



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

**Geoffrey R. Herald, CFO
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1550
Fax 203-796-1552**

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 July through 21 August 2013 and details activities of the Department.

I want to thank James Johnson for his 40 years of service to our community and the department. Jim retired on 17 August ending his illustrious career serving as our City Fire Marshal. He has been an incredible asset and his legacy will continue in the safer community he leaves behind. We wish him and his wife Sue a long, healthy and happy retirement.

As we move into the cooler New England fall, there are some safety tips we wish to convey. With school back in session we want to remind everyone that the school buses on our roads make frequent stops. Please be sure to allow plenty of room as they stop to pick up or discharge students. It is very important to not crowd the buses and to obey the stop signs and flashing lights. We also have many more students on our streets walking or biking to the schools or bus stops. Please be vigilant.

Our health and safety message this month is about concussions and how to recognize them. With school sports programs again in full swing, this message from the CDC will help in this effort.

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

Concussion, a type of traumatic brain injury, is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth—causing the brain to bounce around or twist within the skull.

This sudden movement of the brain can cause stretching and tearing of brain cells, damaging the cells and creating chemical changes in the brain.

HOW CAN I RECOGNIZE A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION?

To help spot a concussion, you should watch for and ask others to report the following two things:

1. A forceful bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that results in rapid movement of the head.

2. Any concussion signs or symptoms, such as a change in the athlete's behavior, thinking, or physical functioning.

Signs and symptoms of concussion generally show up soon after the injury. But the full effect of the injury may not be noticeable at first. For example, in the first few minutes the athlete might be slightly confused or appear a little bit dazed, but an hour later he or she can't recall coming to the practice or game.

You should repeatedly check for signs of concussion and also tell parents what to watch out for at home. Any worsening of concussion signs or symptoms indicates a medical emergency.

THE FACTS

A concussion is a **brain injury**.

All concussions are **serious**.

Concussions can occur **without** loss of consciousness.

Concussions can occur **in any sport**.

Recognition and proper management of concussions when they **first occur** can help prevent further injury or even death.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Pre-incident familiarization took place at the new Army Reserve Center and Abbey Woods as well as a review of the planned I-84 bridge construction in Brewster, NY. We have kicked off the Smoke Alarm home distribution program funded by a FEMA grant and implemented by the Fire Marshals' Office and an Engine Company.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

We seem to be getting an increased number of Search and Rescue calls in the woods. Keeping up with that trend, a crew went into the woods near Lake Waubeeka to search for a distraught individual. Using GPS and Thermal Imaging technology, the individual was found very quickly and brought to safety. It has been a very busy summer with traumatic injuries from accidents and the crews have responded to a number of serious and tragic accidents, including a fatal motorcycle accident on Lake Avenue.

Command and Staff Activities

- Meeting with Volunteer Firemen's Council
- NEXGEN project status meetings
- Firefighter interviews
- Press conference to announce Smoke Alarm distribution program
- I-84 bridge closure meeting
- Sports Dome opening
- Meet with Engineering Dept. to discuss HQ upgrades
- Orientation for new recruits

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.

Regional Haz-Mat

The Danbury Fire Department has recently taken delivery of \$46,000 worth of Hazardous Materials Training equipment paid for by the Department Of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region Five. These props, which operate off of our propane gas installation at the Plumtrees Rd. Training Facility, will create realistic response scenarios for our First Responders, testing their tactical thinking and resource management skills.

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistic reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Third quarter Haz Mat/meter training is scheduled with dates in September and October.

Fire fighter II

All 15 Danbury Volunteer Firefighters successfully passed their CT Fire Academy exams and are certified at the Firefighter II level. This group worked hard from late May through to the end of July and scored very high on their final exam.

Career Division

Foam fire fighting

All Crews participated in the annual foam fire fighting refresher. Personnel reviewed our Foam capabilities with the Foam rig, Airport 20 and our Pumpers. Practical evolutions followed the classroom session at the Fire School.

Fire School

The fire school on Plumtrees Rd was utilized for the Foam training, and by Fire Departments from Newtown and Bethel.

New Training props – We took delivery of a gas grill training prop that will work with our Bullex propane training system.

Building Maintenance – The city maintenance dept. installed a slop sink and urinal in the bathroom of our temporary classroom.

High Angle Rescue

We conducted two high angle rescue drills at Danbury Hospital's new tower that is under construction. Our crews set up rope systems on the roof of the 11 floor tower and descended down the outside of the structure to assist an injured worker (simulated) who was working on scaffolding many floors below.

Various Classes

FF Horosky successfully completed the Instructor II Certification course.

Hydrants

We are 95% complete with updating and transferring all of our new GPS modified hydrant data to the new Fire House software. Crews will start inspecting the 2,000 plus hydrants in September.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.

- July 30 Dinner meeting with the Career and Volunteer leadership
- August 5 Pump Operator/Driver qualifier for FF Stilson
- August 20 Staff meeting with "A" group
- August 20 Meet with Jim's Welding at Fire School





FF Stilson and "D" group training on pumper



High angle/rope rescue training at Danbury Hospital

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

The third new staff car has arrived and is at the graphics shop being lettered. Truck-2 has been doing the lion's share of truck duties here while Truck- 1 is out of service for extensive repairs. Last week however, during driver training, the turbocharger in Truck-2's engine suffered a violent failure. We were able to obtain a rebuilt turbocharger and place this unit back in service the next day. Truck-1 had a failed cylinder head gasket as a result of broken cylinder head bolts. The engine work is complete and Truck-1 is now at the Pierce dealer in Rocky Hill, CT having some computer related updates performed. We have assembled the S.C.B.A. units and breathing air bottles for the new recruits to attend the August Fire Academy.

Other repairs completed:

- Repaired LDH intake E-26
- Completed service 01 Tahoe including new brakes
- Serviced 03FT and 03FT2
- Repairs to Foam Unit
- Scheduled warranty repairs to 12FE

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Provisional FM Gillotti

DFM's Leach and Perry have been busy with Boehringer-Ingelheim, conducting fire drills and witnessing sprinkler testing. There has been quite a bit of work done at the Mall this month. Many stores are remodeling and many inspections and follow-ups have taken place this month.

The new smoke alarm initiative has already received 4 calls to CRR with 4 inspections scheduled. This weekend will mark the beginning of the on-duty Fire Marshal and Engine Company going through the neighborhoods with the smoke alarms.

DFM Osborne is doing a presentation at the Jericho House – Fire Prevention of course being the topic. Fire drills have been done at Ethan Allen this month as well as the new Head Start School on Foster Street. Fire extinguisher training was attended by 25 employees at Preferred Utilities on South Street. DFM Perry did a community service presentation at Mill Ridge School for students in K-3. We are trying to finish up this month with school inspections; DFM Gillotti has been to Sacred Heart as well as King Street Primary for problems and inquiries; all was rectified. Our regular monthly inspections are progressing as expected.

We are currently planning for the Taste of Danbury, ordering pamphlets to distribute as well as starting to put together materials for the school presentations in October.

IT Special Assignment – Rich Gallagher

This past month the locating and GPS tagging of all of the hydrants within the city was completed; this process revealed 2,031 hydrants. The next step of this process is to teach the company officers on the use of the FD iPads and the Firehouse FH Inspector application. This will be used to mark all of the hydrants with a unique ID that will be shared between the FD and Public Utilities Dept. for hydrant service management.

The process of applying a GPS coordinate to the hydrant(s) will allow the Fire Department to view them on a map. For example, a map of the Danbury Fair Mall can be generated to show the 21 hydrant locations around the property.

Upcoming tasks are as follows:

- Working with the Fire Marshal group on the use of the iPad for their occupancy inspections.
- Working with Training to create training programs within Firehouse.
- Working with Maintenance to get a current inventory of equipment on the apparatus.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	476
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	4
Fire Investigations	7
Fire Safety Programs	8

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3666
Abandoned 911 calls	316
Cellular 911 calls	1943
911 hang up calls	40
Admin calls received	794