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IN THE NEWS.....

Osage Ambulance Dealer Barry Bashkoff Delivers First Self Disinfecting Ambulance



Last month, the first self-disinfecting ambulance rolled off the assembly line of Osage Ambulance Co. in Linn, Mo. Cromwell Emergency Vehicles President Barry Bashkoff used a hydroxyl generator inside the ambulance based on technology pioneered by NASA which first used one to disinfect and deodorize the interior of the space shuttle without using harsh chemicals.



“The hydroxyl method is more efficient and less toxic than using typical cleansers such as bleach and ammonia. The device combats germs and odors in the front and back of the ambulance. It goes up into the cabin of the ambulance and disinfects and sterilizes there as well. The driver, as well as any person riding in the back, is also protected” says Mark Brassard who sells the device for HGI Industries.

CLIFTON PARK, NY - It only seems natural that a man dedicated to EMS and ambulance safety would latch onto a new technology in helping design the world's first self-disinfecting ambulance. Barry Michael Bashkoff has been selling ambulances from the Capital District region for over 35 years. Cromwell Emergency Vehicles is the authorized dealer for Osage Ambulances of Linn, MI and Barry is Cromwell's President and COO. Bashkoff has been a NYS certified Emergency Medical Technician for almost 40 years. “My EMT number is only 4 digits” he jokes.

Last summer while displaying his line of vehicles at the New England Fire Chiefs annual show in Springfield, MA, Bashkoff was approached by Mark Brassard, a sales representative for Florida based HGI Industries. "Mark came into the Cromwell booth and began discussing his idea of installing a "free standing" hydroxyl purifier into one of the ambulances," Bashkoff said. "I liked the idea, but as Cromwell Emergency Vehicles is very, very safety conscious, the free standing floor unit became an obstacle because it was a safety hazard. We needed to find someplace other than the floor to install it." Most ambulance customers are very conscious of useable cabinet space and do not want to waste even an inch, so it became a challenge. With 35 plus years of selling and designing ambulances, Bashkoff knew there had to be a useable space for this new "science". He reviewed vehicle construction drawings and determined the most useful and best location for the device. However, the device had to be redesigned according to Mr. Bashkoff's specifications to fit in the ambulance.

Florida-based HGI Industries which manufactures the Odorox hydroxyl device used in the Osage Ambulances worked with Bashkoff to redesign the unit to fit into the space allocated. "We monitor our industry very closely, and we don't know of anyone who has used the technology in this way," said Ralph Kubitzki, HGI's research director. "Mark and Barry have created the first ambulance on the planet with a fully functional immune system."

Although the vehicle will be first shown at a trade show on Long Island (Feb 23-24) customers such as Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital and Rockaway Point Volunteer Fire Department have already ordered the SAN-X unit for their new ambulances on order with Cromwell Emergency Vehicles. (Rockaway Point Fire Department lost all their emergency vehicles during Super Storm Sandy and has contracted with Cromwell for replacement ambulances.)

Because hydroxyls are effective against germs, yet harmless to pets, plants, and humans, Brassard said they will be used more in hospitals, restaurants, schools, day care centers, fitness clubs, office buildings, and homes in the near future. Hydroxyls are made through the natural interaction of sunlight with moisture in the air. According to Brassard, hydroxyls are nature's way of cleaning the environment. "All of us know linens smell so much cleaner and fresher when hung outside to dry," Brassard said. "That's because of hydroxyls. They're all-natural air and surface cleaners that are completely harmless to us, but they're extremely effective against germs, mold and odors."

Both Barry and Mark believe it's only a matter of time before every ambulance has a built-in hydroxyl purifier and that the use of the technology will spread.

For more information contact:

**Barry Michael Bashkoff, President
Cromwell Emergency Vehicles, Inc.
3A Rexford Way, Clifton Park NY 12065**

**Email: Cromwellvehicles@aol.com
Office: 518-373-0807
Toll Free: 800-522-0246**