

# Booster Line

## “911, What’s your Emergency?”

Our current reporting period covers the activities that Schiller Park responded to in the last month. The following incidents are the firefighters and paramedics more unique calls. As always Schiller Park members responded to any call for help.

Our reporting period from mid-February to mid March occurs during the winter months where we have had more than the usual amount of cold weather and snow.

This issue begins on February 9<sup>th</sup> when Gold shift responded to a child locked in the car. The car was running with a 2 year old inside. Lt. Swiontek, FF/PM Farias and FF/PM Bubis were able to gain access with no damage to the car.

February 10<sup>th</sup> had Gold shift then respond to a broiler on fire in the kitchen. En-route to the call dispatch informed the firefighters that the occupant throw baking soda on the fire. Members used a dry chemical extinguisher to complete extinguishment and ventilated the residual cloud.

There next Gold shift on the 13<sup>th</sup> members responded to a car fire in the ATM lane at one of our banks. We found a fire in the motor compartment and 250 gallons of water put the fire out.

Black shift responded to a major gas leak in Rosemont on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Tower Ladder 5 and Battalion 5 were responsible for monitoring several floors in the hotel. A 4 inch gas line ruptured outside the structure.

The 15<sup>th</sup> saw Red shift respond to a fire alarm at one of our hotels. Cmdr. Cesaretti and the group found that a 3 year old had pulled the fire alarm station box.

A fire at a tire store in Northlake Fire Protection District on February 15<sup>th</sup> saw Schiller Park Tower Ladder 5 and battalion 5 respond initially as a Rapid Intervention Team. During the

course of the fire we were moved up to suppression and put the Tower to work. The fire was elevated in the number of alarms several times and Ambulance 5 soon arrived on scene and took over the Re-habilitation sector. Members were on scene for several hours pumping water to fight the fire. The building was a complete loss and no one was hurt when the walls collapsed. (see photos).

February 17<sup>th</sup> had a call for Red shift to respond to a PACE bus with a smell of smoke. On scene members found that it was the brakes that had locked up and were smoking. The thermal image camera was used to insure that no other issues were involved.

A fire alarm on the 18<sup>th</sup> found that while we had a rare warm up melting snow trickled into a detector at a motel and set off the system. Maintenance was advised and roof repairs were in order.

A second incident this period of brakes locking up and smoking on February 20<sup>th</sup> had Black shift respond. The owner was concerned that his car was on fire. The investigation determined it was the brake pads.

After shift change Red shift responded to Melrose Park for a working fire. On the alarm we were due with a fire investigator after the Incident Commander requested an Investigator Box Alarm. The on duty investigator FF/PM Leiser responded.

Their next call was for wires down. Upon arrival Lt. Budnik and his engine company found high power wires in the back yard laying across a chain link fence. Com Ed was notified and Schiller Park Police remained on the scene.

An automatic fire alarm followed this call in a hotel on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. When the fire investigative crew went to the floor they found that a guest had burnt food in their room. Smoke was removed with an exhaust fan.

Snow began as the shift continued

### *Inside This Newsletter*

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Who went above and beyond

and soon it accumulated. A arrow board sign moved in the wind into the traffic. One of our police officers in moving the sign out of the road way seriously cut his hand requiring our ambulance to treat and transport to the hospital.

Gold shift took in a call at a hotel on the 21<sup>st</sup> and was met by maintenance who stated that a Freon line had broken on an air conditioning unit and set off the detector.

Members returned a bit later to the same location when a detector activated on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The fire investigative team hauled their tools up the stairs to the fourth floor and found no reason for the activation.

A fire in Bellwood on the 24<sup>th</sup> found the need for fire investigators. The on duty fire investigators for Gold shift included FF/Pm Leiser and FF/PM Bubis. Both responded as this incident also had a fatality.

A working fire in Norwood Park on February 26<sup>th</sup> had red shift take in the call. Members assisted Norwood at the fire until released.

During the new firefighter orientation on February 27<sup>th</sup>, members were called out by the Water Department to a business where water was pouring out the front door after normal business hours. Members entered after notifying the owners to locate the source of the cascading water from the premises.

