Chairperson’s Message

“Critical EMT Shortage Real Reason to Sweat” was a NY Post lead headline about the city’s EMS 911 system problems handling calls as volume spiked during a recent heat wave from a daily range of 3,200 calls to over 4,600 during one 24 hour period. There were response times of over an hour for some calls. Another news agency highlighted an incident about an 88 year old woman who collapsed at Lexington Avenue and East 55 Street on Tuesday afternoon 6/10/08 about 3:24 PM. An ambulance finally arrived 51 minutes later at 4:15 PM. Apparently, there were no available BLS units in Manhattan so a Staten Island unit was redeployed in case of need. When the 911 call came in the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system and automatic vehicle locator (AVL) system felt that unit was the closest available ambulance in the system and assigned it to the job even though it was actually still on Staten Island. An FDNY spokesperson said this was an exception and that the average citywide response time to a medical emergency is 6 minutes and 31 seconds although 8 minutes 23 seconds is what is shown for May on the FDNY official web site. The FDNY Commissioner has acknowledged that hiring and keeping EMTs and paramedics is a problem and personnel shortages exist. FDNY EMS’ answer to the problem includes appears to be more mandatory overtime.

NYS DOH regulations Part 800.21(p)(1)require ambulance agencies to have in place a procedure “to request the response of the nearest, appropriate, available EMS service”. FDNY EMS’ position for the last few years has been that NYC REMSCO’s Disaster Mobilization Plan takes care of all its needs for extra help and it does not need day-today mutual aid from the city’s community based volunteer ambulance services. However, for some areas such as the Rockaways it is routine to hear 911 units from Jamaica and Springfield Gardens sent over several bridges or through Nassau County to help cover calls even though the area is also served by a volunteer squad.

If called upon, the city’s volunteer EMS providers - 28 independent squads, 5 volunteer fire departments and 3 college squads - are ready, willing and able to fill 911 system coverage voids in their communities. It’s a shame this valuable resource is ignored by FDNY.

Appreciation is extended to Martin Grillo and his committee for another excellent Volunteer EMS Recognition Dinner which has become a premier event in New York City during EMS week. A special thanks is extended to the sponsors: NY Hospital-Queens, Brookdale Hospital, Caritas-St; Johns & Mary Immaculate Hospitals, Forest Hills-North Shore, Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Medtronic, Inc, Philips, VFIS-Hubbineette Cowell, Onsite Medical Services, Staten Island Emergency Medical Training, LaGuardia Community College EMS Program, West Queens EMT Institute, Whitestone VAC and Lorraine Giordano, MD. Next years dinner is on Tuesday evening May 12, 2009.

Ryan
DISTRICT 4 ELECTION RESULTS

Elections were held 7/10/08 for District 4 officers for 2008-2009. Results were:

Chairperson……………Ryan Gunning, Glendale VAC
Vice Chairperson……..Martin Grillo, Emergency Medical Rescue
Treasurer………………Nancy Ehrhardt, Glen Oaks VAC
Financial Secretary…..Fran Serrentino, Forest Hills VAC
Recording Secretary….Janet Perry, Emergency Medical Rescue
Director…………………Charles Hummel, Glendale VAC

REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL OF NYC

NYC Regional EMS Council held its annual EMS Week Recognition and Awards Ceremony on 5/19/08. The well attended event started with a color guard presentation by NY Hospital-Queens and a musical tribute by the FDNY EMS Pipes and Drums Band. Awardees were:

- BLS Provider – Anthony Durante, FDNY EMS
- ALS Provider – Gary J. Simmonds, FDNY EMS
- EMS Leadership – Frank P. Mineo, NY Hospital-Queens
- Guardian of Life Award – Matthew Flood and Phillip Sawyer, Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS.
- Drawing Contest “EMTs and Paramedics Make a Difference”
  Mendel Knoblock, 5th Grade, son of Israel Knoblock, Maimonides Hospital EMS
  Anastasia Rybitskiy, Kindergarten, daughter of Dmitriy Rybitskiy, Transcare Ambulance

A KED skills competition was won by a team from NY Hospital-Queens. Other competitors were from Glendale VAC, North Shore Rescue Squad and Roosevelt Island Search and Rescue.

