



PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:

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Erik D. Endress
Ramsey Rescue Squad, Inc.
120 East Main Street, Unit 123
Ramsey, NJ 07446
(201) 320-3216 (voice)
eendress@ramseyrescue.com

Ramsey Rescue Squad Travels to West Haverstraw, NY to Aid injured FDNY Firefighter Jeff Cool

RAMSEY, NJ – February 05, 2005 –On Saturday morning, February 5th, the Ramsey Rescue's Squad apparatus left headquarters, not to answer an emergency call, but the call of a fellow emergency service worker and volunteer Fire Department. The Squad's 16-mile journey to Volunteer Hose Co. 2 in West Haverstraw, NY was to donate blood to benefit Jeffery Cool, a professional firefighter in the City of New York who rides on FDNY Rescue 3 in the Bronx.

Jeffery Cool, 38, a father of two and a West Haverstraw volunteer firefighter, has been in critical but stable condition since he arrived at the hospital Jan. 23, after he and six other city firefighters were forced to jump four stories to escape a Bronx fire. Cool had severe skeletal damage — breaking his arms, legs, shoulders, ribs and pelvis — and severed two arteries in the nearly 50-foot plunge.

The Squad learned about the appeal for blood donations via email on Thursday, Feb. 3 and many members immediately committed to attending the drive.

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“ We had no relationship with the West Haverstraw Fire Department.” Says Erik Endress, the Squad’s President. “ In fact, most of our members didn’t even know where it was until we showed them a map. But when we learned of this call and we read about Firefighter Cool, we knew we had to do something to help.”

When Squad members arrived at the West Haverstraw fire station, they were discovered a strange coincidence. The Ramsey Rescue Squad is know as Squad 23, for the unit number of one of its rescue trucks. Sitting in front of the West Haverstraw station was Squad 23, which is West Haverstraw’s Rescue Unit.

“ It’s a pretty unusual number for a rescue Unit.” Says Endress. “So when I saw that, I knew that there was a reason we had answered this call.”

Inside, Squad members quickly sensed how much love the West Haverstraw people have for their injured firefighter. Throughout the fire station, squad members heard stories about Cool’s heroics and leadership. Around the town, large signs expressed the prayers of the township, which is about the same size as Ramsey in terms of population.

“ I am glad we went up there.” Says Endress “I know that if something like this ever happened in our town that the people of our community and our fellow emergency service workers would do what we did. It takes so little to help someone like this. Firefighter Cool has saved countless people, if we can donate a pint of blood to help him, then we will roll up our sleeves.”

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Any member of the public who would like to know what they can do to help the West Haverstraw Fire Department and the family of Firefighter Cool can contact Erik Endress at eendress@ramseyrescue.com or by calling 201-320-3216.

movie, visit www.ramseyrescue.com.

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