Wake County Fire Departments – Family Tree

NORTH

1921 Wake Forest (Municipal)

In 1982, WFFD #2 merged with WFFD, and their fire station was closed. In 1993, the town and the rural fire departments merged and a new non-profit corporation was created.

WFFD #2 was phased out in 1979. They answered relatively few calls, and their remaining members were absorbed into the town fire dept.

In 2012, the Falls fire station became Wake Forest Station 5.

Mergers

Comprised of black firefighters. Had separate personnel, equipment, facility.

WF #2 (M) 1942 — 1982 — Wake Forest, 1983 — Sta 2 2001 — Sta 3 2008 — Sta 5 2012 — Sta 4 2016

1996 — 2000 (for county) — 2006

Had separate equipment and later separate facility from town fire dept.

WF Rural, 1956 — Wakette Fire District

1984

Falls, 1970 — *The Falls Community Club house was converted into a fire station that is still used today.* — Merger

Six Forks 1956

Impacted by annexations, SFFD moved farther north on Six Forks Road in 1962, and to Lynn Road in 1974.

Originally named Six Forks Road FD

In 1976, SFFD members helped organize Six Forks Rescue Squad. Many firefighters were also squad members, and provided medical care on scene in the years and decades before the department joined the county First Responder program.

c1997-98? — Merger

Bay Leaf 1961

SHFD helped BLFD organize, which began responding south of the Neuse River.

Sta 2, 1993 — 1995 (?) — 1999 — Sta 3, 2002 — *In 2002, the Six Forks fire station became Bay Leaf Station 3.* — Merger

Northern Wake 2017

Stony Hill 1958

Originally named Stoney Hill FD

1984 — 1994 — Sta 2, 1997

Durham Highway 1964

Impacted by annexations and the rapid growth of the city, Durham Highway added new fire stations to the north and west. Shortly before Station 3 opened, Station 1 was closed, and Station 3 was soon renamed Station 1.

Sta 2 1976 — 1986 — Station 1 closed c1991 — Sta 3 1992 — 1995-96? — *In 2000, Raleigh Station 23 opened at Sta 2 on Pinecrest Road, sharing the facility with DHFD.*

1925 Fuquay-Varina (Municipal)

In 1999, the rural fire dept merged with the town.

FV Rural, 1954 — Furina fire district — *Had separate equipment and facilities from town fire dept, but shared personnel.* — Merger 1972 — Sta 2 1991 — 1997 (?) — 2001 — Sta 3 2003

Garner 1952 — St. Mary's Fire District, outside of town

During early years, had separate resources and personnel for calls inside and outside the town limits.

Sta 2, 1975 — *In 1997, the rural St. Mary's and Panther Branch fire districts were combined into the Garner Suburban Fire District.* — Sta 3 1999 — 2002 — Sta 4, 2010

SOUTH

Swift Creek 1960

In the 1960s, rural fire depts developed methods of shuttling water, using "quick dump" valves on their tankers and portable "dump tanks." This greatly increased the capacity for pumping water at structure fires in areas not served by hydrants.

1993 — 2001 — *In 2012, four regional tanker strike teams were created, to improve the efficiency of requesting and responding with tankers for water supply operations.*

Fairview 1963 — Ten Ten Fire District

Originally and briefly named Ten Ten FD

1982 — Sta 2 1990 — Merger 1997 — Sta 1 – Old HSRFD; Sta 2 – HSFD — Public Safety split into fire and police, 2006

Holly Springs Rural, 1971

Holly Springs Public Safety, 1995

Explosive growth in the 1990s resulted in the town creating a public safety department with police (1992) and fire (1995) services.

2003 — *HSFD also operated EMS services from 1998 to 2010.* — Sta 3 2008

The installation of municipal water systems in early decades led to the formation of fire departments. Hoses were connected directly to fire hydrants and no pumping engines were required. They were typically carried on hand reels or motor trucks in Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon.

1921 Zebulon (Municipal)

1987 — Merger 2000

Zebulon Rural, 1953 — Wakelon Fire District

Had separate equipment from town fire dept, but shared facilities and personnel.

1999

EAST

Wendell (Municipal) 1909-12

Had separate equipment from town fire dept, but shared facilities and personnel.

Wendell Rural, 1957 — Wendell-Holmes Fire District

Merger c1985 — Sta 2 1988 — *Around 1990, WFD added a haz-mat team that operated until 2007.* — 1999

In 2002, the town created a fire department, as a part of a new Public Safety division, and with help from KFD members.

Knightdale PS, 2002 — *Public Safety split into fire and police, 2015*

Knightdale, 1953 — Alert Fire District, outside of town

In 1960, split into town and rural sections that shared facilities, equipment, and personnel. This ended in 1970.

1992 — Sta 2, 1995 — 1997 (?) — Renamed **Eastern Wake, 2003**

Wake-New Hope, 1956

From 1989 to 1991, WNHFD operated a dive team. After sponsorship ended, members formed Wake Underwater Search and Recovery Inc.

1974 — 1985 — Sta 2 1988

Decades earlier, the business section of Rolesville was destroyed by fire in 1913. Similar major fires destroyed downtown areas of Apex (1911), Fuquay Springs (1919), Fuquay-Varina (1946), and Wendell (1925).

Rolesville, 1958

1999 — 2007 — *Wake County has continued to see rapid residential growth in unincorporated areas. Rolesville FD, for example, is planning for three additional future fire stations as of 2016.*

Hopkins 1977

Hopkins' first fire truck was a retired 1957 pumper from Raleigh. Rural fire depts often started with hand-me-down or homemade equipment, as well as the donated time and efforts of members, for building facilities, furnishing apparatus, and other needs.

