



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE



Emergency Medical Service units continue to respond to record numbers of calls for emergency medical assistance and continue to do so faster than ever. Major initiatives to enhance EMS operations and service delivery during Fiscal Year 2006 included:

Automatic Vehicle Location--In November 2005, installation of GPS/AVL equipment began with ambulances assigned to EMS Division 5 in Staten Island/South Brooklyn. After a short evaluation period, the installation moved forward to the rest of Brooklyn and then the other boroughs of the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. All ambulances in the "911 EMS" system--both FDNY units and participating hospital units--were completed in June 2006. This state-of-the-art system allows EMS dispatchers and supervisors to know the exact location of ambulances at all times. Through integration with the EMS CAD (computer-aided dispatch system), AVL has allowed FDNY to assign ambulance resources to emergency calls more efficiently.

Expansion of Hazardous Materials/Tactical (HazTac) Units--EMS HazTac units are both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support units that are staffed by EMTs and Paramedics who have completed an 80-hour course of instruction certifying them as HazMat Technician Level II. These units operate as part of the Haz-Mat group and can deliver pre-hospital care in contaminated environments. Due to the events of 9/11 and the ongoing potential terrorist threats, the FDNY has increased the number of these specialized EMS units from 10 to 35 and now staffs 20 ALS and 15 BLS HazTac units per tour.

Development and Initial Roll-out of EMS Personal Protective Ensemble--After many months of field testing several types of Personal Protective Ensembles (PPE), an ensemble was found that protects EMS members from a variety of hazardous situations, while simultaneously allowing these members to operate in environments in which there is the possibility of numerous patients. The ensemble includes bunker-style coat and pants, gloves and boots. Contracts were awarded through the uniform Quartermaster and sizing of the majority of the EMS work force was completed in June 2006. This PPE not only protects from a variety of chemicals and blood-borne pathogens, but also will protect EMS members from flash fires. This improved protection for EMS members reinforces that safety is the Department's number one priority.

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF MEDICAL EMERGENCIES RESPONSE DURING FISCAL YEAR 2006, COMPARED TO FISCAL YEAR 2005:

- ◆ 1,152,109 medical emergency incidents in 2006, compared to 1,129,842 in 2005, a two percent increase.
- ◆ 408,451 segment 1-3 life-threatening medical emergencies (such as cardiac arrest and major trauma) in 2006, compared to 406,452 in 2005, less than a one percent increase.
- ◆ Average EMS response time to segment 1-3 incidents was six minutes and 42 seconds in 2006, a decrease of four seconds compared to 2005.
- ◆ Average CFR-D fire unit response time to segment 1-3 incidents was four minutes and 30 seconds in 2006, 18 seconds less than in 2005.
- ◆ Combined EMS and CFR-D average response time to segment 1-3 incidents was five minutes and 49 seconds in 2006, a decrease of nine seconds compared to 2005, and a decrease of more than two minutes compared to 1995, the year before the Fire/EMS merger.



Implementation of a Structured Mentoring Program--The Department has established the EMS Mentoring Program, which ensures that EMTs and Paramedics are provided with the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in clinical and related field skills during patient care activities. Additionally, they are afforded the opportunity to gain experience with the operational procedures learned during new employee training and become proficient in the tasks and standards required for their position. All members who complete an FDNY Training Orientation Program (TOP), Paramedic Training Orientation Program (PTOP), Paramedic Upgrade Program (MUP) or Paramedic Basic Program, participate in the mentor program. During the past two fiscal years, the FDNY has hired more than 800 new EMTs and provided initial training to more than 150 Paramedics. These members are guided by senior members of the Department who help them develop into the best pre-hospital patient care providers for the people of the City. EMS Officers monitor the performance of the mentors and ensure that they develop and get them any assistance necessary. After successfully completing the program, members are given permanent assignments.