March began on the 1<sup>st</sup> with red shift taking in a low hanging wire call. Lt. Budnik and his company arrived to find a service wire from the pole to the house hanging 5 feet above the ground. Com Ed was called to the scene to re-string the power line.

Gold shift on March 2<sup>nd</sup> took in a call for the smell of smoke in the building. The owner stated that he saw sparks coming from a water line in the basement. Members of our Engine and Squad Companies found a gas pipe union sparking and knew that somehow the water line was electrified. The electrical breakers were shut down and the Village

plumber and electrician called to the scene to try and determine the cause. The union was tightened and NICOR also called to the scene. It was determined by village officials that there was a bad ground somewhere in the house systems.

Leyden Fire Protection District requested fire investigators to the scene on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The on duty fire investigator FF/Pm Leiser responded to the scene to assist in the investigation.

The 5<sup>th</sup> of March had a carbon monoxide call for Red shift after the occupants came home from vacation and heard their detector chirping. Inspecting the detector it showed an error message and they were advised to replace the detector after our monitors showed no elevations in any carbon monoxide readings.

Schiller Park Police on patrol noticed smoke coming from the ground on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The engine responded to find that it was actually a small pile of wood along the creek that was smoldering probably from workers doing construction along Denley on the creek project. The fire was put out with a 2.5 gallon pressurized extinguisher.

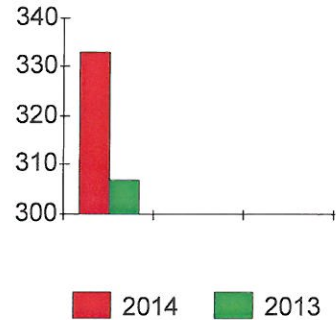
Cmdr. Leiser responded as a Safety Officer to a working fire in Bellwood on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Cmdr. Leiser took control of the sector.

The last call of this period occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> when the department responded to a car fire in a hotel parking lot. On scene they found a vehicle with the hood up and dry chemical powder all over. Members checked the compartment and the owner stated he left the car about an hour earlier and when he came back found it smoking. He used his own extinguisher.



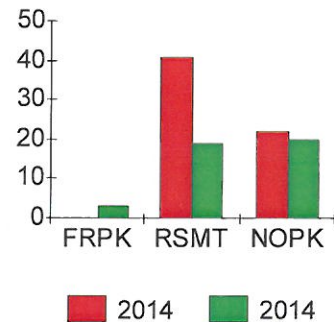
The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2013:

### Total Incidents



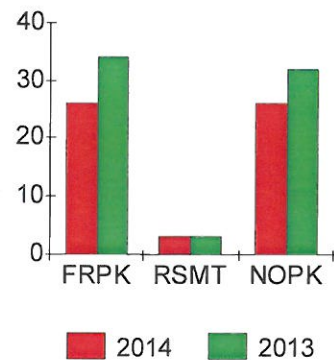
The run summary for Automatic Aid as of February 28<sup>th</sup> "To" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Given



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of February 28<sup>th</sup> "From" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Received



	2014	2013
Total Incidents	333	307

**Auto Aid to:**

Franklin Park (FRPK)	0	3
Norwood Park (NOPK)	22	20
Rosemont (RSMT)	24	11

**Auto Aid From:**

Franklin Park (FRPK)	26	34
Norwood Park (NOPK)	26	32
Rosemont (RSMT)	3	3

## Commander's Cove

### *We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

FF/PM Warden who injured herself while in the Vehicle Machinery Operations class returned to work this past month. She is back on Gold shift with no restrictions.

FF/Pm Bertoncini sustained an off duty injury which required him to be on short term disability. He is expected to return March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Lt. Hatcher, who injured his arm on a call, will have surgery mid January. He will come in on light duty to run the Fire Prevention Bureau and should return in the Spring.

POC Lieutenant Sam DiMaggio returned to the ranks of the Paid on Call after back surgery. Sam has served the village for nearly 45 years.

To balance shift seniority Director Deegan has made a shift change. FF/PM Gergits will be reassigned to Black shift and FF/PM Rupsis will be transferred to Gold.

