

# Employees' acts helped save lives

In two recent incidents, employees of Long Lines in White Plains put their own physical well-being on the line in order to save the lives of others.

On July 3, John Lewis spotted an early-morning fire in an apartment building in Yonkers, N.Y. His actions in alerting the fire department and rousing the building's occupants helped to avert a disaster, firemen said.

The 12-14 families of the three-story building have the fuel crisis to thank, in part, for their safety. Lewis said he left his Yonkers home at 4:20 that morning in order to get on line to buy gasoline before going to work. "I noticed smoke coming out of the pizzeria on the ground floor, and when I turned the corner I saw the flames shooting out," he said.

"I pulled the fire alarm, then began screaming, 'Get out of the building.' I'm still hoarse from yelling," Lewis, a communications technician, said later that day.

"A kid came downstairs and opened the door, and I ran through the building ringing bells, banging on doors, and yelling for the people to get out. The building was filling up with smoke, but I was able to get to all the floors. Everybody got out."

The fire department soon arrived and began fighting the blaze. "The pizzeria was destroyed, but there was mostly just smoke damage to the apartments," said Lewis, who came to work for the company earlier this year. "One of the firemen said that in five more minutes the whole place would have

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Ed Porcheddu

## Lives saved

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been in flames.

"It was lucky," he added. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Everyone was asleep."

Two DSO employees were involved last month in the rescue and revival of a drowning man.

Ed Porcheddu and Flip Petruzzelli were among 96 people, both Long Lines employees and others, who were on the first leg of a two-day camping and canoeing trip down the Delaware River. The group had stopped on the New York shore, between Callicoon and Narrowsburg, when Porcheddu noticed that a canoe in which a man and woman were riding had capsized, the overturned canoe pinning the man beneath the rushing water.

Moving upstream, Porcheddu tried to reach the victim, but the current and rocks made it slow going. At one point, Porcheddu slipped and struck his leg, sustaining a cut that required six stitches. Petruzzelli was also injured when he slipped on a rock while trying to get to the victim.

By the time Porcheddu reached the drowning man, another man had gotten there and freed the victim. They lifted the man into the canoe. "By then, he was bright blue and had no pulse," Porcheddu said. However, the victim began breathing again after Porcheddu and the other rescuer had administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Porcheddu, Petruzzelli, and the other man pulled the canoe ashore. There they continued to assist the victim, who appeared to be in shock, and the victim's wife, the woman riding in the canoe when it turned over, until an ambulance arrived.

Porcheddu said the CPR skills he used to help save the man's life were learned in classes taught at work.