

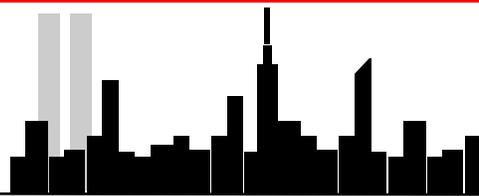
APRIL 2009

VIEW
P O I N T



metro Tech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



Firefighters Train in New High-Rise Simulator

Innovative Facility Dedicated at the Fire Academy



The ribbon is cut on the new High-Rise Simulator. (L to R) Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, First Deputy Commissioner Frank Cruthers, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, President of the Leary Firefighters Foundation Denis Leary, Chairman of the FDNY Foundation Stephen J. Ruzow, Chief of Operations Patrick McNally, Chief of Training Thomas Galvin, Chief of the Fire Academy Stephen Geraghty.

As a High-Rise Symposium played host to hundreds of fire officials from around the world on March 19, a new High-Rise Simulator was dedicated at the FDNY Training Academy on Randalls Island.

“This is a proud day for the Department,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “In a city that houses thousands of high-rise buildings, this simulator is

going to become a critical resource in the training of our firefighters.”

The Leary Firefighters Foundation and the FDNY Foundation raised funds to pay for the \$4.2 million training simulator, which was designed by FDNY firefighters.

The 4,000-square-foot, four-story building features state-of-the-art technology that replicates the complex conditions firefighters routinely face while responding to emergencies in high-rise buildings, including a roll-over fire simulator, mock shaftways and a dry standpipe system. There are also video hookups on each floor for real-time after action review and instruction.

“Once you give a firefighter a piece of equipment, it goes to work right away,” said Denis Leary, President of the Leary Firefighters Foundation. “It’s never a question of whether or not they’re going to use it – it’s when they’ll wear it out from using it too much.”

Work on the simulator began in November 2007, when it was added to Building 1

at the Fire Academy. A dedicated and talented team of FDNY members worked to ensure that the High-Rise Simulator meets the rigorous training standards of the FDNY.

Battalion Chief Stephen Geraghty led the design effort, taking the reigns from retired BC Nick Santangelo. Other members of the workgroup included Battalion Chiefs Jake Lemonda, Thomas Robson and James McDermott, along with Firefighters Jim Helfrich and Conrad (Skip) Theiss. Wally Blum and project manager Ramsey Dabby were critical to the timely success of the construction, and Tayo Kurzman provided key legal advice.

“Some of the most difficult fires we fight are in high-rise buildings,” said Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. “This is one of the last pieces of the puzzle that make this the greatest fire training academy in the world. We’re really going to save firefighter and civilian lives because of the training done in this building.”



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New Policy to Control Excessive Overtime

Rmonth we announced a new internal policy to limit excessive overtime by restricting the number of extra hours uniformed personnel can work in non-firefighting assignments such as those in the Bureau of Training, Medical Office and Operations. With this policy we will place a limit of 81.25 hours each quarter (or 325 hours annually) on the overtime uniformed members can earn in these assignments.

This new policy will result in a more equitable distribution of necessary overtime spending for these support functions, since some individuals have recently worked excessive amounts of overtime that should, instead, be made available to a larger pool of employees.

This new policy affects only discretionary – or administrative – overtime earned by fire officers, fire marshals and firefighters (and includes comp time earned by chief officers). We've made sure it will not apply to contractual overtime received in the field, such as fire unit staffing (MMOT or RSOT), late runs, wash-up time or awaiting relief. Such overtime will continue to be guided by existing directives governing its usage, such as PA/IDs 5-74, 5-75 and 1-90.

An Overtime Control Office will be established to monitor overtime earnings in every unit at the Department. The office reports directly to Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and any request to exceed the quarterly cap must be approved in writing by Chief Cassano.

High-Rise Simulator

The eyes of the world were directed at FDNY this March as we unveiled the new High-Rise Simulator at the Fire Academy during our first-ever High-Rise Symposium.

The Department is grateful to the Leary Firefighters Foundation and our own FDNY Foundation for helping fund this important training venue, as well as all the FDNY members who participated in the development and construction. All our firefighters will have the opportunity to train on the new simulator and I'm certain it will be considered an invaluable experience. It will help all our members sharpen their skills, so they can stay safe during high-rise operations and keep the public better protected than ever before.

Yet this is just the latest significant enhancement to the Fire Training Academy, where more than \$60 million has been invested in modernizing the facility.