Two Firefighter/Paramedics Robert Velasco #66 and Marcello Leao # 67 completed the NIPSTA Fire Academy

and graduated March 14<sup>th</sup>. They will return to shift being assigned to Red shift and Black shift respectively.

The Schiller Park Police and Fire Commission began the testing process in January with the application period January 3-February 15<sup>th</sup>. 124 applications were picked up with nearly 85 being turned in. The orientation was February 27<sup>th</sup> with 67 candidates showing up. The Written was administered March 1<sup>st</sup> with 61 showing up and 31 candidates passing. The Agility portion will be administered March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Orals the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>.

More information on the passing away of Patrolman and Detective Bob Jensen. Bob was a police officer with Schiller Park before retiring and moving to Las Vegas. A memorial service was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Sax-Tiedemann

We have been using the new Callback Staffing system for notifications, trades and the Master Calendar. So far this has been successful. If you have any questions contact a staff member. We hope to replace all the paper forms that were previous submitted and get approvals to members quicker.

When the Community-Wide notification system is used after hours or on a weekend for water main breaks please make sure that the front office staff is notified or a message left on the Village answering machine.

We have established an Accident/Injury binder in the Commanders office. Director Deegan is drafting a policy on accidents. All forms that are needed and required to be filled out can be found in this binder. We will keep them together as a packet. Included in this binder will also be infectious control forms.

As Division 20 fire departments continue to move toward station and rig numbering, Westchester Fire Department is now on board. They are assuming Station numbers 25 and 26 with corresponding vehicles being Engine 25, Ambulance 25, Engine 26, etc. Congratulations.

The NIKON digital camera is being assigned to battalion 5. This will keep it available on most scenes. If necessary it will be brought out in the buggy to the scene if battalion 5 not assigned that incident. It will also be available in quarters should it need to respond on another type of mutual aid incident.

The Village Police and Fire Departments are working on policies for calls involving persons with legally possessed concealed firearms. We expect final policies and SOG's shortly. It is our intention to make sure that both personnel and scenes are safe.

The Schiller park Police Department and the family of George Markopoulos are offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and subsequent conviction of the person or persons involved in the murder of George Markopoulos and Wendy bonder on January 27, 2011. If you have any information which would be helpful, you can call the Schiller Park police Department's Tip Line at 844-SPPD-TIP (844-777-3847) or contact Detective Frank DeSimone or Detective Brian Norris directly at 847-671-8519. Donations are also being taken for this purpose. Interested parties willing to donate should contact your local Chase Bank and reference the reward fund for "The Estate of George Markopolous". See Something! Say Something!

The Schiller Park Police Department has changed its squad cars markings. The new design and graphics add color and a distinctive look with the logo. (see photo).

The Village is having a Centennial Gala at the Four Points. There will be dinner and dancing. Tickets are available from the front Village office. Centennial merchandise can be purchased through the Village of see Director Deegan.

Director Deegan continues to work on next year's budget and looking at what we need. A preliminary budget proposal will be reviewed by the Village Manager and Finance office before going to the Village Board.

Phase IIB of the Crystal Creek project is beginning to improve flow of the creek. Work has begun along Denley and should be completed by August.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has given final approval for the Elgin-O'Hare western access project. Part of the project will also be the ring road by-pass for the toll way. The project and infrastructure will start shortly.

IDOT has begun the widening of Mannheim from Irving north to the Kennedy. Work has already begun. Eventually a southbound ramp from Mannheim to Balmoral will be added for access to southbound I-294. The Balmoral ramp from northbound Mannheim is now closed as part of the project. It will be closed for several months.

We are looking at getting voluntary compliance with numbering or lettering the stairways in our multi-story buildings. This would aid residents and firefighters in identifying the fire attack and evacuation stairways.

Another project is to identify which elevators our stretchers can be fit in by placing a Star of Life on the elevator(s) that we can get our stretcher into. A blue bar under the Star of Life will indicate that the stretcher can be fully vertical in the elevator.

## Tools / Equipment and Other FYI's

A number of items have been worked on this past month.

Items worked on and happenings around the firehouse this month include:

Tower Ladder 5 went to the shops for annual preventive maintenance. After the maintenance and U.L. testing of the ladder it will go to Van Eck for repair of the bumper that was struck by a motorist as reported last month. This will be covered by the motorists insurance.

Engine 5 had its hood latch repaired and its turn signal all by in house personnel.

Squad 5 had its seat belts replaced and brought up to current standards.

The air horn and air line on Engine 6 were repaired by our mechanic Tony. The air for the PTO (Power Take Off) was also repaired by Tony.

The running board lights on Battalion 5 were replaced by the manufacture at no cost to the department. The lights were upgraded to the newest model. The rear gutter lights are awaiting installation.

Lt. Budnik has developed an updated Repair Maintenance form to try and get members to do repairs first before referring to Tony. The officers will also sign off on whether it needs to go out for repair.

Commanders will also oversee the weekly maintenance checks on the vehicles.

During weekly tool checks it was found that the regulator for our front line air bags was malfunctioning. Lt. Budnik has sent it out for repair in Elk Grove. The older set of bags were placed in front line service until the regulator spring is repaired or replaced.

## EMS Briefs

Just an update on activities within the bureau...

Cmdr. Cesaretti's experiment with logging the part time personnel on the computer as opposed to the old binder has been working out well in field testing. This will automatically aid in computing their time and payroll. We may expand this to full time personnel.

Lt. Swiontek continues as the Assistant EMS Director learning all the aspects of the EMS Bureau. He also is taking over the Technical Rescue Team.

The drug box latch on Ambulance 6 was also replaced this past month. Tony also repaired the heat in the cab on ambulance 6 when it failed. No heat in the patient compartment was lost.

Please be sure to verify that an I.V. is required prior to opening the bag. There is now a looming shortage of .9 NS IVs. We do not want to waste supplies nor bill when unnecessary.

All members were re-certified in CPR during March.

EMS Week is planned nationwide for May 18-24<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "EMS: Dedicated. For Life".

National Telecommunicators Week is planned for April 13-19<sup>th</sup>. This honors our 9-1-1 dispatchers.

On the horizon is the new Mobile Integrated Health Care System/Plan. If you are not familiar with it begin to explore its impact on the fire/EMS services and the expectations. This is popping up more frequently in the literature and will affect our department. If you want more information see EMSD Nosek.

We would like to remind all personnel that when they are exchanging or retrieving drugs from the hospitals, that you check and verify the dosages. With different manufactures and packaging we must make sure that the correct dosages are picked

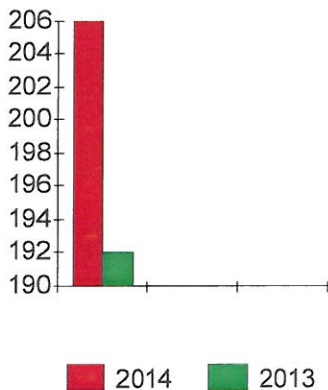
up.

The Northwest Community Hospital website for Continuing Education has a ton of information that can assist paramedics with continuing education and also provide assistance on the monthly training. If you have not had an opportunity to check the website it would be advisable.

During the past month personnel responded to 86 emergency calls. A total of 79 patients were encountered. 61 patients were transported to area hospitals. 42 patients required Advanced Life Support care.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Responses	206	192
Cardiac	15	13
Medical Emergency	104	91
Accidents/Trauma	45	47
Fire Responses	40	40
False Alarm/Standby	2	1
Mut. Aid to SHPK	3	9
SHPK to others	7	8

### EMS Total Responses



## Projects in the Works

All the shifts are encouraged to take on new challenges. If you have a project or an idea, please run it past Director Deegan, Lt. Budnik or FF/PM

Bertoncini.

We will be working on also adding emergency strobes on the exterior of the building on the east side of the firehouse.

New tile will replace broken ones in the kitchen and tile the baseboards. The walls up to the chair rail are also being tiled.

We are looking at insulating the old entrance to the firehouse from the radio room to make it more sound proof.

What's in the works? –

- New lights at station 6
- Additional outlets at station 6
- Emergency phone outside sta. 6
- mount patches around kitchen
- paint apparatus floor border
- Paint sta.6 floor
- Door and jam simulator
- sprinkler simulator
- New high-rise load packing tool
- fully sprinkler the firehouse

## Trivia

*Answer to last month's Trivia*

### February Trivia

What is the significance of Engine 51?

This one is a wink to “**Emergency**” another NBC show set in a firehouse. The 70's series followed the adventures of Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics at fictional Station 51. Engine 51 in “Chicago Fire” is an homage to that action-packed classic.

No one answered this month's trivia question correctly.

## March Trivia

Why is the rescue Squad 3 and during the 1980's were was Squad 3 in Chicago?

Please submit your answers in writing to the *Booster Line* in order to be eligible for the prizes. Winners will be selected randomly from all correct entries.

## Office of the State Fire Marshal and Training

### *Failure to Train is Training to Fail*

The training division has been active in defining and charting a course for our department.

Cmdr. Chiodo and Cmdr. Leiser attended the Division 20 Safety and Training Officer meeting.

Cmdr. Leiser, FF/Pm Leiser and FF/PM Gergits conducted orientation with the new candidates and monitored their progress at the fire academy.

We will again be co-hosting a Vehicle Machinery Operations class through the State Fire Marshal May 12<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>. The class is currently filled. Lt. Budnik, FF/PM Farias and FF/PM LiRosi are enrolled from our department.

Cmdr. Chiodo attended the Arson Strike Force monthly meeting.

Cmdr. Chiodo attended the seminar on Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Community Paramedics.

The Training Division has started a mentoring program with the new candidates. Cmdr. Leiser has chosen FF/PM Leiser and FF/PM Gergits to be the first lead firefighters for the next two candidates on probation.

The Daily Training Folders will be located in the Lieutenants office in the Training mailbox. All drills can be found here for the month.

Acting Officers and those wishing to take the next Lieutenants test are strongly encouraged to take the NIMS 300 and 400 classes. Upcoming classes have been posted.

OSHA is implementing new package identification labels for hazardous materials shipment. The new labels will be phased in within the next two years. Examples of the new labels and terminology can be found in the classroom and this issue.

Cmdr Leiser has received a DVD training simulator where we can use pictures of buildings in town and I will be able to set up different scenarios.

I have signed up several members for OSFM classes as part of their job requirements. If you know that you need a class please let me know, I will try to find one, however if you find one on your own please submit the paperwork and maintain a copy for yourself.

I have also obtained railroad ties for training in using different techniques for cutting, i.e. chopping with axes, mauls, saws. They are located behind the firehouse.

Members completed 131 hours of training for the month with 13 training drills. This includes outside classes. Our Paid on Call had 2 meetings for 8 hours.

The second Thursday of each month the State Fire Marshal has a testing site at Triton College. They have also instituted a new policy of a government issued picture ID at the test site. If you cannot produce one you will not be allowed in. Likewise they are requesting that all phones be left in the test takers car to help with the integrity of the test (too many camera phones). If you would like to sign up see Cmdr. Leiser.

Please fill an Outside Training Form whenever you attend a class, seminar or training session outside of Schiller Park. This allows for accurate record keeping in those areas and credit for the hours you put into training.

Signing up for tests is considered a Duty Assignment. If you can't attend

see me in advance and provide a written response for the absence.

I

## Employee of the Month

This month we acknowledge several members for their contributions. FF/PM Gergits, FF/PM Warden, FF/PM Farias and Cmdr Leiser as our Employees of the Month.

FF/PM Gergits and FF/Pm Warden on march 12<sup>th</sup> after a six inch snowfall and before shift ended, went to the parking lot and cleaned off all shift members cars of snow and scraped the windows on the members cars.

FF/Pm Farias assisted Cmdr. Cesaretti with all three shift calendars by transferring all information into the Master Calendar.

Our final firefighter is Cmdr. Leiser who made a presentation to the Village Board to replace our old and original thermal imaging camera. With their approval we will replace our outdated camera this year with the latest camera. Our original camera was first generation and extremely limit in what it could do.

We would also like to nominate Detective DeSimone of our own Police Department. As witnessed in our last issue he was instrumental in putting together the Police and Hockey night at the Chicago Steel hockey outing for both departments and their families.

For your time, persistence and endeavor in trying to make responses quicker we make you our Employee of the Month

Thanks for your time and dedication, you make us proud to be firefighters and in the fire service and village employees.

If you would like to nominate a firefighter, paramedic, officer or other persons for recognition, please submit the action or the incident in writing to the editor Cmdr. Chiodo.

## Fire Prevention

*An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

Shifts have begun their 2014 inspections. Each shift received 1/3 of the inspections or about 135 per shift. The inspections are rotated so that over a three year period each shift should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses. The

Lt. Hatcher and FF/PM Niemand are in the process of computerizing all the bureau forms and inspections. Two IPADS have been purchased and all inspections and inspectional paperwork are to be done electronically. Many of the forms that used to be filled out by businesses will also be submitted digitally. Both Lt. Hatcher and FF/PM Niemand will continue to train and evaluate the progress. Any questions can be directed toward them.

We also received a letter from Knox that as of January 1, 2014 all Knox boxes in the 3200, 4100 and 4400 series will have mandatory tamper switches. Lt. Hatcher has all the new applications for Knox Boxes or the client can go to the Knox Box website.

As a reminder when we go on trouble alarms we need to contact the owner to report that the alarm went into trouble and document that on the incident report and in the trouble alarm binder. Midwest may also be doing this as a back up to our call.

We also want to ensure that all PRE-PLAN sheets are returned and handed in to FF/PM Niemand. These are ESSENTIAL for us to try to complete our computer based pre-plan program. When you bring back your fire inspections, make a copy of the pre-plan forms and submit to FF/PM Niemand. He is CAD drawing the diagrams with the information. He is also using satellite imagery in each of the files. This process will take a year of more to import, drawn and download to our laptops. IT IS

the participants even if we did not take top honors.

Our adopted soldier is:

SGT Kenneth Redd  
D/1-227<sup>th</sup> TF Attack  
Camp Marmal, Afghanistan  
APO, AE 09368

The Firefighter Benevolent Ball has been postponed until September 12<sup>th</sup>. It may be less formal than dress uniform or Black Tie. See FF/PM Schneider for details.

Members of the department are competing in the 2014 Fitness Competition. Good luck to all the participants.

Members are also sporting new baseball hats as part of their class C uniforms. They have our designated front piece on the front i.e. Engine 5, Tower Ladder 5 etc. Hats can be ordered from FFPM Leiser.

## And Finally...

Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strengths and resolutions.

## Deadlines

The deadline for the next issue of the *Booster Line* will be 8:00 A.M. April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the *Booster Line* c/o Cmdr. Chiodo at [pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com](mailto:pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com).

*The Booster Line is published monthly on or about the 15<sup>th</sup>. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo, reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability.*

Photographs-

Page8-Members of the Centennial Committee for our Village 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Page 9- Tower Ladder 5 goes to work in Northlake on Mannheim at what would eventually be a 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm at a tire shop fire. Tower Ladder 5 moved from the RIT position to suppression and flowed for nearly four hours. During the fire fight one of the walls collapsed.

Page 10- The fully engulfed 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm fire in Northlake on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February leaves the building a total loss and in ruins. The fire is under investigation.

Page 11-After the fire ravaged the bar and claimed 2 lives the building is rising from the ashes. A reward is being offered for information into the fire and murders (see commanders Cove column). The slow continuation of re-building the Horseshoe bar. The building was gutted and a new second floor was added. The front of the building now has a new brick façade and the sides are vinyl siding.

Page 12-FF/PM Gergits assigned to Ambulance 6 as Paramedic In Charge, completes his run paperwork, weekly maintenance and prepares his mentoring paperwork for the candidate assigned to him.

The Schiller Park Police Department is now using the new Ford Police Interceptor Squad cars. New logos and color scheme make them stand out more. Gold and Blue were added replacing the old black lettering and stripe.



