

History of Rescue/EMS in Raleigh/Wake County

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1935-1939

1935 - Raleigh City Directory lists three ambulance services:

- **Brown's Funeral Home** - 115 Hillsboro.
- **Martin-Yelverton Co.** - 104 S. Dawson.
- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc.** - 222 W. Hargett.

1940-1949

1940 - Raleigh City Directory lists the following ambulance services:

- **Brown's Funeral Home** - 115 Hillsboro.
- **Lightner's Funeral Parlor (c)** - 127-129 E. Hargett.
- **Martin-Yelverton Co.** - 104 S. Dawson.
- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc.** - 222 W. Hargett.

1945 - Raleigh City Directory lists the following ambulance services:

- **Brown's Funeral Home** - 115 Hillsboro.
- **Lightner's Funeral Parlor (c)** - 312 Smithfield.
- **Martin-Yelverton Co.** - 104 S. Dawson.
- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc.** - 222 W. Hargett.

1947 - Raleigh Fire Chief discuss creating a rescue squad. The idea isn't pursued, due to a change of (fire department?) administration.

1950-1959

1950 - Raleigh City Directory lists the following ambulance services:

- **Brown's Funeral Home** - 115 Hillsboro.
- **Haywood's Ambulance Service (c)** - 322 E. Cabarrus.
- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc.** - 222 W. Hargett.
- **Pennington-Smith Funeral Home** - 104 S. Dawson.

1953 - **Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad** incorporated. The creation of a rescue squad is initially led by the city manager, the Fire Chief, and Asst. Fire Chief. The non-profit organization is operated/hosted by Raleigh FD, but includes dozens of volunteer members. They also receive \$100 a month from the county. The squad ends up as a first aid and rescue service, and as a patient transport service in secondary capacity. By the 1970s and 1980s, they would serve as back-up transport to Wake County EMS, when units were unavailable. (8/27/53)

Notes:

- N&O story on May 6, 1966, sheds some light on the squad's role with patient transport. At a car accident in Raleigh, the police dispatcher called Raleigh Ambulance Service. They later called back and said no ambulances of theirs were available. The dispatcher then called the Raleigh squad, and Overby's Funeral Home. The first-arriving unit provide the transport, which was the Raleigh squad. It appears the Raleigh squad served as back-up or alternate, in the event the primary Raleigh ambulance provider(s) were not available.

See Appendix for more history.

1955 - Raleigh City Directory lists the following ambulance services:

- **Brown-Wynne Funeral Home** - 308 St. Mary's.
- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc.** - 606 St. Mary's.
- **Pennington-Smith Funeral Home** - 104 S. Dawson.

1955 – **Cary Fire Department** places Civil Defense rescue truck in service. Built from an ex-military, mobile machine shop, it carries \$8,000 worth of equipment including 5,000-watt portable generator, 2,500-watt generator, two-way radio, \$600 resuscitator, block and tackle, ropes, a portable oxygen acetylene cutting torch, in all "196 different pieces of equipment, all new." It was the only Civil Defense rescue truck operated by a volunteer fire department in North Carolina. Source: MJL.

Other Civil Defense rescue services around that time:

- The **Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad** operated a 1953 Reo Civil Defense rescue truck, equipped with "torches, power saws, gas masks, helmets, and first aid equipment."

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- The **Garner Fire Department** added in 1962 an emergency power unit that was painted white and had Civil Defense logos. The 1952 GMC panel van was equipped with 120 volt, 5000 watt AC generator, flood lights, smoke ejector, clean up tools, pails, brooms, shovels, and "extra oxygen cylinders for emergency smoke problems, heart attacks, etc., at doctor's call." Source: MJL.

1960-1969

1960 - Raleigh City Directory lists the following ambulance services:

- **Brown-Wynne Funeral Home Inc.** - 308 St. Mary's.
- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc.** - 600-606 St. Mary's.
- **Pennington-Smith Funeral Home** - 104 S. Dawson.

1962 - **Wendell Rescue Squad** incorporated. (7/23/62)

Wendell memories:

- Early locations listed in city directories as 29 E. 4th Street and 361 E. 3rd Street.

Memories from Dolores Dean and Ira Fuller:

- 1962 - Organized in June 1962.
 - Need for the organization originated with a bad car accident in Johnston County.
 - At this time, funeral homes supplied the transportation to the hospitals for emergencies.
 - When this accident happened, no one could find the person who had the key for the garage where the hearse was stored.
 - Norman Dean and another person broke the lock and "borrowed" the hearse to transport people to the hospital.
 - The following day, Dean and Chief of Police "Red" Couick went down the street in Wendell, from one business to another, and asked for money to start a rescue squad.
 - First vehicle was a 1949 Dodge van, a surplus Postal Service vehicle. Wendell Lions Club donated \$300 toward the purchase.
 - First location was behind the fire station on Pine Street, plus a shed built behind the Town Hall building to house the SWAB ambulance delivered in 1971.
 - Funding during these early years was entirely community donated. To the best of their knowledge, no county funding was provided in those early years.
 - Money was raised by radiothons and private donations.
 - Squad members were strictly volunteer.
 - Wake County Commission Vassar Shearon was very involved with helping the squad start.
 - Squad was the first formed in eastern Wake County, and the service area was large:
 - West, from the Neuse River Bridge on Highway 64.

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- East, from the Nash County side of Zebulon.
- South, to the Archers Lodge area.
- North, to Rolesville.
- Calls were usually major incidents: car accidents, heart attacks, medical emergencies.
 - And there were few people to answer the calls.
 - Once they had pagers, calls were dispatched from Wendell Town Hall.
- 1967 – Squad purchased a van.
- 1969 – Station wagon donated from Champion Motors of Wendell.
- 1971 – First SWAB ambulance delivered. Ira C. Fuller traveled with Norman Dean and Paul White to Pennsylvania, to pick it up.
- 1971 – Five-hour Radiothon raises more than \$6,300 in pledges on Sunday before May 27, 1971.
 - Need money to pay for recently purchased new ambulance, boat, and motor.
 - Fifteen-foot fiberglass “life saving boat” with 10 HP motor.
 - Mounted on trailer, with scuba diving equipment, fire lights, and disaster pouch.
 - Squad has eighteen members, all volunteer.
 - Answered 191 calls during eleven-month period between May 1970 and April 1971.
 - Serves communities of Wendell, Corinth, Pilot, Zebulon, Knightdale, Rolesville, Archers Lodge, and Riley Hill.
 - Source: GLF, 5/27/71
- 1973 – Notes:
 - That year’s Radiothon’s goal of \$15,000 was reached.
 - Squad answered 598 calls that year.
- 1974 – Rescue squad building completed on Third Street.
- 1974, April – Hurst tool purchased in April.
 - Cost \$4,100.
 - Initial contributions made by First Citizens Bank, First Union Bank, and Wendell Savings and Loan.
 - Squad Captain Norman Dean said the following month “it’s saved three lives in less than a month.”
 - New tool was demonstrated at the fourth annual Radiothon on the Sunday after May 16, 1974. Fundraising goal was \$20,000.
 - Source: GLF, 5/16/74.
- 1983 – Ronald Thompson new Captain of squad, replaces Norman Dean, who has been captain for nine of past twenty-years, including his latest term of two years.
 - Squad has twenty-two members.
 - Other officers for 83-84: Asst. Chief Bennie Collins, Lieutenants Scott Yancy and Ronald Ray, Treasurer Maude Staples, Secretary Vickie Perry, and Director Randy Raper.
 - Source: GLF, 6/30/83.

1964 - Raleigh phone book lists the following ambulance services:

- **Brown-Wynne Funeral Home** - 308 St. Marys.
- **Capitol Funeral Home** - 1012 E. Hargett.
- **Lightner Funeral Home** - 312 E. Smithfield.

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- **Mitchell Funeral Home Inc** - 600 St. Marys.
- **Overby Funeral Home** - 2415 Hwy 70 E.
- **Pennington-Smith Funeral Home Inc** - 104 S. Dawson.
- **Raleigh Funeral Home** - 322 E. Cabarrus.
- **Whitley Funeral Home** - 114 3 Wendell NC.
- Apex
J. W. Albright Funeral Home - S. Salem.
Apex Funeral Directors - 105 W. Chatham.
24 hours service
courteous & trained
Attendants – Modern rates
Each car equipped with oxygen

1965, March – Research report states that state and local governments in North Carolina should be authorized to help provide supervised ambulance service. The two-year study provides numerous recommendations, and also observes that funeral homes have ceased providing ambulance service in at least ten counties. (N&O, 3/16/65)

1965, October – Six of seven funeral homes in Raleigh cease ambulance service. The owners contended that “deficit operations were no longer worth the advertising and good will that furnishing ambulance service brought. The number of unpaid bills was increasing, and falls calls were coming more and more numerous. It was inconvenient to maintain personnel on duty 24 hours a day. Competition was also not proving to be healthy.” (N&O, 11/20/66)

Only **Overby Funeral Home** continues operating ambulance service, with two ambulances. Ceasing operations are likely Brown-Wynne FH, Capitol FH, Lightner FH, Mitchell FH, Pennington-Smith FH, and Raleigh FH. (1964 phone book.) This becomes a statewide trend. In June 1966, fifty-one funeral directors in nine Piedmont counties notify city and county governments that they’ll cease ambulance service. (N&O, 7/19/66).

Raleigh Funeral home memories:

- **Gray Funeral Home** (renamed from Overby Funeral Home):
 - They operated four ambulances during late 1970s to early 1980s, as convalescent service.
 - They acquired one or two of Clayton Rescue Squad’s van ambulances, when CRS got rid of them. [JT]
 - They had a 1969 Cadillac/Superior combination car, a 1971 Cadillac/Superior combination car, a 1969 Superior/Pontiac 48-inch high-top ambulance, and a 1972 Cadillac/Superior 54-inch high-top ambulance. [DJ]
 - More from Dale: “Gray at one time had a 1969 and a 1971 Cadillac/Superior combination car, a 1969 Superior/Pontiac 48" high top ambulance, and a 1972 Cadillac/Superior 54" high top ambulance. As opposed to a lot of the high top coaches, both of Gray's had squad benches instead of the flip down seats. The 1969 came from somewhere out west

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originally- I remember it had a B&M Super Chief siren (which was prevalent out west) as opposed to a Federal. The 1972 was bought new by C&M ambulance in Salisbury. The only one that I know the disposition is the 1972, which was wrecked.”

1965, November 1 – **Ambulance Service of Raleigh** begins operation.

Notes:

- Operated by Gene Clark.
- Later named **Raleigh Ambulance Service**.
- Has four ambulances, either immediately or within a few months.
- Answers the majority of Raleigh ambulance calls, including “police calls.”
- Loses money from the beginning, due to patients who won’t or can’t pay.

1965 - **Wake Forest Rescue Squad** incorporated. (1/19/65)

Wake Forest Rescue Squad memories:

- First located at 132 Dunn Avenue.
- Later at 149 E. Holding Avenue.
- One-story building with 2,016 square-feet, built 1940.
- One of the first squads to purchase a Hurst tool in the 1970s.
- Randy Bright (WFFD board and Bright funeral home) and Buddy Willis (Willis' hardware downtown Wake Forest) were charter members and used to respond using the funeral home hearses.

1966 - Raleigh phone book lists the following ambulance services:

- **Ambulance Service of Raleigh Inc.** – 500 Pershing Road – 828-0737.
- **Overby Funeral Home**, Raleigh.
- **Screws & Hudson Funeral Home**, Zebulon.
- **Wendell Rescue Squad**.
- **J. W. Albright Funeral Home**, Apex.

1966 - Ambulance service issues and events in Raleigh include:

- City adopts ordinance regulating ambulance service in Raleigh on April 18, 1966. (N&O, 4/19/66)
- **Raleigh Ambulance Service** and **Overby Funeral Home** subsequently awarded licenses.
- RAS continues to lose money, on patients who won’t or can’t pay for transport costs. Owner Gene Clark requests city and county subsidies, and/or help collecting unpaid bills, and eventually threatens to (but doesn’t) stop answering certain call types on April 30, unless he receives some assistance.

1967 – Legislation is passed at the state level, about ambulance operation:

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- Legislation authorizing counties to “assure adequate and continuing ambulance service” is placed into the law on the Friday before May 6. The bill grants counties power to “grant franchises, subsidize private companies, or set up public operations to ensure that ambulance service continues.” Counties have the power to levy taxes without vote, if money is needed to finance such services. A grandfather clause provides that a county can grant a franchise to any private firm presently offering service, if it meets the “specifications of the law.” The bill “sets up various requirements of personnel and equipment for ambulances licensed under the law.” (N&O, 5/6/67)
- Licensing regulation for operators of ambulances is adopted by the state board of health. The rules include a thirty-one point list of equipment features that ambulances must contain. There’s also a fourteen-point list of sanitary standards. Permits to operate ambulances must be obtained on an annual basis. (N&O, 10/13/67)

1967 - Ambulance service issues and events in Raleigh that year include:

- **Ambulance Service of Raleigh** is renamed from **Raleigh Ambulance Service**. They receive a rate hike in February, but are still losing money. They warn the city and county in January that they could go out of business, if they don’t receive some financial assistance. The company soon demands an annual subsidy for their services.
- **Ambulance Service of Raleigh** merges with **Ambulance Service** of Rockingham County in April. The Raleigh company is dissolved, and the Rockingham County company continues to keep the Raleigh services operating. Original owner Gene Clark owns a majority share of the merged company.
- **Ambulance Service of Raleigh** stops answering county emergency calls on August 21, and halts city emergency calls on September 18. County officials arrange temporary service from Wake Memorial Hospital, Overby Funeral Home, and three rescue squads. City officials use the Raleigh Rescue Squad and Wake Memorial Hospital. **Overby Funeral Home** continues ambulance operation. County officials study alternatives to subsidizing the Raleigh ambulance firm.
- In October, county officials decide to contract with a private ambulance firm, to provide service to those county areas without it. They request proposals and then bids from a number of firms, including **Ambulance Service of Raleigh**. The process takes a number of months.

1968 - Ambulance service issues and events in Raleigh that year include:

- **Ambulance Service of Raleigh** awarded county contract, for service in Raleigh and county areas where funeral home ambulance service isn’t available. The annual subsidy is \$31,780, though the initial contract expires June 30 and must be renewed. The contract states that ASR will provide 24-hour service with three ambulances that meet state regulations, and will answer all calls from police, sheriff, and highway patrol, and all other emergency calls. They will charge \$20 for transport within Raleigh, and add 65 cents per mile one-way, if transporting outside the city limits. (N&O, 4/5/68)
- County plans to subsidize funeral homes in Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon with \$1,500 annually, so they’ll continue ambulance service. (N&O, 4/5/68)

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1969, around - **Beacon Ambulance Service** renamed from Raleigh Ambulance Service. First appears in Raleigh phone book in 1969 yellow pages.

