




# Wake County Fire Departments – Historical Milestones Summary

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Updated January 10, 2017

Fire Department	Created	Ended	Rural Tax District Established	First Responder Added 	Rescue Services Added 	Aerial Apparatus Added 	Special Units	First Part-Time Paid FFs	First Full-Time FFs (Hourly or Salaried)	Notes/Scratch Pad
APEX	1927, 1961, 2002 <sup>1</sup>		n/a	See APEX RURAL	See APEX RURAL	See APEX RURAL	2010-2011, Apex EMS part of FD 2004-2013, part of USAR TF4 ____, Water rescue team ____, Foam trailer	See APEX RURAL	See APEX RURAL	
APEX RURAL	1952	2002 (merged with town)	90? > < 93	1994  1996 or after (upgraded to EMT)	c1996 <sup>2</sup>	1989 <sup>3</sup>	Rescue boats	By 1996 <sup>4</sup>	By 1996	1993, first paid Fire Chief
BAY LEAF	1961		1967	NEED	c1991 <sup>5</sup>	1999 <sup>6</sup>	Rescue boat	By 1996 <sup>7</sup>	NEED	
CARY	1922, 1960 <sup>8</sup>		n/a	1989	1955 to 1971 (or earlier) c1997 (assumed from Cary RS)	1988 <sup>9</sup>	c1986 to 1990, haz-mat 2003-13, part of USAR TF8 Rescue boats	1960 (?)	By 1969	1963, first full-time Fire Chief

<sup>1</sup> This one's a little complicated. In 1952, Apex Rural FD was created. Within a couple years, ARFD was operating as a unified AFD with both town and rural resources. In 1961, ARFD was split into two entities. By the 1990s, that separation had disappeared, and AFD was operating entirely as a private organization though still legally named Apex Rural FD. In 2002, they merged with the town, which creating the current Apex FD.

<sup>2</sup> AFD added rescue services when they bought their 1995 HME rescue, a demo unit. Also, Apex EMS ceased rescue services in/around 1997. Thus the circa 1996 timeframe. Source: OH. Also, by July 1997, county apparatus inventory indicates AFD extrication equipment.

<sup>3</sup> Model year of AFD's first ladder is 1989. County apparatus inventory lists 1991 as year in service. Bought as demo, perhaps?

<sup>4</sup> By February 1996, AFD had six full-time and one part-time members. Source: Wake County FD Volunteerism report.




<sup>5</sup> BLFD members recall that rescue services were added when the 1991 E-One heavy rescue was delivered and outfitted.

<sup>6</sup> Model year of BLFD's first ladder is 1999. Citing as year of activation for time being.

<sup>7</sup> By February 1996, BLFD had five full-time members. Source: Wake County FD Volunteerism report.

<sup>8</sup> CFDD joined the county rural fire department program in 1954, and was soon operating as a private organization named Cary Rural FD. In 1960, the department split into two entities, a town fire department and the private CRFD.

<sup>9</sup> Model year of first CFDD's first ladder in 1988. Citing as year of activation for time being.

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CARY RURAL	1954	1961 (renamed Yrac)	--	--	1955	--	--	--	1956 <sup>10</sup>	Split from town in 1960.
DURHAM HIGHWAY	1964		1965	1986 <sup>11</sup>	mid-1990s <sup>12</sup>	n/a	1981, ARFF foam <sup>13</sup>	1997 <sup>14</sup>	1986 (M-F) <sup>15</sup> 1997 (24/7)	
EASTERN WAKE	2003		TBD	From start	From start	2000s	Water rescue team	From start?	TBD	
FAIRGROUNDS	1961	1998 (merged w/Yrac, formed Western Wake)	67 > < 80	1986	--	--	1996, SS19, rehab. <sup>16</sup> 1997, WC7, body transport.	By 1987 – Fire Chief 1986-87 - FF <sup>17</sup>	1987-88 <sup>18</sup>	
FAIRVIEW	1963		67 > < 80	1982 <sup>19</sup>	NEED	--	--	NEED	By 1994 <sup>20</sup>	2002, first paid Fire Chief
FALLS	1970	2012 (merged with WFFD)	70 > < 80	1984	c2007 <sup>21</sup>	--	2006, boat <sup>22</sup>	Late 1980s	--	

<sup>10</sup> Boyd Wilson Morris became the first paid Cary firefighter on October 1, 1956. One year later, department records cite one full-time member. Presuming that Morris was full-time from the start of his employment. Source: FD records.

<sup>11</sup> DHFD took the first responder course in 1986. The following year, they purchased a 1987 Ford/E-One light rescue for use as a first responder vehicle, Truck 9. Many members then advanced their knowledge to EMT. By the early 1990s, DHFD was providing first responder at the EMT level. Source: OH.

<sup>12</sup> In the mid-1990s, perhaps 1995 or 1996, DHFD purchased extrication tools, a large spreader, an O-cutter, a Maverick combination tool, three sizes of rams, and a set of air bags. They were added to Truck 9. With plans for I-540 coming, and RFD not planning to serve (annex?) the new territory, DHFD studied the needs for this area. They determined that a larger rescue truck (and more equipment?) was needed. They designed a replacement for Truck 9, and a new Pierce heavy rescue was built and delivered in 1999. Several months were spent setting up the truck, and mounting equipment. It was placed in service in 2000 as a rescue/service truck. Source: OH.

<sup>13</sup> Since DHFD was on the run card for all calls at the airport, and the closest mutual aid FD, they added ARFF foam capabilities in 1981, with the delivery of a Mack/Darley tanker with onboard foam system. They maintained enough ARFF foam on site to refill the truck, plus spare quantities. Source: OH.

<sup>14</sup> DHFD added part-time members to supplement the 24/7 staff. Source: OH.

<sup>15</sup> First DHFD full-time employee was Capt. Zeb Overton. Second full-time employee was hired shortly thereafter. They were M-F employees. In 1997, DHFD implemented 24-hour shifts, the first county combination department to implement same. Source: OH.

<sup>16</sup> SS19 was a county special services unit using a converted Type II ambulance that carried rehab and support supplies for all county FDs. It was supplied by the county and operated by FFD (and later Western Wake). It operated until 2000. The county added a fire service support unit, operated by the shift Deputy Fire Marshal, about that time. Then in 2007, Wake County EMS placed a major operations support unit in service, which provides fireground rehab support. Source: OH.

<sup>17</sup> First FFD part-time employee was Tramp Dunn, as Fire Chief. First part-time FF was Fred (Pogo) Stephenson. Source: OH.




<sup>18</sup> First FFD full-time employee was Mike Wallace. Source: OH.

<sup>19</sup> First medical first responder class conducted in county. Source: OH.

<sup>20</sup> By June 1994, FFD had three full-time firefighters working daytime, who were county employees. Source: WCPS memo.

<sup>21</sup> FFD members recall that rescue tools were added around the time new Falls 212 was delivered, which was a 2007 Pierce Contender, delivered April 24, 2007. Source: OH.

<sup>22</sup> FFD added what the county called its first fire boat, a 16-foot craft with a 500 GPM integrated pump. Earlier boats have been equipped with portable pumps, such as 17-foot craft placed in service in Holly Springs in 1998. Source: MJL.

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FUQUAY-VARINA	1925, 1999	1972 (merged with FVFD)	--	1999 <sup>23</sup>	1997 <sup>24</sup>	2001 <sup>25</sup>	--	--	From start	
FUQUAY-VARINA RURAL	1954	1999 (merged with town)	67 > < 80	--	--	--	--	--	1993 <sup>26</sup>	
GARNER	1952		1988	1986 (by PD) 1999 <sup>27</sup>	By 1997 <sup>28</sup> 2000 (town only?) <sup>29</sup>	2002 <sup>30</sup>	--	NEED	1988 first paid Fire Chief 1988, admin asst. 1989, Capt., Lt., two FFs <sup>31</sup>	
HOLLY SPRINGS	1995		--	From start	From start?	2003 (telesquirt) 2007 (ladder) <sup>32</sup>	1995-06, part of PS dept 1998-10, EMS service 1998, boat	--	From start	
HOLLY SPRINGS RURAL	1971	1997 (merged with HSFd)	71 > < 80	1995 (HSPS) <sup>33</sup>	--	--	--	-- Note <sup>34</sup>	--	
HOPKINS	1977		77 > < 80	NEED	By 1997 <sup>35</sup>	--	--	NEED	NEED	

<sup>23</sup> FVFD added first responder in 1999, and upgraded to EMT in early 2012. Source: FD, OH.

