



CITY OF DANBURY

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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 21 December 2007 through 25 January and details some activities of the Department.

The Department continues to undergo significant change as we inculcate the many recently hired Firefighters. During 2007 we have hired on a total of 18 firefighters who are now in the front ranks of the Danbury Fire Department. These men have entered into the Department during a year that can only be described as tumultuous.

The Department expanded for the first time in 36 years. With the opening of the new West Side Station housing Engine 26 on September 11, the City has shown its commitment to the people and corporate community. This commitment to Danbury's West Side recognizes that the growth and rapid expansion will continue and the Department is a necessary part of it.

The Department has experienced as wide a range of responses as in any year of the history of the department. Events during the year included Flooding, many fires of various magnitudes, the anthrax response, Hazardous Material responses, motor vehicle accidents, snow and ice emergencies and all the various medical calls that the City of Danbury citizens could experience.

Many of these events required multi-agency responses. The Emergency Management Director, Department of Public Works, the Danbury Police Department and the Parks Department were among the City Departments who we interacted with in addressing these situations. Non governmental agencies included the Red Cross, BSI (Danbury Hospital), Danbury Ambulance, HART (Bus Transport) and Mitchell Fuel. This list is by no means complete. Many others have assisted in keeping Danbury the safe City it is.

Activities the Department performed include emergency evacuation by boat where necessary, water entry, Technical Decontamination by the Fire Department Hazardous Material team, medical treatment, vehicle extrication, rural off road rescue, water evacuation, and our namesake cause, fire suppression. Most notably in the Fire Suppression category were the tragic fatal house fire on Rodline Rd., and the Wibling Road hangar fire. The wide range of responses shows just how much the Fire Service has changed in Danbury and through out the industry.

During the past year, we have taken a decidedly focused approach on safety and retraining to our core demands. Our local Fire Training Facility, rebuilt in the last couple of years has proven to be of vital use to the Department. All members, Volunteer and Career have made considerable use of this facility. I have mandated that all members, Volunteer and Career attend the State Fire Academy Emergency Vehicle Operations Course. Any one who drives apparatus for the Department must have this course certification. In addition, we have brought in training in Fire Fighter Safety and Survival and Rapid Intervention Training to give the members the skills to rescue our own, should they become trapped or incapacitated. Additional training last year included Strategy and Tactics, the FFA mandated live burn training at Westover Air Force Base, Officer One and Instructor One class, the State Department of Motor Vehicle Fire Fighter endorsement Course.

In the coming year we plan to continue in our training regimen with as many on duty training opportunities as possible. In addition, certain programs will be presented by instructors from the Academy or other venues as necessary. The department has received three new vehicles, two

Engines and the Multi Purpose Emergency Response Vehicle. The MPERV, a Heavy Rescue type vehicle is the most significant, as it entails specialized training and equipping to be fully utilized. Some of these training courses will require considerable money and time. However, each course is chosen with the sole purpose of developing and honing the Departments' response capabilities. The City has provided support in the purchase and development of these initiatives and we look forward to our continued growth as a modern progressive Fire Department.

Already this New Year, we have had a very serious fire on Mill Plain Rd. This fire occurred in a condominium complex of very high population density. The early morning hours were frigidly cold but the Department responded quickly and efficiently. The potential for a conflagration was mitigated and the fire was contained to those units involved on the Departments' arrival. Rapid interior attack coupled with exterior truck operations confined and extinguished the blaze. Despite the extreme cold and slippery conditions, the only reported injuries occurred prior to the arrival of the Department.

As we move through 2008, the Department will continue to train our members to respond to whatever the need may be. Mandatory training and certification as dictated by the various entities that oversee our industry will continue to place a heavier and heavier onus on our budget dollars. For example, we will need to send additional members to Westover AFB for FAA mandated annual training this year as well as continue our live burns at the burn facility on Plumtrees Road. In addition, we will need to further train the department to be able to respond to confined space rescues, trench rescues and specialized extrication situations. We also will need to train new members to participate with our Hazardous Material Response Team. This is a very challenging course and will require significant monetary support as well as a serious time commitment. Our new Squad 1 (MPERV) will be well equipped with the tools and gear needed but to fully realize the value the new vehicle provides, we will need to train the personnel to utilize the tools and perform the demanding rescue specialties needed. These activities are vital to the citizens of our City, and I look forward to our continued progress.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

