



# **CITY OF DANBURY**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**19 NEW STREET**

**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**Geoffrey R. Herald**  
**Fire Chief**

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## **FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. This report covers the period of 21 February through 21 March and details activities of the Department.

The use of AEDs has had a profound impact on our citizens. Jenniffer and Paul Blaszkas visited and met with A Group and the Engine 21 crew at headquarters. Engine 21, staffed by Lt. Miguel, FF Newton, and FF Gagliardo responded to the War Memorial earlier this year. When they arrived they found Mr. Blaszkas unresponsive. They performed CPR and provided De-Fibrillation. Through their efforts he was restored to a sustainable heart rhythm and transported to the E.D. He is undergoing continued therapy and is expected to recover fully. They were very thankful for the care provided to Paul by Lt. Miguel's crew.

The spring weather may actually be here to stay. As we move into warmer conditions, we ask that all citizens carefully inspect the tools and equipment that has been garaged over the winter. Please be sure lawn mowers and other power equipment is properly checked before starting. Check for gasoline leaks and that all blades and wheels are firmly attached. Be sure to check also for mice nests and damage in this equipment. It is common for rodents to gnaw at wiring and other components.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

All crews participated in extensive tours of the Boehringer-Ingelheim facility on Ridgebury Road and the Hocon gas facility on Payne Rd. Other pre-incident training included Old Sherman Tpke., areas of Settlers Hill, Ball Pond, Milltown Rd., W. Redding Rd., Starrs Plain Rd., Spruce Mtn. Correia Dr. and Briar Ridge.

New Fairfield Cub Scout Tiger Den Go-See-It tour with 9 boys toured Headquarters.

Fox 61 News aired a segment on Ice Rescue and Equipment featuring Danbury Fire Department members on 9 March.

E24 provided a static display and public education at Stadley Rough School on 14 March.

Many of our members participated in the annual Charity Hockey game. This is a joint event with the Police Department. The funds realized from this event are donated to charities through the two Departments.

On 26 March the Police Department S.W.A.T. team used the Fire Training Facility for SCBA training under smoke conditions. This is an example of inter-department cross training using Fire Department equipment to train other City Departments. The 14 members of the S.W.A.T. team all were put into the SCBA and successfully completed the training.

### **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE**

A single vehicle MVA involved a young man driving a Porsche 944 on Stadley Rough Rd. at 3:30 A.M. Estimated speed at impact was 110 MPH. Initial impact with a tree took off the right front wheel, quarter panel and passenger door. A 300 ft. debris field ensued as he apparently pin-balled southbound toward Forty Acre Mountain Rd. Miraculously, he self-extricated out the passenger side of the car moments before the engine compartment became fully involved in fire. As crews approached the car, from the opposite side of the road, they heard a small explosion. The crew suspected that a tire had blown. It turned out that a hydraulic hood support piston rocketed across the road, embedding itself in the bank around shin level. Crews stood by, waiting for PD to determine whether Accident Investigation would be called in. Luckily, the young man's injuries were not life-threatening and the crews were able to finish up by neutralizing blood splashes and spreading speed-dri on fluids. A thermal imager was used early on to determine whether or not there was a passenger, who would have likely been ejected into the woods off the road. The imager did quickly identify a form with a significant heat signature, which turned out to be the still warm deformed right front tire of the car.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez**

#### **EMS Wednesday**

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been a review to prepare the First Responders for their State of Connecticut EMS recertification test and practical

#### **Haz-Mat Thursday**

The OSHA mandated yearly Hazardous Materials Operational level review continues while Firefighters are on duty, with over half of the department having completed the class. This class follows the State Fire Academy's curriculum while placing an emphasis on metering and monitoring.

## **Region Five Haz-Mat Team**

The mutual aid agreement for the operations of the Northwest Regional Hazardous Material Response team has been completed. It has been submitted to the Mayor and Common Council for their consideration. If approved, it will finalize the establishment and initiate the operation of the Region 5 team. Danbury, in conjunction with Waterbury and Torrington comprise the team.