1927 Apex (Municipal)

In 1952, a rural fire dept was organized and soon operated as a unified FD with both town and rural resources.

Apex Rural 1952 — Hipex Fire District

In 1961, the rural fire dept was split into two entities. By the 1980s, the rural department was again operating as a unified Apex FD.

1961 — 1989 — 1994 — 1997 — Sta 2 1997 — Merger — Sta 3 2002 — Sta 4 2007 — Sta 5 2017

In 2002, Apex Rural FD merged with the town.

In 2004, AFD joined NC USAR Task Force 4. Morrisville FD joined in 2006. The team was disbanded in 2013, but AFD remained a state swift-water rescue resource.

Apex EMS was part of AFD from 2010 to 2011.

WEST

Morrisville Rural 1955

The Carpenter substation increased the MFD district from 10 to 25 square miles.

Sta 2 1975 — 1983 — **Morrisville Municipal, 1991** — 1993 — Merger 1994 — Sta 3, 1999

In 1988, MRFD hired its first firefighters. The town paid 50% of salaries. In 1991, the Fire Chief was hired by the town as a career employee, and all of the paid part-time firefighters became town employees, with MRFD paying 50% of their salaries. In December 1994, MRFD merged with the town.

In 2006, MFD Sta 3 (renumbered from Sta 2) relocated next door to CFD Station 7.

1922, Cary (Municipal)

In 1960, the rural fire dept was split into two entities.

In 1971, Cary Area Rescue Squad as formed, and began providing area rescue services.

In 1982, Cary became the county's third career fire dept as the volunteers were phased out.

Sta 2 1976 — Sta 3 1987 — Sta 4 1988 — Sta 5 1996 — Sta 6 2001 — Sta 7 2006 — Sta 8 2013 — Sta 9 2015

Cary also operated a haz-mat unit from c1986 to 1990.

Cary Rural, 1954

In 1954, CFD was incorporated as a rural fire dept.

1955 — Yrac fire district — Renamed **Yrac, 1961**

Station 2 closed as a cost-savings measure initiated by the county, and a new Cary Suburban fire district was created, with contract protection from CFD.

Station 2 Closed, 2008

Western Boulevard, 1957 to 1960

After most of their district was annexed by the city in 1960, the fire station closed and WBFD members reorganized as Fairgrounds FD at a new location.

Fairgrounds, 1961

Originally named Fairground FD.

From the mid-1960s to 2005, an annual fire brigade operated during the State Fair. Local firefighters were hired to provide fire protection and conduct safety checks. They borrowed apparatus from local fire depts and dealers, and stayed on site in temporary quarters.

1986 — *From 1994-95 until after 2003, FFD and then WWFD operated a county-supplied rehab unit.* — Merger

Western Wake, 1998

Sta 1 – Fairgrounds Station
Sta 2 – Yrac Station

In 2003, the first local USAR team was created, NC Task Force 7 with Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Cary fire depts.

The city and county fire depts have a long history of working together, from joint training to mutual aid. As residency requirements were relaxed in 1969 and later, some city firefighters moved to rural areas, and joined the volunteer fire depts in Wake and surrounding counties.

Raleigh

1953 — *Sta 7, 8, 9* — *Sta 10, 11, 12, 14, 15* — *Sta 16* — 1980 — *Sta 17* — *Sta 18, 19, 20* — *Sta 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27* — *Sta 28* — *Sta 29*

The first fire company in Raleigh was organized in 1819. The volunteer fire department was organized in 1852. The career fire department was created in 1912.

Raleigh-Durham Airport

Dry-chemical crash truck added 1969. — *ARFF crash trucks added c1970, 1973.* — 1976 — *Third ARFF crash truck added, 2000*

Fire protection at the airport was provided by part-time firefighters for decades. The career fire department was created in 1977.

Forest Service

Apex tower moved to Penny Road, 1951 — *Bay Leaf tower moved to Howard Road, 1968* — *Knightdale tower removed, 1972* — *Apex tower closed, 1981* — *Bay Leaf tower closed, 1985* — *Apex tower sold, 1986, later removed* — *Knightdale's tower was later relocated to Pasquotank Co.*

Forest Resources for fire protection over the decades included a trio of fire towers in Wake County.

Fire towers at
Bay Leaf – Erected 1937
Knightdale – Erected 1938
Apex – Erected 1940

Aerial apparatus added
Rescue services added
First responder services added

1950

1953 – First rescue squad organized by Raleigh FD. Two years later, Cary FD adds reserve services. Vol. rescue squads in county begin organizing in the early 1960s.

1956, circa – Rural fire dept program created, administered by county office of Civil Defense.

1958 – County-wide radio network installed for rural fire depts.

1960

1960 – First tax district created, to augment funding for rural fire depts.

1960 – Rural Fire Districts Board created.

1963 – County fire chiefs council created.

1970

1972 – City/county communications center created. Rural fire depts are no longer dispatched by Raleigh FD.

1974 – Hydraulic Hurst tools expand rescue capabilities in city and some county fire dept.

1980

1980s – More county fire depts add rescue services, taken over from volunteer rescue squads.

1984 – First responder programs started in county.

1984 – First haz-mat unit in county, Raleigh FD.

1985 – County fire training center completed.

1986 – Full-time fire marshal position created.

1990

1990s – Paid and career firefighters become increasingly common, as fire depts face rising call volumes and decreasing availability of volunteers.

1998 – County fire commission created.

1999 – Fire tax districts consolidated into single county-wide district.

2000

2000s – County ownership of facilities and apparatus introduced.

2000s – Co-location of EMS units begins at county and Cary fire stations.

2005 – New 800mHz radio system, adds greater inter-operability between city/county/state agencies.

2008 – First county fire academy.

2010

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