



**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 September through 21 October 2013 and details activities of the Department.

We are now into the fall season and there is a cold weather health and safety concern we want everyone to be aware of. This is hypothermia. Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature. This occurs when someone is exposed to cold temperatures. Your body will lose heat faster than it can produce it, using up stored energy. Hypothermia affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it. The information below comes to us from the CDC.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Victims of hypothermia are often (1) elderly people with inadequate food, clothing, or heating; (2) babies sleeping in cold bedrooms; (3) people who remain outdoors for long periods—the homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.; and (4) people who drink alcohol or use illicit drugs.

Recognizing Hypothermia

Warnings signs of hypothermia:

Adults:

- shivering, exhaustion
- confusion, fumbling hands
- memory loss, slurred speech
- drowsiness

Infants:

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

What to Do

If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency. Get medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

- Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- If the victim has on any wet clothing, remove it.
- Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.
- Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the victim gently, and get emergency assistance immediately. Even if the victim appears dead, CPR should be provided. CPR should continue while the victim is being warmed, until the victim responds or medical aid becomes available. In some cases, hypothermia victims who appear to be dead can be successfully resuscitated.

As these symptoms can occur even at temperatures in the 40s it is wise to be aware of weather conditions. Drink plenty of fluids and hot liquids at this time of the year. Cover your ears head and hands as you can lose a surprising amount of heat through these areas. Prepare for the weather, dress properly and enjoy the New England fall.

Please join us as we congratulate Captain Gary Arconti as the Firefighter of the year for the Club. He was chosen for his continuous efforts here in the city both as a fire officer and for his involvement in the community. He was honored locally and then at a statewide dinner in Southington.

Donations

We have received a generous donation in the amount of \$25.00 from J. Roger and Zita Schmiedel.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Pre-incident familiarization was conducted at the Sports Dome on Shelter Rock Lane, Rivington, the Mews, Abbey Woods, Regional Hospice construction, and the Jenny

Drive gate and nearby streets. The interagency command post for the I-84 bridge replacement project was staffed.

The King Street School Girl Scout troop toured Headquarters. Personnel continue the smoke alarm installation program.

Personnel participated in the Home Depot Fire Safety Day, Open House at Headquarters, and the annual awards ceremony.



Open house at DFD Headquarters



Fire Safety Day at Home Depot



Fire Safety Day at Home Depot

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

An electrical fire on South King Street was contained to an A/C unit and outside the dwelling. An MVA involving a utility pole on Newtown Road required extrication. A child at Avalon Valley whose clothes were ignited by a candle suffered minor 1st and 2nd degree burns. Crews responded to an unknown substance/HazMat call on Main Street and a HazMat call on Commerce Drive.

Command and Staff Activities

- Next Gen Mapping Meeting at HQ
- Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year Dinner for Captain Arconti
- Danbury Open House Fire service Day
- Fairfield County Fire Chiefs
- Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs
- CERT training
- FFOY Statewide presentation
- Region 5 Incident Management Training

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 the OSHA mandated Blood borne Pathogens review. Blood borne pathogens include all infectious and communicable diseases which are a great concern to our First Responders, while there are risks inherent to emergency medical services responses these risks can be minimized by the use of methods that will reduce the risk of exposure and contraction of these diseases. The purpose of the training is to educate personnel in the types of communicable /infectious diseases, the modes that they are transmitted methods and practices that will reduce the risk of exposure and the procedures that must be followed should an exposure should occur.

Haz-Mat

The last installment of four gas meter review and practical skill evaluation for the Volunteer Contingent of our Department utilizing the Bull-Ex training was completed on Oct. 8th, 2013 . Equipment that the Department has recently acquired with money from Region Five that will allow the instructor to test proficiency in meter use and critical thinking skills.

Regional Haz-Mat Team

In order to enhance the hazardous materials emergency response capabilities for the Region Five Area, the three Main Response Battalions of the Danbury Fire Department, Waterbury Fire Department, and Torrington Fire Department each hosted

a two day Tank Truck Emergency Response workshop open to Haz-Mat technicians in the Region Five Area.

This two day comprehensive class is intended to broaden the student's knowledge of cargo tanks and the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents involving cargo tanks and to insure interoperability of our teams' responders.

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistic reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Third quarter Haz Mat/meter training is complete. We had 102 participants attend one of the five class presentations. Live burn training is scheduled for the fourth quarter. Germantown Engine 10 held practical training drills at an acquired structure on Hayestown Ave.

Career Division

Tank Truck Emergency Response Workshop

Instructors from the Safe Transportation Training specialists out of Indiana presented their two day course covering Tank Truck Emergencies. Many of our Haz Mat Techs attended this training opportunity held at the Miry Brook VFD.

Recruits

Our 14 recruit Firefighters are completing week 8 of the Fifteen week Recruit class at the CT Fire Academy. Their progress has been good to date.

Various Classes

FF's Newton and Jewell are enrolled in the Fire Instructor Course and FF Brown started the Fire Officer I program.

Captains Joe Halas and Bill Lounsbury started the lengthy Fire Officer II class.

Hydrants/ iPads

All companies were out and about around the city, indentifying and inspecting all hydrants, using the new iPads for data entry. The crews tested approximately 80% of the 2,100 hydrants to date.

Naugatuck Valley Community college

Danbury Fire is hosting the NVCC course, Fire Behavior and Combustion. We are at the midterm point of this 3 credit Fall semester class.

Fire School

Fire Depts from Botsford, Brookfield, Roxbury and Hawleyville utilized our Fire Training Facilities for various training activities.

We are working on additional props to add to our Propane training system.

ARFF

We completed the Airport Firefighting review for all crews.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.

- UPFFA biannual convention at the Ethan Allen Inn
- Fire Dept Fall Golf Tourney at Newtown CC
- State Regional school Education committee meeting
- CT Fire Academy Recruit evaluation
- CFDIA Annual Dinner/Awards Ceremony
- Kaplan EMS/FIRE training program updates in Branford
- Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year dinner
- All day Continuing Ed classes at Danbury Hospital
- Annual Memorial Service and Awards ceremony at Fire HQ
- Staff meeting with D group

Tank Truck Emergencies class





Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Department's 4-gas meters were calibrated this month. The O2 sensor was replaced in E-21's and SRV's meters and the LEL sensor was replaced in E-22's meter. The third new staff car is here and we have been busy making adjustments and installing required equipment. The Truckvault had to be removed and returned to the manufacturer for modification. Truck-1 was back in service for a short while, then came back out of service for a defective coolant temperature switch. After that was repaired it then ruptured a hydraulic line for the right rear outrigger. It is currently out of service, all the hydraulic lines need replacement due to corrosion issues related to de-icing materials currently in use. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) spent two days here doing annual Non Destructive testing (NDT) on both our aerials. The Bauer breathing

air compressor is having relief valve issues; we are currently working with our vendor to schedule repairs

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced battery and alternator in 97F1
- Replaced GFCI power distribution boxes on Truck-1
- Service 09FX; replaced rear brakes
- Fit test E-10
- Replace Sawzall on Squad-1
- Waiting on purchase order to schedule ground ladder testing

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

This month we will be finishing up our Fire Prevention programs in all of our schools. Approximately 6,000 children received our message concerning fire safety.

Inspections continue and we are finishing up some of the bigger properties such as Hillcroft Apartments and Avalon on Mountainview Terrace.

Our entire office staff except one will be going to New Haven to hear a presentation regarding the Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island.

DFM Leach will be attending classes pertaining to smoke detectors and Juvenile Firesetters. DFMs Osborne, Perry, and Leach will also be going to training for Cameo HazMat software.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	617
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	3
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	5
Fire Safety Programs	19

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3725
Abandoned 911 calls	337
Cellular 911 calls	1976
911 hang up calls	13
Admin calls received	768