



THE BLANKET

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

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The Quarterly Newsletter
of the NYS Volunteer
Ambulance
& Rescue Association

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A Message from Our President

I hope that the New Year finds all healthy. As the New Year begins, we continue to move forward representing the volunteer EMS providers of our State.

First, I want to welcome Ralph Cefalo to the Executive Board as our Financial Secretary. In the very short time since Ralph's election, he has jumped in with both feet. He will be a great asset to our organization. Dues renewal notices have been sent out and if you know of anyone who has not received it please let Ralph know.

The Association will have a booth at the Long Island Mega Show. Please stop by and bring a friend.

As you are aware I along with representatives of our colleagues in the volunteer served on the Governor's Task Force for recruitment and Retention. The Task Force's work is complete and we are waiting for the final report to be published. As soon as it is available we will send it out.

We are planning our Legislative Day for Monday April 10, 2006. PLEASE SAVE THE DAY. It provides our members an opportunity to meet with our legislators. We encourage everyone to attend as there is strength in numbers. We will provide you with all the information you will need and would ask that you set up appointments to meet with your Assemblymen and Senators. Our Legislative Affairs Director, Mike Wilhelm will be happy to assist you. His e-mail address is wilhelmm@nysvara.org.

Henry Ehrhardt and I continue to represent our Association at the New York State Emergency Services Council.

Lastly, as you are aware, we have enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. We speak regularly. Over the past several years, they have been ardent supporters of ours on issues that have been of great concern. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, I was authorized to pursue the possibility to of forming a strategic alliance with their organization. We share a vision and a similar understanding of the role of the volunteer and volunteerism. They recognize that we have resources that would be helpful to them and we realize that they have resources that would be of value to us. As this alliance develops, everyone will be advised.

We are always looking for individuals who are interested in helping our Association move forward. If you are interested, please let me or any officer or any Director know.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Be Safe!



Michael J Mastrianni, Jr.
President

Mike

Mike can be e-mailed at: President@nysvara.org

10 Codes – OK to Continue Using Them

In May the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued a directive involving an array of new training and procedures with which agencies had to comply if they wanted federal preparedness funding. 10 Codes were to be replaced with "plain language". 10-50 (or whatever) at Main & Smith was to be transmitted as a collision with injuries (or whatever) at Main and Smith. The impetus was to create a system as called for under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by which emergency responders could understand each other and reduce confusion at situations involving personnel from different agencies and jurisdictions. While some jurisdictions moved to implement

the mandate, there was also resistance and complacency.

On September 27th Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff speaking at the annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police reversed the earlier decision and announced NIMS compliance will not include the requirement of abolition of 10 Codes in everyday communications. However, he went on to warn that when there are multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency events there must exist a common language that addresses the variations that exist in 10 Code communications. How this was to be accomplished was not addressed.

NYC Awarded \$6,000,000 to Build Regional Public Safety Radio Network

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced in September that the Department of Justice had awarded NYC \$6 million to create a regional command and control radio frequency to link first responders in New York City with Westchester, Nassau and portions of Suffolk County in New York and Bergen, Hudson, Essex and portions of Passaic County in New Jersey as well as with the Port Authority and MTA Police. The grant was made under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and will establish a UHF analog radio frequency(s) for an emergency communication network covering 16 million people linking NYPD, FDNY and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) with related agencies in surrounding counties in New York and New Jersey. As a result of the grant, public safety agencies will be able to monitor and communicate

across political jurisdiction during large scale emergencies. New York City will make three of its six existing emergency response channels accessible to regional partners within their jurisdictions.

While the city moves forward with improving mutual aid with surrounding jurisdictions, it is notable that within the city, day-to-day mutual aid operations between the municipal and volunteer sector has apparently been stalled. City agencies do not have effective direct communication with volunteer sector ambulances and some officials have told volunteer sector representatives that day-to-day mutual aid is unnecessary. At the same time some concerns are being expressed about increases emergency response times, deferring promotion of EMTs and EMT-Ps to firefighter classes and overtime caps for EMS personnel.

\$2 Billion Contract for Statewide Emergency Radio System

NYS announced on September 25th, that M/A-Com, a unit of Tyco Industries, has been awarded a 20-year \$2 billion contract to design, build, operate and maintain a statewide wireless network. When completed, it will allow emergency responders from police, fire, EMS, public works, etc. to communicate with each other. Even parts of the state isolated by mountains and other impediments are expected to benefit. The system will come online region by region with the first going live in about two years with the full system operational in five years. It will be built to withstand NYS's equivalents to hurricanes such as ice storms. New York City won't be on the statewide system but is supposed to be able to access it.

The contract, however, is not without controversy. Motorola had submitted a competing bid and disputed the awarding of the contract. M/A-Com's similar system in New Orleans was reported to have been down 30 hours during Hurricane Katrina when radio towers lost their backup power generators and technicians could not gain access to the sites. The company reports another Enhanced

Digital Access Communications System (EDACS) simulcast trunked radio system installed in Harrison County, Mississippi remained operational at nearly 100% capacity throughout Hurricane Katrina and served as the base of communications for more than 1,000 additional users stationed in the area to provide emergency support.



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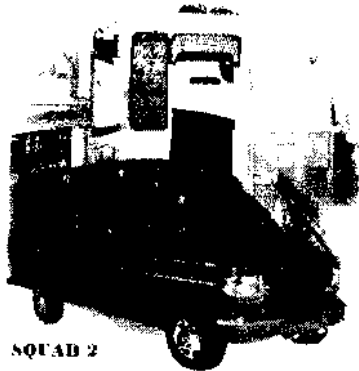
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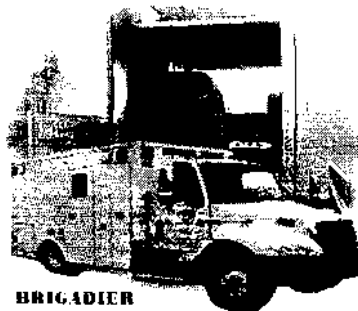


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NYS State EMS Council 2005 Award Winners

At Vital Signs conference in October 2005, the following awards were announced:

BLS Provider: John McCormack, Roslyn Fire Company, Nassau County

ALS Provider: Thomas Stark, Northern Dutchess Paramedics, Rheinbeck, Dutchess County

EMS Agency: Harpur's Ferry Student VAC, Binghamton, Broome County

EMS Educator of Excellence: Joyce Eichorst, Saratoga County

EMS Communications Specialist: Zena Davis, Monroe County

Emergency Communications

EMS Leadership: Paul Gallman, Angelica Hose Co. & Rescue Squad, Allegany County

Nurse of Excellence: Diana Duffy, Catskill Regional Medical Center, Sullivan County

Physician of Excellence: Dr. Edward Kleiner, Nassau County

NOTE: This marks the third year in a row that a campus based EMS service has been selected as EMS agency of the year – Syracuse University took the honor in 2004 and SUNY Stony Brook in 2003.

Narcan Syringe Prescriptions Available to the General Public

A Village Voice newspaper article on August 22, indicated that in an effort to stem overdose deaths in New York – an addict, friend, family member, etc. can now obtain Narcan (known generically as generic name naloxone) through a local syringe exchange program. Narcan is effective on opiates including heroin, methadone and OxyContin.

The authorization for this apparently comes from a provision on opioid overdose prevention legislation signed by Governor George Pataki on August 2, 2005 authorizing the state health commissioner to establish standards for overdose pre-

vention programs and the injection of Narcan by "nonprofessionals" in the case of an overdose.

In NYC the Harm Reduction Coalition has begun twice weekly classes lasting 30 to 40 minutes, which include lessons on how to recognize an overdose, how to provide rescue breathing, the importance of promptly calling 911 and ending with a doctor handing out prescriptions and the staff distributing syringes filled with Narcan. For more information go to www.harmeducation.org/overdose

New York Volunteer EMS & Fire Death Benefit Amounts

Governor Pataki signed bill A07688 increasing the Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law (VFBL) and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Benefit Law (VAWBL) death benefits effective January 1, 2006.

VFBL: Funeral: Maximum not exceeding \$6,700.00 (from \$6,000.00) this maximum shall not apply when a firefighter dies from injuries received in the line of duty as a direct result of firefighting.

Lump Sum: \$56,000.00 (from \$50,000.00).

Weekly Benefits: \$887.00 (from \$800.00).

Remarriage: \$92,219.00 (from \$83,200.00).

VAWBL: Funeral: Maximum not exceeding \$6,700.00 (from \$6,000.00).

Lump Sum: \$56,000.00 (from 50,000.00).

Remarriage: \$92,219.00 (from 83,200.00).

To be eligible for the above benefits, a squad must purchase the insurance coverage – it is not a free benefit.

NYS Assembly Subcommittee on Volunteer Ambulance/Emergency Services

NYS Assemblyman Philip Ramos was named in May by NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to chair the Subcommittee on Volunteer Ambulance/Emergency Services replacing Robert K. Sweeney (who continues as Chair of the Local Government Committee). Silver cited Ramos's experience as a former emergency medical technician and police officer with providing him strong insight into what needs to be done to ensure the effectiveness and stability of volunteer rescue units. A career with the Suffolk County Police Department included 8 years in the Narcotics Unit as an undercover officer and promotion to the rank of detective. Assemblyman Ramos was elected to the Assembly in 2002 and represents the 6th Assembly District which includes portions of the Brentwood, Baywood, Central Islip, Bay Shore, North Bay Shore, Islip and Islandia. He has offices at 1010 Suffolk Avenue, Brentwood, NY 11717, (631) 435-3214 and in the Legislative Office

Building, Room 650, Albany, NY 12248, (518) 455-5185.

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Tax Credit Proposals For EMS & Fire Volunteers

In the weeks just before the April 15, 2005 income filing deadline there were several proposals put forward to use income tax credits as a means of recruiting and retaining emergency service volunteers.

On the Federal level, US Senator Charles E. Schumer announced proposed legislation, S-625, the Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts (SERVE) Act to offer a \$1,000 tax credit for active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. The tax credit, which is being sponsored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey in the US House of Representatives, would provide a \$1,000 tax credit that would serve as an important recruitment tool for local groups to boost enrollment numbers. Most importantly, it is a way for the federal government to express the country's enormous gratitude for the daily sacrifices they make. Under the SERVE Act, any taxpayer who is a volunteer firefighter or EMS worker for the full year is entitled to a refundable federal tax credit of \$1,000; if they work for part of the year, they are entitled to a pro-rated amount. A refundable tax credit means that, if the credit exceeds their federal tax liability, they would receive the remainder as a tax refund.

On the state level, State Senator George Winner Jr., Elmira, NY introduced a proposal that if enacted would:

- Offer a \$2,000 personal income tax deduction to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.
- Authorize municipalities to offer real property tax exemptions for volunteers. The exemption would be up to 5 percent of the property's assessed value.
- Exempt vehicles owned and used in the performance of duty from registration fees and use taxes.
- Allow emergency workers to participate in certain public health insurance plans.

Be aware that similar proposals have been introduced over the years and have gotten nowhere. However, there is a recognized developing crisis in many volunteer EMS and fire jurisdictions in providing the level of services people are coming to expect. Letters, phone calls, e-mails and visits to the sponsors and other legislators would help develop a momentum that may finally get the proposals enacted. The current bills of concern are:

A05261 and S593 - \$1,000 NYS Tax Credit for Fire and EMS Volunteers

HR934 and S265 - \$1,000 Federal Tax Credit for Fire and EMS Volunteers.

Minimum Age for Youth Corps Members on Volunteer Ambulances

Every so often the question comes up as to what is the minimum age at which a Youth Corps member is permitted to serve on an ambulance. The answer is in all places the NYS Arts and Cultural Law, Article 35 – Child Performers and Models, Section 35.07 - Unlawful Exhibitions which states:

"1. It shall be unlawful for any person to employ, use, or exhibit any child under sixteen years of age, or for a parent, guardian or employer to consent to or to refuse to restrain such child in engaging or acting:

(e) In any practice or exhibition or place dangerous or injurious to the life, limb, health or morals of such child provided, however, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to service as a member of a certified volunteer ambulance service under the supervision of an emergency medical technician as provided in article thirty of the public health law by youthful volunteers at least fifteen years of age who hold a current American Red Cross advanced first aid and emergency care card."

Red Cross Advanced First Aid was replaced years ago by Emergency Response (Course Code #32600) which is a 52 hour comprehensive course designed for training first responders, public safety personnel, athletic trainers, emergency response team members and others interested in advanced level first aid skills. The course follows the 1995 US DOT First Responder National Standard Curriculum, meets

Emergency Cardiac Care Guidelines and meets or exceeds the guidelines established by OSHA on bloodborne pathogen transmission. Content includes CPR for the Professional Rescuer, preventing disease transmission, advanced first aid techniques, breathing devices, oxygen administration, childbirth, moving victims, advanced splinting & bandaging, head & spine injuries, multiple casualty triage, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and emergency scene management. Certificates issued at the conclusion of the course include: CPR/AED for Professional Rescuer (valid 1 year), Emergency Response Training (valid 3 years), and Oxygen Administration, Preventing Disease Transmission (no expiration dates). Cost of the course is in the area of \$225.00 to \$250.00 depending on where it is given. The Red Cross indicates the minimum age for instructing the course is age 17. At age 16 Youth Corps members can take a NYS Certified First Responder course for which state reimbursement is available for those who successfully pass the skill and written exams.

The above is provided for information purposes and every squad is free to set its own rules and regulations concerning who can serve on an ambulance. For additional guidance, squads should consult their legal advisors and insurance brokers.

FORD Technical Service Bulletin on 98-05 E-350 & E-450 Chassis

TSB 05-1-1 was issued January 5, 2005 to Ford service departments advising that some high mileage 1998 through 2005 E-350 and E-450 cutaway van chassis may exhibit cracks in the front left or right spring tower flange. Services should have their maintenance people visually inspect for this potential problem on a routine basis. This alert is not specific to ambulance chassis but also includes tradesman's trucks, RVs and personal vehicles. The TSB ad-

vises small cracks can be repaired by welding but large cracks will require frame replacement and may not be under warranty in many cases.

Ford's recall finder website is at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov
The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's Office of Defects Investigation web site is at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov

Motorcycle Airbag Announced by Honda

On September 8, 2005 Honda Motor Co. announced the world's first airbag developed for production motorcycles. The airbag, which inflates after sensors detect an oncoming crash, will be available on the new Gold Wing motorcycle that will go on sale in spring 2006 in the United States.

Tokyo-based Honda said the airbags will reduce injuries in head-on collisions. The airbag opens in front of the riders and reduces the speed at which they get thrown off the motorcycle, lessening injuries when they hit the road or another vehicle.

You Can't Make this Stuff Up

Man Found Dressed Like Doctor with Dead Deer in Stolen Ambulance

South Florida Sun-Sentinel September 28, 2005
Jacksonville - A man reported missing from a Florida hospital was found in North Carolina dressed like a doctor and driving a stolen ambulance with a dead deer wedged in the back, authorities said. Leon Holliman Jr., 37, was reported missing from a River Region Human Services facility in Jacksonville last month. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol found him driving the ambulance with the deer on Sunday. "I don't know how the man got it up in there," said Sgt. Robert Pearson. "It was a six point buck." It wasn't known where Holliman got the deer, which had been dead for some time, Pearson said. Authorities tracked the stolen ambulance through three rural North Carolina counties and one county in southern Virginia before its tires were punctured and it wound up in a ditch, Pearson said. Holliman was admitted to a North Carolina hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. Police said they would decide

whether to charge Holliman after that evaluation is complete.

A follow-up article several days later gave more information and a couple of pictures. The ambulance involved was a Type III modular rig from Davidson County EMS, a paid municipal ALS service based in Lexington, NC operating 7 ambulances from 5 stations. Police officers were able to blow out the vehicle's tires and run it off the road into a ditch. There is a picture of a deer in the patient compartment laying on its back between the stretcher and bench seat with feet in the air. Days prior to this incident Holliman had been taken into custody for a few hours for his own safety after he was found rolling down the middle of a road in a wheelchair. He appeared intoxicated and was released when police considered him sober enough.

Putnam County Fire Truck Stolen while Preparing to Respond to Call

Continental Village VFD, Putnam County, had one of their fire trucks stolen from the firehouse while the department was getting ready to respond to a 2:45 AM call on Sunday morning 10/9/05. Firefighters had just finished a downed wires call and were preparing to respond on another call when a car drove up and a man exited from the passenger side and jumped into the "brush truck". As he began pulling out of the fire station the fire chief grabbed onto the side of the truck and tried to stop the thief. When the truck began to pick up speed, the chief jumped off the

truck. 30 minutes later the truck was found crashed into several trees. About seven hours later, police arrested a 23 year old Mohegan Lake man who was seen in the woods wearing black underwear and a blue tarpaulin. He was held on \$10,000 bail and charged with burglary, robbery, grand larceny, reckless endangerment and driving while intoxicated.

Red Cross Replacing VHS Tapes with DVD Format

Times are changing and DVDs are quickly replacing VHS tapes as the medium of choice for Red Cross instructors. The DVD format provides the opportunity to incorporate additional features, is easier to navigate between segments and sustains less wear and tear damage with repeated use. Over the next several years, as programs are revised and released, VHS format videos will be phased out and DVD

format videos will become standard. The following Red Cross programs currently offer videos in DVD format: Babysitter's Training, Community First Aid and Safety, Family Caregiving, First Aid/CPR/AED, First Aid - Responding to Emergencies, Lifeguarding, Sport Safety Training, and Swimming and Water Safety

Training Kits for Red Cross CPR and First Aid Courses

The Red Cross national headquarters has contracted with a vendor for CPR and First Aid Training Kits, resulting in lower costs for authorized providers and instructors.

The kits match Red Cross Courses – the type and number of content pieces were selected in cooperation with course developers. This ensures that students use materials that help them meet course objectives. The high quality products include durable non-woven triangular bandages that will prevent fraying and are non-absorbent to minimize disease transmission resulting in a cleaner look and feel. The CPR face shield is designed with graphics indicating hand placement for opening the airway and is stamped with the Red

Cross brand. An added benefit is that there is less classroom trash. There is no individual plastic wrapping on the triangular bandages or roller gauze.

CPR Student Training Kit, stock # 321200, \$.45 each or \$45.00 for a box of 100 includes: 1 face shield and a 1 pair of latex free gloves.

First Aid Student Training Kit, Stock # 321201, \$1.20 each or \$120.00 for box of 100 includes: 2 triangular bandages (38 x 38 x 54 inches), 1 gauze pad (4 x 4 inches, 8 ply), 1 roller bandage (3 inches x 4.4 yards), and 1 pair latex-free gloves.

Contact your local chapter to place an order.

CPR Changes on the Way

Worldwide experts on emergency cardiac care met in 2005. The science was examined, discussions held and it was determined that there is a better way to: do CPR, deliver breaths, remember the compression-to-ventilation ratio and use an AED in conjunction with CPR. Changes coming include:

- 30 to 2 compression to ventilation ratio for all single rescuers for all victims from infants (excluding newborns) to adults.
- Compressions should be done hard and fast allowing the chest to recoil after each compression.
- No lay rescuer check for signs of circulation after initial two rescue breaths.
- Breaths should be given over 1 second for each breath and rescuers should be able to see the chest rise.
- One defibrillation shock should be followed by immediate

CPR beginning with chest compressions. Check victim's rhythm after five cycles of 30 compressions and two breaths (about 2 minutes).

- Monophasic defibrillation should initially be done at 360 joules.
- Obstructed airway intervention (abdominal thrusts) only for severe airway obstruction.

In the coming months look for the Red Cross, American Heart Association and other CPR training organizations to publish new training materials incorporating the changes recommended. Until instructors are updated they are to continue teaching using the 2000 Guidelines materials.

Fund Drive Mailing & Donation Issues

According to figures published in a mailing trade magazine, 27.3% of mail presented to the Post Office for delivery is considered Undeliverable As Addressed (UAA). The reasons are: 2.8% people moving – 17% annual move rate in the USA; 4.9% missing apartment numbers; 7.0% missing directional suffixes such as north, south, east or west; 6.9% missing or incorrect elements such as street name or number; 3.1% missing city, state or ZIP code; 2.6% incorrect ZIP code.

In addition, every year 300,000 to 400,000 addresses are changed based on municipality implementation of 911 emergency systems, street name changes or other reasons such as renumbering of a range of PO Boxes. Non-profit bulk mail users to a large extent do not get feedback on errors as bulk mail is not returned to the sender or forwarded

as is first class mail. To help ensure mail is delivered, lists should be checked periodically and "Or Current Resident" should be added below a name if one is used.

The other side of a fund drive is incoming donations. Electronic payments from the use of credit cards, debit cards and other electronic bill paying has eclipsed paper checks. In 2000 there were 41.9 billion checks written which declined to 36.7 billion checks in 2003. Electronic payments, however, rose from 30.6 billion to 44.5 billion in the same period. Fund drives should emphasize that organizations can receive and accept electronically generated checks and should explore alternate donation methods such as use of credit and debit card transactions.

Glucometer Use by Basic EMTs – Regional Council Decisions' Vary

Glucometer use by basic EMTs was the subject of a six month pilot by the Albany Fire Department. 111 EMTs were given training in the use of glucometers and then given protocol and practical skills exams with 100% passing each exam. 778 cases of glucometer use were then examined. The EMTs were able to treat 61 of 185 hypoglycemic patients with glucose paste, freeing up ALS resources for other assignments. There were no blood borne pathogen exposures or sharps injuries. There were also no requests to Medical Control for assistance or advice. Quality reviews showed a 99% (776/778) adherence to protocol with only a .3% (2/778) deviation (2/778). Based on the successful pilot, the NYS Emergency Medical Advisory Council (SEMAC) approved glucometer use across the state subject to Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Council (REMAC) approval.

EMTs who are in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, which are under the Hudson-Mohawk regional EMS Council, were among the first in the state authorized to use glucometers. The protocol established by the region's Regional Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) is simple – for a diabetic emergency do ABCs, administer high concentration oxygen, check blood glucose if equipped and if the blood glucose level is known or suspected to be low and the patient is able to self administer or swallow on command, give oral glucose one unit dose (19-24 grams) and call for ALS if unable to swallow or mental status remains altered following administration of oral glucose. The region's full 2006 protocol is on-line at <http://www.remo-ems.com/REMO%202006%20Protocols.pdf>

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and Washington County EMTs can also use glucometers as an aid in assessing patients following Mountain Lakes REMSCO's September go ahead vote. The protocol essentially follows Hudson-Mohawk's. Of

course, before an EMS agency starts using glucometers there is local paperwork to be done including a letter of intent, Medical Director agreement and agency information page. Quality review is built in with post usage reports. Training includes a Power Point presentation and practical skills testing. The required equipment list is short and includes: blood glucose test machines (varied manufactures), test strips appropriate to the machine, lancets, alcohol preps and 4X4 gauze pads. A Bayer Glucometer Elite machine is shown in the Power Point presentation. The device is available on the internet for about \$99.00. For full information on the Mountain Lakes' glucometer program go to their web site at www.nenyems.org

Orange County EMS Council met on July 26, 2005 and passed a motion to support the use of glucometers by Basic Life Support agencies in the county. On August 10th the Council sent a letter to Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council asking to become trained and use glucometers to aid in assessment of altered mental status patients. Hudson Valley REMSCO replied that in May the REMAC had discussed the issue and had made a determination not to move forward after weighing the use of this adjunct on a scale of need as opposed to a scale of want. An invitation, however, was made for Orange County EMS Council to submit additional information and meet with REMAC.

In New York City there has apparently been little or no interest expressed on the issue by either agencies or individual EMTs. The REMAC discussed glucometer use by EMTs and decided to take no action.

Recently Issued NYSDOH Bureau of EMS Policy Statements

05-04 issued September 23, 2005 **BLOOD GLUCOMETRY FOR BASIC LIFE SUPPORT EMS AGENCIES:**

Explains the approval process for agencies wishing to implement a glucometry program. Each REMAC interested in allowing their BLS EMS agencies to participate first has to adopt suitable protocols. Documentation required of agencies includes:

Letter from the service medical director supporting the request and indicating an understanding of their role in the Clinical Laboratory requirements and quality assurance process. NYS Department of Health Clinical Laboratory Limited Laboratory Registration application DOH-4081 for blood testing licensure. The form is available on the NYS DOH BEMS web site and includes 4 pages of instructions and 8 pages for the registration application. There is a \$100 application fee. Written policies and procedures for the operation of the glucometer that are consistent with local protocol. Written policies and procedures for the training and documentation of authorized users.

Defined quality assurance program, including appropriateness review by the medical director. Documentation of control testing process.

Written policies and procedures for storage of electronic glucometer, and proper disposal of sharps devices.

Steve Cohen
President



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Analyzing data is a very important part of managing our service. Without good data, managers and planners cannot make good decisions. As our call volume grows year after year, utilizing a computerized data collection and reporting system is not an option, but rather a necessity. I highly recommend this system."

— Timothy P. Egan, NREMT-P, Chief of Operations,
Director of Information Technology, Rockland Paramedic Services

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Bits from Around the State and Beyond



District 1

CHEVRA HATZOLOH OF ROCKLAND COUNTY has been approved by the Hudson Valley Regional Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) to upgrade its ambulance service from the AEMT-I level to the full AEMT-P paramedic level.

HATZALAH ROCKLAND COUNTY received approval for a low interest \$300,000 Rural Development loan from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funds are to be used to purchase three new ambulances. The squad serves Airmont, Forshay, Kaser, Monsey, New Hempstead, New Square, Pomona, Spring Valley, Suffern, Tallman and Wesley Hills. Membership totals 73 volunteers operating five ambulances from garages in central Monsey and New Square. Ten dispatchers dispatch from their homes. Call volume is about 4,500 responses a year.

ROCKLAND COUNTY's plan for a new communications system is on hold until the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) completes action on an appeal pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The county paid \$5,000 for 10 radio frequencies at a 1998 auction, setting them aside for future use. In 2003 \$4 million was approved to start planning a new radio system that would replace equipment and buy new portable and mobile radios for every police, fire and ambulance station in Rockland. In 2004, however, the FCC took back control of thousands of unused frequencies – including the 10 owned by Rockland. The FCC initially denied the county's petition to regain the frequencies but referred the county to APCO which handles the application and allocation of frequencies for the FCC. If Rockland loses the frequencies it may have to wait five to ten years for more frequencies to be put on the market. At emergency scenes now, firefighters must communicate with dispatchers, who then deliver the messages to police and medical crews. Some of Rockland's all-volunteer fire departments use low-band dispatch equipment that is at least 50 years old. New digital equipment similar to Nextel's two-way radios with special features specifically for public safety use would allow all emergency personnel to communicate instantly at long distances. If the frequencies are restored to the county, it should be ready with contracts for firms to provide the equipment and start building the system by early 2006 with testing by mid-2007.

District 2

EMPRESS AMBULANCE SERVICE, Westchester County, assisted the District Attorney of the county in a 3 year investigation of a no-fault insurance scheme to bilk insurance companies of \$12 million. A 10/19/05 news release by the DA charged that a paramedic employed by Empress forwarded confidential patient information about individuals involved in accidents from numerous Westchester hospitals to a co-defendant posing as a doctor or patient care coordinator, who would refer these patients, most of whom were in minor fender bender accidents, for unnecessary follow-up medical treatment. Patients received a promise of proceeds from any potential lawsuit as a result of their injuries. The news release cited other facets of the scheme including two NYPD civilian employees entering false accident reports into NYPD records. The no-fault provisions of the NYS Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Insurance

Reparations Act entitles persons injured in automobile accidents to a minimum of \$50,000 of medical coverage regardless of who is at fault.

