

OCTOBER 2009

VIEW
P O I N T



metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



REMEMBRANCE

Department Remembers its Fallen on FDNY Memorial Day



Thousands of members attended the 102nd annual FDNY Memorial Day ceremony at St. John the Divine Cathedral in Manhattan.

The FDNY remembered its heroes during the 102nd annual Memorial Day ceremony on Oct. 7. And although the threat of rain and high winds kept the event indoors, thousands of members attended the ceremony at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan.

“New York City is only as strong as the men and women who protect it,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. “And because of [our firefighters, paramedics and EMTs], we are strong indeed.”

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta added, “Bound by duty, you came today to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. You are soldiers in a war that never ends.”

Three FDNY members who died in the line of duty were remembered, including Lt. Robert Ryan, Jr., from Engine 155; Firefighter Paul Warhola, from Engine 221; and Firefighter Jamel Sears, from the Bureau of Training.

Their families received a Department flag and a Medal of Valor from Fire Commissioner and Chief of Department Sal-

vatore Cassano. They also received a Union Medal of Supreme Sacrifice.

“Today we acknowledge that our job is a dangerous one, at any time we will put our lives on the line for a complete stranger,” said Chief Cassano.

Nine additional active members were memorialized during the ceremony: FF Thomas Orlando, from Engine 65; EMT Wendell O’Brien, from the Bureau of Health Services; FF Salvatore Scarentino, from Ladder 24; FF John J. Kelly, from Engine 37; Paramedic Clyde F. Sealy, from the Bureau of Health Services; FF Christopher M. Velez, from Squad 252; FF Timothy G. Lockwood, from Engine 275; EMT Ruby Greaves, from the Emergency Medical Dispatch; and FF John F. McNamara, from Engine 234.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Commissioner’s Message Page 2
- 9/11 Page 6
- Rescues Pages 10-11
- Photo of the Month Page 12

A Message From Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta



Commissioner's
Message

In the aftermath of 9/11, I was asked by Mayor Bloomberg to become his Fire Commissioner and help rebuild a Department that had been devastated by the worst terrorist act in our nation's history. Like all New Yorkers, I wanted to help the city recover from the tragedy. It was an extraordinary honor to be asked to lead the FDNY - which had come to symbolize the incomprehensible loss and, at the same time, the incredible strength and resiliency of our city and our nation.

The biggest challenge was to begin rebuilding the ranks while simultaneously learning the lessons of 9/11 and preparing to respond to another attack.

First, we needed to fix the radio communications system, and we did, along with enhancements to help ensure communications in underground facilities and high rise structures.

We also had to prepare for new terror threats and today our members are trained on multiple levels to respond to large-scale incidents, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks. Today, five times as many firefighters and EMS personnel have this advanced training, compared to before 9/11.

We obtained new protective masks and radiation detection devices, and developed large-scale decontamination strategies to keep our members safe.

We needed a state-of-the-art emergency operations center to replace the inadequate center we had on 9/11. Today, our \$17 million facility is the envy of fire departments throughout the world.

With the loss of so many members on 9/11, followed by thousands of retirements, we needed to dramatically increase both the amount and quality of our training. We've hired more than 6,000 firefighters and promoted more than 2,000 officers - all of whom have benefited from greatly expanded and improved training programs.

I increased the number of senior chiefs responsible for managing the Department and provided them with graduate-level management training from Columbia University, a first for the FDNY.

We needed an ongoing anti-terrorism strategy so we created our Center for Disaster Preparedness in partnership with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

We needed new large capacity fire boats and will soon accept delivery of two new vessels - the first major additions of our marine fleet in 50 years.

We have issued three Strategic Plans outlining our goals and objectives and how to achieve them - something never done before in the FDNY.

To monitor the health of members who participated in the rescue and recovery efforts at the WTC site, our Bureau of Health Services developed and continues to operate a medical monitoring and treatment program that is now the gold standard.

To improve accountability we issued new rules and directives aimed at better controlling overtime abuses, overseeing off-the-line "light-duty" administrative positions, and strengthening drug and alcohol policies to improve public and member safety.

We also launched the most successful minority recruitment campaign in FDNY history that will improve diversity for years to come and make the firefighter ranks more reflective of the communities they serve.

In the aftermath of the Deutsche Bank tragedy that took the lives of two firefighters, we are re-engineering our field inspection system. We are working with IBM to create a \$25 million integrated inspection data system that will combine various internal and external databases and transform our inspectional process to one that is risk-based, enhancing firefighter and public safety.

The indisputable fact is that today's FDNY is - without question - better prepared, better trained and better equipped than ever before. And we have tangible proof of that. Fire deaths in the last eight years are the lowest on record. Our fire and EMS response times are the fastest on record. Last year, we had the fewest fires in the city in nearly 50 years. New Yorkers have never been better protected and served than under the past eight years of this administration.

The accomplishments noted here are just some of the extraordinary successes all 16,000 members of this Department have achieved since 2002. I am grateful and enormously proud of what all of you - our firefighters, officers, EMT's, paramedics, fire marshals, dispatchers, inspectors and civilian staff - have accomplished together. I am especially thankful to those who stayed on after Sept. 11 and dedicated themselves to the rebuilding effort and the many projects that have strengthened the Department. Your selflessness is commendable; your successes remarkable, and your dedication is in the very best tradition of this Department.

In August I met with Mayor Bloomberg and told him that, regardless of the outcome of the election in November, I would be leaving at the end of this year to pursue teaching opportunities - a plan which I had put on hold in 2001 when he appointed me. I again thanked him for the opportunity he gave me, and the tremendous honor it has been to serve as the city's 31st Fire Commissioner.

After 47 years in government and public service, there has been no greater reward than to have helped rebuild the Fire Department in the aftermath of 9/11. I am confident this Department is ready to meet the many challenges of the 21st Century.

It has been an honor to serve the city and the Fire Department. Thank you and God bless you all.

Ahoy! FDNY Launches New Fireboat

Boat Named to Honor all FDNY Members Lost on Sept. 11

The FDNY Marine Division's newest fireboat, *Three Forty Three*, was launched on Sept. 11, during a ceremony at the Eastern Shipbuilding Group shipyard in Panama City, Fla.

The ship is named in honor of all FDNY members killed in the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The launch ceremony included the traditional breaking of a champagne bottle across the bow, followed by the first splash down of the ship into the sea.

The *Three Forty Three* is expected to arrive in New York City in December and will be assigned to Marine 1, stationed on the Hudson River in Manhattan. The fireboat will replace the 50-year-old *John D. McKean*. A second ship currently under construction, *Fire Fighter II*, will eventually replace the 50-year-old *Fire Fighter*, and will be assigned to Marine 9 on Staten Island.

Both boats were funded, in large part, by more than \$40 million dollars in grants from the Department of Homeland Security. Eastern Shipbuilding Group was awarded the contract for detailed design and construction of the ships on Dec. 28, 2007. The fireboat's original design is from naval architectural firm Robert Allan Ltd. of Vancouver, B.C.

The 140-foot, 500-ton, \$27 million dollar *Three Forty Three* will be the country's largest fireboat with a maximum speed of 18 knots. The new boat will provide the FDNY with the latest technology available for Marine vessels, including the capabili-



The new fireboat, *Three Forty Three*, just before its christening in Panama City, Fla.

ty of pumping 50,000 gallons of water per minute; nearly 30,000 gallons more than its predecessor.

The *Three Forty Three* has been designed with the assistance of U.S. Navy engineers from the U.S. military's Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense and Naval Sea Systems Command, to detect and protect firefighters from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents. The ship contains a pressurized area that filters the air supply using special charcoal and high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters, allowing the crew members to operate when needed in hostile environments. Decontamination and first aid can be handled aboard the ship as well by means of a de-con shower area that leads to a triage and first-aid station.

It also features a forward ballast tank which lowers the boat in the water to match its deck with larger ferries that operate in the waters around New York City. This feature will allow the fireboat to safely transfer and evacuate people in an emergency. The ship's pilot house is configured to allow the Captain a 360-degree view of an operation, which can assist with maneuvering the vessel in tight quarters. In addition, the *Three Forty Three* has a command and control area where the ship's officers will be able to monitor and direct fire operations with the aid of remote cameras and state-of-the-art communication equipment.

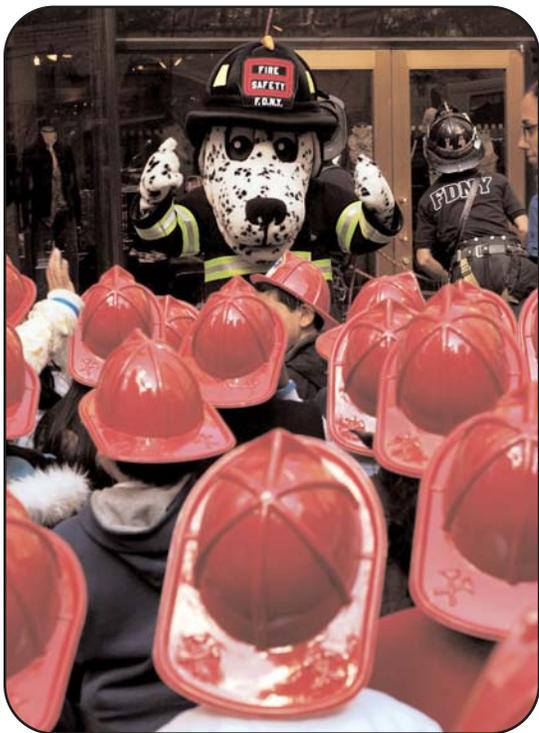
The FDNY Marine Fleet consists of more than 30 vessels responsible for more than 450 miles of coastline and harbors and has protected New York City residents for 134 years.



Heart of the Matter: Continuing the National Day of Service and Remembrance, approximately 500 volunteers learned cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) through free FDNY and NYC Service-sponsored training sessions held in all five boroughs on Sept. 12, 13 and 14. Volunteers were given a CPR Anytime Personal Learning Kit, which includes an inflatable mannequin and a 22-minute instructional DVD. The CPR Mobile Training Unit has trained more than 30,000 New Yorkers since it was created in 2005.

Pledge for Safety

FDNY Kicks off Fire Prevention Week in Rockefeller Center, Swears in More Than 2,000 Junior Firefighters



Hotdog, the FDNY fire safety mascot, interacts with the more than 2,000 children who attended the Fire Prevention Week kick-off in Rockefeller Center.

Wearing red fire helmets, more than 2,000 children raised their right hand and pledged to “practice fire safety and share what I have learned with others.”

The school children’s oath as a junior firefighter – which echoed from the Rockefeller Center Ice Rink on Oct. 5 – helped kick off the FDNY’s annual Fire Prevention Week.

“Thank you all for helping us save lives,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “With your help we’ll keep New York fire safe.”

The children, who hailed from 30 schools located throughout the five boroughs, were treated to demonstrations by firefighters, including high-angle rescue and vehicle extraction. They also got the chance to tour fire engines and fire trucks, and learn about fire safety from the Department’s Fire Safety Education team.

It was all part of the annual Fire Prevention Week, which helps the

Department inform the public about the importance of fire safety and fire prevention.

Lt. Anthony Mancuso, from the Bureau of Fire Safety Education, spoke to the crowd about the importance of changing smoke alarm batteries, practicing fire escape plans and calling 9-1-1.

“I hope you all will learn as much as you can about fire safety, then go home and teach your families about how to stay fire safe,” he said.

Student Tony Jackson, 9, from P.S. 63 in Ozone Park, Queens, said he’s going to do just that: “I want my family to always be fire safe.”

National Fire Prevention Week was established in 1922, to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire on Oct. 8, 1871, that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures. Fire departments throughout the country have since commemorated the anniversary every year, in the second week of October, teaching others about how to stay fire safe.

A Lesson in Safety

Fire Safety at Metrotech Commons

On the 138th anniversary of the devastating Chicago fire, FDNY continued its observance of Fire Prevention Week with fire safety demonstrations and CPR classes in Metrotech Commons in Downtown Brooklyn.

More than 40 first graders from the Brooklyn Friends School learned how to keep their homes fire safe during the event on Oct. 8.

“We are here today because it’s important that you know what to do in case a fire ever occurs in your home,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “We must always continue stressing the importance of fire safety, especially early notification, and one very important audience for that message is young children.”

The children took the junior firefighters oath and interacted with firefighters and EMS members during the event.

“The FDNY has been running Fire Prevention Week for more than 80 years,” Jim Shannon, President and CEO of the National Fire Protection Association, told the students. “Now you can help teach others about how to stay safe.”



Firefighters show their gear to first graders from the Brooklyn Friends School.

On the Frontlines of Fire Safety

Fire Inspectors Lauded for their Service

The FDNY capped off Fire Prevention Week with an event that recognized the service of the Department's fire protection inspectors during a ceremony at FDNY Headquarters on Oct. 9.

"What you do literally makes the difference between life and death for our firefighters and the buildings' occupants," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Your work has never been more important and technologically advanced. You should be proud because you are on the cutting edge."

Nineteen inspectors were recognized for their outstanding work and 35 Fire Protection Inspectors graduated during the boisterous ceremony.

"Your inspections prevent numerous fires and other emergencies each year," said Chief of Fire Prevention Thomas Jensen. "Thank you for your hard work and thank you for caring."



Thirty-five fire protection inspectors graduated during a ceremony that honored the work of the Department's Fire Protection Unit.

Each year, the FDNY's Office of Fire Prevention conducts more than 158,000 inspections and issues more than 39,000 safety violations.



A donation that keeps going:

Lt. Anthony Mancuso of the Fire Safety Education Unit joined Paige Hemmis, carpenter and designer on ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and spokeswoman for Duracell, at the FDNY Fire Zone in Manhattan on Sept. 21. Duracell donated 10,000 9-volt batteries, 64,000 AA batteries and 1,000 flashlights to the FDNY Foundation as part of their "Power to Protect" program, helping people keep their homes fire safe.

Never Forget: September 11, 2001

Eight years after the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, members of the Department paid tribute to the 343 FDNY members lost on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as the nearly 3,000 others who perished that tragic day, with ceremonies throughout the five boroughs.

“We will never forget those lost eight years ago,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “The lives lost that day will live on in the brave acts and dedicated service of all our members.”

A ceremony was held at the site of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, as well as at the Firefighter’s Memorial on Riverside Drive; the EMS Memorial Wall in Fort Totten, Queens; FDNY Headquarters in Brooklyn; the Fire Museum in Manhattan; and at firehouses and EMS stations throughout the City.

“We will never forget the families of those lost,” Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano said. “And we will honor the memory of our 343 for generations to come.”



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano lay a wreath at the Sept. 11 memorial wall at FDNY Headquarters in Brooklyn.



(Above, left) Firefighters stand in front of the Sept. 11 memorial, outside the quarters of Engine 10/Ladder 10, on the eighth anniversary of the attacks. (Above, right) Members gathered at the World Trade Center Memorial at the EMS Academy in Fort Totten to honor those lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

Addressing the Health Impacts of 9/11

Second Annual Report Released

The 2009 Annual Report on 9/11 Health, a review of the latest medical research on potential health impacts of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was released on Sept. 24.

The report, which includes a review of 48 peer-reviewed studies collected and analyzed by the City's World Trade Center Medical Working Group, was a recommendation of the 2007 report *Addressing the Health Impacts of 9/11*.

The Medical Working Group is comprised of 9/11 health experts from science, medicine and government, including the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. David Prezant.

The report includes, for the first time, a WTC Patient Population Report for Fiscal Year 2009, which ended on June 30. It indicates that 15,688 people, including rescue, recovery and clean-up workers, members of the Lower Manhattan community and other WTC-exposed New Yorkers received publicly funded treatment for WTC-related health conditions at the City's three Centers of Excellence (at the FDNY, the Mount Sinai Consortium and the WTC Environmental Health Center), or through the City's 9/11 Benefit Program for Mental Health and Substance

Use Services.

In addition, 19,760 rescue, recovery and clean-up workers, including FDNY and NYPD personnel, were screened or monitored in Fiscal Year 2009, bringing the total number of WTC responders and workers screened by FDNY and the Mount Sinai Consortium to 42,410.

The report also shows that nearly 20 percent of adults enrolled in the Health Department's WTC Health Registry continue to report symptoms indicative of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Although PTSD symptoms have been resolved for some, one in ten Registry-enrollees reported these symptoms for the first time 5-6 years after 9/11.

Rescue and recovery workers and volunteers were more likely to report late-emerging symptoms than other groups who were exposed to the WTC disaster: the prevalence of PTSD symptoms increased from 14 percent in 2003-2004 to 19 percent in 2006-2007.

The report details how many people with 9/11-related PTSD symptoms are not receiving treatment despite the availability of publicly funded services. Nearly 5,000 WTC Health Registry enrollees who reported PTSD symptoms in 2006-

2007 also reported that they had not seen a mental health provider in the previous year; approximately half were residents, office workers or persons other than rescue and recovery workers who were in the vicinity of the WTC site on the morning of 9/11.

The WTC Environmental Health Center and the WTC Health Registry have begun contacting these individuals directly with federal funding to refer them to appropriate care.

According to the WTC Medical Working Group, it is unknown whether there is a relationship between WTC exposure and longer-term illnesses, including cancer, but clinicians, epidemiologists and researchers continue to actively study this.

The City has advocated vigorously for federal funding to monitor and treat people with 9/11-related mental and physical health problems, as recommended in *Addressing the Health Impacts of 9/11*. The City continues to work with Congress to advocate for the passage of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which would provide a consistent funding stream for 9/11-related treatment and the re-opening of the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund.

(Safety) Tools of the Trade

FDNY Receives \$25,000 Grant to Support Firefighter Safety

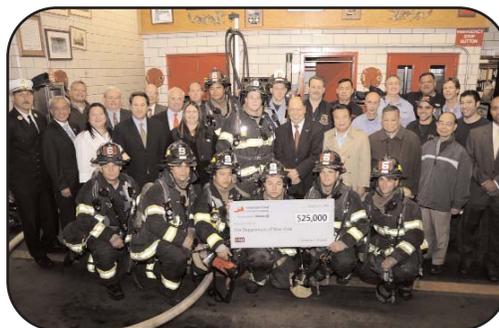
The members of Engine 9/Ladder 6 in Manhattan received a generous grant on Oct. 15 that will help keep members safe.

The Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and Curry MacWilliams Janitschke Underwriters, Ltd., partnered to present them with a \$25,000 check that will be used to purchase equipment for training and physical fitness.

"The Department is so grateful for this generous grant," Manhattan Borough Commander, Chief Michael Weinlein, said during the presentation ceremony at the quarters of Engine 9/Ladder 6.

The grant funds will be used to purchase a digital camera, laptop computer, and television to make customized presentations that deal specifically with the buildings, hazards and environments in the response area for Engine 9/Ladder 6.

Funds also have been allocated for the



Manhattan Borough Commander Chief Michael Weinlein (far left) and the members of Engine 9/Ladder 6 joined members of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and Curry MacWilliams Janitschke Underwriters, Ltd., for a grant presentation.

purchase of rescue dummies, to be used during drills to simulate fire victims, and a forcible entry simulator, which is

designed to train firefighters on how to gain forcible entry through all types of doors during emergencies.

Additionally, exercise equipment will be purchased to enhance the physical fitness of the members.

"On behalf of our members, thank you," said Capt. Russell Strobel from Engine 9.

Capt. Stephen Corcoran from Ladder 6 added, "To have this equipment close at hand is a tremendous asset to us."

Since December 2006, Fireman's Fund has awarded the FDNY more than \$400,000. This is the second grant to the FDNY by Curry MacWilliams Janitschke Underwriters, Ltd.

"We're extremely proud of this program," said Danny Perry, Corporate Communications Manager for Fireman's Fund Insurance. "We know the tools we have funded have saved lives."

Moving Ahead

24 Paramedics Graduate from EMS Academy

Applause and smiles filled the auditorium at the Fire Academy on Sept. 23, as 24 paramedics joined the EMS Command.

“Being a paramedic isn’t an easy job – especially in New York City – but the city is a safer and better place because of you,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

The new paramedic class includes FDNY EMTs who received additional training and were promoted to the rank of paramedic, as well as EMTs from local hospitals and as far away as Australia, who are joining the FDNY for the first time.

“We are all proud of the hard work it took for you to get through the rigorous training at the EMS Academy,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “Your

efforts will make a difference to every patient you encounter.”

Several of the new graduates speak multiple languages, including Russian, Mandarin, French, Sintana, Cantonese and Creole.

Paramedics John Files-Aime and John Vives are veterans of the U.S. military, having served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in UN Peacekeeping Missions in Macedonia and Bosnia.

“Last year the EMS Command’s workload increased to more than 1.2 million calls, yet we continued to arrive as quickly as ever,” said Chief of EMS John Peruggia. “We do this through the efforts of the dedicated and professional men and women, like those graduating today, who give of themselves not to be come rich and famous, but to make a difference.”

A Big Step Forward

Members of Fire Service Promoted to Captain, Lieutenant

Banners hung from the mock store fronts in the Fire Academy’s Field House and hundreds of friends and family cheered as 25 members of the fire service received their promotions on Sept. 24.

“You are moving up the ranks of the largest and most technologically advanced Fire Department in the country,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “But we can never forget this one simple fact: that without our firefighters and fire officers, without your grit and your heart, without that human element, all our technology and all of our advancements would be for nothing.”

During the ceremony, 10 members were elevated to the rank of captain and 15 to lieutenant.

“You are the future leaders of our Department,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “You will make deci-



Twenty-five members of the fire service were promoted on Sept. 24.

sions that will have a profound impact on all our members – you will have a chance to make a big difference.”

The promoted members represented more than 250 years of experience in the FDNY. And a vast majority was with the Department on Sept. 11, 2001.

All of the newly promoted members will be assigned to various units throughout the City.



Eighty-five new EMTs were sworn in on Oct. 15.

Dawning of 85 Careers

New EMTs Join EMS Command

It was a happy day for 85 new members of the FDNY’s Emergency Medical Service on Oct. 15, as they were sworn in as new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

“Being an EMT is a difficult job,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the ceremony at the Fire Academy. “Every day you see people in pain, you are not in an air conditioned office, your work is on the streets. No matter what the call is, when a New Yorker calls, you answer it. And in this job, the stakes couldn’t be higher.”

He noted that during ambulance rotations required for training, EMT Christopher Savino helped save someone who went into cardiac arrest and two others delivered babies.

“Your efforts make a difference to every patient you encounter, no matter how big or how small the emergency,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano.

EMTs Treyvia McNeary and Andrew Wasniewski were named class valedictorians.

The members of this diverse class speak five different languages, including Romanian, French, Creole and Spanish. Eight of the graduates have family members in the Department.

EMT Santino Degregorio is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and EMT Mike Pivetz served with the U.S. National Guard.

“You have chosen a noble profession, in an organization with a profound history of heroism and greatness,” said Chief of EMS John Peruggia. “Sometimes it’s stressful, and it’s always challenging, but the greatest benefit of being an emergency medical professional is that it’s rewarding.”

The new members will be assigned to various EMS stations throughout the city.

Helping Hands Awarded

FDNY Testing Unit Honored for Customer Service

Members of the FDNY Public Certification and Testing Unit received due praise on Oct. 8, during the Second Annual Mayor's Excellence in Customer Service Awards Program at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

"These teams embody what we try to do every day, to get government to work for people," said Deputy Mayor for Operations Edward Skyler. "It helps empower people and makes them proud to be New Yorkers."

The FDNY Public Certification and Testing Unit, including Enzo Aloiso, Elsa Araya, Dorothy Banks, Novlette Barrett, Jo-Ann Blackwell, Cheryl Edwards, Shirley Edwards, Steven Ertrachter, Peter Carfagna, Kellie Childs, Akilah Jackman, Brenda McKiver, Centia Parish, Estelle Priesel and Juan Salazar, were acknowledged for their exemplary customer service in walk-in service delivery.

Mr. Ertrachter, Director of Public Certification and Education, also received an individual award for his efforts.

After the new Fire Code was released in 2008, the testing unit has had to work



Members of the FDNY Public Certification and Testing Unit. (L to R) Brenda McKiver, Estelle Priesel, Peter Carfagna, Cheryl Edwards, Elsa Araya and Steven Ertrachter.

quickly to prepare tests and study materials for nine new tests. They also had to work closely with the test takers, helping people prepare for the exam.

"These awards are about taking those

extra steps, going that extra mile," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. "You have had a great impact on New York City, you have shown you care."

Rescue Rewarded

Firefighter Honored by Liberty Mutual for Rescue

Firefighter Adam Rivera from Engine 10 received a Firemark Award for Heroism from Liberty Mutual on Sept. 21.

He was honored for rescuing a man who fell on the subway tracks while off-duty on Aug. 21.

"This is very kind," Firefighter Rivera said when he received the Medal at his firehouse in Lower Manhattan.

He was humble about his win, saying he is a junior member of the firehouse (he joined the Department in July 2008) and "I'm just trying to follow [my fellow firefighters'] lead. They set a great example."

This is the third Liberty Medal presented to firefighters this year, acknowledging their bravery and heroism.

"You guys do great work every day," said Kenneth McQuillen, Sales Representative for Liberty Mutual.



Firefighter Adam Rivera (center with award) receives the Liberty Mutual Firemark Award from Sales Representative Kenneth McQuillen (fourth from left) and Branch Manager Damion Del Corsano (fifth from left). They are joined by the members of Engine 10/Ladder 10 in Lower Manhattan.

43 Years of Remembrance

FDNY Honors 43rd Anniversary of the Tragic 23rd Street Fire

Oct. 17, 1966 was a tragic day in the New York City Fire Department's storied history, a day when 12 members died in the line of duty while operating at a fire at the Wonder Drug store on Manhattan's 23rd Street.

And each year, on the anniversary of the tragedy, firefighters past and present still come together to remember the lives lost that day.

"In the FDNY, honor and history are held in high regard," said Deputy Assistant Chief John Sudnik during the wreath laying ceremony. "The legacy of these 12 men lives on through every one of our firefighters. We will never forget."

The deadly five-alarm fire, which occurred on the corner of Broadway, represented the single worst loss of New York City firefighters in the line of duty prior to Sept. 11, 2001.

Twelve members of every rank, from a probationary firefighter to a deputy chief, made the Supreme Sacrifice when the ground floor of the store collapsed. The fire originated in a basement storage area, which was concealed by a four-inch thick cinderblock wall illegally constructed by the building's previous owner.

Those killed in the fire included Deputy Chief Thomas A. Reilly and Firefighter William F. McCarron, both of



Friends and family of those lost attended the wreath laying ceremony marking the 43rd anniversary of the 23rd Street fire. (L to R) Christine Priore, daughter of Lt. Joseph Priore of Engine 18; Deputy Assistant Chief John Sudnik, retired FF Manny Fernandez, who operated as the chauffeur for Engine 18 at the 23rd Street fire; and Firefighter Brian Finley, grandson of Lt. John J. Finley of Ladder 7.

Division 3; Battalion Chief Walter J. Higgins of Battalion 7; Lieutenant Joseph Priore, Firefighter James V. Galanaugh, Firefighter Joseph Kelly, Firefighter Daniel L. Rey and Firefighter Bernard A. Tepper, all of Engine 18; and Lieutenant John J. Finley, Firefighter John G. Berry, Firefighter Rudolph F. Kaminsky and Firefighter Carl Lee, all of Ladder 7.

More than 150 firefighters attended the

ceremony, along with many retired members who worked with those who were lost.

Also attending the ceremony was Firefighter Brian Finley, whose grandfather was killed in the 23rd Street fire nearly seven years before he was born. He has worked out of Ladder 7, his grandfather's firehouse, for more than 10 years.

EMTs Rescue Five from Building with High CO

EMTs Andrew Gabor and Claudia Rugel from Station 32 were called to help a man who fell in an apartment in Brooklyn, but they ended up saving the lives of five people – including an infant – from a dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) condition on Sept. 18.

"This is what I signed up for when I became an EMT," said EMT Gabor. "I'm just glad we were able to help."

The EMTs were called to an apartment on Fulton Street at around 10 a.m.

Upon entering the residence, their GasAlert Extreme Carbon Monoxide monitors (a new tool EMS members use to assess CO levels) immediately alerted them

to dangerous levels in the home – 150 ppm. EMS members noted that anything over 35 ppm is dangerous.

They found the victim of the fall experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, including fatigue and confusion. Three other people in the home also were not feeling well, so EMS members evacuated the residence before beginning treatment.

"It's nice to have this equipment, because without it, we could have become victims ourselves," EMT Gabor said about the monitors that were given to all FDNY EMS members this summer.

A resident in another apartment also was evacuated and additional units were called

to the building. Firefighters noted their monitors read even higher amounts of CO – 300 ppm – on the floor above.

All the victims had high CO levels in their systems and were transported to Brooklyn Hospital in serious, but stable, condition.

They noted that there were no working CO detectors in any of the building's apartments at the time.

"If they'd had working CO detectors, they would have known about the situation before we got there," said EMS Capt. John Scotch from the Division 3 Command. "These devices can end up making a huge difference."

Bronx Man Arrested for Arson in March Fire that Destroyed a Row of Bronx Stores

Fire Marshals from the FDNY Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) and federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Sept. 21 arrested 40-year-old William Crean of the Bronx, for starting a fire on March 22, 2009, that resulted in an estimated \$2 million in property damage.

Mr. Crean is charged with 2nd degree arson and reckless endangerment. These charges are punishable by up to 25 years in prison. The prosecution of this case will be handled by the Office of Bronx District Attorney.

"This investigation demonstrates the outstanding work of the FDNY Bureau of Fire Investigation," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "We are also proud to have an excellent working relationship with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as we work toward a common goal: putting arsonists behind bars."

On, March 22, at 6:07 a.m., a fire was reported at 122 Westchester Square. The first FDNY unit on scene was Engine 61, which arrived in approximately three minutes. The fire quickly escalated to a third alarm and spread throughout a row of stores from 122 to 129 Westchester Square.

The fire required 33 units, 140 firefight-



A photo of the Westchester Square fire in the Bronx on March 22. Photo courtesy of Firefighter Daniel P. Alfonso.

ers and nearly three hours to bring under control. Three firefighters were taken to Jacobi Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

BFI determined the fire started inside 21 Latin Lounge at 122 Westchester Square, a business that was undergoing renovations at the time and not yet open to the public. The fire extended to five adjoining businesses:

The damage from the fire resulted in an overall structural collapse of 21 Latin Lounge and partial collapses of several of the other affected stores. The investigation of the fire and its motives is ongoing.

Fire and EMS Members Save 16-Year-Old's Life in the Bronx

Being able to save someone in cardiac arrest is a great reward for all members of the FDNY. It's even more fulfilling when that person is very young.

That's just what members of Engine 45 and EMS Station 26 did on Oct. 21, when a 16-year-old went into cardiac arrest in the Bronx.

"This doesn't happen often," said Lt. Paul McKie from Engine 45. "It's so rewarding when we can do something like this. Now a 16-year-old has another day ahead of him."

At 4:12 p.m. members were called to the corner of Mapes and Tremont Avenues for an unconscious victim.

Since their firehouse was just a few blocks away, members of Engine 45, including Lt. McKie and Firefighters Bill Riccardulli, Joseph Langone, Roy Versey, Rob Cuccio and Joel Van Wieren, were the first on the scene. They saw a large crowd gathering around a young man, who was unconscious. The victim's friend later said they were walking down the

street when the victim grabbed his chest and collapsed.

Firefighters assessed that the victim was not breathing and had no pulse, so they began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and hooked up a defibrillator.

The defibrillator shocked him once and they continued CPR until EMS members arrived minutes later. Members said he had regained a pulse at that time, but still was not breathing, so he was moved into the ambulance, where Paramedics Gerald Carr and Lynwood Rollins continued working on the young man.

They were able to restore his breathing before transporting him to St. Barnabus Hospital.

"Even though there were so many people around us, everybody there just did their job," said Lt. McKie, who said this was his third cardiac arrest rescue since joining the Department in 1990. "I was driving home [that night] and thought, 'Wow, we really made a difference today.' It's definitely rewarding."

Firefighter Rescues Child from Bronx Apartment Fire

Firefighter James Senk of Ladder 47 was still on an adrenaline high several hours after saving a 4-year-old boy from an apartment fire in the Bronx on Sept. 30.

"It's incredible, nothing is comparable," he said from his firehouse, knowing the child was doing well.

The fire on the fourth floor of a building on Zerega Avenue was first reported at 4:12 p.m.

When the members of Ladder 47 arrived on scene, Firefighter Senk said there were "numerous people on the fire escape and black smoke pushing out every window."

He moved a ladder to the fire escape when he saw a small arm waving out the child gate in an adjacent window. Firefighter Senk told another firefighter he needed to go up the truck's aerial ladder to the window.

There he removed the glass and saw the child for a moment before he disappeared into the smoky room.

Firefighter Senk, a five-year veteran of the FDNY, removed the child gate, but could not enter the apartment through the window because bunk beds were obstructing the opening. He also said he feared that moving the beds would result in injuring the child.

So he jumped from the aerial ladder to the fire escape, entered the apartment and began his search. Near the doorway to the bedroom he found the unconscious boy. He grabbed him and passed him off to a civilian sitting on the fire escape, because he knew the man could pass him to another firefighter on the fire escape one floor below.

"All I cared about was that he lived," Firefighter Senk said.

The boy was transported in serious but stable condition to Jacobi Medical Center with smoke inhalation. Another adult also was transported to Jacobi with smoke inhalation.

"[Firefighter Senk] went above and beyond the call of duty," said Lt. Fred Ill from Battalion 14. "This child would not be with us if he had not made the actions he did. He exemplified the very best qualities of the New York City Fire Department."

OPERATION BIO-POD H1N1 VACCINATION 2009

The FDNY has scheduled its annual BIOPOD drill for Nov. 5 to 8. This exercise is part of the Department's ongoing initiative in planning and responding to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) incidents. If a biohazard event was identified, the FDNY would need to respond rapidly to provide the needed antibiotics and vaccinations to all Department personnel to ensure the safety of all of our members and their families.

In response to the H1N1 flu pandemic, this year's inoculations will be for the H1N1 influenza. There will be 10 fixed POD locations and three mobile MERV locations throughout the city offering vaccinations for all first responders. On-duty, off-duty and members on leave (LD, ML) are encouraged to participate in this year's BIOPOD.

The H1N1 virus has been confirmed as a worldwide pandemic. The federal government has determined that key groups should be targeted for vaccination, including emergency medical personnel. The

FDNY's BHS agrees Department personnel are at risk of acquiring the virus due to recurring exposure to the general public. This is an opportunity for all members to help protect themselves from possible infection and thereby protect their families, since this particular virus has affected young children, young adults and pregnant women.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kerry Kelly stresses that inoculations are the best way for any Department member to prevent taking the flu home to his or her family. **There has been misinformation circulating about the H1N1 flu vaccination from unofficial sources. Dr. Kelly and the doctors at BHS HIGHLY RECOMMEND that ALL Department members receive the vaccination.** The following web sites and telephone hotlines offer accurate information about the H1N1 flu virus, the vaccine and other questions. In addition, we urge you to speak with your personal physician and get his or her recommendation.

H1N1 INFORMATION SOURCES INCLUDE:

www.flu.gov

www.cdc.gov,

follow the link to H1N1 flu

www.nyc.gov/flu,

New York City

Department of Health

www.health.state.ny.us,

NYS Dept. of Health,

follow link to H1N1, then "frequently asked questions"

www.hhs.gov,

US Department of Health

www.fdneyinsider.com

718-999-1919, BHS Hotline, staffed by nurses to answer questions concerning the vaccination program

1-800-808-1987,

the New York State Department of Health answer line

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Cooking for a Cause: Top firehouse chefs took part in the 3rd annual New York City Fire Museum Firehouse Tasting and Cook-Off Fundraiser on Oct. 14. The event raised more than \$5,000 for restoration of the Museum's treasures. First place went to FF William Benitez from Ladder 1, who made Short Ribs. FF Richard Paulan from Engine 22 won second prize for his Chicken Florentine and third prize went to FF Edward Nevins from Ladder 136 for his Portobello Stuffed Roast Pork.



VIEW POINT

OCTOBER 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK**

9 METROTECH CENTER
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
Nicholas Scoppetta, NYC Fire Commissioner

FRANCIS X. GRIBBON
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

S. PAUL ANTONELLI
PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

EMILY RAHIMI
EDITOR

THOMAS ITTYCHERIA
GRAPHICS / LAYOUT

**SFM RALPH BERNARD,
RANDY BARRON,
DAVID WARREN,
RETIRED EMT ROBERT DOMINGO**
PHOTOS

ViewPoint is published entirely in-house by the FDNY
Office of Public Information/Publications

FDNY
1865-2009
A 145 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION