



# THE BLANKET

THE NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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## A Message from Our President

I hope this report finds everyone in good health. Many of us have been impacted by the recent events that have occurred in the Middle East. In many cases family, friends and colleagues have been called to serve our Country. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all involved.

It has been a very busy time since our last Board meeting and I want to bring everyone up to date.

*EMS Memorial* – On Thursday May 22, 2003 on the Plaza in Albany, Henry Ehrhardt, VP, NYSVARA and I attended the ground breaking ceremony for the EMS Memorial. Also present were Assemblyman Sweeney, Senator Bonacic, the Lieutenant Governor and Commissioner Ringler from OGS. This has been a project and goal of our Association for many years and it was great to see that it has finally become a reality. The Memorial will be completed by and dedicated during EMS Week 2004.

*Statewide Emergency Mobilization Plan Committee* – In February and April, I, along with representatives of state police, fire, emergency management and federal authorities attended a meeting to discuss a procedure and formulate a plan for the request and mobilization of EMS agencies and resources in response to a declared large-scale event. The meeting was organized and run the State EMS Bureau. Many ideas were exchanged. The foundation of the plan is that it will not conflict with existing local plans and will be county based. The other point that was emphasized was that no one is to respond until requested to do so.

*JEMS Conference* – As you are aware, I had the pleasure of representing the Association at the EMS Today Conference in Philadelphia. I was on the faculty as part of the Volunteer/ Nonprofit EMS Leadership Academy. I had the opportunity to work with and meet volunteer ambulance corps leaders from across the county. It was extremely interesting to listen to people expressing the same issues and concerns that we have in New York.

*New York State EMS Council* – As the alternate delegate the SEMSCO, I attended the meetings held on March 25, 26 and May 13, 14.

*New York State E-911 Board* – Last year, legislation was passed that created a board that would oversee the distribution of reimbursement funds to municipalities as well as adopting standards for the most efficient and appropriate response by dispatching and responding units. I received a call from Assemblyman Sweeney's office stating that he is recommending to the Speaker of the Assembly that our Association be represented. More details to follow.

*HIPPA* – As many of you are aware, any ambulance corps that bills Medicare must comply with HIPPA laws. There is an excellent web site that contains information on HIPPA. [www.pwwemslaw.com](http://www.pwwemslaw.com). It is the web site of Page, Wolfberg and Writh, who specialize in ambulance law.

*Pulse Check 2003* – Plans continue to progress for this years Convention. I encourage all



Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr.

### THE BLANKET

The Quarterly Newsletter  
 of the NYS Volunteer  
 Ambulance  
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who can to attend and participate.

Finally, as I think you can see, our Association has a considerable voice in EMS. It has come as a result of hard work of the Officers, Directors, and members of this organization. I want to thank everyone for the time and effort that they have given to make us the voice of volunteer EMS in New

## Form 990 Disclosure

Non-profit groups are required by the Internal Revenue Service, to provide copies of their three (3) most recent Form 990s and their application for tax exemption Form 1023 to anyone who comes into their offices and makes such a request or to send such copies within thirty (30) days to anyone who writes for them. A reasonable charge may be made for making copies - \$1 for the first page and 15 cents for

every subsequent page plus the actual mailing costs when copies are mailed.

If a non-profit posts these documents on a web site it will not be required to provide original copies. A web site at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) posts non-profit organization Form 990s on the internet for all to see.

The IRS imposes penalties for failure to comply.

## HIPPA Compliance Extensions

Certified Ambulance Group (CAG), a major supplier of billing services to EMS organizations, has applied for a 1 year extension for itself and on behalf of all its clients. There is much concern in the medical industry about being compliant with the new billing and patient confidentiality regulations and the company wants to make sure it is proceeding properly in its implementation of the regulations.

In other company news, CAG has separated its Client Services Unit's phone number (866 435-7224) from the patient phone number and will keep it open late from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM Monday through Thursday to accommodate volunteer organizations whose personnel are available after normal day-time business hours.

## News Media First Responders Gear-Up

The person in a green or yellow Level B encapsulated suit at the next incident may not be a HAZMAT specialist but rather a reporter. News media are beginning to provide on-scene news reporters and crew with personal protective equipment on a par with emergency responders to protect against chemical and biological agents. The New York Times is training "first responders" in the use of gas masks and protective suits. Media offices in downtown areas near likely targets or are themselves likely targets are providing escape hoods for the staff. Stockpiles of water and food are also being brought into the offices in the event that conditions in the area require a building or area to be shut

down or quarantined.

News organizations, as did emergency responders, learned important lessons from the 9/11/01 attacks on the World Trade Center. One photographer was killed in the collapse and some reporters continue to have respiratory problems from breathing the debris filled air. While there will still be a rush to cover the story, there will be second thoughts about getting too close to a scene where a hazard still exists.

In the event that someone with a press card gets into a "hot zone" they still have to go through decontamination like everyone else. This could include mikes and unprotected \$25,000 video cameras.

## Better Business Bureau – Check Before You Buy

When considering making a large purchase from a merchant it is wise to check references. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) helps consumers and merchants mediate disputes and publishes statistics on complaints filed with the organization and their resolution. In New York City the BBB's number is (212) 533-7500 and it has a web site at [www.newyork.bbb.org](http://www.newyork.bbb.org). Nationally the number is (703) 276-0100 and the web site is [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

York State. BE SAFE!

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr.  
President

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## Pulse Check 2003

### NYS VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Each year at its annual meeting, the Association recognizes people and organizations that have shown EMS leadership or participated in meritorious acts above and beyond the call of duty. The general requirements for an award are:

- Nominees, except for certain areas, must have been a member of a member organization or an individual member of the Association in good standing at the time of the act.
- A unit nominated for a Unit Citation at the time of the act must have been a member in good standing with the organization.
- Nominees must have performed the act or service within the award period.

Award period: June 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003

Award nominations due: August 15, 2003

Completed application or requests for applications should be made to: NYSVA&RA, Special Awards Committee

c/o Nancy Pacella  
8 Arrowhead Court, Newburgh, NY 12550  
(845) 569-2101 or e-mail NanPacella@aol.com

#### Award categories:

- *Meritorious Award:* The nominee is to have performed an act which is considered dangerous or as being characterized as "at great personal risk".
- *President's Award:* The nominee is to have made an exceptional contribution to EMS activities.
- *Leadership Award:* The nominee is to have performed outstanding service to the Association or a member organization of the Association.
- *Educator of the Year Award:* The nominee must be recognized by the New York State Department of Health as a certified instructor. Through outstanding teaching, publication or research has greatly improved pre-hospital services at the local, county, regional or state level.
- *Medical Director of the Year Award:* The nominee, from the medical profession, is to have contributed to the volunteers' knowledge and guidance.
- *Unit Citation:* The nominee is to have performed an act involving an outstanding unit operation dependant upon teamwork and cooperation.
- *Youth Squad Award:* The nominee is to have performed outstanding service to their local unit, community or to the Association.
- *Civilian Award:* The nominee is to be a non-member of the Association, not ambulance personnel; nor involved in the medical field and is to have performed an act of personal bravery or initiative and capability in the saving of a life.
- *EMS Person of the Year Award:* awarded from nominees to other categories with the preference given for Meritorious Awards.

