

REGION 3 – Capital District, Hudson Valley, Catskills, Southern NY

HUDSON MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL (REMO) moved to 431 New Karner Road (Route 155), Albany, NY 12205. REMO serves Albany, Columbia, Greene, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties.

HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL moved to a new location at 103 Executive Drive, Suite 400, New Windsor, NY 12553.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY is receiving two (2) Medical Ambulance Busses under an Urban Area Security Initiative grant. The units will be constructed to generic specifications developed by FDNY which is receiving five (5) units. The vehicles are designed for evacuation purposes and priority is given to maximum stretcher and wheelchair patient transport capacity rather than equipment storage for on-scene operations. One of the units will be at the Department of Emergency Services in Valhalla and the other will be assigned to the Yonkers Fire Department's Special Operations Command. The Westchester Regional EMS Council (REMSCO) will develop operational policies for mobilization, staffing, communications, supplies, etc. A statement was made at a Westchester REMSCO meeting that fire department based deployment for these large vehicles with air brakes is preferred because of the exemption of fire service drivers from state Commercial Drivers License (CDL) requirements. The NYS Motor Vehicle Law was amended in 2009 and regained for the fire service an exemption from CDL requirements for fire apparatus when used in official functions, such as going to and returning from calls, training, inspections, drills and parades. However, there is a provision in the law requiring a CDL for vehicles carrying more than a certain number of passengers which may include a medical ambulance bus.

WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER's Emergency Department in Valhalla held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on 3/2/12 to mark the opening of its dedicated "EMS Crew Room". This room is available to prehospital care providers as a location to complete their prehospital care report, a place to rest and a place to stay current on WMC course offerings and announcements.