

**What's In Your Station?  
By "Safety John"**

**Reedy Creek Emergency Services, Florida  
Squad 1**

Let me assure you this, the Reedy Creek Fire Department is no "Mickey Mouse" operation. The Reedy Creek Improvement District Emergency Services or communally called the Reddy Creek Fire Department operates 3 Engine Companies, 2 Towers (Quints), 7 ALS Ambulances, 1 Heavy Rescue/Hazmat, 1 Tanker, 3 Brush Units out of four stations. Their Station 4 was just opened this year. Also included in their equipment roster are two special Towers they call a "Platypus". These are specially designed escape towers that can response over swamp areas in order to effect an emergency evacuation of the monorail.



The Reedy Creek Fire Department not only covers the Disney World complex but a total of 38 square miles around the Magic Kingdom including 10 miles of Interstate 4 in Central Florida. Currently the Improvement District is in the process of annexing additional land and their coverage will be increasing in late 2004. The Department has a force of just over 100 uniformed Fire Firefighters. Their seven Ambulances and the Squad are ALS staffed. As a service to the Disney community, Ambulances will transport to any Hospital in the state of Florida providing the patient's condition allows. The daily staffing is between 28 & 32 Firefighters and Paramedics. The Squad doubles as their Hazmat Unit.

Reedy Creek's Squad 1 is an older model Freightliner with a Rescue Master Box. The unit is staff with 3 who all are certified at the Technician Level and one is also a Paramedic. Squad 1 may be smaller than most Hazmat units but over the years the firefighters have adapted it quite well to carry the equipment they need most. A year ago they added "coffin compartments" on top of the unit. When additional equipment is needed, a large Hazmat Trailer is brought to the scene from Station 1. Since this unit doubles as a heavy rescue they see much action along Interstate 4 and much of the adjacent Seminole County. They are automatically dispatched in surrounding jurisdictions as part of the Central Florida Mutual Aid Agreement. Currently the department is responding to an average of 80 emergency calls per day. As with most departments the majority of their calls are EMS related.

I can not close without mentioning the quite large and unique fire stations at Reedy Creek. Station 1 is an eight bay ranch style station with exterior ceramic tile design borrowed directly from "Pongo and Purdy" from 101 Dalmatians. Station 2, partly see below, host a 12' helmet front entrance with a 8' fire hydrant with 12" VLDH (that's very large diameter hose) running across the station front, into a lake and shooting a stream straight up in air through a 4' high stack tip nozzle. Do you see any "Disney Design"?