Brenda Morrissey, EMT-P and Arthur Cooper, MD were elected to At-large seats on the Regional Council. District 18 designated Joe DiBenedetto, Flushing VAC as alternate for Ralph Cefalo, Whitestone VAC on the Council. The private ambulance sector designated Mike Raiola as alternative for Al Rapisarda on the Council. Both are with Midwood Ambulance. FDNY has appointed as its representatives:

- David Prezant, MD with Bardley Kaufman, MD as alternate
- Glen Asaeda, MD with Doug Isaacs, MD as alternate
- Division Chief Frances Pascale (Division 1 Manhattan) with Chief John Peruggia as alternate
- Deputy Chief Janice Olszewski with Chief John McFarland as alternate

REMAC

EMT-Critical Care (EMT-CC) providers in the NYC region fell to about a half dozen and it had been decided to phase out the level in the region. However, there has been renewed interest by some volunteer squads and a REMAC member indicated that the phase out decision may be reconsidered if there is a valid interest by a sufficient number of individuals. The region’s Training Plan for 2008-2009 projects 20 persons being trained plus another 10 during 2009-2010 but this was explained saying Training Centers in the city are free to train people at this level for service in other Regions.

There is controversy about an EMT-CC course in progress in Queens sponsored by St. Vincent’s Institute of Emergency Care. One issue involves the NYC curriculum being more extensive than NYS’s and the other is whether or not St. Vincent’s is approved to sponsor courses outside of New York County (Manhattan) – the NYS DOH web site indicates it is authorized for all five boroughs.. An official from TransCare Ambulance plus others asked REMAC to re-examine its decision to require AEDs on all BLS ambulances in the city. REMAC decided not to alter its decision.

Four additional skills have been added to the list of three limited ALS skills that may be performed by a paramedic while on a BLS ambulance:

1. Alternative advanced airway in addition to ET
2. 12 lead EKG/Cardiac monitoring, if appropriate
3. Defibrillation
4. Synchronized cardioversion for unconscious and hemodynamically unstable patients

In addition, the policy has apparently been changed to allow all ambulance services in the region, not just volunteer services, to utilize the ALS skills on their BLS ambulances. While the change in policy title was used in the report of REMAC’s 4/15/08 meeting, FDNY already issued Medical Affairs Directive 08-03 on 3/5/08 implementing the change for their EMT-Ps.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

To promote continued education and learning among EMS providers, the Council has established a Continuing Medical Education (CME) web page at http://www.nycremsco.org/newsflash3.aspx listing seminars that will be taking place throughout the NYC region. Any agency hosting a CME program open to individuals outside of the agency is asked to e-mail a flyer for the program to Joseph Raneri at jraneri@nycremsco.org who will post it on the webpage and help spread the word.
Parameters for patient care restrictions imposed on EMS providers by their organization’s Medical Director were discussed. There is no established avenue in this region to appeal restrictions if the provider contests or the Medical Director leaves the position. A draft regional policy is being developed.

A copy of a letter from the Greater NY Hospital Association to FDNY concerning oversight and follow-up of several FDNY-NYC REMAC protocol initiatives was referred to the QI committee. After signing up for participation in initiatives such as the STEMI project there has been difficulty in getting patient outcome information from many hospitals with administrators citing HIPAA restrictions.

FDNY NEWS

40 HazTac ambulances are being placed in service. The chassis is a Ford F-450 V8 Powerstroke with an extended Horton patient compartment. The approximately 30 inch additional length was placed at the front the box. On the passenger side there is a compartment for two SCBA and extra storage. Both these compartment have roll up doors. The rear of the chassis lowers for stretcher loading/unloading. Mileage on the new units is about 3.5 to 4.5 mpg. The new units could serve double duty as bariatric (heavy patient) units coming equipped with a center mount Ferno 35X PROFlexX cot. The 24 inch wide stretcher is capable of supporting a 700 pound patient in the loading height position and up to 1,100 in the lowest position. An optional bariatric board with a 1,000 load limit could add 10 inches bringing the support surface width to 34 inches. There may also be fold up flaps added to bring the total width to 40 inches. In 2006 there were 225 calls handled by the NYC 911 system where the patient was over 500 pounds.

FDNY EMS beat out 24 other teams to win the 2008 Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) nationwide competition held on 3/28/08 in Baltimore, MD. The FDNY EMS team had a combined total of nearly 75 years of experience and included Lieutenant James Fallar, Paramedic Joseph Hudak, Paramedic Don Faeth and EMT Joseph Fortis. The teams who qualified for the finals were presented with a mock scenario of a natural disaster – an earthquake in an urban area resulting in a structural collapse trapping 10 people. 20 minutes were allowed to triage patients, identifying the nature of injuries and treat the patients. Teams were also graded on how well they communicated with each other, the Incident Commander at the scene and the Urban Search and Rescue Squad. For winning first place, the members of FDNY EMS received a $1,000 check which will be donated to FDNY EMT Christopher Pierce, who sustained a serious injury while off duty. At the JEMS competition, FDNY EMS finished in 2nd place in 2007 and in 1st place in 2006.

EMS unions, Local 2507 representing Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics, and Local 3621 representing EMS officers have gone to contract mediation over issues that include significant salary and pension differences at FDNY. Firefighters are working under a pact that has raised their pay more than 8 percent since the EMS pacts expired in June 2006. According to the FDNY web site, the starting salary for a firefighter is $36,400, Paramedic is $37,346 and its $27,295 for an EMT. After five years, a firefighter receives a base salary of $68,475, a Paramedic earns $50,501 and an EMT earns $39,179. Full pension benefits for firefighters start at 20 years while its 25 years for EMS personnel. There is at least a $30,000 difference between the salary of an EMS Lieutenant and a Fire Lieutenant. The Chief-Leader newspaper indicates both EMS unions want to reduce these gaps significantly and have said that the current pay structure has created an environment where EMS is not treated like a career unto itself but a stepping-stone for people who want to become firefighters. FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta indicated that 121 EMS positions are unfilled.

An FDNY ambulance was involved in a serious accident on Tuesday morning 4/29/08 at Houston Street and Avenue C in Manhattan. News reports indicate the driver of a car apparently did not hear the ambulance’s siren and crossed it path. Two pedestrians were injured when the ambulance went up on a sidewalk. The first calls for help indicated the ambulance crew was pinned in the cab. Altogether five were said to be seriously injured while a sixth person was taken to a hospital with minor injuries.

8 hour tours by 911 system ambulances:

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<th>Total Tours</th>
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<tr>
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Yearly average daily tour totals:  2005 = 934.2  2006 = 919.7  2007 = 923.7

Citywide 911 System EMS response times:

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<td>6:30</td>
<td>7:45</td>
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4X6 All Terrain Vehicle “Gator units” will not be assigned to Orchard Beach in the Bronx or Coney Island in Brooklyn this summer due to personnel shortages.

Chief Mark Steffens, Bronx Borough Commander, retired at the end of May. He is moving to Brazil to take a teaching position with Catholic University and possibly due some ministry work.

FDNY LIASION COMMITTEE

The quarterly Liaison Committee meeting was held on Monday evening 6/2/08.
For the quarter March through May volunteer units were placed on a total of 20 assignments by the MARS desk.

- March: 7 calls - Bed Stuy, Flatlands (2), Forest Hills, Glendale, Glen Oaks and Jamaica Estates.
- April: 7 calls – Flushing, Forest Hills (3), Jamaica Estates, North Shore Rescue and West Hamilton Beach.
- May: 6 calls – Flatlands, Forest Hills (4) and Glendale.

FDNY has acknowledged in the past that no mutual aid calls are assigned to VACs and it is hit or miss if VAC requests to be put on calls they are on scene at are actually entered into the computer system. Whitestone VAC reported that on May 30th it received a call from an FDNY EMS dispatcher asking if they could cover backlogged assignments in Brooklyn or Queens. Two calls were handled in Queens while a back up crew was available to handle calls in the community. FDNY representatives at the Liaison meeting indicated this should not have happened and asked for date and time. Neither mutual aid call was reflected in the stats provided for the month.

Rock VAC asked about signing a Mutual Aid Agreement with FDNY EMS and assignment of MARS number and portable radio. Answer was that answer (No) was given two years ago and has not changed.

FDNY Program Agency (one of two serving the NYC Region) is supposed to produce a monthly CME Journal Article for distribution in-house plus a Multi-Agency Edition for other EMS agencies in the region. NYC REMSCO passes these on and also posts them to their website. The last posting was for 2/08. FDNY will check and advise if lack of articles being passed on is with FDNY or NYC REMSCO.

NOTE: The issue was also raised at the 6/24/08 NYC Regional EMS Council meeting and NYC REMSCO has subsequently posted the March, April, May and June editions to its web site at http://nycremsco.org/news.asp?intCategoryID=1&intArticleID=275

Two squads reported MARS radio problems with one saying it was not answered 50% of the time. One of the squads had received info that the MARS dispatcher did not answer the radio because it was too far from her console. FDNY commented that (1) system was checked and is operating properly and (2) MARS dispatcher has other duties which also have to be handled. A problem on 5/10/08 with some MARS radios showing “OUT OF RANGE” was due to the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT) switching over to a backup transmitter site for a period of time.

