

MANAGING INCIDENT COMMAND

Firefighters, Police Officers, EMTs and others work cooperatively during every hour of every day in our city. The incidents might be small or - in cases such as the Port Mobil explosion on Staten Island and the August 2003 blackout - they may be large and complex. Yet, regardless of scale, it is a testament to the men and women who do their jobs, day after day, that New York City remains the safest big city in the United States. Crime continues to fall and fire fatalities are at their lowest level in nearly 80 years. None of this would be possible without the dedicated efforts of the city's first responders and the men and women who support them.

Of course, this is also a time of great uncertainty. As the events of 9/11 demonstrated, the city now faces threats from outside her borders, from forces beyond her control. In the wake of 9/11, the federal government mandated that cities formalize their response to terrorist attacks and other major emergencies. A National Incident Management System (NIMS) has been established at the federal level and New York's Citywide Incident Management System (CIMS) will become a part of this larger emergency response framework.

CIMS formalizes our response system - the way we respond every day - by creating a management framework designed to better organize the City's response to emergencies and enhance interagency decision-making and communication. It is an important first step in clarifying issues of command and control at emergencies, which delineates how each agency is to carry out its core competencies.

As I have stated previously, rigorous drills and exercises, along with practical experience gained responding to actual incidents, are crucial to the effective implementation of CIMS. CIMS also creates a review panel to analyze multi-agency responses to incidents and make recommendations to enhance emergency response, which I believe is both constructive and essential.

There has been some misperception about the Department's role as outlined in the CIMS matrix, particularly with respect to Hazardous Materials (HazMat) incidents. As Mayor Bloomberg has stated, the Fire Department will continue to operate as they do now at HazMat incidents. Under the new protocol, FDNY members are still charged with the most important responsibility of all - the responsibility to save lives. That is the highest priority under CIMS and it is one of the Department's core competencies. Provided that life safety operations are not interfered with, the NYPD can immediately begin an assessment and investigation, and gather evidence. Then, the Fire Department will take steps to mitigate the hazardous materials condition and perform mass decontamination, if necessary. CIMS puts in writing the common sense approach to joint operation that we have functioned under for years.

I never cease to be impressed by what I witness virtually every day: the competence, skill and commitment of our Fire and EMS personnel who risk their own lives to save others. I am sure that all of those involved in the planning and execution of CIMS - whether it is the NYPD, DEP, or one of the many city agencies we work with - would agree that New York City is unsurpassed in its emergency response capabilities. And, I am confident that CIMS will enhance the Department's performance of its roles and responsibilities.

CIMS is an important framework upon which all New York City emergency response agencies will build, through the development of procedures, interagency training and drills, post-incident critiques, and the flexibility to refine the system when needed.

The New York City Fire Department continues to rebuild itself through the strength of its members and through the courage of its leaders. I recently promoted Frank Cruthers to First Deputy Commissioner and Peter Hayden to Chief of Department. These two men have more than 70 years of collective experience. In his new role as First Deputy Commissioner, Chief Cruthers will lead the Safety and Inspection Command and focus on the Department's antiterrorism efforts. Chief Hayden, as the 32nd Chief of Department, is now charged with the management of our uniformed and civilian membership as well as Operations, Fire Prevention, Training and Communications. They are both skilled leaders and they have devoted their lives to the Department. The FDNY would not be what it is today without them.



Commissioner's
— Message



Comm. Scoppetta

Peter Hayden

Frank Cruthers

Commissioner Scoppetta appoints Frank Cruthers as 1st Deputy Fire Commissioner and Peter Hayden 32nd Chief of Department on June 28th at City Hall

FDNY holds RNC Functional Exercise at Randall's Island

The 2004 Republican National Convention will roll into New York City the last week of August, bringing with it increased concerns that terrorists will target such a high-profile event. As part of the Fire Department's activities to prepare for Convention Week - which is expected to draw tens of thousands of people from around the country - the Fire Department recently conducted two tabletop exercises. These exercises assist in developing comprehensive response plans to potential situations and allow us to identify any gaps in our response.

While most of the situations focused on the location of the convention (the Madison Square Garden area) and other convention-specific circumstances, the scenarios were also designed to be plausible and stressed response capabilities for every day incidents. The tabletop tested response to a high-rise fire and explosion, a chemical release and an



A.C. Robert Sweeney, Queens Borough Commander (standing at left), leads the RNC exercises as team Incident Commander at Randall's Island.

explosive device detonated within a crowd.

