

Fleet Spotlight: FDNY Pumper Inspection Team

By: Keith T. Kerman and Nathaniel Koszer

This week, we spotlight Roy Rampersaud and Ray Khan, both auto mechanics at FDNY's Heavy Truck Repair Shop.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) auto mechanic Roy Rampersaud has worked for FDNY for six years. He got his start in the Ambulance Repair Shop at Review Avenue in Queens and, after about a year, moved to the Heavy Truck Repair Shop at 35th Street, Pumper Section. Prior to joining the City, Roy spent 16 years as a mechanic in a Nissan dealership.



Ray Khan has worked for FDNY for eight years, in several FDNY repair locations before settling into his current position working with pumpers (also commonly referred to as fire engines) at 35th Street. Before starting his career with the City, Ray worked in a private auto shop for 18 years.

Roy and Ray have unique technical responsibilities. Together, they perform inspections of all the new pumpers that the City purchases. Pumper trucks, or fire engines, are outfitted with hoses, pumps, and water tanks to help firefighters fight fires. Before going into service, every fire engine goes through a set of rigorous tests and observations, to ensure that they will not fail New York's Bravest during stressful and complex emergency responses.

Unlike most vehicles on the road today, each pumper truck and many other firefighting units are custom built. This enables FDNY to issue very detailed and operationally specific specifications for each truck. The customization does increase the possibility for variance in their production. That's why it is essential that any variations are noticed and potential issues addressed before each unit passes inspection and goes into active service.

When a new vehicle is received at FDNY, Roy and Ray put the vehicle through the proverbial ringer. Every light, every bolt, every painted section is inspected. All the mechanical components are tested, including an eight-hour long test of the pumps themselves to ensure that they can perform successfully through the longest and most grueling assignments. When Roy and Ray encounter any issues or potential concerns, they either fix it or send the vehicle back to the dealer to be addressed. When a vehicle comes back from the dealer, they re-

inspect and install any additional tools or apparatus that the engine company has requested before clearing the vehicle for service. In total, the process for each truck can take about two months. Roy and Ray are currently inspecting a batch of 60 pumper trucks purchased last year.

In addition to inspecting newly arrived vehicles, Roy and Ray also work on older pumpers that come in for repair, and are always ready to help other sections when they are needed. To quote their supervisor Gabriel Gordon, "Ray and Roy are two of the greatest this field has to offer. They are extremely detailed and thorough while also being highly efficient to keep up with strict contractual negotiated deadlines to put new fire engines into service. They are also a few of the 'go-to' employees for FDNY Fleet Services when a difficult repair or diagnosis is needed."

When they aren't on duty, Roy enjoys spending time with his family and Ray plays sports and watches movies with his two children. On behalf of all New Yorkers, many thanks to this great duo for performing some of the City fleet's most critical technical work and helping keep our firefighters and all New Yorkers safe.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International Quarter 4



The Fleet Vision International magazine for the fourth quarter of 2021 is out now. This edition features an article written by DCAS Deputy Commissioner and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman on the work NYC Parks is doing to clean, repair, and safeguard NYC parks while reducing fleet emissions.

[Fleet Vision International Q4 2021](#)

DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation.](#)

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 376, January 6, 2022:](#) DCAS's Online Fleet Auctions Find a New Home With IAA

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 375, December 29, 2021:](#) NYC Fleet Year in Review, 2021

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 374, December 23, 2021:](#) Mayor Announces Major Acceleration of Fleet Electrification

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 373, December 20, 2021:](#) BIC and DCAS Partner With US DOT Volpe on Safe Fleet Plan

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