

# FDNY's New Foam Carriers

by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone

Foam carriers are designed to supply foam concentrate at incidents that exceed the foam-delivery capabilities of the first-alarm units. Recently, the Department has placed upgraded foam carriers into service. These apparatus have been created using 1987 and 1988 Mack 1000-gpm pumpers, which have been replaced in first-line service by newer apparatus.

This conversion included removing the existing 500-gallon water tank and replacing it with a 1000-gallon polytank; reconfiguring the hose bed; and installing a foam deck pipe. The foam deck pipe has a 310-gpm capacity and is pre-piped. There are also portable eductors for foam hand-line operations, 10 lengths of 3 1/2-inch hose for use as a water supply-line and a 7500-cfm high-expansion foam generator. Additionally, each foam apparatus carries five five-gallon cans of high-expansion foam and five five-gallon cans of alcohol-resistant foam.

The foam carriers have been redesignated with numbers that correspond to the Engine Company with which they are quartered. Currently, these retrofitted apparatus have been assigned as Foam Units 5, 95, 96, 152, 154, 167, 206, 260, 294 and 321. Except for Foam Units 95 and 206, these units carry 1000 gallons of fluoroprotein foam in their tanks. Units 95 and 206 carry 1000 gallons of alcohol-resistant fluoroprotein foam instead.

Because of the larger tank, which results in additional axle weight, only the designated number of five-gallon cans of foam can be carried by these foam carriers. Additionally, only the chauffeur and one other member are permitted to ride on these apparatus.

Foam carriers respond in accordance with the *Manual of Fire Communications*. A radio code signal 10-86 is used to indicate an operation requiring fluoroprotein foam concentrate in excess of



(Above) Some of the 3 1/2-inch hose used for a water supply-line in the reconfigured hose bed.



(Right) The converted apparatus features a 1000-gallon poly-tank and a foam deck pipe.

the amount carried by units on the scene.

On receipt of a 10-86, two foam coordinators, two foam carriers, a satellite unit and the foam tender (which carries 3000 gallons of fluoroprotein foam)--all with their associated

Engine Companies--are dispatched. For a high-expansion foam operation, a 10-87 code signal is used. This signal prompts the dispatch of two foam coordinators, two foam carriers, a satellite unit and the high-expansion foam unit with a 500-gallon tank, all with their associated Engine Companies. Foam carriers also may be special-called by an Incident Commander. Whenever a foam carrier responds, the associated Engine Company responds with its assigned pumper, the foam carrier and all members.

For more information about these carriers, see "Not Just a Bulk Delivery System--Functions of the New Foam Carriers," by Deputy Chief Richard Burban and Battalion Chief Joseph Saccette on page 5 of this issue of WNYF.

### About the Author...

Battalion Chief John A. Calderone has served the FDNY since 1973. Currently, he is working in 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.



Shown above is 154, a standard foam carrier. Shown below is 206, an alcohol foam carrier.



all photos by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone