



**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 January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

There are two products commonly found in homes today that we would like to raise awareness for safety considerations. The following information is provided by the National Fire Protection Association's Public Education Division.

The first is 9-volt batteries which are found in most battery-operated smoke alarms. These can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care. Because the positive and negative posts are close together, a metal object touching both can cause a short circuit, and make enough heat to start a fire. Keep them in their original packaging until ready to use; it is unsafe to store them near keys, coins, pens, paper clips, or other batteries. Cover the posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape when they are loose or when they are discarded. Weak batteries may have enough charge to start a fire if thrown away with other metal items.

The other product to handle with care is compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). In addition to using less electricity, they also have a positive impact on the global climate. When a CFL burns out it may smoke and the plastic base may blacken. CFLs should never be discarded with household trash. The EPA recommends consumers use local recycling options or the annual hazardous waste collection day. CFL bulbs contain a small trace of mercury within the glass. If broken, open a window to air out the area for 5-10 minutes, turn off forced air heating or cooling systems, and leave the room. Collect broken glass and visible powder using stiff cardboard, tape, or a damp paper towel and place in a covered glass jar until proper disposal. Mercury will likely dissipate to zero concentrations within an hour.

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

Crews toured the old jail at 80 Main Street. A den of Cub Scouts and parents were given a tour of HQ. A student from Shepaug Valley HS participated in a job shadow program.

TAC-1 assisted DPD by opening up an impounded car with spreaders, cutters and rams to aid in a drug and weapon search.

Numerous hydrants were dug out by the various companies in their respective districts, as well as plowing at HQ, and shoveling and sand cleanup at all stations.

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

Many cold weather emergencies were responded to, such as broken pipes, water leaks, MVAs, and slips and falls on ice were the theme this period.

Several public service calls were made where crews rendered assistance to two elderly residents by shoveling their driveways and went beyond required actions by contacting family, an off-shift Lt. with whom the woman was familiar, elderly services and social service reps to assist a citizen with mild dementia who was living alone amidst various hazards.

A structure fire on Clason Place was difficult due to access due to narrowing by snow piles. Crews effected a rapid knockdown of a car fire which had spread to the adjacent house. On arrival, flames were extending from the car to the house with smoke showing at the top floor soffit, necessitating evacuation of residents and opening of walls to check for extension. E22 and Squad 1 managed the fire attack with E5 hooking a hydrant and hand stretching to E22. Truck, E23 and SQ1 handled checking for extension and overhaul. SQ1 assumed RIT responsibilities after knockdown and utilized the grip hoist to move the burned vehicle away from the structure. Following investigation by DFM Osborne, the tenants were able to reoccupy as damage was kept to a minimum. No injuries reported.

An incident on Feb. 7 was a call for a woman choking on Horseshoe Dr. TAC 1, returning from a prior call, recognized that they were closer to the location than E23, and responded. Dispatcher Tomchik kept the woman's friend on the phone and encouraged her to use the Heimlich maneuver until our arrival. On arrival the crew found a young woman cyanotic and unresponsive. Our personnel assessed the patient, inserted an oral airway, ventilated w/ BVM until EMS arrival, when the medic was able to extract a large piece of meat from her throat. The outcome was remarkable, with the woman able to speak before arrival at the ED.

We responded to Tarrywile Park for a distraught teen who had walked onto the Park property "to think". It was dark and the temperature was approximately 6 degrees with considerable wind. The boy was not dressed properly and phoned his father when he

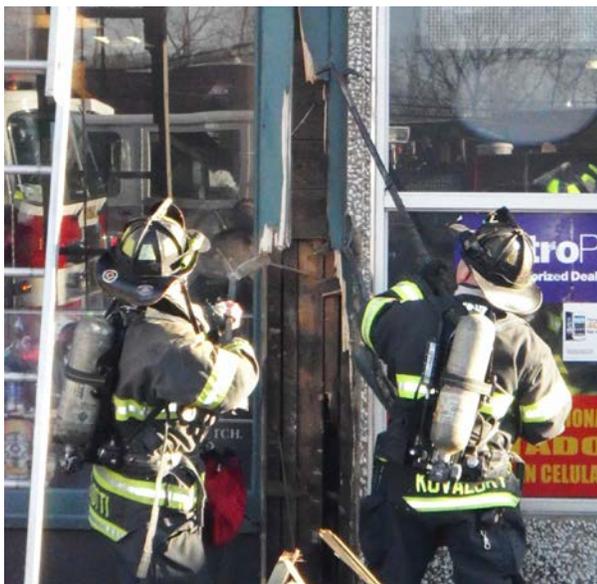
became disoriented. He was located, and EMS evaluated and transported him for possible hypothermia. The call ended extremely well, but was a poignant reminder of the fine line that sometimes exists between good outcomes and bad ones.

An electrical fire in the basement wall was extinguished on Hayestown Heights.

On Lake Ave, a chimney fire was extinguished with a power gun and followed by removal of materials from the fireplace and smoke removal from the building.

A camper trailer fire was fought on Butternut Lane.

A fire at 18 White Street was put out in short order before serious damage could occur to the 1898 vintage building.



Fire at 18 White Street



Using Hurst tool at an MVA



Camper fire at Butternut Lane

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Annual Dinner Padanaram Hose Company
- Annual Dinner Germantown Hose Company
- Meeting with Volunteer Council Officers
- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Meeting with IXP and Priority Dispatch
- City Council Meeting
- Meeting with Engineering for classroom building

### **Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez**

EMS Wednesday

For the month of December, the focus has been Medical Assessment and Cold Weather Emergencies.

EMT Recertification

The Annual EMT re-certification test is scheduled for March 27, 2015 at Beaver Brook Volunteer Fire Company. Advanced EMTs who are required to take two certification exams will have the opportunity to test at Danbury Fire Headquarters on March 30<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2015.

EMS Supervisor Meeting

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisor's meeting at Danbury Hospital on 2/18/15. Topics of discussion included:

- Educational Opportunities
- Trauma data
- Stroke data
- BLS 12 lead EKG
- Behavioral care handoff
- DPH/OEMS report
- AEMT Certification

### **Communications / 911 – Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers**

See Department Statistical Reports.

### **Training – Provisional Training Officer David Kirkwood**

*Volunteer Division*

Quarterly Training

1<sup>st</sup> quarter training is underway with Blood Borne and HazMat refreshers being covered in February. ICS will be addressed in March with an outside presenter, Chief Anthony Kastros.

Firefighter I

We are 2 weeks into the four month Firefighter I/Haz Mat Operations course. There are 16 students from various Danbury Volunteer Fire Stations.

### *Career Division*

Naugatuck Valley Community College

The Spring Semester starts January 24<sup>th</sup> with the course “Building Construction” being presented at Fire Headquarters every Wednesday evening.

### Photovoltaic Solar Energy

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

### Fire School

Currently closed for the winter months.

### Fire Officer 1

Lieutenant Shea Hanson is currently taking the Fire Officer 1 course.

### Dewalt Tool Safety Class

We continue the ongoing Dewalt safety classes

### OSHA Safety – Guidelines and Responsibilities

Fed OSHA is currently instructing the crews on basic safety guidelines and when OSHA should be notified when we are out in the field.

### Safety Officer

The Safety Officer was called in on 1/28 for a structure fire at 3 Clason Pl.

### Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- Volunteer Council Meeting at Miry Brook VFD
- Staff meeting with B group

### **Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo**

Truck-1 has arrived and we are trying our best to get it fitted out for service. The severe weather of the past six weeks has been causing a host of issues with our other apparatus and we have been very busy keeping the rest of the fleet functioning which has not allowed us time to get the new Truck-1 in service. We are hoping that a projected “break” in the severe cold and snow will allow us the opportunity to complete this project soon.

A Pierce Manufacturing Engineer from Wisconsin flew here in early February to inspect and evaluate both remaining aerial devices. It is our belief that the City could benefit from doing a light refurbishment of one of our older aerials which would provide a dependable Truck for the next 6 years, which will defer the purchasing of a new aerial till that time thus offering considerable savings.

Fit testing is continuing and as soon as the career division is complete, we will be scheduling the Volunteers.

#### Other repairs completed:

- Replaced two rear tires Trk-2
- Replaced four rear tires E-26
- Removed and reworked 6" front suction valve E-23
- Rebuilt several sets of tire chains
- Replaced four tires on 03FT
- Replaced roller pins on Trk-1 E-Track
- Repaired several Overhead door issues here at HQ
- Replaced fuel filter 03FT1
- Replaced damaged exhaust components and drain valves E-23
- Rebuilt light assembly left side basket Trk-1
- Replaced tray latch assembly TAC-1

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

##### Staff

Our new Fire Inspector Jonathan DeJoseph is attending the Pre Certification Course hosted by the Office of Education and Data Management (OEDM) of the State of Connecticut. He will be attending this class three days a week at the Rocky Hill Fire Department. The class will end in June, at which time he will become a Deputy Fire Marshal.

##### Inspections

This month we inspected 14 apartments. We also did 19 misc. inspections, 5 liquor inspections, 16 places of assembly, 15 businesses, and 3 educational occupancies. There were 12 health care inspections. We did 11 mercantile inspections. We inspected two hotels: the Quality Inn Hotel with 78 rooms, and the Spring Hill Suites with 109 rooms.

##### Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 32 hours reviewing plans for Kennedy Flats, several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, the Charles Ives house renovation, and several more.

##### Fire Investigations

This month we had 7 fire investigations. We had 4 building fires, 2 vehicle fires, and 1 dumpster fire.

##### Continuing Education

This month our team spent 24 hours in continuing education courses.

##### Fire Prevention Poster Contest

We have just received a letter from the Connecticut Fair Plan that one of our local winners has also won as a County Winner. The winner, Vatsal Bandaru, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader from Shelter Rock School, will have his poster on next year's calendar. He and his parents, teacher, and principal will be attending a luncheon in March where he will be recognized for his fine work. His poster will also be displayed at the State Capital.

##### Fire House Software

We have been advancing our use of Fire House Software in the office. We are now entering all activities on a daily basis into Fire House, such as inspections (by occupancy), complaints, training, etc. Everyone is catching on and it is working better each month.

**Training Class for our department**

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, John Doucette and Mike Gilberti from the Office of Education and Data Management came to our office and gave a class on Gas Station Inspections. After the class we traveled to the Sunoco Station on Germantown Road to do an actual inspection at the station. We will then start doing inspections on a regular basis when the weather breaks. We each received 6 cont. ed. credits.

**ISO Ratings**

Thanks to John Osborne, Mark Perry, and Gary Bruce for researching information on ISO ratings in the State of Connecticut. Our office receives many calls from insurance companies regarding this classification. Now we can give accurate ratings when we receive these calls. This rating has to do with how far a building is from a fire hydrant.

**Three Family and Above Fire Inspections**

Letters have been sent out to all Balmforth Ave. home owners of three family and above homes. These letters are to set up appointments to do fire inspections on that street. We will continue to try and increase the number of inspections for this occupancy.

**Knox Box Program**

Thanks to all in our department for brainstorming to come up with ideas to improve our Knox box situation. Much thanks to Gary Bruce for putting this on paper and helping to come up with a way to store the data needed for this program.

**Department Statistical Reports**

**Community Risk Reduction**

Monthly inspections	306
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	7
Fire Safety Programs	0

**Public Safety Answering Point**

Total 911 calls	3591
Abandoned 911 calls	298
Cellular 911 calls	1837
Admin calls received	761