



CITY OF DANBURY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief

Phone 203-796-1550
Fax 203-796-1533

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of August 21 through September 21 and details activities of the Department. October is fire safety month and our public fire safety education program is very busy. The Fire prevention team will be in our schools through out the month.

The health department is highlighting Indoor Air Quality Awareness Month. This connects with the fire department with our carbon monoxide detector concerns. With the onset of the heating season, we are urging all citizens to install these life saving devices. Each year these devices save lives through alerting residents and businesses to potential risks. If you have a furnace, wood stove, or other combustion heating device in your home, these devices should be installed as well. Further information is available from the Health Department or the Fire Marshal.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tours for the month comprise 179 Main St., Preferred Utilities at 31-35 South St., 37 Lake Ave Ext. - Newly relocated business, "Puppy Love", Zinn Rd. area, Westwood Village, Facility familiarization at the WCSU Westside campus and Magnet School

Local 801 of the Danbury Fire Department collected over eighteen thousand dollars in the "Fill the Boot" campaign. This money was donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Firefighter Terry Timan headed up the drive this year.

The department participated in the September 11th memorial road race at Boehringer-Ingelheim with a flag arch erected on the grounds. This was done with the Ridgefield Fire Department.

The members of the Danbury emergency services would like to thank the "Friends of Heroes". Each year since 2001 this group has provided a luncheon to all the responders of Danbury. This is presented by these women and men to recognize the services provided by your EMS, Police and Fire Departments.

E22, E23, E24, TRK and C30 attended a Safety Day at Danbury Fair Honda. The crews demonstrated tools and talked about the trucks and equipment with the public. E26 crew attended and provided demos and talks with people at the Family Fair Day at the Ives Center.

On duty firefighters met president Daisy Cocco DeFilippis and deans of Naugatuck Community College during their visit to headquarters. The crew provided them with information about the job and lifestyle we share as firefighters. This was done to show the NVCC support for our program here at the Fire Department.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

Multiple units responded to a call for a lost hiker in Tarrywile Park late afternoon of 3 September. The man was near to the southern most point in the park. He was unable to walk due to fatigue and early stage dehydration and he was disoriented. He contacted the department via cell phone on the 9-1-1 line. The search included the activation of a plane from the civil air patrol from Danbury Airport to assist in locating the man. Once located, the hiker was brought out of the wilds of the park on our Gator, an ATV equipped for use in these situations.

On 11 September a "head on" collision occurred on Clapboard Ridge Rd. Crews were dispatched to a reported entrapment. Both drivers were in the vehicles one entrapped. First responders initiated medical care and went to work using the Hurst "Jaws of Life" and various other hand tools to disentangle and safely remove the drivers. New Fairfield Volunteer Ambulance provided the second ambulance mutual aid. A firefighter drove one ambulance to the E.D.

Units responded to a gas main puncture at the Public Works Complex on 19 September. This response involved several fire department units as well as responders from the private sector. Evacuation had already been enacted and the area was cordoned off safely. Yankee Gas representatives arrived on scene and were able to locate a shutoff in the yard. The gas flow was turned off, evacuees were allowed back to their work sites and our units returned to service.

Units responded to a fire at Riverbend Condos on Newtown Rd. This fire evolved under a clothes dryer, which caused a sprinkler head to activate. Removal of occupants on the floors above took priority as conditions deteriorated rapidly when smoke entered the stairwell. The fire, although held in check by the sprinkler, necessitated extinguishment with a hose line as an open hallway door obstructed full application of water from the head. Interestingly, the only injury requiring transport was an asthmatic individual who did not travel through the smoke, but was in the parking lot on the part of the complex opposite the end where the fire was. Hart Bus provided a bus as a cool-down area for displaced residents as temperature and humidity were

high. Two units could not be reoccupied- the fire unit and a basement level unit which sustained significant water damage from the sprinkler. DFM Osborne investigated.

