



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 Chief of the Danbury Fire Department for the period of 25 November through 29 December detailing activities of the Department. With the onset of cold weather we have entered into the highest risk period for home and residential fires. Please take all precautions to reduce potential home fires. Do not overload wall plugs. Check wiring for abrasions and worn electrical components. Install and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly.

If you use space or area heaters please use them in accordance with all manufacturer usage guidelines. When purchasing such devices, buy only from reputable dealers and buy devices that have the approval of a testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratories.

As the snow is now covering our area, sledding, tobogganing, skiing and snowboarding will be available. Please enjoy all the winter has to offer but do it safely. Helmets are advised for sledding and skiing activities. These devices will be invaluable in the event of an accident. We here at the Department wish each and every citizen a happy and healthy new year.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tours of facilities and response areas included Mannkind, remodeling at Berkshire Shopping Center, Holiday Inn and Pocono Lane.

Throughout the month we have responded to a number of service calls. These have included installing smoke detectors, replacing batteries, assisting with lock outs and the like. An engine company assisted a citizen in accessing a pull down attic stair that she was unable to do on her own. Especially important at this time of the year, we have assisted in installing or with information regarding Carbon Monoxide detectors.

Department members attended a luncheon on 17 December, at the Danbury Plaza Hotel for their Public Safety Officers Appreciation Day. This event was much appreciated by attendees.

Lt. Daly spearheaded the Local 801 annual holiday food and toy drive this year. He and other members of the department delivered canned goods and other non-perishable foods and toys to the Salvation Army. These were collected from HQ, Engine company stations, the Marshal's office, Sikorsky Financial Credit Union and Pembroke School. Some fifty one children received toys through voluntary sponsoring of the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

Danbury Fire Department units responded Mutual aide to the town of Ridgefield for a structure fire. E26 and water tenders from the Volunteers responded. Three Ridgefield Firefighters were sent to Danbury Hospital ER, one with chest pain and two with difficulty breathing. Chief Slagle went to the ER to check on their conditions and see what kind of assistance he and the Department could supply. He reported on the firefighters conditions to RFD Chief Burford who was still on scene.

On 12 December Engine 26 responded to a routine alarm system issue at the Magnet School, 201 University Blvd. As E26 was leaving the school after handling the initial problem, they noticed a strong odor of fuel oil on the premises. They proceeded to investigate an ongoing problem in the school. Lt. Lounsbury and his crew spent the better part of their day working with school representatives, Public Buildings and DEP to ensure proper closure to an ongoing situation which could negatively impact the environment.

On 16 December, several companies responded to an auto alarm at Danbury High School. Upon arrival, a sprinkler head was found activated on the fourth floor. Our investigation showed that malicious tampering of the sprinkler head was the cause of the alarm. At this writing, heavy water damage to the building and equipment is evident but the loss has not been fully determined. Quick use of tarps to prevent water damage to computers and other equipment on the floors below the activated sprinkler greatly reduced the potential costs of this incident.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

With the end of the training year at Danbury Hospital, the Department EMT-Is attended the final session of our CME program. This CME allowed for a skills review, including actions we do not often do in the field such as intraosseous IV insertion. This procedure allows for an IV access to the bone marrow. This will be done in the event the normal access through veins is inhibited due to burns or other severe injury.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

System Activity

Winter Storm events have begun for the season and with them there has been an increase in call volume. Motor vehicle accidents, slip and fall calls as well as incidents of carbon monoxide detector activations are all expected to rise during the winter months. This seasonal increase was first associated with the weekend of the 19th as several inches of snow fell.

