

# FIRE FOCUS

By Les Kent, PWvFD

The songwriters may tell of the hazy, lazy days of summer or summertime, when the livin' is easy...but that was hardly the case for the Fire Medic Company last month.

Charged with the responsibility of providing emergency medical services to our community, this company of the Port Washington volunteer Fire Department answered more emergency and fire calls in July than in one month ever in its history.

Members of the company responded to a record 229 calls in this one month!

Founded in 1979, the company is on call 24 hours a day every day of the year, with highly trained volunteer members available for calls at any time day or night (standby crews sleep overnight each night at FMCo headquarters which houses our three ambulances.)

Summer weather, and particularly a hot dry period such as we had last month, usually brings on an increased number of warm weather outdoor activity health and injury incidents. Typical calls include such complaints as difficulty breathing, asthma and allergy problems, heat exhaustion (including infants!), bee and other insect bites (which can be serious), and pedestrian or bicyclists struck.

The latter category involved an unusual occurrence in July when on two succeeding days there were two such incidents each day (one pair within an hour of each other!...a very rare situation.)

Records show that Fire Medics responded to nine auto accidents, leg and knee injuries, a drowning incident (not fatal), three assault victims, three DOA's, and a chain saw injury ... again, most reflecting increased outdoor activity by residents in the summer months.

The 229 calls included 79 fire calls. Fire Medics respond to every call when line firefighters of the PWvFD are called out, as protection and available medical aid to any firefighter or fire victim, if needed.

The Saturday of the sudden squall the Port Washington volunteer Fire Department as a whole, including the Fire Medics, responded to an astounding 34 calls that day alone!

First Lieut. Greg Robertson, acting captain in the temporary absence of Capt. Lorie Borelli of the FMCo, stated "I can't tell you how proud I am of the tremendous job the FMCo did in getting out the ambulances for all these calls, and how proud we all are to be Fire Medics in this town!"

There is a great sense of gratification and accomplishment in being a member of such an elite emergency medical services unit as our PWvFD Fire Medics (a number of our members are not Port Washington residents but have joined this unit because of its leading reputation within the emergency medical services field on Long Island.)

Anyone interested in becoming a member, too, should contact the company any evening at 883-0224, or stop by any Thursday evening at 65 Harbor Road and say 'hello'...any member there will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

And please remember...you don't have to have any previous experience of any sort in any medical activity. A visit to the FMCo could be the beginning of not only a most satisfying volunteer community activity but the beginning of free training and advancement into the medical and health services as a profession (where there is always a need for trained personnel, and no recession!)