

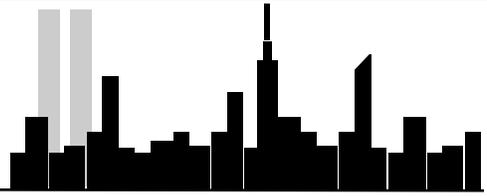
FEBRUARY 2009

VIEW
P O I N T



metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



Downed Plane, Heroic Rescue

Plane Crash Rescue Workers Hailed for Bravery, Quick Thinking

Mayor Michael Bloomberg invited dozens of uniformed and civilian rescue workers to City Hall on Jan. 16, presenting them with certificates of appreciation for their work at the Hudson River plane crash.

During the ceremony, members of Marine 1, Ladder 21 and EMS joined the Mayor, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of EMS John Peruggia as well as CEO of US Airways Doug Parker, Police OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno, Commissioner Ray Kelly, NY Waterway President Arthur Imperatore, Jr., and Harbormaster Alan Warren, and Circle Line General Manager Andreas Sappok and Boat Captain Mike Duffy.

“This is a story of heroes straight out of a movie,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “But it was a movie no one would believe because the ending was too good to be true. Because of [the rescue workers’] efforts, and the calm of the pilot and crew, all 150 people are safe.”

Commissioner Scoppetta added, “Our members’ response was incredible, from start to finish.”

Capt. Richard Johnson, Marine Engineer Pat Astegher, Marine Pilot Robert



EMS Lt. Luis Corrales explains his role in the plane crash. Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta honored him and many other fire and EMS members for their role in the rescue.

Spadaro, Firefighter John Rizzo and Firefighter Tom Sullivan attended the ceremony from Marine 1. EMS members attending the ceremony included Lt. Luis Corrales, EMT Terrence Chanderdatt and EMT Ephrayim Yehowceph. And Capt. Paul Lawlor, Firefighter Brian McLaughlin, Firefighter Stefan Artz and Firefighter Michael Povolny attended from Ladder 21.

“Your response was simply amazing,” Mr. Parker said. “We truly, truly appreciate it.”

Each of the FDNY members told of his own harrowing experience at the site.

Members of Marine 1 Alpha arrived on the scene in less than seven minutes. They pulled 20 of the passengers standing on the left wing of the aircraft – which was partially submerged – onto their vessel, transporting them to Pier 81 at 42nd St. in Manhattan.

Then members on the fireboat McKean used nautical ropes to control the plane and guide it to Battery Park cove.

“We’ve got to give the passengers credit, they were very orderly and calm under pressure,” said Capt. Johnson.

He said that once they learned everyone was off the plane and safe, they began joking with the passengers to help calm them, saying, “Welcome to New York.”

Marine Pilot Spadaro added, “The stars just lined up for us.”

Lt. Corrales and EMTs Chanderdatt and Yehowceph were the first EMS members on scene, arriving in one minute, 12 seconds. The group triaged 20 rescued passengers aboard the World Yacht vessel.

“When they said a plane crashed I expected a two person [aircraft],” said Lt. Corrales. “When I heard it was a passen-

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Recession Takes Toll on City

FDNY Facing More Operational Cuts



Commissioner's
— Message

With dire economic conditions that many are comparing to the nation's great Depression of the 1930's, the city – along with the state and federal government – continues to struggle with the problem of rising unemployment and declining tax revenues, conditions that are forcing some very tough decisions for everyone.

Many believe things will continue to get worse before they begin to get better.

These economic problems forced the Mayor recently to ask agency heads for yet another round of cuts aimed at reducing the city's budget by \$1.3 billion. The FDNY's share of that was \$95 million, or about 7 percent of our budget.

To avoid layoffs, we have taken strides to eliminate jobs through attrition and a hiring freeze. (In the last few years, we have eliminated more than 500 civilian positions.)

Unfortunately, that does not make up for the painful deficit, so additional cuts had to be proposed for other areas - including operations.

Thus the FDNY's proposed budget cuts for fiscal year 2010 (beginning July 1, 2009) include the following:

- Four fire company night closings that will become full-time closings effective July 1, 2009;
- Seven additional fire companies to be disbanded effective July 1, 2009;
- Five additional fire companies to be disbanded effective Jan. 1, 2010;
- Thirty BLS ambulance tours and nine supervisory lines in conditions cars to be eliminated effective July 1, 2009;
- Twenty-seven fire marshal lines and five supervising fire marshal lines to be eliminated based on attrition;
- Thirty-two EMS administrative lines in units throughout the Department to be eliminated, which will require those members on full duty in the designated units to return to ambulance duty and those members with reasonable accommodations to seek other accommodations if available, otherwise they will need to retire;

- All civilian vacancies that have not been approved by OMB have now been eliminated;

- A complete freeze on all new civilian attrition that occurs until June 30, 2010. This does not include Fire Prevention, Dispatchers, grant-funded positions, Deutsche Bank Task Force positions or ECTP related lines. The Bureau of Personnel Resources will be issuing new civilian guidelines to address critical vacancies;

- Security services for Randall's Island, Fort Totten and Maspeth discontinued effective March 1, 2009.

I know that these cuts will be difficult for each and every member of the FDNY. We are asking you to do more with less. But I also know that you understand the critical situation our city and, indeed, our nation is in. Despite these troubling times, New Yorkers will continue to need the services you provide, and we are confident that you'll continue to provide the best service you can. You always have, and I know you always will.

* * *

Perhaps there's no greater recent example of your commitment and dedication to our city than the response to the United Airways crash in the Hudson River on January 15. The FDNY response was swift and significant: marine units (particularly Marine 1 alpha which rescued 20 passengers and brought them to safety), land units (including firefighters from Ladder 21 who donned cold water suits, jumped into the Hudson and searched the plane for survivors), and EMS personnel (who triaged and treated more than 80 weary and frozen passengers). The Mayor hosted a "thank you" ceremony at City Hall the following day for some of our members and other first responders who participated in this remarkable and successful effort. It was indeed a "miracle" that everyone aboard survived, thanks in part to the efforts of FDNY members.

The Gift of Life

5th Annual Honor Roll of Life Ceremony

Laura Poelstra flew to New York City from Cloverdale, British Columbia, this week for one reason – to meet Firefighter Mark Mianulli of Engine 45.

The Firefighter donated bone marrow to the 13-year-old girl in 2007, saving her life, and he was able to meet her and her family during the Honor Roll of Life ceremony at FDNY Headquarters on Jan. 14.

The event, held in conjunction with the New York Blood Center (NYBC), also honored 18 firefighters who donated life-saving bone marrow and stem cells in 2008.

“Our firefighters’ selflessness and dedication goes well beyond the firehouse,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “By working with the NYBC, our members have found another way to save people in danger.”