HARRISON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE/EMS, Westchester County, has placed a 2005 Ford Expedition ALS "fly car" in service, replacing a smaller 1998 Ford Explorer. The new vehicle is equipped with a 12 lead EKG, large MCI triage kit, VHF, UHF and low band radios and GPS and can also function as an EMS incident command center. Lighting includes LEDs and strobes. The front fenders have distinctive American flag graphics. Harrison provides 24/7 ALS level service with a combination of volunteers and paid personnel.

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON VFD AMBULANCE CORPS, Westchester County, celebrated 50 years of service in 2005. The squad operates two BLS level ambulances from its own two bay facility, responding to about 500 EMS calls yearly. The duty roster is staffed by members of the department's four fire companies. As a recruitment/retention incentive, active volunteers are eligible for a \$500 reduction in assessed valuation for village taxes if they own property and there is also a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

MOHEGAN VAC, Westchester County, has an Injury Prevention Unit consisting of a 2005 Ford Expedition and 2 wheel cargo trailer to carry equipment including its Andy the Ambulance remote control talking unit, folding tent, tables, chairs and education materials. Recent team events have included the Jefferson Valley Mall Safety Day, Yorktown's Town Day and the Van Cort Elementary School carnival. The Injury Prevention Program's current emphasis is on children and covers bike safety, choosing a booster seat, fall prevention, kids in cars, scooters, scooters/skates/boards, swimming and trampolines. The unit was put together by Safety Signal Industries, Peekskill, NY. For more information on the program go to the web site at www.moheganfire.com, E-mail Injuryprevention@moheganfire.com or call (914) 526-1005. The VAC is operated by the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association.

District 4

JAMAICA ESTATES-HOLLISWOOD-SOUTH BAYSIDE VAC, Queens County, sold off the last gasoline Type III front line ambulance known to be operating in New York City. The vehicle was a Chevy 3500 chassis with a twice remounted 1982 Yankee Coach box. A similar Type III chassis with a 1987 Wheeled Coach box had been sold earlier in 2005. The squad is now operating with two used Ford diesel vehicles. After a series of engine fires in the mid 1980s Ford decided to only certify diesel engines for ambulance use and sold its last gasoline chassis OK'd for ambulance use in 1987. Since then there have been a number of alternatives such as the Mercedes/Freightliner/Dodge Sprinter as well as standard and medium Chevy chassis in both gas and diesel that have shown up. Ford, however, retains the vast majority of the market. TV and movie companies still look for gasoline vehicles because they are much quieter. There is also an export demand for gasoline ambulances.

District 5

BLOOMING GROVE VAC, Washingtonville, Orange County took

(Continued on page 11)

2005 Pulse Check held in September

2005-2006 NYSVA&RA Officers

President	Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr., District 1
Executive Vice President	Roy Sweet, District 19
Vice President	Henry Ehrhardt, District 4
Treasurer	Jean Gourley, District 18
Financial Secretary	Ralph Cefalo, District 18
Secretary	Mandy Squillini, District 1

The ballot proposition to offer established Districts an option on dues billing was passed. The proposed system more closely resembles that of most statewide organizations, streamlines the process and provides Districts with an option to retain direct receipt of renewals if they wish to assume that responsibility.

In Memorium

The Association's Annual Memorial Service was held on Saturday, September 24.

We Remember and Honor our Deceased Members from this past year:

DISTRICT 1

Leonard Kasper
Faist VAC
Ralph A. Napolitano
Tuxedo VAC
Carolyn Roth-Peltz
Faist VAC
Nancy Ruth Schafer
Haverstraw VAC

DISTRICT 4

Jack McGuire
Bravo Vol. Amb. Service

DISTRICT 5

Jeremy D. Bartley
New Windsor VAC
Rosemary Brady
Monroe VAC
Jennie A. Dapra
Town of Highlands VAC
James A. Nenni
Town of Newburgh VAC
Alson M. Ostrander
Town of Newburgh VAC
Alice M. Pentz
Blooming Grove VAC
Margaret Phillips
Pine Bush VAC
Albert A. Poshadel
Otisville-Mt. Hope VAC
Lory J. Reed

Port Jervis VAC
Ralph S. Runnalls
Otisville-Mt. Hope VAC
Everett Sisco
Warwick VAC
Frederick Batz
Warwick VAC

DISTRICT 6

Brian Henry Belile
Kerhonkson-Accord F. A. Squad
Ursula H. Good
Monticello VAC
Jullus Herschowsky
Kerhonkson-Accord F.A. Squad
Edith Louise Hyatt
Jeffersonville VA:
Thelma Romerantz
Kerhonkson-Accord F.A. Squad
Leora Kelder
Olive Rescue Squad
Julian Chalet
Woodbourne F.D. F.A. Squad
Murray Gershon
Woodbourne F.D. F.A. Squad
Michael Shaner
Woodbourne F.D. F.A. Squad
Frances Tavormina
Woodbourne F.D. F.A. Squad

DISTRICT 7

Heidi Behr
Riverhead VAC...LODD
Dorothy DiGregorio
Huntington Comm. F.A. Squad
Anthony Ferraro
Huntington Comm. F.A. Squad
William Stone
Riverhead VAC...LODD

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2005

This year the Association presented three Scholarship Awards. A \$500 check was awarded to each of the following:

- Joseph Ricci, Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Joseph has been accepted at New York University hoping to obtain both Pre-Med and Biology majors.
- Erin Lynch, Town of Montgomery VAC. Erin has been accepted at Ithaca College for classes in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance.
- Adam Ganzman, Volunteer Heart Ambulance, Staten Island. Adam has been accepted at Wagner College in the Accelerated Nursing Program.

Joseph LoBosco
Exchange Vol. Amb.
DISTRICT 12

Robert Fischer
Elmont F.D. Engine 2
Emil Haug
Elmont F.D. Truck 1
Edward C. Mahlere
Elmont F.D. Engine 3

DISTRICT 18

Mark D. Gardella
Whitestone Comm. V.A. Service
Vincent J. Mininno
Whitestone Comm. V.A. Service
Robert J. Roebuck
Whitestone Comm. V.A. Service
Robert Radenberg
Flushing VAC...Past President
of our Association
Howard Sherman
Flushing VAC

DISTRICT 19

Theron Bellinger
Mid County VAC
Dirk Breary
Mid County VAC
Grace Edick
Mid County VAC
Art Fleming
Mid County VAC
Mary Johnson
Mid County VAC
Hilton Kilpatrick
Mid County VAC
Gretchen Littrel
Mid County VAC
Elizabeth Palmer
Mid County VAC

Eileen Peeler
Mid County VAC
Michael Rathbun
Mid County VAC
Donald Stevens
Mid County VAC
NJ STATE F.A. COUNCIL
George Hansen
Past President
Philip Ackerman
Past President

We also remember all volunteer ambulance personnel and firefighters whose names we did not receive. Victims of Hurricane Katrina. Members of our Armed Services who have given their all overseas in the pursuit of freedom.

Thank you Nancy Pacella, Robert Ruston, Reverend Brian Randazzo, Helen Fries, Jean Gourley, Roy Sweet, Henry Ehrhardt, and Jen McLaughlin for a lovely and touching service.

Bits from Around the State (Continued from page 10)

the 3rd place Bronze Medal in JEMS Magazine's JEMS GAMES held earlier this year in San Diego CA. The ALS team consisted of Colin Allen, Brett Ferguson, Grant Gamble and Garry Harris. 1st place Gold Medal went to Sussex County EMS, Delaware and the 2nd place Silver Medal went to a team from Queensland Ambulance Service, Australia. 18 teams competed in a timed complicated clinical scenario for medals, cash awards and other prizes.

NEW WINDSOR VAC, Orange County, is attempting to resume service to the Town of New Windsor. In early 2004 the squad stopped service after it was locked out of the town owned building that had served as its headquarters and garage. There were a number of allegations reported in the news media at the time but the basic claim seems to be that the corps lacked enough EMTs to provide required 24 hour service. Mobile Life Support was contracted as a replacement. A contract for 2006 was put out for bids and Regional EMS submitted a competing proposal on 11/28/05. However, there is local sentiment to have the volunteer service return if it can solve its problems. The town has decided to take no action on a longer contract but rather continue with Mobile Life Support on a month-to-month basis. The squad is reportedly the subject of an action by the NYS DOH Bureau of EMS to revoke its Ambulance Operating Certificate and has given the organization until 2/1/06 to return to active operation. An operational plan has been received by the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council which is reviewing its contents.

ORANGE COUNTY is moving towards granting a 10% property tax reduction to EMS and fire volunteers. The proposal was approved by a committee of the county legislature but must receive more county legislative approvals before taking effect.

PUTNAM 911 became the primary Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) for Putnam County effective 3/2/05. The facility is located at the County Training and Operations Center, 112 Old Route 6, Carmel, NY. The center answers all 911 calls and dispatches all needs for emergency service under the Bureau of Emergency Services.

District 6

CATSKILL HATZALAH, Sullivan County, met for the 7th year in a row with local emergency service providers to foster cooperation for the approaching summer season. During the summer there is a migration of Orthodox Jewish families from New York City to communities in the Catskills. This includes 250 to 300 EMTs from Chevra Hatzalah, an ambulance service based in Brooklyn with divisions throughout New York City and medics from ALS Services, Inc., a closely affiliated organization. From time to time there have been interagency disagreements and, more recently, imposters have been showing up at emergency scenes. In July, Yedidyah Langsman, a Coordinator with Hatzalah, met with Monticello firefighters at their station where local emergency responders were informed on how to identify Hatzalah personnel. Members carry photo ID cards with holographic stickers and are required to wear distinctive bright yellow emergency vests while operating at emergency scenes. First Responder cars are equipped with medical equipment based on the member's level of certification and have Hatzalah stickers with expiration dates as well as NYS-DOH certification stickers. Mr. Langsman encouraged local emergency services personnel to move imposters off the scene, and according to a news report, not be shy about it.

TUSTEN VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE, Narrowsburg, Sullivan County, approached the Tusten Town Board in August asking for additional funding or ideas to keep the squad going. Operating with 15 active drivers, four EMTs and a few others it feels it is being forced to start a payroll and staff people as the number of volunteers are dropping. In 2004 there was a shortfall of \$15,000 in income vs. expenses which can continue for only a few years till savings are depleted. Expenses for their building such as fuel oil have risen from \$1.13 a gallon to \$1.85. NYS Troopers lease part of the building but some expenses are fixed at 2003 costs. The Board seemed receptive but asked for additional information for their budget deliberations.

SULLIVAN COUNTY broke ground on a new Fire Training Center to be constructed on an 17 acre parcel on Old White Lake Turnpike in Bethel. The \$2.16 million facility will include a three story tower for live fire burns and rappelling, confined space search and extrication drills and high-line electrical incidents. Funding has come from the late Assemblyman Jacob Gunther, Senator John Bonadic and the Sullivan County legislature. Construction is expected to be completed in May 2006.

District 7

CENTERREACH VFD, Suffolk County, was involved in an ambulance accident on Sunday morning 11/20/05. While responding to a difficulty breathing call the ambulance was struck on the rear right side and flipped on its left side. Four crew members as well as three from the Nissan Maxima that struck the ambulance were taken to Stony Brook University Hospital for treatment of minor injuries. The driver of the car was issued tickets for driving with a suspended license and failure to yield.

ISLIP MCARTHUR AIRPORT CRASH RESCUE, Suffolk County, has established an on-site decontamination equipment cache.

SUFFOLK COUNTY passed legislation in May increasing liability insurance for ambulance squads who report their response times to the county. After strong opposition from squads, the original bill had been changed from denying liability coverage to non-reporting squads to increasing coverage from \$1 million to \$2 million for reporting squads. System changes will need to be implemented to capture the data. Suffolk County Police dispatches 50% of the 120,000 annual EMS calls with the rest dispatched by about 24 other agencies including town police departments. There will be cost increases of \$250,000 for the insurance, \$100,000 for county people to analyze the data plus undetermined and unfunded amounts for local agencies and dispatch centers to collect and report the information.

SUFFOLK COUNTY DIVISION OF EMS and US Post Office (USPS) officials revised the county plan for an activation of a Biohazard Detection System at a USPS facility. Medical screening of postal employees and appropriate antibiotic administration to postal employees will be implemented. Pharmaceuticals were provided by USPS for use in post-exposure treatment.

SUFFOLK COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR JEANNE ALICANDRO, MD issued a notice on 7/29/05 advising all ALS services in the county that "Effectively immediately, I am suspending the use of the Combitube in the Suffolk County EMS System, pending investigation

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NYSVA&RA Awards

EMS Leadership.....Peter J. Ryan, Wantagh-Levittown VAC, District 12

For his forty-five years of exemplary activities within the Wantagh Levittown VAC serving in numerous leadership capacities that benefited the Squad, as well as his leadership in Nassau County promulgating this Association and the District, and for his role in the County's REMSCO.

EMS Person of the Year...Rafael Castellanos, Central Park Medical Unit, Dist 4

As a founding member and now President and Chairman of the Board of the Central Park Medical Unit, and for providing more than 30 years of dedicated public service leading to the growth of the squad, to overseeing its responses to numerous disasters within New York City, and his designation as Honorary Commissioner of the Office of Emergency Management.

Medical Director of the Year...Dr. Phillip Hew, Central Park Medical Unit, District 4

For his staunch dedication and significant contributions as Medical Director of the Central Park Medical Unit, including his voluntary committee participation and leadership to many New York City medical committees, REBSCO, and community events.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION WERE PRESENTED TO:

- Regional EMS of Rockland County for the tremendous financial support of this Association's Educational Confer-

ence PULSE CHECK 2005, and continued dedication to the Association.

- Emergency Services Insurance Program (ESIP) for their long-standing dedication and continual support of this Association and the PULSE CHECK Educational Conference.
- Helen Fries for her response in time of need, and the giving of her dedicated and diligent service to the Association and its membership serving as Financial Secretary to the Association through the years.
- Kuntree B. Sweet and Henry Frick for their dedicated and diligent service to the Association and its membership serving as Co-Chairpersons of PULSE CHECK 2005 and this year's Association's Annual Convention.
- Reverend Brian Randazzo for participating in our Annual Memorial Service assuring both the importance of its purpose and the spirit of formality presented by the delivery of his special Memorial Address
- Jen McLaughlin for being a special part of our Annual Memorial Service assuring both the importance of its purpose and the spirit of formality with the music of her bagpipes.
- Hudson Valley Resort & Spa for the assistance rendered, the efficiency and hospitality extended by its entire staff assuring the success of this Association's Annual Meeting and 50th Annual Pulse Check Educational Conference.

Statewide 2005 EMT & CFR Skills Challenge

This year there were 7 teams competing in the Ambulance Drill and 18 in the EMT/CFR drills (9 youth teams and 9 adult squad teams).

Ambulance Drill

1st Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Rescue Ambulance
2nd Place...Huntington Community First Aid Squad
3rd Place...Whitestone Community VAC (Med Tec)

EMT Drill

Problem 1 (Tie for 2nd place)

1st Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Fallen Angels
2nd Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Acme EMS
Wantagh-Levittown EMS for Dummies
3rd Place...Whitestone Millennium Unknowns

Problem 2 (Tie for 2nd Place)

1st Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Acme EMS
2nd Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Fallen Angels
Whitestone Millennium Unknowns
3rd Place... Wantagh-Levittown EMS for Dummies

Overall

1st Place... Bay Shore-Brightwaters Fallen Angels
2nd Place... Bay Shore-Brightwaters Acme EMS
3rd Place...Wantagh-Levittown EMS for Dummies

CFR Drill

Problem 1

1st Place...Exchange of the Islips Immobilize This
2nd Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Raging Hormones
3rd Place... Glendale City EDPs

Problem 2 (Tie for 2nd Place)

1st Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Raging Hormones
2nd Place...Exchange of the Islips Immobilize This
Glendale City EDPs

3rd Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters New Kids on the Rig

Overall

1st Place...Exchange of the Islips Immobilize This
2nd Place...Bay Shore-Brightwaters Raging Hormones
3rd Place...Glendale City EDPs

Bits from Around the State (Continued from page 11)

of recent complications". No further information was initially provided. Subsequently, the minutes of the October Suffolk Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee indicated data on the use of the CombiTube from 10/1/04 to 7/24/05 had been reviewed. 72 attempts by 53 technicians were documented. Of these, 62 were cardiac arrests, and of these, 42 had the tube successfully placed (68%). 6 cases had ROSC and 3 suffered complications which included subcutaneous emphysema and perforation of the esophagus. 4 cases were traumatic arrest with all 4 having the tube successfully placed, 1 of which had ROSC. 2 cases were non-arrest trauma, which were successfully tubed. It was noted that Paramedic-level providers had a higher success rate than Critical Care providers. The general feeling of the REMAC was that increased focus on training was needed not only for field providers, but for ED staff and this would help the program. It was decided to reinstate the use of the CombiTube for cardiac arrest patients only with the added requirement that ALC providers must have completed an Advanced Airway class. It was also noted that an educational piece for ED staff is necessary as well so they are familiar with the device, how to intubate around it, and how to manage/remove it.

SUFFOLK COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE is no longer using signal codes when dispatching alarms. In order to be compliant with national FEMA / NIMS standards, they are using plain language -vehicle fire, structure fire, EMS alarm, etc.

SUFFOLK COUNTY MEDICAL CONTROL has procured the equipment necessary to allow it to receive 12-lead EKG from the field. Currently, they are using a system of transmission through the North Shore-LJ communications center that is not 12-lead compatible. Initially, Medtronic/Physio users will be able to transmit a 12 lead EKG directly to a LIFEPAK Lifenet Receiving Station at Medical Control and then seamlessly send it on to the local receiving hospital as well. They are waiting for Zoll to finalize their technology that will require a blue tooth enabled phone to a standard FAX machine set up.

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON, Suffolk County is working on a municipal Certificate of Need application to start an ALS First Responder service.

YAPHANK VFD, Suffolk County, has applied to its REMAC to upgrade their level of service from AEMT-CC to full paramedic level.

District 10/Region 1

AUBURN, Cayuga County, received city council approval to advertise for provision of municipal EMS. Rural Metro currently has the EMS contract and its services are paid for by billing patients and third party payers. Although there have been no issues with its service, the city wants to see that its citizens have the best service possible in terms of competitiveness and quality. Auburn FD provides first responder services in the city.

BAINBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT, Chenango County, surrendered its BLS level Ambulance Operating Certificate citing a lack of volunteers and the closing of the nearest hospital in Sidney, NY.

BINGHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL and Susquehanna REMSCO are trying to make it easier for ambulance crews to complete their ePCRs. Workstations have been constructed behind the hospital's ED

registry and all new equipment and a telephone to contact dispatch for times have also been provided. An ALERT (Agency Level Electronic Reporting Tool) program allows agencies to access their own run data. Susquehanna REMSCO hopes to add enhancements to the current ePCR and ALERT programs.

BUFFALO, Erie County, moved toward selecting Rural/Metro as its sole municipal ambulance service provider for the next five years. The city's EMS Board selected the company's \$350,000 franchise fee bid over Ohio based MedCorp's competing \$500,000 bid. Rural/Metro's experience, capacity, track record and understanding were cited by officials. Twin City Ambulance, which had provided joint coverage with Rural/Metro for the past eight years, dropped out of the competition in December.

GREATER BALDWINVILLE VAC, Onondaga County, had one of its ambulances involved in a serious collision on 10/12/05 in Clay, NY. The ambulance, with a crew of four, was transporting a patient with an anaphylactic reaction. It was apparently stopped at an intersection with lights and siren on when struck by a minivan, spinning it around and flipping it on its side. All five on the ambulance were transported by other ambulances to St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center while the driver and 10 year old girl from the minivan were taken to SUNY University Hospital. All injuries were reported to be minor. The minivan driver was ticketed for failing to slow down at an intersection.

HORNELL FIRE DEPARTMENT, Steuben County, is trying to move away from the industry standard Ford chassis because of a bad history of wheel bearing problems as well as looking for a better ride. On Tuesday 8/9/05 the city opened bids for a new Type III ambulance and officials were disappointed that there were only two bids - one \$20,000 over budget for a Ford and the other for a Chevy demonstrator with several thousand miles. Both bids were rejected by the Board of Public Safety and the matter was referred to the city attorney for advice on how next to proceed.

MERCY FLIGHT CENTRAL has received a \$1.5 million matching funds pledge from Thomas Golisano, founder of Paychex, Inc. and 3 time losing candidate for the NYS governorship to help it purchase a new helicopter. Prompted by the donation as well as two other anonymous donations of \$250,000 each, Mercy Flight Central has ordered a \$3.9 million Eurocenter EC-135 air ambulance. It is larger than the company's other craft and can carry more equipment and personnel. Delivery is expected about August 2006.

SILVER CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT, Chautauqua County, changed the tone of its new fire siren that sounds for ambulance calls after receiving complaints from residents. The Fire Chief told the Village Board in July that there were six tones with the new siren and they thought they picked the best two but it will be changed to a more traditional sound. The department provides a BLS level ambulance service running about 100 ambulance calls for every fire call.

SOUTH LINE FIRE DISTRICT, Cheektowaga, Erie County filed a Municipal Certificate of Need application to operate an ambulance service. It previously provided BLS level First Responder service.

SOUTH SENECA COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS, Ovid, Seneca County was assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000 by the NYS Department of Health for violations of:

(Continued on page 15)

Bits from Around the State (Continued from page 14)

Part 800.21 (j): make available for inspection, with or without notice, to representatives of the department all vehicles, materials, equipment, personnel records, procedures, and facilities.

Part 800.21 (q)(5): upon discovery by or report to the governing authority of the ambulance service, report to the Department's Area Office by telephone no later than the following business day and in writing within 5 working days every instance in which... it is alleged that any member of the ambulance service has responded to an incident or treated a patient while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Part 800.21 (p): have and enforce written policies.

District 12

BETHPAGE VFD, Nassau County, saw its Chief of Department arrested on 7/20 and charged with two felonies - 2nd degree Grand Larceny and Defrauding the Government of about \$250,000 in tax free disability benefits. Newsday reports that in 2/03 he claimed he was disabled as a \$100,000 a year Suffolk County Police Officer due to a wrist injury and couldn't even sit behind a desk in a precinct to take phone calls but continued his long standing relationship with the VFD, responding to hundreds of calls and drills, able to gear up in heavy equipment and fight blazes. The paper reports he became Chief in 2/05 and drove the department's SUV to calls but a relative said his wife chauffeured him everywhere. A neighbor said the Chief's right arm is badly injured and had required several surgeries but didn't know he had continued being a firefighter. BFD is one of the larger departments on Long Island and operates 3 ALS ambulances out of 3 stations, 1 spare ALS ambulance and an EMS fly car.

HEWLETT VFD, Nassau County, was involved in a serious ambulance accident Monday evening 11/21/05 while transporting a critical patient to a hospital. With lights and siren in use, their ambulance was crossing a 6 lane major intersection against a red light. 5 lanes stopped but the last one didn't - the driver said he couldn't see them. Injuries totaled six: the driver of the car, the ambulance driver, the original patient, the two person crew in the patient compartment and a front seat passenger - a family member of the patient who had to be extricated from the ambulance. Hewlett is operating with a spare ambulance loaned by Woodmere VFD.

Districts 7 & 12:

LONG ISLAND Medivac cooperation was announced at a news conference earlier this year by the County Executives of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The two jurisdictions will work together to ensure helicopter Medivac service was available when needed. Recently Suffolk saw all three of its police helicopters out of service for mechanical reasons and sought help from the NYS Police. There is conflicting information on what assistance Nassau County PD provided at the time. Suffolk has two copters back in service operating from Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach and MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma with a new one on the way. The new mutual aid agreement makes it more likely that either county would receive more reliable backup should a similar situation arise. Each county will charge the other for responses on a cost-per-flight basis.

MADISON VFD'S EMS AMBULANCE SQUAD. Madison County, was recently approved to carry EPI-PENS. They ordered a supply, got the pens the next day, trained everyone and put the pens on their ambulance the following morning. That day there was a village festival and a couple of hours after being in service one of the BLS crews actually used one of the pens on a patient with acute anaphy-

laxis.

District 16

NORTH GREECE FIRE DISTRICT, Rochester, Monroe County filed a Municipal Certificate of Need application to operate an ambulance service. It previously provided BLS level First Responder service.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, Monroe County, Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) on the River Campus and university security simulated a mass casualty incident on Saturday 10/29/05 at the Sigma Chi fraternity house. The drill allowed emergency responders to hone their response and treatment skills. "The first drill occurred last year at the same time and security was so pleased they wanted to make it an annual event and get us involved in a larger scale drill" MERT Director of Operations and senior Joshua Brown said. MERT is NYS certified as a BLS level non-transporting First Responder service.

District 20/Region 2

CEDARVILLE AMBULANCE, Herkimer County, has been approved to take over the AEMT-P Ambulance Operating Certificate of the Columbia-Litchfield Fire District.

ESSEX COUNTY held a groundbreaking on June 20, 2005 for a new Public Safety Building to house the county 911 Center as well as Sheriff's Department, County Jail and New York State Police. Expected completion is in the Fall of 2006. The E911 Center will include countywide dispatching along with New York State Police Troop B Communications Headquarters and NYSP regional dispatching center. The county is reported to be also in the process of purchasing a new VHF-High Motorola digital trunked radio system as part of an upgrade to the Sheriff's office & county dispatch center.

NEWCOMB VFD, Essex County, saw its former treasurer sentenced in July to three to nine years in prison and required to pay full restitution for stealing \$230,000. A bank teller spotted that the treasurer often deposited into his own account the same amount he took out of the VFD account. There had been more than 100 individual thefts from May 2000 to March 2004. News reports indicate the treasurer pled guilty explaining that he had lost a job and retirement income and but had every intention of paying back the funds. The town gives the VFD \$100,000 a year for fire protection and a BLS level ambulance service.

MAINE EMERGENCY SQUAD, Broome County, has received a USDA Rural Development Grant and low interest loan to enable it to build its own facility. The squad currently uses space in the town garage and at East Maine VFD for its meetings, two ambulances and first response vehicle. The new Maine EMS building will be on Ames Road between Route 28 and Nanticoke and will incorporate a community center and training area.

MIDSTATE REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL serving Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties has moved to 2521 Sunset Avenue, Utica, NY 13502. The new location includes 3 large remodeled classrooms, equipment storage areas and renovated offices. MIDSTATE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REMAC) removed manual defibrillation from its regional AEMT-Intermediate Protocol. Intermediate Providers in the region can only use AED's when defibrillation is required.

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Bits from Around the State (Continued from page 15)

ONEIDA COUNTY In June has enacted a property tax credit for volunteer emergency service providers of up to 10% of a house's assessed value up to \$3,000 multiplied by the equalization rate for the community. An average volunteer who owns their own home would see a benefit of about \$25.00 at a cost to the county of about \$60,000 to cover 2,400 volunteers. To qualify for the credit, volunteers must have been members of their department for at least five years. If also adopted by the Oneida County's villages, towns and special tax districts there could be additional tax savings for EMS and fire volunteers.

OSWEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT, Oswego County, is sending its municipal ambulances on transports as far away as Worcester, MA and Buffalo. The transport service was renewed in September 2005 after a 20 year hiatus as a fund raising measure and is available to patients in the city of Oswego and nearby towns of Oswego, Minetto and Scriba. The city generated about \$10,000 in billings in the first two weeks mostly on transports to Syracuse hospitals. It has hopes of grossing \$500,000 to \$600,000 a year on transports billed at up to \$900 per run. Existing EMS fees may also be raised to bring in another \$600,000. OFD operates two ambulances at the ALS level with over 60 cross trained fire/EMS personnel.

OTSEGO COUNTY emergency service agencies held a full scale MCI drill Saturday 6/2/05 in Cherry Valley. The scenario involved a school bus carrying 12 children and a driver with 5 critical injuries and 8 lesser injured. There was a simulated chemical substance spill bringing out the HAZMAT team. Fire and emergency squads from Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Middlefield and Springfield responded as well as Otsego County Sheriff's office, Homeland Security, Red Cross and RACES amateur radio. Basset Hospital participated in receiving the simulated patients. The Cooperstown Town Crier newspaper reports the event was well handled with only one incident—a Cherry valley ambulance had a small fire but was back in service that night.

SARATOGA COUNTY has placed a new \$258,000, 38 foot long mobile command post in service. Instead of searching for space at the closest firehouse, hunting club or other fixed location, county police, fire, EMS and emergency management officials will be able to operate closer to the actual scene.

SARATOGA COUNTY's emergency communications system needs improvement but a plan for a new system with three towers along Great Sacandaga Lake in Adirondack Park continues to be held up by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) that wants more study on alternatives such as satellites, telephone systems or another configuration for the tower system. Recent problems have included the county system being down for two hours due to a defective portable radio in an ambulance at Saratoga Hospital, inability to contact Clifton Park-Halfmoon Emergency Squad in its station and not uncommon occurrences of fire and ambulance companies within sight of the radio tower in Halfmoon being unable to pick up a signal. Over the past seven years \$1 million has been spent on legal and engineering work but four years of APA reviews have stalled the beginning of construction. Meanwhile, with engineering reports showing why some to the APA's proposal would not work, the county has been resistant to fire and ambulance squad requests to get something done even if it only covers the southern part of the county. On 8/16/05 the County Board of Supervisors approved another

\$100,000 to continue its efforts to battle the APA but there was also an announcement from the Public Safety Committee that they would pursue a way to provide improved radio coverage to areas outside the park where there have been breakdowns in emergency communications.

UTICA FIRE DEPARTMENT, Oneida County, began providing municipal ambulance transport on Monday 8/1/05. The city purchased three new Type III ambulances for \$322,000 and hopes to make an estimated profit of \$345,000 over the next year. The fire department had provided an EMS first responder service for decades with family owned Kunkle Ambulance Service doing the transporting. Kunkle's eight ambulances will still be available for 911 callers who specifically request them and for other 911 calls when the fire department's ambulances are unavailable for whatever reason. The department will continue sending fire apparatus as first responders on all EMS calls.

VARIN'S AMBULANCE SERVICE, Clinton County, was cleared in the death of a patient who jumped from the back of a moving ambulance and died. Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake was cited by the NYS DOH for failing to follow procedures and not doing enough to ensure the patient would be safe. The 28 year old female patient from Gansevoort was brought to the hospital after trying to jump off a bridge in Lake Placid. She then tried to kill herself twice in the hospital before being placed in the ambulance. As she was being transferred to Glens Falls Hospital she leapt out of the ambulance as it drove through Ray Brook. A hospital representative issued a statement indicating it has submitted a corrective plan to the state and has made several procedural changes in response to the incident.

District 30/Region 3

ALBANY FD mistakenly tore apart the wrong 2002 Dodge Caravan minivan in an extrication drill and the city is out 1/2 of the \$12,000 replacement cost. The exercise took place in 2004 at a junkyard but the car in question was there for repairs and not the one they were supposed to practice on which was in another part of the facility. The junkyard was responsible for the other 50% of the car's value.

ALBANY MED FLIGHT has acquired a new Eurocopter model EC135 to replace a 21 year old unit. The EC135 features a unique bearingless main rotor, unequal blade spacing and innovative low noise Fenestron tail rotor system which makes for outstanding maneuverability as well as an exceptionally smooth and quiet ride. The new state-of-the-art aircraft will carry seriously ill or injured patients from northeastern NY to Albany Med's ER, the only Level 1 trauma center in the region. Albany med Flight was started in 1996 and averages 600 patient transports a year.

CATO-IRA-MERIDIAN VAC, Cayuga County, will be moving to its own quarters in a newly constructed building on Route 370 in Cato. Since being spun off from the fire department in 1999 as an independent organization, it continued to rent space from the VFD. The move will benefit both organizations allowing them more space. Groundbreaking took place 9/11/05 and included a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/01.

COLUMBIA COUNTY has settled on a countywide Resource Allocation Plan that calls for ALS level squads in Chatham, Copake,
(Continued on page 19)

Industry News

AMERICAN EMERGENCY VEHICLES (AEV), Jefferson, NC has delivered to the AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE (AMR) operation in Evansville, IL a new state-of-the art Type II Ford van ambulance incorporating safety features designed to minimize injuries and save the lives of the crew in case of an accident. Features include: dual NASCAR style crew chief's seats in back with four point harness, running board lights under the front doors to illuminate the ground, rubber coating over the diamond plate flooring, a full-size child seat, privacy screening on the back windows, ring of lights on the ambulance that flash when a patient is on board, "black box" system with audible alerts to monitor and record driver performance, seat belt usage monitoring system, collision avoidance system, GPS location tracking system, LED emergency lights, rear motorist eye level amber

American Medical Response (AMR) Offers Stock to the Public. AMR's parent company began trading on the New York Stock Exchange on Friday 12/16/05 with an Initial Public Offering (IPO) of 8.1 million of its Class A stock at \$14.00 a share, down from an expected initial offering in the \$15.00 to \$17.00 range. The stock closed the same day at \$13.10. AMR was recently sold by Laidlaw International, Inc. to Onex Partners LP, an affiliate of Onex Corporation for \$820 million. Onex is a Canadian investment company with interests in electronics manufacturing, customer management services, automotive products manufacturing, entertainment and theater exhibition. AMR and another company called EMCARE, a supplier of contract emergency department personnel, were subsequently brought together under a company called EMS L.P. (Emergency Medical Services Limited Partners) and are listed on the NYSE under the ticker of "EMS".

EMS reported net revenue rose 10% to \$1.2 billion in the eight months that ended in September, compared to the same period in 2004. Net income declined 42% to \$14 million as interest expense nearly quadrupled due to the purchase from Laidlaw. \$100 million from the public stock

McCoy-Miller Ambulance was acquired in May by an affiliate of Marque Ambulance in conjunction with a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing by McCoy-Miller's parent company. Marque, located in Goshen, IN indicated it intends to run McCoy-Miller, located 10 miles away in Elkhart, IN, as an independent operation while they evaluate consolidation. 98% of the employees have been retained and company officials are projecting production of 600 to 650 ambu-

COLLINS INDUSTRIES, parent company of Wheeled Coach, was for a time delisted by the NASDAQ Stock Market and appealed the NASDAQ decision. Its ticker symbol was recently changed to COLL. Newsday also reported that there have been filing delays and questions over financial statements for 2002, 2003 and 2004 and these would be restated to increase income. This may also increase tax

LED flashing caution lights and a patient compartment video monitoring system to record compliance with safety procedures. The usual sharp corners have been rounded, cabinetry reconfigured, hit points recessed, padding improved on interior surfaces and dual patient compartment switch panels installed at both rear seat positions. AMR is also requiring personnel on the ambulance to wear helmets as almost all EMS personnel killed in accidents have died of head injuries. Cutting edge safety does not come cheap and the \$150,000 cost of the rig is about double what a similar vehicle would cost. For more information and pictures go to the web site at www.amr.net/news/releases/2005/06022005.asp

offering will be used to pay down some of the debt. A complication to the stock offering was a threat by AMR's 2,500 employees in northern California to strike to get the company to sign off on a new labor contract. Those employees recently ousted the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics replacing it with the National Emergency Medical Services Association as their union. The issue appears to be an effort to continue the current contract without reducing health care, wages and working conditions provisions. A strike in one important region such as northern California could seriously threaten the company.

AMR, based in Denver, CO, has over 17,000 employees nationwide serving over 250 communities. There are several operations in New York State including a large one in Brooklyn. The NYS DOH had sent a letter to AMR reminding the company that any transfer of Ambulance Operating Certificates must first go through Regional EMS Councils and DOH for approval. AMR has now completed that process.

lances in the next year with 20% going to export markets. In 2002 a large contract for 400 McCoy-Miller ambulances was cancelled by FDNY. 80 per year were to be delivered for five years but only 18 of the first 80 produced in 2001/2002 on 2002 Ford F-350 chassis entered service with the remainder left in manufacturer or dealer hands. FDNY subsequently ordered Horton ambulances.

liabilities. In March the Executive VP for Operations and the VP of Finance/Chief Financial Officer/Secretary retired. On August 3, 2005 KPMG, LLP resigned as the company's auditors. Collins Industries is a leading manufacturer of ambulances, small school busses, construction and industrial equipment with 900 employees in six plants.

Terrorism Response Field Guide Sent to Squads

As part of its efforts to provide materials useful to EMS agencies in training for disaster preparedness, the department mailed to all squads in the state a Terrorism Re-

sponse: Field Guide for Fire and EMS Organizations by Paul M. Maniscalco and Hank T. Christian.

Disciplinary Evidence Needed Against EMS Providers Changed

Two NYS Department of Health appeals rulings issued in a recent disciplinary proceeding against a paramedic could significantly affect how certified providers are disciplined.

In the first ruling, DOH adopted a "preponderant evidence" standard of proof for all disciplinary proceedings. This effectively brings EMS providers in line with nearly every other certified profession in NY. Previously, "substantial evidence" alone would have carried a Bureau of EMS disciplinary case.

In the second ruling, DOH defined incompetence as "the lack of the skill or knowledge necessary to practice the profession." During the hearings, the Bureau of EMS argued that mere failure to comply with applicable protocols should

be sufficient to establish incompetence. This second ruling also brings EMS in line with the prevailing standard in other medical professional disciplinary matters.

As a result of these two rulings, the Bureau must now be more certain about its proof before leveling incompetence charges against certified providers. The appeals ruling in this particular proceeding (In re Tebano) was complete exoneration. Attorney Daniel Seidberg of Syracuse represented Ms. Tebano and attorney Paul Gillan of Albany represented her employer, Clifton Park & Halfmoon Emergency Corps.

Protective Equipment Weighting Down Police

Police in some jurisdictions on high threat posts such as the US Capitol in Washington, DC have been issued 40 pound multi pocket black nylon mesh "Level B Vests". A one-time-use escape hood with special filters is attached to the side and a chemical-biological hazard suit is sealed up in the back of the vest along with gloves and rubber boots. Add this to bullet proof vests, gun & holster, flashlight, cuffs,

citation book, etc. and one has to wonder if the officer on the post can effectively respond towards the end of a shift.

EMS effect – after a police incident, chase, etc. look for officers who may be in distress from heat or exertion. It could come to the point where a rehab area may have to be set up to treat officers in distress similar to what is done for firefighters who need to cool down after fighting a fire.

Secret Service (& Others) Jamming Cell & Radio Communications?

An on-line scanner newsletter (www.nydxa.org) is reporting that the US Secret Service may be using Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) to create a "security bubble" and prevent cellular phones and 2-way radios from being used for illegal or terrorist purposes at high profile events. Common devices such as cell phones and garage door openers have been employed to trigger explosive devices planted in buildings or along roadsides. The newsletter indicates interference was reported in the vicinity of the 2004 Democratic & Republican conventions in Boston and New York and during the 2005 Presidential Inauguration in Washington. In NYC during August there were several reports of unmarked vehicles with unusual antenna arrays operating in motorcades. News organizations' wireless microphones, cordless ear pieces (IBFs) and radios were useless at times and AT&T, Verizon, NEXTEL, Skytel Sky Paging, Cingular, T-Mobile, Blackberry and other wireless providers were affected. Some cell phone calls got through but either because of jamming or cell site overload this seemed to be the exception.

Another source of cell phone interference, however, may be jamming devices sold to the general public mainly over

the internet. The jammers are the size of a normal cell phone and are available from several hundred to over a thousand dollars. They have a range of from 50 to 200 feet and are used to cut off what some consider inconsiderate and annoying behavior. The devices are illegal to buy, sell, use, import or advertise in the USA and a violation carries a fine up to \$11,000 and/or a year in jail but there is not yet a single documented conviction. "Spy shops" in NYC have sold them to people who use them on busses, the LIRR, in theaters and at restaurants and malls. Auto auctions may have used them to cut off people trying to rig bids. There is also suspicion that hotels/motels may use them to boost in-room phone charges. Businesses may also employ the devices to prevent corporate espionage.

Emergency service responders around the state should be aware of the potential for disruption of normal communications during disasters, blackouts, major high profile events or presidential visits and ensure that there are reliable backup systems in place.



State EMS Council (Continued from page 16)

Greenport and Valatie as well as Northern Dutchess Paramedics which took over the territory of Southern Columbia, to take turns providing an additional ambulance and paramedic crew, termed a "cover crew", five days a week to answer calls where needed anywhere in the county. Each squad providing a cover crew will be reimbursed at the rate of \$35.00 per hour for a 10 hour day from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The estimated yearly cost to the county is \$91,000. To implement the plan, Columbia County will apply to the NYS Department of Health for a certificate of need to allow the county to move ambulances between squad districts. In the past there was opposition to this point as it was feared by some that the county would start it's own ambulance service.

ELLENVILLE HOSPITAL, Ulster County, applied for status as a medical control facility and was approved pending a final site visit. There was a delay in meeting regional communications and EKG receiving requirements. Additionally, there are now issues with the hospital not staffing its Emergency Department continuously with a physician as it not acceptable to the NYS DOH for nurse practitioners to give direct medical control orders to EMS personnel. The hospital, therefore, is not currently recognized as regional medical control hospital.

JOHNSONVILLE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE, Rensselaer County, continued in the rural fund raising tradition with its 43rd annual ham dinner on Saturday, Sept. 24. The dinner was held at its headquarters, 4 River Road from 3 to 6 PM with take-out dinners available. The cost was \$10 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 to 12.

SIDNEY EMERGENCY SQUAD, Delaware County, saw its captain resign for a short period effective July 12, 2005 after The Hospital in Sidney announced it was closing its emergency department due to a lack of arrangements for pharmacy and ER physician services. He indicated as a local small business owner he could no longer be available to handle calls that would take patients to other hospitals and take over two hours on average to complete. The Hospital shut its maternity ward in March and its operating room on 7/5/05 but intends to continue to operate its clinic and primary care services. Local emergency squads were asked to provide coverage at the facility for the first 48 hours after the ER closure in case someone came in with a severe health problem that the clinic could not handle. The captain's resignation was rescinded within days. The squad has 8 members with drivers available from the fire department. For the foreseeable future, patients in Sidney will be going to A. O. Fox Hospital in Oneonta or Chenango Memorial in Norwich which are 15 to 20 minutes away.

SUNY ULSTER's paramedic program has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The college also offers degrees and certificates in emergency management, nursing, police basic training and basic EMT.

New Jersey:

GLEN ROCK VAC from New Jersey felt a little put off by big city EMS when they sought assistance after delivering a patient to NYU on Sunday evening 10/9/05. When they returned to their ambulance it would not start. On asking several FDNY units as well as a crew from NYU for help they felt they got answers that were rude and unprofessional. The incident was referred to our liaison at FDNY who replied "I'm sorry they were treated rudely. FDNY units

are not authorized to assist in vehicle maintenance with other ambulance providers. Also, we use plug in cables that are not compatible with a.I. However, that should not have precluded them from seeking the assistance of a supervisor to see if something could be done to help out".

Vermont

FLETCHER ALLEN COORDINATED TRANSPORT (FACT), Burlington, VT was turned down by North Country REMSCO in its request start an ambulance service based at Alice Hyde Hospital in Malone, NY with authority to serve Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties. FACT would have transported patients from hospitals in those counties to the regional tertiary care facility at Fletcher Allen Hospital in Vermont. The vote at the 6/5/05 REMSCO meeting was 16-No, 0-Yes and 2-abstentions. An appeal has been filed with the DOH and an Administrative Law Judge has been assigned to the case and a decision is expected in about 45 days.

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The Association is on the Web! You can find us at: www.NYSVARA.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2006 NYC VOLUNTEER EMS RECOGNITION DINNER, Tuesday May 16, 2006 at Russo's On-The-Bay, Howard Beach, Queens. For information/reservations contact Martin Grillo at info@emrny.com.

FIRE 2006, the 100th annual conference of the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs, Thursday to Saturday, 6/15-6/17 2006 in Lake George, NY. For info go to www.nysfirechiefs.com

PULSE CHECK 2006, the 51st Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday 8/24/06 to Sunday morning 8/27/06 at the Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, Ulster County, NY - only 90 minutes from NYC. Event features seminars, exhibits, statewide EMT CFR team skills drill and ambulance drill competitions, memorial service and awards dinner. Information will be available soon at www.nysvara.org on: conference registration, room reservations, preliminary list of seminars, Drill application, trophy donations, golf outing and Journal ads. There will also be information on the web site about nominations for the Association's annual awards and scholarships. If more information is needed call (877) NYS-VARA or e-mail pulsecheck@nysvara.org

NY FIRE CHIEFS ISLAND CONFERENCE & EXPO, Saturday & Sunday, 9/23-9/24, 2006 at Hofstra University, Hempstead, Long Island will feature displays of industry manufacturers, and local distributors including apparatus, gear, tools, equipment and collectibles as well as product demonstrations. For info go to www.nysfirechiefs.com

Rye Playland EMS in Westchester County is hiring EMTs for the 2006 Summer Season (May – September). Patrol areas include the amusement park, beach, pool and camp. Spot interviews will be held at the Westchester County Center, White Plains, from 9AM to 2PM on Saturday, March 11, Saturday, April 8 and Saturday, May 20. Online applications available at: <http://www.ryeplayland.org/Jobs/default.htm>. For more information contact: Bill Wiegelman, Captain at Playland EMS. Phone (914) 755-4591 and e-mail: waw2@westchestergov.com. Typical Schedule: 4 or 5 day workweek, approximately 32 - 40 hours. Hours of Operation will vary according to the position - 6:00 AM – 12:00 Midnight

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