Recent advancements include the flashover simulator, which shows firefighters the conditions that lead up to a dangerous flashover fire; the subway simulator, with real subway cars that allow firefighters to perform terrorism drills and confined space victim removal; Building 5, a propane building that replicates conditions in taxpayer and private-dwelling fires; and the field house (Building 12), a streetscape in which firefighters perform evolutions and perform PSS training.

There also have been numerous updates to training techniques and procedures over the past 10 years – such as the enhanced HazMat and other terrorism instruction.

The City and the Department are committed to providing our members with the best training anywhere; and all of these updates have established the Fire Academy as the premiere training facility in the world, preparing firefighters for any challenge they may face.

EMS Members to Carry Epinephrine on All BLS Ambulances

All BLS crews soon will carry EpiPens, which contain ready-to-administer standard doses of epinephrine for use in food allergy cases.

Calls for anaphylactic shock typically are answered by ALS crews, who already carry the drug on their ambulances. But equipping BLS units with the drug will no doubt save lives, as distressed 911 callers sometimes give incomplete or inaccurate information to emergency dispatchers (resulting in BLS sent to such a scene instead of ALS) or a BLS unit might be closer to a patient, able to administer the drug before the ALS ambulance arrives on the scene.

Our EMS members do an amazing job each day and we're constantly looking for new and better ways to support our important mission – to keep New Yorkers safe.



**Commissioner's
Message**

Behind the Scenes

FDNY Honors Staff with Administrative Awards

The FDNY honored its administrative staff on March 12 for a year of impressive accomplishments, including the redevelopment of the fire code, research on wind-driven fires and the rebuilding of a firehouse.

The annual Administrative Awards at FDNY Headquarters paid tribute to 12 individuals and groups who did outstanding work on projects that support the Department's fire and EMS members.

"Too often people don't get to see and recognize the noble work that happens behind the scenes," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Any organization is only as good as its people, and there's a reason that the FDNY is known as the greatest fire department in the world."

Winning the top Administration Medal was Julian Bazel and James Hansen from the Bureau of Legal Affairs, who revised the fire code for the first time since 1913.

Peg Quinn-Puppa from the Personnel Bureau received the Leon Lowenstein Award for improving the recruitment process and investigation of new civilian candidates, Jack Gridley was awarded the George F. Mand Award for maintaining the Department's Human Resources

Information System (HRIS), and the Bureau of Facilities Management received the Fire Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Service for helping rebuild the quarters of Engine 55 after it was damaged by an electrical fire in 2008.

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano mentioned that the Fireproof Multiple Dwelling Wind-Driven Fire Project Team's work "will change the way we fight fires in New York and around the world. Their work will stand out for years to come."

They conducted experimental situations and pilot testing of innovative wind-driven fire equipment and state-of-the-art firefighting procedures, earning them the James J. Johnston Memorial Medal.

"You can't put a price on firefighter or civilian safety. It's been a long road, but the payoff is worth it," said Battalion Chief Gerry Tracy.

Deputy Chief John Mooney added, "I couldn't have done it without [the rest of



Members of the Fireproof Multiple Dwelling Wind-Driven Fire Project Team, who were awarded the James J. Johnston Memorial Medal.

the team]."

The award comes just before a High-Rise Symposium that will host firefighting professionals from around the world.

"Though it's an honor working for the Department, it's nice that the administration recognizes civilians who support the firefighters in the field," said Kristin Eng, the project's Videographer and Producer.

Graduation Day

34 Paramedics Graduate from Academy

A packed crowd cheered as 34 new paramedics graduated from the EMS Academy on March 30.

"The average life expectancy in New York City is now greater than the country as a whole ... and part of that is because of our paramedics," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg during the ceremony at FDNY Headquarters. "You come to the aid of your fellow New Yorkers at their worst hour."

Five of the graduates have relatives who have served with the FDNY.

"You are the future of the FDNY EMS Command," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Be proud of yourselves today, because all of us are very proud of you as well. You make this city a better place."

The new paramedics speak a dozen different languages, including Farsi,

Korean, Creole, Mandarin, Romanian, Greek and Tagalog.

Two of the graduates are veterans of the U.S. military, Paramedic Francisco Espadas served in the Army's 69th Infantry division and Paramedic Jose Morales served in the Navy.

"Tomorrow, whether you are transmitting a 12 lead EKG to a physician on a STEMI patient or monitoring victims of a fire ... you will be saving lives," Chief of EMS John Peruggia said. "Be proud of it and be prepared."

Paramedic Joseph Daly was named class valedictorian.

Nine of the graduates already have made pre-hospital saves and two of them delivered three babies while on duty.



Thirty-four paramedics graduated from the EMS Academy

Paramedic Nancy Castle said she was surprised she got the chance to assist at a baby delivery, remembering she "just helped as much as I could."

She said the experience confirmed why she joined the EMS Command, because "I like being there to help when I'm really needed."

Paramedic Caleb Laues noted that he joined for the same reason, "I like being able to help people and what better way

Heart of a Hero

Firefighters and Paramedics Reunite with Victim of 2008 Crane Collapse

Jhon Gallego was sitting on his couch drinking coffee and watching television on March 15, 2008, when he heard a noise outside. He looked out the window and saw a large metal object coming towards him.

Seconds later, he was trapped under three stories of debris, thinking he was dying.

Yet, amazingly, the victim of the crane collapse on East 50th Street in Manhattan survived and was pulled out of the wreckage hours later by firefighters from Rescue 1 and treated by FDNY rescue paramedics.

So on March 13, Mr. Gallego stopped by the quarters of Rescue 1 in Manhattan to thank the men who saved his life.

“You saved my life,” said Mr. Gallego, embracing each of his rescuers. “I’m here because of you. I don’t know how to thank you.”

Paramedic Juan Henriquez said “seeing you is thanks enough.”

Mr. Gallego sat at the firehouse’s kitchen table, drinking coffee, as the group recounted the harrowing ordeal.

After being pinned under the pile of debris, Mr. Gallego said he remembered his cell phone was in his pocket.

He called his girlfriend and she, in turn, called 9-1-1, directing rescuers to his location.

As firefighters scoured the wreckage, Firefighter Glenn Bullock from Rescue 1 heard the victim’s screams.

They said they saw a small movement – the back of his jacket – under the 30 feet of rubble and began to dig towards him.

“We used everything but the kitchen sink to get him out, we used every tool we had,” said Lt. Tom Donnelly from Rescue 1.

Firefighter Sean Cummins from Rescue 1 nodded, saying, “We were going through batteries like

you wouldn’t believe.”

They sawed through the crane’s steel piece by piece, but the firefighters said one of the most difficult things to cut through was the victim’s “giant” couch.

As they neared Mr. Gallego, Firefighter Cummins attached himself to a rope and began to slide through the tunnel, upside down, to reach the victim. Mr. Gallego said he was comforted to see the light from their search camera as they slowly approached.

Firefighter Cummins finally saw the victim laying face down in the debris, and he grabbed his hair. Mr. Gallego said he was comforted as the firefighters repeated, “We’re here, we’ve got you, we’re going to get you out.”

“We wanted you to hang in there,” said Firefighter Cummins, with Lt. Donnelly adding, “and you hung in there for three

hours.”

At that time Paramedic Henriquez said he administered an IV to the victim’s jugular vein and treated him for hypothermia, but he still worried about crush syndrome, when tissue loss results in toxins being released into the bloodstream, leading to cardiac arrest. But the victim remained stable as he was freed and transported to the hospital.

Day-by-day his condition slowly improved. He was able to leave the hospital after four weeks and walk again after six months. Although he is still using a cane to get around, Paramedic Henriquez said: “Just seeing him walking around and speaking now is a miracle.”

After emotionally describing his ordeal, Mr. Gallego was presented with a Rescue 1 hat, sweatshirt and t-shirt.

“I’m going to wear this every day,” he joked. “Maybe someday I’ll be able to join you here.”



Rescue Paramedic Juan Henriquez (fourth from left), Lt. Tom Donnelly (second from right) and Firefighter Sean Cummins (third from right) are reunited with Jhon Gallego (seated), who was buried under 30 feet of debris after the crane collapse on March 15, 2008. They are joined by other members of Rescue 1 and Paramedic Henriquez’s partner, Rescue Paramedic Marco Girao.



Lt. Tom Donnelly (far right) and Firefighter Sean Cummins (seated on left) from Rescue 1, as well as Rescue Paramedic Juan Henriquez (not pictured) were reunited with Jhon Gallego, who they helped pull from the wreckage of the crane collapse in March 2008.

Vet Gets Second Chance at Life, Fun

FDNY VFW Post Donates Hand-Crank Bike to Wounded Warrior

Members of the FDNY's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post donated a hand-crank bicycle to one needy veteran in Texas in late February.

Matt Bradford, a Marine veteran, was seriously injured by an AED while serving in Iraq. He lost his legs below the knee, became blind in one eye and lost partial sight in the other.

Yet the brave 22-year-old did not lose his spirit, so members of the FDNY VFW Post, including Capt. Paul Conrad of Division 6 (Marines), Firefighter Patrick McElvaney of Ladder 22 (Marines), Firefighter Billy Hayes of Ladder 45 (National Guard), Firefighter Justin Devine of Ladder 45 (Air Force) and Firefighter Mike Cook of Ladder 27 (Air Force) journeyed to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, to bring him his own specially-made hand crank bicycle.

"We talked to Marines and vets who were at the base – many double amputees, some burn victims – and they said when they feel like giving up, they look at [Matt]," said Firefighter McElvaney. "They see him still struggling with the therapy, but smiling the whole way. He makes them want to keep going."

An organization called Hope for Warriors told the FDNY VFW members about the brave soldier.

After learning more about Mr. Bradford's situation, Firefighter McElvaney said he and the other members of the Post agreed to use funds donated by Firefighter George Cain's mother, Rosemary Cain, (Firefighter Cain died in the terror attacks of Sept. 11) to purchase the special bike.

They paid their own way to Texas and not only donated the \$3,500 bike to Mr. Bradford, but also gave a "343" FDNY helmet to the Intrepid National Armed Forces Rehabilitation Center at the Brooke Army Medical Center and gave more than 50 t-shirts to other veterans at the facility.

"The vets down there are just phenomenal," said Firefighter McElvaney.

Mr. Bradford's mother, Debbie Bradford, told the firefighters that the bike will help the Marine with his rehabilitation and enable him to keep up with his friends.

"She thinks it will be the best thing for him so he can get out and be with his friends and do something that will keep him going," Firefighter McElvaney said.



Members of the FDNY VFW Post, Capt. Paul Conrad of Division 6, Firefighter Patrick McElvaney of Ladder 22, Firefighter Billy Hayes of Ladder 45, Firefighter Justin Devine of Ladder 45 and Firefighter Mike Cook of Ladder 27, donated a hand-crank bike to wounded veteran Matt Bradford (in camouflage utilities) in Texas.

Mr. Bradford and his friends, as well as many other veterans at the facility, said they also hope to make it to New York City this autumn for the annual Firefighter Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run.

Firefighter McElvaney said the FDNY VFW Post is already planning to donate two additional hand-crank bicycles – one of which will go to the Intrepid Center using funds from Frank Siller, whose brother, Firefighter Stephen Siller, also was killed on Sept. 11.

Giving Thanks for Giving Hearts

FDNY Honors American Red Cross Volunteers for Dedicated Service

FDNY members took a moment during American Red Cross month to honor the organization's many New York City volunteers in a ceremony at FDNY Headquarters on March 4.

"Your organization reminds us of the fundamental good in people," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "When things are at their worst, the American Red Cross is at its best."

Members from the organization's Disaster Action Team, Disaster Assistance Response Team, corporate partners, board of directors and many others were hon-



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano thank Theresa Bishoff, CEO of the American Red Cross, and the organizations' many volunteers for their support during American Red Cross month.

ored with special commendations for their kindness.

"You do so much for Fire Department operations during emergencies," said

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano. "We couldn't do an adequate job without your help."

American Red Cross volunteers respond to more than 3,000 emergencies each year, in every borough of New York City.

"What everyone gives to this organization is extraordinary," said Theresa Bishoff, CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater New York. "I'm so happy to be a part of the American Red Cross."

To learn more about the American Red Cross of Greater New York, visit www.nyredcross.org.

Rescues in an Inferno

Firefighters from Ladder 124 Rescue Residents from Brooklyn Fire

Firefighter Giovanni Martinez and other members from Ladder 124 made four daring rescues in Bushwick, Brooklyn, on March 24.

“All the members did a phenomenal job,” said Battalion Chief Joseph Schiralli.

The fire was first reported at 7:59 a.m. in a three-story residential building on Palmetto St. Firefighters arrived within two minutes to find heavy fire and smoke pouring out the windows on the second and third floors.

They were told several people were trapped in a third floor apartment, unable to escape because the extreme fire conditions blocked their means of egress.

The members of Ladder 124 set up their aerial ladder and Firefighter Martinez brought the bucket past the fire to the third floor apartment window, where he found a panicked pregnant woman and man.

