

97% of EMS Workforce Fit-Tested for Escape Masks

By Charles Wells,
Deputy Chief EMS Operations

The Fire Department in February of this year procured the MSA (Mine Safety Appliance) Millennium model air purified respirator (APR) for use as an escape mask by EMS members who provide patient care in the pre-hospital setting. As of this date approximately 97% of the EMS workforce has been fit tested and have been issued an appropriate sized escape mask. The mask is stored in a pouch that is attached to the member's uniform at the thigh and belt allowing for immediate donning of the mask.

The MSA Millennium APR is a lightweight full face-piece negative pressure air purified respirator. The design of the mask allows for full peripheral vision aiding the wearer in various aspects of escaping a potentially hazardous environment.

The filter canister provided has been test-

ed by NIOSH, Edgewood Arsenal and TNO Netherlands and will protect the wearer against several tear agents, biological agents, blood agents (CK) and chemical warfare agents (GA, GB, GD, VX, Mustard and Lewisite). In addition to these tests, the MSA Millennium earned high marks at the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

The Initial fit testing of the mask is being provided by an outside vendor. Fit testing of all EMS members is expected to be com-



An EMT adjusts her MSA escape mask as part of the fit testing procedure.

plete by the middle of April. In the coming weeks BHS will be adapting some of their equipment for use in fit testing EMS members for the MSA mask.

24 Chiefs Graduate from Fire Officers' Management Training Institute

By Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Operations

A group of 24 Staff Chiefs and EMS Borough Commanders graduated from the FDNY Fire Officers' Management Training Institute (FOMI) on Wednesday, March 19, 2003. It was the first such class to graduate from the Institute, a program made possible through the help of General Electric and the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund.

Since Commissioner Scoppetta decided to expand the number of uniformed Staff Chiefs and implement a borough command system last summer, Staff Chiefs have been given many more managerial responsibilities-including extensive work with personnel and the budget. The training provided by FOMI has been designed specifically for Fire Department officers, and it has given them critical skills and techniques for

upper-level managerial tasks.

The program was custom designed by Columbia University's School of Management, and teaches basic approaches to the management of public safety systems and personnel. Some of the courses offered at the Institute include "Establishing Priorities and Planning," "Financial Statements and Basic Principles of Accounting," "Leading and Managing Change" and "Increasing Your Personal Leadership Effectiveness."

Starting last November, Chiefs began taking classes at the Institute, located at General Electric's John Welch Management Training Center in Crotonville, New York. The Chiefs devoted four consecutive days per month to their studies at the Institute, and in that time they were hosted by General Electric.

The 24 recent graduates of the Institute are likely just the first of many Chiefs to enjoy FOMI courses. In the coming months and years, the Fire Department hopes to be able to offer FOMI's curriculum to all those Chiefs who could benefit from this valuable management training.



Commissioner Scoppetta, flanked by the graduates from the Fire Officer's Management Institute.