

PREPARED AND PROTECTED

Fourth annual BIOPOD exercise tests FDNY's response to a biological attack

It's likely that if you were working on the evening of November 9 or at Headquarters on November 17, you got a flu vaccine during the fourth annual BIOPOD exercise.

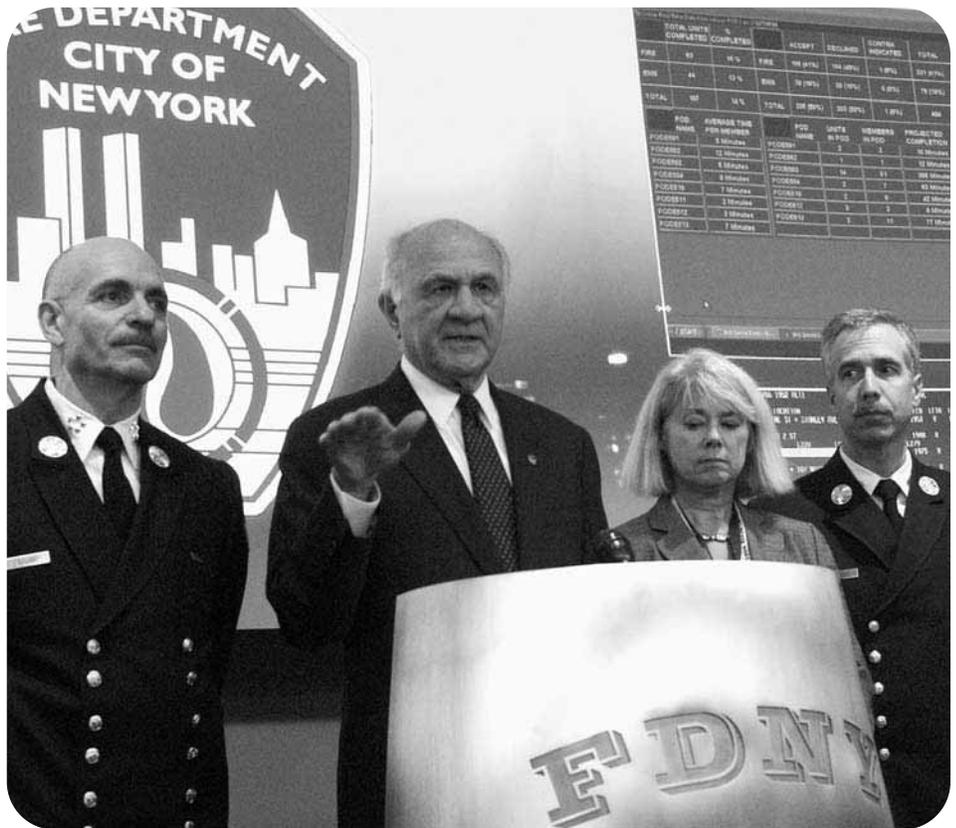
Yet the drill was more than just about getting a shot – it was about the Department's preparedness plan and the ability to protect all members and their families in the case of a pandemic or a biological or chemical attack.

"This is a simulation of a terrorist strike against the city," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "And we are inoculating our firefighters and EMS personnel with the flu vaccine that simulates the medication we would be using in the event of a real event."

All firefighters on the 6x9 tour and EMS members on Tours 1 and 2 participated in the exercise that mimicked the response to a release of a biological agent that could be easily passed through human contact.

Uniformed members were offered the vaccine at one of four stationary points of distribution (PODs) or four mobile PODs located throughout the five boroughs.

A few days later, civilians were offered the immunization at Headquarters, testing the POD function in a high-rise setting.



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta is joined by (L to R) Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kerry Kelly and Deputy Assistant Chief of Counterterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Joseph Pfeifer at a press conference discussing BIOPOD 2006.

More than 3,000 uniformed members and 426 civilians participated in this year's drill, which was organized by the Bureau of Health Services (BHS) and the Bureau of Operations.

"This sort of exercise will enable us to be responsible and ready in case of a biological event," said the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kerry Kelly. "It's an opportunity for us to practice making sure that we are ready for a real attack, and in this case, we're also giving people a need-

ed flu vaccination."

BIOPOD also required the support of the Incident Management Teams, dispatchers, nurses and fire marshals, who ensured continuity of operations and safety during the exercise.

