



THE BLANKET

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

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and a happy new year. After the E-Board meeting in November, I, along with other members of the Association attended the State Drill at The North Babylon Fire Dept. The drill was well attended and congratulations to all the participants and winners.

In December, I had the opportunity to join Senator Schumer, representatives from Districts 4 and 18, and members from many volunteer ambulance corps in New York City to distribute the first checks from the New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, NYC Region/Districts 4 & 18, Community EMS Fund. As you are aware, The Fund was established to assist volunteer ambulance corps who suffered losses of vehicles and equipment during the disaster of September 11. The event was hosted at Forest Hills VAC and was very impressive. There was also the dedication of a new ambulance for Forest Hills VAC, which was funded in part by The Fund. The Fund continues working on this as well as other issues that will improve volunteer EMS in New York City and Statewide.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the installation dinner for the Central Islip-Hauppauge Volunteer Ambulance Corps. It was a great evening.

We continue to work on legislative issues that are of concern in the coming year. As the alternate delegate to the NYS EMS Council, along with Henry Ehrhardt, I attend Council meetings to insure that the voice of volunteer EMS providers is heard. As you are aware on February 4 we had meetings with key legislators to thank them for their help and discuss issues that are of concern.

As reported by our Financial Secretary, we have received over \$2,000 in donations over and above dues from individual members, squads and organizations. To everyone who donated money, thank you. We must continue to be financially prudent as we move forward this year. Our association must rely on increasing its membership, keeping spending under control and looking at alternative funding sources to have the resources available to continue the work we do.

We have made great strides in helping to keep volunteer EMS an integral part of the EMS system. Everyone who is involved in the association volunteers their time. We have no paid staff to assist us. Most of us have full-time jobs and families. Sometimes it may appear that progress is slow and schedules run behind. Please be patient. If you know someone who is interested in helping, please let us know. To all the Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs, thank you, for all the work you do and the time you spend. Be safe for united we stand!



Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr.
 President, NYS VA&RA

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The Quarterly Newsletter of
 the NYS Volunteer
 Ambulance
 & Rescue Association

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Fight Over NYS Insurance Department Regulation 68 Continues

The Appellate Division, First Department, has granted temporary relief in the fight over a new Insurance Department rule that would reduce from 180 days to 45 days the time period for accident victims, doctors, ambulances services and other medical providers to file no-fault insurance claims. The new time limits were upheld in early February by Manhattan Supreme Court Justice William A. Wetzel. However, First De-

partment Justice David B. Saxe on Wednesday 2/20/02 granted a temporary stay of the ruling until a full panel of appellate justices can consider a motion for a stay. Papers are due to the court on March 12. The rules are being challenged by the Medical Society of the State of New York and the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

Earn Masters In EMS At NY Medical College

Career opportunities exist in the Emergency Medical Service field beyond the street. The EMS Program at NY Medical College in Valhalla, Westchester County is in its 14th year of existence and offers graduate programs relevant to EMS and health care professional needs. Class work is real world oriented and often features group process, case studies and role playing. Technical assistance provided by field seminars has paved the way for specialized clinics, medical control centers and the quality assurance of field personnel. Students of the EMS program have gotten good jobs working as managers or in staff positions at organizations such as NYU Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center, American

Red Cross, Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council, Alaska State EMS Office, U.S. Navy Dental Program and Stamford EMS Institute and many have been published as sole authors while still in the program.

The Director of the EMS program is noted author and lecturer Carl Post and he can be reached at (914) 493-7749 or e-mail at carl_post@nymc.edu by anyone wishing career counseling or with questions about the program. New York Medical College's Admissions Office for the Graduate Programs in EMS as well as other programs can be reached at (914) 594-4510 or e-mail at gshs_admissions@nymc.edu

CD-ROM on EMS for Special Needs Children Sent to Squads

The NYS DOH Emergency Medical Services for Children program has sent each EMS organization in the state an interactive educational CD-ROM entitled MEETING THE CHALLENGE; IMPROVING EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS. The video was a collaborative effort of the Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and Biomedical Communications at Arizona Health Sciences Center. It was funded in part by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Advances in medical technology have enabled more children with special health care needs than ever before to be cared for at home in their communities. EMS professionals need to be prepared to respond to the emergency care needs of these children. The DOH hopes the CD-ROM will help familiarize prehospital care providers with the special characteristics and needs of these children.

The contents of the disk are intended for general educational purposes. Any questions or concerns regarding the scope of practice or medical protocols should be referred to an agency's Medical Director of local Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Council (REMAC).

Carolyn A. Palermo
 Territory Manager
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ZOLL

ZOLL Medical Corporation

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Fire Districts of New York Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.

No matter how tough it gets, we are there for you.

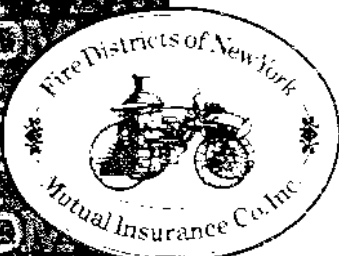
FDM was founded in 1978 by a group of fire districts, in reaction to dissatisfaction with the State Insurance Fund. For 20 years, our mission has been to provide benevolent claim service — the maximum benefits allowable under New York State VFBL and VAWBL laws — to injured volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

We believe that the last thing the brave men and women who fight fires or provide emergency services should have to worry about is their insurance coverage. We provide coverage based on 100% loss of earning capacity for all members. We're experienced and responsive, here to process claims promptly and fairly and keep your organization well informed on the status of claims.

FDM service advantages:

- Prompt, courteous 24-hour claim service
- 100% loss of earning capacity for all covered members
- Coverage starts immediately upon call out
- FDMCARE - assisted medical care
- Unlimited employers' liability coverage
- Loss control services
- Timely medical activity and claim experience reports
- All policyholders are protected by the New York State Guarantee Fund

Call 1-888-314-3004 for more information about our benevolent claim coverage.



BENEVOLENT CLAIM SERVICE

Fire Districts
of New York
Mutual Insurance
Company, Inc.

501 South Main Street
Spring Valley,
New York 10977
Tel: 888-314-3004

BEMS, SEMSCO, SEMAC, REMSCO, REMAC - What Does the Alphabet Soup Mean and What is the Role of the Various State and Councils?

