

February 23, 2005

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

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of January 26 to February 22, 2005 and details some of the activities of the Department.

We had a trying month in the Department. We started out with the first fatal fire in the city in over three years. The month was one of our most active fire wise in several months. During the month we buried two of our retired members. Disp. Donald Wood and FF Joseph Smith. Between the two men they had 56 years of service to the citizens of Danbury. Disp. Wood had also served decades on the Board of the Scott-Fanton Museum. He wrote "A History of The Danbury Fire Department 1829 - 1969". Hopefully, someone in the Department will pick up the torch and bring the history up to the present.

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

- a. The department continued preplan activities this month. Facilities and areas visited include: 14 Main St., 129 Main St., 139 Main St., 161 Main St., 72 Liberty St., St. Paul Church, Danbury Fair Mall, Avalon Apts.-Mountain Terrace and Fieldstone Estates.
- b. The department held station tours for walk ins. The firefighters seem to enjoy these type of tours because they can spend more individual time with the people. They get to stress the importance of detectors and safe evacuation from fires.

- c. E-23 stopped at Super Food Mart unannounced on several occasions and talked to the public about Fire Safety and showed the engine to the youngsters.
- d. FF Chip Daly participated in Career Day at Park Ave. School.
- e. Engine companies continue to work with homeowners by assisting with smoke detectors and battery replacements when needed. This program gives our personnel additional contact with the public and to engage them in fire prevention topics.

### **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- a. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of January we responded to 18 Thorpe St. for a report of a structure fire. Upon arrival the first units found occupants of the building in front of the house. The first floor had heavy smoke and flames showing. They were told by the occupants that someone was still in the building. The firefighters made an aggressive attack on the fire. They found the occupant and removed her to the outside. They preformed CPR on her but to no avail. The fire was brought under control within minutes. This is the first fatality in the city in over three years.
- b. January 31<sup>st</sup>. we were called to Middle River Road for a structure fire. While in route it was obvious to the responding units that they had a fire. Upon arrival they found a two story colonial fully involved in flames. There were no hydrants in the neighborhood. The firefighters were forced to use the water they were carrying until the volunteer tankers arrived. When they arrived they set up their portable pond and were able to supply all the water that was needed by doing a tanker shuttle. No firefighters were hurt during the fire but the owner was injured when he entered the house to save his pets. He was forced to jump out a second story window with one of his dogs. He suffered minor burns. Two dogs and two cats were lost in the fire. A nearby large two story barn was saved by the firefighters.
- c. Additional structure fires this month included a chimney fire on Acre Dr. which caused damage to walls and ceilings. Thermal imaging units assisted firefighters in minimizing damage and locating hidden pockets of concealed fire.

- d. A small fire on Ridgeside Rd. caused damage to a bathroom when a hair drier was left on.
- e. On Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a fire caused by cooking at 134 Deer Hill Ave. There was damage to the stove and smoke damage throughout the apartment.
- f. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> we responded to Mill Ridge Primary School for a report of a fire. Upon arrival we found that the Principal Helena Nitowski and two of her assistants had put out the fire in the copier machine with a dry chemical extinguisher. The copier was destroyed and there was a slight smoke condition.
- g. On the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> of February we had a mattress fire on Thaddeus Ave. The damage was kept to the bed and a smoke condition in the room.
- h. Quick action by the first due engine company saved a business on Federal Rd. When they arrived they spotted the fire through the door in a wastebasket. They got through the door and put the fire out before it could extend. Damage was held to the wastebasket and some papers above it.

### **Emergency Medical Services/Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriques**

**EMS Wednesday.** The continuous education program is designed to meet EMS certification requirements of the Fire department First Responder program. These classes held while on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Patient Assessment.

Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediately life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Departments First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during Emergency medical calls before transport to the Hospitals Emergency Department

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system, cross-trained firefighters that have the knowledge of lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a medical calls, this ability coupled with the Danbury Fire Departments community education programs like "CPR Saturday" has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

#### **Chemistry for Hazardous Materials**

The Chemistry for Hazardous materials course the Danbury Fire department hosted in cooperation with FEMA and the National Fire Academy concluded on February 6, 2005. This course is designed for First Responders that will respond; not only to hazardous materials calls

but also calls involving weapons of mass destruction whether they are chemical, biological or radiological.

This intense, eighty hour class presented over 10 weekends will enable attendees to foster a sound understanding of the basics of Chemistry through the recognition of chemical nomenclature, the basic principals of Chemistry and the associated hazards

The intent of providing educational opportunities such as this class is to better prepare our Danbury Fire Department first responders with the ability to better assess the hazards and the risks that may be present at the incident scene of any emergency.

The following Danbury Firefighters will receive four college credits towards their college degree in Fire Science for successfully completing this course.

Firefighter Walter Arteaga

Firefighter Robert Forbes

Firefighter John Kennedy

Firefighter Jaime Schiller

Firefighter Jeff Tomcik

EMS Coordinator/Haz-Mat team leader Rey Rodriguez

### **Haz-Mat Team training**

Members of Haz-Mat team will be involved in a training evolution on February 25, 2005, this four hour training evolution will focus on the metering and monitoring with the metering package that the department has received from the Office of Domestic preparedness. That metering package includes the;

The Scott four- gas meter

The APD 2000 Chemical weapon detector

The Mini Rae Carbon atom chemical detector

The Dragger Colorimetric tube and chip set

The Geiger- Ludlum radiological detector

### **Community Education**

In order to assist nursing homes in the greater Danbury Area, Pope John Paul Nursing Home in Danbury has agreed to be a pilot program for standardization of terminology when activating the 911 systems. In the past there seemed to be some confusion in activation of the 911 systems and the use of terminology that is common in nursing homes and means one thing but to emergency services it meant something else, which resulted in unnecessary code 1 responses to the nursing homes. After sixty days, responses to Pope John Paul will be reviewed and if it has the desired affect they will host an educational in-service for all the nursing homes in the greater Danbury area where this information on better utilization of the 911 system can be relayed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS/911 - Pat Sniffin**

Emergency Medical Dispatch

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As a 90 day follow-up to the implementation of the Emergency Medical Dispatch program statistical data indicate that while EMS responses using lights and siren have been reduced, the number of calls where a first responder engine has been sent have actually increased.

Much of this increase can be attributed to a change in policy that did away with not sending a first responder to medical facilities or convalescent centers. This topic was discussed with representatives of the Fire Department and medical staff at the Pope John Paul Center in order to correct the perception of an over response. Many good ideas came out of this meeting. From these ideas a model plan will be developed that will allow the proper response to be sent to facilities where advanced care is provided without over taxing first responders or medical staff.

#### State 911 Public Service Announcement

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Joan Carrasquillo of the State Office of Emergency Telecommunications has advised that all the arrangements have been finalized to begin the state 911 public information campaign. In the very near future a PSA will be filmed concerning the topic of appropriate use of 911. This brief commercial is being produced by the Connecticut Broadcasters Association in cooperation with Channel 61. Following this campaign the 911 Public Education group will reconvene to work on other public education ideas. For any suggestions or questions contact Communications Coordinator Pat Sniffin.

#### **TRAINING - Jim Thorne**

We had a critique (B group) for a water pipe break at the hospital. The hospital donated a tool that will help us if we need to stop a break in the future. The people from the hospital that attended the critique were very pleased with the Fire Department on the handling of the emergency.

The Fire School project has come to a halt due to the weather. Once the weather breaks we will see activity on the fire building. Hopefully the building will be up and running by June of this year.

The Firefighter 1 class is in its 4<sup>th</sup> week. It started with fifteen and now we are down to ten. This includes one student that is just doing support. We will have exterior people that will join the class so they can take the FF1 exam. We have new

faces in the ICS and Haz Mat classes. The training officer has invited any company that has people that might need any of our core classes to attend.

The Fire Office 1 class is scheduled to start in March. We have 23 people interested so far. A class for Fire Service Instructor will be scheduled shortly. The firefighters seem very excited about taking both these courses.

The Incident Responders to Terrorist Bombing is being given to B and D Group. When they are done the entire career department will have had it. When the Career department is done the Volunteers will be offered the course.

The first quarter training for the volunteer division will start this Wednesday. Bloodborne and Haz Mat will be covered.

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### **Apparatus/Equipment Maintenance**

The MDT for truck 1 was received and installed.

The hospital is donating a tool for crimping black pipe up to 2 inches. This will save a lot of water damage when shut off valves cannot be found or shut down. We received part of the tool and when the rest of the equipment comes in it will be put on the Truck.

We had a busy month of repairs. Right now we have E-25 in for a fuel tank, replace both air tanks, fix the air horns and water level gauge. E-22 was just in for brakes and starter. Next will be E-23 for an air leak and throttle cable. Engine 24 and 21 also need to come in for some maintenance.

The new Biosystem MultiPro Meter has been on Truck 1 for about a month. It seems to be working well, with no complaints. We are having trouble with a couple of chargers on the old ones. They are all working right now but we are not sure how long they will keep working Hopefully, after July we can start replacing the meters with the MultiPro Meters.

We got a couple of the older cars on the road for the two new Fire Marshalls. The 93 Lumina and the 93 Cavalier wagon. Both seem to be OK and are running fine right now. Hopefully they will continue to run OK.

We have 2000 feet of 5" LDH that we received. It will be used to replace some of our older hose.

We are starting to get long awaited equipment that we had ordered. This order of Stack Tips for the two Trucks, 7 new bolt cutters, hydrant wrenches, more hose and various hand tools should be complete soon.

### Good of the Organization

- a. On Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Regional meeting for EPA - New England. The meeting was originally planned to be held in the Council Chambers. However, the Meet the Candidates Breakfast bumped them from the room. WCSU came through for us and offered the auditorium at the Ancell School. It worked out better because they had over 135 people who attended. The college had plenty of parking for them.
- b. DFM Wiedl and DFM Perry continue to take classes three days a week in order to become Dep. Fire Marshals.
- d. On Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup>. Dep. Chief Curran, T.O. Thorne, A/C Slagle and their wives attended the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for the Beckerle Co. Hose Comp. at the Red Lion Restaurant.
- e. Capt. Keenan attended the Homeland Security Class in New Mexico on suicide bombings.
- f. FF Tyler Bergemann returned from active duty with the Air Force in the Middle East. It was Tyler's second deployment to the Middle East.
- g. FF John Halas auditioned for the IAFF endorsed Men's Fitness Magazine article highlighting Firefighters and Fitness in New York Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	15
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	0
Rescue/EMS	262
Hazardous Condition	22
Service Calls	51

Good Intent Calls	66
False Alarm/False Calls	51
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	0
No Report/Incomplete	5

Total Fire Calls..472.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 621 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	638
No patient EMS Calls	105
BLS Patient Calls	288
ALS EMS Calls	239
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	12
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	21

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 2644 with a daily average of 94.43 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	249
EMS Response calls.	380
Abandoned Calls	449
911 Hang Ups	572
Admin Calls Received	770
Cellular 911 Calls	822

*Note* - Since multiple 9-1-1 calls are received for many responses, call volume is reflected as a total. Multiple calls received are recorded on individual fire reports and not on CAD generated totals.

Attached please find graphic displays and the Fire Response Breakdown, Company Response, Volunteer Company Call and Response Statistics, and EMS Transport Activity Statistics for the reporting period.

If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter J. Siecienski".

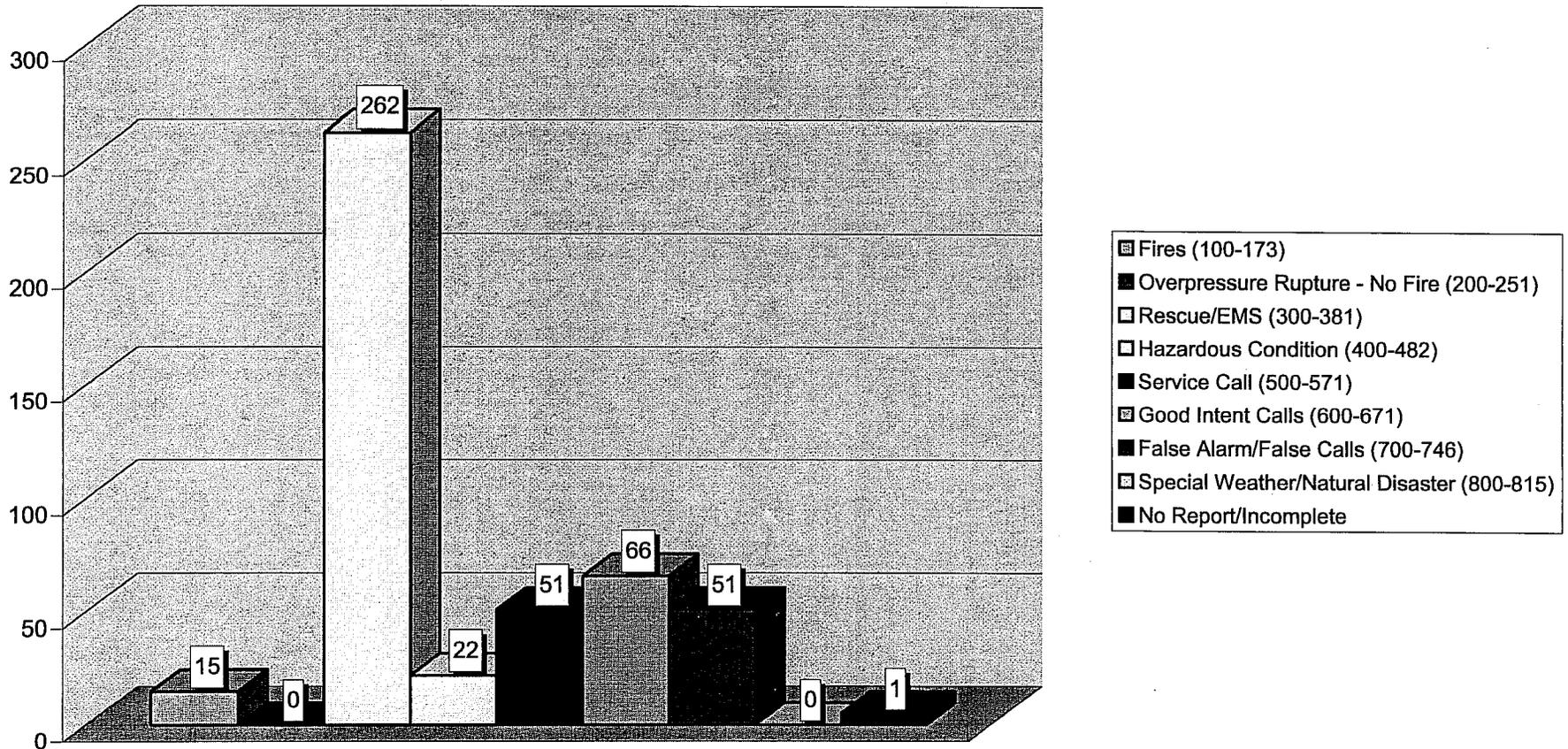
Peter J. Siecienski  
Fire Chief

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	15
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	262
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	22
Service Call (500-571)	51
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	66
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	51
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	5
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	2644
Abandoned 911 Calls	449
Cellular 911 Calls	822
911 Hang Up Calls	572
Admin Calls Received	770
Police Calls via 911	418
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	249
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	380
Daily Average	94.43
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	472
Total EMS Responses	638
Unknown Transport Status	6
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	239
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	288
No Patient (CAD 62)	105
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	12
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	21