Beacon locations included:

- 202 New Bern Avenue (1969 phone book).
- 209 Hillsborough Street (1970-1973 phone book).
- 3207 Hillsborough Street (1970 phone book, later cited as location for **Ambulance Aid Inc.**).
- 615 N. Boylan Avenue (1974 phone book).
- 207 Oberlin Road (1975 phone book).
- 811 Hillsborough Street (1976 phone book)

Beacon memories:

- Fred Loy:
 - RAS bought by two men from Washington, DC, who renamed the company. They were Ted Bacon and Chuck Daughtry.
 - He started working at Beacon in 1968. He had joined Clayton Rescue Squad in 1964. He was one of their first paid employees, the other being M. J. Johnson, now a Raleigh fireman.
 - At that time, the only rescue squad that was transporting was Wendell, with Norman Dean and his crew. They had the first SWAB ambulance in the county.
 - In 1968, Loy was offered a chance to purchase part interest in the company. He later sold his part to Jim Huffstetler and Albert Brown.
 - Loy was later one of the original Wake EMS employees, and later one of the first shift supervisors.
- Resident next door, July 1973 to March 1978:
 - BAS operated from an office beside Boylan Apartments, which is beside/back up to present State Employees Credit Union.
 - BAS operated four to six units.
 - Two Cadillac ambulances, one Pontiac ambulance, two to four Chevy Suburban (ambulances?) operated at any given time.
 - Responses left using the rear parking lot, to Hargett Street.
- Jason Thompson:
 - Beacon stationed an ambulance at the Garner police station at night. Before this time, Clayton Rescue covered a lot of the “Garner district.”
 - Beacon also provided service in Durham, with an ambulance housed at Durham Fire Station 1.

1970-1979

1970, by – Funeral homes are getting out of patient transport business. Raleigh phone book that year lists only two funeral homes (Raleigh, Wendell) under Ambulances. Raleigh city directory lists none under Ambulances.

Raleigh ambulance memories:

- **Banks Ambulance Service** operated in Raleigh for a very short time, likely in the 1970s. The uniform shirt had burgundy shoulder tabs. They operated a Ford van ambulance, which was equipped with a red beacon. In 1983, Mrs. Banks (no longer married to Mr. Banks) was living in north Raleigh and trying convert the vehicle to an animal ambulance, but was never able to get the permits from the city to operate. Source: OH.

County ambulance company memories:

- **Community Ambulance Service** (Zebulon area) operated an older Cadillac as a convalescent unit, a 1967 Cadillac/Superior that was metallic blue.
- Gene Lambert remembers helping Weldon “Doc” Beddingford answer calls in his 1967 “straight MM blue” ambulance. Riggy Massey, who now operates Massey Funeral Home in Zebulon, also ran calls for “Doc.” Gene would skip school to run calls. [GL]

County funeral home memories:

- **J. W. Albright** and **Apex Funeral Directors** (Apex) operated ambulances.
- **Bright Funeral Home** (Wake Forest) and **Lewis Funeral Home** (Wendell) operated ambulances. Lewis had one hearse/ambulance combination, and after ceasing ambulance service, retained it for funeral service.
- **Screws & Hudson Funeral Home** (Zebulon) operated an ambulance.
- **Suggs Funeral Home** (Fuquay-Varina) operated ambulances for some time, including a convalescent service that continued long after Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad started.
- **Whitley Funeral Home** (Wendell) operated an ambulance.

1970 – **Ambulance Aid Inc.** is listed in Raleigh phone book. Address is 3207 Hillsborough Street. They are listed along with **Beacon Ambulance Service**, which is also operating a medical rental and sales division by that year.

1971, circa – **Overby Funeral Home** ceases ambulance service. They are not listed in the 1971 phone book.

1971 – **Ambulance Aid Inc.** at two locations (613 W. North Street and 3207 Hillsborough Street) listed in Raleigh City Directory, along with **Beacon Ambulance Service** at 209 Hillsborough Street. The company is not listed in the Raleigh phone book for that year, nor appears in any directory or phone book in 1972 or later.

1971 - **Cary Area Rescue Squad** incorporated. (10/29/71)

Cary memories:

- Organized after a boy struck a furniture truck in the summer of 1971 died after waiting forty-five minutes for an ambulance from Raleigh. (CEMS web site.)
- The first meeting of the steering committee was September 19, 1971. At this meeting, the charter members agreed that the rescue squad should not be a part of YRAC fire department and a week later they had a meeting with Fred Bond, Mayor of Cary, to discuss funding. (CEMS web site.)
- Established in October 1971.
- First location is a donated house at 310 N. Academy Street.
- First vehicles:
 - 1970s Chevy ambulance
 - 1970s Chevy/Murphy ambulance.
 - Plymouth Fury (?) Chief's car.
- First ambulance calls:
 - #1 – August 18, 1972
 - Briorwood Drive, Raleigh
 - Adult male, severe bleeding from wrist, fell on broken bottle.
 - Five minutes on scene.
 - Transport to Rex.
 - #2 – August 23, 1972
 - Hastings Place
 - Adult male, semi-conscious, possible drug overdose.
 - Six minutes on scene.
 - Transported to doctor's office.
- Required their first-duty crew personnel to be on duty at the station, from the start of the squad.
 - Had five duty crews. Every fifth weekend, each crew was responsible for covering the entire weekend from 0800 Saturday to 0600 on Monday.
 - Second duty crews also assigned each night and on weekends. They responded from home in most cases.
 - "I lived so far out that when the first duty crew went out, I went to the station to wait for a possible second duty call." (DJ)
- Had first Hurst tool in North Carolina, followed by Clayton Rescue.
 - First crash truck was a Ford F-350 (?) with "crawl-in" utility body.
- 1974, circa – New building constructed at 107 Medcon Court.
 - Current address, was it different back then?
- By September 1983, has four ambulances, a crash truck, a mobile command post (step van), and a car for their chief.
- Became first nationally accredited volunteer rescue squad in 1999. (N&O 3/23/99)
- By June 1997, the organization had relinquished technical rescue services to the Cary Fire Department. Their heavy rescue truck was transferred to the fire department.
- On June 30, 1997, the organization filed a name change with the state, and renamed itself Cary Area Emergency Medical Services.

Fred Loy memories, about the call that led to creation of the squad:

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- Beacon Ambulance received the call, from either Raleigh PD or Cary PD. Beacon #6 was dispatched, with Loy driving. They were dispatched from their base on New Bern Avenue. Route of travel was through town, and out the “three way” to Cary. Had no radio capability, other than with their base. Had no ability to communicate with Raleigh or Cary.
- Since the dispatched address was a new subdivision, not on a map, he contacted Beacon base, and requested they call Cary PD on the phone, and meet use along the “three way” and escort them to the accident scene. As they entered Cary, Officer Padgett met them, and took them toward the accident site.
- About a mile or two into the escort, the Cary police car ran off the road, off the right side, and down a ravine. The Beacon unit stopped to get him out of the car, and he called for another police unit to escort. No police unit was available, so Cary Fire Chief Terry Edmundson met them at the next intersection, and escorted.
- Beacon transported the boy to the hospital. The response took forty-five minutes, which could have taken longer with no radio communication, no maps of new areas, and no street signs. At the time of the incident, Beacon covered 90% of the county with four units. More often, with only three. There were a few funeral homes also still offering ambulance services. After this incident, Beacon placed in ambulance during day hours.

