Chairperson’s Message

Since mid October squads have been dealing with varied responses in their contacts with the FDNY’s Resource Control Center (RCC) and Mutual Aid response System (MARS) desk. Background Information on the issue is contained in the Liaison Committee report in this newsletter. While FDNY EMS can dictate whether or not it wants volunteer sector squads to logon-logoff at its RCC, there appears to be an open issue about MARS contacts. With Command Order 01-006 revoked, FDNY EMS dispatchers may not have written policy or procedures to handle routine calls from volunteer units for additional resources such as ALS, fire, police or other responders. When asked about this we are told there are policies but we can’t seem to nail anything down or get a copy of them. This is a serious coordination of resources issue that District officers will continue to pursue.

Squads are reminded that Article 30, Section 3010(1) of the NYS Public Health Law requires that “an ambulance service shall receive patients only within the primary territory specified on its ambulance service certificate or statement of registration” with one of the four exceptions being “as required for the fulfillment of a mutual aid agreement authorized by the regional council”. We are hearing that Medicare and Medicaid auditors may deny payment and request reimbursement from squads that respond out of their primary area absent a mutual aid agreement and even with an agreement if the number of responses is considered excessive. NYS DOH policy requires squads to have procedures in place to hand off calls that cannot be responded to. Please submit mutual aid agreements you do have to the NYC REMSCO for approval so this does not become a problem that could have been avoided.

NYSVA&RA dues renewal notices have been sent out. The Association and District 4 need you support to continue to represent the interests of the volunteer EMS and rescue sector before local, state and federal officials. If you have not done so, please send in squad and individual dues as soon as possible. If anyone needs a renewal or new signup form please contact me at GVACPRESIDENT@aol.com.

Lastly, I wish everyone happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

Ryan
VICE CHAIRPERSON’S MESSAGE

In the 31 years of my volunteer EMS career we have lost many squads in the city - Astoria, Bushwick, Canarsie-Spring Creek-Starrett City, City Island, Cypress Hills, East New York, Greenpoint, Howard Beach, Jackson Heights-Elmhurst, Kingsdale, Laurelton, Manhattan College, Maspeth, Montrose, Peninsula, Plenty, Rego Park, Riverbay, Rochdale-Springfield, Rosedale, Shorefront, Tri-Community, Williamsburg and Woodside.

We, as a group, must stick together and work out our agreements and disagreements among ourselves or some of the present 28 independent, 5 fire based and 3 college squads will go the way of the others. Volunteers running an ambulance corps for the community hold a trust. No one owns the ambulance corps other than the community that they serve. We must get past our petty differences and work together so we can serve our communities.

The Fire Department continues to deprive our communities of the benefits of our resources. We must stick together to remind the Fire Department that were providing EMS to our communities before the FDNY and HHC NYC*EMS. Some of our volunteer agencies have been in existence for over 100 years. District 4 officers have been meeting with elected officials about this issue but we can not do it alone. Your local politicians need to hear from you what the Fire Department could be doing for their constituents. We need to hear your voices - please come to the meetings - we are only as strong as our members sticking together.

I’d like to send a special thank you to the squads that helped out with the H1N1 PODs. Your help is not going unnoticed. We have gotten positive feedback from REMSCO, NYC OEM and the NYC DOH&MH.

A reminder to the squads to get in your reservations for the Volunteer EMS Recognition Dinner Dance on May 11, 2010. Information is on the internet at www.emsdinner.com/vac.htm

Have a safe and healthy holidays and New Year.

Martin

REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL OF NYC

The corporation’s IRS Form 990s are on the internet at www.guidestar.org. EIN is 23-7398695.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue</td>
<td>$851,132</td>
<td>$2,249,305</td>
<td>$1,053,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Public Support</td>
<td>$20,959</td>
<td>$76,550</td>
<td>$21,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Service Revenue including government contracts</td>
<td>$734,185</td>
<td>$2,191,571</td>
<td>$1,055,144</td>
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</table>

The four major program expense categories were:

- Coordination of EMS in the city
  - $54,206
- Medical Control of the EMS System
  - $224,535
- CPR Training and Certification
  - $232,053
- Emergency Preparedness
  - $115,606

Income and expenses can vary greatly from year to year depending on grants received for specific projects. Annual funding from the NYS DOH for basic expenses has been fixed since 1997 at $287,482. The separate FDNY EMS Program Agency receives $262,482 from NYS DOH.

Mordechai Goldfeder, EMT-P has been appointed by NYC OEM as an alternate to Commissioner Joseph Bruno for its organizational seat on the Regional Council. Goldfeder is on loan from FDNY EMS to OEM where he is a Senior Health and Medical Planner. He has a varied background in EMS including service with Hatzalah.

