

Date

1. BOX 0554 (highest alarm) BOROUGH Manh. DATE 11/19/88 TIME 2049 Hrs.

2. PERFORMED BY: FF 1st Robert J. Ingram Rank or Grade Name Haz/Mat #1 Unit Assigned 11/19/88 Detailed

3. DID ANY OTHER MEMBER PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THIS ACT? (If Yes) FF 1st Philip H. McArdle Rank Name Haz/Mat #1 Unit

Is Meritorious Act Report being forwarded for participating member? Yes If not, how did member participate?

4. LOCATION OF MERITORIOUS ACT

a) If in building: Address 24 East 13th Street, Manhattan

Height 4 Sty Area 50 x 100 Construction NFP

Occupancy Health Club Number of apartments in building NA

Floor where act took place Basement Room Pool Storage Room

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

5. PERSON(S) AIDED: See #11

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

6. MEMBER PERFORMING ACT: Did he receive any emergency treatment? No

Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Was medical leave granted? No Diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_

7. WHAT SPECIFIC JOB WAS MEMBER PERFORMING AT TIME OF RESCUE? Haz/Mat Entry Team member removing and segregating chemicals

WAS MEMBER ALONE? No (If not, indicate number of Fire Department personnel in immediate area, and describe their positions in #11.

WAS A MASK WORN BY MEMBER DURING RESCUE? Yes

WAS CHARGED HOSELINE IN POSITION TO PROTECT MEMBER MAKING RESCUE? No

HOW WAS VICTIM REMOVED FROM PREMISES? Carried N/A Dragged \_\_\_\_\_ Assisted \_\_\_\_\_

WAS A LADDER USED IN THIS RESCUE? No If yes, indicate type, size and placement \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT OF MERITORIOUS ACT

Robert J. Ingram

Name of Member

11/19/88

Date of Act

8. NAME(S) OF TWO MEMBERS WHO ACTUALLY WITNESSED ACT (IF AVAILABLE)

RANK	NAME	UNIT
Captain	John J. Fanning	Hazardous Materials Co. 1
FF 1st	Scott Kirchhofer	"

9. NAME(S) OF TWO CIVILIANS WHO ACTUALLY WITNESSED ACT (IF AVAILABLE)

NAME	ADDRESS
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N/A

10. WAS VICTIM REMOVED FROM: Immediate fire area \_\_\_\_\_ Directly above fire \_\_\_\_\_  
Other area (specify in detail):

N/A

11. DESCRIPTION OF ACT:

As Hazardous Materials Company #1 arrived at the New York Health and Racquet Club in Manhattan the occupants of the building were being evacuated. A chemical reaction had taken place in the basement swimming pool storage area and a vapor cloud filled the basement.

FF's Ingram and McArdle, the Entry Team of Hazardous Materials Co. 1, immediately donned chemical protective suits and made their way down to the pool area. There they entered vapor cloud and conducted a search of the pool area. Assured that all occupants had vacated the area both members searched for the source of the reaction.

In a large storage area adjacent to the pool they located numerous containers of hydrochloric acid, lime, various oxidizers and other chemicals, some of which had spilled on the floor. In an attempt to stop the chemical reaction they began separating the various chemicals. As they were doing this, a steam pipe melted several plastic containers of hydrochloric acid that were placed against it, spilling the acid among the other chemicals. The reaction began to intensify out of control.

FF's Ingram and McArdle returned immediately to the entrance to the basement and notified Captain Fanning and other members of Haz/Mat #1 to evacuate the basement immediately as a runaway reaction was occurring. Captain Fanning told both members to leave along with them. They informed Captain Fanning that they wanted to make a last attempt to stop the reaction but it had to be done immediately. Knowing that there was not time to evacuate the entire building as the situation worsened both members, without hesitation, immediately reentered the hot zone as the other members, not wearing chemical protective gear, left the area.

FF's Ingram and McArdle reentered the storage room and, knowing the source of the problem, removed the hydrochloric

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12. DIAGRAM OF APARTMENT OR AREA FROM WHICH VICTIM WAS REMOVED

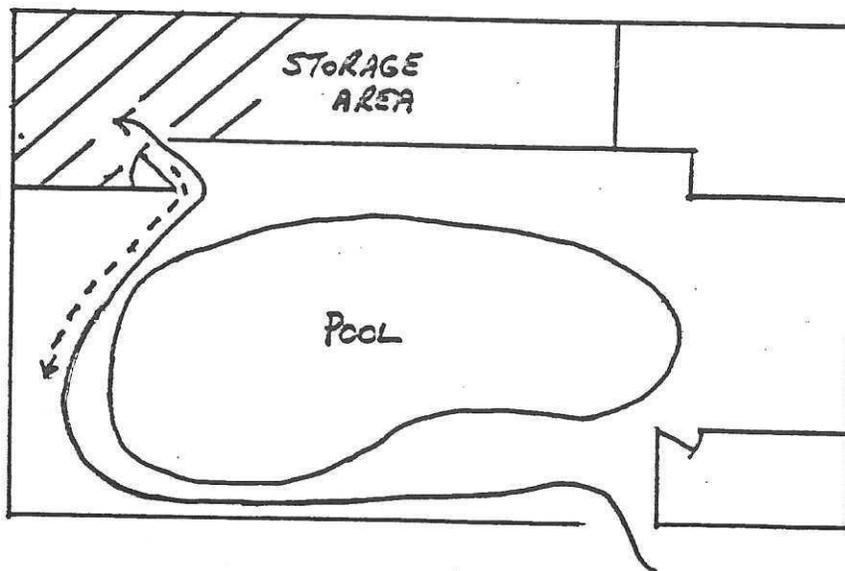
- Indicate location of victim by X.
  - Indicate path of entrance to apartment (or area) by solid line.
  - Indicate path of exit (if different than entrance) by broken line.
  - Indicate point of origin of fire (if known) by △ with floor # inside.
  - Indicate area of fire by ///////
  - Indicate locations of hose line by --> --> -->.
- Diagram shall include all means of access to area (doors, fire escapes).

acid containers and the other chemicals away from the steam pipe with their hands, separating what they could and spreading soda ash on the reacting chemicals to neutralize them. The heat from the reaction at this point was igniting wood and other combustibles in the immediate area and in close proximity to live open electrical panels. After a determined effort they succeeded in stopping the reaction.

