



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 April through 26 May and details activities of the Department.

On a sad note, the Department lost 34 year veteran Walter Benz this month. Walter retired just last year after a distinguished career as a firefighter and dispatcher. Our condolences and sympathy are extended to his wife Doris, Daughter Kelly and his son Scott and their families.

Dispatcher John Lambe is recovering from a recent heart attack and subsequent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Many members of the department attended the Red Cross Breakfast to honor local heroes. Two of our members, retired Communications Supervisor Fred Visconti and current active firefighter Adam Horosky were recognized for their exemplary service to the community. We offer sincere congratulations to both of them.

The Danbury Fire Department is sponsoring our second annual Fire Services Day on 11 July. We invite everyone to come to Fire Headquarters on New Street to see the latest in equipment and meet the members of the department. There will be demonstrations of rescue techniques, tools and fire trucks. Members of the Volunteers and the career contingents will participate.

The warm weather is here. As we enter this time of vacations and outdoor activities we urge every one to remember that a small amount of preparation can go a long way toward preventing accidents and injury. We would like to remind every one to take proper precautions in summer activities. Please use sun screen as appropriate as sun burns can be very

serious with potential long term consequences. Please wear bicycle helmets and proper clothing for whatever activity your family participates in.

When engaging in water sports activities, please take care to know the environment before entering the water. When young children are being supervised, please be especially vigilant and do not leave the area. A tragedy can occur in an amazingly short time.

Have a safe summer.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-incident tours included Shepard Hill Condo's, Party Depot, Centennial Hall WSCU, North St Shopping Center, Crown Point, Kingswood Kitchens, Party Depot and Stop & Shop Newtown Rd.

Engine 24 assisted in the cleaning of Still River Green-way boat ramp in Commerce Park.

A tour of HQ's was given to twelve Girl Scouts on 5/9/09.

Lt. Daly represented DFD at Broadview Middle School's Career Day for (3) twenty minute sessions with approximately 75 eighth grade students and at Rogers Park Middle School for (3) thirty minute presentations to approximately 60 eighth graders. He and his crew also visited Children's Choice at 31 Miry Brook Rd. to speak with 30 children aged 1 thru 4.

Lt. Halas and his crew gave a fire prevention talk and tour of their engine for the Daisy Girl Scout troop at Mill Ridge School.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 5/16/09, E22, E24, SQ1, C30, DH EMS and Modzelewski Towing worked together to successfully extricate a woman from a high impact rollover accident on I-84 at exit 6 W. This accident occurred at approximately 1 am and involved just the one vehicle and driver. According to witnesses, the operator lost control of her car and became airborne and rolled many times. The vehicle came to rest on the passenger side with the victim between the seats and her head partially out the window being compressed into the roadway.

The mechanics of this incident with the vehicle on its side and crushing the victims head could have been disastrous if not properly handled. The extrication took precise and coordinated stabilization by our highly skilled personnel. Multiple simultaneous activities included prying, lifting, cutting and medical interaction during this operation. This was not the usual MVA with entrapment. The precise professional work of all involved brought the situation to a successful resolve.

A structure fire occurred on Hoyt St. on May 15th. Luckily, an occupant of this single family residence noticed a fire in a 2nd floor bathroom ceiling fan and called 911. A second call to 911 confirmed that there was smoke and fire. The occupant had reported everyone was out of the structure as crews arrived. Crews attempting to locate the seat of the fire after a rapid initial knockdown were hampered by low visibility. Telltale flames

appeared on side B, where the fire had extended via interior spaces leading from the fan. The fire was seated in a void space behind sheetrock, a shower unit and closets. It eventually melted and burned a PVC vent pipe which exited through the roof and allowed siding to catch fire. A ventilation opening was cut in the upper roof, which improved visibility and aided in locating the remaining fire. Crews coordinated well to minimize damage although considerable overhaul was affected to ensure complete extinguishment of a fire that extended quickly even though it was discovered early. Balloon construction contributed to the rapid fire spread. No injuries were reported. FM Johnson and Building inspector Schullery identified numerous code-related issues which are being addressed.

Lt. Appley and Firefighters Whitehead and Korotash assisted in childbirth with a Mid-wife present on Indian Road. On arrival the baby had just been delivered but was experiencing difficulty breathing. The crew initiated care and Mom and new born were transported the ED. Both are reported as doing well.

E24 with Lt. Appley and Firefighters Smith and Korotash responded to a possible CO problem. After investigation they were able to identify the recently installed used stove as having the wrong type of gas nipples. This was causing a CO build up in the trailer. Their detailed investigation was able to locate and remove a severe hazard caused by improper installation of the stove.

E26 responded to Boehringer to investigate a chemical odor coming from the facility, as reported by a resident at 5 Windaway Rd. The investigation revealed that TruGreen Companies was applying fertilizer to the Boehringer property. E26, a representative of Boehringer and TruGreen discussed the situation with the caller. The caller understood the process, but expressed concern about the use of chemical agent employed for lawn care.

E26 responded to a medical call for chest pain to 9 Carol St. The patient was a furniture delivery crew member from a crew of two. The patient was transported to the hospital for care, leaving the single crew member to complete the delivery. E26 assisted in moving the remaining two pieces of large furniture into the house, before being dispatched to another EMS incident. The furniture crew member and the customer who resided at that address were very appreciative of FD assistance.

Command Staff activities

- * presented to the Rotary Club Sunrise on 4-24-09
- * attended the Lions Club Sunrise fire prevention poster contest luncheon
- * We attended the Vol. Council meeting on 4-27-09
- * attended the Prayer Breakfast at the Amber Room 4-30-09
- * regional IMT meeting
- * attended the EMS Oversight meeting on 5-5-09
- * attended the Red Cross Heroes Breakfast 5-6-09

- * attended the Health and Safety meeting on 5-7-09
- * Peer Leadership presentation for Danbury High School on 5-12-09
- * attended the CCM Emergency Management Symposium on 5-12-09
- * met with Stamford Deputy Chief Tim Conley re. combination department 5-13-09
- * met with Engineering about the new intersection design in front of Engine 23's station
- * attended the Vol. Council meeting on 5-18-09
- * ESF 4 regional meeting
- * met with Connecticut OSHA on 5-21-09
- * attended the demo of new dispatch equipment on 5-21-09
- * marched in the Memorial Day Parade on 5-25-09

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

This year-round continuous training program is designed to meet EMS re-certification requirements of the Danbury Fire Departments First Responder program. These classes, held while Firefighters are on duty, ensure firefighters stay proficient with these lifesaving skills.

The focus of this months training has been Pharmacology and Anaphylaxis's. Pharmacology is the study of medications; their sources, characteristics and the effects the medications have on the patient, while anaphylaxis, the human body's exaggerated allergic reaction to an allergen can be a true life threatening condition if not properly treated. This training is especially important as with the advent of the warmer weather, as bee stings are a common cause for these responses.

The Danbury Fire Departments' First Responder EMT/EMT-IVs are trained to quickly assess the patient, immediately treat life threatening conditions and determine whether the patient needs assistance with administering their all ready prescribed medications or if they would benefit from the medications that the EMT/EMT-IV are allowed to administer under standing orders from medical control. The First Responder needs to needs to recognize the desired effects of the interventions that have been administered and at the same time to be prepared to treat the side effects associated with certain medications.

Training - Mark Omasta

Firefighter I Class

Our Firefighter I class completed the 160 hour course this month and took the Practical portion of the certification exam on May 17. All 22 students passed the exam as well as two new Danbury Volunteers who joined us for the Haz Mat Operational Component.

The process continues with the written exam scheduled for June 4. Students are from the Danbury, Sherman, New Fairfield, Stony Hill and Botsford Fire Departments.

Rescue Technician- Core

The Department hosted this CT Fire Academy class here in Danbury and 20 of our Firefighters participated while on their off duty time. This dedication to service illustrates their commitment and recognizes the financial pressures the city is facing. The Department has increased our rescue capabilities through this 48 hour Rescue Technician Core course held during the last two weeks in April. We now have nearly 50 personnel with this advanced training.

ARFF training

We will sponsor the 40 hour Airport-rescue Firefighting course to Danbury the last week in May. This certification for our firefighters is required by the FAA. We will send 12 firefighters through this training.

Hydrants

Our Annual Hydrant testing program commenced in early May and continues through October. Our goal is to test all of the hydrants in the city. (Approximately 1,900)

Haz Mat Operations

Crews completed the annual Haz Mat Operational refresher during April.

Fire School

The fire school facility was utilized for Firefighter 1 practical skills testing for the Brookfield based class as well as the Danbury class. Our crews continue to use the facility for various activities including pump operator training, vehicle extrication, and general firefighting skills review.

A demonstration on heavy vehicle extrication was presented at our Fire Training facility on Plumtrees Rd. Representatives of Modzelewski Towing assisted in the demo. This joint training is crucial as the equipment of Modzelewski Towing has very specialized applications in accident victim recovery. Our joint training will continue and will contribute to emergency operations in the future.

