



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 June through 21 July and details activities of the Department.

On a special note, DFM Carmen Rao will be retiring this month. He will be the Fire Marshal in Wallingford Ct. Congratulations Carmen, both on your retirement and your new position.

The hot weather has been nearly unrelenting this period. Several days have set record highs and the summer is just half over. During these times it is critical that people drink enough proper fluids to stay hydrated. Heat related injuries have been reported and the department has responded. Cooling facilities operated by the city have been used to provide relief to our citizens needing a cooler environment.

As we participate in outdoor activities, please remain aware of the inherent risks associated with these. Injuries that are common during the summer include head injuries associated with bicycling, skateboarding and sports. Swimming in unknown waters or environs can also be risky. Never dive into water where you are not familiar with the depth. Enjoy the summer but be careful to not take unnecessary risks.

As a final note, we are again reminding everyone to check your smoke detectors for operation and date of installation. These devices are a critical piece of our life safety and fire protection plan and they must be

maintained. If they have been installed for longer than ten years, the United States Fire Administration is recommending they be replaced. Smoke detectors should be located on every level of your home.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

On 20 July Engine 21 presented a talk on fire safety and a tour of fire apparatus to 1st-6th grade student campers at Rogers Park Middle School.

The department hosted 15 people aged 10 to 17, from the Access School, on Main St. A tour of the facility and discussion of fire safety was presented.

Tours and preplanning this month included the following: Smith's Detection in Commerce Park, 164 White Street, 53 South Street, Park Ave. School, 55 Mill Plain Rd., Cessna Caravan - Amphibian Sea Plane, Crown Point Condominiums,

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On his way home from his night shift on 7 July, FF Bruce witnessed a car losing control on the highway, hitting a tree and landing on its roof on the side of the roadway. FF Bruce had a bystander call 911. The driver was crawling out of the car when FF Bruce got to her. FF Bruce had her lie down in a safe spot and assessed her vitals while awaiting EMS. She appeared to have minor injuries and FF Bruce turned over care to a Newtown medic after EMS arrived.

On 12 July the department responded to a condominium on Coal Pit Hill Rd. This proved to be an intentionally started fire. The responders identified a 12 year old as the initiator and Danbury Police and DFM Osborne joined forces to investigate. Though very little damage occurred the risk was significant. Had not a nearby resident returned home just at the time the fire began, the results could have been far different.

Command and Staff Activities

- Project update , Boehringer-Ingelheim
- Facility Task Force
- Quarterly Staff meeting
- Region 5 Haz Mat team
- Danbury Hospital project update
- Point Driftway Resident Association
- Mayors Cabinet mtg
- Chamber of Commerce Leadership Danbury
- Preventing Harassment training, EAP

Donations

The department received a \$250.00 donation from the Monroe Fire Officers Association. This donation was made to the training fund in support of the fall safety seminar "Not everyone goes home" in October.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

Salamander Accountability System

The Danbury Fire Department has completed the first phase in placing the state of the art Salamander personnel accountability system in service. The Salamander System will help to ensure personnel safety through accountability. The personnel accountability system is intended to meet the requirements of NFPA 1561 and will be used through out the state on fire/rescue/Haz-Mat incidents. The system utilizes an ID tag with bar-coded information.

Personnel are equipped with two (2) ID tags. During a response, all personnel will check-in with their unit supervisors and one of their ID tags will be collected and used to document Single Resource Accountability. Depending on the complexity of the incident, the Incident Commander (IC) may gather these tags and attach them to a Collection Board to act as a visual representation of all resources on-scene.

If the incident involves tactical operations and/or a hazardous zone, the IC will assign an Entry Control Officer to collect the 2nd set of ID tags from personnel entering the zone. An Accountability Officer will manage the Collection Board; their tags are scanned using a hand held, scanner/computer to conduct periodic Personnel Accountability Reports (PAR) checks, and to post resource and command assignments on a Command Board to document Accountability.

The Salamander accountability system allows for site security and the overall safety of non-departmental personnel at site. All mutual aid, on-site visitors, and civilians will check-in at the Command Post for inspection of credentials and permission to remain on-site or provide emergency services. All personnel permitted on-site will be properly tagged and accounted for to maintain a safe and secure operation zone.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

During this reporting period all of the cellular modems installed in the fire apparatus were changed. This change was required as part of a final move over to a higher speed network that was established with the opening of the new Police Station. The modems and software were changed out in cooperation with IT, Apparatus and Communications Division staff.

Benefits of this network will be an increased speed in data transmission from Dispatch to field units and a more robust connection. The number of problems signing on and staying connected should be reduced. This finalizes the transfer of all mobile data related circuits and equipment to the new facility at 375 Main St.

On July 15th at approximately 8:20 am the 9-1-1 system equipment in Danbury suffered a failure in the backup power supply controller. This equipment is provided through and maintained by the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) and AT&T. This failure resulted in the immediate crash of the Danbury 9-1-1 server, 9-1-1 answering stations and all telephone circuits connected to the 9-1-1

equipment. This outage left Fire Dispatchers with no emergency lines in operation and only 1 un-taped 7 digit line in dispatch.

Dispatchers immediately placed a call to 9-1-1 repair and the process to reroute 9-1-1 Emergency calls to the Town of Brookfield PSAP was begun. In approximately 10 minutes Brookfield was notified and 911 calls from Danbury were being answered at the Brookfield PD PSAP. Any call requesting Fire or EMS was transferred back to Danbury on normal 7 digit administrative lines and calls for Police were sent directly to the Danbury Police dispatch area.

All procedures to assure a smooth transfer in emergent situations were validated and a smooth transition occurred. This is the first time since Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999 that the Danbury 9-1-1 system has had any failure requiring a reroute. All personnel working during this outage did a fine job and we thank the Town of Brookfield Police Department for their assistance.

The failure of the controller was verified by the Communications Coordinator. With the arrival of AT&T technicians at approximately 9:00 AM the power bypass was activated and the 9-1-1 Server was restarted. A number of system tests were done to verify the integrity of the 9-1-1 equipment before the reroute was terminated at 10:00 AM. AT&T Techs worked throughout the day to replace the battery backup system and the backup power controller. The 9-1-1 system suffered no further downtime during this change over of power.

Throughout this incident the Town of Brookfield was a valuable asset to the seamless transfer of critical calls. There were no reports of any 9-1-1 calls lost either during the outage or the subsequent transfers. Danbury Police Sgt Al Russo was helpful in assuring that calls for police service were directed to the proper workstations and EMS Management kept surrounding EMS Agencies up to date in the event a mutual aid request was needed.

Training - Mark Omasta

Career Division

Technical Trench Rescue

We hosted a 6 day Rescue Technician-Trench CT Fire Academy class at our Fire School facility in July. The class was sponsored by Region 5 with additional funding from Bedoukian Research, of Danbury. We had 16 Danbury Fire Fighters in the class along with three students from area departments. This was a rigorous, labor intensive and informative course. All students passed the practical skills exam on July 16 and are waiting results of the written exam.

Propane Emergencies

Leahy's Fuels Inc. had the use of a Regional Bobtail Propane Truck Simulator for two weeks in July and made the Training Aid available to area departments. Leahy staff from the Propane Division presented numerous training seminars during those two weeks for all of our Fire Fighters. They covered lessons learned from previous propane incidents and explained the emergency procedures for a Bobtail accident in our area.

We appreciate Leahy's efforts in sharing their knowledge of the Propane Industry.

Hydrant Testing

Annual Hydrant testing continues through October. Approximately 1,200 hydrants have been tested to date.

Haz Mat Training

Weekly training continued for all crews. The metering and monitoring class is being presented by Ems Coordinator Rodriguez.

Mandatory

Mandatory Anti-Harassment/Sensitivity Training continued for all members of the department. This information is presented by Tami Hodges from E.A.P.

Training Hours

January through June 30, 2010 - 10,744 training man-hours have been logged for the Career and Volunteer divisions.

Pump Operator

FF Nate Chapin passed all requirements to become a Driver/Pump Operator on June 25

The Training Officer was called in for a Structure Fire at 8 Franklin St. on July 3

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Mayor's Cup Annual Golf Tournament at Richter Park, June 23
- Departmental staff meeting with DEMHS chairman Peter Boynton, June 24
- State Regional Schools Education committee meeting, June 24
- Haz Mat 472, 2008 addition, Education sub-committee meeting
- Lion's Club Fund Raiser Golf Tourney June 21
- Health and Safety Meeting June 28
- Monthly staff meeting on July 20

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The department took delivery of a 2011 Ford Taurus that will replace the Fire Chiefs Ford Expedition. Purchasing is currently working on bid specifications to convert this Expedition into a full response unit to be re-assigned as Car 30 (Assistant Chiefs). We removed E-21 from service to check on the front suction valve. We diagnosed a defective actuator, issued a purchase order for a new one and are anxiously awaiting its arrival. While E-21 was out of service a brake inspection was performed, the pump transmission was serviced, a coolant line was replaced. In addition the fenderette on the left rear that was removed in a MVA last year was replaced. Working with Communications Supervisor Patrick Sniffin, all of the modems in our Apparatus were replaced.

Other repairs completed:

- replaced the battery in 03FT
- replaced a radiator hose and sight glass on E-21
- replaced the batteries in E-26
- inspected Airport 20 for a reported overheating condition
- replaced the winch cable on Squad 1

- adjusted the pump packing in E-22
- serviced 60DA and 69 DA
- repaired and/or replaced several tires

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. This period we performed 4 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic); all situations have been resolved. This months Fire Prevention consisted of programs for different groups including senior citizens at Maplewood and 5th & 6th graders at Rogers Park. On June 26th we held the 25th annual Baby Sitter Course. This was our smallest class but 58 students received certificates of completion

Continuing education for the bureau comprised 28 hours for annual Fire Marshal Certification. In addition members attended 60 hours of meetings concerning future and on going projects in Danbury. With the schools closed in town, we have performing our annual inspections in each of our schools. This year the suppression forces were part of the process and this has proven both educational and beneficial for all parties.

Department Statistical Reports

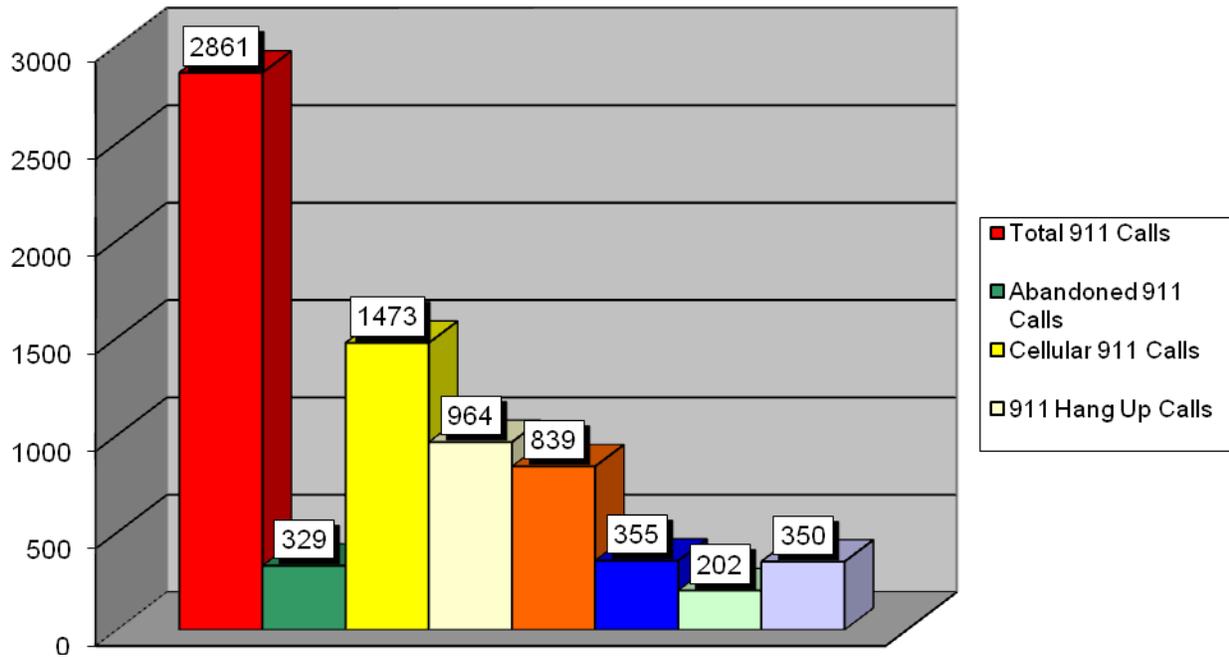
Abatements/Reports (hrs):	60.5	Place of Assembly:	15
Issued in Fire Zones:	6	Educational:	21
Fire Investigations:	24	Business:	20
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	1
Liquor Inspections:	0	Health Care:	1
Blasting Permits:	4	Industrial:	1
Complaints	12**	Mercantile:	36
Plan Review (hrs)	80	Residential Board & Care:	1
Fire Prevention Prgs.	9	Hotel (units):	0
Orders of Abatement:	0	Apartments:	316
** Resolved or in the process		Rooming Houses:	1
of being resolved.		Day Care:	0
Some of these complaints		Misc. Inspections	36
were with the UNIT.		Special Structures:	1
		Office Duty (hrs):	162
		Burn Permits	2
		Service Stations	2
		Fuel Trucks	0

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	26
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	396
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	42
Service Call (500-571)	89
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	65
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	91
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
No Report/Incomplete	3
Total Fire Responses	713
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2861
Abandoned 911 Calls	329
Cellular 911 Calls	1473
911 Hang Up Calls	964
Admin Calls Received	839
Police Calls via 911	355
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	202
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	350
Daily Average	102.18
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	713
Total EMS Responses	791
Unknown Transport Status	32
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	298
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	340
No Patient (CAD 62)	121
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	12
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	28

**** NOTE ****

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

911 Center Activity June 20 to July 20, 2010



Fire Response Breakdown June 20 to July 20, 2010

