



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 28 October through 24 November and details activities of the Department.

The Department has responded to a number of calls where we have assisted citizens who have locked their keys in the car. Occasionally these include locking the keys and children inside. I urge all drivers to be extra mindful of this concern. Be mindful of holding the keys or putting them in your pocket as you exit the car. Unfortunately these mistakes do occur and we will be there to assist when called. Avoidance of the situation is always the best policy.

We are in our heating season and this requires some care. Please be mindful of keeping heating vents clear of obstructions. Check your chimney if has not been checked this year and hire only certified repair technicians to work on your heating systems. If you are using alternate methods such as wood or pellet stoves, inserts or fireplaces, use only the proper fuel for the device.

Keep access ways clear of storage and always keep a fire extinguisher handy. Know how to use your extinguisher. Remember that the extinguisher is a tool to help you safely escape. Do not try to put the fire out and never re-enter the building once you are out. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for batteries and operation. Please see our responses below for two calls related to these concerns.

We here at the Danbury Fire Department wish each and every one of our citizens a happy and healthy Hanukah, Solstice, Kwanzaa and a Merry Christmas.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tours and preplans for the month include the following facilities: Hologic, Cartus, Loews Theatre, Stetson Place, Fairfield Hall on the mid town Campus of WCSU, 111 Main Street, Micelles' Nail Salon, Berkshire Plaza.

Lt. Schiller and representatives of the New Haven Chapter of MADD presented a talk "Emergency Response to Drunk Driving Accidents", to students at Brookfield High School on 10/27/08.

Lt. Handau presented a program on Airway Management to the New Fairfield HS EMT class on 10/24/08.

Lt. Daly and the crew of Engine 22 presented a Fire Prevention talk at Park Avenue School for 140+ students from kindergarten and 1st grade. He and FF Sherman also gave a tour and Fire Prevention session at headquarters for 60 first-graders from Morris St. School.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 24 October units responded to 71 Sheridan Street. This fire brought home to the Department a trend we have been following through out the country. Extinguishment of the fire presented a challenge for responding firefighters in a multifamily wood-frame structure. The fire was seated in concealed spaces between floors. These structural components were constructed of lightweight wood, open web floor trusses.

This response reinforced what we know about this type of construction and the inherent dangers it presents. Crews recognized early on that the kitchen floor was weakened. Multiple radio transmissions served to put all firefighters on notice. Evidenced by the extensive charring and alligating of remaining truss components, this fire had burned undetected for a considerable time. With smoke apparent in various areas, crews worked quickly to find the seat of the fire above a storage area off the garage at basement level. Considerable overhaul was necessary to ensure that all of the fire was located and extinguished.

Thankfully, no injuries were reported. This type and mode of construction has become common. It allows for rapid construction and is generally less expensive. It meets all codes and is safe for occupancy. However, under fire loads, it presents several issues to responding fire suppression forces.

As described above, hidden void spaces and combustible material are significant. In addition, the time between the onset of fire and failure under fire loads are hastened, meaning that crews must be aware of quicker collapse either locally or for the entire structure. This effectively reduces the time where it is safe to operate in the structure. As a result, many departments are revisiting protocols of interior attack. The Danbury Fire Department is mindful of these issues and

will continue to monitor the local construction industry and our response procedures.

On 20 October E-23 and E-23 responded to investigate an activated CO detector that roused the sleeping pregnant female, who evacuated the house. Upon investigation, E23 found CO levels of 68 PPM throughout the house. The source was found by E23 to be an exhaust pipe fitting for the propane boiler. The fitting had completely separated inside the confines of the building and was allowing exhaust gases to vent directly into the living area of this house. EMS was summoned to transport.

On 19 November a portable area heater burned and set off the fire alarm in an unoccupied building on South Street. This heater had melted and burned into a mass against a sheet rock wall. Two extinguishers were used to extinguish the blaze. This electrical malfunction is a constant worry with these units if left unattended and operating. This could have been a far more serious situation with out the alarm system.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

For the month of November our focus has been CPR for the professional rescuer recertification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillation. Additionally we familiarized our personnel with the Stryker evacuation chair, a new tool to assist us in using stairways to move non-ambulatory patients.

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 70 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the first few minutes. These programs are especially vital to our crews as emergency scene injury of Firefighters to cardiac arrest is a leading cause of deaths to fire and rescue personnel.

Community Heart-safe Program

The Danbury Fire Departments mission of saving lives has led to several initiatives to make our community a safer place to live and work. A collaborative effort between the Board of Education and the Fire Department placing Public Access Automatic External Defibrillators in the schools and providing CPR and defibrillation training for school personnel is one example. On November 4, 2008 the Danbury Fire Department provided CPR training for the school nurses. A total of 30 people attended this class instructed by myself and Sue Lavasser, Nursing Coordinator for the Board of Education

Trauma Seminar at Waterbury Hospital

Waterbury Hospital sponsored a comprehensive trauma seminar on Nov.13, 2008. Several personnel attended this seminar targeted at emergency health care providers who provide care for Trauma patients. The topics covered a wide range of trauma scenarios that emergency health care providers might encounter. These included:

- Advances in Vascular care
- Basic and Advanced Airways
- Management of Pediatric Trauma
- Trauma in Pregnancy
- Medical considerations in Urban Settings
- Management of Gunshot wound

Two discussion topics were:

- Mass Casualty / the Station Nightclub Fire in RI.
- Combat Medicine in Iraq

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

System activity remains at a consistent pace no large increases have been noted and there were no major incidents during this time frame.

Cellular 911 calls have continued the steady increase, presently 48% of all 911 calls in Danbury are received by cell phone. This is significant in that call processing times for cell phones is longer due to the fact that location information may or may not be available. It is important to know your location or name of a landmark when calling 911 from a cell phone.

With the completion of the bridge repair work on Padanaram Rd all response recommendations to this area have been restored. The reopening of this vital route will reduce emergency response times to northwestern areas of the city.

Equipment

There were no failures noted of communications equipment, however there is a concern with regard to the low band transmitter and receiver that is the heart of the department radio system. Since the failure of a power supply last year over the Thanksgiving Holiday repair parts have become scarce for this equipment. Discussions with radio repair technicians have brought to light that Motorola is no longer producing repair parts for "Legacy" equipment nor are they actually manufacturing compatible replacements. Another failure of this transmitter would render the department's main source of two-way communications and alerting the volunteers inoperable.

Costs of replacement are unknown at this time. We have asked vendors to forward prices for a compatible unit.

Training - Mark Omasta

In just under three years we have added 41 new firefighters to the Department. Training these Firefighters has been and will continue to be a significant focus of our Department. As new Firefighters come into the Department we need to retrain to the standards we require to operate.

This process has continued. Initial training in the necessary disciplines is complete. Over the next several months we will be bringing all members up to the level desired mostly through in house training. Next spring we hope to bring in the next certification class to further our capabilities.

We have spent considerable time and effort this year to bring these firefighters to the requisite level for driver assignments. This is vital as these members are already being utilized as drivers due to promotion and retirement of senior Firefighters. This requires a number of programs that each of these members must successfully complete including EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Course), State of Connecticut "2Q" certification and the State Pump Operators class. This training effort will continue through the next fiscal year at least.

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Place of Assembly:	10
Educational:	8
Business:	104
Storage:	2
Health Care:	5
Industrial:	4
Mercantile:	40
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotel(units):	0
Apartments:	200
Rooming Houses:	1
Day Care:	3
Misc. Inspections	20
Special Structures:	0
Office Duty (hrs):	74

Inspections:	
Abatements/Reports (hrs):	55.5 Issued in
Fire Zones:	5
Fire Investigations:	7
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	6
Blasting Permits:	2
Complaints	14*
Plan Review(hrs)	55
Fire Prevention Prgs.	20
Orders of Abatement:	1
* Resolved or in the process of being resolved.	

Deputy Fire Marshal Rao and Sparky attended Halloween on the Green.

Deputy Fire Marshal Gillotti presented a special program for Boy Scouts at Shelter Rock School.

Deputy Fire Marshal Leach and F.F. Walter Arteaga did a Juvenile Fire Setter Interview on a referral from Danbury Youth Services.

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections; all known situations have been successfully resolved.

This months Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. All Danbury grade schools have received Fire Safety Training.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The I.S.G. Thermal Imaging Camera from E-25 was again sent out for repairs. This unit was repaired last month and had only been in service for a couple of weeks when it failed once again. As these cameras age, they seem to become unreliable, unpredictable and costly to repair. These cameras have become essential and life saving tools. We are currently in the process of reviewing the newest technology and various manufacturers. We hope to purchase two new units in the near future. Over the coming budget cycles we will be looking to replace all our current cameras.

We are nearly complete with our career Department Members. Several members are on medical leave and one is on Military leave. The Volunteer Council will schedule the various companies with us to complete their testing.

Due to wear the Drivers seat belt was replaced in E-21. These belts are hanging up on the "Nader" bolts and wearing through. Engine 24 required new transmission cooler lines and new springs for the lock assembly on the rear roll up door. We had quite an issue with the emergency lights and the scene lights on E-26. We found a battery stud connection loose and burnt out behind the dash on this unit. We have made a temporary repair and are awaiting parts from Pierce to complete this repair. The cracked officers' side windshield was also replaced.

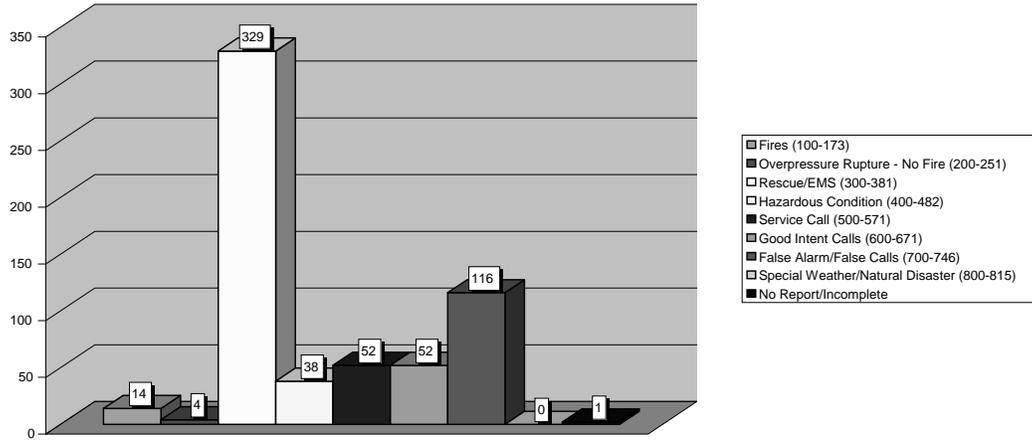
We purchased 3-6% foam for the Department. We diagnosed the problem with the air compressor on Squad-1 and have ordered parts. Seeing as winter will soon be upon us we have fitted new tire chains on Squad-1 and mounted the plow on the Department's pick-up truck.

We have received our LED style lights to replace the front warning lights on some of our Apparatus. The current lights are plaguing us with problems. They have proven to be unreliable, as well as time consuming and costly to repair. We have already started our replacement program. As of today's date two of our units have been modified with the new lights and they seem to be everything we have hoped for.

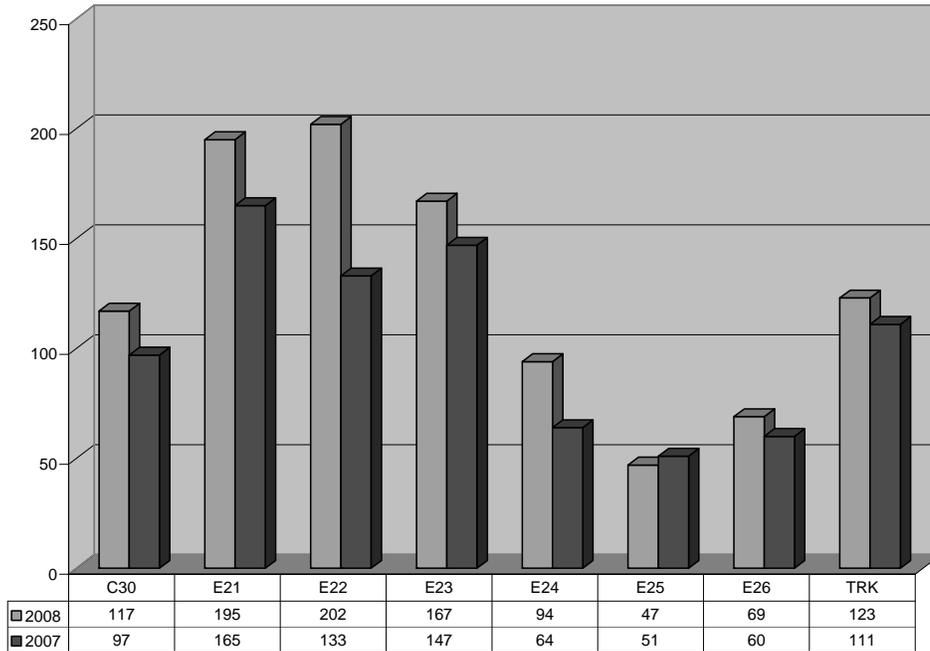
On Truck-1 we replaced the starter on one of Partner saws and repaired the ignition system on the Echo saw. This past month we had a hydraulic line in the left rear outrigger on Truck-2 burst. We removed the outrigger and replaced all the hydraulic lines. While we had this unit apart we welded the steel line connection points that we found broken on the extension cylinder.

Response Statistics

**Fire Response Breakdown
October 22 to November 20, 2008**



Career Response Comparison for November

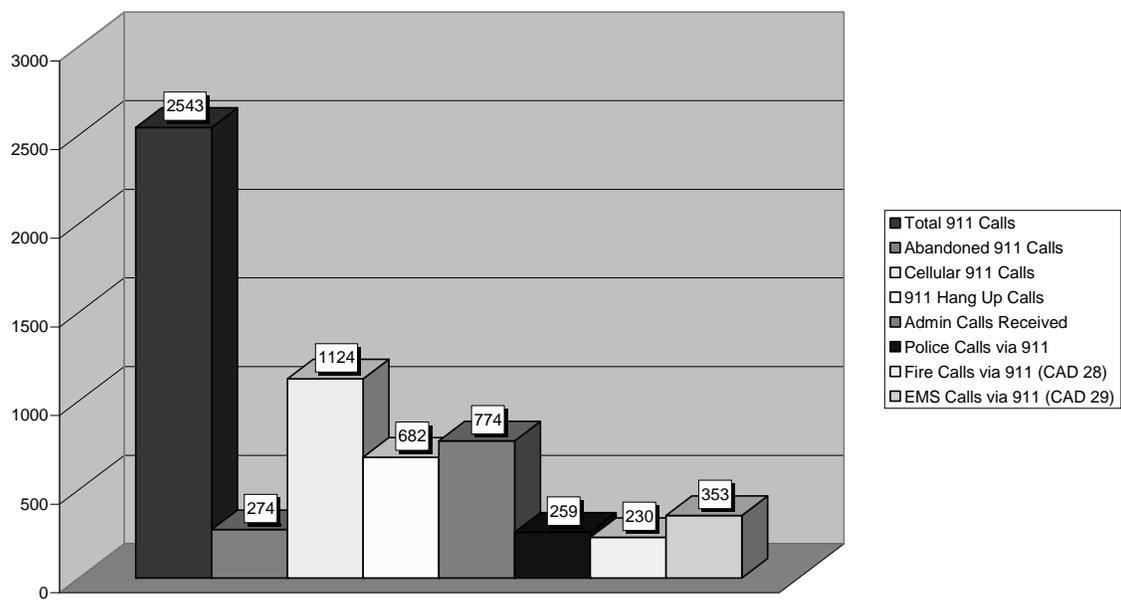


Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	14
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	4
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	329
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	38
Service Call (500-571)	52
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	52
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	116
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	2
Total Fire Responses	607
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2543
Abandoned 911 Calls	274
Cellular 911 Calls	1124
911 Hang Up Calls	682
Admin Calls Received	774
Police Calls via 911	259
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	230
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	353
Daily Average	82.03
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	607
Total EMS Responses	708
Unknown Transport Status	15
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	318
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	266
No Patient (CAD 62)	109
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	7
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	18

**** NOTE ****

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

**911 Center Activity
October 22 to November 20, 2008**



Good of the Organization

Remodeling and painting of the interior of Engine 24 is on going. Issues with the heating system at Engine 26 are being addressed.

Respectfully

Geoffrey Herald, Chief