



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

**GEOFFREY HERALD, CFO**  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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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 April through 21 May and details activities of the Department.

Our safety message this month involves the use of barbeque grills. The recent Memorial Day Weekend provided many with the first cookout of the year. Luckily in Danbury we had no serious issues but that is not always the case. According to the National Fire Protection Association the fire service responds to 8,200 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbeques each year (2005-2009). These include an average 3,400 structure fires and 4,800 outdoor fires. 15 civilians die each year from these fires. The damage is estimated at 75 million dollars.

Other key findings in this report include:

- Five out of every six grills involved in home fires (84 percent) were fueled by gas while 13 percent used charcoal or other solid fuel.
- More than one quarter (29 percent) of the home structure fires involving grills started on a courtyard, terrace or patio.
- In 2009, 17,700 patients went to the emergency room because of injuries involving grills.
- Children under the age of five account for almost one-quarter (22 percent) of all thermal grill burns.

NFPA offers the following safety tips:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grilling area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

We hope that each of us has a safe and fun summer season. Cooking outside is a hallmark of the summer. Please do it safely. For tips and answers to questions please call the Danbury Community Risk Reduction team at 203-796-1541 or visit [www.nfpa.org/grilling](http://www.nfpa.org/grilling).

**Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations**

Touch a truck tours: 15 Danbury High School kindergarten children, Kid's Expo at the PAL building, March of Dimes "Walk for Babies" event

The department provided three "Rides to School" for Danbury students.

Tours: LL Bean store Danbury Fair Mall; Danbury Hospital access and construction changes, Wesconn Aviation (Danbury Airport)

Members of the hospital liaison team attended Danbury Hospital region 5 radiation drill on 9 May

A special note of recognition to the 16 members of the Department who worked at the Americares Homefront project on Elm Street 5 May. These members worked in conjunction with a second team to replace the roof and repair the home of a city resident.

### **Suppression/Response Activities of Note**

On 25 April units responded to the Residence Inn at 22 Segar St. On arrival crews found a hazardous condition, a significant smoke haze in a room reported by the occupant. After considerable investigation, no definite cause was discovered. Crews had reported no odor of smoke, only a slightly sweet odor. Firefighters on scene reported having been there before for a similar odor in another area, with the same result. The odor and haze dissipated while units were on scene. The incident commander spoke with the facility manager on his arrival and requested that he check to see whether the A/C system had lost any Freon. He called back at approximately 1:30 A.M. and confirmed that he had found a very small leak in a 90 degree bend in the piping, and had subsequently replaced the entire 14 year old unit.

On 30 April in the mid afternoon the department responded to Arby's on Federal Rd. This was in response to trapped duckling that had fallen into a storm drain. E24 crew removed storm drain grates and gained access with a box ladder. They were able to locate the duckling, which had become wedged under a corner of an adjacent sewer vault, got it out and reunited it with the rest of the duck family, who were waiting under a nearby azalea bush. Lt. Daly instructed the bystander to leave the ducks alone and requested that the Arby's call DFD should the duckling be ostracized due to human contact.

On 7 May the department responded to a water problem initially investigated by E23 who established command. A resident had called saying that the creek behind his house was running bright green. The Assistant Chief in Car 30 responded to assist E23 and assumed command. At that time the calmer areas of water had a distinctive green hue. The city Health Dept. and Water Dept. were notified and requested to the scene. Matt Isles of the Water Dept. was of the opinion that the color was due to either antifreeze or septic dye. Thorough investigation provided no answer. C30 requested HM1 to assist in evaluating a sample taken by a homeowner. Ken LeClerc, of DEEP, responded to the scene also. Ph was neutral. Spil-Fyter dip strip provided that no unusual hazard existed. The Ahura meter found no matches, likely due to the aqueous nature of the sample. DEEP felt that the Ph would have been much higher if the product was antifreeze. As the color had completely dissipated and no drinking water was suspected to be affected per Water Dept., we resolved that the product likely was septic dye. One interesting side note; a neighbor, in a bid to rule out antifreeze, tasted the product prior to E23 arrival and rendered the opinion that the product was not antifreeze because "it didn't have that sweet taste"...! He was advised to not taste unknown substances in the future.

The fair weather brings our citizens outdoors in higher numbers. As a result, each year we respond to our parks for assistance in either removing accident victims or in locating lost hikers. We

have already done this a couple of times this spring. Units responded to Bear Mountain Preserve to locate and extract an elderly male who was in distress on the trail. The hiker was found quickly and retrieved with the departments John Deere Gator with no injuries reported to the hiker. It was determined that he was a long retired Battalion Chief from the FDNY. And even more recently, we again responded to Tarrywile Park for the rescue of two lost hikers there. We suggest that when you go, you notify someone where you are going and when you expect to return. It is also advised that you carry a map of the environment and a fully charged cell phone. In addition, a light jacket or sweater in a back pack would also be useful as it can get cool quickly in the woods.

### **Command and Staff Meetings and Activities**

23 April Vol. Council  
24-26 May Congressional Fire Services Institute  
26 April Education Committee  
27 April W.C.S.U Concert  
28 April Sony Hill Fire Department Annual Dinner  
1 May CCM Emergency Management  
2 May Fund raiser for Assistant Chief Gene Singer at Two Steps  
2 May University New Haven presentation  
10 May Rotary Club FFOY Dinner at the Amber Room  
14 May Corporate Health  
17-19 May Haz Mat Conference in Baltimore  
17 May Connecticut Fire Academy Lead Instructors

### **Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez**

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been Allergic reactions and Anaphylaxis.

The Danbury Fire Departments First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of Emergency Medicine and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impacts patient survivability. Thru rapid deployment and the use of Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support skills, firefighters can stabilize the patient; assist in the care and delivery of the patient to definitive care.

### **Hazardous Material's Team**

On April 29, 2012 the members of the Danbury Fire Department Hazardous Material Team were involved in a competency based Skills Drill. This drill consisted of six core skills stations which tested the individual's competency in the skills needed to conduct an emergency Hazardous Materials Operation.

The stations were as follows:

Mass Decontamination of Civilians  
Technical Decontamination of Hazardous Material Team members  
Product Identification  
Metering and monitoring  
Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment. Level A and Level B.  
Product Control

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, members of the Haz-Mat team participated in a public health drill with the Danbury Hospital. This drill held at the Danbury Hospital to practice setting up a new decontamination tent, and utilize new radiation detection equipment recently acquired by the Danbury Hospital.

### **Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

The committee to consider and review the RFPs for civilianizing dispatch has completed the work. The committee submitted a proposal to the Mayor the first week in May. Some issues regarding the hardware and future move to the police station continue. The Department communications division is working on planning and a timeline for the required narrow banding of the city radios. It is expected that this will be completed in July or August. Training and recertification of dispatchers continues.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### Volunteer Division

The Firefighter I class is in week 13 with 3 weeks remaining before the State practical skills test in June. Seventeen Danbury Volunteers continue to work towards the FF1 certification. A Redding Boy Scout troop attended the Firefighter 1 live burn on May 6.

Second quarter training for the Volunteer division will consist of Incident Command review and Bio Hazards.

#### R.I.T. class

Region 5 will sponsor a Rapid Intervention Team class scheduled for June 2 and 3 in Danbury. We have students from Danbury and surrounding towns (with a wait list) registered for this 2 day course. Habitat for Humanities donated the use of their buildings on Hospital Ave. for this training.

#### Career Division

##### Fire School

The Fire School received a major upgrade this month with the addition of black top paving around the burn building. The City Public Works paving crew performed to work that should be completed on June 21. This grading and paving project will make the area much more user friendly to Fire fighters and equipment.

The Fire School facilities were utilized by our Department on numerous dates and by departments from Bethel, Brookfield and Ridgefield.

##### Command for May Day incidents

Our Assistant Chiefs and Captains attended an all day seminar covering command and control for mayday incidents at the CT Fire Academy. This course used actual mayday incidents as a tool to assist the Incident Commander with successfully managing these stressful incidents.

##### Vehicle Extrication Drills

All crews participated in an all day Vehicle Extrication update supported by practical skills at our Fire School. The class was prepared by the CT Fire Academy and customized to our needs, concentrating on dealing with the hazards of safety systems on newer vehicles along with the new lighter but stronger steel used in late model cars.

Thanks to Dell's and Lajoie auto wreckers for donating vehicles for this training and to Public Works operator for setting up scenarios with the bucket loader.

#### Tours

Crews toured the construction site at Danbury hospital and were made aware of the temporary changes in the Main entrance and other entry and exit paths due to this major construction project.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- April 24 critique for the Harding Place fire
- April 27 At the Fire Academy for the Mayday seminar
- May 3 Tip a fire fighter for Alzheimer research at 2 steps.
- May 7 participated in the Lion's Club benefit Golf tourney
- May 9 Attended the DPW open house and lunch
- May 10 Attended the Rotary Club Firefighter/police officer of the year dinner
- May 15 Staff meeting with B group
- May 18 bachelor party for FF John Halas

### **Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo**

All of the Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month. As was reported for the past several months, the division's computer was suffering a compatibility issue regarding BioSystems software. I am happy to report that the Apparatus Division computer was the culprit and has been replaced. Many thanks to our IT Department (especially Melissa) for sticking with us until the root of the problem was discovered. I am happy to report that we were able to diagnose and repair three defective meters. Currently, all of the Departments meters are fully functional. The thermal imaging cameras (TIC) assigned to Car-30 and E-25 have been repaired and returned to service.

E-26 has been returned to service after body repairs. A purchase order was just issued from Pierce for E-24 to be scheduled into the body shop next.

Other repairs completed:

- Rework towing hitch on Confined Space trailer.
- Replace coolant line on E-21 and service.
- Send 12FE to Putnam Auto Body for repair.
- Repair and exercise the relief valve on Airport 20.
- Replace the Primer motor in E-24.
- Remove, rebuild and replace the starter in R-1.
- Remove, rebuild and replace the alternator in Truck-2.
- Replaced low band microphone in Car-30.
- Repair Hurst Tool power head for Airport-20.
- Rebuild several 1-3/4" nozzles.
- Replaced air compressor governor in E-21.

### **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson**

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections, there were several inspection(s) for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) one involved 7 persons in an attic along with a mother and daughter living on a porch that was illegally converted to a bed room, all situations have been resolved. We continue to monitor several locations as there have been repeat offences.

We completed 28 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. Our office investigated several fires, with no injuries and one fatal fire. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens. There were several tours

that we assisted HQ personnel with we saw 300 children. We participated in March of Dimes Walk a thon with a Fire Safety program at the Matrix.

DFMs Gillotti and Perry presented a fire extinguisher class at Smith Detection for 20 people.

### Department Statistical Reports

Inspections	Amount
Apartments	84
Business	21
Day Care	3
Education	14
Fuel Trucks	5
Hazmat (Tank Install)	1
Health Care	3
Hotel (Rooms)	175
Industrial	11
Liquor	30
Merchantile	14
Misc.	14
Place of Assembly	44
Res. Board & Care	0
Rooming House	0
Service Stations	1
Special Structure	1
Storage	0
TOTAL	421

Topics	Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	78
Blasting Permits	4
Burn Permits	1
Complaints	14
Cont. Ed. Hours	28
Fatal Fires	0
Fire Investigation	14
Fire Safety Prgms.	13
Meetings (Hrs)	36
Office Duty (Hrs.)	200
Orders of Abatement	2
Plan Review (hrs.)	104
Tickets Issued	4
TOTAL HRS.	446

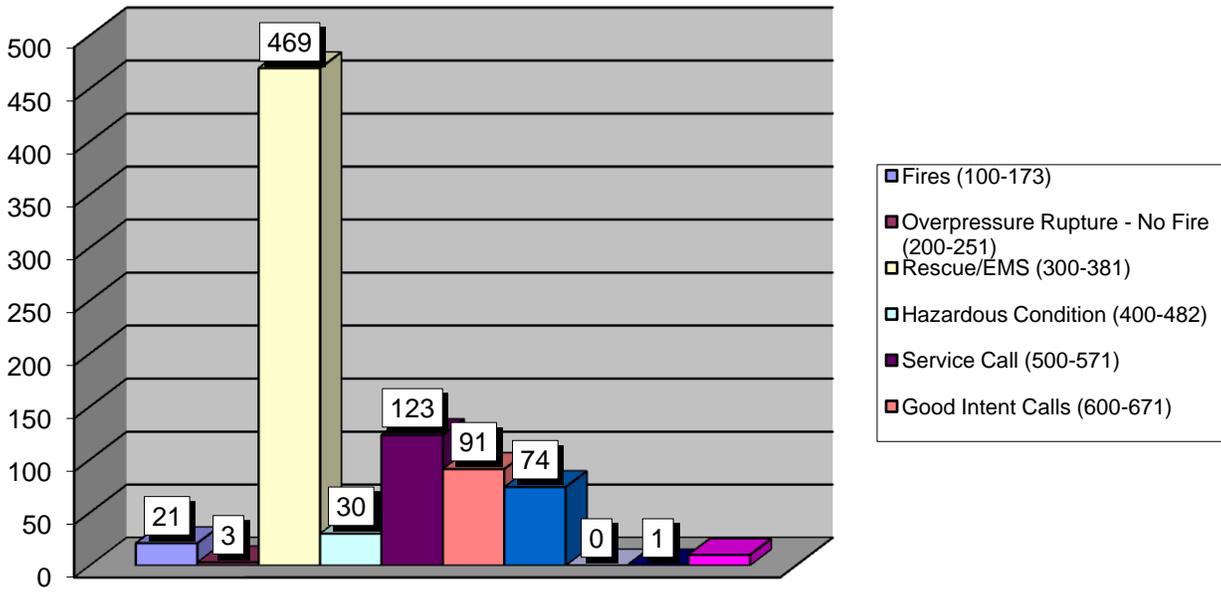
Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	<b>21</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>3</b>

Rescue/EMS (300-381)	469
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	30
Service Call (500-571)	123
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	91
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	74
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	10
Total Fire Responses	821
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	3057
Abandoned 911 Calls	343
Cellular 911 Calls	1649
911 Hang Up Calls	1001
Admin Calls Received	943
Police Calls via 911	334
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	233
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	319
Daily Average	101.90
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	821
Total EMS Responses	817
Unknown Transport Status	14
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	330
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	368
No Patient (CAD 62)	105
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	3
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	20

**\*\* NOTE \*\***

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

## Fire Response Breakdown April 20 to May 21, 2012



## 911 Center Activity April 20 to May 21, 2012