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	16
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	311
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	37
Service Call (500-571)	69
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	57
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	83
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	5
Total Fire Responses	581
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2544
Abandoned 911 Calls	318
Cellular 911 Calls	1148
911 Hang Up Calls	749
Admin Calls Received	739
Police Calls via 911	297
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	225
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	360
Daily Average	82.06
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	581
Total EMS Responses	704
Unknown Transport Status	17
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	283
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	284
No Patient (CAD 62)	120
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	10
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	38

**** NOTE ****

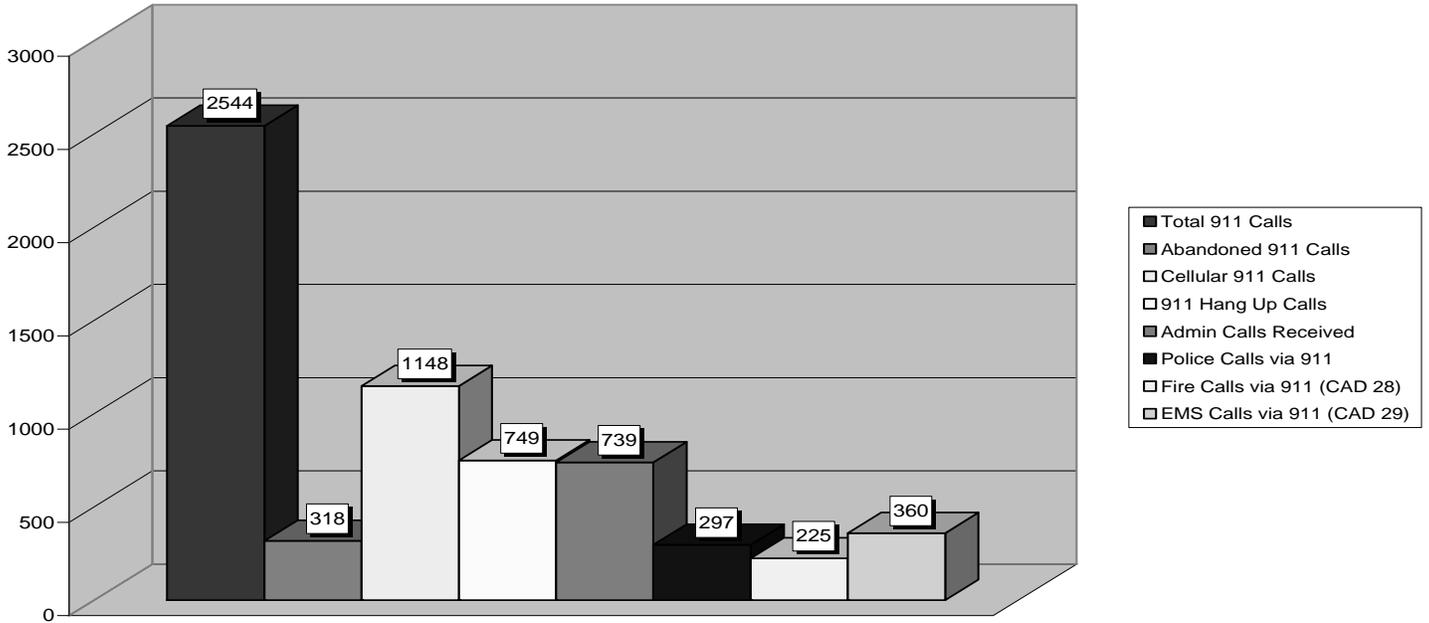
Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Report:

Equipment

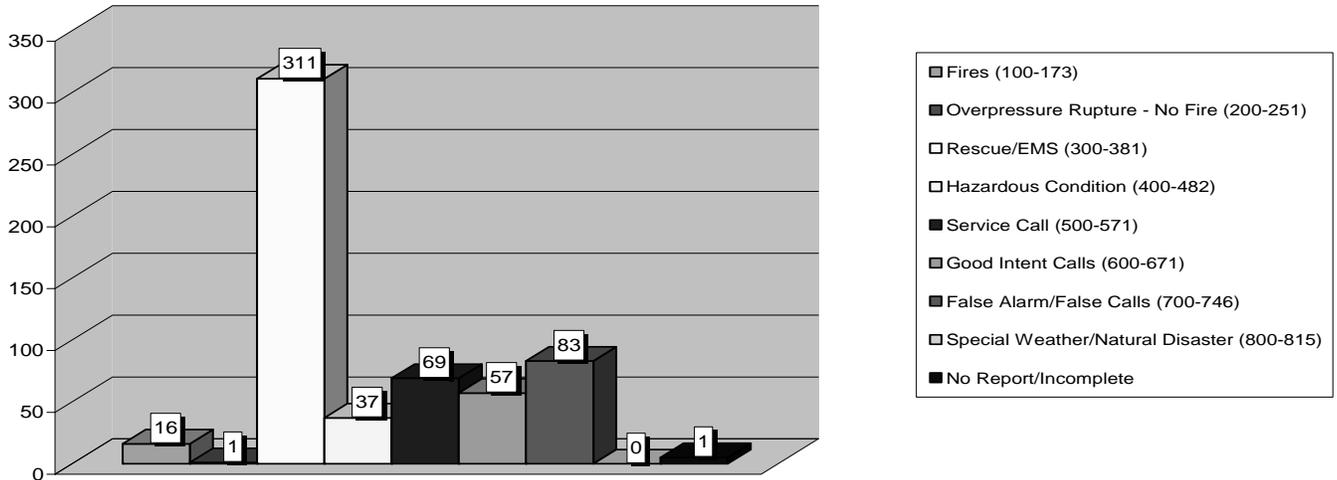
Additional portable radios were received from our repair provider. These radios have been extremely reliable since being placed into service in 2001. They are still economical to repair and to date 24 radios have been refurbished in the last 2 two years.

A meeting with the Volunteer Fire Council was held to address the concerns of standardizing the available channels for all volunteer members. Presently, members of the Volunteer Companies leadership are inventorying the available radios and their capabilities. When completed, decisions will be made as to how best to resolve the issues. These include determining if the volunteer component will be required to purchase new devices or reprogram the radios in use. We hope to be able to continue to use the existing equipment.

**911 Center Activity
November 21 to December 19, 2008**



**Fire Response Breakdown
November 21 to December 19, 2008**



Training - Mark Omasta

We completed our live burn training for all crews, the 40 hour staff, and the Volunteer division. Along with SCBA training, ladder work, search and rescue, hose advancement, and Incident Command, we concentrated on familiarizing the crews with our R.I.T (Rapid Intervention Team) rescue Airpack and rescue techniques.

We completed the field testing of the Thermal Imaging Cameras during live burns in early December. This process involved several manufacturers, field reps and two days of testing at the burn facility on Plumtrees road. After the testing a selection was made and a camera has been ordered. This camera will be assigned to Engine 26 on Kenosia drive. The cost of the camera was split between the Fire Department and the Airport as this engine company has the primary responsibility of protecting the airport.

Pump Operator

All 16 students in the Pump Operator course (14 career and 2 volunteer) passed the Certification written exam in November and are now Certified Pump Operators.

Health/Safety

Representatives from CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) completed the health/safety class to all crews.

Electric safety

Refresher training in High Voltage Safety is in progress for all crews, training materials and updates provided by Northeast Utilities.

Fire School

A standpipe/sprinkler system was installed in our Burn building. This will allow crews to train with connecting to and pumping a standpipe system along with interior hose advancement evolutions. The calendar has been full with training for the Career and Volunteer Divisions as well as training dates for neighboring Fire Departments.

Aerial Operator

FF Shawn McGee successfully completed the requirements for Aerial Driver/Operator.

NVCC

The training division has been granted authorization to proctor placement testing for students enrolled in the Naugatuck Valley Community College Fire Technology degree program. The placement tests will be administered for Math and English. Two students have successfully completed their testing and have enrolled in the appropriate classes for the spring semester.

The Naugatuck Valley CC Fall class, "Fire Prevention and Inspection" ended on Dec. 17. The Department will host the class, "Municipal Fire Administration" for the spring 2009 Semester starting in January.