## **Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

The radio transmitter base station has been approved and ordered from Northeastern Communications. This equipment will replace the main transmitter of the department and will be integrated into the existing consoles at Fire Headquarters and will be able to be seamlessly connected to the new communications area of the Police Department when the time comes to consolidate dispatch functions.

Northeastern will also be performing system optimizations on both the low and high band frequencies to further improve this vital public safety radio infrastructure.

An inventory has been received of the radio capability of the volunteer departments. At this time not all companies have fully compatible radios. Options are being examined to determine the best plan for correcting this situation.

Additional portable radios have been ordered and are to be deployed in the Assistant Chiefs vehicle to be used as spares and for mutual aid companies that may be requested to aid Danbury.

**Computer Equipment:** This year for the first time many of facilities in the city that are required to submit hazardous material information have done so using electronic filing. This reduces paper usage and allows us to make the information available on the mobile computers. DFM Bill Weber has worked diligently with members of the industrial community in coordinating this effort and receiving these important records.

As a result of this effort, Fire Officers will be able to access critical chemical data and quantities for a listed facility using the mobile data computers using a program called CAMEO (Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations). Previously officers would have to search in a three ring binder. An additional resource called WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) is also being updated on the mobile units. WISER allows hazardous chemicals to be identified by a number of methods, Patient symptoms, chemical properties, labels or placards. All of these functions are easily accessible with the touch screen.

## **Training - Mark Omasta**

Three Department members, Firefighters Walter Arteaga, Kyle Houser and Seth Ambruso attended an IAFF/IAFC program on Peer Fitness Training in Meriden. This program is a joint management and labor collaboration designed to improve health and wellness in the fire service. These individuals will be at the spearhead of our continuing efforts to this end.

Firefighter I Class: This class is the “Basic Training” of the Fire Service. We have opened up our classes to the surrounding towns and have several students from our mutual aid partners in the program. Our Firefighter I class is past the half way point with 22 students working towards certification. The program is held at the Beaver Brook Vol. Fire Station and at our Fire training Facility on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Volunteer FF first quarter training is completed and 110 Firefighters attended these sessions. Topics include the Mandatory Bio Hazard refresher, Electric Safety for First Responders, and Incident Command.

Cold Water/Ice Rescue: All crews completed the ice-rescue drills by the end of February. Personnel were able to train with our two new “Mustang” suits.

Promotional Boards: Lieutenants Jaime Schiller and Shaun McQuade are prepared as examiners for the City Of Norwalk Fire Department. Chief Herald participated in the City of West Haven on their board for Deputy Chief. Participation in these activities broadens the horizon of our Department as we learn from others how they accomplish their mission.

Health/Safety: Representatives from the Foundation for Wellness Professionals, Inc. (a non-profit organization) completed Wellness seminars to the crews on topics including nutrition, proper exercise techniques, stress reduction and injury prevention.

Haz Mat Operations: Crews continued to receive the annual Haz Mat Operational refresher during March.

Fire School: The Fire School facility has been active with Firefighter 1, live burn training and vehicle extrication drills. A new steel shutter was installed in a basement window.

#### Meetings/Events:

- Met with Associate Professor Duane Perkins from Naugatuck Valley CC to discuss the Fall/09 semester class and discuss future projects
- Attended the Volunteer Fire monthly council meeting on February 23.
- Attended the Connecticut Fire Departments Instructor Association meeting at the CT Fire Academy which included a tour of the 14<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team and its capabilities at Bradley Field .(Ct Air National Guard)
- Attended an all day seminar at the CT Fire Academy titled the “review of the Post Incident Assessment-Charleston, NC. Furniture Fatal Fire
- Attended the Volunteer Firemen’s Ball on March 7
- Attended the Firefighters vs. Police Benefit Hockey game on March 14
- Attended the Volunteer Engine 9 Annual Dinner on March 14
- Attended the retirement party for Lt Kevin Plank on March 14
- Participated in the Hibernian’s St. Patrick’s Parade on March 15

#### **Fire Marshal - James Johnson**

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. There were 13 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) and all situations have been successfully resolved.

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

and non-working smoke detectors. The Marshals office completed 28 hrs of continuing education training for re-certification for Deputy Fire Marshal.

