National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is designed to bring public attention to the life-saving work that more than 750,000 men and women provide to millions of Americans each year.

During this week we honor those who work for the New York City Fire Department’s EMS Command and salute them for their commitment and dedication.

EMS Week also features special events and forums that seek to educate the public.
The Fire Department would like to thank the Pintchik Family for their generous support in making this annual event possible.
EMMANUEL AMANKWAH

Emmanuel Amankwah, a taxi driver from the Bronx, was home on the evening of January 28, 2012, when he suddenly collapsed. His family immediately called 911 for help.

That help arrived quickly in the forms of Lieutenant Vincent Holfester and Firefighters Michael Mulqueen, Kevin Rooney, Leonard Decker and Matthew Edlund from Engine 42. The Firefighters began CPR and shocked Mr. Amankwah once with a defibrillator in an attempt to restore his heartbeat.

FDNY Paramedics Mark Carroll and Mario Thompkins from Station 18 were next to arrive. They inserted a breathing tube, administered medication, and started hypothermia treatment to preserve Mr. Amankwah’s brain function as they worked tirelessly to save his life. After twelve minutes of continuous effort to save him, his heartbeat was restored.

The Paramedics and Firefighters were soon joined by FDNY EMS Lieutenant Edwin Delapaz and Bronx Lebanon Hospital EMTs Jake Jacobson and Antonio. Together they continued treatment and transported Mr. Amankwah to Bronx Lebanon Hospital.

Thanks to the tremendous work by the Firefighters, Paramedics and EMTs who quickly responded to his home, Mr. Amankwah is enjoying his second chance at life.

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ROSA THOMAS

Rosa Thomas suffered an asthma attack in her Bronx home on March 21, 2012. She collapsed and lost consciousness while seeking help from a neighbor. Her neighbor then quickly called 911 for help.

FDNY Paramedics Kevin Bratholt and Paul Wallace from Station 14 arrived in two minutes and initiated CPR, along with Lieutenant Joseph Reznick and Firefighters Anthony Gazzara, Andrew Davis, Richard Degen and William Mueller from Engine 83.

Ms. Thomas’ heartbeat was restored and a tube was inserted to assist her with breathing. FDNY EMTs Melido Vasquez Jr. and Yasel Ferrer, and FDNY EMS Lieutenant Gilberto Aviles from Station 14 assisted with the hypothermia treatment that increased her chances for survival, then transported Ms. Thomas to Lincoln Hospital for additional medical care.

Ms. Thomas has previously met her rescuers, but is so grateful for her second chance at life; she wanted to take part in this event to see that they were recognized for their incredible work.

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JO DI BUSCARELLO

Jodi Buscarello of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn was home sleeping after a long day of work on January 28, 2012, when her nephew stopped by for lunch. On her way to answer the door, she suddenly collapsed in her kitchen.

Her nephew immediately called 911 for help. Three-and-a-half minutes later, Lieutenant Albert Altadonna and Firefighters Anthony Regina, Michael Billotto, Christopher Pickering and Sean Curry from Engine 242 arrived and began performing CPR. In addition, the members of Engine 242 shocked Ms. Buscarello once with an automated external defibrillator.

Paramedics Erin Bowen and Jared Schoenfeld from Lutheran Medical Center arrived and continued patient care by inserting a breathing tube and administering medication. Following two additional defibrillator shocks, Ms. Buscarello regained her heartbeat.

With the assistance of FDNY EMS Lieutenant George Dorsey and Lutheran Medical Center EMTs Drew Kasler and Millianne Lockwood, Ms. Buscarello was transported to Lutheran Medical Center.

Thanks to the quick response and life-saving work of all who responded, Ms. Buscarello now has a second chance at life.

K ATHLEEN O’DONNELL

Kathleen O’Donnell, a personal trainer from the Bronx, was training a client in her home on May 8, 2012, when she began to feel dizzy and collapsed in cardiac arrest.

Her client called 911 and began performing CPR following to the instructions of the Emergency Medical Dispatcher. This bystander CPR was critical to Ms. O’Donnell’s survival.

FDNY EMTs Joseph Depalma Jr. and Charles Okai, along with FDNY EMS Lieutenant James Bayreuther from Station 27 in Woodlawn arrived, followed shortly by FDNY Paramedics Carl Muller and Brandon Rodriguez from Station 15 and members of Engine 63 — Lieutenant John Flaherty and Firefighters Anthony Frascone, Bernard O’Hara, Michael Benedetto and John Scrocca.

These ten FDNY members went to work performing CPR, administering multiple defibrillator shocks, inserting a breathing tube and initiating hypothermia treatment to preserve Ms. O’Donnell’s brain function before transporting her to Montefiore Medical Center.

