

## REDS

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Research notes by Mike Legeros  
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Staff photo by Laura Dorton

Making a mock rescue, Wayne Motley hands a rope to 'victim'

# Trained hands leap, crawl into void left by regular rescuers

Call them the Daring Dozen.

That's less of a mouthful than Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialists, the team's formal name.

Whatever their title, the high-flying bunch spend weekends leaping from tall buildings, crawling through drainage pipes and scouring remote outdoor areas.

But they aren't stunt men. The team of 12 volunteers is training to perform specialized rescue operations in Wake County and other areas of the state. When they open for business sometime this summer, they will be a resource for rescue squads and fire departments in operations ranging from building collapses to underwater searches.

Their founder, Garner resident David D. Pease, said the group would fill a growing need for specialized types of rescue. Most local emergency teams place their emphasis on medical treat-

ment rather than rescue training, he said.

"The area of actual rescue has gotten pushed to the side because people just don't have the time to train in the areas we're training in," said Mr. Pease, who served on the Garner Rescue Squad for 15 years before forming his team last year. "We don't have an ambulance. We are set up just to perform specialized rescue."

Gerald Y. Brown, director of emergency medical services in Wake, is drawing up guidelines for the group. He will pass them on to the Board of Commissioners in a month, which will decide whether to certify the special rescue team.

"I think there is a need for quality rescue," he said. "However, we do have nine rescue squads in the county. We look at Mr.

See SPECIALISTS, page 9F

# Specialists make ready to leap to the rescue

Continued from page 1F

Pease's group to supplement the existing rescue squads."

Mr. Brown agreed that other squads spend more training hours in emergency medicine than in rescue operations. But he would not elaborate on how Mr. Pease's group would fit in with the existing teams until he has written the guidelines.

The special rescue squad officially formed last May. Since then, members have spent one weekend a month in training, accumulating about 200 hours of experience. Their training is done through Wake Technical Community College, which offers free evening courses for fire, rescue and police personnel.

Last week, some of the men crawled through a drainage pipe at Vandora Springs Elementary School in Garner, an exercise in "confined-space rescue."

They also have taken a course in the mountains on how to track lost people. And they have jumped from atop the Raleigh Fire Tower off South Wilmington Street, rappelling themselves to the bottom with ropes.

These and other practice drills will help the team retrieve people who are trapped in buildings during a fire or caught underneath a collapsed structure. The team also has practiced water rescues, from retrieving property in a lake to searching for people in boating accidents.

They use ropes and pulleys donated by friends. Mr. Pease also has purchased a small delivery truck with money from an anonymous donor.

Remaining gear, such as diving suits, will have to wait until the group solicits funds from businesses and civic groups this spring.

To help with fund-raising, Mr. Pease wants to apply for state certification as a rescue team. That will give him access to matching-funds grants, he said.

The squad will be available to local fire departments and rescue teams if they want assistance, but Mr. Pease said he was not trying to replace those emergency services.

"We've got the training and experience for these operations, but it's up to the individual



Staff photo by Laura Darton

Dressed for egress and whatever else might follow, David McCall prepares to rescue a 'victim' from a drainage pipe

rescue organizations to use us," he said.

"If they call us to a disaster scene or a search for a lost young un' and they tell us to go get doughnuts, that's fine, we'll go get doughnuts."

- LAURIE DUNCAN

# County's indecision holds up certification of rescue team

By LAURIE A. DUNCAN  
Staff writer

A special rescue team based in Garner has hit a snag in getting county certification because Wake officials haven't decided whether it should be an independent group or part of a municipal rescue squad.

David D. Pease, a Garner builder who founded Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialists in May 1989, said he plans to meet with a committee of the Wake Board of Commissioners Monday. He wants to convince the commissioners to certify his 13-member team and to approve a set of operational guidelines written by county staff that would authorize high-level rescue teams in the county. He is not requesting any county money.



The Board of Commissioners told Mr. Pease last month that it wanted more information about his group before a vote.

His group would specialize in rescue efforts that most municipal teams don't handle, such as elevator collapses and underwater searches. Mr. Pease said. It also would operate throughout Wake County. That's why it requires a different set of guidelines than general rescue units have.

"This is really for a whole different creature from what's existing," said Merrie R. Hedrick, a Wake commissioner who heads

the Human Resources Committee that will meet with Mr. Pease.

Mr. Pease fears that joining a municipal squad would cripple his group. Turf battles might occur because the rescue chief would have control over the resources — including the special team. As a result, members probably would not be trained as well in high-level rescue as they are now, he said.

"We didn't want to become part of a rescue squad because we are beyond any existing training they have," Mr. Pease said. Municipal rescue organizations place their emphasis on medical treatment. But the special team spends weekends leaping from tall buildings, crawling through drainage pipes and scouring remote outdoor areas.

A 15-year veteran of the Garner Rescue Squad, Mr. Pease said he had tried to make his group a part of the Garner squad, but the municipal team wasn't interested.

"If we become part of a squad we'll cost them more," Mr. Pease said.

"With the rescue squads being somewhat financially strapped, that could be a holdback for us as far as growth and equipment . . . If we become part of another organization we could be put at a standstill as far as training equipment and manpower," he said. "And it would be an internal struggle."

As it stands, the volunteer, non-profit group would not be hooked up to 911, the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center. Rather, it would depend on other rescue squads to call when they needed help.

Michael R. Ferrell, the county attorney, said the special team

should join a municipal rescue squad to save the county from creating another layer of bureaucracy.

"That way they would automatically plug into the 911 system," he said.

Also, Mr. Ferrell said he was worried that the county might be liable for the group, even though it has plenty of insurance.

"If we license them or vouch for them or monitor their duties, there is a possibility that the county might be considered liable for them," he said.

Whatever the county's decision, Mr. Pease said he hoped to get an answer by the end of June. He wants to apply for special state funds, and the deadline is in the next two months.

## Corrections

A photo caption in last week's Triangle Observer incorrectly identified Sarah Brown as Tobie Barsalow. Both were participants in Cary's Community Action Through Cooperative Homework program.

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The Ugly Spot in last week's Triangle Observer, which showed that a previous Ugly Spot in the 8400 block of Creedmoor Road had been cleaned up, should have said the property is owned by members of one family who inherited it. Family members in the past month have torn down a dilapidated house and cleared the land. Eventually they plan to put the land on the market.

News & Observer, July 12, 1990

# Rescue team certification may be imminent

David D. Pease may get his wish by the end of the month: A green light from Wake officials to crank up a high-level rescue squad that would assist municipal rescue squads countywide.

Mr. Pease, a 15-year veteran of the Garner Rescue Squad who broke away to form his own group last year, said he was waiting for the county attorney to draft a new contract for his team, the Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialist. The contract should go to the Wake Board of Commissioners in late July.

His original request for county certification ran into opposition in May, when county commissioners

questioned whether the group should be independent or part of a municipal squad. In particular, they expressed reservations about operational guidelines that county staff had written for the group, which would have given the county responsibility for dictating what the teams could do and how much equipment they must have.

"It had the appearance of having us supervise their activities," said Michael R. Ferrell, Wake County attorney. "And this one does not say that at all."

Instead of new guidelines, Mr. Ferrell is writing a contract that will explain that the rescue team

is a group of volunteers who are trained in specialized operations ranging from building collapses to underwater searches. But, Mr. Ferrell said, the special group will be accountable for itself.

"It says they are capable of doing certain things based on their assertion that they can do certain things," he said. "After that they are on their own to maintain their level of expertise."

The team will be hooked up to the 911 emergency dispatching system and will answer calls when a municipal squad requests its help. Ideally, Mr. Ferrell said, Mr. Pease's team would help find a victim, then a municipal squad

would transport the person to a hospital. It is uncertain who would pay the dispatch fee for the new group, however.

Mr. Pease said that was one of the details that he and the county needed to work out. He has not asked for any county money. If his group is certified, then he can apply for state rescue funds this summer.

"We just want to contract with the county to perform the special services," he said. "We've come up with something new, this group, and we think it will benefit the rescue system."

— LAURIE DUNCAN

News & Observer, August 4, 1990

## Emergency rescue team gets go-ahead

The Wake County Board of Commissioners has approved a contract for a countywide emergency team trained in special types of rescue such as underwater searches and building collapses.

The independent team, headed by Garner builder David D. Pease, will complement the service provided by other rescue squads. The 13-member squad will not receive any county money. But Mr. Pease has said he planned to apply for state funds to pay for equipment.

The team, known as **Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialist**, will be hooked up to the 911 system, but it will answer calls only if another team asks for help. Also, the team will not transport victims, under terms of the action taken this week.

### Owner says rescuers off to good start

January 10, 1991 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)

Author/Byline: CAROL BLANEY Staff writer | Page: F3 | Section: TRIANGLE OBSERVER

David D. Pease runs a rescue team that pulls people out of tight spots.

The team, Rescue Extrication Delivery Specialist -- REDS for short -- contracted with the county in October to respond to requests for emergency assistance.

The 12-person volunteer team has answered three calls so far, hunting for evidence in a possible murder case and assisting in searches for two missing people.

REDS operates on a small budget, but it has big dreams.

""We're sort of in a new environment,"" said Mr. Pease, the team's chief and a 15-year veteran of the Garner Rescue Squad. ""We can take {the team} as far as we want to take it.""

REDS, which consists of 11 men and one woman from Wake and Orange counties, answers emergency calls directed through state and local agencies. Team members are trained to track evidence and rescue people underwater or from collapsed buildings and small spaces, but they don't transport victims or handle vehicle accidents.

Acting on a request from the state Center for Missing Persons, the team helped find a 71-year-old Nash County woman who had wandered away from home.

""We'll probably continue to call them in,"" said Johann M. Munden, the center's supervisor, adding that the center responds to about 100 calls per year on which REDS could be used.

The Cary police department asked the team to hunt for the remains of a young woman and other evidence pertaining to a possible murder in a still unresolved case.

In December, the Garner Rescue Squad asked the team to help locate a rest home resident, who eventually was found by another searcher's tracking dog.

The team receives neither county money nor payment for its services. It depends on donations and grants to pay for equipment and insurance costs.

Mr. Pease said he sees a rosy future for the team he conceived.

Looking at a gutted delivery truck, he envisions a high-tech vehicle for search-and-rescue missions. He also foresees a team that will become part of a wider emergency network.

### **Man facing charges ran veterans' campaign**

**March 23, 1991 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)**

Author/Byline: PAMELA BABCOCKKATIE MOSHERStaff writers | Page: B5 | Section: NEWS

A Raleigh man charged with diverting \$32,000 from a Garner rescue team's fund-raising campaign also ran a telephone solicitation campaign for a local Vietnam veterans group, according to state licensing records.

Timothy Brodie, 31, who used the alias Timothy Thomas, was arrested Monday and charged with felony conversion by bailee, or illegally using money with which he had been entrusted. He had been raising funds for the Wake County REDS Team, a specialized rescue team based in Garner. The group is not affiliated with the Garner EMS and Rescue Squad.

Earlier this week, police also charged Mr. Brodie's wife, Traci Lynn Vollmer, 20, with aiding and abetting in the Garner scam.

Raleigh police Sgt. D.C. Ford said an investigation of the couple is continuing.

Mr. Brodie had a similar contract to raise funds for the Raleigh-based Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation in March 1990.

Stephen A. Acai, a spokesman for the veterans group, said he signed a contract with a Timothy Thomas and hoped to raise funds for a plaque listing the names of troops killed or missing in Vietnam and a videotape about the Vietnam memorial on the State Capitol grounds.

Mr. Acai said the campaign fell short of its \$10,000 goal. He said Mr. Brodie told him "there was some overhead with the project that they had not anticipated originally." He said he did not know if any money was missing from the campaign, but is awaiting the results of an investigation.

According to state records, Timothy Brodie worked for Rainbow Productions, a Charlotte-based company that is registered with the state to conduct telephone solicitation campaigns. The company's August 1990 application listed Tim Brodie as a telemarketing manager.

Rainbow Productions runs fund-raising campaigns and, as an inducement, gives donors a coupon good for an 8-by-10 color portrait. According to contracts on file with the state, Mr. Brodie was working for the rescue team and veterans group. Both contracts specified that the sponsoring group was to receive 30 percent of the proceeds.

Mr. Acai said a Rainbow Productions official had contacted him recently and told him that Mr. Brodie was an "independent" and not part of the Charlotte firm. Not long after the meeting, Mr. Acai said he was contacted by the Raleigh police detective investigating the REDS team fund-raising.

Rainbow President Delmus W. Walker could not be reached for comment Friday. A receptionist said no other company officials were available.

Rainbow Productions conducted about 30 fund-raising campaigns in 1990, said Jennie M. Davis, head of the solicitation licensing branch of the state Department of Human Resources.

David Pease, president of the Garner REDS team, said he became suspicious last month when money was slow coming in. Mr. Brodie, who represented himself as Tim Thomas, blamed the shortfall on the holidays, the war and the recession, Mr. Pease said.

Wayne Motley, another member of REDS, said Mr. Brodie was "always pretty nice. He was all relaxed, kind of laid back.

"He seemed pretty smart, he dressed nice. He drove a darn Mercedes, you know, a big sled."

### **Rescue team tries to save its image**

**June 26, 1993 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)**

Author/Byline: DEBBI SYKES; STAFF WRITER | Page: B3 | Section: NEWS

GARNER --The REDS rescue team has something of a public relations problem.

Nobody has heard of it.

Although the crew was chartered by the county and the state in 1989 and has since conducted out-of-the-ordinary searches and rescues, most people have never heard of the Rescue, Extrication, Delivery Specialists.

"We're a small team," REDS member Iris Motley said. "We're a resource. As a result of that we're not as well known as a Garner rescue or a Knightdale rescue."

REDS really isn't a rescue squad at all. The team members are specially trained and equipped to perform rescues from high places or confined spaces and to help with searches. They arrive on the scene when called by a rescue squad, a fire department or a law enforcement agency.

"They've performed a good service not only for Wake County, but surrounding counties," said Doug Bass, assistant director of Wake County Emergency Management.

REDS has helped with several searches for missing people, including nursing home patients who have wandered away. Members also have been on standby for companies doing excavations.

But REDS' low profile makes it difficult for the nonprofit group to raise money. And to make things worse, the team was victimized in a money-raising scam two years ago. Of \$40,000 donated through a

fund-raising campaign, REDS only got \$5,000. The Raleigh man who ran the campaign was charged with diverting the money.

"We've done raffles, we've done yard sales -- you name it, we've done it," said Motley, a Garner police officer.

"Unfortunately people don't read the whole story, and they assume it was one of our people. So we had a real hard time after that, and it's taken a long time to overcome that negative publicity."

The members have pressed on with their training, one weekend a month. REDS is a small squad of only a dozen people, compared with 40 on a typical rescue squad. The members include a police officer, nurses and firefighters who stay prepared for the most precarious of circumstances.

"It's all in your training," said Wayne Motley of Clayton, the REDS president and Iris Motley's son. "You learn what you can do and what your equipment can do. I don't believe you ever lose the fear factor out of any of it, but that's good in a way because it keeps you from being stupid and getting hurt or getting killed."

The equipment is costly, and some items, such as ropes used in high-level searches, can't be reused. The team also is hoping to replace its old truck someday. That's not to mention \$6,000 in insurance costs.

Except for a state matching grant of \$6,200, Iris Motley said, the team gets all of its revenues from private sources. REDS runs a kiosk at Walnut Creek Amphitheatre to help raise money, and now it has contracted with a Goldsboro fund-raising agency that works with other rescue squads.

Summit Productions is going door-to-door across the county selling \$15 coupons that can be redeemed for a family portrait. The rescue team will keep from 50 percent to 100 percent of the money from the ticket sales, and the company will keep all the proceeds from extra photo orders. So far the campaign has earned \$2,000 for the team.

"Because so many people weren't familiar with what the REDS do and never heard of them, it makes it difficult," said Carol Medlin, a Summit booking representative.