

# CROSSFIRE



## PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH FIELD INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CrossFIRE is a partnership between the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC), the New York Office of Homeland Security (OHS), the Office of Fire Prevention & Control, and the Department of Health-Bureau of EMS.

We welcome contributions that are relevant to First Responders from the Fire, EMS, Health, HAZMAT, and Law Enforcement communities.

Questions, comments, or submissions? Contact the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) at [Cross-FIRE@nysic.ny.gov](mailto:Cross-FIRE@nysic.ny.gov). For immediate 24/7 assistance, you can reach the NYSIC at [1-866-48NYSIC](tel:1-866-48NYSIC), or [CIU@nysic.ny.gov](mailto:CIU@nysic.ny.gov).

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## Recent thefts of radio communications equipment from Fire and EMS Agencies

### Fire Departments in Warren and Washington County have recently reported thefts of communications equipment

- Theft includes portable and mobile radios, along with software capable of programming this equipment.
- Only newer model, VHF radios have been stolen. Low-band and older model radios (which aren't capable of narrowband) have been left untouched.
- Of particular concern: programming software has been stolen. This software could potentially be used to reprogram radios with frequencies of law enforcement agencies, Fire and EMS services, and other public and private sector organizations/businesses.

<p><b>Example model of portable radios stolen: HT1250.</b></p> <p><b>Approx. market price range \$600- \$700.</b></p>		<p><b>Example model of mobile radios stolen: CDM1250.</b></p> <p><b>Approx. market price range \$500 - \$600.</b></p>	
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### Update on radio equipment thefts in Suffolk and Nassau Counties

- Nassau County fire officials report twenty-eight (28) separate thefts from Chiefs vehicles in 2009.
- Between December 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, there were five (5) separate incidents where equipment was taken from marked Fire Department and Ambulance vehicles in Suffolk County. These incidents include:
  - ◊ Portable radios taken from Fire Chief vehicles.
  - ◊ Two portable radios taken from a marked vehicle while parked at a local restaurant.
  - ◊ An incident where an individual attempted to steal a roof-mounted light bar from an ambulance service vehicle; this might be related to the portable radio thefts.

**...stolen communications equipment could be used to plan and conduct criminal or terrorist activity....**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

- ⇒ Ensure all building doors and garage doors are closed and secured behind you.
- ⇒ Do not leave any doors propped or open unless someone is monitoring them.
- ⇒ Close and secure (lock) windows when no one is present.
- ⇒ Only give access codes and security information regarding your building(s) or facility(s) to those with a need to know.
- ⇒ Maintain an up-to-date list of personnel with access codes and security information; regularly change access codes.
- ⇒ Avoid loaning your keys to anyone or leaving them unattended.
- ⇒ Regularly inventory communications equipment before/after calls.
- ⇒ A record of equipment serial numbers and make/model should be retained by department officers and equipment should be permanently marked with department identifiers.
- ⇒ If possible, when out of station or on an active emergency call, leave a crew member with your apparatus; or lock the vehicle. If this is not possible, try to park the vehicle in a location where a member of your crew can monitor it.
- ⇒ Check your vehicles and stations at the start and end of each shift to ensure communications equipment is present and has not been tampered with.
- ⇒ When working at emergency scenes or visiting facilities, ensure that each responder has department credentials visible.
- ⇒ Identify and immediately report any unfamiliar first responders through your chain of command.
- ⇒ Question any offers to program or sell radio equipment by individuals, shops, or businesses that are not known, reputable dealers. Report any information that you can obtain to law enforcement.

★ **Immediately report theft, damage, or unusual activity occurring to your facilities or vehicles to local law enforcement and to 1-866-SAFE-NYS.**

### SOURCES:

- (1) Mr. Brian LaFlure, Warren County Fire Coordinator/ Emergency Manager, 01/28/2010.
- (2) Dec 29, 2009 SCAN EMAIL INFORMATION BULLETIN: Portable Radio Thefts.
- (3) Nassau County Police Department Intelligence Bulletin. Asset Forfeiture and Intelligence, Lead Development Center. INT. 09-65. Officer Awareness – Larcenies of F.D. EMS Portable Radios, & “Cloned” Emergency Vehicles.
- (4) Current information verified through Suffolk and Nassau County Police Departments on 01/29/2010.
- (5) Communication with Office of Fire Prevention and Control; 12/30/2009.

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# CROSSFIRE

Public Safety & Health Field Intelligence Report



## SAFEGUARD NEW YORK

Information sharing and situational awareness are integral components to secure our country, our state, and our community. With that in mind, you should be aware of a program designed not just for firefighters or pre-hospital care providers, but for all New Yorkers.

**SAFEGUARD NEW YORK** is an important program, partnering community members, businesses and emergency service professionals. We work together to alert state and local law enforcement to suspicious activities and potential acts of terrorism. You are our eyes and ears on the ground, on the streets, going to grocery stores, in the mall; you can help us fulfill our public safety responsibilities.

**Early** recognition and reporting of potential terrorist activity can serve as the first line of defense against those who commit acts of terrorism. If you witness anything suspicious, contact your local law enforcement; or the New York State Terrorism Tips line at 1-866-SAFE-NYS (1-866-723-3697).

" IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,  
SAY SOMETHING! "

Report Any Suspicious Activity to  
the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline:

1-866-SAFE-NYS

1-866-723-3697

(ACROSS NEW YORK STATE)

1-888-NYC-SAFE

1-888-692-7233

(IN NEW YORK CITY)

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## AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Information sharing and situational awareness are integral components of securing our country, our state, and our community. With that in mind, you should be aware of a program designed not just for firefighters or pre-hospital care providers, but for all New Yorkers. *SAFEGUARD NEW YORK* is an important program partnering community members, businesses and emergency service professionals like you to work together to alert members of state and local law enforcement to suspicious activities and potential acts of terrorism. You are our eyes and ears on the ground, on the streets, going to the grocery stores, in the mall, being citizens; you can help us to fulfill our public safety responsibilities. Early recognition and reporting of potential terrorist activity can serve as the first line of defense against those who commit acts of terrorism. If you witness anything suspicious, you are encouraged to contact your local law enforcement or the New York State Terrorism Tips line at 1-866-SAFE-NYS (1-866-723-3697).



There are seven signs of terrorism that all citizens should be aware of, especially first responders. As part of a fire company or ambulance service responding to emergency scenes on a daily basis, you may be the first to notice a pattern of activity suggestive of a terrorist plot, and yours may be the only call to alert law enforcement before an incident happens. Like all emergency service providers, you have a sense of call patterns, and when something doesn't feel right you know it.

As emergency service professionals, you should be aware there is a concern that individuals seeking to commit acts of terrorism may utilize emergency service organizations to acquire certain materials, skills, or training in order to succeed with their intentions. These individuals may also target first responders; or they may pose as emergency services personnel in order to access certain locations and appear to belong. For the safety of yourselves, your partners, and your fellow citizens, ***your continued vigilance is essential.***

Again, any signs of suspicious activity may be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline at 1-866-723-3697 (1-866-SAFE-NYS).



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New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline at**

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*ACROSS NEW YORK STATE*

***1-888-NYC-SAFE***

***1-888-692-7233***

*IN NEW YORK CITY*

**NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Harriman State Office Campus  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Building 7A

Albany, NY 12242  
(518) 402-2227

***www.security.state.ny.us***

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF  
FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12231  
(518) 476-6746

***www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html***

**NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Corning Tower  
Albany, NY 12237  
(518) 554-4501

***www.health.state.ny.us***

## NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



***SAFEGUARD  
NEW YORK***

***"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,  
SAY SOMETHING!"***

*REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY*

***1-866-SAFE-NYS***

**FIRE AND EMS**





## EMERGENCY RESPONDERS SHOULD BE ALERT FOR

- ▶ A person who is hostile, uncooperative or expressing hate or discontent with the United States.
- ▶ Unusual chemicals or other materials that seem out of place.
- ▶ Ammunition, firearms, or weapons boxes.
- ▶ Surveillance equipment, still and video cameras, and night vision goggles.
- ▶ Maps, photos, blueprints.
- ▶ Police manuals, training manuals, flight manuals.
- ▶ Little or no furniture other than a bed or mattress.
- ▶ Inquiries regarding certain types of over the counter drugs and their potential harmful effects.
- ▶ Requests to purchase, or knowledge of how to purchase particular medications.
- ▶ Inquiries into the purchase of a new, used, or decommissioned emergency vehicle, or how to authenticate emergency vehicle markings.



## TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TARGET FIRST RESPONDERS

- First responders should be alert on every call; ranging from motor vehicle accidents to calls to residences, businesses, and public spaces.
- Upon arriving at a potentially man-made incident, responders should be aware of the possibility of a second attack or bomber.
- Those who target first responders cause a delay in care for those who are injured.
- Emergency services personnel should conduct a thorough observation of all people at the scene of an attack, including the injured to detect possible threats.
- Responders should be alert to the behavior of those on scene, including friends and family members of patients/victims.



## HOW EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM LOSS

- ▶ Monitor and control who is entering your stations: current employees/members, former employees/members, and delivery and service personnel.
- ▶ Check identification and ask individuals to identify the purpose of their visit to your department.
- ▶ Report broken doors, windows and locks to your organization's security personnel as soon as possible. Repairs should be made in a timely manner.
- ▶ Back-up files or copies of sensitive and critical information and databases should be made.
- ▶ Store, lock, and inventory your organization's keys, access cards, uniforms, badges, and vehicles.
- ▶ Monitor and report suspicious activity in or near your facility's entry/exit points, parking areas, garages, and immediate vicinity.
- ▶ Suspicious-looking packages should be reported to your local law-enforcement. **DO NOT OPEN or TOUCH.**
- ▶ Shred or destroy all documents that contain sensitive personal or organizational information that is no longer needed.
- ▶ Keep an inventory of your most critical equipment, hardware, and software.
- ▶ Store and lock your personal items such as wallets, purses, and identification when not in use.
- ▶ Question an unexplained withdrawal by a student after completion of training or a certification program.
- ▶ Be alert for suspicious individuals observed loitering in the vicinity of parked ambulances, fire apparatus, or hospital and emergency room entrances.
- ▶ Investigate loss of equipment associated with fire or EMS vehicles: this includes medical equipment and supplies, medications and controlled substances, uniforms, insignias or decals, vehicle license plate(s), special parking placards, lights, sirens, and communication equipment.

### KNOW THE ROUTINES

**BE AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU**

**TAKE WHAT YOU HEAR SERIOUSLY**

**"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!"**



## KNOW THE SEVEN SIGNS OF TERRORISM

- 1) Surveillance:** Terrorist cells have been known to record and monitor activities, taking pictures and making drawings. Be alert to those individuals you see at emergency scenes on a repeat basis. Being observant supports homeland security and fire prevention efforts.
- 2) Information Gathering:** In your interaction with the public be aware of individuals attempting to gain information about your operations, staffing and security protocols that appear to be more than just typical curiosity.
- 3) Tests of Security:** Be alert to any attempts to measure reaction times to entering restricted areas. Be alert to who is in and around your station. Emergency vehicles and uniforms have been stolen in an attempt to use them during acts of terrorism.
- 4) Acquiring Supplies:** Through your full-time or part-time employment be alert to those attempting to obtain explosives, weapons, uniforms, badges, credentials, etc. Amassing large quantities of equipment should send up a red flag if the individual acquiring those materials has no business doing so.
- 5) Suspicious Persons Out of Place:** This may include people who are in places they should not be, as well as people who do not fit into the daily routine of surroundings or the emergency scene.
- 6) Dry or Trial Run:** Be alert to people that just look out of place or you have seen at multiple emergency scenes as they could be part of a dry run exercise for illegal activity. Be alert to multiple false alarms to the same location, especially areas considered critical infrastructure such as government buildings and schools.
- 7) Deploying Assets:** Beware of what looks like people and supplies getting into position to commit an act of violence. Remember scene safety, if you spot something or get information on the way to a call that suggests you and your crew would be in danger consider staging at a safe distance and follow your department's scene safety protocols.