



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 30 December through 27 January and details activities of the Department.

With the on set of very cold weather the Department has responded to several calls for frozen and broken pipes. These calls have included commercial and residential occupancies. Damage from these situations can be substantial. Please be certain that all areas of your homes with piping have sufficient heat or be sure to turn off the water to the piped unheated areas.

There has been an unusual amount of snow fall in the area since Christmas. As a result, many fire hydrants have been covered in snow. If there is a hydrant in your neighborhood covered and inaccessible, please take the time to shovel the snow and expose the hydrant. This will shave precious time off our finding and connecting to the hydrant. Remember that in the event of a fire, the hydrants are vital to our operations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tours of facilities and response areas this month include: Western Conn. State University, Danbury Airport, Rivington Complex on Ridgebury Rd., Damia Rd. housing development and the new Police Headquarters

Engine 21 crew responded to the War Memorial for a cardiac arrest subsequent to two basket ball players colliding. They set up the automatic defibrillator and converted the victim to a sustainable heart rhythm on the second shock.

Headquarters crews of B group assisted the American Red Cross Blood drive that was relocated to HQ from City Hall on Jan 19, 2009.

1/1/2009 - Installed smoke detectors in a home after response teams noted that two installed detectors were nonfunctional.

Engine 23 Lt. Joe Halas and Seth Ambruso were interviewed by News Channel 30 for the successful cold water ice rescue.

A group of 8 Cub Scouts from Pack 52 was given a tour of Fire HQ's.

Good of the Organization

The Department welcomed home Firefighter Adam Horosky who just returned from his tour in Iraq. This was his 4th tour of duty in the greater South West Asian zone.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

Danbury Firefighters responded to assist mutual aid to Ridgefield in the Ridgebury section. This was a house fire that resulted in the total loss of the structure.

A Carbon monoxide call was received from 18 Dibble St. The call involved a CO and smoke detector activation late in the evening. The family called 911 and arriving crews found levels of CO exceeding 800 ppm. This is well into the extremely dangerous percentage. Investigation showed a broken furnace fire box. Five people were saved by these functioning detectors.

A successful Cold Water Ice Rescue occurred on Candlewood Lake by Aqua Vista on 11 January. This involved a man cross country skiing on the lake and falling through the ice 100 feet off shore. A neighbor, Rory Ahearn of Circle Dr., saw the man and called 911 and then pushed a row boat out to rescue the man. As they were returning to shore, both men fell through the ice and DFD crews with cold water rescue suits and support personnel rescued them. Volunteers on the scene and Fire Department personnel worked together to a safe and successful end.

A significant structure fire occurred at 7 New Street on the night of 16 January. This fire taxed the resources of the Department with added difficulties from 5 degree weather and serious wind chill conditions. Through cooperation of multiple agencies including City and regional Volunteers, the Red Cross, Hart, City Police and emergency management there were no serious injuries or fatalities.

Units responded to a MVA at 57 Beaver Brook Road a 70 year-old female driver of a Subaru wagon drove over the guardrail, bounced off a large tree and left a substantial debris field on her way down the hill. The car came to rest on the driver side door trapping her legs and against an SUV across from E11's station. Crews went to work quickly, lifting the vehicle off her legs with airbags. Lt. Arconti kept constant contact with the victim. Through coordination between Danbury Health Care Associates and our crews a smooth and rapid transport to Danbury E.D. was accomplished.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday.

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 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 the knowledge of lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of medical calls and this process has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Masimo Rad - 57 Carboxyhemoglobin meter

The recent acquisition of the Masimo carbon monoxide blood level meter will give the Fire Department a new dynamic ability to measure the Carbon Monoxide blood level on Firefighters after firefighting activities or on civilians exposed to carbon monoxide from malfunctioning or alternative heating systems. The meter utilizes a non invasive LED to accurately measure patient's oxygen saturation rate and CO levels using a clip-on finger probe.

The usefulness of this device was recently demonstrated by B-Group's Truck Co. On Jan 19, 2009 responding to a residential call with a 200 ppm CO reading confirmed by an Engine Co. on the scene. The device was utilized by Capt. Meehan to assess the exposure levels of the residents, an elderly woman a young couple and their infant child.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	17
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	2
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	366
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	67
Service Call (500-571)	95
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	63
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	92
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	6
Total Fire Responses	710
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2861
Abandoned 911 Calls	317
Cellular 911 Calls	1368
911 Hang Up Calls	824
Admin Calls Received	725
Police Calls via 911	318
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	308
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	425
Daily Average	92.29
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	710
Total EMS Responses	807
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	352

BLS Patient (CAD 61)	303
No Patient (CAD 62)	152
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	5
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	40

**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And
EMS

Incidents are attached to Fire Incident
Reports

System Activity

Winter Storm events have continued. Winter events of snow and icing have resulted in increased call volume. A recent icing event that covered the city made for treacherous conditions for responders and with various power outages both the career and volunteer departments worked seamlessly to mitigate many problems with wires down.

Equipment

Since the outage of the main transmitter and receiver that was suffered in November 2007 there have been no additional outages. However it is fully realized that Motorola will no longer provide repair parts or replacements for this equipment. In the event of a failure of this equipment the department will lose its ability to page the volunteers and will suffer other significant operational constraints.

It had been hope that this equipment would have been replaced as part of the city wide radio system design that was underway but due to economic reasons this is not going to occur. The low band radio system will remain the primary radio system for sometime. This equipment needs to be replaced prior to a catastrophic failure. Replacement prices have been received from the radio vendor in use by the police department. This replacement equipment can be installed in the current radio configuration within the Fire Department and by using the Police Department vendor the design specs have been set to insure that this transmitter will integrate seamlessly with the new communications equipment being installed at the new police facility.

This is the best solution to a present problem and future issue when the departments realize a merging of communications services. A sole source vendor will also allow for greater measure of quality throughout the integration process.

911 Addressing

As a result of a citizen concern during the Candlewood Ice Rescue the topic of 2 Circle Drives in the city has come up again. The issue of duplicate streets and the effect on 911 and emergency response remain a concern of the dispatchers and the Fire Department and until a clear cut solution is found these types of concerns may be heard from time to time. Danbury has approximately 24 streets of the same name and numbering. This requires dispatchers to be extra vigilant, but at time responders do struggle with the nuances of an older combined city.

Training - Mark Omasta

Crews trained new firefighters and refreshed veterans in the use of our Cold Water rescue suits and equipment. Crews utilized this gear while pulling two victims from Lake Candlewood on January 11. Both patients were treated and released from the hospital. With outdoor training limited during the cold weather, crews are concentrating on completing their web-based training assignments.

Health/Safety: We completed the Electrical Safety Class with training materials provided by Northeast Utilities.

Fire School: The steel shutter window replacement project got underway with the installation of heavy duty shutters on three windows in the burn building.

NVCC: The Naugatuck Valley CC Spring Semester 2009 class, "Municipal Fire Administration" will get underway at Headquarters on January 28.

Firefighter I Class

Our Firefighter I class started on January 15 and will run into June. There are 24 students enrolled from the Danbury, Stony Hill, Botsford, Sherman, and New Fairfield Fire Departments. Classes are being held at the Beaver Brook Vol. Fire Station and at our Fire School.

Meetings/Events:

Met with Program Director Barry Groman from Naugatuck Valley CC to coordinate the spring semester class and discuss future projects

Met with the Local 801 Health/Safety Committee and Corporate Health Care to discuss the proposed fitness Program

Attended the Volunteer Fire Council monthly meeting on Dec 22

Held critiques for a Fire on Clapboard Ridge, the Ice Rescue on Candlewood Lake and extrication on Beaver Brook Road

Viewed a demo for a potential Web-based training system for the Volunteer division

Met with Audio/visual representatives in preparation for the refurbishing of our classroom at Headquarters

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

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

All of the department's four-gas meters are fully functional. The division spent a considerable amount of time this past month on meter reliability issues. We are happy to report that we have retrieved and logged all meter records from the past eighteen months (512 pages worth) with the help of our Communications Supervisor. We replaced the failed LEL sensor in E-26's meter under warranty and are currently monitoring E-22's meter which seems to be having intermittent problems.

The Department's SCBA'S are functional. Last month we spent a fair amount of time evaluating packs that required more than the usual amount of time to repair or were just outside the parameters of what we are allowed to repair being "field level" certified. We have

sent these units out to Shipmans Fire Equipment and are awaiting a purchase order number so that we may authorize these repairs. After the New Street structure fire only one unit was turned in for repair due to battery issues. This unit was repaired and returned to service. We are currently evaluating the damage to the "Bullet" saw that fell off the roof at this fire.

The Department received E-25's thermal imaging camera from Thermal Imaging Systems after repair and placed it in service. The camera from E-12 was sent for repairs. This imager failed while we were borrowing it to replace E-25's unit. An estimate for repair was received and we are awaiting a purchase order number so that we can authorize the repair.

This past month we fit tested Volunteer companies E-3, E-6 and E-12 and are awaiting contact from the remaining Volunteer companies to schedule their fit testing.

Last month it was reported to us that the generator in Squad -1 was making a strange noise. The unit was removed from service and upon inspection found that the bearings on the generator shaft had failed. The Squad was delivered to our dealer who then delivered it to Onan Power Systems of Rocky Hill. A technician there found that the main shaft was not manufactured properly. They replaced the defective parts and returned this unit to Fire Headquarters. The Assistant Chiefs Expedition is currently in for service. The quarterly brake inspections have been completed on all engines and ladder trucks. We repaired the turn signals in the 97-F1. A trailer brake controller has been installed in the departments' pick-up, and will be installed in all our Expeditions as time allows. The electrical power shorelines to E-22 and Truck-1 have been repaired.

We made some modifications to the Plymovent unit at E-23's station and are awaiting one more part from Plymovent in order to complete our repair. The attempted repair of the diesel fuel pump here at Headquarters met with no success. A purchase order has been issued to Liberty Auto (Pump Repair Company) and we are awaiting their arrival. However, we were successful in repairing the gasoline pump here at Headquarters. The State Mass Casualty trailer was delivered to Clinton CT. for the installation of a generator.

Apparatus Supervisor Cavo and Assistant Mechanic Beers attended a presentation at City Hall relating to Hazard Communications and also attended our State Association seminar in Rocky Hill.

Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

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

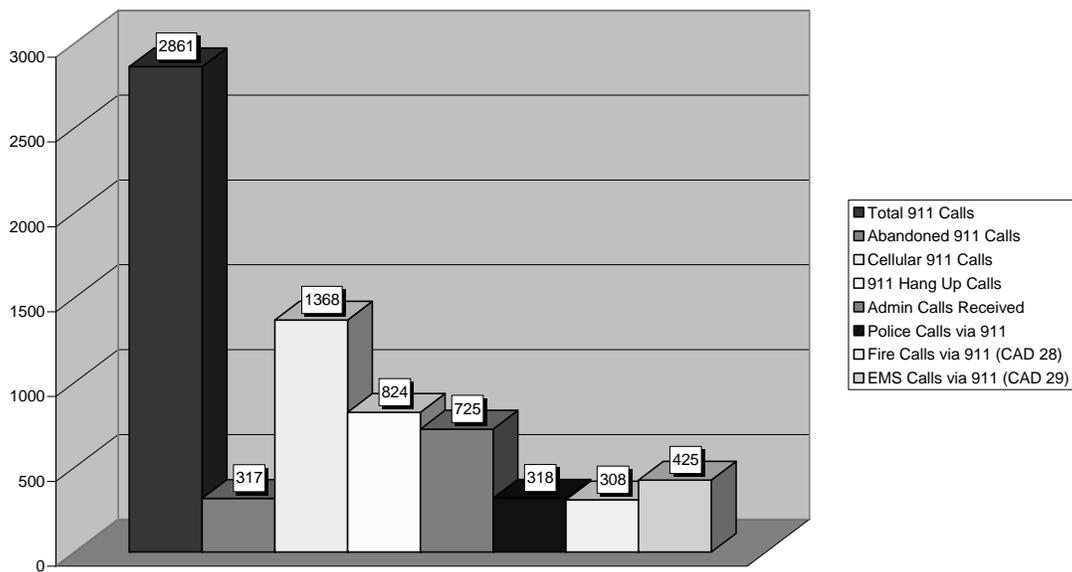
This months' Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. At this time of year we stressed the hazards connected with space heaters and extension cords.

Our office completed 50 hrs of continuing education training for re-certification for Deputy Fire Marshals.

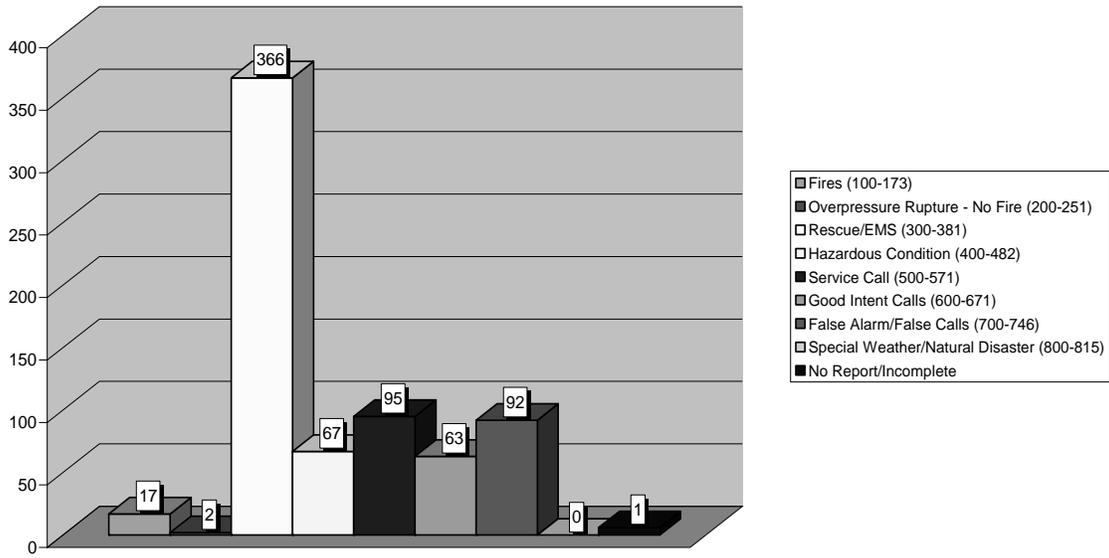
Abatements/Reports (hrs):	36.5
Issued in Fire Zones:	4
Fire Investigations:	14
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	14
Blasting Permits:	2
Complaints	15*
Plan Review (hrs)	37
Fire Prevention Prgms.	3
Orders of Abatement:	3

Place of Assembly:	12
Educational:	7
Business:	11
Storage:	1
Health Care:	1
Industrial:	0
Mercantile:	24
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotel (units):	119
Apartments:	44
Rooming Houses:	3
Day Care:	0
Misc. Inspections	44
Special Structures:	0
Office Duty (hrs):	94

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



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



Respectfully submitted

Geoffrey Herald