

# Garner/St. Mary's Rescue Squad

## Garner EMS and Rescue Squad

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Research notes by Mike Legeros  
Last updated September 3, 2021

### Pre-History

See main Wake County rescue squad history document.

### 1974-1979

- Garner rescue squad idea proposed in 1974.
  - “A group of us sat around a table and reflected how to get a rescue squad started.
  - “We didn’t have the slightest idea. Money was the least of our worries. It was manpower. Where do you find volunteers who would provide rescue service?”
  - “Less than a year later, someone who didn’t know it could be done had found a small company of volunteers which included Dudley Buffaloe, David Pease, and Audrey Brown and purchased a used CP&L pick-up truck.
  - “That someone marched into a meeting which I was attending, put a couple shovels on the table and said: ‘Gentleman, we now have a rescue squad. Wimpy Williams just donated these shovels and we’ve purchased a truck’.”
  - Source: Unnamed/undated news article, maybe March 1980.
- **Garner/St. Mary's Rescue Squad** incorporation papers filed with state on January 13, 1975.
  - Named for both the town of Garner and the nearby St. Mary's township.
  - Initial board of directors are A. Brantley Tutor (2200 Aversboro Road), William Pleasants Sr. (709 Nellane Drive), and B. Milton Hobbs Jr. (PO Box 174).
  - Incorporators also include Robert P. Adams Sr. (2212 Aversboro Road).
- First location at 2212 Aversboro Road, “in the living room of the chief’s home,” N&O, 11/8/75.
  - Mrs. Bob Adams, chief’s wife, later recalled “the months when the squad answered calls from her home and stored picks, shovels, respirators and oxygen tanks in her living room.”
  - Others remember the house as rented to the squad.
  - Later news articles **incorrectly (?)** cite a second early location as Garner Plaza Shopping Center.
- First operated as first responder service.
  - First vehicle was “certified by EMS” prior to April 2.

- Squad planned to start service on April 2.
- Source: Undated news clipping.
- Obtained ambulance using converted van, after rescue vehicle was destroyed in accident.
  - Required first-duty crew to stay at the station, from the beginning of the squad's history. (OH)
- First call answered in March 1975 (correct date? April 1975?).
  - Third call was the cardiac arrest (and sudden death) one of the original board members, Brantley Tutor.
  - This compelled the squad to “renew its efforts and [they] soon converted a used van into Garner’s first transporting ambulance.”
  - Source: Unidentified news story, 1/26/83.

- Early vehicles:

- First vehicle was medical responder unit, converted from a former CP&L equipment truck.

- Model year: 1970s (?)
- Make/Model: TBD
- Placed in service: April 2 (?), 1975
- Removed from service: \_\_\_\_\_, 1975
- Call Sign: **TBD**
- Notes:



- Former CP&L equipment truck.
- Squad 51-type utility body, though single rear wheels.
- Built by members.
  - Those who helped build the truck and form the squad included the families of Brantley Tutor, Dudley Buffaloe, and Marvin Sykes, founding members of the squad. (GEMS web site)
- “Certified by EMS” prior to April 2, 1975. (UNK news story)
- Destroyed in accident on \_\_\_\_\_, 1975.
  - Overturned in a field on Old Stage Road, while driven by Chief Bob Adams.
  - Garner Fire Department / Richard Pulley loaned the squad a station wagon to use as a response vehicle until the van was built. (OH)

- Second vehicle was an early 1970s Ford Econoline van as ambulance and rescue unit.



- Model year: Early 1970s.
- Make/Model: Ford Econoline.
- Placed in service: \_\_\_\_\_, 1975.
- Removed from service: 1982 (?)
- Call Sign: **TBD**
- Notes:
  - Purchased used by Dudley Buffaloe.
  - Ambulance body/fittings built by David Pease and Marvin Sykes.
  - Used as both ambulance and rescue truck.
  - Carried limited tools, and stokes basket on top.
  - Converted to water rescue unit in 1977, see later notes.
  - Sold around mid-1982.

○ Third vehicle was a 1975 (?) Chevy van ambulance.

