

Zebulon Area Rescue Squad

Zebulon EMS

Research notes by Mike Legeros
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Pre-History

See main Wake County rescue squad history document.

1970-1979

1974 - **Zebulon Area Rescue Squad** created. Incorporated on February 28, 1974. The Articles of Incorporation include this purpose statement:

To organize, perform, promote and carry out a rescue service for the preservation of human life and the transportation of accident and other victims to medical centers¹ to rescue persons and property from the perils of accidents and other catastrophes; to administer first aid and other services for the preservation of human life and protection of property in times of emergency; to organize, promote, teach, and administer first aid and promote first aid and safety programs in the Town of Zebulon and its environs;

Original board of directors were:

- Bobby Allen Pace, Old Tarboro Road
- Robert S. Matheny, 500 Wakefield Street
- Eloise Eddins, Route 3
- Anna C. Jordan, 219 W. Franklin Street
- Hilda M. Brantley, 117 E. Franklin Street

Source: State corporations office.

Notes:

- First vehicle was a 1954 GMC panel van, from the Raleigh Fire Department, that originally served the Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad.
- Donated to the squad with no cost, and only 18,000 miles on odometer.
- Used as a utility vehicle, to carry heavy rescue equipment and tow the rescue boat.

Source: Zebulon Record, November 21, 1974.

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)

1974, circa – Hurst tools added at/near start of squad's operation. Source: OH.

1976, circa – Crash truck added.

- 1975-76 GMC Sierra Grande/Murphy crash truck added. Equipped with roof-mounted rack, carrying stokes basket and extension ladder, and four floodlights. Truck is featured in a color brochure for “Crash Rescue Vehicle” from Murphy Body Distributors, Inc., of Wilson. It includes these descriptions:
 - 20-inch deep compartments for storage of tools
 - Alternating flashing lights [on] each side a rear
 - Large inside storage space for rain gear, hand lines and other equipment
 - 8000 pound front-mounted electric winch, and 110-volt waterproof outlet for electric tools.
 - Storage for power system on slide tray for quick removal.
 - Storage compartment for Hurst tool.
 - Fold-down step for access to top of body.
 - 3500 watt generator on slide-out tray to power four Quartz lights with 110 volts of power
 - Rear step bumper with hinged cover to accommodate ball hitch for pulling trailer. Also safety chain hooks at rear.
 - Extending 500 watt Quartz light stanchion, one on each corner, with separate switch in both compartment

And this spec sheet:

- Morysville utility body mounted on one-ton dual-wheel, two-door cab and chassis having a C.A. dimension of 84-inches. Body compartments each side 20-inches deep, with watertight doors and recessed door handles keyed alike. Inside height of body 56-inches.
- Lights installed in each compartment with individual switch.
- Minimum 3500 watt generator with electric start mounted in front-right side compartment on slide-out tray.
- Three waterproof electrical outlets on outside of body, one each side and one at rear.
- Four eight-foot collapsible light stanchions, one mounted on each corner of the body, wired for four 500 watt quartz lamps with individual switch wired to generator.
- Two six-inch floodlights, one on each side, mounted on top of body at rear.
- Unity model SPR-75A Si Tron electronic siren and P.A. amplifier with microphone.
- Federal 12X Twinsonic dual directional with 2 TS24 speakers mounted on cab of truck.
- Two six-inch rotation beacons mounted on top of rear of body, red lenses.

- Chrome grab rail at rear of body.
- Full-width rear step bumper at rear with full riser, and cut-out for ball hitch with hinged cover.
- Rack on top of body for extension ladder and stokes basket.
- Two Unity #250 post-mounted spotlights mounted left and right side.
- Electric winch on front bumper with minimum capacity of 8000 pounds, and 150 feet 3/8-inch cable and hook.
- Two seven-inch sealed beam spotlights mounted in center of superstructure of body.
- Six seven-inch flashing lights mounted in superstructure, two each side and two at rear of body.
- One master power switch mounted in cab, to turn off all lights and power from battery.
- Ferno-Washington Model 16 removable squad bench. Doubles as portable stretcher with three-inch mattress and two restraining straps mounted on steel storage compartment inside body load area.
- Power ventilation in body roof.
- Engine hot water heater in body.
- Two chrome folding steps, one each side, rear.
- Two tow eyes at rear bumper.
- The GMC panel van is disposed to newly organized Hopkins Fire Department, in northeastern Wake County.

1980 to 1999

1984 – New ambulance:

- 1984 Chevrolet/Swab SE-125.
- Build #4378.
- Delivered circa March 1984.
- Source: Swab records.

1990 to 1999

1991 – Nine volunteer rescue squads in Wake County abandoned tradition of free ambulance service and begin charging fees for transporting patients. (N&O, 6/10/91)

Snapshot of rescue squads, from September 10, 1991, News & Observer:

Rescue Squad	BLS fee	ALS fee	Lifetime Membership	1990 Calls
Zebulon Area Rescue	none	none	none	1,100

1993 – Paramedics added at **Wendell** and **Zebulon**, after July 1. (N&O, 3/2/93)

1993 – New ambulance chassis:

- 1993 Ford F-350/1984 Swab SE-125.
- Build #4378 (remount).
- Chassis built May 1993.
- Unit 972.
- Source: Swab records.

1995 – New ambulance:

- 1995 Ford F-350/Swab SEL-130D
- Build #5187
- Built and delivered, circa February 1995.
- Unit 973.
- Source: Swab records.

1995, circa – New crash truck delivered:

- 1995 (?) Ford F-XLT Super Duty/AEV light-duty rescue.
- Purchased from Chief's in West Jefferson, NC.
- Unit 981.
- The GMC/Reading crash truck is sold to a plumber in Zebulon.

1995, circa – By this time, squad vehicles are lettered **Zebulon Area Rescue & EMS**.

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
Zebulon VRS	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First duty, paramedic (WCEMS paramedic plus EMT basic) • Second duty, paramedic • Third duty, EMT intermediate or basic 	41.5	7,548	3 paid, 40 vol.	1,254	\$195,000

2000-2005

2000 – Rescue services ceased.

- Zebulon Fire Department assumes responsibility for vehicular extrication after Zebulon Rescue Squad moves to provide only patient care.
- The Ford/AEV crash truck is sold to Pinetops Rescue Squad in Edgecombe County.
- Sources: ZFD, OH.

2001 – Name changed to **Zebulon Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**

Name change filed with the state corporations office on July 27, 2001. Their Articles of Incorporation are amended, with a new purpose statement:

To organize, perform, promote and carry out an emergency medical service for the preservation of human life and the transportation of accident and other victims to medical centers; to administer first aid and other services for the preservation of human life and protection of property in times of emergency; to organize, promote, teach, and administer first aid and promote first aid and safety programs in the Town of Zebulon and its environs;

2005 - **Eastern Wake EMS** formed in July 2005, as a merger of Knightdale Area Rescue Squad, Wendell EMS, and Zebulon EMS.

Filings with Secretary of State:

- Knightdale Area Rescue Squad merger filed May 12, 2005.
- Zebulon EMS merger filed May 12, 2005.
- Wendell EMS renamed Eastern Wake EMS. Name change filed April 21, 2005.
- See Eastern Wake EMS history document.

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
 - 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!