TO: All Ambulance and First Response Services in Suffolk County

FROM: Robert Delagi, MA, NREMT-P
Director, EMS & Public Health Emergency Preparedness

DATE: November 1, 2013

RE: Unauthorized Response to Emergencies

It has come to our attention that there is an organization named Long Island Emergency Rescue that advertises themselves as an emergency response organization, providing a variety of rescue-oriented services, including EMS. This agency has appeared on three (3) scenes in the last two (2) weeks that we are aware of, reportedly in marked vehicles outfitted with emergency warning lights.

This agency is not authorized to respond to emergency medical alarms, and does not possess the required operating certificate as an ambulance or first response service in accordance with the Public Health Law. This organization is not part of any county sanctioned or regionally approved mutual aid plan. Similarly, personnel in this organization are not authorized by the EMS System to operate as certified providers at any level of care.

We have addressed this with the Suffolk County Police Department. If this agency is present at an alarm in your district, we ask that the Incident Commander ask for credentials and refer the individual(s) to the on-scene patrol officer. If the police department is not on the scene, a sector car should be summoned to the scene, as these are serious violations.

While we appreciate the offer to help by the individuals involved, it is dangerous and inappropriate to engage in unsolicited response, response outside the regional response system parameters, and to provide patient care without required state and local credentials and authorizations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

cc: J. Williams, Commissioner, FRES
S. Cameron, Asst. Chief, SCPD