Dale Johnson memories:

- They originally carried their Hurst tool on their second ambulance, a 1973 or 1974 Chevrolet/Murphy, which was based on the design of the Swab ambulances. It was transferred to the original #581, which was a 1975ish Ford F-350 truck. That unit was later sold to Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad, then acquired by the Town of Holly Springs, and later seen privately owned in Holly Springs.
- When I joined CARS in 1979, the old Chevy/Murphy (#572) had a permanent lean which a couple of older members told me came from carrying the old Hurst tool which was a beast.

1971 - **Apex Rescue Squad** incorporated. (9/8/71)

Apex notes:

- Found by a dozen members of the Apex Jaycees. The town had a population of 2,000. (AMES web site.)
- Founding members included James Herndon and later long-time Chief Nicky Winstead.
- First call was a one-year-old having a seizure.
- During the first year, the squad answered 167 calls.
- First vehicle is a 1956 Pontiac Superior “straight” ambulance donated by Johson-Melver Funeral Home of Apex. (Also remembered as donated by Apex Funeral Directors.)
- Second vehicle is a 1973 Chevy van ambulance.
 - Donated by Bill Gerringer of Gerringer Chevrolet Company.
 - Delivered late May/early June 1972.
 - Purchased for \$6,150 from Tulsa Emergency and Safety Equipment.
 - Total cost is \$6,550 with warning devices purchased by the squad and installed by Tulsa.
 - Fully-heated and air-conditioned, and has capacity for four patients.
 - Note is held at CC&B for \$3,600.

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- Received new ambulance on March 27, 1973, built by the Superior Coach Company of Dallas on a Chevrolet chassis, and driven to Greensboro, where it was accepted. The squad's other vehicle is a 1972 van (?) will be used only to answer accidents and other incidents where rescue equipment is needed.
- In 1977 (?), hired their first full-time employees: Kirby McQueen and Willie Yates.
- By October 1997, the organization had ceased technical rescue services.
- On October 27, 1997, the organization filed a name change with the state, and was renamed Apex Emergency Medical Services Inc.
- Apex EMS merges with the town and becomes part of the fire department, around July 2011.
- Corporate disillusion is filed July 8, 2011.
- Apex EMS is separated from the fire department after about a year.

1972 - **Furina Rescue Squad** incorporated. Legal name is simply **Furina Rescue Inc.** Likely named after the rural fire district of the same name. More commonly called **Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad.** (4/21/72)

Fuquay-Varina memories:

- Early location is 137 S. Fuquay Avenue.
- First ambulance was a 1975 Chevrolet Suburban with Modular Ambulance Corporate ZEPHYR 54 conversion. Apex, Wake Forest, and Wendell also had ZEPHYR conversions.
- Scandals would plague the squad in its last decade. Twice in ten years, between 1981 and 1991, members were convicted of embezzling squad funds. (N&O 4/4/91)

1974 – Last year that a funeral home is listed as an ambulance service in the Raleigh phone book.

1974, November – Beacon Ambulance Service facing issues, as reported in the Raleigh Times:

- Company is providing service to more than 250,000 people in Wake and Durham counties.
- Headquarters at 615 Boylan Avenue.
- Three owners, including Jim Huffstetler.
- Transport fee is \$40, which has caused “shock and surprise” among patients.
 - Fee increases to \$50, if not paid within fifteen days.
 - Beacon could lower fee to \$30, if county took over collections.
 - Since the county is already set up for bill collections, it would be more efficient and they'd be able to collect eighty percent of the bills, estimates Huffstetler.
- Nearly fifty percent of customers fail to pay their bill, for transport costs.
- Outstanding bills for last fiscal year totaled \$118,000.
- In January, Beacon will cease service to city of Raleigh unless county commissioners agree to either (a.) continue \$8,400 month subsidy or (b.) take over Beacon's bill collections.
- Question county commissioners currently facing: “Does Beacon provide the service that makes it financially worth saving for Wake?”
- Some customers complain of response times, while “doctors and nurses who work in direct contact with Beacon in hospital emergency room” say the firm is doing good and “even better than good.”

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- Except for two Raleigh fire department rescue units, Beacon has the only ambulances in Raleigh.
- Beacon serves entirety of Wake County, while the towns of Apex, Cary, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon each have rescue squads.
- Beacon handles more than 30 calls a day, splitting 16 ambulances between Wake and Durham.
- For Wake County to replace Beacon, says Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Russell Capps, it cost at least \$550,000 initially. Beacon owners think the figure is closer to \$1 million, with each ambulance costing close to \$20,000 each.
- Plus, the service fee for each transport would still be as high, or even higher, to prevent loss of income.
- Training of attendants also noted. Effective January 1, 1976, says state head of Emergency Medical Services James Page, at least one attendant on every ambulance will have to be a certified EMT.
 - That amounts to 81 hours of instruction on such skills as “treating shock, giving oxygen to heart attack victims, fixing splits and moving patients with broken backs and ruptured spleens.”
- Some Beacon attendants are already EMTs, or in the process of becoming certified. Their ambulances are already stocked with the required equipment.
 - Both beds, blankets, and stretchers, but “equipment which checks a person’s vital signs such as blood pressure, oxygen tents for cardiac victims and obstetric kits for mothers giving birth.”
- On Monday, the Commissioners are expected to approve Beacon’s contract.
- Raleigh Times, November 16, 1974.

1974 - **Zebulon Area Rescue Squad** incorporated. (2/28/74)

Zebulon memories:

- The first vehicle acquired by the Zebulon Rescue Squad was the 1954 GMC panel van that originally and initially served the Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad. The vehicle was given free of charge, with only 18,000 miles on odometer. It would be used as a utility vehicle, to carry heavy rescue equipment and tow the rescue boat. Source: Zebulon Record, November 21, 1974.

1975 - Beacon seeks increasing county subsidy. Other issues related to Beacon also happening.

1975 - **Garner/St. Mary’s Rescue Squad** incorporated. (January 13, 1975)

See separate document for history.

1976 - Raleigh Fire Department/Wake County “rescue medic” program posed, rejected.

Legeros summary:

- Funeral homes haven't been transporting patients for about a decade. Various private ambulance companies have come and gone.
- The current provider for Raleigh residents is Beacon Ambulance Service. They also answer calls in northwestern Wake County.

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- The Raleigh Fire Department's two rescue squads can also provide patient transport. Neither fire nor ambulance personnel are providing much in the way of advanced first aid. Fire department EMTs are still a few years away.
- Outside of the city, there are rescue squads operating in Apex, Cary, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon. Some of those have been around for over a decade; others are fairly new.
- Beacon's been receiving a subsidy from the county, and they have asked for an increase the prior year. This and other issues have both city and county officials considering their options for the best combination ambulance and medical service for Raleigh residents. Thus the proposed Rescue Medic program, a city-county initiative to add Emergency Medical Technician-staffed ambulances to the Raleigh Fire Department.
- Four two-person medic units at Station 1, Station 10, Station 6 or Station 14, and Station 4 or Station 15. The department's two rescue squads would be located at Station 2 and Station 9. And their response areas would include some territory outside the city limits.
- The proposal was created by Lee Gupton for the Wake County Office of Emergency Management, including staffing, equipment, response projections, and alternate models.