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Place of Assembly:        | 35   |
| Educational:              | 5    |
| Business:                 | 22   |
| Storage:                  | 1    |
| Health Care:              | 1    |
| Industrial:               | 8    |
| Mercantile:               | 20   |
| Residential Board & Care: | 1    |
| Hotel (units):            | 125  |
| Apartments:               | 350  |
| Rooming Houses:           | 0    |
| Day Care:                 | 2    |
| Misc. Inspections         | 34   |
| Special Structures:       | 1    |
| Office Duty (hrs):        | 98.5 |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Abatements/Reports (hrs):                       | 67.5 |
| Issued in Fire Zones:                           | 1    |
| Fire Investigations:                            | 11   |
| Fatal Fires:                                    | 0    |
| Liquor Inspections:                             | 17   |
| Blasting Permits:                               | 1    |
| Complaints                                      | 18*  |
| Plan Review (hrs)                               | 53.5 |
| Fire Prevention Prgs.                           | 3    |
| Orders of Abatement:                            | 3    |
| * Resolved or in the process of being resolved. |      |

### Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. All but one of the 4-gas meters fully functions. E-22's meter which we reported last month was having some intermittent problems was sent to Biosystems for evaluation. We received an estimate and are now awaiting a purchase order number to authorize the repairs. We have downloaded a newer version of "firmware" for our instruments. We have downloaded this firmware into six of our eight meters this past month and will be updating the remaining two units upon monthly calibration.

The Department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. Usually we will have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service. The SCBA's that were recently sent to Shipman's have been repaired and returned to service. We have helped E-6 out by acting as the clearing house for a series of S.C.B.A bottles that required hydrostatic testing through Shipman's.

We have received Volunteer Engine-12's thermal imaging camera back from I.S.G. and have made returned this unit back to them. We are grateful for the loan of this very useful Firefighting tool.

This past month we have fit tested Volunteer companies E-7 and E-8 as well as the Firefighter 1 class currently under the tutelage of Training Officer Omasta. To date we need to schedule E-9 and E-13 in order to complete fit testing for 2008/2009

Apparatus Supervisor Cavo participated in the City's quarterly Safety Meeting. Last month we repaired the Horton Fan Clutch in Truck-1. We also serviced this unit while it was in "sick bay". This month while investigating a strange engine noise in Truck-1, we discovered a defective charge air cooler. This defective unit was removed and we are awaiting parts to rebuild the radiator before we install the new charge air cooler. We replaced the battery master switch in Truck-1. This apparatus is currently out of service.

We have issued a purchase order number for the repair parts for the "Bullet" saw. We have replaced the water level gauge sending units in both E-21 and E-26. We marked and cataloged into inventory the new much needed 3" and 5" fire hose that was delivered and tested this month. We repaired the primer on E-26 and replaced the front suction hand wheel on the pump operators' panel. We repaired the pump drain on E-22. We repaired a various lights on E-21, E-23, E-24, and E-26.

Car 30 was removed from service due to an intermittent siren malfunction. The siren control and power unit was switched out with a loaner from our dealer Specialty Warning Systems. They have sent our unit out to Whelen Engineering to have a newer version of software installed that should take care of this issue. The vehicle was serviced while in "sick bay". When our control module returns from Whelen we will re-install it and return the loaner. The drivers' window motor of 01CT was replaced and the vehicle serviced. The division replaced the right front tire on E-21 due to fatal damage from a piece of trap rock. Haz-Mat-1 was delivered to Hine Brothers for several factory recalls. After evaluating the water leak on E-24 a temporary repair was completed while we await parts from our dealer. We are currently working on R-1. To date we have replaced the exhaust system, repacked the pump, repaired several drain valves, replaced the Officers seat belt, repaired the front suction valve, and are currently going thru a punch list of repairs.

### Good of the Organization

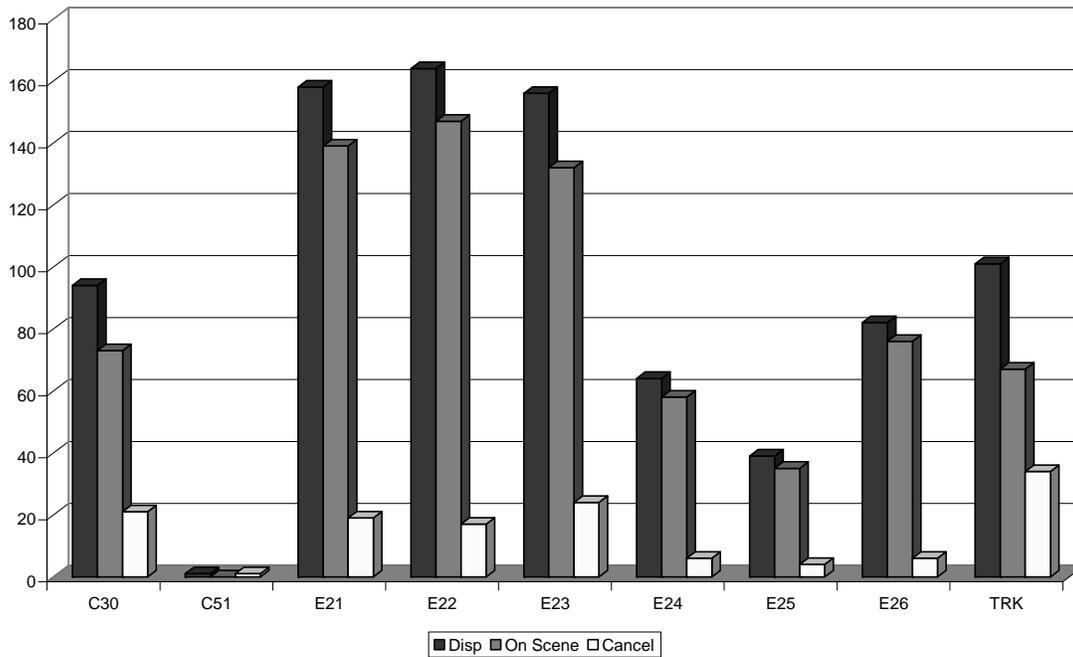
| <b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b> |             |
|---|-------------|
| Fires (100-173)                               | <b>18</b>   |
| Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)      | <b>0</b>    |
| Rescue/EMS (300-381)                          | <b>300</b>  |
| Hazardous Condition (400-482)                 | <b>21</b>   |
| Service Call (500-571)                        | <b>59</b>   |
| Good Intent Calls (600-671)                   | <b>40</b>   |
| False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)             | <b>83</b>   |
| Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)    | <b>2</b>    |
| Special Incident Type (900-911)               | <b>0</b>    |
| No Report/Incomplete                          | <b>1</b>    |
| <b>Total Fire Responses</b>                   | <b>524</b>  |
| <b>E911 Statistics</b>                        |             |
| Total 911 Calls                               | <b>2277</b> |
| Abandoned 911 Calls                           | <b>278</b>  |
| Cellular 911 Calls                            | <b>975</b>  |
| 911 Hang Up Calls                             | <b>782</b>  |
| Admin Calls Received                          | <b>664</b>  |
| Police Calls via 911                          | <b>331</b>  |

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)         | <b>222</b>   |
| EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)          | <b>373</b>   |
| Daily Average                       | <b>81.32</b> |
| <b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b> |              |
| Total Fire Responses                | <b>524</b>   |
| Total EMS Responses                 | <b>692</b>   |
| Unknown Transport Status            | <b>0</b>     |
| ALS Patient (CAD 60)                | <b>311</b>   |
| BLS Patient (CAD 61)                | <b>262</b>   |
| No Patient (CAD 62)                 | <b>119</b>   |
| EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)   | <b>6</b>     |
| EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81) | <b>24</b>    |

