



CITY OF DANBURY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief

Phone 203-796-1550
Fax 203-796-1533

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 January through 21 February and details activities of the Department.

At the close of the year in December we review our activities and consider where the department is in relation to our mission. One aspect that we consider is the effectiveness of our various efforts to reduce and prevent fires. To accomplish this aspect of our mission, our Fire Marshal Bureau presents education and information to groups ranging from the elderly to elementary school children. These take the form of school visits, tours with the suppression division and public education forums at neighborhood meetings and cultural groups.

Statistics generated in 2009 indicate that Danbury Fire Prevention efforts are effective in keeping the number of fires and fire injuries in the city low. These are derived from data generated after each response by the fire department. This data is entered into the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Danbury compares very favorably to other similar municipal environments. This is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Bureau led by Danbury Fire Marshal James Johnson.

In addition to the day to day role of fire prevention, the Bureau also is the seat of our Juvenile Fire Setter initiative. This initiative includes specialized training of Marshals and Firefighters in the interviewing and intervention of juveniles and fire setting. The interviews with these juveniles often takes place after hours and is done on their own time. This month for example, firefighter Jeff Tomchick and the Fire Marshal Staff was involved with just such an interview. This is another instance of the dedication to our community of the Departments' firefighters.

Each year members of the department rotate to other assignments. This happens during the month of February and is now complete. These assignments will be in place through next February. Please stop by your local fire station and meet the newly assigned crews. We will be glad to give you a tour and show you the station and fire trucks.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-incident tours this month included the former High Ridge Gardens complex off Mill Ridge Road. Utility access locations and unit construction were examined.

FF Zaniewski has again assisted at the Oxford Special Olympics as a ski coach at Southington Mt.

On 5 February, Engine 26 attended a ceremony at the Post office on Backus Ave. This ceremony was to honor the postal employees who assisted in treating a fellow employee in cardiac arrest. This was an example of the cooperation through training and preparedness of agencies that effectively save lives here in our city.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

In late January we were dispatched to Wal-Mart at 67 Newtown Rd for a child locked in a safe. On arrival E-24 found a child locked in a gun safe, injured. Store employees were trying to open the safe without luck. They found that the battery had been removed from the locking mechanism. A battery was located and installed, the combination entered and the door opened to let the child out. We would have forced the door in short order if we needed too.

Late last month on 23 January, units responded to a reported structure fire. at 28 Deer Hill Avenue. It was 1:48 am and the two story four bay wood frame garage was heavily engulfed in fire. The fire was fought and controlled with no injuries or damage to any exposures. The building was heavily damaged and the cause is under investigation.

On 6 February units responded to a motor vehicle accident on Main St. This was a two vehicle crash involving a building as well. A Danbury police cruiser was one of the vehicles. The cruiser was against the building. This police officer required extrication to remove him from the vehicle. Practicing full c-spine stabilization, the officer was successfully removed and transported to the ED. Other patients were treated as well. Volunteer Squad six remained on scene to assist the PD and investigators in the follow up to the accident.

On 9 February an incident occurred at 160 South St. This was a room and contents fire started when two young children were playing with a lighter. Volunteer Engine 5 pulled the first line and the fire was extinguished in short order. Fire damage was confined to the room of origin, with smoke damage throughout the second floor apartment. Although all occupants were initially evaluated by firefighters and EMS

personnel, one woman later reported feeling ill after departure of the ambulance. They were recalled to the scene and transported her to the ED to be evaluated for possible smoke inhalation.

On 22 February units responded to a reported man down and injured due to a fall in the Timber Oaks complex. Arriving units discovered this incident was a construction accident involving a fall into the basement of an unfinished building. The victim suffered a femur fracture in the fall. E-21 and the Truck Company rigged a Stokes basket and used the aerial ladder to lift the now stabilized victim from the below grade basement. The victim was raised from the basement and then lowered to grade level where he was placed in an ambulance and transported to Danbury Hospital. This is an example of how rescue training is used in unexpected environments.

On 26 January units responded to a call at the First Congregational Church for a person down. Engine 21 arrived to find bystanders administering CPR. The crew set up the AED and administered a shock and continued CPR. The woman recovered a pulse on the scene and was transported to the ED. This illustrates how civilian initiated CPR combined with the first responders of the Danbury Fire Department can directly affect the potential survival of our citizens.

Command and Staff Activities

- **Attended Engine 10 Germantown Annual dinner**
- **Volunteer Council Meeting**
- **Mayors Ball**
- **Dispatch Protocol discussion with Danbury Hospital**
- **Facility task Force**
- **Commission on Fire Prevention and Control**
- **City Council Meeting**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday:

February EMS Wednesday topic is Bleeding and Shock. Shock is a result of the body's inability to perfuse the cells with oxygen and remove waste products. The recognition of the signs, symptoms and management of shock is vital to patient survival.

Hazardous Materials Thursday:

The Danbury Fire Department is an operational Hazardous Materials Department. All members are trained to the operational level of certification. In addition, certain members are trained to the Technician level. In order to assure that all members are fully integrated into our operational model, "Haz-Mat Thursday" has been instituted as

a regular training activity. These classes will be based quarterly and will consist of lectures, table top-drills and practical skill evolutions that will coincide with the table top drill. This month the lecture topic was roles and responsibilities and the table top drill was a simulated tanker trailer filled with 10,000 gallons of gasoline rolled over on I-84. The practical skills station was the stabilization of the overturned tanker.

Blood borne pathogens:

A presentation on blood borne pathogens was provided to employees of the Housing Authority on 26 January.

CPR for Teachers:

As a part of our Public Access AED program a CPR for the Professional Rescuer training class was presented to teachers at Danbury Fire Headquarters on 23 February.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

After a recent meeting with the senior EMS staff and Dr. Broderick of the Emergency Department we are preparing to “go Live” using the new Power Phone software as a replacement to the written guide card set for medical dispatch. This software is designed to provide a measurable standard of call taker questions for EMS calls with dynamic pre arrival life saving instructions.

Dispatchers will begin using the Power Phone Total response Software during the month of March. During the month of March all protocols will be fine tuned and evaluated to insure that the best methods and responses are being recommended.

During this time frame the interface with the CAD system will be trained on with Dispatchers so that can fully leverage this technology to provide the most efficient response to medical emergencies.

In the near future Fire Dispatch protocols will be adapted to this system.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Firefighter 1:

The 20 students in the 160 hour Fire fighter 1 course are working hard in their quest to become CT certified Firefighters. There are 17 Danbury students, two from New Fairfield and one from Sherman. The Training Officer is the lead instructor and gets assistance from certified instructors within the Career Division. Classes started on January 14 and run through the end of May.

Quarterly Training:

Quarterly Training for the 125 Volunteer Firefighters continues through 5 scheduled dates in Feb. Personnel are receiving a health and diet presentation from Danbury Hospital Nutritionist Nancy Salem. Other topics include OSHA mandated Infectious Disease review and the Hazardous Materials Awareness Refresher.

Firefighter II and Naugatuck Community College:

Volunteer Firefighters Brian Hatch and Abigail Woodhouse from Eng 11 successfully completed the Firefighter II certification class.

Vol. Firefighters Kris Schermer and Luccio LaDuca from Eng 10 are enrolled in the college class "Fire Investigation" at Fire HQ through NVCC.

Incident Command 101:

We hosted personnel from the Salvation Army and the Miry Brook canteen on Jan 27, where we presented the course, "Introduction to the Incident Command System".

These responders have and will be operating at emergency incidents and were given a class on how the ICS system works and where they fit in.

Career Division

Haz Mat:

Quarterly training for all personnel started in late Jan. and will continue into March. This quarter, crews are covering their Roles and Responsibilities. They are also reviewing all equipment on our Haz Mat vehicle, doing a table top exercise involving an overturned fuel truck, and hands on training with the dome cover simulator.

Airport Operations:

All personnel are attending classes on Airport Familiarization and Communication on the Airport. We are concentrating on correct radio procedures with the Air Traffic Controllers and proper movements on the field. We are also reviewing response procedures and protocol.

Driver Qualification:

Firefighters Phil Espitee and DJ Brown passed all the required practical and written exams in late Jan. and are now qualified pump operators.

NVCC class:

The Naugatuck Valley Community College class "Fire Investigation" has a full class and meets every Monday evening through mid May at Fire Headquarters

Incidents:

The Training Officer was called as Safety officer to Structure Fires on Deer Hill Ave, White St. and 160 South St.

Police Training:

Coordinated a training evolution with the Police Dept S.W.A.T. team as they trained on our forcible entry prop at Fire HQ

Meetings/events for the T.O:

Attended the Feb. City Council meeting Feb 2
 Attended the February CT Fire Instructors meeting in Kensington Feb 3
 Attended the Staff meeting with C group on Feb 16
 Attended the committee meeting for legislators in Hartford on the Update of the Regional Fire schools

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The division replaced the O2 sensor in E-26's 4 –gas meter and the LEL sensor in E-22's meter. E-21's meter software version was upgraded. All other 4-gas meters were calibrated. After E-21 was struck by another vehicle, the division responded to the scene. We assessed the damage and have started making necessary repairs to this Engine to get it back in service as soon as possible.

Last month an unusual brake noise was noted in E-21. Upon investigation, a large bolt was discovered (not one of ours) stuck in between the brake rotor and caliper (very bizarre). We replaced the rotor due to the damage it sustained. Car 30 has been exhibiting some problems recently. It appears to be a catalytic converter issue which hopefully will be resolved by Ford under warranty this week.

Other repairs completed:

- starter cord in a K-950 rescue saw
- (2) O2 sensors and all tires on Car 30
- removed and repaired a broken AC mount in E-24
- removed and replaced the on board charger in Trk-1
- serviced several staff vehicles
- replaced the batteries and voltage regulator in Airport 20
- replaced the braking system slack adjusters in E-24
- replaced the left front rotor on E-21

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

February Fire Prevention consisted of several program presentations. In addition we also interviewed 3 youths involved with fire play under the Juvenile Fire-Setters program. The office investigated several fires of varied seriousness. There were no injuries reported. Members of the bureau attended several continuing education classes to maintain required certification.

Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	42.5	Place of Assembly:	26
Issued in Fire Zones:	3	Educational:	3
Fire Investigations:	11	Business:	36
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	5
Liquor Inspections:	8	Health Care:	1
Blasting Permits:	2	Industrial:	2
Complaints	20**	Mercantile:	15
Plan Review (hrs)	78.5	Residential Board & Care:	1
Fire Prevention Prgs.	6	Hotel (units):	125

Orders of Abatement:	0	Apartments:	115
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	1
Many of these complaints were thru and with the UNIT.		Day Care:	0
		Misc. Inspections	31
		Special Structures:	0
		Office Duty (hrs):	148
		Burn Permits	0

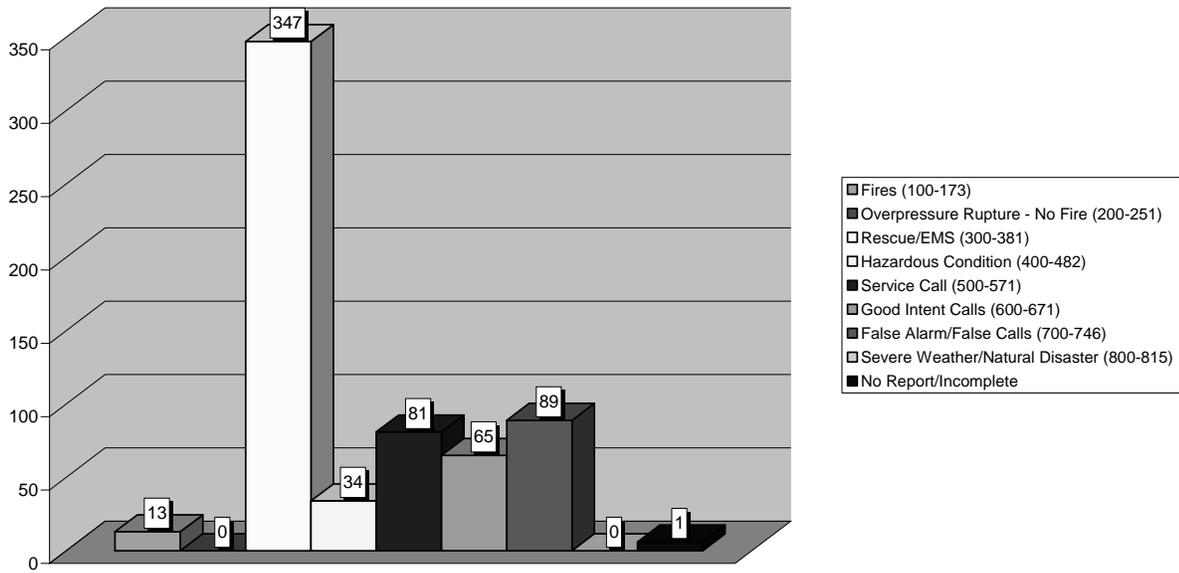
We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections, there were 4 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic); all situations have been resolved.

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	13
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	347
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	34
Service Call (500-571)	81
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	65
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	89
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
No Report/Incomplete	6
Total Fire Responses	636
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2582
Abandoned 911 Calls	309
Cellular 911 Calls	1230
911 Hang Up Calls	914
Admin Calls Received	649
Police Calls via 911	318
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	246
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	403
Daily Average	92.21
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	636
Total EMS Responses	752
Unknown Transport Status	9
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	301
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	325
No Patient (CAD 62)	117
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	7
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	30

**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS
Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Reports

Fire Response Breakdown January 22 to Feb 21, 2010



911 Center Activity January 22 to Feb 21, 2010

