

## **1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDER AGENCIES AGENCY'S "DECERTIFIED" BY NYS DOH**

About 700 agencies, most of whom are volunteer fire department based, operate at the BLS or ALS level to provide initial emergency medical care before a transporting ambulance arrives. Industrial, amusement park, race track, etc. fire/EMS brigades also fall into this category. Some are a recognized part of the local EMS system and the NYS DOH over the years assigned them an Agency Code which made their members eligible for state funded CFR, EMT and AEMT training at the same levels as members of ambulance agencies.

In 2011 the DOH notified 1<sup>st</sup> Responder EMS agencies throughout the state that they needed to resubmit documentation as to their status and operations in the local EMS system. The final deadline for submission of documentation was 12/31/11 and the DOH has begun notifying non-complying agencies that their Agency Code has been "decertified". This only affects their members' eligibility for funded training and agencies can continue their activities without an Agency Code. Some smaller agencies decided not to submit the paperwork because their members are eligible for funded training elsewhere such as being active in an ambulance service.