



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 21 November through 21 December and details activities of the Department.

There has been considerable activity this month with regards to emergency response. Several fires, vehicle accidents and an expected up tick in associated medical calls have occurred. As the winter weather has settled in the Fire Department wishes to remind all of our citizens to be mindful of the changing conditions. Outside activities require planning for sudden weather changes and dropping temperatures. The evening sets in early and darkness will rapidly catch hikers and others outdoors.

When engaging in winter activities, notify someone where you are going and bring a cell phone with you. Our 9-1-1 center has recently recorded a majority of incoming calls from cell phones so it is important that you know where you are should you need to call for help. Unlike a land line phone, cell phones do not give an exact location and the user will need to relay that information should the need arise.

A fire occurred again this period in a long vacant building. As is common in vacant and abandoned buildings, damage to the structure often creates unseen hazards to emergency responders. Caution must be used by our fire officers in entering and searching such environments so as to limit the risks to our personnel. Ensuring the boarding up and limiting access to these buildings is critical in protecting the public and responders.

Many empty homes and commercial structures are found in our city due to the severe economic conditions. Notifying the building department and fire department of these structures is paramount. Should you note

these structures around town, please call the number listed above or the Fire Marshal at 203-796-1541.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-incident planning: Public Works Methanol Plant, former Amphenol Plant on Maple Ave.

Lt. Chris Daly once again spearheaded the annual Holiday Food and Toy Drive to benefit the Salvation Army. He collected and sorted toys and delivered all 50 of DFD's donated gifts for the Angel Tree Toy Drive to the Salvation Army. Chris continues in his community minded service again illustrating his commitment to the citizens of our city.

The crew members of Engine 26 presented a public safety education session to Maimonides Academy on Miry Brook Rd.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 25 November a fire was reported on Bells Place. This structure has long been abandoned and has been subject to several fires and illegal entries. The building is unsafe and a serious danger to fire fighters should they enter the structure. During this incident, fire suppression was largely accomplished from out side of the building due to these considerations. Only after the blaze was extinguished was entry allowed to over-haul the fire.

On 28 November E21 responded to an imminent childbirth with Lt. Mark Miguel and Firefighters James Crosswell and James Gagliardo. On arrival they met with premature birth (approximately 23 weeks) in a bathroom. One baby was delivered prior to the arrival of responders. Working with the ambulance crew the company performed resuscitation efforts and transported the baby to the Hospital. A second ambulance then brought the mother still carrying the second child to the ED. Engine company members drove both ambulances to the ED.

On 30 November a structure fire occurred at 14 Balmforth Ave. This was a fire that involved a 2 car garage used for a storage shed. Although well involved on arrival, E22 effected a quick knockdown of the main body of fire, reducing risk of exposure to the adjacent dwelling. DFM Russell investigated the fire whose cause remains undetermined. There was no power to the structure at the time of the fire and a half-empty gas can was found in front of the garage. Fire damage was limited to what was involved on arrival. This was most of the contents and a good portion of the structure.

On 15 December an incident occurred at 225 Main St. Originally a call of a smell of gas, the incident quickly escalated. The cause was a broken 6" low pressure gas main located 5' under the sidewalk curb in front of the former Martin's Men's Store. This all-day incident, tied up 3 engines, truck 1, C30 and the Squad 1 vehicle.

Gas readings from 11% to 100% were metered throughout the incident in various areas including basements and electrical vaults under the street. Lower Explosive

Limits (LEL) readings from 0% to 70% were metered at various locations on both sides of Main St. throughout the day. Main St. was closed from West St. to Library Pl. in both directions and many businesses were evacuated, depending on relative location to the leak and gas levels encountered in and around them.

This incident required coordination of multiple agencies. Yankee Gas, Public Utilities, AT&T, DFD, DPD and the media were each involved. A Public Information Officer was assigned due to inquiries from owners and employees who were displaced due to the evacuation required at or near their buildings. No injuries were reported. Northbound Main St. traffic was reopened when the hazard was reduced and Yankee Gas finally cleared The Galleria at 225 Main St. to reopen. The initial call had come from the Galleria some nine and a half hours earlier.

Command and Staff Activities

Chief Herald attended a two week training course at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland. This course, Financial Management for the Fire Service, presented various budgeting tools available to the modern Fire Service. Also presented were alternative funding methodologies and actions that might be used to supplement the stressed municipal budget.

