

**Government of the District of Columbia**  
Executive Office of the Mayor



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Iverson**

April 9, 2008  
(office)

**CONTACT: Dena**

202-727-6914

**Mayor Fenty Announces Unification of  
Fire & EMS Department**

**(Washington, DC) – Today, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (Fire & EMS) announced that Fire & EMS will transition to a fully-integrated, all-hazards agency. Under this plan, all civilian single-role EMS providers will become sworn uniformed members, giving them the same pay and benefit opportunities offered to dual-role firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics. This new requirement is part of six recommendations put forward by the Mayor’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Task Force.**

**“For too long, the Department’s employees have operated on a separate, disparate footing,” said Mayor Fenty. “This plan brings both sides of the Department together in a way that will finally make it one force, which will translate to better pre-hospital care for people in the District.”**

**The ‘One Force – One Standard’ transition will eliminate a historical cultural divide between dual and single role personnel and result in uniform standards for Fire & EMS personnel. For more than 20 years, the Department has examined the operational intricacies of transitioning to an all-hazards workforce with employees who are fully cross-trained in a variety of first response disciplines.**

**“We are about fairness, and we are about equity,” said Fire & EMS Chief Dennis L. Rubin. “We are bridging gaps to fill our most important short-term needs. But, more importantly, we have finally begun the march toward complete unification.”**

**Mayor Fenty’s plan, with the leadership of the City Administrator and Chief Rubin, begins the next great evolution of the Department. The all-hazards recommendation requires all entry-level candidates for operational**

positions to achieve the following minimum certification requirements: National Registry Emergency Medical Technician-Basic; CPR; Firefighter I & II (NFPA); Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations; Emergency Vehicle Operator; and Technical Rescue Orientation.

As part of the recommendation, Fire & EMS will offer cross-training for the 230 remaining single-role EMS workers. The Department will provide former single role employees with two career options: employees can elect to become all-hazards, fully trained fire fighters or they receive an orientation to all-hazards operations and then function as specialized EMS providers.

To view the EMS Task Force Recommendations online, [click here](#).

**WHAT:** Fire & EMS Unification Plan Announcement

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 9, 2008 - 10:00 AM

**WHERE:** DC Fire & EMS Training Academy – 4600 Shepherd Parkway, Southwest

###