

DISTRICT 12 – Nassau County

LONG BEACH, Nassau County, received help with emergency medical care in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in the form of two mobile medical facility trailers from Hackensack University Medical Center in NJ brought in from out of state under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact which covers interstate mutual aid. The 43 foot trailers have critical care beds, an X-ray unit, portable field laboratory and other equipment and were to function as satellite emergency departments until Long Beach Medical Center can reopen. One article indicated costs are being covered by the NYS DOH. Unfortunately, another part of the DOH told local officials that the trailers could not be used as EDs, signage had to be removed and ambulances cannot transport patients to the trailers even though they can transport patients to the tent facility set up for federal Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT). FEMA contract ambulances were stationed at the DMAT tents to transport patients needing hospital care or admission off Long Beach Island to hospitals elsewhere on Long Island. When the FEMA ambulances departed about 12/1/12 local EMS and county ambulances had to take over the transports turning half hour calls into 90 minutes or more. Call volume in Long Beach increased because of all the clean out and rebuilding work as well as the fact that many residents lost cars and now call for an ambulance rather than drive for minor illnesses or injuries.

NASSAU COUNTY fire and EMS services responded to 13,178 calls during and shortly after the Hurricane Sandy related period of 10/29/12 through 11/9/12. In the same period in 2011 there were 2,685 calls.

WEST HEMPSTEAD, Nassau County is being served by NYC's Chevra Hatzalah VAC's Rockaways-Nassau County Division (formerly called the Rockaway-Lawrence Division) which is based in Far Rockaway, Queens. A notice on a congregation web site indicated "HATZALAH'S emergency responders are available in West Hempstead. If you need immediate assistance, do not hesitate to call **Hatzalah** at (718) 387-1750 or (212) 230-1000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year." These are NYC phone numbers handled by Chevra Hatzalah's central dispatch. A Twitter posting indicated "RL Hatzolah to open a new branch in West Hempstead, Nassau having 19 members, 17 BLS & 2 ALS. Unit numbers starting at RL-240". Parking for responders and a shore line for an ambulance have been set up in the driveway of a private house at 625 Hempstead Avenue. West Hempstead Hatzalah's e-mail address is given as WHHatzolah@gmail.com.

Chevra Hatzalah VAC has been issued Ambulance Operating Certificate 7191 covering the 5 Boroughs of New York City and extends its service into areas outside the city under Public Health Law Article 30, Section 3010(1)(d) which provides "an ambulance service or advanced life support first response service organization formed to serve the need for the provision of emergency medical services in accordance with the religious convictions of a religious denomination may serve such needs in an area adjacent to such primary territory.."

The Chevra Hatzalah's web site shows other areas in Nassau County served include Atlantic Beach, Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Hewlett, Lawrence, Long Beach, North Woodmere, West Lawrence and Woodmere. Emergency ambulance service in Woodmere is provided with two ambulances posted in a lot with shore lines at 752 West Broadway. The location was acquired with plans to build a garage housing 4 ambulances plus training, supply and administrative areas but progress has been held up by neighbors' protests and a need for a zoning change. Yonkers in Westchester County is also listed as being served