A squad officer asked about contacting MARS to send an FDNY EMS Conditions Supervisor to a hospital obviously backed up to get it put on diversion when the hospital administration would not do it themselves. Answer was that volunteer squads should refrain from contacting FDNY EMS for this as FDNY has its redirection program monitoring the situation. If a volunteer squad encounters a problem a squad operations officer should request to speak to the hospital’s Administrator on Duty.
PPE specifications were discussed. At the time of the meeting there was incorrect information circulating that Ricochet Manufacturing, which NYC REMSCO selected to supply volunteer, private and hospital EMS agencies, stopped manufacturing FDNY/NYC specification turnout gear. Cited as impetus for the decision was the new NFPA 1999 Standard for EMS PPE being mandated for gear purchased with federal grant money. FDNY/NYC specifications are significantly above the NFPA EMS standard and incorporate NFPA 1951 Urban Search and Rescue Standard and NFPA 1992 Liquid Splash/HazMat Protection Standard. Peter Askey, President of Ricochet was contacted on 6/30/08 and confirmed that Ricochet was still taking orders and manufacturing PPE to "NYC specs". A new issue is developing in connection with the mandate from the National Highway Administration taking effect in November requiring specific high visibility protection for anyone working on federally funded highways. There may be a movement to establish lime green reflective striping as standard for EMS providers which is at odds with the orange reflective striping, apparently insisted upon by FDNY EMS, on turnout gear supplied by NYC REMSCO.

**EX FDNY AMBULANCES USED BY “EMT KITCHEN REPAIR, INC.”**

Roaming around the NYC metropolitan area are a pair of 1997 Type I Ford/Horton ex-ambulances converted for use by a company called EMT Kitchen Repair, Inc. If you look quickly you might mistake them for emergency vehicles because of their lettering, striping and other details. The company’s phone number, (718) EMT-HELP, is displayed prominently on the sides of the vehicles. Eric M. Taylor is president of the company. He explained that EMT in the company name stands for his initials and he considers himself an Emergency Mechanical Technician. From there came the idea for using ex-ambulances for his service. The vehicles were purchased at a NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services auction at the old Brooklyn Navy Yard. He had them re-lettered for his company including a unique company shield. The vehicles as bought came stripped of their emergency lights but one has had them restored. Taylor explained that the cost of the lights was over a thousand dollars, so the other vehicle may have to wait. So far the police have not stopped the vehicles. For more information about buying used vehicles from NYC go to the web site at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/auctions/autoauctions.shtml

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW – UPDATE**

In the last issue of the PULSE it was reported that former FDNY Commissioner Thomas Van Essen was working for Giuliani Partners. An online newsletter that tracks comings and goings reports that Von Essen left the company in late March becoming the first known high-profile guy, other than Bernard Kerick and an associate, to quit the former mayor’s firm.

Howard Safir, former NYPD and FDNY Commissioner, is Chairman and CEO of a new venture called National Security Solutions (NSS). Also with the firm are former FBI head Louis Freeh as an advisor and former US Homeland Security Director Thomas Ridge as a Director Nominee. The company will focus on corporate security, homeland security and national security. Safir was previously involved with a company that sold ResQline, a body harness attached to the coil of a cable that supposedly allowed people on the upper floors of a highrise to jump to safety in case of attack or fire. The company has since gone bankrupt. There seems to be still plenty of preparedness money floating around for consultants but not enough to provide sufficient PPE, including respirators and turnout gear, to the city’s volunteer emergency services.

**NYC COUNCIL REVISES PENDING INTRO 650 ON PERMITS FOR BIO-CHEM-RADIOLOGICAL DETECTORS**

Intro 650 was first proposed at the request of the Police Department to require permits for biological, chemical and radiological. The purpose was to ensure the detectors were in responsible hands, gave accurate readings and that NYPD was notified if they alerted. As first written it was all encompassing and gave the impression that the city was trying to prevent the public from having independent monitoring as well as creating bureaucratic hurdles with more paperwork for individuals and organizations with legitimate need of various detectors. As a result of feedback from numerous sources including statements about how it could restrict or prevent altogether independent environmental monitoring plus raising a serious threat to civil liberties the initial draft was rewritten several times. The latest draft of Intro 650 is dated 4/14/08 and contains new language addressing concerns including a new section 10-809 to be added as Chapter 8 to Title 10 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York providing significant exemptions from permit requirements. Under this revision the new Chapter 8 shall not apply to the following classes or types of biological, chemical or radiological detectors:

1. Smoke alarms;
2. Carbon monoxide detectors;
3. Radon detectors;
4. Hand-held chemical detectors, radiological detectors, personal dosimeters or Geiger counters designed and intended for use by individuals;
5. Detectors which are not possessed or deployed as an early warning device…

The New York Community for Occupational Safety and Health has a web page at http://www.nycosh.org/intro_650_page.html which provides additional information including testimony given at a 1/8/08 NYC Council hearing plus statements, letters and resolutions in concerning Intro 650.

**RAPID ORGAN RECOVERY AMBULANCE PLANNED BY BELLEVUE HOSPITAL & FDNY EMS**

To increase the pool of organ donors Bellevue Hospital is embarking on a program funded by a three year $1.5 million...
grant from the US Health Resources and Services Administration to dispatch a specially trained and equipped crew to cardiac arrest cases to initiate body preservation efforts and bring it to a hospital while family members are contacted to make an organ donation decision. It was cited that impetus for the program came from relatives of potential donors who were told their loved one could not donate because the person died outside a hospital. A similar program has been operating in Spain since 1989.

A news article indicates the special organ recovery ambulance would be operating by year’s end in lower Manhattan and would be dispatched unbeknownst to the normal EMS responders, standing by and not getting involved until all resuscitation efforts were exhausted and the victim declared lifeless. After waiting five minutes field procedures would include:

- Injection of heparin, a blood thinner, to prevent blood clots
- Continuation of ventilations through an endotracheal tube
- Automated chest compressions. The LUCAS Chest Compression System by Physio-Control was mentioned in one news article.
- Transport to Bellevue where further preservation measures would be take while the family is consulted about the deceased wishes regarding organ donation.

Transplants would happen only if the next-of-kin agreed and the organs were healthy. There have been some ethics concerns raised about performance of procedures without consent and these are being considered. There are also risks associated with extra ambulance responses to and from scenes which may not result in a subsequent medical benefit. Also, it has not been indicated what the paramedics on the organ recovery ambulance would do if there were the first ambulance on the scene. The lead on the NYC project is Lewis R. Goldfarb, MD, Director of Emergency Medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center.

**COOL KIDS STUDY OF HYPOTHERMIA FOR PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY @ LIJ-SCHNEIDER**

Schneider Children’s Hospital on the campus of Long Island Jewish Hospital in Queens is taking part in a four year multi hospital Cool Kids Trial. The purpose is to study of the effects of early induced moderate hypothermia (32 to 33 degrees C) following pediatric traumatic brain injury on mortality, function and neurocognitive outcome as well as reducing intracranial pressure and maintaining adequate cerebral perfusion pressure. Over the course of the study the hospital expects to enroll 2 to 5 children per year with all participating centers enrolling about 340 children. General inclusion criteria are:

- Glasgow Coma Scale of less than 8
- Closed head injury
- Age newborn to less than 15 years of age

There is also a list of exclusion criteria.

EMS providers in eastern Queens and western Nassau are going to be receiving laminated cards to guide them through the process of who will be included in the study and what numbers to call. The study in no way alters current regional protocols on prehospital medical care or hospital destination choices. Schneider Children’s Hospital is a Level 1 Tertiary Care Hospital and a Regional Pediatric Trauma Center. For more information on the Cool Kids hypothermia study go to the web site at [www.coolkidstrial.org](http://www.coolkidstrial.org)

**HOSPITAL NEWS**

**HOSPITAL DIVERSION TIME UP IN NYC**

The NY Post in a 5/18/08 article indicated in a survey of 425 ER doctors last year, 69% said they had personally experienced a patient suffering harm because there was no hospital bed available and the patient was held in the ER. 28% said a patient died as a result. For 1/08 through 3/08 diversion time citywide totaled 5,600 hours, a 77% increase over 2007.

**HARLEM HOSPITAL**’s West 136 Street Emergency Department entrance was closed due to construction. The new Emergency Department entrance is located on West 135 Street off the corner of Lenox Avenue.

**LONG ISLAND JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER** held an evening meeting on 5/22/08 for community organizations to go over the hospital’s redevelopment program including new construction, temporary and permanent traffic pattern changes, parking, etc. Volunteer sector EMS organizations were advised of the meeting.

**PARKWAY HOSPITAL**, a 251-bed acute care facility in Forest Hills, Queens, is slated for closure by the Berger Commission but is arguing for an exemption saying they receive very little subsidy from the state. Parkway officials have also been in talks with Mount Sinai Hospital about a possible clinical affiliation. Parkway officially exited from bankruptcy on 2/28/08 after having spent about three years in bankruptcy protection.

**PENINSULA HOSPITAL CENTER** in Far Rockaway hosted stroke lectures for volunteer EMS squads. 40 Hatzalah members attended a lecture in December while members of the ROCK VAC, Rockaway Point VFD and other squads attended a presentation in January.
ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL at West 58 Street in Manhattan reports a 25% increase in Emergency Department visits since the closure of St. Vincent’s Midtown in September 2007 which was on West 51 Street.

ST. VINCENT’S HOSPITAL (H21) is on permanent diversion to Critical Pediatrics effective 4/23/08.

VICTORY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL closed its Emergency Department effective Friday 5/23/08 and is no longer an authorized 911 ambulance destination.

WESTCHESTER SQUARE MEDICAL CENTER in the Bronx, slated for closure by the Berger Commission, may be working on an arrangement to give up its independent hospital designation but remain in operations with beds actually authorized for another hospital in the NY Presbyterian Healthcare Network.

NEWS ABOUT NYC EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

ASSIST AMBULANCE SERVICE (NYS DOH operating certificate 0758) has been acquired by Martin Fink. ASSIST was actually a “doing business as” or DBA name of CREST AMBULANCE & INVALID COACH SERVICE, INC. owned by F&G Acquisitions, Inc. Former F&G owners Barry Friedman and Jacob Gold sold their stock to Fink who set up CREST TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC. to continue to operate under the ASSIST AMBULANCE SERVICE name. The primary operating territory for the ambulance certificate is the five Boroughs of NYC.

BED STUY VAC
The squad’s ambulance and crew appear in a rap music video on YouTube titled *Papoose - Put You In A Ambulance* by Jordan Tower Films. The reaction from those in the EMS community who took a look has been universally negative. The squad president has indicated that they were misled as to the purpose of the video and plan legal action against the rapper who appears in it. Instead of being about the neighborhood and how the squad responds to save lives it is about a rival rapper being shot, put in an ambulance and breathing his last breath. The clip opens with the sound of gunshots and screaming. The rapper is then seen casually exiting the driver's side of an ambulance while EMTs rush to work on a man lying bleeding in the street. The wounded man is a presumed stand in for the rival. To view it go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf7Qk2PATBc . WARNING: lyrics may be considered offensive.

While waiting for a new headquarters trailer to be bought and sited on the squad’s lot some temporary arrangements have resulted in neighbor complaints. The squad president set up one room in his nearby house for a dispatch center after the headquarter’s old trailer became uninhabitable. A neighbor called 311 to complain that he was running an illegal business out of his home. After that was dismissed another neighbor filed a complaint that the squad illegally built a training classroom on the headquarters’ lot. This has resulted in a continuing series of fines for having an illegal structure. Meanwhile, the Independence Community Foundation has agreed to loan the squad the $135,000 it needs to purchase the new trailer since the grant from the Borough President is a typical reimbursable type that requires an expenditure of funds before the squad receives any money back.

CARITAS EMS (St. John’s Hospital EMS & Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS) has 2 new EMS supervisor’s vehicles. One is a 1999 Ford Explorer and the other is a 1991 Chevy Impala. Both have the Caritas blue/gold/red striping and lightbars.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT) are being utilized by the NYC Office of Emergency Management to provide first aid coverage at a number of events around the city such as bike tours. FDNY has been approached about the incorporation of CERT in some way into EMS operations. Some teams, such as Battery Park City in Manhattan and Port Richmond on Staten Island, are active and have enhanced resources such as a Medical Branch and water rescue personnel. Other teams after receiving basic training and have been minimally active for meetings and little else. There has been criticism leveled at NYC OEM that after the initial training the local teams in each of the city’s 51 Community Board areas has been left on its own for continued training and funding for supplies and equipment.

COOLING MEDICAL TRANSPORT based in Brooklyn was assessed a civil penalty by the NYS DOH of $5,000 for violation of Article 30, Section 3010(1) which covers area of operation

CORONA VAC was approved by NYC REMAC to upgrade to the provision of Limited ALS Skills on a BLS Ambulance.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE OF NYC assisted Transportation Alternatives with their 4th annual “Tour de Brooklyn”. This was the 3rd year E.M.R. has attended the event which hosted an estimated 3,300 bikers. Lending a hand at one of the rest stops was the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Their help was greatly appreciated. Upcoming events include the massive 100 mile Century Bike Tour on Sunday 9/7 and the Tour-de-Bronx on 10/19. Any squads or individuals wishing to participate or obtain further information, please contact Martin Grillo at (718) 474-0680 or e-mail info@EMRNWC.com

FLUSHING VAC held dedication ceremonies for their new headquarters on Saturday 5/31/08. Lunch and refreshments were served. The new building is actually the old two bay garage but completely redone. One bay now houses the two
QUEENS DIVISION ambulance responding to an emergency call was involved in a collision with a Brink's truck on Politi, now squad Medical Director, Ed Pearce, currently 1st Lieutenant and John Paul Vasquez, currently 2nd Lieutenant. Konigsberg, Doug Weiner and Warren Weiss. Former Youth Squad members who have risen in the ranks included Dr. Victor FLATBUSH DIVISION'S annual lunch meeting with the upper-brass of NYPD's Brooklyn South took place on Wednesday.

HATZALAH
BORO PARK DIVISION broke ground on 3/12/08 for a new headquarters building(s) to be constructed at 3701 14 Avenue. As filed with the NYC Planning Commission, one of the proposed buildings at the 5,000 square foot site would consist of two stories and a cellar containing 9,600 square feet of floor area. An ambulance garage located on the ground floor would contain six bays for ambulance/emergency vehicle parking, equipment storage and mechanical space. The second floor would accommodate an administrative office, a conference room, two training rooms and accessory space. The cellar space would be used for larger group training sessions, mechanical and accessory space. A second building with three floors and a cellar would have a total floor area of 14,600 square feet. The floor plans for the second floor would be identical for both the two-and three-story buildings are identical. The three-story building includes an additional floor with a floor area of 5,000 square feet which would contain classrooms for group training sessions, an equipment room, exercise room and accessory space. The third floor offices triggered a parking requirement of 17 spaces but a variance requested a waiver to not provide these parking spaces and it was approved. The site is that of a former railroad right-of-way for the Culver Shuttle transit line.

FLATBUSH DIVISION’S annual lunch meeting with the upper-brass of NYPD’s Brooklyn South took place on Wednesday 6/18/08 at the Hatzalah building on Ocean Avenue. Those attending the meeting included Brooklyn South Chief Joseph Fox plus commanding officers, Lieutenant’s, Sergeant’s and Community Affairs Officers of all the local precincts in the Flatbush coverage area.

QUEENS DIVISION ambulance responding to an emergency call was involved in a collision with a Brink’s truck on Wednesday evening 4/30/08. The accident was at Jewel Avenue and the Van Wyck Expressway service road. There was major damage to the front end of the 2007 Ford Horton 4X4 Type I ambulance, designated Q-05, but no injuries to the crew or occupants of the armored truck. The ambulance had only been in service about two months.

JAMAICA ESTATES-HOLLISWOOD-SOUTH BAYSIDE VAC held a 35th Anniversary and Reunion on Sunday 3/30/08 at Antun’s in Queens Village. Attending were several members from the early days: Evelyn Dillman, Chris Harasek, Phil Konigsberg, Doug Weiner and Warren Weiss. Former Youth Squad members who have risen in the ranks included Dr. Victor Politi, now squad Medical Director, Ed Pearce, currently 1st Lieutenant and John Paul Vasquez, currently 2nd Lieutenant.

LINDENWOOD VAC
The squad’s first response vehicle was approved for a NYC REMSCO security sticker. The official plates which were questioned in a news article about a year ago have been replaced by vanity plates EMS-94K. Sometime in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 15, vandals painted graffiti on one of the squad’s two ambulances parked curbside on 133 Avenue just off Cross Bay Boulevard. The damage was cleaned up by Fred Kress of Citizens Against Graffiti Everywhere (CAGE) which is a borough wide anti-graffiti initiative. NYPD is still investigating the crime and Lindenwood VAC is trying to get surveillance footage from a nearby business, hoping it will yield some evidence to help police catch the individual(s) responsible. Anyone needing CAGE’s graffiti removal expertise in the future can contact them at (718) 341-1395.

METRO NORTH RAILROAD GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL FIRE BRIGADE was notified by NYS DOH that it is no longer eligible for an EMS agency code. This does not affect its operation as a non-transporting BLS first response agency.
NORTH SHORE RESCUE SQUAD’S 35th annual Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday evening 9/27/08 at The Staaten, 697 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY. Tickets are $60 per person. Journal ads are available. Contact is Jimmy Martin at (917) 921-1068 or fdny211@verizon.net

OUR LADY OF MERCY MEDICAL CENTER EMS’ Ambulance Operating Certificate #7011 is being transferred to Montefiore Medical Center EMS. Montefiore will continue its contract with TransCare to operate 911 ambulances while OLMMC ambulances will be used for BLS private transports.

PARK SLOPE VAC
The squad’s new ambulance is a 1994 Type III Ford E-350/PL Custom Medallion model. Color is white with blue striping. The former owner was Hightstown First Aid Squad in New Jersey.

PSVAC again teamed up with FDNY EMS Station 32 in Carroll Gardens on Sunday 5/18/08 to sponsor the 2nd annual EMS Week Community Day. Several hundred residents plus elected officials stopped by. Activities included:

• Blood pressure and health screenings
• Tour of the EMS station and FDNY and PSVAC ambulances
• Meet the Community Board 6 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
• Ambulance and EMS skills demos
• Information about CPR training and blood donations
• BBQ with food and beverages and karaoke
• Recruiters from FDNY and PSVAC with info about career and volunteer opportunities

ROCK VAC moved into new quarters at 510 Beach 20 Street, Far Rockaway, NY 11691. The space which includes offices, storage rooms, a large open area suitable for training plus access to a parking lot has been provided free of charge by Peninsula Hospital which is just across the street. The phone number is (718) 327-2865. William Heath is Chief of Operations and his e-mail address is sgtheath88@yahoo.com. The squad handled 63 calls in May.

ROOSEVELT ISLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE was officially recognized by the NYC Regional EMS Council as a BLS First Response Agency. The group is also a Public Access Defibrillation provider. They plan on applying for an Ambulance Operating Certificate to serve Roosevelt Island. Their web site is at www.risar10044.com and there is a recent local newspaper article about the organization at http://www.nyc10044.com/wire/2818/wire2818.pdf

SAINT VINCENT’S CATHOLIC MEDICAL CENTER EMS provided 14 EMT-Ps and a specially designated ambulance to cover the any EMS needs of Pope Benedict XVI during his 4/18/08 to 4/20/08 visit to the NYC area. Phil Eguiguirens, Director of the St. Vincent's ambulance department, supervised the operation during which crews worked 12 hour shifts. Team members, three of who covered the 1995 visit of Pope John Paul II, went through a Secret Service background check and a special one-day, eight-hour motorcade course held by New York Police Department, the city Fire Department and the Secret Service. They also received a briefing on the 80 year old Pope’s physical condition. Included in the motorcade entourage was the Pope’s personal physician as well as the President’s White House doctor. Two hospitals were designated should the Pope have required advanced medical care.

WOOD-HEIGHTS VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS was incorporated in April with the intent of applying for an Ambulance Operating Certificate to cover Woodside, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights in Queens. They have a web site at www.whvac.org. In years past there was both a Jackson Heights-Elmhurst VAC (94G) and a Woodside VAC (94Q) but both went out of service.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NY DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL’s 6th Annual International Emergency Preparedness Symposium on Wednesday 9/10/08, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Goldman Sachs Training Center in Lower Manhattan. Lunch and breaks provided. To register e-mail name, title, organization, address, day phone number and e-mail address to mendez.josephs@downtownhospital.org.

PULSE CHECK 2008, the 53rd Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday evening 9/18/08 to Sunday morning 9/21/08 at the Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, Ulster County, NY - only 90 minutes from NYC. Event features seminars, exhibits, statewide EMT/CFR team skills drill and ambulance drill competitions, memorial service and awards dinner. Information will posted on the Association’s web site at www.nysvara.org covering conference registration, room reservations, list of seminars, Drill application, trophy donations, golf outing and Journal ads. There is also information on the web site about nominations for the Association’s annual awards and scholarships. If more information is needed call (877) NYSVARA or e-mail pulsecheck@NYSVARA.org

FIRE, RESCUE & EMS MEGA SHOW at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, Long Island, Saturday 1/24/09 and Sunday 1/25/09.
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