

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mobile vans as disaster scene emergency rooms

MERVANS, operated by the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, deliver triage and treatment to victims at multiple injury accident sites

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FRIDAY, Dec. 4, 1970, was a clear, cool, winter day in New York City. At approximately 10.30 a.m. the fire department responded to a report of a building fire at Third Ave and 53rd St in midtown Manhattan.

Soon after the start of the fire,

supervisory officials of the Emergency Medical Service of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation arrived on the disaster scene. Shortly thereafter, the disaster unit stationed at Bellevue Hospital also arrived with a complement of physicians and nurses

This disaster unit vehicle was a van somewhat larger than a New York City ambulance and was outfitted with medical supplies, medications, and ancillary equipment. However, it contained no treatment space.

Within 20 minutes of the van's

IN A SIMULATED emergency, patients removed from the "disaster" scene are taken immediately to one of the two MERVANS stationed at the site.

