



CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

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

I want to express my admiration and support for 5 members of our department. These 5 members participated in the "Tough Mudder" fitness challenge in New Jersey Sunday 21 November. The event raised \$310,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Reports are that it was an amazing thing to watch. Team Danbury consisted of Lt. Mark Miguel, Lt. Jaime Schiller and firefighters Seth Ambruso, James Crosswell and Walter Arteaga. The efforts put forth by the team reflect positively on the department for several reasons; the fundraising for the Wounded Warrior Project, the commitment to physical fitness and the team work they demonstrated. This event is less about times and winning and instead focuses on team work, camaraderie and completing the rigorous course. These members took on this challenge on their own to support the Wounded Warrior Project. Congratulations to each of them for participating and completing the "Tough Mudder" Challenge!

Lt. "Chip" Daly is again heading up our annual food drive for the Salvation Army. He has set up the posters and collections points are receiving donations at each of the 5 career fire stations. This is especially needed at this time of the year and with our current economic situation,

many more citizens use the local food pantry. Please assist us as we assist others by stopping by with a donation of non perishable food items.

As the weather gets colder we would like to remind our citizens to be aware of changing weather conditions and some precautions to take for this time of the year. Vehicle maintenance is particularly vital. As the roads become slick with ice and snow, please be certain your tires are properly inflated and in good condition. This will ensure better traction and aid in preventing slipping and skids.

Exposure to wind and cold can have serious and rapid effects on people in the outdoors. We urge everyone to be aware of the need for proper gloves, hats and coats as the potential for exposure rises quickly with the dropping temperature.

Heating with wood safely is a critical aspect of winter fire risks. An incident described below points to the dangers of improperly discarding ashes from fireplaces and wood stoves. Please use caution in removing and properly disposing of these potential fire starters.

As you install holiday decorations, please do so carefully. Check all devices and lighting for frayed wires and other potential problems. Do not overload plugs and keep natural trees well watered. The Danbury Fire Department stands ready to respond to any emergency. We also are prepared to assist residents with any questions regarding fire safety during this holiday season. As we prepare for the winter, please contact the department through the Fire Prevention Bureau if you have questions. The number to call is 203-796-1541. We wish for everyone a safe and secure holiday season.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRE-INCIDENT FAMILIARIZATION:

E23 crew familiarized themselves with the properties at Osborne and Balmforth, which included the Light Rock beverage company. They also toured the neighborhood of Hospital Ave. and Osborne Street. E26 reviewed FD connections for sprinklers and standpipes at the Mall and addressed KNOX BOX (KX) issues with management. E26 also serviced the KX at Red Lobster during a construction project. E21 toured Miller Stephenson facility on Backus Ave with E26 crew.

Other tours and preplanning included:

- Trailer park on Blue Berry Ln.
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- airport traffic procedures

- FCI
- 243 Main Street

Lt Anderson continues to lead our high schools career outreach program, setting up dates and staffing for school visits. These visits are designed to encourage students to consider a career in the fire and emergency services by informing them of the educational opportunities and career options available. Members of the department have been participating in these voluntarily. These include interacting one on one with interested students.

E24 crew presented fire safety talks to Mrs. Singer's Mill Ridge Primary School morning and afternoon kindergarten classes and E26 did likewise and included a tour of their engine for second-graders there. There were numerous fire prevention tours at Headquarters and in the City schools with the members of the Fire Marshal's Office. Twenty Cub Scouts from Cub Pack126 spent an evening visiting Headquarters.

Tip a Firefighter Night was attended by several crew members on 11/3/2010 at Two Steps Restaurant. Crews at all stations handed out candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

RESPONSES OF NOTE:

An incident that occurred on 3 November at 5:12 A.M on Clapboard Ridge Rd., illustrates the danger of improperly discarding ashes. The tenant of 209 was alerted to a fire by his neighbor at # 211, who was leaving for work. On arrival Engine 25 found a large area of fire encompassing a wood and brush pile. The fire was spreading towards an adjacent property at 144-70 Padanaram Rd. An area approximately 200' x 300' was involved. The fire was extinguished with water from E25's tank, E22's tank, Tanker 12 and Indian cans. The investigating Fire Marshal found that the owner of the Padanaram Rd. home had dumped a bucket of hot ashes, from his woodstove, at the edge of his lawn the night before this incident. The location was just into a wooded area. The fire ignited the rear of his shed then headed toward the Clapboard Ridge house, where it was extinguished by E25 crew.

Command and Staff Activities

- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Health and Safety Meeting
- Spectra Energy Gas Line Safety Meeting
- Danbury Hospital Emergency Evacuation Meeting
- Hospice Fund-raiser at Ethan Allen
- Fire Safety Presentation Saint Gregory's School
- Mayor's Budget Meeting
- F.M. Global Visit
- Conn. OSHA Meeting
- Civil Service Meeting
- Connecticut Career Chiefs

Donations

The department received a donation from Boehringer-Ingelheim in the amount of \$3500.00. This money will be used to purchase "Peer Fitness" Training and testing equipment.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

Continuing medical education for the month of November has been to complete the CPR for the professional rescuer recertification. All certified members of the department were recertified in CPR for adult, child, infant and automatic external defibrillation. Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans.

CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 70 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes. In Danbury, Fire Department First Responder firefighters respond and have the ability to provide these lifesaving skills. This is a key part of the EMS system.

HazMat Drills

The Danbury Fire Department has had the opportunity to work in conjunction with other agencies in the City this month to fine tune our Hazardous Materials response capabilities. Both Drills involved unknown substance responses which coincide with a recent SOP revision.

The First Drill was held at The FCI in Danbury, the details on this drill were kept under wraps by the planners at The FCI and Training Officer Omasta. The intent was to try and mimic an actual Hazardous Materials response that involved non-ambulatory victims. The drill was a success for both agencies pointing out areas of strength and areas where we could improve certain tactics.

The second drill was another unknown type response but the purpose was twofold. First to practice the classification and identification skills utilized by our HazMat technicians and to identify barrels of an unknown product that had accumulated at the City's Water Department.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Training

Weekly Continuing Dispatch Education or CDE sessions have continued with a recent discussion on Mobile Messaging and CAD features that allow discrete messaging to be sent field units.

Crews have also had discussions and training on the upcoming changes to dispatch that will form an alarm level response to not only structure fires, but other rescue or emergency situations. By establishing a standardized alarm system, Incident Commanders can request a higher level of response with a minimum of delay. Alarm Levels are somewhat standardized within the fire service and this implementation will also assist the department in better evaluating the needs and operational responses to emergencies.

The narrow banding of radio spectrum has been the subject of a few vendor related articles as the date of January 1, 2013 is mandated for radio equipment in the 150-512

MHz range. This will affect a great deal of the equipment in use in the city and planning for this change has begun.

In addition to the narrow banding issue the department will be looking at ways to correct some radio coverage issues that exist. These coverage issues were discussed and addressed as part of the radio system design project in 2008, but with budgetary constraints this project was not yet been completed. Radio capacity is an issue and with growing call volume, the need for a robust radio system is very evident.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Fourth quarter training consisting of live burn evolutions are in progress for all companies. There are 5 Training dates from Oct. 26- December 5. Seventy percent (70%) of the Volunteer Personnel completed this practical training to date.

The Miry Brook Canteen and personnel are participating in these live burns as the Rehab unit, providing fluids and snacks.

Volunteer companies are working on their annual hose testing assignments as well.

Career Division

Capt. Arconti and FF's Sedgewick, Rickard, and Lunnie constructed "a family of hose dummies" for the fire school. These dummies will be used to represent victims in our fire training facility. Building these of unusable hose saved the city over \$800 allowing us to direct the funds to other needs.

Haz Mat Drill

The on duty crew participated in a mock Hazardous Materials spill with victims at the FCI facility on Pembroke Rd. on Nov. 9. This was a joint drill with the FCI medical/Safety staff and the Fire Department. The Haz Mat Tech coordinators for all 4 crews were on scene to monitor and evaluate the drill.

Haz Mat Identification

We utilized our Regional Haz Mat equipment to analyze/ identify the products contained in 14 – 55 gal drums found by the Public Works Dept.

Technical Rescue

Our department is hosting the 48 hour, 6 day, CT Fire Academy Technical Rescue-Core class which concludes on Nov. 29. This training is a prerequisite for students who plan to receive advanced Certifications in the Technical Rescue disciplines, including Rope, Trench, Confined Space and Vehicle-Machinery. There are 18 firefighters from Danbury and two from Ridgefield enrolled.

Rescue Week at the CT Fire Academy

The Academy offered advanced Rescue classes November 1-5 in Windsor Locks. We were fortunate to send 10 of our Rescue Technicians who received hands on training with Advanced Vehicle Rescue, Heavy Vehicle Rescue, Breaching and Breaking Concrete and Steel, and other topics.

Pump Operator

Firefighters Paul Perrotti and Joe Stabile successfully completed the DFD requirements for Pump Operator/Driver.

Aerial Operator

FF Mike Sedgwick successfully completed his in house training and is qualified as an Aerial Driver/Operator

Recruit Fire Fighter

Recruit Fire Fighter William Ratajack completed his 11th week at the CT Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. This recruit class graduates on December 17.

Hose Testing

Annual hose testing is complete on the Career side. 23,275 feet of hose was tested.

Hydrant Testing Program

Annual hydrant functional testing ran from May thru the end of October. 1,730 hydrants were tested this year. The Water department repaired and/or replaced 80 defective hydrants year to date.

Fire School

The roof ventilation prop was completed by our on-duty crews. The burn building and training facility is busy with live burn training for all of our Career/Volunteer companies as well as Neighboring Fire Departments. CL&P restored power after replacing two old and rotted utility poles, and running a new service wire to the street. Public Building electricians replaced the meter and ran a new line to the classroom trailer.