Emergency Aid Training, Inc. was approved as a BLS course sponsor in the Bronx. Principals are Kevin Mahoney and Josh Prosper.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

Replacement escape hoods will apparently not be distributed any time soon. Nancy Benedetto advises that there have been “glitches”. No new time frame was given.

Article 30, Section 3010(1) provides that “an ambulance service shall receive patients only within the primary territory specified on its ambulance service certificate” with one of the exceptions being “as required for the fulfillment of a mutual aid agreement authorized by the regional council”. Years ago when one volunteer squad asked about submitting a mutual aid agreement for approval it was told that NYC REMSCO was not interested but that has changed. The following mutual aid agreements were submitted on 11/24/09 and have been approved:
The Regional Council has received at least two complaints about volunteer squads operating out of their NYS DOH authorized operating area.

In 2007 we were advised that Global Bay Mobile Technologies, Inc. was working on developing a software system to log in and track responders during a disaster mobilization. This would be in addition to check-in, tracking and check-out done by FDNY. The barcode on a REMSCO ID card contains information about a responder such as name, level of certification, primary agency affiliation, date of birth, etc which can be scanned into a handheld device at a mobilization point or other location. Responders could then be tracked to ensure everyone is accounted for at demobilization, crews are rotated at appropriate intervals, follow-up or screening is done for exposures and so on. REMSCO planned to purchase scanners and train a number of people on how to use them. The project was brought up at the 11/12 Ambulance Committee meeting. We were told that there are now 19 PDA type scanners and the system was tested at a drill or two. A small group with representatives from each sector is to be formed to get the system fully functioning. A related issue concerning regional ID cards was brought up. There are at least 15 volunteer squads, 3 privates and 8 voluntary hospitals that have yet to submit member/employee names and pictures so cards can be issued. Other agencies should be submitting renewals for expired IDs and requests for IDs for new members/employees.

Dosimeter service contract on the Canberra personal dosimeters expires 12/31/09. Nancy Benedetto advises she is working to get the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene to fund a contract renewal.

H1N1 POD coverage at a number of the weekend events has been provided by volunteer squads including: BRAVO, College Point, Corona, East Midwood, Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside, North Shore Rescue Squad, Park Slope, Ridgewood, West Hamilton Beach and Whitestone. There have been at least 30 patients with 8 being transported to a hospital.

REMAC
A large number of protocol changes are coming. The Protocol Committee recommended the changes on 10/9, REMAC approved them on 10/20 and they were sent out for public comment on 10/28. A number also have to go to the State EMS Council (SEMSCO) for review and approval. If finally approved, the changes would take effect 1/1/10 with everyone having to be trained by 4/1/10. There are 7 changes to BLS protocols, 17 to ALS and 4 to General Operating Protocols (GOPs). There is also a proposed new ALS protocol on vomiting. Noteworthy in the changes is a reversion back to dry dressings for major burns. Another pediatric protocol change as well as a new pediatric protocol may also be forthcoming.

The pre hospital hyperthermia protocol for post cardiac arrest patients being introduced in the region will require a saline cooling unit to be added to ALS ambulances. FDNY has tested a unit and reports it is not a significant draw on vehicle electrical systems. The cost is about $300 to $400 per vehicle.

A new regional triage protocol was approved involving an orange classification to catch those patients who appear stable but have a medical condition which could result in a rapid deterioration. FDNY EMS will be sharing training materials. FDNY has also indicated that it will be providing a one year supply of new triage tags to volunteer squads. The State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee tabled the protocol at its December meeting which may delay implementation.

FDNY filed an appeal in September with the NYS DOH requesting review of the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC) decision to support NYC REMAC's decision in 2007 to stay with 2 paramedic staffing on NYC 911 System ambulances. NYC REMAC opposes the appeal and has requested the NYS DOH to direct FDNY to participate in the development, implementation and review of a regional project to determine the safety and efficacy of a single paramedic on 911system ALS ambulances. While it has been two years since the SEMAC decision, a legal review was conducted by the NYS DOH and it was determined that as there is no specific time limitation in statute or policy, the appeal had to be accepted.

Marie Diglio sent an e-mail to squads in November advising: “Although I have been aware of their presence on the market, it was brought to my attention that some BLS ambulance agencies believe they can use EPI-Pen kits that come with one auto-injector and one intramuscular (IM) injection. Please do not be led to believe that EMT Basics can administer Epi via IM. The only injection BLS can perform is epinephrine via an auto-injector. EMT Basics administering IM injections are out of their scope of practice”.

The following vacancies exist on the NYC Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC)
- Hospital Emergency Department Nurses (2 vacancies)
- Hospital Emergency Department Administrator
- Voluntary Hospital EMT or EMT-P
• Psychiatric Emergency Medical Physician
• Private Ambulance Company EMT or EMT-P (2 vacancies)

REMAC meetings are normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at 475 Riverside Drive, corner of West 120 Street in Manhattan.