Other Command Staff activities:

- State Chiefs meeting
- Crew Meetings
- Staff meeting
- Naugatuck Valley Community College re: curriculum
- Finance Dept. re: logic modeling
- State of the City Address

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday:

The Annual CPR for the Professional Rescuer with Automatic External Defibrillator re-certification for the Fire Departments First Responder program has been completed and the required Paperwork has been submitted to the American Red Cross.

Bi-Annual File audit:

An internal audit of the department EMS files has been completed. This is to ensure that the Danbury Fire Department First Responder program maintains proper credentials. These are kept on file, not only to meet local requirements for Medical Control from our sponsor hospital (Danbury Hospital) but to also to meet certification requirements from the FAA. These are necessary as our personnel have primary responsibility to respond to the Danbury Airport.

Haz-mat meter review:

A Haz-Mat meter review was held on 11/25/09 for members of the department who are attending the 472 Haz-Mat Class. This class reviewed the meters that are

currently in service on the Regional Haz-Mat response vehicle staffed by the Danbury Fire Department. The capabilities of these advanced meters reflect a Chemical /Biological WMD monitoring ability. These are vastly superior to the type of meter capability that is generally covered in the State Fire Academy 472 class.

Haz-Mat Suit Field test:

F.F. Sean McGowan has taken the lead on field testing a new “state of the art” 472 Haz-Mat suit. Assisting him are Firefighter/ Haz Mat techs Jeff Tomchik and Ted Mourges. These new suits offer greater protection, maneuverability and shelf life. This aspect is particularly significant as the previous suits were limited to 5 years and then were to be discarded.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Technology and training:

Dispatchers are currently being trained in the use of our recently installed Power Phone ‘Total Response’ software. To date, feedback from dispatch personnel has been very positive. As a result of this feedback several protocols are being reworked to provide the best response for the City of Danbury.

In addition to working with the new software, 43 of the currently certified members of the department are also working through the recertification process in Emergency Medical Dispatch. These modules are presented in an online self study framework. Each student can proceed through the 8 hour course at their pace and at their convenience. This approach has proven to be a success for the re-cert process. This methodology maintains response capabilities by not having to take apparatus or personnel out of service to complete this work.

During this period relief Dispatchers Krikorian and Bonsignore attended the 24 hour EMD certification course. There are currently 65 certified Dispatcher/Firefighters with the Emergency Medical Dispatch classification in the department.

Incident Activity:

Emergency Incident activity increased slightly this period with two major structure fires, and several weather related events. This up tick can be attributed to colder weather and a higher 911 call volume that is inherent to the season. For example, on 13 December at approximately 11:30 AM a cold rainy drizzle caused near instant black ice conditions through out the city.

As a result, between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM dispatchers answered 75 9-1-1 calls for a variety of weather related incidents. Many spin out type motor vehicle accidents and falls were reported. This sudden onset of hazardous driving conditions created extremely treacherous responses for Fire, Police and Emergency Medical personnel. During this time, at least one engine company had to await the arrival of the city sand trucks after a response to return to quarters.

Training - Mark Omasta

Live Burn Training:

All four crews from the Career division completed their 8 hour mandatory training in December. All personnel participated in various activities including an Incident Command update and refresher, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus review and Confidence course (maze) along with multiple live burn evolutions at our Fire School. Those firefighters training to become pump and aerial operators worked on their skills during the training fires. Volunteer Squad 7 provided their apparatus and personnel to fill SCBA bottles at all evolutions.

Year to date Training hours:

All four crews have combined have 15,000 total man hours of training logged for 2009.

Volunteer Division:

All volunteer companies completed fourth quarter training in December. This consisted of live burn evolutions at our Fire School. 102 Vol. Fire fighters participated in the training. Volunteer Firefighter Glen Lake Jr. from Eng 9 completed the 160 hour Hazardous Material Technician course held in Danbury. Volunteer Firefighters logged over 3,500 man hours of training in 2009.

Hazardous Materials Technician Course:

15 Haz Mat Tech students passed the CT Fire Academy practical exam held at Danbury Airport on December 17. The written test is scheduled for January 11, 2010. Once certified, these Haz Mat Techs will fill vacancies on our Haz Mat team. Our Haz Mat team is a part of the Connecticut Region 5 Haz Mat Response team.

Fire School:

The Fire School has been used often for live burns for Danbury firefighters and firefighters from our surrounding towns and mutual aid partners. The shutter replacement project moved forward with the installation of 5 steel shutters on the remaining first floor windows of our burn building in December. Jim's Welding Service fabricated and installed the shutters. This is a major operational and safety improvement to the school.

