



A high-intensity fire in this stairwell (left) resulted in two civilian deaths (DOAs) on November 4, 1995, at 826 Columbus Avenue, Manhattan. Note the blistering wall paint.

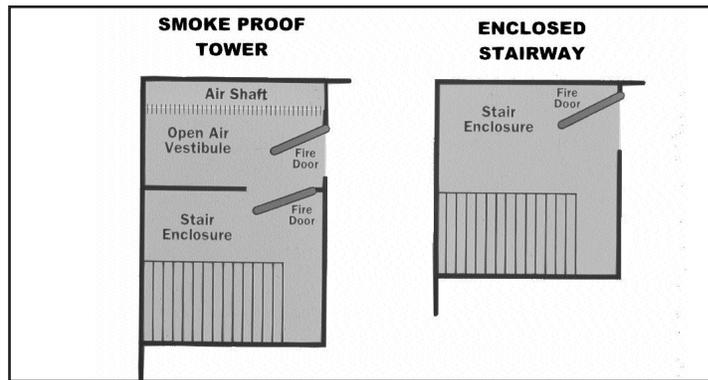
*photo by FF Tom McNulty*

Hallway fire (below) occurred on August 1, 1996, at 80 Dwight Street, Brooklyn. Note the melting light fixture, indicative of the heat generated by these kinds of fires.

*photo by FF Mike McGevna*



connecting speakers in each apartment and in the stairs, so the fire commander can make announcements and give directions to occupants. They must be instructed when to leave the building and when to stay in the apartment. Unfortunately--thanks to the media--many people erroneously believe the way to escape a fire in a high-rise building is to go to the roof and wait for the helicopters to rescue



There are only two kinds of exit stairs in high-rise buildings: A *smoke-proof stair* (fire tower) and an *enclosed stair*.

them. What actually happens is that they die in the stairway above the fire on their way up to the roof.

2. Stair enclosures must be marked with designating letters, such as A, B, C, etc., depending upon how many stairs are in the building.

3. Each stair level should be marked with the proper floor number--1, 2, 3, etc. The ground-floor level should be marked "floor number 1," *not* "ground floor."

4. The stair letter and number should be marked on the inside and outside of every door leading to every exit.



### About the Author...

*Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn is a veteran of 40 years on the FDNY, 25 of which have been as a chief officer. He holds a Masters Degree from Queens College and is the author of Safety and Survival on the Fireground and Collapse of Burning Buildings. He has developed and taught a number of courses for the FDNY, the FBI and the National Fire Academy and is a frequent contributor to WNYF.*



The Role of Rescue 3 at the Bronx Train Derailment, continued from page 6

## Transmit the 10-60 Signal

by Captain Terence S. Hatton

In May 1997, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani redefined the direction and control of emergencies in New York City. The FDNY is designated the Incident Commander at:

- Fires
- Explosions
- Structural Collapses
- Hazardous Material Incidents
- Rail Crashes
- Air Crashes
- Confined Space Rescues
- Terrorism--Dealing with the consequences of the explosion or release is the responsibility of the FDNY.

It is important to be proactive, anticipate change and prepare for it. This is especially true when an incident is escalating and good management is difficult because

many people are reporting to the Incident Commander. Officers of the first-arriving units should remember the reflex time involved to procure adequate resources to these kinds of emergencies.

The 10-60 signal was designed for a major emergency response. The following units will respond:

- 1 Deputy Chief
- 4 additional Battalion Chiefs
- 3 Rescue Companies (including Rescue 3 with the Collapse Unit)
- 1 Tactical Support Unit
- Safety Operating Battalion
- Field Communications Unit
- Haz/Mat 1
- Squad 1 and the Technical Response Vehicle
- Public Information Officer

Upon transmission of a second alarm and a 10-60 signal, an additional Deputy Chief will respond.

# SPECIAL APPARATUS

## High-Rise Units

by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone

**F**ires in high-rise structures are complex, involving operations that require substantial logistical support. Operations at these fires often take place at floors far above the street level, with staging and operations areas established at a remote area from apparatus. During the course of firefighting, many SCBA cylinders are expended and need to be replaced rapidly. Additional hand lights, portable radios, sound-powered telephones and other specialized equipment also are required.

To provide this support equipment at the scene of high-rise operations in an expeditious manner, the Department maintains in service two High-Rise Units. These vehicles resemble smaller-scale rescue company apparatus and are equipped with 30-foot light towers.

Each unit carries 104 60-minute SCBA cylinders. There are six roll-off cylinder carts, with each carrying 10 cylinders. These can be rolled off the apparatus, into the building lobby, onto an elevator and off at the floor where the staging area is set up. This system greatly reduces the number of personnel required to shuttle cylinders to the staging area.

There are 24 portable radios with chargers that can be used to replace defective handie-talkies during operations or provide additional radios to operating units. To establish hard wire communications, four sound-powered telephones, headsets and four reels, each carrying 400 feet of cable, are onboard.

There is also a supply of approximately 50 hand lights with chargers that can replenish operating units.

Electrical equipment includes six 100-foot electrical extension cords, an 800-foot electrical power line, junction boxes, adapters and connectors, three 4000-watt generators, a Honda Teelite generator and six portable lights.

Quite a variety of specialized equipment is carried by these units. Included are an air hammer kit, binoculars, chain breaker, two cordless drills, smoke ejector, three gas-powered 9500-cfm, positive pressure fans, a megaphone, a sawzall kit, shovels, metric and standard socket sets, two suction cup sets, a supply of pressure-sensitive tape, wire/cable cutters, an assortment of wrenches and miscellaneous hand tools and a 173-gpm trash pump. There is also a Stanley Tool System, similar to those carried by the Tactical Support Units and Collapse Rescue.

Standard firefighting tools carried include an assortment of axes, halligan tools and hooks of various sizes and configurations, bolt cutters, elevator keys, two elevator hooks, a hydra-ram, a Thermo Spy infrared sensor, two K-Tool kits, two 14-foot, A-frame ladders, a Rabbit Tool and two 200-foot search ropes.

Rounding out the equipment carried are 12 pairs of safety goggles, 12 sets of hearing protectors and three hand trucks.

The High-Rise Units are staffed by the engine company with which they are quartered. High-Rise Unit 1 is quartered



Two identical apparatus, built by Saulsbury on 1997 Mack chassis, serve as High-Rise Units 1 and 2.

*photo by John A. Calderone*

with Engine 3, while High-Rise Unit 2 is quartered with Engine 39. Back-up units are Engines 33 and 22, respectively.

The primary response area of High-Rise 1 consists of Battalions 1, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Manhattan and the entire boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island. High-Rise 2's primary response area includes Battalions 2, 4, 6, 7, 13 and 16 in Manhattan and all of the Bronx and Queens. The staggered battalion response pattern for these units in Manhattan takes into account north-south response routes, as well as the fact that Engine 3 or 39 already may be assigned to respond to the incident in its early stages and would be unavailable for subsequent response to staff their associated high-rise unit.

A High-Rise Unit is assigned upon receipt of a 10-76 or transmission of a second alarm in a high-rise building. Additionally, a High-Rise Unit can be special-called to any kind of incident where its equipment can assist operations. If required, the second High-Rise Unit can be special-called

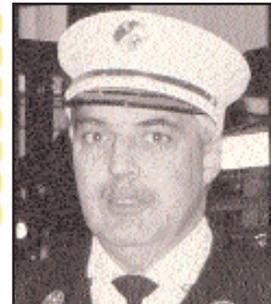
to the same incident to augment major operations.

The two High-Rise Units are equipped to supply the tools and equipment most often required at firefighting operations in high-rise buildings. Having all of this equipment onboard these specific vehicles provides for an extremely efficient use of personnel and alleviates many of the logistical problems associated with this kind of fire.



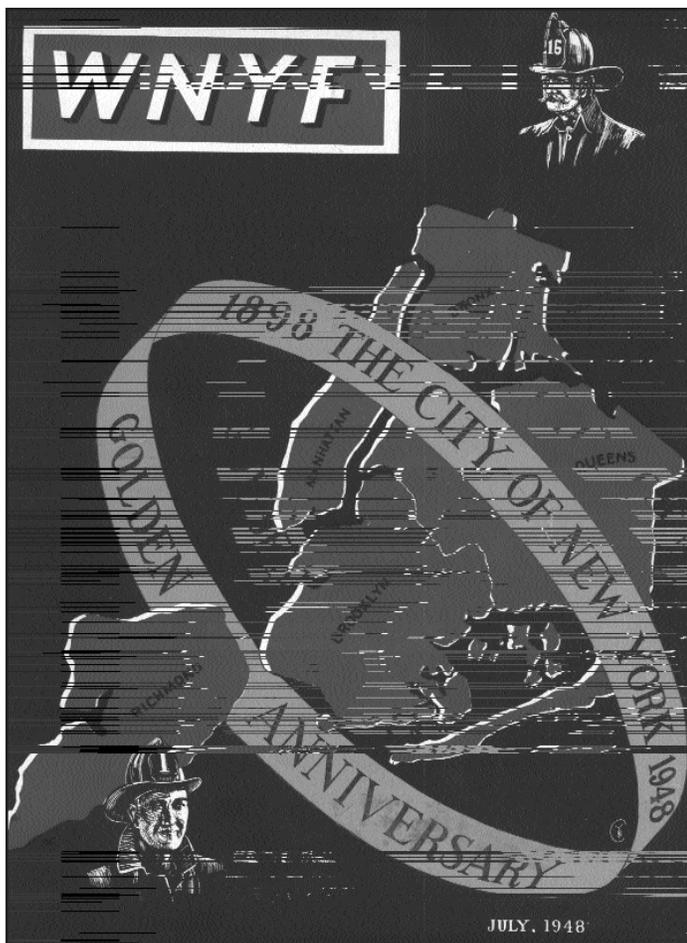
### About the Author...

