



Rosenbauer Reporter

For Heroes and Heroines that Serve



Rosenbauer Rescue Joins Cincinnati Fleet

The nation's oldest career fire department is placing into service its second highly-customized, heavy-duty rescue in two years from Rosenbauer.

Cincinnati's tradition-steeped fire department, which holds the distinction of being the United States' first paid fire department, is assigning the Sterling Stainless Steel 24' non walk-in rescue to Squad 9 in the Avondale section of the city off Interstate 71 north of the downtown area. The unit was designed for fire-rescue use with structural collapse responses as its specialty.

This was done to complement the hazardous materials response profile of its sister company, Squad 14, downtown. The massive, tandem-axle unit was built on the Spartan Gladiator platform.

It is a truck that has captured the affection of the gentleman who oversees Cincinnati's fire apparatus fleet. "I've never seen a rescue truck that was any better," said Captain Thomas Thomas, Cincinnati's fire equipment and apparatus officer. "The fit-and-finish of that truck tells a great deal about what is underneath the paint. I would say this rescue is the reason why we are ordering six pumpers from Rosenbauer."

With more than 1,400 cubic-feet of storage, the layout of each compartment was designed by fire department personnel, with heavy involvement by engineer Mike Lemieux at Rosenbauer's General facility. The design includes a fair assortment of reels, trays, shelves and specialized storage systems, each with a specific purpose due to the technical nature of the work to be performed. Built into the streetside rear wheel well area are controls for an airbag system, which is supported by a four-bottle cascade system positioned overtop the frame rails. There are nine upper-body compartments for equipment storage and two long diamond plate boxes for long-shoring and cribbing.

With this unit, Cincinnati believes it received a world-class vehicle. "We hope to do more business with Rosenbauer in the future because of this truck," said Thomas.

As important as the truck itself, Thomas said, was the support Cincinnati received from the local Rosenbauer dealer, All-American Fire Equipment and its principal, Jeff Vossler, during the design, construction and inspection stages of this project.

"I don't think I could ask for anything more from Mr. Vossler's group than what they have already done for us with this truck and the first rescue," said Thomas, alluding to the fact that Squad 14, which was delivered in early 2007, was purchased during a transitional period both for the city and All-American. "With Jeff, a handshake beats the (heck) out of a contract."