The window was open, but blocked by a child safety gate, so Firefighter Martinez pried open the bars with his Halligan tool and safely removed the victims to the bucket.

They told the firefighter another victim was inside, so he crawled into the apartment to conduct a search without the pro-



[L to R] FF Greg Fraccalvieri (L-124), FF Kevin Quinn (E-271), FF Robert Roscoe (L-124), FF Andy Castillo (assigned E-271, working in L-124), Lt. Robert Rochelle (L-124), [top row] FF John Finn (L-124), FF Brian Kelly (L-124), FF Chris Chiappetta, [bottom row] FF Carlos Ruiz (E-271) and FF Scott Carrella (E-271).

tection of a hose line. He found a semi-conscious man on the floor in a separate room and pulled him to the bucket.

Lt. Robert Rochelle was inside the building as Firefighter Martinez made the rescues. He said, “You couldn’t see a thing and a flashlight does nothing at that point. He did a great job.”

At the same time, Firefighter John Finn from Ladder 124 saw another third floor resident was threatening to jump. He climbed a 20-foot portable ladder outside

to calm the man before the bucket rescued him.

Chief Schiralli also commended the members of Engine 271 for curtailing the fast-moving fire, which was brought under control at 8:34 a.m.

Firefighter Martinez received minor injuries in the fire, as did 12 other firefighters and civilians.

FDNY fire marshals determined the fire was accidental, caused by an extension cord stretched under a mattress.

Saving the Day

Firefighters Rescue Woman from East Harlem Fire

Lt. Gregory Prial and Firefighters John Haseney and John Hemsley from Ladder 43 rescued a woman from an East Harlem apartment fire on March 3.

“She wouldn’t be alive if not for their actions,” said Deputy Chief Dan Donohue. “They did a great job.”

At approximately 2:30 a.m. firefighters were called to a 6th floor apartment on E. 108th St. in Manhattan.

When they reached the door to the fire apartment, firefighters saw the paint bubbling and heavy soot around the frame.

After forcing open the door, Lt. Prial said inside the apartment was so smoky,

“you couldn’t see your hand in front of your face.”

The fire was located in the living room and so Firefighter Hemsley pushed back the fire using an extinguisher as Lt. Prial and Firefighter Haseney conducted their searches.

Lt. Prial located the woman in a back bedroom and called for Firefighter Haseney to help remove her from the apartment. She was unconscious, had sustained burns to her hands and face, and had soot around her mouth.

Once she was moved to safety, members of Engine 53 began doing CPR and revived the woman, who had gone into

cardiac arrest.

She was then rushed to Cornell Burn Center by awaiting EMS members.

Fire marshals are investigating the cause of the fire, but said there appeared to be no working smoke detectors in the apartment.

“If she’d had a working smoke detector she would have been able to walk out of that apartment,” said Lt. Prial. “We hope she’ll be able to make a full recovery.”

Firefighter Haseney, who in January returned from a year of service in Afghanistan with the Army National Guard, said “I’m glad to be back doing a job I love and saving a life.”

Remembering a Friend

FDNY Receives Grant Honoring Fallen Firefighter

The FDNY received a \$50,000 grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and CRC Insurance Services on March 13. The grant was presented in honor of Firefighter Robert Foti of Ladder 7, who made the Supreme Sacrifice on Sept. 11, 2001.

"This grant follows a generous path of funding that not only benefits firefighters, but all New Yorkers," said Manhattan Borough Commander Michael Weinlein during the check presentation at the quarters of Engine 16 and Ladder 7.

The check will support fire safety education, technology and training.

The FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit will use the funds to purchase flashlights, rulers, magnets and other fire safety items that are given away at presentations throughout the city.

It also will help purchase a digital camera, laptop computer, projector and other technology for the members of Engine 16



Capt. Peter Robb from Ladder 7 speaks to fourth grade students from The Epiphany School.

and Ladder 7, enabling firefighters to create customized presentations concerning neighborhood buildings, hazards and environments.

A forcible entry simulator also will be purchased for firefighters using this grant, training firefighters on how to gain forcible entry though any type of door during an emergency. It also will help purchase exercise equipment for the fire-

house, including an elliptical machine and treadmill.

"This is well deserved," said Capt. Peter Robb of Ladder 7. "These members' dedication to training and preparedness are unmatched by any other company with which I've worked."

Fireman's Fund Insurance has awarded the FDNY 14 grants since December 2006, worth more than \$450,000.

This check was directed to Engine 16 and Ladder 7 by Fred Curatolo, President of the New York branch of CRC Insurance Services, who was a personal friend of Firefighter Foti's. The fallen firefighter's family also attended the ceremony.

"You guys do an incredible job and you cannot get enough recognition for the work you do," said Mr. Curatolo. "You risk your lives so that we can stay safe."

During the ceremony, fourth grade students from The Epiphany School (where Firefighter Foti studied as a child) participated in a fire safety demonstration.

Double the Joy

Firefighters Make Rescues at Two Fires in Manhattan

Firefighters made rescues at two fires in Manhattan on March 5 and 6 – ranging from a 90-year-old woman on the east side to a 2-month-old infant on the west side.

On the east side, firefighters were called at 9:53 p.m. to a fire on the fourth floor of a 10-story residential building on 54th Street.

When Firefighter Joseph Barone from Ladder 2 tried to force open the door of the fire apartment, he said he was unable to open it wide enough to allow units inside to fight the fire.

At that time, Capt. Kevin Harrison of Ladder 2 said, "The fire was really starting to move toward us." So Firefighter Barone squeezed through the opening and closed the door behind him, locating an elderly woman laying unconscious just inside the doorway.

"It was jet black inside and there was high heat, but we had a job to do and we made sure we got it done," said Firefighter Barone.

He moved her enough to allow his fel-



Members who helped rescue victims of two fires in Manhattan. (Front row, L to R) BC Gerald Koziak, FF Joseph Barone, Capt. Kevin Harrison, Capt. Paul Lawlor (L-21), BC Jack Joyce. (Second row, L to R) FF John Tota (L-2), FF Andy Owens (L-2), FF John Phillips (L-2), Lt. Tony Pasquin (L-2), FF Steve Koch (L-2), FF Adam Torres (L-21), FF Michael O'Connell (L-21) and FF Paul Bonacci (L-21).

low firefighters to open the door and carry her to the floor below, where members of an engine company performed CPR.

She was transported to the Burn Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital in critical condition by EMS members. Three oth-

ers also were transported to area hospitals in stable condition.

Just hours later – at 1:38 a.m. – firefighters on the west side of Manhattan were called to a fire on the third floor of a six-story residential building on Ninth Avenue.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, they saw heavy fire and six residents trapped on the fire escape.

"The people were panicking, but the firefighters in the bucket reassured them that they were going to be rescued," said Capt. Paul Lawlor of Ladder 21, whose members also responded to the plane crash on the Hudson River in January.

Firefighters were able to pull all the residents to safety, including a 2-month-old baby. In all, nine victims were transported to area hospitals in stable condition by EMS members.

Fire marshals are investigating the cause of both fires. They determined the east side fire was accidental and the west side fire was suspicious.



Members of the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Band march up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.

Awarding a Hero

New York Daily News Honors Lt. Kevin Flanagan

Fire Lt. Kevin Flanagan of Ladder 28 was honored as the New York Daily News Hero of the Month on March 27, for the brave rescue of a 79-year-old woman in upper Manhattan on Jan. 18.

“What Kevin did in January is nothing short of spectacular,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta during the ceremony at the News Headquarters in Manhattan. “The term ‘hero’ often gets overused, but in this case it’s absolutely true.”

Lt. Flanagan, a 31-year veteran of the FDNY, crawled into the burning apartment without the assistance of a hose line to rescue the woman, who lay unconscious in her hallway.

Firefighter John McCormack from Engine 80 held back the flames with an extinguisher as the Lieutenant dragged the



Lt. Kevin Flanagan receives his Hero of the Month award from Mark Kramer, CEO of the New York Daily News, along with Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano and Battalion Chief Frank Donnelly.

Ellen; his firefighter sons, Brian and Dan; and his 92-year-old father, Tom, also a retired FDNY firefighter.

“This is the type of event that really makes us proud,” said Mark Kramer, CEO of the New York Daily News.

As part of the Hero of the Month honor, Lt. Flanagan received a cash award, which he said he would donate to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in honor of his wife, a 19-year cancer survivor.

victim to safety.

“I accept this on behalf of all our members – Ladder 28, Engine 69, Battalion 16 and Engine 80,” said Lt. Flanagan. “I’d be useless without them and I’m honored to work among them.”

He was joined at the event by many members of his company, as well as his family, including his wife, Mary



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NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**A 144 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION**