



# THE BLANKET

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

I want to thank Henry Ehrhardt, Helen Fries, Lou Deutsch, Joe DiBenedetto and all the members of the WTC Claims/Program Advisory Committee of the NYSVA&RA, NYC Region/Districts 4 & 18 Community EMS Fund for all their hard work in processing claims by squads in New York City who suffered losses of vehicles and equipment on September 11. The Fund continues to work on issues that will assist volunteer EMS in NYC and statewide.

I was contacted by an editor at JEMS Magazine and attended a meeting in May to assist in the planning of the EMS Today Conference for 2003 that will be held in Philadelphia, PA on March 18 to 22. The meeting went extremely well and as a result I have been asked to represent the Association together with the President of the New Jersey State First Aid Council and the EMS Director from Vermont to be on a panel to discuss issues that relate to volunteer EMS. This will be a great opportunity to bring national attention to our Association as well as share ideas and spotlight issues that affect volunteer EMS.

We continue to have dialogues with our colleagues in the State fire organizations, United New York Ambulance Network and our government officials in Albany to insure that issues that affect volunteer EMS in New York State are addressed. Along with Roy and Kuntree Sweet, I attended the NYS Association of Fire Chief's Conference in Syracuse. The Conference gave us an opportunity to speak to vendors and meet many people from across the state. It also gave us an opportunity to meet with the new Chief's Executive Director and other members of the Executive Board. We have enjoyed an excellent relationship with this organization in the past and have jointly worked on several issues. The meetings served to renew and reconfirm the relationship.

On the financial side, our Treasurer Jean Gourley reports we have been doing a fairly good job at keeping expenses down and actual expenses have declined considerably since 1998-2000.

I want to thank everyone for the time, effort and dedication that you give to our Association. We continue to be the voice of volunteer EMS in New York.

Be safe.

Mike



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

### THE BLANKET

The Quarterly Newsletter  
 of the NYS Volunteer  
 Ambulance  
 & Rescue Association

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## Pulse Check 2002

The 47th Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday September 26th through Sunday September 29th at the Roaring Brook Resort & Conference Center, Lake George, NY.

A registration packet has been mailed out. Conference registrations are to be returned to

Pulse Check 2002 Registrations,  
c/o Henry Frick  
P.O. Box 1062  
Tannersville, NY 12485

Room reservations are to be mailed or FAXed on the form provided directly to Roaring Brook. Information on the resort is online at [www.roaringbrookranch.com](http://www.roaringbrookranch.com). If you need conference registration and/or room reservation forms call (877) NYSVARA or e-mail [PulseCheck2000@aol.com](mailto:PulseCheck2000@aol.com).

Squad patches are still being accepted for hand-made quilt(s) and raffle tickets are being sold. We are looking to get District sponsors and bottles for the basket of cheer for the Hospitality Room. Chinese Auction items are needed. Journal ads are encouraged.

*Tentative Seminar Topics* are Search and Rescue Table Top Exercise, NYS Defensive Driving, Basic Training in CISM, MCI Incident Command Table Top Exercise, Abuse, QA/QI Documentation and more to be announced.

*Trade Show Exhibit Hours* will be:

Friday 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Closed for lunch 12 to 1 & dinner 6 to 7

### Golf Outing

The 4th Annual Golf Outing to benefit the Association will be on Thursday September 26, starting at 10:00 AM at the Brookhaven CC in Corinth, NY. Greens fees, cart, food on the turn, refreshments and cocktail hour costs \$75.00 per player. Sponsorships are welcome. To register or for more information contact:

Mandy Squillini  
78 Trailer Park  
Pomona, NY 10970  
e-mail [Medictaz5@aol.com](mailto:Medictaz5@aol.com)  
or call (877) NYSVARA

### EMS Drills

The drills will be held outside and the two drill times will be swapped. The ambulance drill will be on Friday night and the EMT and CFR and drills will be on Saturday morning. Judges' meetings will be held at meal times, with drills to start immediately after.

The Association is seeking donations toward the purchase of trophies to be awarded to participants of the State EMS Championships. This is an excellent way to commemorate an event or remember a past member or loved one. If you, your agency or someone you know would like to donate a trophy or trophies, please contact Kuntée Sweet.

Trophy Place-Designation Amount

Novice-First Responder Drill \$75.00

3rd Place-First Responder Drill \$100.00

2nd Place-First Responder Drill \$125.00

1st Place-First Responder Drill \$150.00

1st Place-First Responder Drill 6 Oscar Trophies \$175.00

Novice-Ambulance Drill \$75.00

3rd Place-Ambulance Drill \$100.00

2nd Place-Ambulance Drill \$125.00

1st Place-Ambulance Drill \$150.00

1st Place-Ambulance Drill 5 Oscar Trophies \$175.00

Novice-EMT Drill \$75.00

3rd Place-EMT Drill \$100.00

2nd Place-EMT Drill \$125.00

1st Place-EMT Drill \$150.00

1st Place-EMT Drill 5 Oscar Trophies \$175.00

1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 1-EMT Drill \$200.00

1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 2-EMT Drill \$200.00

1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 1-First Responders

\$200.00

1st, 2nd, 3rd Places for Problem 2-First responders

\$200.00

### Journals

A Souvenir Ad Journal will be published to acknowledge the supporters of the Conference and the Association.

Please add your support: \$140 Full Page, \$75 Half Page, \$40 Quarter Page, \$25 Business Card and \$5 Booster.

For information call (877) NYSVARA or (518) 883-4192 or e-mail [pulsecheck2000@aol.com](mailto:pulsecheck2000@aol.com).

### Direct Mail Fundraising Emergency Services Trading Cards

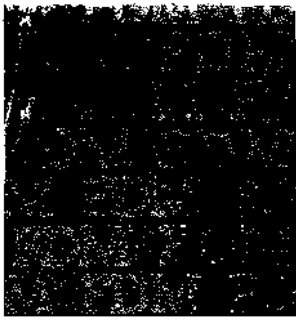
## Floyd Day

### Office

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800-318-6571  
[www.funddrive.com](http://www.funddrive.com)

### Home

1-570-325-3944  
1-570-325-5490-fax  
[fday@funddrive.com](mailto:fday@funddrive.com)



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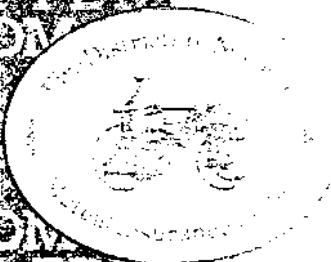
FDM was founded in 1978 by a group of fire districts, in reaction to dissatisfaction with the State Insurance Fund. For 20 years, our mission has been to provide benevolent claim service — the maximum benefits allowable under New York State VFBL and VAWBL laws — to injured volunteer firefighters and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



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## 2002-03 New York State Budget to Include Funding to Boost Recruitment of Volunteer Emergency Personnel - Plan Provides College Tuition For Active Volunteers



Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, Senator Kenneth P. LaValle and members of the Senate Majority announced on May 16, 2002 that the 2002-2003 budget will include \$2 million in funding for the Volunteer Recruitment Service Scholarship Program to boost the ranks of firefighter and ambulance volunteers by offering free college tuition. "On September 11th we saw the critical importance of having courageous, well-trained firefighters ready to save lives," Senator Bruno said. "That goes not only for big cities, but towns all over the state who need volunteers for fire companies and emergency service corps to protect the public and ably respond to emergencies. I am pleased that this year's budget includes an attractive financial incentive to ensure a steady supply of volunteers are available when a call for help comes in." "Volunteer firefighters, ambulance workers, and emergency medical personnel put their lives at risk on a daily basis to provide an invaluable service to our communities," said Senator Kenneth LaValle (R-C, Port Jefferson). "The promise of a college education is a proven incentive and appropriate reward for those members of our community who donate their time and talent for the protection and safety of others as well as an excellent way to show support of their efforts and personal goals." The budget would provide \$2 million to pay up to the level of SUNY college tuition -- up to \$3,400 a year that could be used at any public or independent degree granting college or institution in New York approved by the regents. The tuition benefit shall be effective starting the Fall semester following enactment of the bill. It is estimated that up to 500 volunteers could benefit each year under the program.

### Eligibility requirements:

- applications must be postmarked by August 9th
- must continue to be active in the fire or ambulance company while attending school
- must attend a college within 50 miles of their fire company or emergency company
- may attend full time or part time
- must maintain at least a "C" average
- volunteer must be a New York State resident
- any volunteer without a baccalaureate degree or higher is eligible
- awards will be certified each semester or quarter by the Higher Education Services Corporation who will account for any other student financial aid support such as TAP before providing tuition assistance

Nationally, the number of volunteer firefighters has declined 10 percent over the past 20 years, while the num-

ber of calls to volunteer fire companies rose 50 percent or more. In New York State, the number of volunteers has dropped by at least 11,000 over the past three to five years, to 109,000, according to Jim Williams, President of the Fire Association of the State of New York, a coalition of 2,000 volunteer fire and emergency service companies across the state. A similar free tuition program was enacted in 1996 to help fill vacancies in the state's National Guard ranks. That program has benefited over 2,000 Guardsmen a year.





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Sales Consultant

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## Drills

There will be two drills in August:

- \* Sunday, August 11 at Hecksher State Park in Suffolk County, Long Island. Evaluator's meeting at 10am, Captain's meeting at 11:30. The competition will start about noon.  
Contact Jerry Wright (631)669-0186.
- \* Sunday, August 24 at Hecksher State Park with the same times as above.  
Contact Pat Flanagan (631)581-2785.

## Legislative Committee Update

### 2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – HIGHLIGHTS

**Volunteer Recruitment Services Scholarship** – The state budget includes \$2,000,000.00 in funding for a Volunteer Recruitment Services Scholarship to help boost the ranks of volunteer fire departments and ambulance services. The program is administered by the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation.

**Tree of Life EMS Line of Duty Memorial** – Funding was included in the state budget to establish a "Tree of Life" EMS Line of Duty Death Memorial on the grounds of the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

**Real Property Tax Abatement For Volunteer Emergency Providers** – State legislation was passed to allow additional counties ( Suffolk, Nassau, Erie, Dutchess, Otsego, Steuben,

Putnam, Wyoming) to offer a real property tax abatement of up to 10 percent for eligible volunteer emergency services providers.

**AEDs Required in NYS Public Schools** – Public school facilities in NYS are required to have on site in each instructional facility

functional defibrillator(s) in quantities and types deemed by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of Health to be adequate to ensure ready and appropriate access during emergencies. In addition, whenever public school facilities are used for school sponsored or school approved curricular or extra curricular events or activities and whenever a school sponsored athletic contest is held at any location school officials shall ensure that AED equipment is on site. Facilities and providers covered by the law are considered Public Access Providers.

**Legislative Committee**  
Howard Callman, Chair

## Emergency Department Overcrowding and Diversions Prompt Letter From DOH Commissioner

Dr. Antonia C. Novello, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health, issued a letter on 4/8/02 to the Chief Executive Officers of all hospitals in the state. It emphasized that ERs must remain open to ambulances and must maintain the capacity to accept new emergency patients. Guidelines included points addressing overcrowding, emergency preparedness, hospital obligations and responsibilities including:

- During peak periods of overcrowding, as a temporary

emergency measure, the use of beds in solariums and hallways near nursing stations should be considered.

- Ambulance diversion is an emergency response to overcrowding that is to be used sparingly and only upon direction of a hospital's key administrative staff.

- Ambulances and EMS personnel should not be detained in the emergency department and should be placed promptly back in service.

## New Updated Emergency Services Infection Control Manual Now Available

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), announced on June 10, 2002 the availability of a new and updated document detailing the most comprehensive and updated infection control programs and practices for local-level fire and emergency medical service (EMS) departments. The updated Guide to Managing an Emergency Services Infection Control Program provides new and expanded information in this area. Since the original publication in 1992, many advances have occurred in the field of infection control. The guide is designed to meet or exceed all applicable Federal laws and regulations and national standards and guidelines at the time of publication. "Infection control, including issues such as Hepatitis C exposure, is an essential health and safety topic for the fire service

today," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "Every fire and emergency services department needs to have a strong infection control program as part of an overall departmental health and safety strategy." Limited quantities of this publication may be ordered free of charge. It is available in printed as well as downloadable format via the Internet. Visit the USFA on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> and click on publications. Departments also can contact USFAs Publications Office at (800) 561-3356 or (301) 447-1189 or FAX your request to (301) 447-1213. Mail orders will also be accepted at the following address: U.S. Fire Administration, Publications, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

## Operational Resource Guide Sent to VACs

As the management of an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agency becomes more complicated, the NYS Department of Health's Bureau of EMS has sent all squads in the state a binder with information to serve as an Operational Resource Guide as a tool to aid in day-to-day management. In addition to valuable resource information, the guide provides squads with the most current versions of:

- Laws applicable to EMS Providers
- Bureau of EMS issued Policy Statements
- Contact information for state & federal agencies
- DOH forms
- Processing and administering controlled substance medications
- Frequently asked questions and fact sheets
- Quality Improvement for NYS Prehospital Care Providers manual
- Sections of the Prehospital Care Provider Student Reference

### Guide

- Communications information
- NYS Basic life Support Protocols
- Recertification through Continuing Medical Education Program
- Reciprocity information

The guide includes many items previously released by the Bureau of EMS but never compiled into a single resource. While the guide is a comprehensive resource, EMS management and policy development are a dynamic process and updates and changes are constantly happening. All updates to the guide will take the form of releases sent to agencies in service mailings as well as postings to the Bureau's web site at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/main.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/main.htm).

## Recently Issued NYS DOH Policy Statements

02-02 05/01/02 CERTIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS: Describes the process for review of criminal convictions for candidates seeking EMS certification. In addition, it describes the responsibilities for the candidate, the certified instructor coordinator (CIC) and the Department.

02-03 05/08/02 INSPECTIONS: To insure compliance with the New York State Public Health Law and the associated Codes, Rules, Regulations and Policy Statements, the Department of Health is authorized to conduct full service inspections/surveys as well as individual vehicle inspections. This authorization is listed under the Powers and Duties of the Department and Commissioner in Section 3011 of the New York State Public Health Law which states: The Department may inquire into the operation of ambulance services and advanced life support first response services and conduct periodic inspections of facilities, communication services, vehicles, methods, procedures, staff and equipment. Policy Statement covers what is reviewed and gives a reference list of other Policy Statements listing items subject to inspection by the Department.

02-04 03/12/02 REQUIRED CPR TESTING: In order to be admitted to the State final practical skills exam students must pass CPR testing based on AHA Guidelines issued in 2000. Educational materials from AHA, Red Cross, National Safety Council or other educational material which meets AHA Guidelines 2000 may be used. Course Sponsors may not waive CPR testing for students that come into a

class with current AHA or ARC CPR cards but must conduct CPR testing during class which includes adult & infant obstructed airway procedures, adult 1 and 2 rescuer CPR plus child & infant CPR.

02-08 07/02/02 USE OF "MARK I KITS" (ATROPEN AUTO-INJECTOR & PRALIDOXIME CHLORIDE INJECTOR): Provides EMS agencies with guidelines on the appropriate use of "Mark I Kits". The kits contain autoinjectors containing antidotes Atropine Sulfate and Pralidoxime Chloride to be used in instances of exposure to a nerve or organophosphate agent. Only those EMS services that are part of the Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (MMRS) located in Buffalo, New York City, Yonkers, Rochester and Syracuse and/or a Municipal Response Plan are authorized to purchase and utilize the specialized equipment and medications needed in WMD incidents including "Mark I Kits". The guidelines for the use of the "Mark I Kits" were developed by the Bio-Terrorism subcommittee of the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC). They were then adopted by the SEMAC as well as the State Emergency Medical Services Council (SEMSCO) to provide guidance to EMS agencies who are a part of the MMRS and/or a Municipal Response Plan.

Full text of all current Policy Statements can be viewed online at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/publaw.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/publaw.htm).

## NYS EMS Council Initiatives

Dr. Arthur Cooper, the newly elected chair of the State EMS Council (SEMAC), has charged several subcommittees with some initiatives for the coming year. It is hoped that reports will be produced that provide specific and explicit advice to the DOH as to how each of the specified tasks can be achieved.

### Education

Develop a plan in collaboration with the Departments of health and Education to increase EMS training programs in high schools and community colleges.

### Evaluation

Develop and implement a plan in collaboration with State Emergency Medical Advisory Council (SEMAC) to review the safety and efficacy of prehospital intubation in NYS.

### Medical Standards

(1) Develop a plan in cooperation with SEMAC and the Department of Health Institutional Board to increase EMS research opportunities.

(2) Develop and implement a plan and statewide protocol in collaboration with the SEMAC for inter-facility transport whether by ground or by air ambulance.

### Systems

(1) Develop a plan in cooperation with the Department of Health Bureau of Hospital Services to enhance the linkages between hospitals and EMS agencies.

(2) Develop and implement a plan in collaboration with SEMAC and the New York Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians to obtain medical directors for volunteer EMS agencies.

## Weapons of Mass Destruction Videos Sent to Squads by NYSDOH

As part of the NYS DOH Bureau of EMS' commitment to provide squads with information regarding response to a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incident, the Bureau has provided two (2) video education programs. WMD and the First Responder and Surviving WMD were produced by the US

Justice Department and provided by the Office of Justice Programs. They were reproduced by the Bureau of EMS and mailed out and should have been received by squads by mid May. It is in the best interest of all EMS providers to become familiar with the information contained in these videos.

## Recently Issued State EMS Council (SEMAC) Advisories

SEMAC Advisories, issued under the authority of Article 30 of the New York State Public Health Law, Section 3002-a (2) and with the Commissioner of Health's approval, are statutorily authorized and approved by the Department as appropriate guidance for pre-hospital patient care. The full text of the below advisories are available online at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/opsguide.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/opsguide.htm)

### 02-01 Effective July 1, 2002 Secondary Confirmation of ETTT

Endotracheal intubation in adult and pediatric patients with severe respiratory failure or arrest can be a vital intervention for the pre-hospital advanced life support provider. However, since failure to detect improper placement of an endotracheal tube can be fatal, utmost care must be taken to ensure proper placement. Advanced life support providers should use both primary and secondary confirmation of endotracheal tube placement to reduce the chance of unrecognized misplacement or dislodgement. Use of a secondary confirmation device is particularly important in the pre-hospital setting and ambulance environment where movement of the patient at the scene and during transport increase the potential for unrecognized dislodgement.

### 02-02 Effective July 1, 2002 AED for Pediatric Patients

The FDA recently cleared the use of one manufacturer's product which lowers the energy level delivered by an AED (50 joules) to be appropriate for children up to 8 yrs./55 lbs. Previously, AEDs were not recommended for use in children 8 yrs and under 55 lbs. The use of the pediatric-modified cable and pad system for children 1-8 years was approved by the Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC) as an optional service for both EMS providers and those participating in the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program. The EMSC Advisory Committee developed a SEMAC Advisory with guidelines for training and appropriate use, along with a provision to monitor its use through data collection and review efforts.