A new computer system designed by FDNY members was also used to ensure safety by tracking how quickly the inoculations were given and who received

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Recruitment Exceeds Goals

The filing period for the New York City firefighter exam ended on Nov. 3, capping the largest and most successful recruitment campaign in the Department's 142-year history. More than 29,000 eager candidates have filed their applications – exceeding the totals for each of the past two exams in 2002 and 1999.

This year's recruitment drive was specifically designed to attract a diverse group of candidates and find the most qualified recruits available. By reaching out to citizens and to communities who were unaware – and in some cases, misinformed — about the benefits of becoming a New York City firefighter, we have ensured that future classes at the Fire Academy will be the best and brightest. I am confident these candidates will continue the Department's storied traditions all of us cherish.

The FDNY Recruitment and Diversity Unit organized an unprecedented, 10-month campaign, employing 350 firefighters and EMS members of diverse backgrounds to recruit candidates throughout the city. Our recruiters attended more than 2,600 community events and set up a phone bank in Queens to offer guidance and support to potential applicants. Never before have we been able to devote such resources to recruitment, and I am enormously proud of our efforts and the response we received.

As a result of this outstanding work, we have received nearly 6,000 applications more than we did four years ago. More than forty percent received are from minority applicants, a 17 percent increase from the 2002 exam. These impressive results prove that the job of a FDNY firefighter is open to everyone and that our recruiting efforts successfully attracted a diverse group of dedicated applicants. Candidates have taken the first step and now must remain dedicated throughout the process.

But our mission is not over. We must ensure our workforce reflects the people we serve in order to better protect the security of the City and the bright future of the greatest fire department in the world. Every day, firefighters risk their lives to protect the community from danger. But they also are very much a part of the neighborhoods they are

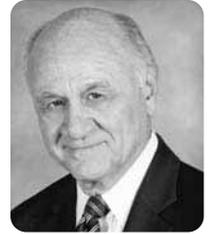
sworn to protect. Firefighters offer support to their neighbors in need and serve as role models to younger generations. Every citizen must see themselves in us, and us in them.

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services has implemented some changes to the firefighter exam this year. The written portion of the exam will be offered on January 20, 2007. Candidates who take the multiple-choice test will be given a numerical score and their ranking on the eligible list will be generated from that score. Candidates will then be called to take the physical exam based on their ranking.

The physical exam requires recruits to pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), a nationally recognized test originally based on FDNY standards. Candidates must successfully complete all eight tasks shortly before entering the Fire Academy – unlike in years past when candidates could fail two tasks and still pass the test. The physical exam will be graded pass/fail. Recruits also will spend 10 additional weeks at the academy for a total of 23 weeks of training. Our senior chiefs agree this new format is more challenging than ever before and will help to better ensure these new candidates are more physically fit when they join the ranks of the Bravest.

I have told many of our candidates that you have to want this job to get this job. It is their individual responsibility to study hard, train long hours and prepare themselves for probably the most competitive civil service exam in the City.

The unbridled courage and ultimate sacrifice of our members have made this Department the worldwide standard in fire and rescue operations. We are committed to maintaining that standard.



Commissioner's
— Message

A New Home

Ribbon cut on EMS Station 32 in Brooklyn

It could be called Extreme Makeover – EMS edition.

In 15 months, a run-down warehouse in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn was converted into EMS Station 32, the largest freestanding EMS facility built since the FDNY-EMS merger in 1996.

And as the ribbon was cut on the new facility, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta welcomed paramedics and EMTs to their new home which can house up to 100 members.

“No calling is more important than saving lives,” Mayor Bloomberg said. “Now with the opening of EMS Station 32, the men and women who will be serving here will be better able to carry out that mission.”

The 8,000 square foot, \$4.7 million station is now home to crews trained in Basic Life Support and in Advanced Life Support. It also serves as a Resource Coordination Center that will serve as a backup for the Fire Department’s Operation Center.

It also has a separate decontamination area for disinfecting clothing and medical supplies, a 2,500-gallon underground fuel tank to feed an emergency generator and enough space to accommodate six ambu-



(L to R) Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Department of Design and Construction Commissioner Robert Burney, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Chief of EMS John Peruggia and EMS Captain Denise Werner cut the ceremonial ribbon opening EMS Station 32 in Brooklyn.

lances.

“The most important thing about this station is that it will allow EMS personnel to get to emergencies faster,” said Commissioner Scoppetta.