- Model year: 1975 (?)
- Make/model: Chevrolet.
- Placed in service: By December 8, 1975.
- Removed from service: **TBD**.
- Call Sign: **TBD**
- Notes:

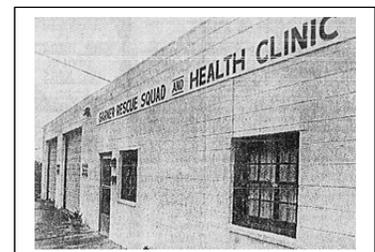


- Van was purchased new.
- High-top installed by company on South Saunders Street that did van conversions
- David Pease and Marvin Sykes did the rest of the installation.
- Described in N&O story as “mobile maximum care unit equipped with sophisticated cardiac monitoring and recording devices and obstetrical apparatus in case of an emergency delivery” that cost \$39,000. (N&O, 11/8/75)

○ Chief's vehicle was a 1974 Dodge Polara.

- Call sign 861.
- Former highway patrol car.

- 1974, circa – New fiberglass rescue boats added, part of twenty-four donated by Industrial Plastics of Louisburg to the seven rescue squads in Wake County. (N&O, 7/29/74)
- 1975, December – Second location dedicated at 110 Pearl Street.



- Building remodeled as a combination rescue squad building (with two bays) and health clinic.
- Health clinic operated by Wake County Health Department.
- Previously served as the police station, and before that as the fire station.
- White cinder-block building.
- Cost \$31,000 to renovate, with \$19,000 from volunteer gifts, labor, and equipment.
- Dedicated on Sunday, December 7, 1975.
- Some 200 people attended, and tours were given, and certifications of appreciation were presented to citizens for their time, labor, and money they donated.
- Squad also has a \$8,000 communications system .
- Source: N&O, 11/8/75
- 1975, December – New rescue truck placed in service.
  - Model year: 1968 (?).
  - Make/model: **TBD**.
  - Placed in service: December 1975.
  - Removed from service: \_\_\_\_\_ 1977.
  - Notes:
    - Former bread truck from Wonder Bread.
    - Purchased by father of founding member David Pease, who worked for Wonder Bread.
    - Nicknamed the “Wonder Wagon” and with a logo painted on the truck.
    - Sold to squad member James Bullins, used at construction company run by Bullins and Robert Lee, B&L Construction, which stood for “Big and Little.”



- 1976 or abouts – First new ambulance delivered.
  - Model year: 1976.
  - Make/model: Ford/Murphy.
  - Placed in service: **TBD**.
  - Removed from service: **TBD**.
  - Call sign 871.
  - Notes:
    - Purchased on state contract.
    - Last ambulance built by Murphy.



- 1976 or abouts – Two boats and a trailer purchased.



- 1977 – New rescue truck placed in service.
  - Model year: **TBD**.
  - Make/model: **TBD**.
  - Placed in service: After July 1977.
  - Removed from service: \_\_\_\_\_, 1984 (?).
  - Call sign 881.
  - Notes:
    - Formerly a catering truck for the Hickory House restaurant (now Carolina BBQ).
    - David Pease built the cabinets on the inside, on the day Elvis died in 1977.
    - Was equipped with seven 500 watt lights on top.
- 1977 – Water rescue unit placed in service, at/around same time as new rescue truck.
  - 1972 (?) Ford Econoline van, previous ambulance/rescue unit.
  - Brush guard and winch added to front.
  - Call sign 882.
- 1977, October – Squad uses new Hurst tool for the first time, at a motor-vehicle accident with person trapped on Simpkins Road. (GEMS web site.)
  - Tool was one of the original 75-pound models.
  - Alternate year for acquiring Hurst tool is 1976.

## 1980-1989

- 1980 – Third location opens at 990 Vandora Springs Road.
  - Ceremony held on moving day (?) on August 8, 1981.
  - Has eight vehicle storage bays, and a two-story “residential portion.”
  - Built using a loan from Farmers Home Administration.
    - The mortgage was signed October 1980.
  - Lot is slightly more than an acre, and included 0.4 acres donated by the town.
  - Remainder purchased from Charles Wellons of Durham for \$25,000, on August 3, 1979.
  - Garner Rescue Squad Building Fund Committee guides fundraising activities.
    - Squad raised over \$40,000, during a two-week fund drive during the planning phase of the project. Started on May 12, 1979 (?), with door-to-door solicitations.
- 1980, about – Two boats purchased for water rescue operations. (GEMS web page.)



- 1982 – EMT-IV level of service added.
  - Trained members can now administer IVs.
  - Q: Is this alternately the year EMT-Intermediate was added?
- 1982/83 – EMT-MAST level of service added.
  - Four sets of MAST trousers purchased.
  - Raise a victim's blood pressure, by pumping about two units of blood into upper areas of the body.
  - Twenty-four of 50 members trained.
  - Requires three-hour course, plus written and practical instruction.
  - Squad paid for 25 percent of cost, with matching funds from county and federal sources.
  - One set of trousers costs about \$325.
  - Source: Undated GN story, showing Chief Richard Hess and Al Johnson, Lt. Wayne Williams, and Cornell Ellis.
- 1983 – Squad on January 26, 1983 has:
  - Four ambulances.
    - Three ambulances are cited in a September 5, 1983, news story. (RT, 9/5/83)
  - Heavy rescue/crash truck.
  - Two boats.
  - Station has living quarters/training area/communication room.
  - About 50 volunteer EMTs.
  - Scuba-diving search team, water rescue team.
  - Cadet group.
  - Answer about 1,400 calls each year.
  - \$70,000 budget.
  - Does not charge for transport services. (RT, 9/5/83)
  - Covers a territory of almost 100 square miles. (RT 9/5/83)
  - Call 772-9737 for non-emergencies.
  - Officers are President Jim Lee, Vice President David Pease, Treasurer George Davis, Secretary Ruby Miller, Chief Richard Hess, and Asst. Chief Wayne Bumgarner.
- 1983-84 – News story about squad:
  - Two ambulances have over 60,000 miles on them.
  - Heavy rescue truck has over 50,000 miles.
  - Chief is Ricky Byrd.

- Asst. Chief is Frank McLaurin.
- Budget is \$70,000, over half of which is raised from volunteer contributions.
- 1983-84 – New ambulance purchased:
  - Year/Make/Model: 1984 Ford/Wheeled Coach.
  - Placed in service: TBD.
  - Removed from service: TBD.
  - Call sign 872.
  - Notes:
    - Purchased through J.W. Emergency Equipment Service of Winterville.
    - First new ambulance purchased in four years.
    - Cost \$35,200, plus \$2,000 in equipment.
    - Replaced ambulance with over 70,000 miles.
    - Funds for the truck were raised through the prior year’s Rescue Day, and other private donations including \$3,000 from IBM.

- 1983-84 – New crash truck purchased:
  - Year/Make/Model: 1984 Dodge/Reading.
  - Placed in service: TBD.
  - Removed from service: 1992 (?).
  - Call sign 881.
  - Notes:



- 1984 Dodge one-ton truck chassis purchased from Al Smith Buick.
  - Crawl-in utility body by Reading in Wilson.
  - Funds for the truck were raised by the squad’s Ladies Auxiliary.
  - Squad members assemble/complete the truck themselves, over a number of weeks.
  - Chassis wasn’t heavy enough for the truck’s usage, over the years.
  - “Burned through transmissions” remembers Gene Lambert.
- 1985 – Organizational notes:
  - Chief is Gene Lambert.
  - Fifty-nine active members listed on the roster. Each is an Emergency Medical Technician.
  - First part-time people hired in 1985, about four or five hired, including Billy Vause, Benny Collins, and Richard Mylar.
    - They’re hired because too many day-time calls are being missed.
- 1985 or 1986 – Garner Police Department becomes First Responder.

- First municipal police department in North Carolina to operate such a service.
- Fire department declined to participate in program, so Garner Rescue Squad Chief Gene Lambert met with Police Chief with proposal.
- Officers received same First Responder training as county firefighters.
- Town provided the officer's equipment, small jump kits in each patrol car.
- Police department was small at the time.
- Officers were dispatched to every emergency medical call within town limits.
- Program continued until Garner Fire Department assumed First Responder duties within town around 2000 or 2001.
- Source: OH.
- 1986, September - Four Garner members start paramedic classes in September 1986.
  - Paramedic training started at Garner, Cary, and Six Forks squads. (N&O, 9/10/91)
- 1986/87 – Chevy Suburban purchased, for utility use and future paramedic response. (See below.)
  - Model year: TBD.
  - Make/Model: Chevrolet Suburban.
  - Placed in service: TBD.
  - Removed from service: TBD.
- 1987 – New ambulance.
  - 1987 Chevrolet Silverado 30/Swab SE130D
  - Build #4700
  - Completed July 31, 1987. Delivered July 1987.
- 1988, January (or abouts) - Paramedic program completed by four squad members.
  - Four squad members complete studies after more than a year.
  - Class was 18 months, three nights a week, and Saturday.
  - Taught at Wake Tech.
  - Began in September 1986.
  - Consisted of approximately 200 hours of classroom instruction, and 90 clinical hours in various hospital settings such as emergency room, operating room, labor and delivery, and intensive care units.
  - Upon completion, written and practical exams given by county (written) and state (both). Then also tested orally by Wake County Medical Director Dr. Donald Vaughn.
  - After passing their examinations, each candidate had to complete 100 hours of a field work with a licensed county paramedic.
  - During this time, they were required to treat several different types of medical emergencies, while under supervision of county paramedic.
  - In most cases, it took well over 100 hours, sometimes 250 hours of field work, to complete the requirements.

- Upon completion, candidates had logged more than 500 hours of work and instruction.
- Certified 60 days prior to the squad's certification in March 1988?
- Source: Newspaper article, undated/unnamed.
- 1988, March – Squad attains “paramedic status.”
  - According to contract with Wake County, a paramedic must ride on every first duty call received.
  - Paramedics now on first-duty calls, 24/7.
  - They are Chief Gene Lambert, Asst. Chief Edward Cashwell, President Walter Davis, and Lt. Loy Helms.
  - Now qualified to “perform more complex medical care during emergency situations while in constant radio contact with a physician.”
  - One of the “first squads statewide and nationwide to offer paramedic coverage at no cost to the patient.”
    - In Wake County, only Garner, Cary, and Six Forks have reached paramedic level.
    - Only about thirty counties statewide offering the service.
  - Program received support from Wake County, Wake County EMS, and Wake Tech.
  - Paramedics can perform tasks including:
    - Intubation – Placing a tube directly into patient's trachea.
    - Defibrillate or shock cardiac arrest patients.
    - Perform synchronized cardioversion, a synchronized shock to the heart.
    - Administer fourteen different drugs orally, through IV, or through injections.
    - Send EKG strips directly to the hospital from the patient via radio.
    - Test blood for glucose levels.
  - Call types that will benefit most are “heart attack patients, respiratory patients, individuals suffering from allergic reactions, seizure and overdose patients, diabetics, unconscious individuals, respiratory distress, and trauma patients.”
  - Most of the paramedic equipment is supplied by Wake County, which provided enough to stock two ambulances.
    - Cost about \$75,000.
    - Two Life Pak 5 monitors/defibrillators
    - Two Apcor portable radios
    - Mechanical CPR device with oxygen supplies
    - Laryngoscopes with blades for intubation

- Squad spent about \$20,000 for equipment and supplies to initiate the program.
  - Looking at ways to raise extra money needed to fund the new program.
- Squad added a Suburban last year, for the nighttime paramedics to use on calls, when they're not staying at the station.
  - During the way, vehicle will be used for miscellaneous duties, such as errands, pulling boats, or as a command post.
  - Equipped with “the paramedic necessities” as well as other basic equipment.
- The new volunteer paramedics will provide the squad's nighttime paramedic coverage, in addition to working their regular jobs.
  - They'll be on call every fourth night and rotate the weekend shifts.
  - Daytime paramedics are five Wake County EMS members, who work for the squad on their days off.
    - Until the Squad attained paramedic status, those who worked as paramedics for other agencies can only provide treatment at the squad's highest certified level (EMT-I). (OH)
- Source: Newspaper article, undated/unnamed.
- 1988, September - Squad ends service to parts of Johnston County.
  - Squad will respond only as mutual aid in “times of extreme emergency.”
  - Had been responding to calls in and around 17-mile area near NC 50 and NC 42, since squad was formed.
  - Reason isn't financial, though squad asked Johnston County commissioners for \$20,000 three months ago.
  - Rather, it's the new requirement to have a paramedic on the first-duty truck, and the equity in Wake County residents paying taxes but not receiving service, if the unit was answering in Johnston County.
  - Funding beginning July 1, 1988 includes:
    - \$50,000 from town, including \$15,000 for paramedic program
    - \$38,000 from county
    - Averages \$45,000 to \$60,000 in donations annually.
  - Last year, squad ran approximately 42 calls into Johnston County.
  - “We just got to the point where we were answering so many calls in Clayton—especially in the last five or six months—it was draining our resources,” said Lambert, N&O, 9/1/88.
    - Clayton Rescue & EMS said calls could increase 200 to 300 per year, without Garner's service.
  - Additionally, squad would meet Benson ambulances at county line, and pick-up patients waiting to be admitted to Wake hospitals.

