



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

This winter is certainly one for the books! In some areas this is now considered among the top 5 snowiest winters on record, and it is not yet ended. Please help us to clear our Fire Hydrants when it snows. We have over 2,200 hydrants in Danbury and many are invisible now under the snow.

Here are some tips to ensure the safety of you and your family. Each winter, there are many fires that can be prevented. The information here is from the United States Fire Administration.

- 905 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2,091,000,000 in property loss occurs from winter home fires.
- 67 percent of winter fires occur in one- and two-family homes.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- 5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Source: National Fire Incident Reporting System 2009-2011

To ensure your home is safer from the risk of fire, please follow these simple safety precautions. If you have a fire place, protect your home with a properly installed fireplace screen. If you use a space heater, keep it at least three feet away from anything that can burn including furniture, blankets, curtains and paper products. These heaters should only be used when plugged directly into the wall and not an extension cord and in accordance with all manufacturers' recommendations. Choose space heaters that turn off automatically if they are tipped over. Finally, purchase and use only those with a label of a recognized testing laboratory.



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

Crews toured 234 Main Street, Martha Apartments, Rivington, Abbey Woods, Putnam Towers, and East Ridge Condos.

Cub Scout Den 44 was given a tour of Headquarters.

A Hazmat Thursday session was held with discussion regarding propane and gasoline.

The smoke detector installation program continues.

A team of our firefighters competed in the Hunter Mountain Firefighters Ski Race, where teams of five firefighters on skis and snowboards dressed in full turn-out gear attempt to navigate through a race course while carrying a 50-foot fire hose. Proceeds are donated to the NY Firefighters Burn Center Foundation. Danbury did very well, finishing in third place overall.

A crew assisted Apparatus with the repair of a van for the disabled for a young boy. We also gave a tour of fire headquarters for him and his family.

Capt. Halas has been working extensively designing new turn out gear and uniform specifications, meeting with various manufacturers and attending a turn out gear presentation.

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

A structure fire on Harmony Street was caused by plumbers sweating a pipe close to framing members. Workers attempted to extinguish the fire with snow and water. FD crews overhauled the area affected and completed extinguishment and investigation with minimal damage or impact to the structure.

A driver suffered a minor leg injury in an attempt to get a car out of the snow and inadvertently backed over a 12' embankment on Rose Hill Avenue. Boston Garage

retrieved the car with a heavy wrecker. E-22 coordinated the incident with DPD and A-2 in attendance.

A sprinkler pipe was ruptured at a hotel on Mill Plain Road due to lack of insulation in a laundry chute chase. The flow affected units on all floors of the hotel. FD crews were quickly able to ascertain the break location and shut down flow to the system. DFM Weber and Jim Schullery from the Building Dept. were summoned, as well as ServPro, via hotel management. The hotel manager seemed overwhelmed by the high level of customer service provided.

A structure fire on Sylvan Road was apparently caused by an electrical short or overheating of a 6-outlet power strip in the living room. The fire had extended through to the attic and self-vented through the roof shortly after FD units arrived. Crews worked quickly to achieve a remarkable knockdown in a short timeframe. The fire attack was led by E-23 Lt. Pollard and FF Erickson through the front door of the raised ranch. Lt. Gregory of SQ-1 located the family dog on a main level search and brought him out, uninjured. The family fish also survived this significant fire. Capt. Lounsbury and his Truck crew provided above and beyond customer service by draining all domestic and baseboard heating pipes in anticipation of impending extreme cold weather.

A number of bad auto accidents also occurred this period, including one on the Bethel border resulting in three fatalities.

The Squad and Ambulance crews worked harmoniously together to save a victim from cardiac arrest at the NY Sports Club. The victim went on to a complete recovery after angioplasty at Danbury Hospital.

Numerous responses were made to assist EMS crews with getting patients to ambulances across areas with deep snow.

Crews have been working to shovel snow away from fire hydrants after recent storms, as needed and per citizen requests.



## **Command and Staff Activities**

- Engine 3 Annual Dinner
- Engine 10 Annual Dinner
- Radio infrastructure with Police Dept.
- Ad Hoc committees
- Meetings with four gear manufacturers
- Regional Emergency Planning Team meeting
- Region 5 HazMat team meeting

## **Emergency Medical / HazMat - Rey Rodriguez**

### **EMS Wednesday**

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Chemical Assisted Suicides. This phenomenon started in Japan and made its way over to the United States via the internet. The whole intent of this program is to help First Responders recognize the dangers associated with responding to this type of call and the proper precautions needed to protect themselves and the general public.

### **EMS Protocols Review**

The Danbury Fire Department's 84 Emergency Medical Technicians and 34 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians were required to review the new Regional Protocols from the Danbury Hospital and submit verification in order to maintain medical control. This involved the review of 85 pages of medical algorithms and treatment modalities and was completed by EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez while Firefighters were on duty.

