these objectives, paraphrased here:

- Review and evaluate the fire departments in Wake County, and make recommendations to move everyone effectively, efficiently, and cooperatively toward an optimum level of countywide fire protection.
- Develop a five-year plan for the allocation of major resources throughout the county, e.g. stations, equipment, apparatus, paid personnel, water points.
- Assist county staff in developing the means to revise these plans as demographics and risks change over time.
- Develop a model standard operating guide for managing county volunteer departments.

They were also asked 11 specific questions, paraphrased here:

- What's their opinion of the 21 departments serving the county, and the system as a whole?>
- What alternatives (including no change to current system) do they offer for review by the Board of Commissioners?
- What's their recommendation for a five-year and ten-year plan for programs, budgets, and resources?
- What's their assessment of existing equipment, and recs for adding/replacing?
- What's their assessment of existing stations, and recs for adding/replacing?
- How will proposed annexation by cities and towns affect county fire service delivery?
- What financing and structural alternatives does the county have for fire protection? e.g., taxes, fees, consolidating departments, etc.?
- Should county departments improve their insurance ratings? If so, how? What should be the goal for insurance ratings?
- What are their recs for staffing and organizing full-time firefighters, while being sensitive to the need for a strong volunteer base?
- How should the county handle confined space rescue and mat response needs?
- How can we improve the fire service's role in fire suppression, investigation, and training?

The report numbers 216 pages and includes recommendations in these areas:

- Overall system of fire protection
- Volunteer organizations
- Volunteer and career personnel
- Relationship between rural fire departments and municipalities
- Fire advisory board
- Restructuring the Fire Marshal's Office
- Consolidation of tax districts and distributions of funds
- Insurance class ratings
- Response standards
- Fire prevention and public fire safety education
- Fire investigation
- Apparatus
- Facilities
- Special rescue and hazardous materials
- Training
- Communications

[Read the 1994 report recommendations](#)  only, excepted from chapter 1.

[View the 1994 report](#), which consists of multiple PDF files.

[See the subsequent 1999 report](#) on the Wake County EMS System.

As previously posted, you can also read the *Wake County Fire/EMS Capital Facility and Equipment Study* that was presented to the Wake

County Fire Commission in January 2004. And as noted before, the fire commission voted to not move the study forward.

[View the 2004 report summary presentation](#) , shown to the fire commission in 2004.

[View the 2004 report](#), which includes very large PDF files.

[Read our recap and discussions from 2007.](#)

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