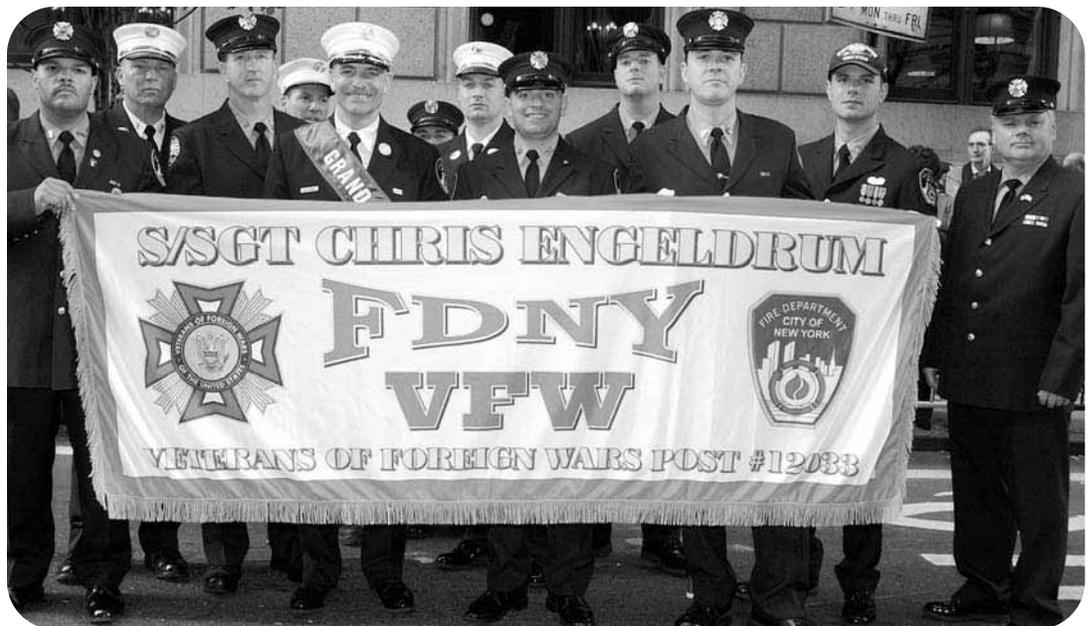
Located at 347 Bond Street, the station serves the communities of Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights, which previously had been serviced by EMS Station 31 at Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

“I am confident that Captain Denise

Werner and her staff of officers, paramedics and EMTs are pleased to be moving into a new home, one that will facilitate their ability to provide unparalleled, outstanding service to their neighbors,” said Chief of EMS Command John Peruggia. (See Captain Werner’s profile on page 11.)

With the addition of Station 32, the Department now operates 30 EMS stations and two outposts throughout the five boroughs.

Honoring the Other Bravest: Chief of Department and military veteran Salvatore Cassano served as Grand Marshal for the 77th Annual Veteran’s Day Parade in Manhattan on November 11. Among the marchers were the FDNY’s Veterans of Foreign Wars, who walked in memory of Firefighter Christian Engeldrum, a Sergeant in the Army National Guard who was killed in Iraq during combat in November 2004.



A Gift in the Mail

Tuckahoe post office renamed to honor FM Ronald Bucca

His name has been placed on the memorial wall at Headquarters, the Fallen Firefighters Monument in Albany and the Fallen Police Officer's Memorial in Washington DC.

But on October 23, Fire Marshal Ronald "Ronnie" Bucca, who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001, received a unique tribute – the post office in his hometown of Tuckahoe, NY was renamed in his honor.

"The post office is the center of community life," said Chief Fire Marshal Louis Garcia. "The dedication of this building is bringing him home. It's reminding the people of Tuckahoe that on 9/11 they lost one of their own."

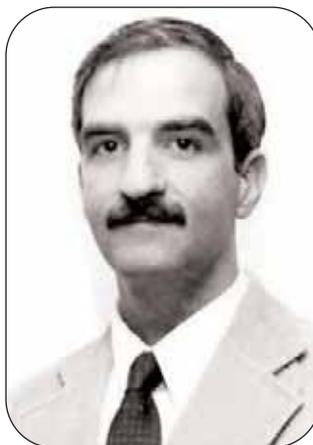
Fire Marshal Bucca's wife Eve, son Ronnie Jr., daughter Jessica, mother Astrid, and brothers Alfred and Robert were among those attending the renaming ceremony.

