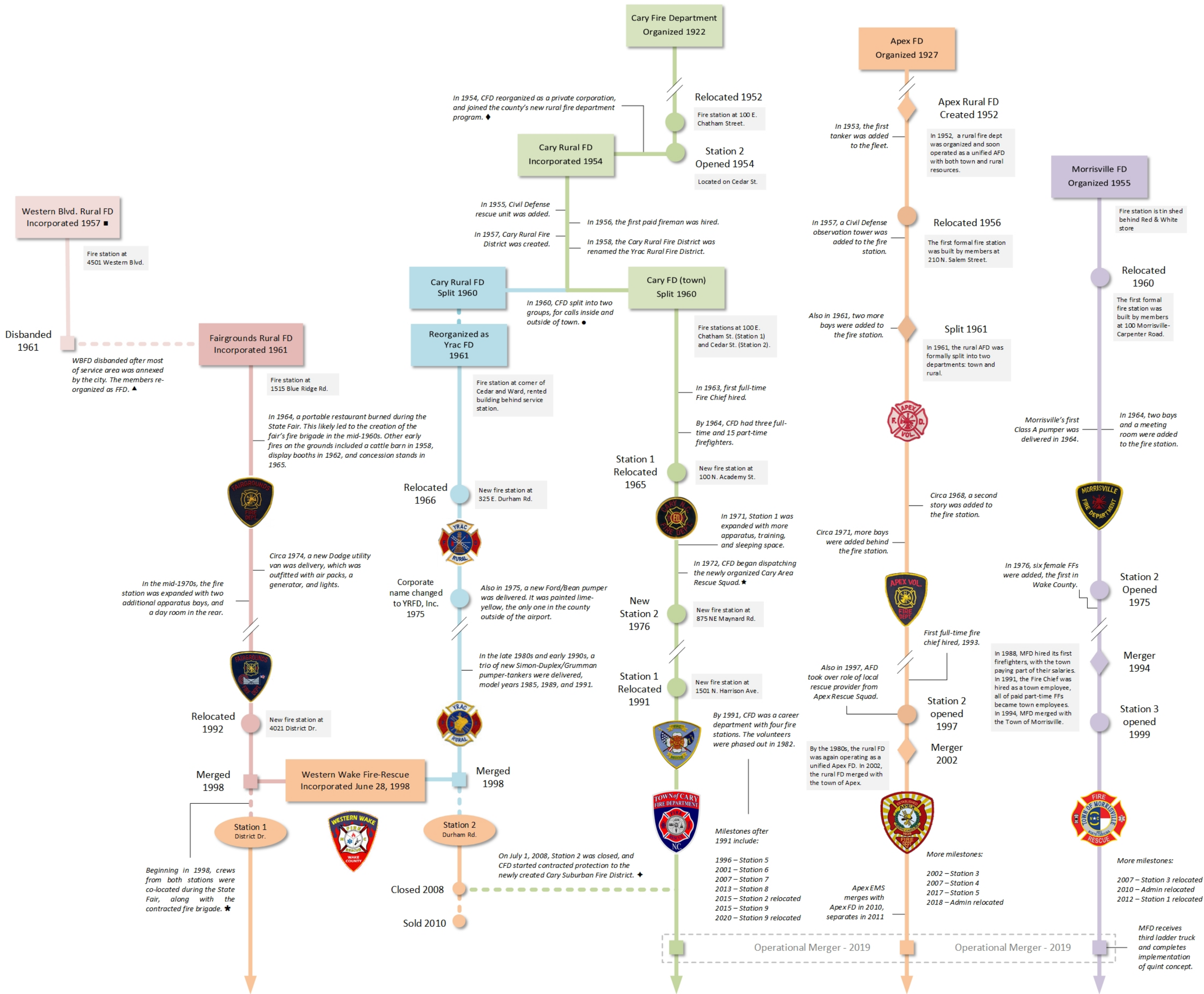


WESTERN WAKE COUNTY — FAMILY TREE OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS

CARY — APEX — MORRISVILLE — WESTERN BOULEVARD — FAIRGROUNDS — YRAC — WESTERN WAKE



Notations

■ Organized by members of the Western Boulevard Exchange Club, WBFD protected some 1,500 homes and businesses. Funding including the sale of service subscriptions to property owners. The first fire station was located at the Esso service station at Powell and Western, and then a converted "barbecue shed" on the opposite side of Powell Drive.

▲ On April 1, 1960, the city annexed most of their district, including 500 of 750 subscribers. Raleigh opened a new fire station on Method Road to serve the area. WBFD disbanded the following year and some of the their equipment was disposed to the new Swift Creek FD. In February 1961, the members of WBFD organized the Fairgrounds FD, to protect unincorporated areas to the north of their former district.

★ The State Fair Fire Brigade was a group of off-duty Raleigh firefighters contracted for fire protection during the annual event. They utilized borrowed equipment and resided on site. The fire brigade operated until 2005. By that time, Western Wake was also contracted as co-provider, and assumed the sole role in 2006.

◆ Cary's first fire company was organized in 1922 and operated a Ford Model T/American LaFrance chemical car. Three years later, a 1926 Nash replaced the Ford. By that time, the first fire hydrants had been installed in town. Six years later, a 1931 Chevy/Pirsch pumper was purchased. It was equipped with a fan belt-driven pump.

The fire department was modernized in the early 1950s with a number of improvements: a modern fire station in 1952, a modern Seagrave pumper in 1953, and a second building to house apparatus in 1954. During that decade, they added more equipment, joined the county's rural fire department program, and started planning to build a larger central fire station.

● In 1960, a new CFD was created, with CRFD personnel and equipment split into two groups. One served the town, and the other answered calls in the unincorporated Cary Township. The following year, the rural-serving CRFD was reorganized as the Yrac Rural Fire Department and separated fully from CFD and the town.

★ Organized in 1971 by members of YFD and CFD, the volunteer Cary Area Rescue Squad operated independent of the fire department. They also provided technical rescue services. In 1980, the first Cary firefighters were certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, and Cary fire units began assisting the rescue squad on some calls. In 1989, CFD became a state-certified EMT provider. In 1997, CFD assumed the role of technical rescue provider for the town and the CARS rescue truck was transferred to the fire department.

◆ Western Wake Station 2 was one of several county-funded fire stations evaluated for closure, after recommendations of a 2004 fire station and equipment study. The report recommended that nearby municipal fire departments instead serve those service areas, with an expected savings in operational costs. Station 2 was closed in 2008. Two years later, the process was suspended and no further fire stations were evaluated for closure.

Operational Merger Notes

On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, the fire departments of Cary, Apex, and Morrisville began operating as a unified system, with all three departments now dispatched by the Town of Cary, with unit numbers changed as needed to a single system, and all resources operationally consolidated.

Apex units were renumbered using a sequence of 30 to 49, such as Engine 3 changed to Engine 33. Morrisville units were renumbered with a sequence from 20 to 29 such, such as Ladder 1 changed to Ladder 21.

The Apex Battalion Chief was renumbered Battalion 5 and the Morrisville Battalion Chief was renumbered Battalion 4.

No physical station number changes were made, but Apex and Morrisville station radio signs were changed to 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 (Apex) and 31, 32, 33 (Morrisville).