

# REPORT OF UNIT CITATION

01/01/2021

Date

Unit: Haz Mat Co. #1

Battalion: HM

Division: SO

1. Box 8387 Borough Queens

Date 12/22/2020

Time 00:01

Time of Act: 01:30

Date: 12/22/2020

2. MEMBERS RESPONDING:

Rank	Name	Unit	Assigned Unit
Lieutenant	Mark Hamilton	HM1	HM1
Fire Fighter	Brian Briscoe	HM1	L160
Fire Fighter	Eric Phillips	HM1	HM1
Fire Fighter	David Torres	HM1	HM1
Fire Fighter	Thomas Lopez	HM1	E15
Fire Fighter	Michael Sarro	HM1	HM1
Fire Fighter	Mitchell Delirod	HM1	HM1

3. ARE ANY OF THESE MEMBERS BEING RECOMMENDED INDIVIDUALLY FOR MERITORIOUS ACT IN CONNECTION WITH THIS FIRE? (If Yes - list names)

Rank	Name	Unit	Assigned Unit
Fire Fighter	William Nerko	HM1	L158

4. LOCATION OF UNIT OPERATIONS:

a) If in building: Address:

Height	Area	Construction
Occupancy		Number of apartments in building
Floor(s)		Room

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

Haz Mat Company #1 was dispatched to a overturned truck on the Horace Hoarding Service Road and the Long Island Expressway Westbound at Exit 19. The overturned truck turned out to be a "Rack Truck" carrying over 300 Propane cylinders varying in size and amounts of product. The Truck had crashed into the Jersey Barrier and started a conflagration with flames as high as 180 feet in the air with cylinders exploding across the Expressway and into surrounding areas.

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 00:01 hrs. on December 22, 2020, Hazardous Materials Company 1 responded to Box 8387 for a reported truck fire on the Horace Harding Expressway. Moments after their arrival, a burning twenty-pound propane cylinder which had just belved due to excessive heat had landed approximately ten feet from their apparatus. The members of Haz Mat 1 immediately began to size up the incident by checking the cylinders with Thermal Imaging Cameras and Fluke Temperature Guns, while the Officer, Lt. Hamilton had a face to face meeting with Chief Keenan in Battalion 46. The members of Haz Mat 1 then used the information they had gathered to help guide the hose streams into the most effective position for maximum cooling of cylinders and extinguishment of fire. Once the fire was fully extinguished, the members of Haz Mat 1 immediately began a thorough hazard assessment to assess the damage to the cylinders, including which ones were still leaking, and the dangers that they might present. With the help of all members of the Ladder and Engine companies at the scene, Haz Mat 1 was able to identify all of the cylinders that still contained propane and that were leaking. These seven leaking cylinders were moved further Westward of the incident in order to help prevent any chances of the leaking propane from finding an ignition source. The incident presented a highly unusual and complex scenario, seven flame impinged cylinders that were damaged by the explosions and were leaking. Haz Mat 1 carries two flaring kits to evacuate cylinders that are deemed unsafe to transport from the scene. A flare kit burns off the contents of the cylinder rendering it safe. Four (4) of the cylinders would be remediated this way. Three (3) of the cylinder's valves were damaged in such a way that they could not be evacuated in this manner. Haz Mat 1 prepared for this scenario and put in place an alternative flaring method utilizing a salvage drum and a water bath to safely flare and evacuate the damaged cylinders that could not be connected to the traditional flares. It is important to note that this method was developed and refined by Haz Mat Company 1 members. Comprehensive knowledge of the product container and the environment is required to safely execute these types of procedures. Every member of Haz Mat Company 1 was utilized in this operation. Haz Mat 1 trains for low frequency, high consequence events like this operation. Due to the professional manner in the way that Haz Mat 1 operated in a complicated and dangerous environment, I recommend them for a Unit Citation.

### 7. RECOMMENDATION:

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Deputy Chief

Division

Date