

THE KELLY KART™

by Battalion Chief Raymond M. Downey

Historically, the FDNY has been known for its firefighters' ingenuity in developing tools and equipment for the fire service. Many of these tools have been named after the individuals credited with their development, such as the Halligan Tool, Sunila Tool and Lorenzo Ladder, among many others. Some commercial, industrial and automotive tools have been adapted or modified for use in the fire service, too. This spans the entire spectrum of equipment from hand tools to electric, battery, pneumatic and hydraulic equipment. The Whizzer Saw is a good example of an automotive tool adapted for use by the FDNY (see WNYF 1st/98).

One of the latest innovations to come from an FDNY member is the Kelly Kart, named after Lieutenant Tim Kelly of the Special Operations Command (SOC). The SOC units respond to numerous varied and unusual incidents that often require the use of specialized tools and equipment. After responding to incidents that required portable lighting in locations that deviate from the routine, Lieutenant Kelly came up with the idea of a Lighting Kart.

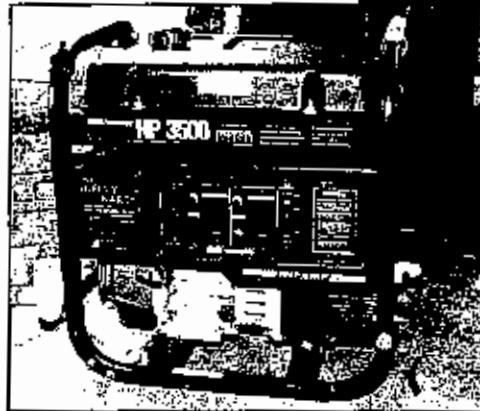
As purchasing agent for SOC, he recognized the need for a reliable, versatile and portable system with sufficient lighting for the various kinds of operations to which the FDNY responds. The Kelly Kart is the answer. The unit has a 3500-watt Coleman powermate generator with a Honda 5.5-hp engine. The operating panel features two 120V/15A house receptacles, one 120V/30A twist lock, one 240V/20A twist lock and one 12V/15A DC.

The 240V/20A receptacle has a converter attachment that enables the generator to be used remotely from the Kart (125 feet maximum) via a four-wire cable that feeds a branch 1900-type box on the Kart. There are four outlets in the branch box for lights or to power hand tools. Lighting on the Kart includes two 500-watt Halogen lights to be used fixed on the Kart, handheld, hanging via attached hook or free-standing on the ground; and two 500-watt telescoping

Halogen lights to be used attached to the Kart's mainframe or removed from the Kart to a remote area.

The Kelly Kart's modular

Note the compactness of the Kelly Kart, right. The Kelly Kart derives its power from a 3500-watt Coleman powermate generator with a Honda 5.5-hp engine, below.



construction concept permits it to fit into a suburban vehicle. At the scene, it can be maneuvered by one firefighter and can be assembled or disassembled easily. Once a suitable location is selected, the generator is detached from the Kart and a 125-foot electric supply line is stretched from the generator to the Kart.

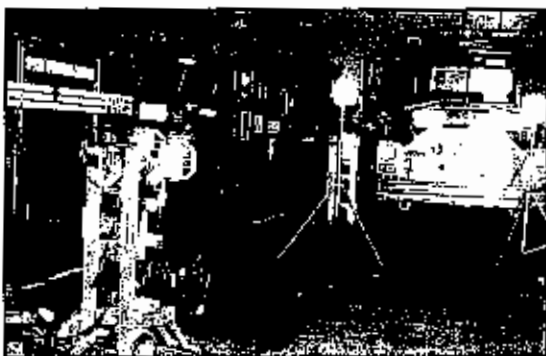
There are two 100-foot extension cord reels that can be stretched from the Kart to the site of operations. The end result is a multi-faceted lighting and electric power remote, up to 325 feet from the power source, which enables rescuers to work in an environment free from engine noise and exhaust fumes.

Its portability allows the Kart to be wheeled around the rear of a multiple dwelling or into an elevator and up to an upper story of a high-rise building. They have been used extensively during major operations at fires and emergencies. Currently, they are carried on Tactical Support Unit 1 and 2, the De-watering Unit and the DECON Support Unit. Additionally, one is available from SOC on Roosevelt Island. Four more units are scheduled for delivery and will be carried by other SOC units.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs selected the FDNY as the innovator of the year for the development of the Kelly Kart. Kudos to Lieutenant Tim Kelly.

About the Author...

Battalion Chief Raymond M. Downey is a 36-year veteran with the FDNY and heads up the Special Operations Command. He is a Contributing Editor for Fire Engineering, the author of The Rescue Company and a frequently requested speaker and instructor throughout the country. He holds an AAS Degree in Fire Science.



This remote set-up in the garage at SOC is indicative of the Kelly Kart's versatility.

all photos by FF Peter Connolly