Meetings/Events

- Attended the Volunteer monthly council meetings on April 27 and May 18
- Met with the FCI safety director to set up Confined Space drills at the FCI
- Attended the Prayer Breakfast at the Amber room on April 30
- Attended the all day seminar on Instructor development at the Academy on May 9
- Attended the Red Cross breakfast and awards ceremony on May 6 (Amber Room)
- Attended the EAP presentation on April 14
- Attended the Health/Fitness program meeting with Corporate Health on April 14
- Participated in the Mock crash held at Danbury High School the morning of May 22.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Technology

During the last month a great deal of time was spent assisting IT personnel in migrating communications and computer network functionality to the new Police Department Headquarters.

With recognition of diligence of the IT Department, Police Department and thanks to the patience of Fire Department members, the transition was done with limited interruption of network availability.

Going forward we are still working closely with IT and the PD to finalize the changeover of the mobile data circuits by changing out the modems in all fire apparatus. These devices were purchased last budget cycle and the change out should be fully completed within a week.

Training

In the first full month of the continuing dispatch education there was 142 hours of logged classroom time for officers, dispatchers and relief dispatchers.

Topics during the month discussed were Standards of Care for Dispatch and the process of determining the Chief Complaint for and EMS callers.

The emphasis in these classes has been on increasing caller contact time and providing a higher level of customer service along with evaluating and reducing as appropriate the number of Lights and Siren responses.

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Place of Assembly:	53
Educational:	15
Business:	26
Storage:	1
Health Care:	4
Industrial:	12
Mercantile:	31
Residential Board & Care:	6
Hotel (units):	30
Apartments:	348
Rooming Houses:	1
Day Care:	2
Misc. Inspections	35
Special Structures:	2
Office Duty (hrs):	116.5
Burn Permits	2

Inspections:

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	56.5
Issued in Fire Zones:	6
Fire Investigations:	12
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	29
Blasting Permits:	1
Complaints	30**
Plan Review (hrs)	60.5
Fire Prevention Prgs.	7
Orders of Abatement:	0

** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections, there were 4 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) all situations have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved.

This months Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. At this time of year we stressed forest fire dangers and non-working smoke detectors. There were also prevention programs and fire extinguisher training for local business people.

Our office completed 27 hrs of continuing education training for re-certification for Deputy Fire Marshal.

Fire Marshal Johnson and Deputy Fire Marshal Rao attended the Lions Club Sunrise fire prevention poster contest luncheon that recognized the Danbury winners.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

A major concern for the division this month is the damaged water way of Truck-2. An attempt to repair this waterway in Truck-2 that was damaged at the New St. fire has proven unsuccessful. Upon removal of the suspect parts we discovered that the damage was far more severe than we had anticipated. The entire waterway was damaged beyond repair due to the ice that had built up inside the waterway during the fire fighting operations on that extremely cold night. We removed and inspected the entire waterway and have submitted a requisition and are currently awaiting a P.O. so that we may order a new waterway.

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated and all of the department's meters are fully functional. TRK-2's meter which was being used by E-22 was having some intermittent problems and was sent to Biosystems for evaluation and repair. We returned this meter to service the first week of May. We ordered a new bottle of span gas for calibrating the departments' meters. This gas is necessary to properly service the meters.

Other actions include

- welded the damaged parts on the departments snow plow and placed it in seasonal storage at E-23's station
- ordered and acquired the supplies needed for hydrant and hose testing for the 2009/2010 year
- assigned the fuel system numbers from Public Works for our most recent hires
- rebuilt the Bullet saw that was damaged at the New St fire
- checked out several new drivers consistent with the departments' policy on Driver Qualifications
- repaired the bay door at E-26
- replaced the batteries in the 94PA that was at E-26 station and moved this unit to the city hangar at the airport and moved R-2 to E-26's station
- Truck 1's steering gears had suffered a major failure and we had to replace both the master and the slave gears as a set
- had the recently reassigned Fire Marshals' car lettered to department specifications