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY NYS VOL AMBULANCE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Each year at the Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

(PULSE CHECK) up to three \$500 awards are presented to qualifying recipients. To be eligible for one of these cash awards the following criteria must be met:

- Age Open - No restrictions
- The award MUST be used for emergency medical related field (Not for a Basic EMT or CFR course).
- The applicant or immediate family member MUST be active in a squad and a member in good standing of the Association.
- Application MUST be postmarked by August 15 of this year.
- The course/school MUST start in the current year.
- Applicant MUST be a New York State resident.

After meeting eligibility requirements applicants are required to submit the following for consideration:

- Completed application (see below)
- Proof of schooling - admission slip or letter from instructor
- Proof of current membership in squad and NYSVA&RA
- Brief essay on why the award would benefit the applicant
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with name, address and phone number of the writer

For more information or a Grant Application contact:

Nancy Pacella, 8 Arrowhead Court, Newburgh, NY 12550, (845) 569-2101 or NanPacella@aol.com

### TROPHIES FOR PULSE CHECK COMPETITIONS

The Association is seeking donations toward the purchase of trophies to be awarded to participants of the State EMS Championships. This is an excellent way to commemorate an event or remember a past member or loved one. If you, your agency or someone you know would like to donate a trophy or trophies, contact Kuntree Sweet at (877) NYS-VARA or e-mail pulsecheck2000@aol.com.

Trophy	Place-Designation	Amount
1	Novice-First Responder Drill	75.00
2	3rd Place-First Responder Drill	125.00
3	2nd Place-First Responder Drill	150.00
4	1st Place-First Responder Drill	175.00
5	1st Place-First Responder Drill	
6	Oscar Trophies	200.00
6	Novice-Ambulance Drill	75.00
7	3rd Place-Ambulance Drill	100.00
8	2nd Place-Ambulance Drill	125.00
9	1st Place-Ambulance Drill	150.00
10	1st Place-Ambulance Drill 5 Oscar Trophies	175.00
11	Novice-EMT Drill	75.00
12	3rd Place-EMT Drill	100.00
13	2nd Place-EMT Drill	125.00
14	1st Place-EMT Drill	150.00
15	1st Place-EMT Drill 5 Oscar Trophies	175.00
16	1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 1-EMT Drill	225.00
17	1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 2-EMT Drill	225.00
18	1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 1-First Responders	225.00
19	1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 2-First Responders	225.00

## Legislative News

The following is a letter received by Nancy Pacella, Director of District 5:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the EMS Education & Training Fund.

Please be assured that I am aware of the importance of having a properly trained staff of medical service providers to serve the public. Emergency Medical Technicians provide a vital service to our communities, and it is their expertise that can often times mean the difference between life and death. In a time when our state and nation face potential terrorist attacks it is crucial that local health providers be properly trained and equipped.

To assist The New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc., the New York State Senate and Assembly have restored \$1.9 million in additional funding for Emergency Medical Services that was cut from Governor George Pataki's 2003-

2004 Executive Budget. The restorations for the Emergency Medical Services came as part of Senate Bill 1404B/Assembly Bill 2104B. This health care package, which contained over \$780 million in restorations, was vetoed by Governor Pataki and overridden by the Legislature, thus making it law.

**Legislative Committee**  
**Howard Callman, Chair**

Thank you again for your correspondence. Please be assured of my continued support from the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc.

Sincerely,  
William J. Larkin, Jr.  
New York State Senate

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment

At Pulse Check 2004 there will be a vote on the below Constitutional Amendment.

Article V, Section (c) DELETE

The President may be elected for not more than three (3) consecutive one (1) year terms. Following a lapse of one year, he/she is eligible to run again.

*Explanation: The Board of Directors recommended this change. There are no term limits on other association officers. It was felt that the existence of an artificial or arbitrary timetable was not good management and undermined the flexibility and ability of the nominating committee and the ultimately the members in their choice of leadership for the organization. The president along with other officers would continue to have a one year term of office.*

## NYS Tax Credit for Individuals for Purchase of Defibrillators

Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2001, NYS Tax Law Section 606(s) allows up to a \$500 tax credit to eligible taxpayers for the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED). A person may claim the credit for each AED purchased as long as the machines are not for resale. Those eligible include individuals, trusts, partnerships (excluding members of an LLC), shareholders of a

NY "S" corporation and beneficiaries of an estate or trust. There is no requirement that the AED be purchased new.

To claim the credit, file Form IT-250 or IT-204 as appropriate. This is a credit directly subtracted from NYS taxes so it can cut up to 40% off the purchase price of some AEDs.

## In Memorium

Sadly, we inform the death of Veronica (Ronnie) Manchester, Director Emeritus of District 16 of NYSVA&RA. Ronnie passed away on April 22, 2003.

mittee positions in our organization and was the first person to become a Director Emeritus. She was a life member as well.

She will be missed....

Ronnie served for many years in several leadership and com-

## State EMS Council (SEMSCO), State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC) News

A letter was issued by the Counsel to the NYS Police indicating a trooper can witness the signature of a Refusal of Treatment/Transportation statement on a PCR. There had been some mis-direction to NYSP Troop D-Oneida that they should not sign the witness statement.

- The Bureau of EMS is working with a number of agencies and interested parties to develop a statewide EMS Mobilization Plan. Fire agencies have such a plan in the General Municipal law but EMS does not have the same. A draft document has been created. A test of the plan will be conducted this summer with at least 3 as yet undetermined counties.

- The Bureau of EMS will conduct a full service inspection at least once every third cycle of an agency's two-year certification. The latest quarterly EMS Investigations Report indicates 320 cases were opened, 302 cases closed, 419 actions taken and \$2,500 in fines imposed.

- Glucometer BLS Level Project has been presented to SEMAC by the Albany FD requesting a 6 month demonstration pilot. It was approved and now goes to the DOH Commissioner for final approval. Results are expected to be available in 2004.

- Stroke Study started May 5th in Kings (Brooklyn) and Queens Counties in NYC. 12 hospitals were designated to receive possible stroke patients if onset was determined to be within 2 hours. Additional hospitals may be designated later in the year.

- CFR refresher curriculum review is about halfway through its development.

- Intubation study is progressing with more regions reporting. Committee is looking at 280 reports.

- Electronic PCR Project in NYC is about completed and shows promise. FDNY may be up and running next year with data available within 30 days.

- A motion was passed to oppose Legislative Proposal A7949 on first responder training and providing personal

protective equipment (PPE) to all EMS providers in NYS. A funding source is unspecified and money might have to be taken out of current EMS training funds.

- Public Access Defibrillation Report indicates there are 3,342 PAD agencies in NYS with 95,796 trained providers and 10,103 AED units deployed. During the first quarter of 2003, 60 persons were reported defibrillated and of those, 8 were discharged alive from the hospital.

### NYS COMPTROLLER REPORT ON DOH BUREAU OF EMS OVERSIGHT OF EMS

The specific focus of the Comptroller's review was "Does the Bureau certify, inspect and investigate services in a timely and through manner in accordance with NYS Public Health Law, NYCRR and Bureau policies and procedures".

EMS in NYS is provided by more than 1,200 local ambulance services and other providers that are overseen by the Department of Health (DOH). These providers must be re-certified by DOH every two years and inspected on a periodic basis. 228 of the 1,190 (19 percent) emergency medical service providers that were reviewed had a certification that had lapsed at some point (over 2 years in one case!) and a number of inspections were not timely or complete. Current certification is mandatory for Medicaid billing. The DOH also investigates complaints and other problems relating to emergency medical services. The Comptroller determined that these investigations were not always performed in the required manner and were not always timely. The Comptroller report did not conclude that the quality of care from a system perspective is questionable but it did recommend that DOH's oversight of emergency medical services be strengthened and listed 12 specific actions to take.

The DOH submitted a response to the report and recommendations and indicated that appropriate actions have been undertaken to improve oversight. A full copy of the report and response is on the internet at <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/audits/allaudits/093003/093003-h/02s5.pdf>

## Who Owns a Domain Name

Have you ever wondered who is behind an Internet site? Log onto <http://www.netsol.com/cgi-bin/whois/whois>. It is a free service and has information on .com, .net, .org, .us, .biz, .bz, .cc, .tv, .info as well as foreign extensions.

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## At Home Defibrillator Approved by FDA

Philips Electronics announced on November 12, 2002 that its HeartStart Home Defibrillator had received US Food & Drug Administration approval. People with a prescription from a doctor will be able to pay \$2,295 at selected CVS/pharmacy retail stores for the at-home defibrillator which is similar in operation to those found at malls, airports, schools, etc. Purchasers also receive an owner's manual and instructional video. The Philips machine talks users through each step of resuscitation with instructions that were revamped to be simple enough for a sixth-grader to understand. Voice instructions—more comprehensive than those offered by AEDs used by trained first responders—guide an operator through every step of the defibrillation process, even reminding them to call for emergency help and providing CPR coaching. SMART pad technology senses the responder's actions with the pads and automatically adjusts the pace of the voice instructions to meet the individual responder's needs. The company provided small studies showing that people

who had never seen the device could follow the directions. Advice is given that potential users get some training, the device is not a substitute for paramedics and that 911 should be called before grabbing the defibrillator.

Philips is the only manufacturer to offer specially designed pediatric pads that make automated external defibrillators safe for use on infants and children under eight or weighing less than 55 pounds. This unique feature enables the HeartStart Home Defibrillator to be used to help save anyone who suffers a sudden cardiac arrest.

For additional information on the HeartStart Home Defibrillator log on to the web site at [www.heartstarthome.com](http://www.heartstarthome.com) or call (866) DEFIBHOME (866) 333-4246.

Introduction of this new at-home AED is expected to heat up the debate on whether the broader sale of defibrillators will save more lives or waste precious minutes if distraught relatives hunt for the machine before calling 911.

## FDA Approved Pediatric Modified AED Cables

On September 18, 2002 the NYS DOH issued an "URGENT" notice regarding pediatric AED cables. It advised that the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMACE) advisory 02-02 issued July 1, 2002 regarding FDA approved pediatric modified AED cables referred to a specific pad and cable adapter that is designed to limit the dose of electricity that is delivered to a patient.

The Philips/Agilent FR2 AED (and now the Philips HeartStart Home Defibrillator) with pediatric modified cables is the only device that has been approved for use by the FDA on individuals less than 8 years of age.

It has come to the attention of the NYS DOH that pedi-

atric pads intended for use with manual monitor-defibrillators may have been purchased by some agencies for use with AEDs from other manufacturers. These manual monitor-defibrillator pads should not be confused with Philips/Agilent AED defibrillator pads and cables that have been specially modified to limit the amount of electricity delivered to the patient.

Currently, only the Philips FR2 AED and HeartStart Home Defibrillator that are equipped with specific pediatric modified pads and cables are approved for use on a pediatric patient less than 8 years of age.

## NYS DOH Revised BLS Protocols Issued

All agencies must update their staff to the new Basic Life Support Protocols before August 1, 2003. All Course Sponsors are to begin teaching the new protocols to any course testing on or before August 1, 2003. Shipments of

new protocol books were sent to squads starting in late February. The new BLS protocols will not pertain to Certified First responders. Some regional EMS Councils across the state have issued their own regional BLS Protocols.

## Downstate DOH Offices Consolidated in NYC

The New Rochelle NYS DOH Bureau of EMS Regional Office that was located on Huguenot Avenue, has been combined and moved to the New York City EMS Metropolitan Area Regional Office (MARO). Senior EMS Representatives John Lippes Waite and Andrew Wendt will still be responsible for the Hudson Valley area. The Long Island counties of Nassau and Suffolk will be handled by Senior

EMS Representative Brian Sherwood and Senior EMS Representative Eunice Mitchell will handle New York City. All the above representatives can be reached at (212) 268-6632 or (800) 942-1942. Please direct all downstate agency requests, such as certifications, new vehicles and EMS education issues to this office.

## Non Profit Organization Salaries

News reports in March indicated Ralph Dickerson Jr., the chief executive of the United Way of New York City, will resign at the end of 2003. Dickerson earned \$470,129 in salary and benefits in the year ending June 30, 2001. The presidents of other large non-profit agencies earn similar salaries and many of their subordinates also receive 6 figure salaries. The President of the United States earns only \$400,000 a year and the vice president's annual salary is \$186,000. Donors may want to consider whether their dollars go to help the

community or to probable millionaires and professional fundraisers.

If applicable, you may want to point out in your fund drive literature that no officer, director or squad member of a volunteer ambulance corps or volunteer fire department receives a dime in salary or bonus for their efforts. All do what they do for the benefit of their neighbors and community and there are very few so-called non-profit organizations that can make that statement.

## Making America Ready: The Red Cross Prepares Communities

February 20, 2003 - At the American Red Cross Chapter in Cincinnati, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge publicly launched the "Ready Campaign," as the thrust for nationwide preparedness continues to increase. Hundreds gathered for the Feb. 19 announcement, including Red Cross President and CEO Marsha J. Evans, who cited readiness principles as vitally important during the heightened threat of terrorism as well as other potential disasters. "In the new and unsettling world of nonspecific terrorist threats and heightened military alerts, empowering Americans to take practical steps to prepare for emergencies and disasters before they happen is more important than ever," Evans said. Nearly 1,000 Red Cross chapters and Blood Services regions across the U.S. are partnering with communities to equip residents against emerging dangers and potential disasters before they happen. The "Together We Prepare" campaign entails five proactive measures individuals can take which will help ensure safety for their families and neighborhoods. Americans are urged to make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer and give blood as the integral components of the Red Cross program. "It's not just terrorism for which residents want to be prepared. A tornado or another severe storm can be just as devastating," said John Degan, with disaster services of the North Central Kansas Chapter. "If the terrorist threat is what it takes to make people think about preparedness, the same measures are going to take care of them in a tornado." Accordingly, Red Cross chapters across the nation have responded with readiness programs unique to their communities. From Sierra Nevada to Rochester, N.Y., citizens are turning out for "Preparing for the Unexpected" classes offered by their local chapters. "After the Level Orange alert, people started calling asking what they could do, so we decided to offer [the 'Preparing for the Unexpected' class] to the public," said Lisa Lemons of the Dallas Chapter of the American Red Cross. Encompassing topics such as developing family disaster plans, assembling disaster supply kits, steps to take in an evacuation, how to shelter in your own home and basic first aid and safety skills, these classes as well as relevant brochures and additional information are being offered in hundreds of Red Cross chapters throughout the U.S.

Many chapters have also established local hotline numbers that community members may call with questions, concerns and for

preparedness information. Nationally, the American Red Cross has activated the 1-866-GET-INFO line to provide the public with readiness and disaster safety insights seven days a week from 8 a.m. until midnight (Eastern Standard Time). Along with "Preparing for the Unexpected" classes, chapters such as the Great Bay Red Cross are offering "Together We Prepare" presentations to churches, civic organizations, schools and businesses, highlighting the steps to make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer and give blood. Meanwhile, some Red Cross chapters are finding other innovative ways to educate their community members in preparedness. "Our plan is to go out into the community and have disaster kit building nights that families can attend, bringing along their own box that we can help stock with donated supplies," said Gary Miller, Director of Disaster Services for the Cincinnati chapter. "We're also promoting family accountability systems as part of preparedness to keep family members in touch in an emergency situation." The Cincinnati Red Cross also works in conjunction with the local fire department, police department, vocational schools and community emergency response teams to train citizens in various aspects of preparedness, Miller said. "The Red Cross is in nearly every community across the country so we are well positioned to organize preparedness activities," said Betsey Andrews Parker, CEO of the Great Bay Chapter of the Red Cross. "Every individual has the opportunity to play an important role - when we come together, we become something bigger than us all."



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## NYS Providing Anti Terror Trailers to Law Enforcement Agencies

NYS Office of Criminal Justice Services announced on February 25, 2003 that the state will begin distributing 113 terror-busting vans to law-enforcement agencies across the state. NYPD will receive 17 of the special trailers and NY State police and other localities will get the rest. The trailers cost \$200,000 each and are equipped with masks, hazardous-material suits, detection devices and sample col-

lection kits for chemical and biological elements. They were recommended by the state's Weapons of Mass Destruction task force and will be paid for through a \$25 million federal grant. The grant will also pay for bomb-team equipment and individual protective kits for first responders.

## NYPD Receives Federal Funds for Gas Masks

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton announced that the federal government will provide \$4 million to buy gas masks for New York City police officers at the NYPD's request. The money, earmarked to acquire masks for 15,000 to 20,000 officers, roughly half the department's strength, was the first phase of a program to outfit the NYC's first responders against terrorism or other emergencies involving chemical or biological threats. Clinton said the \$4 million was part of the omnibus

budget approved by Congress for 2003 and that she was working to obtain more funds for the purpose. "One of the best ways for leaders in Washington to show our gratitude for the service and dedication of our first responders is to make sure they have the right equipment and resources to do the job," Clinton said at a February news conference in Manhattan's 13th Precinct.

## Community Emergency Response Team

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sponsored Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community. The CERT course is taught in the community by a trained team of first responders who have completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer course conducted by their state training office for emergency management or FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations and light search and rescue operations. Over the next two years, the CERT program aims to double the number of participants, with over 400,000 individuals completing the 20 plus hours of training. Train-the-Trainer sessions will be held in all 56 states and territories over the next year to expand the program throughout the United States.

There are currently 52 CERT groups in California with its propensity for large-scale natural disasters including earthquakes and fires. Included in this total is a Motorcycle Emergency Response Corps (MERC) unit in the San Francisco area that could prove invaluable if the highway and road system is disrupted. During the Northridge earthquake in 1994, over 1,000 CERT volunteers were mobilized and performed searches and rescues, provided first aid and helped

put out fires.

New York has three (3) teams. The Greater New York Emergency Corps is sponsored by the Greater New York Safety Council in New York City, (212) 754-6252, [www.EmergencyCorps.com](http://www.EmergencyCorps.com) and the goal of this particular CERT program is to develop employee emergency response teams in workplace organizations. In NYC emergencies are more than likely to occur during work hours and therefore, the workplace is an appropriate place to organize and train responders to minimize injury and loss. Another team is sponsored by the Rochester Fire Department and the Southwest Area Neighborhood (SWAN) organization. The newest team is in Brooklyn.

One drawback to establishing new volunteer emergency response groups such as CERT is the negative effective it may have on existing volunteer ambulance, rescue and fire organizations in a community. If a CERT group is proposed, consider having new volunteers channeled to organizations (VACs, VFDs, SAR teams, etc.) that already serve the emergency response needs of a community rather than start a parallel organization.

In New York State federal money for CERT initiatives went to the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) which in turn gave a grant to the NYS Red Cross to hire regional CERT coordinators. For more information on the CERT program including how to start and maintain a program visit the web page at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT>

## Bits from Around the State and Beyond



**DISTRICT 4 – CORONA VAC and HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL** in Queens County have teamed up to provide experience to students interested in EMS careers. Through the high school's Health Careers Department 500 students are offered courses in pre-nursing, medical assistant, dental assistant CFR and EMT.

Soon, some of those EMT students will be able to put their education to use by being joined up with experienced EMTs from Corona VAC while they are on duty covering games at Shea Stadium. Hillcrest is the only high school in Queens with a health careers program. IS 59, a "gifted & Talented Academy" intermediate school in Springfield Gardens, Queens offers a 6th grade curriculum offering exposure to medical studies. The program is expected to be expanded to the 7th and 8th grades in the near future.

**QUEENS VILLAGE-HOLLIS-BELLEROSSE VAC** in Queens County had its headquarters damaged by a fire in February. The squad has plans to rebuild and expand its building. The ground floor will have a dispatch area, large squad room with kitchen facilities, supply & equipment storage room and a one bay garage at the rear of the building to get at least one of its ambulances off the street. A second floor will be added which will have offices and a training room. Construction costs will exceed the over \$250,000 insurance coverage. Squad members performed some interior demolition and a rented construction trailer has been placed at the curb on a side street to serve as a temporary headquarters. This is the third squad in Queens that has had a serious fire in the last 5 years.

**ROCK VAC** is the 27th and newest volunteer ambulance service in New York City. The squad held a dedication on Saturday May 17th at Beach Channel High School in Rockaway to mark the beginning of service. The squad will be covering the Rockaway Peninsula from the NYC-Nassau County line to Beach 169 Street west of the Marine Parkway Bridge. Communities include Arverne, Baywater, Belle Harbor, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Hammels, Neponsit, Rockaway Park, Seaside and Jacob Riis Park.

On April 29, 2003 the **NYC Police Department's Emergency Service Unit** was approved by the Regional EMS Council of NYC to provide an Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Responder Service. ALS care will be provided for injured, ill or wounded civilians, police officers or others trapped in a tactical environment where the risk of injury exists and the scene is unsafe for a pre-hospital care provider not trained or equipped for inner-perimeter tactical situations. If the NYPD wishes to expand beyond this limited area it must return to the Regional Council for approval. The next step is for the NYS Department of Health to issue an ALS Operating Certificate. Medication and controlled substances clearances, policies and procedures have to be secured or put in place and the Regional Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) must also review the service's planned equipment and protocols.

**DISTRICT 6 – SULLIVAN COUNTY**, as almost everywhere, does

not have the number of paramedic providers it would like to have. Hudson Valley REMSCO's requirement that ALS services operate 24 hours a day/7 days a week cannot be met by some volunteer and commercial organizations and mutual aid agreements are seen as a fallback to provide ALS coverage in the county.

**DISTRICT 12 – NASSAU COUNTY PD EMS SERVICE** purchased 12 Braun Chief XL ambulances through N&A Truck Fire & Rescue in North Babylon. The big news is that they are all on Type III Ford E450 Super Duty chassis. This is a departure from the Type I chassis NCPD has used for years.

**VFD FUND RAISING FLAP ON LONG ISLAND**, Newsday reported in early February that with Valentines Day 2003 approaching, florists in some Long Island communities filed protests with local officials over the growing practice of VFDs selling flowers to mark holidays such as Mothers' Day, Christmas and Easter. The competition was becoming too much for the local florists whose prices are a good deal above what VFDs were charging. Brookhaven Town officials agreed VFDs were not allowed to hang signs and sell flowers and many VFDs have decided to discontinue the practice. Although flower sales are not a major source of essential funds, every dollar does add up. Can protests from restaurants over spaghetti dinners and clubs over comedy nights be coming?

**DISTRICT 7 – Huntington Community First Aid Squad** celebrated National EMS Week by making a "Meet our Friends at HCFAS" presentation to Preschool and elementary school children at our local library. The children got an opportunity to see some of the equipment that may be used in an emergency and to see the inside of an ambulance.

Huntington Community First Aid Squad ambulance and personnel provided medical coverage for the Boston EMS Bike Ride through our district. The Boston EMS Bike Ride is an annual event that starts in Boston and ends at the EMS Memorial in Roanoke, Virginia.

**DISTRICT 16 – GREECE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE**, Monroe County, has members trained as certified child safety seat technicians. For information call Roberta Ames at (585) 424-2801. Monroe County Office of Traffic Safety at (585) 428-4903 can also provide information about the program.

**WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY**, Schuyler County needs volunteers to help with race events. EMS personnel should contact Jackie Coates at [jcoates@frontiernet.net](mailto:jcoates@frontiernet.net)

**STEP Conference** in Rochester in early May went well considering the ice storm that taxed the local emergency providers. The conference hotel lost power and the 240 persons that attended Saturday classes met in hallways where some emergency lighting was available.

**Midstate Regional Emergency Medical Services Council** covering Oneida, Herkimer & Madison counties in an effort to promote EMS EXCELLENCE will recognize the outstanding efforts of a provider, crew, or group of providers. The REMSCO will select the provider(s) from nominations provided by our providers, hospitals, and members of the public. Nomination forms, criteria and other infor-

(Continued on page 11)

## Toyota Prius Emergency Response Guide Available

The PRIUS is a gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle. As such, it is one example of a growing number of alternative fueled vehicles that are showing up on roads and becoming involved in accidents. Anecdotal accounts have surfaced revealing fears and apprehension about what to do when called to an emergency scene and one of these vehicles is involved. Reports have included instances when tow operators have refused to remove vehicles because of fear of electrocution.

The Prius Emergency Response Guide was developed by Toyota to educate and assist emergency responders in the safe handling of the Prius. Emergency procedures are similar to other Toyota vehicles with the exception of the high voltage electrical system that powers an electric motor, generator and inverter. All other conventional automotive electrical devices such as the headlights, radio and gauges are powered from a separate 12-volt battery. Numerous safeguards have been designed into the Prius to help ensure the high voltage, approximately 274 volt from a Nickel Metal Hydride battery

pack, is kept safe and secure in an accident. High voltage cables are identified by orange insulation and connectors and are isolated from the metal chassis of the vehicle. They are routed underneath the floor pan and would not normally be accessed by emergency responders.

Topics covered in the response guide include:

- Identification of Toyota Prius vehicles
- Major hybrid component locations and descriptions
- Extrication, fire, recovery and other emergency response information
- Roadside assistance information

Toyota says that by following information in the guide, emergency responders will be able to handle Prius gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles as safely as the response of a conventional gasoline engine automobile. The 26 page guide (Toyota Publication # OTH020U) is on the internet at [http://www.toyota.com/html/shop/vehicles/prius/safety/prius\\_safety.html](http://www.toyota.com/html/shop/vehicles/prius/safety/prius_safety.html)

## FDNY & NYPD Resist NYS Ordered Unified Incident Command System

NYS Fire Administrator James Burns is reported by Newsday to have sent letters to the NYC police and fire commissioners expressing concern that the city agencies have not responded to Governor George Pataki's Executive Order 26 issued in March 1996 requiring state agencies and localities to use the Incident Command System, a nationally recognized model for multi-agency emergency response.

The two local agencies continue to resist setting up a formal Incident Command System that the rest of the nation has already accepted. NYPD and FDNY have traditionally engaged in a "battle of the badges" at incidents. On-scene verbal debates and pushing/shoving matches have been followed by City Hall orders and informal agreements aimed at preventing re-occurrences of controversies over who is in charge. While

these agreements seem to work at most incidents, the bigger ones requiring close cooperation and unified command have been something else. The McKinsey Report, commissioned after the World Trade Center collapses, found that NYPD and FDNY officers rarely coordinated command and control functions and rarely exchanged information during the incident.

Each organization demands its members operate under ICS but will not submit the organization as a whole to someone else's direction. It seems it is only on the infrequent incident when the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) activates its Command Center or puts its mobile Command Center Bus at an incident in the field that senior NYPD and FDNY officers leave their own bunkers and busses to meet, work together and exchange information with OEM as the facilitator.

*(continued from Page 10) More Bits From Around the State*

information have been posted on web site at [www.midstateEMS.org](http://www.midstateEMS.org)

### OTHER BITS

FDNY has received two (2) Freightliner FL70 model tractor trailer decontamination units. The 28 foot long by 8 foot wide trailers are partitioned and have separate lanes for decontamination of males and females. Patients enter a trailer at one end, undress and then go through showers, scrubbing with soap/detergent solution, rinse and then put on some type of gown before leaving through a second door at the other end of the trailer. The trailers have 12kW generators, and heating/air conditioning systems.

**PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION IN NEW YORK** – 2,067 agencies with 88,549 trained providers using 8,516 defibrillators are spread across NYS as of January 2003. The most numerous agency type is public schools numbering 479 followed by 351 businesses, 345 fire departments, 194 recreational types and 176 police departments. Nursing home programs number only 15. NYC has the largest number of trained individuals with 7,058 followed by Suffolk County with 6,016, Nassau County with

5,076, the Hudson Valley with 4,895 and Central NY with 4,755. There are over 38,000 persons listed for the Hudson-Mohawk region but this total includes a central count of NYS employees.

**AUTOMOTIVE AWARD TO NY DOCTOR FOR CRASHING AMBULANCES** – Nadine Levick, MD has been involved in more ambulance crashes than anyone. These were not "accidents", however, but rather research. In March 2003 the Society of Automotive Engineers at its World Conference in Detroit awarded Dr. Levick its 2003 Women's Leadership Award for her groundbreaking work on ambulance safety. Using donated vehicles containing crash-test dummies, Dr. Levick sets up collisions where videos and sensors record what happens inside and outside the patient compartment in an effort to develop better ways to protect patients and EMS providers. This is the first time that this automotive related award has gone to a physician. Dr. Levick is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Columbia University, Director of Harlem Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department and an at-large member of the Regional EMS Council of NYC. She has written and lectured extensively on ambulance safety.

## NYS EMS Council Award Nominations

Each year the NYS EMS Council singles out seven deserving individuals and one organization that have made significant contributions in prehospital care in the state. The categories are: BLS Provider of the Year; ALS Provider of the Year; EMS Leadership; EMS Educator of Excellence; Communications Specialist of the Year; Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence; Physician of Excellence; and EMS Agency of the Year.

Anyone can initiate a nomination. Awards must be based on activities that culminated during the prior calendar year. Form DOH-2535 APPLICATION FOR NEW YORK STATE EMS COUNCIL

ANNUAL AWARDS must be submitted to the area's local Regional EMS Council - there are 18 across the state. Each Regional Council then submits its list of nominees to the State Council by August 1st. The Public Information, Education and Relations Committee of the NYS EMS Council will then select a single candidate in each category who will be recognized at the annual NYS Vital Signs EMS Conference in the fall. Additional information on the award process and criteria as well as a downloadable copy of the nomination form is online at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/emsawards.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/emsawards.htm)

## NYS DOH Policy Statements

**03-03 02/07/03 INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING A VERSION-5 NYS PCR:** In 2003 the Bureau of EMS will introduce a 5th version of the NYS Prehospital Care Report (PCR) Form DOH 3283. The primary purpose of a PCR is to document all prehospital care and pertinent patient information but a secondary purpose is data collection. All previous fields are present but the form has been redesigned to enable Optical Character Recognition of printed information and data and check boxes are replaced with circles to be filled in. A field for patient's Social Security Number has been added to enable linkage with hospital care information.

**03-04 02/10/03 CHEMICAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CARD:** The NYS Department of Health distributed CHEMICAL TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CARD to all organizations involved in emergency response. The card is designed to serve as a quick reference for providers when faced with a potential act of chemical terrorism. EMS agencies are encouraged to have all responders review this document and understand what capabilities exist within their agency in complying with the recommendations. All agencies are advised that the directions and recommendations regarding antidote use should only be performed in accordance with established medical protocols for your agency. The use of personal protective equipment including the use of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), should only occur after providers have received proper training on the use and fitting of such equipment. The Bureau of EMS and the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMACE) believe that EMS personnel should not be providing patient care in an envi-

ronment that requires the use of SCBA. It is not the role of EMS personnel to enter a "hot zone" in an Identified WMD incident. EMS crews should operate in the "cold zone" and Haz-Mat or other specially equipped teams should bring patients out of the hot zone to be treated and transported. These guidelines are provided to assist in providing care at the scene of a possible Chemical Terrorism incident and not becoming a victim of one.

**03-07 05/16/03 PROVIDING MEDICAL DIRECTION.** Provides assistance to EMS agencies and physicians in understanding Medical Direction at the agency level, defines roles and responsibilities and covers such issues as credentialing and immunity From Liability.