Firefighter Mianulli joined the National Marrow Donor Program at the Fire Academy. Nearly four years later, he was called as a potential match for Laura, a girl suffering from Aplastic Anemia. This rare, serious condition caused her body to stop producing new blood cells, putting her at high risk of infection and uncontrolled bleeding.

After months of treatments, her family was told the next option would be a bone marrow transplant. Since none of her four siblings was a match, they turned to the registry and quickly found the Bronx firefighter. He donated his bone marrow on June 19, 2007, and she received her life-saving



(Top) FDNY bone marrow donors stand with Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, NYBC President Dr. Robert Jones, Chairman of the NYBC Board of Trustees Howard Milstein and the Poelstra family.
(Right) Firefighter Mark Mianulli and Laura Poelstra.



transplant on June 20.

“This is just a different avenue to help people,” said Firefighter Mianulli, a five-year veteran of the FDNY. “Anyone would have jumped at the chance to do this.”

Laura’s mother, Francine Poelstra, added, “It’s incredible to be able to meet with him and put a face to the man who saved my daughter’s life ... and knowing he’s a firefighter makes it even more special.”

During the ceremony, the names of 18 firefighters were added to the NYBC’s ‘Honor Roll of Life’ plaque – a record number – for their donation of life-saving bone

marrow and stem cells in 2008, including Firefighters Douglas Chiz, Pete Herting, Raymond Rosicki, Keith Green, Robert Gibson, Gordon Madden, Marlin Byrne, Michael Sowalski, Bernard Madden, Patrick Sheridan, Adam Ogurek, Philip Miller, Sean Michael Cahill, Kenneth Poulin, Cris DiBenedetto, Patrick Murphy, Todd Rauch and James Ippolito.

The plaque now includes the engraved names of 116 firefighters who have donated bone marrow to 130 men, women and children.

“This event shows just how much one person can do to help another by donating their bone marrow or stem cells,” said NYBC President Dr. Robert Jones. “Together we are saving lives.”

The Department’s bone-marrow-donation partnership with New York Blood Center began in 1990 and since then FDNY firefighters have become the single largest group on NYBC’s bone marrow registry with more than 8,000 FDNY members on the donor list. Donations from FDNY firefighters made up approximately 13 percent of the NYBC’s total donations in 2008.

“When you make a donation, it doesn’t matter the size of your wallet, just the size of your heart,” Chairman of the NYBC Board of Trustees Howard Milstein said. “There is no institution that does as much for the Blood Center and the bone marrow effort than the FDNY.”

Generous donation: Members of Engine 280 and Ladder 132 in Brooklyn received a \$20,000 grant on Feb. 25 from Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company and HUB International Northeast for the purchase of training and fitness equipment. The grant will fund the purchase of a digital camera, laptop computer, projector and other technology.



This purchase will allow firefighters to make customized presentations that deal specifically with the buildings, hazards and environments in their response areas; as well as access training information from the FDNY Bureau of Training, FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Fire Administration. The grant also will purchase new exercise equipment for the firehouse, including an elliptical machine and treadmill.

Honor for an Honorable Hero

Plaque Dedicated for Lt. John H. Martinson



(Top) A plaque is dedicated honoring Lt. John Martinson of Engine 249.

(Left) Hundreds of firefighters attended the plaque dedication ceremony at the quarters of Engine 249 and Ladder 113.

Firefighters gathered at the quarters of Engine 249 and Ladder 113 to honor Lt. John H. Martinson, with a plaque dedication on Jan. 3.

Lt. Martinson sustained fatal injuries while fighting a two-alarm fire at the Ebbets Field Houses, 1700 Bedford Ave., in Brooklyn on Jan. 3, 2008.

“[Lt. Martinson] was the kind of person you wanted by your side when the chips were down,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. “He never gave a second thought of putting himself in harms way to protect the rest of us.”

The 14-year veteran of the FDNY earned the firehouse nickname “Johnny Nice Guy” and was described as the quintessential firefighter – someone who was always arrived early and was the first ready for action.

“You could watch John during an emergency or drill and see the experience,

talent and confidence that he possessed,” said Firefighter Timothy Rail of Engine 249. “He was a great fire officer

because he had the rare ability to make all the firefighters who worked with him better.”

After working for nearly four years as a police officer for the NYPD, Lt. Martinson joined the FDNY in 1993 at Engine 204. He also worked at Engine 80 and Ladder 23 before being promoted to lieutenant in 2002. He joined Engine 249/Ladder 113 in March 2006.

His father, Firefighter John O. Martinson, enjoyed a 31-year career with the FDNY.

“This is a celebration of the life of John H. Martinson, a man who knew he was making the world a better place,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “I know what we say here will not lessen your pain, but today we can recall and remember all that John gave to his family, this city and this Department.”

Many described the 40-year-old Lieutenant’s love for his family. Attending the ceremony were his wife, Jessica; son, John Patrick, 2; daughter, Catherine Grace, 7-months; mother, Iris; brother, Steve; and sister, Lori.

Jessica Martinson told stories of how she met her husband, how she loved watching him play with his son and his compassion for his friends.

“If John was in your life and you needed him, there was nothing he wouldn’t have done for you,” she said. “You changed me and my life all for the better from the moment I met you. I love you and you will always remain in my heart.”

Lt. Martinson was re-building a home – a house his grandfather built – for his family when he died. His brother, Steve, as well as his many firefighter colleagues finished the home in his honor.

“Today we want to remind John Martinson’s family that we’re here if you need us,” said Salvatore Cassano. “Not just today, or tomorrow, or next week, but forever. You will always be a part of the FDNY family.”

For His Boys

Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation Present Scholarships to Late Firefighter's Family

The three sons of late Firefighter Martin Simmons from Ladder 111 each received \$30,000 scholarships from the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation on Feb. 6.

"This is a terrific way to honor Marty," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Your dad loved you all very much and could not have been prouder to know that you would be taken care of."

Firefighter Simmons died in July 2008.

His boys – Joseph, 14, Kevin, 11, and Ryan, 8 – stood with their mother, Judy, at FDNY Headquarters as they each received the certificates.

"I want the Simmons family to know that the Fire Department is a big family, and you are a big part of it," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Dozens of members from Engine 214 and Ladder 111 attended the ceremony in Firefighter Simmons' honor.



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Chief of Operations Patrick McNally presented Judy Simmons and her sons, Joseph, 14, Kevin, 11, and Ryan, 8, with three \$30,000 scholarships on behalf of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation. Many members who worked with Firefighter Martin Simmons of Ladder 111 attended the ceremony in his honor.

"He would have loved this," said Firefighter Joseph Honan of Ladder 111. "There are few words to describe it."

He remembered him as a quintessential father, often coaching his sons' sport-

ing teams.

