



ABOVE

Fr. Ed Miller (L.119) directs positioning of a tower ladder bucket at the rear of a five-story brick building at 100 Pulaski Street, Brooklyn box 676. There was an interior collapse during the February 24, 1992, second alarm. Photo by Bob Welch

FRONT COVER

As a Forest Hills supermarket fire on March 26, 1992, grows to a fourth alarm, a trio of tower ladders undertakes the attack. Queens box 3158 was transmitted shortly after 0700 hours. Besides the fire building at 110-48 Queens Boulevard, four other occupancies also incurred heavy damage. Photo by John Strandberg

BACK COVER

"Taking Up," featuring Ladder Co. 40, is the latest from frequent contributor Paul Walsh.

Every person's outlook is influenced by position and experience, challenges faced and resources available.

The younger firefighters of today can barely imagine having to cut several 10-foot by 10-foot openings in a roof using only an axe. Conversely, firefighters of the past would be impressed with our power tools and the speed at which tasks are completed.

Members also discover that their priorities change as they move up through the ranks. Added responsibility for the safety and performance of others changes their view from single-dimensional to multidimensional. As we grow older and learn more, we have a broader base from which to pull information when making decisions.

Yet despite the differences that give us our individuality, we in the Fire Department are fortunate in that we share one thing: Regardless of rank, each one of us began our career as a firefighter. Each one of us carries our training with us throughout our careers.

There are some members who believe too much time is being spent on programs that have "noth-

ing to do with firefighting"—training programs such as those on hazardous materials and bloodborne pathogens. Nothing is further from the truth. Our members are potentially exposed to these hazards every tour they work.

It may be that, in the tradition of aggressive firefighting, members have tended to discount these haz-

ards training couldn't be clearer. These programs are vital if we are to protect our members, and they are legally mandated.

But it is not only against these seemingly modern threats that our members must be prepared. Without the proper training in the very basics of firefighting, the best equipment would mean nothing. Skills can be maintained and improved only with continued training.

While our formal training programs will grow to meet our members' new needs, it is the grass roots training initiatives which will benefit us most. Each fire or emergency should be a training session. When units return to quarters, a discussion or critique can take place over a cup of coffee. Needs that cannot be resolved at the field level should be passed up so they may be formally addressed.

Our members are committed and dedicated. Many solutions to new problems have been offered and implemented by our field members. I have no doubt that the traditions that made this Department great will continue, and the advancements of these years will be looked back upon as some of our greatest.



ANTHONY L. FUSCO
Chief of Department

ards. But the multifaceted outlook of senior officers is a view which must take in the suffering, the costs, and the potential for disaster from such hazards. From that view, the importance of hazardous materials and bloodborne patho-