- We did this, because their insurance only covered trips inside Johnston County.
    - That service also ceased.
  - Source: GN? RT? 9/1/88, N&O 9/1/88.
- 1988 summary:
  - Chief is Gene Lambert.
  - Twenty-six members volunteered 17,246 hours, averaging 66.3 per month per volunteer.
  - Answered 1,603 calls, averaging 133 per month, or 4.5 per day.
    - 359 were ALS.
    - 959 were BLS.
    - All but 385 were transported.
  - Answered 737 calls in town, 849 in county, and 17 in Johnston County.
    - Average response time 6.7 minutes.
  - Call types
    - 341 sick calls
    - 317 injured person
    - 294 MVA with injuries
    - 230 cardiacs
    - 32 overdoses
    - 42 mutual aid
    - 22 obstetric
    - 22 possible death
    - Six shootings
    - 274 other
- In either FY89-90 or FY90-91, the organization has a \$192,000 budget and received these funding sources:
  - \$60,000 from town.
  - \$43,000 from county.
- 1989, May – Rescue Day held on May 6.
  - Held at rescue squad building.
  - Breeze Band played at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
  - Two helicopters at event, from Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point and Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City.
  - Displays from local and state law enforcement, fire, rescue, and medical agencies.

- Some 3,500 people attend the event, which includes rescue exhibits and entertainment.
- Total of 2,050 lunches are sold.
- Recently 14,000 letters were sent to residents, requesting contributions.
- Only 800 received since sent three weeks ago.
- Contributions support more than fifty percent of the squad’s work.
- Minimum cost of transporting a patient is between \$200 and \$350.
- Current staff is 35, with eight who are paid as part-time daytime personnel.
- 1989, June – Squad as corporation adopts amended to change name to **Garner EMS and Rescue Squad**. (The change isn’t filed with the Secretary of State until three years later, on December 31, 1992.)
- 1989, November – Name and organizational changes reported in newspaper.
  - Chief is Gene Lambert.
  - Squad now seeks people interested in rescue operations, without requiring EMT medical training.
  - By-laws were changed, allowing specialized training in rescue without requiring EMT certification.
  - Rescue training is less intense, requires “one night a month of training which last three hours, and being on duty roughly 20 hours a month, or about every eight days for a shift.”
  - Two distinct operations within the organization.
  - Emergency medical service training “takes a year at night, plus monthly training sessions after that.”
  - Source GN, 11/8/89

1990 to 1999

- 1990 - Christopher J. Creech elected Chief on June 4, 1990?
  - Gene Lambert served as prior Chief for five years.
- 1991 – Squad begin charging fees for transporting patients, along with eight other county squads. (N&O, 6/10/91)

Rescue Squad	BLS fee	ALS fee	Lifetime Membership	1990 Calls
Garner EMS and Rescue	\$148	\$208	\$45	2,000

- 1992, December – New heavy rescue is placed in service. 1992 International/Hackney.



- First rescue truck built by someone else.
- Painted yellow-green.
- Costs more than \$100,000.
- Cab and chassis bought from Cardinal International.
- Raised money for six to seven months to pay for the body.
- Project was headed by Richard Mylar, Mike Turnage, and Frank McLaurin.
- After the divisional split of the squad into EMS and rescue, a number of older members returned to the organization to both (a.) help with the new division and (b.) update the Dodge crash truck.
- 1992, December – Name change executed in November 1989 is filed with the Secretary of State, on December 31, 1992.
- 1998/99/00 – First full-time Chief hired, Brian Alligood.
- 1999 - Snapshot, from TriData's *Comprehensive Assessment of the Wake County Emergency Medical Services System Final Report*, which was submitted to Wake County EMS on June 16, 1999