On 12 September units responded to 32 South St. This was a reported engine compartment fire in a 1987 Volvo. Dispatch upgraded the response to a possible structure as it was reported to be burning against a building. On arrival while giving a size up on the radio, E21 was struck by a two foot section of the car's front bumper and piston, puncturing their windshield and sending glass and debris through the cab of the engine. Driver Jon DeJoseph was transported to Danbury Hospital with glass fragments in his right eye. Luckily there were only minor corneal scratches. The fire was extinguished without further incident. Investigation showed that the hydraulic bumper piston had failed, shooting it across the road in front of the engine. It had substantial mass and tore through the bumper section, shearing it off on a different trajectory to E21's driver side door and windshield. Accompanying the bumper section was what appears to be a closure for part of a piston shaft. Discovered later behind the officer's seat on a towel which had burn marks, was this once obviously hot disc-shaped fragment about the diameter of a golf ball. Firefighter Close Calls.com reported another similar incident involving two BMWs in a garage fire. All four bumper pistons left the vehicles during the fire, one narrowly missing a firefighter and a police officer. Currently our vehicle fire response and positioning policy are under review. This incident was investigated by DFM Leach.

Command officer activities:

- Connecticut Career Chiefs meeting
- State Fire Education Committee
- Engine 11 annual picnic
- Engine 14 annual picnic
- Naugatuck Valley's Community College
- Taste of Danbury planning meeting
- Multiple entry test meetings
- Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaning Company meeting
- Friend of Local Heroes Luncheon
- 9-11 service Main St.
- Taste of Danbury
- Walk of Heroes
- News-times Parade meeting
- Executive education with David Forte
- 65th Anniversary dinner for Mr. Deakin at Squad 6

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS recertification requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes held on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills. The topic for this months' EMS Wednesday is the OSHA mandated Blood borne Pathogens review. Blood borne pathogens include all infectious and communicable diseases which are of concern to our First Responders.

While there are risks inherent to emergency medical services responses, these risks can be minimized by the use of methods that will reduce the risk of exposure and contraction of these diseases. The purpose of the training is to educate personnel in the types of communicable /infectious diseases, the modes that they are transmitted methods and practices that will reduce the risk of exposure and the procedures that must be followed should an exposure should occur.

All career members attended a class presented by nutritionist Nancy Salem. This program is part of our on going health and fitness initiative. Ms. Salem came to us through a cooperative program with Danbury Hospital and Corporate Health Care.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

The State of Connecticut is developing an emergency notification system (ENS) that will be made available to 911 PSAP's (Public Service Answering Point) beginning in the 4th quarter of 2009. This system is a web based system that is managed under contract by Everbridge and is available to the PSAP at no cost. This system is intended to alerting the public and/or our employees of emergency situations in real time. With this system alerts may be sent to land lines, cell phones, PDA's, Blackberries and more. Text messaging is also supported with this technology.

The features of this system leverage almost all of the available technologies for mass notifications with no hardware requirement being pushed onto the PSAP. With the interactive feedback features such as caller polling Incident Commanders can have a much better tool for evacuations and notifications.

Training will be attended by members of the department working in the PSAP and will help to develop the operation blueprint for this system as it relates to emergency operations or call backs.

Next Gen 911

The state is currently in the process of developing an RFP to replace the hardware and software for processing 911 calls. Given that the software the state currently provides was written 12 years ago there is a need to change the methodology and process. 911 systems now and in the future are being compelled to support a myriad of technologies such as:

- Cellular Location Tracking
- Text Message
- Incident Linked Multimedia (Video),
- Telematics (In Vehicle Communications Links) and Automatic Crash
- Notification Systems
- Voice Over IP
- Multi-Lined PBX (Private Branch Exchange) ANI/ALI
- Proximity Notifications with Spatial Orientation (Location with Height)

The process of developing this RFP and subsequent deployment to the communities has no definitive timeline but OSET is aggressively acting in this project to minimize the

delays of fielding a state of the art package. A very preliminary statement of a 36 month window for beginning installation was mentioned.

Statewide Public Safety High Speed Data Network (PSDN)

To be able to provide the infrastructure required to support the large volume of data that the PSAP's will receive and process, OSET has received the design and funding to build a high speed fiber optic data network that will be linked to every PSAP. PSAP surveys will be scheduled during the 3rd Quarter of 2009. These surveys are to determine the locations for installation within the PSAP and any modifications that will have to be made to PSAP electrical or structural components to allow installation. Some of the components to be installed are:

- Fiber Optic Gateway
 - Danbury was selected to serve as a large area gateway for the western portion of the state.
- VSAT – Satellite Receiver /Transmitter providing backup capability in the event of a fiber optic cable cut or outage.
- Additional Duplicate Electrical Equipment if needed during dual operations.
 - These modifications would be at city expense
- Additional Cable entries points and pathways as needed.

This high speed data network is slated to provide multiple pathways of data transmission for the 911 network at minimum speeds of 10 GB per second. Additional uses for this network will be to serve as the pipeline for a statewide interoperable radio connection between each PSAP.

Statewide Public Safety Radio Interoperability Switch (P25 Switch)

Each municipality signed on a grant that was received by the state to provide an interoperable radio communications link. In a relatively short time this switch will be installed. As part of the PSDN project, specific routers and interconnects will be determined and ordered to allow each PSAP to have 2 outbound and 2 inbound radio interconnects wired to this switch. The management of the switch and the operation of the interconnect gateways will be assigned to the State Police Message Center. The premise of this solution is that through these interconnects any PSAP could establish radio communication with another agency via radio.

The best practical application example is this: Suppose Danbury must abandon their PSAP due to a fire in the building. In the past all radio communication from the center would be lost. Now with this switch Danbury could contact the Message Center and ask that interconnects to Brookfield be activated. Brookfield PSAP would then have direct radio communication with Danbury units using Brookfield equipment. If it were a wide area outage a community such as Bridgeport could be connected into Danbury.

An issue for the Danbury PSAP is that the interconnect requires a P25 capable radio system. Our current equipment at Fire Headquarters can not be readily connected to this switch. The new equipment at the Police Department can be.

Training - Mark Omasta

FF Lillis lead the way with assistance from other firefighters and constructed a smoke generator for the fire school. They did so with help from the App/Div using scrap and left over items from other projects. Total project time was approx. 20 man hours. Another project completed was led by Lt. Miguel. He and firefighters built an air pack skills prop with materials provided by the training Officer. Total project time was approx. 18 man hours. These will be used at our fire training facility on Plumtrees Road.

Aerial Operations: Danbury hosted the CT Fire Academy Aerial Operator certification class this month. The 48 hour, 6 day course consisted of classroom sessions reinforced by practical evolutions in the field. This course gives the students a solid foundation and knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of our Aerial Apparatus. 20 students participated and will take the certification exam in October.

College Class: This semester we are offering the three credit class, "Codes and Standards" which is a requirement for the Fire Technology degree from Naugatuck Valley Community College. The class is held every Wednesday evening at Fire Headquarters. We have 11 students taking the class, including a high school student who is earning college credit by taking advantage of the state program of free tuition for area high school students.

Health and Wellness:

The Educational lectures to all crews on Nutrition/Wellness (presented by Danbury Hospital) were completed for all crews.

Confined space drills at the FCI were completed for all crews.

Volunteer Quarterly Training: Third quarter training is in progress for all Volunteer Firefighters. We are working on a SCBA refresher and confidence drills. All training will be at our Fire School on Plumtrees Road.

Hazardous Materials Technician Course: It took a few years, but the Department was successful in bringing the new Haz Mat NFPA 472 Technician class to Danbury. This is a 160 hour- 20 day course that will bring the students to the Technician level. We have 9 Danbury Career Firefighters enrolled, who will fill vacancies in our Haz Mat Team after graduation. We also have a Danbury Volunteer Firefighter enrolled along with 5 Firefighters from our region. The course is being presented by the CT Fire Academy and funded through Region 5. Classes run from September through early December.

Antenna and Tower Training: Lieutenants Anderson, Drentwett and firefighters Arteaga, Houser and McGowan attended a class on familiarization and rescue from cell towers. The all day hands on course concentrated on rescue techniques for lowering injured workers from Antennas and Towers. This class was a regional class taught in Canaan and Sharon.

In other rescue training this month, E26 trained with our ropes descending down an embankment to a victim and then securing and hauling the victim with a rigging system.

Meetings/Events

- CT Instructors meeting at the Academy on Sept 2
- 9-11 Ceremony
- Friends of Local Heroes luncheon held at Fire Headquarters on Sept 11

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. There were 5 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic). All such 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 Honda of Danbury. 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 Leach is still working on the implementation of a regional Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program with the HVCEO communities.

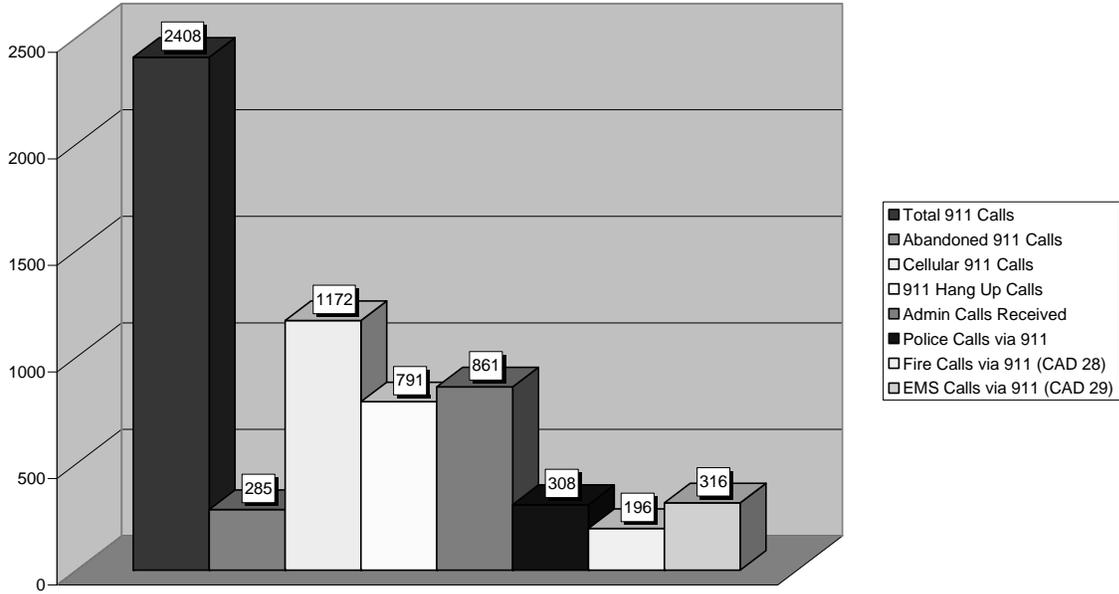
Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

This past month the Apparatus Division addressed some of the rust issues on Truck-1's ladder in preparation for a complete ladder service. The sensors in E-25's 4 gas meter were replaced. New software downloads in all of the departments' meters was completed. A damaged length of LDH was converted into several short lengths to be used as front suction hoses. Division personnel assisted the Communication Supervisor in a change out of batteries that power our 911 communications unit in case of a power failure. We have assessed and ordered parts to repair our Plymovent system here at Headquarters. The repairs of the pneumatic barrel pump for our transmission fluid dispenser are complete. Other repairs completed include:

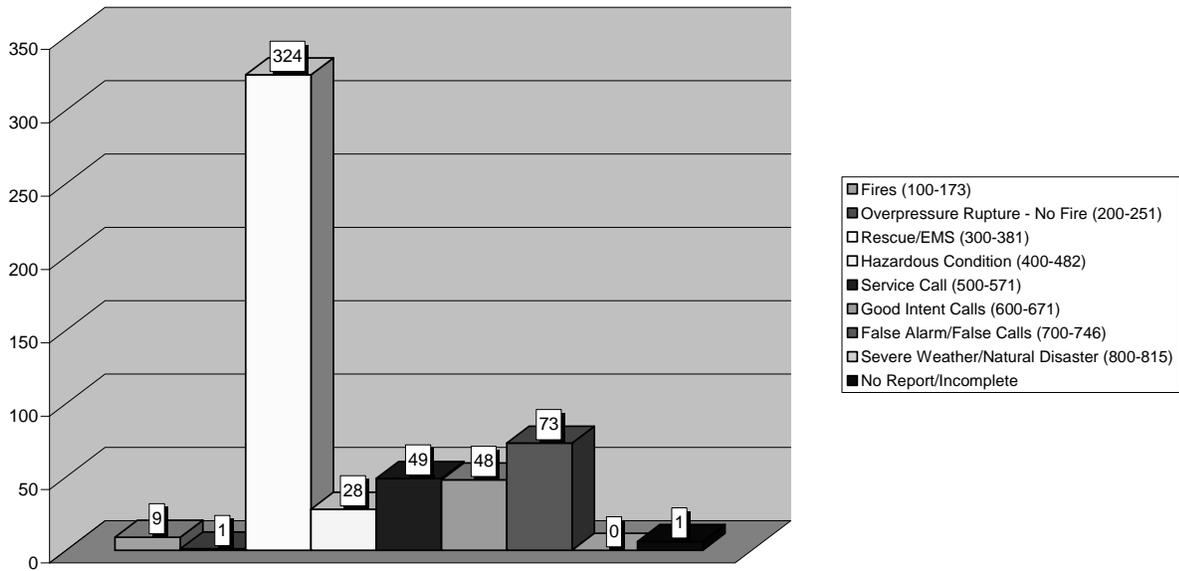
- Replaced the windshield in E-21 damaged at car fire.
- Repaired the engine-retarder in R-1
- Repaired two overhead doors at Headquarters
- Replaced the speedometer and tachometer in E-25.
- Repaired the aerial diverter valve in Truck-1.
- Replaced a tire on the departments Gator.
- Replaced the front suction hose on E-21
- Replaced the batteries in Truck-1
- Repaired the Jenny Rd. gate.
- Replaced the turn signal switch in E-24
- Repaired the drivers seat in E-21

Department Statistical Reports

911 Center Activity
August 24 to September 20, 2009



Fire Response Breakdown August 24 to September 20, 2009



Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	9
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	324
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	28
Service Call (500-571)	49
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	48
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	73
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	3
No Report/Incomplete	6
Total Fire Responses	541
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2408
Abandoned 911 Calls	285
Cellular 911 Calls	1172
911 Hang Up Calls	791
Admin Calls Received	861
Police Calls via 911	308
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	196
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	316
Daily Average	86.00
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	541
Total EMS Responses	674
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	257
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	282
No Patient (CAD 62)	135
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	5
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	23

**** NOTE ****

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

Fire prevention and enforcement

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	44	Place of Assembly:	12
Issued in Fire Zones:	1	Educational:	7
Fire Investigations:	2	Business:	11
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	1
Liquor Inspections:	5	Health Care:	2
Blasting Permits:	3	Industrial:	0

Complaints	16**	Mercantile:	28
Plan Review (hrs)	46	Residential Board & Care:	2
Fire Prevention Prgs.	3	Hotel (units):	140
Orders of Abatement:	4 (unit)	Apartments:	460
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	1
Some of these complaints were thru and with the UNIT.		Day Care:	4
		Misc. Inspections	31
		Special Structures:	0
		Office Duty (hrs):	142.5
		Burn Permits	2

Respectfully Submitted

Geoff Herald, Chief