

Onslow County Ambulance and Rescue Squad History

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Milestones

Before 1969

1944, Oct 31 – Newspaper advertisement for 24-hour ambulance service from Quinn-McGowan funeral home, with locations in Jacksonville, Burgaw, and Warsaw. [N&T, 10/31/44]

1958 – **Holly Ridge Rescue Squad** created. First operational squad in the county. [DN, 9/13/71] Operated a 1958 Packard ambulance. [DN, 3/19/73]

1958 – **Jacksonville Rescue Squad** created. It was created after a boy drowned in Mill Creek, and the need for such an agency presented. [DN, 3/23/73] It was comprised primarily of “policemen, firemen, and recreation personnel.” But with increasing demand with both “commitments and time,” many citizens were brought into the organization. [DN, 11/23/74] Their first vehicle was donated by Sanders-Ford, a 1960 Ford station wagon. Their first boat was a new Boston Whaler, bought by donations. And all of their equipment was parked in the street at City Hall. [DN, 6/15/76]

1960, May 11 – Jacksonville Rescue Squad, Inc. incorporated. [NCSOS]

1961, Aug 30 - **Swansboro Rescue Squad, Inc.** incorporated. [NCSOS] Squad started with an “old Packard ambulance” donated by a funeral home. [DN, 9/21/86]

1963, Apr 30 - Holly Ridge Rescue Squad, Inc. incorporated. [NCSOS]

1963 – Jacksonville RS moved into their first building, the Stamas Distributing Company warehouse. After that, they moved into a rented house on Sanders Street. [DN, 6/5/76]

1965, Aug – News reported that construction was underway on a Jacksonville RS building. The 40x40 foot building had three bays, a classroom, and an office. The concrete block construction was designed to blend the architecture of a nearby shopping center. [N&O, 8/13/65]

1967, May 31 – **Sneads Ferry Rescue Squad, Inc.** incorporated. [DN, 3/8/73]

1970 to 1979

1970 – Jacksonville RS added a “multi-phone hook-up” to more quickly reach members for calls. [DN, 11/23/74]

1970, circa – Jacksonville RS added their first (?) building at 113 Sanders Street, a recent location. Previously, members responded from their homes [correct?]. The squad also had a duty crew, made up of volunteers from the Jacksonville and Camp Lejeune area. The squad maintained an average of 25 to 30 members. [DN, 11/23/74]

1970, Jan 29 - **Onslow Volunteer Emergency Life Saving and Rescue Crew, Inc.** incorporated [NCSOS]

1971, Jun 4 – News reported that the Onslow RC had established a “weekend emergency aid station and ambulance service” on West Onslow Beach for the summer months. It was located at the Sheriff s Department substation. Service was available 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and holidays, through Labor Day. During the week, Sneads Ferry, Surf City, and Holly Ridge rescue squads could be called. Also the Jacksonville RS answered calls anywhere in the county. [DN, 6/4/71]

1971, Sep 7 – News reported that Holly Ridge RS and the fire department have started building a new building on A street at old Camp Davis. The property was donated in 1968. [DN, 9/7/71]

1972, Feb 20 – News reports on recommendations from a county study on emergency services needs, and that public ambulance service was the top need. It noted that current emergency transport services were currently provided by funeral homes, which had expressed interest on ending ambulance services, except for convalescent transport. [DN, 2/20/73]

1972, Apr 8 – News reports that both Onslow RC and Jacksonville RS were sharing the same warehouse building at the end of Kerr Street. [DN, 4/8/72]

1972, summer – Onslow RC kept an ambulance at West Onslow Beach for the summer. [DN, 6/5/73]

1972, Oct 24 – News reported that private ambulances were no longer on rotate call from Jacksonville police, for accident calls after 5:00 p.m. Until about a month ago, Johnson and Sandlin funeral homes were on call 24/7. Changed were local rescue squads called after 5:00 p.m. The private ambulance services offered to provide back-up services to the squad, and continued to make non-emergency transport calls. Said Jacksonville RS, they were “not in the ambulance business” and only answered “emergency calls.” [DN, 10/24/72]

1972, Nov 11 – News reported that Onslow RC was working to put a newly purchased heavy-rescue vehicle into operation. [DN, 11/8/72]

1973, Mar – Snapshot of Sneads Ferry RS. They had an ambulance, a rescue truck, and a 1962 model boat. [RS, 3/8/73]