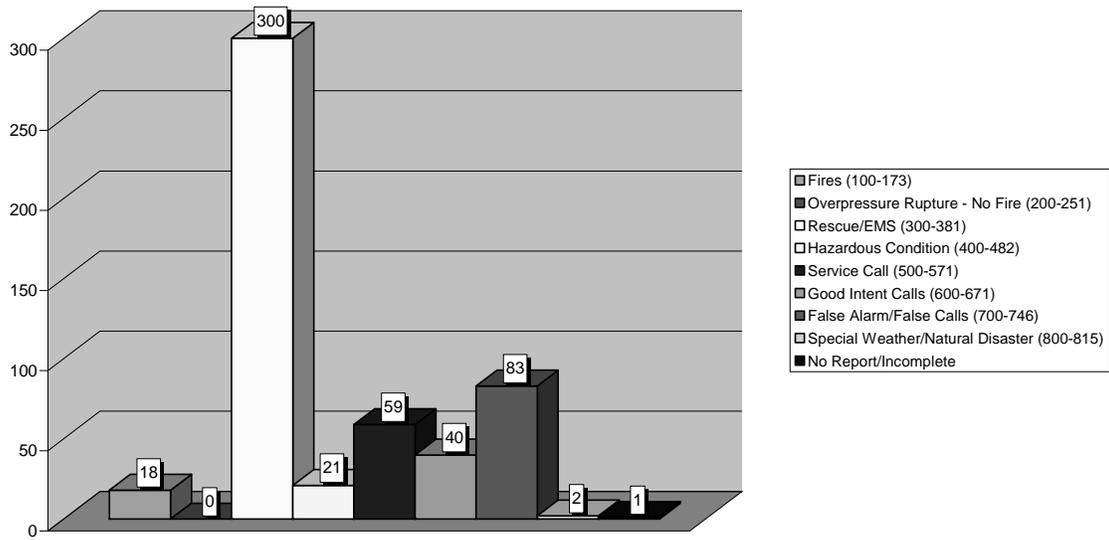
**\*\* NOTE \*\***

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

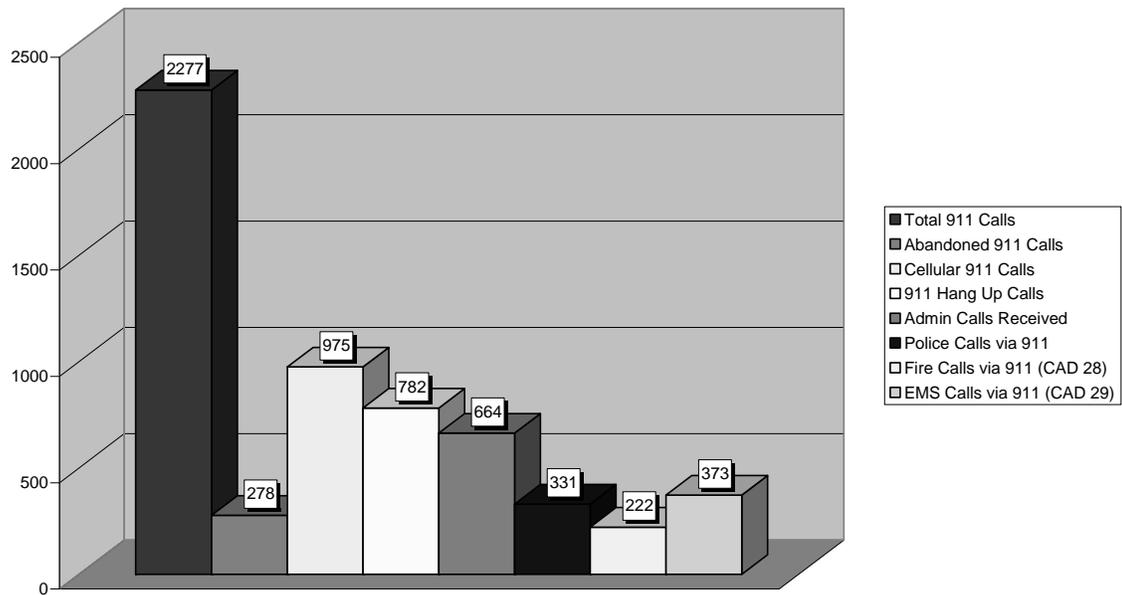
**Career Company Response  
Feb 20 to March 22, 2009**



**Fire Response Breakdown  
Feb 20 to March 22, 2009**



**911 Center Activity  
Feb 20 to March 22, 2009**



Respectfully submitted,  
Geoffrey Herald