

Commercial Thruster Customer Report

New Fire Boats for New York City Memorialize 343 Heroes

"On September 11, 2001...FDNY Marine Division rescued and transported hundreds of citizens and provided the only supply of water to battle the fires at the World Trade Center for many days..." *New York City Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.*

Fireboat *Three Forty Three* splashed into the water at its launching ceremony on September 11, to begin its journey to New York City.

She and her sister ship *Firefighter II*, were built by Eastern Shipbuilding of Panama City, Florida. They are among the most technologically rich fireboats in the world. At 137-feet and 500-tons each, they are also the nation's largest fireboats; and with a maximum speed of 18 knots they are fast responding. With a pumping capability of 50,000 gallons of water per minute; over twice that of their predecessors, they have the equivalency of about 50 average sized city fire engines, according to Eastern Shipbuilding's Project Manager. "The shipyard is proud of our contribution to this. It is very special for the workmen here. They felt they were playing a small role in the events of 9-11 and the city of New York recovering from that."

The *Three Forty Three* is assigned to Marine 1, on the Hudson River in Manhattan. *Firefighter II*, will be assigned to Marine 9 on Staten Island. Both are fitted with rugged, heavy-duty WESMAR Stainless Steel Bow Thruster systems.

WESMAR dealer Gulf Coast Air and Hydraulics (Mobile, Alabama) received the contract for the hydraulics and the Bow Thruster systems, plus specialized controls and a four-engine independent rudder system. WESMAR is proud to be part of this story.



The sophisticated new NYFD fireboats were originally designed by Vancouver B.C. based Robert Allan Ltd. U.S. Navy engineers from the U.S. Military's office for chemical and biological, radiological and nuclear Agents assisted in the design to ensure that the vessels are capable of detecting, and protecting fire fighters from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive agents. The vessel contains a decontamination area and a pressurized area that filters the air supply.

The *Three Forty Three*, is named in honor of the 343 NY firefighters who lost their lives that tragic day eight years ago.

Among the innovative design features that make these two new ships extremely valuable to the FDNY is a forward ballast tank, which lowers the boat in the water to match its deck with larger ferries that operate in the waters around New York City. This feature, combined with the power and proportional control provided by the WESMAR Bow Thruster, will allow the fast response fireboats to hold snug up against the larger ferries to safely transfer and evacuate people in an emergency.

Eastern Shipbuilding

(www.easternshipbuilding.com) is a highly respected shipbuilding and marine repair company specializing in commercial steel and aluminum vessel construction and repair; industrial steel fabrication and vessel conversions. They operate three shipyards in Bay County, Florida.

Gulf Coast Air & Hydraulics

(www.wegetstuffdone.com) is a full-line distributor specializing in hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical, and electronic systems of all types, including custom designed and manufactured systems for vessels 250 feet and below.

WESMAR (www.wesmar.com) is the leading U.S. manufacturer of Bow and Stern Thrusters and Roll Fin Stabilizers and marine sonar systems supplying commercial, private and government operations around the world.

WESMAR

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