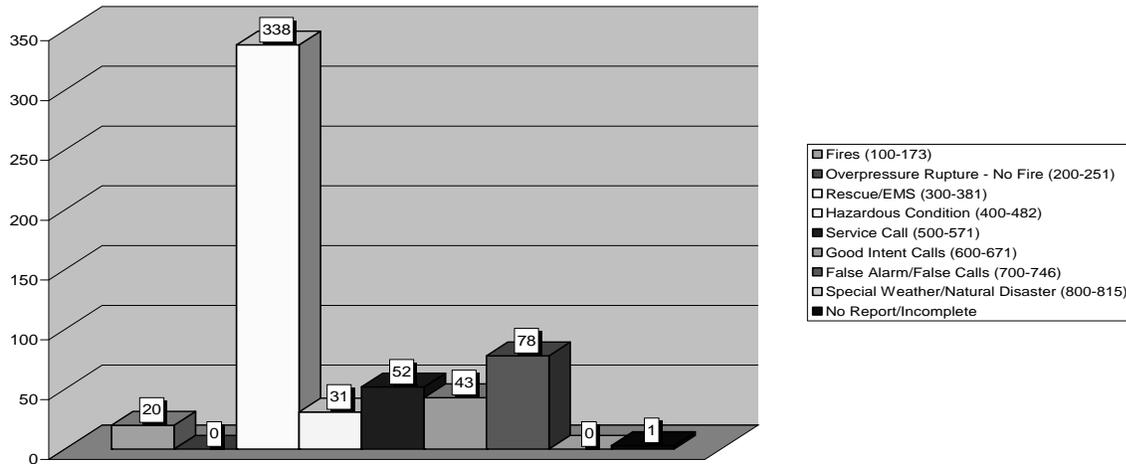
- numbered and cataloged the twenty new S.C.B.A. bottles and placed them into service
- repaired the DOT lights on the back of E-25
- delivered the Decontamination trailer to Cheshire, hopefully this time it will be repaired in a timely manner
- repaired the Plymovent at E-25's station
- Once again we were asked to repair the Jenny Road gate. This was a more difficult job due to the physical damage that was done to the optics system.

Division training this month included attending a seminar at Firematic. During this program we were informed of the new EPA requirements for Diesel Engines. These requirements will be in place starting in 2010. We also attended a seminar in Wolcott with the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding truck inspections.

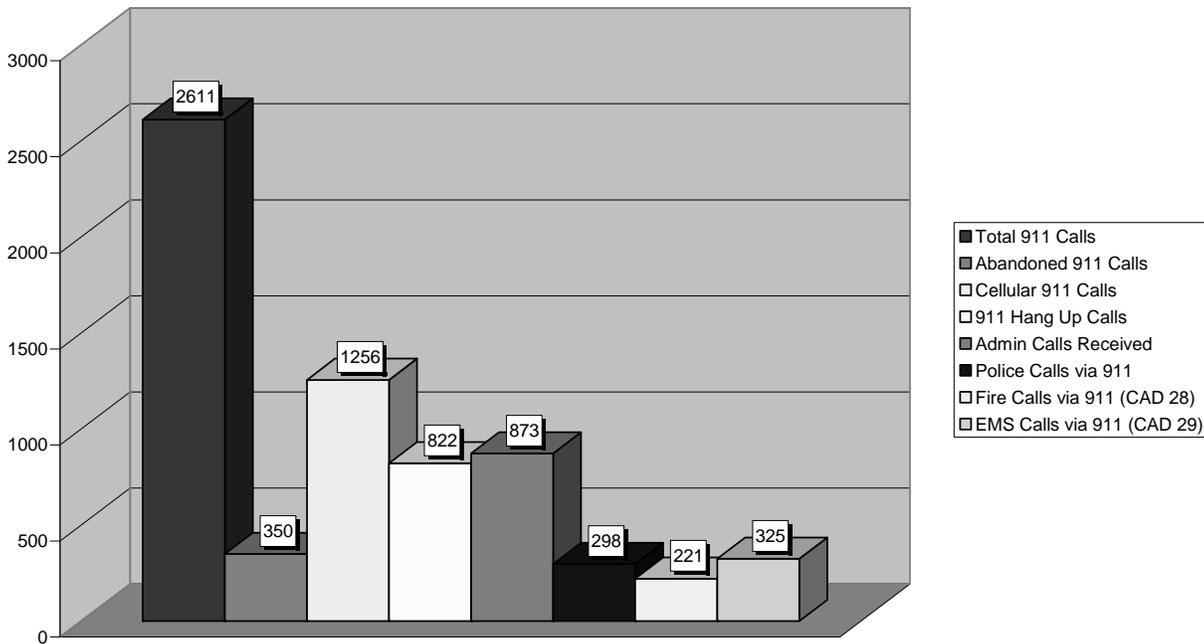
Statistical information

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	20
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	338
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	31
Service Call (500-571)	52
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	43
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	78
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	3
Total Fire Responses	565
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2611
Abandoned 911 Calls	350
Cellular 911 Calls	1256
911 Hang Up Calls	822
Admin Calls Received	873
Police Calls via 911	298
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	221
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	325
Daily Average	96.70
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	565
Total EMS Responses	715
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	310
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	274
No Patient (CAD 62)	131
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	5
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	23

**Fire Response Breakdown
April 21 to May 20, 2009**



**911 Center Activity
April 21 to May 20, 2009**



Respectfully submitted,
Geoffrey Herald, Chief