

## New Orleans Purchases DRASH Systems to Respond to Future Crises

**IN AN EFFORT TO MITIGATE** the effects of future disasters, similar to Hurricane Katrina, the City of New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness recently purchased three state-of-the-art Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) systems.

The military-grade, climate-controlled systems, which were purchased in December 2007, include a J Shelter (1,250 square feet), two M Shelters (748 square feet each), and one 6XB Shelter (413 square feet).

The systems will be used by the City for triage, treatment, and command and control in case of an emergency, or to simply relieve a surge of patients during large-scale events, such as the recent Mardi Gras celebration.

During Mardi Gras, the City set up four DRASH systems to be used as urgent care clinics for the final week of festivities. The clinics answered 1,164 calls for service and helped relieve nearby hospitals' surge capacity problem, ensuring that wait times were minimal.

According to Matt Kallmyer, Deputy Director of Emergency Preparedness for the City,



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*Matt Kallmyer, Deputy Director  
New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness*

a deciding factor in purchasing the DRASH systems was a tornado event that happened right before the 2007 Mardi Gras.

“We had two areas of touchdowns in New

Orleans and one in a neighboring city. If this type of incident happened again, we would need to set up a shelter at each site,” says Kallmyer. “We realized that we would need something in our arsenal that we could just pull apart and it could be self sufficient. The DRASH system fit the bill. You can take one system to the neighboring city and take the other two to independent sites within our city.”

Kallmyer states that if another Katrina hits New Orleans, the DRASH shelters can help the City respond.

“All of the large structures in the City have yet to be brought back to their pre-Katrina status,” says Kallmyer. “We currently do not have permanent places where we could do a hurricane evacuation, and we would need an evacuation point. Because the DRASH systems have their own power generation system, we could go ahead, set them up in a parking lot and run a hurricane evacuation from there.”

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## New Interoperable Incident Command Posts Allow for Faster Response Times

**REEVES EMS HAS TAKEN A DYNAMIC** approach to mobilizing a fully operational mobile command or operations center quickly and efficiently.

The MERCURY ICP for fire-rescue and the TITAN ICP for law enforcement response are lightweight, transportable command solutions that provide incident commanders with everything necessary to build a fully contained response system.

The ICP's lightweight trailer offers nearly a foot and a half of ground clearance to ensure that it can travel anywhere commercial vehicles can go. Once on the incident scene, the double-wall, insulated shelter can be deployed by minimal personnel within minutes.

Additionally, the ICP's optional communications packages provide local, national and global interoperability, effectively fusing satellite communications, Internet access and an integrated command and a control system

within a manageable footprint. The ICP also facilitates communication between land mobile radios, multi-channel radios, and cellular and landline phones.

“The unique configuration of the system allows for interoperability between first responders, no matter what their radio bandwidth,” says DHS Technologies' Director of

Domestic Preparedness Mark Tallo.

The ICP's interior space is 10.8 feet wide. It is available in variable communications packages that include small, medium and large shelters ranging from 9.5 to 23.75 feet deep.

More detailed information about the MERCURY and TITAN ICP systems, can be found at [www.ReevesEMS.com](http://www.ReevesEMS.com).

A TITAN ICP for law enforcement personnel.



A MERCURY ICP for fire-rescue personnel.



## DRASH Shelters Used for Mardi Gras Temporary Urgent Care Clinic

### NEW ORLEANS' MARDI

Gras is typically marked by spectacular parades featuring floats, pageants, elaborate costumes, masked balls, and people dancing in the streets.

A lesser known fact is that the influx of people into the city at this time of the year inevitably leads to a surge in medical aid, both on the scene and typically in nearby hospitals. Every year area hospitals are overwhelmed by the surge of patients during the week leading up to the event, so this year, local EMS officials decided to do things differently.

During the week leading up to Mardi Gras, revellers in need of medical care were able to seek help in three mobile temporary care facilities provided by the New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and the New Orleans Emergency Medical Services.

The facilities, which were comprised of four military-

grade, climate-controlled Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelters (DRASH) from Reeves EMS, provided nearly 2,000 square feet for urgent care, 442 square feet for medical care and 304 square feet to use as a command post area. It was staffed by Board certified emergency medicine physicians, registered nurses, licensed paramedics and emergency medical technicians to handle minor traumatic injuries and illnesses during the carnival weekend. By the end of the week, the clinic responded to 1,164 calls for service.

“This is a real boost for our Mardi Gras operations,” said Col. Jerry Sneed, director of the city’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. “One can never anticipate the unknown, but having the necessary resources in place makes the difference in the outcome.”

DRASH features six different series of shelters with 45 models of multiple widths and



New Orleans EMS workers treat a patient inside a 1,250 square foot DRASH System. Below Left: A DRASH shelter acts as a patient receiving area.

lengths. Although single models range in size from 109 – 1,250 square feet, all shelters can be interconnected, allowing for effective joint operations. DRASH has been used extensively by all branches of the US Military as tactical operations centers, medi-

cal facilities and forward operating bases.

All of the emergency services provided during that week were free of charge to revellers. For more on DRASH shelters, visit [www.reevesems.com/shelters](http://www.reevesems.com/shelters).

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*Col. Jerry Sneed, City of New Orleans  
Director of Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness*



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Purchasing the shelters took the City almost a year to complete. After determining that they needed soft-walled systems, personnel from the Office of Emergency Preparedness visited tradeshows and held demonstrations to decide which product would be best suited for the job.

