

## Ambulance Accidents in Raleigh and Wake County

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Expanding on the prior story about a pair of vintage ambulance accidents in the Capitol City, here's a list of incidents to date. Those with significant damage and/or unusual circumstances. There are likely others that aren't listed (yet).

October 21, 1939 (or Saturday before) – Lightner Funeral Home and Raleigh Funeral Home ambulances collide at intersection of Cabarrus and Blount streets. They are responding to a reported stabbing, which was later reported as fatal. The ambulances didn't hear each other, over each other's sirens. One ambulance driver was seriously injured, another died of injuries. Two other people on the scene were injured, and a third car was damaged. (The Afro-American, 10/21/39)

December 6, 1952 – Ambulance collides with car in front of Warren's Restaurant at Martin and Dawson streets. Car is pushed into doorway of eatery, where about 60 people are dining. Five people are hurt, including critical injuries to the driver of the car. His two passengers are badly cut, and the two ambulance attendants are injured. The ambulance was responding to an emergency call. (News and Courier, 12/7/52)

April 20, 1978 – EMS ambulance collides with automobile at Salisbury and Hunter streets. Occurs about 5:10 p.m. on a Thursday. Ambulance is answering an emergency call. Occupants of automobile, two men, are transported and treated at Wake Medical Center for their injuries. (N&O, 4/21/78)

May 26, 1987 – Vehicle strikes EMS Station 1. Young woman is driving north on McDowell Street and loses control of her 1980 Chevrolet. Her automobile struck the building and she was injured. (RT, 5/27/87)

December 1993 – Mid South ambulance crashes while attempting to access I-40 from Highway 70 in Garner. Believe patient died. Need more details. (OH)

March 1, 1994 – Meat truck fails to stop at stop sign, and collides with Wake EMS ambulance at Millbrook Road and Falls of Neuse Road. The ambulance is responding to an emergency call when struck at 8:10 a.m. The truck strikes the ambulance, which causes both vehicles to veer and strike other cars. Four vehicles involved. Three people are treated and transported, including an EMS member, who suffers a leg injury. The ambulance is a total loss. (N&O, 3/2/94)

February 9, 1995 – Mid South ambulance stops at minor traffic accident on I-40, while traveling to Chapel Hill to pick up patient. A tractor-trailer truck had rear-ended a car, which was pushed into a van. EMT Michael R. Jackson stepped in front of the ambulance while he was retrieving warning markers when the tractor-trailer truck rolled down an incline and into the lane where the ambulance was parked. It struck the ambulance, and both vehicles ran over Jackson, killing him instantly. (NEMSMS)

August 3, 2000 – Wake EMS (?) ambulance crashes into a car on US 1 near Calvary Drive, killing the car's three occupants. The ambulance was transporting a Wake Forest police officer who had been wounded in a shooting. Also aboard was the officer's supervisor. The ambulance was traveling "cold". The car ran a red light, while turning onto US.1, and it was "impossible" for the ambulance to avoid the collision. Two people died on scene, and the third overnight. Those in the ambulance were not injured. The officer had been summoned to a domestic disturbance between a man and a woman at a gas station. When he arrived, the man fatally shot the woman, and the ricocheting shot struck the officer in the hand. (Spokesman-Review, 8/8/00; Star-News, 8/8/00; WRAL, 8/5/00).

November 28, 2005 – Tri-Star Medical Transport ambulance is traveling westbound on the Beltline at Western Boulevard, when a vehicle merging onto the freeway collided with the ambulance's left side. The ambulance left the roadway, struck a guardrail, and overturned down an embankment. The ambulance driver was transported and later reported in fair condition. There was no patient aboard. (WRAL, 11/28/05)

December 6, 2005 – Patient steals ambulance, after Wake EMS unit arrives for seizure at convenience store at 1300 E. Millbrook Road. He became combative and jumped into the idling unit and locked the door. He turned onto Millbrook Road, drove south on Falls of Neuse, jumped a curb near Bland Road, and crashed into an embankment before coming airborne. He died from injuries, and wasn't wearing a seat belt. The ambulance was totaled. (WRAL, 12/7/05)

August 22, 2006 – Car strikes Wake EMS ambulance at the intersection of Millbrook Road and Falls of Neuse Road. The ambulance was traveling "hot" on Millbrook when it was struck by a 1999 Pontiac on Falls of Neuse. The 1:43 p.m. accident sends two people, including the driver of the ambulance, to the hospital. The collision caused three other vehicles to wreck. The driver of the car is charged. A police officer

witnessed the accident. (N&O, 8/23/06)

August 29, 2008 – Cary EMS ambulance is struck by a sport-utility vehicle, driven by a sixteen year-old with autism who had taken his father's vehicle for a joyride. He accidentally dragged his father, then struck some mailboxes, garages, cars, and a Cary ambulance that was returning to the station. (WNCN, 9/1/08)

April 24, 2010 – Wake EMS unit and Raleigh Police cruiser collide while responding to attempted robbery on Brasswood Avenue at approximately 1:00 a.m. Vehicles collide at intersection of Creech Road and Slippery Elm Drive, blocks away from the destination. Both vehicles had emergency lights and sirens activated at the time of impact. The occupants of the cruiser and ambulance complain of soreness, but do not have major injuries. (WRAL, WTVD.)

September 18, 2011 – EMS 14 overturns in 7400 block of Fayetteville Road, south of Garner. The paramedic unit is traveling southbound, returning from a hospital, when it swerves to avoid a second vehicle swerving in and out of traffic. The ambulance leaves the roadway, strikes a ditch, and turns over on its side. The two EMS members aboard are transported to WakeMed with minor injuries. Fairview and Garner fire departments respond, along with Wake County EMS units. (Legeros Fire Blog.)

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