



# CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department  
19 New Street

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April 27, 2005

## FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of March 28th to April 24th and details some of the activities of the Department.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION**

- a. The department participated in a 4-hour safety program at Wal-Mart this month. Equipment was displayed and free smoke detectors and batteries were handed out.
- b. Company 21 spent time this month demonstrating equipment to 100 Head Start students at Mill Ridge Intermediate School. Various tools and protective clothing were explained to the eager audience
- c. Pre-incident planning continued with on site inspections at Crows Nest Lane, Fieldstone Estates, Arlington Woods, Ridgebury Hills, Woodland Hills, Autumn Drive, Harbour View Condos, Mitchell Fuel, Elmwood Park Senior Center, Stetson Place, Linden Place, Lowes Theater, Kent Hardwood floors, Ethan Allen Inn, Crystal Bay, Westwood Village, Kimberly Place, 107 Newtown Road, King Street Primary School and Burlington Coat.
- d. Lieutenants Lorinda and Gary Arconti began preparations for an upcoming Mock Crash DUI demonstration at Danbury High School. The Lieutenants are also preparing the Annual golf

tournament for the benefit of the Connecticut Burn Camp.

### **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- a. A major fire at the corner of Byron and Triangle Streets took place this month. Responders knew as they were dispatched that there were people trapped. Heavy smoke and fire were encountered on arrival. Two bystanders rescued the trapped individuals by using a neighbor's ladder and providing a safe exit from the roof area. The fire was extinguished quickly with only some minor burn injuries to firefighters.
- b. The dry period this spring has spawned a rash of grass and brush fires this month. Perhaps the most interesting was an incident where children made torches similar to a reality show and lit a yard full of toys with gasoline. The individuals were referred to the fire marshal's office.
- c. Responders delivered another infant this month. With an assist of a little oxygen, mother and child were fine.
- d. Firefighters are preparing City maps for the hydrant testing and maintenance program. This annual program between the fire and public utilities department has increased the reliability of City hydrants.
- e. Firefighters completed the testing of our last shipment of new hose this month. All hose is pressure tested to insure reliability on the fire ground.

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

#### EMS Wednesday

The continuous training program EMS Wednesday 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 bodies exaggerated allergic reaction to an allergen can be a true life threatening condition if not properly treated.

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.

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

### **Top Off Decon drill**

In conjunction with the Top Off drill held in New London on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2005, the Danbury Hospital and the Danbury Fire Department Haz- Mat team held a drill to simulate the decontamination of individuals that had been exposed to a possible chemical terrorist attack that occurred that day in New London but were well enough to flee the scene, later succumbing to the chemicals effects and seeking medical attention at the Danbury Hospital. The Danbury Hospital tested their ability to recognize and mobilize in order to be able to treat the influx of additional patients while not allowing the incident to impact normal operations.

The Danbury Fire Department Haz-Mat team tested its ability to deploy and operate the Mass Casualty Decontamination trailer. A total of 17 victims were fully decontaminated.

### **Cameo train the trainer**

EMS /Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez attended a three day train the trainer class on Cameo at West Hartford Fire Department April 12-14, 2005.

Cameo is a system of software applications used to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. It is one of the tools developed by EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist front line chemical emergency planners and responders. Cameo can be used with other computer applications to access, store and evaluate information critical for developing emergency plans. In addition Cameo supports regulatory compliance by helping users meet the chemical inventory reporting requirements of the Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act.

### **Public Access AED**

The Danbury Fire Department EMS Coordinator Rey Rodriguez placed two more Public Access Automatic External Defibrillators in service today April 26, 2005 with assistance from Rick Palanzo of Public Buildings and Sue Lavasseur, nursing coordinator Board of Education. These AED's are now located outside of the nurses offices in each of the Middle Schools.

## **COMMUNICATIONS/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

### Outdoor Recreational Facilities

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Now that the weather has turned pleasant, calls from areas of outdoor recreation are increasing. A recent incident at the Hearthstone Castle where a hiker was injured brought to mind the importance of determining exact locations of callers and the difficulty that can be experienced in responders gaining access.

