



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 January through 21 February and details activities of the Department.

Details regarding the History Channel "What's' in your pockets?" episode has been changed and the planned airing date is now unknown. This will feature firefighters describing the tools that they carry for special needs of the profession.

This month has been a busy one for the fire services locally and throughout the state due to the severe weather. The department has responded to a number of incidents including collapsed roofs and heating related fires. This illustrates the many risks associated with improperly installed or maintained heating devices. Space heaters are especially worrisome as they are often compromised by failure to read the owners' manual and to operate correctly within manufacturers guidelines.

Though we are nearly through with this winter, there is still the chance for severe weather. Please continue to use caution when using fireplaces and space heaters and follow all specifications for safe operations. Should you have questions, please contact the Community Risk Reduction Offices of the Fire Marshal for guidance and information.

Three promotions occurred in the last month. Dispatcher Steven Rogers and Lieutenants John Halas and Robert Forbes have assumed their new duties in the department. Congratulations and we look forward to your continued distinguished careers.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Members of the department worked with the Department of Public works clearing snow from the school roofs. This effort included both career and volunteer firefighters. Though the effort was clearing snow, the firefighters were using the ropes and harnesses of our rescue teams. This provided valuable training in these devices.

Tours by the department were limited this period due to weather conditions. Those tours included the War Memorial and Danbury Airport.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

There have been several fires this period. These fires have ranged from a manufactured home to a third floor apartment on Main St. In each case there have been aggressive interior attack responses that have successfully mitigated the situations. Several residents have been forced from their homes during these incidents but there have been no reported civilian injuries. Unfortunately, there was one reported Firefighter injury to Lieutenant Michael Tyskiewicz. He was transported to the Emergency Department and evaluated overnight. He was released the next day and is continuing to undergo evaluation for the incident.

On 25 January, the first fire of note was an incident on Lake Breeze Drive in Candlewood Trailer Park. The manufactured home was heavily damaged and the stubborn hidden fire was eventually extinguished after much overhaul. Though the trailer was saved, the damage is significant. There were no injuries reported at this fire.

A fire occurred on 30 January on East Liberty Street in a three family Victorian style home. This fire found its way into the void spaces in the walls between apartments. As is common in older homes, a great deal of overhaul was needed to locate and extinguish the fire. Fire was confined to the first floor apartment but the smoke travelled throughout the structure. As a result the entire building was uninhabitable immediately after the fire and six residents were displaced. Temporary housing was found through the Red Cross.

On 31 January crews responded to 18 Kingswood Rd. This response was to assist a man partially buried by a substantial amount of snow which had slid off the roof he was clearing. Though trapped, he was able to reach his cell phone and summon assistance. E25 crew extricated the man and he was evaluated for injuries and hypothermia.

Crews responded to 39 Mill Plain Rd. on 4 February. This was for a partial roof collapse of a block building with wood roof trusses. The owner was on scene upon E26 arrival and reported all occupants were accounted for. A 75' x 30' roof section on side D had collapsed. Utilities were secured, vehicles moved to a safe distance from the building and building and business owners advised to not enter.

On 10 February crews responded to the Residence Inn on Segar Street. The call was generated by a reported water flow alarm on the 3rd floor, for an unknown reason. A full structural fire response arrived to find water flowing through ceilings on 3 floors. Further investigation showed an open sprinkler head in an unheated area of the attic was flowing water. Apparently the pipe was pitched away from the source.

Water, unable to drain back, froze and forced the linkage in the sprinkler head to fail. This caused the flow and resulted in considerable damage to hallway ceilings and numerous rooms.

A response to a fire due to a wood stove occurred on 12 February. Units responded to 36 Victor St. where a structure fire was reported. Apparently a wood stove with its door ajar resulted in an overheated chimney pipe. This in turn ignited nearby structural components, causing the fire to spread to exterior wall plates and floor joists above. The house was fully charged with smoke on arrival. Crews were able to contain the fire where it was on arrival. The occupants were home and all escaped without injury. The city Building Dept. responded as parts of the floor were no longer supported.