Tuesday before April 21, 1976 – Wake County Board of Commissioners rejects a proposed city-county ambulance, and instead votes to create a county-financed ambulance service for Raleigh and northwestern Wake County. The Raleigh City Council approved the plan two weeks prior, but the commissioners were split on approving the city-county plan, or continuing to subsidize Beacon Ambulance Service Inc. The compromise vote, for county-only service, was four to one. The estimated cost of the new service was set at \$388,000, a figure based on purchasing four new ambulances and hiring about twenty-six people to operate them. After collecting ambulance fees, the net cost for the county was estimated at \$298,000. This contrasted with the county's \$345,000 cost before collections, of the city-county plan. And the Beacon subsidy would have cost \$194,500. (N&O, 4/21/76)

1976 - **Wake County EMS** placed in service on August 15, 1976. They responded to nineteen ambulance calls. They responded in less than five minutes to twelve of the calls. Five were automobile accidents. Two EMS stations are opened: Station 1 at McDowell and Martin streets (EMS 1, EMS 4) and Station 2 at the Wake County Home on Whitaker Mill Road (EMS 2). The third station on Six Forks Road would be opened in several weeks (EMS 3). The original staff consists of twenty-six employees: Director, Chief Supervisor, Three Shift Supervisors, and twenty-one field EMTs.

See Wake EMS history document.

1976 - Beacon Ambulance Service loses its contract and \$8,400 subsidy from Wake County on August 15. Owner James Huffstettler creates a new company, **Medical Transport Services**, which provides convalescent transport on a "cash and carry business." The new company is located at 2232 Wake Forest Road. The assets of his former company are seized by the IRS in September, which wants to collect \$25,000 in unpaid federal taxes. The company has six ambulances, along with medical and office equipment. They are sold at auction starting on the Wednesday after September 28, 1976. Local fire departments and rescue squads are notified of the auction. Huffstettler had previously asked the county for both an increase in monthly subsidy, and help collecting unpaid bills. Neither request was granted. (N&O, 9/28/76)

Medical Transport Services had four ambulances for a while:

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- Two 1972 Pontiac/Superior 54-inch ambulances
- 1970 Cadillac/Miller-Meteor 48-inch ambulance
- 1967 (?) Oldsmobile/Cotner-Bevington combination car (hearse/ambulance).

Convalescent services that have operated in Raleigh over the years/decades have included:

- **AMR** (took over Nova).
- **Capital EMS** (operated out of a building along the railroad tracks on Jones Street)
- **Garner Rescue Squad**
- **Johnston Ambulance Service** (now called **JAS**). During the 1990s, they were based in the same building as an all-hours veterinary clinic on Wilmington Street.
- **Medical Transport Services**
- **Mobile Medical Care** (successor to Medical Transport Services around 1978)
- **Nova Medical Transport**
- **Piedmont Ambulance**
- **SAS Ambulance**
- **Samaritan**
- **Southeastern Medevac**
- **Triangle Ambulance**

1976 - Raleigh FD begins training firefighters as EMTs, for eventual city-wide First Responder program.

See Appendix for more history.

1976 - **Six Forks Rescue** incorporated. (12/30/76)

Six Forks memories:

- Organized by members of Six Forks FD, believe after a bad car accident and waiting for ambulances.
- Only rescue squad in Wake County not affiliated with a municipality.
- For first ten years, members required to be member of spouse of SFFD.
- In September 1983, they have two ambulance and a crash truck. The Chief is Don Adams. (RT, 9/5/83)

Six Forks notes:

- 2005, October - Placed ambulance in service at airport-owned warehouse building at 6901 Mt. Herman Road. The 1972 building was obtained by the airport in 1990. Two rescue boats and a light trailer are also/located there.

1977 - **Knightdale Area Rescue Squad** incorporates. (3/30/77)

See separate document for history.

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1977-78 – **Raleigh-Durham Airport Crash-Fire-Rescue** becomes a rescue provider as approved by NC OEMS. They start answering medical calls in late 1977 or early 1978. They were not a first responder agency, but did have rescue equipment as required by the state.

Dale Johnson memories:

- At that time Cary Area Rescue responded to calls in the terminals and the South Ramp area, while Six Forks Rescue Squad responded to the areas north of the airport. At that time medical emergency at the airport were called in directly to the fire station or to the police department. RDU CFR responded to the call and determine if transport was needed.
- Usually, only one person responded on medical calls, but in the case of something like a cardiac arrest, we would try and send some help. At any rate, I spent quite a bit of time by myself pumping on someone's chest or wishing that the ambulance would hurry up. And of course, in those days, the rescue squads, like the fire departments, were very territorial!
- I remember one night spending over thirty minutes on an Eastern Airlines 727 doing CPR with a stewardess helping me.
- In early 1978, medical calls were answered in either CT-1 (1957 Chevrolet pick-up) or CS-11 (1975 Plymouth Fury station wagon). For a while, we had one of the “big green boxes” for the medical kit. Since we didn’t know exactly which unit we would take at any given time, the green jump kit was kept in the station.
- In 1979 CT-1 (now called CFR-1) was replaced by a 1979 Chevrolet K-30 with the utility body. Shortly after that, the station wagon went to the police department.

Early fire department-based rescue providers:

- **Wake-New Hope FD** had a 1974 Chevrolet 3500/Murphy rescue-body unit. It was almost the same body as the Raleigh rescue trucks of similar vintage. It had a 350 engine and a three-speed manual transmission. The Murphy body was later remounted on a 1991 or 1992 Chevrolet 3500 with a 454 engine. Though it looked like an ambulance, it was carry the Hurst tool and motor along with other miscellaneous tools. WNHFD had a Hurst tool by 1980, with an original Chrysler power unit and the large jaws “like the one Six Forks had.” Source: Oral history.

1980-1989

1980 - Raleigh FD first responder program expands city wide, April 1, 1980.

See Wake EMS history document.

1981 - **Northern Wake Rescue & EMS** created, renamed from WFRS.

NWREMS memories:

- In its heyday, Northern Wake Rescue and EMS operated two stations: one in Wake Forest and one in Rolesville.
- The Rolesville station was the old fire station.

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- They basically served the entire northern area of Wake County from Falls Lake in the west, to Buffalo Road in the east.

1982 - **Fairview FD** becomes first Wake County fire department to offer First Responder service. Chosen due to location between four rescue districts: Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, and Garner. March 1982.

First responder memories:

- Wake-New Hope FD begins first responder around 1982 to 1985.
- Swift Creek FD begins first responder in fall 1993.
- Zebulon Rural FD begins first responder in 1999
- Wake Forest FD begins first responder for county calls in 2000.

1982-83 - New UHF radio system installed for EMS agencies and rescue squads.

1983 – Volunteer rescue squads grapple with manpower shortages during daylight hours.

- In August, the chiefs of the volunteer squads adopt a new procedure to deal with the problem of slow response times. After the initial call, if no member answers within three minutes, the squad is called again. If no member answers within three more minutes, another squad is called.
- There are three-three ambulances available in Wake County.
- Source: RT 9/5/83.

1984 - **Wake County EMS** implements EMT-Paramedic. County rescue squads soon begin receiving training for personnel, and/or deploying Wake County paramedics for their units. Some county squads continue using WCEMS paramedics through 1999. [Alternate year is 1983. N&O, 9/10/91]

1986 – Paramedic service added at **Cary, Garner, and Six Forks** rescue squads. (N&O, 9/10/91)

1989 - **Rescue, Extrication, & Delivery Specialists** or **REDS** incorporated. (May 11, 1989).

