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*“Ironbound Ambulance EMTs : Swim to Save”*

On October 29th, 2012, Hurricane Sandy devastated the city of Newark and surrounding areas. Ironbound Ambulance EMTs responded accordingly, placing three trucks in service in order to accommodate the citizens of Newark during the state of emergency.

While on call, EMTs Michael Alves and Oscar Caicedo received a phone call from Ironbound Ambulance Squad Vice President, Luis Carvahlo stating that his city block suddenly flooded after an attempt to evacuate his three small children and wife. Residents of the Ironbound area were forced to seek dry shelter on second floors, attics and rooftops of their homes while the rushing waters washed away vehicles and residences.

After multiple emergency calls made by the city block residents to 911 and the Newark Fire Department, no units were available or able to access the flooded areas. At approximately 3:30am EMTs Alves and Caicedo decided to plan an access route around the affected area, and attempt their search and rescue mission. They parked the ambulance one block away from the 4+ foot rushing flood waters and walked, waded and swam through the street searching for residents.

EMTs Alves and Caicedo successfully and safely transported over 15 flooded residents, including Ironbound Ambulance Squad Vice President, Luis Carvahlo, his wife, and three small children by ambulance to higher ground.

Unfortunately, during Carvahlo’s preliminary evacuation attempt IAS Mobile Truck – 1 was lost in the flood water, along with his neighbors’ homes and vehicles. (Please see photo below.) President of Ironbound Ambulance, Manny Oliveira discussed the possibility of organizing a Marine Rescue Unit to better serve the residents of Ironbound, and the citizens of Newark as a whole in preparation for any future natural disasters.

For any additional information please contact Press Secretary, Angela Muse at the Muse Marketing Group at 201.546.4334 or email [info@themusemarketinggroup.com](mailto:info@themusemarketinggroup.com).