

BETHESDA – PARKWOOD – DURHAM COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FAMILY TREE

Durham Fire Department
Organized 1872



Early milestones:
1903 – First steamer
1909 – Full-paid FD started
1912 – First motor apparatus

First rescue truck, 1960



Public Safety program begins, 1970-71

1972 – First yellow truck delivered



Public Safety program ends, 1985

Later milestones:
1986 – Haz-mat team
1990 – Fourth ladder co.
1993 – First Responder
2000 – Rescue 1 OOS
2000 – First quint co.
2002 – Third Battalion
2002 – Last yellow truck retired

Early History of County Fire Protection

In 1948, Durham County purchased a fire truck to answer calls outside the city limits. This was the first rural fire protection in Durham County. Called Engine 13, it was housed at Station 1 and staffed with four Durham firefighters whose salaries were paid by the county. Engine 13 responded to all reported fires in Durham County, and was also a second-due engine for Engine 1's territory. It operated until circa early 1980s.

In 1960, the Bahama FD was organized, the first community volunteer fire department in Durham County. It was followed by four others: Bethesda FD in 1963, Parkwood FD in 1968, Lebanon FD in 1971, and Redwood FD in 1978. Each expanded with added "sub-stations" as the populations of their fire districts grew. They also evolved into combination departments, adding part- and full-time personnel, as the availability of volunteer members declined in later decades.

Bethesda Fire Department
Chartered Dec 19, 1963

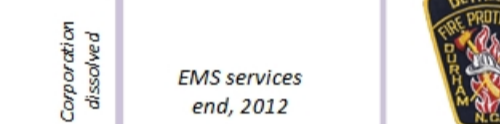


New Station 1
S. Miami Blvd., 1981-82

1984
Ambulance service added
First aerial apparatus

Station 2
Leesville Rd, 1988

1991
Heavy rescue added



County takes over July 1, 2013
Acquires Bethesda staff and assets
Durham County Fire-Rescue placed in service

Bethesda District Station 1

Bethesda District Station 2

New station numbering
April 2015

Station 82

Station 84

Parkwood Fire Department
Chartered Dec 8, 1968

1972
Ambulance service added

New Station 1
Seaton Rd, 1976

First aerial apparatus
1982

Station 2
Farrington Rd, 1984

1985
Aerial platform added



Station 3
Old Page Rd, 1987

1990
Heavy rescue added

Other milestones:
1997 – NC RRT 4 activated at PFD
1998 – Paramedic service starts
2000 – Mobile air unit added
2004 – NC RRT 4 moved to Raleigh

Corporation remains active

County takes over July 1, 2015
Acquires Parkwood staff and assets

Station 83

Station 85

Station 81

EMS services also end, coverage changes to DCEMS over six-month transition



County FD consolidates with city FD, July 1, 2018
DFD acquires DCFR staff and select assets

Closed

Closed

Temporary Station 19

Closed

Temporary Station 18

County to reuse. Covered by DFD 13, 8, 3, etc.

County to reuse. Covered by DFD 17, 13, 8, etc.

New facility planned

County to reuse. Covered by DFD 16, 6, 11, etc.

New facility planned

- Changes on July 1 include:
- Division Chief added
 - Fourth battalion added
 - Fifth ladder company added, 17
 - Third quint company added, 19
 - Tankers added, 8, 11, 17, 18, 19
 - Brush trucks added, 15, 18
 - USAR team moved from 16 to 9
 - Second water rescue team added, Sta 8
 - Third haz-mat station added with support unit, Sta 16

In 2012, Bahama, Bethesda, and Redwood stopped providing ambulance service. Only Parkwood continued, operating EMS units until 2015. Durham County EMS took over the response for each department's district.

In 2013, a county-wide fire protection survey was received. Recommendations included consolidating Bethesda and Parkwood fire districts into a suburban fire district, and eventually using the city of Durham to provide fire protection.

In 2013, Bethesda asked the county to take over operations. Durham County Fire-Rescue was created to continue service to the district. In 2014, Parkwood made a similar request, and the county took over their facilities and assets in 2015.

In 2015, city and county fire leaders began discussions about organizational needs and joint opportunities for their departments and their customers. This led to the planning, approval, and execution of the 2018 merger.