Memories:

- Chief/leader is David Pease, founder and longtime member of Garner Rescue Squad.
- First members train at Garner Rescue Squad building.
- Later housed at former rescue squad building at 110 Pearl Street. (OH)

1989, November - **Garner EMS and Rescue Squad** renamed from Garner-St. Mary's Rescue Squad. (The name change is filed with the Secretary of State three years later, on December 31, 1992.)

1990-1999

1990 – Citizen’s committee recommends that the county place paramedics at all six rescue squads for three years to provide uniform service. The cost is estimated at \$500,000 for nine paramedics and their supplies. (N&O, 9/10/91)

1991 – Nine volunteer rescue squads in Wake County abandoned tradition of free ambulance service and begin charging fees for transporting patients. (N&O, 6/10/91)

Snapshot of rescue squads, from September 10, 1991, News & Observer:

Rescue Squad	BLS fee	ALS fee	Lifetime Membership	1990 Calls
Apex Rescue	\$75	\$150	\$35	1,021
Cary Area Rescue	\$255	\$295	\$40	2,100
Fuquay Varina Rescue	none	none	none	n/a
Garner EMS and Rescue	\$148	\$208	\$45	2,000
Knightdale Rescue	\$148	\$178	\$35	1,000
Northern Wake Rescue and EMS	\$148	\$178	\$35	1,400
Six Forks Rescue	none	none	none	1,300
Wendell Rescue Squad	none	none	none	952
Zebulon Area Rescue	none	none	none	1,100
Wake County EMS	\$148	\$208	none	17,000

1990 – **Furina Rescue Squad** ceases operations, after town votes to cease funding. The squad operates from a town-owned building, and was receiving a \$3,000 allocation this year. The town asks the county to provide “full rescue services” until a new squad is organized, and approved by both Wake and Harnett Counties. The town board had a “long-standing desire” to improve rescue services in Fuquay-Varina, and particularly keep a paramedic on duty around the clock. (N&O, 11/1/90)

1990 - **Wake County EMS** establishes service at RDU Airport (EMS 6), first unit stationed outside city limits, December 1990.

1991 - **Fuquay-Varina Area Rescue Squad** incorporated on February 6, 1991. Wake County EMS assumes primary service in Fuquay-Varina.

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Notes from April 4, 1991, News & Observer:

- Begins responding to calls the week of April 4, 1991.
- Spent two months preparing to take place of **Furina Rescue Squad**.
- They reorganized, recruited volunteers, and arranged to pay more than \$39,000 in debt from their predecessor.
- The interim Chief is Donald R. Powell. They have twenty members.
- They signed a contract with the county the week before, to provide rescue services and received \$23,115 in startup money. This grant, plus funds from the town and Northern Harnett Rescue, will pay the former squad's debts.
- They have obtained an ambulance, a 1987 Ford.
- The rescue station has been refinished with paint, carpeting, and other repairs. It's ready for county personnel to move in.
- The county set a pair of deadlines:
 - By April 15:
 - Be ready to answer rescue-only calls, those not requiring emergency patient care of transport.
 - Maintain enough staff to keep response time below eight minutes.
 - Provide place to house personnel and equipment from Wake County EMS.
 - The WCEMS unit has been housed in the volunteer fire station since February.
 - They'll receive a \$1,222 monthly subsidy.
 - By December 31
 - Provide a vehicle and a driver to assist Wake County EMS paramedics.
 - Drivers must be certified EMT-I.
 - They will remain stationed in town.
 - Once this is met, FVRS can respond to calls for emergency patient care and transportation.
 - They'll receive a \$3,666 monthly subsidy when this is met.
 - After this time, the squad will receive 60 percent of charges for EMS services currently paid to the county. \$148 for basic services, \$208 for ALS.

1992 - **Garner EMS and Rescue Squad** created, from Garner-St. Mary's Rescue Squad. The name change is filed December 31, 1992.

1992 – **Northern Wake Rescue & EMS** votes to reorganize in June. Wake County EMS begins providing EMS service in August, while reorganization takes place. County commissioners, notes the N&O story, expect to provide service countywide by 1994. (N&O, 2/4/93) Horace Macon takes charge of squad and “turns it around.” They have twelve EMTs then, but June 1993 they have thirty-five, with plans for more than dozen to be paramedics within a year. (N&O, 6/2/93)

1993 – County commissioners approve a plan allowing all county residents the option of paying annual subscription fees, the way that those served by rescue squads have done for years. Residents can pay \$50 per year, or be billed between \$109 and \$300 for calls. (N&O, 3/2/93)

1993 – Paramedics added at **Wendell** and **Zebulon**, after July 1. (N&O, 3/2/93)

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1995 - **Wake Forest EMS** created, renamed from Northern Wake Rescue & EMS. Name change filed August 28, 1995.

1995 - **Rolesville EMS** incorporated on February 2, 1995.

Rolesville memories:

- Proudly formed as a new non-profit corporation by the citizens of Rolesville and many of Rolesville EMS's charter members were past members of Northern Wake Rescue and EMS (who lived in or close to Rolesville). Northern Wake's organization was in turmoil and the community action to form another EMS service in Rolesville was necessary to provide coverage to Rolesville.
- Occupied the **Northern Wake Rescue** Station 2 facility, which was the former fire station. Building is donated by the squad.
- From N&O, 3/16/95:
 - Cary Area EMS donates a used ambulance to serve as a back-up truck.
 - Some twelve EMTs and paramedics have volunteered to staff the new station.
 - Town will sell annual EMS memberships for \$50.
 - Fundraiser started by town last month, to raise \$175,000 for the squad.
 - They've raised \$10,000 so far.
 - County has told town that if they can raise the money, get the volunteers, and meet state and county certification requirements by July 1, they'll be granted a county EMS franchise.
 - It would provide service to nearly 4,000 homes and 20,000 people within a six-mile radius, and dividing in half the area currently served by **Northern Wake Rescue**.
- From N&O, 8/10/97:
 - Started fundraising campaign last year to buy third ambulance. Have raised \$45,000.
 - Borrows ambulance from Fuquay-Varina, after REMS unit is damaged in collision on Wednesday before 8/10/97. Ambulance is rear-ended on Highway 96 while returning from a call, by driver later charged with DUI. Two EMS members suffer neck and back injuries.

1997 - **Fuquay-Varina EMS**, renamed from FVARs. Name change filed March 25, 1997.

Notes:

- Begins paying weekday workers in early 1990s. This slowly built resentment among volunteers, who worked at night and weekends, doing the same job for free.
- Begins paying entire staff in 1998.
- Some problems continued. Squads were taking too long to respond, and training requirements overwhelmed many employees.
- Ceased operation April 1, 2001. N&O, 2/17/01.

1997 - **Cary Area EMS** created, renamed from CARS. Name changed filed June 30, 1997. Also by that time, they had ceased providing technical rescue services.

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1997 - **Apex EMS** created, renamed from AVRS. Name change filed October 27, 1997.

1998 – Wake County EMS adds ambulance in Wake Forest, in advance of **Wake Forest EMS** ceasing service. (Before February 1998)

1998 – County commissioners as county staff to develop short-term improvement plans, to provide EMS service to Holly Springs and Wake Forest. The county has received complaints from both towns about inadequate service. Holly Springs has asked to start its own EMS service, and has purchased two ambulances and equipment. The town has also asked the county for help financing the service. Currently, ambulances from Apex and Fuquay-Varina answer calls in Holly Springs. In Wake Forest, the rescue squad is disbanding by March 31. That will leave only one county ambulance to serve the town. Wake Forest officials want a second ambulance. The commissioners also discuss hiring a consultant to study the county system and make recommendations county-wide. (N&O 2/3/98)

1998 – County commissioners approve the structure of a twenty-five member task force, to oversee a study of EMS services in Wake County. (N&O, 3/11/98)

1998 - **Wake Forest EMS** disbands in March. The town is left with only one “county ambulance” to serve the area. The corporate dissolution is filed November 25, 1998.