1973, Mar – Snapshot of Holly Ridge RS. They had two ambulances, a step van, and a 2.5-ton truck with a winch. They had 28 certified members, were available 24/7, and provided ambulance service when called. [DN, 3/19/73]

1973, Mar – Snapshot of Jacksonville RS. They had two ambulances, a “crash wagon,” and a boat. [DN, 3/23/73]

1973, Mar – Snapshot of Onslow RC. They had an ambulance, a heavy-duty rescue truck, an ambulance-rescue truck, a 3/4-ton truck, and a boat. They also had a junior crew with their own officers. [DN, 3/28/73]

1973, Mar – Snapshot of Swansboro RS. They were available 24/7 for rescue and emergency ambulance service and had two ambulances and an equipment truck (with 40-HP hydraulic jack, generator, flood lights, and more), and a 15-foot boat. The squad was housed at the fire station. [DN, 3/29/73]

1973, Mar – Sneads Ferry RS added a rescue boat, a 22.5-foot craft with a two-bed compartment. [DN, 4/23/73]

1973, May 9 – News reported Onslow RC moved into new quarters over the weekend, from 407 Johnson Boulevard on Old Bridge Street, next to the Jacksonville Ice Company. The squad was leasing the space. [DN, 5/9/73]

1973, Aug – **Richlands Rescue Squad, Inc.** incorporated. [NC] News reported that the squad was awaiting certification of eight members of ambulance attendants, and certification of their ambulance, a converted 1966 station wagon. [DN, 8/3/73, DN, 9/1/76] The squad was placed in operation on August 22 (?), with calls received on the Johnson Funeral Home phone number, to save confusion with people not familiar with the squad's new phone number. It had 14 members, one ambulance, and was housed at the fire station. [DN, 8/23/73]

1974, May 4 – News reported that new quarters for the Swansboro RS was expected to be completed by July 4. The 40 x 80 building had three bays and was built on land donated by the American Legion, and just east of the “American Legion Hut.” It also had a kitchen and a large meeting room. [DN, 3/29/73, 5/4/74]

1974, May 8 – News reported that Jacksonville RS had asked the city for funding. They were presently funded by the United Fund as well as Onslow County. [DN, 5/8/74]

1974, Aug 14 – New Onslow Memorial Hospital became operational, and Jacksonville RS moved into the old hospital, now that space was available. The squad moved again, when renovations started at the old hospital. They were housed in a trailer loaned by the county. [DN, 6/15/76]

1975, Feb – **Nine Mile Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.** chartered. [NCSOS]

1975, Dec 1 – **West Onslow Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.** chartered. [NCSOS]
The squad started operating in 1976. The county association later recommended to county officials that the squad should not receive funding, due to good working relationships between Surf City, Holly Ridge, and Sneads Ferry squads, and that the Surf City squad was located within three miles of the West Onslow Beach squad. [DN, 2/8/77]

1976, Jan 1 – Swansboro RS started providing hospital transfer services. [DN, 6/30/76]

1976, May 5 – News reported that city council rejected a request from Onslow RC to approve 412 Johnson Boulevard as a site for their headquarters. They cited that the neighborhood was residential and a squad building was not compatible. [DN, 5/5/76]

1976, Jun – Snapshot of Swansboro RS. They had three ambulances, one crash truck, and two boats, all housed in a new building on land donated by the American Legion. They had 25 EMTs and three ambulance attendants. [DN, 6/30/76]

1976, Jul – Snapshot of Onslow RC. They had two ambulances, a crash truck, and a boat and trailer. They had 18 members and 7 junior members. They were located in the “old icehouse” on Old Bridge Street, just before the intersection on Highway 17. They rented space. [DN, 7/1/76]

1976, Aug 7 – News reported that Swansboro RS had built their own 18-foot rescue boat, launched in July 1975. It was towed by the squad's crash truck. [DN, 8/7/76]

1976, Sep 1 – Snapshot of Richlands RS. They had two ambulances and a crash truck, with 16 members, 13 who were EMTs and three are ambulance attendants. Also, nine junior volunteers. [DN, 9/1/76]

1976, Sep 1 – Snapshot of Nine Mile RS. They had an ambulance given by the county, and a 4WD 1962 Dodge former Army ambulance that was being converted into a crash truck. They had 22 members, 18 certified as EMTs. They also had eight junior members. [DN, 9/1/76]

1976, Sep 20 – News reported that Jacksonville RS and Onslow RC had merged to stop the “duplication of expenses and coverage area.” Though the merger had been negotiated, legal proceedings were still pending. Both were working out of a trailer at the Pecan Grove Trailer Park. [DN, 9/20/76]

1976, Oct 29 – News reported that Jacksonville RS had moved into their new building in the 400 block of Ellis Boulevard. The building was not completed, with some rooms still unfinished. [DN, 10/29/76]

1977, Mar 9 – News reported that West Onslow Beach VFD would stay in operation, despite action by the county board of commissioners to deny county funding for the squad. They would have to rely entirely on contributions. The board had asked squad members to meet with Surf City RS and consider merging the two squads, and some discussions were had. [DN, 3/9/77]

1980 to 1989

1983, Aug – News article about squads declaring a truce, with Sneads Ferry RS and Surf City RS agreeing to specific areas for response. [DN, 8/6/83]

1984, Dec – Onslow County commissioners voted to stop allocating money to Surf City RS, because the squad decided to discontinue services to Onslow County. They cited growth in their immediate area and needed to focus resources there. [DN, 12/4/84]

1985 – Study conducted by Neuse River Council of Governments recommended changes to rescue and EMS services, including (1) that the county franchise ambulance services and (2) the creation of an Emergency Medical Services council. [DN, 3/3/87]

1985, Jan 1 – Surf City VFD stopped answering calls to West Onslow Beach, citing inadequate financial support from Onslow County. The decision was announced in December. Onslow County officials said that fire and rescue units in Holly Ridge and Sneads Ferry, and Turkey Creek fire, would cover the territory. They noted that Onslow departments did not receive funding from neighboring counties they served.¹ [SN, 12/5/84]

1985, Feb 2 – News reported that both Surf City VFD and Surf City RS declined to reverse their decisions to answer calls to North Onslow Beach, despite requests from residents in Onslow County. Both cited inadequate manpower, and despite offers from Onslow County with more than triple the amount of previous funding. [DN, 2/2/85]

¹ SCVFD said they lacked adequate personnel to provide fire protection to fast-developing areas on the northern end of Topsail Island, such as several large condo complexes built in recent years. The SCVFD board also requested that the boundary of the Northeast Pender Fire District, which extended about two miles into Onslow County, be relocated to the county line.

1985, Feb 8 – News reported that some West Onslow Beach residents were taking EMT training at Onslow Memorial Hospital, in preparation for the formation of fire and rescue squad agencies in the community. Until created, the EMTs would “act independently” as “satellite units” of Sneads Ferry RS. [DN, 2/8/85]

1985, Apr 11 – News reported that West Onslow Beach residents were discussing ways to improve fire and rescue protection, including forming their own departments. They also broaden their efforts to perhaps incorporate the entire end of the island and create a new municipality. [SN, 4/11/85]

1985, May 1 – **West Onslow Beach Volunteer Fire & Rescue Departments, Inc.** incorporated. [NCSOS] By September 1985, the department had a 1946 Mack pumper, a 1959 Ford F-700/American LaFrance, and a 1959 Ward LaFrance, had 25 volunteer members, had been certified by the county fire commission, and had been chartered for two stations, which were required for adequate coverage. Developer Marlow Bostic donated one of the trucks and promised to donate land on the northern end of the island. The department was buying land for a southern station. [SN, 9/16/85]

1985, Jun 24 – News reported that all seven volunteer rescue squads would cease operations July 1 if the county board did not provide a fourth new ambulance and \$213,000 requested for operations in the coming fiscal year. They had agreed to three new ambulances and \$200,000 in operating expenses. [DN, 6/24/85] That day, the ultimatum was withdrawn. [DN, 7/2/85]

1985, Jul 2 – News reported that county commissioners on Monday approved asking the Neuse River Council of Governments to conduct a study of the county's rescue squad needs. Currently, the seven squads had 19 total ambulances, plus five crash trucks, between them. [DN, 7/2/85]

1985, Sep 18 – News report that Onslow County commissioners voted this week to establish a West Onslow Beach fire district. The new VFD would receive the same funding and insurance coverage provided to all other VFDs in the county. The county fire commission had inspected the department, and it met county requirements. Since receiving its charter, Sneads Ferry VFD had been assisting them. The new department had 25 certified volunteers and was operating “under the umbrella” of Sneads Ferry VFD until they became independent with their own building. That week, the \$45,000 purchase would be finalized on a piece of land at NC 210 and Gray Street for a firehouse. [DN, 9/18/85]

1985, Sep 20 – News reported the state office of EMS would review Jacksonville RS to determine its ability to respond to emergency calls, and requested by county commissioners who were concerned about adequate availability of EMS services to

citizens, and related to the suspension of a squad official due to unaccounted expenditures. [DN, 9/20/85]