<sup>24</sup> FVFD added rescue services in 1997, acquiring a rescue truck (correct?) and equipment from Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad. Source: FD. Also, by July 1997, county apparatus inventory indicates extrication equipment.

<sup>25</sup> Model year of FVFD's first ladder is 2001. Citing as year of activation for time being.

<sup>26</sup> FVFD added the first full-time members in 1993, and added 24/7 positions in 1999. Source: FD.

<sup>27</sup> Garner Rescue members cite about 2000-2001, implying that GFD hadn't added first responder before July 1, 1999, the date of the county requirement for all FDs. We will use that date. Also, Garner police provided first responder services in town, beginning in 1986. Source: OH

<sup>28</sup> By July 1997, county apparatus inventory indicates extrication equipment at both Station 1 and Station 2.

<sup>29</sup> In 2000, rescue services within the town limits were transferred to GFD from Garner EMS & Rescue Squad.

<sup>30</sup> GFD ladder is a 2001 Pierce, delivered in December 2001, placed in service February 2002. Source: MJL




<sup>31</sup> GFD hired full-time firefighters for its two stations in January 1989. Source: N&O, 3/21/90

<sup>32</sup> HSFd also operated a converted power company bucket truck (!) with a remote-operated master stream, added in 1997. Was operated only once at a fire, and sold in 1998. Omitting from listing: Source: MJL.

<sup>33</sup> HSPS provided First Responder service to the rural district beginning in 1995.

<sup>34</sup> HSRFD was planning to add paid folks in July 1995, but the town was in the process of creating their own FD, and HSRFD never added paid people. Source: OH

<sup>35</sup> By July 1997, county apparatus inventory indicates extrication equipment.

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KNIGHTDALE (PRIVATE)	1954	2003 (renamed EWFD)	1971	NEED	1994 (?) <sup>36</sup>	1992, but soon sold <sup>37</sup>	--	NEED	By 1995 <sup>38</sup>	
KNIGHTDALE (TOWN)	2002		--	From start	From start	2002 (telesquirt) 2009 (ladder)	2002 to 2015, part of PS dept	NEED	From start	
MORRISVILLE	1955 in name 1994 as town entity		--	See MRFD below	See MRFD below	See MRFD below	2006-13, part of USAR TF4 Water rescue team	1991 – MRFD PT emps made town emps	1991 – Fire Chief, by town, pre-MFD 1995 – First career FFs	
MORRISVILLE RURAL	1955	1994 (merged with town)	67 > < 80	1983 2006 (EMT) <sup>39</sup>	1993 <sup>40</sup>	1985 <sup>41</sup>	--	1988 – First part-time FFs	--	
RALEIGH-DURHAM AIRPORT	1941 (air base opens) 1943 (airport opens)		--	1978 <sup>42</sup>	From start By 1978 (first Hurst) <sup>43</sup>	--	Crash trucks, ARFF foam, etc.	From start	1977 <sup>44</sup>	
RALEIGH	1819 (fire co.) 1852 (vol. FD) 1912 (career FD)		--	1977 (first field use) 1980 (city-wide)	1953 (first RS) c1974 (first Hurst)	1917	1984, haz-mat 1988, mobile air 2003, added as part of USAR TF8 Foam trailer Water team	By 1896	1912	

<sup>36</sup> Equipment and role assumed from Knightdale Rescue Squad? They ceased rescue services in/around 1994. Source: MJL

<sup>37</sup> KFD briefly operated a 1990 E-One quint from 1992 to 1993. Source: MJL

<sup>38</sup> In July 1995, KFD advertised an opening for a full-time daytime supervisor/Captain position. Source: KFD memo.

<sup>39</sup> Source: MFD.




<sup>40</sup> Source: MFD.

<sup>41</sup> Model year of MFD first ladder is 1985. Citing as year of activation for time being.

<sup>42</sup> RDU CFR was approved by NC OEMS as a “non-transporting provider at the EMT level” in 1978. Source: OH.

<sup>43</sup> It’s a safe presumption that the airport FD had rescue services from the get-go, and the tools and training for rapid access and extrication of trapped pilots and passengers. By 1978, they had hydraulic rescue equipment, spread across the four crash trucks. Source: MJL.

<sup>44</sup> Before 1977, airport FFs were full-time employees with dual functions as ramp personnel and firefighters. Source: MJL.

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ROLESVILLE	1958		1964 (?)	1999	1997? (model year of squad van)	2011	--	TBD	TBD	
SIX FORKS	1956	2002 (merged with BLFD)	By 1964	96 > < 99 <sup>45</sup>	None, though SFRS, housed at same station and w/joint FD and squad members <sup>46</sup>	--	1976, helped org rescue squad Early 1980s, first mobile air in county Generator and light trailer	By 1996 <sup>47</sup>	By 1996	Some staffing notes. <sup>48</sup>
STONY HILL	1958		1964 (?)	1984	1994 <sup>49</sup>	n/a	n/a	1998	2001 – FT Captain <sup>50</sup> 2007 – FT shift (two)	
SWIFT CREEK	1960		1971	1993 <sup>51</sup>	2001	n/a	n/a	1990 <sup>52</sup>	1995 <sup>53</sup>	
WAKE FOREST	1983		From start	2000 (for county calls) 2001 (in town) <sup>54</sup>	1986 <sup>55</sup>	2006	Mobile air – NEED DATE	2012 <sup>56</sup>	1993 – Three FFs 1995 – FT Capt.	2003 – First full-time Fire Chief

<sup>45</sup>Though they were late adopting First Responders, SFFD had members who were also rescue squad members and EMTs, and who provided emergency medical care on calls with SFFD. Source: OH.

<sup>46</sup>In/by the early 1990s, the SFRS crash truck was primarily operated by fire staff during daytime, M-F operations. Source: OH.

<sup>47</sup>In February 1996, SFFD had two full-time and one part-time member. Source: Wake County FD Volunteerism report.

<sup>48</sup>In the early 1990s, SFFD was staffed M-F (6 a. to 6 p.) with two full-time and one-part employees. SFRS had two-part-time paramedics who were cross-trained to help M-F. For ambulance rescue calls, it would be staffed with one fire employee and one paramedic. Later, SFFD had three full-time emps and several part-time. Source: OH.

<sup>49</sup>SHFD added rescue services in 1994, with the addition of Northern Wake rescue squad's old hydraulic rescue tools. Source: OH.

<sup>50</sup>SHFD's first full-time person, a Captain added in 2001, was a Wake County position. Source: SHFD.

<sup>51</sup>SCFD started first responder services in the fall of 1993. Source: SCFD.




<sup>52</sup>The first SCFD paid personnel were added in 1990, as hourly full-time members who worked 40 hours per week. Source: SCFD.

<sup>53</sup>In 1995, SCFD changed from full-time to part-time personnel, who were career members of neighboring departments. They work during the day, with volunteer duty crews staffing at other times. Source: SCFD.

<sup>54</sup>WFFD began first responder service inside the town limits on October 22, 2001. Source: WCEMS News.

<sup>55</sup>In 1994, Northern Wake Rescue Squad ceased their rescue services. Their rescue tools were disposed to Stony Hill FD. WFFD filled the gap by requesting Youngsville or Six Forks rescue, while they worked on adding their own rescue services. Took a little while as the Board had to authorize purchase, the equipment and a vehicle had to be acquired, etc. Herb Wall came and taught two classes on Hurst tools, guided by the experience of Randall Cooper and John Martin. They also designed the rig, Truck 6. The truck arrived late 1995 or early 1996. Thus citing 1996 for rescue services. Source: OH.

<sup>56</sup>In 2012, WFFD added part-time employees with the merger of Falls FD.

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WAKE FOREST (town)	1921	1983 (merged w/WFRD)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
WAKE FOREST #2	1942	1982 (merged with town)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Town-sponsored company of black firefighters.	
WAKE FOREST RURAL	1956	1983 (renamed WFFD)	By 1964	--	--	--	--	--	--		
WAKE NEW HOPE	1956		1958	1985 <sup>57</sup>	c1974 <sup>58</sup>	n/a	1989-91, dive team <sup>59</sup>	1987 <sup>60</sup>	1998 <sup>61</sup>		
WENDELL	1909-12	Mid-1980s (merged w/WFRD)	See WENDELL RURAL								
WENDELL RURAL	1957		67 > < 80	1995 <sup>62</sup>	NEED	1999 <sup>63</sup>	c1990 to 2007, haz-mat	By 1996 <sup>64</sup>	By 1996		
WESTERN BOULEVARD	1957	1960	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
WESTERN WAKE	1998		From start	From start	From start	--	From start, WC7, body transport unit.	From start	From start		

<sup>57</sup> First WNHFD first responder class was taught by Linwood Barham. Several classes after that were taught by Tramp Dunn. Source: WNHFD.

<sup>58</sup> Members recall that the first Hurst tool was added at the same time as the delivery of their 1974 Chevy/Murphy rescue truck. Thus circa 1974 for rescue services. Herb Wall sold them the tools when the new truck arrived. There was also a plan, related to Truck 6 and controversial among members, to enter the patient transport business. That was halted when Wake County EMS was created in 1976. Source: OH.

<sup>59</sup> After WNHFD ceased sponsoring the dive team in May 1991, members formed Wake Underwater Search and Recovery Inc. It was incorporated in June 1991. Like the FD dive team, the service was available county-wide. Source: OH.




<sup>60</sup> WNHFD hired part-time members beginning in 1987. Early employees included RFD members Rusty Styons, Frank Warner, Mikkey Martin, and SFRS paramedic Fred Hutchins. Source: OH, WNHFD.

<sup>61</sup> WNHFD hired its first full-time employee in 1998, Ashley Bradhaw. Source: WNHFD.

<sup>62</sup> WFD started participating in the county first responder program in December 1995. Source: WFD.

<sup>63</sup> WFD placed their first ladder in service around December 1999. From MJL history site: "Raleigh's old tiller was sold on April 24, 1999, to a speculative buyer in Beaufort, N.C. It was spotted three or four months later sitting unsold in a lot, and bought by WFD. Tractor has only 40,000 miles on it. Diamond-plate purchased at an EEI auction in Raleigh is added to the trailer. Three months pass before the apparatus is placed in service. The fire department spends about \$16,000 total on the truck."

<sup>64</sup> In February 1996, WFD had three full-time and one part-time member. Source: Wake County FD Volunteerism report.

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YRAC	1961	1998 (merged with FFD, created WWFD)	1964	NEED	--	--	--	NEED	--	
ZEBULON	1921		--	2000	2000 (assumed from ZRS)	1987 <sup>65</sup>	--	After 1990, after adding first career member	1990 (Chris Perry) 1992 (Fire Chief) <sup>66</sup>	
ZEBULON RURAL	1953	2000 (merged with ZFD)	67 > < 80	1999	--	--	--	1990 or 1991 <sup>67</sup>	--	

<sup>65</sup> ZFD ladder was delivered November 19, 1987. Dealer mounted all loose equipment, and did several days of training before they left. Truck was in service within a week or two. Source: ZFD.

<sup>66</sup> Fire Chief was the second full-time position added at ZFD. Source: ZFD.

<sup>67</sup> ZFD remembers part-time emps added at ZRFD in late 1990 or 1991. Source: OH.