

DISTRICT 7 – Suffolk County

BROOKHAVEN TOWN, Suffolk County, has completed an upgrade to an Opticom GPS Priority Control system on more than 500 ambulances and fire trucks in 13 Ambulance Districts and 42 Fire Districts and almost 500 intersections. The new system replaces an Opticom IR system that has been in place for over 10 years and is credited with reducing response times by 40%. However, the Town felt that the unique terrain of Long Island creates tight turns and obstructions that limited IR based preemption to 300 feet or less at almost 40 percent of the intersections. Too often, first responders had to reduce speeds and navigate around cars to pass through these intersections, creating potentially dangerous situations. The GPS system uses a global network of satellites to calculate vehicle speed, direction and precise location to preempt signals even around corners or obstructed intersections providing a clear path for emergency vehicles, resulting in faster and safer response to more than 5,000 emergency calls every month.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY EMS INSTITUTE was turned down by Suffolk REMSCO in its request to expand into that county. SJU EMS Institute is based in Fresh Meadows, Queens but SJU also has a campus in West Sayville in Suffolk County and wanted "to provide more local services to their student population, a high percentage of who travel from Suffolk County to the Queens campus". It "would also afford employment opportunities for interested Suffolk based instructors". REMSCO went along with the Training & Education Committee motion which had recommended denial citing:

- The committee has approved two (2) new Course Sponsors in the past several years based on then demonstrated need that has been met.
- There has been tremendous investment of public dollars on the current infrastructure.
- We cannot quantify the need - people that meet the requirements are not being turned away from current programs.
- Any additional courses at this time would have a negative impact on government funded programs.

SOUTHAMPTON VILLAGE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS, Suffolk County, is the first agency to receive the Suffolk Regional EMS Council's Gold Medal CPR Award, for training 814 community members in CPR. REMSCO Chair Jane McCormack and County Legislator Robert Calarco presented the award, and a proclamation, respectively on 1/14/14.

SUFFOLK EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR RETENTION IN THE VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY SERVICE (SERVES) was discontinued upon completion of the Spring 2014 semester. Termination of this program was due to the US Department of Homeland Security's Grant Program notification to FRES that the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant application, intended to continue this scholarship funding, was denied. For additional info go to <http://www.suffolkremSCO.com/clientuploads/Downloads/FINAL%202014%20Discontinuation.pdf>

SUFFOLK FIRE, RESCUE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (FRES) DEPARTMENT applied for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), that if approved, will facilitate the purchase of a sophisticated computerized emergency vehicle driving simulator that would be available to all services in the county.