



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

*Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.*

 **HOLIDAY DECORATING**

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING**

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



*Before Heading  
Out or to Bed*

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

**FACTS**

- ! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Nearly half** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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

E26 and C30 assisted a citizen by dragging a deer carcass to the roadside for pickup after the animal had apparently been struck and killed by a vehicle on Driftway Road.

10 Webelos Scouts, 10 Girl Scouts, and 10-15 special needs students were given tours of HQ this period. As in previous years, Lt. Daly is spearheading the Salvation Army Food Drive and Angel Tree gift sponsorship programs during this holiday season.

Firefighter Culbreth delivered a Veterans Day presentation at the Cartus Corporation. DC Meehan assisted with a Mental Health First Aid program in Sharon, CT.

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

Crews responded to an alarm in a building housing a car collection. On arrival, E26 reported odor of gasoline and subsequently, elevated CO levels as well as meterable VOCs. On keyholder arrival and investigation, it became evident that a mechanic had started a number of vintage Porsches in the afternoon. Although he ventilated the building at that time, there likely was some exhaust still present when he left, resulting in the activation of a beam smoke detector. CO levels evidently were not high enough to actuate roof mounted exhaust fans. Responding units ensured thorough ventilation.

An incident at 1 Padanaram Rd., A&P Super Food Mart, was a fire in an empty produce cooler unit. A bank employee within the store extinguished the fire with an ABC extinguisher. However, DFD had to disconnect power to the unit and address smoke issues. DFM Bruce investigated and determined the cause to be degradation of rubber plugs, allowing water, over time, to short receptacle wiring.

A vehicle extrication was made following a two-car collision on Backus Ave., in front of Red Lobster. Injuries did not appear to be life-threatening. Three victims were transported in two ambulances. E26, Squad-1, Trk-1, E22 and C30 responded, along with two ambulances and the medic. Fire Police also assisted in traffic management.

Squad-1 and E26 assisted State PD at the City hangar during a 3 ½ hour accident reconstruction exercise as part of an ongoing investigation. The crews assisted in rolling and positioning the subject vehicle.

Squad-1 and Car 30 worked on Tower Place, where a small cat had been stuck in a very old, brick lined storm sewer for four days. With the help of a can of cat food, and the animal snare, the cat was tricked into being captured, and released into the custody of its owner unharmed.



Cat rescue on Tower Place

A tragic accident involving a boat claimed the life of an elderly man at the Danbury Yacht Club.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- State Wide Emergency Response Exercise
- Rick Palanzo's Retirement Party
- Multiple Department Winter Storm Prep Meeting
- DFM Mark Perry's Retirement Dinner
- Ability Beyond Breakfast
- Ethan Allen Luncheon
- Budget Meeting
- Wake and funeral service for retired A/C Gene Singer
- Meeting with Engineer regarding burn building
- Interviews for Firefighter recruits
- Radio infrastructure project meeting
- Live burn training with crews
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Construction meetings for the new classroom facility
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee
- Teach the NVCC class Terrorism for First Responders
- Staff meeting

### **Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Coord. Jamie Gagliardo**

Approximately 4 hours a week have been spent in the Danbury 911 center for observation to create a better working system between the fire department and the dispatchers. All of our current response guidelines have been reviewed in depth. This prompted many corrections to the guidelines allowing for a more efficient and responsive fire department.

All the current career and volunteer coverage areas have been reviewed and are in the process of being updated in the computer systems.

We have been working with the Volunteer Firefighters Council with the purchase iPads for each company to be used as Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) so that they will have

access to important response information. After the purchase process is complete these will require software downloads and training.

With the review of the current guidelines along with the new implementation of Incident Command Systems (ICS) policies, the communications office has been added to a list of response types. The communications officer will assist the incident commander with many tasks such as communications to the dispatch center, field phone calls, and accountability. Due to these recent changes, the communications coordinator has attended three of the four career company live burns to work with the incident commanders and train in these new tasks.

Communications assisted the training office in the re-development of a "Tactical Worksheet" to be used by the incident commanders at the scene of a large incident.

With the assistance of Rich Gallagher, the Headquarters Federal Informer alerting system has been changed from low band to UHF. This is a small part of the large radio system upgrades that Rich has been diligently working on.

The Spruce Mountain Communications Box refurbish project has been completed. With the help of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association and the material supplied by Paul Estefan, 4 Saturdays were spent painting the exterior of the container with 2 coats of an epoxy primer and 2 coats of an epoxy finish coat.



Before & After Refurbishment

## **Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers**

### ***Volunteer Division***

#### **Quarterly Training**

Fourth Quarter live burn training will start in this month. ICS familiarization continues to be focal point of all fire department drills.

Third Quarter training included gear maintenance and proper use of SCBA's.

2016 First Quarter training courses are in development.

#### **Hose Testing**

Companies are in the process of the annual fire hose testing.

## **Career Division**

### **Career ICS**

These training Modules sharpen awareness for Incident Management, safety, proper maintenance of gear and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment.

Development of these courses required tremendous research that included training objectives, establishment of effective teaching methods and project implementation.

These courses have been well received by the department and are listed below:

- Module 1: ICS – Training Officer Rogers
- Module 2: Gear maintenance, specs, cleaning, etc. – Captain Halas
- Module 3: SCBA's – Provisional Communication Coordinator Gagliardo

### **Career Live Burns**

As of Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, all career live burns will be complete. Anyone who had missed their burn can attend remaining volunteer burn days or nights.

### **Fire Instructor Class**

Fire Fighters Culbreth, Hines, Rivera, Moore, Nolet and Sellick are nearing completion of FSI-1 class. All participants have expressed appreciation for class and look forward to applying their new skill sets.

### **Hydrants**

All hydrant testing is 99 percent complete. The water department has allowed resumption of hydrant testing.

### **NVCC**

The fall semester class, "Principles and Practices for Terrorism Response," continues on Wednesday evenings at Fire Headquarters through December. Professors Wiedl and Omasta are doing a fine job.

### **Hose Testing**

Companies are 99 percent complete with annual fire hose testing.

### **Rope Training**

B Group and TO Rogers rappelled off Patriot Garage.

### **Live Burns at Fire School**

- 10-23-15 – Brewster Live Burn
- 10-25-15 – Hawleyville and Botsford Live Burn
- 11-01-15 – Sherman Live Burn
- 11-05-15 – Ridgefield Live Burn
- 11-06-15 – C-group Live Burn
- 11-09-15 – Stony Hill Live Burn
- 11-12-15 – D-group Live Burn
- 11-13-15 – A-group Live Burn
- 11-15-15 – Sandy Hook Live Burn
- 11-16-15 – Stony Hill Live Burn
- 11-20-15 – B-group Live Burn

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

- Multiple visits to Fire School to monitor progress
- Live Burns with Career crews
- Multiple ICS classes



Drone view of Classroom building

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

E-23 is still in Rocky Hill at the Pierce dealer having the body doors replaced under warranty as well as the body repaired and painted. We have a solid date of November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for ground ladder testing and November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> will be the Underwriters Laboratories Non Destructive Testing of two of our three aerials. The plow truck has been serviced and at our next available opportunity we will be installing the plow for the upcoming season.

### Other repairs completed:

- Replaced batteries old Trk-1
- Replaced batteries E-24
- Serviced 09FX, replaced battery, repaired rear hatch
- Serviced 03PT, replaced sway bar links, steering stabilizer
- Serviced 01CT, replaced running lights, replaced rear brakes
- Replaced spark plugs and repaired damaged coil wiring (mice)
- Repaired E-26 air horns
- Replaced front tires, Q2B siren E-25
- Prepared 96PS for transportation to successful bidder
- Replaced both rear spring packs 10PA2
- Rebuilt light bar, replaced brakes forward rear axle (old) Truck-1

- Replaced Voltage Regulator, left rear door handle E-24
- Updated air fittings Truck-1 for umbilical Scott regulators

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

Our two new Fire Inspectors, Tyler Bergemann and Eric Handau, continue to attend Fire Marshal Certification Class in Rocky Hill, CT three days each week. They are scheduled to finish on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will begin the Fire Investigation portion of the class on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and will be complete on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We are looking forward to having them on our team.

**Inspections:**

This month we inspected 538 apartments. We also did 28 misc. inspections, 28 liquor inspections, 15 places of assembly, 18 businesses, 1 day care, and 3 educational occupancies. There were 4 health care and 3 mercantile inspections. We will increase our numbers as our staff rebuilds to full strength.

**Plan Reviews:**

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 21 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, Sears, South Street condo project, and more.

**Fire Investigations**

This month we had 3 building fires, 4 vehicle fires, and 2 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires, and all were investigated.

**Public Presentations**

We finished up our school presentations for the year.

**Poster Contest**

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest began on October 1, 2015. We have a hard act to follow after having the State Winner in last year’s contest. We have already been working in preparation for this year. All material has been delivered to the schools that are participating.

**Department Statistical Reports**  
Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	614
Abatements issued	3
Violations issued	0
Complaints	1
Fire Investigations	6
Fire Safety Programs	6

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3072
Abandoned 911 calls	396
Cellular 911 calls	2146
Admin calls received	870