

IMPROVING OUR PREPAREDNESS

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Sal Cassano ran citywide operations from our Fire Operations Center at HQ, with the assistance from Borough Commanders who supervised and monitored situations in their respective areas. This was a perfect example of implementing a new strategy developed after September 11, i.e., managing a large incident or multiple incidents from FOC. Chief Cassano first ramped up levels of manpower and equipment to handle a possible increase in activity levels - both for Fire and EMS. This decision proved critical. In the 24-hour period that followed, EMS handled roughly double the number of calls and the number of structural fires was more than four times the norm. With an NYPD liaison present at FOC, Chief Cassano was quickly able to inquire - and get answers - regarding the possibility of fire activity due to possible civil unrest. (It turned out there was little looting, but having the answers allowed him to manage resources accordingly.) As a result, we were able to demonstrate a high level of interagency coordination between the

FDNY and NYPD. Ultimately, the men and women in the field - treating patients and responding to dozens of structural fires, elevator emergencies, etc. - were the real heroes who performed admirably and went above and beyond in many other ways.

A terrific job was done by everyone, and in terms of managing the incident we were aided greatly by the changes we have advanced in the last two years. We will continue to seek better equipment, training and procedures that will allow you to be better prepared - and better protected - as you perform the selfless and dedicated work of making this city a safer place for all who live and work here.



FDNY HONORS ITS FALLEN

After a two-year absence, the FDNY gathered October 12 at the Firemen's Monument on 100th Street and Riverside Drive to honor the members who had died within the past year. More than 6,000 members of the Department attended the solemn ceremony, which also recognized all 1,126 members during the history of the FDNY who have given their lives protecting New York City. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief of Department Frank Cruthers addressed the crowd, thanking the active members for their selfless service and remembering those who made the Supreme Sacrifice.



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JAMES O'SHEA, of Ladder 127, suffered a fatal heart attack September 27 after fighting a fire in Kew Gardens Hills. The fire was later deemed incendiary and an arrest has been made. Firefighter O'Shea's death was the first line-of-duty death since September 11, 2001. He spent the past 17 years in the Department working at busy houses in Brooklyn and Queens. He was known for taking rookie firefighters under his wing, for learning the techniques of his trade and then passing that knowledge on to others. At a time when we value experience in our department, the loss of a veteran is especially profound.





VIEW

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FDNY:

A 137 YEAR HISTORY

OF COMMITMENT,

COURAGE

&

COMPASSION