*Battalion Chief John A. Calderone is a 25-year veteran of the FDNY. Currently, he is assigned to Battalion 22. He holds a degree in Fire Protection from New York City Community College and has written extensively on the subject of fire apparatus.*



## A Look Back--WNYF 50 Years Ago

by Captain Bill Groneman



Artwork of the cover depicts the golden or 50-year anniversary of the incorporated City of New York, 1898-1948.

The July 1948 issue of *WNYF* contained the following articles:

- **"Subway Odd Job"**--Alert Motorman and Neat Firefighting Avert Panic in Blazing Worktrain in BMT Tunnel--by **FF Robert A. McDermott, E-7**
  - **"New York's Hotels"**--Brief Outline of Problems Involved in Their Protection From Fire Department Viewpoint--by **Deputy Chief Edward Connors, Div. 7**
  - **"White Cows for Blue Shirts"**--Sketchy Narrative of Life in Austere Order Recently Adopted by Two New York Firemen--by **FF Frank Hanifin, L-80**
  - **"Milestones along the way"**--1918-1947 (continued from the January 1948 issue)
  - **"Sparks and Blazers"**--Two Brooklyn Firemen Organize Neighborhood Ball Teams to Combat Juvenile Delinquency--by **FF John P. Cunningham, L-169**
  - **"N.Y. International Airport"**--Construction and Fire Protective Features of City's Newest Mammoth Commercial Field--by **FF James F. Carey, E-267**
  - **"Let's Talk Shop"**--Many Activities of Department Now Housed in New Shops Building in Long Island City--by **FF Charles S.W. Rubel, E-213**
  - **"Odd Job"**--by **FF Frank Hanifin, L-80**
  - **"Forever Dodger"**--Short Story--by **FF Irving Tarde, LSS-1**
  - **"The Rifle and Revolver Club"**--by **FF John Herman, Jr., E-16**
  - **"Blood Brothers"**--by **FF Walter F. Loehfelm, L-156**
  - **"Smoky Joe"**--Incidents and Anecdotes of the 47-Year Illustrious Career of Asst. Chief Martin--by **Lieutenant Joseph A. Lawler, E-69**
  - **"In the Books"**--by **Rebecca B. Rankin, Librarian, Municipal Reference Library**
- The issue also contained regular features, such as
- "Amendments and Orders"
  - "In Focus"
  - "Through the Bag"
  - "All Hands"
  - "Retirements"
  - "New Apparatus"
  - "In Memoriam"

have taken "the fifth"...SOC welcomes **Lieutenants Michael McDonald, Dan Sheridan and Raymond Bressingham** to the Command...Rescue Three: "The Big Blue" thanks all the members, family and friends who participated in the annual "Al Ronaldson" Golf Tournament...R-3 welcomes abroad **FF John La Femina**...**Congratulations to Tim Brown** on his long-awaited detail to Haz Mat. We are all happy for him...Compliments go out to **John O'Connell**, who won the patch contest at R-3...**Dan McDonough** came in a close second...Marine One greetings from the Tilton Hilton...Congrats to **Pilot Chucky "Cheese" Stauder** and family on their new addition, Kaitlyn Rose...Also, congratulations to **Lieutenant "Dandy" Dan Daly** on his promotion to Captain. A well-deserved set of railroad tracks!...Flagpole and Yardarm Company...Old Glory looks great flapping in the off-shore breeze...A warm welcome back to **"Miss Piggy"** at our humble berth. We missed ya!...Don't forget--**Jimmy B.** says "Time to ketchup on your gift guns"...A job well done to **Frank and Nipplehead** for driving the porcelain bus to the pre-St. Patrick's Day festivities...All members keep an eye out for the phantom "Value Man." You never know where to turn!...Marine Six mourns the loss of **Captain John Vitale**. Captain Vitale will be remembered by all who knew him as a knowledgeable and extremely cheerful asset to this Department. John's ever-present smile will be missed by all. To John's family, we extend our deepest sympathies and prayers.

## Retirees

by James R. (Jim) King

Retirees now vastly outnumber Actives, with the latest figures approaching 15,000. Many have chosen to move to far-off places--not only in the U.S., but to foreign lands as well. However, they still wish to maintain the brotherhood in which they spent the greater part of their adult lives. In order to maintain these ties and also keep informed of what is happening with their pensions and assorted benefits, they have formed Retiree groups throughout the nation under the umbrella group, the United Retired Firefighters Association, Fire Department, City of New York. Representatives of these groups meet on a regular basis in NYC to discuss and formulate programs to protect and enhance their benefits and elect officers. The current Executive Board of the United Retired Firefighters Association includes: President **John Sollazzo** of the Staten Island Retirees, 40 Holden Boulevard,

S.I., NY 10314--718-761-2299; VP **James R. King**, President of the Retired Men's Association, 352 Harborview Drive, Centre Island, NY 11771, 516-922-5221; Corresponding Secretary **John Cunningham**, 3280 Nostrand Avenue, Apartment 114, Brooklyn, NY 11229, 718-645-7314; Treasurer **Robert Sheehan**, 5 Hildreth Road, Hampton Bays, NY 11946, 516-723-3858; Recording Secretary **James Belmonte**, 134 Brenner Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714, 516-368-0731; and Executive Secretary **Robert DiVirgilio**, 5 Matthew Street, South Farmingdale, NY 11714, 516-420-1163.

Affiliated Divisions include: Veteran Firemen's Association, NYC, Retired Men's Association, NYC, Staten Island Retirees, Southern California Retirees, Orange County, NY, Tucson, AZ, Nassau County, NY, Suffolk County, NY, Peconic, NY, Poconos Mountains, PA, Palm Beach, FL, Broward County, FL, Port Charlotte and Southwest, FL, Orlando, FL, Treasure Coast, FL, Port St. Lucie, FL, Phoenix, AZ, Sun City, AZ, and the Rainbow Division in Hawaii. For more information on any of these Retiree Divisions, contact any of the United Retired Firefighters executive officers as listed...Nice letter from **George Schofield**, retired Captain L-169 (1968-1976) and also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, a Brooklynite transported to the state of Delaware. George says "hello" to all...Annually, a series of two workshops and one retreat for 12-step programs are conducted by **FD Chaplain Rev. Mychal Judge** and **Rev. Everett Wabst**. These programs by these two men of God have become increasingly popular. The most recent retreat, held at the Mt. Manressa Retreat House on Staten Island, was

overbooked and required extra rooms. Thank you, Chaplains, for making this service available for active and retired members...A \$5000 scholarship award was established by the Allied Educational Foundation in memory of former **FF, Judge and Fire Commissioner Edward Thompson** at their annual Health and Welfare Conference at the Concord Hotel, Lake Kiamesha, NY...In closing, remember--people don't stop

doing things because they get older; they get older because they stop doing things!

## Corrections

- In the 4th/97 issue, page 25, Chief of Department Joseph Casaburi inadvertently was given a demotion to Captain. We know he's the Chief; he's also the consummate gentleman.
- In the 1st/98 issue, page 17, the sub-head and body copy should have read, 157 East 67th Street.
- In the 1st/98 issue, page 2, sarin is a liquid, not a gas, and OXIME should be added after the word phosgene in two places in the same paragraph.
- In the 1st/98 issue, page 10, the incorrect photo was used to illustrate the complete whizzer saw set-up. It should be noted that **the Paratech air bag controller should never be used in conjunction with the whizzer saw**. The proper sequence of assembly is as follows: an air tool dedicated Scott bottle, an air tool regulator, air hose and then the whizzer saw (as shown). I apologize for any confusion I may have caused.--Lieutenant Peter C. Martin



## In Memoriam:

**Charles "Chuck" DeGaetano**  
May 26, 1998

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Charles DeGaetano**--better known as "Chuck"--after a brief illness. Following a distinguished career as a Paramedic, reaching the level of Inspector, he came over to the public information side, both in EMS and then when EMS merged with the FDNY. For the past two years, Chuck served the FDNY's Office of Public Information as Publications Manager and was instrumental in getting **WNYF** back on-line. A class act all the way, he was a pleasure to work with and will be missed.

