

CROKER FIRE DRILL CORPORATION A LEADER IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

By Linda DiCola, Educational Services Coordinator

Croker Fire Drill Corporation has grown to be the largest emergency and fire safety consulting firm in the nation, with their major headquarter offices in New York and more than 50 field service personnel and administrative staff servicing New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Since its founding after the horrific Triangle Factory Fire in 1911, Croker Fire Drill Corporation has led the way for fire and life safety innovations for nearly a century.



*Ray Weinstein,
President and CEO,
Croker Fire Drill*

Croker Fire Drill is proud to announce its newest addition to its corporate headquarters with Marie Allmendinger as Director of Health Care Services. The firm is also in the final stages of development in closing the language barrier in this field by offering health care facilities Fire Safety and Emergency/Disaster Plans, drills and specialized training in Spanish for the Tri-State area.

Services provided to the healthcare industry have continued to grow as part of Croker's portfolio of

work, which now encompasses approximately 750 buildings and project types and includes hundreds of hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, personal care centers, independent living facilities, dialysis centers and surgery centers.

Health care facilities present special challenges in order to address fire life safety needs:

- The new New York City Building Code, based on the 2003 International Building Code (IBC) classified health care as a Group I-1 occupancy and hospital facilities as I-2 occupancy as per BC308.2 and 308.3 respectively. Under the new New York City Fire Code, based on the 2003 International Fire Code, health care facilities (I-1) are required to conduct fire drills in accordance with FC405.2.4. Additionally, in I-1 and I-2 occupancies, staff is required to undergo on-going training drills as per FC406.2 and specifically for I-2 occupancies, FC406.2.1.
- The fire and life safety plan is required to be clear and concise. As per FC 408.5 Group I-1 shall provide for fire and evacuation plan. Working collectively minimizes

confusion, panic and/or injury. The coordination of fire and disaster drills, evacuations and relocations as well as fire, safety and Emergency Action Plan training allow the facilities to establish self confidence and a better understanding of policy and procedures to be followed during a fire/emergency situation.

- As the older generations of hospital buildings are recycled into new uses, major infrastructure upgrades are required to life safety systems, requiring special knowledge to work with the design and construction team to create the most cost-effective solutions and ensuring public safety.

Croker Fire Drill conducts all types of fire drills, disaster drills, elopement drills and total building evacuation drills. Croker's health care service representatives continually train and update all facility health care staff on fire and plan procedures, in-building relocation, sheltering in-place and maintaining buildings in code compliance.

Ray Weinstein, President and CEO, of Croker Fire Drill, monitors a variety of services encompassing approximately 1600 buildings for over 250 million square feet. During his 34 years with Croker Fire Drill he remains aware of the ever changing needs in the industry in a wide range of building types ranging from high rise buildings, hotels, and apartments as well as health care facilities. With 98 consecutive years of service, Croker Fire Drill Corporation is proud of its unparalleled growth and anticipates celebrating its centennial year. ■



*Marie Allmendinger,
Health Care Services
Director, Croker Fire Drill*

For further information, please visit our website at www.crokerfiredrill.com or call (631) 277-7602.