

Technical Response Vehicle

by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone



The Technical Response Vehicle, operated by Squad 1, is a 1991 International four-door chassis with Saulsbury body work.

photo by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone

In the early 1990s, the Department was in the midst of assuming a greater role in the management of emergencies in New York City. Around the same time, a technology revolution was taking place in the rescue tool industry, resulting in many new, specialized tools becoming available to the fire service. Some of these tools were quite sophisticated and came with an expensive price tag. That, along with the fact that rescue company apparatus had little room left to add additional equipment, led the Department to establish a Technical Response Vehicle at the quarters of Squad 1, 786 Union Street, Brooklyn, during 1992. A 1991 International/Saulsbury apparatus was modified for this purpose. When assigned to an alarm, this apparatus is cross-staffed by personnel from Squad 1.

Equipment carried by the Technical Response Vehicle includes portable generators, electrical cables, junction boxes and portable lighting, submersible pumps, Hurst Tool system, cable and rebar cutters, griphoists and an Arc-Air exothermic cutting torch. Collapse equipment consists of ultra-sound listening device, gasoline-powered pavement breaker, laser self-leveling surveyor's transit, cordless drill, Sawzall, nail guns and a Stanley hydraulic tool system with pump, hammer drill, diamond chain saw, fan and chain saw. Additionally, there is a supply of shoring material, cribbing and chocks.

Also carried are various hand tools, shovels, mauls, pipe wrenches, carpenter tools and a 36-inch chain saw.

Water rescue equipment includes an Avon inflatable boat with motor, Switlik Rescue Platform, water rescue suits and a thermo recovery capsule.

Since Squad 1 also performs haz-mat functions, the Technical Response Vehicle doubles as their haz-mat tender. Among the haz-mat equipment carried are chemical protective suits, non-sparking tools, various meters, leak-stopping kits and devices, off-loading pump and accessories, absorbent booms and a supply of Speedy Dry absorbent material.

Squad 1 and the Technical Response Vehicle are assigned to respond on 10-60, haz-mat incidents and by special-call when any equipment is deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.

About the Author...

Battalion Chief John A. Calderone has served the FDNY since 1973. 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. He is a regular contributor to WNYF.

