



# Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York



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## Heat Wave Coincides with Busiest Week in 30 Years for NYC Firefighters

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**Comes as Citywide Call Volume Up 6.25% as of End of May 2010**

As New York suffered through one of the hottest weeks in recorded history, with several 100-plus degree days according to the National Weather Service, New York City Firefighters were responding to more serious fires than at any time in the past 30 years of the FDNY.

For the five day period (beginning 0600 hours on Sunday, July 4, through 0600 hours Friday July 9) New York City Firefighters responded to and extinguished 93 major fires across the five boroughs resulting in 471 firefighters being injured responding to 8,736 total fire incidents and 3,204 CFRD medical emergency calls by FDNY engine companies.

A "greater alarm fire" is classified as a major fire causing significant damage making a property uninhabitable and most times causing injury to civilians and firefighters.

### **Among 93 Major "Greater Alarm" Fires in New York City Over the Past 5 Days:**

1. Sun 0600 - Monday 0600 hours – **24 serious fires;**
2. Monday 0600 – Tuesday 0600 hours – **21 serious fires;**
3. Tuesday 0600 – Wednesday 0600 hours – **19 serious fires;**
4. Wednesday 0600 – Thursday 0600 hours – **20 serious fires;**
5. Thursday 0600 – Friday 0600 hours – **9 serious fires;**

"This has been the busiest week for the FDNY and New York City Firefighters in the last 30-years as the number of serious fires and civilian emergencies soared," said Steve Cassidy, UFA President. "During the hottest week in memory and as the city opened cooling centers to keep New Yorkers from collapsing under severe heat and humidity, the physical toll on New York's Bravest was incredible, with 471 injured."

New York City Firefighters respond to emergencies encapsulated in protective bunker gear - basic gear weighs 59 pounds - and carrying life saving tools and equipment that can increase firefighters carry weight up to 130 pounds.

"The weight of firefighters bunker gear and tools, adds incredible physical stress, especially with a string of 100-plus degree days and fighting fires exceeding 2,000 degrees. This plus serious fire volumes soaring 300 percent takes a toll on manpower levels." This was the case July 7, as available fire companies and firefighters were so depleted that the Queens FDNY force was at one point down to just 40 percent availability.

The FDNY did not add additional fire companies to handle the soaring call volumes as it did for the 2003 blackout.

### **Among Significant Fires NYC Firefighters Responded to:**

- **July 6** – 3-Alarm Fire on 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Astoria, Queens;
- **July 7** – Two different 5-Alarm Fires in Queens (Rego Park and Bayside);
- **July 7/8** – 3-Alarm church fire, Schermerhorn Street & 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Brooklyn;
- **July 8** – 4-Alarm fire on Houston Street in the East Village Section of Manhattan;

-Continued-

The years 2005-2009 have been the busiest in the 145 year history of the FDNY and even before the blistering heat in the city this week, New York City Firefighters were on pace to shatter the all time record for responding to civilian emergencies. For the first five months of 2010 firefighter calls had reached 204,721 a 6.25 percent increase over the first five months of 2009 when the call volume was 192,678 emergencies.

In 2009 there were a total of 473,024 responses to civilian emergencies; 2008 – 473,335; 2007 – 490,767; 2006 – 484,954; 2005 – 485,702.

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**FDNY UNIT ASSIGNMENTS ON ALL GREATER ALARMS  
+ NUMBER OF PERSONNEL RESPONDING**

ALARMS	TOTAL # UNITS	TOTAL #MEMBERS	UNIT BREAKDOWN
7-5 ALL HANDS	12	60	4ENG, 3LAD,2BC,1DC,1RS,1SQ
2-2	25	106	4ENG, 2LAD, 1BC, 1SQ,ISB1, 1TS, 1FC, RAC, SAT
3-3	33	138	4ENG, 1LAD,1BC, MSU, CAR23D
4-4	39	168	4ENG, 1LAD, PIO
5-5	44	198	4ENG, 1LAD, ADMIN
10-76	26	84	CFR-D,CMDPC,HR,MSU,RAC,CAR23D
*10-76 (2-2)	36	126	SAT
10-77	20	78	CFR-D, 5TH LAD, LAD, CAR 23D

Below Chambers Street (Mn) Between 0700 and 1900 hours, Add Following to 10-76:

- 6 Unit
- 28 Firefighters

*ALL PERSONNEL COUNTED WERE MANDATORY UNITS AND REFLECTS THE MINIMUM STAFF ON SCENE. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL OPERATING ON SCENE IS ALWAYS LARGER THEN SAID MATRIX (i.e. administration, staff chief, OPI, BFI, etc.)*

10-60 (Major Emergency Response)

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| -1 Deputy Chief                          | - Tactical Support Unit                  |
| -4 Additional Battalion Chiefs           | - Safety Operating Battalion             |
| -3 Rescue Companies (Inc. Collapse Unit) | - Field Communications Unit              |
| -Public Information Officer              | - Squad 1 and Technical Response Vehicle |