Fire Instructor I:

The 56 hour Fire Instructor course for 17 students was completed on Dec. 8 and the Certification exam was held on Dec. 18.

Aerial Operator:

FF Ken Stilson III successfully met the Department's requirements to be become a Driver/aerial Operator on Nov 19, 2009.

Safety Officer:

The training officer was dispatched as our incident safety officer to structure fires on Bells Lane, Terra Glen Road, and Shelter Rock Road.

Meetings/Events

- Participated in the Department Staff meeting on Nov. 30.
- Attended the Volunteer Firefighter Council meeting on Nov 23 at Beaver Brook
- Attended the State Firefighters Educational Committee meeting (Regional Fire Schools on Dec. 3
- Attending the Engine 4 annual dinner on Dec 12

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

This past month the Apparatus Division has received purchase orders related to the body repairs to Truck-1 and Truck-2, as well as requisitions for ground ladder testing and Non Destructive testing of both aerials. We are working on aligning our schedules with our vendors in order to have this work performed. We have calibrated all of the Departments' 4 Gas meters. We have developed and presented our Apparatus budget as requested for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Due to the very real and present concerns regarding the H1N1 Flu Virus, we are working with our test equipment vendors to develop a healthy and safe plan to perform our fit testing for our SCBA users.

Other repairs completed:

- Serviced chassis/engine, and replaced the batteries in R-2
- Replaced some rusted plumbing on Airport 20
- Performed a six hour leak test on in-ground gasoline tank at Fire HQ's
- Repaired many S.C.B.A used at the Fire School for training
- Serviced several staff vehicles
- Replaced the brakes, O 2 sensor and serviced Car 30
- Serviced the department pick-up
- Serviced the department snow blower
- Replaced the fuel filters in TRK-2
- Repaired the frozen/stuck outrigger on TRK-1

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Our teams continue to locate and remediate illegal residential activity in the city. There were 4 inspections for unsafe occupancy. These situations are very worrisome and are a high priority for our Fire and life safety actions. As of this writing all known situations are resolved or are in the process.

This months Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. We stressed proper care of Christmas trees, both cut and live. Holiday Fire Safety Patrols started after Thanksgiving. These patrols covered shopping centers and the Mall. Areas of concern are blocked exits, misuse of extension cords and blocked isles in stores and Fire Lanes. Fire lanes must have proper signage to be noted and to allow enforcement.

The Marshals' office investigated several serious fires. Fortunately we are happy to report there were no injuries. The structure fires caused severe damage rendering

the homes unsafe for occupancy. With excellent service from the Red Cross the occupant's immediate needs were taken care of. The responders from the Red Cross deserve a well earned Thank You!!

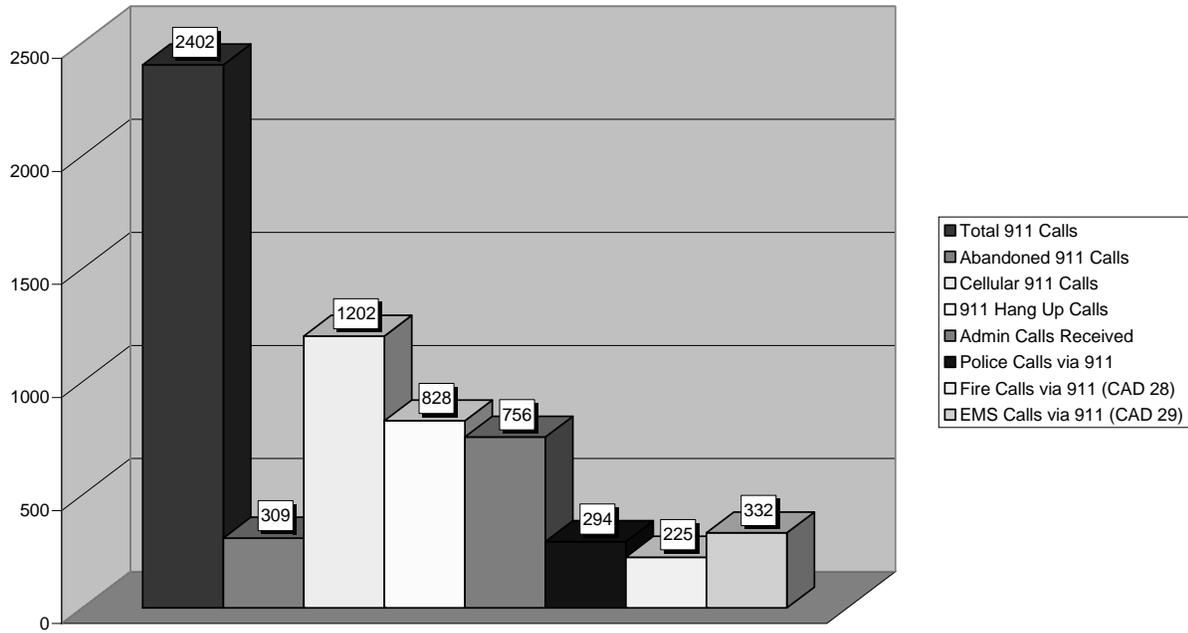
Department Statistical Reports

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	14
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	336
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	36
Service Call (500-571)	57
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	63
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	81
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	7
Total Fire Responses	595
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2402
Abandoned 911 Calls	309
Cellular 911 Calls	1202
911 Hang Up Calls	828
Admin Calls Received	756
Police Calls via 911	294
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	225
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	332
Daily Average	85.79
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	595
Total EMS Responses	665
Unknown Transport Status	8
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	262
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	280
No Patient (CAD 62)	115
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	9
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	22

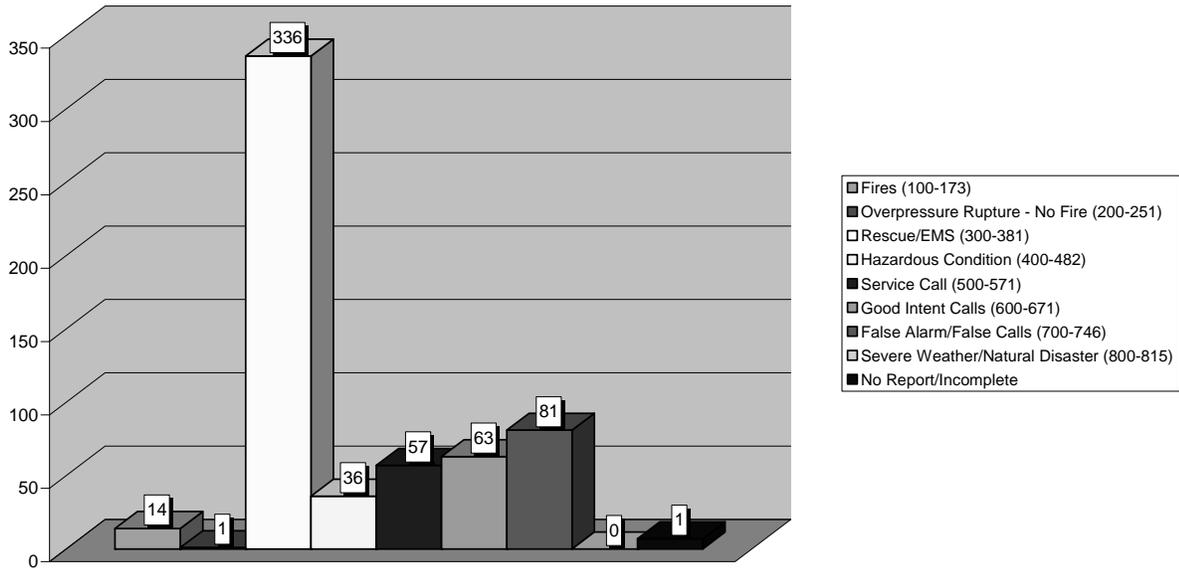
** NOTE **

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

**911 Center Activity
November 21 to December 20, 2009**



**Fire Response Breakdown
November 21 to December 20, 2009**



Fire Marshal Activity

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	34	Place of Assembly:	21
Issued in Fire Zones:	10	Educational:	5
Fire Investigations:	10	Business:	11
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	0
Liquor Inspections:	5	Health Care:	0
Blasting Permits:	3	Industrial:	2
Complaints	11**	Mercantile:	40
Plan Review (hrs)	45	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs.	1	Hotel (units):	80
Orders of Abatement:	1 (unit)	Apartments:	12
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	0
Some of these complaints were found with by UNIT.		Day Care:	1
		Misc. Inspections	18
		Special Structures:	0
		Office Duty (hrs):	74
		Burn Permits	0