



**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 March to 21 April 2013 and details activities of the Department.

Several members of the department are moving through the retirement process. These members are Fire Marshal Jim Johnson, Dispatcher Pat Crowley and Lieutenant Skip Omasta. Recently completed retirements are those of Firefighter Justin Bierbower and Communications Supervisor Pat Sniffin. Retirement parties have been set for Bierbower on 21 May and Sniffin on 18 June, both beginning at 7 PM at Anthonys' Lake Club. Please contact Sean Delohery at 203-770-9032 or Lt. Michael Tyskiewicz at 203-994-8423 for tickets.

This month I am addressing the safety issues with candles even though it seems out of sync with the season. As this is written last night we responded to a fire caused by a candle. This situation was interdicted and caught very early. However, there was the potential for much greater damage and injury. Two residents were transported to the hospital for possible carbon monoxide exposure and the damage to the kitchen was reported to be confined to the cabinets. This unattended candle was left burning through the night. Below you will find safety tips regarding candle use from the United States Fire Administration.

- Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles and fragrance warmers, which can look, smell and feel like real candles – without the flame.
- If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- Extinguish candles after use and before going to bed.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

- Set a good example by using matches, lighters and fire carefully.
- Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters or candles.
- Never use a candle where medical oxygen is being used. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire.
- Always use a flashlight – not a candle – for emergency lighting.
- Never put candles on a Christmas tree.
- When using in home worship, don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them, or pass handheld candles from one person to another. To lower the risk of fire, candles should be used by only a few designated adults.
- And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

**Remember! Candle fires are PREVENTABLE!**

**Public Education/Prevention/pre-incident tours**

Pre-incident inspections and tours included: King Street Primary and Intermediate Schools, 2 Main Street, 51 Main Street, Stetson Place, Damia Drive, Clapboard Ridge, Middle River, Joe's Hill, and King Street neighborhoods, AAA Building on Lake Avenue, 240 Main Street, Abbey Woods, Toll Brothers, 55 Oil Mill Road, and Danbury Airport.

Crews were on stand-by for Polar Plunge at Candlewood Town Park. A team of firefighters participated in charity hockey games in Danbury and Ridgefield. Department members enjoyed an "Emergency Responders Appreciation Day" hosted at the Moose Lodge.

**Command and Staff Activities**

- HIPPA law compliance Corp Counsel
- Naugatuck Community College discussion
- Citizens Hose Annual Dinner
- Ct. Dept. Health Crisis and Risk Management Seminar
- Corp. Counsel CIRMA Insurance review
- Branford FD visit for NexGen Software
- Beckerle Hose Annual Meeting
- Retirement Luncheon for Communications Supervisor Pat Sniffin
- Ct. Firefighters Hall of Fame Dinner
- Multiple meetings NexGen Soft ware
- Multiple meetings FireHouse, TeleStaff software
- Connecticut Burn Care Camp meeting
- Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee meeting

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

Companies responded to a motor-home fire on Fairlawn Avenue which spread to the house and the fire was rapidly knocked down. Mutual aid was provided at a brush fire on Pine Mountain in Ridgefield. A high angle rope rescue was performed on White Street where a man had fallen 15 feet into the Still River water course. Crews responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in a fatality on Sugar Hollow Road.



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

### **EMS Wednesday**

The topics for EMS Wednesday this period were muscular skeletal injuries and new state protocols regarding the application of tourniquets to control bleeding caused by traumatic injuries to extremities.

### **EMT Re-Certification**

Forty-one department members recently took and passed their State EMT re-certification test.

### **Hazardous Materials Team**

The Region Five Entry-Rae Photo-Ionization detector meters that have been placed on all of Danbury Fire Departments First Responder Units have been in service for eight months. These Entry Rae meters are maintained and calibrated by the members of the Danbury Fire Department's Haz-Mat Team. These meters have the ability to detect minute levels of toxic substances. Having these available to our department has enhanced the ability of Firefighter/Haz-Mat technicians to determine not only the presence of toxic gases but also the amount and the source of the gases. This was demonstrated by a recent call to Hayestown Elementary school on Wednesday April 10, 2013.

Engine 23 responded to an odor of gas. While investigating the conditions the crew found a small

crack in a gas pipe leading to a stove in the school cafeteria. Furthermore, an elevated level of carbon monoxide was also discovered during this investigation. It was determined that one of the ventilation hoods was also not working. Because the amount of gas was small, but quickly detected and pinpointed through the use of the Entry Rae, the crew was able to shut off the supply of gas to the stove and shut down the hood, with a minimal disruption to normal school activities.

### **Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers**

See Department Statistic reports.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division*

##### Quarterly

First quarter training classes are complete with the OSHA mandated Biohazards and Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives as the main topics. 119 Volunteer personnel participated.

##### Live Burn

A joint training session was held on April 7 at 36 Sugar Hollow Rd involving Danbury Career and Volunteer personnel as well as volunteers from Ridgefield, West Redding, and Bethel. Multiple training evolutions were conducted during the 8 hour day including but not limited to: interior and exterior firefighting, ventilation, tanker shuttle operations, and fire police training. In total, 80 personnel and 18 apparatus participated in the drill.

#### *Career Division*

##### Fire School

Safety railings were fabricated and installed to the roof of the burn building. The contractor also made improvements to the metal shutters and installed our second rappel railing while at this job site. DPW brought in fill and leveled the property in conjunction with the drainage project completed by Kenosia Construction. Our city tree company assisted with removing a number of trees to make way for the site leveling.

##### Acquired structure

All crews took advantage of the training opportunities at the Sugar Hollow Rd property leading up to the live burn. Crews conducted Rapid Intervention drills, self rescue, and ventilation exercises in and around the structures.

##### Live burn

Crews performed multiple interior burns on April 7 with valuable experienced gained in fire behavior and extinguishment.

##### Various Classes

We have personnel enrolled in various certification classes through the CT Fire Academy. Our students are taking classes for Fire Instructor I and II, Rescue Technician, and Rescue Tech Vehicle and Machinery. The Vehicle Rescue class will be hosted by our Department in May.

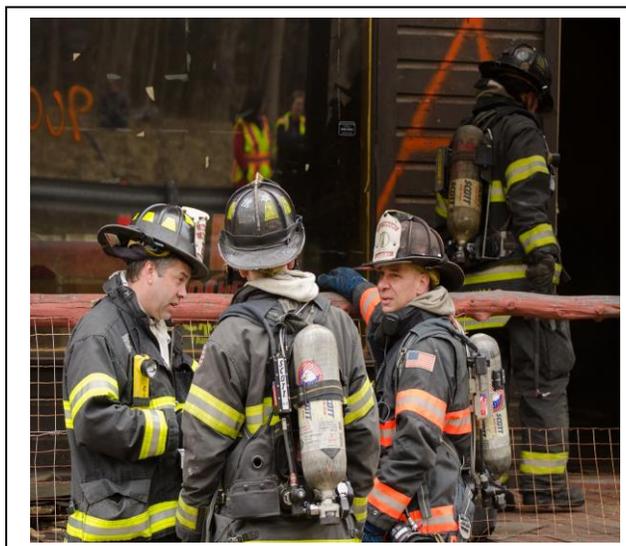
##### Safety Officer

Safety Officer was called in to structure fire on Fairlawn Ave.

Web based Training  
Concentrating on Building Construction as it relates to the Fire Service.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- March 28 EMT refresher test
- April 2 Citizen's Hose Annual dinner
- April 3 CFDA monthly meeting @ NBC studios
- April 10 Luncheon for retired Communications Supervisor Pat Sniffin
- April 11 Ct Fire Departments Hall of Fame Awards Dinner
- April 16 Staff meeting
- April 16 Airport Commission meeting





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

All of the Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month, Truck-1's new meter has been ordered and we are awaiting its arrival. The LEL sensor in E-25's meter was replaced. The on-board charger from E-22 was repaired and reinstalled. A significant amount of time has been spent working on the layout and pricing to fit out our newest vehicles on order. E-24 had some broken bolts in the top tank of the radiator causing it to leak; they were extracted and replaced. Truck-1 had a Boost sensor and Mass Air Flow sensor failure. The sensors were replaced and upon checking system, the Charge Air Cooler was found to have several cracks and needs to be replaced. A new cooler needs to be ordered and as soon as we have a price, a requisition will be submitted. Fit testing the Career Division is currently under way, and hoping to start fit testing the Volunteer Division in May.

Other repairs completed:

- Replace and re-program garage door opener Truck-2's bay
- Repaired slide out tray in Squad-1
- Service Truck-1
- Rebuild Bullet saw on Truck-1
- Replaced rear tires on R-1 and E-22
- Replaced Lovejoy Coupling in Squad-1's air compressor
- Service E-26 – Replace rear leaf springs
- Service E-24

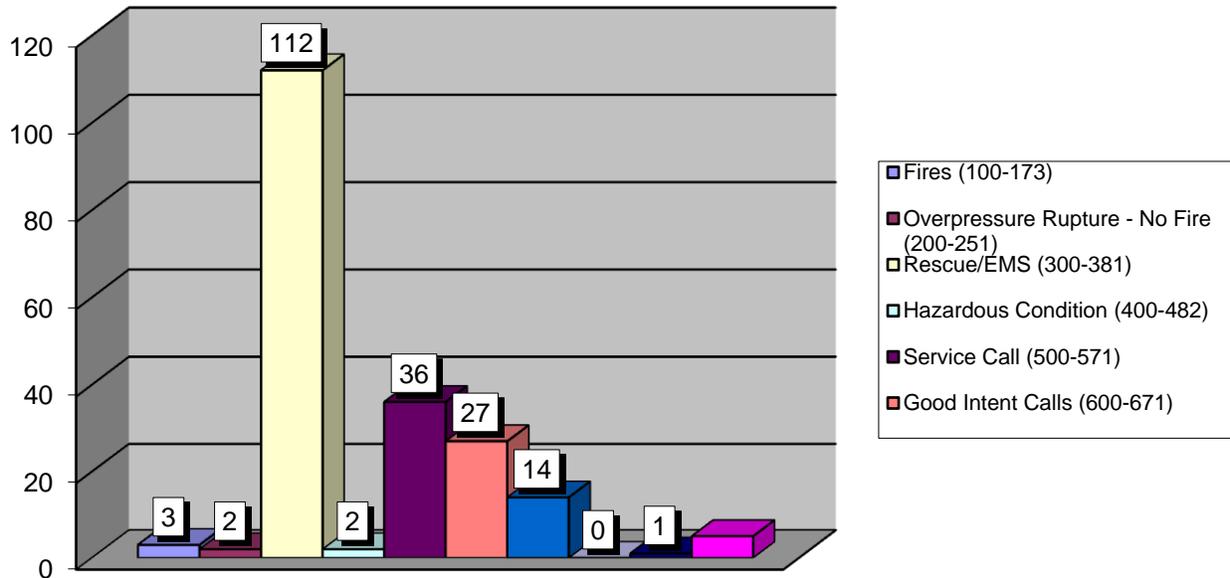
## Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Acting FM Marilyn Gillotti

DFM Leach took a class in Enfield on children and explosives as part of the Juvenile Fire Setters Program. He also was involved this month with the firefighter recruitment program representing the city held at Rentschler Field. DFM Osborne participated in the Senior Citizens safety meeting at Hatters Park, which was well received by all. DFM Russell has been reviewing plans for the school additions; many hours are spent going over all the details. DFM Perry has been working on our FireHouse software program as well as many other projects such as the new Whole Foods. The FireHouse software class has been attended by all division personnel this month, as well as various other Building Dept. meetings regarding ongoing projects in town. Two of our biggest assisted living facilities were inspected this month, Maplewood and Glen Crest. Both were found to be in compliance. Two proposed projects, one at 12 Clapboard Ridge for 20 condo units, and the other a cluster home project of 42 houses at the end of East Gate Rd, are being reviewed by Acting FM Gillotti.

### Department Statistical Reports

Monthly fire inspections: 251  
Abatements issued: 0  
Violation citations issued: 2

### Fire Response Breakdown March 23, 2013 to April 21, 2013



# 911 Center Activity March 23, 2013 to April 21, 2013