Meetings/events for the Training Officer

- Retirement Dinner for Deputy Fire Marshall Carmen Rao on Oct. 17
- CT Fire Instructors meeting and class on light weight construction materials on Nov. 3
- Staff meeting for A group on Nov 16
- "Tip a Firefighter" Fund Raiser at Two Steps on Nov. 3
- EMT-I recertification exam at Danbury hospital on Oct 21
- Highway Safety webinar on Nov 4 at HQ
- N.V.C.C. Hydraulics class – Wednesday evenings
- Call back for Structure Fire- 91 South King St. Nov 22

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

Our monthly maintenance included re-calibrating each of the 4 Gas meters. 15 new Scott S.C.B.A. units have arrived. These new units will be registered and encoded next week in order to place them in service. Engine 23 suffered a broken leaf spring. This unit was removed from service and repaired. The new E-21 has arrived and is being outfitted with the required equipment. This unit is nearly ready to go into service. The new E-22 is still in pre-delivery at Firematic Supply Inc. in Rocky Hill as is Truck-2

which is having body repairs performed. This unit is scheduled to return to Danbury next week.

Other repairs completed this month include:

- Replaced slack adjusters on Truck-1.
- Replaced the right front wheel on Truck-2.
- Replaced a defective oil filter on E-21.
- Serviced the cab air filter on E-21.
- Replaced the right rear brake chamber on E-26.
- Replaced a defective spark plug and wire in 97F1.
- Replaced four tires on 03FT.

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Illegal occupancies are found through citizen reporting and UNIT investigations. These concerns for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved. Our prevention efforts this month have been directed towards various groups. We continue the theme, "SMOKE DETECTORS, BEEP BEEP BEEP, A SOUND YOU CAN LIVE WITH".

DFM Russell once again is the Fairfield County rep. for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. We will be collecting the posters soon in preparation for this year submissions.

Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	26.5	Place of Assembly:	25
Issued in Fire Zones:	1	Educational:	1
Fire Investigations:	11	Business:	26
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	0
Liquor Inspections:	15	Health Care:	4
Blasting Permits:	3	Industrial:	0
Complaints	15**	Mercantile:	30
Plan Review (hrs)	58	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs.	37	Hotel (units):	140
Orders of Abatement:	1 (unit)	Apartments:	91
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	0
Some of these complaints were thru and with the UNIT.		Day Care:	3
		Misc. Inspections	18
		Special Structures:	0
		Office Duty (hrs):	168
		Burn Permits	2
		Service Stations	2
		Fuel Trucks	3

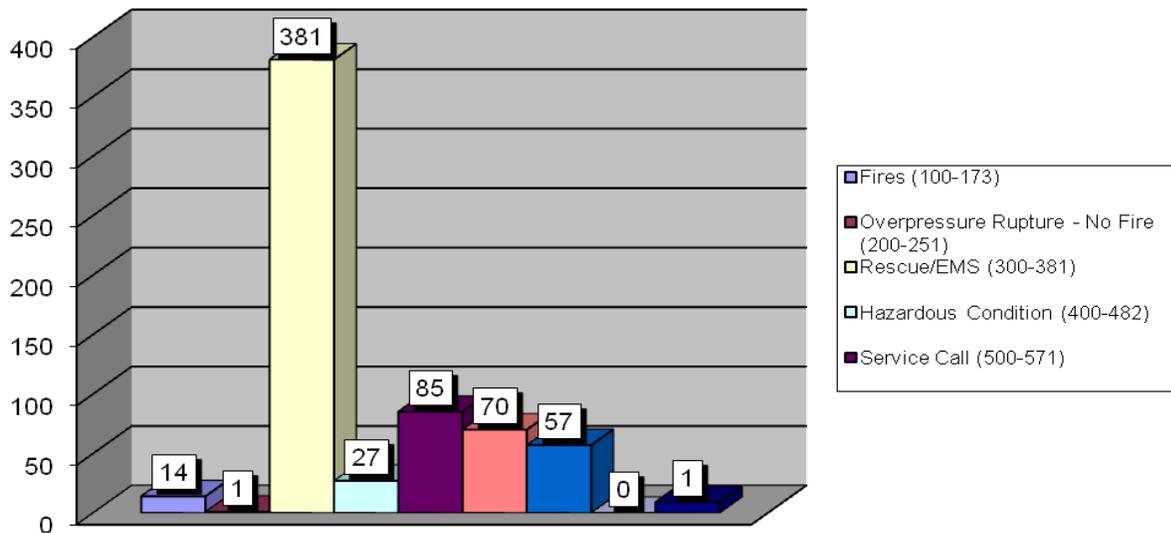
Fires (100-173)	14
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	381
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	27
Service Call (500-571)	85
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	70
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	57
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	9
Total Fire Responses	644
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2702
Abandoned 911 Calls	350
Cellular 911 Calls	1357
911 Hang Up Calls	824
Admin Calls Received	766
Police Calls via 911	387
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	218
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	335
Daily Average	96.50
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	644
Total EMS Responses	743
Unknown Transport Status	14
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	280
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	326
No Patient (CAD 62)	123
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	6
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	13

**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And
EMS

Incidents are attached to Fire Incident
Reports

Fire Response Breakdown October 22 to November 21, 2010



911 Center Activity October 22 to November 21, 2010

