

UPDATED: Raleigh's Civil Defense Rescue Truck Found... and Lost

10/20/12 236 W, 6 I - + 13 - 10

October 20

We have learned to our regret that this truck was indeed headed to TT&E scrap metal on Garner Road. The old rescue rig sat for a spell on site, and was then recycled. Thanks to the readers who inquired and investigated. On the up side, these trucks were utilized nationally. There's an opportunity, perhaps, for someone to find one and relocate the thing to Raleigh. (Now *there's* a project!) Don't believe any others were used in North Carolina. For that matter, don't know how many were produced period. Might've been a modest number. Below are a couple more photos that Robby found. They're certainly good additions to our Raleigh Fire Department historical archives.

October 18

Reader Robby Delius caught on camera last year what looks like Raleigh's original heavy rescue, a 1954 Reo Civil Defense rescue truck ([see posting from two years ago](#)) that's shown below in a vintage photo. He snapped these shots on October 8, 2011, on Wilmington Street between the Beltline and Tryon Road. [Here's more information and photos](#) about the rig. Sure looks like a match. Would there be another such truck stored locally? And, more importantly, where the heck is this thing now?! Surely someone knows someone who knows something. Even if they're name isn't Shirley... Thanks Robby! Click **the color photos** to enlarge:



News & Observer photo



Robby Delius photos

I think the truck went to TT&E scrap metal based on the direction it was heading on Trion. There are other things that direction such as the Hwy Patrol .

r delius ([Email](#)) - 10/18/12 - 20:39

One of Raleigh's old firetrucks is/was at the scrap metal yard on Garner Rd last week. It's probably been squashed or demolished at this point. My blackberry was DOA and didn't have enough life left to snap the pic I was trying to get. It was a very sad site to see as it was one of the really really early historical models. It would have required a whole lot of \$ to restore it tho as it was only rusty panels. Only way I knew it was Raleigh's was because it still very clearly read "Raleigh Fire Dept" on it's doors.

Brandi - 10/20/12 - 09:22

Thanks Brandi! Sounds like we need to post a watch at local scrap yards!

Ledger is (Legeros, ha) - 10/20/12 - 09:36

Greenville Fire-Rescue had one, don't know if it was on a Chevrolet or REO chassis. Don't know where it is now, heard it might be in a junkyard near Gardnerville NC.

Steven ([Email](#)) - 10/22/12 - 18:11