

# Holly Springs EMS History

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## Pre-History

See main Wake County rescue squad history document.

## History

1998 – County commissioners as county staff to develop short-term improvement plans, to provide EMS service to Holly Springs and Wake Forest. The county has received complaints from both towns about inadequate service. Holly Springs has asked to start its own EMS service, and has purchased two ambulances and equipment. The town has also asked the county for help financing the service. Currently, ambulances from Apex and Fuquay-Varina answer calls in Holly Springs. In Wake Forest, the rescue squad is disbanding by March 31. That will leave only one county ambulance to serve the town. Wake Forest officials want a second ambulance. The commissioners also discuss hiring a consultant to study the county system and make recommendations county-wide. (N&O 2/3/98)

1998 - **Holly Springs Department of Public Safety** fire department begins EMS service on April 1, 1998.

- They are licensed as a BLS provider, and Wake County provides one full-time Wake County paramedic and ALS supplies.
- The town provides one ambulance, a driver, and all equipment.
- Source: Wake County Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, February 16, 1998.
- They operate an ambulance for over a decade, including later with a full-time paramedic provided by Wake County EMS.

Memories:

- EMS unit operates from Holly Springs Public Safety “complex” at corner of Holly Springs Road and Highway 55.
  - Police department occupied rented house.
  - Fire department occupied metal building with apparatus bays and living area.
- Later moved (?) to Holly Springs Fire Station 2, on Avent Ferry Road.
- Moved again (?) to new Holly Springs Fire Station 1 at 700 Flint Point Lane, opened in 2006.

1999 - Snapshot of Wake County EMS System, 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 Pop.	Personnel	1998 Calls	1998 Revenues
Holly Springs DPS	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First duty, paramedic (WCEMS paramedic plus EMT basic)</li> </ul>	40	4,532	10 paid	406	\$125,033

2000 – By this time, the ambulance is numbered Medic 141. Source: David Raynor photo.

2006, June – Town announces that its Public Safety Department has been split into separate police and fire departments. Source: N&O, June 29, 2006.

2007, May – By this time, a new ambulance has been delivered, and is painted with a new color scheme: black over red. Unit is numbered 1471. Source: Lee Wilson photo.

2010, March – News & Observer story of March 4, 2010, reports:

- Starting July 1, county will stop paying salaries of three paramedics who provide 24/7 service in Holly Springs.
- Total estimated cost for subsidy is \$177,850.
- County is asking town to assume the burden.
- In 1998, when town approached county to request EMS service, county drafted a one-year letter of agreement that placed a county paramedic aboard a town ambulance at no cost to town.
- At the end of 1998, a re-evaluation was to take place. That never happened.
- For nearly twelve years, the county has paid the salaries of the paramedics, while the town has kept all revenue generated by the town ambulance.
- In 1998, annual revenue from the unit was about \$45,000.
- Today, the revenue is \$326,929.
- County wants to receive a portion of the revenue to help cover its costs, in times of shrinking county budgets.
- Town is weighing two options presented by county, to update its contract.
  - Option 1, county pays for all costs for a 24-hour unit, and county receives all revenue.
    - Currently town pays for cost of ambulance and three EMTs.
    - Three EMTs would become county employees.
    - Ambulance (newly purchased) would be purchased by county, but remain painted with HSFDF colors.
  - Option 2, town annually reimburses county for salaries of three paramedics.
    - Remaining \$149,049 in expected revenues would allow town to fund the three EMTs and ambulance costs.
- No change in service will result, regardless of contract option chosen.
- Town plans to consider options during retreat in Pinehurst this month.

- Source: News & Observer, March 4, 2010 – Holly Springs to Lose EMS Subsidy.

2010, July 1 (?) – Holly Springs Fire Department ceases operating EMS services.

- Wake County EMS places EMS 17 in service.
- Located at Holly Springs Fire Station 1, 700 Flint Point Lane.
- Station is named Holly Springs EMS Station.

## 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!