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MONOC Emergency Medical Services Receives Joint Legislative Resolution for Their Part in the U.S. Airways Flight 1549 Incident in the Hudson River

On February 5, 2009, the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly presented to MONOC Emergency Medical Services a Joint Legislative Resolution commending MONOC on their outstanding actions during the events post the U.S. Airways Flight 1549 emergency landing in the Hudson River near Weehawken.

On January 15, 2009 around 3:45pm, MONOC was requested as part of the New Jersey EMS Task Force to respond to US Airways flight 1549 that had made an emergency landing in the Hudson River just north of the Intrepid Aircraft Carrier. The plane was carrying over 150 passengers and crew members.

MONOC's response was part of a pre-planned response contingency that included more than 50 ambulances that either responded to the scene or were positioned in Staging Areas at the Meadowlands and PNC Arts Center. Major EMS rescue equipment was dispatched to the scene to help the 58 passengers who were shuttled to the Port Imperial Ferry Terminal in Weehawken.

Within minutes of the request for resources the regional EMS communications centers were able to mobilize 10 ambulance strike teams and several medevac aircraft. The passengers were shuttled by ferry to both sides of the river. NJ EMS handled those taken to Port Imperial and then onto area hospitals. FDNY managed the NYC operations.

Within the hour, NJ mobilized the following:

- 50 Basic Life Support Ambulances
- 6 Advanced Life Support Units
- 3 Mass Casualty Response Trucks (each is 100-patient capable)
- 3 Mass Casualty Response Trailers (each is 25-patient capable)
- 2 Staging Area Management Trailers (to support various EMS staging operations)
- 1 Logistical Support Unit (Special Operations Vehicle)
- 3 Medevac Aircrafts
- More than 200 NJ EMTs and paramedics

This incident occurred just two months after EMS organizations in New Jersey signed off on the Port Security EMS Plan, an emergency response plan that outlines procedures and actions that need to be taken in the case of a catastrophic event with the state's seaports and waterways. Part of the plan was tested in a drill last November in Atlantic Highlands, NJ. The plan was created by members of the New Jersey EMS Task Force, an organization developed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services to coordinate EMS response to large scale incidents.