Training hours for the previous 30 days were 678. Total training hours year to date are 17,659.

Meetings/Events:

- Attended the swearing in for Fire Marshall Jim Johnson at City Hall on Dec 4
- We had a Thermal Image Camera demo with representatives from 3 vendors at the Fire School on Dec 4 and 5.
- Attended the Area Crisis Management Group's December meeting with State Police Lt. Paul Vance as guest speaker
- Met with Associate Professor Duane Perkins (NVCC) and discussed future class offerings for the Fire Tech degree.
- Attended a "Thank you" breakfast at the Danbury Plaza on Ridgebury Rd.

- Attended the State Firefighters' Educational Committee meeting Dec 4 to discuss the Regional Fire Schools.
- Attended a Safety seminar at Northeast Utilities on Dec 15.
- Met with the Hocon Safety Manager concerning safety issues involving Propane Emergencies (Payne Road)
- Attended Christmas parties for A&B groups Dec 5, C&D groups Dec 13 and Independent Hose #4 on Dec 6.

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Inspections:	
Abatements/Reports (hrs):	42.5
Issued in Fire Zones:	6
Fire Investigations:	14
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	10
Blasting Permits:	2
Complaints	15*
Plan Review (hrs)	38
Fire Prevention Programs	6
Orders of Abatement:	0
* Resolved or in the process of being resolved.	

Place of Assembly:	22
Educational:	6
Business:	18
Storage:	0
Health Care:	1
Industrial:	3
Mercantile:	21
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotel (units):	175
Apartments:	48
Rooming Houses:	0
Day Care:	0
Misc. Inspections	44
Special Structures:	0
Office Duty (hrs):	90

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

This month's Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. At this time of year we stressed the hazards connected with space heaters, extension cords and Christmas Tree Safety.

Our personnel completed re-certification for CPR, de-fib and Live Burn training.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. All of the department's meters are fully functional. The Department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We still 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 spent a considerable amount of time repairing air packs that were accumulating due to major out of service issues. These issues were atypically more severe in nature and could not be repaired on the "fly" as we usually do.

We have completed the Career Department SCBA Fit Testing. To date we have fit tested two Volunteer companies and will schedule the others for testing after the New Year.

We have issued the P.O. to Thermal Imaging Systems for the repair of the camera from E-25's and will be expecting delivery this week. 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. The department has recently extensively field tested several new thermal imagers. After the research and field testing, we have moved to purchase a model manufactured by MSA.

We developed and delivered the Apparatus Division budget for 09/10 as requested.

We replaced the Officers side windshield in E-23. We have received the parts and completed the repair on the air compressor on Squad-1. This past week it was reported to us that a strange noise was emanating from Squad 1. Upon inspection, we found that the rear main bearing in the AC generator had failed. We removed the unit from service and contacted Pierce. We delivered this unit to our dealer for warranty repair and hopefully will have it returned to service next week depending on parts availability. We replaced the battery and on board charger in the Assistant Chiefs Expedition. We replaced the taillight assembly in the Training Officers Expedition. We re-worked the second exhaust removal unit at E 23s station and are awaiting the magnetic nozzle from Plymovent to complete our "in house" design and repair of this unit. We replaced the sight glass in the radiator in Truck 1. We responded to a high temperature/low coolant alarm in Station 26's standby generator. Upon inspection we discovered several coolant leaks around and relating to the engine block heater. We have taken the required action to repair them. We serviced and tested the departments' snow blower. We tested and condemned four out of five 24 volt batteries that are used on Squad-1 to run some of the portable rescue tools. We ordered and received the replacements. We repaired the tank level indicator on E-23.

Good of the Organization

Several members attended the wake for Mildred Ivancso, wife of retired firefighter John Ivancso.

Several Firefighters and Officers are playing on the DFD Hockey Team. They have been practicing for an upcoming charity game.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief