



**An Official Communication from the UFA
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UFA Safety Message #1

“Safe Apparatus Response – ALWAYS!”

UFA Health and Safety Officer / Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Romaka wishes to remind the Membership to take their safety responsibilities seriously at all times. We will continue to highlight and remind our members of “safe actions” as spelled out by the Department. Stay well and stay safe!

Based upon the Department’s Safety Bulletins and Regulations the UFA would like to bring your attention to the following:

1. Donning of boots and personal protective equipment should be done *prior* to boarding the apparatus.
2. Seat belts must be worn at all times and secured before the apparatus proceeds.
3. The apparatus shall be brought to a complete halt in order for members to board safely.
4. Chauffeurs are reminded to continue to respond in the safest possible fashion, as your primary purpose is to bring all the members home safely!

What’s not said in the Department’s Safety Bulletins and Regulations is that when you receive an address or cross street with no particulars, it is impossible to tell whether this is a hazardous materials incident or a possible terrorist incident. So the message here is to respond cautiously until more information is obtained. The FDNY publications *do* state to “...**Minimize commitment of forces** as conditions permit. This will expose fewer members...”

Therefore until more information is given, we strongly urge the membership to **respond safely and appropriately** to protect themselves and their families as if these incidents might be hazardous in nature! **ALL** responses should be handled safely and appropriately!

Fraternally,

William Romaka
Sergeant-at-Arms /
Health & Safety Officer

Stephen J. Cassidy
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