



**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 October through 21 November and details activities of the Department.

The recent hurricane and the ensuing damage from the storm significantly impacted the city. The department response to the onslaught included up staffing and changes in our response model. During the storm, power lines and tree damage causing road blockages were the most common type of response. Flooding was thankfully nonexistent as a concern.

Significantly, the department responded to four structure fires that were directly related to the storm and issues of electrical systems being compromised due to the effects of the storm or due to generator usage secondary to power loss. These fires illustrate the dangers that result from improper generator use and the need for proper installation and maintenance of these devices. Better education of the public in the use of these devices is advised during the sale of home generators.

Heating devices in the home are now used every day. Maintaining and ensuring these are in good order is very critical to home safety concerns. These devices, be they fire places, inserts, pellet stoves or other auxiliary heat sources result in over 55,000 structure fire annually nationwide. 50% of all heating related fires occur during the months of December, January and February.

Each year, Danbury firefighters respond to several of these fires. These include chimney fires as well as fires resulting from the use of space heaters. These two fire types are especially troublesome as they most frequently are the result of poor maintenance in the case of fire places and chimneys and improper use in the case of space heaters. Cleaning of flues is a mandatory need if using a fire place, pellet stove or wood burning insert. As for electric space heaters, these devices are extremely dangerous and must be used only in strict accordance with manufacturers' instructions. Fires from these devices most commonly result from placing combustibles too close to the device and using them as clothes dryers. These space heaters are prohibited by law in many residential situations and we urge citizens to contact the Community Risk Reduction Fire Marshals before purchasing and using these devices. The number for the Fire Marshal is 203-796-1541.

**Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations**

**PRE-INCIDENT FAMILIARIZATION:** Once again crews toured the new construction at the Reserve Property as well as the demolition project at Turner Road. Crews practiced placing the Tower Ladder at the site of the new Abbey Woods buildings. The Performing Arts Center at Wesconn Westside Campus, Martha Apartments – 161 Main Street, 133 Padanaram Road, The Shops at Marcus Dairy were toured. Abbey Woods Condo site visit and pre-plan discussion.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Lt McQuade & Engine 26 assisted with Fire Extinguisher training of Danbury Airport personnel. A few members attended the Danbury Whalers Firefighter Appreciation Night. D group Members hosted the Citizens Government Academy – Fire Department Night at HQ. E24 and C30 assisted the Marshal's office by visiting numerous gas stations at a time, post "Sandy", when New York residents were in Danbury, en masse, filling all types of containers with gasoline and diesel fuel to bring back to New York due to availability and access problems caused by the storm. Customer service skills were put to the test in some of these situations. Safety and hazards were the focus of our interventions.

**OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT:** Lt Schiller got married. Retirement Dinner for Capt Bowers. Capt Halas finished up his Outdoor Emergency Care Certification; this qualifies him as a National Ski Patroller Rescuer, as well as applications as a wilderness medic, useful during our numerous Search and Rescues in Tarrywile Park. Capt. Halas met with Turnout gear representatives to research new and improved protective gear. AC Meehan attended a EMS Class on Ob/Gyn and then taught the same to a New Milford EMT Class. AC Meehan acted as Roxbury's Emergency Management Director during Hurricane Sandy, at one point meeting with Congressman/Senator-Elect Chris Murphy about the Storm Response.

Meetings and communications; A/C Omasta attended a special meeting of the pension board and had various discussions regarding pension request procedures and pension funds. Hurricane Sandy briefing and communications with Help Desk concerning the A/C computer. Capt. Lounsbury attended 6 hrs. of Hurricane Sandy pre-storm meetings.

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

Storm Sandy coverage 48 hrs 11-29 thru 11-31;

Inc # 7585 29 Oct, Kevin Drive structure fire heavy damage from fire started by stand-by generator;

Inc # 7595 29 Oct, Ye Olde Rd. structure fire damage to outside of building;

Inc # 7661 30 Oct, 5 Advocate structure fire possible electrical short heavy damage to the building;

Inc # 7670 31 Oct, 34 Paul St structure fire caused by improperly installed stand-by generator to damage to outside of building and electrical service.

Inc # 8008 10 Nov, 101 South St. kitchen fire damage to cabinets and kitchen fire extinguished by neighbor Antonio Cunha (nom for civilian award)

Inc # 8043 11 Nov, 161 Main St structure fire heavy smoke damage due to a long burning fire in the "Decay stage" found heavy smoke and heat damage to a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartment residents were not home and displaced room provided by Red Cross.

Incident # 7787, on 11/2/12 at 22:50 at 1 Morgan Ave.: a structure fire which appeared to have started in the basement. On arrival there was a significant column of smoke and a large volume of fire blowing out of the Bilco doors to the basement. All occupants were reported to be out. Crews quickly extinguished the fire with tank water as there were no nearby hydrants. Tanker response from Germantown, Mill Plain, Beaver Brook and King St. was excellent. E24 had first water on the fire, advancing their line to the basement through the Bilco opening. EMS evaluated and transported the four occupants, who were later released. Red Cross met the occupants at the hospital and ensured that they were relocated for the night. Responding units included C30, C46, E24, E23, E21, SQ22, Capt. Halas as Safety, Truck, SQ7, Tankers 10, 11, 12 and 14. 5 Fire Police and Mike Dubois from the Building Dept. assisted also.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Meeting with Western Connecticut State University

- First meeting with Telestaff
- Firefighter of the Year Dinner Aqua Turf
- Station 24 renovation meeting
- Follow up meeting with Telestaff
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner With Beaver Brook Volunteers
- Greenwich Deputy Fire Marshal exam
- Shipman and Goodwin Legal issues conference
- FireHouse software training

### Donations

500.00 from Spectra Energy for Carbon monoxide detectors for our community service program.

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

**EMS Wednesday:** The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certification requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes held while on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills. For the month of November the focus has been CPR for the professional rescuer certification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillator.

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 50 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes. The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system, cross-trained firefighters that have the ability to provide these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrests in the City of Danbury.

**Regional Hazardous Team ESF 10 Meeting:** The Lead Members of Region Five Hazardous Materials Team meet Nov.14, 2012 in Watertown to discuss Funding, Training and developing a strategic five year plan for the team.

**EMS Supervisors Meeting:** EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the monthly EMS Supervisors meeting at Danbury Hospital to discuss Trauma protocols, and other pertinent EMS concerns.

### Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

**Software:** During this period the department is continuing the processes inherent to data migration and the conversion to Firehouse Software. To date 11 years of Fire Incident Reports have been imported along with several years of training activities and reports generated weekly by Fire Officers. The talents of FF Rich Gallagher in this data conversion have been a most welcome addition and certainly an invaluable resource.

Department Captains responsible for the tasks of maintaining Overtime hiring lists, assignments and accountability have been diligently working with 3 systems HTE, Firehouse Scheduling and Telestaff to come up with processes and procedures needed to change the way these tasks are accomplished. The goal is create much more efficient and less time consuming model.

**Radio System:** During the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> the department worked through the steps required by the FCC to narrow-band radio equipment. This nationwide mandate by the FCC is

designed to increase the number available radio channels by reducing the allowable width of frequencies in use on the UHF band. By reducing the channel spacing from 25 KHz to 12.5 KHz, there should be additional radio channels created for use. The deadline for this narrow banding is December 31<sup>st</sup>. The ultimate success of the mandate is yet to be determined.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division*

Fourth quarter training is in progress consisting of live burn evolutions at our Training Facility. 75 fire fighters completed this training to date. Annual hose testing is in progress for all companies.

#### Firefighter I course

We just completed week 12 of the 14 week course. The CT Fire Academy practical skills exam will be December 9, with the written test on Dec. 20.

#### *Career Division*

Fire School was utilized by the Hawleyville, Southbury, Botsford, and Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Departments, as well as Danbury Career and Volunteer Companies.

#### Mandatory Training

A,C, and D shifts completed the annual 8 hour training day at our Fire School. Crews worked with new equipment and standard tools on various practical skills including rope- rigging systems, vehicle stabilization techniques, machinery rescue drills, forcible entry training and SCBA confidence. We also conducted live burn drills and worked with our newly acquired Rapid Intervention Rescue pack.

#### Hydrant Testing

The annual hydrant testing program for 2012 came to a close at the end of October. 1,846 hydrants were tested and serviced by our Engine and Truck companies.

#### Hose Testing

Annual hose testing is in progress, with close to 500 lengths of hose being pressure tested by the crews.

#### Various completed courses:

Firefighter Steve Johnson and Dispatcher Steve Rogers passed the State certification exams for Fire Instructor I. Firefighter Jeff Tomchik completed the Officer I course and is scheduled to take the Certification exam in December.

#### Driver Qualification

Fire fighters Greg Korotash and James Gagliardo completed their driver training, Korotash as a Pump Operator and Gagliardo as an Aerial Operator.

#### Officers

Newly promoted Captains Halas and Lounsbury and Lieutenants Silk and Ryan continue to participate in classes commensurate with their duties with the Training Officer. Mandatory Officer Training for all Company Officers is scheduled for December.

#### Structure Fires

The Training Officer was called out as Safety officer to structures fires Kevin Rd, Ye Old Rd, Advocate Pl, Lake Waubeeka, Main St. and Wildman St.

#### Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Oct 25 State wide Exchange Club FF of the year dinner (Jim Russell) at the Aqua Turf
- Nov 7 Ct Fire Instructors monthly-meeting
- Nov 10 Beaver Brook Vol. Fire Companies' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner
- Nov 20 Wake for Vol. Fire Council President Charlie Coakleys' father



Members train using recently acquired tools at the Plumtrees Rd. Training facility.

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

All of the in service 4 Gas meters were calibrated. E-26's meter is still at the factory for repairs suffering from a intermittent issue, all of the remaining meters are fully functional.

Currently apparatus is working on a ladder specification as well as the divisions 2013/2014 proposed budget. The department pickup has been serviced and the plow was installed just prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual late October snow storm. Trk-1 continues its dependency on the apparatus division with the needed replacement of the four remote oil filter lines. The on board chargers from the Haz-Mat unit and E-23 have been repaired by the manufacturer and returned. E-23's unit has been reinstalled and the Haz-Mat unit will be installed next week.

Other repairs completed:

- Service Truck-1.
- Replaced batteries in E-25.
- Replaced the Emergency Light controller in 03PT.
- Replace the brakes (4 wheel) and service 06FX.
- Replaced O2 sensor in E-23's meter.

- Replaced radiator hose in E-22.
- Repair Honda Generator assigned to Community Risk Reduction.
- Rework several trailers as related to towing compatibility.

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

As a result of the gasoline shortage subsequent to the hurricane Sandy impact, there were several reports of consumers putting gasoline into improper containers here in Danbury. A fire Marshal was detailed to visit the many gasoline stations in Danbury to remind the owners and operators of the risks of improper dispensing. As an example, one visitor from Staten Island was found putting gasoline into Crystal Rock water bottles. This posed a very dangerous situation and was discovered before he could fill them and attempt to drive home. Additionally, we found the people using water jugs, home depot buckets, windshield washer gallon containers, a gator aid cooler and a one had a 55 gallon drum. All incidents were handled without any serious consequences.

Thru UNIT inspections, there were three inspection(s) for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) 4 involved in an unapproved area. In most of these unapproved occupancies people were relocated without any issues. Our office investigated several fires, with minor injuries reported. Some of these fire occurred during the hurricane. There was one fire in a residence where the fire sprinkler system in the building put the fire out within minutes. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens.

We were able to get to all the schools before the storm, we saw between 6500 and 6800 students. This completed our Fire Prevention Month Activities. DFM Russell did the annual fire extinguisher training for Fixed Base Operators at the airport; more than 30 individuals were recertified.

Inspections	Amount
Apartments	385
Business	31
Day Care	2
Education	6
Fuel Trucks	1
Hazmat (Tank Install)	4
Health Care	2
Hotel (Rooms)	0
Industrial	1
Liquor	14
Merchantile	44
Misc.	42
Place of Assembly	24
Res. Board & Care	0
Rooming House	1
Service Stations	2
Special Structure	2
Storage	2
TOTAL	563

Topics	Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	46
Blasting Permits	2

Burn Permits	2	
Complaints	18	
Cont. Ed. Hours	24	
Fatal Fires	0	
Fire Investigation	16	
Fire Safety Prgms.	18	
Meetings (Hrs)	12	
Office Duty (Hrs.)	168	
Orders of Abatement		0
Plan Review (hrs.)	80	
Tickets Issued		6
<b>TOTAL HRS.</b>	<b>330</b>	

### Department Statistical Reports

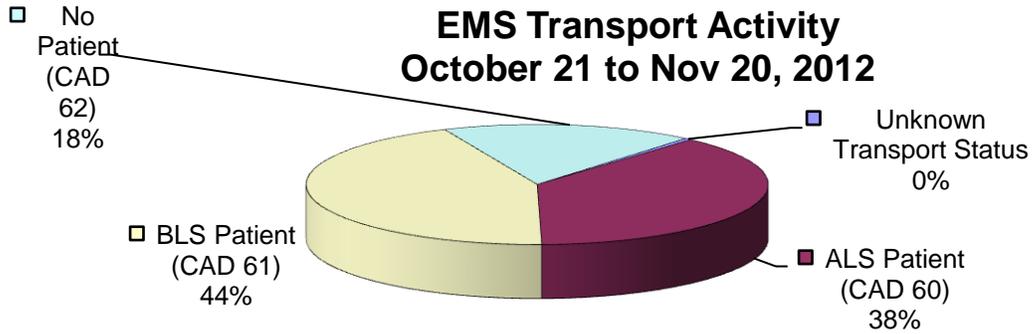
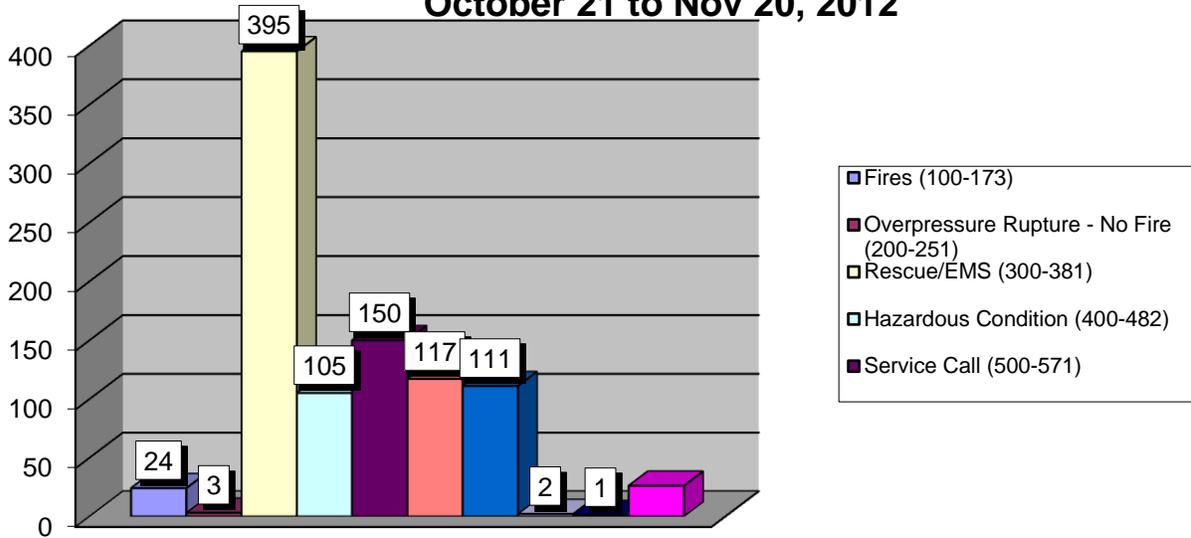
<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>24</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>3</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>395</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>105</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>150</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>117</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>111</b>
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>2</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>1</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>26</b>
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>934</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>3236</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>322</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>2118</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	
Admin Calls Received	<b>1234</b>
Police Calls via 911	
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	
Daily Average	<b>115.57</b>
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	<b>934</b>
Total EMS Responses	<b>814</b>
Unknown Transport Status	<b>4</b>
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	<b>310</b>
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	<b>356</b>
No Patient (CAD 62)	<b>144</b>
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	<b>10</b>
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	<b>22</b>

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

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS

Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Reports

### Fire Response Breakdown October 21 to Nov 20, 2012



# 911 Center Activity October 21 to Nov 20, 2012