Under development by SEMAC is an advisory on the importance of cervical spine immobilization of children with Down syndrome, even if the trauma sustained is considered to be mild. This is due to the increased prevalence of Atlantoaxial Instability (AAI) in patients with the disorder. This condition puts patients with Down syndrome at increased risk of spinal cord injury.

## 2002 Association Scholarship 2002 Special Awards

Each year at the Annual Meeting and Educational Conference (Pulse Check) up to three \$500 awards are presented to qualifying recipients. To be eligible for one of these cash awards the following criteria must be met:

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

### 2002 Special Awards

Each year at its annual meeting, the Association gives special awards for meritorious acts that are above and beyond the call of duty and recognizes people who have shown leadership or meritorious service in other areas of EMS. The general requirements are:

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

Award period: June 1, 2001 to May 31, 2002

Award nominations due: August 15, 2002

#### **Award categories:**

**Meritorious Award:** The nominee is to have performed an act which is considered dangerous or as being characterized as "at great personal risk".

**Educator of the Year Award:** The nominee must be recognized by the New York State Department of Health as a certified instructor. Through outstanding teaching, publication or research has greatly improved pre-hospital services at the local, county, regional or state level.

**President's Award:** The nominee is to have made an exceptional contribution to EMS activities.

**Leadership Award:** The nominee is to have performed outstanding service to the Association or a member organization of the Association.

6. Applicant MUST be a New York State resident.

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

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

**Civilian Award:** The nominee is to be a non-member of the Association, not ambulance personnel; nor involved in the medical field and is to have performed an act of personal bravery or initiative and capability in the saving of a life.

**Unit Citation:** The nominee is to have performed an act involving an outstanding unit operation dependant upon teamwork and cooperation.

**Youth Squad Award:** The nominee is to have performed outstanding service to their local unit, community or to the Association.

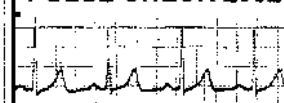
**EMS Person of the Year Award:** awarded from nominees to other categories with the preference given for Meritorious Awards.

**Medical Director of the Year Award:** The nominee, from the medical profession, is to have contributed to the volunteers' knowledge and guidance.

Information for NYSVA&RA Scholarship and 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

#### **PULSE CHECK 2002**



The 47th Annual Educational  
Conference and Trade Show  
September 26 to 29 at  
Roaring Brook Conference Center  
Lake George, New York



## Emergency Responders Flood FEMA's ONP With Advice on First Responder Grants Process

The Federal Emergency Management Office's (FEMA) Office of National Preparedness (ONP) estimates that it has received over 800 responses from the first responder community and others in connection with its request for comment on the proposed First Responder Initiative grants process published in the Federal Register on April 16. FEMA officials say they believe the magnitude of this response is at least twice that of any other the agency has ever received. The notice was published in the Federal Register as part of a preliminary process to enable the agency to implement the grants program quickly if funding is approved by Congress. At this time, the President's request for first responder funds for FEMA in the FY 2002 supplemental and FY 2003 budget are not affected by his recently announced proposal for a new Department of Homeland Security. FEMA and ONP will continue work as the reorganization moves forward and their efforts are folded into the proposed Department. The comments on the first responder grants program came from individual firefighters and fire chiefs, police

officers, search and rescue teams, emergency medical personnel and state and local emergency managers. The agency also heard from cities, towns, counties, fire departments, county sheriff's departments, ambulance services, regional planning agencies, universities, fire rescue training centers, training officers, National Guard members, hazardous materials medical officers, and more than 75 members of a state firefighters association. At least one individual or organization from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia sent in their comments, with the highest number of responses received from California, New York, Texas and Virginia.

The responses to FEMA's first responder initiative are overwhelmingly positive. For more information on the public comments received by FEMA visit: [http://www.nvfc.org/news/hn\\_fema\\_onp.html](http://www.nvfc.org/news/hn_fema_onp.html)

## Federal Funds Available for AEDs in Rural Areas

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) published in the Federal Register a notice of availability of funds (\$12.5 million) for its Rural AED Program. Additional material is on HRSA's website <http://www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/aed.htm>. The deadline for applications is July 15, 2002.

Important information on Grant Program:


Grants will be given to community partnerships to provide for the purchase, placement and training in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and related activities in eligible rural areas.

An applicant must be a multi-county, regional or Statewide consortium of rural community organizations applying as a community partnership. Each community partnership must have a designated lead applicant to apply as the grantee of record and act as a fiscal agent for the partnership. Funding preference will be granted to applications that are Statewide in scope. Additional funding priority will be given to Statewide community partnerships that identify their State Office of Emergency Medical Services as the lead applicant and/or include emergency first response entities (e.g., EMS, law enforcement and fire departments) that are currently operating without AEDs.

In order to qualify as a Statewide community partnership, not every eligible county within a State need apply but must have a State Office as the lead applicant. Selected locations around the State should be identified by the lead applicant to achieve fair geographical, organizational (e.g., first response verses public access placement) and resource allocation. The State Office of Emergency Medical Services is a logical lead applicant to disseminate funding to individual entities within the partnership given their statutory role in medical direction and regulation. Other State Offices eligible to accept these Federal grant funds include the State Office of Rural Health or a division within the Department of Health. The State Office of Rural Health is a valuable resource for consulting in public access AED placement for those areas that lack EMS services, or are located too far away to be of practical benefit to a community. Community partnerships that apply without their State Office of Emergency Medical Services as the lead applicant must work with the State Office of Emergency Medical Services on issues related to medical direction and integration and placement of AEDs into existing EMS systems.

## Security is Everyone's Concern

All emergency services personnel are advised to lock emergency vehicles whenever they are unattended especially at incident scenes and hospitals. Promptly report any unusual or suspicious interest in emergency operations or response procedures to proper authorities.



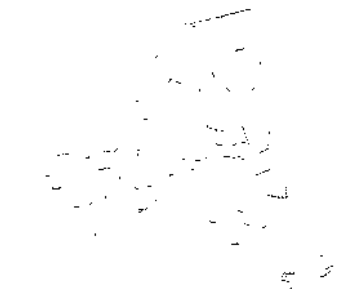
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## Bits from Around the State and Beyond



**DISTRICT 1** – Rockland County awards Kitty Rooney-Koch Title of Director Emeritus. At its EMS Week Recognition Dinner in May the district awarded Ms. Koch the title for her long and dedicated service to the

District and Association, 431 EMS personnel were in attendance at the dinner

### **DISTRICT 4 & 18** – NYC Region, EMS Week Dinner

On Tuesday evening May 21, 2002 over 430 members of the city's VACs/VFDs, their guests and representatives from the Regional EMS Council of NYC, NYS DOH, FDNY and elected officials attended the 2002 EMS Week Awards, Recognition and Remembrance Dinner held at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach. There was a candle lighting ceremony to remember the 8 EMS personnel who died on 9/11/01 and plaques were presented to all the squads in NYC who either responded to Manhattan for rescue and recovery efforts or who placed extra crews in service in their primary and mutual aid areas to ensure "routine" emergency calls were handled promptly. Special Awards & Recognition were presented to: Hon. Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate of NYC and community leader, Lynn Schulman for efforts in obtaining the September 11th Fund Grant which helped replace volunteer squad's vehicles and equipment lost at WTC, Hon. Frank Padavan & Hon. Serphin R. Maltese, NYS Senators: For efforts in obtaining funding to provide new ambulance vehicles for each volunteer emergency medical service in their Senate Districts.

Glendale VAC Youth Squad: For planning, organization and implementation of Community Graffiti Clean-up Program in 2001.

Glen Oaks VAC Youth Squad: For planning, organizing and implementing Community World Trade Center Relief Effort – September 12 to September 15, 2001.

**DISTRICT 4** – VAC Member Honored by Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade Committee. Christopher Benson of Glen Oaks VAC was named Youth Of the Year by the 2002 Little Neck- Douglaston Memorial Day Parade Committee. Christopher, student, athlete and community volunteer, was born in Flushing and now lives in Little Neck. While a student at Louis Pasteur Middle School (MS 67,) he volunteered for training in first aid and CPR, for duty at sporting events with EMT personnel. A Junior

at Benjamin Cardozo High School, Christopher is on the Lacrosse team. He is also a Lieutenant and CFR with the Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and a member of Explorer Scouts Post 2-105 which meets at the 105th Precinct. He has expressed a desire to enter the NYPD in an Emergency Service Unit. Christopher has been acclaimed as a "Most Valuable Player" by the New York Mets, and honored as a "Home Town Hero" by St. Mary's Foundation for Children and the Times/Ledger Newspapers.

**DISTRICT 5** – Orange County, reports Rob Ruston, Town Of Newburgh VAC was elected Secretary. Mary Lennon, Charter Member of the Town of Montgomery VAC has died. Mary was a past Chairperson of District 5 and also served on many committees. She will be missed.

**DISTRICT 7** – Huntington Community First Aid Squad (HCFAS) in Suffolk County dedicated their new building on Sunday, June 2, 2002. Ground breaking originally took place April 29, 2000 but it was well worth the wait. The building is a two story, elevator equipped, fully sprinklered structure with five (5) drive thru "truck" bays. There is a dispatch area, crew room, bunk room, large training area plus offices for the officers and the Board of Directors. The squad's web site at [www.hcfas.org](http://www.hcfas.org) provides a construction history with pictures that other squads planning a new building might find useful as it mentions a number of unanticipated problems that came up. These included a group of people showing up shortly after construction began claiming to own the property, utility lines where they should not have been, etc. HCFAS provides six Advanced Life Support Ambulances and Emergency Medical Services to the residents of the Huntington Community Ambulance District located within the Town of Huntington, New York. Its 175 members respond to an annual call volume of approximately 4400 calls.

**DISTRICT 20** - Postmaster of Black River, NY (Jefferson County) in conjunction with a nationwide campaign by the US Postal Service, extended an invitation to three local agencies, the Black River Ambulance Squad, Inc., the Black River Fire Department and the Rutland Volunteer Fire Department to attend a recognition ceremony on June 14th. At the ceremony, Postmaster Rosanne Sorensen stated "I wish to present to you a framed Proclamation, which includes the new Heroes Stamp, recognizing the varied roles you provide in professional and volunteer protective services. We wish to salute the countless acts of heroism and unprecedented commitment you all provide to our community."

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Green Light for New Insurance Regulations Mean Less Time to File

THIS MEANS SQUADS NEED TO GET THEIR PROPERLY COMPLETED BILLING FORMS AND PCRS TO CAG PROMPTLY. I WOULD RECOMMEND IN NO MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER INCIDENT.

Bryce Friedman, Esq., Counsel to the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association

An appellate court Thursday, April 4, 2002 vacated a temporary injunction that had put controversial new insurance regulations on hold; this means that New York accident victims, doctors and ambulance services now have less time to file no-fault insurance claims. The regulations -- championed by Superintendent of Insurance Gregory V. Serio to fight rampant insurance fraud and rapidly rising premiums -- had been quashed repeatedly by trial and appellate courts until February, when Manhattan Supreme Court Justice William A. Wetzel found that the superintendent did not overstep his authority by enacting the rules. The Medical Society of the State of New York and the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, which had successfully fought the regulations since they were first introduced two years ago, immediately appealed the ruling, saying Serio had instituted changes rightfully governed by

the Legislature. Appellate Division, First Department, Justice David B. Saxe granted the organizations a temporary stay two days after Justice Wetzel's ruling. But Thursday, a panel of the court, which included Justice Saxe, denied a permanent injunction that would have put the rules on hold until the case is decided. A date for oral arguments has not been set. The panel's order means the new rules -- known as Regulation 68 -- are effective immediately. The rules give motorists 30 days rather than 90 days to file no-fault claims, and give doctors 45 days rather than 180 days to file compensation claims. The Insurance Department argues that the reduced time limits will decrease fraud, which according to the office costs New Yorkers \$1 billion a year in excess insurance premiums. "It's disappointing," said Thomas F. Gleason of Gleason Dunn Walsh & O'Shea, who represented the Medical Society of the State of New York, of the ruling. He stressed that the court's findings were not a reflection of the merits of the appeal, and said he was certain the medical society would not drop its suit. Gleason said his client would continue to argue that Serio's actions were beyond the scope of his power. In the past, the groups have also argued that the rules would be so restrictive as to shut out thousands of

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

**DISTRICT 16 – Monroe County Plans New Radio System.** At a recent presentation that was widely attended by the volunteer fire departments, it was announced that the present dispatch system will be modified in 2004 into narrow band radio channel operations. This change will render most base stations and pagers obsolete. Each fire and EMS agency will be responsible for their own system. The county has no plans to provide pagers as it presently does. By receiving this information, agencies will have sufficient time to budget for the new equipment. A full report on the events and 1997 report prompting the sweeping change is online at [www.monroecounty.gov/aboutmc/emssummary.stm](http://www.monroecounty.gov/aboutmc/emssummary.stm)

**North Shore-Long Island Jewish Center for EMS Gets Premier Accreditation** – The North Shore-Long Island Jewish (NS-LIJ) Health System announced in May that its Center for Emergency Medical Services was awarded a certificate of full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), making it the first and only ambulance service in the NYC-Long Island metropolitan area to receive this distinction. The accreditation is valid for three years and North Shore-LIJ becomes only the 69th agency in the United States to receive this recognition. The commission, an independent body based in Illinois, is a non-profit organization that was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical system. It defines a stan-

dard for the medical transportation industry that is at a higher caliber than typically required for state licensing. During a week-long, on-site inspection the Commission team looked at all aspects of the service's operation including policies and procedures, the chain of command to interagency relations, human resources, clinical quality, operational efficiencies, regulatory compliance issues, and a host of other areas of the business.

Founded in 1993, the Center of Emergency Medical Services (CEMS) is the largest hospital based services East of the Mississippi. It employs 250 EMTs and Paramedics and has 60 vehicles with resources organized into three divisions. Inter Facility is responsible for the transportation of about 2,300 patients throughout the NS-LIJ Health System's facilities utilizing 38 BLS and ALS ambulances. NYC 911 Division provides emergency services in the borough of Queens answering about 1,550 emergency calls monthly with 8 BLS and ALS vehicles as a participating member of the FDNY run municipal response system. Islip Paramedic First Responders answer about 400 calls a month making available paramedics to back up local volunteer ambulance squads and fire departments in the Town of Islip. Home to the Regional Healthcare Emergency Management Training Center, CEMS also participates in a variety of community service initiatives. The nation's third largest, non-profit, secular healthcare system, the NS-LIJ Health System provides care for people at all stages of illness throughout Long Island, Queens and Staten Island. The system includes 18

*(Continued on page 13)*

## DOT Releases Preliminary Estimates of 2001 Highway Fatalities

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in April announced its preliminary analysis of highway traffic fatalities in 2001. According to these estimates, traffic fatality and injury rates remained at historic lows in 2001. Deaths of children ages 15 and under dropped to the lowest level since record-keeping began. The preliminary fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles travelled (VMT) was 1.50 in 2001, a statistically insignificant change from the final 2000 rate of 1.52. The total number of people killed in highway crashes in 2001 was estimated to be 41,730, compared to 41,821 in 2000. The number of people injured dropped from 3.2 million in 2000 to 3.0 million in 2001. In 2001, vehicle miles traveled increased slightly to 2.778 trillion in 2001, up from 2.75 trillion in 2000. 60 percent of those killed in crashes last year were not belted.

NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) also shows that in 2001:

- Motorcycle fatalities increased for the fourth year in a row following years of steady improvement. With 3,067 killed in 2001, it was the highest number of motorcycle fatalities since 1990.

## NYS EMS Council

### MAY 22, 2002 MEETING

- There are 1,976 EMS services in the state. Rural counties show a decline in the number of EMS providers with the whole state also seeing a slow decline.
- State budget has provided \$200,000 for establishing the EMS Memorial in Albany.
- National Registry Exam process was looked at to see if state might go with that exam. Recommendation was that New York continue to have its own exam.
- Mark I nerve gas antidote kits for two products, atropine and pralidoxine, were approved for use with emergency preparedness plans. Should not be self administered
- WMD awareness and operations training should be provided EMS personnel. Recommended one of three courses: state, FEMA or DOD. There is a need to add an EMS Module to these programs.
- Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) programs continue to increase. Statewide there are 1,291 agencies with almost 53,000 trained providers using 3,900 AEDs. During the first quarter of 2002 there were reports of 73 persons defibrillated with 21 instances of spontaneous return of pulse.
- BLS protocols were deliberated and passed. Trauma Tri-

- The percentage of alcohol-related deaths in 2001 remained unchanged at 40 percent - 16,652 deaths.
- Fatalities involving large truck crashes dropped from 5,211 in 2000 to 5,192 in 2001.
- The number of pedestrians killed, 4,698, remained virtually unchanged.
- Young drivers (16-20) were involved in 7,547 fatal crashes in 2001 compared to 7,607 in 2000.
- The number of fatalities for children under five dropped 5.4 percent from 706 in 2000 to 668 in 2001. The number of fatalities for children ages five to 15 dropped 5.5 percent from 2,105 in 2000 to 1,990 in 2001.

NHTSA annually collects crash statistics from 50 states and the District of Columbia to produce the annual report on traffic fatality trends. The final 2001 report, pending completion of data collection and quality control verification, will be available in August. Summaries of the preliminary report are available on the NHTSA website at [http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSEA/Rpts/2002/2001EARRelease.pdf](http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSEA/Rpts/2002/2001EARRelease.pdf).



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age guidelines have used ACP standards. The Cincinnati Stake Scale was incorporated. Position of restraint was changed to vary depending on the circumstances - most appropriate position may be supine or prone. Protocols will be released in looseleaf form to accommodate for future updates.

- Full Service Inspections of ambulance services are being conducted statewide. Most services get seen within 5 years. Over the next two years the DOH hopes to inspect at least half of all agencies in the state. Inspections are scheduled with agency management in advance and Bureau of EMS Policy Statement 02-03 was issued to allow a self audit prior to the DOH inspection. Squads need to be doing QI and be tied into a county and regional level.

## More Bits From Around the State *(continued)*

### More Bits From Around the State *(Continued from page 11)*

hospitals, four long-term care facilities, three trauma centers, seven home health agencies and dozens of out-patient centers with more than 5,670 beds, and staffed by over 7,000 physicians, 7,000 nurses and a total workforce of more than 32,000 - the largest on Long Island.

Other accredited services in New York are Alamo Ambulance Service in Poughkeepsie, Mobile Life Support Services, Inc. in Newburgh, Trans Am Ambulance Service, Inc. in Olean and Rural/Metro Medical Services operations in Buffalo, Rochester (National) and Syracuse. For more information on CAAS go to the web site at [www.caas.org](http://www.caas.org)

### MEDICAL BOOKSTORE OPENS ON LONG ISLAND

Mid-Island Medical Supply in Wantagh has announced the opening of Doc Brown's Books, a complete medical bookstore located next to the Buff Shop at Mid-Island Medical. The bookstore carries a complete line of EMT, fire fighting, EMS Academy text and work books, medical reference, nursing and allied health services materials. Special orders are available upon request. Mid-Island is at 2093 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793 which is just south of Sunrise Highway and a block east of the Wantagh Expressway. The phone number is (516) 781-02543.

### BROAD CHANNEL VFD AMBULANCE LOST AT WTC REPLACED AND CHRISTENED

The ceremony took place on Sunday 5/19/02 at the North Channel Yacht Club in Broad Channel and was attended by residents and elected officials. Betsy Gotbaum, NYC Public Advocate presented Chief Timothy Keenan with a check for \$15,546, the final installment of a total of \$61,584 she was able to secure to help pay for the replacement ambulance. Insurance carried by the volunteer group covered the rest of the cost, nearly \$200,000. The BCVFD was also awarded a separate \$2,000 grant to pay for protective respiratory equipment, including gas masks, to be used in future emergency situations. Nearly \$1 million, part of the money raised by the United Fund after September 11th, has been held in the Community Emergency Medical Service Fund set up by Gotbaum to replace equipment lost by the city's volunteer fire and ambulance groups when they responded to the terrorist attack on September 11th.

Four members of the BCVFD were some of the first volunteer emergency personnel to arrive at the World Trade Center. Chris Kalisak, Fred Grey, Robert Nussberger and Edwin Wilmarth parked their ambulance at the corner of Liberty and Rector Streets, one of the first staging areas. Trained as firefighters as well as medical personnel, the men were preparing to enter the burning buildings when the first tower fell. Their ambulance was crushed under debris and the volunteers became separated while trying to maneuver through the smoke

and ash. Reunited later that day at Liberty State Park in New Jersey, all sustained some injuries. One member of the team had a broken arm and another spent several days in the hospital with back pain. BCVFD members Eileen Smith and Desiree Napolitano are credited with manning the radios and keeping dispatch lines open that fateful day.

Chief Keenan credited District 4 of the NYS State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association with being instrumental in helping the BCVFD acquire its first new ambulance in decades. The organization has an older ambulance as back-up for the community. Reverend Andrea Zarou of Christ Presbyterian Church by the Sea and Father Charles White of St. Virgilius Church, both in Broad Channel, blessed the new ambulance. Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer summed up the dedication ceremony by saying, "We've shown that we could come back after September 11th. We can rebuild."

FDNY canceled the contract for 400 McCoy-Miller ambulances which was based on 80 per year for five years. Only 18 of the first 80 produced in 2001/2002 on 2002 Ford F-350 chassis entered service with FDNY. The remainder were left in manufacturer or dealer hands. In order to alleviate an urgent need for ambulances, FDNY has been given an emergency declaration authorization to obtain a maximum of 100 ambulances without going through a time consuming bidding period. A letter of intent has been issued to Horton to build the 100 ambulances. 20 have been delivered and the remainder are being produced at the rate of 5 a week with completion of the order expected by October 2002.

**MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL OF QUEENS HELD A TREE DEDICATION AND MEMORIAL TO HONOR PARAMEDIC CARLOS R. LILLO** of FDNY EMS Battalion 49 who perished during rescue efforts at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01. The ceremony took place at the hospital's front entrance at 25-10 30 Avenue in Astoria. In addition, the hospital hosted an EMS appreciation dinner on 5/22 at Terrace on the Park for members of FDNY EMS Battalions 45, 46 and 49, the latter which is actually stationed at the hospital. Senate and mayoral resolutions recognizing Paramedic Lillo's bravery and EMS week were presented at the dinner.

### JOB OPENING

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR at LaGuardia Community College - Salary \$42,616 to \$54,665. Responsibilities include administration and management of all aspects of the paramedic program including program planning and evaluation, policy development, curriculum development, marketing, faculty recruitment and budgeting. Additional information including duties and qualifications is available at [www.lagcc.cuny.edu](http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu) or (718) 482-JOBS.

## Approaching Alternative Fueled Vehicle Crashes

Adapted from a US Department of Transportation publication.

The initial goals of first arriving emergency personnel at an incident include determining what has happened, securing the scene and protecting victims, bystanders and themselves. We can no longer pull up to a motor vehicle accident and expect the vehicles involved to be traditional gasoline or diesel powered. This is in addition to having to consider the dangers of energy absorbing bumpers and undeployed airbags throughout the vehicle. More and more vehicles powered by other fuels and hybrid dual fuel combinations are on the road. As the scene size up is done look for special fuel ports, distinctive profiles and any written markings and logos on the vehicles. Except for selected local areas these vehicles are not required to be identified and there are no standardized placards, logos or symbols for the identification of each type of alternative fuel as there are for railroad tank cars and trucks.

### Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

In most LPG or CNG vehicles, containers will be found in the trunk area, under the side panel of a van or school bus, on the frame, in the bed of a pick up truck or on the roof of a commuter bus. Expect a majority of the vehicles to be owned by a fleet service such as buses, taxi cabs or utility companies. If the vehicle is not on fire and no obvious leak is detected, stabilize and secure the vehicle by setting the brake, utilizing wheel chocks or other forms of cribbing as needed. Turn off the vehicle's ignition and turn the gas cylinder valve handle to the "off" position. If the vehicle is on fire or a leak is detected do not approach the vehicle. Secure the scene with non-sparking markers or cones. **DO NOT USE FLARES!** Approaching the LPG or CNG vehicle that is leaking fuel or on fire should only be attempted when wearing proper clothing and self contained breathing apparatus. If you do not have the proper protective gear, equipment and training to deal with fire or HAZMAT emergencies, do not approach the vehicle. Create a safe zone and contact the proper response units in your area. In most cases, an alternative fueled vehicle in a crash should not require a HAZMAT response. The greatest hazard of LPG containers exposed to fire or extreme heat is BLEVE (boiling liquid/expanding vapor explosion). However, a CNG container exposed to a fire can also fail releasing dangerous amounts of fuel and/or a flame. When LPG fuel containers become compromised, the fuel converts from a liquid to a vapor that could rapidly produce sizeable vapor cloud which may ignite and flash back to the fuel source.

### Methanol and Ethanol

Both of these fuels are used in the vehicle's existing fuel tanks. Bus fleets are common users of these two types of fuels. If there is no fire or leak, carefully approach the vehicle, turn off the driver's ignition switch and set the parking brake or use wheel chocks to secure the vehicle. If fire is present, stay away from the vehicle, secure the area and deny entry. A fire fueled by methanol or ethanol burns bright blue and can be difficult to see on a clear day. If there is an obvious leak, you may approach the vehicle but use the same caution as when working around a traditional fueled

vehicle. When a leak or fire exists call fire or HAZMAT services. If you do not have the proper protective gear, equipment and training to deal with fire or HAZMAT emergencies, do not approach the vehicle. Create a safe zone and contact the appropriate response units in your area. **DO NOT USE FLARES!**

### Electric

Look for an electric charging port on the side or front of the vehicle, the electric logo, a stepped up roof line or a distinctive profile. These vehicles are powered by batteries as high as 300 volts, usually located under the hood, in the trunk or under the vehicle. A separate traditional 12 volt battery is still needed to operate the vehicle's electric features such as the radio and headlights. If there is no fire or battery liquid leak, carefully approach the vehicle, turn off the driver's off/on switch and set the parking brake or use wheel chocks to secure the vehicle. If smoke is visible, **NO ONE SHOULD APPROACH THE VEHICLE** without self contained breathing apparatus. Toxic fumes and vapors from damaged batteries can be carried in the smoke or steam. If the vehicle is on fire or an obvious leak is detected, do not approach the vehicle. Secure the scene with non-sparking markers or cones and call for the appropriate response units. **DO NOT USE FLARES!** When an electric vehicle has been in a severe crash and the normal safety features have been compromised, avoid approaching the vehicle when there is arching under the hood. Never cut into the battery pack or the traction cable even if the high voltage has been shut down because the battery pack can remain charged. Since there may be toxic fumes present around the vehicle after a fire has been contained, only those with proper protective gear, equipment and training should participate in cleanup.

### Issues to remember

- Identify an alternative fueled vehicle by its special markings and equipment. Since most vehicles are modified, the vehicle identification number (VIN) which includes the original fuel type code will not help identify the vehicle.
- When vehicles at an incident are transporting alternative fuels as cargo or if a filling station is involved, call the local HAZMAT services and keep everyone away.
- CNG containers have been tested for their resistance to crashes and other external forces such as gun shots. Dangerous leaks can come from ruptured connection fittings and lines.
- **DO NOT USE FLARES** in the area immediate accident scene. If vapors are being released restrict flare use also in adjacent areas and rely on flashing lights, reflective cones or other non sparking devices.

Public transportation agencies and large fleet operators may have safety departments that will offer hands on training to local emergency response agencies. The Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) which operates Long Island Bus has such a training program which addresses response to accidents involving alternative fuel busses.

## 2002-2003 Association Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee has announced the following slate for 2002-2003 officers:

- President – Michael J. Mastrianni, Jr., District 1, South Orangetown VAC & Rockland Paramedics
- Executive Vice-President – Roy Sweet, District 19, Broadalbin VAC
- Vice-President – Henry Ehrhardt, District 4, Ridgewood VAC & Glen Oaks VAC
- Treasurer – Jean Gourley, District 18, Flushing VAC
- Financial Secretary – Tim Ryan, District 12, Wantagh-Levittown VAC
- Secretary – Tracy Abamont, District 12, Mineola VAC & Carle Place FD

Association By-Laws provide that additional nominations may be made by a District and forwarded to the Association's Secretary 21 days prior to the Annual Convention so that nominees names will appear on the ballot. Nominations may also be made at the Annual Meeting but nominees' names will not appear on the ballot. Elections will take place during Pulse Check 2002..

### EMS WTC FUND ESTABLISHED

The health care community has come together to establish a dedicated fund that will provide assistance to the surviving families of the emergency medical service personnel killed or still missing in the attack on the World Trade Center. This fund is administered by the Greater New York Hospital Foundation (GNYHF). The Federal tax ID number is 13-2954140. To donate to this special fund, please make checks payable to "Greater NY Hospital Foundation, Inc." and mail to:

EMS Fund  
Greater NY Hospital Foundation  
PO Box 32422  
Hartford, CT 06150-2422

### EMS WTC MEMORIAL BARS AVAILABLE

As part of its 2002 EMS Week observance, NYC Region Districts 4 & 18 commissioned a Memorial Bar to honor the eight (8) EMS personnel who died on 9/11/01. These bars are available for a donation of \$10.00. If you would like to order one or more, send a check or money order payable to "NYSVA&RA, NYC Region" for \$10.00 X the number of bars requested to:

NYSVA&RA, NYC Region Districts 4 & 18  
c/o J. Downey  
249-07 87 Drive  
Bellerose, NY 11426

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**PULSE CHECK 2002** 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](mailto:pulsecheck2000@aol.com). **NYSVARA ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on Friday, September 27th, 2002 at 9:30am at the Roaring Brook Resort Conference Center at Lake George, NY.

**VFD PARADE AND DRILL SEASON IS HERE** For a listing of VFD parades and drills (competitions) throughout New York State go to the web side at [www.fdracing.com](http://www.fdracing.com). Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island are very active and there are also listings for Western NY and Northern NY. The NYS Championship Drill and Parade will be hosted by the Deerfield VFD. The drill is on Saturday August 17, starting at 8:00 AM at the Ruskey Training facility, Firehouse & Trenton Roads in Deerfield. The parade is on Sunday August 18 starting at 2:00 PM on Genesee Street in the City of Utica.

**2002 NYS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE IN NIAGARA FALLS** The NYS Disaster Preparedness Commission will hold its 2002 annual conference September 18-20 at the Holiday Inn Select in Niagara Falls, NY. Jean Cox, NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO) counsel and chair of the planning committee, encourages emergency managers to contact either John Farrell or Michael S. Smith, NYSEMA president with ideas and suggested topics or workshops they would like to be included in the 2002 conference. Details on the conference will be distributed as they are formulated.

**HUDSON VALLEY EMS SEMINAR**, Saturday October 19, 2002, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM hosted by Saugerties VFD. All EMS providers and volunteer firefighters are welcome to attend. For info contact Rob Ruston, Hudson Valley VFA's EMS Committee Chairman at [RRuston@aol.com](mailto:RRuston@aol.com).

**VITAL SIGNS CONFERENCE 2002**, Friday November 1 to Sunday November 3 at the OnCenter, Syracuse, NY. Sponsored by the NYS DOH Bureau of EMS. Includes general sessions, workshops, exhibits and awards banquet. For information contact Donna Gerard at (518) 402-0996 extension 3 or check the web site at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdch/ems/vitalsigns.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdch/ems/vitalsigns.htm).

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