

# The 911 Program Fund

## WORKING TO BUILD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



By Dr. Stephen Hittmann, President and CEO, The 911 Program Fund

**C**reated in the aftermath of the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, the 911 Program Fund was born from the personal, hard-won experience and firsthand knowledge of New York City firefighters and emergency personnel. As we watched firefighters commit their efforts, and in 343 cases, their lives, to the rescue of 25,000 innocent civilians, we became convinced of the need to enhance our systems of emergency management and preparedness and to share the understanding, skills and lessons learned with friends and allies the world over.

Firefighters routinely put themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens of all nations. Service, solidarity, fraternity, brotherhood and a willingness to accept risks and make sacrifices are the common bloodline of firefighters worldwide.

Ever since September 11th, we have worked to donate training and equipment to governments, industry, fire departments, emergency responders and individuals as part of a collective effort to reduce risk for those most at risk, while enhancing safety in both the public and private sectors. We are also working to build emergency preparedness and societal awareness through an active program of training and fire safety education to aid firefighters in this never-ending work.

Specific activities of the 911 Program Fund have involved:

- Conducting needs assessments to help address critical safety and security issues.
- Donating equipment (surplus or decommissioned turnout gear, SCBA, tools, etc.), fire apparatus (1980-1990 vintage, on average) and ambulances to those with the greatest need. (Access to this equipment is frequently for the first time, and its availability routinely means the difference between life and death.)




Providing training on topics including dispatch operations, emergency vehicle operations, fire prevention, fire safety education, code enforcement, HazMat, special operations, EMS, pre-hospital care, leadership, instructor development, etc. (Training is customized to the needs of the respective department, reflects one or more topics of importance to them, and is typically provided by senior firefighting personnel with extensive expertise in a respective topic.)

- Enhancing civilian health and safety by reducing risk, increasing

awareness and minimizing fire-related personal and property loss.

- Helping governments, industry, fire departments and emergency responders in critical safety and security areas; including maximizing interagency communication and cooperation/mutual aid; war-gaming; learning about chemical, biological weapons, radiological and nuclear weapons; maritime and homeland security; strategic planning involving natural disasters and/or acts of terrorism; etc.
- Advising governments and fire departments alike on upgrades to or building and operating new training facilities, including preliminary site and equipment needs, operational costs, staff and curricula needs, etc.

Firefighters in developing countries have profound training and equipment deficiencies, yet typically assume the same risks that we do. The training, equipment and/or apparatus that we donate are gifts that keep on giving, while adhering to the best principles and highest traditions of the American fire service. 

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The 911 Program Fund is supported entirely by unpaid volunteers, and we neither solicit nor accept financial contributions for the work we do. Any individual or department interested in assisting us in these efforts can contact the 911 Program Fund at the following address:

The 911 Program Fund  
648 Central Park Avenue  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
914-479-8800 Tel.  
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