



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

As we feel the cool fall air many of us are looking to our fireplaces. The fireplace is a source of comfort and convenience and the center of family gatherings. There are a few points we want you to consider at this time of the year. The comfort of the fire glowing and warming the family first requires attention to the installation to ensure the safety of the home. More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Many others use them as secondary sources or for the ambiance the fire provides. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently. For example, oil fired furnaces also require regular maintenance.

The Danbury Fire Department and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility ...Fire Stops With You!

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.

- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet away from your home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can. Douse and saturate the ashes with water.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Many of the new alarms are equipped with ten year batteries and these can't be changed. Please consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Pre-incident familiarization was conducted at the Abbey Woods and Toll Brothers development sites, as well as the State Street, Park Place, and Town Hill neighborhoods.

Crews attended the 9/11 Memorial service at Elmwood Park. The Department enjoyed a luncheon at Headquarters given by Friends of Local Heroes. Trucks and flags were

displayed for the funeral procession of SSgt. TJ Lobraico. Personnel participated in a charity softball game vs. the Police Dept.



Suppression / Response Activities of Note

The smoke alarm installation program is well underway. Crews rescued a hiker requiring medical attention on steep terrain at Bear Mountain Park. Two civilians were burned while working on their house when fumes from a solvent ignited a flash fire. A car fire right up against a house on Terre Haute was quickly extinguished by Engine 22 just as the siding on the house started to melt. Companies responded to a construction accident with injuries from falling concrete.



Command and Staff Activities

- Lieutenant Testing at City Hall
- Naugatuck Valley Community College Classes start at HQ
- Telestaff Meeting
- 9-11 Ceremony, Elmwood Park
- Rotary Club Firefighter of the Year Dinner
- Friends of Local Heroes Lunch
- Fire Marshal Jim Johnson's Flag Ceremony

- CT Firefighter Association Meeting
- I-84 closure planning session
- Cabinet meeting
- Radio system planning

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 DNR orders and protocols and Ambulance equipment familiarization.

Haz-Mat

The Third Quarter training for the Volunteer component of the Danbury Fire Department has consisted of a four gas meter review and practical skill evaluation utilizing the Bull-Ex training props that the Department has recently acquired with money from Region Five. These props allow a more realistic scenario and critical skill testing.

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 will each be hosting a two day Tank Truck Emergency Response workshop that is 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.

Upon the conclusion of this class First Responders shall be able to:

- Determine the specification and identification of a cargo truck
- Understand the construction features of cargo tanks
- Understand the purpose and functions of safety devices associated with cargo tanks
- Understand the basic operation principals of cargo tanks
- Understand normal loading and unloading of cargo tanks
- Understand the principals of emergency loading and unloading of cargo tanks
- Understand with containment techniques associated with cargo tanks

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistic reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Third quarter Haz Mat/meter training is in progress with 5 class dates scheduled in September and October.

A second quarter makeup class was presented on Sept. 10.

Career Division

Confined Space Training

All crews participated in Confined Space training classes and drills. Practical evolutions were conducted at a below grade confined space at Boehringer Ingelheim.

Recruits

Our 14 recruit Firefighters started their careers with the City of Danbury and Fire Dept. with an orientation on August 22 and 23. They started the 16 week recruit school at the CT Fire Academy on August 26. They are progressing well at this point. The schedule has this group graduating in early December.

Various Classes

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

FF's Croswell, Rickard and Arteaga attended the 3 day strenuous Goruck wildland navigation course in New Hampshire.

Hydrants/iPads

All crews were trained on the operation of our new iPads and put them into service immediately as a tool to document the findings of our hydrant inspection program.

The hydrant program will continue until the end of October.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Danbury Fire is hosting the NVCC course, Fire Behavior and Combustion. We have 16 students from various backgrounds enrolled in this 3 credit Fall semester class.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.

- Aug 21 CFDIA Board meeting
- Sept 4 CFDIA monthly meeting at the Academy and Board meeting
- Sept 4 Visit the recruits at the Academy
- Sept 11 9-11 Ceremony at Elmwood Park
- Sept 12 Rotary Club Police/Firefighter of the Year dinner
- Sept 13 Friends of Local Heroes Luncheon at HQ

- Sept 17 Monthly staff meeting with C group



Confined space drills at Boehringer Ingelheim

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Department's 4 gas meters were calibrated this month. The third new staff car is here and we have been busy making adjustments and installing required equipment. Truck-1 is back in service. It has been out of service for extensive repairs including rebuilding of engine, extensive A/C repairs, Torque Radius Arm replacements, Ladder Encoder, and several aerial hydraulic lines. The new recruits were fit tested and have received their mask and air pack assemblies for the fire academy. This month we place 15 new Scott Series 75 S.C.B.A.'s into service along with 25 new breathing air bottles. Thank you to Chief Herald for allowing the Superintendent of Apparatus the opportunity to participate as an examiner in the testing process for an assistant mechanic in a nearby municipality.

Other repairs completed:

- Serviced 97F1, including tune up
- Replaced/reworked several lights on E-22
- Serviced 03F2.; new front brakes and rotors
- Repairs to TRK-1 differential
- Scheduled Aerial Device Non Destructive Testing for both TRK-1 and TRK-2 in October
- Currently working on bid for ground ladder testing

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

August to September was another busy month that included several fire extinguisher demonstrations, the Taste of Danbury, a talk at the Danbury Senior Center, Pitney Bowes fire training, as well as addressing several hoarding issues and illegal 3-family dwellings. Abbey Woods Building 4 was approved by DFM's Russell and Perry. Over 1,000 apartments were inspected this month between Avalon Sandpit and Crown Point. Brookview Commons on Crosby Street was also inspected this month. Only 2 floors of this building are now occupied by college students; the rest are rented to the public. All of the schools have been scheduled for their Fire Prevention programs starting Oct 1. A webinar on the compliance machine was given which was viewed on our office computers by most of our staff. We continue to keep up with the flow of plans that are submitted for review.

IT Special Assignment – Rich Gallagher

This month there has been continued focus on accessibility issues with different divisions for Firehouse software. The Firehouse hydrant program is fully operational. The NexGen mapping project is underway with continued meetings with Communication Supervisor Rogers and Assistant Chief Wiedl. Also ongoing is working on the resiliency of our back up hardware for the Telestaff project. All projects are moving forward.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	467
Abatements issued	1
Violations issued	4
Complaints	27
Fire Investigations	6
Fire Safety Programs	6

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3490
Abandoned 911 calls	320
Cellular 911 calls	1860
911 hang up calls	11
Admin calls received	789