The exercises, held the second week in June, were conducted by the consulting firms Booz Allen Hamilton, which

generously donated their services, and Kroll & Associates whose services were paid for by a grant through the Fire Safety Education Fund.

The FDNY Exercise Design Team

FDNY has organized an Exercise Design Team as part of a newly created Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness. The Team is responsible for creating a comprehensive exercise design program for the Department that will focus on developing tabletops, functional, and full scale exercises. The Team, located at Ft. Totten, is made up of a four person core staff in addition to Fire and EMS officers from each borough.

TABLETOP EXERCISES

The purpose of the tabletop exercise is to develop, validate or refine operational plans. Participants are given a typical incident to discuss options, tactics, and overall strategy. Tabletops are usually conducted in a low stress environment and are used to exchange ideas and to formulate operational approaches to problem-solving. Tabletops would include senior level personnel, including staff chiefs, Incident Management Teams, borough commands, BC Course and FLIPS, among others.

Example: Tabletop exercise conducted

to discuss an unusual subway incident response.

FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE

The purpose of this exercise is to conduct a drill as close to an actual event as possible - without deploying units and functional at any level, from firehouse to borough command. The exercise uses simulations to drive a scenario with a team of controllers to guide the exercise and evaluators to assess if the drill has met objectives. Considered a "step-up" from the tabletop, the functional exercise exposes participants to moderate stress and requires time sensitive decision-making.

Example: The RNC Exercise (above article) simulating a terrorist attack scenario at the Republication Convention at Madison Square Garden, with additional off-site car bombings.

FULL SCALE EXERCISE

The Full Scale exercise simulates actual field conditions, including deployment of firefighting and EMS units, role players (victims and agents) and a full team of

controllers and evaluators. This exercise seeks to replicate high visibility, stressful field and command conditions.

Example: Operation Transit Safe recently conducted by OEM at the Bowling Green Subway Station in Lower Manhattan to simulate a terrorist attack on the subway - included full response by Fire, EMS, Police, DEP, MTA and other Federal, State and City agencies.

THE FDNY EXERCISE DESIGN TEAM

Fire and EMS officers are currently enrolled in the Master Exercise Practitioner Program run by the Emergency Management Institute at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The program is run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA.

The three-week program includes both classroom and practical experience in the exercise design process (Tabletop, Functional and Full Scale). Upon completion of the course participants - who hail from around the country - are awarded Master Exercise Practitioners certificates.

FDNY Haz-Mat Incidents

The Department has further increased its ability to deal with hazardous material incidents. In June, Commissioner Scoppetta announced the addition of three new Hazardous Materials Technician (HazTech) Engine Companies to the ranks - Engine 44 in Manhattan, Engine 165 in Staten Island, and Engine 274 in Queens.

"The deployment of these three HazTech Engine Companies further demonstrates the commitment the Fire Department has to providing the people of New York with the best protection against the new threats we face," said Chief of Department Frank Cruthers during the announcement at Engine 44. "They will also enhance and decentralize the Department's response to multiple incidents involving hazardous materials and life safety operations."

The companies will still assume primary fire duties in their respective response areas, but will also be available to respond to HazMat incidents citywide, further increasing the capability of the Department to respond to such incidents. The new HazTech Companies will respond as additional units on HazMat incidents in order to get field experience before being placed in-service as a primary responder.

The Department currently maintains a tiered response system

for HazMat incidents, with different companies equipped to respond to a variety of incidents involving hazardous materials. At the very top are the Specialists of the FDNY's HazMat 1 Company. Training for HazMat 1 is a continual process, with all members completing a minimum of 530 hours of instruction and drills for a variety of HazMat incidents, from radiation leaks to chemical warfare.

The Department's seven Squads, five Rescue Companies, and three new HazTech Engine Companies comprise the Department's next tier of HazMat incident response, with members receiving 80 hours of specialized HazMat response training. Rounding out the Department's HazMat capabilities are 20 EMS Haz-Tac Ambulances, 21 SOC Support Companies (with 64 and 40 hours of specialized HazMat training, respectively) and 200 members trained and equipped to don chemical protective clothing (CPC) for HazMat response.

