

## Friday's Water Rescues in Raleigh

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Narrative, take one. Corrections welcome...

Tropical Storm Andrea dumped over five inches of water in the Capital City on Friday, June 6. The 5.14 inches of rain broke a daily rainfall record of 1.24 inches set in 1930, as well as more rain in a single day than the average amount for the entire month. The city was soaked with two waves of heavy rain, in the morning and in the afternoon. The second period of rain brought flooding to creekside and low-lying areas. Other roads began flooding as storm drains were overwhelmed by the volume of water. (Areas throughout the Raleigh-Durham metropolitan area also experienced flooding.)

Roads in northwest Raleigh were reported flooded around 3:15 p.m. Up to four inches of water was reported on Glenwood Avenue, between Millbrook Road and Hilburn Drive. The Raleigh Fire Department was dispatched to rescue or remove occupants at a number of northwest locations, including Fast Park Drive, Leesville and Millbrook roads, Ray Road at Wheatstone Lane, Glenwood Avenue just east of Alexander Drive, and Lumley Road and Brier Creek Parkway.

Response times to these events were impacted by the flooded roads. Alternate routes were required, and many units were diverted as rescues were completed, severity of calls were changed, and other calls were received. [See more photos by Mike Legeros.](#)



## Incident Summaries

Here are short summaries of those incidents, which were dispatched either as a stranded motorist (single engine) or inland water rescue (full water rescue assignment):

- 8801 Fast Park Drive, just north of the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and Westgate Road. Dispatched for Engine 17. Additional units added, as the company officer realized the water was rising and moving swiftly. Two occupants in an airport shuttle van were removed. The water was about three-feet deep as they were dressed in life vests, brought to the back of the van, and rescued. Ladder 3 was extended but was ten feet too short. The occupants were walked by rescuers from the van to the ladder. Squad 14 also deployed their inflatable boat, as a back-up. Units on scene included E17, L3, Sq14, B4, plus EMS.
- Leesville Road and Millbrook Road. Dispatched for E18, E25 (operating USAR 801?), L1, R1, Sq15, B3, C20, plus EMS. One person in automobile, with preexisting foot injury. Engine 18 drove to the vehicle, removed the occupant, and transported to higher ground. Four busses with children also at that location, parked in rising waters, and were assisted in moving to higher ground.
- Ray Road and Wheatstone Lane. Dispatched for Engine 9 as Ray Road and Andrea Lane. Also dispatched as a duplicate call to the location of Ray Road and Strickland Road for Engine 4, which took the call. Two people in a minivan. Durham Highway Rescue 5 added to the call, after Engine 4 reported their route was blocked by flooding. Both occupants removed on foot, by Rescue 5.
- Glenwood Avenue just east of Alexander Drive. Dispatched for E23, L6, Sq15, B3, C20, plus EMS. Two vehicles with seven people. Three people in automobile self-extricated. Four people in van removed by boat. Waters were receding as boat was being placed in operation. Units on scene included E23, L6, Squad 15, B3, Bethesda E421, EMS 54, M9\_, Durham County EMS 34.
- Lumley Road and Brier Creek Parkway. Dispatched for Engine 8. Additional units added. Two automobile with two people. One person removed on foot by Battalion 5. One person removed using aerial ladder by members of Ladder 3 and Rescue 1. The rescue unit also deployed its inflatable boat, as a back-up. Units were parked in two positions on Lumley Road, east and west of the water. They included (west side) L3, R1, Squad 14, B5, C52 (Emergency Services Manager), Bethesda E421, D5; (east side) E16, B4, M92, M95.
- 10050 Glenwood Avenue at Wal-Mart. Dispatched for E19, E23, L6, B3, plus EMS. Reported vehicle with four people. Units searched area around store, including along ACC Boulevard. Call determined as duplicate or false.

[See photos by Mike Legeros.](#)

## Rescue Equipment

The Raleigh Fire Department's water rescue assets include:

- USAR 801 – 2007 Ford F-550 Super Duty water rescue unit operated by Engine 25. Equipped with three boats on a trailer.
- Rescue 1 – 2007 Pierce Enforcer heavy-rescue equipped with inflatable boat. ~~Plus three ? boats on a trailer~~ (verifying).
- Squad 14 – 2004 American LaFrance Eagle rescue engines equipped with inflatable boat, plus two boats on a trailer.
- Squad 15 – Ditto.
- Battalion 5 – Chief officer with specialization in technical rescue.
- Ladder companies – Each of the eight ladder companies carry ropes and personal protective equipment for water rescue use, as do the above units.

## Other Flooding

Flooding in Raleigh also resulted in the closing of Crabtree Valley Mall about 5:00 p.m. as a precaution after the front parking area began flooding. The mall sounded their "flood alarm" which alerted the entire mall of the potential for flooding.

Several cars were stuck in the lower-level of the parking deck as Crabtree Creek overflowed its banks. The level of the creek, which runs behind the mall, was reported above the 18-foot flood stage.

## Other Calls

The Raleigh Fire Department, along with neighboring fire departments, also responded to other storm-related calls such as trees down and power lines down. Working on getting some stats for these.