

NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



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FDNY RECEIVES \$150K DONATION FOR GAS DETECTORS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION FROM CON EDISON AND NATIONAL GRID

Funding Will Assist FDNY in Providing Gas Detection Devices to All Firefighters

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Fire Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro announced today that Con Edison and National Grid have donated \$100,000 to the FDNY to purchase 175 portable gas detectors for Firefighters, and an additional \$50,000 from Con Edison to fund a public education campaign on gas safety.

The funding will help FDNY equip every one of its 198 fire engines in the city with a gas detection device. (Currently, only ladder trucks and special units are equipped with the devices, which detect and measure the ranges of natural gas and oxygen, alerting users to potentially dangerous concentrations.)

"I want to thank Con Edison and National Grid for this generous donation, and for responding to and addressing gas leaks with us when they occur," said Fire Commissioner Nigro. "With these devices Firefighters will operate more safely and better protect the public, and we'll reach many more New Yorkers with important life safety messages on gas odors and emergencies."

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"Con Edison is proud of its longstanding partnership with the FDNY protecting New Yorkers each and every day, and we are committed to continuing our joint aggressive public awareness campaign to encourage people to report gas odors immediately," said Con Edison Chairman and CEO John McAvoy. "Working with the FDNY and the FDNY Foundation to educate citizens is critical in reaching as many people as possible, and we'll continue that work while also equipping more firefighters with gas detectors to keep them and the public safe."

"As the proud son of a retired New York City firefighter, I know firsthand the critical role that the FDNY plays in keeping our local communities safe. National Grid partners with the FDNY by providing e-learning training, testing emergency response plans, and conducting safety drills to help them protect the public and respond safely in the event of a natural gas emergency," said Ken Daly, President, National Grid New York. "We are pleased to be able to provide critical gas detector equipment to improve the safety of our emergency responders and the communities we proudly serve."

This collaboration between the FDNY and both utility companies comes as the FDNY has experienced a 68 percent increase in gas/odor emergencies in the last year – largely due to enhanced public response to two major gas explosions.

Following the March 26 gas explosion in the East Village at 121 Second Avenue, there was a 45 percent increase in the number of gas/odor emergency calls than in the prior month. In 2014, FDNY units responded to nearly 18,000 more gas/odor emergency calls than in 2013 following the East Harlem gas explosion at 1644 Park Avenue that killed eight people. Following that tragedy, the city and Con Edison encouraged New Yorkers to immediately call 911 and report any suspected gas leaks.

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