On 19 February a house fire occurred on Housman St possibly caused by a chimney problem. Challenged by the deep snow and sub freezing weather, a frozen fire hydrant, a burning propane cylinder and a Firefighter injured in the early moments, the crew knocked down the fire quickly. Damage was limited to the wing of the house burning on arrival. This fire was an excellent example of the combined efforts of the career and volunteer division working together. Wooster Hose # 5 was able to lay 800 feet of 5 inch hose to establish a water supply subsequent to the frozen hydrant. Germantown's tanker arrived quickly to back up the municipal water supply. Beaver Brook, Miry Brook, and Mill Plain's Tankers stood by in the event more water was needed. Citizens and Beckerle Hose Companies provided additional manpower. Five Career Companies operated at this incident along with City EMS. The injured firefighter was released from the hospital the next day and is expected to return to work shortly.

Command and Staff Activities

- Monthly staff mtg.
- Response billing vendor discussion
- Volunteer and risk management mtg.
- City Council mtg.
- Rivington/Toll Brothers ground breaking
- IT discussions re department needs
- NVCC mtg. discussion

Donations

This month we received 24 smoke detectors for our installation program from DaSilva Realty of 288 Main Street Danbury. These will be issued to our companies and they will be installed through our ongoing detector program. These devices have a significant impact on citizen survival.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

This month's EMS Wednesday is a cooperative training effort with our sponsor Hospital, Danbury Hospital. Andy McGuire, the Emergency Manager for the Hospital was a guest lecturer. He discussed plans on how to move patients at the Danbury Hospital during an emergency evacuation. The Danbury Fire Department might be called on to assist through providing manpower and logistic support.

This effort is to coordinate a large scale movement of patients utilizing portable equipment that that hospital has just recently purchased. Firefighters would monitor patient's vital signs while transporting the patients to another location allowing hospital staff to focus on advanced patient care.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

1st Quarter training is in progress for all volunteer companies. Classes on Bio-Hazard precautions and Hazardous Materials incidents with propane are being conducted at Headquarters as well as the Germantown, Beaver Brook and Miry Brook Fire Stations.

The Fire Fighter I/ Hazardous Materials Operational-WMD class just completed week six, which is the first third of the 18 week course. We have 18 enthusiastic students who are working hard to attain the Firefighter 1 State Certification.

Career Division: Recruit fire fighter Tim O'Hanlon was hired in early February and will spend the next 16 weeks at the CT Fire Academy for the 650 hour course with Recruit class #47. Graduation is scheduled for May 19.

NVCC: The Danbury Fire Dept. is working with Naugatuck Valley Community College to bring the Fire Science/Tech Degree program to the Danbury NVCC campus. We hope to offer three courses for the fall semester at the NVCC Main St. location and/or Danbury High School and Fire Headquarters.

Building Construction review: All crews are attending on duty classes covering Building Construction with an emphasis on new light weight building materials.

The "Modern Marvels" show production crew was back in town the end of January to film another segment for their T.V. special "What's in your pockets". They concentrated on the firefighter's utility tool being produced by Lt. Charlie Payne. Joe DaSilva provided a vacant property on Hospital Ave for the demonstration.

Structure Fires: Crews fought structure fires on Lake Breeze Dr., 270-72 Main St., and East Liberty St. Volunteer Units provided water tankers at 2 of the fires where hydrants were buried under snow or there was no city water in the area. Post Fire Critiques were held for all incidents.

Fire School: The facilities remain active during the winter months with Firefighter 1 training, company drills and live burns. Local legislators introduced House Bill # 5489 to designate the Danbury school as a Regional Facility.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Mentoring a student for an hour per week at Rogers Park Middle School
- Volunteer Council meeting on Jan. 24
- Engine 3 Annual dinner on Jan. 27
- Regional Fire School meeting with State Legislators in Hartford on Jan. 28

- ❑ Mayor's ball on Jan. 29
- ❑ Meeting with the I.T. consultant at City Hall on Feb. 3
- ❑ Swearing in for new Lieutenants John Halas and Rob Forbes on Feb. 7
- ❑ Meeting with Fire Science Department Head (NVCC) on Feb. 15
- ❑ Staff meeting with "B" group on Feb. 15
- ❑ Pre-plan meeting with Danbury Hospital Safety Staff concerning new Co-Generation Turbine power plant on Feb 16.
- ❑ Meeting with FCI safety director concerning Confined Space Areas on Feb. 17

