

Logistical Support Units

by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone

The EMS Command maintains a Logistical Support Unit in each borough. These units are a valuable resource and provide additional needed equipment for restocking and augmenting operations at mass-casualty incidents, especially where there are numerous victims in need of treatment.



photo by Battalion Chief John A. Calderone

At the Staten Island Ferry crash, for example (see “Staten Island Ferry Accident Prompts Large-Scale FDNY Response,” by Deputy Chief Richard Howe, on page 16 of this issue), initial triage procedures determined there were multiple victims who needed to be immobilized. At this point in the operation, only the first-alarm assignment and initial EMS units were on the scene. Each Engine Company and each ambulance carries a single backboard. There were not enough backboards on the scene at this point to deal with the number of victims.

Logistical Support Unit 5, responding from EMS Battalion 22 and carrying 20 additional backboards, was dispatched early in the operation. Logistical Support Unit 1 from Manhattan was sent as a back-up.

All five Logistical Support Unit apparatus are set up in a standard configuration so that the same equipment is found in the same location on each unit. Each unit carries quantities of immobilization, patient-transfer, oxygen, decon and other equipment that would be useful at a large-scale incident.

Additionally, each Logistical Supply Unit carries administrative supplies, forms, logs, personal protective equipment, and portable radios. These units are a much-needed resource at incidents with numerous victims.



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.



Equipment Carried by Logistical Support Units

Immobilization Equipment

- 20 backboards
- 5 KEDS
- 50 head immobilizers
- 15 regular collars
- 15 short collars
- 15 no-neck collars
- 15 pediatric collars
- 15 infant collars
- 10 large padded splints
- 10 medium padded splints
- 10 small padded splints
- 1 case of straps

Patient Transfer Equipment

- 2 stair chairs
- 2 scoop stretchers

Oxygen Equipment

- 4 oxygen M cylinders
- 18 oxygen D cylinders

- 2 multi-lators
- 2 oxygen bags
- 2 oxygen regulators
- 6 adult BVMs
- 6 pediatric BVMs
- 1 case adult non-rebreathers
- 1 case pediatric non-rebreathers
- 1 case adult nasal cannulas
- 1 case pediatric cannulas
- 1 case nebulizers
- 4 boxes Albuterol
- 1 case oxygen humidifiers

Miscellaneous Equipment

- 300 triage tags
- 1 case ACRs
- 2 cases ice packs
- 1 case red bags
- 1 case clear bags
- 2 cases body bags
- 4 boxes respirator masks

- 10 cases Tyvek suits
- 10 isolation kits
- 1 case sterile burn sheets
- 2 boxes small disposable gloves
- 4 boxes medium disposable gloves
- 4 boxes large disposable gloves
- 4 boxes XL disposable gloves
- 1 case blankets
- 4 cases sterile water
- 4 cases saline solution
- 9 antidote tech bags
- 1 case goggles
- 1 command board

Decon Equipment

- 25 bleach packs
- 1 case soap solution
- 1 5-gallon pail
- 1 decon scrub brush
- 1 decon sponge
- 2 disposable gloves