

News & Observer Profile of EVAC 1

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Today's *News & Observer* [has a profile of EVAC 1](#), the ambulance bus operated by Wake County EMS. [You saw the thing in action](#) in Cary last month, when three school activity buses collided and a couple dozen children were injured. It also responded in November as pictured below at an accident involving a city bus that made a hard stop. That was Peace Street and looks like it occurred right in front of Broughton High School.



Shawn Rocco / News & Observer photo

The truck was delivered in November 2009. The purchase was funded by the Department of Homeland Security, through a federal grant sought by the state to buy several ambulance buses. Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Brunswick, and Guilford counties also have 'em. Buncombe and Pitt counties are awaiting them. [Read the article](#), and which already includes a few lively comments.

Plus fun facts!

- Built by Thomas Bus Company in High Point
- Outfitted by Sartin Services in Archdale
- Cost \$299,557
- Length 37 feet
- Weight 35,000 pounds or abouts
- Capacity of 22 patients upright or 16 lying down with 14 in wheelchairs
- Mileage 10 MPG estimated
- Speed 65 MPH maximum.

Forsyth is awaiting one as well.

stovelegs - 01/15/11 - 15:12

I always like the comments from the people who either (a) complain about everything, or (b) don't read the article and are completely without knowledge of the subject they're complaining about.

EVAC-1 was not purchased for local use. It was purchased by the state, with federal health care preparedness money, based on a very likely large mission – the evacuation of health care facilities in eastern NC (most likely, it could happen anywhere) in the face of a hurricane. They did a threat assessment, figured out what resources were needed to take care of it, and spent the money allocated for that purpose. The partnership is a good one – the state gets the support of Wake (and the other large counties) with personnel who are trained and experienced

in the use of the bus, and the counties get to use it until a "big one" comes along.

Same people would be hollering that it "took too long" if we had to evacuate 300 or 500 nursing home patients using regular ambulances (of which there are not very many extra around to deploy), like they were made at NYC-EMS because the ambulances couldn't get through the streets.

Good tool for its purposes. Glad to have it.

CH100 - 01/16/11 - 15:21

Same approach was done during the Civil Defense days of the Cold War era. Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad Incorporated, the first version of the Raleigh Fire Department's rescue squad, received a 1954 Reo heavy rescue truck. It was painted blue and white, with Civil Defense livery. The truck was considered a piece of federal stand-by apparatus, and in fact could be recalled to Norfolk in the event of a nuclear attack!

Legeros - 01/16/11 - 15:38

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