



**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 Interim Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 July through 21 August 2014 and details activities of the Department.

Danbury has seen several vehicle fires and we would like to offer several safety tips to our citizens if they may ever face this hazard. Cars can catch fire for many reasons, with mechanical or electrical issues being the most common cause, or as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, take action immediately.

Most car fluids are flammable. Heat and electrical sparks plus leaking fluid are all it takes to start a car fire.

How to prevent a car fire:

- Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly.
- If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment.
- Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- Know the danger signs of cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, fluid leaks, an insecure oil cap, or rapid changes in fuel or fluid level or engine temperature.

What to do if your car is on fire:

- Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so and to a safe location off the road.
- Once you have stopped, turn off the engine.
- Get everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- Move everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.

- Call 9-1-1.

Although most crashes do not result in fire, in the event of any crash, call 9-1-1. If there is no sign of fire, wait for emergency assistance to help any injured individuals out of the car.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured the new Emergency Department at Danbury Hospital.

Captain Halas continues to work on the firefighting turn out gear inspection and replacement program. Members worked with the Ridgefield Fire Department at the Danbury Fire School during live burn evolutions to evaluate various types of thermal imaging cameras. DC Meehan delivered a new program on Responding to Violent Incidents developed by the Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Members attended the Applebee's grand reopening where several members are featured in the lobby photo collage of the City. FF Sullivan and DC Meehan assisted at the Bridgewater Fair. Crews reviewed the new Region 5 Mobile Communications Vehicle and also participated in the Region 5 Amateur Radio Relay test.

The truck company repaired the flag pole at Wooster Hose Company. Smoke detector installations continue.

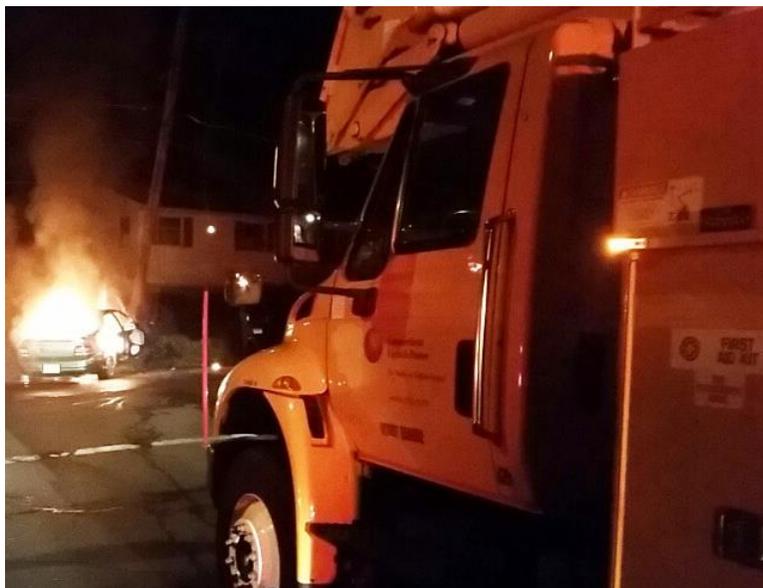


Suppression / Response Activities of Note

An aircraft accident into the swamp off Miry Brook Road posed a challenge for our crew. A single engine airplane went down into the waters of the Miry Brook Swamp, located by a passing Ridgefield FD Ambulance. Members rescued the pilot with a row boat, and then set up a HazMat containment system to control any leakage. The next day DFD crews assisted in the recovery and salvage operation.

Members of the DFD were at the downtown bicycle race and assisted at a few bicycle accidents.

DC Meehan attended a regional training session given by CL&P in Southbury on utility safety, which was actually put to use the very next night as the Department responded to a car accident where the vehicle struck a pole, the live wires came down, and the car caught on fire. Kept at bay by the electrical hazard, firefighters awaited the rapid response of CL&P to cut the power so the fire could be extinguished.



Car fire



Airplane rescue and recovery

Command and Staff Activities

- City wide picnic
- Meeting with Local 801
- City Council Meeting
- Volunteer Council Meeting
- IXP Kickoff Meeting
- Jim Johnson Retirement Luncheon
- Boehringer Annual HazMat Drill
- Applebee's Ribbon Cutting
- Lion's Club Presentation
- Mayor's Reading Challenge
- Labor Board
- Region 5 HazMat Meeting
- Danbury Chamber Leadership Presentation

Emergency Medical / HazMat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

This continuing training program continues to provide and maintain the Emergency Medical certification training needed by our first responders, and is scheduled while they are on duty. The topic for the month of August has been Carbon Monoxide poisoning and the proper use of the Masimo Rad-57 CO pulse oximeter.

CO Poisoning Training and Regional Firefighter Rehabilitation Training

Masimo Corp., in conjunction with the Danbury and Ridgefield Fire Departments, provided a class on Firefighter Emergency Incident Rehabilitation open to all Fire/EMS personnel in Region 5.

Advanced EMT Test

Firefighter Shawn McGee took and passed his Advanced EMT Certification test.

Region Five HazMat

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez and Chief Wiedl attended a planning meeting on August 19 with the other Region Five Battalion leaders to discuss funding, training, and interoperability.

REPT Meeting

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the REPT meeting in Watertown to review the 2014 Homeland Security Grant request from ESF 10 and justify the request for additional funding for training. The meeting was successful and HazMat received \$18,000 for training.

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Fire Instructor Class

King Street Station 14 is hosting the CT Fire Academy Fire Instructor I class. The course is being held on Sundays in August and September.

Quarterly Training

Quarterly training is scheduled with 5 dates from late August through early October. Drills will be conducted utilizing our propane fueled props at the Fire School.

Volunteer FFI student Alex Stuart from Germantown Eng 10 passed his Firefighter I/Haz Mat State practical skills exam on July 26.

Career Division

Foam Trailer Training

All crews completed the foam firefighting refresher and practical skills training with our State issued Regional Foam Trailer. We also trained with the foam system on Airport 20 at the Airport.

Hydrants

The annual hydrant testing program is underway, with the goal to test all 2,100 hydrants in the City by the end of October. To date, 1,333 hydrants (64%) have been tested.

Fairfield County Trauma Recovery Group completed their presentation to all crews concerning Post Traumatic Stress, Symptoms, Treatment and Prevention.

Safety Officer

The Training Officer was called in as Safety Officer to a plane crash near the Airport on July 24.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- Union meeting
- Airplane recovery near Miry Brook Rd
- Ridgefield FD at our burn building for a Thermal Image camera evaluation
- Luncheon for retired Fire Marshal Jim Johnson
- Observe Boehringer Ingelheim's HazMat team drill at Ridgebury Rd
- Rehab lecture and NFPA update in Ridgefield

Training hours Jan 1- July 31, 2014 A-1886, B-1853, C-1662, D-1930 7,331 total



Foam system training

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

E-22 has been having issues completing a full regeneration. We have had the Detroit Diesel Technician here several times this past month trying to diagnose and remedy the failure. We changed the Diesel Particulate Filter and the output temperature sensor. Currently, this unit has now fully regenerated and seems to be functioning well. E-23 was in for a full service this month with new brakes (both axles). We replaced the entire exhaust system in this engine, repaired the cab lift, repaired wiring issues with brake circuit, replaced front shocks and a new front suction actuation motor.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced voltage regulator E-24
- Replaced right rear outside tire E-22
- Replaced the batteries E-23
- Replace Plymovent bladders E-25 & E-23
- Replaced batteries in Trk-1 after 2 of the 6 batteries exploded

- Replaced starter in E-26
- Replaced driver's seats in Trk-1, Trk-2 and E-23
- Repaired electrical harness for transmission speed sensor Squad-1
- Repaired multiple rescue and chain saws

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

Inspections

This month we inspected the Hilton Garden Inn and Hampton Inn (274 rooms). We inspected several multi-family units for a total of 392 apartments. We also did 28 misc. inspections, 11 liquor inspections, 43 places of assembly, 22 businesses, and 26 educational occupancies. There were 12 health care inspections, most of them at Danbury Hospital. We also did 23 mercantile inspections. The private schools are also in the process of being inspected, as well as the FBO's around the Danbury Airport.

Danbury Public Schools

We have now completed our inspections on the four schools that are undergoing additions/renovations. They are Stadley Rough School, Mill Ridge Middle School, Shelter Rock School, and Park Avenue School. At this time, all public schools in Danbury have been inspected, and are ready for the school year to begin.

Fire Investigations

This month we investigated two vehicle fires. Both incidents are arson fires.

Plan Reviews

Our team spent 29 hours this month reviewing plans for several projects in the city. Renovations or store fit-outs include the Danbury Mall and Wooster School.

Large Projects within the City

Danbury Hospital is just about finished up as far as our inspections go. The Belimo project is also coming to an end. There has been a problem with a valve in their fire protection storage tank, which has led to other problems with the city's water pressure at the west end of town. All involved are working on a fix. Mannkind Corporation is in the beginning of a major renovation which will increase their production capacity by three times. Kennedy Flats is nearing site approval to build 375 apartments on Kennedy Ave.

Training

FM Jim Russell is continuing to attend "Leadership Danbury," put on by the Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The program will conclude at the end of September.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	835
Abatements issued	2
Violations issued	0
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	3
Fire Safety Programs	5

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3591
Abandoned 911 calls	351
Cellular 911 calls	1978
Admin calls received	730