



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

**GEOFFREY HERALD, CFO  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**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 November through 20 December and details activities of the Department.

Our hearts are heavy at this time with the horrific event in Sandy Hook. There are few words to properly state what we are all feeling. We simply wish that the families and others affected may find peace and succor in each other and the outpouring of support from around the world.

Winter in New England is the time for bundling up and outdoor cold weather sports. The need for warm clothing and preparation to go outdoors is important. Frostbite and exposure is a significant risk at this time of the year, especially for the elderly and the very young. Due to possible sensory compromise, these groups may not recognize the severity of the risk until damage is already occurring. In times of extreme cold or windy conditions, parents need to be sure that young children have no exposed skin that can become subject to frostbite very quickly.

Frostbite has distinctive appearances. Coloration might be white or grayish. Skin may also appear waxy. Frostbitten skin or exposed areas may feel numb or actually be hard and frozen. Symptoms possible are cold sensitivity, numbness, and chronic pain may last for years after an incident of frostbite. Some severe cases may result in the frostbitten tissue being permanently damaged.

Should you suspect someone has received frostbite injury here are some first aid tips. First bring the victim to a warm environment and call for help. Drinking warm drinks can help. Remove wet clothing. If possible, immerse the affected area in warm water but not hot water. This is critical as water that is too hot can further damage the area. Do not use heating pads sunlamps or radiators as these are generally too hot and the nerves affected, the sensitivity is reduced. If there is blistering, do not drain. Rather, cover them with as clean and sterile cloth as is available. Under no circumstances should you rub the area with anything, including snow. This will only further injure the skin.

As we move into the winter, let us all be prepared to enjoy all the wonders New England has to offer. We here at the Fire Department wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

**Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations**

Tours and preplanning for this month included the following locations: Mitchell fuel propane plant, Abbey Woods, Co-Gen plant at Danbury Hospital, Pilgrim Furniture.

**Suppression/Response Activities of Note**

The former Humphrey Brothers auto repair facility, a converted barn and stable was involved in fire recently. The responding units discovered a well advanced fire on arrival. Due to the nature of the structure and the advanced stage of the fire, the tactics were changed to defensive fire attack. After

significant reduction in the fire the crews were again able to gain entry and then fully extinguish the blaze. (See photo)



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The department responded to two serious Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA) at once. One on Route 84 and one on Newtown Rd. Each required extrication for entrapped victims. Because of the demanding nature of extrication assignments, nearly all the on duty personnel were involved. Additional response from the volunteer division was needed to successfully complete each assignment. The photos here show both scenes.



Action on Route 84



Engine 10 Rescue in action on Newtown Rd.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Software acquisition and installation with IT
- Monthly Volunteer Assoc.
- CIRMA insurance coverage, volunteer division
- Statewide Labor Management planning
- Fire Service legal issues seminar
- Budget Development
- FCI Community Relations Board
- Farewell Luncheon for Admin office staff, Janet and Fay

### **Donations**

Firefighter Joseph Kovalsky has donated three sets of rescue jacks to the department. These tools will assist us in stabilizing accident scenes and trench rescue “strong-backs”.

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

CPR training was completed for our career responders. This is a required aspect of our EMT certification and absolutely critical in our First Responder response model.

Our regional Hazardous Materials Battalion continues to work toward a joint training effort with all three battalions, Danbury, Torrington and Waterbury. I preliminary session was held early this period and we will be holding several more in the coming months. This training is critical in familiarizing the teams as there have been several personnel changes in all departments.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

## *Volunteer Division*

Fourth quarter live burn training is complete. 106 fire fighters completed this annual mandatory training.

Firefighter I course: All 14 students passed the CT State practical exam on December 9! The written certification exam is scheduled for Dec. 20. This group of students worked hard throughout the 14 week course.

## *Career Division*

Fire School was utilized by the Hawleyville, Botsford, Bethel, Roxbury and Washington Volunteer Fire Departments, as well as Danbury Career and Volunteer Companies.

The new lights installed to illuminate the rear of the property were wired and are operational. Two new rescue dummies were constructed by our fire fighters from old fire hose. Very economical!

Mandatory Training: All crews 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.

Officer Training: Mandatory Officer training is in progress for all company officers. Phase one of this training ends December 20. The second half of the strategy/tactics class will be in January.

Structure Fires: The Training Officer was called out as Safety officer to structures fires on Maple Ave (Nov. 27) and Main St. (Dec. 2)

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Nov 30 Jericho Foundation Fundraising Gala
- Dec 5 Ct Fire Instructors monthly meeting



Firefighter 1 Class



B Platoon after annual live burn training.

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

E-26's 4 Gas meter has been replaced due to a recurring intermittent problem, all other department 4 gas meters are fully functional. Sperian, the parent company of Biosystems was recently bought out by Honeywell. There have been some transition issues which our dealer Field Services has been doing a terrific job trying to isolate us from. One potential problem is a dealer memo that informed us of a significant price increase January 1, 2013 for sensors and repairs. If this price increase happens as projected it will nearly be cost effective to throw out a meter when the sensors fail and buy a new one. We will keep you posted on upcoming events.

We assisted the Communications Division with the removal and re-installation of all the repeaters that required narrow banding. We removed the defective on-board charger from Truck-2 and returned it to the manufacturer for repairs. The Mass Casualty Trailer had a new pintle hitch fitted. E-22 is currently out of service due to a regeneration issue.

Other repairs completed:

- Service E-23.
- Replaced Thermal Imaging Camera in E-23.
- Repair E-24 window assembly.
- Repaired the Plymovent in HQ.
- Replaced air filters in E-22 and E-24, clean ember filters.
- Repair Generator on Mass Casualty Trailer.

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

This month we found several cases of unsafe/illegal occupancy thru UNIT inspections. The (basement/attic) cases were referred to zoning and building departments. There were no permits on file for any work that was done. All situations have been resolved or about to be concluded. We continue to monitor several locations as there have been repeat offences.

Our office investigated several very serious fires, with no reported injuries. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens.

The Office attended a 4 hour intro class for the new software the Fire Dept is in the process of upgrading to. DFM's Russell and Perry did live fire training with the Fixed Base Operators at the airport and from the Residence Inn, about 40 people attended.

### Statistical reports

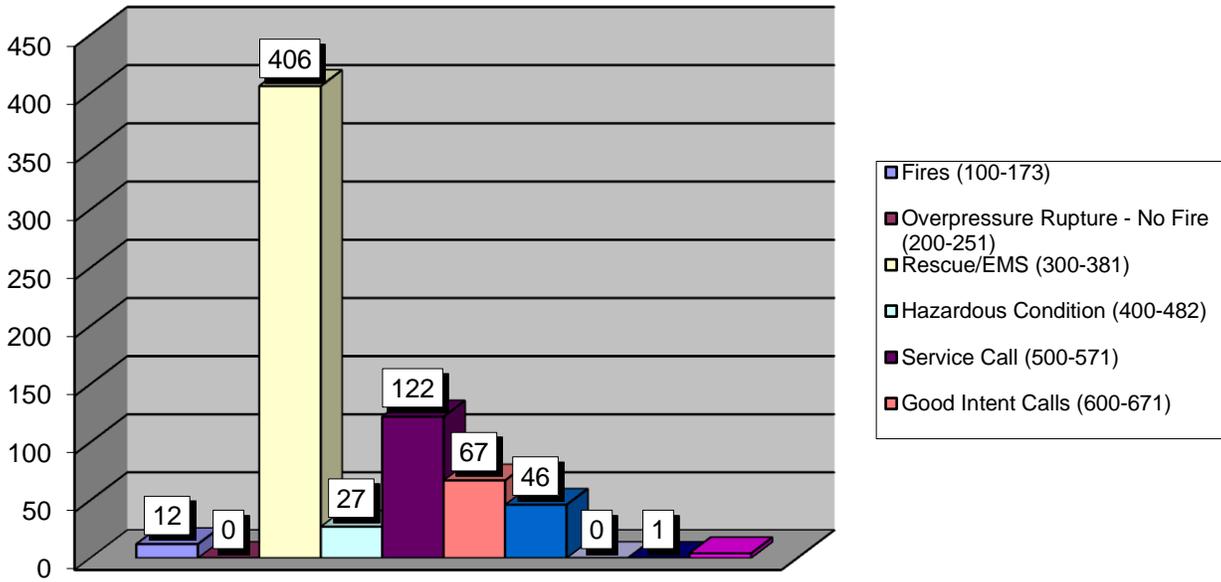
Office of Community Risk Reduction			
Inspections			
			Amount
Apartments			190
Business			24
Day Care			3
Education			4
Fuel Trucks			6
Hazmat (Tank Install)			1
Health Care		48 Units	2
Hotel (Rooms)			46
Industrial			1
Liquor			15
Merchantile			25
Misc.			37
Place of Assembly			33
Res. Board & Care			1
Rooming House			0
Service Stations			1
Special Structure			1
Storage			0
		TOTAL	390
Topics			
			Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)			66
Blasting Permits			2
Burn Permits			2
Complaints			18
Cont. Ed. Hours			42
Fatal Fires			0
Fire Investigation			5
Fire Safety Prgms.			10
Meetings (Hrs)			25.5
Office Duty (Hrs.)			186
Orders of Abatement			0
Plan Review (hrs.)			74
Tickets Issued			6
		TOTAL HRS.	393.5

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	12
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	406
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	27
Service Call (500-571)	122
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	67
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	46
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	4
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>684</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	2621
Abandoned 911 Calls	283
Cellular 911 Calls	1619
911 Hang Up Calls	898
Admin Calls Received	852
Police Calls via 911	258
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	180
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	293
Daily Average	93.61
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	684
Total EMS Responses	761
Unknown Transport Status	3
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	297
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	337
No Patient (CAD 62)	124
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	4
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	19

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

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS

## Fire Response Breakdown November 21 to December 19, 2012



## 911 Center Activity November 21 to December 19, 2012