1985, Dec 3 – News reported that county commissioners on Monday received a summary presentation of a study of county rescue squad needs by the Neuse River Council of Governments. In general, the squads lacked “accountability for public funds, internal management, planning, economic efficiency, adequate manpower, communications dispatch facilities, and basic level evaluation.” But despite those weaknesses, the study said the squads fared well “compared to the other counties in the region.” They were adequately funded and had “highly competent” training programs and “adequate equipment.” Also, “communication between the squads and county government, and cooperation among the squads” were another need for improvement. It also cited the need for an overall county EMS plan, due to the rapid growth of the county. And plans needed to include “at least some paid personnel.” It also recommended creation of an EMS advisory council, as a “forum of decision-making and compromise.” It also said the number of ambulances in the county was adequate, and could even be reduced, “if a plan for efficient dispatching, mutual aid back for second situations, and efficient placement and maintenance could be developed.” It also recommended hiring full-time mechanics to handle the maintenance of EMS vehicles, as well as a four-wheel drive vehicle for West Onslow Beach.

1985, Dec 20 – News reported county officials authorized ALS instruction to Richlands, Swansboro, and Sneads Ferry rescue squads. Currently, only Jacksonville RS provided ALS service. [DN, 12/20/85]

1986 – County created Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. [DN, 3/3/87]

1986, May 22 – News reported that county commissioners adopted an ordinance requiring ambulance services be franchised by the county. [DN, 5/22/86]

1986, Jun 2 – News reported that Jacksonville RS was suspended from administering IV fluids for three months, following an audit by Onslow Memorial Hospital, that determined that squad members needed additional training. [DN, 6/2/86]

1986, Jul 22 – News reported that county commissioners amended the “disputed rescue squad franchise ordinance Monday” and after nearly two hours of debate. They also considered some of the recommendations made by the EMS council at a meeting last week, such as adding a \$25 limit on how much incidental money could be spent, rejected a recommendation that the county buy or rent shirts for squad members, and rejecting the expense of a monthly squad dinner. They authorized the buying of gas, tires, and oil for authorized vehicles, they authorized two ambulances for each squad except Jacksonville,

where three were authorized, they authorized one crash truck or equivalent to each squad, and two boats each for Jacksonville, Swansboro, and Sneads Ferry squads. They also authorized paying for the insurance on all authorized vehicles and all medical supplies used in performing emergency work. [DN, 7/22/86]

1987, Mar 6 – **Transmed** ceased medical transport services for Onslow Memorial Hospital. The company was based in Wilmington. The service notified county officials in February that they were stopping operations. [DN, 2/24/87]

1987, Mar 6 – **Onslow Memorial Hospital** non-emergency ambulance service started operating. It would temporarily use one of three ambulances purchased by the county, that would later be disposed to Jacksonville, Nine Mile, and West Onslow Beach rescue squads. [DN, 3/5/87]

1987, Apr 15 – Onslow County EMS Advisory Council endorsed hiring paid rescue personnel for each of the county squads during daytime hours, while keeping volunteers on nights and weekends. [DN, 5/31/87]

1987, Apr 21 – County commissioners voted 3-2 to start “paid rescue service in Jacksonville” on July 1. Also voted 3-2 to revoke the franchise for Jacksonville RS effective June 30. [DN, 5/31/87]

1987, Apr 23 – News reported that Jacksonville RS volunteers would remain on the job until their franchise agreement ended on June 30. Some people thought that the volunteers might walk off the job before the date. The squad hoped county commissioners would reconsider plans to start a county EMS service for the city. [DN, 4/23/87]

1987, May 31 – News reported that county commissioners had scheduled a public hearing on Monday to receive feedback on recent decisions to (a.) start a paid rescue service in the city and (b.) revoke the franchise for Jacksonville RS. [DN, 5/31/87]

1987, Jun 5 – News reported that Jacksonville RS filed a complaint Thursday in Onslow Superior Court that the county had violated their rights by voting to revoke their county franchise. [DN, 6/5/87]

1987, Jun 22 – Start date for newly hired Onslow County EMS Director Michael Shutak, who was a paramedic in Wake County. He was a 32-year-old native from Fayetteville, and a clinical psychologist. In addition to working as a paramedic in Wake County, he also taught EMS at Wake Technical College. [DN, 6/8/87]

