



**CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**Geoffrey R. Herald, CFO
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1550
Fax 203-796-1552**

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 March 2014 through 21 April 2014 and details activities of the Department.

The weather has finally become spring-like. Despite the heavy winter snows, with this change we have had several very dry weeks. The potential for brush fires has been prevalent and indeed we had a very significant woods fire here in Danbury last Friday. Thankfully, there were no injuries to fire personnel and only one minor civilian injury. It is also fortunate that no structural damages incurred in this fire. I want to thank the many mutual aid partners who assisted us in this effort: Brookfield, Bethel, New Fairfield, Sherman, and Putnam Lake and from the State of Connecticut, the DEEP Forest Fire division.

The dry conditions have been slightly ameliorated with the rain of a few days ago but it will not take much to return to very dry conditions. We ask that everyone be especially mindful of the weather and be careful with outside fires, whether they are charcoal based or raw wood fires. In the city of Danbury the Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal Office may issue an outdoor fire permit. These are issued with restrictions on wind and weather conditions. If you hold such a permit, please check with the office at [203-796-1541](tel:203-796-1541) to be sure the burning is allowed on a given day. As Smokey Bear says, "Only you can prevent forest fires".

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured 111, 251 & 255 Main St, 211 White St, South Ave, new sections of development at the Reserve, and the Matrix. Crew members toured the new Army Reserve Center that is now open, as well as the Federal Prison which is undergoing renovations to be converted back to a male facility.

Rescue 1 took part in an education program at Rogers Park Middle School, giving children a tour of the rescue squad and a fire safety talk and demo, including dressing up in gear for the smaller children. Truck 1 participated in show and tell at the Rogers

Park School Family University event. E-23 completed a Career Day presentation at Rogers Park Middle School for 48 students.

Many hours were spent training on the new cut-over to the Nexgen Computer dispatch system, and the switch to iPads as our mobile data terminals.

Members assisted at the Special Olympics Penguin Plunge at Candlewood Lake.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

An improperly installed wood burning stove insert contributed to a chimney fire on Deer Park Rd. Creosote buildup restricted the flue opening to half its intended opening. Lack of a pipe extending from the top of the stove into the chimney flue allowed chunks of creosote to fall down on top of the stove and build up in the fireplace opening. The creosote ignited. Crews dismantled the fireplace enclosure and removed as much of the buildup as possible, ensuring extinguishment. The homeowner is to address further cleaning and inspection by a qualified contractor.

A fire started in combustibles on a tenant's stovetop at Glen Apartments. E-22 ensured extinguishment and initiated a primary search as smoke was banked to the floor. Truck followed up and reported the unit all clear despite considerable clutter in the unit. The Housing Authority's facilities supervisor was notified and DFM Perry investigated. Damage was contained to the stove and cabinets above.

A structure fire occurred at 57 Kenosia Ave due to a utility wire malfunction on a nearby pole. Gable trim was scorched but not actively burning. Power was out to adjacent homes. Crews ensured no active fire or extension into the home or on the adjacent structure. Landlord was contacted. CL&P arrived and repaired damaged wire, and an electrician notified by landlord to re-energize the home.

The highlight of the month was a request for assistance from the City of Torrington on April 3rd. A large fire involving a tire warehouse was threatening the city, and a request came for our foam trailer with Squad 2 and Danbury Fire members. Also requested was the response of our regional Task Force under the Statewide Emergency Response Plan. Using the written plan with Danbury Fire Dispatchers Rivera & Perrotti, put the plan into action by activating Task Force 751, which included DFD Engine 26, Stony Hill Engine 1, Ridgefield Ladder 1, Sandy Hook Ladder 440, Mill Plain Engine 12, and Danbury Squad 7, and under the direction of Danbury Fire Captain Lounsbury went to Torrington to assist.

Command and Staff Activities

- Active shooter class Danbury PD
- Fire Department strategic plan meeting
- Connecticut EMT refresher test
- Stony Hill Fire Department Annual Dinner
- Citizens Hose Company Annual Dinner
- Bid Opening for Civilian Dispatch

- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Danbury Economic Forecast, Chamber of Commerce
- Labor Management meetings
- Danbury Hospital Heliport plan

Emergency Medical / HazMat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The topic for this month was Emergency Childbirth. While childbirth is a natural occurrence, having it occur in a pre-hospital setting can present First Responders with pre-delivery emergencies that they must be prepared to treat. Therefore, it is important that First Responders review emergency childbirth and practice the procedures required to assist with delivery and to recognize the possible complications that could occur and utilize the skills needed to assist with the delivery.

EMT Re-Certification

Thirty-four of our firefighters recently took and passed their State of CT EMT re-certification test on March 28, 2014.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- Education Opportunities
- Introduction of Dr. Bruce Walsh as the new Trauma Program Medical Director
- New Emergency Department Update. The "Ribbon Cutting" event will be held on June 20, 2014. Each service is requested to send representatives in dress uniforms for this event. The actual opening of the Emergency Department is still to be determined.
- EMS Week/Recognition Dinner is May 24, 2014. Each service will have an opportunity to nominate a "provider of the year."
- AEMT Update: No action was taken at the Legislative level in regards to sun-setting the A-EMT certification. Since no action was taken, the A-EMT certification will continue and the recommendation from CEMSMAC is to upgrade to the current A-EMT standard.
- Danbury Hospital Medical Director update

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

115 Volunteer Firefighters attended first quarter training.

Firefighter I

We are two thirds of the way through the Firefighter I course. There are 18 students from nine of our various Danbury Vol. Fire Companies.

Career Division

Modern Fire Behavior

We are presenting information to all crews covering how fires are behaving in modern structures with modern furnishings. Using scientific findings from UL, NIST, and various live burn tests by numerous fire departments, a program was developed by FF Doug Zaniewski. Doug is delivering the class in conjunction with the training division.

Fire School

The Firefighter I class has utilized the training grounds during the winter months, and live burn training has begun for the busy spring season. Fire Depts. from Sandy Hook, Brookfield, Hawleyville, Botsford, and Roxbury utilized our facilities.

Pre-fire

Crews toured Henry Abbott Tech, the Federal Correctional Institute, and various buildings in their districts.

Technical Rescue

Crews assigned to the Rescue Company are taking advantage of warmer weather and drilling on the various rescue tools and equipment on the heavy rescue.

Seminars

The training division attended multiple training classes during the month including a course from National Traffic Incident Management, the Danbury PD on Mall response, and a week at the International Fire Dept. Instructor's conference with Capt. Halas in Indianapolis.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- Meeting at Danbury PD with area Police Depts. and EMS for Mall responses
- Strategic Planning meeting at City Hall
- Annual Dinner at Citizen's Hose Co.
- National Responder Training at the Police Academy
- FD Instructors Conference in Indianapolis
- Fire Service Day at the State Capital
- Meeting with Asst. Airport Admin Safranek on ARFF training updates
- CME at Danbury Hospital

Fire Fighter I Training Activity



Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

Currently E-25's meter is out of service with a battery charging issue. E-26's meter once again had no sound or warning light. This unit was returned to the factory for an estimate to repair. E-24's new starter just did not sound right so it was replaced. The newest starter failed last night. We are currently waiting on another unit from our supplier. The foam valve solenoid and the officer side window regulator were replaced while this unit was here for the second starter. The mufflers on both TRK-1 and TRK-2 were replaced this month. The previous C-30 was sent to the body shop for repair of damages it received while operating on I-84 during a Christmas Eve ice storm.

Early in the month the department switched from laptops to iPads in all our apparatus. We removed all laptops and mounts, and installed the new iPad mounts and functional wiring to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced the lower steering shaft in E-25
- Ordered parts for Squad-1 compressor
- Replaced the Whelen selector switch in C-30
- Replaced radiator in 06F5
- Replaced Kussmaul covers in E-24 and E-26
- Repair exhaust leak E-23
- Serviced 13FT, 06F5, Truck-1, 09FX, 03T4, 13FE
- Serviced the Foam unit after the Torrington tire fire

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

Inspections

This month we inspected the Hillcroft Apts. (192 units). We also inspected several multi-family homes, for a total of 220 apartments. Forty-one Assembly occupancies were inspected this month along with 10 inspections in the health care area. There were 21 business inspections and 25 mercantile inspections completed. Educational inspections are continuing at Park Ave School and Shelter Rock School, as these are two of the schools that are having additions worked on. There were also C/O inspections done at Bldg. 3 of Abbey Woods (the third out of five), RK Manufacturing, and the Lego Store in the Mall.

Investigations

It was a busy month for fire investigations. There were 9 building fires, 2 chimney fires, 1 dryer fire, and 6 vehicle fires in Danbury. There were also several brush fires and rubbish/trash fires.

Plan Reviews

This month there were 43 plan reviews completed. Projects ranging from small stores in the Danbury Fair Mall to larger projects such as the new Hospice Care Facility on the West side of town. There is also a new sub-division with 10 homes to be built at 147-153 Middle River Road.

Continuing Education:

John Osborne, Mark Perry, Gary Bruce, and Jim Russell attended an “Arson Scene Search” class held in Wallingford on April 1-2. Marilyn Gillotti, Bill Weber, and Mark Perry attended a one day class in Easton. Jim Russell attended the Connecticut Fire Marshal’s Association Conference on April 16-17. The main topic of the class was NFPA 1033, which is the Professional Qualifications of a Fire Investigator. It was a very informative class.

Bill Weber has been attending the “541 Committee” which meets once a month to work on ways to get back to using NFPA 1, and simplifying the use of the fire codes. Fire Marshal Jim Russell continues to attend the Leadership Danbury Course put on by the Chamber of Commerce.

Fire Service Day: Fire Marshal Jim Russell and Training Officer Mark Omasta attended Fire Service Day at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on April 15. We met with Representative Jan Giegler to check on several house bills which could affect the Fire Department.

Danbury Fair Mall Home Show: The Office of Community Risk Reduction attended the Danbury Fair Mall Home Show with a booth to promote Fire Prevention on March 29 and 30. Public interest was very good.

The Fire Prevention Poster Contest

Our poster contest has come to an end for this year. This was by far our most successful year. We took in a total of 555 posters. The 4th grade winner was Christian Jolly from the South St School and the 5th grade winner was Tanya D’Mello from Pembroke School. Plaques, certificates, and teddy bears were given to the winners. Teachers, Secretaries and Principals received certificates. Parents of the winners received smoke alarms and CO detectors for their homes.

Danbury Hospital: The sprinkler system is in and workable, however, the fire pump is not quite ready. The alarm system is being tested for acceptance. Mark Perry has been doing a great job staying on top of all inspections and issues on this project.

The Smoke Alarm Initiative

We have stepped up efforts to move forward with the smoke alarm initiative. We have been doing installations every Saturday with the fire crews.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	368
Abatements issued	4
Violations issued	13
Complaints	12
Fire Investigations	31
Fire Safety Programs	25

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3754
Abandoned 911 calls	337
Cellular 911 calls	1980
911 hang up calls	
Admin calls received	800