

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. For immediate 24/7 assistance, you can reach the NYSIC at [1-866-48NYSIC](tel:1-866-48NYSIC), or CIU@nysic.ny.gov.

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With the increased interest in multidisciplinary information sharing and collaboration, the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) is pleased to announce an important addition to our

homeland security partnership. As of June 1, 2009, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) representatives from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) and the New York State Office of Homeland Security (OHS) have workstations at the NYSIC. **Deputy Chief Bernie Kirk, OFPC** and **Fire and EMS Coordinator Bill Davis, OHS** are working closely with intelligence analysts from the NYSIC and other homeland security partners to review, develop and distribute timely, actionable information to support New York's first responder community.

New York State Fire Administrator Floyd Madison applauded the move, saying "The Office of Fire Prevention & Control is pleased to partner with the New York State Police and the New York State Intelligence Center. This synergistic relationship will improve communication between the law enforcement intelligence community and the fire service, EMS agencies and hazardous materials response teams throughout the state. The rapid dissemination of 'need to know' intelligence better prepares our first responders to deal with today's ever-changing world." "New York's homeland security begins by supporting our first responders at the street level," said **Tom Donlon, Director of the New York State Office of Homeland Security**, adding that "Our citizens expect the lines of communication and level of cooperation among state agencies to be focused to protect them against today's homeland security and all-hazards threat environment. The inclusion of our non-law enforcement partners at the NYSIC has been carefully assessed and is the result of cooperation among several state agencies."

As part of this progress, the NYSIC has developed a new intelligence product to support the Fire and EMS communities. As needed, CrossFIRE will be distributed by the NYSIC based on actionable intelligence. We recognize that there are many open source products currently available; CrossFIRE will communicate important, timely, "need to know" information to New York State first responders. This focused New York State perspective, supported by analysis and application of relevant information from other first responder resources, will provide New York's Fire, EMS, and health communities with the education and knowledge to deal with emerging threats.

New York State Police Captain Douglas Keyer, Director of the NYSIC, commented that "The recent developments at the NYSIC demonstrate our commitment to continually evaluate and improve information sharing within New York. By partnering with the Fire and EMS communities and developing CrossFIRE we will provide you with the information that you need to serve the citizens of New York State both effectively and safely."

The NYSIC, New York's fusion center, is staffed by highly trained intelligence analysts and subject-matter experts from various disciplines. Since 2003, the NYSIC has promoted timely and accurate information exchange among New York law enforcement agencies. This multi-agency, all-crimes fusion center identifies, prevents, and protects New York against emerging domestic and international terrorist and criminal threats through creation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence. The NYSIC enhances local, state, and federal operations, coordinating statewide terrorism and criminal intelligence exchange while building networks between jurisdictions.

Your input as citizens and first responders is vital to homeland security. Simply by dialing 1-866-SAFE-NYS, suspicious activity can be reported to the NYSIC via the terrorism tips line. It is crucial to understand indicators of terrorism and criminal activity; first responders know when something doesn't seem right. Remember, "If you see something, say something!"

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Counter-terrorism authorities have identified indicators that are often associated with terrorist pre-planning activities. These signs are broken down into 7 major categories.

In each *CrossFIRE*, we'll review a significant indicator that could signal suspicious behavior.

With thousands of dedicated public servants statewide, educating New York's first responders about the warning signs of terrorist and criminal activity can prevent future attacks.

Step # 1 SURVEILLANCE

It may be as innocuous and routine as a shift change at your fire station. Perhaps it's an unusually large-scale event, such as a concert or a famous guest speaker in your city or town. People involved with attack pre-planning may watch intended targets, along with the activities of first responders, to determine security weaknesses, points of entry, traffic patterns, and times of day that offer the most opportunity. Surveillance might include: extensive photography, video-taping, preparing drawings and diagrams, or preparation of charts and graphs to record times and details of events. People requesting unusual or detailed information about your agency's operations and response, or questioning employees, may also be significant cause for concern. Radio scanners monitoring security, law enforcement or public safety frequencies may also be used to gather vital information.

There may be a perfectly reasonable explanation for the person's activities; or, the activities could be related to the planning of a criminal or terrorist event. Early recognition and reporting of suspicious activities can serve as the first line of defense against those who commit acts of terrorism. If you witness anything suspicious, don't hesitate: note details of the event, including personal descriptions and identifying features such as license plates; and notify local law enforcement or call the New York State Terrorism Tips Line at 1-866-SAFE-NYS.

Stolen Uniform Used In Suicide Attack A suicide bomber wearing a police uniform detonated his deadly cargo inside a police headquarters in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan, the Afghani Interior Ministry said. The attack, believed to be the work of Taliban militants, killed nine police officers and two civilians, and wounded 29 others.

[Source: <<http://www.topix.com/forum/af/lashkar-gah/TT8LDOST4ETD7KSL7>>, April 2009]

Man at blaze was fake firefighter Suffern village police arrested a Greenwood Lake, NY man who they say showed up at a burning warehouse, impersonated an FDNY firefighter, and tried to help local firefighters extinguish the enormous blaze. The man was charged with second-degree criminal impersonation and second-degree reckless endangerment, both misdemeanors, and with trespassing, a violation. Police and fire officials say the man showed up at the scene of a blaze at the Conserv Construction warehouse February 5 dressed in full New York City Fire Department turnout gear - jacket, pants, and helmet with his name affixed to it - and grabbed a hose line, it is alleged. Though he claimed to be an FDNY member when questioned at the scene, Suffern police said he is not a firefighter and has no firefighter training. A Suffern police detective said firefighters could have been endangered.

[Source: <www.lohud.com/article/200903140363>, 03/14/2009]

Intelligence Note: Acquiring official identification, uniforms, or vehicles is an effective way to gain access and minimize scrutiny during either the planning or operations phase of a terrorist attack. Be aware that there is a precedent for this infiltration method, and that all uniforms and equipment shall be safeguarded; missing Fire, EMS, and law enforcement uniforms, equipment and credentials should be reported to authorities immediately.

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New York State Certified Ambulance Identification

Background

The following information is being provided by the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS), in conjunction with the NYSIC, to identify legitimate ambulances and to remind first responders of the importance of securing emergency vehicles appropriately.

- * Emergency vehicles can be used to gain access to critical areas in a terrorist attack, or could disrupt first responders by helping terrorists facilitate a secondary device.
 - The Israeli Government has documented cases of Palestinian militants using ambulances to move weapons and to facilitate terrorist movement, including suicide bombers.
- * Fraudulently marked unofficial vehicles may be used to masquerade as official vehicles for illegal activity.
 - During the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, MN, a vehicle with ambulance markings was observed by a medic attending a briefing. The vehicle was unlocked, unattended and contained gas masks, a 200,000 volt stun gun, a medic bag, maps of the RNC zone, and other items that could be used to cause personal injury and property damage.
 - **In New York, law enforcement officers occasionally encounter vehicles that are outfitted to resemble police cars, EMS vehicles, and utility vans.**
- * Stolen, legitimate emergency services vehicles could be misused by terrorists or other criminals.
 - **In mid-May, a Fulton County, NY ambulance corps tending to a patient inside a home on an early morning call had their ambulance stolen. The heavily damaged vehicle was later located a few miles away.**

NEW YORK AMBULANCE IDENTIFICATION

Plates: NY DMV may issue license plates in a number of registration classes. While the most prevalent is either AMBULANCE or OFFICIAL, there may be a small number of agencies with vehicle registration in another series.



BEMS Stickers: Every ambulance in New York State must be certified by the BEMS. Each EMS vehicle is provided three 6"x6" Department of Health "NY State Certified" stickers, which must be displayed on both sides and the rear of the vehicle, and a certification of inspection sticker which must be displayed on the lower right side of the front windshield. The back of the inspection sticker indicates the following information about the EMS agency and is consistent with DMV registration information for the specific vehicle:

- Name of Service—DBA (Doing Business As)
- License Plate number & Vehicle ID number (VIN)
- Radio and vehicle identification designation
- Date the sticker was issued & vehicle inspection status
- Signature of BEMS representative issuing sticker



For additional information about ambulances, please visit:

www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/main.htm or contact the Bureau of EMS at (518) 402-0996.

Public safety agencies observing suspicious individuals or activities should immediately report details to the NYSIC Tips Line: 1-866-SAFE-NYS.

SAMPLE

SERVICE _____

LICENSE NO. _____ RADIO/VEHICLE ID _____

VIN _____

DATE ISSUED _____ AFFIRM INSPECT

(496) _____ EMS REP SIGNATURE _____

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New York State recommendations regarding the disposal, retirement or decommission of public safety uniforms, equipment and vehicles

Background: In the past it has been common practice for municipalities, government entities and private companies to sell used or decommissioned public safety related uniforms, equipment and vehicles at auction. In today's difficult economic times this practice continues to be a revenue stream that offsets agencies' operating costs. While fully aware that public safety uniforms and related items are widely available for lawful purchase, it is also appropriate for agency/departments to safeguard these items as best as possible upon their disposal. It is for these reasons - and as a suggested guideline for agency and department policy development—that the following steps be considered when any public-safety related uniform, equipment, or vehicle is disposed of or retired.

Uniforms: Non-serviceable uniforms should be destroyed. Uniform shirts and trousers should have identifiable buttons removed. Uniform shirts should have the shoulder emblems and department patches removed. Uniforms should then be torn, ripped or cut into half. Uniforms should be burned at an incinerator, buried in a landfill or disposed of in the proper manner.

Turnout Gear (TOG): Non-serviceable structural & wild land firefighting turnout gear should be destroyed. TOG should have department patches/insignias removed. TOG should be cut in half and either incinerated, buried in a landfill or disposed of in a proper manner.

Intelligence Note: All TOG should be accounted for at all times. TOG in usable condition but out of service should be stored in a secure location. Usable TOG to be donated to another department should have a record of disposition and contact name of receiving department. Intelligence indicates that these items are of value to police, fire, and EMS imposters.

Leather: Leather equipment such as obsolete or non-serviceable holsters, ammo. carriers, and gun belts should be destroyed. Leather equipment should be cut in half and burned at an incinerator, buried in a landfill or disposed of in the proper manner.

Vehicles: Vehicles should have all department identifiable markings or insignias removed upon decommission. All wording related to **Police, Fire Department, Ambulance, and Rescue Squad** should be removed. No vehicle should be sold, junked or otherwise turned over to private parties/contractors with any emergency service markings or equipment in place, including, but not limited to: stripes, department emblems, vehicle numbers, and emergency lighting.

The steps outlined above are guidelines suggested as starting points for developing department or agency policy. They are designed to assist agencies and departments in diminishing exposure while supporting prevention efforts and deterring terrorists and criminals.

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OPERATOR SAFETY NOTICE NYS OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

May 2009

The New York State Office of Homeland Security (OHS) has replaced previously issued non-CBRN approved SEA APR (pictured below on the right) with the MSA CBRN approved Ultra Elite (pictured below on the left). If you have any SEA APRs that were issued by OHS please contact your County Fire Coordinator to determine eligibility for exchange.

<p>NEW- Keep MSA Ultra Elite APR</p>	<p>OLD- Return SEA Full Face APR</p>
   <p data-bbox="537 1052 630 1108">Shipping carton</p> <p data-bbox="716 1052 808 1108">Storage container</p>	  <p data-bbox="1166 688 1247 716">Storage</p> <p data-bbox="1230 1024 1479 1115">Grey colored visor frame, exhalation valve cover, and head harness</p>
<p data-bbox="440 1150 565 1178">Approvals</p> <ul data-bbox="175 1188 824 1283" style="list-style-type: none"> + NIOSH CBRN Approved Air Purifying Respirator + CBRN "Cap 1" rating provides protection against 138 chemicals and agents <p data-bbox="191 1329 818 1392">Distributed by NYS Office of Homeland Security from 2007- 2009.</p> <p data-bbox="378 1436 630 1463">Product Information</p> <ul data-bbox="175 1476 813 1766" style="list-style-type: none"> • Super-soft black Hycar rubber exceeds the CBRN permeation requirements. • Large lens with 83% unimpeded vision. • Centrally located mechanical speaking diaphragm for clear communications. • Identical sealing surfaces for both SCBA and Gas Mask face pieces- eliminating the need for redundant fit testing. 	<p data-bbox="1117 1150 1242 1178">Approvals</p> <ul data-bbox="862 1188 1490 1283" style="list-style-type: none"> - European EN 136 and Australian AS1716 certified - Protection against 12 chemicals and P-100 particulates <p data-bbox="878 1329 1487 1392">Distributed by the NYS Office of Homeland Security from 2003-2005.</p> <p data-bbox="1057 1436 1308 1463">Product Information</p> <ul data-bbox="862 1476 1484 1654" style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 29,000 masks returned throughout NYS. • Designed and distributed to first responders before NIOSH CBRN standard was created. • Full face mask respirator for use with filters or supplied air.

If you have any questions, please contact your County Fire Coordinator; or the NYS OHS Logistics Center at OHSLogistics@security.state.ny.us.

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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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