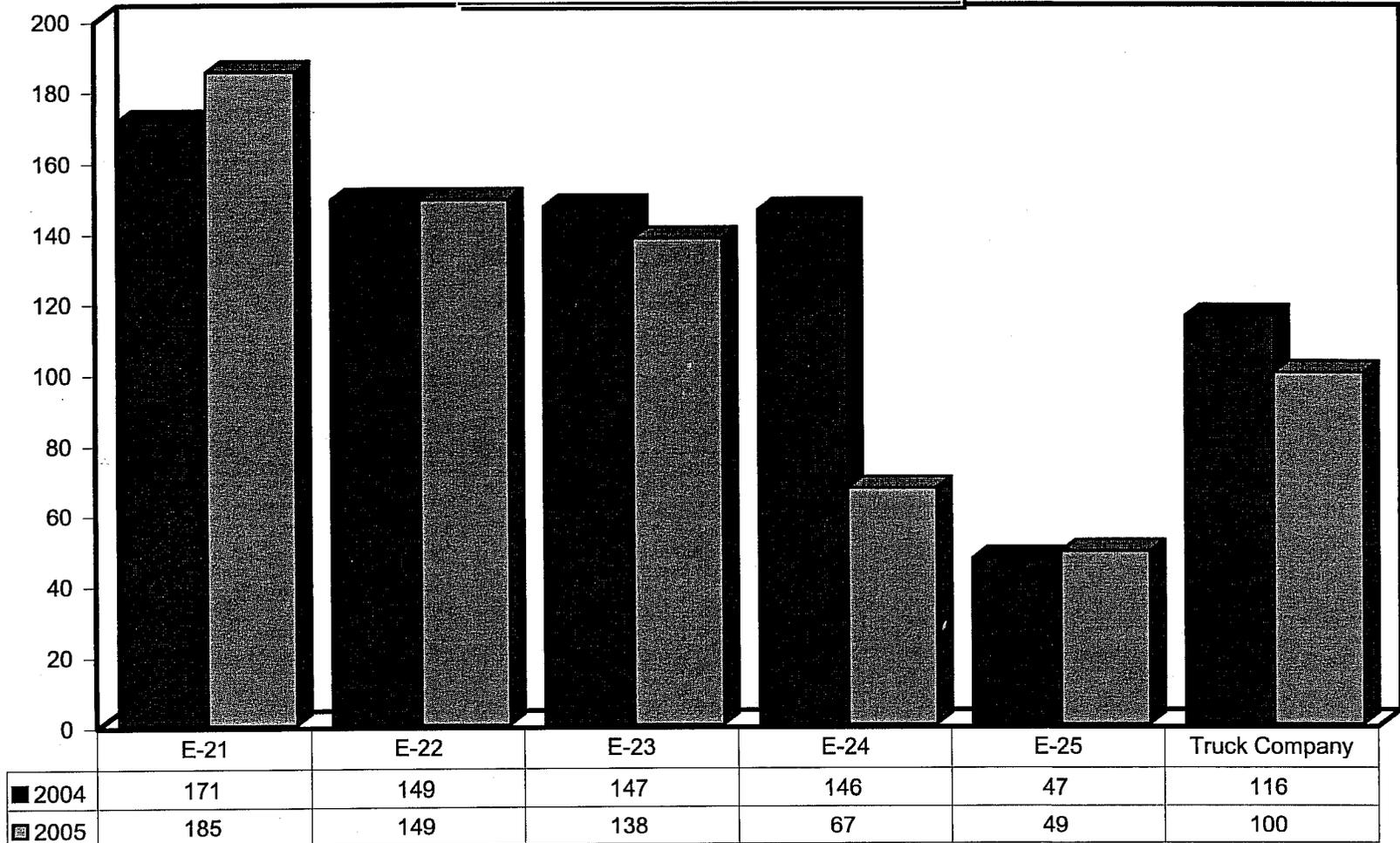
**\*\* NOTE \*\***

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

## Fire Response Breakdown January 24 to February 21, 2005

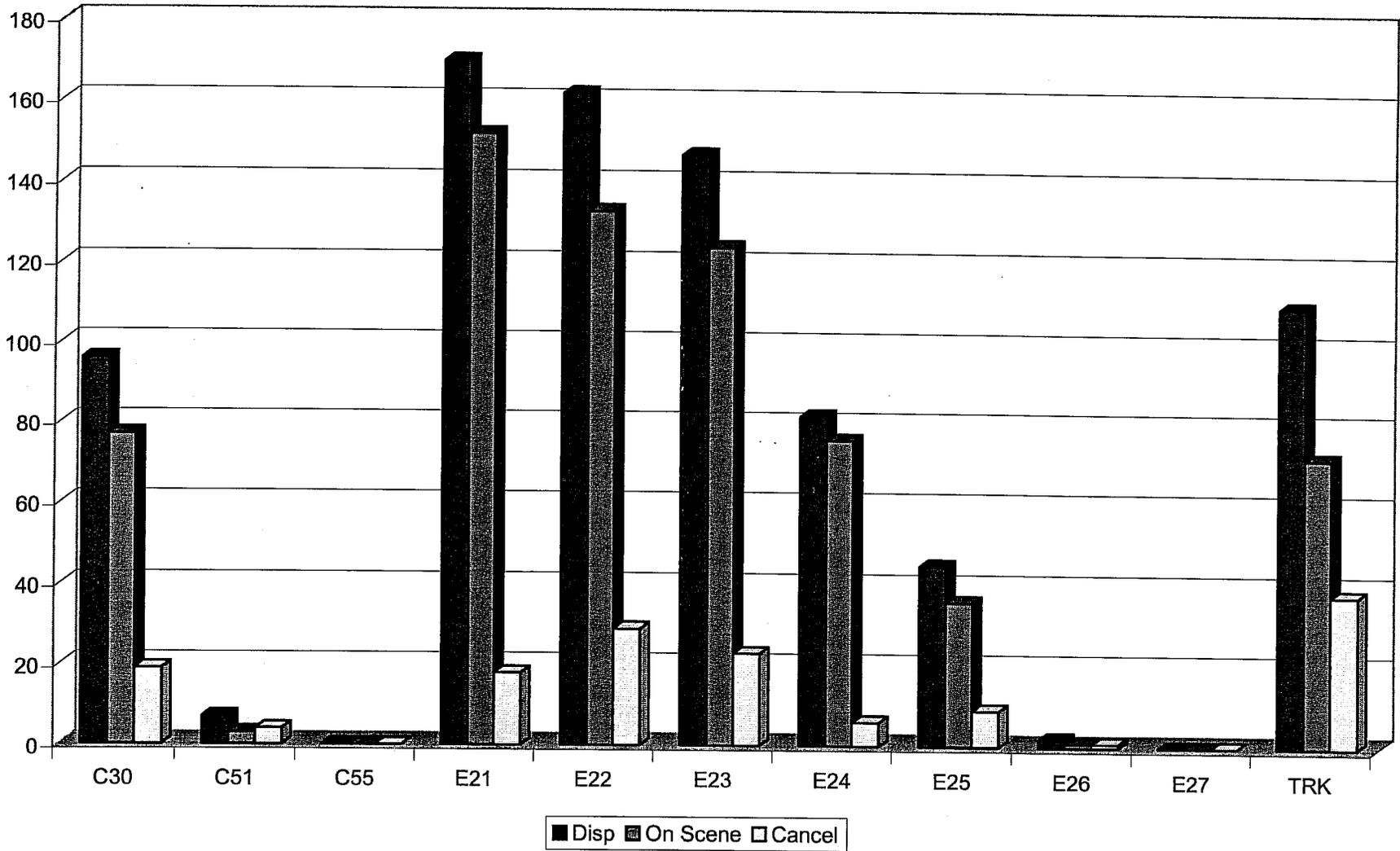


**Danbury Fire Department  
February Company Response Statistics**

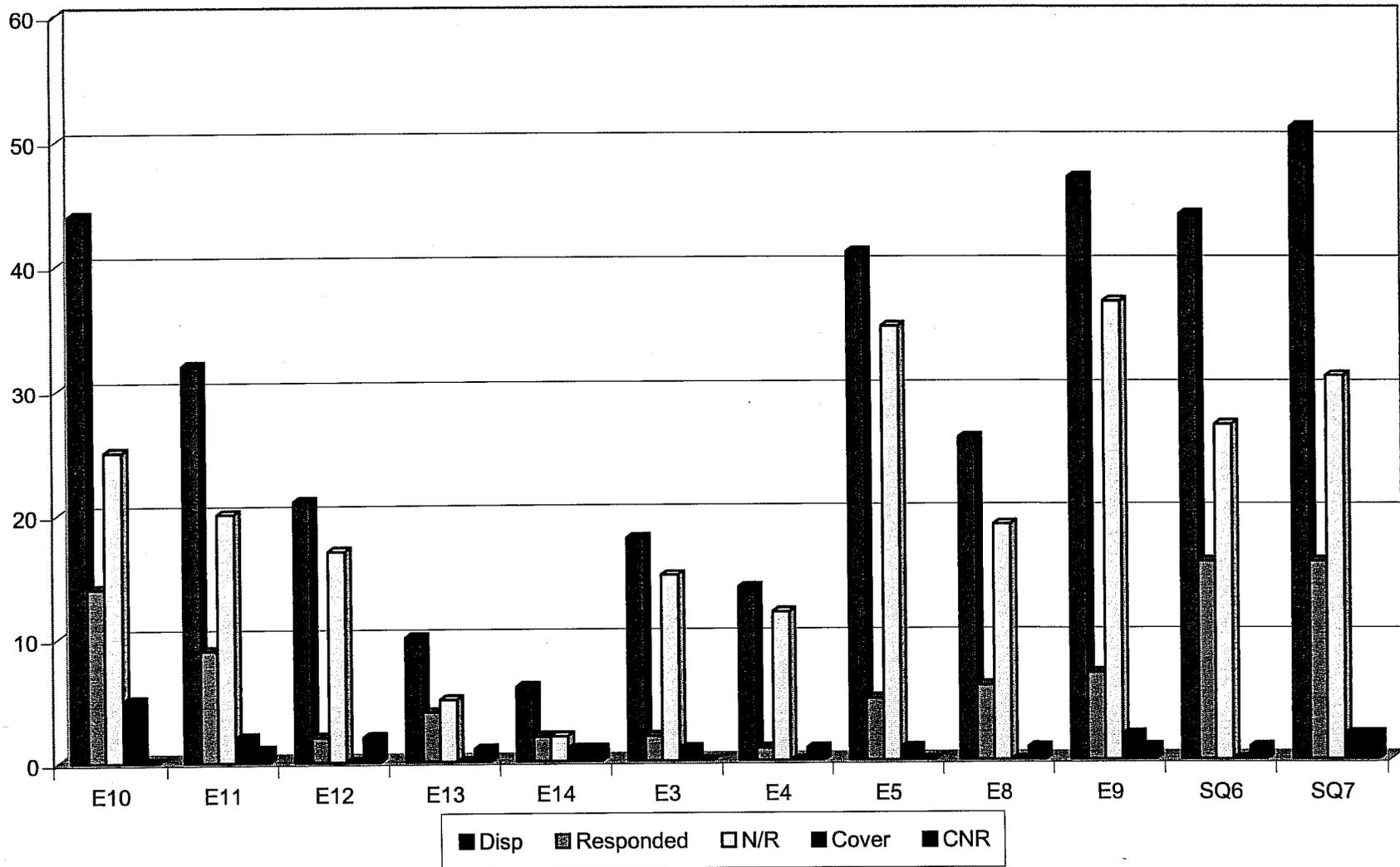


<b>DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES</b>									
		<b>February Response Statistics</b>							
	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Cover</b>	<b>Canceled</b>	<b>Response Total</b>	<b>No Response Total</b>	<b>% of Response</b>			
<b>E-3</b>	38	9	0	3	26	32%			
<b>E-4</b>	27	0	7	1	8	30%			
<b>E-5</b>	33	3	0	3	21	18%			
<b>S-6</b>	48	0	4	21	23	52%			
<b>S-7</b>	69	0	2	17	50	28%			
<b>E-8</b>	9	0	1	4	4	56%			
<b>E-9</b>	49	5	5	12	27	45%			
<b>E-10</b>	43	2	2	11	28	35%			
<b>E-11</b>	30	3	2	14	11	63%			
<b>E-12</b>	30	1	4	7	18	40%			
<b>E-13</b>	24	0	3	9	12	50%			
<b>E-14</b>	14	2	0	8	4	71%			
<b>Totals</b>	414	25	30	110	232	40%			

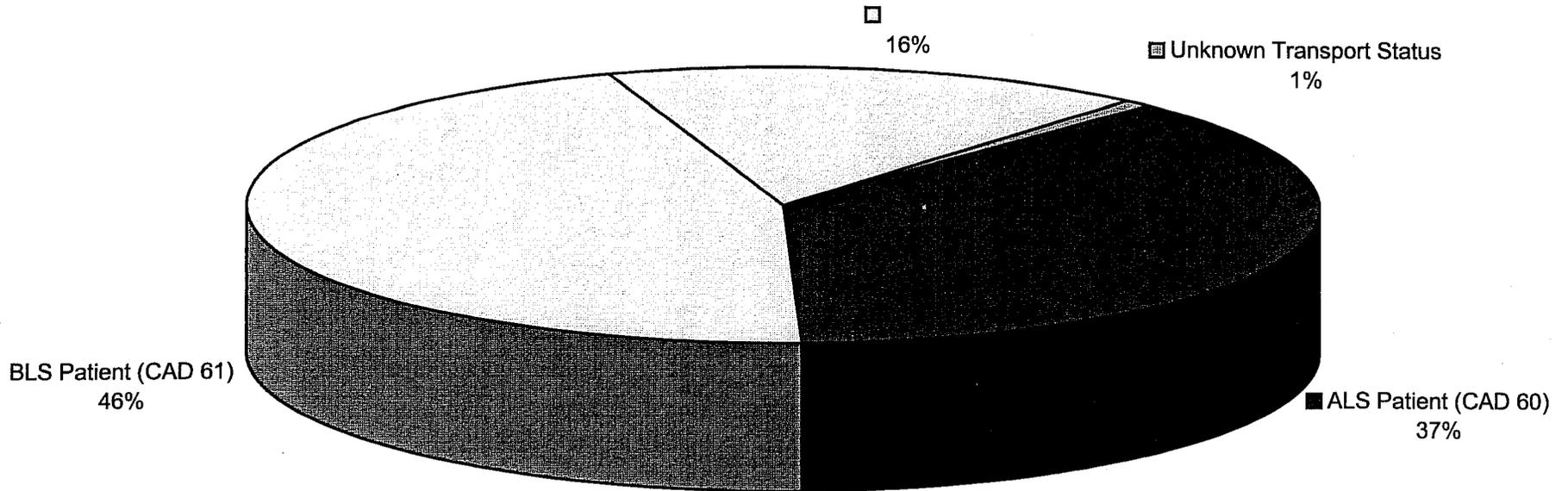
# Career Company Response January 23 to February 21, 2005



## Volunteer Call Counts January 24 to February 21, 2005



**EMS Transport Activity**  
**January 24 to February 21, 2005**



# 911 Center Activity January 24 to February 21, 2005

