

DISTRICT 12 – NASSAU COUNTY

ATLANTIC STEAMER FIRE COMPANY #1, Nassau County, was assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000 and suspended for 1 year effective 7/22/13 (suspension stayed) for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.21(f), 800.23(a), 800.23(d), 800.26(a)(10), 800.26(a)(8), 800.26(a)(9) and 800.26(b)(6).

HATZALAH OF THE ROCKAWAYS AND NASSAU COUNTY established a new base in Nassau County at 724 West Broadway in Woodmere on the site of a former gas station. Two ambulances are stationed at the location to serve Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Hewlett, North Woodmere and Woodmere. The division originally purchased and demolished a private house a block away at 752 West Broadway at the corner of Forest Avenue but there was community opposition to the planned two story HQ, training facility and garage in a residential area. Although only a block away on the same street the new location is in a commercial area. News reports indicate the building will be refurbished and used as an office, supply room as well as a place to park the ambulances. The gas pumps and fuel storage tanks will be removed. The site will not be used for training. The Division operates under NYS DOH Ambulance Operating Certificate 7191 which was issued to Chevra Hatzalah VAC for the 5 Boroughs of NYC.

MALVERNE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS, Nassau County, has taken delivery of a new ambulance. The vehicle is a Type III 2013 Ford E-450/ Horton model 553B. The 158 " wheelbase chassis is powered by a Triton 6.8L V10 gasoline engine. The unit has airbags in the patient compartment, two temperature controlled medication cabinets, solar panel on the roof, Whelen "M" series lighting, power locks, privacy windows, child safety seat, HOPS system, CPR seat, pass through access, wig wag headlights, Signal ss700 siren, Intelliplex Multiplex electrical system, Kussmaul Super auto eject 20 amp shoreline among its features. Funding for the \$190,000 vehicle came from a \$152,950 FY12 Round 26 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program plus a \$40,000 donation from Lord & Taylor. Malverne VAC has 29 volunteers, two ambulances and handles about 500 calls annually covering Malverne, Malverne Park, North Lynbrook and occasionally Franklin Square and North Valley Stream.

MERRICK FIRE DEPARTMENT, Nassau County, had an ALS ambulance stolen. *WATCHLINE*, a statewide weekly intelligence update, reported that on 10/9/13 the ambulance was taken from outside a firehouse on Long Island around 11:30 PM but was recovered a few miles away. Local news media report the ambulance had been parked outside Merrick's Friendship Engine and Hose Company, near the Babylon Turnpike exit of the Meadowbrook State Parkway, when it was taken. The vehicle was found by police officers not long after, parked on North Jerusalem Avenue in North Merrick. No items were stolen from the ambulance. News 12 reported that investigators say the alleged culprit bought a case of beer and passed by the Merrick firehouse and entered the ambulance and drove away. Detectives were able to track him down by getting information from where he bought the case of beer that he reportedly left in the fire station.

Earlier that same day an ambulance in San Antonio, Texas was stolen midday on while the EMS crew attended to a patient inside a motel. The medics quickly realized what had happened and immediately notified police. GPS onboard the ambulance was used to track it for about four miles. When police closed in, the driver then struck two pursuing patrol cars and was apprehended when he crashed into a third police car. In an assessment of the two incidents, *Watchline* advises in each of these cases the vehicle theft appears to be a crime of opportunity, though quickly resolved, which carries inherent dangers. Security of emergency vehicles becomes even more imperative when weighed against potential use in criminal or terrorist acts. Recently, suspicious activity reporting (SAR) has revealed a number of cases of stolen or missing emergency responder equipment or vehicles. Ambulance thefts are not an uncommon occurrence. A quick online search turns up other recent incidents including:

- 1/26/14 Center Moriches, NY Chief from East Moriches left 1st Responder Chevy Tahoe running outside and discovered it gone when he got call to respond to medical emergency. Vehicle stopped by police with spike strip that caused it to run off road resulting in significant damage but no injuries. Chief quoted saying "There isn't a chief's car on the island that isn't left running for long periods of time with the keys in it because most have the same things" - oxygen tanks, a defibrillator and certain drugs that needed to be kept warmer than the frigid outside temperatures.
- 1/22/14 Niagara Falls, NY. Rural Metro ambulance was taken from outside a home while the crew was inside treating a patient.

- 1/8/14 Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford, IL. Ambulance personnel were standing near the ambulance, filling out paperwork, when the thief walked up to it, jumped into the driver's seat and floored it. Astonished ambulance and ER personnel tried to stop it, but the thief aimed the ambulance at them and they scattered.
- 12/30/13 Daly City, CA. ambulance taken while crew was in house treating diabetic patient.
- 10/22/13 Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, Houston, TX. Police received a call about an ambulance being driven in an unsafe manner. Investigators say the ambulance lights were flashing and sirens were blaring before the vehicle crashed into an overpass pillar.
- 10/5/13 Boston Medical Center, MA while crew was bringing patient into ED.
- 9/9/13 Crisp County, GA while crew went into hospital to get patient for transfer.
- 8/11/13 Chandler, AZ from police parking lot while crew was in station on call. Alleged thief had just been released from custody on misdemeanor citation.
- 8/3/13 Big Horn County, MT while crew was in restaurant treating a patient.

GPS devices installed in ambulances have resulted in quick recoveries in a number of cases.

A worst case scenario is one where a stolen or cloned vehicle is used to penetrate security; ambulances have been used as vehicle based improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) in terror attacks abroad. A video shows this graphically as ambulances rush into the scene of a bombing, only to end with one vehicle apparently exploding from an internal detonation at the scene. To view the video go to <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/302571-ambulance-explodes-in-iraq-on-way-to-help-raw-video/>

NASSAU COUNTY EMS ACADEMY has moved to 300A Winding Road, Old Bethpage, NY 11804 on the campus of the Nassau County Fire Academy.

NASSAU COUNTY District 12 NYSVA&RA officers worked the County Deputy Executive for Public Safety to secure for each of the volunteer ambulance corps a Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) portable radio. In 2012 the NCPD and many town and village PDs switched over to an encrypted 500 MHz system that when the 400 MHz "legacy system" is eventually turned off would leave the county's scores of fire departments and 5 volunteer ambulance corps "out of the loop" as to incidents in progress. No longer would they be able monitor police transmissions and get a jump on responses before they went through police and fire/EMS dispatchers. In 2013 fire departments were provided two Motorola XTS 2500 portable radios. Subsequently, District 12 officials were asked for a list of volunteer ambulance services to receive similar portable radios. By the end of the summer 2013 all ambulances in the county were equipped with one portable radio capable of monitoring police transmissions. Mobile radios have also been secured and are expected to be installed in volunteer ambulances by early 2014. Both the portables and mobiles are able to communicate with similar VFD and volunteer ambulance radios.

NASSAU REMSCO/REMAC

The organizations have moved to a new location at 131 Mineola Boulevard, Suite 105, Mineola, NY 11501. Phone and FAX number remain the same.

Work is progressing on establishing a strong credentialing program for county ALS providers to ensure quality pre-hospital care is being provided patients. Information provided at the April REMAC meeting indicated there would be online and offline educational components, a written exam which the three EMS academies in the county have agreed to administer and ID cards provided to those who pass. Cost of the program is projected at about \$45,000 annually. Officials have indicated county funding is being sought but if it is not forthcoming the cost to individuals or their agencies could be as high as \$65.00 per person. With a major revision and update of ALS protocols going into effect 4/1/14 the ALS credentialing process is being combined with the protocol update process. By that date the county will have a good fix on the number of ALS providers as well as be at the forefront of ALS care.