1987, Jun 24 – News reported that three county commissioners and the chief of Jacksonville RS met that day to begin negotiations on resolving the dispute over rescue services in the city. The negotiations were recommended by the judge who was hearing the

Superior Court case. He said the case would resume if no settlement was reached. During the trial, these facts were noted about the squad: it answered 200 to 300 calls a month, had been in continuous operation since 1960, and had about \$50,000 in debts to pay off. The squad signed a franchise with the county in 1986. [DN, 6/24/87] Despite a day of “legal maneuvering and backroom meetings,” proposed settlements were rejected by both sides. [DN, 6/25/87]

1987, Jun 27 – News reported that the superior court judge ruled that while the county had the right to revoke the squad s franchise, they had not followed the proper procedure for same, and notably not providing 60-days written notice. [DN, 7/22/87]

1987, Jul 22 – News reported that the county board voted 3-2 and awarded a 127-day franchise agreement to the squad starting July 8, and that would expire on November 11. They also approved a list of findings needed to start a paid rescue service: (a.) that paid workers will be certified as basic and intermediate EMTs, (b.) enabled to adequately serve the area covered by the squad, and (c.) be “reasonable and cost effective.” [DN, 7/22/87]

1987, Sep 10 – News reported that the county and Jacksonville RS signed a two-year agreement, with terms including (a.) the squad will forgo its rights under the existing franchise for two years, (b.) volunteers will continue to offer their services under the direction of county EMS Director Michael Shutak, (c.) squad will provide heavy rescue, extrication, and water rescue services, (d.) squad will provide stand-by service at community events, (e.) squad will supplement the paid rescue squad, (f.) the county will have use of the squad s equipment and building, and (g.) county will lease the building from the squad. [DN, 9/10/87]

1987, Sep 16 – News reported that county commissioners last week approved spending \$71,500 on two new ambulances, “one van-type unit and one modular unit,” and \$3,375 to convert a 1973 Chevy van, an old bookmobile, into a “Mass Casualty Incident Vehicle.” [DN, 9/16/87]

1987, Nov 10 – Onslow County EMS moved into the Jacksonville RS building, co-locating with the squad. [DN, 1/1/88]

1987, Nov 11 – Onslow County EMS started service at midnight on November 10. They had 16 full-time and six part-time employees. The paid staff included former volunteers from every county squad except Nine Mile and Holly Ridge. They moved into their new quarters a day earlier than expected, allowing the staff to attend to administrative details before answering calls. They operated ambulances belonging to Jacksonville RS until their new ambulances arrived. They would wear new charcoal-grey uniforms during the day, and

bright orange uniforms at night. One change was that each call now had at least one ALS certified medic. [DN, 1/1/88]

1987, Nov 11 – Jacksonville RS ambulance franchise ended, with emergency transport in the city replaced by new county EMS service. The squad had 16 full-time and six part-time workers, plus volunteer members. [DN, 11/15/87, 1/1/88]

1988, Jun – Richlands RS building recently dedicated. [DN, 6/7/88]

1988, Aug – Snapshot of rescue squads in the county:

Haws Run RS, Chief Elvin Padgett

Holly Ridge RS, Chief Dwayne Longo

Jacksonville RS, Chief John Jordan

Nine Mile RS, Chief Sam Pierce

Richlands RS, Chief Angles Vergon

Sneads Ferry RS, Chief Butch Tompson

Swansboro RS, Chief Timothy Eason

West Onslow Beach RS, Chief Janie Johnson

1990 to 1999

1990, Mar – Onslow County EMS started responding to rural areas. [DN, 5/12/92]

1990, Mar 1 – News reported that Onslow County EMS would start responding from two satellite stations, co-located at Half Moon VFD and Hubert VFD. [DN, 3/1/90]

1990, Jun – Onslow County board of commissioners voted to eliminate funding for West Onslow Beach VFD, because the department's five-mile district was within the municipality of North Topsail Beach. The town had budgeted about \$80,000 for its own department and an "annex" on the north end of the town. [DN, 10/29/90]

1990, Sep/Oct? – After the incorporation of the Town of Topsail Beach, the municipal **Topsail Beach Fire Department** was created and took over the equipment and facility of West Onslow Beach VFD. [DN, 3/6/95] Timeframe of September or October 1990 based on first appearance of newspaper citations.

1990, Oct 29 – News reported that the assimilation of West Onslow Beach VFD into the new town of North Topsail Beach was being hindered by "discord between the town alderman" and the VFD board of directors. In a letter dated September 28, the VFD said the board approved the transfer of assets to the town, provided four conditions were met: (1.) assume full responsibility for all property debts, (2.) apply all money in the VFD's current account to the property debt, (3.) help the rescue department retain its tax-exempt status

with the IRS, and 4.) not use the VFD building for any other purpose than fire and rescue. The town found condition #4 unacceptable.

1990, Nov 21 – Topsail Beach RS renamed **Topsail Beach Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**, date of corporate name change filing. [NCSOS]

1991, Apr 8 – West Onslow Beach FD changed name to **North Topsail Beach Volunteer Rescue and EMS, Inc.** [NCSOS]

1991, Apr 12 – Swansboro RS changed name to **Swansboro EMS/Rescue.** [NCSOS]

1991, Dec 31 - **Richlands Volunteer EMS/Rescue Squad** incorporated. [NCSOS]

1992, May 12 – Snapshot of Onslow County EMS. Staff included 68 medics including 10 part-time members. They handled about 10,000 calls per year. [DN, 5/12/92]

1992, Sep 14 – Holly Ridge RS announced their plans to dissolve their corporation. [DN, 12/16/92]

1992, Nov – North Topsail Beach Rescue and EMS added a 23-foot Seahawk rescue boat. [DN, 11/27/92]

1992, Dec 27 – News reported the county and Jacksonville RS had renewed an informal agreement to house the county EMS department at the squad building at 415 Ellis Boulevard for another two years. The county would also be responsible for the grounds and the maintenance of the building. [DN, 12/27/91]

2000 to Present

2002, Feb 15 – Snapshot of Onslow County EMS. Current fleet consisted of six ambulances and three QRVs. [DN, 2/15/02]

2011, Dec 31 – Snapshot of Onslow County EMS. During the year, they responded to 15,748 emergency calls. [DN, 6/20/12]

2013, Jul 19 – Sneads Ferry RS merged with Sneads Ferry FD and both merged into Turkey Creek Fire and Rescue. Date of merger articles filed. The old rescue building was renamed Turkey Station 3. The merger started as a result of Sneads Ferry FD being put on a 12-month probationary period, after their last ISO inspection. Also, SFRS had been working with TCFD on a merger since about April 2012. [DN, 5/29/13, 11/27/16]

2014, Jun 5 – News reported that county commissioners on Monday approved a franchise application for Friendly Medical Transportation to extend service in Onslow County, adding ALS transports from Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune and Onslow Memorial Hospital to

higher-level hospitals. Also, the company's resources would be available for mutual aid as requested by county EMS. [DN, 6/5/14]

2016, Mar 30 – Former property of Jacksonville RS at 417 Ellis Boulevard offered for sale at public auction, sold by the county. [DN, 8/23/16]

2018, Aug 2 – News reported on prospective mergers of four squads with their respective fire departments, and noted each had problems in recent year(s) with unanswered calls:

Haws Run – 1269 dispatched – 1024 missed

Nine Mile – 317 dispatched – 115 missed

Richlands – 1083 dispatched – 616 missed

Swansboro – 1292 dispatched – 689 missed.

Also, of the 12,724 people transported to hospitals in 2017, only 84 were transported by volunteer squads. [DN, 8/2/18]

2019, Mar 7 – Haws Run RS stopped operating. Though they considered merging with Haws Run FD, the fire department did not want to “take on the medical calls.” [DN, 2/20/19]

2019, Mar 8 – Nine Mile RS ceased operating by this time. They later merged with Nine Mile Fire FD. [DN, 3/8/19]

2019, Mar 8 – Richlands RS ceased operating by this time. [DN, 3/8/19] Later merged with Comfort VFD in Jones County. [OH]

2019, Mar 8 – Swansboro RS ceased operating by this time. They planned to merge with Onslow County Fire-Rescue. [DN, 3/8/19]

2019, Sep 4 – Fire damaged the former Nile Mile RS building, now the merged Nile Mile Fire and Rescue department. [DN, 9/6/19]

2019, Sep 7 – News reported that county commissioners on Wednesday approved a plan that served Haws Run, Nine Mile, Richlands, and Swansboro rescue squads with six-month notice that their contracts were being cancelled, and with the expectation that each would merge the fire departments in their district. [DN, 9/7/18]

2022, Jan 31 – North Topsail Beach RS renamed **North Topsail Beach Firefighters Association**. [NCSOS]

Abbreviations

- DN – Jacksonville Daily News
- NCSOS – Secretary of State corporation records, North Carolina

- OH - Oral histories
- SN - Wilmington Star-News