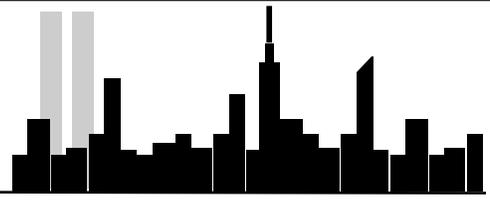


JUNE 2006

VIEW
P O I N T

9 metro Tech
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



EMS WEEK: WE STILL MAKE HOUSECALLS

The annual celebration honors paramedics and EMTs with events throughout New York

The FDNY EMS Command kicked off National EMS Week on May 15, publicly recognizing the life-saving work of its nearly 3,000 EMTs and paramedics. The annual event enables the FDNY not only to commend the great work of its Emergency Medical Service, but also to educate the public on how to save lives.

“The FDNY’s paramedics and EMTs have a job to do and they do it extraordinarily well,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “They set an example for all of us. And EMS Week is just one way we can all celebrate their outstanding work.”

To jump start the week’s festivities, Chief of EMS John Peruggia and EMS personnel rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Friday, May 12.

“All we want to do as paramedics and EMTs is make a difference,” said Chief Peruggia. “And the skilled, dedicated professionals of our EMS Command do just that.”

Among the week’s major events were...

Sixth Annual Paramedic/EMT Competition

Ten teams of three demonstrated their prowess in Advanced Life Support (ALS) or Basic Life Support (BLS) in the

Sixth Annual Paramedic/EMT Competition on May 16. The teams were each vying for the chance to participate in the Bill Schearer National EMS Competition in Florida this summer.

“Every team displayed great teamwork and expertise,” Chief of EMS John Peruggia said. “They all demonstrated the truly amazing work they do each day.”

The competition at FDNY Headquarters began with a written exam, testing their basic EMS knowledge and recall ability. And then, in the pouring rain, they were required to treat three victims of a paint explosion – including two student actors from the FDNY High School and one mannequin.

“We try to make the scenarios as diffi-



EMTs help a ‘victim’ of a paint explosion during the Sixth Annual Paramedic/EMT Competition on May 16.

cult as possible,” said EMS Division Chief Mark Stone. “They are true-to-life situations set up in difficult conditions. It becomes a real challenge for these teams.”

Fifteen-year veteran, EMT Emilio

(Continued on page 10)



Fire Medal Day Ceremony: As we were going to print with this issue of the View-Point, the Fire Department celebrated Medal Day on June 7. You can read more about the ceremony in the next issue of the newsletter.



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Salvatore Cassano Named Chief of Department; Patrick McNally New Chief of Operations

I recently announced that Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano has been appointed Chief of Department following the retirement of Chief Peter Hayden. Chief Cassano will take the reins on June 17, becoming the FDNY's 33rd Chief of Department, and Chief of Fire Prevention Patrick McNally will be sworn in as the next Chief of Operations.

During his exceptional 37-year career with the FDNY, Chief Hayden has served as an extraordinary example of dedication and courage. He was a pillar of strength after the tragic events of September 11 and a critical force in the rebuilding of the FDNY in the months following the disaster. I have always admired his compassion for our members, and I am honored to have had the chance to work with such a seasoned and skilled fire officer. He has always believed in this job and in the men and women who fill the ranks, and will be sorely missed.

However, I am confident that Chief Cassano will ably fill his shoes. He, too, is a committed leader who has shown great aptitude and fortitude as Chief of Operations. And after working closely with him for five years, I have witnessed his commitment to all Department members, and I have no doubt that he will continue to work diligently to support the best interests of all FDNY personnel.

Chief Cassano was appointed as a firefighter 36 years ago, and is widely recognized for the breadth and magnitude of his work. He has toiled his way through the Department holding every rank in every borough.

After September 11, 2001, he was promoted to Chief of Operations, replacing Chief Daniel Nigro, who was promoted to Chief of Department following the death of Chief Peter Ganci. Chief Cassano prospered in this position, tirelessly helping to rebuild the Department as he continued his day-to-day work on emergency operations. And due to his outstanding efforts and dedication, our members are better trained, equipped and prepared to respond more effectively to every type of emergency in New York City.

As Chief of Operations, Chief Cassano was never afraid to get his hands dirty. He was a presence at every major alarm since he took the post, including the 10-alarm in Greenpoint this May. He worked tirelessly as our citywide incident commander during the blackout of 2003, overseeing and coordinating the Department's response.

And, in five years as chief, he worked vigorously to expand Operations. He helped manage the redesign and development of the new Fire Department Operations Center, ensuring that our members would receive the most

advanced, state-of-the-art command system possible.

Yet no matter what he did, Chief Cassano always maintained firefighter safety as his top priority. For example, when he took the position, several hundred firefighters received advanced hazardous materials training. Today, several thousand are trained to the Technician or Specialist level – and we are about to give every EMT and paramedic increased HazMat training as well.

Similarly, Chief McNally has spent almost three decades of committed service to this Department and the safety of its members.

For the past four years, after being promoted to Deputy Assistant Chief, he has served as a Citywide Tour Commander, responding to major emergencies throughout the city and serving in the role of Incident Commander.

Chief McNally was also assigned as the Deputy Borough Commander in Queens. With this position, he oversaw major operations throughout the borough, ensured that all its members were properly trained and maintained safety standards.

He was promoted to assistant chief in charge of the Bureau of Fire Prevention in 2004, and has since served as the principal FDNY official involved in two major citywide initiatives in the aftermath of September 11 – he took a lead role in the creation of an Emergency Action Plan for building evacuations in non-fire emergencies as well as the Building and Fire Code Revision project.

Both programs enabled him to demonstrate his passion for the job and interest in safety. Since being appointed as a firefighter in 1977, Chief McNally has proven that he is dedicated to the job and its members, and I am certain he will continue to expand and develop all aspects of Operations when appointed as chief.

These men represent the best the Department has to offer. I have worked closely with both of them and I am sure that they will excel in their new roles. I want to wish Chief Hayden all the best in his retirement, and good luck to Chiefs Cassano and McNally. I am confident the Department will flourish under their leadership.



Commissioner's
— Message

Giving Thanks

FDNY Foundation raises \$1.2 million at annual Awards Dinner

It was a night to say “thank you.”

The FDNY Foundation honored Department supporters Daniel “Rusty” Staub, Joseph Coppotelli and James Lee, Jr.; as well as the FDNY Ceremonial Unit and Ridgewood’s PS 71; at the 2006 Fire Commissioner’s Humanitarian Awards Dinner on May 3.

The benefit raised more than \$1.2 million for the Foundation’s fire safety initiatives and other FDNY projects.

“The FDNY Foundation would not exist without the commitment of exceptional individuals,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “The honorees tonight have demonstrated their dedication to

strengthening the Department and our great City, and we want to say thank you for all you do.”

NewsChannel 4 Anchor Chuck Scarborough emceed the black-tie affair, which drew more than 900 guests to the event at the New York Hilton. The gala included music by the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums, a duet by Firefighters Regina Wilson and Daniel Walker, a silent auction and the sale of Fire Zone gear.

“The dinner is a great way for us to publicly acknowledge the generosity of those who work so hard on behalf of the Foundation and FDNY,” said Christine Patterson, executive director of the FDNY Founda-



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta congratulates the 2006 Fire Commissioner’s Humanitarian Award winners (L to R) Daniel “Rusty” Staub, Joseph Coppotelli and James Lee, Jr.

tion. “We feel a great sense of support and community when all of our friends come together to celebrate these amazing benefactors and their achievements.”

Honorees included former Mets outfielder Rusty Staub, who was recognized for his service as chairman of the board of the New York Police and Fire Widows’ and Children’s Fund. He helped create the charity in 1986, and since its inception, it has raised more than \$145 million for the families of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty.

Additionally, James Lee, vice chairman of JPMorgan Chase, and Joseph Coppotelli, vice chairman of Structure Tone Inc., were also acknowledged for their exceptional work as board members of the New York Police and Fire Widows’ and Children’s Fund.

“The three of us are just ordinary guys who happen to be in a position to raise money,” Coppotelli said.

Additionally, Commissioner Scoppetta presented the FDNY Service Recognition Award to the FDNY’s Ceremonial Unit, for maintaining the Department’s traditions at numerous public events.

Students and teachers from PS 71 were also recognized for promoting fire safety. Since 2002, the school has sent nearly 1,300 students, teachers and parents, to the FDNY Fire Zone in Rockefeller Center.

Organizers also said the gala was an opportunity for the FDNY Foundation to unveil its new moniker. Formerly known as the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund, the new name reflects the Foundation’s expanded mission to support more diverse FDNY programs.

And as the ceremony came to a close, honoree Rusty Staub noted, “A lot of people look at athletes as heroes, but when I think of heroes, I truly think of the members of the FDNY.”

Iron Matt

Critically injured Firefighter Matthew Long beats all odds and is released from the hospital

May 24 was a great day for the friends and family of one brave firefighter.

Firefighter Matthew Long was greeted with thunderous applause as he walked out of New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

“With each step I walk, I feel lucky,” he said as he greeted the hundreds of well-wishers.

Firefighter Long of Ladder 43, a Fitness Instructor at the Academy, was biking to work on December 22, 2005, when he was struck by a charter bus in Manhattan. He sustained life-threatening injuries from the accident and has since undergone 15 surgeries and months of rehabilitation.

As he made his way through the hospital doors and into a waiting convert-



FF Mathew Long is greeted with applause upon leaving New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

ible, many were seen shaking their heads saying “he’s amazing,” and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta lauded his “fortitude, courage and perseverance.”

His mother, Eileen Long, added “I’ve applauded him for many things in his life – for graduations and special awards – but this is the greatest thing I’ve ever applauded him for.”

Firefighter Long said he is still anticipating more than a year of physical therapy, but the tri-

athlete says he still plans to take part in the Ironman – a race he had been training for – in the foreseeable future.

“I just keep pushing,” he added. “My physical condition kept me alive, but my friends and family keep me going.”

A Faster Response

The new GPS-based AVL system will help drive down response times for Fire and EMS

The goal: Get to emergencies faster.

The solution: The new AVL system.

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg on April 19 to announce the implementation of an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system in all ambulances and fire apparatus by the end of the summer.

“Now FDNY personnel will be able to get to emergencies faster, which means more lives saved,” said Commissioner Scoppetta. “It won’t replace our dispatch operations – it will make dispatch more efficient.”

Using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology, the system maps the real-time movements of vehicles and apparatus, allowing for more accurate dispatching of FDNY resources.

A pilot program was launched in September 2005 with five fire companies on Staten Island, as well as 277 ambulances on Staten Island and in southern Brooklyn.

And already the system is proving effective, as EMS vehicles equipped with the technology demonstrated a 33 second drop in response times.

“In an emergency, every second counts,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “By providing our dispatchers with a real-time picture of where resources are located, we will get help where it’s needed more quickly and efficiently.”

By June 30, Commissioner Scoppetta said all ambulances responding to the 911 system will be equipped with this technology. And all fire apparatus will be fitted with the AVL system by the end of the summer.

“This will give our members the ability to do an even better job,” said Chief of EMS John Peruggia. “They will be able to make more informed decisions more quickly, saving valuable time and resources.”

Using 24 satellites orbiting the earth, the AVL system combines GPS technology with street-level mapping, to isolate the exact location and direction of any equipped vehicle. It measures latitude and

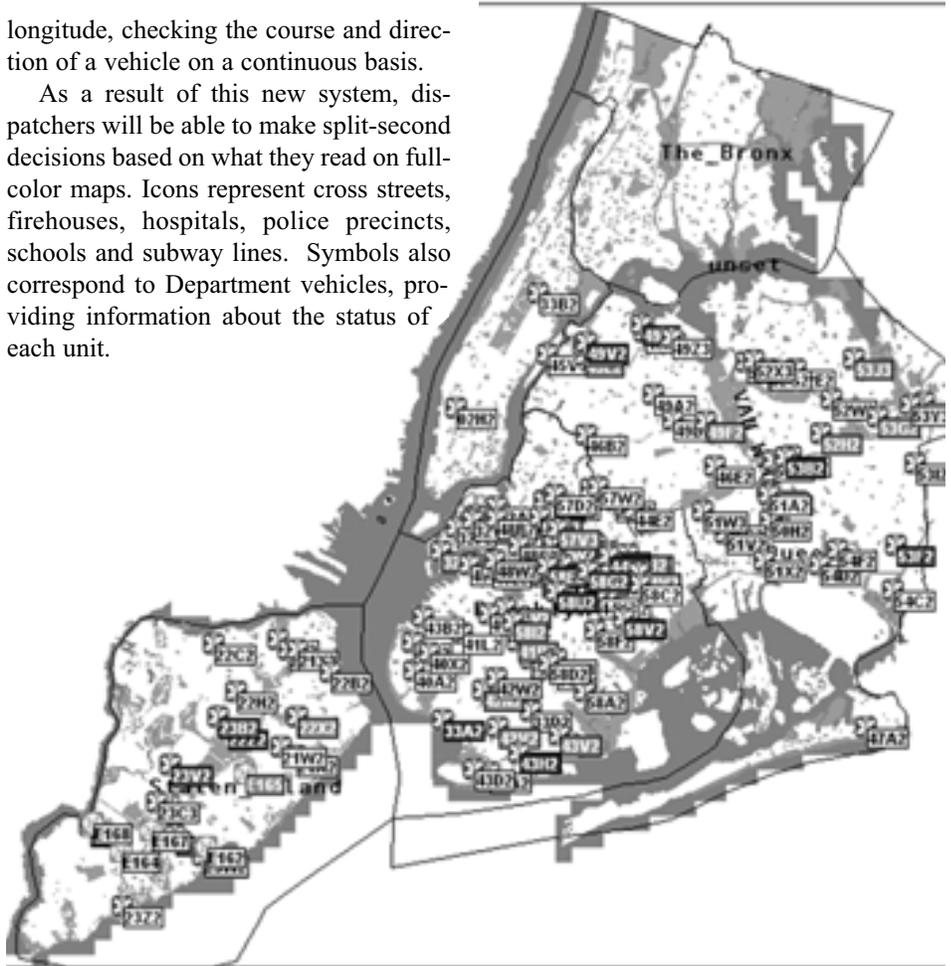


(Top) Mayor Michael Bloomberg joins Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Operations Sal Cassano and Chief of EMS John Peruggia in announcing the implementation of the new AVL system in all ambulances and fire apparatus.

(Bottom) A map of New York City demonstrates how the new AVL system will work, tracking all FDNY apparatus throughout the five boroughs. This technology will drive down response times and help dispatchers make split-second decisions.

longitude, checking the course and direction of a vehicle on a continuous basis.

As a result of this new system, dispatchers will be able to make split-second decisions based on what they read on full-color maps. Icons represent cross streets, firehouses, hospitals, police precincts, schools and subway lines. Symbols also correspond to Department vehicles, providing information about the status of each unit.



Best of the 'Best'

FDNY EMS team wins gold medal at international competition

This spring, four members of the FDNY's EMS Command left little doubt that they are among the City's Best.

Paramedic James Fallar, Paramedic Joseph Hudak and EMT Joseph Fortis, as well as their alternate, Paramedic Donald Hudson, won the gold medal at the 2006 International Journal of Emergency Medical Service (JEMS) Games on March 24. The competition was part of the EMS Today conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

"It's quite an honor," said Paramedic Fallar, the team captain. "It really challenged our communication skills. We won because we worked well together – quickly and efficiently."

They defeated 13 other teams from as far away as London, England, and Reno, Nevada, to take first prize honors.

"We loved being challenged like that," said EMT Fortis. "It was all about teamwork. And we just had a better day than everyone else."

For the preliminaries on March 21 and 22, the FDNY team drove themselves 171 miles to Baltimore. They competed side-by-side with the other teams, and Paramedic Hudak said, "We were blowing right past them. We really felt good about our performance."

Yet despite their confidence, the team drove home before even hearing the results. They had to return to the EMS Academy, where they are all assigned, to administer state exams to the new paramedic basic class.

But while they were at work at the Academy, they got a call saying they were one of only five teams that qualified for the final round of competition.

For the finals, teams were asked to respond to a mock crash of a MedEvac helicopter.

Paramedic Fallar said the FDNY team was so good, "the lead judge said they are going to change the scoring criteria next year. They couldn't keep up with us, we were moving around so fast."

Officials from JEMS said the team's "unique style, distinctive dialect and out-



The FDNY EMS team competes in the JEMS Games in Baltimore, Maryland. Their quick thinking and unique communication style won them first place in the competition.

going personalities" put them over the top.

And for their win, the team received prizes totaling more than \$6,000, which included training equipment such as flashlights, a life-pack trainer for ALS use, mannequins and a stethoscope that can perform an EKG. They also received a \$1,000 check, which they donated to the family of Paramedic Debbie Reeve, who recently died of lung cancer.

Yet Paramedic Fallar said another reward of the competition was the friendships they made with teams from around

the world.

He said that throughout the Games the paramedics and EMTs rooted for one another, and at the end of the competition, the team from Nevada (which won third prize) also decided to donate their \$250 winnings to the Reeve family in support of their FDNY friends.

"In this business it just doesn't end with patients, it includes colleagues as well," said Paramedic Fallar. "Even if we didn't win the competition, we would still consider ourselves winners because of the people we met."



Firefighter Regina Wilson teaches children about bunker gear during Take Your Children to Work Day at Headquarters on April 27. Children also got the chance to tour a fire truck and ambulance during the annual event.

A Brave New Career

Class of legacies, veterans graduate from the Rock

Tradition, honor and service were celebrated at Proby Graduation on April 19, as 139 new firefighters joined the FDNY.

"In the eyes of the world, you are now one of those brave people who rush in when everyone else is running out," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "Thank you all for making this extraordinary commitment to public service."

Family and friends filled the Brooklyn College auditorium, cheering loudly as the class marked the completion of their 12 weeks at the Fire Academy.

And among the graduates were four probies who lost family members in the line of duty.

Three of them lost loved ones on September 11, 2001, including Probationary Firefighter James Dowdell, son of Lieutenant Kevin Dowdell of Rescue 4; Probationary Firefighter Glenn Perry, son of Lieutenant Glenn Perry of Ladder 34; and Probationary Firefighter Thomas Riches, brother of Firefighter James Riches of Engine 4.

Also graduating was Probationary Firefighter Daniel Bellew, nephew of Lieutenant John Bellew of Ladder 27, who was killed in the Bronx fire of January 23, 2005.

"Members of the FDNY are as compassionate as they are brave," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "Thank you all for devoting your lives to protecting the citizens and property of New York City."

Nineteen of the Probationary Firefighters were also lauded for serving in the military, including eight combat veterans. One of these firefighters, Probationary Firefighter Kevin Lynch, was granted special leave to finish training at the Academy and returned to military service on May 21.

Class valedictorian Probationary Firefighter Casey Skudin said he and his classmates were overjoyed to be joining the ranks, adding: "Today we accept the responsibility and challenge that comes with being a New York City firefighter. I knew this job will never make me rich, but the honor and pride that comes with



(Top) Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Operations Sal Cassano join Probationary Firefighters (L to R) Daniel Bellew, Glenn Perry, James Dowdell and Thomas Riches at Proby Graduation on April 19. The firefighters each lost family members in the line of duty.

(Bottom) Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief Cassano congratulate the graduating firefighters who have served in the military.

the profession is priceless."

He was joined on stage by class salutatorian Probationary Firefighter Jonathan A. Kappel, and Physical Fitness Award winner Probationary Firefighter Dimitry Chinov.

Every member of the class was also lauded for donating blood in honor of Firefighter Matthew Long, a Fitness Instructor at the Fire Academy who was

injured last December while riding his bike to the Academy during the transit strike. They also raised \$500 to purchase equipment for the Fitness Unit.

And as the firefighters were sent off to their new assignments, Chief Cassano noted, "Firefighting isn't in your blood. It is in your heart. It doesn't get any better than this."

Remembering a Hero

EMS Lieutenant Brendan Pearson remembered at a plaque dedication ceremony in Rossville

He was remembered as a loving father, compassionate friend and inspirational mentor.

On April 24, EMS Lieutenant Brendan Pearson was honored at an emotional plaque dedication ceremony at EMS Station 23 in Rossville, Staten Island.

"Lieutenant Pearson was an extraordinary man who would do anything to help someone in need," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "And the world was a better place because of him."

A memorial wall honoring the fallen lieutenant was also unveiled during the ceremony. It included Lieutenant Pearson's likeness and an inscription bearing his badge number, 302.

"He was a cheerful and generous friend," said Chief of EMS John Perugia, a longtime friend and colleague of the lieutenant. "And our lives were richer after contact with this wonderful man."

Lieutenant Pearson, 50, passed away on April 23, 2005 due to complications from a ruptured hernia that occurred when he was checking and restocking the equipment in his command vehicle. He underwent emergency surgery, but died

due to surgical complications. He sustained a pulmonary embolism.

"None of us will ever forget Brendan and the sacrifice he made to this Department," said EMS Station 23 Captain William Olsen. "He will always be missed."

Friends and family remembered the lifelong Staten Islander as a calming force, someone who remained reassuring even after a particularly stressful day. He was also described as a skilled carpenter, whether it was rebuilding his own kitchen or a friend's deck.

And besides that, his wife, Laura noted, "He was the only person I know who liked going to work."

She was joined at the event by their 15-



A memorial wall is dedicated in honor of Lieutenant Brendan Pearson at EMS Station 23 in Staten Island. Lieutenant Pearson made the Supreme Sacrifice in April 2005.

year-old son, Matthew, as well as Lieutenant Pearson's sister and two nieces.

During his career he was assigned to EMS Stations 31 and 35 in Brooklyn, before being assigned to Station 23 when it opened in 2004.

"He loved this job and truly loved the Fire Department," she added.

A Golden Celebration

Engine Company 44 celebrates 125 years of service

In 1881, gas lamps lined city streets, firefighters used real horsepower to get to a fire and Engine Company 44 got its roots.

On April 13, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta joined members of Engine 44 to mark the company's 125th anniversary on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

"As the neighborhood has changed around you – you, too, have changed. You are always keeping step and prepared to protect life and property," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "Because you protect life, your legacy cannot be measured. Your legacy is the lives you have saved."

Attending the plaque dedication ceremony and festivities were active and retired members of the unit, elected offi-

cial, union leaders, family and friends.

The crowd packed the company's apparatus floor and was surrounded by its history. Photos of current and former members lined the firehouse walls, and firefighters gave tours of the company's kitchen, which was used to store hay for its apparatus horses until the early 20th century.

But although much of the building's architecture has remained as it was more than a century ago, its firefighters have grown a little busier. In 1884, Engine 44 made 123 runs, and in 2005, they recorded more than 3,700. And throughout the company's 125 years, four members received department medals and nine unit citations were awarded for excellence in service.

"As everything evolves, one constant

is the people who work in this firehouse," said Captain John Kitchenman. "They have the same dedication, commitment and drive as the firefighters who started here in 1881."

The ceremony also included a solemn tribute to its four members who have died in the line of duty, including Firefighter Michael J. Lyons who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001.

"It's overwhelming how much Engine 44 has been a part of the history of this Department," said Chief of Department Peter Hayden. "This is a celebration of 125 years of excellence and service to the community."

In the Borough:

Brooklyn Borough Update



*By Assistant Chief Edward Kilduff,
Brooklyn Borough Commander*

On the morning of Tuesday, May 2, Brooklyn saw its biggest fire since the Hotel St. George (1995), when 15 interconnected warehouse buildings on the Greenpoint waterfront burned in a ten-alarm fire. The buildings were three-to-five story mill-type construction and were part of the abandoned Greenpoint Terminal Market, built around 1900.

First arriving units at 0530 found heavy fire in several buildings at the foot of Noble Street and members began positioning for an exterior attack. As the fire boundaries became more defined, it was determined that the fire had spread via open fire doors and shafts to seven or eight buildings within the first hour.

Deputy Chief Michael Rowley, Division 11, and Deputy Assistant Chief Joseph Pfeifer, Command Chief, transmitted additional alarms to address the expanding operation. By 0800, the entire complex was now involved and six alarms were working in an attempt to contain the fire.

Units worked feverishly to keep ahead of the spreading fire and to protect the exposures and surrounding neighborhood from flying brands. All units were backed away in anticipation of a major collapse, which occurred at approximately 0930. Immediately after, eight tower ladders and three multiversals were redeployed



(Top left) Firefighters battle the 10-alarm fire in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. (Top right) The spectacular Greenpoint fire could be seen from parts of Manhattan. (Right) The Queen Mary 2 cruise liner approaches the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal in Red Hook on April 15.



and operated for the remainder of the day. Most visible fire was extinguished by evening, but it was obvious from the devastation that we were in for a prolonged operation. For more than a week, several tower ladders operated around the clock at the site to extinguish deep-seated fire in debris and inaccessible areas.

From start to finish, safety was the operative word at this very dangerous and complicated operation. On the day of the fire, 14 members suffered relatively minor injuries, but through excellent supervision and a can-do attitude of all members, this monumental operation was concluded without further mishap. I would like to thank every member and each unit who responded to this incident for their professionalism and dedication – it's not one we will soon forget.

Another, more joyous, event along the Brooklyn waterfront occurred in Red Hook on April 15, when the Queen Mary 2 was welcomed to Pier 12. The pier, located in Buttermilk channel between Governor's Island and Red Hook, was renovated by the NYC Economic Devel-

opment Corporation at a cost of \$52 million last year. It will serve as the New York City terminal for the Princess and Cunard Cruise Lines and is now the largest ship terminal in NYC.

Several Department units were on stand-by for the maiden visit and two marine units provided a water display for the ship's departure later in the afternoon. In addition to the QM 2, another Cunard liner, the Queen Elizabeth 2, will also call Red Hook its US home. And in its first year of operation, the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal will host approximately 40 ships.

Preparing for future events and for a variety of marine-related incidents at the Terminal will obviously present new challenges for the firefighters of Brooklyn.

Finally, congratulations to Firefighter Eileen Gregan, Battalion 33, for being honored by the FDNY Brooklyn-Queens Holy Name Society at this year's Communion Breakfast. And lastly, congratulations to this year's medal winners who admirably represent Brooklyn's Bravest.

Brooklyn

Food, Fun and the Spirit of Giving

EMS Station 39 kicks off EMS Week with a community event

By Lieutenant Anthony Durante

EMS Station 39 commenced EMS Week in a big way on May 15. The Station hosted an open house to celebrate and call attention to EMS Week through a spirit of community and generosity.

First, we invited 6th, 7th and 8th graders, 40 at a time, for CPR demonstrations. It was an opportunity to teach the children, as well as stimulate their curiosity and desire to learn more about saving lives. It was an opportunity that Station 39 took full advantage of.

We also hosted a blood drive, which gathered 33 pints for the New York Blood Center.

And the day concluded on a high note as we hosted a barbeque for the entire community, and the Commanding Officer distributed more than 175 New York Mets tickets to our young guests.

Yet what we remember best about the event were the faces that stopped by the station. The faces of the students – as they attentively watched and listened to the

CPR demonstrations, as they walked away from the grill (with three or four hotdogs to a plate), and as they chanted “Let’s Go Mets!” when their tickets were distributed.

In addition, the faces of Station 39’s EMTs and paramedics who were confounded by the number of kids who stopped by the Station and enthusiastically gave numerous CPR demonstrations.

And finally, the faces of our distinguished guests, from Metrotech to the Mayor’s Office, whose smiles proclaimed that something good was happening in East New York.

Thank you all for helping make EMS



Students in East New York learn CPR at EMS Station 39’s open house on May 15. The event helped kick off national EMS Week.

Week at Station 39 memorable and successful.

Mail Carrier Catch

Fire marshals nab postal worker accused of burning mail

It wasn’t your typical cuff.

On May 3, Fire Marshals Michael Nestor and Gregory Hopkins assisted in the arrest of 47-year-old Gregory Mewborn, a letter carrier accused of setting undelivered mail on fire in his home, some of which dated back four years.

“It’s a case where the city’s Bureau of Fire Investigation worked closely with the Federal authorities, and with jurisdiction swiftly and efficiently followed up on a tip and brought our enforcement powers to bear,” said Acting Assistant Chief Robert Byrnes of the Citywide Command.

The case unraveled shortly after firefighters responded to a call for a smoke

condition at 4120 Clarendon Road, an unoccupied building in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

After gaining entry, firefighters from Engine 310 and Ladder 174 discovered numerous bags of First-Class mail, including everything from bills to invitations. Some of the letters had already been burned, and lighter fluid was found near the furnace in the basement.

Fire Marshals Nestor and Hopkins, from the Citywide Command, were immediately notified.

“We found multiple bags of mail tied up in duffel bags in the basement,” Fire Marshal Nestor said. “It looked like he had been accumulating it for a long, long time.”

After numerous interviews with neighborhood residents, the fire marshals identified Mewborn in connection to the fire.

The US Postal Inspector immediately located the man along his mail route and instructed him to return home, where he was promptly arrested.

The apartment building where Mewborn lived had been boarded up after a fire in April, caused by a car accident. And fire marshals believe he may have been trying to burn the mail before insurance inspectors toured his apartment to survey the damage from the previous fire.

He was charged with theft of mail, a federal offense punishable by up to five years in prison.

Gaining the Upper Hand

Counterterrorism Symposium takes FDNY members into the minds of suicide terrorists

How do we mitigate the damage caused by a suicide attack on New York City?

There may be no good answer, but on March 28, current and past members of the FDNY/West Point Combating Terrorism Leadership course gathered to discuss the issue at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in Manhattan.

“As first responders, it is critical that FDNY members consider and examine the effects of a suicide attack,” said Chief of Department Peter Hayden. “We need to all be prepared so we will know how to respond in the case of a real strike.”

Organized by the FDNY Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness, the symposium included a presentation by Dr. Bruce Hoffman, a corporate chair in Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency at the RAND Corporation, as well as a

screening of the History Channel documentary “Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber.”

Members of the NYPD, OEM, Port Authority Police Department, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, FBI, Combating Terrorism Center at West Point and Department of Homeland Security were also in attendance.

Dr. Hoffman described various techniques suicide bombers use to hinder emergency responders, and stressed that in order to combat these attacks, all emergency workers must change their mindset and approach.

“The fire department, medical service and law enforcement must synchronize their response,” he said on several occasions during his presentation.

Deputy Assistant Chief Joseph Pfeifer, Chief of Counterterrorism and Emer-

gency Preparedness, reiterated Dr. Hoffman’s theme of synchronizing response efforts, adding, “the FDNY and NYPD will depend heavily on each other in order to execute their respective core missions. Neither agency will be able to effectively handle the entire situation on its own.”

Many symposium attendees said the insight on the rationale and methodology of suicide attackers was both educational and alarming from an emergency response perspective. They also added that the detailed explanations of the materials used to construct the improvised explosive devices typically used by suicide attackers will better enable FDNY personnel to identify suspicious items they may observe during normal response to operations or building inspections.

EMS WEEK

(Continued from page 1)

Martinez of Station 10 said the scenarios were realistic, with patient conditions rapidly deteriorating and EMS personnel required to react with extreme haste.

Yet Paramedic Valerie Martinez, also of Station 10, added that the competition “is also a morale booster. It sharpens our skills and it’s a lot of fun.”

This year’s ALS trophy went to the team from the EMS Bureau of Training. Paramedics James Fallar, Joseph Hudak and Donald Hudson garnered the win, just weeks after snagging the gold in the JEMS Games in Baltimore (see story on page 5).

For BLS, it was the team from Station 43 in Coney Island that took the win, including EMTs Andrew DeSantis, Matthew Giacalone and Christopher Russo. And EMT DeSantis had another reason to smile – he received the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal the following morning at EMS Medal Day.

Members from Station 20 took second place honors in the ALS competition, with the team from Station 10 grabbing third. And both first and second place awards for BLS also went to teams from



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Operations Sal Cassano and Chief of EMS John Peruggia congratulate the 2006 EMS Medal Day winners.

Station 10.

The winning teams will go to Florida next month for the national competition.

EMS Medal Day

Commissioner Scoppetta joined members of the EMS Command on May 17 to honor the best of the Best at EMS Medal Day.

The event at FDNY Headquarters paid tribute to 15 paramedics, EMTs and EMS officers who went above and beyond the call of duty in 2005, providing superior patient care under difficult circumstances.

“Today I am proud to honor these

members of the EMS Command, and I salute them for their commitment and dedication to both their profession and the patients they serve,” Commissioner Scoppetta said.

This year’s prestigious Christopher J. Prescott Medal was awarded to EMT Stephen Smith, a seven-year veteran, for rescuing two elderly citizens from a fiery, smoke-filled basement before firefighters arrived on the scene in Queens.

“There were people that needed help

(Continued on page 12)

From the Rock to the Hill

FDNY members perform an anti-terrorism exercise for congressmen

Politicians often discuss how first responders would take action in the event of a chemical attack on the subway.

But on April 18, they got to witness it first hand.

Dozens of FDNY members performed a drill at the Fire Academy simulating a Sarin nerve agent chemical attack in the subway system for Congressmen Peter King (R-NY), chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, and Bennie Thompson (D-MS), a ranking Committee member.

“We are demonstrating the release of a chemical agent as if it were the real thing,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “We want the members of the Homeland Security Committee to understand the complex and sophisticated method of our members’ response to such an incident.”

As soon as the drill started, firefighters dressed in bright yellow and green Haz-Mat suits and began leading ambulatory victims to a decontamination area. They then ran inside the subway cars to remove unconscious passengers and bring them to a decontamination tent managed by highly trained EMS members. The EMTs and paramedics worked in an assembly line, ensuring that each victim was treated quickly.

Both Congressmen said they were amazed by what they saw.

“What I see here is one of the best systems I have seen anywhere,” said Congressman Thompson. “It shows me how prepared all members of the FDNY really are.”

Congressman King agreed: “We know that if something should happen, we can trust that the FDNY will be ready - more ready now than they have ever been before.”



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta describes the drill firefighters and EMS personnel performed for two members of the Committee on Homeland Security. Among those in attendance were (L to R) Deputy Commissioner Don Shacknai, First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers, Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Deputy Assistant Chief John Norman, Battalion Chief Robert Ingram, Chief of Operations Sal Cassano and Congressman Peter King (R-NY).



EMS WEEK

(Continued from page 10)

and I did what I had to do to help them," EMT Smith said. "It's all part of the job."

Lieutenant Barry Travis, and Paramedics Carlos Lizcano and Gary S. Smiley each received this year's Tracy Allen-Lee Medal for extricating and treating a 63-year-old woman at the scene of a fire in Brooklyn.

Additionally, the Chief James Scullion Medal was awarded to EMT Robert Brzezinski for entering a fire building to evacuate residents in the South Bronx.

EMT Andrew J. DeSantis and Merisa Simons were jointly awarded the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal for assisting at a plane crash in Coney Island; and quick thinking at the scene of a tanker truck accident in the Bronx won EMT Randy Holland the Jack Pintchik Medal.

"EMTs and paramedics routinely go beyond the call of duty when making house calls and serving on health care's front lines," Chief Peruggia said. "Congratulations to each of you."

Captains Frank C. D'Amato, Anthony V. Napoli and Philip Chindelas; Lieutenants Michael Silver and Patrick Walker; and EMT William Rich also received the Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation for updating the Department's radio operations last year.

And the Office of Medical Affairs Commendation was awarded posthumously to Dr. John E. Sheridan, an EMS Telemetry Control Physician who provided direct radio or telephone consultation to EMTs and paramedics in the field. His son, Jay, accepted the award on his behalf.

Commissioner Scoppetta also announced that the award would be renamed the Dr. John E. Sheridan Commendation, in his honor.

"In a day and age when young people are looking for role models, they don't have to look any further than their own backyards," said Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano. "All of you are wonderful examples of true heroes."

12th Annual

Second Chance Brunch

The culmination of EMS Week was the 12th Annual Second Chance Brunch on May 18. The event provided 16 victims of cardiac arrest and their

families the opportunity to personally thank the first responders who saved their lives.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined with Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta for the emotional reunions at the Chase Metrotech Cafe in Brooklyn.

"They have a job to do and they do it extraordinarily well, as many of you here can attest," Commissioner Scoppetta said.

Mayor Bloomberg agreed, adding, "Chance favors the prepared mind -- and nobody is more prepared than the FDNY's EMTs, paramedics and EMS officers."

One of the youngest survivors celebrated at the event was 2-year-old Isiah Hollingsworth. The young boy nearly drowned in his family's swimming pool last summer, before being resuscitated by EMTs James Byrne and Philip Derosa, as well as Paramedics Howard Henry and Raymond Bartolomey.

At the ceremony, he waved excitedly to the crowd and joked with the Mayor and the Commissioner, as his mother appreciatively hugged the boy's rescuers.

"It's such an honor to be able to say thanks," she said.

Also among the survivors was a teenage dancer, who collapsed at Grand Central Terminal and was rescued by Paramedics Benjamin Harris and Ashley Alejo. Now, she said, she feels it is her duty to speak out about the prevention and early detection of heart disease.

"The fact that all of you are here today is an inspiration to all of us," said FDNY's Chief Medical Officer for the Office of Medical Affairs Dr. David Prezant. "Thank you all for reminding us about the importance of the work we do each day."

The annual event also allows the Department to stress the importance of CPR training. Since 2005, the FDNY has provided training to more than 4,000 civilians as part of an awareness campaign.

Among those who took part in the CPR classes was John DeForest, another



At the 12th Annual Second Chance Brunch, 2-year-old Isiah Hollingsworth and his parents thank the EMTs and paramedics that saved his life last summer.

survivor honored at the brunch. He said he was interested in taking the class after he went into cardiac arrest last June, while dancing at Tavern on the Green. EMTs, paramedics and firefighters rescued him that evening, and now, he says, he wants to be ready to help someone else.

"I'm lucky to have a second chance at life," he said. "Thank you all so much."



VIEW

POINT

JUNE 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF NEW YORK**

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A 141 YEAR HISTORY

OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION