

**Philip H. McArdle**  
**Health & Safety Officer, Uniformed Firefighter's Association**  
**Public Forum on Homeland Security**  
**Tuesday, June 24, 2003**

Good Morning. I am Philip McArdle, Health & Safety Officer of the Uniformed Firefighter's Association, which represents the interests of over 8500 firefighters of New York City. I would like to thank the members of the committee for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of my fellow firefighters.

As I testify before you today I am deeply concerned about the present state of the New York City Fire Department. On September 11<sup>th</sup> we lost 343 firefighters. Unfortunately the damage to the FDNY did not stop there. Common sense would dictate that public safety is of the utmost importance and should be the number one priority. Resources for FDNY should have been expanded immediately following September 11<sup>th</sup> to handle the new threats that New York now faces. Shockingly, this has not happened, rather the FDNY is now dealing with a severe budget crisis. While the Uniformed Firefighter's Association recognizes that New York City and New York State are currently experiencing significant budget crises, we believe that many of the impending budget cuts will make an already impossible situation dramatically worse. Cuts to the FDNY have resulted in the closing of firehouses, manning reductions and inadequate training and equipment. How can closing firehouses, reducing manning and cutting training be prudent steps in securing homeland security?

Despite two major attacks on New York City, an increase in fire and EMS calls - more than any other city in America, and combined with the pressure of the heightened alert, Code Orange since 9/11 (the highest in the nation) we find ourselves literally begging for adequate resources and the proper quality training that enables us to do our most important work, protect the citizens of New York. Alarmingly, this fire department is less prepared to handle a major catastrophe today than it was on September 11<sup>th</sup>, let alone 2 simultaneous disasters. While Homeland Security may be improved in the macro universe, the micro universe of the New York City Fire Department is grossly unprepared to deal with another large-scale terrorist attack. We are no longer simply firefighters; we are now the first line of defense in the war on terror and we do not have the funding to properly address these new

responsibilities. All of this adds up to an invitation for terrorists to attack New York City for a third time.

Training represents the cornerstone of our preparedness for both daily functioning and the handling of additional, catastrophic events that were unimaginable before 9/11. However, our firefighters have not been given sufficient training and equipment to handle many kinds of attacks. A clear violation of federal regulations (CFR 1910.120). And this is not simply my opinion. The City of New York's own expert consultant report by McKinsey & Company clearly stated, "Preparing for and responding to large and complex terrorist incident could require special operations capabilities beyond those currently possessed by the FDNY." Most notably, the New York City Fire Department has less than 35 firefighters trained as Hazardous Materials specialists, representing 0.003% of the NYC firefighting population, who are adequately trained in specialized areas such as nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare. And worse, only 5 of these firefighters are on duty at any given tour making the coverage of Haz-Mat personnel to New Yorkers 1 per every 2.4 million citizens based on the 12 million person daytime population of NYC.

Additionally the fire department has repeatedly failed to provide or replace equipment necessary to have a functioning fire department. We have companies who are designated Chemical Protective Clothing companies, meaning they should be trained and equipped with chemical protective clothing because they are responsible for search, rescue, victim removal and decontamination activities. One firehouse in particular, Ladder 10 lost its CPC equipment after 9/11. This equipment has never been replaced and yet this company is still responsible for responding to emergencies that require CPC expertise. Ladder 10 like many other CPC companies has many new members who have not been given the required initial CPC training. Most of those members that did receive initial training have not been given the federally required refresher training in several years. This again is in violation of federal regulations (CFR 1910.120), which requires annual refresher training for these types of activities. Most of our members have no more training in terrorist response today than they did on 9/11; many firefighters have received no training at all.

During the heightened terrorist alert during the month of March firefighters were assigned to Hammer Teams. Each team consisted of two ESU police officers and two firefighters. Hammer Teams are reconnaissance teams responsible for evaluating potential terrorists attacks that would involve a

hazardous material threat. In most cases monitoring devices were distributed to our members 5-10 minutes before they were to report to their posts. 5-10 minutes of rushed and inadequate training was provided to the firefighters on how to operate these devices. Unquestionably, an absurd amount of time to expect a person to not only be well versed in reading detection devices but also in disseminating the information and developing a response plan. Without the proper training detection devices are simply useless. Proper HazMat detection training involves interpreting readings AND devising a response to an attack that will minimize loss of life and injury. During the initial stages of the Hammer Team program firefighters were given chemical protective suits but were provided with no back-up or decontamination capabilities.. If an attack were to occur firefighters would have no way of protecting themselves or the public.

From the moment the first plane hit Tower 1 NYC firefighters responded with strength, speed, courage and selfless commitment. We responded with faulty radios, an untested recall procedure, little and in some cases no respiratory protection and without an adequate number of chemical protective suits and monitoring devices. Still, under these dire circumstances, we managed to save over 25,000 lives.

Now, sadly well over a year and a half later many of these deficiencies still exist within our Fire Department. All the task forces, blue ribbon panels, consulting reports and testimonies have not changed these circumstances. In fact the situation is getting worse. Today the New York City Fire Department has lost over 2,000 firefighters as a result of 9/11. Of the 2000, 343 sacrificed their lives to save others and more than 1,700 who have or will retire because of physical and emotional injuries suffered because of that tragic day. Their experience can never be replaced. Over 60% of the FDNY has five years or less and that should concern everybody. Their experience can never be replaced. No amount of training can make up for the lost experience and this is at a time in history when firefighters need new special training in Haz-Mat, Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Attacks.

After 9/11 the Department acknowledged that a rebuilding process was necessary. In the 20 months that have since passed, the fire department has been further decimated. Reducing manpower, training, equipment and resources certainly does not factor into a rebuilding process nor is it conducive to protecting the public from another terrorist attack. Post 9/11, we live in a new world and the FDNY is unfortunately moving backward

and not forward.

We are the largest fire department in the country. We protect over 12 million people every day. We have responded to two major terrorist attacks, more than any other city and yet frighteningly, we are unprepared for another event. We need funding immediately to start rebuilding and training our firefighters to respond to the inevitable challenge of another attack. This money needs to go directly to the New York City Fire Department. Delaying money and resources by funneling them through the state government will result tragically in loss of life. Unfortunately, we do not have the luxury of wading through bureaucratic red tape. We need and deserve federal funding now. While we understand that the Federal government normally does not participate directly in the appropriations of funding for local municipal services, these are unprecedented times and we are asking Washington come to the aid of New York City to cover the increased costs associated with providing Homeland Security to 12 million citizens. We cannot afford to wait another 20 months or for the next terrorist attack.

The FDNY is presently operating under minimal standards - **minimal**. Imagine asking citizens to accept minimal standards of protection in this dangerous post 9/11 world. Imagine asking workers to work under sub-standard conditions while increasing their chances of being involved in the response and recovery efforts of a catastrophic event. We don't have to imagine it - this unfortunately is the reality of the New York City Fire Department.

# Philip H. McArdle

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**Education**      7/85 to present      National Fire Academy      Emmitsburg, MD

**Hazardous Materials & Counter Terrorism Training**

- Hazardous Materials Tactical Considerations
- Chemistry of Hazardous Materials
- Hazardous Materials Response Team Specialists
- Recognizing & Identifying Hazardous Materials
- Hazardous Substance Specialist
- Fire Prevention Specialist
- Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations
- Hazardous Materials Incident Management
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Basic Concepts
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Company Officer
- Emergency Response to Terrorism EMS
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Incident Management

6/85 - present      Environmental Protection Agency      Edison, NJ

**Hazardous Materials**

- Hazardous Materials Incident Response Operations
- Personal Protection & Safety
- Radiological Monitoring

6/85 - present      NYS Dept. of Labor      New York, NY

**Firefighting & Asbestos**

- Firefighter Apprenticeship Training
- Certified Asbestos Handler # AH 93-20890
- Certified Asbestos Inspector

12/84 - present      New York State Fire Academy      Montour Falls, NY

**Fire & Hazardous Materials Programs**

- Emergency Control of Hazardous Materials Incidents I
- Emergency Control of Hazardous Materials Incidents II
- Hazardous Materials Responder Level I
- Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Level # 31-5032
- Instructor Training Course #21-0031
- Basic Fire Training #82-0401

6/82 - present                      FDNY Division of Training      Randells Island, NY  
**Fire, Confined Space & Hazardous Materials Technician Training**

- Valedictorian Probationary Training School
- Hazardous Materials Tactics & Procedures
- Educational Methodology
- Confined Space Vertical Removal
- Chauffeur Training School

8/91 - present                      CSTI                                      San Luis Obispo, CA  
**Specialist Training**

- Certified Hazardous Materials Specialist #45
- Instructor Certification for Trainers C-G #820
- Hazardous Materials Specialist 1E #OR22213
- Hazardous Materials Specialist 1F #OR36544
- Hazardous Materials Specialist 1G #OR38400
- Hazardous Materials Specialist Pilot #52
- Hazardous Materials Specialist Pilot #48

5/89 - present                      Industrial Emergency Council      San Carlos, CA  
**Technician & Specialist Training**

- Hazardous Materials Technician 200 hrs.
- Hazardous Materials Specialist 80 hrs.
- Haz-Cat Identification System

5/89 - present                      ISFSI                                      Newburg, NY  
**Rescue Operations**

- Hazardous Rescue Techniques

11/85 - present                      NFPA                                      Brockton, MA  
**Hazardous Materials**

- Hazardous Materials Incidents

9/86                                      Safety Systems                              Jacksonville, FL  
**Mitigation Techniques**

- Leak Control
- Cargo Tank & Small Container
- Disaster Control

1/79                                      Technical Training Industries      Manhattan, NY  
**Power Plant Engineering**

- Power Plant Operation
- Power Plant Maintenance
- Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

- 1/93 - present                      TEACH inc.                      Baton Rouge, LA  
**FAA ARFF Training**  
  - Aircraft Response Protocols
- 5/89 - present                      Aviation Emer. Training Cons.                      Newark, NJ  
**Aircraft, Marine, Rail & Bulk Storage**  
  - Incident Management
- 6/90 - present                      Haztech Systems inc.                      Suffolk, NY  
**Hazardous Materials Sampling**  
  - Hazcat Chemical Identification System
- 8/87 - present                      Aqualung School of NY                      Manhattan, NY  
**Underwater Diving**  
  - National Association of Underwater Instructors
  - PADI Openwater Reg. # Q176936
- 9/91                      Amer. Assoc. of Airport Executives                      Hartford, CT  
**FAA Aircraft Training**  
  - Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Trainer
- 10/95 - present                      US Army                      Ft. McCellan, AL  
**Chemical / Biological Defense Command**  
  - Advanced Course Chemical Warfare
  - Live Nerve & Blister Agent Training
- 1/90 - present                      IAFF                      Washington, DC  
**Confined Space, Biological & Hazardous Materials Training**  
  - Confined Space Operational
  - Bloodborne Pathogen & Infection Control
  - Hazardous Materials Operations for First Responder
  - Hazardous Materials Operations for EMS
  - Rights & Responsibilities
  - Surviving a Haz Mat Incident
  - Hazardous Materials Incident Command
- 10/99                      New Mexico Mining & Technology                      Socorro, NM  
**Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings**  
  - Energetic Materials Research & Testing Center
- 1/98                      US National Domestic Preparedness                      NYCOEM  
**Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Terrorism**  
  - Awareness & Operational Training
  - Technician Training

- Incident Command Training
- Energetic Materials Research & Testing Center

**Professional  
experience**

4/96 – 12/97                      NFPA                                      Brockton, MA

**Representative for FDNY**

- NFPA Technical Committee 471, 472, & 473

9/86 - present                      FEMA National Fire Academy      Emmitsburg, MD

**Adjunct Faculty Instructor, Course Developer & Subject Matter Expert**

- Lead Instructor
- Instructor Trainer
- Course Developer
- Content Matter Expert
- Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices Instructor Trainer
- Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices Instructor
- Hazardous Materials Incident Management Instructor
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Instructor Incident Management
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Instructor Company Officer
- Emergency Response to Terrorism Instructor Hazardous Materials

2/87                                      NYS Fire Academy                      Montour Falls, NY

**Municipal Training Officer**

- Certified Fire Instructor # 0187-3438A

2/95                                      FEMA USAR

**Haz-mat specialist**

- Provided technical advise on PPD-39
- Provided training at Atlanta Olympics deployment
- Provided load & pallet training at Camp Smith NY for USAR logistics course

8/92                                      CSTI                                      San Luis Obispo, CA

**Instructor**

- Certified Hazardous Materials Instructor ID#820

5/93                                      California State Fire Marshal      Sacramento, CA

**Instructor**

- Certified Hazardous Materials Instructor

9/87                                      FDNY                                      Randells Island, NY

**Instructor Trainer**

- Fire & Hazardous Materials Instructor
- First Line Supervisor Instructor
- Captains Development Instructor



Field Decontamination by Philip H. McArdle

**Fire Engineering**

Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices by Philip H. McArdle, Patrick J. Walsh, David M. Lesak, Mike Shannon Daniel Civello & Darrel Begnaud

**National Fire Academy**

Chemical Protective Clothing Emergencies by Philip H. McArdle

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Promotional Exam Chief Officer by Philip H. McArdle

**City of Philadelphia**

Law Enforcement Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents by Philip H. McArdle, Chris Calbert, Steve Guillot

**Louisiana State University**

Chemical Protective Clothing Program by Philip H. McArdle

**FDNY**

**Additional professional activities**

**Training Conducted for the following groups agencies at the following Locations:**

Anacosta Naval Air Station / Mississippi State Fire Academy/New York City Fire Academy/South Dakota State Police/106<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Group/University of Kansas/NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory/New York Burn Foundation/National Fire Academy/emergency Management Institute/Washington D.C. Fire Academy/New Hampshire State Fire Academy/Governor's Office of Emergency Management N.H./Baltimore County Fire Academy/Montgomery County Fire Academy Massachusetts Fire Academy/East Islip Fire District/Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station/Exxon Baytown Refinery/Orange County Fire Academy/U.S. Park Police/Prezent Associates/Texaco/U.S. Department of Energy/Bonneville Power Authority/Burlington Fire/Sea Tow Inc. East Hampton Hazardous Materials Response Team/Merrick Valley Fire Service Instructors Association/Kansas City Kansas Hazardous Materials Response Team/International Union of Operating Engineers/Los Alamos National Laboratory/Louisiana State university/East Bay Municipal Water District/NASAR/Pinnacle Electronic Systems/Hills Mechanical/Flynn Contracting/Non Destructive Evaluation International/Glatfelter Insurance Group/Massachusetts Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians/Philadelphia Water Supply/International Association of Fire Chiefs/EPA Region III/Shreveport Fire Department/Rombout Fire District/Dupont Chemical Corp., San Antonio/Ontario Fire/San Francisco Fire/Sunnyvale Public Safety/Fresno Fire/Oakland Fire/Sacramento Fire/Aerojet/East Bay MUD/Exxon/Black Hills Cooperative/South County Fire/Santa Rosa Fire/Ventura Fire/Twin Valley Fire/California Dept. of Forestry/Redding Fire/Los Angeles City & County Fire/Santa Fe Springs Fire/Riverside Fire/USN-Long Beach Naval Shipyard/USAF March Air Force Base/USMC Logistics Base, Barstow,CA/Poudre Fire Authority,Ft. Collins, CO. / San Antonio Fire Dept./ Salt Lake County Fire Dept./ Colorado State Patrol/ Alaska State police/ Utah State Police/ City of Miami/ Honolulu Police & Fire / Dartmouth Medical School/UCLA Department of

Epidemiology/ Fox Valley Technical College/ Niagara Falls Fire Dept./ NASA's Ames Research Center

**Professional membership**

International Society of Fire Service Instructors  
National Fire Protection Association  
Society of National Fire Academy Instructors  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
New York State Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
Delegate Uniformed Firefighters Association (local 94 IAFF)

**Community activities**

Putnam County HazMat Team (consultant)  
Kent Recreation  
Carmel Sports

**References**

**National Fire Academy**

16825 South Seton Ave. Emmitsburg MD  
Dr. Dennis O'Neil Superintendent (301) 447-1000

**Industrial Emergency Council**

P.O. Box 686 San Carlos, California  
James O'Donnell Executive Director (650) 508-9008

**New York Firefighters Burn Foundation**

Ash Loop, Bronx New York  
James Curran President

**International Association of Firefighters**

Washington, DC  
Scott Soloman Director (202) 737-8484

**Louisiana State University Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Steve Guillot Director (225) 388-1375

Additional References provided upon request

**Volunteer  
experience**

Edgewater Park Volunteer Hose Co. # 1 1973 - 1992

Chief of Department, Assistant Chief Health & Safety, Captain, Lieutenant & Board of Directors, Honorary Member now retired

Edgewater Athletic Association 1975 – present

Chairman Labor Day Olympics

Punt Pass & Kick

**Security  
clearance**

Honorable Discharge United States Coast Guard Reserves (held secret while in reserves)

**Civil service  
grades**

Firefighter FDNY

**Awards  
received**

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 1/13/84

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 10/20/85

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 2/18/87

FDNY Certificate of Merit Service "A" 1998

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 8/7/89

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 8/26/89

FDNY Certificate of Merit Service "B" 1990

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 4/20/91

FDNY Certificate of Merit Service "B" 1991

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Citation 5/20/91

FDNY Certificate of Merit Unit Oklahoma Bombing 4/19/95

Governor's Office of Emergency Management, NH

Baltimore County Fire Dept. MD

Town of East Islip, NY  
Edgewater Park, NY  
Volunteer Fireman's Association city of New York  
Office of Emergency Management, Bridgeport CT  
City of Nashua Fire Dept., NH  
Office of the Mayor City of Indianapolis, ID  
Town of Burlington, MA  
City of Springfield, MA  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington DC  
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CA  
Office of the Fire Commissioner FDNY  
Mayor City of New York  
LSU Fireman Training  
New York State Assembly  
New York State Senate  
100 year Association Award for outstanding public service  
St. Joseph's University  
FEMA Director  
FDNY Mand Library