



CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department
19 New Street

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May 31, 2005

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of April 25th to May 22nd and details some of the activities of the Department.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- This month marked the completion of the 20th annual babysitters course coordinated by the department. Deputy Fire Marshal Jim Johnson has managed the course run in conjunction with Danbury Hospital. The course which has graduated just shy of two thousand participants. Featured sessions included: rescue breathing, diapering, entertainment, fire prevention, police safety and stint by the fire chief as Mr. Wizard on home emergencies.
- Lieutenant Lorinda Arconti has once again coordinated the mock DUI education program for City High School students. The weather certainly did not cooperate, forcing a modification of the event to an indoor presentation. The event, which included the Danbury P.D., High School counselors, EMS units and the fire department, provided an excellent collaborative effort for our young adults at a critical time in the school year.
- Firefighters and some of our senior citizens enjoyed a special afternoon this month. The department christened the new aerial platform truck with our seniors, providing many of them with an elevated view from the top of the ladder.

Smiles and laughs were in abundance at the event which provided a great opportunity to interact with the senior center.

- Pre-incident planning continued with on site inspections on Main Street, Lexington Meadows, Berkshire shopping center, Court Yard Marriott, Home Depot, Fieldstone Estates, Josh Drive, 67-73 Sand Pit Rd., 57 North Street, Arlington Woods, Avalon Valley, Woodland Hills, Banta marketing, Maple Ave, East Franklin St., Clapboard Ridge, Backus Ave. White Oak Estates and the Stetson Condos.
- Fire Prevention tours escalated this month as the end of the school year nears. Field trips for many area children took place this month including: Prince of Peace Daycare, Northern Danbury Tiger Cub Mother's Club, King Street School, Morris Street School and Shelter Rock School. Overall approximately one thousand youngsters were involved in programs this month.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- The department responded to several major incidents this month. A fire at the Stop and Shop food store was extinguished by sprinklers, the smoke and water damage caused the store to lose some produce, but was reopened within 24 hours.
- A fire at an Elm Street residence was caused by the flash of fumes which were ignited in a bathroom area. The resident suffered some minor burns after the home improvement project went wrong.
- We responded to a vehicle/garage fire this month which was caused by an apparent suicide via carbon monoxide poisoning. The vehicle caught fire from overheating subsequently extending into the garage structure.
- Firefighters began the annual hydrant-testing program this month. This joint effort with the Public Utilities department is designed to ensure operational functionality of City Hydrants. Since the inception the program has increased reliability of our hydrant system increasing public safety and our efficiency. Areas this month included: Mill Plain Road, South King Street, Deer Park, Larch Dr.,

Louis Allen Dr., Peterson La., Main Street and the Ridgebury area.

- o The department teamed up with employees of the Federal Correctional Institution this month for a below grade training evolution. This scheduled confined space drill was used to familiarize the department with special hazards that might be encountered in a response to the FCI. A great deal of information and practical exercise was gained from this joint effort.
- o Specialized responses this month included over one dozen vehicle extrications, several natural gas leaks and a variety of citizen requests for assistance.

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.

In a cooperative effort with our EMS provider BSI, the focus of this months training has been 12 lead EKG. The 12 lead EKG or electrocardiogram presents a visible record of the hearts activity and is used in the investigation of heart disease. First Responder units will carry the Cardioquick Patch for placement of the leads on the chest of a patient who is having a heart attack, freeing up the medic to perform other advanced life support skills needed by the patient, the information then would be radioed to a cardiologist at the hospital to help speed up diagnosis and treatment.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Mobile Data Terminals

During the past month the Mobile Data Terminals installed in Fire and Police units have experience a number of problems with connecting to the cellular network. Despite repeated efforts of Fire, Police and Data Processing administrators to resolve the signal issues, connections to the system remained sporadic.

Due to the changes in how wireless networks operate, the original type of connection used by public safety, CDPD (cluster data packet distribution) networks are being phased out in favor of faster data transmission methods. As a result of these changes our ability to constantly connect has been affected.

When signal was lost units that were on duty would disappear from the dispatch screen. At a meeting with senior Police Department staff it was decided that this sporadic coverage was becoming a safety issue to patrol units and fire units. Therefore until these connection issues could be resolved the mobile data system was turned off.

In order to restore this vital tool each patrol unit and fire apparatus will have the modems replaced and software configuration changes made to accommodate the faster speeds expected. The modems have been delivered to the Fire Department and are currently being installed.

Data Processing is working with Cingular and ITX Technologies to establish the necessary network. Following a controlled test by Police and Fire personnel, this system will be activated.

Although this is a brief setback in field communications, it must be noted that the cooperation between Data Processing, Chief Baker and his staff along with Fire Department personnel has once again demonstrated that problems will be dealt with in a timely fashion to provide the highest level of safety to all emergency responders.

SBC 911 Updates

At a meeting at the New Haven Fire Academy the State Office of Emergency Telecommunications announced several initiative that have been completed or are underway.

- At this meeting the Public Safety Announcements that were created by the 911 Public Education Committee in cooperation with the Connecticut Broadcasters Association were unveiled.

Three 30-second commercials featuring Gov. Rell will be aired beginning in June. These spots highlight the importance of 911 and of the role of the 911 telecommunicator. Shortly the Pub Ed Committee will reconvene to discuss additional ways to provide 911 education to communities and schools.

- SBC announced a complete upgrade of the digital mapping layers that are used with tracking cell phone 911 calls. In the short time this feature has been in use there have been several dramatic examples of locating lost and injured parties. This upgrade will further enhance this capability.
- OSET also announced that in the near future all PSAP's will have access to the AT & T Language Line translation services for 911 callers. The language line provides real-time teleconferenced translations of 163 languages. Any agency that currently is using the language line can request to convert their existing subscription to the lower state contract rate.

TRAINING - Jim Thorne

The Firefighter I class is complete for 2005. We are awaiting the written results for the five volunteer firefighters that have gone on to complete all skills. The live burn portion of the class was completed at the Fairfield fire school.

The Fire Officer I class is also completed just under 20 career firefighters completed this 120 hour course on their own time. Many individuals used this class to prepare for upcoming promotional opportunities.

A promotional interviewing class was conducted by the State this month as well. Fourteen firefighters came in off duty to attend the class.

Fifteen firefighters attended a building construction class that the fire chief conducted one night this month. All personnel were appreciative of the commitment made on their behalf.

The Fire Service Instructor class is scheduled for this October. We anticipate an additional twenty firefighters to be interested in this five-week course.

Second quarter volunteer training has been scheduled. The schedule will include hands on evolutions.

Many members continue to study for upcoming promotional exams. Lieutenant's and Dispatcher exams are to be scheduled June 1st and 2nd.

Apparatus/Equipment Maintenance - Randall Morits

All engine companies and the two trucks now have new monitoring equipment. All new chargers have been mounted in all of the vehicles. These meters work identical to the PHD Lites, that were used for over five years without any trouble. EMS Supervisor Rodriguez is conducting a class on the use of the meters.

All of our new hose has been tested and is now in service.

Engine 24 is in for replacement of the Relief Valve Assembly. This is major job and will take a couple of day to complete.

Engine 23 was in for replacement bushing on the fan. This could have been a lot worse than is was because it was found before the fan went through the radiator.

The apparatus division has been working with the F.P.B. on the turning radius of Truck 1 and Pumpers for their plan reviews. They have printed on clear plastic the radius at different scales. Reviewers can just lay it on the plan and tell if the turn is too sharp.

The Apparatus Division is in the process of replacing all the modems and antennas in our vehicles. Total will be 10 modems and 10 antennas. (7 pumpers and 2 trucks and Car 30). E23 was done Friday, 9 to go.

Good of the Organization

The Chief participated in the Beckerle Hose Companies annual Walt Mulvahill memorial dinner this month. The dinner honored the deceased member of Engine 9 for his decades of contributions to the City.

The department was well represented at the annual Poster Contest luncheon sponsored by the Lion's Club. The Fire Prevention Poster winners this year are from Shelter Rock and St. Peter's Schools.

The Chief held an Officers meeting with the twelve volunteer fire companies this month in an attempt to clear up some

communications problems within the division.

Retired Captain Jack Roach passed away this month. Captain Roach retired in 1983 serving 22 years in the department. Jack was 87.

Captain Geoff Herald the six-day National Honor Guard Academy presented by the Florida State Fire College at the Connecticut Fire School this month.

Lieutenant Bernard Meehan received the Chris Blackwell dedication to service award at the Danbury Hospital EMS week. Lt. Meehan has been immersed in emergency medical response in the area for decades. This award recognized his dedication and commitment.

Facility/Project Updates

Station 25 - King Street

The new septic system has been installed this month. On the 25th the Planning Commission voted to approve the site plan for the addition and trailer. Final plans are being reviewed and the Engineering department hopes to have the project out to bid in June.

Station 26 - Westside

Design plans are being reviewed this month as submitted by the firm of DeCarlo and Doll. Various specialists are conducted soil and environmental tests for approvals this month.

Fire Training School

Construction is nearing completion. The facility is expected to be complete in four weeks. Trees have been planted in an attempt to improve the aesthetics of the facility. Engineering and the fire department are working on a plan to enhance the sites functionality while improving the road area.

911 Center

We continue to await 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

- May 30th - Memorial Day Services
- June 1st - Lieutenant's written examination
- June 2nd - Dispatcher's written examination
Westerner's Kick-Off Breakfast
- June 9th - Local 801 benefit Golf Tournament for Burn Camp and Scholarships.
Lieutenant & Dispatcher Oral Boards Begin
- June 10th - Lieutenant's & Dispatcher Oral Boards conclude

INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	21
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	0
Rescue/EMS	252
Hazardous Condition	36
Service Calls	23
Good Intent Calls	39
False Alarm/False Calls	71
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	0
No Report/Incomplete	4

Total Fire Calls..446.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 593 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	593
No patient EMS Calls	65
BLS Patient Calls	282
ALS EMS Calls	246
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	3
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	22

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 2284 with a daily average of 81.57 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	446
EMS Response calls.	593
Abandoned Calls	130
911 Hang Ups	479
Admin Calls Received	743
Cellular 911 Calls	814

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.

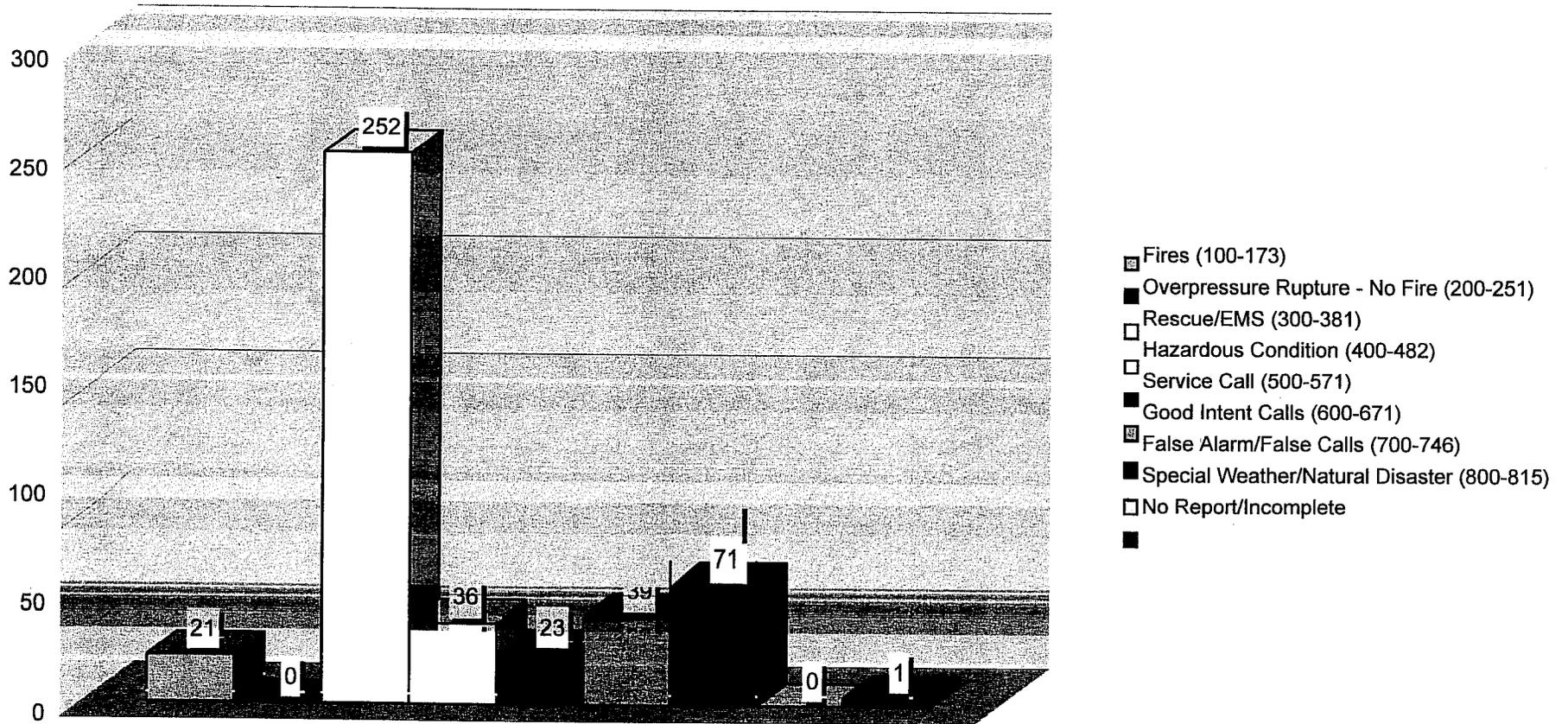
If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,

