



**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 November through 21 December 2013 and details activities of the Department.

Happy 2014! Once again the cold weather is back after an all too brief respite. Cold weather brings about certain risks and the need to practice some basic precautions. These include being sure heating systems are operating correctly as well as having functioning carbon monoxide detectors in your homes. If you have a heating system where there is a fuel burned, whether it is wood, pellets, fuel oil or gas, there is the potential for a carbon monoxide exposure.

Additional precautions are necessary when outdoors either recreationally or even while walking to or from a vehicle. With extreme cold comes the risk of hypothermia. This condition results when a body is exposed to prolonged cooler temperatures or even short times exposures to very cold temperatures. This is an especially serious risk for elderly or the very young. Please be sure to cover childrens' heads and hands and limit exposure for elderly or anyone whose circulation is impaired.

Winter recreation often includes sledding, skiing and snowshoeing for example. It is necessary to take some simple risk reductions here as well. We advise that wearing a helmet while skiing or sledding is always a good idea. There are many serious injuries each year that might be prevented or lessened if helmets are used. It is also important to remember the recent warm spell and the lack of ice on the water in the area. The snow may cover a thin coating of ice and before venturing out either on foot, skis or snowshoes, please be certain the ice is thick enough to hold you as you

cross. And finally, never venture far without a friend or telling someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Have a great New England winter!

Here you see the recent graduates of the Connecticut Fire Academy class 52



Left to right, front row. Adam Menawi, Shannon McFadden, Scott Yaglowski (photo), Keith Erickson, Jeffrey Nolet, Jason Culbreth, back row, Joseph Capalbo, Michael Glass, Eric Freundt, Dalton Browning, Jonathan MacKey, Daniel Mansdorf, Jamie Hines, Christopher Moore, Dress uniform members left to right, Assistant Chief Wiedl, Training Chief Omasta, Chief Herald

Donations

We have received a generous donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Brett Bolnick.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews participated in the Salvation Army food drive and the Angel Tree toy drive, both again spearheaded by Lt. Chip Daly. Our Smoke detector installations continued this period. Engine 22 delivered Santa to St. Paul's Church and stayed to entertain attendees of the Santa's Workshop holiday festivities on December 21st.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

The crew at Engine 25 rescued a young girl who was badly injured while sledding at Richter Park. FF Stabile provided excellent care to the child while awaiting the

stretcher. After treating her she was carried up the snowy hill and transported to the ER.

Crews responded to a structure fire at the former Borders Books being remodeled into Planet Fitness. The investigation of this fire found that metal studs were energized behind sheetrock due to an electrical cable penetrated by a screw.

A basement fire caused by improperly placed hot fireplace embers was extinguished on Farview Avenue.

Command and Staff Activities

- Lieutenant interviews at City Hall
- 14 New recruits Graduation Ceremony in Milford
- All day High Rise Class at Danbury Hospital
- Mayor's State of the City Address
- Firehouse software update
- Deputy Fire Marshal testing
- NexGen software update
- Labor Management

Emergency Medical / Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 50 percent if CPR and defibrillation are administered within the few minutes.

For the month of December, make up classes in CPR were offered to make sure that all members of the department are certified in this life saving skill.

HazMat Training:

A Four Gas Meter/Photo Ionization Detector metering and monitoring class was provided to the members of A-group on two separate dates as a make up for the members of the department who had missed the Haz-Mat component of the year end training evolutions.

Medical Control:

The Department's 40 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians will be applying for medical control for the up-coming year from our sponsor hospital, Danbury Hospital. This involves meeting the continuing medical education requirement set forth by the Department of Public Health and the Danbury Hospital.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting at the Danbury Hospital on Wednesday evening, December 18th, 2013.

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistic reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Fourth quarter training which consisted of live burn drills is complete. 102 Volunteer personnel participated in this Fourth Quarter training that was held on 5 dates from October into December.

We currently have 124 active Volunteer firefighters: 85 interior, 11 exterior, 17 support and 11 probationary firefighters. Probationary personnel are new members and are enrolled in our next firefighter course which starts in January.

Steve Ortiz (Eng 9) and Lauren Symon (Eng. 13) passed all their certification exams and are now CT certified Firefighter I.

Career Division

Ice Rescue training was conducted. Airport layout drill and standpipe/hose pack drill were held.

Recruits

Our 14 recruits successfully completed the 15 week Fire Academy class and graduated on December 6. The graduation ceremonies were held in Milford. These probationary firefighters spent the next week at Fire Headquarters with a full schedule of orientation and training. They received their shift assignments and started working with their crews on Dec. 15.

Mandatory Training

Mandatory training for all crews was completed at the end of November. All drills were conducted at our Fire School facilities and burn building.

Deputy Chief Training

Our Deputy Chiefs participated in an all day workshop on Dec. 13 presented by the CT Fire Academy. Incident Commander Responsibilities for various incidents was the major topic.

High Rise Firefighting tactics

A High Rise Firefighting seminar was held at the Danbury Hospital Creasy Auditorium on Dec. 7. The class was presented by Chief Ron Kanterman from Gold Horn Associates and sponsored by Danbury Hospital, Danbury Housing Authority and the

Danbury Fire Dept. Approximately 50 people from Danbury and neighboring towns attended this informative event.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

The new Fire Behavior and Combustion class has gone well. This fall semester class ended with the final exam on Dec. 18. We will offer a new course, "Firefighter Safety and Survival" for the spring 2014 semester.

Fire School

Fire Departments from Newtown, Dodgingtown, and Hawleyville utilized our facilities for various training activities. The school is also being used frequently by the Danbury career and volunteer divisions for annual live burns and other training such as rescue and tool evaluations.

EAP

All crews sat in on an informational session with our Employee Assistance Program representative.

Pump Operator

Firefighters Mike Vitolo and Tim O'Hanlon successfully completed the requirements for driver/pump operator.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Swearing in for Lt. Nick Cabral and Dispatchers Newton, Jewel, Perrotti, Rivera, Heron, and Grover
- Recruit class #52 graduation ceremonies
- High Rise Firefighting class
- Swearing for 14 new firefighters
- Staff meeting with A group



Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

The Department's 4-gas meters were calibrated this month. We replaced the O2 sensor in E-25's meter. The third new staff car is complete and after some repairs and installation of software should be ready to be placed in service. This past month all of the department's ground ladders were tested and as required, heat labels replaced by a third party testing company. We worked with this company as testing progressed replacing rivets and other minor repairs. A 14' roof ladder and a 24' extension ladder that were previously removed from service by our division did in fact fail the testing process. We sent them out to be evaluated and received notice this week that the cost to repair the damage was more than the cost of a new ladder. The SRV had a sudden transmission leak and it was discovered that the repair was covered by Ford under a silent recall.

Other repairs completed:

- Repair Plymovent of E-22's bay
- Replaced the battery in the SRV
- Addressed multiple electrical issues with E-24, and E-25
- SCBA Fit test E-6
- Replace the battery in 01CT
- Submit 2014/2015 budget requests

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

We presented several fire prevention talks this month including one at Crosby Manor and one at Jericho Partnership. Both were well received. DFM Osborne was at the CT Homeless Outreach this month, another successful event. The smoke detector program is still receiving calls but has slowed slightly due to the weather recently. Inspections continue daily on all buildings that are due in the month of December.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	117
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	1
Fire Investigations	5
Fire Safety Programs	0

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3860
Abandoned 911 calls	367
Cellular 911 calls	2049
911 hang up calls	34
Admin calls received	895