

## Mass. Haz-Mat Trucks See New Life in Rural NC

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A pair of former haz-mat trucks from Massachusetts were recently placed in service by Faison and Pilot fire departments, in Duplin and Franklin counties, respectively. The identical 1996 Freightliner/Hackney beer truck-style trucks were two of thirteen that served the state's Department of Fire Services. (We're told that six of these have been re-sold to rural or small town fire departments in North Carolina.)

The trucks originally saw service as haz-mat Operational Response Units, part of a larger fleet that also included similar haz-mat Technical Operations Mobile units as well as command post, communications, and rehab units. (Massachusetts has a similar program to North Carolina's haz-mat regional response teams.)

[Visit this FireNews.org page](#) for more information and photos about current and these retired units. See also this [massfiretrucks.com page](#) for additional pictures.

Faison's Rescue 5 replaces a 1983 Chevrolet Kodiak/Coastal Manufacturing Industries (Washington, NC) beverage truck that delivered Pepsi products in a former life. It was refurbished by Coastal in 1998.

Pilot's Squad 75 replaces a 1991 GMC that was built by 3D Manufacturing in Wisconsin. It was made for Iredell County Rescue Squad. The truck's been sold to a towing company in Gettysburg, PA, that will transport air bag equipment for recovery of large trucks on the highway.

Pilot's new squad has been refurbished, with improvements including coffin compartments added on the roof, a rear access ladder, and upgraded warning lights above the cab. They also had the original cascade system removed. (Pilot's truck has only 20,000 miles and 1,000 hours on the motor.)

Lee Wilson photographed Pilot's truck last week. [See more photos of Lee's](#). Visit the Faison Fire Department [Facebook page](#) for more pictures of their new truck.



*Lee Wilson photo*



*Faison FD photo*

I think it is actually Coastal Manufacturing with a Washington NC address

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 07/12/15 - 09:27

Thanks Steven. Updated the posting from the prior company name and Greenville address.

**Legeros** - 07/12/15 - 10:18

“Operational Response Unit” Is that another name for a “Rescue”

**Earl** - 08/18/15 - 19:26

Louisburg FD has received one of these trucks, soon their new Squad 1. Lee Wilson pic:



More pics from Lee: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/albums/72157661496519370>

**Legeros** - 12/06/15 - 10:52

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preferred)

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