Agency	Ambulances	Square Miles	1995 Population	Personnel	1998 Calls	1998 Revenues
Garner EMS	Three <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First duty, paramedic</li> <li>● Second duty, paramedic</li> <li>● Third duty, EMT intermediate and basic</li> </ul>	92.4	35,680	7 F/T, 23 P/T, 45 vol.	3,168	\$755,000

## 2000 to 2009

- 2000 – Notes:
  - Fleet consisted of five ALS ambulances, one heavy rescue truck, one chief's vehicle and four rescue boats.
- 2003 – Apparatus and vehicles adopt new paint scheme, white over blue.
- 2006, January – Fleet update:
  - Garner EMS and Rescue recently took delivery of two (2) 2006 Lifeline ambulances on International chassis, as well as a 2005 Dodge Durango support vehicle assigned to the Assistant Chief.
  - The ambulances were placed in service in December of 2005, and the Durango at the end of the summer.

- The ambulances are designated as 871 and 873 and are assigned to Garner Station 1. The Durango is designated unit 862.
- All units feature primarily LED lighting and display the latest paint scheme adopted in 2003.
- The former 871 has now been assigned to Garner Station 2 and is now 872 (2004 Lifeline on a Chevrolet chassis).
- Source: Legeros blog, January 21, 2006.
- 2006, early – Paid personnel added to the rescue division, to help maintain 24/7 coverage.
- 2006, late – Heavy rescue notes:
  - Contract for new heavy rescue awarded to EVI.
  - Squad went all over the state, looking at trucks.
  - Ideas for their truck taken from Western Wake, Wilson’s Mills, Lumberton to name a few.
  - They worked with EVI to design a truck that met their needs.
  - Squad is franchised by town to provide rescue services, and funded by town for those services.
  - Garner FD has minimal rescue equipment at Station 1.
    - They have a very small amount of extrication equipment only.
    - Nothing for water rescue, high angle, confined space, etc.
    - Garner FD was asked a few years prior about providing rescue services (in the town) and they declined.
  - Garner FD has more rescue equipment at Station 2, because they were franchised to provide rescue services for rescue when Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad ceased operation.
  - Squad is responsible for two lakes in area, and recently made swift water rescues in a mutual aid district during recent flooding.
  - Squad responds as mutual aid with other agencies besides Garner FD, though their primary responsible for rescue services is within town limits.
  - Squad and Garner FD have excellent working relationship.
  - On scene, difficult to tell who is with who, because “everyone works together so well.”
  - Main difference is manpower, with Garner FD can provide more manpower for extrication than the squad. This is something the squad is working to correct.
  - Squad also often arrives first in southeast Raleigh, and can begin extrication long before Rescue 7 or Ladder 8 arrives from Raleigh FD.
  - Source: Legeros blog comments, August 20, 2006.
- 2006/2007 – Second heavy rescue added, 1991 Ford F-350 medium-duty rescue with “crawl in” body.



- Purchased used from Saddle River Valley Rescue Squad, NJ, near former department of Chief (or Asst. Chief?) Bill Frederick.
- Had only 16,000 miles.
- Was colored yellow-green.
- Served as back-up for primary rescue truck, or for covering special events, such as speedway races.
- Later repainted white over blue.

- 2007 – Receives 2007 Spartan/EVI heavy rescue, designated new Squad 881.

- Delivered on August 22, 2007. Source: Legeros Blog.
- Old Squad 881 sold to Newton Grove FD in Sampson County.



- 2008, December – Starts Medical Transport Division.
  - Wake County Commissioners approve franchise request in November 2008. (GEMS web site history.)
  - They're focusing primarily on transportation of patients between medical appointments, between facilities, and after hospital discharges.
  - The division also has a goal of providing community service, by providing dependable transportation. This allows patients to stay at home longer, or be discharged for rehab or long-term care sooner.
  - The members of the Medical Transport Division also visit the homes and facilities of their patients to help assess and evaluate their various needs. They're able to identify and suggest various resources for the patients and their families.
  - The division is currently staffed with 37 members, and operates six transport units from their station on Vandora Springs Road.
  - Source: Legeros blog.
- 2008, December – Fleet notes:
  - Fleet consists of five ALS ambulances, two heavy rescue trucks, two BLS ambulances, one wheelchair van, chief's vehicle, supervisor's vehicle, three boats, and one ATV.
  - Personnel are a combination of paid and volunteer members.
  - Call volume has exceeded 6,000 per year.
- 2009, July – Administrative office annex is opened at 920 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, across the street from the rescue station. Chief, Division Chief, and Office Manager move into the new facility. It's located on the second floor of the KS Bank Building. The board room and training/meeting rooms are also located in the new facility.