The Department first added HazMat response capabilities in September of 1984 to deal primarily with industrial spills and releases. Over the past 20 years, a robust HazMat response program has developed. As the threats facing New York change, the FDNY continues to adapt, ensuring the safety of all New Yorkers.

FDNY APPOINTS NEW 1ST DEPUTY FIRE COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on June 28 announced the appointments of Chief of Department Frank P. Cruthers as First Deputy Commissioner and Peter E. Hayden as the 32nd Chief of Department.

As First Deputy Commissioner, Chief Cruthers will oversee anti-terrorism efforts and lead the Safety and Inspection Command. As Chief of Department, Chief Hayden will be charged with the management of the 11,500-member uniformed force and other major bureaus including Operations, Fire Prevention, Training, EMS and Communications.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg shared his support for Chief Cruthers and Chief Hayden. "With a combined experience of over 70 years in the department, Chief Cruthers and Chief Hayden have shown the commitment and dedication it takes to be New York's Bravest," Mayor Bloomberg said. "These appointments will further bolster the leadership of the greatest fire department in the world."

Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta commended the leadership of Chief Cruthers and Chief Hayden that enabled the department to rebuild its ranks after September 11th and meet today's complex challenges. "They have led by example - an example characterized by integrity, honor and dedication," Commissioner Scoppetta said. "They bring a wealth of experience as firefighters and fire officers and an intelligence and creativity that singles them out as great leaders."

Reflecting on his Department career, which began in 1968, Chief Cruthers found a bit of humor in adjusting to his new civilian role, "For the first time in 35 years I had to decide what to wear to work" he said.

Chief Hayden reflected on his own professional journey. "It's been a long ride, an emotional time," he said.

Chief Cruthers has received a Fire Department medal and two other individual awards for meritorious acts of bravery during his career. He is the son of the late Chief of Department Francis Cruthers, who held the position from 1978 to 1980, making them the only father and son to serve as Chief of Department in Fire Department history. Chief Cruthers and his wife, Eileen, have two sons, Frank and Scott, and five grandchildren, Liam, Tyler, Hannah, Olivia and Cole. His nephew, George Young, is a firefighter in Ladder 4.

During his career, Chief Hayden has received five individual awards for meritorious acts of bravery. In 1986 he received the Department's Leon Lowenstein Award for administrative excellence, and in 2002 he received the Marist College President's Award for professional achievement. He and his wife, Rita, have been married for 30 years and reside in Rockaway. They have 5 children, Rita, Katherine, Peter, Patrick and Mary and two grandchildren, John and Katherine Martin. His brother John is a firefighter in Engine 268, his son Peter is a Firefighter in Ladder 147, his son Patrick is a firefighter in Ladder 105, and his son in law, John Martin, is a firefighter in Ladder 103. His nephew Sean is a firefighter in Engine 310.



Fire Medal Day 2004

The extraordinary valor and exceptional courage of 51 FDNY members was highlighted at the annual Fire Medal Day on June 2 at City Hall.

"Today for the 135th time in the history of the world's greatest fire department, we gather to honor the bravest of our bravest," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in his opening remarks. "As members of the FDNY you are charged with the most fundamental, important duty of all - the responsibility to save lives no matter what the situation."

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta echoed the Mayor's comments, "Members of this department always push on no matter what the odds," he said.

Firefighter James Mills of Ladder Company 176 received the James Gordon Bennett Medal, the Department's highest honor, and the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal. Mills earned the medals for saving the life of Firefighter Robert Petrarca of Ladder 120 at a March 4, 2003 fire on Pitkin Avenue in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn.

Mills located Petrarca in the cellar of the two-story taxpayer type building. Even though Mills' own PASS alarm was going off due to low air in his SCBA, he still dragged Petrarca toward the stairs.

"With all this going on, Firefighter Mills may have left and communicated Firefighter Petrarca's position once safe outside himself," Deputy Chief Daniel Butler wrote in his endorsement. "Instead, he decided he would leave when they both left."



March 4, 2003 fire on Pitkin Avenue in Brownsville, Brooklyn.



Mayor Bloomberg awards Firefighter James Mills of Ladder Company 176 the James Gordon Bennett Medal at City Hall on June 2nd.