"He would have been so happy that someone was taking care of his sons," said Lt. Raymond Strong.

Uniform Honor

FF John Downing Honored by High School Alma Mater

Firefighter John Downing of Ladder 163, who made the Supreme Sacrifice on Father's Day 2001, was honored by St. Francis Preparatory School in Queens, his high school alma mater, on Jan. 30.

During halftime at the varsity basketball game versus Xaverian, the school retired jersey number 34, Firefighter Downing's basketball uniform number.

"There aren't enough words to say what this would have meant to him," said Firefighter Matt Desjardin of Engine 325, who worked with Firefighter Downing for two years. "It would have brought tears to his eyes."

He remembered Firefighter Downing as a "big guy, who when he talked, you listened. He is sorely missed every day."

Dozens of firefighters lined up on cen-



FDNY members gathered with the Downing family on the basketball court at St. Francis Preparatory School, as school officials retired Firefighter John Downing's jersey number 34.

ter court with the firefighter's family, including his wife, Anne; daughter, Joanne; and mother, Josephine. They were presented with plaques, flowers and the framed jersey.

A proclamation also was read by Council Member Eric Gioia.

"He would have loved this," said Firefighter Don Barbour of Engine 325. "He was a great guy."

Tim Leary, St. Francis Prep Varsity Basketball Head Coach, added, "I think John is up there watching us tonight."

He remembered Firefighter Downing, who graduated in 1979, as "skinny," but "I was told, 'you'll be surprised how tough this guy is.' And it was true."

The families of Firefighters Brian Fahey and Harry Ford of Rescue 4, who died in the same fire, also were in attendance, as well as the family of Firefighter Daniel Pujdak, an alumni of St. Francis Prep, who died while operating at a fire in 2007.

Life-Saving Program

National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation Donates to Mobile CPR Training Program

National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation on Feb. 6 presented the FDNY Foundation with the first of two \$10,000 donations for the FDNY's CPR Training Program.

"CPR can save a life if administered immediately during cardiac arrest," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the check presentation at FDNY Headquarters. "So this is a real, life-saving program."

The donation will purchase 400 Mobile CPR Training kits that the Department distributes to teach the life-saving technique.

"This donation allows us to train even more members of our community and, as a result, save more lives," said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

Alfred Kahn, founder of the National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation, added: "Supporting the work of FDNY to train New Yorkers in life-saving techniques and supporting the families of those members that have



National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation donates the first of two \$10,000 checks to Mobile CPR Training Program. (L to R) Capt. William Torres, Chief of Operations Patrick McNally, First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, National Law Enforcement and Firefighters Children's Foundation Chairman Alfred Kahn, Foundation President Larry Levy and Foundation Board member Gary Parker.

made the ultimate sacrifice is an honor."

He noted that a second \$10,000 donation from the foundation will be delivered in 2010.

"With generous donations such as this, we can continue our program and continue to save lives," said EMS Capt. William

Torres, who spearheads the program.

Since the program began in 2005, 28,000 people have been trained on the kits, and vowed to take the kit home and teach an additional 40,000.



Firefighters Joseph Abbondandolo and David Struble of Engine 1 demonstrate how the forcible entry simulator operates, under the guidance of Lt. Thomas Foy.

No Ordinary Door

New Forcible Entry Simulator Unveiled

A firefighter's ability to force open a door is critical during an emergency, when every second counts.

Now FDNY firefighters will be able to practice their technique using a new forcible entry simulator, which was unveiled at the quarters of Engine 1 and Ladder 24 in Manhattan on Jan. 28.

"This simulator teaches a skill that is used by firefighters every single day," said Chief of Training Thomas Galvin.

The training tool was designed by a firefighter and built using a \$6,500 grant from the Mogil Organization and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

It includes two doors, one opening inwardly and the other outwardly,

which are attached to steel columns on a portable base. As firefighters become proficient at basic forcible entry techniques, the difficulty level can be increased using wooden pegs.

The simulator will be used at the FDNY Academy and the Department's remote training unit, which travels to firehouses throughout the City. Training and refresher courses include an hour and a half of lecture and practice.

"This simulator is very special to us," said Terry McCormick, Relationship Manager at Fireman's Fund.

Jeff Mogil, CEO of the Mogil Organization, added, "We know how devastating fires can be, so we want to do what we can to help."

Keeping New York Safe

First Annual Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week Kicks Off

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano helped members of Underwriters Laboratories, National Fire Protection Administration and Kidde kick off the first annual Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Week on Jan. 26 at the Fire Museum in Manhattan.

Since more CO-related emergencies occur in the month of January than at any other time of year, the educational week (which runs from Jan. 25 to 31) aims to educate New Yorkers about the dangers of CO poisoning and the steps they can take to prevent it.

“Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless, tasteless and colorless – but these fumes can be deadly,” said Chief Cassano. “It truly is a silent killer.”

CO is produced by incomplete burning of fuel, such as propane, kerosene, gasoline, oil, natural gas, wood and charcoal. A leak can be attributed to many common household sources including malfunctioning gas-fired appliances, space heaters, chimney flues and portable generators.

Symptoms of CO poisoning often mimic those of the flu, including

headaches, fatigue, nausea, drowsiness and breathing difficulties.

Installing a CO alarm and having appliances regularly serviced by professionals will greatly reduce the risk of accidental poisoning.

“Our mission is public safety,” said Gus Schaefer, Senior Vice President and Public Safety Officer for Underwriters Laboratories. “We want to do our part to raise awareness of the dangers of CO poisoning.”

One hundred students from the Columbia Secondary School attended the event – representing the number of students who are poisoned by CO each year – and learned about how to keep their homes safe by members of the FDNY’s Fire Safety Education Unit.

“Carbon monoxide can kill, and it does,” said James M. Shannon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the



Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano announces the first Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week.

National Fire Prevention Association. “We have to do everything we can to stop this from happening, and sharing this information with our families and friends is a step in the right direction.”

Pulled to Safety

Firefighters Free Victim Dragged, Pinned by Tractor Trailer

Firefighters from Ladder 128 rescued a man who was dragged and pinned by a tractor trailer after it was struck by a locomotive at Review Avenue and Laurel Hill Boulevard in Queens on Feb. 23.

“The quick and efficient extrication of this man will no doubt contribute to his survival,” said Battalion Chief John Papa of Battalion 45.

After the train became stuck on the icy tracks at around 7 a.m., the man tried to help manually free the truck from the gates. The train struck the other side of the vehicle, dragging the victim approximately 75 feet and pinning him.

When members of Ladder 128 arrived at the scene, they saw the man’s feet coming out from under the tractor cab.

As Firefighter Michael Conklin stabilized the patient, the others members dug

and shored up a trench to reach the man and then used a maxi-force air bag to lift the truck so they could place him on a backboard and hand him off to EMS members.

