

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

BINGHAMTON FIRE DEPLOYS TO LONG ISLAND

by Nick Griswold

In the weeks after Hurricane Sandy devastated the Eastern Seaboard, many emergency services departments sent crews to areas hit hardest. Binghamton Fire was no exception sending a total of three crews over a seven day period. During their deployments crews were stationed at two different departments providing aid in any way they could.



J. Allen Photo- Binghamton Fire EMS Command Vehicle and Decon Trailer at Island Park Fire Department

The first crew left Binghamton for Nassau County on the morning of Thursday November 1, with a DECON Trailer and some HAZMAT equipment. This crew consisted of four members with an assignment to provide level C and D decon to personnel working in contaminated areas. Once in Nassau County the crew was deployed to assist Island Park Fire Department.

The village of Island Park was hit particularly hard with as much as 6 feet of water throughout the entire community destroying every structure. Wind also damaged many buildings and downed power lines and trees too numerous to count. During their stay this crew had some small decon assignments, assisted on an EMS call, assisted in cleaning out flooded portions of the firehouse, and handing out food and supplies to residents in need.



J. Allen Photo: Binghamton Fire Crew #1 at Island Park Fire Department

After 48 hours in Island Park a second crew of four members from Binghamton Fire relieved the first crew. This second crew continued the efforts of the first crew by cleaning flooded portions of the firehouse, and unloading and redistributing truckloads of clothes, food, and supplies. This crew was also put to work on minor decon assignments, assisting other mutual aid crews on potential HAZMAT incidents, as well as taking the assignment to staff Island Park Ladder 223 had the need arose for it to respond.



J. Allen Photo - Binghamton Fire Crew #2 at Island Park Fire Department

After another 48 hours at Island Park this crew returned home to Binghamton on Monday, November 5. The same day a third crew was formed of four more members who also deployed to Nassau County, this time with an engine. This crew was sent to assist Baldwin Fire Department. While in Baldwin this crew responded to numerous emergencies and assisted with anything needed. After 48 hours this crew returned home on Wednesday night November 7.

Although Binghamton is a 100% career department, many personnel still stepped up with the understanding that they would not be compensated for their time on deployment. The satisfaction of helping someone in need shows the true spirit of what the fire service is all about. After receiving assistance in Binghamton from the statewide mutual aid plan in the past members know how much appreciated any assistance can be.



J. Allen Photo- Island Park Fire Department displays a very large American Flag in the wake of devastation from Hurricane Sandy.

The Binghamton Fire Department and specifically the members who deployed to Long Island would like to extend a sincere Thank You to both Island Park and Baldwin Fire Departments for their generous hospitality during our stays. Having been through two major flooding disasters in Binghamton in the last 7 years we understand the long road ahead in these areas. We wish these Fire Departments and their members as well as all affected Fire Departments and members the best of luck as they continue to rebuild. Stay safe brothers.