Both members then quickly left the storage area waving their hands to indicate the heat of the reaction was penetrating their chemical protective gear. A member of the Safety Team used a hoseline to wash the chemicals from their gloves and suits and cool their hands, etc. Both members were then assisted to the street.

These actions were performed by FF Ingram under severe conditions inside a cloud of acid vapors. He performed this procedure, disregarding his own safety, within the restrictive environment of a chemical protective suit. His decision to reenter the hot zone at the height of the reaction in order to protect the occupants of the building and his fellow firefighters was in the highest traditions of the Fire Department.

For FF Ingram actions at this operation I respectfully request consideration by the Board of Merit.



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13. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER PREPARING REPORT:

Captain	<i>John J. Ingram</i>	Haz/Mat #1	12/14/88
Rank	Name	Unit	Date

14. BATTALION CHIEF ENDORSEMENT:

I was \_\_\_\_\_ at scene, observed act.

\_\_\_\_\_ at scene, did not observe act but investigated at scene.

\_\_\_\_\_ not at scene. Investigated.

Conclusion regarding facts of the Meritorious Act.

Rank	Name	Unit	Date
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15. DEPUTY CHIEF ENDORSEMENT:

I was \_\_\_\_\_ at scene, observed act.

\_\_\_\_\_ at scene, did not observe act but investigated at scene.

\_\_\_\_\_ not at scene. Investigated.

Conclusion regarding facts of the Meritorious Act.

RECOMMENDATION: CLASS I \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS II \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS III \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE RATING A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ FILE \_\_\_\_\_

Rank	Name	Unit	Date
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# FIRE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK

Supplement to Department Order No. 115 ☆ Issue No. 65

August 18, 1989



## BOARD OF MERIT

The following information records the action of the Board of Merit at a meeting held August 15, 1989:

### MERITORIOUS ACTS

**APPEALS GRANTED  
MERIT RATING CLASS III**

Date of Act 1989  
June 18 FF. Laurence Gray, R. 2

**SERVICE RATING "A"**

Date of Act 1988  
Nov. 19 FF. Robert J. Ingram, HM 1  
19 FF. Philip H. McArdle, HM 1  
Dec. 8 Lt. Michael C. Currid, L. 45  
18 FF. Fred LaFemina, L. 166

Date of Act 1989  
Jan. 7 FF. John F. Gibbons, L. 12  
13 Lt. Donald A. Wasko, B. 17

**SERVICE RATING "A"  
APPEALS DENIED**

Date of Act 1988  
Oct. 24 FF. Joseph P. Hodges, L. 6  
Dec. 15 FF. Gustave Tripoli, R. 5

Date of Act 1989  
Feb. 18 FF. William Orfanos, L. 102  
18 FF. Thomas Marx, L. 102  
18 Lt. Joseph H. Dirks, L. 102  
18 FF. Joseph Esposito, L. 119

### UNIT CITATIONS—APPEALS GRANTED

**2.1.2**

**RESCUE CO. 1**—December 3, 1988  
Box 22-239, 1830 hours  
269 East Broadway, Manhattan  
Lt. James P. Ellson  
FF. Joseph J. Angelini  
FF. Paul V. Hashagen  
FF. Hank G. Molle  
FF. Paul A. Schmidt  
FF. David J. Williams

**LADDER CO. 44**—December 23, 1988  
Box 75-2771, 0737 hours  
1521 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx  
Lt. Steven Damato  
FF. George Daley  
FF. Douglas Gehrt  
FF. Salvatore Loscuito  
FF. Lawrence Triptree

**LADDER CO. 114**—January 1, 1989  
Box 7-5-2635, 0046 hours  
480 59th Street, Brooklyn  
Lt. Andrew J. Babajko  
FF. Gary Benedict  
FF. John J. Garland  
FF. James P. McGuire  
FF. Thomas E. McGoff  
FF. Joseph P. O'Donnell

**LADDER CO. 138**—February 9, 1989  
Box 33-9237, 1100 hours  
98-23 L.I.E., Lefrak City  
Lt. Thomas H. Danz, B. 52  
FF. Marshall Glenz  
FF. Neil G. Yank  
FF. James Saccardo  
FF. Joseph J. Lowney  
FF. Kevin M. Sullivan

**APPEALS DENIED**

**ENGINE CO. 83**—November 7, 1988  
Box 33-2180, 1907 hours  
593 Oak Terrace, Bronx

**LADDER CO. 29**—November 7, 1988  
Box 33-2180, 1908 hours  
593 Oak Terrace, Bronx

**LADDER CO. 17**—November 7, 1988  
Box 2180, 1908 hours  
593 Oak Terrace, Bronx

**ENGINE CO. 209**—February 18, 1989  
Box 22-672, 1829 hours  
804 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn

**ENGINE CO. 88**—March 4, 1989  
Box 75-3128, 1413 hours  
2029 LaFontaine Avenue, Bronx

By Order of JOSEPH F. BRUNO, *Fire Commissioner*  
HOMER G. BISHOP, *Chief of Department*