



**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 March 21st, 2015 through April 21st, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

With the onset of spring and the warmer weather, many of our citizens have also checked the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. However, it is necessary to do more than just check or replace the batteries. These detectors have a life span just like any other device. Please check with the manufacturers' instructions of any such devices in your homes.

These devices should be replaced if they have been in use for more than the suggested time span of the manufacturer. For example most commonly used carbon monoxide detectors have a suggest usage of 5 to 7 years. If your device is older than this, it is probably time to replace it. Look at the original installation instructions or contact the manufacturer to confirm the recommended replacement schedule. Most smoke detector producers suggest a replacement of the device at around 10 years. Please check with the labeling or the instructions as to your devices useful life. Although they have a proven history of activation and notifying residents of the potential threat of fires and hazardous conditions, they are limited and we all must be vigilant in maintaining and replacing them so as to be certain that they are functioning as desired.

This month, we here at the fire department wish to remind everyone that the better weather brings people out of our homes and outside to enjoy the warmer climate. Use extra caution while driving to allow for bicyclists and motorcyclists. While riding, please use safety visibility vests and helmets. Pedestrians, runners and children will all be more often found using our streets. Please be especially alert to these users of our roads and sidewalks. Have a safe and happy spring!

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured Belimo's new building on Turner Road.

Lt. Ryan conducted tours of Leahy's Tank facility on Old Sherman Turnpike, and FDC Inspections of AMC Theaters, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Ingersoll Auto.

Lt. Daly and his E26 crew presented a Career Day session to 40 seventh graders at the Westside Middle School. He and FF Stilson provided another similar session for 48 seventh graders at Rogers Park Middle School.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A couch fire in an apartment on the 3rd floor of Samuels Court at 5 Scuppo Rd was extinguished by a single sidewall sprinkler head. A significant smoke condition existed on the 3rd floor with some smoke on the 2nd floor. The Red Cross was contacted and responded to relocate 3 units of occupants. DFM report resulted in confirmation that the occupant was using a lighter to locate something under the couch and lit the fabric underneath on fire, resulting in the couch burning.

The Department responded to a clothes dryer fire in unit 18-1 in Westwood Village at 55 Mill Plain Rd. The occupant came home to find the unit fully charged with smoke and proceeded to call 411. The call was transferred to Dispatch. On arrival, E26 assessed the situation and a line was stretched but not charged, as the fire was extinguished by a ½ inch domestic water pipe which separated, providing adequate extinguishment water. The Truck Company and SQ 1 ventilated the three levels of the unit. The occupant's pet dog was removed prior to FD arrival and was transported to a vet for evaluation. No other injuries were reported. Adjacent units were accessed as water had migrated from the fire unit. Minimal structural damage was evident with significant smoke damage.

E26 responded to a reported odor of gas at 11 Abbey La., Abbey Woods building 1, in the 4th floor hallway. Units were accessed and a strong odor of natural gas was noted in unit 1416, a vacant model unit. Metering resulted in 6% LEL in the unit. A gas stove which had been left on was identified as the cause. E26 shut off the stove, opened windows and requested the Truck Company respond for mechanical ventilation.

Crewmembers effectively rescued a hiker who was injured remotely off the white trail in Tarrywile Park, up behind the water tank. The Gator, along with the new stokes and some ropes and rigging, were used to extract the 18 year old male hiker from the woods. The patient had been sitting on a large rock when a small tree fell, striking him. He fell approximately 10 feet onto rocks below, with the impact of the tree. Crew members worked as a team to safely and effectively get the hiker to the ambulance for transport to the ER for a possible lung injury.

Crews also responded to a chimney fire on Mountainville Road and a fatal MVA near Birchwood Condos.

Command and Staff Activities

- Weekly IXP oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Meeting with the Union Principal Officers
- Annual disaster planning update with First Light and area Public Safety Officials
- Multiple meetings with City Engineering Dept. on new Classroom project
- Meeting with Volunteers and CIRMA regarding Workers Comp issues
- FF recruitment meeting with Civil Service
- Citizens Hose annual dinner
- Swearing in Steve Rogers as Training Officer
- Budget hearing at City Hall
- Board of Awards meeting
- IXP/ Danbury Hospital contract meeting at Finance
- Staff meeting with D group
- City Council Meeting



Steve Rogers is sworn in as Training Officer

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday was Opiate Abuse and the administration of Narcan by the Emergency First Responder. Prescription opiate abuse is a rising public health issue and CT has seen an increase in admissions due to the abuse of Oxycodone and Vicodin. Being at the forefront to battle the opiate abuse epidemic, the Danbury Fire Department is now able to administer Narcan and as a result of this and their ability to rapidly deploy to the scene of an Emergency Medical Call will save many lives.

Fifteen personnel recently took and passed their State Of CT EMT re-certification test on March 27, 2015.

The Danbury Fire Department Regional HAZMAT team has acquired four Gamma Rae radiological detectors. These detectors, purchased with regional money, will further enhance the metering and monitoring capabilities of our First Responders, especially when responding to high risk assets such as the Mall or the Hospital.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- CME Opportunities
- Trauma data
- Stroke data
- Regional MCI Drill

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Supervisor Rich Gallagher

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

- On April 8th, Steve Rogers was appointed to Drillmaster.
- Drillmaster Rogers initiated program for all crews to participate in equipment familiarization of the gear carried on TAC 1 and Squad 1.
- Members took the annual EMT recertification test.
- Drillmaster Rogers attended the FDIC (Fire Department Instructors' Conference) in Indianapolis. This convention helped to hone instructor skills with a focus on Firefighter safety.
- Drillmaster Rogers reviewed Fire School plans with Assistant Chief Omasta and City engineers.
- Drillmaster Rogers organized and cleaned out the training office.
- There was a total of 1094 hours spent in training for the month of April.

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

New Truck-1 is at our dealer in Rocky Hill for a couple of warranty items that we found while fitting this unit out. Old Truck-1 was out of service earlier this month twice for failed alternators and a wire harness fire. Currently this unit is out of service again with a failed torsion bar adjustment rod, we are awaiting parts from Pierce Manufacturing.

We have received the reports and recommendations from Pierce for the refurbishment of one of our older Aerials. These reports are quite detailed and will require some time to evaluate, make changes and suggest recommendations. Squad-2 has been repaired and returned to service as well as the State asset Foam Unit #6 which was at Shipman's Fire Equipment for State provided repairs and service. The new inflatable boat has arrived at the dealer and we'll be picking up later this week.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced brakes all wheel positions E-26
- Replaced four rear tires E-24
- Replaced battery tray, siren and service E-26
- Replaced batteries and Kussmaul charger E-22
- Repaired oil leak E-21
- Replaced Steering Shaft in E-23
- Replaced Air Management Unit in Squad-2
- Serviced 13FT and had recalls performed at Colonial Ford

- Car 30 sent to body shop for repairs to bumper
- Lay-up plow and snow blowers
- Install new Hurst Tools in Squad-1

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

Our new Fire Inspector Jonathan DeJoseph is attending the second half of the Pre-Certification Course put on 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 623 apartments. We also did 4 misc. inspections, 11 liquor inspections, 11 places of assembly, 13 businesses, and 3 educational occupancies. There were 4 health care and 11 mercantile inspections.

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 46 hours reviewing plans for Kennedy Flats and several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, including the Garage Store, Anthropology, and Sears.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 25 fire investigations. We had 7 building fires, 7 vehicle fires, and 8 rubbish/dumpster fires. There were 13 other types of fires as well (brush, mulch, vegetation, and a chimney fire).

Continuing Education

This month our team spent 30 hours in continuing education courses.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

On March 26th, we attended a luncheon for all the County Winners of the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. 600 people were in attendance, including the County Winner, Vatsal Bandaru, his father, his Principal, Ms. Julia Horne, and Art Teacher, Mrs. Donna Gagliardi, all of Shelter Rock School. At the end of the luncheon, Vatsal Bandaru was announced the State Winner. This is the first State Winner we have had in the 31 years of the poster contest. For Vatsal's work on the poster, he received \$150 for winning at the county level and \$750 for winning the State prize. His school will also receive a \$500 grant. His poster will be on the front page of the Fire Prevention Poster Contest Calendar for next year. All of the County winners will have their posters displayed at the State Capital Building.

Tier II Reporting

We are grateful to DFM Gary Bruce, Jonathan DeJoseph, and FF Shannon McFadden for their work on gathering and entering data for the Tier II Reporting system in Cameo Software. This information is sent in by companies in Danbury with any Hazardous Materials. We will be trying to make this information accessible to our Fire Officers if they are ever involved in a HazMat situation.

Three Family and Above Fire Inspections

We had sent out letters to all residents that streets begin with “A” and “B”. We have received some calls, and have completed some inspections on these streets. We will continue to try and inspect as many three families and above as possible.

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. We have obtained a list from the Knox Company of all of our locations. We are working on the program to better organize the information. Many thanks to FF McFadden and Chief Charly Slagle for their efforts.

Public Relations

We gave a fire safety talk to the residents at Jensen’s Trailer Park. There were approx. 30 people in attendance. It was very well received. We mentioned our smoke alarm program at this talk, and were out there the next day installing several alarms.

NFIRS

At this time, we have approx. 40 unfinished reports in the system. Officers, please make an effort to complete these reports ASAP so we can keep current with the State of CT.

Danbury Fair Mall Home Show

On April 11-12, we were at the Mall home show in a booth talking with people, and handing out fire safety information. Our efforts were well received.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	679
Abatements issued	4
Violations issued	0
Complaints	2
Fire Investigations	25
Fire Safety Programs	25

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	2818
Abandoned 911 calls	326
Cellular 911 calls	1862
Admin calls received	856