### **EMS Supervisors Meetings**

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting at the Danbury Hospital on 2/19/14. Topics of discussion included:

- Education Affiliates Agreements
- Influenza vaccinations
- Advanced Airways
- Updated Regional Protocols
- Background Checks
- Modification to procedure for authorization of BLS skills

### **Special CME I at Danbury Hospital**

After responding to an EMS call for an unresponsive eight week old infant, Firefighter Ted Mourges worked collaboratively with Yale New Haven's Dr. Veronica Ron-Priola to present a Continuing Medical Education Class at Danbury Hospital. The focus of the class will be to review the signs and symptoms of a possible child abuse call, and address the roles and responsibilities of the mandated reporter.

The CME is scheduled for February 25, 2014 at 9:00am at the Danbury Hospital's cafeteria and will serve as the February Trauma Lecture for the 2014 CME I schedule.

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

An equipment failure at Police Headquarters caused a disruption in computer and phone service. Dispatcher Gabe Rivera, Acting Dispatcher Ken Stilson, and D/C Meehan worked to establish an emergency radio communications link using the State system.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division*

##### Quarterly

Emergency Vehicle Operations classes presented by the CT Fire Academy are in progress for all members.

##### Firefighter I

We are a month into the four month Firefighter I/Haz Mat Operations course. There are 22 students from various Danbury Volunteer Fire Stations including Engines 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

#### *Career Division*

##### Naugatuck Valley Community College

The Spring Semester started 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.

##### Photovoltaic Solar Energy

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

##### Fire School

We took delivery of a storage container to house our recently acquired propane fired training props.

##### Pump Operator

Fire Fighter Mike Finn completed all of the requirements for Driver- Pump Operator.

##### Structure fires

A Safety Officer was called in for a structure fire on Sylvan Rd.

##### Meetings/events for the T.O.

- Volunteer Council Meeting at Miry Brook VFD
- Staff meeting with C group
- Meeting with DPD training division



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

E-23's meter is out of service with an LEL sensor issue. We have not received any word on Truck-2's meter that was sent to BioSystems for evaluation and estimate. This delay is probably related to BioSystems being bought out by Honeywell and what seems to be their desire to discontinue service on these meters so that they can get their own meter to market. Truck-1 happily has been operating trouble free since the wire harness repair that dominated most of our time here in Apparatus last month. E-24 has been undergoing extensive repairs, including fuel tank, complete rear brake replacement, new starter, new primer cable, new batteries and more to come as we perform a full service on this unit.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced thermostats and antifreeze in E-23.
- Replaced battery in Foam Unit-6.
- Repairs to E-26 snow blower.
- Replaced the Pump Shift Unit on E-21.
- Replace plow solenoid in the department's pick-up.
- Repair and weld several broken wheel chocks.
- Repair two K1200 Rescue saws, order parts for Bullet saw.
- Repair/rework several sets of tire chains.
- Repair damaged pump in plow assembly.
- Repair several hand lights.

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

#### **Code Enforcement**

The Community Risk Reduction Division has been very busy during the month of February. We have had ongoing meetings and discussions regarding the Code Enforcement issues at the Danbury Ice Rink. In researching this situation, several

calls and other communication have been made to other Fire Marshals throughout the state as well as the State Fire Marshal, Bill Abbott. This research is regarding the issue of Fire Watch and Code Enforcement in assembly occupancies in their towns/cities under the State Statutes. We have also been working with Building Official Dave Newland, researching permits and Certificates of Occupancy on file.

#### Inspections

This month we have inspected the Spring Hill Suites, Quality Inn, Holiday Inn, and Residence Inn for a total of 488 Rooms. Inspections continue to be done at many businesses and apartments. Inspections at the Danbury Hospital continue at the new tower. Construction is moving very fast at this project. Progress is also being made at the four school additions at Park Avenue, Shelter Rock, Stadley Rough, and Mill Ridge Schools.

#### Investigations

Currently three fire investigations are ongoing here in the City. One is the gas pump fire at the Wheels Gas Station on Tamarack Ave.; the second, an arson fire of a car at the VFW on Byron St.; and the third is an arson investigation of the fire at Lions Condominiums on Triangle Street.

#### Plan Reviews

Several plan reviews are underway. Pitney Bowes is planning a large remodel in Commerce Park. Danbury Orthopedic is working on a large remodel at 226 White Street. A new 12 lot sub-division called Pondview Estates is to be built off of King Street with 12 large homes.

#### Public Education

The Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest is finishing up for the year. This year we collected 555 posters which are the most we have collected in the past 5 years. The two winners for this year have been selected. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade winner from South Street School is Christian Jolly, and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade winner from Pembroke School is Tanya D'Millo. There will be a luncheon held by the Lions Club on March 20<sup>th</sup> where both students will be awarded for their efforts on the posters. Each of the 555 students will receive a certificate for their efforts in the contest. The students really look forward to this contest as shown by the number of applicants.

#### Smoke Alarm Initiative

Installing smoke detectors has slowed down a bit, due to a winter of several snow storms. However, as the weather gets better, we will push forward to install as many smoke detectors as possible.

Monthly inspections	601
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	5
Fire Safety Programs	21