Following this incident, Lt. Plank (C Group E-21) and Communications Coordinator Sniffin met with Sandy Moy of Tarrywile Park. All keys and staff contact names were updated to allow proper notifications. Additionally maps of the park property and trails were supplied to the Fire Department. These maps present a clear layout of the park that will help responders in the event that emergency services are needed.

All dispatchers are being reminded to determine the exact location of any caller when calling from an outdoor facility. Another training point is that it is important to realize the subtle difference between a 'normal' medical call and an urgent rescue situation. In the case of hiking, climbing and water sports the information initially gathered might be the only opportunity start crews in the right direction.

Information on access points for Richter Park and other recreational facilities has also been entered into the CAD system under routing directions.

### Radio System Upgrade

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As a result of receiving a funding grant from the FEMA under the FIRES Grant process the Fiore Department is in the process of finalizing bid specifications for a two-channel radio repeater system. Once the specs have been reviewed and posted by the Purchasing Department the department will have this equipment installed as available.

Through this upgrade the department will transition to a UHF frequency for Fireground operations. This frequency range is less prone to some of the interference issue that has been problematic in the past. Through the installation of these fixed base repeaters the department can provide a greater measure of radio interoperability between city public safety agencies.

This is also a big step toward standardizing radio equipment in use by both career and volunteer fire companies.

### **TRAINING - Jim Thorne**

The Firefighter 1 class is getting ready for the state practical. We are going to do the live burn today at Fairfield Fire School. We have five people who will go for the State test. Only one student who failed last year returned. The people who stopped at the Exterior level this year are also going to the live burn.

The Fire Officer 1 class is in the 5<sup>th</sup> week. We have nineteen (19) career people that are in the class. He class runs two days a week.

The FSI class is scheduled to start at the end of September or October. I am working with the lead instructor for the final dates. We have twenty- two (22) people interested, but the class will only take sixteen (16). We will work this out.

Engine Companies practiced drafting from dry hydrants to test their skills.

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Additional crew training focused on Hurst tool equipment, rope rescue, on board air systems, aerial operations, hydrant connections, Gross decontamination and monitoring techniques.

Many members are currently studying for upcoming promotional exams. Lieutenant's and Dispatcher exams are to be scheduled in May.

### **Apparatus/Equipment Maintenance - Randall Morits**

Normal apparatus maintenance was performed on Engines 23 and 24 this month.

Mechanics spent time attempting to update metering equipment. It appears monitoring devices are starting to fatigue and replacement will need to be scheduled.

The division also participated in spring maintenance of our career facilities.

### **Good of the Organization**

- a. The department's Firefighter of the Year John A. Kennedy was honored on April 14<sup>th</sup> by the Rotary Club and community. The dinner was a fine tribute to Public Safety employees.
- b. BSI took delivery of two new City ambulances this month. They are equipped with additional safety features including monitoring cameras for sudden impact or movement documentation.
- c. Members of the command staff participated in the Salvation Army breakfast this month. The Salvation Army is an important partner with the department in delivering quality service to the community.
- d. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the department joined with the Mayor in welcoming newly appointed Police Chief Alan Baker to the City. We wish Chief Baker well with his new responsibilities.

### **Facility/Project Updates**

#### **Station 25 - King Street**

Final plans from the architect have been submitted for review. The new septic system has been awarded to Pembroke Pumping. The

lab reports from air and site sampling of the recent mold issue have been received, there is no trace of toxic mold as a result of the initial remediation action.

### **Station 26 - Westside**

The City's contractor has finalized site selection. Initial design plans will be reviewed in May.

### **Fire Training School**

Construction has resumed now that the weather has warmed. New hydrants have been placed in the complex to aid in training evolutions. An aesthetic tree planting in the front area is about to commence.

### **911 Center**

We are awaiting construction plans for the temporary 911 center to be placed in the basement of City Hall. This facility will be temporary until the new site can be included in the proposed Police Headquarters. The temporary site will relieve the crowded conditions in the fire headquarters 911 center.

### **Dates of Importance**

**April 28th - 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Housatonic Valley Leaders Prayer Breakfast**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> - Command Staff Meeting**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> - Mayor's Cabinet Meeting**

**May 30<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Services**

### **INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Fires	33
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	
Rescue/EMS	221
Hazardous Condition	27
Service Calls	35
Good Intent Calls	35
False Alarm/False Calls	75

Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	0
No Report/Incomplete	5

Total Fire Calls..431.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 544 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	544
No patient EMS Calls	71
BLS Patient Calls	238
ALS EMS Calls	235
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	7
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	30

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 2420 with a daily average of 86.43 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	431
EMS Response calls.	544
Abandoned Calls	249
911 Hang Ups	504
Admin Calls Received	677
Cellular 911 Calls	841

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.

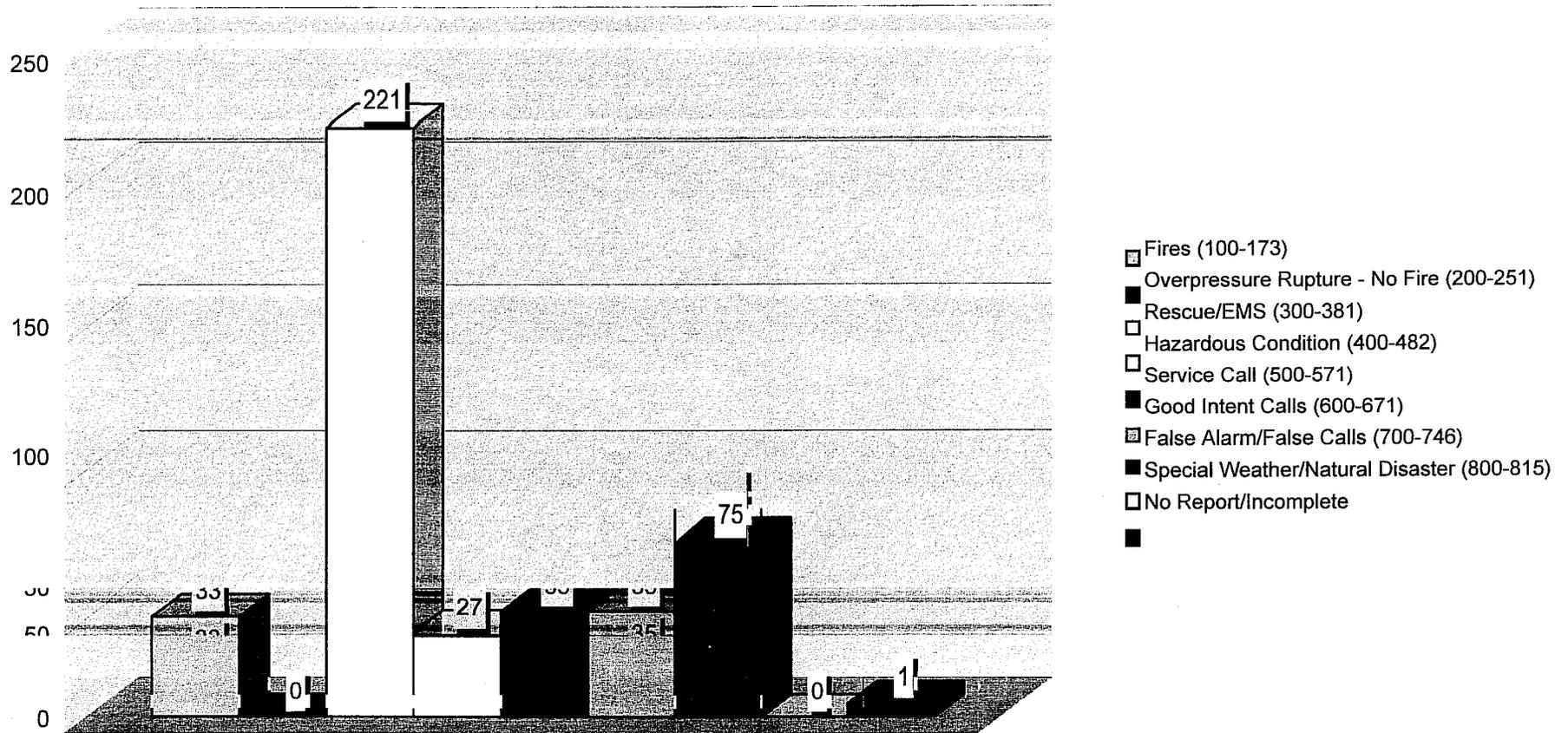
If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,



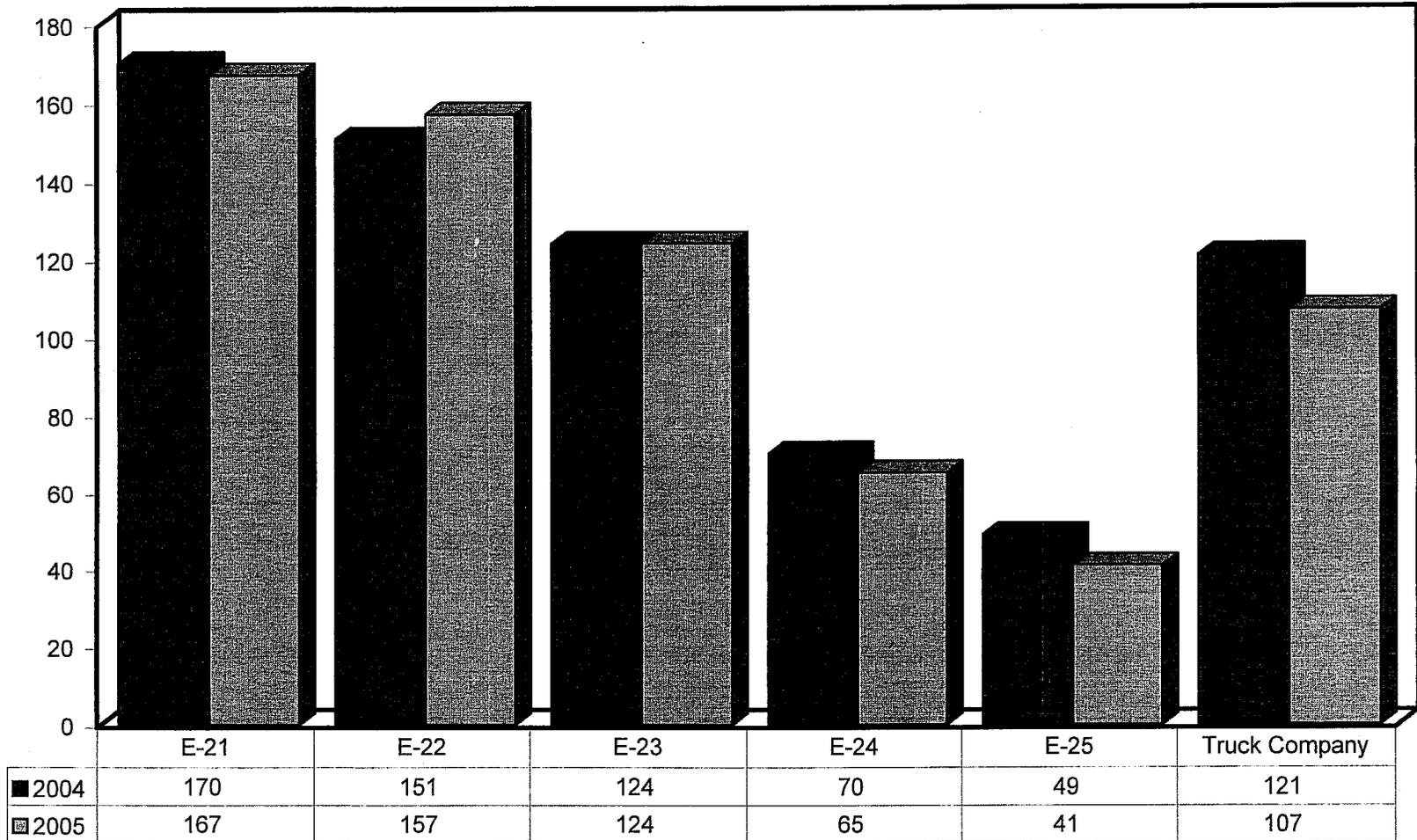
Peter J. Siecienski  
Fire Chief

## Fire Response Breakdown March 28 to April 24, 2005

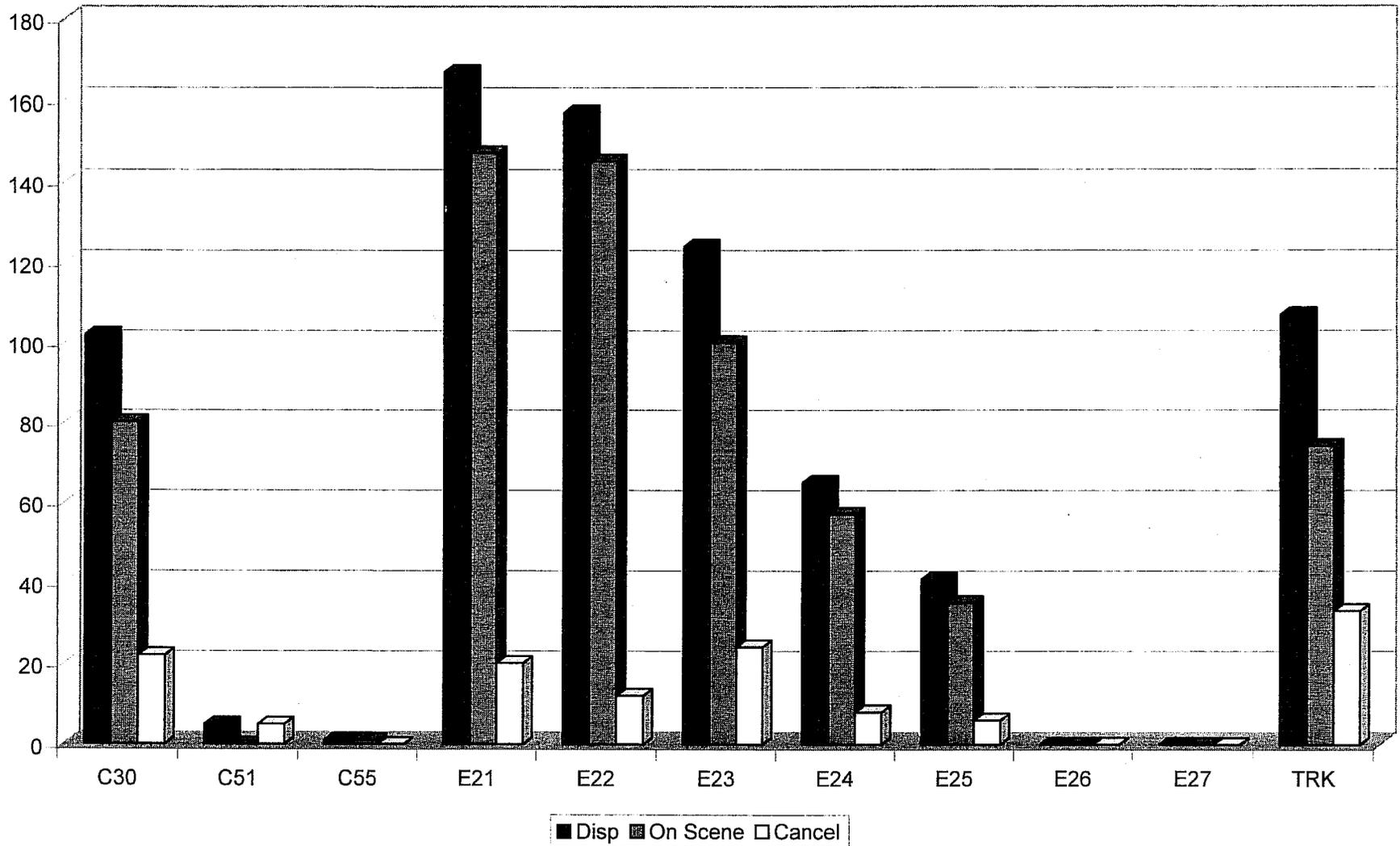


<b>DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES</b>								
	<b><i>April Response Statistics</i></b>							
	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Cover</b>	<b>Canceled</b>	<b>Response Total</b>	<b>No Response Total</b>	<b>% of Response</b>		
<b>E-3</b>	21	0	1	2	18	14%		
<b>E-4</b>	22	0	2	1	19	14%		
<b>E-5</b>	34	2	0	5	27	21%		
<b>S-6</b>	50	0	2	13	35	30%		
<b>S-7</b>	47	0	3	14	30	36%		
<b>E-8</b>	32	1	1	3	27	16%		
<b>E-9</b>	43	1	1	10	31	28%		
<b>E-10</b>	41	3	1	17	20	51%		
<b>E-11</b>	29	0	3	10	16	45%		
<b>E-12</b>	26	0	0	3	23	12%		
<b>E-13</b>	14	1	1	3	9	36%		
<b>E-14</b>	15	1	6	5	3	80%		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>31%</b>		

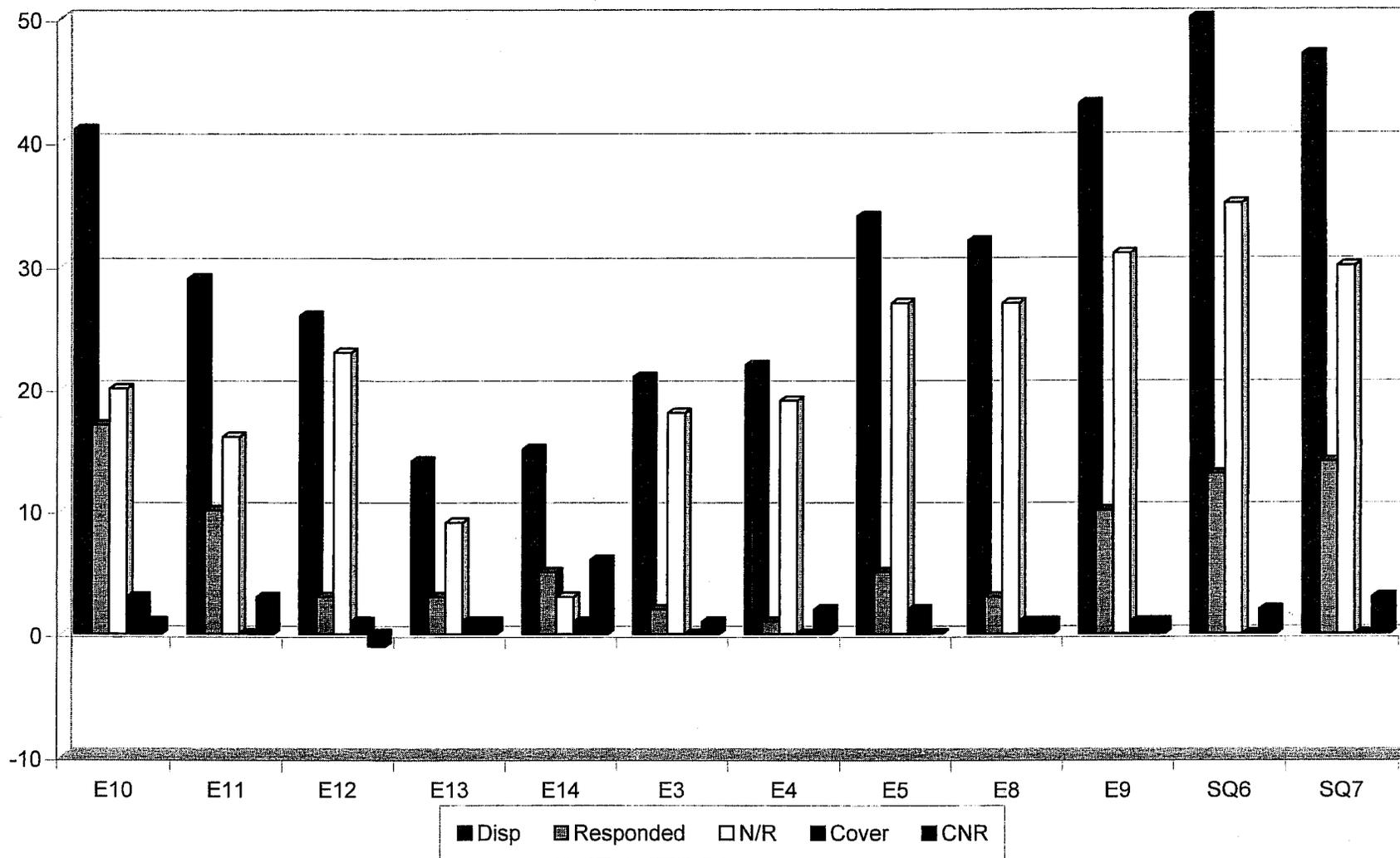
**Danbury Fire Department  
April Company Response Statistics**



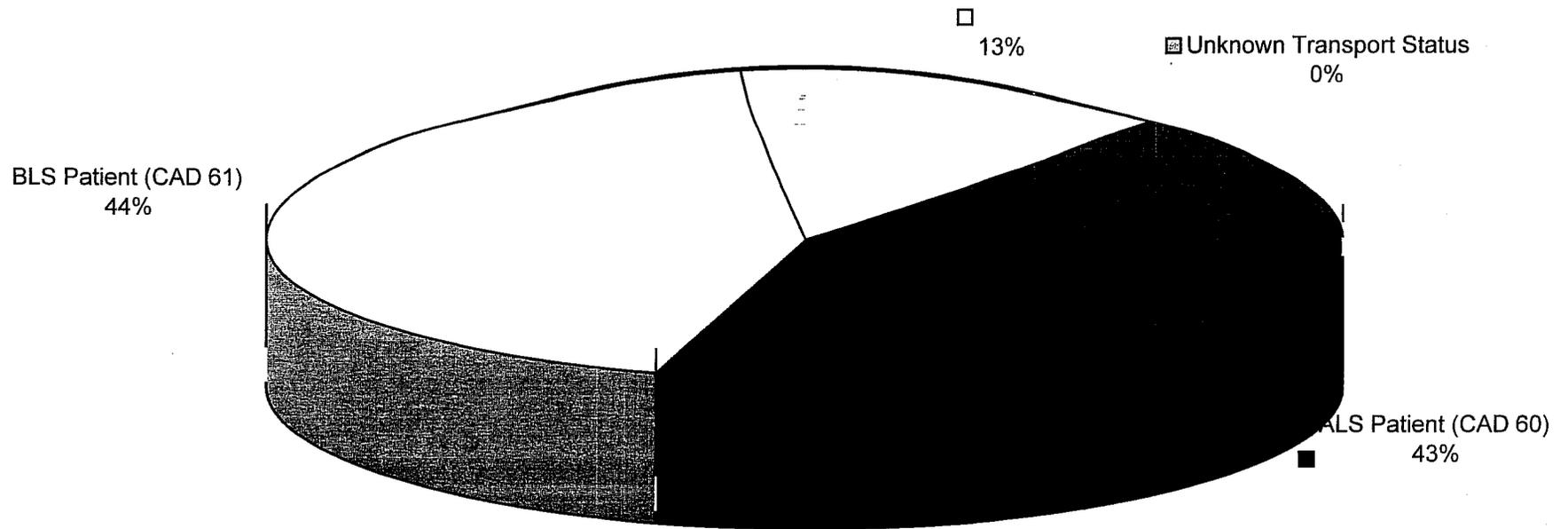
### Career Company Response March 28 to April 24, 2005



## Volunteer Call Counts March 28 to April 24, 2005



# EMS Transport Activity March 28 to April 24, 2005



# 911 Center Activity March 28 to April 24, 2005

