



NJ EMS TASK FORCE BULLETIN

Issue # 1 February 2015

NJ EMS Task Force News Launches

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the NJ EMS Task Force Bulletin.

Once a quarter, perhaps more frequently in the future, we'll provide updates on the organization, upcoming events, and you, our members and member agencies.

We invite you to send items for consideration in our next newsletter. For instance, is your organization holding training sessions open to others? Or how about key milestones by members?

Email us at
EMSTFNewsletter@gmail.com

NJEMSTF Marks Anniversary

The NJ EMS Task Force marked the 10th anniversary of its formation in September with a daylong event.

More than 150 emergency medical service professionals from around New Jersey gathered for the event, which was held at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center.

The NJ EMS Task Force was created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The organization responds to large-scale man-made events and natural disasters.



TASK FORCE ASSISTS FDNY WITH STORM RELATED BACKLOG

When an ice storm hit the region, the NJ EMS Task Force responded.

Indeed, members of the Task Force were part of a mutual aid mobilization to assist the FDNY with a backlog of storm-related calls on Jan. 18, 2015.

The call volume increased after a rain created flash freezing situations on many area roadways.

The FDNY requested aid through the NYC OEM, which in conjunction with the NJ OEMS activated the NJ and NY MOU. As a result, nine BLS units and a strike team leader responded into New York.

Units from Westwood, Moonachie, Hackensack, Wallington, Mountainside, Summit, McCabe, North Bergen and Meadowlands responded to help with the backlog, which at one point reached 600 calls.

TF Planner Neel Mehta also responded to New York to serve as the onsite liaison between the New Jersey contingent and the FDNY. And McCabe Ambulance's Supervisor Ethan Rudnitsky was the Strike team leader.

The teams were on duty for one operational period, during which they handled more than two dozen calls in the Bronx.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

✓ EMS Today

February 25-28
Baltimore Convention Center,
Baltimore, MD
www.emstoday.com
(888) 299-8016

✓ NJ Emergency Preparedness Association

May 4-8, 2015
Tropicana Hotel & Casino, Atlantic
City, NJ
www.njepa.org
(609) 548-8351

✓ Connecticut EMS Expo

May 27-30, 2015
Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT.
www.ctemsexpo.com
(866) 745-5424

✓ NJ Statewide Conference on EMS

Nov. 12-14, 2015
Sheraton Hotel Atlantic City
Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ.
www.njemsconference.com
(609) 693-1613

IS YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

Want to make sure you're getting the most up-to-date information about the NJ EMS Task Force?

Take a moment and log onto www.whentowork.com and update your contact information. Task Force leaders use **When to Work** to schedule standbys and deployments. Having the correct info is critical to successful operation of the Task Force.

Are you also on NJLincs.net?

And have you registered with the Mercer County unit of the **New Jersey**



Medical Reserves Corps? Doing so is key in New Jersey Department of Health's efforts to provide NJ EMS Task Force members with limited liability in disaster responses.

Follow these simple instructions to get signed on:

To join the Mercer County MRC Unit:

1. Visit the NJMRC website at: www.njmrc.nj.gov.
2. On the left hand side of the homepage click on "On-line Application".
3. Scroll down to the Mercer County MRC and click on the Health Care Professional Application.
4. Complete and submit the Mercer County MRC-Health Care Professional Application.
5. In the application section "Professional Licensure, Certification, Specialties, Experiences, please type EMSTF Member in the "Sub-specialty within the above professional licensure/certification that you possess" (2nd large text box).
6. In the application section "Experience: Do you have any of the following skills? Please check your appropriate EMS certification.
7. The Mercer County MRC Unit Coordinator will review and approve your application.
8. You will receive a notice that you have been accepted into the Mercer County MRC Unit.

TF MABS Featured in Video

The NJ EMS Task Force’s fleet of Medical Ambulance Buses are featured in a new video that was viewed nearly 4,000 times within two weeks of it being posted on [YouTube](#).

Footage and interviews of the bus fleet was captured during a joint training session in New York in October. The deployment was part of a regional MAB operation to test the response system should there be a mass casualty incident in the region.

MABs and crews responded to the regional staging area at Orchard Beach in the Bronx. There, NJ OEMS officers along with officials from the FDNY, the NJ Department of Health and from Connecticut discussed how they would work together in a real event using the MABs. Using a MAB, first responders can treat and transport upwards of 20 patients at a time.

The [video](#) is part of the NJEMSTF’s [YouTube](#) channel, which features extensive interviews with Task Force members about the organization’s response to Superstorm Sandy.



Members of The West Long Branch First Aid Squad conducted monthly check of the NJEMSTF staging unit STAM 1 to kick off the New Year. Members Michael Scibetti and Kyle Ebbets spent time going through the equipment to assure it will be ready for the next deployment. STAM 1 features everything necessary for a staging team to be set up on location, including a generator, fans, chairs, tables and paperwork. The team maintains the readiness of STAM 1 through regular checks and drills. WLBFA members Tracey Newhouse and Kevin Mazza are also part of the NJEMSTF.

NEED TO CONTACT THE NJEMSTF?

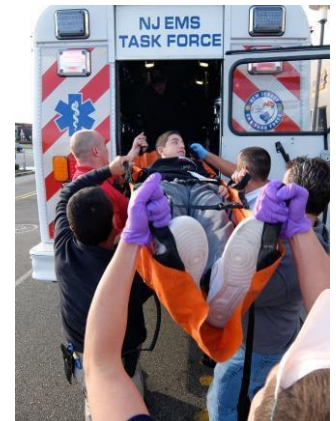
UASI Planner
Henry Cortacans
cortachp@uhnj.org

Central Region
Neel R. Mehta
Neel.mehta@rwjuh.edu

South Region
Debbie Bell
Debra.Bell@atlanticare.org

Logistics Planner
Joseph Grassi
Grassijo@uhnj.org

NJ Department of Health
Ken Christensen
Kenneth.Christensen@doh.state.nj.us



TF MABs #2 and #6 participated in a multi-agency MCI drill at the Freehold Mall.

FOLLOW THE NJ EMS TASK FORCE



[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)
[YouTube](#)



The EMS Command Center is the new mobile conference room for the NJ EMS Task Force. It provides a large, comfortable, climate-controlled location for command and control of incidents and events. It is designed to connect to the Technology Support Units (North and South) for resources but has its own systems if needed. The trailer is 36-feet long with expandable sides and easily supports a group of 16 to 20 people and two planners. The unit has its own generator but can be powered long term by an external source. Western Shelter Systems has created a customized low stress interior including a small galley area. The ECC contains all amenities typically found in in the modern office including video conferencing capabilities. The unit is housed in central NJ at the North Brunswick First Aid & Rescue Squad and managed by its staff and the EMSTF Communications Branch.



NJEMSTF members Alvin NG and Andy Caruso participated in the Emergency Manager 1 class at the Somerset County Fire Academy. The Emergency Manager 1 course is an 80-hour program designed to provide students with the core knowledge needed to effectively work in the Emergency Management field and perform many of the duties and tasks required.

NJEMSTF members Pete Dworksy, Karen Dougherty, Brian Carney and Michael Scibetti are in the current class that will end on April 23.