“After looking at the three major shelter companies on the market, we decided that DRASH was the way we wanted to go,” says Kallmyer. “We liked the idea that it was all military grade—you know that it is tested and true. And, that the DRASH HVAC and generator have the ability to handle the strain and stress of not only keeping power in the shelter but allowing for ample power left over to handle any other requirements, such as medical equipment, as well.”

The ease of set up and take down of the shelters was also a huge bonus.

“We have a small staff, and if there is an incident, you wouldn’t have multiple individuals available to go ahead and set up something because almost everyone would be dealing with the actual incident,” says Kallmyer. “The DRASH System is easy to set up. You just pull up the four corners, and ‘pop’ there you go!”

## Reeves Decon Systems to be Deployed During Summer Olympics

RECENTLY, THE HONG KONG FIRE DEPARTMENT

purchased three large Reeves decon systems as part of its readiness efforts to support the Beijing Summer Olympic Games.

The systems consist of three shelters with undress and redress areas. Each system has three lanes with five lines of plumbing, which are optimized to handle up to 250 patients per hour. Each system also comes with its own mass decon pod, which stores the systems and provides all of the necessary equipment for a mass decontamination operation. The systems reside on carts that can then be easily taken out of the pods and wheeled to a destination for set up.

“The advantage of using three different systems for its readiness efforts is that all of them can be set up in the same area or separated to different areas in the event that an incident takes place in multiple locations,” says Mark Wlazlak, Business Development, DHS Technologies.

The Hong Kong Fire Department decided to purchase the Reeves systems after testing several products extensively for ease of set up and waterflow.

BELOW: A single 250 patient Reeves Decon System (center) with undress and redress sections (end shelters) purchased by the Hong Kong Fire Department for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.



## Reeves Gets a New Address

ON MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008, REEVES COMPLETED its move of operations to its 7th Street address in Frederick, MD.

The move marks the consolidation of its decon manufacturing with its sister company, DHS Systems, as all decontamination equipment manufacturing previously done at the Metropolitan Court address has been moved to Orangeburg, New York.

“We feel that these changes at Reeves EMS will provide the company with improved production flow and cost savings, which should translate to better pricing and delivery times for our customers and distribution partners,” says Chuck Coughlin, Managing Director of Reeves.

The new corporate address is: **Reeves EMS, LLC, 1706 7th Street, Frederick, MD 21702.**

Reeves will continue to keep its current phone number, email and website address.

## ReevesEMS.com Gets a Makeover



ON MARCH 31, REEVES LAUNCHED ITS NEWLY DESIGNED website at [www.reevesems.com](http://www.reevesems.com).

The new site includes easier navigation, a cleaner look and updated product and company information. It will also feature an e-commerce section in the near future.

“We feel that the site more accurately represents our customer base and will contribute greatly towards helping them easily find our products,” says Brian Gallagher, Advertising and Promotions Manager for DHS Technologies.

## PRODUCT WATCH

NEW!

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT STORAGE BAG

Designed to hang on the wall of an emergency room, ICU, triage area, portable shelter or virtually anywhere, requiring access to life-saving equipment is important, the Reeves Medical Equipment Storage Bag is the perfect solution to having medical equipment available and ready whenever and wherever it is needed. It includes multiple removable, clear pouches to store medical necessities such as bandages, IV bags or masks, heavy weight padded handles for easy lifting, and buckles sewn on all four corners to allow it be hung anywhere. For more information on this product, visit [www.ReevesEMS.com](http://www.ReevesEMS.com).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the Reeves EMS booth at these upcoming events or contact a Reeves representative at 800.328.5563.

## **Int'l Hazardous Materials Response Teams**

May 29 - June 1  
Hunt Valley, Maryland

## **Firehouse Expo 2008**

July 24 - 26, 2008  
Baltimore, Maryland

## **IAFC FRI**

August 14 - 16, 2008  
Houston, Texas

## **EMS Expo**

October 13 - 17, 2008  
Las Vegas, Nevada



# ABOUT REEVES EMS

For more than 100 years the Reeves name has been synonymous with quality emergency medical products and accessories. The company's current product line includes fully-operational emergency treatment facilities; command and control shelters and trailers; decontamination systems and accessories; stretchers; disaster consulting services; and gear bags. Reeves EMS mass casualty systems have been deployed as part of the U.S. Homeland Defense initiative to terrorist incident locations and in disaster recovery situations. Additionally, a large number of mobile medical decontamination systems have also been sent to emergency response organizations in the United States and around the world, including departments of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Army Reserve; state, county and local government entities; U.S. corporate entities; and international companies. Although the company's employees work primarily out of its headquarter facility in Frederick, Maryland, Reeves representatives are located throughout the United States and in various parts of the globe. To find out more about the company and its products, visit [www.reevesems.com](http://www.reevesems.com), send us an email at [info@reevesems.com](mailto:info@reevesems.com) or contact a customer representative at 800.328.5563.

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*The Reeves EMS Insider is published for Reeves EMS clients and associates. Subscription requests or comments about the content of this newsletter may be sent to Naeran Rubio at [editor@drash.com](mailto:editor@drash.com). The newsletter is also available as a downloadable pdf at [www.reevesems.com/newsletter](http://www.reevesems.com/newsletter).*

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