## 2010 to 2011

- 2010 - Ceases EMS operations on/around May 31, 2010. Service assumed by Wake County EMS. Around the same time, the squad ceases providing rescue services. Its remaining operation is providing non-emergency medical transport services.
  - The following press release was issued March 21, 2010:
  - Over the last couple of months, the Garner EMS & Rescue Squad, Inc. Board of Directors has met to discuss the financial standing and future operations of the agency as it exists today. After several Board meetings and deliberations with Wake County, the GEMS Board of Directors requested that the Garner EMS operations transition to Wake County EMS effective May 31, 2010. Wake County staff is open to the transition but is awaiting an official letter of request from the Board of Directors. That letter is expected to be delivered by the end of the week.
  - This was a difficult decision because the GEMS Board, staff and the public at large wanted the Garner Emergency Medical Service division to maintain its identity. However; in today's economic climate, the EMS division, which depends entirely on billings for revenue, is not in a position to ensure that cash flow will be maintained to make payroll and pay off debt over the long run. Operating an agency from week to week and not knowing the financial condition is a very stressful way to run a business---and especially not the best situation for an emergency services provider.
  - The public will not see any interruptions in service before, during or after the transition. GEMS and Wake County will be working out the details of the transition over the next few weeks. GEMS currently has three divisions: EMS, Rescue and Medical Transport. The transition to Wake County only affects the EMS Division. It is anticipated that the Rescue and Medical Transport divisions will continue to operate out of the same location.
  - Garner Emergency Medical Services, Inc. would like to sincerely thank the citizens and businesses that have supported it over the years and especially in these recent difficult times. We regret the decision has come to this but believe it is best for the long term viability of emergency medical service in the Garner area.
  - Source: Legeros blog.
- 2010 – Ceases providing rescue service on October 1, 2010.
  - Town acquires response area, subsidized funding, and three full-time employees.
  - No vehicles or equipment is transferred to fire department.
  - Town takes possession of Squad 881, which is stored at the town public works facility.
    - Sold to Pumpkin Center FD in Lincoln County.
  - The three rescue technicians are classified as entry-level firefighters, and will be fully certified by end of October.
  - County takes possession four ambulances that are re-lettered and placed in the reserve fleet.

- Source: Legeros blog.
- 2011 - Garner Rescue Squad merges with REDS.

Chiefs:

- Adams, Robert “Bob”
- Gupton, Lee “Four by Four”
- Williams, Ronnie
- Hess, Richard
- Byrd, Ricky
- Wooten, Doug
- Lambert, Charles “Gene” – Serves five years
- Creech, Chris – Elected in June, 1990
- Alligood, Brian – First full-time, hired 98/99/00 (?)
- Frederick, William “Bill”

## Help Wanted!

This document is part of a project to research and record the history of rescue squads and EMS providers in Wake County.

You can help in any number of ways, including:

- Read this document and visit the project web site, [www.legeros.com/history/ems](http://www.legeros.com/history/ems)
  - What’s good about what we’re doing?
  - What could be improved?
  - What haven’t we thought of?
- Proofread this document as casually or extensively as desired:
  - Misspelled names?
  - Wrong makes or models of vehicles?
  - General timeframes that seem off?
  - Etc.
- Supplement this document with things that you remember, or stories you’ve heard.
  - Jot your thoughts in an e-mail.
  - Send a long, detailed e-mail.
  - Write things down on paper and send via postal mail.
  - Talk to the project organizers in person, at your convenience.
  - Etc.
- Share any scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, old photos, or old documents that you have, or can find.
  - Want some blasts from the past, to help you remember?

- Visit <https://www.facebook.com/WakeEMSHistory>
- Suggest particular people that we can contact, for more information.

Contact Mike Legeros or Jeff Hammerstein at any time. Thank you in advance!