The following types of organizations are required to have a physician Medical Director:

- Ambulance and Basic Life Support First Responder services providing defibrillation
- Ambulance and Advanced Life Support First Responder services providing any level of Advanced Life Support (ALS)

The following types of organizations are required to have a collaborative agreement with an emergency physician or hospital:

- Entities providing Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) under Section 3000-b of the Public Health Law
- Entities authorized to provide Epinephrine Auto Injectors (Epi-Pen) under section 3000-c of the Public Health Law

The full text of all current NYS DOH Policy Statements can be viewed on the internet at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm>

## County EMS Information Listed on Internet

The NYS Department of Health has added to their web site the following information broken down by county:

- County EMS Coordinator
- Regional EMS Council name
- Regional EMS Program Agency name
- Ambulance services' name, address and level of care provided
- Non transporting First Response Services' names and ad-

resses and level of care

- Hospital names and disposition code (plus FDNY hospital number where assigned)
- PCR Location Codes (Geo Codes)
- Address and staff names of local NYS DOH Bureau of EMS Area Office

The information is on-line at: [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/counties/map.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/counties/map.htm)

## EMS/Fire Scholarship Renewed for 2003

As a membership recruitment incentive, New York State is again offering college scholarships to men and women who join volunteer fire departments and ambulance squads. The 2003-04 state budget recently enacted by the Governor and the Legislature includes funding for these scholarships of about \$3,400 a year for eligible candidates to attend public or private colleges starting this fall.

The deadline to submit the name of a scholarship candidate from your volunteer company to the New York State Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) in Albany will probably be in early August. Information about the 2003-04 scholarships is not yet on the HESC web site but last year's requirements will probably be renewed. Each New York State volunteer organization may submit one scholarship application each year to HESC. Your volunteer company must develop a policy that you will use to select a candidate. That written policy must be sent to HESC with the scholarship application. Submitting a scholarship application does not guarantee a scholarship. If more applications are received than money is available, HESC shall randomly select the scholarship winners. The recipient must maintain status as an active volunteer with your volunteer organization for the duration of the scholarship. You must immediately inform HESC if a scholarship recipient is no longer an active volunteer with your volunteer company.

**Eligibility - volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel who:**

- Have been New York State residents for at least one year.
- Are enrolled in an approved undergraduate degree program in New York State.
- Have a course load of at least six credits per term.
- If 23 years of age or older, have less than six months of volunteer service at time of initial award.
- If under 23 years of age, no minimum or maximum time of volunteer service is required at time of initial award.
- Are not in possession of a baccalaureate degree or higher.
- Are attending a school/institution within 50 miles of volunteer organization, or if no college available within 50 mile limit, the nearest college/institution.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Have applied for state and federal financial aid.

**How to apply:**

- Volunteer organization distributes applications and selects one eligible candidate per year.
- Volunteer organization submits completed application form HE 8229 to HESC postmarked by the closing date.
- Volunteer organization means ambulance company as defined in section three of the volunteer ambulance workers' benefit law or fire company as defined in section three of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law.

**Recipient Selection**

- If the number of applicants exceeds funding for the program, NYSHESC shall randomly select recipients from the applicant pool. Receipt of the scholarship in future years is based on funding but preference will be given to renewal scholarships.

**Recipient Requirements:**

- Maintain good academic standing.
- Maintain a "C" average.
- Maintain status as an active volunteer with the volunteer organization for duration of scholarship.
- Maintain continuous enrollment in school/institution for duration of scholarship.
- File for state and federal financial aid.

**Award Payment:**

- Payment will be made to school/institution on behalf of students upon certification of eligibility.
- Awards will equal the amount of tuition, reduced by any tuition-based grant, but can not exceed the amount of tuition charged by the State University of New York.
- Recipients will continue to receive benefits as long as they are continuously enrolled, meet the eligibility requirements and funding is available.

For more information check the HESC web site at [http://www.hesc.state.ny.us/Whats\\_New/volunteer\\_scholarship\\_letter.html](http://www.hesc.state.ny.us/Whats_New/volunteer_scholarship_letter.html) or contact:

NYS Higher Education Services Corporation, Scholarship Unit, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12255, (888) 697-4372

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## Orange County Loses 911 for 6 Hours

On Sunday morning June 1st the phones of 300,000 Frontier Communications customers in Orange County went silent. Included in this was the county's 911 service. Fire, Police and EMS agencies were contacted by alternate means and asked to increase patrols and staff normally vacant firehouses and

ambulance garages. County dispatchers used cell phones and handheld radios to communicate. The phone disruption was traced to the failure of a crucial fuse at Frontier's office in Monroe.

## Homeland Security Helps Train Citizens for Emergencies with \$19 Million for Community Emergency Response Teams

Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced on May 29, 2003 the availability of \$19 million in grant money to train citizens to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities through local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). New York State was allocated \$879,497.

Brown made the announcement at a meeting with CERT members from the cities of Olathe, Overland Park, Leawood, and Merriam, KS and from Johnson County government, who assisted first responders after tornadoes devastated areas of Kansas earlier in May.

"Homeland Security has provided more than \$4 billion to state and local governments this year to support the efforts of first responders and help us secure the homeland," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "These CERT grants are a great example of the use of funding to better prepare America's communities."

Each CERT member completes 20 hours of training on disaster preparedness, basic disaster medical operations, fire safety, light search and rescue, and other essential topics. The training also includes a disaster simulation in which participants practice skills they learned throughout the course. In the event of an emergency, CERT members can provide immedi-

ate assistance to victims, assist in organizing spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site and provide critical support to first responders.

"Through the CERT program, citizens are better able to respond to an emergency or disaster," said Brown. "This is an essential way for citizens to help secure the homeland by supporting the work of our professional first responders." The grant money represents the Fiscal year 2003 funds made available to expand the CERT program, and is in addition to \$17 million distributed through the Fiscal year 2002 supplemental appropriation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will distribute the funds for state and local level CERT programs to each state and territory according to the formula developed through the Patriot Act. The CERT grants will allow states to fund new programs and to expand existing teams. FEMA has a goal of training 400,000 citizens through the CERT program during the next two years.

CERT is a vital component of Citizen Corps, President Bush's community-based initiative to engage citizens in homeland security and community and family preparedness through public education and outreach, training opportunities, and volunteer service. For more information on the CERT program, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Established in Brooklyn

The Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights Bensonhurst - Community Emergency Response Team of New York City was recently established to provide a local organization to mobilize citizen responders in those communities. Training provided to volunteers includes CPR, fire safety, medical operations, etc. The US Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is promoting CERT as a sort of community based Civil Defense program. Following a catastrophic disaster, either of natural causes or terrorist caused, many residents in the community may be on their own for a period of time while professional responders such as fire, EMS, police, etc. mobilize. There may also be conditions such as lost communications, impassable roadways or access or sheer numbers of casualties and many other scenarios preventing assistance arriving in a community.

The Brooklyn CERT group is funded in part, by the Bay

Ridge-Bensonhurst Beautification and Preservation Alliance inc., a coalition of merchants organizations in the western Brooklyn area. Members include the Merchants of Third Ave, 5th Avenue Board of Trade, 86th Street Bay Ridge Business Improvement District, Fort Hamilton Board of Trade, 11th Avenue Merchants Association, New Utrecht Avenue Board of Trade, 13th Avenue Merchants Association, 18th Avenue Merchants Association, Bay Ridge Development Corp and 86th Street Community Merchants Association.

For more information about the Brooklyn CERT group go to their web site at [www.cert1nyc.org](http://www.cert1nyc.org) The mailing address is 9201 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209 and the phone number is (718) 491-1705. For information about the national CERT program go to the FEMA web site at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT>



## Road Rescue Introduces First Production Ambulance on Spartan Cab & Chassis

The new Road Rescue ambulance, called an Inter-Urban Multiple Response Unit, was built for the Cambridge, MA fire department and was put on display at the 2003 Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, April 3-5. It will support a four person crew and feature a custom chassis instead of the more common cutaway chassis found on most ambulances. The vehicle uses a 4 door Spartan Motors ATR-1 fire truck cab designed for ambulance applications. It has the look and size of a heavy rescue unit but will support light rescue and extrication equipment, as well as patient transport and space for a variety of diagnostic equipment and storage.

The ambulance features new "Smart Display" technology -- allowing operators real-time vehicle information. In addition, the Inter-Urban will utilize a non-absorbent aluminum material in the patient compartment, eliminating the use of wood from cabinet construction. Crews will be able to move easily between the cab and the body of the ambulance and the custom chassis will allow for better performance, more cabin and body space, and increased durability. The chassis has an air ride suspension under both the cab and patient compartment. Width is a standard 96 inches with 72 inch headroom.

In a press announcement Chuck Drake, President of Road Rescue said "Most fire departments will run an ambulance on every fire call and in many cases the ambulance is the first on the scene. We think the market is ripe for a migration from the conventional chassis to the custom chassis both because of the roomier cab, which accommodates the desire for larger crews and more equipment to respond to emergency situations, and the ride-and-handling benefits offered by a custom chassis."

Cambridge FD protects an area that has a daytime population averaging 350,000 in a high-density environment of 10 square miles including such institutions as Harvard and MIT. 5 stations operate 2 person ambulances on Freightliner medium duty chassis. With placement of the new Road Rescue in service from the headquarters station, one regular ambulance would be eliminated and the Road Rescue with a 4 person crew would provide enhanced rescue capabilities. In Cambridge another ambulance service usually takes over care from FD personnel and provides patient transport. Cost of the new vehicle was \$299,000. Additional pictures of the unit are on the internet at <http://www.roadrescue.com/pages/fdic/chassis.htm>

## Road Rescue Inc. Introduces "Smart Glass" Technology for Ambulances

The innovation, a first in the ambulance industry, is designed to provide enhanced working conditions inside the ambulance and offer additional patient privacy. The feature was unveiled April 3 at the 2003 Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis. SPD-Smart windows will allow ambulance crews to instantly and precisely control the shading of vehicle glass manually or automatically. Road Rescue's

rear-door and side-patient compartment windows will be outfitted with the technology, increasing privacy inside the ambulance, helping control and block out excess heat from outside, and reducing glare so rescue workers can better focus on patients. Additional information can be found at [www.SmartGlass.com](http://www.SmartGlass.com).

## NYS Emergency Service Revolving Loan Program

The loan program was established under the State Finance Law and makes loans to cities, villages, fire districts, counties, towns and independent not-for-profit fire and ambulance corporations at an annual interest rate of 2.5%. Loans, subject to certain maximum amounts, are available for:

- Fire fighting apparatus, ambulances or rescue vehicles or their repair.
- Personal protective, communications and accessory equipment necessary to support fire fighting or rescue activities.
- Construction, renovation or rehabilitation of facilities that house fire-fighting equipment, ambulances, rescue vehicles and related equipment.

Loans may not be used to pay off existing loans, finance charges or lease agreements. Applications will not be considered if there are arrears on a prior loan under this program, state funds were used to pay off a prior loan or the applicant seeks any other form of aid from the state for the same purpose,

including but not limited to, Legislative Member Item Projects. Applicants may apply in only one category and no applicant shall receive a loan more than once in any five-year period. The Loan Board meets four times during the year and any application not received in time for one meeting is held aside and acted upon at the next meeting.

For an application packet or more information about the low interest loan program, send a written request on official letterhead to: NYS Department of State

Office of Fire Prevention and Control  
ATTN: Loan Program  
41 State Street  
Albany, NY 12231

or by calling (518) 474-6746 or faxing your request to (518) 474-3240.

**The Association is on the Web! You can find us at: <http://NYSVARA.org>**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**VFD PARADE AND DRILL SEASON** is here. For a listing of VFD parades and drills (competitions) throughout New York State as well as directions to track locations and event descriptions go to the web site at [www.fdracing.com](http://www.fdracing.com). Nassau and Suffolk counties are very active and there are also listings for Western NY and Northern NY. The NYS Championship Drill will be held on Saturday August 16, 2003 at Ridge, LI and the NYS Parade will be hosted by the Medford VFD on Sunday August 17, 2003 starting at 1:00 PM.

**NEW JERSEY STATE FIRST AID COUNCIL 2003 CONVENTION**, Friday, October 17, 2003 through Sunday, October 20, 2003 at the Nevele Grande Resort & Country Club, Ellenville, NY. For information check the web site at [www.njsfac.org](http://www.njsfac.org)

**VITAL SIGNS CONFERENCE 2003**, NYS DOH Bureau of EMS' 20th Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show will be held on Friday, October 17, 2003 to Sunday, October 20, 2003 at the OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. For more information go to the web site at [www.vitalsignsconference.com](http://www.vitalsignsconference.com).

**PULSE CHECK 2003**, the 48th Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday 10/2/03 to Sunday 10/5/03 at the Roaring Brook Resort & Conference Center, Lake George, NY. Event features seminars, exhibits, awards dinner and the country's only statewide EMT and CFR team skills competition. For information call (877) NYSVARA, (518) 883-4192, e-mail [pulsecheck2000@aol.com](mailto:pulsecheck2000@aol.com) or go to the web site at [www.nysvara.org](http://www.nysvara.org). *The Annual Meeting of members will be held on Thursday at 8:00pm.*

**THE NEW YORK STATE  
VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE &  
RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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