- While on Vacation in upstate New York, Assistant Chief Keenan was dining with friends. One member of the party, Retired Lieutenant Del Albano was eating and began to choke. Using the Heimlich Maneuver Chief Keenan successfully dislodged the offending piece of steak and Mr. Albano was able to breathe again. This proves that Department members are always on duty and prepared and able to act.
- The department has received a "Thank You" from the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protections' Special Investigator Wendy McWade. We recently hosted the Department as they collected unsafe and recalled toys prior to Christmas.
- The truck Company assisted the Staff at Wooster School with re-roping their flag pole.
- The Department again sponsored a food drive for the Salvation Army. The collection was completed and delivered to the Foster Street facility for distribution.
- A response to assist the Danbury Police Department at 6 Staples St. resulted in a several hour call to sort out why this multi-occupancy home was without heat for several weeks. DFM Weber was also called to assist in the investigation.
- Tours and Pre-incident planning: Fuel Cell Energy on Great Pasture Rd., 113-115 Park Ave. (Willow Run Condos) 117,119 Park Avenue 12/31/07. Jericho Service (old Danbury Furniture Outlet) on Rose St., Cartus, Briar Woods, Corporate Center, Danbury High School, Fairfield

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

- 21 January: A significant fire occurred at 55 Mill Plain Road in the early morning hours of 21 January. Three units of the condominiums suffered heavy structural damage. Fortunately, only minor injuries were incurred by one civilian, the resident in the unit of origin. Conditions were bitterly cold and slippery conditions due to freezing water were a major concern. Responders were able to quickly access the unit and, though very hard pressed, the Department confined the fire to units involved on arrival. Department resources on the scene included Headquarters (21, 22, 25, 26, Trk. and AC), Volunteer Fire Police, Engines 8, 12, 13, Squad 6, Engine 13 Canteen. The cause of the fire remains under investigation at this writing.

- 28 December: Units responded to an alarm at 128 E. Liberty St. En route, dispatch updated us with a reported water-flow alarm. Shortly after that, information that an occupant called, reporting fire in the building was transmitted. At that time 3rd and 4th due engines were requested, as well as a marshal and safety. Apparently a vent stack for a commercial boiler had ignited either paper insulation backing or a nearby rafter, causing fire to spread within the space above the sheetrock ceiling. As fate would have it, a sprinkler head directly below the fire activated but only contributed to water damage. Crews quickly opened the roof and reported apparent limited extension. Lines were in place and any obvious fire extinguished within moments. The building's alarm system successfully alerted all occupants. They were outside when we arrived. No injuries were reported.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

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

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Patient Assessment. Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediately life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Departments First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during Emergency medical calls before transport to the Hospitals Emergency Department

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system. Cross-trained firefighters that have lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of medical calls and this ability has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Haz-Mat Thursday : The focus on this month's Haz-Mat training has been the practical skills portion of Hazardous Materials operational class, the rapid assembly of the Technical Decontamination line and the Mark 1 – Weapons of Mass Destruction, Organophosphates antidote auto injectors for First Responders.

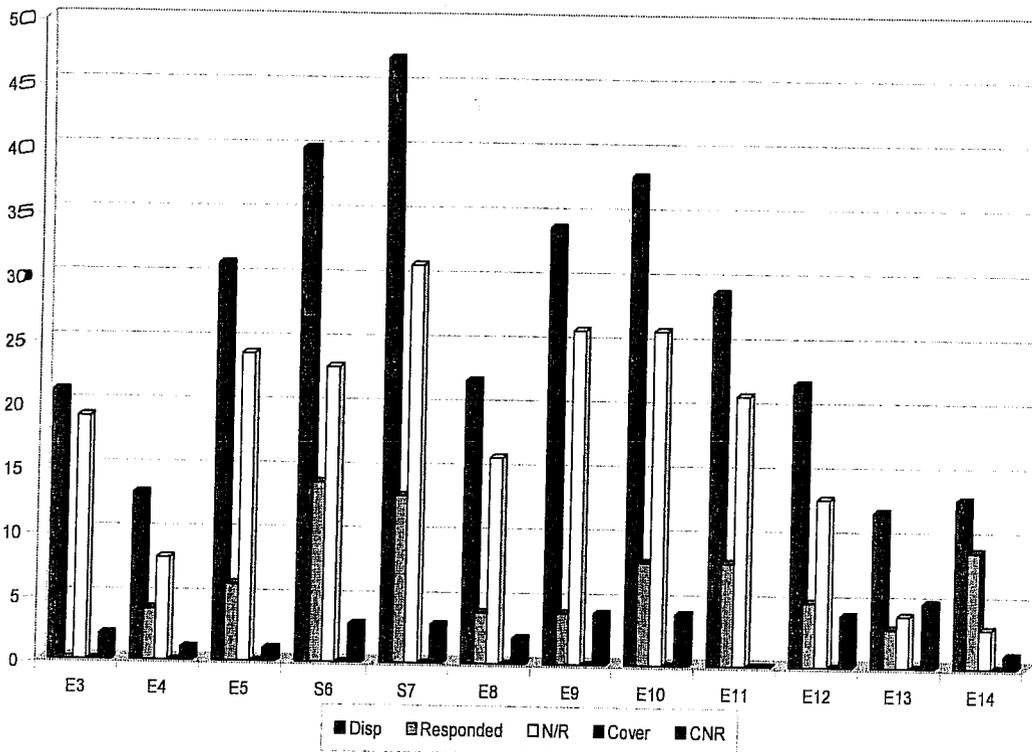
Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	20
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	3
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	310
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	34
Service Call (500-571)	53
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	37
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	75
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	5
Total Fire Responses	539
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2798
Abandoned 911 Calls	387
Cellular 911 Calls	1082
911 Hang Up Calls	810
Admin Calls Received	754
Police Calls via 911	400
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	238
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	371
Daily Average	99.93
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	539
Total EMS Responses	697
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	308
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	277
No Patient (CAD 62)	112
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	5
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	12

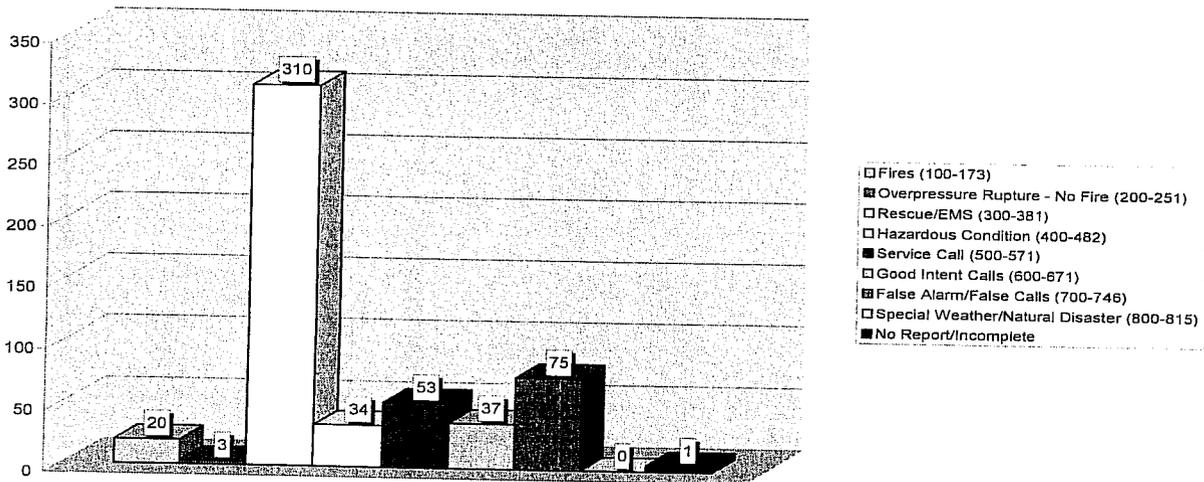
**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS
Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Reports

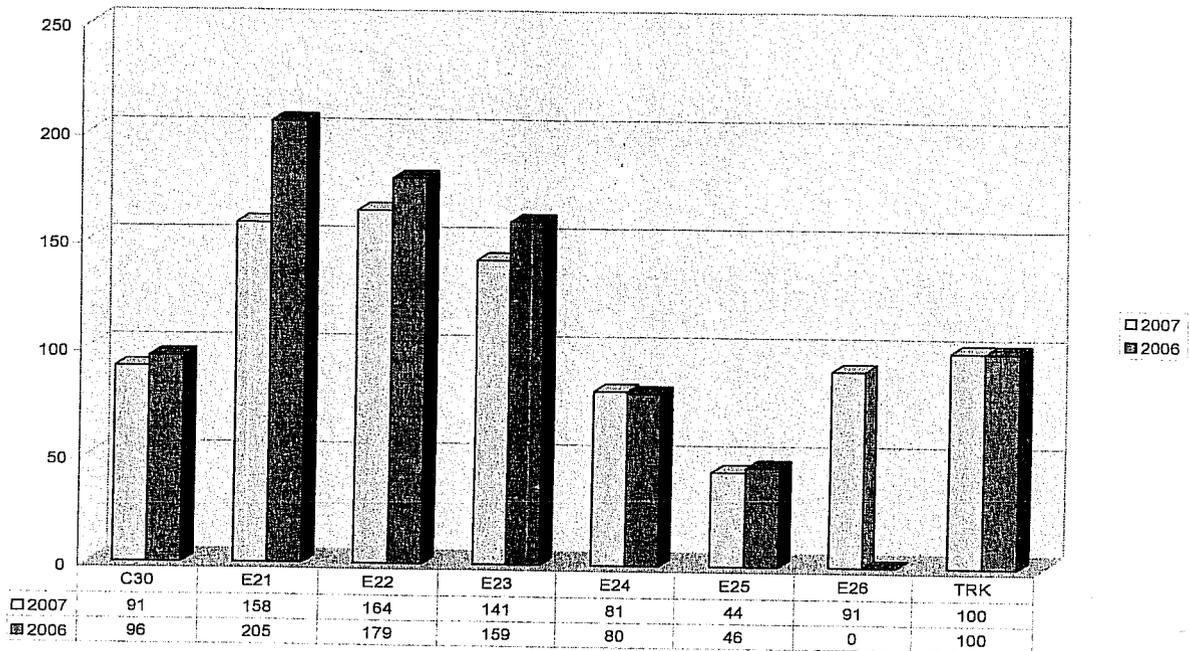
Volunteer Call Counts
Dec 21, 2007 to Jan 21, 2008



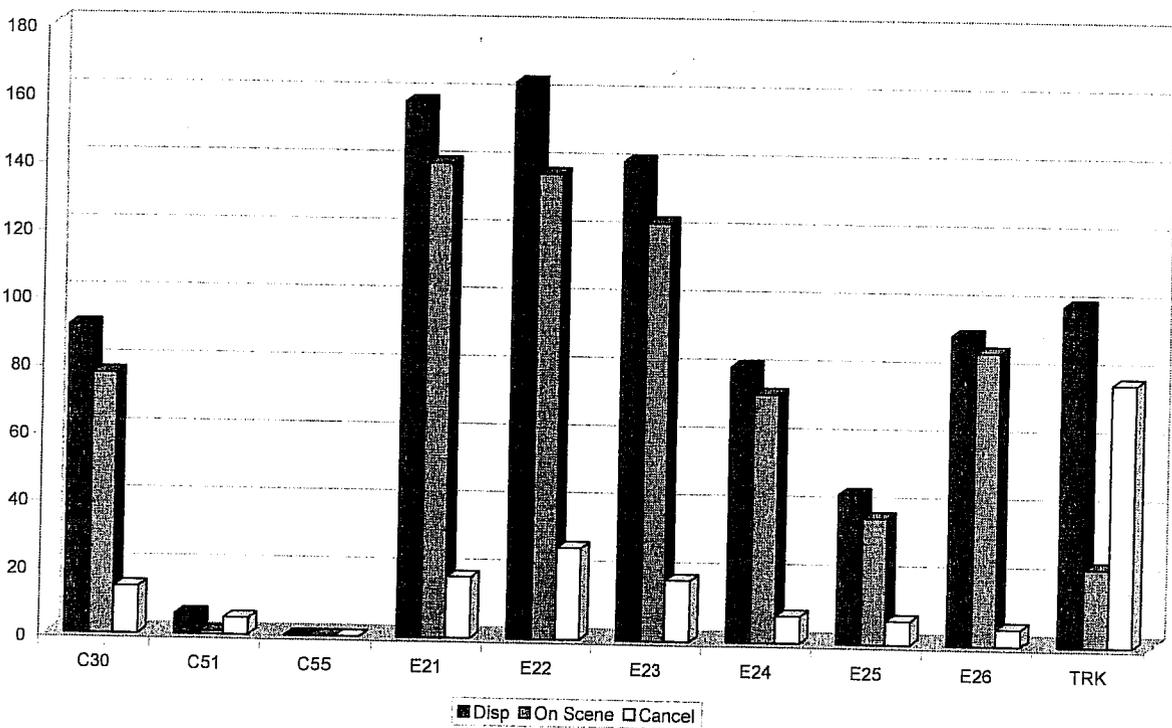
Fire Response Breakdown
Dec 21, 2007 to Jan 21, 2008



Career Response Comparison for January



Career Company Response Dec 21, 2007 to Jan 21, 2008



	4	6	Calc			
Unit Number	Disp	On Scene	Cancel			
C30	91	77	14			
C51	6	1	5			
C55	0	0	0			
E21	158	140	18			
E22	164	137	27			
E23	141	123	18			
E24	81	73	8			
E25	44	37	7			
E26	91	86	5			
TRK	100	23	77			
Volunteer Call Counts	4	32	55	58		
Unit Number	Disp	Responded	N/R	Cover	CNR	Percent
E3	21	0	19	0	2	10%
E4	13	4	8	0	1	38%
E5	31	6	24	0	1	23%
S6	40	14	23	0	3	43%
S7	47	13	31	0	3	34%
E8	22	4	16	0	2	27%
E9	34	4	26	0	4	24%
E10	38	8	26	0	4	32%
E11	29	8	21	0	0	28%
E12	22	5	13	0	4	41%
E13	12	3	4	0	5	67%
E14	13	9	3	0	1	77%

Training

On January 14, 15 and 16, 20 members of the department attended a Power Phone Emergency Medical Dispatch class hosted by the department. In this class students were trained in techniques and procedures specific to processing 911 calls requesting EMS. A major component of both the EMD program and training is the pre-arrival instruction phase. This is where these dispatchers learned and practiced giving appropriate medical instructions to callers. The goal of the pre-arrival instruction is to guide callers through life saving skills such as CPR.

This nationally recognized program is required training for all Connecticut tele-communicators. With the conclusion of this course the Danbury Fire Department now has over 50 members trained as Emergency Medical dispatchers.

Also 9 other dispatchers/relief dispatchers are currently taking a self-study recertification course work in Emergency Medical Dispatch. This certification must be renewed every two years.

Technology Updates

The radio system problems that were reported last month have been corrected; however as with any aging equipment other problems have begun to creep into the system. On January 12th a card that controls operation of the door openers in Fire Headquarters failed, this card is on order. Also a power supply that controls the tone alerting generator has shown signs of imminent failure and will be replaced ASAP. There is difficulty in finding replacement parts due to the fact that this system is over 20 years old.

The voice logger that is being leased to replace the failed unit is scheduled to be installed during the week of 28 January.

Training - Mark Omasta

Our five "rookie" firefighters who graduated the Academy in late December are all assigned to a regular crew and are gaining experience every day while responding to all types of emergencies and also learning their duties in and around the fire station. Company Officers and senior firefighters are constantly working with our new people as they provide invaluable guidance and support. In the winter months, weather permitting, we continue to utilize the Fire School on Plumtrees for our "hands on" practical training evolutions. Because of weather restrictions, we try to schedule much of our classroom training during the winter months.

All of the Department Command Officers attended an ICS/NIMS 400 training program in Wilton. This class brings the department to a level where we can respond as members of State Incident Management Teams.

Firefighter I Class

We will run a Firefighter I class for our Volunteers which will begin at the end of January. We have 21 students registered for this class which runs from January to the middle of May.

Fire Officer II

We currently have 13 career personnel enrolled in the 80 hour Fire Officer II class being held at the Ridgefield Fire Dept. This is a management level class being taught by Connecticut Fire Academy Instructors.

Driver Certification

One Firefighter completed the many hours of training required to qualify as an aerial operator. Driver training is ongoing as we need to fill the driver slots vacated by promotions and retirements.

College Course

The Naugatuck Valley Community College Fall course ended successfully with 13 individuals earning 3 credit hours. We are offering "Building Construction" for the Spring Semester which will begin January 23 here at Fire Headquarters on Wednesday evenings. There continues to be a strong interest in the degree program as we have about 18 students registered for the Spring semester class.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following is a list of some of the highlights and activities of the Apparatus Division.

The department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We commonly have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service. This past month we evaluated our parts inventory and placed a large order to our vendor for parts that we need on a continual basis. This will ensure our ability to continue to make our in house repairs in a timely fashion.

We have completed the fit testing for E-12. We have E-8 and E-9 scheduled for fit testing. Fit testing is a necessary procedure where we ensure that Firefighters are properly fitted with respirator masks. This is mandated by OSHA.

The new E-21 and E-23 have arrived here at Headquarters. We have been acquiring equipment to fit out these two new units. The two way radio bids were opened in late December and the bids awarded. We are awaiting the arrival of the radios so that they may be installed. These units will replace older vehicles which will be moved to reserve status.

We purchased and placed in service a wet vacuum w/pump to replace the twenty five year old backpack unit which is no longer serviceable.

We had to check on the generator at E-26 station for a "slow crank alarm" We switched the unit to manual and exercised it. It performed as it should and we returned it to service. We replaced the tank level indicator sensor in E-21 as well as the Officers seat belt. We repaired a worn out fitting deep inside E-25's pump compartment and replaced the relief valve micro switch. We also repaired several drains and the exhaust system as well on this unit. We have been ordering and receiving loose equipment including hand tools, rescue saws, winch kits, cutoff saws, impact wrenches, Large Diameter fire hose, rescue ropes and the like for the new units. The fire hose has been properly marked and tested and will be loaded onto the New E-21 as soon as it is ready for service. We are still awaiting the 3" hose from our vendor.

We had issues with Trk. 1's right front out-rigger. After some adjustments to the proximity switches we were able to place this unit back in service. We replaced the Officers seat belt in E-26. We replaced the battery in the departments light tower. We addressed issues with several of the department's chain and rescue saws.

We will be spending a considerable amount of time this month inventorying the new equipment and properly marking it so that it may be placed in service. This equipment will be placed on several apparatus including the two new engines as well as the MPERV (Squad 1) unit, which will go into service soon.

We had several issues this month with our SUVs and sedans. Many of these are aging and require more time to maintain. Our SUVs double as response tow vehicles for the many trailers the department utilizes. Our sedan fleet includes vehicles of various ages as old as a 1993 sedan. We hope to be able to replace three of these in the coming year.

Office of the Fire Marshal-Barry Rickert

TRAINING

All members of the Fire Prevention Bureau continue to receive training referencing the job responsibilities. We also have a new Provisional Fire Inspector, Jordan Leach, who is currently certified to investigate fires. He will receive supplemental training in procedures for the Danbury Fire Marshals Office.

Fire Marshal Rickert attended a seminar for City supervisory personnel held at the Senior Center.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Deputy Marshal Johnson and Inspector Leach delivered a Fire Safety program to 25 senior citizens at the Kimberly Place facility.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

We have received preliminary plans for the demolition of the Filene's building at the Danbury Fair Mall.

With the winter season upon us we are now receiving complaints and calls regarding portable heaters.

Fire Marshal Rickert participated in the New Hire Orientation Program conducted at City Hall. Below are the statistical tables:

Abatements/Reports (hrs.):	61
Tickets Issues in Fire Zones:	11
Fire Investigation:	11
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	16
Blasting Permits:	5
Complaints:	33*
Plan Review (hrs.):	107
Fire Prevention Programs:	1
Orders of Abatement:	0

* Resolved or in process of being resolved.

INSPECTIONS:

Place of Assembly:	56
Educational:	10
Businesses:	29
Storage:	0
Health Care:	3
Industrial:	1
Mercantile:	20
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotels (units):	0
Apartments:	99
Day Care:	2
Misc. Inspection:	38
Special Structure & High Rise Bldg.:	0

Dates of Importance

12 February President Lincoln's birthday

13 Feb: Six new recruits will begin their training at the Connecticut Fire Academy

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief