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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA NYC Transit Introduces New Hazmat Response Vehicle

MTA New York City Transit has just taken delivery of a new, highly-customized emergency response vehicle which will serve as the key mobile resource and support center for the Department of Security's Hazardous Materials team, should the unthinkable ever occur.

NYC Transit's Hazardous Materials Response vehicle was designed to support the agency's 100-person volunteer HazMat Team and be an effective tool for the group's role of responding to emergencies involving the release of chemical or biological agents within the subway system. The team would assist City, State and/or Federal agencies in the event of an intentional or accidental release of a chemical or biological compound impacting the system or its customers.

The Hazardous Materials Response Truck, which was manufactured by Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Holden, Louisiana at a cost of \$336,000, will carry specialized HazMat equipment and up to 10 of the highly-trained NYC Transit Hazardous Materials team members to the scene of an incident. Each team member was required to pass a specialized HazMat Physical. They then received extensive training, including the 40-hour Hazardous Materials Technician Course provided by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Members of the four-year old team have earned advanced certification and participate in quarterly drills in order to enhance their skills and efficiency.

"This team's greatest strength lies in its members' experience and the training they have received to quickly assess, troubleshoot and address an incident, including, if necessary, the safe operation of a train under even the most extraordinary circumstances while wearing the highest levels of personal protective equipment," explained NYC Transit President Howard H. Roberts, Jr.

This all-volunteer group, led by Chuck Burrus, Ph.D. and Mike Metz of the NYC Transit Department of Security, is comprised of a highly-trained group of Transit workers who bring a wealth of specialized knowledge and expertise from throughout this agency. Dr. Burrus was appointed Senior Director Environmental Protection & Industrial Hygiene in 2004 to research technologies effective in the detection of chemical, biological and radiological weapons of mass destruction. Earlier this year, he was appointed Deputy Chief, WMD Detection & Countermeasures to implement the use of the most effective technologies and strategies.

Mike Metz currently serves as Manager for Environmental Monitoring and Emergency Response in the Security Department. Prior to joining NYC Transit in 2005 specifically for this crucial role, Mike spent 12 years in a similar role with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Vice President of Security Vincent DeMarino added, "The NYC Transit HazMat Team has already begun to strategize and conduct preliminary training with key members of NYC's Office of Emergency Management, the NYPD and FDNY. We are extremely proud of this group's willingness and determination to assist these agencies, our fellow employees, and most importantly our customers. The new vehicle is going to be a tremendous tool for us."

The HazMat truck will officially go into service on Monday, April 14th.

