

REPORT OF UNIT CITATION

February 15, 2003

Date

Unit: **Hm-1**

Battalion: **10**

Division: **3**

1. Box **1065**

Borough **Manhattan**

Date **1/29/2003**

Time **20:27**

Time of Act: **20:27**

Date: **1/29/2003**

2. MEMBERS RESPONDING:

Rank	Name	Unit	Assigned Unit
LT.	Hough	Hm-1	Hm-1
FF	Tomaszewski	Hm-1	Hm-1
FF	Napoli	Hm-1	E-321
FF	Mussorfiti	Hm-1	Hm-1
FF	Sgro	Hm-1	L-160
FF	Mccormack	Hm-1	L-155
FF	Barry	Hm-1	L-32

3. ARE ANY OF THESE MEMBERS BEING RECOMMENDED INDIVIDUALLY FOR MERITORIOUS ACT IN CONNECTION WITH THIS FIRE? **No** (If Yes - list names)

Rank	Name	Unit	Assigned Unit

4. LOCATION OF UNIT OPERATIONS:

a) If in building: Address: **111 East 76 St.**

Height **12 Stories**

Area **100x100**

Construction

Occupancy **Hospital**

Number of apartments in building

Floor(s)

Room **Loading area**

b) If not in building: Give complete descriptive information so that physical setting can be recreated.

The 6000 gallon tank was on the first floor corner of the hospital in a loading garage type area.

5. PERSON(S) AIDED:

NAME		
ADDRESS		
AGE - SEX		
RESCUE BREATHING		
EXTERNAL CARDIAC MASSAGE		
RESUSCITATOR APPLIED		
HOSPITALIZED		
NAME OF HOSPITAL		
DIAGNOSIS		
LENGTH OF HOSPITALIZATION		

Report of Unit Citation

6. Description of Unit Operation

At approximately 2046 hours Haz-Mat Company 1 responded to Manhattan Box 1065 to assist units operating at a Liquid Oxygen leak at Lenox Hill hospital. Upon their arrival the Haz-Mat officer (Lt. George Hough) and entry team (FF's Robert Sgro and John McCormack) reported into the command post to confer with Deputy Chief Tom McKavanagh, Battalion Chief Jim Harten (Bn 10) and Haz-Mat BC Mike O'Kelly. Lt. Hough, along with the entry team (Sgro and McCormack) made entry into the first floor making their way to the exposure 4 side to conduct an initial reconnaissance. The entry team relayed the following information back to the command post: elevated oxygen readings were observed on both the MSA 5 star and the Passport VOC PID meters. It was determined that ventilation must be commenced prior to continuing operations. This was accomplished by opening the roll down door that was observed on the exposure 4 side.

While the room was venting, Lt. Hough and the entry team exited the affected area to limit their exposure to the cryogenic gas escaping from what appeared to be a 6000 gallon liquid oxygen storage tank.

After conferring with the command post and updating the situation, the entry team made a second entry to perform another reconnaissance of the area. It was reported back to the command post that there appeared to be a major leak from a fitting on the building pressure valve that was confirmed by using the thermal imaging camera to view it. The officer and entry team determined that all the control handles were covered in ice and were inaccessible at the time. At the same time a hose line stretched by 39 Engine and as per the Chief's directive manned by the backup team (FF Napoli and FF Tomaszewski) due to the hazard potential of the LOX coming into contact with hydrocarbons (asphalt) presenting a possible violent reaction, rendering the asphalt shock sensitive.

Lt. Hough and the entry team returned to the command post to discuss options of removing the buildup of ice on the control valves. Haz-mat's suggestion of utilizing a second hoseline to melt the ice away was approved. 39 Engine stretched a second hoseline which was manned and placed into position by the entry team. The backup team manned the second precautionary line. After several minutes of applying water to the valve assembly all but one valve was accessed and shut down. Continued application of the hose line to the valve assembly resulted in successful access to and shut down of the final valve, terminating the release of product from its' container. Bill Beason, representative for BOC, concurred with the assessment and mitigation performed by the entry team.

Once this was accomplished, followup metering by the backup and decon team (FF BARRY and FF Murphy R-4) was made of the first floor and basement to observe Oxygen readings and identify any potential hazards associated with Oxygen levels.

The Resource firefighter (Tony Mussorfiti) investigated a contingency plan, with BOC, to supply a backup tanker truck in the event that the secondary tank had to be shut down, thereby allowing the hospital to continue to supply oxygen to its patients.

Haz-Mat personnel operated under severe conditions resulting from the combination of the cold weather (below freezing) and the effects of the cryogenic product (minus 297 degrees fahrenheit) that was released. With methodical planning and execution of tactics, members of Haz Mat 1 were able to mitigate the potential disastrous results of an elevated oxygenated atmosphere within high life hazard occupancy.

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6. DESCRIPTION OF UNIT OPERATION:

See attached report.

Note: FF Murphy Rescue 4 was working in HM-1

7. RECOMMENDATION:

Deputy Chief

Division

Date