

## Suffolk County Fire Districts Officers Association

President: Louis Delgado

Represented at REMSCO by: David Carrigan

The officer's association has a membership of 96 districts with approximately 480 members. A little over half of the agencies have ambulance services, most with Advance Life Support. In 2007 these departments answered a little over 53,600 ambulance calls.

A fire district officer is an elected official of a municipal corporation of New York State whose title is fire commissioner. He or she is elected by the eligible voters of the fire district which they represent. By New York State Law they must be a citizen and a resident of that fire district. One Commissioner of the five has to be elected each year to serve a five year term. Under law the commissioners provide for fire protection and response to other emergencies within their respective fire district. The fire district officers have the option to provide their own ambulance service and under the State Public Health Law to be certified to operate that service.

A fire district is an area that is formed through a process under the New York State Town Law. Once a fire district is established the fire commissioners can form a fire department, fire companies and approve volunteer firefighters, apparatus, equipment, and other related issues. This is accomplished by law allowing the fire commissioners to levy taxes on the resident, taxpayers of the district. Since the fire district is a municipal corporation of New York State, the funds gathered, are subject to a New York State Comptroller audit each year or by an independent public accountant who then files the audit results to the comptroller's office.