

ABOVE

Five people died in the May 20, 1991 collision and ensuing fire that involved a gasoline truck and a passenger car in the Bronx. After box 4146 was transmitted, firefighters fought a blaze fueled by 4,000 gallons of gasoline, a fire which destroyed 10 stores. Photo by PhotoTrends Inc.

FRONT COVER

Well more than a dozen large-caliber streams ganged up on the ferocious blaze that swept through a block of factory buildings at Brooklyn box 272 on January 15. (See story, p.2) The cover photo captures Ladder 124's tower ladder bucket at work on McKibbin Street, with a stream from Engine 271's Multiversal not far in the background. Photo by Lt. Danny Pontecorvo

BACK COVER

Realistically rendered with an airbrush and acrylics, E.305's and L.151's apparatus stand in front of a building that forms the letters FDNY. The artist, Fr. Joseph Pomilla (E.305), has been working in this medium for 10 years. He has a bachelor of fine arts from the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan.

The Fire Department has served the citizens of New York City in an exemplary manner for more than 126 years. The energies and diversities which make up our great City have presented us with the fullest range of firefighting challenges anywhere in the world. The Department has faced virtually every type of emergency, and it has seen each through to a successful conclusion.

However, the 1990s will produce dramatic changes, and the Fire Department must be aware of adjust to, and benefit from those changes. I would like to briefly outline areas where changes are occurring for the benefit of the Department.

In communications, we will gain precious seconds in our response to fires and emergencies. Mobile data terminals and printers installed in our engines, ladders, and battalion units as part of the 800-megahertz program will enhance both the transmission of information and our response ability. In addition, Starfire II, with state-of-the-art computerization, will provide for swifter dispatch and better coordination of response and relocation. Information vital to firefighter and public safety will be available for our units.

In administration, we will continue to decentralize. Each sector commander, working with his deputy and battalion chiefs, will be able to identify and resolve

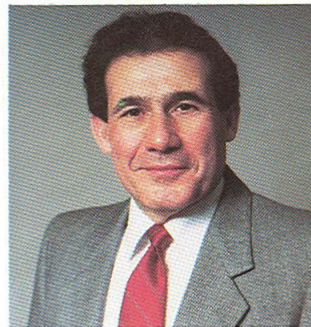
more quickly to Department and community concerns.

In firefighting strategies and capabilities, our outlook is also forward. The purchase of a shallow-draft fireboat (designed to ride high in the water) and two surface effect ships (riding on cushions of air) will enhance our marine firefighting abilities. We will be able to respond at speeds impossible for our present fleet.

We will also begin a first-responder program, starting in Brooklyn. Units will be dispatched to "Segment 1" calls for heart attacks and difficulty-in-breathing cases. Our ability to respond to emergency situations will also be enhanced by additional Hurst Tools, extrication equipment, and chain saws.

The Fire Department has built its reputation upon the courage, skill, and dedication of our firefighters. To maintain that reputation, it is important that we adjust our focus with the changing times and needs of our City. It is equally important that the FDNY provide the best state-of-the-art equipment and technology available.

That is our duty and our commitment to the future.



CARLOS M. RIVERA
Fire Commissioner

many administrative matters that previously were forwarded to headquarters. A more direct, hands-on approach to fire prevention and training programs, cooperation with local community boards and elected officials, and development of area-specific initiatives will provide more effective management. The sector commander will be in close touch with the circumstances of the sector and available to respond