The following is a brief description taken from the New York State Department of Health web site of the different components of New York's EMS system. These components were statutorily created to help organize and oversee the system and help assure that timely and appropriate emergency medical care is available statewide.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Bureau is located within the NYS Department of Health, Office of Health Systems Management and is responsible for the general oversight of the EMS system statewide. It does this in many ways:

- providing both financial and staff support to the State EMS Council and Regional EMS Councils,
- coordinates and develops contracts with the EMS Program Agencies to assist in the development of local EMS systems,
- approves all EMT certification courses and assists in development of curricula, approves county EMS plans supported by state aid, conduct examinations and issue individual EMT certification, administers the state aid program that provides free training leading to certification, maintains a pre-hospital care data information system for use in evaluating the quality of the system,
- administers the trauma program, including the State Trauma Advisory Committee, designation of trauma centers and a Trauma Registry utilized for QI purposes, approve and manage a variety of legislatively and federally funded EMS grants, responsible for issuing agency certifications, conducting periodic inspections of ambulance services and investigations of complaints regarding the conduct of certified providers or services.

STATE EMS COUNCIL (SEMSCO)

The State EMS Council meets six times a year in Troy. These meetings are open to the public and a calendar of meetings is posted on these pages. Its membership consists of representatives from the 18 regional councils and 15 representatives appointed by the commissioner from various organizations and interest in the EMS community. The Council assists the Department in providing leadership, developing rules and regulations and general guidelines for the operation of the EMS system. See Section 3002 of Article 30 for statutory responsibilities. Subcommittees for State EMS Council are:

- Budget - prepares budget recommendation for EMS in NYS for presentation to and adoption by the NYS EMS Council prior to transmittal to the Commissioner of Health, as per Article 30 of the NYS Public Health Law.
- Education and Training - addresses issues of certification and recertification of EMS providers, review course objectives, course curricula, conduct, clinical requirements, scope of practice and examination issues.
- EMS Systems - addresses issues of system development in New York State such as the determination of need process, Part 800 regulations, and mutual aid systems. Issues discussed include General Municipal Law vs. Public Health Law, liability for EMS agencies, on-scene coordination and communications.
- Evaluation - improve emergency care in New York State by as-

sessing the state EMS system and its components. The Evaluation Committee is reviewing the existing data collection system to identify its strengths and weaknesses. Developed generic QI guidelines for statewide release.

- Legislative - reviews proposed federal and state legislation pertinent to EMS.
- Public Information, Education and Relations - addresses issues of public awareness of EMS in NYS and develops and coordinates the NYS EMS awards presented at the annual conference each Fall. Award recipients are recognized for clinical, educational and administrative excellence in EMS.

STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEMAC)

The SEMAC is a committee of the State EMS Council composed of voting physician representatives from the REMACs and others with demonstrated knowledge and experience in emergency medical services. It was seated in August of 1995 and is responsible for developing and recommending to the State EMS Council statewide minimum standards for medical control, treatment, triage, transportation protocols and the use of regulated medical devices and drugs by certified EMS personnel. This committee may also issue advisory guidelines in any of the above areas with the Commissioner's consent. Their authority and responsibilities are outlined in Section 3002-a of Article 30. Subcommittees of the SEMAC are:

- Protocol - this committee is charged with developing statewide standards for treatment, triage and transportation protocols. It is reviewing regional protocols and recently approved statewide standards for protocol development at the regional level. It is currently developing a statewide ALS protocol. This committee works in cooperation with the Medical Standards committee.
- Quality Improvement - this committee is charged with assisting the council and the department in the development of quality improvement systems for EMS. It is currently reviewing the development of the regionally based pre-hospital care information system which will allow regions to review and issue reports on local system quality based on pre-hospital care data collected by the department. This committee works in cooperation with the evaluation committee of the State EMS Council.

REGIONAL EMS COUNCILS (REMSCO)

There are 18 Regional EMS Councils. Each council is composed of representatives of local ambulance services, physicians, nurses, hospitals and other EMS organizations. The county EMS coordinator shall serve as an ex-officio member of the council. The purpose of the councils are to allow for and foster regional cooperation and organization of local EMS systems. The councils' regional authority and responsibilities are outlined in Section 3003 of Article 30. These organizations are your direct link to the state EMS council and to the department. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

(Continued on page 5)

BEMS SEMCO (Continued from page 4)

EMS PROGRAM AGENCIES

There are currently 16 EMS Program Agencies. The department funds these agencies to assist Regional EMS Councils and the department in activities to support and facilitate development of regional emergency medical service systems. While these organizations have no specific statutory authority they were created to provide for available day to day professional and clerical staff needed to implement and support the activities of the Regional EMS Councils and REMACs. These organizations and their role is described in Section 3003-a of Article 30.

REGIONAL MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES (REMAC)

There are currently 14 REMACs statewide. The primary purpose

of these committees is to allow for local medical direction and guidance in the development of regional EMS systems. These committees are a committee of the Regional EMS Council but may be representative of more than one council with local agreement to do so. They are composed of five or more physicians and representatives from the council, hospitals and basic and advanced life support providers. They have the authority to develop policies, procedures, and triage, treatment and transportation protocols which are consistent with the SEMAC, and which address specific local conditions. Their authority and responsibilities are outlined in Section 3004-a of Article 30.

Legislative Committee Update



Legislative Committee
Howard Callman, Chair

2002 LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, TRAINING PROGRAM DEDICATED FUNDING

To insure that dedicated funding is continued for the Emergency Medical Services Training program. Volunteers should be given priority for the funding. Consideration should be given for reasonable funding needs of CME

(Continuing Medical Education) Programs and ancillary EMS training. The Health Care Financing Act, which contains this funding, is due for renewal in December 2002.

TREE-OF-LIFE-MEMORIAL

To establish a "Tree of Life" Memorial at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. The memorial would be dedicated to all personnel who gave their life in the line of duty while providing EMS, First Response or Rescue assistance.

AMBULANCE MUTUAL AID

To insure volunteer ambulances operated by fire districts can provide and request mutual aid from any other volunteer ambulance service not just those of other fire districts or fire departments. To assure that language developed for any legislation does not impede the contracting ability or mutual aid back-up programs of other volunteer ambulance services.

