

FDNY Fleet Services Stepping Up Against COVID-19

By: Keith Kerman

In our last two newsletters, we've shared some of our losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency. In our next newsletters, we want to discuss the incredible work and service being done by so many in City government and fleet to help NYC respond.

In many areas of fleet operation, we've seen a reduction in fleet usage with many non-essential services being suspended. We've tracked about a 40% reduction in total vehicle usage overall and a 32% reduction in direct service orders for our repair shops.

The exact opposite is true at the FDNY Ambulance Shop. As has been reported publicly, there has been a 40% increase in calls for ambulances from the general public. At the repair shop, this increased workload has translated into a 137% increase in work orders.



These past few weeks have been incredibly difficult for all of us, especially those in the medical services like FDNY and EMS. As NYC's Bravest, FDNY is answering the call in this war against an invisible and very dangerous enemy.

FDNY's EMS and firefighters are on the front line, but our mechanics and support services are performing equally critical work, also exposing themselves to serious risks.

NYC maintains its 600 ambulances and hundreds of emergency response units at the Review Avenue Ambulance Shop in Queens. The shop operates three shifts and has a total of 103 staff which include supervisor of mechanics, auto mechanics, rubber tire repairers, and motor vehicle operators.



Staff are working up to 12 hour shifts to ensure that the shop can keep up with the number of ambulances being put out of service each day.

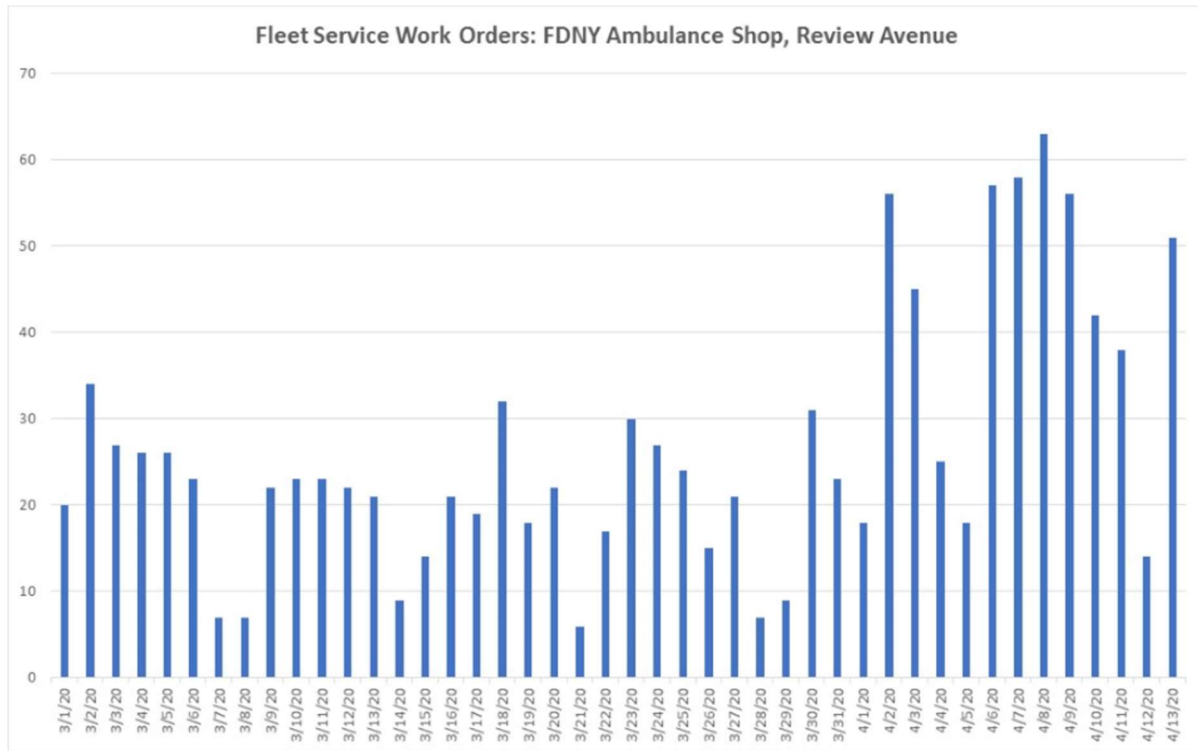
The shop has maintained staffing levels of over 90% daily. Other agencies are also helping. DOT auto mechanics have volunteered to assist at the shop starting last week. DOT Auto Mechanic Richard Rejohn is currently working on Tour #2, servicing red trucks instead of yellow.

Throughout this pandemic, the shop has continued to provide quality mechanical services to the FDNY fleet of ambulances and support vehicles. As a precautionary measure, FDNY Fleet Services has instituted regular cleaning and disinfecting of all fleet facilities.

FDNY also has vendors at all of their shops disinfecting vehicles as they come to the repair shops for repair. All employees have been mandated to wear masks and gloves while working and maintain distance where possible.

Through all these fast moving and difficult changes, FDNY Fleet staff continue to ensure that the FDNY's fleet of ambulances are always ready to answer the call. Without this vital service, the front line would not have the tools they need, so we recognize and salute these silent heroes!

Special thanks to Fleet Services Assistant Commissioner Mark Aronberg, Ambulance Shop Director Timothy Ramos, and Deputy Director Ernie Cioppa.



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