



**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 June through 21 July 2013 and details activities of the Department.

The hot weather has been nearly unrelenting this period. Several days have set record highs and the summer is just half over. During these times it is critical that people drink enough proper fluids to stay hydrated. Heat related injuries have been reported and the department has responded. Cooling facilities operated by the city have been used to provide relief to our citizens needing a cooler environment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide these safety tips for dealing with extreme heat conditions.

Extreme heat can be very dangerous, leading to heat stroke and death. Heat stroke occurs when your temperature rises quickly and your body cannot cool down. This condition, though life-threatening, is preventable.

Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness

- Stay in air-conditioned space if possible. If your home is not air-conditioned, go to a public library, heat-relief shelter, or other cool location.
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids (check with your doctor if you are usually supposed to limit your fluids).
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing.

- Cut back on exercise.
- Closely watch those who are at high risk of heat-related illness, including older adults, young children, and individuals with physical and/or mental illnesses.
- NEVER leave anyone or animals in an enclosed, parked vehicle.

If you believe that you or someone else may be suffering from heat stroke or another heat-related illness, get help right away. It could be a life or death emergency. For further information please visit http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heat_guide.asp

As we participate in other summer outdoor activities, please remain aware of the inherent risks associated with these. Injuries that are common during the summer include head injuries associated with bicycling, skateboarding and sports. Swimming in unknown waters or environs can also be risky. Never dive into water where you are not familiar with the water body. Enjoy the summer but be careful to not take unnecessary risks.

As a final note, we are again reminding everyone to check your smoke detectors for operation and date of installation. These devices are a critical piece of our life safety and fire protection plan and they must be maintained. If they have been installed for longer than ten years, the United States Fire Administration is recommending they be replaced. Smoke detectors should be located on every level of your home.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

A pre-fire plan for the new Head Start on Foster Street was completed by a crew and Acting Fire Marshal. A site survey for Technical Rescue was done at Boehringer-Ingelheim with the Training Officer and an engine company.

Pre-incident familiarization was conducted at Pilgrim Furniture, Bob's Store, and the Danbury Hospital construction site to check the stand pipe system.

A crew toured 44, 46, 48 Shelter Rock Road and checked Knox Boxes with the property manager. A facility tour of Preferred Utilities Mfg Corp at 31-35 South Street was given by their Operations Manager. Also, updated key and emergency contact info was added in Knox Box.

The King Street Station crew went to KinderCare on South King Street and gave a fire prevention talk to approximately 30 students ranging from ages 2 to 6, and also

showed the children firefighting and rescue gear and the fire engine and let them sit in the fire engine.

A fire education talk was given at Hats Off to Kids on White Street. Fifty children from the Jericho Day Camp toured Headquarters. Two firefighters provided a station tour of HQ for a disabled gentleman and two care givers and explained dispatch, 911 calls, tone alerts, and hoses and tools, and gave a tour of Engine 22, the ladder truck, and discussed aspects of being a firefighter.

Members of the Department's Local 801 hockey team played in the annual charity hockey game vs. the Danbury Police.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A serious fire occurred at St Nicholas' Church on Pembroke Road; this fire involved a mutual aid response to the scene, as well as coverage for the rest of the city. A large fire involving more than 3000 pallets was fought at Republic Foil on Triangle Street. Members conducted a land search in the area of Lake Waubeeka for missing man.

A water leak at Danbury Hospital resulted in the partial closure of the Emergency Department. To make up for lost space, Danbury Hospital arranged for a Mobile Field Hospital to be brought here by the State of CT Department of Public Health. Members of the on duty platoon were instrumental in setting up, and then four days later, breaking down the field hospital.





St. Nicholas Church Fire

Command and Staff Activities

- Statewide Emergency Drill in our Emergency Operations Center
- Retirement party City Hall Employees
- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Meeting for NexGen
- Meeting for Telestaff
- Jericho Breakfast Amber Room
- Board of Awards

Emergency Medical / Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

This Continuing Medical Education class is held for Firefighters while they are on duty to enhance their pre-hospital medical knowledge and skills. The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday has been Firefighter practical skill stations.

As part of our yearly re-certification process, Firefighters are tested in their proficiency of certain EMS skills which include the Hare traction device, standing mobilization of the spine and neck, long board splinting, Kendricks extrication device and Peripheral Intravenous Cannulation.

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistic reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Second quarter training ended in late June with 93 volunteers attending the classes. There will be a make-up in late August for those who missed.

Fire fighter II

Firefighter II is going well with 15 Danbury volunteer fire fighters participating in this Certification class. All students passed the State Practical exam on Saturday July 20. The written exam is scheduled for July 30.

Career Division

SCBA Endurance

Crews completed the SCBA endurance course drills in late June.

Fire School

The fire school on Plumtrees Rd was utilized for the Fire fighter II class, SCBA endurance for the Career crews, as well as neighboring departments including Dodgingtown, Bethel, Southbury and Newtown.

ARFF review

Our Airport Rescue Fire Fighters participated in their annual refresher training at Danbury Airport with Asst. Airport Administrator Mike Safranec.

Various Classes

Lt. Dan Gregory and FF's Velotti, Jewel and Rozzi completed the 48 hr Rescue Core Technician course through the CT Fire Academy.

FF Pat Heron completed the Instructor I certification course.

FF Horosky completed the Instructor II Certification course

Safety Officer

Safety Officer was called in for a Church fire on Pembroke Rd and a large pallet fire off Triangle St.

Hydrants

We are in the process of transferring our entire hydrant testing records to the new Fire House software. Once completed, crews will be inspecting all city hydrants.

Meetings/events for the T.O.:

- June 26 Played in the Mayor's Cup Golf tourney at Richter Park
- July 1 Retirement ceremony for Lt. Skip Omasta

- July 3 & 19 Met with Boehringer-Ingelheim Safety personnel over Confined Space areas
- July 16 Staff meeting with “A” group
- July 17 CFDA executive board meeting in Danbury

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

The second new staff car has arrived and is at the graphics shop being lettered. Truck-2's ladder is back in service; the damaged outrigger tube arrived ahead of schedule and was replaced. Truck-1 is in the shop for an engine replacement with Atlantic Detroit Diesel. The issue with the “bedding” of TRK-1's ladder is still current as well; the “Encoder” has arrived and is scheduled to be installed next week. All of the departments Hurst rescue tools were serviced, pressure and performance tested. Due to the vast amount of tools in service, there are some in depth repairs that will need to be made. We are awaiting an estimated cost of those repairs. We have just a few strays left to complete the Career Division Fit testing. Two weeks ago we fit tested four Volunteer companies. We will be working with the other Volunteer companies with regards to scheduling. Working Fire Apparatus is considered intense duty under normal conditions; in spite of the extreme temperatures of the past three weeks, Danbury's fleet has performed remarkably well.

Other repairs completed:

- Repaired coolant leaks in E-21
- Replaced Officers side window regulator in E-22
- Replaced battery in C-30
- Replaced outrigger tube in Truck-2
- Serviced cabin air filters E-21 & E-22
- Serviced batteries E-23 on a no start complaint

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - Acting FM M. Gillotti

Fire Extinguisher Safety education has kept us busy this month with 6 different companies asking for training.

The opening of the new Head Start on Foster Street and the completion of all the fire safety inspections of all Danbury schools has also been done this month.

Our community job program summer employee joined us this month and has been going out with DFM Osborne knocking on doors in the 3-family or more housing neighborhoods, doing smoke detector checks. Shakera is helpful as she speaks Spanish which allows us better to communicate with the tenants of these apartments. Our summer intern is accompanying all of us on different calls as well as a few fire scenes. She is getting a good idea of what is done here in the Fire Marshals' office and how varied the work can be from day to day.

The fireworks by the Volunteers at Candlewood Lake and at the Mall were enjoyed by the community.

DFM Leach attended the U.S. Fire Academy class in New Haven on how to request and maximize FEMA reimbursement funding after a federally declared disaster or emergency.

IT Special Assignment – Rich Gallagher

The ongoing replacement of old software and installation of new programs continues. Much training has occurred and considerable progress has been made. Data transfer and full use of the new software is expected to be complete this fall. Much of this month was used to GPS locate hydrants within the city. To date approximately 1200 hydrants have been so marked using the Firehouse iPad application. This iPad application uses cellular towers to get GPS coordinates. Further work has involved creating maps and districts for the new NexGen dispatch application. These maps will be used in the creation of the street lists used by NexGen in computer aided dispatching.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	274
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	2
Complaints	4
Fire Investigations	6
Fire Safety Programs	4

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3896
Abandoned 911 calls	340
Cellular 911 calls	2097
911 hang up calls	40
Admin calls received	802