The current EMT/EMT-P openings are for "organizational seats" and as such the voluntary hospital EMT/EMT-P represents and would be nominated by the Greater NY Hospital Association (GNYHA) and the private ambulance EMT/EMT-P represents and would be nominated by the United NY Ambulance Network (UNYAN).

There are also four (4) At-large vacancies on the Medical Standards Subcommittee open to anyone. This group meets at 5:00 PM preceding the REMAC meeting.

If there is anyone interested in any of the above vacancies please notify Marie Diglio or Nancy Benedetto, Executive Directors, NYC REMSCO at (212) 870-2301 option 4.

FDNY NEWS

Uniformed EMS Officers Union Local 3621, representing Captains and Lieutenants, has a pending grievance involving supervisory span of control. According to the union web site: "Inadequate staffing of supervisors is unsafe and invites problems such as an inability or difficulty to manage or control. The Span of Control according to NIMS, OEM, NYPD and the FDNY is one supervisor to seven individuals. The department has violated the span of control in EMS by measuring individuals as units. Example; 14 individuals are required to staff seven units therefore the span of control would require two supervisors. On August 4, 2009 at a step III hearing regarding span of control the department stated the NIMS & ICS policies refer to single incident commands not supervisor staffing. The Union has presented the argument that the department has failed to maintain a span of control for single incidents and multiple incidents. A priority one assignment in EMS, [is] a Cardiac Arrest. This type of call is what we are here for to save a life. This is what we do it is a single incident and even then the ratio is 1 Supervisor to NINE individuals (2 Medics, 2 EMTs, and 5 Fire Fighters). This doesn't include additional units that may be requested for assistance. There is an increase in liability and the deterioration of quality assurance and control for multiple incidents, occurring in multiple areas which are everyday units responding to assignments in their areas. This can at best achieve results of limited supervision or control. The Hearing Officer will review the case and notify both parties with his decision." Is this implying FDNY EMS supervisors are having trouble overseeing a single patient cardiac arrest situation? What about the fire officer on the CFR engine company – isn't that person also a supervisor? The BLS and ALS teams also have one member acting as a crew chief. It would appear that there are four supervisors of various levels at a cardiac arrest scene.

There are other grievances that the Uniformed EMS Officers have pending including:
Reasonable Accommodation - The department is offering RA positions to supervisors only if they accept a demotion to EMT. The union feels they're many vacancies that exist and RA Lt.'s and or Capt.'s should be placed into these vacancies. Some examples are current station vacancies, battalion based stations and light duty personnel positions.
Out of Title - Members are performing duties of an instructor by teaching and conducting monthly drills at the stations.
Out of Title - Members are performing duties of a Bio-Medical Technician by maintaining and cleaning the drill and or training equipment at the stations.

After losing a union grievance on mandatory use of heavy USAR boots, the department stated they would begin testing 110 members (EMTs, EMT-Ps and officers) at random with four different types of PPE boots; Danner Striker II EMS, Haix Air Power X1, Haix R7 and the Rocky First Med. The process would take three to four months to complete. In the interim EMS personnel may wear a black work boot until they receive the new PPE boots. EMS officers will continue to receive the work shoe from the quartermaster and may continue to wear them.

An EMS Chief's command car struck and injured a Chinese food deliveryman on 9/4/09. The incident took place about 10:00 PM on 51st Street in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The chief was responding lights and siren to a report of a stabbing and the deliveryman was on a scooter. The deliveryman was taken to Lutheran Medical Center and was reported in critical condition after surgery. The Daily News report did not identify the chief other than to indicate that he/she was a veteran chief and that no charges would be filed.

FDNY ambulance 43G tour 1 on 12/15/09 fatally struck an 80 year old female pedestrian in Brooklyn. The incident took place at a crosswalk on Bay Parkway near the Belt Parkway at about 5:51 AM. The ambulance was transporting a 100-year-old woman with stomach pains to Lutheran Hospital. 43G is based at Gravesend Station at Coney Island Hospital.

Bureau of Training is conducting response drills simulating an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack on an MTA bus. The drills are being conducted on Randall's Island at the FDNY training facility. Selected FDNY EMS units are pulled from 911 coverage for the training. The units scheduled are subject to change due to call volume or unit availability.
The 12 hour tour Alternate Work Schedule (AWS) pilot program in Brooklyn Division 3 terminated on 11/28/09 and 8 hour tours resumed on 11/29/09.

8 hour tours by NYC 911 system ambulances – includes both FDNY EMS and voluntary hospitals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ALS Tours</th>
<th>BLS Tours</th>
<th>Total Tours</th>
<th></th>
<th>ALS Tours</th>
<th>BLS Tours</th>
<th>Total Tours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>317.1</td>
<td>592.9</td>
<td>910.0</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>335.7</td>
<td>597.7</td>
<td>933.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>332.1</td>
<td>600.8</td>
<td>932.0</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>339.9</td>
<td>599.5</td>
<td>939.4</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>335.3</td>
<td>340.5</td>
<td>341.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>332.7</td>
<td>337.1</td>
<td>337.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>332.1</td>
<td>336.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>334.1</td>
<td>336.9</td>
<td>336.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>330.0</td>
<td>335.6</td>
<td>334.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>329.0</td>
<td>334.1</td>
<td>331.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>339.7</td>
<td>334.1</td>
<td>334.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>336.3</td>
<td>335.8</td>
<td>342.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>337.7</td>
<td>335.8</td>
<td>336.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>336.0</td>
<td>334.1</td>
<td>341.7</td>
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Yearly average daily tour totals: 2005 = 934.2  2006 = 919.7  2007 = 923.7  2008 = 932.9

Citywide 911 System EMS response times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>1-3</th>
<th>1-8</th>
<th># Runs 1-8</th>
<th>1-3</th>
<th>1-8</th>
<th># Runs 1-8</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:09</td>
<td>6:38</td>
<td>8:05</td>
<td>113,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Y to Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
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<td>109,187</td>
<td>5:09</td>
<td>6:47</td>
<td>8:21</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>4:55</td>
<td>6:26</td>
<td>7:54</td>
<td>113,227</td>
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<td>6:41</td>
<td>8:03</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Y to Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
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<td>8:48</td>
<td>111,817</td>
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<td>6:32</td>
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<td>5:01</td>
<td>6:36</td>
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<td>111,124</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<td>8:09</td>
<td>122,453</td>
<td>5:03</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>6:38</td>
<td>8:05</td>
<td>113,161</td>
<td>5:04</td>
<td>6:38</td>
<td>8:10</td>
</tr>
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FDNY LIASION COMMITTEE

Quarterly meeting was held on Monday evening 12/7/09.

FDNY EMS issued Command Order 01-006 in early 2001 which formalized procedures for volunteer sector squads to logon/logoff at the Resource Control Center (RCC) and to clarify contact procedures for the Mutual Aid Radio System (MARS) between volunteer units and FDNY EMS. The Order indicated it was “as an effort to maximize system utilization of available resources”. However, sometime over the years it was revoked but no one at FDNY told the volunteer sector. FDNY EMS has been routinely providing RCC logon-logoff statistics at quarterly Liaison Committee meetings. Starting Wednesday evening 10/14/09, volunteer squads trying to contact RCC and MARS pursuant to the Command Order told that logons could not be accepted and to call a number in EMS Operations if they wanted more information. However, people there knew nothing. A contact within Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) advised that an oral instruction came from Chief John McFarland to cut off all contacts, including MARS, with volunteer squads. This refusal to accept RCC logons/logoffs has continued, albeit inconsistently depending on the individual dispatcher. One even commented that they didn’t know if they should be talking at all to the volunteer squad dispatcher.

Nothing formal was forthcoming from FDNY EMS’ Volunteer Liaisons or anyone else in the EMS Command to explain what was going on. The NYC Regional EMS Council, which is responsible for coordination of EMS in the city, was unaware of any change in FDNY EMS policy. An e-mail was sent to Chiefs Peruggia and McFarland as well as the volunteer liaisons asking what precipitated the change in policy, is it temporary or permanent, is FDNY also terminating
the Regional Disaster Mobilization Plan which involves volunteer sector agencies or has there been a miscommunication somewhere? Chief McFarland replied by e-mail on 10/19/09 advising that there is no change to the MARS or the Regional Disaster Mobilization Plan, if a MARS participant contacts EMD for assistance, the contact will be handled as per current policy, if the Regional Mobilization Plan is activated, all participants will be contacted through the normal process and if there are any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact him.

However, it was very apparent that something had changed. A call to Chief McFarland’s office was made but he was unavailable at the time and no return call was ever received. It was not until 11/12/09, after more messages were sent to FDNY, that an e-mail was received from Captain Dawn Diaz, one of the liaisons to the volunteer sector, advising that FDNY EMS Command Order 01-006 is no longer in effect and providing a 1/13/09 list of active Command Orders that did not list it. Strangely, volunteer sector RCC logon-logoff records were continued to be provided by FDNY EMS at the Liaison Committee meetings held in March, June and September. We have still not been able to elicit any information from FDNY EMS as to what prompted the decision to revoke the original order or why we were not notified of the change back in January.

FDNY will be inviting volunteer sector personnel to training sessions on the new five (5) level triage protocol that it hopes to implement in early 2010. There will be at least one session open to volunteers at a location in each Borough. A DVD on Triage Review & Modifications at Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs) was provided at the Committee meeting. The Districts hope to get copies made for distribution to squads. Additional training materials are on the NYC REMSCO web site under FDNY Journal Articles and CME at http://nycremsco.org/images/articleserver/09-11%20CME%20journal.pdf

A copy of the NYC 911 System Pandemic Flu Response Plan was provided. It has response scenarios for citywide call volumes exceeding 4,000, 4,500, 5,000, 5,500 and 6,000. Normal daily call volume is below 4,000 but was between that level and 4,500 during the H1N1 outbreak this past spring.

FDNY ALS units will be carrying a ResQPOD device that attaches to advanced airways. The device has been shown to improve blood flow to vital organs during states of low blood flow such as cardiac arrest. All EMS personnel should be aware of how the ResQPOD operates since a cardiac arrest call is normally an ALS-BLS team effort. Copies of the FDNY EMS In-Station Training Drill for December 2009 covered use of the device and was e-mailed to volunteer squads. The ResQPOD is a single use device that has a cost of $99.50 each.

The next Liaison Committee meeting will be in March 2010.

BOY SCOUT EXPLORER POSTS

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Explorers have great programs to work with volunteer groups, such as volunteer ambulance squads and volunteer fire departments. It’s a good way to recruit youth into volunteer corps. They have reached out to the NYC Regional EMS Council which in turn has contacted Districts 4 and 18 to try and get the information out to everyone. Learning for Life is the entity that partners with the Boy Scouts of America and under which Explorer Posts are chartered and operate. It provides insurance for youth members, which has been an important issue for many volunteer squads. Jake Davison of the BSA is available to meet with the leadership of volunteer squads to present detailed information and answer questions. If any squad is interested in sponsoring an Explorer Pose please contact Marie Diglio at MDiglio@nycremsco.org or (212) 870 2301 option 4. There are information links at: http://www.nyexploring.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=1552 and http://www.learningforlife.org/exploring/index.html

NEW YORK CITY MARATHON COVERAGE

The NYC Marathon took place on Sunday 11/1/09. EMS coverage for the event was massive. 12 ambulances were provided by volunteer squads including Brooklyn College EMS (1 unit), Central Park Medical (1 unit), Corona VAC (4 units), Glen Oaks VAC (1 unit), Little Neck VAC (1 unit), North Shore Rescue Squad (1 unit), Park Slope VAC (2 units) and Whitestone VAC (1 unit). Voluntary hospitals supplied 4 BLS ambulances, American Medical Response had 10 ALS ambulances at the finish line per a contract with the Road Runners and FDNY EMS supplied 13 BLS and 20 ALS ambulances plus other units such as 10 “Gator” ATVs, Logistics Support Unit, Major Emergency Response Vehicle (MERV), Mobile Command Center and a number of engine and ladder companies. As course sections were closed, resources were released or redeployed to other sections including the large staging area on Central Park West near the finish line.

The NY Road Runners registered 44,177 runners to start the race and clocked 43,660 finishers with times ranging from 2 hours 9 minutes to over 8 hours.

A 51 year old from Texas running his first marathon collapsed at mile 19 (1st Avenue & 124 Street) and went into cardiac arrest. Firefighters from CFR Engine Company 35, which had stopped to watch the race and not assigned to event coverage, saw the incident and was able to respond, begin CPR and help successfully defibrillate the patient.
LIMITED ALS BY ONE (1) EMT-P ON A BLS AGENCY AMBULANCE DISCONTINUED

In July the NYS DOH requested the NYC Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee to stop issuing “limited ALS” approvals to BLS ambulance services. DOH indicated that BLS agencies do not have the management and infrastructure to support consistent provision of ALS. Since 1999 NYC REMAC has given approval for three procedures which was subsequently expanded to seven that could be done by a single paramedic on a BLS ambulance. These included:

- Needle chest decompression for tension pneumothorax;
- Endotracheal intubation (exclusive of patient sedation); and
- Direct laryngoscopy for the purposes of foreign body removal using McGill forceps.
- Alternative advanced airway in addition to ET
- 12 lead EKG/Cardiac monitoring, if appropriate
- Manual defibrillation
- Synchronized cardioversion for unconscious and hemodynamically unstable patients

Three squads, Corona VAC, Flatlands VAC and Lindenwood VAC, took advantage of the arrangement and all three eventually progressed to full ALS level service. In the future, BLS agencies interested in upgrading would need to progress directly to full ALS. Agencies at the ALS level evidently can continue to use “limited ALS” on any BLS ambulances that they operate.

MEDICAL AMBULANCE BUSSES

The Urban Area Working Group’s EMS Committee held a meeting at NYC OEM which included representatives from Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties and discussed the purchase of Medical Ambulance Busses by agencies. The vehicles, based on a transit bus chassis, would be capable of transporting 18 to 24 recumbent patients, 8 to 12 wheelchairs and a medical staff of five. A standard design is preferred as the busses may be mobilized for a specific facility incident as well as a regional disaster or evacuation. In the vehicles stretchers are stacked three high in racks along the walls. In wheelchair mode the lower stretchers are removed so the wheelchairs can be secured in their place. Equipment includes a large generator and multiple large oxygen tanks. There are pictures of a number of vehicles in operation around the country at http://www.sartinservices.com/MAB/photos.shtml

NYS STATE SEAL AND CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION ARRESTS

Recently, use of the center portion of the NY state seal on an ID displayed by a non-NYS employee resulted in a criminal impersonal arrest on Roosevelt Island. Back in February 2006 it became known that Federal Protective Service officers at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan regularly take people into custody who attempt to enter the that building with what the officers consider unauthorized IDs. In that instance an EMT badge with the NYS seal was found in a routine briefcase search – it was not even displayed. The volunteer EMT, who was an attorney entering the building on legal business, was arrested and charged with several criminal offenses under the NYS Penal Law and NYC Administrative Code involving fraud and intend to deceive. In June 2006 another volunteer EMT was arrested at Federal Plaza while in possession of ID with a NY state seal. If you carry or display ID indicating your EMS status please ensure it is authorized and in proper format. Charges may subsequently be dismissed but legal expenses can be significant.

In a related issue, we are hearing that people have seen vehicles of the suburban, escalade, explorer or expedition chassis type with AMBULANCE plates. NYS DOH has specific requirements for ambulance construction including minimum headroom and the ability to carry two recumbent patients that these type vehicles can not meet. If a vehicle with a questionable plate is spotted please take down the plate number and advise a district officer and the report will be passed on to the DOH and DMV for investigation.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Three former hospital sites in Queens may or may not be going on to other uses. On 10/17/09 Caritas Health Cares’ St. John’s and Mary Immaculate properties were bought at auction by a realty company controlled by Brooklyn developer Joshua Guttman for $26.625 million. The auction involved five bidders, four bid on both properties and one bid on only St. John’s. The Guttman organization has said it was exploring options for placing commercial, government, religious and/or non-profit offices in the two buildings. Recently, an ambulatory care center has been mentioned. However, on 11/2/09 it was reported that the NYS Dormitory Authority, on the urging of local political leaders and Governor Paterson, asked the federal bankruptcy court to hold off on approving the sale. The Authority is owed more than $62 million by Caritas and indicated another company, Village Management Group, has offered more money for the sites. Also on 10/17 a judge of the US Federal Court dismissed a preliminary injunction to reopen Parkway Hospital. Following that the court appointed receiver for defunct Medical Capital Holdings, which issued its $30 million mortgage, indicated its intent to foreclose on the building. Possible alternative uses mentioned included a low security correctional or illegal immigrant detention center or halfway house but such plans
would probably meet with strong community opposition. The Queens Courier reports Dr. Robert Aquino, owner of Parkway, is saying he has the investors to put up the money to get the hospital up and running again and profitable.

The NY Times ran an article on Sunday 11/1/09 about former NYS Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio and his involvement in securing NYS funds for Jamaica Hospital. The article noted that “a survey of the 200 largest nonprofit companies found that C.E.O.’s at hospitals and medical centers had the highest median pay, at $848,802, according to The Chronicle of Philanthropy. In New York, the hospital industry pays few executives less than $1 million, with one prominent — and instructive — exception: the city’s public hospital system, the Health and Hospitals Corporation, where the senior officials make only a fraction of the salaries paid at the private hospitals”. The article also noted that at Jamaica Hospital in 2007, David P. Rosen, CEO “drew two salaries, one from Jamaica Hospital and another from its parent company, MediSys, for $520,341 and $796,167. He also got a payment of $500,555 toward a retirement fund from the hospital, and $59,861 more from MediSys. This came to more than $1.8 million. The year before, his wages and benefits came to $2.2 million.” Rosen’s wages also cover his services for three other hospitals managed by MediSys: Brookdale, Flushing and Peninsula. The Times article is on the internet at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/01/nyregion/01about.html?ref=nyregion. On 11/9/09 the NY Post ran an article indicating the NYS DOH met recently with the boards of Jamaica, Flushing and Brookdale Hospitals and asked if Rosen’s involvement with Seminerio would affect his future with the organizations. The article added that the NYS Medicaid Inspector General's Office said it is reviewing the evidence for possible sanctions against the hospitals -- such as excluding them from the Medicaid program. Perhaps if non-profit or not-for-profit organizations receiving half their funds from government sources, as many hospitals do, were made to follow government pay scales there would not be the health care cost and other issues that exist today.

CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL (H42) effective 12/2/09 was approved by the FDNY EMS Office of Medical Affairs to participate in the New York City 911 system Cardiac Arrest Center program to provide therapeutic hypothermia as a standard part of post-resuscitation management.

LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL’s (H49) sale by Continuum Health Partners to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is still pending. In September, the LICH medical staff submitted an alternative restructuring plan to the NYS DOH that they believe would make the private hospital profitable again. The NY Daily News reported in October that LICH got a $22 million grant from the state to make it more attractive for a merger. The hospital is about $136 million in debt. If the sale to Downstate is approved LICH would become a public hospital. Continuum’s President and CEO is Stanley Brezenoff who has a long administrative and political history in the city which has included positions as President & CEO of Maimonides Medical Center, Executive Director of the Port Authority of NY & NJ, 1st Deputy Mayor under Edward Koch and President of the NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation.

NEWS ABOUT NYC EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

BRAVO VAC was in the spotlight at the October meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 10. The NY Post indicated “the volunteers that have kept the group running were lauded for their efforts on behalf of a late board member. Joe Sokoloski, the son of former CB 10 member Helen Sokoloski, who died in September, presented Dwight Lankford, the chairperson of BRAVO’s board, with a check, in gratitude for the ambulance team’s support for his mother in her time of need. The check, he stressed, was to mark “the kindness BRAVO personnel showed, and for their speed and gentle care of her. “They couldn’t have taken care of their own mother better,” Sokoloski told board members.”

CORONA COMMUNITY AMBULANCE CORPS dropped its membership in District 4, NYSVA&RA citing philosophical and business differences. The squad subsequently applied for and was accepted for membership in District 18 which it adjoins. Corona has also withdrawn from the West Queens Mutual Aid Backup System due to several incidents between it and others within the Mutual Aid Backup System. The squad remains a member of the West Queens Volunteer Ambulance Association.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE’s Segway Response Team received a donation from Lucent Tactical of a custom Tactical Shield for one of their units. Lucent equipped the non-ballistic shield with a set of strobe lights, 80 watt siren & speaker system with megaphone feature all of which are operated with a high quality rechargeable lithium-ion battery and also made sure that all the wirings were completely sealed allowing for operation in foul weather. To complete the custom shield, Lucent’s graphic design team created a functional design for the shield with special reflective materials for added visibility and security. Value of the custom shield and equipment is well over $1,100. If any squad needs extra help at an event where the unique capabilities of a Segway equipped with medical supplies including an AED would be useful contact EMR at info@EMRNYC.com.
FLATLANDS VAC celebrated its 34th anniversary on 10/25/09 with dedications of a new ambulance and its rebuilt headquarters. A formal ceremony was followed by an ambulance motorcade throughout the community and at the end of the motorcade food and refreshments were served. Since its inception the squad has responded to over 100,000 calls for assistance in serving the residents, visitors and businesses in the communities of Bergen Beach, Flatlands, Fraser, Futurama, Georgetown, Marine Park, Mill Basin and Mill Island. It is one of only three ALS level volunteer squads in the city having implemented limited ALS skills on a BLS ambulance in 2002 and progressing to full ALS in August 2004. The headquarters is dedicated to Joseph & Terry Santangelo, two people who were instrumental in the establishment of the Corps. The Training Center is dedicated to Fred P. Wilken, Sr., the member who is almost solely responsible for its existence and development. NYC Councilman Lou Fidler was instrumental in securing funding for the new ambulance.

HATZALAH

MILL BASIN DIVISION ambulance was involved in an MVA with a car on Tuesday evening 11/24/09 about 7:00 PM at the intersection of East 46 Street and Flatlands Avenue in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn. The ambulance was transporting a patient when the accident took place. The car wound up on a sidewalk with extensive right side and windshield damage while the ambulance had moderate right front corner damage. The patient was transferred to another Hatzalah ambulance while Flatlands VAC transported the driver of the car. There were no injuries to Hatzalah members. There are photos on the internet at http://www.theyeshivaworld.com/photos.php?albumid=5407839129732776017

JAMAICA ESTATES-HOLLISWOOD-SOUTH BAYSIDE VAC hosted a pre-election Candidates Night on 10/21/09 for the three hopefuls seeking election to replace David Weprin in the 23rd NYC Council District. Richard W. Burns (C), Bob Freidrich (R) and Mark Weprin (D) attended, answered questions and gave their views on various topics. The candidates were apprised of the little use volunteers are made of in helping the 911 system keep up with its growing number of ambulance calls. Also discussed was the member item funding that council members control and how every dollar that VACs and VFDs receive goes to operating expenses and none to salaries. Interestingly, one candidate commented negatively on the common practice of recognizing legislative grant sponsors on vehicles saying the money actually came from taxpayers.

NYC OEM SPONSORED CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL’S YOUTH TASK FORCE

The NYC Citizen Corps Council is accepting applications from high school students for a semester of service in disaster preparedness. Working as a team, participants will create a youth-oriented preparedness training program, coordinate local events and promote disaster preparedness and response in their schools and communities. Chosen youth will learn valuable skills that assist them both in their personal and professional lives while gaining experience in the field of emergency services as they make a positive difference in NYC. Applicants must be a minimum of 14 years of age, NYC resident and a current high school freshman, sophomore or junior with a minimum B average (cumulative GPA of 3.0) at the time of application. This is an unpaid program. Applications are due by 1/8/10. Orientation is 2/2/10 and meeting dates are 2/09, 2/23, 3/09, 3/23, 4/06, 4/20, 5/04, 5/18 and 6/01. Meetings are held Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Some special events may take place on weekends. For additional information go to http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/downloads/pdf/ccc_youth_program_form.pdf

NYPD has equipped 157 marked patrol cars with Federal Signal Corp. Rumbler model sirens which are designed to be felt as well as heard. The sirens emit a deep bass rattle out of two subwoofers and have a vibration range of 200 feet that penetrates and shakes solid materials. It is hoped the sirens get the attention of distracted pedestrians plus drivers who have their windows rolled up and maybe the stereo on. The Rumbler can work in conjunction with a patrol car's current five conventional siren settings, which range from a wail to woops, blips and an air horn. It's timed to turn off automatically after 10 seconds but can be manually turned right back on. The manufacturer has an explicit warning that "the siren and speakers may cause hearing damage" to anyone exposed to them on a daily basis.

NYU EMS is a new student run BLS First Responder Service being formed to cover the approximately 69 NY University buildings in the Washington Square Park and Union Square Park areas in Manhattan. Cameron Justice, a junior from Yakima, WA is the prime mover of the effort. He has also started the Emergency Health Education Club at the school and volunteers with Central Park Medical Unit. NYU EMS is partnering with Woodhaven-Richmond Hill VAC to get members patient care experience and EMT training. Plans are to purchase and equip a fly car with funds raised through CPR classes.

ROCK VAC members were on hand 9/27/09 for a fund raising event benefiting St. Rose of Lima Church in Rockaway. Members offered free blood pressure screening as well as providing information about the squad and its services.
ROOSEVELT ISLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE (RISAR) and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) are at odds over alleged violations of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations. A letter was sent on 10/26/09 to the NYS DOH and NYC REMSCO about several incidents including unauthorized responses, operating a suburban with ambulance license plates, use of dashboard placards and ID cards with the NYS shield and attempting to board the tram without paying. According to the letter, on 10/23/09, while a NYS DOH Bureau of EMS representative was on the island investigating some NYPD officer’s complaints about RISAR, the head of RISAR was arrested at the behest of RIOC and charged with criminal impersonation. On the basis of the MOU and approval by NYC REMSCO as a BLS First Response agency, RISAR was issued NYS DOH EMS agency code #0871 on 2/3/09. NYC REMSCO has temporarily suspended approval of RISAR pending the outcome of any NYS action on the complaint.

VOLUNTEER HEART AMBULANCE’s Barry Kaufman, PhD passed away on 10/31/09 at the age of 56. Barry served in many capacities with the squad over the years. He was also on the Board of Directors of NORTH SHORE RESCUE SQUAD and served with STATEN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING as a CLI, National Safety Council instructor and CPR instructor. Other volunteer activities included leadership positions with Community Board 3, District 31 Community School Board, Citywide Council on High Schools, American Parkinson Disease Foundation, Prime Care of Staten Island, Autism Foundation of NY and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
PULSE CHECK 2010, the 55th Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, will be held Thursday evening September 30, 2010 to Sunday morning October 3, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Albany on Wolf Road.

Event features seminars and trade show on Friday and Saturday, statewide Adult and Youth EMS team skills drill on Friday evening plus the annual memorial service and awards dinner on Saturday evening. Information is posted on the Association’s web site at www.nysvara.org covering conference registration, room reservations, list of seminars, Drill application, trophy donations and Journal ads. There is also information on the web site about nominations for the Association’s annual awards and scholarships.

The hotel has an attractive room rate plan and, for those who wish, a meal plan as well. Meal packages are additional but there are numerous alternative eating establishments along Wolf Road. Conference registration for two days with Saturday evening banquet included is $120 while one day conference alone (Friday or Saturday) is $80 and banquet alone is $50.

The association is pleased to announce that Mike McEvoy, PhD, RN, CCRN, REMT-P and Rich Beebe, MEd, RN, NREMT-P will again be serving as the conference Education Coordinators. NYSVA&RA President Mike Mastrianni, Jr. is serving as the Pulse Check 2010 Convention Committee Chair. If more information is needed call (877) NYSVARA or e-mail pulsecheck@NYSVARA.org