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The O2 sensor in E-21's meter was replaced. The Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated and are in service. Truck-1 and Truck-2 have been our problem children this month. Truck-1 has experienced multiple power steering issues. Truck-2 needed to have the ladder serviced due to the amount of sand on the roads "drafting" onto its moving parts. Truck-1 was involved in a minor MVA. Some compartments as well as the driver's side Storz connection were damaged. Annual Fit Testing of air masks has begun.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced the battery in the Gator.
- Replaced battery and serviced 01CT.
- Replaced starter Trk-1's K950.
- Replaced fuel pump driver module and wiring in Car-30.
- Rebuilt the power unit on the departments plow.
- Serviced Truck-2's blower.
- Repaired E-22's Hurst tool power head.
- Repaired Airport 20's Hurst tool power head.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

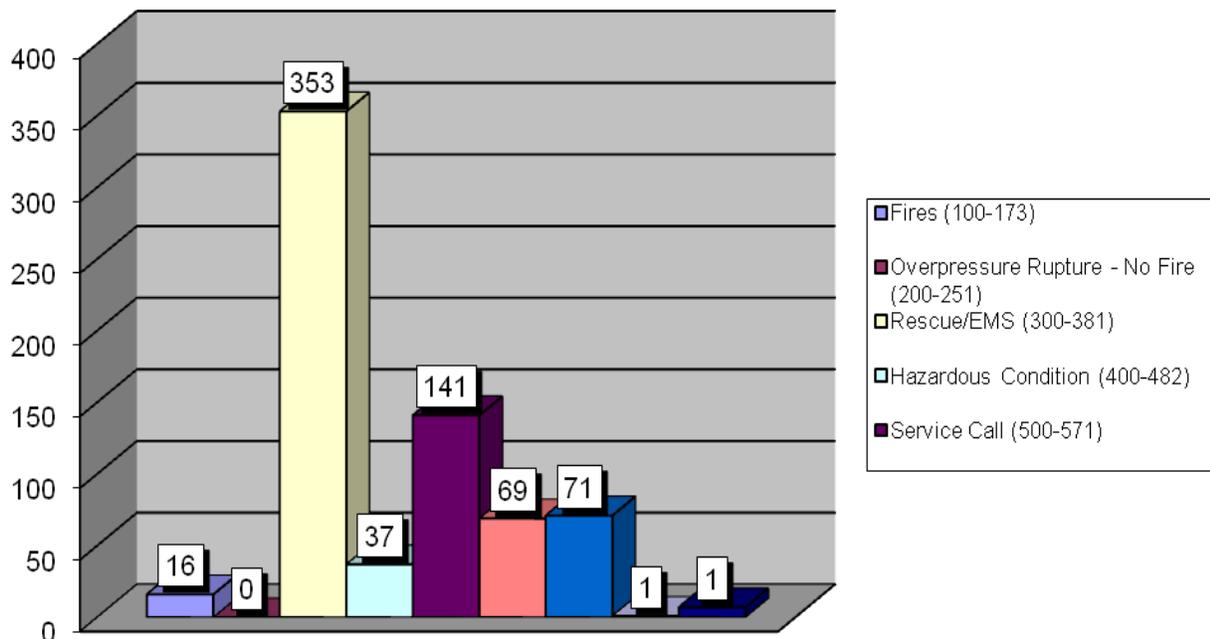
This month we saw an increased use of space heaters. One such space heater was the cause of a serious fire. The U.N.I.T. continues to find illegal occupancies. There was 1 inspection for an unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) and it has been resolved. The office investigated several fires, some serious. I am happy to report there were no injuries reported.

We continue to provide Fire Prevention and safety presentations. If you belong to a group that would like a fire safety presentation please contact the Office of Community Risk Reduction at 203-796-1541. We will present to any age group but our special concerns are the elderly and mobility restricted.

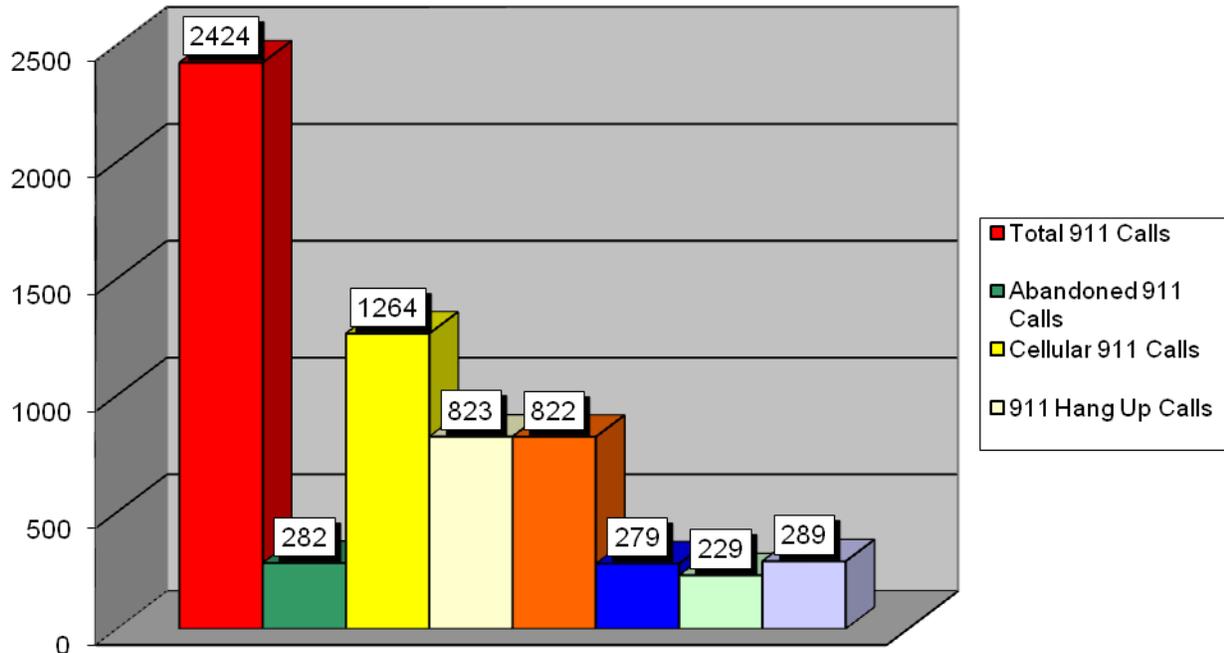
Members of the CRR Office attended several continuing education classes to maintain our Certifications. Four of our members are enrolled at NVCC for their degree; this semester the class is Sprinkler Systems.

Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	48.5	Place of Assembly:	39
Issued in Fire Zones:	6	Educational:	13
Fire Investigations:	6	Business:	28
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	0
Liquor Inspections:	15	Health Care:	6
Blasting Permits:	2	Industrial:	2
Complaints	20**	Mercantile:	22
Plan Review (hrs)	58.5	Residential Board & Care:	1
Fire Prevention Prgs.	18	Hotel (units):	80
Orders of Abatement:	1	Apartments:	75
Service Stations	1	Fuel Trucks	0
Meetings (Reserve, Matrix, Sports Complex, Litigation etc.)			58
Continuing Ed Class, College Class			52
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	2
Some of these complaints		Day Care:	3
Were thru and with the UNIT.		Misc. Inspections	31
		Special Structures:	0
		Office Duty (hrs):	207
		Burn Permits	1



911 Center Activity January 22 to February 17, 2010



Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	16
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	353
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	37
Service Call (500-571)	141
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	69
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	71
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	1
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	7
Total Fire Responses	695
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2424
Abandoned 911 Calls	282
Cellular 911 Calls	1264
911 Hang Up Calls	823
Admin Calls Received	822
Police Calls via 911	279
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	229
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	289
Daily Average	93.23
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	695
Total EMS Responses	668
Unknown Transport Status	3

ALS Patient (CAD 60)	314
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	248
No Patient (CAD 62)	103
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	3
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	18

**** NOTE ****

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