



**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 December 2013 through 21 January 2014 and details activities of the Department.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Fire Marshal for the City of Danbury, James Russell. He began his new position after being sworn in on 8 January. Jim is a welcome addition to our command staff. Danbury will be well served by his dedication and professionalism.

This month we say good bye to Lt. Michael Tyskiewicz. Mike retired effective 19 January after serving nearly thirty years with the Career Department. Michael has been an exemplary officer and he has served the City with distinction. We wish him a long and healthy retirement.

This winter has been a cold and snowy one. The forecast is promising more of the same for the coming weeks. We would like to take this opportunity to remind Danburians that it is great help to us if our citizens shoveled out their fire hydrants. We have over 2000 hydrants in the city. It is critical that these devices be available in the event of fire. If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, please shovel the snow from around it so that if we need it, we can get to it.

With the continuation of the cold weather we are aware that the risk of hypothermia is a real threat. Please remember to wear warm clothing and to cover your hands and heads when outside. The very young and those with circulation issues are especially at risk. Bundle up and remember that spring is just 6 weeks away!



Jim Russell is sworn in as Fire Marshal

### **Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations**

Crews toured 251 and 255 Main St, 211 White St, South Ave, 111 Main St, and new sections at the Reserve known as The Hills, The Ridge, The Mews, and Abbey Woods, as well as pre-planning the Union Carbide building. An engine company familiarized themselves with Corner Pond, Kinast Brook, and Sterns Pond for access points in case of water related incidents.

Crewmembers had many opportunities for fire prevention education this period while at various locations for unauthorized burning, problems with heating devices, water related emergencies, etc.

Our smoke detector installation program continues. The Red Cross Bloodmobile held a blood drive at Headquarters.

### **Suppression / Response Activities of Note**

A flurry of water related incidents due to freeze-thaw issues occupied crews this period. Broken pipes damaged buildings at 48 Maple Ave, 300 Main St, 130 Deer Hill Ave, and Crystal Bay Condos. Representatives for the buildings' owners and City Building Department responded quickly to remedy the problems. An electrical fire at the service connection to 286 Main St affected five buildings, but luckily no one was injured or displaced, and CL&P was able to repair the service in about an hour.

Disaster was averted at a house fire on Springside Ave, as Engine 23 arrived very quickly and extinguished a fire on the second floor. Had the fire extended, it would have certainly involved the multiple propane tanks in the house used for space heaters.

After receiving a call from the Emergency Dept about a hypothermic patient, crews investigated Ives Manor and found there had been no heat on two floors for about 5

days. Working with the Health Dept, Fire Marshals, and Emergency Manager Paul Estefan, we were able to check on all residents and get the heat issue resolved.



Danbury and Brookfield Firefighters suppress a fire in Brookfield on Federal Road

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Blum Shapiro Meeting
- Radio system build out issues
- Danbury Orthopedic injury management process
- Non Union Members Meeting
- Swearing in Ceremony of Fire Marshal James Russell
- Command Staff Meeting
- Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

### **Emergency Medical / Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez**

#### **EMS Wednesday**

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Patient Assessment. Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediately life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Departments First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during Emergency medical calls before transport to the Hospital Emergency Department. The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of our EMS system. Cross-trained firefighters that have the knowledge of lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of medical calls. This response model has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

#### **Advanced EMT Medical Control**

The Danbury Fire Department's thirty-four Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians have submitted their yearly applications and received Medical Control from our sponsor hospital, Danbury Hospital.

In order to maintain medical control the A-EMTs must attend twelve hours of Continuing Medical Education at the Danbury Hospital or an approved provider and an

additional twelve hours of in-house Continuing Medical Education classes which are done while firefighters are on duty. Along with the 24 hours of lecture, the A-EMTs are required to demonstrate proficiency in various advanced life support skills.

### **EMS Supervisor's Meetings**

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisor's meeting at the Danbury hospital on 1/15/14. Topic of discussion included:

- Educational Opportunities
- Trauma data and lecture series
- Stroke data
- Spinal motion restriction guidelines
- CPAP for BLS providers
- Influenza Vaccination guidelines for ED Room access

### **Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers**

See Department Statistic reports.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division*

##### Quarterly

First quarter training is scheduled for February and March for all Volunteer Firefighters, with the Emergency Vehicle Operator Class as the major topic.

##### Firefighter I

We are hosting the State Certification Firefighter/Haz Mat Operations course starting January 23 and ending with exams on May 29. There are 20 students from the Danbury Volunteer Companies enrolled.

Firefighter Eric Svege completed the Enhanced All-Hazards Incident Management/Unified Command week long course at the Emergency Operations Training Center in College Station, Texas in December.

#### *Career Division*

##### Probationary Firefighters

Our 14 recruits started on shift with their respective crews in mid December and are busy responding to emergencies as well as training with their assigned companies.

##### Naugatuck Valley Community College

The Spring Semester starts January 23 with the course "Firefighter Safety and Survival" being presented at Fire Headquarters every Wednesday evening. There are 14 students registered for this class, new to the Fire Technology degree program.

##### Annual Training Hours

The four suppression crews including the 14 recruits logged 23,776 man hours of training for Calendar year 2013.

##### Photovoltaic Solar Energy

We are conducting awareness classes dealing with the safety concerns with numerous solar energy systems installed throughout the city.

## Cold Water Rescue

Crews took advantage of thin ice conditions and trained with the Cold Water Rescue Suits.

## Structure Fires

A Safety Officer was called in for structure fires on Springside Ave and Golden Hill Ave.

Meetings/events for the T.O.:

- Dec. 21 A & B group Christmas Party
- Jan. 8 CFDIA (Instructors) meeting and solar safety class in E. Hartford
- Jan. 8 Swearing in of Fire Marshal James Russell
- Jan. 15 Staff meeting at City Hall

## **Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo**

The Department's 4 Gas meters were problematic this month. The LEL sensor was replaced in E-23's meter. Truck-2's meter was sent to BioSystems for evaluation and estimate. This meter by the nature of its location is the constant "swing" unit of the department. It sees a tremendous amount of service and has several problems that require factory evaluation. Depending on the cost to repair, it may just need to be replaced. The third new staff vehicle "Car #30" is complete and has been placed in service. It seems like almost every month in this report we start off by saying, "Once again Truck-1 has dominated most of our time here in Apparatus," and this month has been no different. Truck-1 suffered a complete electrical failure of the E-Stop and Outrigger circuits. After removing the entire aerial electric harness from the turntable to the rear of the truck, we found two damaged parts of the harness. One area was probably a long standing issue that couldn't be found by Pierce years ago but was solved by running a new circuit. The other area was much more extensive and involved 13 separate wires being damaged that resulted in the failure of the E-stop and outriggers, and if not found would have certainly caused other issues. An extensive repair was made to these areas and Truck-1 is now in service.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced 4 rear and 1 front tire E-26, replaced 4 rear tires Trk-1
- Replaced valve stem Trk-2 rear tire
- Replaced fuel cell in E-24
- Fit test E-7
- Replaced outrigger/wheel chock plate holder Trk-1
- Installed battery charger on Gator

## **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell**

### **Code Enforcement**

The office of Community Risk Reduction continues to have fire watch at each of the Whaler's hockey games. The games have had better than average crowds this

month. A meeting was held this month with Floyd Hall, the owner of the Danbury Ice Arena. The ongoing issue of the Whaler's continues. There will be a meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> with all parties involved to discuss the outcome.

### **Inspections**

Inspections were done at two nursing homes this month, the Gardens and Pope John Paul. The annual inspection was also done at the Holiday Inn (114 rooms). We also did walkthrough inspections of three schools. In addition, there were several apartments inspected this month.

### **Fire Safety Programs**

A Fire Safety presentation given at Crosby Manor by Deputy Fire Marshal Gillotti was well received. Deputy Fire Marshal Osborne also attended The CT Homeless Project at the WCSU Campus.

### **Plan Reviews**

Several plan reviews were done, including Colonial Subaru at 89 Newtown Rd (the old Robert Buick), Mannkind, Danbury Orthopedic, Ridgewood Country Club renovations, and several stores to be fit out in the Danbury Fair Mall.

## **Department Statistical Reports**

### Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	481
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	2
Fire Investigations	5
Fire Safety Programs	2

### Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3818
Abandoned 911 calls	484
Cellular 911 calls	1998
911 hang up calls	10
Admin calls received	845