

# **“9/11 Can You Hear Me Now Act”**

## **Section By Section**

(Prepared by the office of Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney)

**Section 1.** Title - “9/11 Can You Hear Me Now Act”

**Section 2.** Findings - Provides background of radio failures the FDNY has experienced.

**Section 3.** Requirements of the new communication system for FDNY

A. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, no later than 1 year after the date of enactment, procure development and provision of a communication system for the New York City Fire Department, including appropriate radios for the entire department and upgrades to the critical information dispatch system of the department.

B. Requirements

- Radios - They must be capable of operating in all locations, and under all conditions, in which firefighters can reasonably be expected to work in responding to an emergency in New York City.
- Supplemental Communication Device - Included in any communication system that will allow a firefighter to transmit an audible and radio emergency notification warning signal when he or she is in distress and in immediate need of assistance. It will work in a passive mode that will transmit the identification and location of the firefighter if he or she become incapacitated and motionless or if he or she is unable to transmit a call for help.

C. Dispatch System

- New dispatch system that will allow the Fire Department to communicate with firefighters in all locations and under all conditions in which a firefighter can reasonably be expected to work in responding to an emergency in New York City. Upgrades Critical Information Dispatch System to provide useful, detailed data concerning all likely terrorist targets in New York City.

D. Testing

- The Radios, any dispatch system, and supplemental communication devices must have been tested to ensure they will operate in all locations

and under all conditions in which a firefighter can reasonably be expected to work in responding to an emergency in New York City.

E. Coordination

- The Department of Homeland Security shall coordinate with the City of New York to ensure that the new communication system is compatible with the plans of NYC to upgrade its 911 system and interoperable with other public safety communications systems.

F. Progress Report

- The Secretary of DHS shall submit progress reports on progress made in carrying out this bill. The reports shall be submitted on February 26<sup>th</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>, the two anniversaries of the terrorist attacks.