

Recap of Raleigh Ladder 3 Accident

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Early Tuesday evening, July 14, 2015, Raleigh Ladder 3 and a passenger car collided at the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and Pleasant Valley Drive. The four-door sedan was traveling west on Glenwood. The fire apparatus was traveling north on Pleasant Valley, responding as the second-due ladder company to a reported apartment fire at 6205 Shandra Drive. It was dispatched about 7:00 p.m.

The accident was reported by the Ladder 3 officer, who requested fire and EMS units. Engine 17 was dispatched along with Wake County EMS 1 and District 4. That's a paramedic ambulance and District Chief. The units were dispatched about 7:02 p.m.

Engine 17 arrived almost immediately. (Station 17, which also houses Ladder 3, is located about three blocks from the intersection at 4601 Pleasant Valley Road.) The engine company crew joined the ladder company members, who were providing aid to the occupants of the automobile.

The car contained four passengers, one adult and three children of ages one, three, and five. As their conditions were assessed, the crews on scene requested additional EMS resources, including at least five transport units. They were classified as trauma due to mechanism of injury. News reports later cited that none were believed to have life-threatening injuries. ("They were going to be okay" reported the WTVD story.)



Mike Legeros photo

Arriving ambulances were instructed to bring stretchers, as the adult and three pediatric patients were placed on backboards and ready for immediate transport. EMS 13 was followed by EMS 31, EMS 1, EMS 2 (arriving in a group), EMS 6, and EMS 22. Medic 95 was also on scene. Both Medic 95 and District 4 arrived before the first arriving ambulance. (Got that? M95, D4, EMS 13, 31, 1, 2, 6, 22.)

Additional fire department units included Battalion 4, Car 20 (Division Chief), Car 14 (Safety Officer), Car 2 (Asst. Chief of Operations), and Car 1 (Chief of Department).

The firefighters aboard Ladder 3 were also evaluated by EMS personnel. There were not injured. (They were triaged along with the occupants of the car. Those with the most serious injuries or potential injuries were attended first.) EMS 22 remained on scene after the four patients were transported to WakeMed.

Raleigh Police, Raleigh/Wake City-County Bureau of Investigation, and North Carolina State Highway Patrol investigated the incident, which

took a number of hours. Westbound Glenwood and southbound Pleasant Valley Road were both closed during that time.



Mike Legeros photo

Ladder 3 returned to service later that evening. It's operating Ladder 210, a reserve 1988 Pierce Arrow Snorkel. The damaged apparatus, a 2007 Pierce Arrow XT rear-mounted aerial ladder (1500/300/105') was first towed to Station 17. Crews removed equipment, for transfer to the reserve ladder. Ladder 3 was then towed to the fire department maintenance shop, located at the Support Services Center at 4120 New Bern Avenue.

What was the coverage on news and social media? TV crews arrived within, say, twenty minutes of the incident. They had web-posted the first images within another thirty minutes. Stories were posted by [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#), [WNCN](#), and the [News & Observer](#), among likely others. Didn't see any fire service news articles. On social media, saw minimal Twitter activity (just a handful) and but a pair of Facebook posts (within my circle). Otherwise quite quiet.

[See more photos by Mike Legeros.](#)

I should know better than to read user comments on news stories.... :/ I guess I'm a glutton for punishment

Bob - 07/19/15 - 13:41

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