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

To establish a NYS Volunteer Ambulance Recruitment and Retention Program. Such a program could include matching grants for promotional campaign drives, financial support for the Service Awards Program, a statewide recruitment campaign, real property tax exemptions and/or income tax credits, tuition assistance for volunteer ambulance, fire and rescue squad members. Maryland adopted a program a few years ago that provides income tax reduction for active volunteer fire and ambulance service members.

CELLULAR PHONE PRIORITY ACCESS

To assure access to cellular telephones by emergency service personnel during an emergency.

CELLULAR PHONE SURCHARGE TO COUNTIES

To remit fees directly to counties that operate a cellular phone answering point.

VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE LICENSE PLATES

To eliminate the annual fee currently charged for VAS or EMT license plates for members of volunteer ambulance services and rescue squads. Similar to Volunteer Fire plates, there should be a one-time fee with no annual fee.

EMT INTERMEDIATE LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

To insure that all levels of EMT certification issued by the New York State Department of Health are recognized in all regions of New York State. Some regions in New York State do not recognize EMT Intermediate or EMT Critical Care levels of certification. The Association seeks to insure that these Advanced Life Support levels potentially attainable by volunteer services are recognized and meaningfully incorporated in all regions of New York State.

STATE EMS OFFICE, STATE EMS COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCILS

The Association believes that the state EMS office, state EMS council and regional councils should emphasize the provision of technical and other assistance to volunteer squads. Priority areas for assistance include member recruitment, squad management and development of networking and cooperative agreements between neighboring squads.

In September 2001 the Governor signed into law A01722 which establishes a requirement that life saving resuscitation equipment (eg. air masks and gloves) be accessible in public places such as restaurants, bars, theatres, health clubs in case of medical emergencies. This is similar to a law already in effect in NYC. The law went into effect at the beginning of the year.

S700001, Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which provides for Mutual Assistance between States during disasters was signed into law by the Governor on 9-17-01.

In Memorium

The following members were remembered during a Memorial Service held during PulseCheck 2001:

DISTRICT 1

Ted Humphrey

Spring Hill Community
Ambulance Corps

Morton Katz

Spring Hill Community
Ambulance Corps

Irving Lazaroff

New City Volunteer
Ambulance Corps

William Luscher

Spring Hill Community
Ambulance Corps

Kathleen Muzzi

Spring Hill Community Ambulance Corps

DISTRICT 4

Richard Barry, Sr.

Glen Oaks VAC

Stacy Barry

Glen Oaks VAC

Jon Issacson

Peninsula VAC

Alan Lax

Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose VAC

Fanny Locke

Peninsula VAC

Leon Locke

Peninsula VAC

Joseph Martens

Peninsula VAC

Rabbi Joseph Weiss

Peninsula VAC

DISTRICT 5

Pat Schoonmaker

Town of Newburgh VAC

DISTRICT 7

Verna Aspinall

North Babylon VFD

Walter Brenner

Huntington Community First
Aid Squad

Joel Hammond

Wyandach-Wheatley
Heights VAC

Peg Lynch

Huntington Community First
Aid Squad

Charles Zim

Huntington Community First
Aid Squad

DISTRICT 11

James DeVito

Manorville VAC

James Gilmarin

Manorville VAC

DISTRICT 16

Bernard Rappaport

Perinton VAC

DISTRICT 18

Abe Berstein

Flushing Community VAC

Peter Cahill

Whitestone VAC

Larry Mack

Flushing Community VAC

Frank May

Whitestone VAC

R. Segnini

Whitestone VAC

Betty Shapiro

College Point VAC

Henry Tuszyanski

Whitestone VAC

DISTRICT 20

Claude V. Gaines

Black River Ambulance
Squad

DISTRICT 30

James P. Gunter

Putnam Valley VAC & VFD

... and each and every firefighter, EMS worker and police officer killed in the line of duty. We pray for all those killed or injured and for those who serve(d) at the scene of America's worst catastrophic events in New York City and Washington D.C.

Letter From Director of NYS Bureau to Members of WTC Response Agencies

December 10, 2001

Dear Emergency Medical Services Providers:

On behalf of the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), I would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation for your response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. New York State's EMS community rose to the occasion both at home and in New York City, in a most remarkable and exemplary fashion. The mobilization of EMS resources was unprecedented.

Over the twenty-eight (28) day period of EMS service activation, 345 ambulance services, 515 ambulance vehicles and over 2,500 EMS providers responded to New

York City at the request of the Department. Those services that were not assigned to respond, remained at home to protect their citizens and in some cases, provide service to other communities whose ambulances were staged in New York City.

I would ask that you share this letter of thanks to every EMS provider in your service. Please accept our thanks again and best wishes for a safe, happy holiday season and New Year.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Wronski, Director



Ambulance Restocking – New Government Regulations Effective January 2, 2002

Informal ambulance restocking arrangements with receiving hospitals have been in existence for decades. In 1977, a statute that is part of Social Security Act, was enacted providing criminal penalties for any kind of inducement for the referral on business reimbursable by a Federal health care program such as Medicare or CHAMPUS. This anti-kickback statute technically implicated ambulance restocking because the receiving hospital gives something of value to a potential source for Federal health care business - ambulance providers who deliver patients.

The government did recognize the importance of ambulances being restocked and ready for emergency use at all times and that properly structured arrangements contribute to this goal without risk of fraud or abuse. The Office of Inspector General of the US Department of Health and Human Services has issued several opinions since 1977 which have tried to provide guidance on what is OK and what is not but these opinions have not been met with much acceptance. New regulations went into effect on 1/2/02 which represent major changes and address many concerns.

Among the provisions are:

- public operation and disclosure of ambulance restocking

arrangements. This can be by a conspicuously posted writing or in accordance with a plan or protocol of general information promulgated by an EMS council or comparable organization.

- no complicated written contracts or agreements are required.
- expanded restocking to non-emergency runs so long as the ambulance is also used for emergency runs.
- allows hospitals to limit scope of protected restocking to all non-profit ambulance providers or all ambulance providers that do not charge for their services.
- simplifies documentation conditions so that only one party to the restocking arrangement is required to document the restocking, however, records must be kept for five (5) years. An ACR/PCR call sheet identifying the drugs and supplies used and left with the hospital satisfies the documentation requirement.
- includes restocking of drugs or supplies initially administered to the patient by a first responder at the scene of the illness or injury.

The full text of the new regulation is on the web at: <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/fr04de01-22.htm>

Notify NYSDOH of Changes In Squad CEO, Address, Phone Numbers, etc.

Whenever there are changes in a squad's contact information such as address, phone numbers or Chief Officer the NYS Department of Health should be notified. DOH-2936 is the form to use. It is available on the NYS DOH Bureau of EMS web site at:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/doh2936.pdf>

The completed form should be mailed to:

NYS Department of Health
Emergency Medical Services (0757)
433 River Street - Suite 303
Troy, NY 12180
or Faxed to (518) 402-0985

Recently Issued NYS DOH Policy Statements

01-08 10/18/01 UNKNOWN DRY SUBSTANCE / SUSPECTED ANTHRAX RESPONSE ADVISORY - provides guidance for responding to an emergency call involving a package, envelope or substance suspected of being Anthrax. Also attached are Anthrax advisories/protocols developed by the Department of Health to assist in understanding what Anthrax is, mail handling protocols, recommended patient/equipment, decontamination guidelines, specimen handling and criteria for lab testing.

02-01 01/02/02 REQUIREMENT TO REPORT INSTANCES OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR MISTREATMENT- On 11/13/01 Section 413 of the Social Services Law was amended, in relation to persons and officials who are required to report cases of suspected child abuse or mistreatment. Effective 2/1/02 the law will require Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT, EMT-I, EMT-CC and EMT-P) to report suspected child abuse that they come across while performing

their jobs. Certified First Responders (CFRs) are not mandated reporters. The Bureau of EMS will not require EMTs to attend a specialized course for child abuse. The current EMS course curricula includes sections on child abuse. However, the Bureau does reserve the right to amend curricula in the future. Therefore, the Policy Statement and attached fact sheet are intended to be used by NYS EMTs to help them better understand their obligations as well as the signs and symptoms of possible child abuse or mistreatment. Oral reports must be made immediately by phone or FAX and followed by a written report on form LDSS-2221A within 48 hours. 10NYCRR Part 800.21(p)(11)(ii) regulations require all ambulance services to have and enforce a written policy regarding the reporting of child abuse.

Full text of all current Policy statements can be viewed online at www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/publaw.htm

2001 Association Scholarship and Special Awards

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Jennifer R. Engelman of the Stony Point Volunteer Ambulance Corps has been awarded a \$500.00 scholarship and framed certificate in recognition of her efforts to pursue a medical career above the Basic EMT level.

Jennifer follows in the footsteps of her parents who are also volunteers. In her six years with Stony Point she has served as a line officer in the youth squad as 2nd Lt. and 1st Lt. and is now a member of the senior corps and a youth squad adviser. While attending high school, Jennifer maintained high grades, served on the student council and received a National Merit Scholarship. She is a Girl Scout Leader and during her years in scouting received Silver and Gold Awards, which are the highest honor awards a girl can receive from the Girl Scouts of America. Jennifer has been accepted into the Paramedic Program at Rockland Community College.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Carol Cronogue is Captain and a 20 year member of the Wyandanch-Wheatley Heights Ambulance Corps and has served many ranks within the squad. She has created a Recruit Program for the squad and is acknowledged as being "The Resource" for members and her "word being law". She has conducted EMT training for numerous agencies throughout Suffolk County and also serves in instructor positions for health related organizations. She constantly demonstrates and provides an excellent example of expectations the Corps holds of its members and cares for patients with exemplary skill in a textbook manner and has been credited with 15 life saving events this year.

EMS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Robert Loysch is a 32 year member and currently 3rd Deputy Chief of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad who exemplifies participation and professionalism in corps activities. He has a consistently high response rate to calls, a continuous daily role in helping maintain the squad and has served on many committees.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mark Brenner of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad has served the community and squad for 24 years in such capacities as Captain, Deputy Chief, Chief, Preceptor in Suffolk County and EMT Instructor. His dedication and expertise as an instructor excels and has assured the highest quality of care by his squad to the residents in and surrounding Huntington, LI, NY. His love of service and dedication has influenced his son to pursue membership in his squad.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dr. Daniel Giaccio, EMT, Medical Director of the Whitestone

Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps, initially become one of the corps' first EMTs. Following medical school he became a Director of the corps. He provides 24 hour availability personally to emergencies requiring medical control intervention in the field, physical examinations gratis to members, delivers medical lectures and donates his time and effort to quality control for his corps.

UNIT CITATION AWARD

Spring Hill Community Ambulance Corps is recognized for the efficient, effective and coordinated response to the Monsey Park Home for Adults on June 30, 2001 during which 245 elderly and disabled adults were safely evacuated without harm. In addition, a rehab sector was established for eight (8) responding fire companies in which fire fighters were treated for heat related problems and coordination and control was provided for numerous mutual aid ambulances and emergency responders. The squad operated 4 ambulances and was in continuous operation for 19 hours during the incident. The Association recognizes the corps and its members for its performance of a job extremely well done and all responders to the incident for their successful achievement.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Fire Districts of NY Mutual Insurance Company, Inc. and Ralph A. Cannito, Chief Operating Officer are recognized for the generous help and support provided the Association and its membership year in and year out and for the quality gifts provided that help assure the success of our Conferences. Sincere and heartfelt thanks are extended to Mr. Cannito and his company.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Mickey and Barbara Favoino of Newburgh Rescue Supply are recognized for the consistent help and support provided the Association assisting us at every opportunity given including the use of their booth space at firematic and EMS conventions assuring our presence is well known throughout New York State.

Information for NYSVA&RA Special Awards can be obtained from the Chair of Special Awards Committee:

Nancy Pacella
8 Arrowhead Ct.
Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 569-2101
e-mail: NanPacella@aol.com



Youth in Emergency Services

The Future of Emergency Services

How do we assure future recruitment of needed personnel? Many services have found that offering challenging and exciting junior programs in the emergency fields is an effective way to spark the spirit of volunteerism in young people. The program can be sponsored directly by your services, in affiliation with a local high school Cadet program, or as a Fire and Emergency Services Explorer Post (or Health Exploring Post) in Learning for Life in association with the Boy Scouts of America. Emergency Services Youth Programs are an opportunity for Emergency Service Organizations to mold today's youth into the emergency services workers of tomorrow. Fire and Emergency Medical Service Youth or Junior Programs are an investment in the future of your service.

Your association recognizes the importance of Youth Programs in assuring the future of community non-profit EMS and fire services. As a result, we are dedicating this edition of *The Blanket* to information on Youth Programs in Emergency Services. In addition, future editions of *The Blanket* will regularly include features on Youth Programs and their members. Also, the NYSVARA sponsors a statewide Youth First Responder Drill Competition at its annual Pulse Check Educational Conference, Convention and Trade Show. Trophies are awarded for first, second and third place recipients. Local districts and squads are encouraged to organize local drill competitions during the year.

Junior Fire and Emergency Services Programs

Preserving the Future of Emergency Services

A 104-page publication by **Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS)**. The publication reviews the various approaches taken by youth programs affiliated with emergency services organizations around the United States. VFIS culled from its extensive files on emergency service youth programs an overview of what such programs are, how they function, and what seems to work. The book is intended to help services that are considering the initiation of a youth program. The booklet includes sections on types of programs, issues and concerns, key program elements and a review of resources and information available to departments.

The booklet is available to services insuring with VFIS, P. O. Box 2726, York, Pennsylvania 17405.

Junior Emergency Services Excellence Award Contest

This contest is sponsored annually by **VFIS**. The contest acknowledges and rewards youth emergency services groups that exemplify high levels of community involvement, effective organization and similar positive attributes. Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 are awarded to first, second and third place recipients.

For more information contact: VFIS, Attn: Education and Consulting Group, 183 Leader Heights Road, P.O. Box 2726, York, Pennsylvania 17405. (800) 233-1957. www.vfis.com.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNYS) is expanding their training and education outreach program. Part of this expansion includes the search for and addition of new instructors and programs.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this venture as an instructor or presenter, please send your resume and a short program overview to our office at 107 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210-2268, or contact us at tr&e@fasny.com. Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2002.



107 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12210-2268
www.fasny.com



Bits from Around the State and Beyond

DISTRICT 1, Rockland County advises there has been a serious attempt made to initiate a strong recruitment and retention committee. Joining with EMS in Rockland County are the volunteer fire fighting agencies. Surveys and paperwork have been distributed

within all these agencies for suggestions and help. A "VIP Program" is ongoing within the county for local businesses to award discounts and freebies to certified volunteers. The county EMS coordinator is issuing cards for those agencies who send a list of active members. Good Samaritan Hospital worked with the district to outline a scholarship for a volunteer who plans to attend Rockland Community College to become a paramedic. Nyack Hospital placed a plaque in the Emergency Department in honor of EMS's role at the World Trade Center.

DISTRICT 2, Westchester County reports its Secretary, John Olmacht, is establishing an EMS training academy in the Katonah/Bedford region of the County. Westchester Regional EMS Council is establishing protocols for all EMS providers that will apparently mirror those of New York City's Regional Council. Al Mignone, the District's Vice Chairman, will become a member of the County Executive's Fire Advisory Board. The Board's agenda includes emergency communications. The fire and EMS communications system in the County is being overhauled, however, due to its complexity, it may be two years before proper equipment and its implementation becomes a reality. A video is being produced through a cooperative effort of fire service organizations within the county that will also benefit EMS providers as a primary objective of the video is recruitment. A TV series for local cable is under consideration too.

DISTRICT 5, advises of the passing of our their District Chairperson Evelyn "Evie" Drew at the age of 84. Evie was a member of the District since its inception and also a Life Member of the Association, having served as Secretary and Treasurer during the 1950's. During the 2000 annual convention, Evie received the Association's Leadership Award in recognition of her many years of outstanding service in EMS. During all her years of active participation, she drove around our area to attend monthly District meetings. In all those years, she probably never missed more than a dozen meetings. Throughout the state, you would not be able to find a more dedicated, caring individual than my dear friend Evie Drew. She will be sadly missed by all.

BROAD CHANNEL VAC/VFD has used insurance proceeds from an ambulance lost at the WTC and community donations to order a new Wheeled Coach ambulance. Bellmore VFD previously donated an ambulance to replace the lost vehicle.

FOREST HILLS VAC received a \$20,000 check from the Cord Meyer Company, a major property management company in Forest Hills, to help replace the ambulance the squad lost at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01.

GILBERTSVILLE VFD in Ostego County, NY donated their 1991 Ford/Collins Type III to Brooklyn's BEDFOD-SYUYVESANT VAC. It came at an opportune time as Bed-Stuy blew an engine in one of their ambulances during the World Trade Center response and their second vehicle is also out of service due to transmission problems.

MIDDLE VILLAGE VAC's Joe Mangus was one of five individuals honored by Emigrant Savings Bank with a \$5,000 donation to the non-profit organization of their choice. The award was given by the bank to recognize the contributions immigrants have made to their communities. Joe came to the USA from Czechoslovakia and, of course, he chose Middle Village VAC as the recipient of the funds which he helped form the VAC 29 years ago.

ROCK VAC was approved by the Regional EMS Council of NYC to start a new ambulance service to serve the Rockaway Peninsula in New York City. Its startup, however, is on hold as an appeal has been filed at the state level by an attorney representing for-profit ambulance services in New York City. The basis of the appeal is that the definition of need was not met.

DISTRICT 4 & 18 COMMUNITY EMS FUND AWARDS FIRST GRANTS on Sunday 12/16/01 the first grants to reimburse the city's volunteer EMS services for losses at the World Trade Center on 9/11 were distributed. On that fateful day in September two squads lost ambulances while many others had damage to vehicles or lost significant amounts of supplies and many pieces of expensive equipment including trauma bags, oxygen regulators and tanks, defibrillators and stretchers. Squads receiving grants to help replace losses included Bedford-Stuyvesant VAC, Broad Channel VFD, Emergency Medical REACT, Flatlands VAC, Forest Hills VAC, Glen Oaks VAC, Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside VAC, Middle Village VAC, Point Breeze VFD and Rockaway Point VFD.

Ceremonies were concluded with the dedication of Forest Hills VAC's new ambulance in memory of Richard Pearlman who died at the World Trade Center.

COMMUNITY EMS FUND GRANT MONIES FOR RESPIRATORS FOR CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

A United Way September 11th grant has made it possible for NYC's volunteer EMS squads to purchase expensive respirators to protect against chemical and biological agents at a nominal cost. These respirators are needed by responding ambulance crews when there is danger from substances in the air as the equipment allows them to transport patients while minimizing exposure to themselves. It is emphasized that the respirators are

(Continued on page 13)

U.S. Fire Administration 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Includes EMS Training & Equipment

I am proud to announce the approval of the 2002 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This year's \$360 million program will provide funds to local fire departments to protect the safety of firefighters and the public with basic fire-fighting capabilities, basic fire prevention programs, and intermediate level emergency medical services.

This year's grant program is more flexible for applicants. Fire departments will be able to complete and submit applications on the Internet. The web-based application will contain helpful guidance and we can send an electronic confirmation once we receive your applications. Applicants will be able to request several different, complementary activities to develop a comprehensive program, which improves capabilities.

Fire departments will be able to apply for eligible activities in one of four different program areas: *Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety* (Eligible activities include: Training, Wellness and Fitness, Firefighting Equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment); *Fire Prevention* (Eligible activities include: Public Education, Public Awareness, Code Enforcement, and Arson Prevention); *Emergency Medical Services* (Eligible activities include: Training and/or Equipment); and *Firefighting Vehicles*

In partnership with a number of State fire and emergency management agencies, we are providing information about the program through a series of workshops around the country. We will also be posting program guidance and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our web site at www.usfa.fema.gov in the next several days. Interactive applications will be made available at that web site no later than March 1, 2002. And as always, we are available to assist you on our toll-free hotline at (866) 274-0960 or by email at usfragrants@fema.gov.

I wish to extend my gratitude to President Bush, FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh, and the U.S. Congress for their vision and support of this program that is so vital to the nation's fire service. And equally importantly, let me acknowledge the cooperation and assistance we received from the fire service organizations as we developed this year's program. The team approach among us all to making this second year's effort a success has been one of the most gratifying aspects of my job as Administrator.

We at the United States Fire Administration look forward to receiving an application from your fire department next month.

R. David Paulison, Administrator
U. S. Fire Administration

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NYS Federation of Search and Rescue Teams

Areas of rugged terrain, heavy vegetation, dense tree cover as well as lakes, ponds and swift streams and rivers exist throughout the state. This can vary from the heavily forested sections of Central Park in NYC to back country hunting, camping and climbing areas in the Western and Northern parts of the state. When adults and children disappear or get into trouble in these areas specially trained personnel with specialized equipment is often needed to get to them and get them out safely where other responders can carry on care.

The NYS Federation of Search and Rescue Teams was formed to support and promote this specialized resource. There are presently 22 member teams with rosters ranging from 4 to 65 persons. Many members have gone through Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Basic Wildlands Search, DEC Crew Boss, Managing the Search Function, MCI Command, Inland SAR, Emergency Preparedness, EMT/CFR and other courses. Some are K-9 teams with dogs trained in tracking, trailing, air scenting or cadaver work (surface or shallow grave) and one team has horses. Others are trained for cave, high angle, underwater, ice or swift water rescues (or recovery). Equipment resources vary greatly and can include an equipment trailer, command post trailer, ATV, generators, small boat, medical packs, grid search supplies, GPS, grappling hooks, topographical maps and radios. Members are trained and expected to be self-sufficient and do not require support services during the first hours of a search but support is always appreciated especially on extended searches. Responses are normally within several hours drive time but most teams are willing to go wherever needed in the state.

Advice from the Federation is to establish a working relationship with a local SAR team before an incident happens. If there is an incident, early notification will help maximize the turnout of skilled search resources while minimizing the response time which due to geography may be several hours. A request can be made that resources be placed on stand-by or immediate response according to the situation. Searches require a lot of manpower and the integration of trained and experienced SAR volunteers with local emergency responders can help provide for a fast but thorough search and/or the technical skills needed to effectuate a rescue from unusual situations.

Activation of the local team is encouraged. If a local team cannot be contacted in a timely fashion, utilize the direct Federation call-out by calling NYS Police Troop "A", Batavia, NY at (716) 343-220, request Massasauga SAR and leave a call back number and name. A Federation representative will return the call promptly. There is a web site at www.nysfedsar.org with more information on the Federation and capabilities of the member organizations. Below is a listing of the member teams.

ALL COUNTY SAR DOGS, (518) 299-3542 or
(518) 821-3150

C/O Frank Cangelosi, PO Box 74, Prattsville, NY 12468

AMIGO SAR DOGS, (607) 746-3647

c/o Ed Rivera, RR2 Box 77B, Delhi, NY 13753

BOONVILLE SEARCH AND RESCUE, (315) 942-5045

PO Box 332, Boonville, NY 13309

CAYUGA COUNTY HIGHLAND SAR, INC., (315) 626-2194

PO Box 151, Meridian, NY 13113

CENTRAL NEW YORK K9 SAR, (315) 241-4700 or
(315) 249-9478

c/o Mitch Stahl, 1319 Genessee Street, Chittenango, NY
13037

CORTLAND COUNTY VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SEARCH TEAM
(607) 844-3417

c/o Marrell Schutt, PO Box 41, Hartford, NY 13784

HAMBURG VFD S.T.A.R. TEAM, (716) 649-1753

PO Box 82, Hamburg, NY 14075

LEWIS COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE, (315) 376-7745

West State Street, Lowville, NY 13367

LIVINGSTON COUNTY SEARCH COORDINATION TEAM
(716) 335-3511

c/o Ed Bergman, 48 West Avenue, Dansville, NY 14437

LOWER ADIRONDACK SEARCH AND RESCUE, (518) 494-7112

PO Box 655, Warrensburg, NY 12885

MASSASAUGUA SEARCH AND RESCUE, (716) 663-7323

c/o S. Irwin, Pres., 348 Lake Meadow Rd, Rochester, NY
14612

NEW JERSEY SAR, INC., (201) 646-2705 (Bergen County PD)

PO BOX 24, RINGWOOD, NJ 07456

NORTH COUNTRY INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE
(315) 232-3622

c/o Benjamin Moore, 44 Liberty Street, Adams, NY 13605

NORTHEAST MOBILE SEARCH AND RESCUE, (518) 228-2462

1072 Ballston Lake Road, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

OSWEGO COUNTY PIONEER SEARCH AND RESCUE
(315) 343-9541

c/o Howard Bennett, County Route 51A, Oswego, NY 13126

PATHFINDER K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM,
(607) 656-8448

c/o John Girton, 14 Jackson Street, Green, NY 13778

76 SEARCH AND RESCUE, INC., (518) 765-5979

PO Box 876, Guilderland, NY 12084

SAR OF THE NORTHERN ADIRONDACKS
(800) 950-1289 #1949

PO Box 1116, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

SEARCH TEAM 5-1, (518) 863-2198

206 Washburn Road, Northville, NY 12194

SINGLETRACKERS SAR (631) 928-4023, (631) 924-7231 or
(516) 658-1979

c/o CLIMB, PO Box 203, Woodbury, NY 11797

WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM, INC.,
(315) 458-4985

PO Box 3908, Syracuse, NY 13220

WESTERN NEW YORK SEARCH DOGS, INC., (716) 939-2734

c/o J. Ingliis, 885 Wheatland Center Rd, Scottsville, NY 14546



More Bits From Around the State *(continued)*

(Continued from page 10)

not meant for intentional entry into hot zone or initial decontamination operations but rather for crew protection if they find themselves involved in a situation that becomes a threat to their health and safety.

The respirators were manufactured by Sunstrom and are model number SE400 made of silicone. Squads could order 2 ambulance packages each consisting of two (2) full face respirators and 2 half mask respirators as well as appropriate filters. An additional quantity of half mask respirators and filters could be added to the order. The value of the equipment offer is over \$1,800.00 but was made available by the District 4 & 18 Community EMS Fund for a nominal fee to cover administrative expenses.

A train-the-trainer session was held on Sunday 1/13/02 with over 25 representatives from 11 squads in attendance. Training on fit testing, cleaning and routine maintenance of the devices was given by a manufacturer's representative from Safety Equipment America located in Branford, CT. There is a web site at www.sea.com.au with additional product information on the respirators.

NERVE GAS ANTIDOTE KITS ON NYC 911 AMBULANCES

EMS agencies are taking measures to protect crew health in situations that may have turned from simple sick calls to something potential deadly for both patients and rescuers. This has taken the form of nerve gas antidote kits, called Mark 1 kits, being placed on 911 ambulances. These kits consist of two (2) EpiPen like devices containing single doses of atrophine sulfate and a drug called 2PAM (Pralidoxime/Protopam).

Upon authorization for use, crew members using the buddy system would administer three (3) doses of each drug to each other. In NYC, 911 ambulances from FDNY and voluntary hospitals will be carrying kits containing 60 Mark 1 sets.

HOSPITALS TAKE MEASURES FOR CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

There is heightened concern in hospitals about preparedness for incidents of mass injury or death from chemical and biological weapons. Emergency departments have to plan for receiving contaminated patients and rescuers and many have constructed or placed shower facilities at ambulance entrances. These range from setups that could accommodate one person at a time to more elaborate setups that provide for channeling groups of male and female patients through separate facilities. Getting an outdoor shower facility in operation at 2:00 AM on a winter morning with 5 minutes notice of arriving patients will be a challenge.

DISTRICT 4 & 18 COMMUNITY EMS FUND COVERAGE ON TV

On Wednesday evening 1/23/02 channel NY1 had a program covering aspects of 9/11 recovery. Betsy Gotbaum, NYC Public Advocate, Henry Ehrhardt, VP, NYSVA&RA and James Robinson, CEO, Bed-Stuy VAC were interviewed live. Betsy explained how she became involved, how the United Way, NY Community Trust and NY Times funds provided an almost \$1 million dollar grant to help the city's volunteer EMS and rescue organizations recover

from losses on 9/11 and prepare for future incidents on that scale. The subsidized respirator kits for ambulances were mentioned along with a recognition dinner planned for EMS Week in May and the need for improved communications.

Earlier in the show there was a taped segment covering Bronx's Aviation VFD's effort called Operation Bootstrap to get back in service after their engine was damaged by falling debris at the World Trade Center.

DISTRICT 7, Suffolk County indicates many agencies are beginning to address the lack of volunteers by hiring crews to serve in the hours when volunteers are unavailable. Agencies with existing paid providers are expanding those programs to take up more of the day, as volunteerism continues to decline. While addressing the needs in the short term, it does not bode well for the survival of the volunteer tradition in the long term. Squads spent the holiday season participating in numerous holiday celebrations. Deer Park and North Babylon held holiday parades for their citizens, inviting the department members and neighboring squads around them to participate. Bay Shore and Wyandanch provided bicycle patrols along the routes. Wyandanch joined this year with the members of the Wyandanch Fire Company to give Santa a ride around the district spreading joy and candy and lighting the community's Christmas Tree. Education is a priority in District 7 and training programs have been held for instructor updates, the new child abuse reporting law, tactical safety in addition to the ongoing Continuing Medical Education Pilot Program, which is moving forward with a full head of steam as well as preparing to deal with the impact of the five-year bill. Call volume is up, volunteerism is down, but the job is getting done.

DISTRICT 18, Queens and Bronx Counties, in February held a seminar at Flushing VAC on how to recognize child abuse. Dr. Arthur Cooper, Pediatric Surgeon was the presenter and the seminar was open to all District squads, local hospital ambulance EMT'S, paramedics, etc. The DOH has inspected squads in the borough of Queens and all part 800 requirements were inspected and verified as well as operating procedures and protocols. The DOH has also been doing spot checks in the five boroughs and volunteer ambulance and volunteer fire department ambulances are being inspected when crews are ready to leave the hospital. The Eastern Queens Mutual Aid Group is working on some communication problems for the squads.

DISTRICT 19 was notified that one of its area school districts has been chosen to participate in a program called Risk Watch. Canajoharie Central School has been one of only ten schools in the state to participate in this program, with all books and supplies provided. The cost of the program is normally around \$300. This program involves teachers and students in a safety program that puts them in direct contact with the area fire department, ambulance corps, and police department.

