



**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 November 21st, 2015 through December 21st, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

Every day, millions of people wake up, go to work or school, and take part in social events. But every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. Routines change drastically, and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives and routines can be. Each disaster can have lasting effects — people may be seriously injured or killed, and devastating and costly property damage can occur. People entering any public assembly building need to be prepared in case of an emergency.

BEFORE YOU ENTER

- » **Take a good look.** Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable? Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit? Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?
- » **Have a communication plan.** Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of emergency and you are separated from family or friends.
- » **Plan a meeting place.** Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.

WHEN YOU ENTER

- » **Take a good look.** Locate exits immediately. When you enter a building you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.
- » **Check for clear exit paths.** Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed. Call the local fire marshal to register a complaint.
- » **Do you feel safe?** Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.

**DURING AN
EMERGENCY**

React immediately. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

Get out, stay out! Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

FACT

A fire at The Station nightclub in W. Warwick, RI, on February 20, 2003, claimed 100 lives and is the fourth-deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history. Since that fire, NFPA has enacted tough new code provisions for fire sprinklers and crowd management in nightclub-type venues. Those provisions mark sweeping changes to the codes and standards governing safety in assembly occupancies.

www.nfpa.org/education



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Truck Company assisted a woman who had accidentally locked her keys in a storage unit on Great Pasture Rd. The woman was so impressed with the DFD, its personnel and their attitude and willingness to help, that she drove to HQ to personally thank the crew again. On another occasion, the Truck Company assisted a citizen by retrieving her keys from a storm drain on Main St.

E24 and C30 helped workers evaluate a new opticom installation at Newtown Rd and Old Sherman Tpke.

A fire truck delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus to an annual holiday event on Spring Street.

Crews toured Kennedy Flats this period.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A 25-year-old heroin drug user who overdosed had a near-death experience on Hospital Ave. E23 crew arrived on scene first and administered nasal naloxone per protocol. Their actions resulted in the victim with little to no respiratory function being revived and transported.

An incident at Pippa's Sports Café on South St. was an excessive heat with scorching but no ignition call. Apparently, a length of Romex wire was bent over the edge of air handling ductwork, which shorted and generated a smoke condition. DFD responded and isolated the circuit before a fire started.

A gas leak was reported in a residence on Beaver Brook Road. Crews discovered a leak in a flex line supplying gas to the stove. E24 shut off gas to the house and to the stove. Eversource was notified.

There was another close call on Virginia Avenue, as two young women had been baking cookies for about 3 hours when the home's CO detector sounded. They shut off the stove, called 911 and were instructed to evacuate. On arrival they reported not feeling well. EMS arrived quickly to evaluate them and eventually transported them to the ED. Crews recreated the situation and metered elevated CO levels at the stove in short order. Gas was secured and the occupants advised to have the malfunctioning stove serviced prior to use.

An incident on Apple Blossom La. in Candlewood Trailer Park was a near-fire in a water heater separated from the structure by a thin sheet of metal. The owner was lucky to be home to notice a breaker had tripped and the heater had begun to smoke; lucky also that she lived two doors away from E10 member, Anthony Rongetti, who responded quickly and radioed that there was no smoke or fire and that it appeared as though the heating element had burned out. E24 remained on scene for the DFM.

A stovetop fire on Acre Drive extended to the kitchen cabinets and range hood and filled the attic with smoke due to an unused vent duct extending up from the microwave. Once again fate played a role in that the homeowner, a recently returned combat veteran, was at home and was able to extinguish the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher. Crews ventilated the main floor and attic space. DFM Osborne investigated.

Assistance was given in a mutual aid Land Search response at the request of Ridgefield Fire for help in locating a missing hiker at Bennett's Park. TAC1 was dispatched with the Gator and worked with RFD and DEEP to successfully locate the woman approximately 3 hours later.

Crews responded to an unchecked water flow from a sprinkler head in a dorm room at Pinney Hall, WCSU Westside Campus. Apparently, a student had hung a coat hanger in the sprinkler head opening and caused activation. WCSU PD was on scene. Response was upgraded to Code 1 in hopes of reducing water damage. E 26 was escorted to the 6th floor room and attempted to stem the flow as other members, with E22 proceeded to the main valve. Truck Company worked on shutting down zone valves for the 6th floor. Approximately 10 units were affected on floors 5 and 6. Water damage and electrical circuits were the principal concerns. Crews assisted in dewatering efforts and securing affected circuits. The O'Neill Ctr. was opened as a temporary shelter for displaced students.

Crews responded to the fatal construction accident on December 8th at Cedar Drive.

Companies responded to the construction accident on December 14th on White Street when a worker jack hammered into electric transmission lines.

A chimney fire spread to a roof on Marianna Farms Drive was brought quickly under control, limiting damage to the house:



Command and Staff Activities

- Mayor's and Council's swearing in
- Captain Arconti's retirement party
- F.C.I. Community Relations Board
- A&B Group Holiday Party
- Housing Authority's Holiday Party
- Lions Club Breakfast
- State of the City Luncheon
- Volunteer Council Meeting with Finance
- Boehringer Ingelheim Lunch meeting
- Ridgefield Radio Project meeting
- Volunteer Fire Department Toy Drive
- C&D Group Holiday Party
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certification requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes held while on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

For the month of December the focus has been re-certifying all our personnel in CPR for the Professional Rescuer, insuring skill proficiency in adult, child and infant CPR and the proper use of the automatic external defibrillator or AED.

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 50 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the first few minutes of a witnessed cardiac event.

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Coord. Jamie Gagliardo

We assisted multiple vendors with the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) changeover at DPD/Dispatch. The new UPS will better support our infrastructure in the radio room of the Police Department with battery backup if there was ever a power failure.

We worked with Danbury Hospital EMS personnel on a new alert tone for their units. With the assistance of our radio technicians, EMS now has a more distinctive alert tone to better alert their personnel, in turn speeding up responses.

The budget for the Communications division of the Fire Department was completed and submitted to the Chief.

Northeastern Communications, our radio vendor, gave a tour of their facilities and education on how they are integrated into the communications of our city.

Truck Co. 1 assisted Northeastern Communications with research regarding our current and future radio infrastructure. They assisted by setting up their ladder to give an elevated view from FCI and Danbury High School to get a line of site view for our future radio sites.

We worked with Northeastern Communications to assist the dispatchers in streamlining their alert tone selections by removing unused alerting tones in the consoles. This helped by simplifying their alerting selections, minimizing any potential incorrect tone alerting.

All fire department units received upgraded cell phones. These cell phones help field units communicate where radios are limited or secure messages need to be transmitted.

The Pump Committee held a meeting on the drafted plans received from Pierce for the future building of 2 new pumpers.

Acting Deputy Chief Lounsbury and the B shift crew on Engine 22 were given a tour of dispatch. These tours will become an ongoing activity for all department crews and will help the dispatchers and field units put a face to the voice of all personnel.

Engine 12 was assisted with new Motorola Minitor VI pager programming.

Many department members' portable radios have been repaired and reprogrammed to correct errors and problems that were reported. This insures that all our members have reliable fire ground communications at all times.

The old dispatch consoles that were in fire headquarters have been successfully removed with the help of Chief Williams and A group firefighters. The current dispatch room will be repurposed at a later date.

We are working with our Public Buildings and IT departments to eliminate unused data phone lines for a future cost savings to the city.

Ongoing projects

Response guidelines: All of our current response guidelines have been corrected. These changes are currently being programmed into our Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD). Once tested in a test environment they will be published to the live CAD version and be in full use.

Coverage Areas: All the current career and volunteer coverage areas have been updated. They are in the process of being updated in the CAD.

Volunteer Fire company iPads: iPads have been received and are in the process of being configured with Verizon and NexGen's NexResponder application (our mobile CAD access). Once complete, training will be set up with the volunteer department officers and they will be distributed to each company.

Approximately 16 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. Much progress has been made the last few weeks.

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division

Quarterly Training

Fourth Quarter live burn training has been completed as of December 13th. The live burn training included ICS refresher, Rapid Intervention training, communications and Mayday drills.

First Quarter training is in process of being scheduled. Notification of the finalizing recruit class curriculum and dates have been sent to Charlie Coakley.

Hose Testing

A few companies are in the process of finishing annual fire hose testing.

Career Division

Career Live Burns

November 20 marked the final live burn for career personnel. Live burn training included ICS refresher, Rapid Intervention training, radio communications and Mayday drills (including MAYDAY communications with IXP). All crews were exceptional and I looked forward to continue training on ICS and managing the implementation phase. Members who missed live burns are out on long term sick or injury.

Fire Instructor Class

Firefighters Rivera, Culberth, Hines, Moore, Nolet, and Sellick have completed 96 hr Fire Instructor-I class. They are awaiting certification as five have successfully passed the written test and one is awaiting a test date.

Hydrant

Hydrant testing is 99.8% complete.

NVCC

The Fall semester class “Terrorism Response” was completed, with all students passing. A hearty thanks to Professors Wiedl and Omasta for teaching this class.

ICS Training

All on duty members were given the opportunity to have input on the ICS implementation process.

EMS

Hospital EMS reviewed new Stryker lift unit with Danbury Fire personnel.

Communications

Currently discussing ways to enhance radio fire-ground transmissions with Provisional Communication Coordinator Gagilardo.

IXP

Met with P. Sniffin and J. Gagilardo at the PD.

Meetings / Events for the T.O.:

- 11/20/15 – Live Burn with B-group
- 11/22/15 – Live Burn Southbury
- 11/23/15 – Live Burn Redding
- 11/25/15 – Terrorism Class
- 11/29/15 – Live Burn Newtown Hook and Ladder.
- 11/30/15 - Live Burn Danbury Volunteers
- 12/02/15 – Terrorism Class
- 12/03/15 – ICS Review , B-group
- 12/06/15 – Live Burn Danbury Volunteers
- 12/09/15 – ICS review , A-group
- 12/11/15 – Meeting with EMS Coord. Rodriquez and Hospital on new Ebola Suite
- 12/11/15 – ICS Review, C-group
- 12/13/15 – Live Burn Danbury Volunteers
- 12/14/15 – Live Burn Bethel
- 12/16/15 – Terrorism Class
- 12/17/15 – Mock FF-1 practical for Danbury Volunteer
- 12/18/15 – Observed D-group cut roof at 15 Center Street
- 12/18/15 – Met with Pat Sniffin and Prov/Comm/Coor Gagilardo at PD
- 12/21/15 – Stryker Unit review with A-1
- Multiple visits to Fire School to monitor progress
- Multiple communication transition meetings with Prov/Comm/Coor Gagilardo



B-group at Live Burn training

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

E-23 has returned from our Pierce dealer after having the body doors replaced under warranty as well as the body repaired and painted. We have serviced this unit, replaced the steering gears and repaired multiple items as planned while this unit was out of service. We have had our ground ladders tested and have completed almost all required repairs. We only have a 24' and 35' ladder which will require new lanyards.

Underwriters Laboratories performed the Non Destructive testing on two of our three aerials. We are awaiting a scheduling date for our third unit as well as reports on the first two units. The plow truck has been serviced and the plow installed for the upcoming season.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced both information screens in Squad-1
- Replaced batteries E-24
- Serviced Tac-1
- Replaced battery and repaired tire in 06FX
- Replaced passenger side window regulator 09FX
- Replaced spark plug and ignition coil 03T3
- Serviced 13FE, ordered new tires
- Replaced 8 rear tires Trk-1
- Repaired Trk-1 Air Pak bracket
- Replaced both rear spring packs E-23
- Performed welding repairs to Trk-2
- 15FE to Putnam Auto Body for repairs to rear body from accident
- Replaced Proximity sensor Trk-1 ladder

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

Our two new Fire Inspectors, Tyler Bergemann and Eric Handau, have completed the first part of the Fire Marshal's Certification class (Code Enforcement). They will begin the Fire Investigation portion of the class on February 17th, and will be finished on April 1st, 2016. We are looking forward to having them on our team.

Inspections

This month we inspected 445 apartments. We also did 22 misc. inspections, 7 liquor inspections, 20 places of assembly, 89 businesses, 2 day care, and 2 educational occupancies, 1 health care inspection, and 16 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 23 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, The "99 Rest," Elm St. condos, and more.

Fire Investigations

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

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 posters have been returned from the schools and judging will begin after the holidays.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	677
Abatements issued	3
Violations issued	0
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	5
Fire Safety Programs	0

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	2940
Cellular 911 calls	2090
Abandoned 911 calls	268
Admin calls received	774