

Rescue Truck History - Seattle Mountain Rescue

In the early years, Ome Diaber's trailer was used to transport equipment.

Rescue Truck #1 was a 1942 Dodge army ambulance, called the 'Memorial Truck' in memory of Keith Jacobson who was killed in an avalanche at Source Lake in 1953. Jacobson's parents recognized our need for a dedicated unit vehicle and were instrumental in raising funds through their influence with the Seattle PI and Seattle PTA. Unfortunately Truck #1 was retired in 1961 after the drive line fell off on a rescue mission.



Rescue Truck #2 was purchased new in 1961 from donations raised from donations from the Seattle PI as well as Bob Byhre's Camel cigarette advertisements. The truck, an International ¾ ton, was again dedicated to Keith Jacobson and served faithfully for 17 years until it was sold to the Skykomish Fire Department.

Rescue Truck #3 was probably the finest Mountain Rescue vehicle in the northern hemisphere at the time. It was a 1977 GMC crew cab with a total cost of over \$18,000. The majority of the contributions came from large Washington corporations, supplemented by numerous individual donors. The truck was officially dedicated to the memory of Al Givler, a great



local mountain rescuer. Truck #3 served the team for eighteen years from 1978 to 1996, at which time it was donated to Olympic Mountain Rescue.

Rescue Truck #4, a new 1996 Ford F350 crew cab, entered service for the team on July 6th, 1994. With a total price about almost five times that of Rescue Truck #3, this vehicle continued the tradition of being a capable asset for the team. And to this day, it is still currently being used, supporting our community on mountain rescues, registered as “SMR-1” and affectionately called “Big Blue”.



Rescue Truck #5, a 2002 Ford Expedition was purchased new early in that year. The original invoice amount was for just over \$32,000 to acquire the vehicle. Registered as “SMR-2”, it became the primary rescue truck for the team from 2002 until its retirement in the summer of 2020 when it was sold to a member of the unit.

Rescue Truck #6 was acquired in the summer of 2020, and was built specifically for the team as a replacement for the Expedition. The truck entered service as the new SMR-2 in September 2020, just in time for the Labor Day weekend and currently serves the unit as their primary vehicle to transport mountain rescue equipment and personnel to missions.