Also in attendance was the Fire Marshal's 86-year-old ill father, Joseph Bucca, who rode to the ceremony in an

ambulance straight from the hospital.

"For more than two decades, Ronnie Bucca dedicated his life to protecting the people of New York," said Congresswoman Nita Lowey, who introduced legislation to rename the post office. "This building will now permanently bear his name and be a reminder of his bravery and courage for his family, friends and community."

Several hundred friends, colleagues and local leaders were also on hand at the ceremony, including Tuckahoe Mayor Michael J. Martino, Postmaster Robert Cobelli, FDNY fire marshals and firefighters, and firefighters and police officers from Tuckahoe.



Fire Marshal Ronald Bucca

Fire Marshal Bucca was a 23-year veteran of the Department, who served in Engine 95, Ladder 2 and Rescue 1 before being promoted to fire marshal in 1992.

He also served in the military, including Special Forces Green Beret and the 101st Airborne Division. His dedicated service inspired the 800th Military Police Brigade to name one of its holding areas in Southern Iraq 'Camp Bucca' in his honor.

Many noted that the post office renaming had special meaning to Fire Marshal Bucca's wife Eve, who continually sends packages to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan from the mail center.

"I am happy that we were able to appropriately honor Ron Bucca, a quiet hero and gentleman who accomplished more in one lifetime than any one person would ever be expected to accomplish," Mayor Martino said.

Rising to the Top

Assistant Chief Fire Marshal among 31 FDNY members promoted

He has investigated incendiary fires for much of his 25-year career.

But rather than slowing down, Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes is gearing up for new challenges after his promotion on November 9.

He was among 31 promotions during a ceremony at the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island.

"It's a great day," Chief Byrnes said. "I have a great responsibility in front of me, but I look forward to helping to shape the future of the Bureau and fulfill its mission."

An auditorium packed with family and friends echoed as five battalion chiefs, six captains, three supervising fire marshals, 15 lieutenants and one provisional marine engineer were promoted.

"We are rebuilding the experience we



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief Fire Marshal Louis Garcia congratulate Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes at promotions.

have lost since September 11," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "Without you, our newest leaders, all our improvements will be meaningless."

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano added, "You are all our future leaders and we look forward to you helping us move the Department forward."

A Special Thank You

DART members honored by the American Red Cross of Greater NY

In the past 10 years they have responded to hurricanes in the Caribbean, tornados in Oklahoma and several New York City blizzards.

And on October 26, more than 100 active and retired FDNY members of the American Red Cross' Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) came together once again ... to receive a big thank you.

"All the firefighters being honored here tonight are a tremendous asset to the Department, the city and this country," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "They represent the best of the best."

The event, held at the American Red Cross of Greater New York's (ARC/GNY) new headquarters in Manhattan, honored FDNY members who have served as DART volunteers at both local and national emergencies in the past decade.

They have provided disaster relief to victims of numerous large-scale emergencies – handing out food and supplies, performing damage assessments and helping to establish recovery needs.

The FDNY volunteers were applauded for collectively taking part in 69 relief operations in 17 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and St. Croix. In total, they have participated in 420 different deployments,



Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano congratulates (L to R) Firefighters Robert Conte, Jose Ruiz, Ronaldo Robledo and Miguel Moreno for being honored at the American Red Cross of Greater New York's DART Recognition Awards. The firefighters are all 10-year veterans of the program that provides relief to victims of large-scale disasters.

including 59 to Baton Rouge, Montgomery and Gulfport, Louisiana for the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and 37 to

the World Trade Center in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

"I am astonished by your ability to give and give when needed," said Teresa Bischoff, CEO of the ARC/GNY. "I am humbled to see all the ways you serve the community."

The ceremony also included a tribute to the five DART members who made the Supreme Sacrifice on September 11, 2001.

The DART program began in November 1989, after Hurricane Hugo struck Puerto Rico. The American Red Cross was in need of Spanish-speaking volunteers who could work in the devastated hillsides and they approached the FDNY for assistance.

Today more than 150 FDNY members serve as volunteers on the team.

Firefighters who would like to join DART, should call (212) 875-2267 for more information.

Giving Season:

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano joined the Stephen Siller 'Let Us Do Good' Children's Foundation and the 9/11 Families for Katrina Relief at the Staten Island 9/11 Memorial on November 9 to kick off a toy drive to benefit the children affected by Hurricane Katrina. Firehouses throughout the five boroughs collected new, unwrapped toys for the more than 8,000 girls and boys whose families continue to struggle in the aftermath of the disaster. In the first week of December, 24 active and retired firefighters will drive the toys to the Gulf states and assist in the distribution.



Remembering a Tragedy

Hundreds gather to mark the 40th anniversary of the 23rd Street fire

"I know we all died a little in there."

Chief of Department John O'Hagen said those words in 1966 to a crowd of hundreds of firefighters gathered in front of Madison Square Park – just across the street from where the devastating 23rd Street fire took the lives of 12 firefighters the day before.

Forty years later, on October 17, hundreds of FDNY members, family and friends gathered in the same location to honor the lives of those brave firefighters during a memorial wreath laying ceremony.

"The fire that raged on the night of October 17, 1966 took the lives not only of 12 members of this Department – it also took 12 fathers from their children, 12 husbands from their loving wives and 12 sons from their proud parents," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Forty years on, I want to underline how the legacy of those lost firefighters lives on today."

The five-alarm blaze was the single most devastating loss of firefighters' lives before 9/11 and is remembered as one of the most tragic events in the 142-year history of the Department.

The fire occurred late at night inside the Wonder Drug store near the corner of 23rd Street and Broadway. The fire originated in a storage area, which was concealed by a four-inch thick cinderblock wall that was illegally constructed by the building's

previous owner.

Twelve members of every rank, from a probationary firefighter to a Deputy Chief, made the Supreme Sacrifice when flames burned away support beams in the basement and they fell through the floor or were overcome by an explosion of flames.

Retired Captain Manuel Fernandez was the chauffeur of Engine 18 on that tragic day and was the only survivor among the company's six responding members.

During the ceremony he recalled the fear he felt on the night of the fire as well as the sadness he felt prior to the 35th anniversary of the blaze in 2001, when he was organizing a remembrance ceremony with Chief of Department Peter Ganci.

Just days before Chief Ganci was killed in the attacks of 9/11, he told Captain Fernandez, "I will forever remember the guys who made the Supreme Sacrifice in that fire. They were true heroes."

Captain Fernandez echoed the Chief's sentiments, noting, "These men did their job that night and they did it well. We will always remember them and their families for the sacrifice they made. This is the greatest job in the world and we have wonderful men and women in this Department."

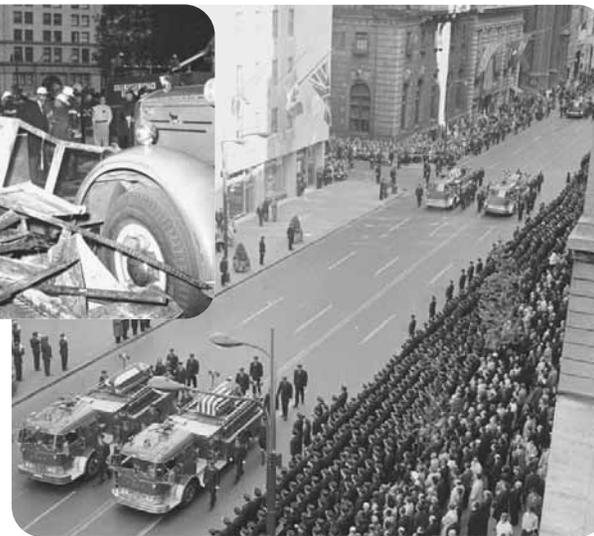


Firefighters hang a wreath above the 23rd Street Fire Memorial, honoring the 40th anniversary of the tragic fire.

The wreckage of the tragic fire on 23rd Street and Broadway in Manhattan. (Right)



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano (center) lead the commemoration.



Thousands lined Fifth Avenue in Manhattan to pay tribute to the 12 firefighters lost at the 23rd Street Fire in 1966.



Firefighters search the wreckage of the 23rd Street fire that occurred on October 17, 1966.

Members Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice in the 23rd Street Fire

- Deputy Chief Thomas A. Reilly,
Division 3
- Battalion Chief Walter J. Higgins,
Battalion 7
- Lieutenant John J. Finley,
Ladder 7
- Lieutenant Joseph Priore,
Engine 18
- Firefighter John G. Berry,
Ladder 7
- Firefighter James V. Galanaugh,
Engine 18
- Firefighter Rudolph F. Kaminsky,
Ladder 7
- Firefighter Joseph Kelly,
Engine 18
- Firefighter Carl Lee,
Ladder 7
- Firefighter William F. McCarron,
Division 3
- Firefighter Daniel L. Rey,
Engine 18
- Firefighter Bernard A. Tepper,
Engine 18

Keeping New York Fire Safe

FDNY celebrates Fire Prevention Week with events throughout New York

It was nothing short of a week-long pep rally.

