

Raleigh Rescue Squad in 1968

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We've been researching the history of Wake County's rescue squads and emergency medical services this year. The [resulting research documents](#) are loaded with details and a fair amount of context. What's missing, to a degree, is a street-level perspective. What did a day or week or month "in the life" look like?

Here's a glimpse into the Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad, and it's calls during the first two weeks of January 1968. Plus a list of more interesting or unusual "outside city" responses during the whole the year. These come from the fire report ledgers that were maintained by the Fire Chief's office, and recorded every emergency call answered by fire units.

Unless otherwise noted, these were answered by Rescue 1, an all-white [1966 Chevrolet panel truck](#). It was housed at Station 1 and presumably staffed by two people, a Fire Rescue Officer and a firefighter. Was the second position dedicated, or did they grab someone from the engines or ladder? Don't know.

Rescue 2 answered some of these calls. What was that? Good question. Based on the recorded calls, this was a transport-capable unit that responded when Rescue 1 was already on a call. Mostly like this was the prior Rescue 1, a [1954 GMC panel van](#). There's a chance that Rescue 2 was the [1954 Reo Civil Defense rescue truck](#). But that would've made for a cumbersome patient transport!

Where was Rescue 2 housed? And who staffed the thing? Based on the needs for bay space, probably somewhere other than Station 1. (Might the unit even been a temporary unit, in service due to local ambulance issues? See notes at the end.) Anyway, onto the call records.

January 1 - January 15, 1968

Times are dispatch, arrival, and cleared

- Jan 2 - 1215 Cowper Dr. - No action taken - 5:31p - n/a - 5:39p
- Jan 4 - 3900 Electronics Dr. - Returned on arrival. Not needed - 3:45p - 3:54p - 3:56p
- Jan 5 - Half mile west of Morrisville - Returned en route - 8:46p - n/a - 8:49p
- Jan 5 - 225 Elm St. - Assist lady with locked car - 9:04p - n/a - 9:20p
- Jan 6 - Hillsborough and Glenwood - Auto accident. Take three to hospital - 5:36p - 5:37p - 6:06p
- Jan 6 - NC 42 at Blalock's Crossroads - Auto wreck. No action - 8:08p - 8:33p - 8:38p
- Jan 6 - 1201 S. Blount St. - Woman had heart attack. Took to hospital (Rescue 2) - 8:40p - 8:46p - 9:07p
- Jan 6 - 223 W. Morgan St. - Carried mom to hospital - 11:06p - 11:08p - 11:33p
- Jan 6 - Person and Hargett - Took patient to hospital - 12:39p - n/a - 1:08p
- Jan 8 - 3000 New Bern Ave. - Transported victim to hospital [transfer from Wake Memorial?] - 7:53a - 7:56a - 8:12a
- Jan 8 - 312 E. Hargett St. - Victim transported to hospital by [private?] ambulance - 1:50p - 1:52p - 2:05p
- Jan 9 - ? - False fire alarm [dispatched as full assignment] - 12:32a - 12:34a - 12:35a
- Jan 9 - 2100 New Bern Avenue - Accident. Victim taken to hospital - 3:31p - n/a - 3:51p
- Jan 9 - 828 Woodburn Road - Aid to sick person - 7:23p - n/a - 7:44p
- Jan 9 - Glenwood and Washington - Auto wreck - 8:02p - n/a - 8:27p
- Jan 9 - 24 Dixie Trail - Carried baby to hospital - 9:19p - n/a - 9:50p
- Jan 9 - 1317 Kimberly Dr. - Carried man to hospital - 10:30p - n/a - 11:16p
- Jan 9 - 4004 Brevard Pl. - Carried man to hospital (Rescue 2) - 10:35p - n/a - 12:02p
- Jan 10 - Rex Hospital - To take patient home - 12:55a - n/a - 1:47a
- Jan 10 - 500 block S. West St. - Accident. Patient taken to hospital - 1:08p - n/a - 1:43p
- Jan 10 - 1009 Belmont Dr. - Took child to hospital - 2:25p - n/a - 2:58p
- Jan 10 - 831-D Daniels St. - Carried lady to hospital - 10:17p - n/a - 10:35p
- Jan 11 - Edenton and Salisbury - Auto accident. Victim to hospital - 9:05a - n/a - 9:40a
- Jan 11 - Umstead St., State Hospital - Sled riding victim taken to hospital - 10:04p - n/a - 10:40p
- Jan 12 - 1526 Louisburg Rd - Victim slipped on ice. Taken to hospital - 7:28p - n/a - 8:15p
- Jan 13 - 1637 Sutton Dr. - Lady fell on ice. Transported to hospital - 9:28a - n/a - 10:09a

- Jan 13 - 219 LaFayette Rd. - Victim fell on ice. Transported to hospital - 11:01a - n/a - 11:35a
- Jan 13 - 205 S. Wilmington Street. Joe's Sport Shop - Structure fire - 8:58p - 8:59p - 2:16a (last fire unit)
- Jan 14 - Beltline half-mile south of Six Forks Rd. - Overturned vehicle. Took victim to hospital - 2:16a - n/a - 2:49a
- Jan 14 - 700 block E. Lenoir St. - Man fell on ice. Taken to hospital - 2:29p - 2:32p - 2:50p
- Jan 14 - 707 W. South St. - Carried children to hospital [after house fire] - 11:57p - n/a - 12:22a
- Jan 15 - 2013 Cameron St. - Victim taken to hospital by private car - 3:53p - n/a - 3:58p
- Jan 15 - 408 E. Martin St. - Man had some kind of spell. Taken to hospital - 7:50p - n/a - 8:17p
- Jan 15 - 742 Wimbleton Dr. - Take child to hospital - 11:18p - n/a - 1:46a

Assorted Out-of-City Responses in 1968

- Feb 2 - 1800 block Old Garner Rd. - Auto accident.
- Feb 3 - Hodge Road off Highway 64 - Assist in wreckage.
- Feb 5 - Cary Senior High School - Put girl on stretcher, taken to hospital by [private?] ambulance.
- Mar 5 - Highway 64 east - Truck wreck.
- Apr 16 - Lake Raleigh - Drowning victim.
- Jun 28 - Two miles off Old Stage Rd. - Drowning victim.
- Jul 29 - Off Highway 50 south of Garner - Boy fell under tractor.
- Sep 22 - North of Fuquay-Varina, near Valentine Dairy - Wreck, to aid State Highway Patrol.
- Oct 6 - Highway 54, one mile from Cary - Auto wreck, man pinned in.
- Oct 13 - Five miles out Leesville Road - Man pinned in auto.
- Nov 26 - Highway 64 west, Bills Community - Victim found to be okay, no assistance.
- Dec 30 - Durham Highway and Airport Road - Auto wreck, two killed.

Notes

Who were answering rescue calls in Raleigh or Wake County at this time? In Raleigh, emergency ambulance service was provided by Ambulance Service of Raleigh and Overby Funeral Home. Except... there were some issues with ASR, which had stopped city service in September 1967. Were they operating in January 1968? Don't know. Based on the volume of these calls and the notes therein, guessing Raleigh Rescue might've been a primary emergency ambulance service. And/or, alongside Overby.

How about in Wake County? The community rescue squads that were operating consisted of Wendell Rescue Squad (1962) and Wake Forest Rescue Squad (1965). There were also funeral homes providing emergency or at least convalescent ambulance service in Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon.

See this [Raleigh/Wake rescue squad history document](#) (PDF) for more details.

For a long time, the 1954 GMC was kept at station #3 (time period of the late 60s to early 70s). I saw it answer one call, to a wreck at Poole and Beverly, but I am not sure when that was.

DJ - 05/12/14 - 09:36

Name: (real name
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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