“Disregarding their own safety, the members saved the life of another,” said Lt. Brian Gavan of Ladder 128. “Their teamwork, professionalism, courage prevented the potential loss of life.”



Firefighters were able to free the victim, who was pinned under the truck, within minutes on Feb. 23.

Three-Alarm Fire Yields Safety Message

Fast-Moving Fire in Midtown Manhattan High Rise Could have been Deadly

When firefighters arrived at 501 Madison Ave. in Manhattan on Feb. 9, they saw some smoke, but no visible fire.

The fire was reported at 22:29 hours on the second floor of the 200 x 200, 30-story high-rise building that is under construction at 53rd Street. The first units arrived at 22:32 hours, issued a 10-76, and began to stretch lines and hook up to standpipes inside the building for an interior attack.

Eight minutes later, fire was blowing out 33 windows.

The fire was fed by plastic, plywood shanties, light bulbs and other combustibles. Five acetylene tanks also burned. The fire consumed the second floor and extended to the third, with minor extension to the fourth and fifth floors in the core area.

Firefighters were removed from the building and began an exterior attack. They had to gain control quickly, so the fire did not spread to other floors or exposure 4.

Three tower ladders were used (four were set up) it took approximately 15 minutes to control the fire, which grew to three alarms before it was placed under control at 02:00 hours.

After the fire was placed under control, firefighters began searching the upper floors, which were filled with smoke and carbon dioxide. The tie rod of the construc-



The windows of 501 Madison Ave. after a three-alarm fire on Feb. 9.

tion elevator – the building’s only working elevator – was damaged by fire, so the building was “essentially a 30-story walk up,” said Deputy Chief Dan Donohue.

Yet since they knew there were no victims, firefighters made a slow and deliberate search of each floor. They set up fans and were able to clear the building once they made it to the roof they were able to clear the building.

Chief Donohue noted the fire offers a safety message.

“Units in the interior may not always be

aware of the severity of the conditions,” he said. “And conditions can change incredibly fast.”

They faced open stairwells, open elevator shafts and large amounts of construction materials, all of which presented additional hazards.

He said firefighters never would have been sent into the building if they had known the severity of the conditions, but was pleased with the organization and communication that allowed everyone to be removed safely.

Living History

Bronx Firefighter Attended Presidential Inauguration

One lucky Bronx firefighter was chosen by President-elect Barack Obama’s team to take part in the Washington, DC, inaugural festivities.

“I am definitely excited to be part of history,” said Firefighter Christopher Cunneen of Ladder 19. “It’s quite an opportunity to be able to be part of it.”

Firefighter Cunneen submitted an essay online explaining why he would want to go to the inaugural ceremonies and what President-elect Obama means to him.

It was just a few paragraphs, but it was enough to be chosen as one of 10 appli-

cants – out of more than 250,000 – to receive two tickets to the Lincoln Memorial concert on Jan. 18, as well as the swearing-in, parade and the official Neighborhood Ball on Jan. 20.

His essay explained how he became a firefighter after working in the private sector – as a manager at the Bank of New York in Lower Manhattan and starting his own business.

He said becoming a firefighter was something he always wanted, and he graduated from the Academy two years after the attacks on Sept. 11.

Although he’s not sure what inaugural



Firefighter Christopher Cunneen from Ladder 19

event he will enjoy most, he said, “to get an invite from the committee themselves is a big honor.”

Comfort at Quarters

Engine 47 Dedicates New 'Ready Room'

A new 'ready room' was dedicated at the quarters of Engine 47 on Jan. 13. The newly refurbished living area boasts large couches, a television, new hardwood flooring, a fireplace, and a newly exposed brick wall.

"What a terrific concept," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "This recognizes a unique aspect of the firehouse."

The room was the concept of designer and FDNY volunteer Fran Moss and was funded by donors, including The Rudin Foundation, The Anthony E. Meyer Foundation, Patrick McMullan and Peter and Alison Baumann. The project also benefited from in-kind donations from Sony, Home Depot and BoConcept Furniture, among others.

The renovations were completed by firefighters at Engine 47.

"This room will offer a brief escape from the controlled chaos firefighters encounter each day," said Battalion Chief Richard Tarkenton of Battalion 8.

Capt. Richard Gleave of Engine 47 added, "This is a comfortable space that will allow firefighters to rest, recharge and get ready for their next job."

Similar renovations also are underway at Manhattan's Ladder 3, Engine 54/Ladder 4, and Engine 24/Ladder 5. The pilot program may expand to additional firehouses in other boroughs.

"This will improve the quality of life for our firefighters – mind, body and spirit, on every level," said Ms. Moss.



(Top) Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano joined the members of Engine 47 to dedicate their new Ready Room.

(Bottom) The new Ready Room includes large couches, a flat-screen television and new hardwood flooring.

Civilian Fire Deaths Decrease, Again

Lowest Sustained 7-year period since 1920s

The FDNY recorded 86 civilian fire deaths in 2008, one of the lowest totals in almost a century.

This marks the lowest sustained seven-year period since 1927, when the city had 2 million fewer residents.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg applauded firefighters for "their dedication and willingness to run into danger when the rest

of us are running away from it."

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta added that the work of the FDNY's Fire Safety Education Unit also has helped lower the number of fatalities. In 2008 FDNY members educated more than 600,000 New Yorkers about fire safety, and gave away 250,000 smoke alarm batteries and 30,000 smoke alarms.

"There's no question, our message is being heard," he said. "New tactics and educational programs help, but our firefighters are the reason all of this is a success."

He also noted there was a 15 second drop in fire apparatus response times in 2008.

Spectacular Save

Firefighters Rescue Four from Fire in Queens

Firefighters risked their lives to rescue two women and two boys from a fire in Queens on Jan. 27.

“Because of the work of FDNY members, four lives were saved today,” said Deputy Chief Paul Ferro of Division 13. “It was an extremely spectacular rescue.”

The fire on 93rd St. was first reported on the second floor of a three-story private dwelling. Fire was blowing out the front and rear windows of the residence, and there were reports of people trapped on the third floor.

Lt. Mike Fitall of Ladder 143 crawled up the stairs in zero visibility and found a woman lying face-down on the stairs between the second and third floors.

She was unconscious and her face was bright red, so he called Firefighters Jason Griffiths, who was assigned to Engine 294, and Tim Murphy from Ladder 143 to help remove her from the building.

Once outside they began CPR, along with Firefighter Doug Caffarone from Ladder 143, as EMS members arrived to help.

“It was great to see her come back to life,” said Firefighter Griffiths.

At the same time, Firefighter Mike Czech from Ladder 142 took the tower ladder to the third floor window with Firefighter Edward Rissland.

