



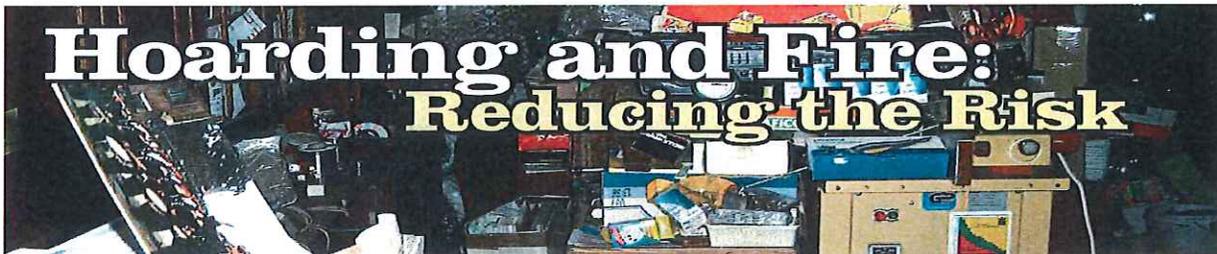
**CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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Fire Chief**

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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, 2016 through April 21st, 2016 and details activities of the Department.



Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns.

WHY HOARDING INCREASES FIRE RISKS

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

HOW HOARDING IMPACTS FIRST RESPONDERS

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.
- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire Injury

- ✓ When talking a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.
- ✓ Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.
- ✓ Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month.
- ✓ Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

E24 attended Family University Day at Rogers Park Middle School, representing the DFD. E22 crew and C30 attended the City's Wellness Committee's "Smoothie Social" at City Hall to kick off their wellness initiative and 8X8 water challenge. E22 crew presented a fire safety session to Mrs. Singer's kindergarten class at Mill Ridge primary school.

Windsor Gardens, Matrix property hotel, and Corner Pond Court were toured.

A fire prevention public relations tour was conducted with the fire marshals at the Mall.

Members of the DFD Hockey team played the DPD, and then went to a tournament at the Bridgeport Harbor Yard facility where they won, after beating the Westport (Fairfield County) Fire team, and then the MTA Police Team.



Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A fire in an apartment unit at 25 Beaver St., Putnam Towers, started in a leather recliner, reportedly by a cigarette. Two sprinkler heads controlled the fire. However, a heavy smoke condition incapacitated the male occupant, who was unable to get out of the unit. DFD crews entered and brought him to awaiting EMS providers on scene. He was transported to Danbury Hospital. All floors and stairwells were checked for residents and smoke evacuated. Crews assisted management by dewatering with water vacs and squeegees. Management was on scene to coordinate with a restoration company and sprinkler repair, as it appeared as though the fire pump had overheated, also. Electrical Inspector Eric Kist and DFM Osborne responded for investigation. The resident's cat escaped serious injury by hiding in a boxspring. The cat was located, removed and transported by animal control to a veterinarian for evaluation. The cause of the fire was determined to be careless smoking. Responding DFD units were; E22, Truck 2, C30, E23, SQ1, E25, E26, E3, E4, E8, SQ6, C51, C46 and C61.

A structure fire reported at 111 Main Street had initial reports advising of possible trapped children on the fourth floor. On arrival, a third alarm had been transmitted. Fire had blown out windows on the fourth floor of the four story, twenty four unit apartment building with commercial storefronts. Crews aggressively contained and extinguished the fire and found no trapped occupants. Inspection holes were cut in the roof to check for fire extension into the cockloft. No injuries were reported. The fire was managed by E22, E23, SQ1, Truck 1, E24 and E26, with E10, E8, E5, Sq7, E12, Canteen 13, SQ2, C44, C61, C51, C2, Fire Police, Eversource and the Building Department assisting.



Fire at 111 Main Street

Crews responded to a late-night structure fire in a single family residence at 61 Kenosia Ave. With only light smoke visible on E26 arrival, the conditions proved deceptive. Within moments of arrival, the fire grew to involve the living room area and presented with flames at every window on the street side, including the front door, with a 35' torch of fire extending above the roof. Crews quickly knocked down the main body of fire, but a loft area with various kneewalls made complete extinguishment difficult. Luckily, all occupants were out, evaluated by EMS and did not need to be transported. Investigation indicated the probability of failure of the metal fireplace, resulting in wood structural members igniting and burning, unnoticed, prior to the fire spreading to adjacent combustible members. Units responding were; E26, E22, E23, Truck 1, C30, C51, C61, C1, E5, SQ6, SQ7, Tankers 13, 12, 14, 10, 11, and Fire Police.



Significant damage caused by this 61 Kenosia Ave fire. Occupants were uninjured; DFD did a great job preventing further destruction to building and its neighbors.

Another incident occurred off of Hospital Avenue where a stored cabin cruiser boat in a yard caught fire, igniting 100 gallons of gasoline. As Fire personnel extinguished the fire, the upset boat owner put a loaded shotgun to his head and was talked out of harming himself by FF Gabe Rivera.



Boat fire near Hospital Ave

An incident on Center Street occurred when a sixteen year old operating an excavator brought down two utility poles, and the high tension power lines were in contact with

metal fences, metal guard rails, three cars, and trapped the young operator in the cab of the excavator. Eversource came priority 1 and the operator was rescued.



Center Street rescue

Command and Staff Activities

- Exchange Club Luncheon for Fire Safety Poster Contest
- Meeting with Andrea Rynn, Public Information Officer for Danbury Hospital
- Meeting with Local 801 President
- Emergency Preparedness Reading Program Ellsworth Ave. School
- W.C.S.U event planning
- Germantown Volunteer Fire Department Annual Dinner
- Public Safety Budget Committee Meeting
- Volunteer Firemen's Council meeting
- Monthly Staff meeting
- City Council meeting
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

This Continuing Medical Education class is held for Firefighters while they are on duty to enhance their pre-hospital medical knowledge and skills. The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday was Emergency Childbirth.

This month, 42 members were due to test for EMT-B re-certification and 10 for Advanced EMT re-certification.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- CME Opportunities
- Trauma data
- Stroke data

Regional HAZMAT

The Danbury Fire Department Regional HAZMAT team has acquired three Gamma Rae radiological detectors, bringing the total to seven, one on each First Responder apparatus. 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 Danbury Mall or the Danbury Hospital.

Volunteer Firefighter training

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez in collaboration with the Training Division provided two 2nd quarter OSHA mandated training classes for the Volunteer Component of the Danbury Fire Department on April 10 & 13, 2016.

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Coord. Jamie Gagliardo

- Attended a meeting with FireHouse software which is the software used for incident, training and activity reporting. This meeting was set up to assist us in better retrieving the data we need from this software for reporting our statistics and responses. We also discussed how to utilize the software for tracking of Pre-Fire Plans.
- Attended the Volunteer Firemen's Council meeting to discuss the future purchase of eDispatches software. Approval was received to purchase this software and members have been starting to use the system. This system is a temporary solution to the need of radio pagers for the volunteer division. Throughout the month, volunteer companies' members were registered with the system for use.
- Two training courses were held at Headquarters with all groups to review the updated response policies which were recently implemented. Training will continue with all crews until all members of the FD are aware of the updates.
- A presentation was given to the Hawleyville Fire Department (Newtown CT) on our current and future radio system. This will allow them to be more prepared as an incoming mutual aid company to the City of Danbury. These types of presentations will become more frequent as we work to create better interoperability with our neighboring companies.
- Communications assisted the Training Division with a live burn for members returning to work that missed previous live burns.
- Communications instructed a segment of the Volunteer Divisions Quarterly Training. We discussed and reviewed the recent changes to the response districts and response guidelines.
- New IXP dispatchers were given a citywide tour of all the fire stations, apparatus, and major infrastructure to assist them in their training process as future Danbury Dispatchers.

- Installed CAD status monitors in the new training facility and assisted with some other communications work at the new fire school.
- Attended a joint meeting with the Fire Department, Danbury Hospital EMS (WCHN) and IXP to discuss our current Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) response protocols and set up a set of future meeting to refine these protocols to be more agency-specific.
- Attended a Connecticut Public Services Answering Point (PSAP) update meeting at West Haven PD. Many E-911 and technologies were reviewed and discussed.
- Dispatch tours were given to all the career crews over the last few weeks. These tours helped us to develop a better understanding of the civilianized dispatch center and how they operate.
- Communications is assisting the Volunteer Division with a demo of three "WatchDog" pagers. These pagers are similar to the model we are currently using and will give us an opportunity to see what other pager manufacturers are available along with what features are offered. Two pagers will be issued to volunteer members and last will be issued to the Communications Coordinator along with the programming capabilities for equipment familiarization.
- Communications has been working to update many of our current communications Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). Many suggestions have been forwarded to the appropriate members for approval.
- Communications Coordinator responded to a 3rd alarm structure fire at 111 Main Street assisting the incident commander with communications and resource management.
- Instructed an additional iPad Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) training course at Germantown Fire House Engine 10.
- Attended a radio system interoperability meeting at Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services. Putnam County invited a representation to assist them with many new radio system upgrades along with strengthening our communications interoperability. Putnam County is one of our many mutual aid responders.
- Attended a meeting with Northeastern Communications regarding our future mobile radio installation and portable radio replacements.
- Attended the Danbury Chamber of Commerce "Eggs and Issues" breakfast at the Ethan Allen.
- Attended the 111 Main Street 3rd alarm structure fire critique at headquarters done by Drill Master Rogers. After every incident there is something to learn from.

- Attended a meeting at Western Connecticut University regarding some up come large events. Emergency preparedness for these events was the major topic of discussion.
- Communications Coordinator responded to the 2nd alarm boat fire at 47 Hospital Ave assisting the incident commander with radio communication and resource management.
- Worked with Utility Communications to provide better fire ground radio traffic recording. A few changes were made to our current system enhancing our capabilities.
- Communications Coordinator responded to the 2nd alarm residential structure fire assisting the incident commander with radio communication and resource management.
- Installed a new “Non-Emergency” call box on the front door of Headquarters. This call box will ring every phone in the station assisting the public in getting to a fire department member as quickly as possible.
- Assisted DC Meehan with four sessions of training with IXP dispatchers on CT State Wide Resources that are available to Danbury and how to go upon requesting or utilizing them.
- Communications Coordinator responded 148 Long Ridge Rd. to the grass fire with extension to a detached garage assisting the incident commander with radio communication and resource management.
- Ongoing projects:
 - 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. Every week strengthening of our agency relationships is observed.
 - Radio system infrastructure upgrades including replacement mobile and portable radios for all fire department members and apparatus with assistance from Northeastern Communications.

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Second quarter training classes are underway. OSHA-mandated Hazmat refresher and Blood-borne pathogen training is being conducted. Classes are being held at the new fire facility.

Career Division

Fire School

Danbury Training Division hosted our Hazmat Division's Hazmat refresher course taught by Jeff Chandler and EMS Coordinator Rodriguez. This informative class helped honed awareness for propane and other emergencies. The class location supported a robust learning environment. TO Rogers also hosted a meeting with Chief Wiedl and A/C Omasta demonstrating the advanced technologies the new fire school has to offer.

Live Burn

A joint training session was held on March 28th with engine companies 26 and 24. We are continuing to evaluate correct pump pressures from our engines and nozzles. This continuing research has helped Danbury Fire make great strides toward firefighter safety.

New Fire School

Various contractors are continuing to put the finishing touches from window blinds to the alarm systems. Students and instructors are very appreciative of all the hard work that has gone into the facility.

Post Incident Review

Review of Easter day fire on Main Street. There were a multitude of fire strategy and tactics done well and there were also recognized opportunities for improvement.

Safety Officer

Safety Officer responded to 111 Main Street, 115 Newtown Road (La Quinta) , 25 Beaver Street, Ives Manor (198 Main Street), and 61 Kenosia Ave structure fires.

Web based Training

Students are diligently completing web based Kaplan assignments.

Fire Fitness

Nearly 20 individuals have signed up with Edge Fitness. The health benefits are much appreciated by fire department personnel.

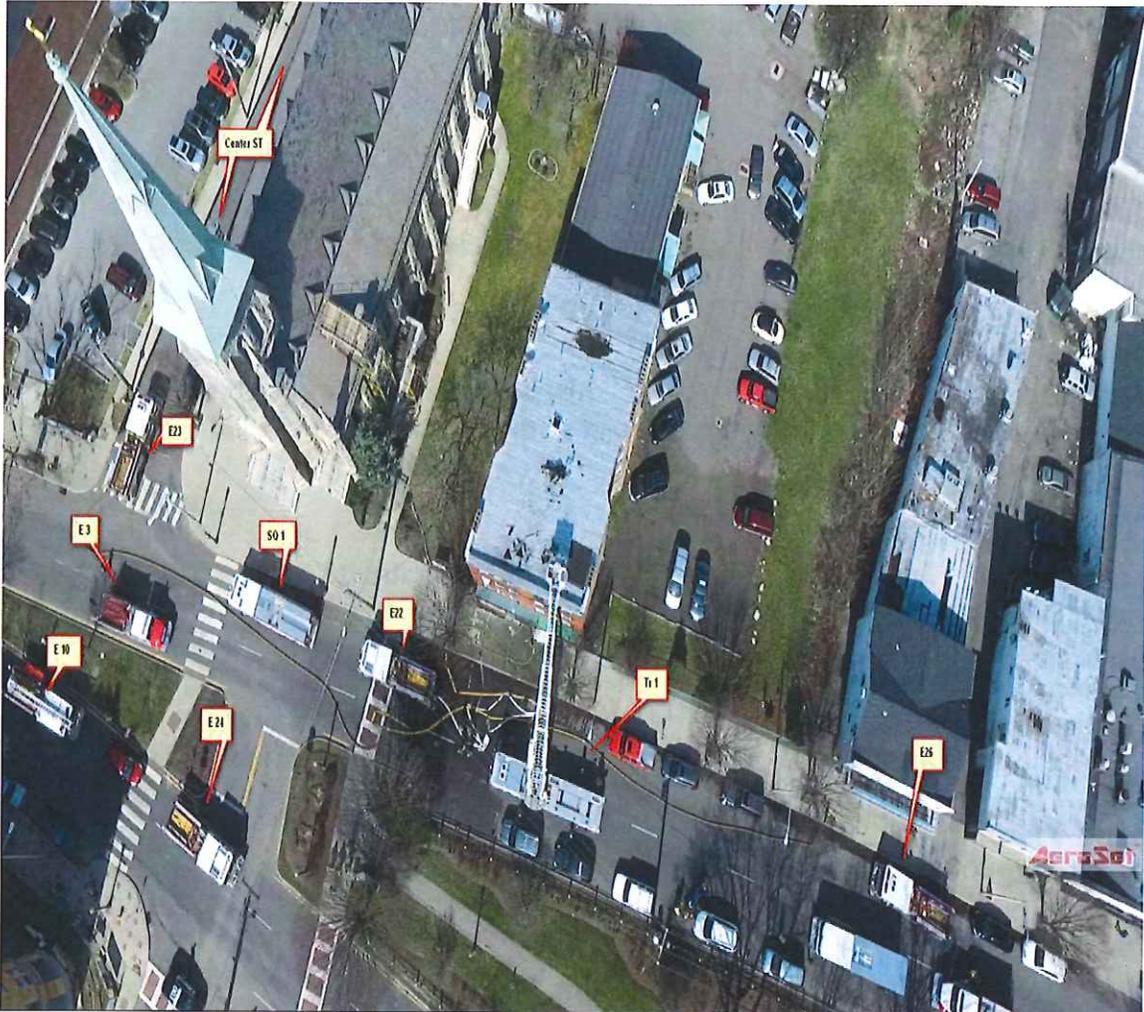
New Career Recruits

Danbury Fire's six new recruits are doing very well and have received good performance reviews.

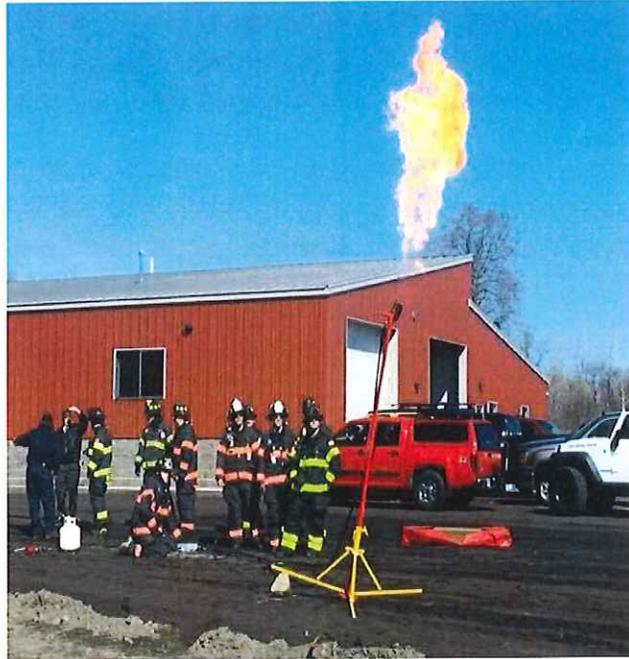
Here are a few of the Meetings/Events for T.O Rogers:

- March 23 – Bailout drill
- March 27 – 111 Main Street fire
- March 28 – Live Burn with E-24 and E-26
- March 29, 30 – Hazmat Technician recertification classes
- April 1 – Blinds install fire school
- April 6 – 116 Newtown Ave Fire
- April 6 – United Alarm work at fire school
- April 10 – 25 Beaver Street Fire
- April 10 – 2nd Quarter Training at fire school
- April 11 – Fire School SOP's, budget and policy meetings

- April 13 – 2nd Quarter volunteer training at the fire school
- April 14 – 198 Main Street
- April 15 – 61 Kenosia Ave Fire
- April 17-23 – Specialized training at FDIC in Indianapolis



111 Main Street Fire, where ongoing building familiarization and tactical training assisted with proper apparatus placement.



Propane flare off training at new Fire Facility.



D/C Paul Omasta and Lt. McGee are honing skills on propane emergencies.



198 Main Street fire. D/C Meehan is setting up to use tactical worksheet and Communication Coordinator Gagilardo is poised to assist with communications and is very happy to be there.

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

We overhauled the pump transmission in E-24 and performed a Pump test in accordance with N.F.P.A. requirements. This unit was returned to service.

As we reported last month, the Non Destructive Test (NDT) was performed on Old Truck-1. We are performing other service work currently and will be scheduling this unit in as able for a deep cleaning. After that we will schedule the ultrasonic inspections needed to properly evaluate the torque box and outrigger assemblies. We are currently working with our Pierce dealer on the final points of the Truck-2 repairs and logistics. We have been fit-testing the Career Division and are about seventy five percent completed.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced batteries in Trk-1 (old)
- Replaced Officer's side window, changed pump transmission oil
- Serviced 13FT
- Serviced 06F2 and replaced front pads and rotors
- Serviced Truck-2, replaced light box charger
- Replaced sway bar links 06F5
- Replaced A/C line E-24 and recharged A/C
- Repaired shorted connection in R-1 air horns
- Serviced 12FE
- Replaced right front tire 10PA1
- Replaced toe links and align E-24
- Repaired tailgate hatch alarm 09FX

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

Fire Inspector Terry Timan continues in the Fire Marshal Certification class which is held three days a week in Rocky Hill. He is scheduled to finish the course on June 28th. He will then join us in the office as a Deputy Fire Marshal. Deputy Fire Marshal John Osborne continues to attend the Leadership Course put on by the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce. He meets one day per month throughout the year at various businesses to learn more about each business, and how it relates to the City of Danbury.

Inspections

This month we inspected 424 apartments. We also did 44 misc. inspections, 6 liquor inspections, 18 places of assembly, 32 businesses, 4 day care, 3 educational occupancies, 3 health care inspections, and 29 mercantile inspections. We have also been working with the UNIT and Health Department to find illegal living spaces and overcrowded apartments.

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 80 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, Danbury High School Fire Alarm System/Sprinkler System and coming additions, and also the

Danbury Housing Authority's renovation of a building on Eighth Ave. Some other buildings reviewed were Hologic on Apple Ridge Rd, an office building at 41 Eagle Rd, Cartus on Apple Ridge Rd, and many more.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 7 building fires, 4 vehicle fires, and 2 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires. Investigations were done on all fires.

Poster Contest

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest has come to an end for this year. We did have a "County Winner," fifth grade student Kira Stone, from Shelter Rock School. Kira, her parents, Art Teacher Mrs. Donna Gagliardi, and the Principal of Shelter Rock School, Dr. Villaneueva all attended a luncheon in Hartford on March 31st. Fire Marshal Jim Russell and Fire Inspector Terry Timan also attended the luncheon.

Training

Deputy Fire Marshal Jonathan DeJoseph has recently completed the Fire Officer II course, put on by the State of CT. The course is eighty hours of study, and will help with John's leadership skills in the future. He has also completed a Health and Safety Course, which entailed 24 hours of study.

DFM Gary Bruce has been accepted into the 22nd Annual Advanced Fire Investigation School being held at the CT Fire Academy. There were a very large number of applicants with the most qualified being selected. This is a great opportunity to advance his fire investigation skills with the State of Connecticut's best fire investigators and prosecutors. This program is being taught by the State of CT Fire and Explosion investigators from the State Police as well as leading prosecutors and attorneys. The course will culminate after a hands-on fire investigation with a real time mock court trial to prepare investigators for courtroom proceedings and areas of improvement in their fire investigation reports.

On-going projects

Primark, which occupies the 2nd floor of the Sears building at the Danbury Fair Mall, is closer to completion. DFM Gary Bruce has been working with Shawmut Contractors on verifying the emergency light, exit signs, fire alarm and sprinklers are installed and operating. The anticipated completion is the end of May 2016. The contractors appear to be on schedule. DFM Bruce attended a meeting with Maura Ruby and Chip Jowdy from the mall, Primark's Security specialist, and the Primark Regional VP on fire safety and prevention. All parties are on the same page with security and fire safety.

Bounce Trampoline Park, located on Prindle Lane, is expected to open at the end of April 2016. The fire alarm and sprinkler systems are fully functional. There is adequate emergency lighting and exit signage. Since this occupancy is an assembly, the voice evacuation fire alarm system has been tested and fully functional.

Presentations

DFM Gary Bruce had the opportunity to present at Immaculate High School's Career day on Friday, April 8th. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ian Smith who is a physician and author best known for his appearances on VH1's Celebrity Fit Club series, The

View, and as a correspondent for NBC News. There were 28 other career professionals. The approximately 450 students were then broken into groups and selected their top choices to attend and listen to the career professional. Gary had the opportunity to speak for three 20-minute sessions to a total of 120 students about the Danbury Fire Department's public service and the impact of the Fire Marshal's office on the community. Frequent questions included the career path from High School to the Fire Marshal's Office. Since he is on his 2nd career, Accounting being his first, the students were prompted to ask about college and career changes. His answers were in depth and well received. He felt it was an honor to be a part of their discussions.

Following up on Fire Inspections

This month DFM Bruce and DFM Eric Handau were able to re-inspect and observe all violations corrected at Ashwood Valley on 53 Sandpit Rd. The complex had fallen behind on the repairs of emergency lights and door closing devices. Their inspections revealed an excessive number of violations. The violations were corrected by using a plan of action with a timeline to systematically correct the violations. They attended a meeting with the Regional Property Manager of Konover Residential Properties, the Ashwood property manager and the director of maintenance. There is now a regular testing schedule for each building to maintain the fire safety systems.

For the good of all City of Danbury Employees

This month DFM Gary Bruce was asked to be a member of the City of Danbury Wellness Committee. This committee was established to raise awareness of healthy living for the City of Danbury. Since he is an ACSM certified personal trainer and IRONMAN triathlete, he supported the committee's vision. The committee began with a Smoothie Social on March 29th and April 4th. The event featured 3 delicious smoothie options using a variety of fresh apples, bananas, kale, strawberries, and blueberries. The next event is a Water Challenge that encourages each person to drink 8 x 8 ounce glasses of water a day. The challenge will run from April 18th to the Middle of May.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	566
Abatements issued	3
Violations issued	3
Complaints	4
Fire Investigations	11
Fire Safety Programs	5

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	2813
Cellular 911 calls	1975
Abandoned 911 calls	266
Admin calls received	812