In October, the FDNY celebrated Fire Prevention Week with events and programs at community centers, shopping malls and hospitals in every borough.

Hosted by the Office of Fire Safety Education, the week is just one of the many ways the bureau works to get fire prevention on the minds of all New Yorkers.

Fire Prevention Week Kickoff at FDNY High School

Fire Prevention Week started with a bang on October 6 as Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta visited the FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety to teach students about fire prevention and encourage them to consider careers as emergency responders.

"We're proud of this school," Commissioner Scoppetta said. "You are a terrific group of cadets now, who will be a credit to your home and your neighborhood."

Students learned about fire safety with

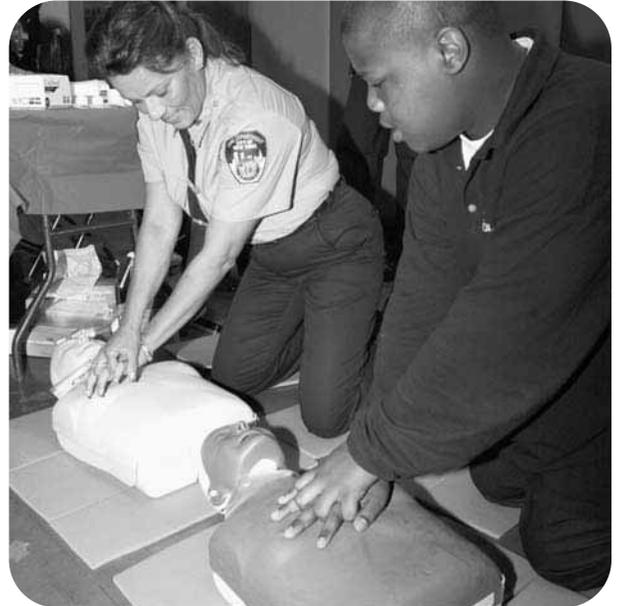
hands-on exhibits and literature distributed throughout the school's gymnasium.

"I think it's great how firefighters and EMTs help people out, not just out of fires, but in everyday life," said Quameh Harper, 15.

At the event, Commissioner Scoppetta also announced that the school is offering an EMT training program this year that enables seniors who pass the required state boards to earn an EMT certification along with their high school diploma.

Fourteen-year-old freshman Jamila John said she was interested in the program, saying excitedly, "I've always wanted to be an EMT."

And when fellow student Laura Harris, 15, was asked what she thinks it takes to become a first responder, she said: "It



A student at the FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety learns how to give CPR from EMT Ellen Castro at the start of Fire Prevention Week.

takes personality, dedication, but most of all, it takes heart."

Fire Safety Demonstrations

Fire safety messages were spread to an even wider audience on October 10, as 60 second-graders from Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy – and even more tourists – gathered at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan to learn about fire prevention.

"Let's work as a team and keep everyone fire safe," Commissioner Scoppetta told the crowd.

At one of the week's largest fire safety activities, the Commissioner stressed the importance of smoke detectors and encouraged the children to find and report fire hazards in their homes, school and neighborhoods.

Then, donning red plastic fire helmets, the youngsters raised their right hands and took a Junior Fire Chief Pledge administered by Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Lunch time crowds also watched as FDNY members performed rope slides and a vehicle extrication.



Students from the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy learned about fire safety and took the Junior Fire Chief Pledge during Fire Prevention Week activities in Rockefeller Center.

The Eyes of the City

Bureau of Fire Prevention graduates 10 and promotes 12 during Fire Prevention Week

They work behind the scenes to make the city a safer place.

Yet 10 new Fire Protection Inspectors and 12 supervisors had the opportunity to stand in the spotlight on October 13, for a combined graduation/promotion ceremony at FDNY Headquarters.

"You provide silent and critical support to this department," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "We thank you – and the city thanks you – for all the hard work you do each day."

The ceremony also was an opportunity for 23 inspectors to receive awards for outstanding service in 2006.

"Through your hard work, through your knowledge and through your skills many fires will be prevented, many firefighter and civilian lives will be saved," said Chief of Department Salvatore Casano.

Working in the Bureau of Fire Prevention, inspectors check commercial and public buildings for fire hazards by examining, for example, sprinklers and range hoods.



Chief of Fire Prevention Howard Hill congratulates the 10 new Fire Protection Inspectors after their graduation ceremony at Headquarters.

All inspectors make sure all necessary fire code permits are in place and can issue summonses for violations. In fiscal year 2006, inspections generated more than \$46 million in fines, fees and penalties.

The 12 inspectors who were elevated in rank passed advanced course work to become supervisors in different specialty areas.

"You are the voice of the people who have no voice," said Chief of Fire Prevention Howard Hill. "When the day is done and you look back at your career you will be proud."

The need for the inspectors was demonstrated almost a century ago after the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in lower Manhattan exposed the dangers of fire safety violations in workplaces.

Fire Prevention 101

Fire Safety Education takes its message to classrooms

Question: What are more than 5,000 New York City public school children doing every week?

Answer: Learning how to stay fire safe.

"We have been doing our outreach more aggressively this school year and have been getting great feedback," said Lieutenant Joseph Thomas, who recently retired from his post as executive director of Fire Safety Education. "The kids really love it."

Active and retired firefighters based out of the Bureau of Training at Fort Totten visit three schools a day and make presentations throughout the city four days a week.

The program, which is largely funded by the FDNY Foundation, is aiming to reach almost 200,000 children during the

2006-2007 school year, more than ever before.

The team uses a classroom-by-classroom approach, rather than addressing a large assembly in a school auditorium.

"The little ones are open to all the lessons," said retired Firefighter Lois Mungay, who has worked with the team for three years. "They all sit there and look up to you like you have all the answers."

When space and time permits, they also bring along the new Fire Safety Experience trailer that enables children to identify common household fire hazards like unattended candles and stovetop dangers.

"They get a lot out of it and it's really rewarding," said retired Captain Stephen Bacci. He added that they always talk to the children about fire prevention, planning, and practice.

For middle school children, the curriculum also includes a trip through the Mobile Fire Safety House (also known as the Smoke House), which is a mocked-down, split-level version of a private home.

Infused with theatrical smoke to simulate real-life fire conditions, children can practice effective fire evacuation techniques in a realistic setting.

"The most important thing is that the children bring the lessons home and have their parents follow up," said Lieutenant Anthony Mancuso, who recently took over as the new executive director of Fire Safety Education.

To schedule a visit by the fire safety education staff for a school or community organization, call 718-281-3870.

Winning Smile

FDNY employee Benny Yi garners prestigious award

Minutes before he was formally recognized for his strong work ethic, Benny Yi was doing what he does best – delivering some of the 3,000 pieces of mail that come into FDNY Headquarters each day.

Yi was awarded the 2006 William B. Joslin Outstanding Performer Award from the New York State Industries for the Disabled on October 30 in a ceremony at FDNY Headquarters.

“Benny is always supremely efficient, helpful and friendly,” said Dominic Morelli, Director of Support Services. “I wish I had 10 more workers just like him.”

The award is issued annually to recognize the personal and professional achievements of New Yorkers with disabilities. Yi was one of only 44 workers statewide who was honored for his accomplishments.

He also received a certificate of appreciation from Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and a proclamation honoring his achievements from the City Council.

“He definitely makes my job a lot easier,” said Michael Greene, Project Man-

ager for Mailroom Services. “He is a pleasure to work with.”

Yi is employed through a contract with Fedcap Rehabilitation Services, which helps people with all types of disabilities and barriers to employment find jobs in business and government offices.

He joined the non-profit in 1996. He was placed in several data entry jobs and worked for a few city agencies before coming to the FDNY 10 months ago.

Since he started he has never missed a day of work and is always on time, despite his long commute from the Bronx where he lives with his parents and two siblings.

“He is reliable and consistent and makes us all very proud,” said Susan



Director of Support Services Dominic Morelli congratulates Benny Yi for receiving the William B. Joslin Outstanding Performer Award from the New York State Industries for the Disabled.

Fonta, Fedcap’s Executive Director.

Currently, Fedcap provides seven mail clerks, messengers and drivers to the mail center at FDNY Headquarters.

Photo courtesy of the New York Rangers



A Game Winning Tribute: Firefighter Joseph Mayer of Ladder 156 was joined by New York Rangers Forward Jed Ortmeyer as he was honored by the team on October 5 for being a two-time bone marrow donor. Since 1991, 82 firefighters have donated bone marrow, saving the lives of 90 patients.

A Home of Her Own

EMS Captain Denise Werner takes the lead at the new EMS Station 32

When she was not leading a Girl Scout troop or getting her three children ready for school, EMS Captain Denise Werner was advancing her skills in the medical field and steadily moving up the ladder in the EMS Command.

Now, Captain Werner said she is ready for a new challenge as she takes the reins at EMS Station 32 in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn.

"I'm anxious to get started," she said. "My philosophy is that you can't change the world, but you can change your corner of the world. Find the positive in everything. When you come to work with that belief, it will make a difference in someone's day."

Captain Werner came on the job in 1985 when EMS was still part of the Health and Hospitals Corporation and the field of pre-hospital care was still developing.

She has worked in all five boroughs – beginning her career in Manhattan, then working in the Communications Division in Queens for four years.

She said that she enjoyed dispatching because, "I love the stimulus of multi-tasking. I thrive on that."

Then for a decade until her promotion

to lieutenant in 2000, Captain Werner was assigned to Staten Island's EMS Station 22.

When Captain Werner decided to become a supervisor, she said she was disappointed that she would have less involvement with patient care, but knew it meant she could share her expertise with those just coming on the job.

One of her first assignments as a lieutenant was EMS Station 17 in the Bronx.

"I was unfamiliar with the borough and I was assigned the midnight tour," she added. "But I thoroughly enjoyed every minute there."

She was promoted to captain in August 2005. However, she said the most challenging turn of her career came when she studied to become a paramedic.

From September 2005 through May 2006, Captain Werner said she spent



EMS Captain Denise Werner

many nights studying along side her daughters, who look to her as their role model.

Her daughter, Kristine, 19, is pursuing a nursing career and Karen, 16, and Kimberly, 14, want to become teachers.

She said she loves her job and she marvels at the path her life has taken.

"All this time has gone by and I have a career," she said. "It was strictly by accident ... but I wouldn't change it for anything in the world."

Honor and Courage: Members of the Department, family and friends gathered at St. Peter's Church in Manhattan for the annual Blue Mass on October 15. During the service, firefighters, EMS members, police officers and members of all other uniformed services were honored. The ceremony was organized by the Fire Family Transport Group, which provides transportation services to the families of injured, ill or deceased New York City firefighters. Following the service, the Terry Farrell Scholarship Fund dedicated a new vehicle to the Family Transport Group in honor of Firefighter Farrell from Rescue 4, who died on September 11, 2001.



PREPARED AND PROTECTED

(Continued from page 1)

them. The program was developed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when BHS needed to ensure that members responding to the region were immunized before they traveled south.

"We're in uncertain times, whether we're talking about a bioterrorist event or a pandemic, we need to be prepared and we need to let our workforce know that we'll take care of them if a large event occurs," Deputy Assistant Chief of Counterterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Joseph Pfeifer said.

This year, BIOPOD was observed by members of the Department of Health and NYPD. In the past, the Department of Homeland Security has also viewed the exercise, using what they learned to create a national model for first responders dealing with bio-terrorism.



An EMT receives the flu vaccine during the annual BIOPOD drill.

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



(Top) More than 100 firefighters ran the ING New York City Marathon on November 4, garnering a win against the NYPD in the annual contest. As a result of their win, the FDNY team received one million miles on Continental Airlines, which they donated to the Uniformed Firefighters Association Widows' and Children's Fund. In first place for the FDNY team was Captain Tom Dolan of Division 15 with a time of 2:58:30. Second place went to Firefighter Denis Sweeney (2:59:14) and retired Lieutenant John McLaughlin (3:01:27) was third. This is the 20th win for the Fire Department in the 24 years of the competition.

(Right) Firefighter Mike Lazzari of Ladder 35, who is an Iraq War veteran, ran the Marathon in his Air Force fatigues and firefighter helmet with the full SCBA pack on his back, while carrying an American flag. Firefighter Lazzari ran in honor of the 12 members from Engine 40/Ladder 35 who died on 9/11, as well as for the Wounded Warrior Project. The SCBA tank had the photos of the firefighters displayed on it. He finished the Marathon in approximately 5 hours, 24 minutes.



VIEW

POINT

NOVEMBER 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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A 142 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION