



# **CITY OF DANBURY**

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**19 NEW STREET**

**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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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 July through 25 August and details activities of the Department.

With the summer in full swing this month we have been busy. Our call volume due to weather issues has been elevated as expected. A number of lightning related issues have prompted several responses with luckily minor consequences. The heat index was unusually high but we have been fortunate with the few medical calls this has generated regarding injuries due to the heat.

School is open and the school buses are again running. Please be aware as the students return to school that they will be crossing traffic to access buses. Be especially vigilant for the children walking to schools crossing the street mid block as well as at intersections.

We are pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring a dedication ceremony for our newly remodeled classroom. The date is Monday 28 September and it will take place at 10 AM.

A bit of history is in order. The 19 New Street Headquarters building was designed and built in the late sixties. At the time of construction, there were a number of things missing in a Fire Station of that era that are required today. These include an elevator, adequate shower and sanitary facilities, office and storage space, a physical fitness training area, apparatus repair facilities and a classroom.

Twenty five years ago members of the department conceived of converting the two personnel locker rooms to other uses. One became offices for communications and EMS. The second was converted to a classroom. Neither of these locker rooms had suitable ventilation so

inefficient window AC units were installed. The classroom was stocked with used donated desks, chairs and carpeting. The walls were pre-finished sheet rock. Electrical and computer use was grossly deficient.

Our new classroom has been completely redone with computer and electrical connections, overhead digital projector, electric retractable screen, ergonomic desks and chairs. Most importantly, a modern roof mounted air conditioner suitable to the size and occupancy of the classroom has been installed. Except for the HVAC system, the labor for construction and electrical upgrades was all performed in house by firefighters of the department, working with the building department. This has resulted in a huge savings, allowing for better equipment and furnishings.

This facility is used daily, and not just by Fire Department personnel, career and volunteer. We use the room to teach college classes, teach CPR to visiting nurses, youth groups and others who may be visiting headquarters. The rebuilding and modernization of this room was made possible by a very generous donation to the department through the State Neighbor Hood Assistance Act.

Please join us on September 28<sup>th</sup> as we dedicate the classroom, and thank Dr. Robert Bedoukian of Bedoukian Research Inc. for his generous gift. This classroom will provide a learning environment worthy of the firefighters of the department and will be dedicated to the education and training of your fire service.

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

Suppression tours this period included Mankind Pharmaceutical on Casper St. Of special concern are the clean room areas which contain confined spaces. Additional tours were conducted at Henry Abbott Technical School, 22 Kenosia Ave., Roberts Ave School, FCI Confined space culvert, F&M Electric, Eden Drive, and the aircraft at Reliant Aircraft.

The Assistant Chiefs have been meeting with the various neighborhoods in conjunction with the Mayors initiatives. These have proven to be informative and a welcome adjunct to our public education efforts.

Various crews collected donations for MDA at intersections through out the city.

While returning from a call on I84, E22 crew, Lt. McQuade and firefighters Mourges and Cabral stopped to assist a disabled motorist with an overheated engine. The motorist lived locally, so they gave her a ride home.

Capt Meehan attended Litchfield County Task Force 83 Drill at the Taft School in Watertown. He attended in the capacity of County Coordinator.

Apparatus Superintendent Joe Cavo was “locked up” for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Thanks to the generosity of his friends and fellow employees he was able to raise \$800.00 for the MDA. This effected his release and he was able to return to his many concerns here at headquarters.

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

On 28 July an incident developed at 46 Danbury Rd., Danbury Surgical Associates. A small fire occurred at a sharps container when a high temperature cautery device remained on, igniting sharps waste and the biohazard container. The fire was extinguished by an employee with a dry chemical extinguisher. DFD crews confirmed extinguishment, ventilated and addressed alarm system issues. No injuries were reported.

On 5 August dispatch received a call for an MVA on South Street. This resulted in a call for an extrication response. The automobile had left the roadway and struck guy wires supporting a power and telephone pole. The pole was felled bringing wires with it. The driver was entrapped. Units responding included E21, E22, Squad 23, Car 30, DPD, Bethel PD, EMS, and utility companies. The driver was successfully extricated.

On 8 August an incident occurred at 15 Bell's Pl. A fire developed when the occupant turned on the wrong burner of her range top. Grease and oil in the pan on the back burner ignited, causing damage to the range as well as to the cabinets and hood. The Truck Company used a portable water extinguisher to complete extinguishment. No injuries reported.

Engine 23 responded to a fatal motor cycle crash on Federal Rd. in late July. This crash also brought out E24 & E25 to perform biohazard cleanup of the roadway. The nature of this call illustrates some of the issues the department is exposed to at serious medical responses.

On 24 July, Engine 26 responded to an MVA at 55 Mill Plain Rd, building 33, unit #1, with a car into the structure. The car had been pushed by another SUV vehicle and came to rest in a precarious position. Modzelewski towing responded with their heavy wrecker to carefully lift and remove the vehicle. This was accomplished without further damage to the structure or the retaining wall supporting the parking area. This equipment was a great asset to protecting the physical property. Several months ago we trained with the firm to better understand the usefulness of the equipment and this training has proven valuable.

### **Chief and Deputy Activities and Presentations:**

- Met with the new owners of the Danbury Hockey Franchise
- Multiple meetings with director of Human Resources re; entry testing
- Met with Naugatuck Community College Administration
- Attended the Housing Authority annual picnic
- Attended Union Local 801 Annual Clambake
- Attended the ribbon cutting for Ellsworth Ave. School

- Region 5 Executive officers training
- Met with Ct. Fire Academy Administration re; Haz-Mat tech course
- Met with four department platoons to discuss current issues

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

### **EMS:**

Ambulance familiarization has continued through the month of August to insure that all First Responder personnel had the opportunity to review and operate ambulance equipment.

### Salamander Accountability System:

An upgrade of the salamander software caused a loss of data already entered in the database; the information had to be reentered and will cause a slight delay in putting this system in service.

### Community Involvement:

On August 5, we provided a presentation at a video conference at Boehringer-Ingelheim. This conference was geared towards the needs of their in-house emergency response teams and how they would interact with our First Responder teams.

### Public Access Defibrillators

With the closing of Roberts Ave. School the Public Access Defibrillator that was placed there by The Danbury Fire Department will be moved to the new elementary school on Ellsworth Ave.

## **Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

### **Radio System**

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The intermittent problems previously reported with the Harvest Hill radio receiver have been resolved by a combination of ATT Technicians sealing cable ends and a technician from Utility Communications removing a faulty signal strength sensor in the receiver. Backup batteries are on order for the main radio cabinet to insure vital programming is held in the event of a power failure.

### **Training and Technology**

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The department recently signed a contract with Power Phone Inc. to implement a new software package that guides emergency call takers questioning with over 90 protocols for Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement situations. This software recently patented by Power Phone is the first of its kind that is designed specifically for 911 call takers and provides an extensive amount of pre arrival instructions and direction to call takers that will adapt to the situation at hand.

Through an automated interface with the Computer Aided Dispatch system, responses can be safely increased, reduced and managed as the incident changes with a more standardized approach. This will result in not only a safer fire ground but it has the potential for cost savings by way of better using city resources needed at a response and at reduced speed when applicable.

Also a quality assurance component will assist in evaluating all call takers for proper compliance to protocols and life saving pre-arrival instructions such as CPR and Rescue Breathing. This innovative tool is an exciting development within the 911 emergency communications field and we are expected to be installing and training toward the later part of September.

Many in the department, Information Technology and the Finance department worked very diligently to bring this trend setting concept to Danbury and we thank them for their efforts.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### Technical Rescue

Crews have been conducting Confined Space drills at a site on the FCI property over the past few weeks. The training includes evolutions with below grade confined space, horizontal confined space and low angle rescue. Rescue equipment from Squad 1 is being used for the drills. We currently have 43 Personnel certified to the State Rescue Tech level and another 20 certified as Confined Space Techs. These drills are refresher training for the Techs and familiarization with rigging systems for all of our Operational personnel. Six members of the department participated in a regional training program learning to rescue cell tower workers.

#### Classroom Remodel

The classroom is 95% complete and is now being utilized for meetings/classes. There will be a dedication in September.

#### Regional Foam Trailer #6

Refresher Training exercises continued through the month for all crews. Practical training exercises are taking place at our fire school.

#### Health and Wellness

In conjunction with Corporate Health Care, Nancy Salem, a nutritionist with Danbury Hospital is presenting an educational seminar to all crews on Nutrition/Wellness. Personnel will learn the latest guide lines for Nutritional Health.

#### Volunteer Quarterly Training

Second quarter training concluded with a make up session in early August. 109 Volunteer firefighters successfully completed the Haz Mat Refresher training.

#### National Fire Academy

The Training Officer completed a 6 day course at the National Fire Academy in Fire Service Course Design. An added benefit was the opportunity to share ideas with Training Officers from across the Country.

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

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. There were 5 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. The highlight of the month was the Kids Safety Day at Maplewood. It was enjoyed by the kids and the residents.

DFM Rao once again is the Fairfield County rep. for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The program will be implemented at the start of Fire Prevention Week.

DFM Weber finalized plans for the start up of the Methanol Plant at our water treatment facility. It should be on line shortly. This is a significant installation and has been a demanding project.

### **Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo**

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. E-23 and Truck 1 meters have been repaired and returned to service. E-25's meter is out of service due to sensor issues. A requisition has been submitted and we are awaiting a purchase order. We replaced the LEL sensor in E-21's meter. We have received new software and hardware from our vendor and are updating all of the departments' meters as they come into our division for monthly calibration. Special thanks to our Communication Supervisor Patrick Sniffin for the technical support he provided to get this new program up and running. The other department 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.

Other division activities include:

- received E-24's Thermal Imaging Camera from ISG and have placed this unit back in service
- assisted Firematic in completing a recall on Truck-1 that had to do with loose wiring
- replaced tires on Truck-1
- performed a temporary repair to the compressor at E-26 station and ordered a new automatic drain valve which has arrived and will be installed as time allows
- replaced the compressor belt for the unit that supplies air to our Johnson Control system here at Fire Headquarters
- complete service on 03FT1 including new brakes, rotors and drums
- adjusted the brakes and repaired the air hose reel on Squad-1
- met with a representative from the Connecticut DEP with regards to our underground storage tanks
- repaired the door latch on E-22
- adjusted the Plymovent for E-21
- nearly completed a major service on E-25, this includes a new fuel tank and straps, rebuild the primer assembly, replaced the exhaust system,

- service the engine and chassis, and performed the DOT annual inspection including removal and inspection of all brake components
- replaced the u-joints in the Power Take Off driveshaft in Truck-1
  - repairs to E-24's exhaust system

### Department Statistical Reports

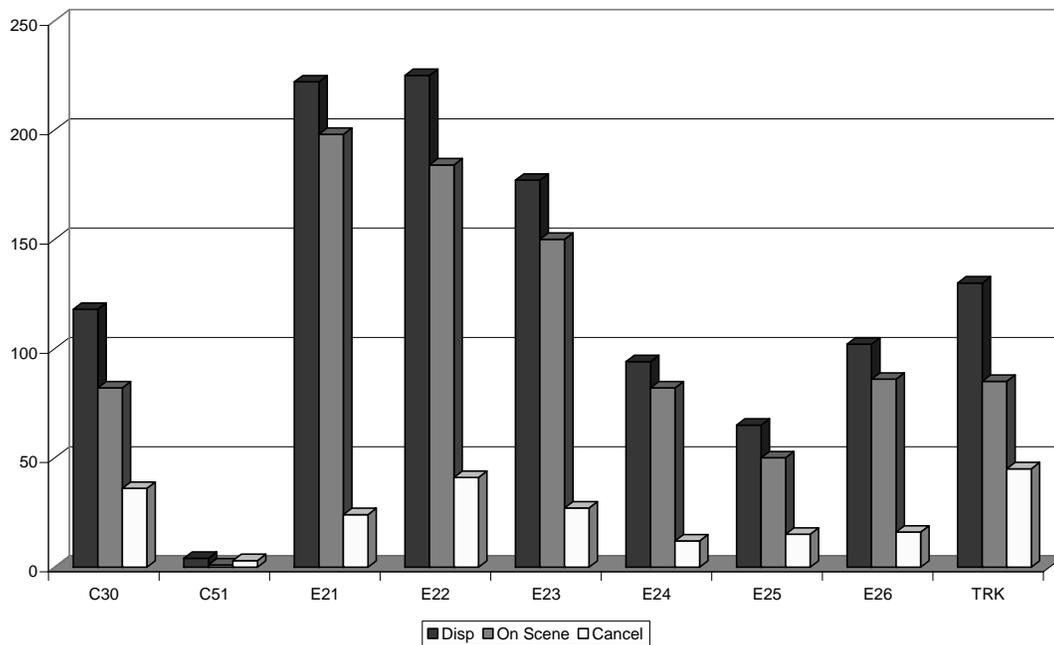
Abatements/Reports (hrs): 60	Place of Assembly:	49
Issued in Fire Zones: 6	Educational:	2
Fire Investigations: 7	Business:	31
Fatal Fires: 0	Storage:	15
Liquor Inspections: 21	Health Care:	1
Blasting Permits: 6	Industrial:	5
Complaints 21**	Mercantile:	27
Plan Review (hrs) 82.5	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs. 3	Hotel (units):	3
Orders of Abatement: 4 (unit)	Apartments:	335
** Resolved or in process	Rooming Houses:	0
Some of these complaints	Day Care:	1
were received thru	Misc. Inspections	51
the UNIT	Special Structures:	0
	Office Duty (hrs):	129.5
	Burn Permits	2

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>12</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>2</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>370</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>52</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>62</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>61</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>102</b>
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>1</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>1</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>12</b>
Total Fire Responses	<b>675</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>3014</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>300</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>1510</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	<b>1024</b>
Admin Calls Received	<b>1007</b>
Police Calls via 911	<b>312</b>
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	<b>224</b>

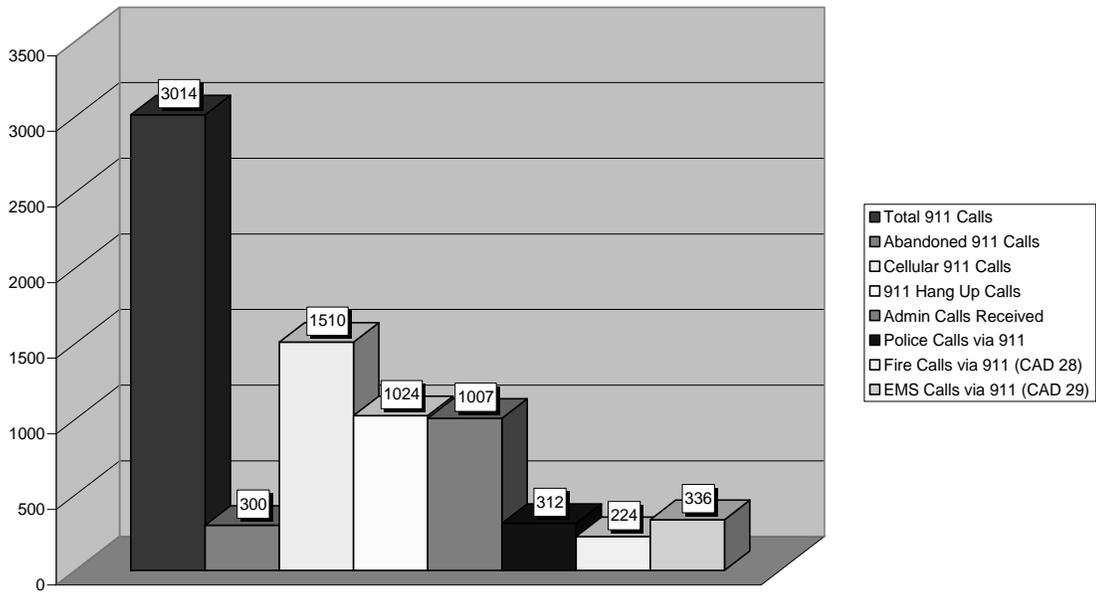
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	<b>336</b>
Daily Average	<b>107.64</b>
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	<b>675</b>
Total EMS Responses	<b>815</b>
Unknown Transport Status	<b>17</b>
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	<b>335</b>
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	<b>330</b>
No Patient (CAD 62)	<b>133</b>
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	<b>5</b>
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	<b>34</b>

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

**Career Company Response  
July 21 to August 23, 2009**



**911 Center Activity  
July 21 to August 23, 2009**



**Fire Response Breakdown  
July 21 to August 23, 2009**