Today, Ms. O’Donnell is enjoying her second chance and continues to live life to the fullest by continuing her work as a personal trainer and running half-marathons.
Sean Moogan, a former 17-year FDNY EMT from Rockaway Park had just returned from a walk on the boardwalk on June 10, 2012, when he collapsed in the laundry room of his building after experiencing severe pain in his chest.

A 911 call brought Lieutenant Michael Brady and Firefighters Craig Martin, Robert Keiley, Keith Straub and Jeremiah Crowley from Engine 266 to his aid. When they arrived, they found Mr. Moogan’s neighbors Kathleen and Timothy David performing CPR, which would prove critical to his survival.

The Firefighters assumed care of Mr. Moogan and shocked him twice with a defibrillator. Minutes later, FDNY Paramedics Julien Florant and Sean Josten from Station 47 arrived and provided advanced life support, including multiple additional shocks and hypothermia treatment to preserve brain function.

FDNY EMS Lieutenant Scott Waryold and FDNY EMTs Nicole Sosa and Jennifer Brower from Station 47 arrived and helped transport Mr. Moogan to St. John’s Hospital where he spent several weeks recovering. Mr. Moogan is a CPR instructor and gives tremendous credit to his neighbors who didn’t hesitate and performed CPR before additional help arrived.

Months later, Mr. Moogan, was out the night Superstorm Sandy struck, volunteering to help those in need in his community. The unprecedented storm surge nearly drowned Mr. Moogan, but he was able to free himself and get safely to higher ground.

Mr. Moogan has made the most of his second chance at life, marrying his wife Ginny in February of 2013.

David Cohen was leaving an afternoon event at the United Nations on September 21, 2012, when he collapsed and went into cardiac arrest while crossing First Avenue.

Luckily for Mr. Cohen, he was in front of one of the most protected locations in the city. Secret Service Agents Michael Condon and Tate Jarrow and an NYPD Police Officer quickly called for additional assistance and began performing CPR on Mr. Cohen.

In less than three minutes, Lieutenant Anthony Campanelli and Firefighters George Meiley, Anthony Ciappa, Thomas Tommaso and Christopher Filocamo from Engine 21 arrived and shocked Mr. Cohen twice with a defibrillator. Minutes later, FDNY Paramedics Jose Benitez and Byron Melo from Station 8 arrived to continue advanced life support and to initiate hypothermia treatment, which consists of administering intravenous cooling fluids to preserve brain function during a cardiac event.

EMTs Adonay Gonzalez and Kevin Gynegrowski from New York Presbyterian — Weill Cornell Medical Center arrived and assisted with the transport of Mr. Cohen to Bellevue Hospital.

Thanks to the immediate bystander CPR, the Department’s hypothermia therapy protocol, and the quick response by FDNY members, law enforcement and private EMS, Mr. Cohen survived and is back at work enjoying his second chance at life.
Yasmin Fatima was home with her family on the evening of August 4, 2012, when she became unresponsive, her 12-year-old son could see she was in desperate need of medical attention. He ran to tell his father and together they called 911 for help.

Lieutenant Louis Capozzi and Firefighters John Dennigan, Michael Galgano, Pasquale Foresta and Christopher Riordan from Engine 236 responded to immediately perform CPR and administered two shocks with a defibrillator in an attempt to restart her heart.

Moments later, FDNY Paramedics Justine Abruzzo and Brendan Konrad from Station 39 arrived to administer intravenous medications and multiple additional defibrillator shocks. After restoring Mrs. Fatima’s heart rate and breathing, the Paramedics initiated hypothermia treatment, which consists of administering intravenous cooling fluids to preserve brain function during a cardiac event.

FDNY EMS Lieutenant Horace Williams of Station 44 in Brownsville and EMTs Justin Shipp and Bennett Williamson from Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center arrived and assisted with treatment and transport of Mrs. Fatima to Jamaica Medical Center.

Today, Mrs. Fatima is doing very well, and she along with her husband and their four children are all benefitting from her second chance at life.

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Police Officer Brian McKee was at the NYPD Academy on March 5, 2013, training for an upcoming race, when he collapsed at the bottom of a staircase. His partner, Police Officer Pamela Winters, yelled to fellow officers to “Call EMS!”

Firearms Instructor John Lopes, a former EMT, began CPR and shocked Officer McKee with a defibrillator. Minutes later, FDNY Paramedics Paul Ardizzone and Michael Loscalzo from Station 8 and NYPD ESU Officers arrived and provided an additional shock.

The Paramedics, along with FDNY EMTs Gaianella Robalino and Christina Pirrone, also from Station 8, and FDNY EMS Lieutenant Jeanne Aikins, worked to provide advanced care to Officer McKee. The FDNY EMS members inserted a tube to assist his breathing and provided intravenous medication before transporting Officer McKee to Bellevue Hospital.

Nine days later, Officer McKee was back home rehabilitating from this traumatic incident thanks to the life saving work performed by FDNY EMS and his fellow officers.

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Madonna Gay was on her way to work as a home health aide on the morning of August 1, 2012, when she seized and collapsed onboard a city bus.

Three minutes after 911 was called, FDNY Paramedics Latisha Miller and Brendan Ryan from Station 38 in Wingate were at the scene and rendering aid to Ms. Gay on the bus. FDNY EMTs Shaya Gutleizer and Adam Ruiz, also of Station 38, arrived shortly after them, along with FDNY EMS Lieutenant James Becker.

Together, the team from Station 38 worked tirelessly to save Ms. Gay’s life, performing CPR, providing multiple shocks with a defibrillator and beginning hypothermia treatment, which consists of administering intravenous cooling fluids to preserve Ms. Gay’s brain function.

Together, the members of FDNY EMS transported Ms. Gay to Kings County Hospital and she was later transported to Maimonides Hospital to continue her recovery. At the time, she was given very little chance of survival, but thanks to the amazing work by the members of FDNY EMS Station 38, Ms. Gay is alive, well, spending time with her six children and very much enjoying her second chance.

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Jason Kroft, an attorney from Toronto, was in New York City with his wife and children visiting his brother on October 5, 2012, when, while walking near Times Square, he began to feel ill, collapsed and went into cardiac arrest. His brother immediately called 911.

As FDNY Paramedics Sophia Quadri and Jaime Gonzalez from Station 7 headed to the scene, a stranger named John Carey stepped in to help save Mr. Kroft’s life by performing bystander CPR. When the Paramedics arrived three minutes later, they continued CPR and shocked Mr. Kroft once with a defibrillator, before administering intravenous medication and beginning hypothermia treatment, which cools the body’s temperature to preserve brain function during a cardiac event.

FDNY EMS Lieutenant John Paul Dimen and New York University Hospital EMTs Julio Rivera and Dameon Marks arrived minutes later to assist in the care and transport of Mr. Kroft to St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital.

Mr. Kroft has since returned to work in Toronto and is enjoying the second chance at life given to him by FDNY members, NYU Hospital EMTs and the bystander who performed critical bystander CPR.

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On January 5, 2012, Donnalea Huletts coworkers found her unresponsive in her office in Flushing and immediately called 911.

In less than four minutes, Lieutenant Robert Dixon and Firefighters Jon Babinski, Sai Hung Ng, William Moffatt and Mark Stuparich Jr. of Engine 274 were in Ms. Hulett’s office performing CPR and shocking her with a defibrillator in an attempt to restore her heart rhythm.

Minutes later, Paramedics Meir Sommers and Benjamin Fogel from New York Hospital arrived to provide advanced life support to Ms. Hulett, including several additional defibrillator shocks which helped Ms. Hulett regain her pulse.

The units on scene were joined by FDNY EMS Lieutenant Christopher Emhardt of Station 50 and FDNY EMTs Lori Hecker and Stephen Smith from Station 53 who assisted in the continued care and transport of Ms. Hulett to Flushing Hospital.

Ms. Hulett was later transferred to North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center where she continued her recovery. Today, Ms. Hulett is continuing to improve and is enjoying her second chance at life.

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Jim Janof was on duty as a New York City Marshal on September 6, 2012 preparing to tow a vehicle, when without warning, he collapsed to the curb. His partner and another individual came to his aid and quickly dialed 911 for help.

Within minutes, FDNY Paramedics Erica Golino and Mario DePalma from Station 26 in the South Bronx and Captain Robert Kilcarr and Firefighters John Covitt, Thomas Sileo, Joseph Vuotto and Frank Ward from Engine 73 arrived to save his Mr. Janof’s life.

Working together, these seven FDNY members performed CPR, inserted a breathing tube, administered medication and initiated hypothermia therapy to preserve Mr. Janof’s brain function. They were joined by FDNY EMS Lieutenant Gilberto Aviles and FDNY EMTs Marcus Brandon and Matthew Boney, who assisted with Mr. Janof’s transport to Lincoln Hospital.

Today, Mr. Janof has recovered, is enjoying his second chance. He goes to the gym five days a week, where one day, he met Al Herter, also a cardiac arrest survivor and former FDNY EMS Second Chance Brunch honoree.

Both Mr. Janof and Mr. Herter are living examples of the incredible efforts honored each year at this wonderful event and are testaments to the life-saving work performed by the FDNY.

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