HOW TO COPE WHEN AN EMS PARTNER GOES BROKE

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New York City

- 5 Boroughs – Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, The Bronx
- 320 Square Miles
- 8.5 Million Residents – up to 13 Million on Work Days
Merged with the FDNY in March of 1996

- Previously part of the HHC (City Hospitals)
- 3 Tiered System
  - 6,000 CFR Firefighters (of 11,000 FFs total) – 202 Engine Companies
  - 2,500 EMTs
  - 1,000 paramedics
4,000 calls per day for an EMS response

1,440,268 EMS responses 2016

1,146 Ambulance Tours in 24 hours

- 32% are ALS (BLS supported by ALS)
- 30% are hospital-based 911 units (Voluntary)
Voluntary Hospitals

- 30% of the 911 Units in the NYC EMS System
- Units provided by Private Hospitals dedicated to 911
- Since the Early 2000s – Commercial Ambulances allowed to enter the 911 System by contracting with some hospitals that did not have 911 ambulances
- Dispatched around base hospital
- Great Advertising for the hospital
Bankruptcy of a Commercial Ambulance Provider

- February 25, 2016
- Chapter 7 filed (not Chapter 11)
- Overnight, loss of 81 ambulance tours (7%)
- Contracted with 7 Hospitals
- Cited – “Lack of Funds”
Not possible to take over those tours – certainly not overnight – need personnel, ambulances, equipment

ICS was stood up at FDOC

Plan was in place based on earlier warning signs

Shifted FDNY ambulances from the other Boroughs

Requested Voluntary Hospitals to add units

Added Fly Cars (1 paramedic supervisor and 1 paramedic – non-transport units)

Increased incoming EMT class from 120 to 180

Added Tactical Response Group – 1 Supervisor and 10 BLS ambulances
From approximately 1 year prior, on several occasions, began to hear that paychecks were bouncing

In the Summer of 2015, advised by the State Department of Health that some insurance was not being paid — the State granted an extension to allow continued operations
- Plans were being formulated when reports of checks bouncing were brought to our attention.
- In the Fall, more definitive plans were put into place.
- Believed that Bankruptcy was imminent but did not realize that Chapter 7 was sought - Liquidation.
Potential Disaster
When An EMS Partner Is No Longer There

- Look for Early Warning Signs
- Expect the Unexpected
  - We are used to it – we are EMS
- Have a Plan in place
- Be prepared to adapt and improvise
Thank You

Questions?