In the apartment they found a mother on the floor huddled with one young boy



Firefighter Mike Czech describes how he helped rescue a mother and her two sons from the fire as (L to R) Deputy Chief Paul Ferro, Firefighter Doug Caffarone and Firefighter Edward Rissland look on.

and another boy on the bed – all three were unconscious.

“There were only two of us and three victims – and we knew we couldn’t exit the building from inside – so we knew we had to move fast,” said Firefighter Rissland. “It was a total team effort.”

Firefighter Czech added, “I just tried to get them to Ed as fast as possible, so we could pass them off to EMS and let them get to work.”

The victims were transported to Mary Immaculate and Jamaica Hospitals for trauma. Three of the victims were later

moved to New York Hospital for their hyperbaric chamber.

“This was absolutely a team effort,” said EMS Deputy Chief Howard Sickles of Division 4. “Four lives were saved. It was a great day.”

Fire marshals determined the fire was caused by careless smoking in the second floor apartment.

Yet FDNY members noted they were pleased to see the third floor apartment had a working smoke detector, which awakened the residents and helped save their lives.

Reaching through the Flames

Firefighters Rescue Pair in Queens

Firefighters from Ladder 116 rescued two victims of a fire in Queens on Feb. 3.

“[The firefighters] were just doing their job in spite of danger,” said Lt. Jerome Farrell of Ladder 116.

A fire was reported at 12:21 p.m. on the second floor of a two-story, brick apartment building on Broadway.

Ladder 116 was the first unit on the scene – within four minutes – and firefighters saw smoke pouring out the windows.

Lt. Farrell, and Firefighters Terrence Drew and Mike Seggel, made their way into the fire apartment and found a man in the back who was disoriented and gasping for air out the kitchen window.

As the members helped him out of the apartment, he said his handicapped wife was still in the bedroom.

They used their thermal imaging camera to search the apartment, and Firefighter Drew located the woman in bed, atop the mattress that was on fire.

Lt. Farrell said he reached over the

flames, lifted her from the bed and made his way out of the apartment as Firefighter Seggel fought the fire with an extinguisher. Engine companies arrived moments later with a charged hose line.

The woman was transported to Mt. Sinai Queens Hospital with severe burns and respiratory difficulties.

The fire was placed under control at 12:43 p.m. Fire marshals are investigating the cause.

“They did a great job,” said Lt. Farrell.

Successful Partnership

FDNY Fire Marshals Partner with NYPD Officers to Nab Arsonist

FDNY fire marshals and police officers from the NYPD worked together to catch a serial arsonist on the Upper West Side of Manhattan on Feb. 19.

"This is the result of very good police work," said Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes.

Christopher Buxo, 54, is charged with several felonies, including arson in the second and third degree, criminal mischief and criminal possession of a weapon.

Supervising Fire Marshal Sal Rignola and Fire Marshals Brian Kane and John Watkins connected him to a fire on Feb. 2 in a brownstone on W. 69th Street, which was reported at 4:52 a.m.

They also tied him to four vehicle fires in the area, including one on Central Park

West at W. 91st Street on Feb. 4, another on W. 87th Street at Broadway on Feb. 11, one on W. 83rd Street at Central Park West on Feb. 12 and one on Central Park West at W. 105th Street on Feb. 18. All of these fires occurred around 4 a.m.

In each of the vehicle fires, Mr. Buxo allegedly poured gasoline through the passenger window and lit it. At the scene of the fires he would sometimes leave pieces of an American flag and a rambling note.

After fire marshals enlisted the help of police officers at the 24th Precinct, police task force members saw a man at around 3 a.m. on Feb. 19, carrying a flag and looking into vehicles on Central Park West. They arrested him for possession of a handgun.



Chief Robert Byrnes explains how the FDNY fire marshals and NYPD worked together to catch a serial arsonist on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Behind him are Supervising Fire Marshal Sal Rignola (second from left), Fire Marshal Brian Kane (far left) and Fire Marshal John Watkins (third from left), as well as members of the NYPD.

Trapped in a Tunnel

Firefighters Remove Two Con Edison Workers from Elevator Shaft

Firefighters in the Bronx rescued two Con Edison workers who became trapped when an elevator lost power in an underground tunnel on Feb. 12.

At 8:33 a.m. the workers were riding an elevator down a 260 foot tunnel when they lost electric power and became stuck 125 feet below ground.

The workers were unable to remove themselves, so members of Battalion 14, Rescue 3, Rescue 4, Squad 41, Ladder 42 and Engine 73 performed a

confined space rescue to remove the victims.

After ensuring there was no power to the vessel, an officer and three firefighters secured the elevator to ensure it did not fall the remaining 135 feet.

Since the workers were not injured, the firefighters put them in harnesses, attached ropes and had them climb out the manway.

"They did a phenomenal job, they're the best," said Battalion Chief Fred Lafemina. "It was a very smooth operation."



Firefighters work to rescue three Con Edison workers who were trapped in an underground elevator shaft.

Saving a Life

Firefighters Rescue Woman from Manhattan Fire

Firefighters rescued a woman from a fire in a Manhattan high-rise on Feb. 15.

At approximately 8:06 a.m. a call was received for a fire on the 10th floor of a 14-story residential building on Second Avenue near 124th Street.

Arriving within three minutes, Lt. Daniel Hopkins, and Firefighters Louis Crespo, Chris Kerwin and Arthur Kunz from Ladder 14 made their way to the fire apartment, where they found heavy smoke conditions.

The door to the fire apartment was locked, so they forced open the door and began their search.

Firefighters Crespo and Kunz quickly found an uncon-

scious female in the kitchen area. They pulled her from the apartment to the hallway where they were met by members of Ladder 43.

Lt. Stephen Hagan, Firefighter Frank Criscuolo and Firefighter Wilfredo Rivera from Ladder 43 found the woman had no pulse and shallow breathing, so they performed CPR on the victim for the next 13 minutes. When they regained a pulse, they passed the victim to EMS and members of Engine 37.

She was transferred to New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center in stable condition.

The fire was placed under control at 8:39 a.m.

Right Place, Right Time

Brooklyn Firefighters Rescue Three from Fire Caused by a Space Heater

Firefighters saved three from an apartment fire in Brooklyn on Feb. 4, caused by a space heater placed too close to a bed.

"They wouldn't have made it out of there without the Fire Department's help," said Lt. Ernest Gentile of Ladder 157. "They did remarkable they operated under extreme conditions."

Firefighters were alerted to the fire on Ocean Avenue at 1:55 a.m.

The fire was located on the first floor of the multiple-dwelling. When they entered the building, Lt. Gentile, as well as Firefighters Chris Ganci and Tim Collins of Ladder 157, saw neighbors banging on the fire apartment's door, saying there were people were trapped inside.

Firefighters forced open the door and found the residence was filled with thick, black smoke. They quickly located a man and woman on the floor of the living room. The pair was conscious, but disoriented and having trouble finding their way out.

As firefighters helped them to safety, the woman told them her father was in a back bedroom.

The apartment was large and maze-like, but Firefighter Ganci made his way down a narrow hallway to a back bedroom, where the ceiling was on fire.

"I felt my ears burning and the heat was driving my head to the floor," said Firefighter Ganci. "Adrenaline was driving me, I was picturing that it was my family member in the back."

He located the unconscious man in the doorway of a back bedroom, the victim's clothes burning. Firefighter Ganci radioed that he had an injured civilian and began pulling him out of the burning room.

Firefighter Collins heard the radio transmission and helped keep back the flames as the victim was pulled to the door, helping carry the man as they moved closer to the front door.

"That's what we do, we always work as a team," said Firefighter Collins.

The fire was placed under control at 2:26 a.m.

Both male victims were transported to Jacobi Hospital, one with life-threatening injuries and the other with minor injuries. The woman and nine other building residents were transported to Maimonides Medical Center with minor injuries.

"We were just at the right place at the right time," said Firefighter Ganci. "You never look forward to this sort of thing, but if it has to happen, you want to be the guy who is there to help."

Fire Marshals Nab Perp

Ozone Park Man Arrested for Arson

FDNY fire marshals arrested a 26-year-old Ozone Park man on Jan. 28 for setting fire on Jan. 26 to the apartment he shared with a 25-year-old female companion and their 3 month-old son.

Isiah Abramson is being held pending arraignment on charges of 2nd and 4th degree arson, 2nd degree criminal mischief and 2nd degree reckless endangerment. Second degree arson is punishable by up to 25 years in prison.

Mr. Abramson will be prosecuted by the Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

On Jan. 26 at 3:47 p.m., a fire was reported at 86-08 101st Ave. that escalated into a third alarm. The three-story building contains six apartments, two on each floor. Marshals determined that the fire started in Mr. Abramson's apartment on the second floor.

Eight firefighters received minor injuries at the scene, but no civilians were injured.

An investigation by the marshals determined that Mr. Abramson intentionally started the fire after a dispute with his female

companion on Jan. 25. During that dispute Mr. Abramson allegedly trashed the apartment, threatened her with a knife and told her he would set fire to the apartment, saying, "If I can't live here, no one will."

She and the baby then fled the apartment with relatives.

On Jan. 26, Mr. Abramson returned to the 101st Avenue apartment, removed his possessions and trashed the remaining contents of the apartment. He then set a fire that eventually spread throughout the apartment and upper floors of the three-story building. The apartment was empty and locked when firefighters arrived.

Mr. Abramson was arrested at his mother's house in Brooklyn on Jan. 27 and he is currently in custody.

Mr. Abramson has an extensive criminal history dating back to 1997, including a conviction on Criminal Possession of a Loaded Firearm in April 2001 and a separate Bank Robbery conviction from Dec. 18, 2008. He is scheduled to be sentenced in that case on Feb 5, 2009.

Roaring Fire, Daring Rescue

Firefighters Save Man from Early Morning Fire in the Bronx

Capt. Michael Callan and Firefighters Luke Jurain and Dan Gordon from Ladder 47 saved a Bronx man from an early morning apartment fire on Feb. 6.

"They did a tremendous job," said Capt. Callan, who also was involved with the rescue. "They came in and picked him up and dragged him out with no hesitation at all."

A call was received at 1:58 a.m. for a fire on the first floor of a six-story brick building on Pugsley Avenue.

As firefighters from Ladder 47 made their way to the scene, they heard reports that there was a victim trapped inside.

When they arrived, they saw fire coming out two windows and neighbors were outside screaming that there was someone trapped in the apartment. They had banged on the apartment's windows and one of them had kicked in the front door.

Capt. Callan and Firefighters Jurain and Gordon made their way through the building in the direction of the fire.

Inside, fire had consumed the bedroom and was rolling across the ceiling and down the hallway. Capt. Callan said he tried to close the door to the bedroom to contain the fire, but "it had burned through the door."

There they found a man lying on his back, unresponsive, in the doorway.

The firefighters lifted him and carried him to members of Engine 64 and 96, who said the man had a pulse, but was not breathing and had suffered severe burns. They performed CPR on the man before passing him off to EMS members, who transported him to Jacobi Medical Center. Three other civilians also suffered smoke inhalation in the fire.

This was the first rescue for Firefighter Gordon, who graduated from the Fire Academy in December 2008.

"We're all kind of tired," said Firefighter Jurain. "But it feels great."

Unexpected Commute

FDNY Members Help Accident Victim on Long Island

It was anything but a normal morning commute for FDNY members who sprang into action when they witnessed a serious accident on the Southern State Parkway on Feb. 6.

Fire Marshal Joseph Sullivan of the Auto Fraud Squad helped pull a man to safety and extinguish a vehicle fire, while Capt. Hector Tyler notified authorities during the dramatic event.

"It was great to be able to get out there and help the guy out," said Fire Marshal Sullivan.

Capt. Tyler said he was driving westbound on the Southern State at around 8:20 a.m. – headed for work at FDNY Headquarters – when he saw a small car strike an SUV near the Malverne exit on Long Island.

The SUV fishtailed and then rolled onto its back, sliding into the left lane of eastbound traffic.

"It looked surreal," said Capt. Tyler. Then he joked, "And in typical firefighter fashion we all had to go to help."

He exited the parkway and notified a police officer, who called for backup on the radio.

Fire Marshal Sullivan said he, too, was driving westbound when he saw the aftermath of the accident on the parkway. He pulled to the shoulder to see if anyone needed help, and noticed fire coming from the undercarriage of the vehicle.

He grabbed a fire extinguisher from his car and crossed westbound traffic and the median to extinguish the flames. He then noticed legs coming out of the driver's side window.

"I thought it was someone trying to pull the driver out," Fire Marshal Sullivan said. "But I realized it was the driver."

He crawled through the passenger compartment and released the man's seat

belt; he then pulled the victim out of the vehicle and passed him off to two other Good Samaritans while he finished extinguishing the fire.

Fire Marshal Sullivan returned to stabilize the victim's neck as Capt. Tyler returned to the scene. He helped direct traffic as local EMS, fire and police units arrived.

The victim, and a passenger who was able to self-evacuate from the vehicle, were bleeding and dazed, but are expected to make a full recovery.

"Everything worked out so well because everyone was in place at the time," said Capt. Tyler. "The quick response of [Fire Marshal Sullivan] as well as the local fire and police worked out perfectly."

Fire Marshal Sullivan added, "This is why I chose this line of work. It was very rewarding."

In the Nick of Time

Firefighter Makes Daring Rescue in Harlem

Firefighter Marc Victorio of Ladder 30 saved the life of a woman trapped on her windowsill during a second-alarm fire in Harlem on Jan. 15.

"It's a good feeling," said Firefighter Victorio. "Hopefully everything works out for the best."

At 5:26 a.m. a call was received for a fire on the second floor of a brownstone on W. 132nd St.

When units arrived, fire was blowing out the front door on the parlor floor and heavy smoke was pouring out above it.

Units saw a woman standing on the ledge of a fourth floor window, directly above the 40 x 60 building's front door.

Firefighters from Ladder 30 extended the aerial ladder to the woman and Firefighter Victorio climbed to her window.

"I tried to reassure her that she would be OK," said Firefighter Victorio, a six-year veteran of the FDNY.

He said he put his hand out to help her to the ladder, but "she hesitated, then turned around and jumped into my arms."

She was transported to Harlem Hospital Center with second- and third-degree

burns.

"You just give everyone a pat on the back and are grateful things worked out well," Firefighter Victorio said hours later.

Deputy Chief Paul Mannix of Division

6 agreed, "This woman was in peril by all accounts, and the members of Ladder 30 were able to quickly put the ladder up and save her life. It could have been much, much worse."



Queens-Sized Thank You: Queens Borough President Helen Marshall showcased the FDNY at her State of the Borough Address on Jan. 13 at the Queens College Colden Center. Firefighter Regina Wilson sang the National Anthem, FDNY Color Guard presented the Colors and the FDNY Pipers performed. Fire Marshals Robert McDevitt and Mark Thompson were recognized for their successful arson investigation of the Nov. 2, 2008, fire at the Whitestone strip mall along the Cross Island Expressway.

Home Sweet Home

Ribbon Cut on New Firehouse in Brooklyn

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Commissioner David Burney of the Department of Design and Construction and other officials cut the ribbon on the new quarters of Engine 201, Ladder 114 and Battalion 40 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, on Jan. 12.

“This is a great example of how the fire department is moving into the 21st century,” said Mayor Bloomberg.

The \$13 million firehouse is located where Engine 201’s former quarters once stood. The City purchased the neighboring land and built the state-of-the-art structure in its place that also will house Ladder 114 and Battalion 40.

“This is a remarkable facility that is the result of years of hard work, innovative thinking and spectacular design,” said Commissioner Scoppetta.

As members from Engine 201 and Ladder 114 settle into their new, combined firehouse, we’re taking a look back at each company’s rich history.

By John Mulligan

Retired Assistant Commissioner

Engine 201

In the 1830s, what is now known as Sunset Park, began to grow and develop as part of the Bay Ridge neighborhood of New Utrecht and Gowanus sections of Brooklyn. The area was home to many Polish, Norwegian, and Finnish immigrants.

Covered only by volunteer units, residents approached Fire Commissioner John Ennis, asking for better fire protection, as the area began to develop. Then when the area of New Utrecht was annexed to Brooklyn in 1895 (along with Gravesend Neck, Flatbush and Flatlands), the borough of Brooklyn nearly doubled overnight.

Yet the Department did not have time to build firehouses and procure equipment for the new companies as quickly as the area grew, so they continued the volunteer system for several years.

First known as Engine No. 1, Engine



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Commissioner David Burney of the Department of Design and Construction and other officials cut the ribbon on the new quarters of Engine 201, Ladder 114 and Battalion 40 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, on Jan. 12.

Company 201 was organized when the paid department came into existence and moved into a firehouse on Fourth Avenue – the former home of Putnam Engine No. 21 of the volunteer department – located between 18th and 19th Streets. It stayed there until Aug. 20, 1891, when it was reorganized and moved to a new building of better design and more ample accommodations on Fourth Avenue at 51st Street.

In its early days, the company had a large, but not very populous area to cover, bounded by Prospect Avenue, New Utrecht, Bay Ridge and New York Bay.

Among the many notable structures in the district were the electrical stations of the Brooklyn City Railroad Company, the Bush Denslow oil refinery and a large paper company. It also was home to several large factories where combustibles



Engine 201's rig in 1970

and explosives were produced, including the United States Projectile Company, which manufactured shells for government guns.

Members operated using a second-class Amoskeag engine, one of the first brought into the Department. The tender, or hose-carriage, was pulled by beloved horses named Harry, Jim and Jerry.

The company’s ten firefighters worked twenty-four hours a day, six days a week, with the seventh day off. The pay for the

(Continued on page 15)

Home Sweet Home

(Continued from page 14)

144 hour week was around \$17.28 ... totaling about \$900 per year. At that time, James Connors was the senior member of the house and one of the oldest members of the Department. On Jan. 23, 1872, in recognition of faithful and earnest work, he was elevated to the rank of foreman, reduced in rank seven years later, reinstated as foreman the following year, then reduced again the in 1881. He worked as a private for six years, until he was promoted to the newly created rank of assistant foreman, before finally being reinstated as a foreman in 1891.

On Dec. 1, 1870, the members of Brooklyn Engine 1 responded to one of its most unusual and dangerous fires in history – a wooden, underwater compressed-air caisson, where footing was being prepared for the huge Gothic east tower of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Firefighters were withdrawn after multiple hose lines were inserted to perform a classic “surround and drown” tactic for three days. They finally gained control of the riverbed blaze, saving the future bridge.

Engine 201 has received eight unit citations in its history and its members have been awarded four medals. A daring rescue by Firefighter James P. Nevin won him not only the James Gordon Bennett medal in 1937, but also the Dr. H.M. Archer medal – FDNY’s two top awards for valor.

The members of Engine 201 also have sustained the loss of four members in the line of duty. Firefighter John J. Finley made the Supreme Sacrifice on Nov. 17, 1939. Three others were lost at the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, including Lt. Paul R. Martini and Firefighters Greg J. Buck and John A. Shardt.

Ladder 114

As the Sunset Park neighborhood continued to grow during the mid 1800s, Fire Commissioner William C. Bryant chose a site at the top of a hill on Fifth Avenue for a new ladder company – even though the area had not yet been developed. He said he could sense the whole

area was booming and he wanted the Department to be ready.

A lot owned by Alice M. Clark was purchased for the future Ladder 114 on March 7, 1897, for a mere \$1,500.

The Department commissioned P. J. Lauritzen to design the new two-story building and Andrew P. Blixt built it for \$14,600. Then on Sept. 15, 1897, Ladder Company 18 (which is now known as Ladder 114) was opened as part of the Brooklyn Fire Department.

Their firehouse at 5209 5th Ave., in what was then the northern portion of Bay Ridge, was 25 ft. by 75 ft., with an 11 ft. by 25 ft., one story annex that was used for storing the feed and straw bedding for the horses.

The rig, an 1889 Lafrance Hayes 85 ft. aerial ladder that was painted two colors of green, was stored on the first floor and four stalls were built to house their three horses. Two spiral staircases led up to the second floor, which housed the bunk rooms and office. The roof had a skylight, so the second floor could be lit.

It also had a new feature that was a first for a Brooklyn firehouse – a sitting parlor behind the feed storage area, where firefighters would spend their leisure time between runs (before this the firefighters would spend their tours standing in the front of the station, waiting for alarms).

The cities of New York (including the Bronx), Brooklyn, Long Island City, parts of Western Queens and Staten Island merged into the five boroughs of New York City on Jan. 1, 1898, and Ladder 18 officially became part of the FDNY on Jan. 28.

Brooklyn had 25 ladder companies in service at that time and the firehouses were all renumbered to avoid confusion, and Ladder 18 became Ladder 14. Those numbers would change one more time on Jan. 1, 1913, due to increasing numbers of companies being placed into service – and Ladder 14 became Ladder 114.

The area changed drastically in the early 1950s, when the Gowanus Highway was built, the 3rd Ave. El was torn down and docks along the water front started closing. The working class started to move



A member of Ladder 114 operates at a fire in 1985

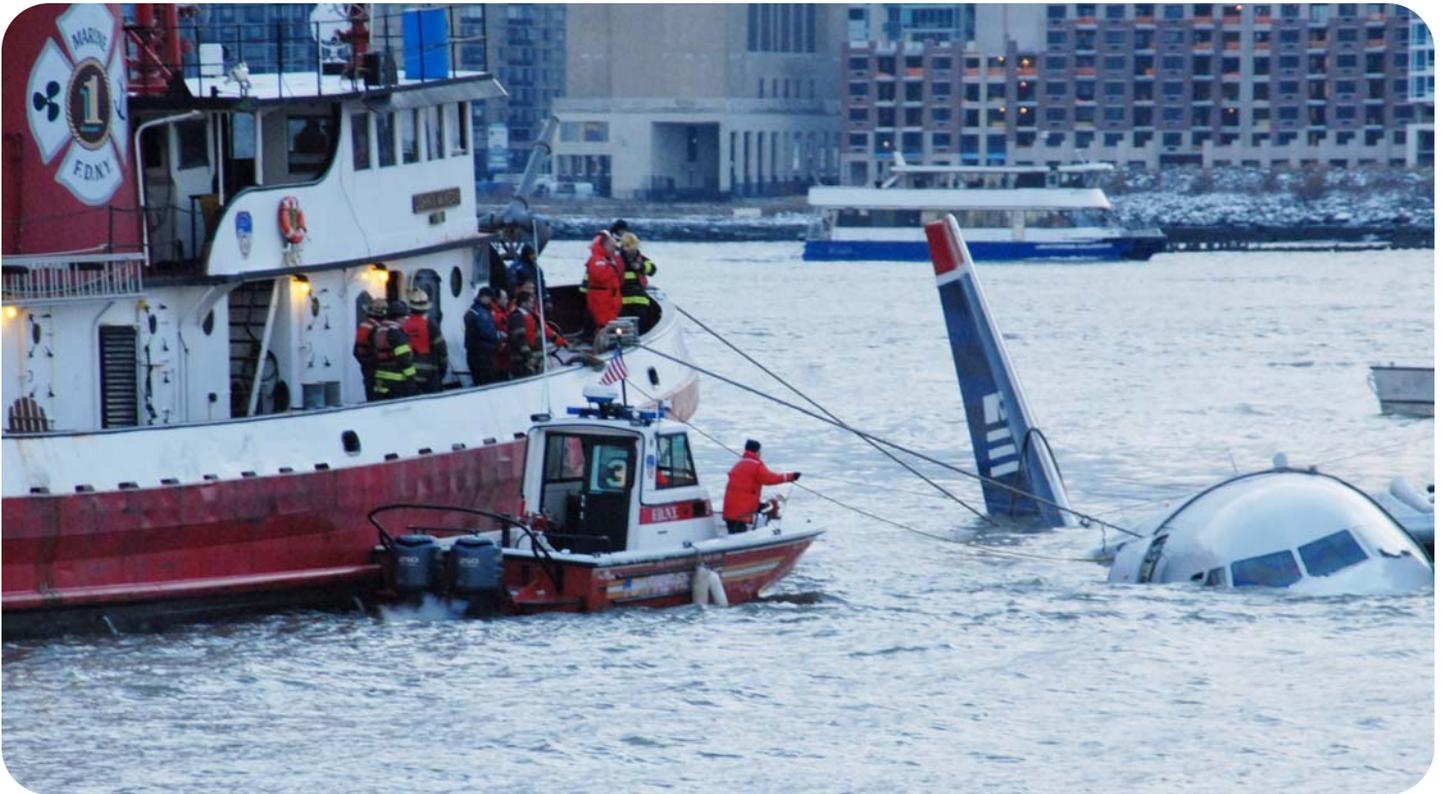
out and many buildings were vacated.

Then as arson for profit, gang wars and drugs increased through the 1970s, Ladder 114 suddenly went from being a slow fire company to being one of the Department’s busiest.

Things began to improve in the mid 1980s when the baby boomers starting buying old buildings at low prices – fires started to decline and the area became safer.

In its history, Ladder 114 has earned 15 unit citations and 16 medals – including the James Gordon Bennett and two Brooklyn Citizen Medals.

Three members of the company have made the Supreme Sacrifice: Firefighter Alfred Kundie (Feb. 18, 1919) who died while fighting a fire in the hold of a steamship, Firefighter Vincent Laurence (Aug. 20, 1955) who died after being injured at a fire at 5th Avenue and 61st Street, and Firefighter James C. Kearney (Aug. 28, 1967), who was injured in quarters. Firefighter James Riches, a beloved member of Ladder 114, also made the Supreme Sacrifice on Sept. 11, 2001, serving with Engine 4.



Downed Plane

(Continued from page 1)

ger plane, my heart just sank.”

EMT Chanderdatt, who graduated from the Academy in September, and EMT Yehowceph, a former Army medic, said they were both overwhelmed by the scene.

As they triaged the victims, who were mostly suffering from hypothermia, EMT Yehowceph said “it was a tremendous

Members of Marine 1, Marine 6, Marine 9 and the Fast Boat responded to the scene of a plane crash on the Hudson River on Jan. 16.

learning experience.”

The members of Ladder 21 were transported to the crash scene by a Circle Line boat. Firefighters Povolny and McLaughlin entered the water wearing cold water suits and searched the interior of the plane for victims along with two ESU officers.

“They did a stupendous job,” said Capt. Lawlor.



Firefighters and EMS members who participated in the rescue were honored by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta at City Hall on Jan. 16.



VIEW

POINT

FEBRUARY 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK**

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FDNY
1865-2008

**A 144 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION**