

## **HATZALAH VAC (NYC) GRANTED ACCESS TO BLOCKED PHONE NUMBERS**

HATZALAH VAC, NYC, has been granted access to blocked phone numbers by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) - access that is normally only granted to public safety answering points that provide 911 emergency services.

In September 2011 Hatzalah filed a petition seeking a limited waiver of section 64.1601(b) of the FCC's rules governing the transmission of calling party numbers (CPN) by carriers on the terminating end of a call. These rules are designed so as not to intrude upon the privacy of calling parties wishing to remain anonymous. In February 2012 the FCC released a Public Notice seeking comment on the issues raised in the Petition. There were three comments and one reply comment filed in response to this Public Notice. The FCC also noted that Hatzalah pointed out that it is the only non-governmental volunteer ambulance service in the country to be granted a Level C priority restoration designation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Category C priority is granted only to those services for which a telecommunications service interruption ranging from a few minutes to one day would have serious adverse impact on the supported National Service and Emergency Preparedness functions. After review of the file, including a letter from US Senator Charles E. Schumer supporting the petition, the FCC determined that Hatzalah's request met the standards for granting a limited waiver of section 64.1601(b), and such waiver would not undermine the privacy objectives of that rule. The limited waiver granted is subject to the certain conditions:

The full decision is on the FCC web site at:

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2013/db0220/DA-13-227A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2013/db0220/DA-13-227A1.pdf)