NYS Emergency Medical Services Council Meeting of December 4-5, 2001

Henry A. Ehrhardt, NYSVA&RA Delegate

STAFF REPORT

Ed Wronski, Director Bureau of EMS, reported on revised estimate of fatalities from WTC terrorist attack. He also reviewed the Bureau's role in the response and coordination effort. The state anticipated a budget deficit of up to \$9 Billion. There are several vacancies that the bureau has been unable to fill. The Health Care Reform act comes up in December - so how dedicated funding for EMS training is included or not will be part of that discussion. A review of the hospital trauma system in NYC is being done. Request for proposals for the keypunch of PCRs is out. Regional Councils are encouraged to hold CEVO Train-the-Trainer courses. The DOH along with other agencies is undertaking a bio-terrorism planning effort with public health agencies and organizations around the state.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Bureau developed a policy statement on Mandatory Reporting by EMTs of Child Abuse (02-01 issued 1/2/02). EMTs are not required to take any additional training. Revised CIC curriculum is expected to be out and on the agenda for the February meeting. The Head Injury TAG is reviewing the Brain Trauma Foundation material. The Education for the Future TAG will be meeting with a representative from the National Registry prior to the next SEMSCO meeting. The latest version of the Pilot Re-certification Program Manual is out.

SEMACE/MEDICAL STANDARDS

EMS for children subgroup is dealing with two issues - one involves the use of the pediatric pad cable system for use in AEDs and PADs. Susquehanna Regional Protocols will need some further issues addressed.

A draft SEMACE advisory on secondary confirmation of ET tube placement is under review.

EVALUATION

Electronic PCR pilots. An evaluation form for individuals, agencies and hospitals has been prepared. It should be out in December. A report is expected by March.

SYSTEMS

Comments were prepared on EMS needs as they relate to the Statewide Wireless Network in planning. Dr. Lorraine Clark made a presentation on requirement for glucometer use by EMS services. RJV Transport's CON (Nassau County) - the committee was advised that they are in bankruptcy court. Westchester Council has not yet identified a program agency to the council. An opinion on CON voting requirements was circulated.

LEGISLATION

S.64 - Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting by EMTs was signed into law by the Governor. A. 8460 - Would require a medically trained person, in addition to a coach, at school athletic events. The committee supported the concept of CPR training for school coaching staff and improved communication with the local EMS system for all schools at athletic practices and events, along the lines of A.5156. Five Year pilot re-certification bill has passed both Assembly and State Senate. (Note: It was later signed into law by the Governor).

PIER (Public Information, Education and Recruitment)

Vital Signs Conference was a success. The committee has also been interested in the establishment of the "Tree of Life" line of duty memorial.

FINANCE

Regional Budget template has been reduced in size by eliminating redundancies. The committee has taken note of the shift in how training is done and how training dollars are being spent. As a result the committee anticipates establishing a TAG to look specifically at the pilot education programs, continuing education and ancillary courses to see if funding needs to be re-directed.

REGIONAL SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

The "Model Systems Plan" was approved. It is only a model for use as an example. It had been modified from an earlier version based on input (including that from NYSVARA).

2002 OFFICERS

Dr. Arthur Cooper, Chair
Mr. Kenneth Beers, 1st Vice Chair
Mr. Warren Darby, 2nd Vice Chair

Regional EMS Council Address Updates

North Country Regional EMS Council
SUNY Canton College of Technology
34 Cornell Drive, Wicks 105, Canton, NY 13617
(315) 379-3977, www.canton.edu/ncems
Counties: Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence

Regional EMS Council of NYC
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1929, New York, NY 10115
(212) 870-2301, www.nycremsco.org
Counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens & Richmond

Susquehanna Regional EMS Council
Public Safety Facility
153 Lt. VanWinkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 778-1178, www.srems.com
Counties: Broome, Chenango & Tioga

Wyoming-Erie Regional EMS Council
149 French Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 668-9184, www.wrems.org
Counties: Erie & Wyoming



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Home Address _____

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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member ** (Affiliated with Squad or Company where Squad IS a member of the Association)	\$10.00
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** In areas of the State with active local affiliates, district dues apply. We encourage you to become active in your local district organization. District dues, where applicable, will be automatically added at renewal. FIRST YEAR SQUAD dues are prorated as follows: full annual dues for Oct 1 to Sept 30, three-quarters of annual dues for Jan 1 to Sept 30; one-half of annual dues for April 1 to Sept. 30; and one-quarter of annual dues for July 1 to Sept 1.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

LONG ISLAND BUFF SHOW sponsored by 1st Responder News, Sunday, April 28, 9 AM to 4 PM at the Huntington Hilton, Route 110 1 mile south of the LIE (exit 495). Indoor vendors and outdoor apparatus displays. Free admission & free parking.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL BIKE UNITS (IAMBU) presents its 4th Annual Conference and Learning Symposium April 28 through May 4, 2002 at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Jamaica, NY. The courses offered include:

- EMS Providers Course: This 3-day 27 hour program covers, nomenclature, bike fit, gearing and cadence, bike and road skills, nutrition, road and off road rides, maintenance, injury prevention, tactics and fitness. Given May 2 through May 4, 2002. Cost \$225.00
- IAMBU Instructor Course: This 4-day 40-hour class takes the experienced IAMBU certified Bike Medic through the teaching and learning process. Each attendee must complete 3 lectures of varying lengths as well as written and on-bike exams. Given April 28 through May 1, 2002. Cost \$450.00
- Bicycle Medic Maintenance Course: This 2-day program is designed to save a bike unit both time and money. Given April 28 through April 29, 2002. Cost \$250.00

All participants of IAMBU 2002 will receive VIP admission into the Great Five Boro Bike Tour on Sunday, May 5. This 42 mile, fully supported tour of the five boroughs of New York City lets the IAMBU attendee share the city with 35,000 fellow cyclists on traffic free streets. Additional information may be obtained by: telephone (718) 206-7623, email to IAMBU@medicsonbikes.com or Geneh188@aol.com or on the web at www.medicsonbikes.com

FIRE 2002 Thursday, June 6 through Saturday, June 8 sponsored by the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs at the Empire EXPO Center in Syracuse, NY. For info call (800) 676-3473 or log on to the web site at www.nysfirechiefs.com.

ROADSIDE TO BEDSIDE 6th ANNUAL EMERGENCY CARE CONFERENCE sponsored by the Westchester Medical Center. Monday June 3 and Tuesday June 4, 2002 at the Crowne Plaza, White Plains, NY. Keynote addresses, exhibits and seminar subjects which focus on 9/11 and how assumptions and SOPs were turned upside down. Day 1, with the advantage of hindsight, will cover the timeline of 9/11 and Day 2 will be about the rest of our lives. For info call (914) 493-8892.

PULSE CHECK 2001 The 47th Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday September 26 to Sunday September 29 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 or e-mail pulsecheck2000@aol.com

**THE NEW YORK STATE
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