After FF Petrarca was located, members of Ladder 176 made a breach in the cellar wall, and members of Rescue 4 were then able to assist with the removal. Shortly after the rescue, a collapse occurred that would have trapped both men had it not been for Mills' swift action.

Other Highlights

Engine Company 52 in the Bronx was honored with the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation Medal. Lt. Stephen Chase, FF Lawrence Brigati (Engine 79, retired), FF Russell Dinkler, FF Brian McGowan, FF Kevin McNichol and FF Eddy Nietzsche were awarded

the medal for their valiant actions when responding to a fire in a six-story multiple dwelling during the early morning hours of August 15, 2003 - the night of the citywide blackout.

"The severe conditions encountered, coupled with the absence of any backup

unit, required an uncommon level of teamwork, dedication and tenacity in order to successfully contain this fire with a minimum of injuries and no loss of life," Deputy Chief Lawrence Benson of Division 7 wrote in his formal recommendation for a unit citation.

Ladder Company 106 was honored with the Firefighter Thomas Elsasser Memorial Medal for their heroic actions during the August blackout. Lt. Gerald Duffy, FF Robert Damino, FF Michael Duffy, FF Mark Hershey, FF Robert McCormick, FF Mario Polit and FF Steven Rueckheim were called to a fire in a four-story brick building in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Disregarding personal safety, members of Ladder 106 saved four lives during the chaotic night - initially entering the building without the protection of a hose line or engine company. They successfully located and rescued civilians from the second and third floors of the building with FF McCormick removing his bunker coat in order to shield a victim and FF Duffy using his face piece to aid in reviving a male victim who was removed to safety.

NEW TECHNOLOGY The ePCR Comes to FDNY*EMS

After many years of review, research and discussion, the FDNY is advancing to a new electronic ambulance call report - the electronic Patient Care Report or ePCR. Today, the FDNY processes more than 700,000 Ambulance Call Reports (ACRs) a year. This represents a huge burden to FDNY staff, with paper forms getting lost or damaged, many containing missing or inaccurate information, and no effective way to track this volume of incoming forms. Most importantly, there is no efficient way to assess patient-care medical trends from the information contained in each ACR.

Several FDNY Bureaus, Technology Design Systems, Office of Medical Affairs, EMS Operations and Finance, worked to introduce in 2001 a commercially available, paper-based product that utilizes a scannable form. Scanning forms is not a new technology, but this particular product coupled an easy to complete paper form with a powerful way to automate many of today's manual functions.

It allows for an easy transition for EMS crews from the FDNY's current ACR to the ePCR. In the future, as handheld and tablet computers mature, a truly electronic paperless solution can be developed. More importantly, this technology allows for an image of the PCR and the information contained on it to be available for review by FDNY Bureaus almost

immediately.

Beginning in July 2004, the ePCR will be implemented in EMS in Division 1. The system will be rolled out citywide over the next 10 months.

To make the ePCR a reality, many hurdles had to be overcome: EMS crew acceptance of the concept, wideband communications in each EMS station, new forms, training, and the necessary operational policies to accommodate the new processes. A pilot test of the concept and technology was successfully completed in late 2001 and the FDNY bid on and purchased the application.

FDNY Bureaus came together to integrate the processes and make this project a reality with tangible benefits. FDNY will be able to submit bills for ambulance call reimbursement in days rather than weeks and individuals needing to review a patient care report will be able to do it online.

FDNY is taking an important first step to solve a major problem that plagues every EMS agency in the country. Our ability to manage our PCRs, images of the forms, and associated data will place the FDNY - the largest EMS provider in the country - as a leader in yet another area of emergency pre-hospital care.

EMS Medal Day 2004



Chief of Department Frank Cruthers and EMS Assistant Chief Jerry Gombo award the Christopher J.Prescott Medal to EMT David Karic on EMS Medal Day held May 17th at FDNY Headquarters at 9 MetroTech Center.

EMS's highest medal was also awarded to EMTs Gamaliel Bonilla, John Manning, Ronald Grubert, David Weissman and Daniel Steward (posthumously).

Thirty-nine members of the FDNY*EMS Command were honored at this year's ceremony for exceptional service and exemplary actions in performance of duty during 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2003.

NYC Paramedic Program Celebrates 30 Years

In 1974, nineteen members of New York City's EMS graduated from a pilot program aimed at training Paramedics. This three-month training curriculum, which allowed for the introduction of advanced medical skills to "pre-hospital" care, was part of a nationwide transformation in emergency medical response. The program was conducted at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx and in July of 1974, the graduates of Paramedic Class #1 brought forth advanced life support services to the New York City 911 System for the first time. Paramedic interventions led to an almost immediate drop in pre-hospital mortality and morbidity rates in New York City.

The use of Paramedics in emergency medical response was a relatively new phenomenon (there were only a dozen Paramedic units in the United States in 1971) that quickly became a staple of pre-hospital care. In essence, it was realized that "a lot more lives could be saved if you could effectively bring the emergency room to the patient," according to EMS Chief of Training J.P. Martin. Just as the first EMTs evolved out of medical advances made during the Civil War, the modern Paramedic owes much to battlefield innovations in Southeast Asia. Doctors and surgeons returning from the Vietnam War were instrumental in the definition and advancement of Paramedic training, initially on the West Coast.

Beginning in the summer of 1974, for the first time in history, endotracheal (ET) intubations and defibrillations were being performed on New York City streets. Electro-cardiograms were being interpreted and intravenous fluids and first line cardiac medications were being administered by non-physicians, precious minutes before delivery to an emergency room. As a result of the Paramedic program, the city's ambulance service took a major step forward in professionalism and its ability to provide life-saving advanced medical care.

Since 1974, the Paramedic program has developed into a New York State Department of Health curriculum consisting of more than 1,200 hours of training. Under protocols developed and

endorsed by the Regional Emergency Medical Service Council of New York City and New York State Department of Health guidelines, modern day Paramedics utilized standing protocols and techniques and on-line medical control to address a multitude of advanced medical conditions, both in the adult and the pediatric patient.

The medical field is a practice which continually evolves, and the significant role and efforts of Paramedic Class #1 paved the way for the modern services we know today. These days, when emergency calls are placed, the dispatcher will either send out a basic life support (BLS) ambulance staffed by EMTs, or a Paramedic ambulance specializing in advanced life support (ALS), depending on the reported severity of the patient's condition. Skills like defibrillation and glucose administration, which were only performed by physicians and paramedics, are now routinely performed by EMTs and certified first responders. What began as two Paramedic ambulances assigned to the East Bronx has, in the past 30 years, grown into a far more robust Paramedic program, with 139 daily EMS Paramedic tours covering all of the city's five boroughs and advanced skills being adopted by Emergency Medical Technicians. Paramedic training has increased in scale and scope (up to nine months are now spent on education and drills, compared with the three-and-a-half months it took in 1974) and new tools, such as the 12-lead EKG and CO monitors for ET intubation, are constantly being introduced in the field.

This autumn, the 40th class of EMS paramedics will graduate, and the 41st will begin, marking the beginning of the fourth decade of pre-hospital advanced life support in New York City. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the EMS Paramedic service, the New York City Fire



EMS Paramedic Class of 1974

Department takes great pride in acknowledging the graduates of Paramedic Class #1, who pioneered new ground for the pre-hospital care community and the citizens of the City of New York.

EMS Combats Domestic Violence

In an effort to combat domestic violence, EMS has teamed up with Safe Horizons and Plays for Living to test-pilot a training program that will help paramedics and EMTs better identify and help victims of domestic violence.

The U.S. Justice Department reports that one in four women has been assaulted or raped by a current or former partner. Yet, domestic violence remains one of the most underreported crimes in the United States. Often EMS personnel are the first people to encounter a victim after abuse has occurred - placing them in a special position to help domestic violence victims.

The three-year collaborative effort which combines an instructional drama and role-playing among participants is funded by the Altria Group and will eventually be rolled out to a national audience as a training model.

"Our plays help to improve communication and open the way for solutions to be found to the myriad of difficult challenges we face at work, at home and at school," said Eunice Salton, Executive Director of Plays for Living.

For more information please visit:

www.playsforliving.org

www.safehorizon.org

Mayor and City Council Agree on \$1.133 Billion Budget Next Fiscal Year for FDNY

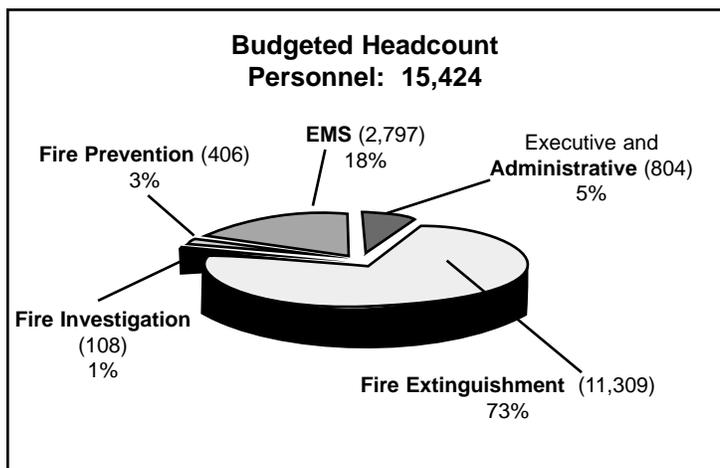
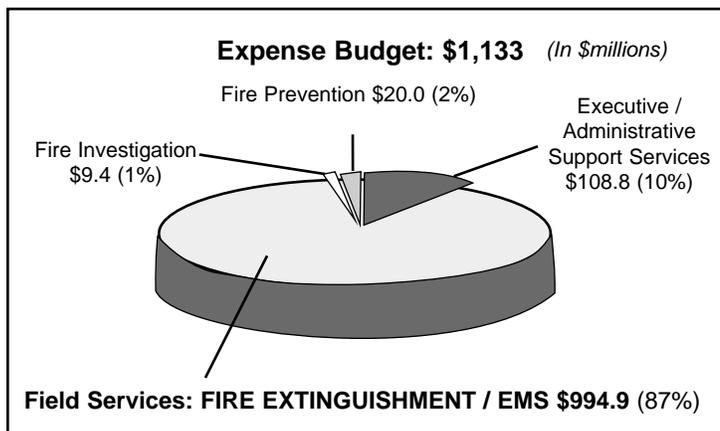
The Fiscal Year 2005 Budget (covering July 2004 through June 2005) was recently agreed to by the Mayor and City Council. Next year, FDNY will see a total of \$1.133 billion allocated for citywide Fire and EMS services, an increase of 1.3 % over last year; this is out of the total \$46.9 billion City budget.

As in previous years, the majority of funding will pay for personnel services (salaries, overtime) for the 15,424 employees of FDNY.

Next year, the Fire Department expects to increase revenues generated by 6.5 % over FY '04, bringing the total FY '05 Revenue Budget to \$186.5 Million. FDNY revenue is primarily generated by EMS ambulance transports (55%), Fire Prevention inspections, testing and liens (21%) with the remaining coming from various state funded training initiatives (24%).

Other highlights of next year's FDNY budget include over \$50 million allocated for Capital Program New Needs, including rehabilitations to fireboats, communication facilities, and firehouse renovations. Upgrades to several of the Department's computer systems are planned, including wiring upgrades at both Randall's Island and Ft. Totten for network/internet improvements.

NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT FISCAL 2005 ADOPTED BUDGET



CAPITAL NEW NEEDS (FISCAL YEAR 2005)

PROJECT	AMOUNT (\$Millions)
Fireboat Rehabs (<i>\$1.5 McKean, \$0.3 Fire Fighter, \$0.3 other</i>)	\$2.100
Firehouse Generators (50) (Post Black-out)	\$4.800
Design/Build Renovations (E-239, E-259/L128, E-293)	\$18.275
Fire Prevention Test Simulator (Refrigeration Certificate of Fitness Testing)	\$0.550
Firehouse Renovations (Electrical, Apparatus Doors)	\$1.945
HQ Computer/System Upgrade (Computers, Network, other)	\$0.256
Vehicle Lift (Fleet Services)	\$0.100
Communications/Dispatch (Renovations & Upgrades)	\$19.000
GIS Project (Geographic Info. Systems) (Computers, printers, programs)	\$0.553
Randall's Island Computers (Upgrades to network wiring)	\$0.785
Ft. Totten Computer (Upgrades to network wiring)	\$0.250
Radios (Replacement 600 portable radios)	\$2.700
Fire Prevention Routing System (Automated routing, handhelds)	\$0.337
SI Command Storage Facility (HazMat Equipment, etc.)	\$0.350
TOTAL	\$52,001,000

LETTERS TO THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Harlem Nocturne

Dear Commissioner Scoppetta:

I am writing in regards to the "Best Fire Ladder" in all of Manhattan, Ladder 23 located at 125th & Morningside & Amsterdam.

I am on the Community Board 9, as a member. I am on the Uniform Service Committee, which includes Fire, Police, Parks, and Sanitation. I am also on the Land Use Committee.

My underlying gratitude, praise and prayers are for Ladder 23. Last Saturday and Sunday, they answered 6 calls to 1430 Amsterdam Ave. I know, because I opened the door.

It was not a fire they were answering, but "elevator" calls. This is a 20-floor project, so these calls were beyond the call of duty. A 75-year old neighbor, wheelchair bound, and her home attendant were stuck on the ground floor. I called and spoke to Ladder 23, explaining the situation. And lo and behold, six firefighters showed up and carried the wheelchair, the 215-pound lady and at least \$200 worth of groceries up 6 floors, with smiles on their faces. They also carried a 95-year old Bangladesh grandmother with heart problems up to the 11th floor.

I had met the whole crew a couple of days after the 9/11 crisis. I had prompted the "Pioneer Supermarket" where the firemen shop, to provide water and juice. A few days later, I saw a banner in the store from the Department, thanking them.

I'm crazy about the 23rd Ladder, I appreciate all they do, and I think you as the commissioner would or should, pat them all on the back, shake their hands, and give them a raise (smile). They're the best that you have offered to my Manhattanville Houses. God Bless all of the Men at 125th St. and their families. They had more than they could chew, but they did it all with patience, kindness and fortitude. Always people complain, I am writing to exclaim! I am sending a copy to the press. What Nice Guys.

Respectfully
Mrs. Doreatha G. Chapman

Good Neighbor to the Rescue

To Whom It May Concern:

On Saturday, May 1st at 3 pm a fire erupted in a storage room of the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook above the kitchen causing a potential life threatening and property-destroying event. The dining rooms were full with guests, the banquet rooms full with partygoers, and the hotel full with overnight guests.

As the flames blazed through the roof, a passerby on his way to the Stony Brook Yacht Club for a party smelled smoke. A smell he is all too familiar with. He searched quickly and saw the flames coming through the roof. He immediately entered the rear of the building and with only the introduction of "I'm a New York City Fireman, I'm here to help," went to work.

He gets to the head of the line where my staff is fighting the fire with fire extinguishers and buckets of water forming a fire brigade. The sprinkler system goes off, the fire alarm sounded, the building is evacuated and our local fire heroes are on the way.

Through an unbelievable amount of good luck, no one is hurt, the damage is minimal and an immediate cleanup and restoration is underway by 5 P.M.

By 10 PM through the great effort of my staff and the services of the people noted below, it is clear that the Three Village Inn will be alive and well. I found out the name of the good Samaritan who came to help--NYC Firefighter Mark Doran.

I immediately called, his wife answered and I could hear the three young children in the background, "Daddy you have a phone call."

Mr. Doran gets on the telephone and I express my gratitude. I could hardly find the right words. I insist that he and his family be our guest at the Three Village Inn. He refuses. He wants nothing. He explains, "This is my job, I am a New York City Firefighter. I'm glad I could help. We love the Three Village Inn and it would be terrible if we would have lost her." No matter how hard I try, he will accept only thanks.

Lou Miaritis
Innkeeper, Three Village Inn

FDNY PASSES OLYMPIC TORCH



A.C. Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Fire Operations, served as an honorary escort during the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay. The Torch was passed through all five boroughs by 140 relay participants on Saturday, June 19th.

Chief Cassano ran the Brooklyn to Manhattan relay of the journey over the Brooklyn Bridge. In addition to Chief Cassano, FF Cosmo DiOrio, FF Jamie Efthimiades and EMT Todd Bilgore represented FDNY as actual Torch bearers.



VIEW
POINT
JULY 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE COMMISSIONER

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ViewPoint is published entirely in-house by
the FDNY Office of Public Information

FDNY
A 139 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT,
COURAGE & COMPASSION