

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

New York City 911 System

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”

What To Do?

- ❑ 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

Early Warning Signs

- ❑ 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?