Understanding Alarm Levels in Wake County

Last updated February 1, 2023

Introduction

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Raleigh Fire

	Non-High Rise	High Rise	Alarm Level*
Reported structure fire 1R = R16 or Sq7 or Sq14	4E, 2L, 1R, 2BC, Safety	5E, 3L, 1R, 2BC, DC, Air, Safety	First
Working fire	DC, INV, Air	5E, 3L, 1R, 2BC, second Air, INV	
2nd alarm	3E, 2L, BC	5E, 2L, BC	Second
3rd alarm	3E, 2L, BC	5E	Third
4th alarm	3E, 2L, BC	5E	Fourth
Etc.	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.

Notes

- For alarm level (*), in CAD, the reported fire is the first alarm, the working fire is the second alarm, a requested "second alarm" is the third alarm, etc.
- Added engines and ladders are not uncommon at working fires. Command will ask for one or two additional engines, or additional ladders. This can be for extra manpower, or, say, more fans for smoke removal in a larger building. These are typically different than relief companies, sent after a fire is controlled, etc.

Cary-Apex-Morrisville (CAM) Fire

	Low Risk *Outbuilding, etc.*	Moderate Risk *Single-family, apartments, small commercial, etc.*	High Risk *Hospital, assisted living center, etc.*	Ultra High-Risk *High-rise*
Reported structure fire	2E, 1L, 1BC + 1 Mutual Aid Engine, outside CAM, for some areas	4E, 1L, 1R, 2BC + 1 Mutual Aid Engine, outside CAM, for some areas	5E, 2L, 1R, 2BC + 1 Mutual Aid Engine, outside CAM, for some areas	5E, 3L, 1R, 2BC + 1 Mutual Aid Engine, outside CAM
No working fire dispatch				
2nd alarm	2E, 1L, 1R, 1BC			
3rd alarm	2E, 1L			
4th and higher	2E, 1L			

Wake County Fire (General)

Reported structure fire	Set by each FD and based on occupancy type	
Working fire	Add WC-1 + additional resources*, as predetermined by FD	
	City Areas	County Areas
2nd alarm	2E	1E, 2 tankers
3rd alarm	2E	1E, 2 tankers
4th alarm	2E	1E, 2 tankers
5th alarm	2E	1E, 2 tankers

* Additional resources are based on GPS, unit capability, and CAD availability (e.g. staffed versus unstaffed unit). May include resources from outside Wake County.

Wake County EMS

County EMS	Ambulances	Chiefs	APPs	Major Ops	Call Type Initial Dispatch
Box Alarm	2	1 DC	1 APP	n/a	Shooting/Stabbing, MVC Pin/Overturned
1st Alarm	4	2 DC	1 APP	Truck 1	Bus or Train MVC, Technical Rescue, RDU Alert 1*, High-Rise Fire/High-Life Hazard, MPI 1 incident
2nd Alarm	8	3 DC + Chief 200	2 APP	Truck 1 + Evac 1	RDU Alert 2*, Working High-Rise Fire, MPI 2 incident
3rd Alarm	12	4 DC	3 APP	Truck 1 + Evac 1	RDU Alert 3* or RDU Alert 4*, MPI 3 incident
4th Alarm	16	5 DC	4 APP	Truck 1 + Evac 1	MPI 4 or higher incident
5th Alarm	20	6 DC	5 APP	Truck 1 + Evac 1	Built into cad

Notes

- Each alarm adds 4 ambulances, 1 DC, 1 APP
- Alarm levels can be requested or dispatched out -of-sequence. For example, an MVC involving a bus receives a 1st alarm EMS response as the initial dispatch.
- Mutual aid resources outside of Wake County may be included and are encouraged to be requested at the 3rd alarm level or higher.
- Not all RDU Alerts (*) receive an EMS response. When an EMS is requested for an RDU alert, the corresponding EMS resources are dispatched.

RDU Alert Levels

Alert 1	Aircraft in trouble, ARFF position at station
Alert 2	Aircraft in trouble, ARFF position on runway
alaAlert 3	Aircraft has crashed on airport property
Alert 4	Aircraft has crashed off airport property