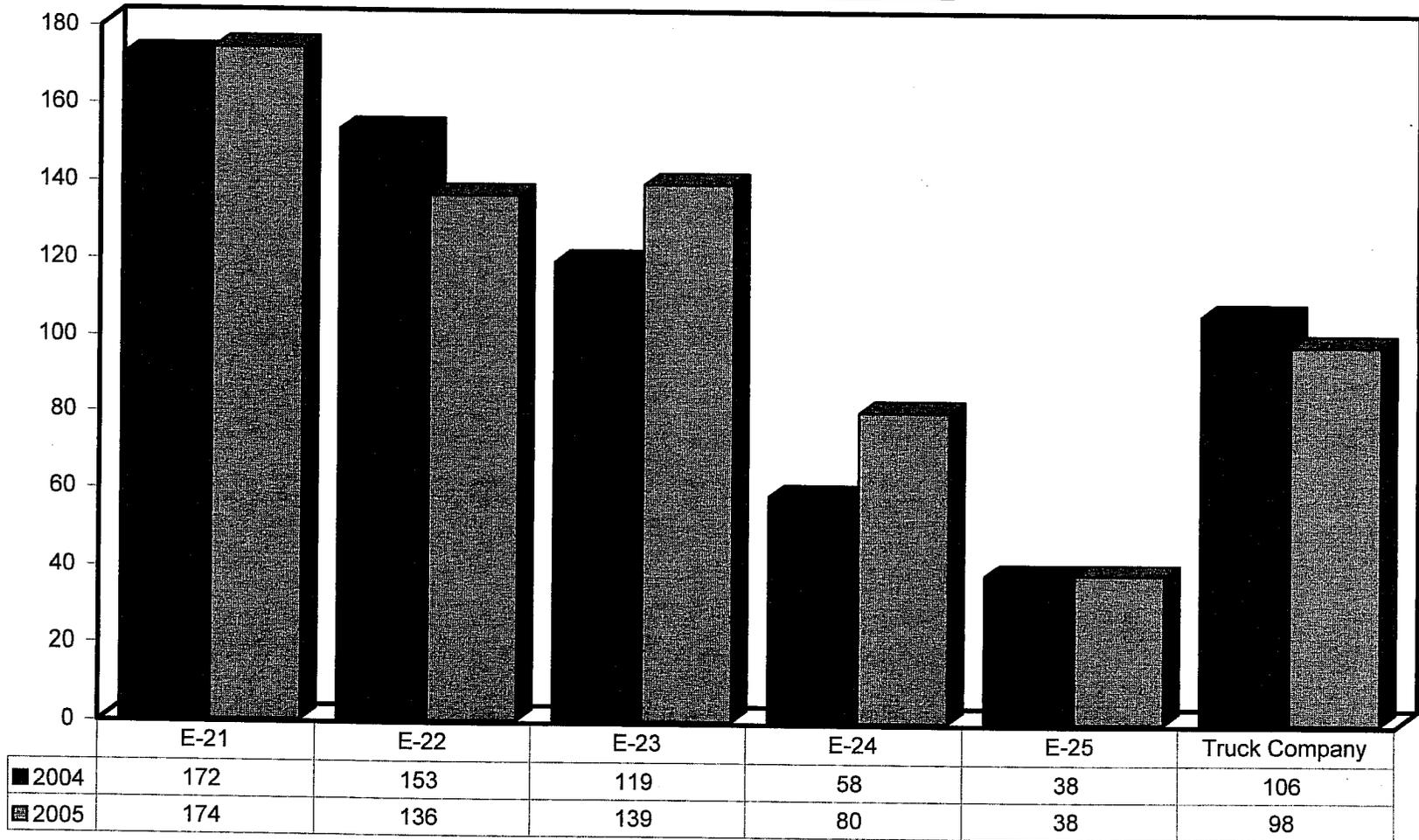


Peter J. Siecienski
Fire Chief

Fire Response Breakdown April 25 to May 22, 2005

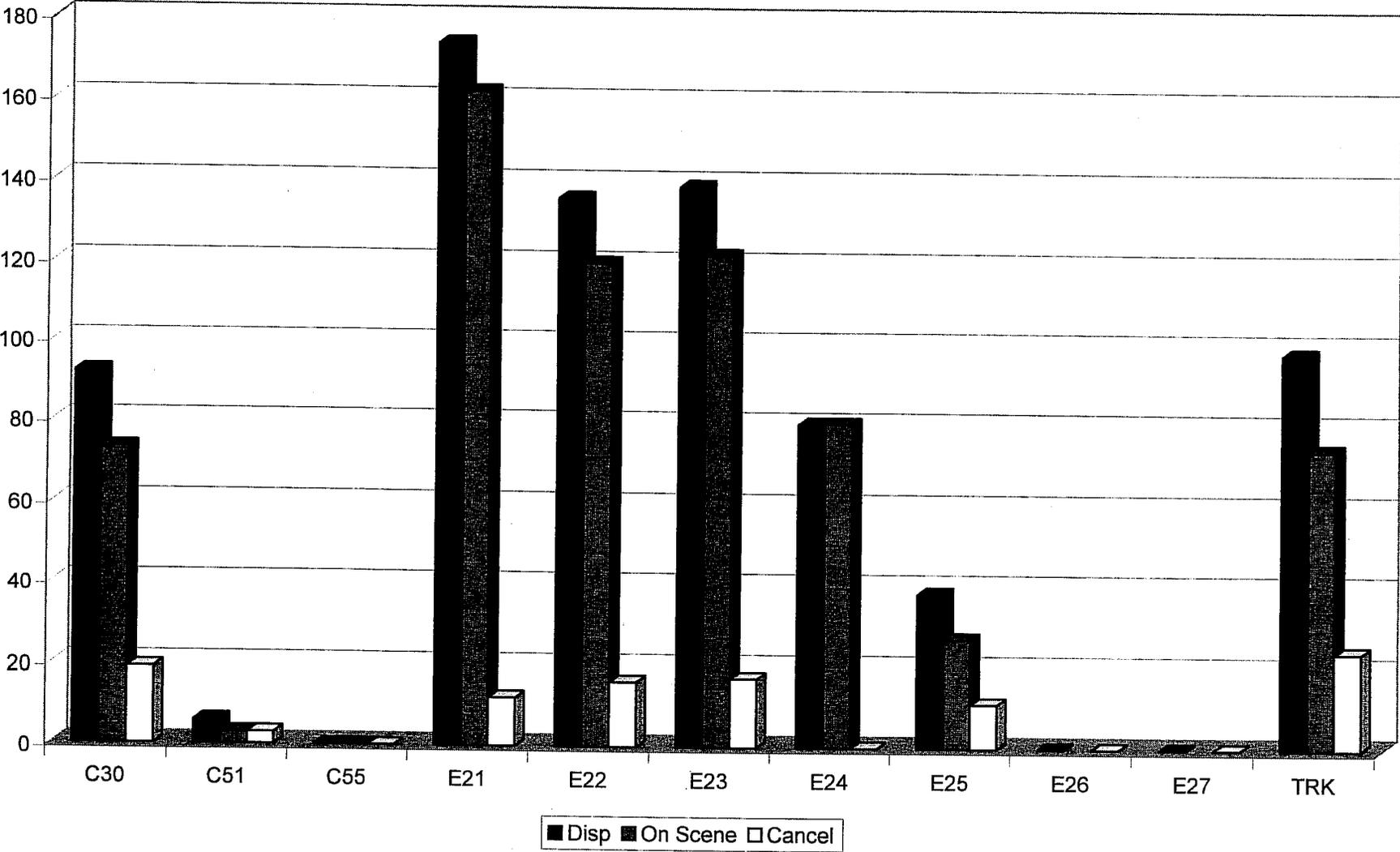


**Danbury Fire Department
May Company Response Statistics**

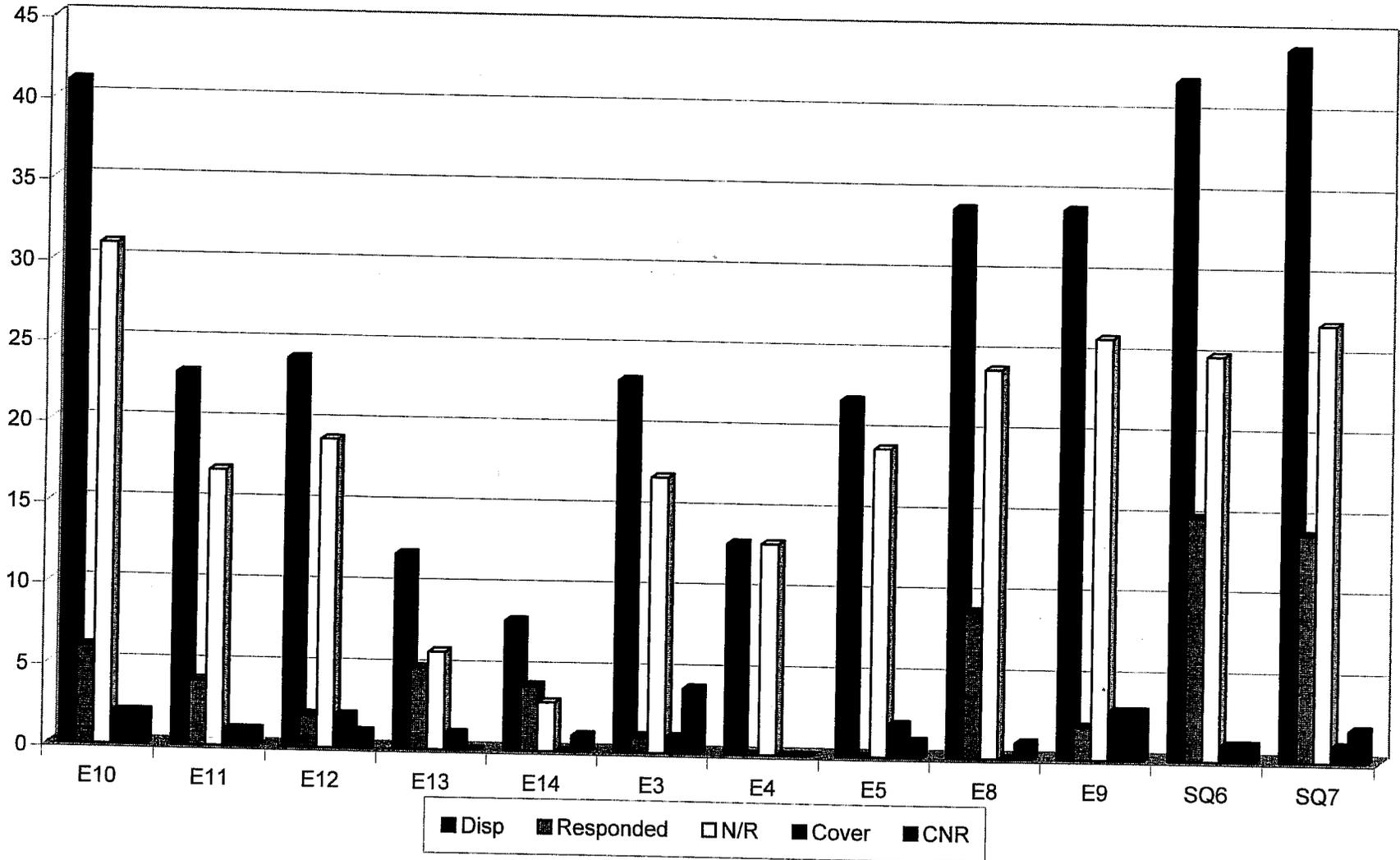


DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES						2005		
		<i>May Response Statistics</i>						
	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% of Response		
E-3	23	1	4	1	17	26%		
E-4	13	0	0	0	13	0%		
E-5	22	0	1	2	19	14%		
S-6	42	1	1	15	25	40%		
S-7	44	1	2	14	27	39%		
E-8	34	0	1	9	24	29%		
E-9	34	3	3	2	26	24%		
E-10	41	2	2	6	26	24%		
E-11	23	1	1	6	31	35%		
E-12	24	2	1	2	19	21%		
E-13	12	1	0	5	6	50%		
E-14	8	0	1	4	3	63%		
Totals	320	12	17	66	236	30%		

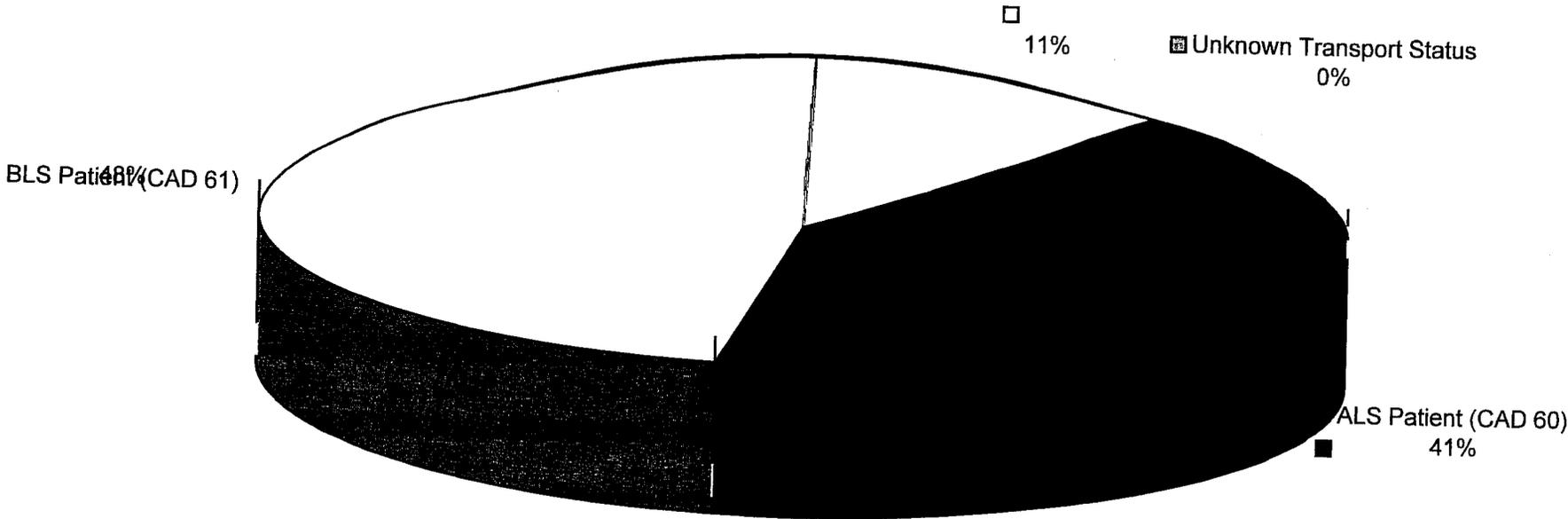
Career Company Response
April 25 to May 22, 2005



Volunteer Call Counts April 25 to May 22, 2005



**EMS Transport Activity
April 25 to May 22, 2005**



911 Center Activity April 25 to May 22, 2005