1998 - **Holly Springs Fire Department** begins EMS service on April 1, 1998. They are licensed as a BLS provider, and Wake County provides one full-time Wake County paramedic and ALS supplies. The town provides one ambulance, a driver, and all equipment. Source: Wake County Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, February 16, 1998.

They operate an ambulance for over a decade, including later with a full-time paramedic provided by Wake County EMS.

1999 - Snapshot of Wake County EMS System, from TriData’s *Comprehensive Assessment of the Wake County Emergency Medical Services System Final Report*, which was submitted to Wake County EMS on June 16, 1999:

Agency	Ambulances	Square Miles	1995 Population	Personnel	1998 Calls	1998 Revenues
Wake County EMS	Twelve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paramedic Thirteenth to be added by July 1, 1999 	103.9	206,835	140+ paid	25,169	\$6.2M (budget)
Apex EMS	Three <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First duty, paramedic Second duty, paramedic Third duty, EMT intermediate and basic 	107.4	23,177	3 F/T, 20 P/T, 23 vol	1,688	\$402,900

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Cary EMS	Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic • Second duty, paramedic • Third duty, EMT intermediate and basic • Fourth duty, EMT intermediate and basic 	64.5	74,016	11 paid, 27 vol.	3,646	\$740,000
Fuquay-Varina VRS	One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-duty provided by Wake County EMS 9 • Second-duty, non-paramedic 	82.6	20,580	15 paid, 23 vol.	560	\$160,693
Garner EMS	Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic • Second duty, paramedic • Third duty, EMT intermediate and basic 	92.4	35,680	7 F/T, 23 P/T, 45 vol.	3,168	\$755,000
Holly Springs DPS	One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic (WCEMS paramedic plus EMT basic) 	40	4,532	10 paid	406	\$125,033
Knightdale EMS	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic (WCEMS paramedic plus EMT intermediate) • Second duty, EMT intermediate 	60.8	20,427	4 paid, 17 vol.	1,316	\$176,550
Rolesville EMS	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic • Second duty, paramedic 	42.7	7,612	2 paid, 25 vol.	710	\$201,000
Six Forks VRS	Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic • Second duty, paramedic • Third duty, EMT intermediate and basic • Fourth duty, EMT intermediate and basic 	95.1	61,793	20 paid, 42 vol.	1,963	\$361,000
Wendell VRS	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic (WCEMS paramedic plus EMT intermediate) • Second duty, EMT intermediate 	50.2	10,396	4 paid, 17 vol.	1,327	\$182,000

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Zebulon VRS	Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First duty, paramedic (WCEMS paramedic plus EMT basic)• Second duty, paramedic• Third duty, EMT intermediate or basic	41.5	7,548	3 paid, 40 vol.	1,254	\$195,000
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2000-2009

2001 – **Fuquay-Varina EMS** ceases operation on April 1. (N&O, 2/17/01)

2001 - Zebulon Area Rescue Squad renamed **Zebulon EMS**. Name change filed July 27, 2001.

2003 - Wendell Rescue Squad renamed **Wendell EMS**. Name change filed April 25, 2003.

2005 - **Eastern Wake EMS** formed in July 2005, as a merger of Knightdale Area Rescue Squad, Wendell EMS, and Zebulon EMS.

Documents:

- Knightdale Area Rescue Squad merger filed May 12, 2005.
- Zebulon EMS merger filed May 12, 2005.
- Wendell EMS renamed Eastern Wake EMS. Name change filed April 21, 2005.

EWMS notes:

- The three departments began discussing a merger after the three departments received budget cuts in 2004-05.
- After numerous meetings with the three Boards, each agency voted to move forward with the merger. A steering committee consisting of three members of each agency and the County Manager were put together to spearhead these efforts. They were tasked to write policy and procedures, bylaws, personnel policies and to put together a budget on behalf of all three departments. The name of Eastern Wake Emergency Medical Service, Inc. (EWEMS) was chosen by a vote of t
- Wendell EMS was formulated as the first EMS agency in Wake County in 1962 and they were chosen to be the surviving agency. Wendell officially became Eastern Wake EMS on May 1, 2005. Knightdale and Zebulon folded into Eastern Wake EMS on July 1, 2005. During this process we worked closely with Dr. Myers, our system Medical Director, and Ryan Lewis, the system QA Coordinator, for the Wake County EMS System on how many ambulances are needed in Eastern Wake County to provide the service and where those ambulances need to be positioned in order to improve response times. We took an EMS System approach instead of a territorial approach as we made these decisions.

2006 - Radio systems are changed from UHF to 800 mhz VIPER system, January 2006.

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2007 - **Wake County EMS** adds Major Operations Support Unit and begins providing rehab / greater rehab service at fires and major incidents. First call answered on April 17, 2007.

2007 - New Wake County EMS System unit numbering effective November 28, 2007:

- Wake County EMS - Assigned EMS 1-39, Chief 100s, Chief 200s, District 1-3, MD1/2/20.
- Apex EMS - Assigned EMS 40s, Chief 400s, and Unit 410.
- Cary EMS - Assigned EMS 50s, Chief 500s, and District 5.
- Eastern Wake EMS - Assigned EMS 60s, Chief 600s, and District 6.
- Garner EMS - Assigned EMS 80s, Chief 800s, and Unit 810.
- Rolesville EMS - Assigned EMS 150s, Chief 1500s, and Unit 1510.
- Six Forks EMS - Assigned EMS 120s, Chief 1200s, and Unit 1210.
- Series 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 reserved for future assignment.

See Appendix for more information.

2008 - **Rolesville EMS** merges with Eastern Wake EMS. Merger document filed May 13, 2008.

2009 - **Wake County EMS** adds Advanced Practice Paramedic (APP) program, January 6, 2009.

2010-present

2010 - **Garner EMS & Rescue Squad** ceases EMS operations on/around May 31, 2010. Service assumed by Wake County EMS. Around the same time, the squad ceases providing rescue services. Its remaining operation is providing non-emergency medical transport services.

2010 - **Holly Springs loses county subsidy for salaries of three paramedics, to staff the fire-rescue ambulance.**

2010, March – **Apex EMS** merges with the town, and becomes a part of the Fire Department. The merger into the town had been proposed several times, but wasn't approved as an action until early 2009. The merger was originally planned to take place in October 2009, but was proposed a couple times until March 2010.

In March 2011, a proposal was made to turn EMS over to Wake County. In/about June 2010, the decision was made to retain EMS as a town agency, but it was separated from the fire department in FY11-FY12. Only one ambulance was lettered for "Apex Fire & EMS," though all of them had the short-lived altered Apex Fire & EMS emblem on the door. Source: Oral history.

The corporate disillusion for **Apex EMS Inc.** was filed on July 8, 2011.

2011 - **Six Forks EMS** ceases operation. Service assumed by Wake County EMS. Organization files corporate dissolution with the state on July 27, 2011.

2011 - **Garner Rescue Squad** merges with **REDS**.

Appendix A – Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad

The Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad was organized in 1953, by a group of firemen and civilian volunteers. They formed after the fire and police departments were criticized for a delay in extricating a driver pinned under a truck on Hillsboro Street. There was also criticism after a drowning in the Neuse River several miles from Raleigh. The body was not recovered for a week, until City Manager W. H. Carper asked Captain Jack Keeter to help. Keeter and three others— Asst. Chief Lee Matthews, fire department friend Bob Biggs, and future police officer Andy Povlosky—borrowed a boat and recovered the body.

The first organizational meeting was held in January 1953. The Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad received a state charter on August 27, 1953. Organizational meetings were held, and rules and regulations were established for operations and levels of service. A Red Cross first aid course was taught to some twenty-five firefighters and civilians.

Money from the city and the county Civil Defense office was provided to purchase a panel truck, along with two boats and motors. Rescue squad members built furnishings for the truck, and constructed a boat trailer. Local businesses donated money and materials, and several citizens also contributed money and equipment.

The rescue squad was housed at Station 1 and responded both in the city and the county. It carried equipment for rescues, drownings, and basic first aid. Though not intended to compete with ambulance services, the rescue squad proved helpful in the early 1970s, when area funeral homes stopped providing patient transport and private ambulance services started operating. The rescue squad's early equipment even including diving gear. Members were photographed in March 1962, assisting with a vehicle recovery at Longview Lake.

Though the rescue squad was organized as a volunteer agency, Capt. Keeter persuaded the city to designate two fire-fighters as rescue officers. Harold Jones and Roma Wilder were appointed and sent to a rescue school in Maryland. They worked on opposite shifts and drove the rescue vehicles. If they needed a second person, they pulled a firefighter from one of the companies at Station 1. The volunteer members were subject to call, but primarily participated in body recovery efforts in local lakes and rivers.

Wake County also provided \$100 a month for the rescue squad. Both vehicles and the boat trailer were stored at Station 1. By 1972, the number of assigned firefighters had expanded to four and the rescue squad was operated exclusively by the fire department. In 1974, a second rescue unit was placed in service at Station 9. They were also utilized to transport firefighters and their family members to hospitals. After the formation of Wake County EMS in 1976, the rescue units served as back-up when no county ambulances were available.

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The Raleigh Fire Department continued to purchase transport-capable rescue units until 2002, when the first non-walk-in rescue unit was delivered. They retained a walk-in reserve rescue until 2013.

Source: MJL.

Legeros notes:

- The squad was proposed in 1947, under Fire Chief W. Ralph Butts. There wasn't time to grow the idea, as a change of administration occurred.
- The idea was resurrected upon the hiring of City Manager William "Bill" Carper. He took office in August/September 1950.
- Carper's name isn't Harper, which has been misspelled in earlier documents.
- Carper had experience organizing rescue squads in Virginia.
- The fire department visited rescue squads in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and four Virginia locations.
- The Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad was originally intended to have forty to fifty volunteers, plus a couple assigned firemen.
- The first organization meeting was held in January 1953. The vehicles were delivered in October and November of that year.
- Their Reo Civil Defense rescue truck was a 1955 model, not the long-cited 1954 model year.

Memories:

- Raleigh Fire Department rescue members at Station 1 circa 1974 wore long-sleeve dress shirts and ties at all times, and didn't have to participate in station chores. Source: Oral history.

Appendix B – First Responder Program in Raleigh Fire Department

In 1976, the Raleigh Fire Department started implementing the First Responder and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. Special training for instructors was first, followed by long hours of classroom and practical training. Personnel at Station 1 and Station 3 were the first to be trained, and they started using their skills in the field the following summer.

They received instruction on skills such as patient assessment, airway management, rescue breathing, and spinal immobilization. The trainers had attended classes at Wake Technical College, and included Ray Bradford, Wilbert Dunn, Leotha Forte, Dave Godfrey, Jesse Glenn, Harold Jones, and Bill Sykes.

Firefighters started using their new skills, such as life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), in the field around August 1977. By that time, the first group of trainees had received their EMT certifications, and the first trauma kits had been added to apparatus.

Also that year, the eight recruits hired on April 4 became the first firefighters required to pass EMT certification as a part of training. They received fire training at Station 2 and the drill tower, and attended EMT classes at Station 9. The following year, the recruits hired in June 1978 received partial

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EMT training. The classes were halted, since they would receive the training later along with other members of the fire department.

A second group of firefighters underwent EMT training in 1978. This effort stalled, as officials discussed the availability of extra pay for completing certification. The additional compensation was not approved. The EMT program remained optional, though nearly all firefighters eventually participated.

The Raleigh Fire Department participated in a pilot program sponsored by the International Association of Fire Fighters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. It required the nearest fire engine to respond to every emergency call in Raleigh involving a life-threatening situation.

By late 1979, planning was underway to staff each of the fifteen fire stations with at least one engine, ladder, or rescue unit with at least two firefighter/EMTs. During this time, Engine 3 was conducting a test of the program. They worked with Wake County EMS to test the plans and revise the procedures.

On April 1, 1980, the First Responder Program was expanded city-wide. Fire units staffed with firefighter/EMTs were dispatched to life-threatening emergencies, such as heart attacks and vehicle accidents. They performed basic patient care until a Wake County EMS unit arrived to provide extended or advanced patient care and transportation to the hospital.] Some 270 firefighters were licensed as EMTs.

The 1977 recruit class was the first to receive EMT training. It was added to their curriculum at the last minute. In 1985, the sixteen recruits hired on July 29 became the first firefighters required to maintain EMT certification as a condition of employment.

Appendix - EMS System Numbering Change in 2007

New Wake County EMS System unit numbering effective November 28, 2007:

Wake County EMS

Ambulances - EMS 1 through EMS 39, including Holly Springs ambulance now EMS 17

District Chiefs - District 1, District 2, District 3

Admin Chiefs - Chief 100 through Chief 109

Operations Chiefs - Chief 200, Chief 201

Special Event Chief - Chief 202

Medical Director Staff - MD-1, MD-2, MD-20

Apex EMS

Ambulances - EMS 41 through EMS 49

Admin Chiefs/Officers - Chief 400 through Chief 409

Non-System Supervisor - Unit 410

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Cary EMS

Ambulances - EMS 51 through EMS 59
District Chiefs - District 5
Admin Chiefs/Officers - Chief 500 through Chief 509

Eastern Wake EMS

Ambulances - EMS 61 through EMS 69
Admin Chiefs/Officers - Chief 600 through Chief 609
District Chiefs - District 6

Garner EMS

Ambulances - EMS 81 through EMS 89
Admin Chiefs/Officers - Chief 800 through Chief 809
Non-System Supervisor - Unit 810

Rolesville EMS

Ambulances - EMS 151 through EMS 159
Admin Chiefs/Officers - Chief 1500 through Chief 1509
Non-System Supervisor - Unit 1510

Six Forks EMS

Ambulances - EMS 121 through EMS 129
Admin Chiefs/Officers - Chief 1200 through Chief 1209
Non-System Supervisor: Unit 1210

Agencies 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 reserved for future assignment

Source: Legeros Fire Blog

Sources

Sources cited in this document include:

- DJ – Dale Johnson
- GLF – *Gold Leaf Farmer*
- GN – *Garner News*.
- JH – Jeff Hammerstein
- JT – Jason Thompson
- MJL – Mike Legeros
- N&O – *News & Observer*
- OH – Oral history
- RT – *Raleigh Times*.