

# Twin Parks Fire

January 9, 2022 - 333 East 181 Street, Bronx NY

Strategic and Tactical Considerations for Large Scale Incidents



Presentation by: Frank Leeb

# Introduction

## Frank Leeb

Deputy Assistant Chief (FDNY)

### Positions Held:

Chief of Training

Chief of Fire Academy

Chief of Safety

*Leadership position for 22 years  
(Feb 2002)*

*Chief officer for 13 years  
(April 2011)*

31 Years

East Farmingdale FD  
40 years

MA Security Studies  
Naval Postgraduate School



*Note – This Presentation and any statements made during this presentation are not made in an official capacity of the FDNY. These statements represent the opinions of the presenters and not necessarily those of the FDNY.*

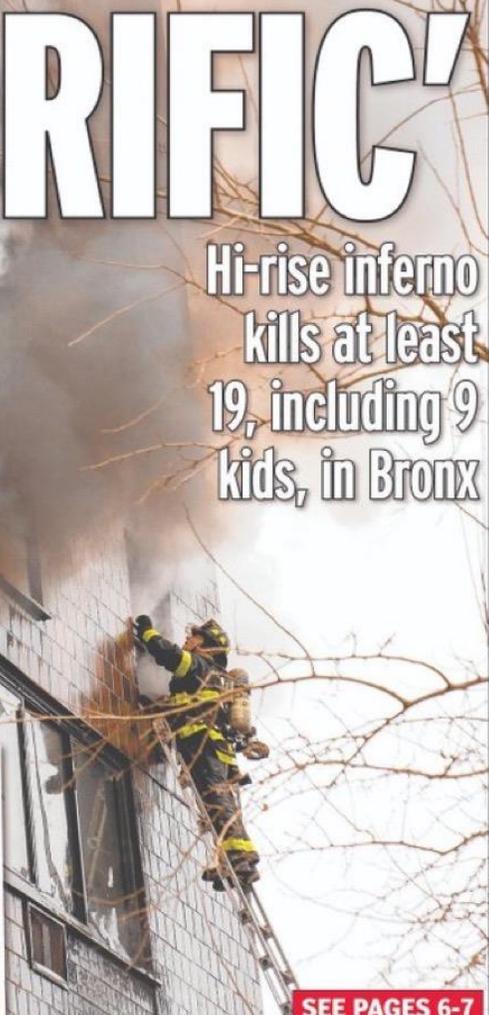
# DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

# 'HORRIFIC'

## Hi-rise inferno kills at least 19, including 9 kids, in Bronx

Smoke billows from apartment building on E. 181st St. in Fordham Heights, as Braveed rush to rescue tenants from fire that killed at least 19 and critically injured dozens more. Below, medics aid survivors who escaped city's deadliest blaze in decades.



SEE PAGES 6-7

PHOTO: SHANE BROWN FOR NY Daily News

# Newsday

YOUR EYE ON LI

HI 30° LO 15°  
PARTLY CLOUDY



# TRAGEDY

## At least 19 killed, including 9 children, in Bronx apartment building fire

## Faulty electric space heater to blame, officials say; more than 60 hurt

A2-3 | UPDATES AT NEWSDAY.COM

PHOTO: SHANE BROWN FOR NY Daily News

**Sadly, 17 died – however over 100 people were rescued by the FDNY**



19 story structure – fireproof  
Duplex and single level apartments  
Fire began in apartment 3N  
120 apartments of which 118 were occupied

# The Response

- FDNY units arrived in 3 minutes
- Reports of unconscious people received before arrival
- Smoke had already filled the stairwells prior to FDNY extinguishment efforts
- 5<sup>th</sup> alarm assignment – bringing hundreds of firefighters and EMS personal to the scene
- **More than 60 EMS transports**
- **More than 30 in cardiac arrest**



# Contributing Factors

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Fire was discovered at approximately 10:50 am

Delayed notification

1<sup>st</sup> 911 call at approximately 10:54 am

Numerous open doors – apartments and stairwells

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# Driver Joe

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Driver or Aide

Another set of trusted eyes

Experienced firefighter

Enables command to focus on the incident and strategy

Invaluable asset on the fire ground

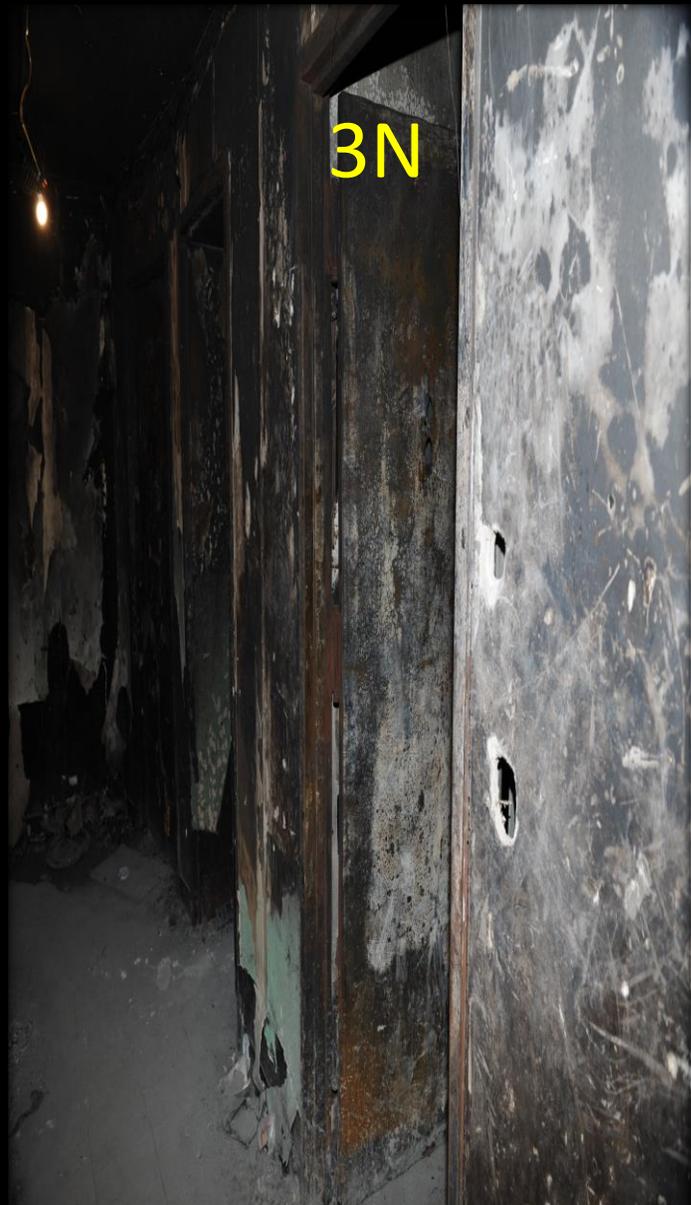
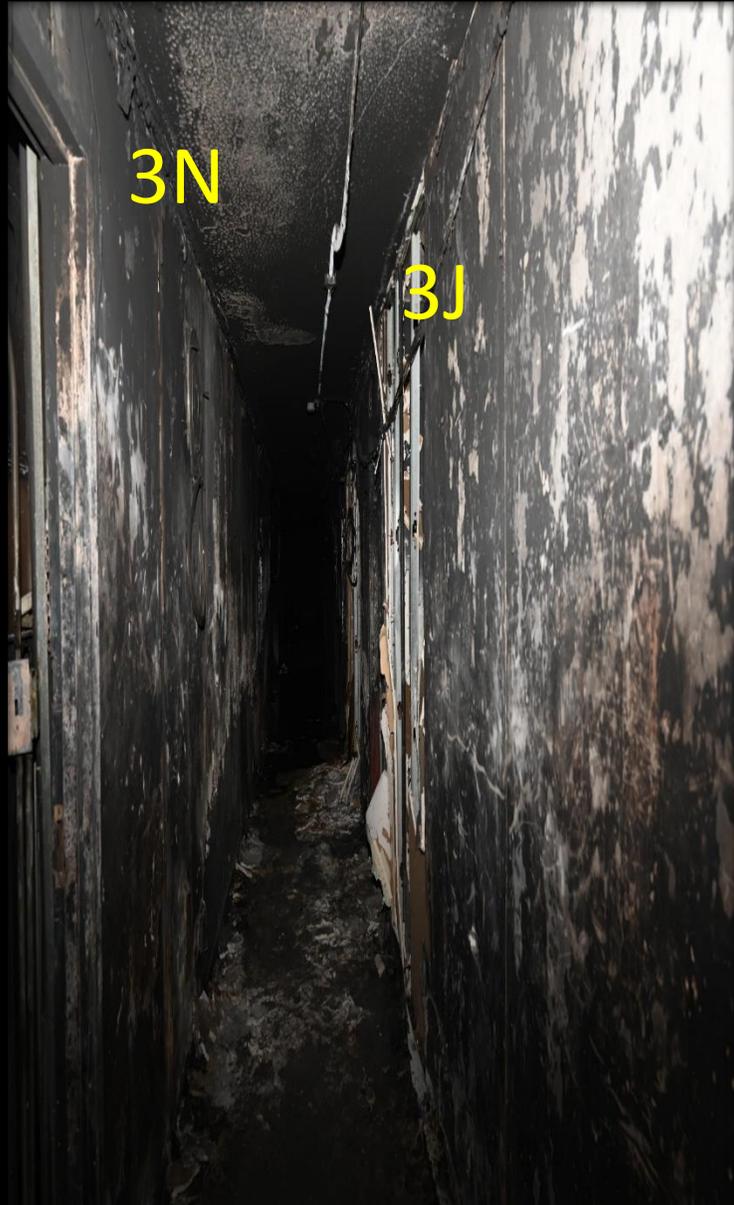
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- 10:54 Phone alarm received for smoke in the hallway of 333 E 181<sup>st</sup> St, Bronx NY
- 10:58 10-77 transmitted
- 11:01 Incident Commander reports heavy fire out the windows of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the rear of the building
- 11:03 Second alarm transmitted
- 11:07 First two 10-45s transmitted
- 11:14 Three more 10-45s transmitted
- 11:19 Third alarm transmitted
- 11:21 Fourth alarm transmitted
- 11:32 Four additional 10-45s transmitted

- 11:32 Total patient count is 10, 7 of which are RED tags
- 11:40 One additional 10-45 transmitted
- 11:44 Four additional 10-45s transmitted
- 11:45 Total patient count 15, 11 of which are red tags
- 11:48 5<sup>th</sup> alarm transmitted
- 12:00 Car 15A reports all visible fire knocked down, fire remains doubtful will hold
- 12:10 Car 15A updates total patient count 32, 26 of which are RED tags
- 12:16 Five additional 10-45s transmitted
- 12:18 15A updates total patient count to 37, 30 RED tags

- ① 12:24 Two additional 10-45s transmitted
- ① 12:32 Four additional 10-45s transmitted
- ① 12:33 15A updates total patient count to 40, 31 RED, 2 yellow/orange, 7 Green, also reports primary searches throughout the building complete
- ① 13:26 Incident placed under control



The fire began in apartment 3N and spread to 3J – both apartment doors were open



Apartment 3N was across the hall from 3J

Duplex – Lower level

← Stairs to upper level

Apartment 3N



Duplex – Upper level

Apt door to hallway

Stairs to lower level

Apartment 3N



Duplex - Interior stairs

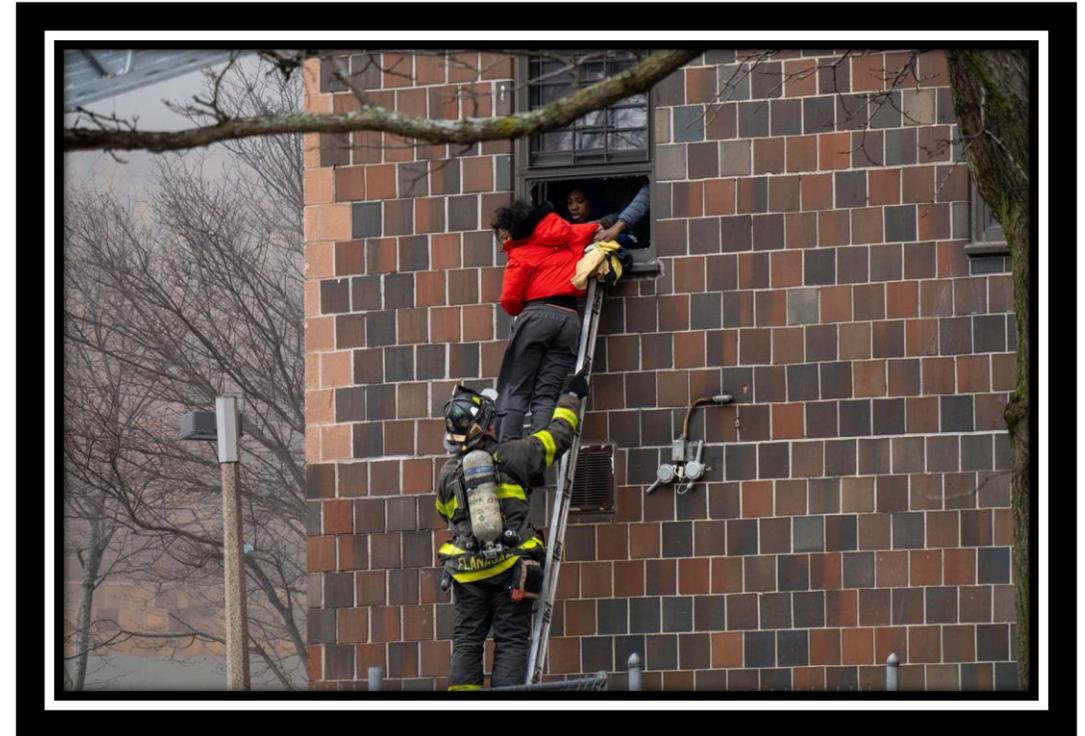


# The winning mindset



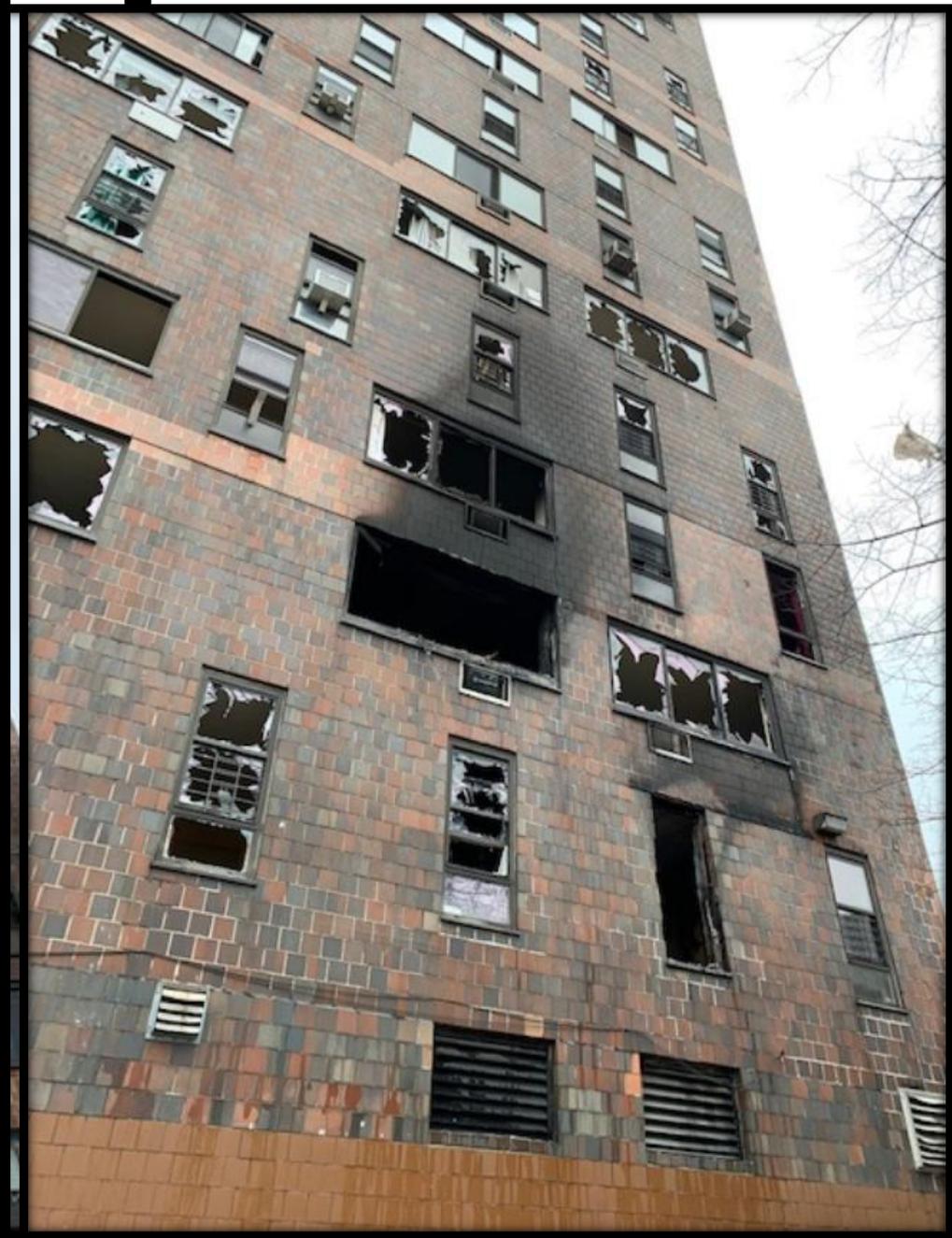
**Casualty collection points - Sectoring - Use of skeds - Sequential ventilation - Lithium Ion Battery removal – Victim tracking chief/coordinator - Primary and secondary search**

## Rear – Exposure 3



Fire dynamics – Teaching points: Fire creates pressure – fire gasses move from low pressure to high pressure, velocity – low vent and high vent

# Exterior view



# Street management plan



Ladder placement – tower and aerial devices  
The importance of ground ladders  
Sheltering in place  
Priority order of removal



The FDNY rescued an extraordinary number of people.

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*However*

An extraordinary number of victims did not survive

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**Historic, but not unprecedented**



# The Media



# The Community

- Overwhelming grief
- Mostly immigrants
- Many displaced
- Increased pressure on existing housing stock
- Generational impact





FATOUMATA  
DUKUREH



HAJA  
DUKUREH



MUSTAPHA  
DUKUREH



MARIAM  
DUKUREH



HAJI  
DUKARY



HAGI  
JAWARA



SERE  
JANNEH

The victims:  
Names and  
photos



ISATOU  
JABBIE



FOUTMALA  
DRAMMEH



MUHAMMED  
DRAMMEH



NYUMAAISHA  
DRAMMEH



FATOUMATA  
DRAMMEH



OUSMANE  
KONTEH



SEYDOU  
TOURE



HAOUWA  
MAHAMADOU



OMAR  
JAMBANG



FATOUMATA  
TUNKARA

Not just  
numbers or  
statistics

# Prevention

- Sprinklers
- Smoke alarms
- Resident education
- Two way voice communications
- ***We must not squander the opportunity this tragic fire presents and better protect all residential housing***
- **Funding**



# Fire Safety Messaging

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All 17 victims who succumb to smoke inhalation at some point during the incident either left their apartments or left their apartment doors in the open position.

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# Are you prepared?

- An overturned school bus
- CO emergency in a crowded place of worship
- Fire in nursing home or hotel
- Concert hall
- Mass shooting

*All have similar potential*



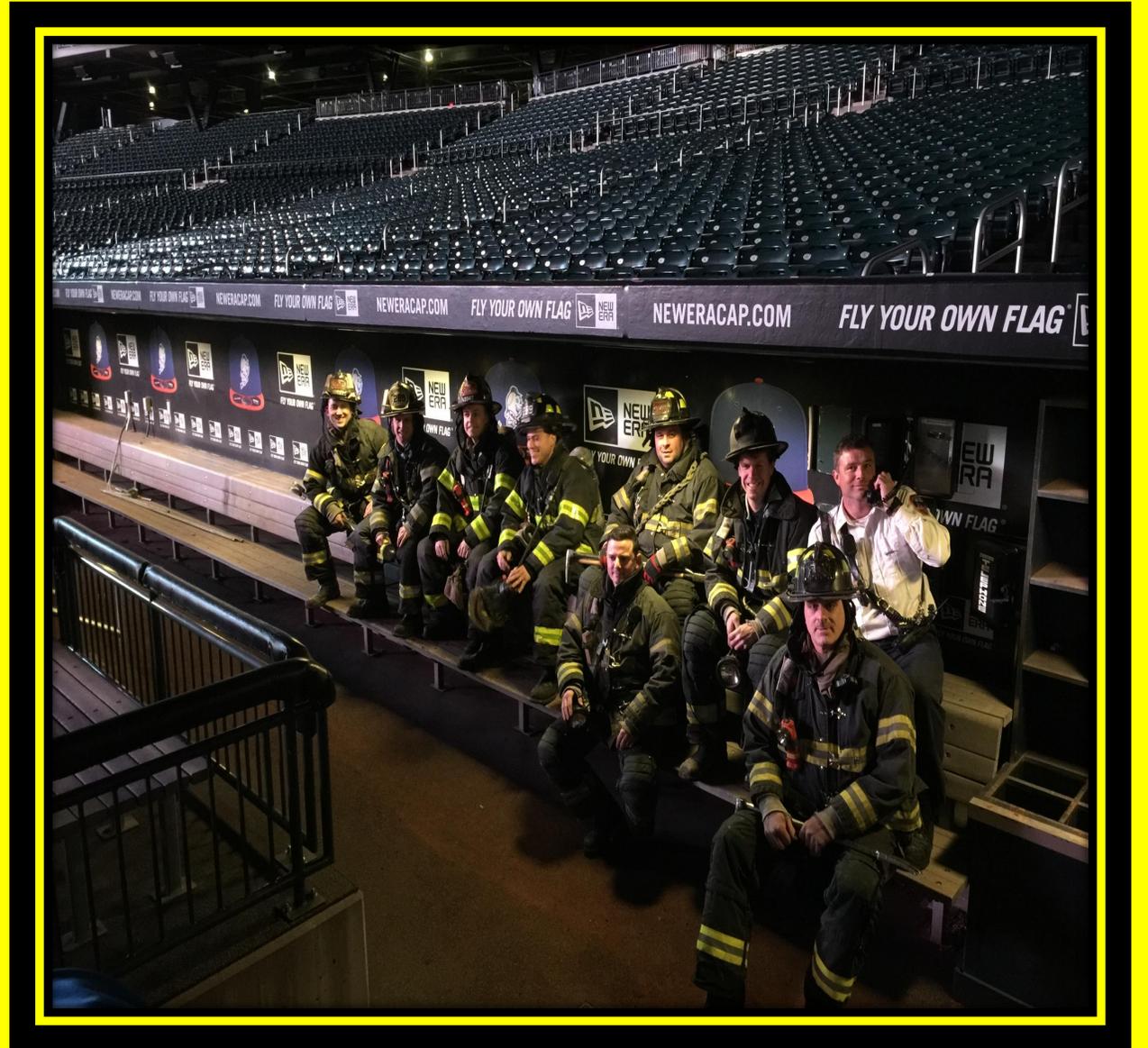
# What if your department had an incident requiring 60 ambulances?

- Hospital surge capacity
- Tracking resources
- Mutual aid plans
- Pre planning
- Ambulance availability
- Street management plan
- Staging area



# Ask your self.....

- Do you train enough?
- Do you have a winning culture?
- Do you have a winning mindset?
- Do you play to win?
- Do you value training?
- Do you value Teamwork?



# The winning mindset







# Tips from Training

333 East 181 Street



Issued: 1/10/2022  
# 6 of 2022



Bronx 5-5 3162 – 1/9/2022

Today, we pause and reflect on the tragic fire yesterday in the Bronx. We reflect on the value of our members and their dedication. We also reflect on their training - the foundational cornerstone which prepares and positions our members to perform under even the most demanding of conditions.

**There were many heroic and amazing actions inside and outside the fire building by both fire and EMS members.**

Outside our members were removing victims from the tip of a 35-foot ladder in the rear, they had perfectly positioned aerial ladders enabling multiple rescues in the front, all while many others were rendering patient care and performing CPR on an unimaginable number of children and adults.

Inside, our members overcame several obstacles while locating and extinguishing the fire and searching for occupants. Immediately, our members encountered multiple victims in need of removal. Simultaneously, we searched the numerous apartments with only one elevator for most of the time.

Dispute our Herculean effort, sometimes the results don't match the intensity, dedication, training, and absolute effort of our members. This day - at this fire was one of those occasions.

We are the FDNY - we play to win.

This winning mindset entails many small tactical nuances executed proficiently to position us to achieve the greatest possible outcome. This includes the following which were executed and evident with great skill in the Bronx:

- Exceptional apparatus positioning in front of the building.
- Proactive and timely request for additional resources.
- Proper use of our PPE.
- The FAST truck being ready to go to work with proper tools.
- Efficient, effective and proper use of portable ladders.
- Employing lifesaving vent enter isolate and search (VEIS) tactics even under extreme conditions.
- Units promptly reporting into the command post.
- Fire CFR units and EMS units working together to save lives.

DAC Frank Leeb – Chief of the Fire Academy – Command Chief 1/9/2022.

Submit a potential Training Tip via email to: [TrainingTips@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:TrainingTips@fdny.nyc.gov)

DISTRIBUTION: FOCUS. This document is provided for your information and use. It is intended for firefighting, EMS, law enforcement, security, sanitation and intelligence personnel.

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**DAC Frank Leeb - Chief of the Fire Academy – Command Chief 1/9/2022**



# FDNY

Although we lost 17 lives on this day, the number of lives saved by the FDNY were countless and the hard work and determination of every member was recognized by the department and the community as a whole.

Sometimes the moments  
that never happen  
matter the most

Volvo XC60

<https://youtu.be/pjQt2IEZIXg>

# *Thank you!*

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Contact Info

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