

AFTER BLOOMBERG'S SMOKING & TRANS-FAT BANS, WHY DO NEW YORKERS STILL NEED PRE-HOSPITAL CARE?

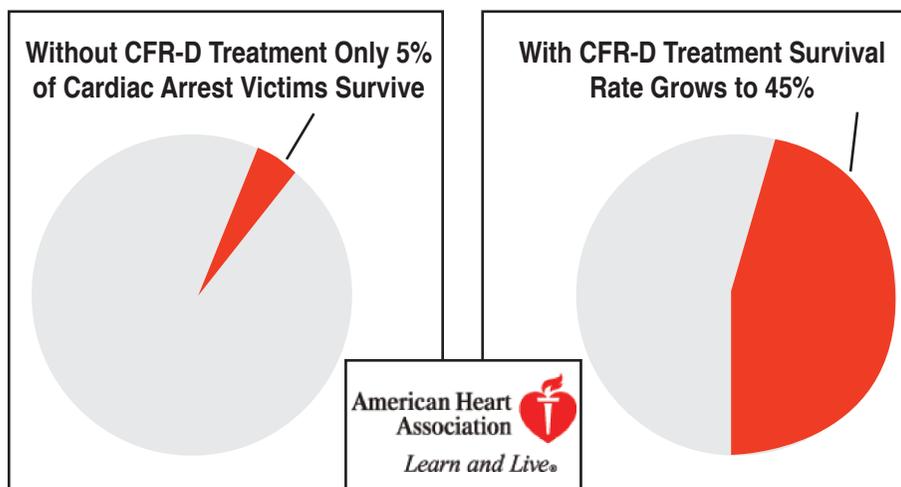
This July and following the fall elections, Mike Bloomberg believes eliminating 30 FDNY ambulance tours and closing another 16 FDNY engine companies — on top of 7 he already shut down — is a good idea to close his budget gap.

This devastating elimination of a combined 53 fire companies and ambulances will be a severe and stunning blow to all New Yorkers, especially the elderly, infirm and poor.

Bloomberg's draconian cuts to neighborhood 1st responders is a flashback to the days when medical responses in New York City averaged over 15 minutes, far too late to provide life saving assistance in most medical emergencies.

According to the American Heart Association, a heart attack victim's chances of survival are reduced by 7-10% with every minute that passes without treatment and that few resuscitation attempts succeed after 10 minutes. Brain and permanent death start to occur in 4-6 minutes after cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest can only be reversed in most victims if treated within 7-10 minutes.

The Heart Association estimates that more than 95 percent of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital but in cities like New York where Certified First Responders are on the scene within 5 to 7 minutes, the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest is as high as 30-45 percent.



The FDNY is the primary provider of pre-hospital emergency care in the five boroughs with firefighters trained as Certified First Responders. The FDNY responds to more than 1.2 million medical emergencies per year, often with engine companies being the 1st to arrive to stabilize victims, before turning the patient over to paramedics for further treatment and transport to emergency rooms.

The current system of firefighter, paramedic and emergency room doctors acting as a true, three-tiered emergency medical system in New York City has saved a significant number of lives.

According to the FDNY, "Studies by the American Heart Association have shown a dramatic increase in the survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims who have quick and efficient CPR and defibrillation, followed by rapid access to the 911 system. The merger of FDNY and the NYC EMS has made this tiered response more seamless and effective, generating a downward trend in response times and saving the lives of countless New Yorkers every year."

When Mike Bloomberg closes 53 FDNY units that respond to medical as well as fire emergencies throughout the five boroughs — an average of OVER 10 closed per borough — New Yorkers will suffer, medical response times will soar and taxpayers will be outraged.

NEW YORK'S ELECTED LEADERS CAN NOT PERMIT MIKE BLOOMBERG TO GET AWAY WITH SHUTTING DOWN FDNY UNITS THAT SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES. LIVES DEPEND ON IT.



Uniformed Firefighters Association

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