



CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department
19 New Street

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September 28, 2005

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

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

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- This month we displayed our apparatus and equipment at Lexington Mews to children and their parents. We fielded questions from the adults and explained the operation of the Department, while the children enjoyed looking at and sitting in the apparatus.
- High School student James Gonzalez was our guest for a day as the winner of a Rotary Chief of the Day. He was given an up-close overview of a day in the life of our firefighters as he attended a rope training session, tour of all Headquarters. Equipment and the dispatch center.
- E-23 conducted a tour for preschoolers attending the nursery school in the college Alumni Building on Roberts Ave.
- All Headquarters apparatus spent a day on the City Green taking part in the Safety Day.
- Pre-incident planning continued on site inspections at: Deer Park Estates, Westconn Magnet school. new construction at the Best Buy and Loews sites off Eagle Rd., Novo Labs, Holiday Inn, Quality Inn, Courtyard Marriott, new Science Building at WCSU, Martha Apts., Broadview Junior High, Danbury Square Mall.

- The annual Community Emergency Response Plan drill was held after six months of planning to create a multi -scenario exercise that involved simultaneous reports of Biological and Chemical releases that are occurring in Danbury along with acts of sabotage by a group promoting there own agenda through acts of terrorism.

Although this was a tabletop exercise the drill involved multiple agencies within the City of Danbury.

The objectives of this drill was to:

- Practice hazard analysis to determine which of the scenarios are real and which are not
- Practice communications between the various city Agencies that would be responding to the incidents
- Practice the City's emergency response teams ability to utilize the Community Emergency Response Plan.

As a whole the drill went well with the various agencies working within there own specialty and utilizing the EOC as a focal point for all of the administrative action

- Hydrant testing continued through out the month. The Water Dept. continues to put broken hydrants back in service in a timely manner.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- o Incidents of interest this past month included two fires, a confined space entry, and a call for a person trapped in a well. On Southview Ave. a young woman who had built a computer as a class project was disappointed when her project caught fire shortly after bringing it home. There was no structural damage to the home but much of the computer was reduced to molten plastic and there was significant smoke damage to the room it was in.
- o An occupant of Holley St. was having a cup of coffee when he noticed smoke issuing from the corner of his mattress, which was set against an electrical outlet. He attempted to put out the fire by putting water on it. He then attempted to pull the mattress from the house via the living room. The fire spread. There was extensive smoke and heat damage to the main floor of the house. Two pet cats died in the fire and he was slightly burned. A pet dog did get out of the house with some singed fur.

- o We responded for a child who fell into a well after the family dog had fallen in. Luckily the child was a strong 18-year-old young man and the well was 3 feet wide and 18 feet deep. Don Fredericks, an employee of Modzelewski's and Germantown volunteer company #10 was in the area and heard the dispatch. He responded with a rope. On our arrival he and the other occupant of the house had the victim and the dog out. No one was injured.

- o E-21 and Trk 1 responded for a person stuck between the floors of the Park's Castle. It seems the person was missing for a day. His car was found on the property. Passerby's could hear him calling for help. Our people were able to get him out safely with the use of a couple of ground ladders.

- o E-21 responded to Broadview Middle School. For a report of a gas odor. High concentrations of natural gas prompted shutdown of the gas line and ventilation of the extensive utility tunnel system under the school. After proper ventilation the gas leak was repaired.

Emergency Medical Services/Haz Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS recertifications requirements of Fire Department First Responders. 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 months EMS Wednesday is the OSHA mandated Blood borne Pathogens review. Blood borne pathogens include all infectious and communicable diseases which are a great 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 educated 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

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 a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, this ability coupled with the Danbury Fire Departments community education programs like CPR training and the "File of Life" has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Community Education

The File of Life program is cooperative effort between the Danbury Fire Department and the Firefighters Union Local 801 to better serve the community during Emergency Medical Calls. It consists a red plastic envelope with a magnetic strip emblazoned with the words "FILE OF LIFE" that holds a card with a patient's medical information in it. Should a patient be unresponsive during an EMS call this card would be retrieved from the refrigerator door and transported with the patient to the hospital. This allows the patients medical information to be readily accessible by the Physician at the hospital.

Two File of Life presentations were given this month by the EMS Coordinator one at The Senior Picnic at Hatters Park and another at the Senior Center in Danbury.

Public Access AED

A teacher in-service was held at Rodgers Park on Sept 13th to educate the teachers on the new Public Access AED's that are now deployed in all the schools. A brief overview on the AED was given demonstrating the ease of use and the inherent safety built into the units. CPR classes for staff will follow.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Mobile Data Terminals

There has been no significant progress with the Mobile Data implementation. Continuing connection problems have not allowed this system to be used. Cingular has yet to indicate what the problem with connecting is or when a solution may be offered.

Communications Center

With the subject of hurricanes being so prevalent, a telephonic drill was held in the EOC to assess the ability of each community in the state to respond during a large-scale event. While this drill was largely a success, several areas were identified that need further work. Within the Communications Center all contact lists will be updated and clearly identified in both electronic and paper forms.

At the suggestion of several dispatchers, an evacuation kit will be developed for use in the event that the Communications Center must be evacuated to another location.

Preliminary thoughts for this 'Evac Kit' are to have all necessary forms, maps, contact lists and spare portable radios stored in a waterproof container. The end goal is to experience a minimal interruption of service if the Center cannot be occupied.

A critical item in this plan would be the approval of pre-determined location that has E911 call receiving capability.

Radio System

A series of meetings were held with Metro Comm Radio to outline the plan for the installation of the fixed-site repeaters. Work is expected to commence as soon as possible.

Training - Jim Thorne

The volunteers are just finishing up their 3rd quarter training. Training was at the Park in Lake Kenosia. A maze was set up for SCBA training and ropes & knots were reviewed. This Wednesday will be the last scheduled class.

Meeting with the Mayor scheduled to clear up the occupancy issues on the Fire School burn Building.

Hydrant testing is still in progress. The Water Department has been very good getting the information on the hydrants that have been repaired to the troops.

Engine 22 with the NEW 5 inch supply line laid it down at a working house fire on Olive St this week. Engine 24 will load 7 or 8 hundred feet of LDH shortly and Engine 23 now has 1000 feet on board.

Apparatus/Equipment - Randy Morits

The Prime Mover has arrived and T.O.Thorne will handle training on this vehicle.

The spare pumper (88MP) is in for air tank replacement and some preventive maintenance

Fit Testing for BSI employees has begun. About half of the employees are done and the rest should be done soon. As soon as we finish BSI we will start doing fire department personnel. After the fire department is complete, the Health Department is next.

We finally received the fan for Engine 23 and it was repaired and put back in service.

Engine 21 had a major breakdown and had to be towed to Atlantic Detroit Diesel to have the turbo replaced. It was replaced under warranty. Engine 21 is now back in service.

The new vehicles for C30, C1 and C2 are ordered and should be delivered the end of October.

Most of the parts for the bodywork on E22 - 23 - 24 - Truck 2 are here. The work should start soon.

Truck 1 had some warranty work done on it Sept 23rd. A sensor had to be replaced on the automatic leveler for the platform.

Good of the Organization

Three new Lts. were sworn in this past month. Lt. Al Mion, Lt. Chip Daley and Lt. Ken Appley were sworn in on the 8th. A reception was held for them back at Hdqts.

On the 11th some of our members participated in the ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial at Elmwood Park.

The bid for the new Station 25 was awarded to Rizzo Construction. Hopefully the work will be done in a timely manner.

FF Walter Arteaga has been named Exchange Club Firefighter of the year. He will be honored locally on the 13th of Oct. He then will be honored by the state on the 20th at the Aqua Turf.

Retirement dinners were held this month for Disp. Harry Leonard

and for P.O. John Pimental. Members of both Departments attended each of the affairs.

The EMS Oversight Comm. met with Chief Baker of the Danbury P.D. We discussed our concern about responding to C.I. calls lights and sirens. It is our feeling that most of these types of calls do not need lights and sirens. It is safer for all concerned that we handle these types of calls with a Code 2 response. Chief Baker agreed.

We are putting the finishing touches on our Annual Memorial and Awards Ceremony. It will take place at Fire Headquarters on Oct. 9th.

On the 16th Friends of Local Heroes put on a luncheon for all emergency personnel in Danbury. They have been doing this since 9/11/02. The last two years the people that put this event on for us not only take a day off from work but they also pay for the food themselves. This year they feed over 150 emergency personnel both active and retired.

FF Jordan Leach participated in a two-day dog rescue event at Canine Sports Center in Goshen, Ct.

Lt. Ken Stilson is teaching a firearms safety course through the adult education dept.

FF Sean Chick left us this month to become a firefighter for the City of New York. Sean was an excellent firefighter and this department will miss him.

The Chief and the Deputy have been conducting interviews this past week in hopes of getting new recruits in the Fire Academy for their last class for the year. At the present time the Department is down 8 firefighters.

Dates of Importance

Oct. 9th - Annual Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony, Fire Headquarters.

Oct. 13th. Local Exchange Club Firefighter of the year.

Oct. 20th State Exchange Club Firefighter of the year.

INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	21
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	3
Rescue/EMS	252
Hazardous Condition	29
Service Calls	30
Good Intent Calls	41
False Alarm/False Calls	71
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	1
No Report/Incomplete	7

Total Fire Calls..455.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 659 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	659
No patient EMS Calls	101
BLS Patient Calls	321
ALS EMS Calls	237
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	7
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	31

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 3052 with a daily average of 109.00 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	455
EMS Response calls.	659
Abandoned Calls	457
911 Hang Ups	549
Admin Calls Received	777
Cellular 911 Calls	1088

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.

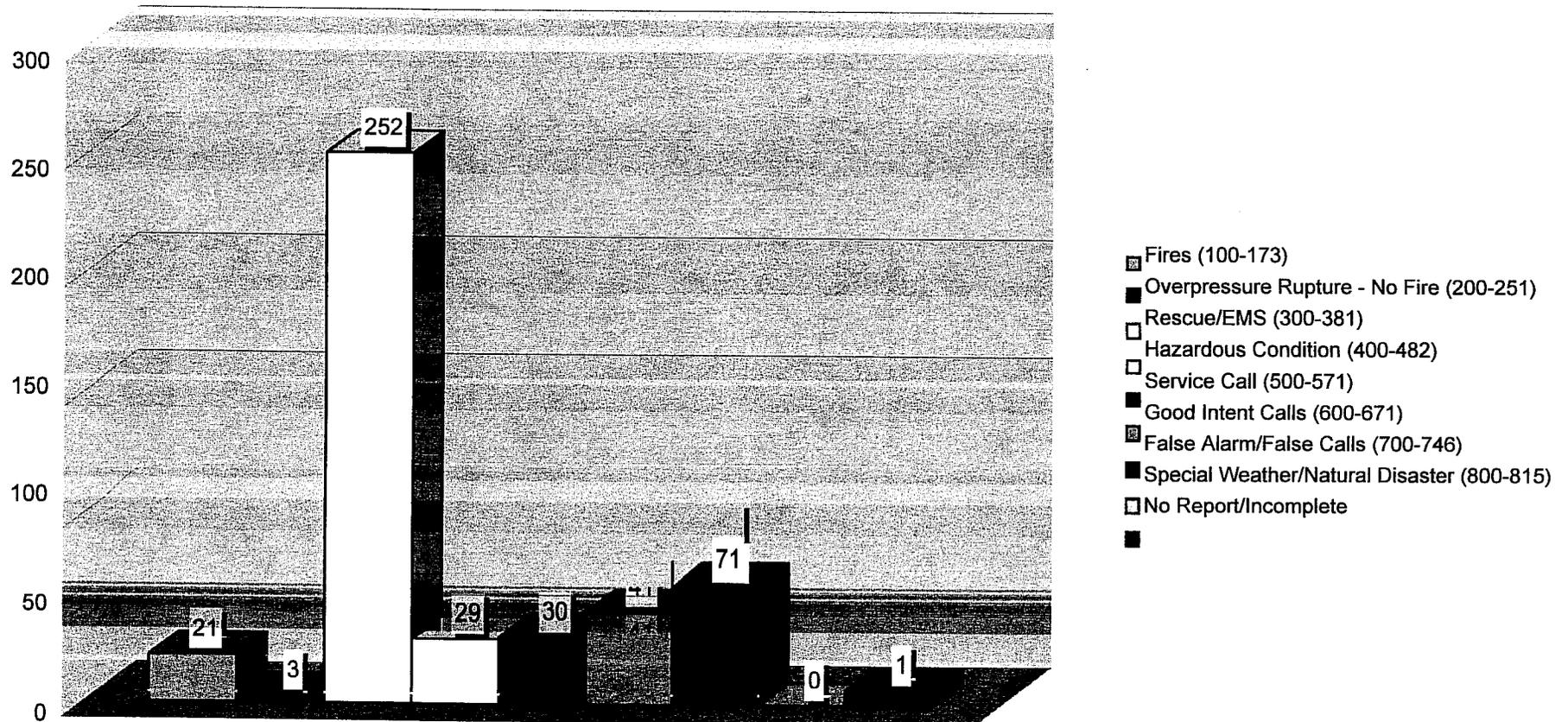
If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,

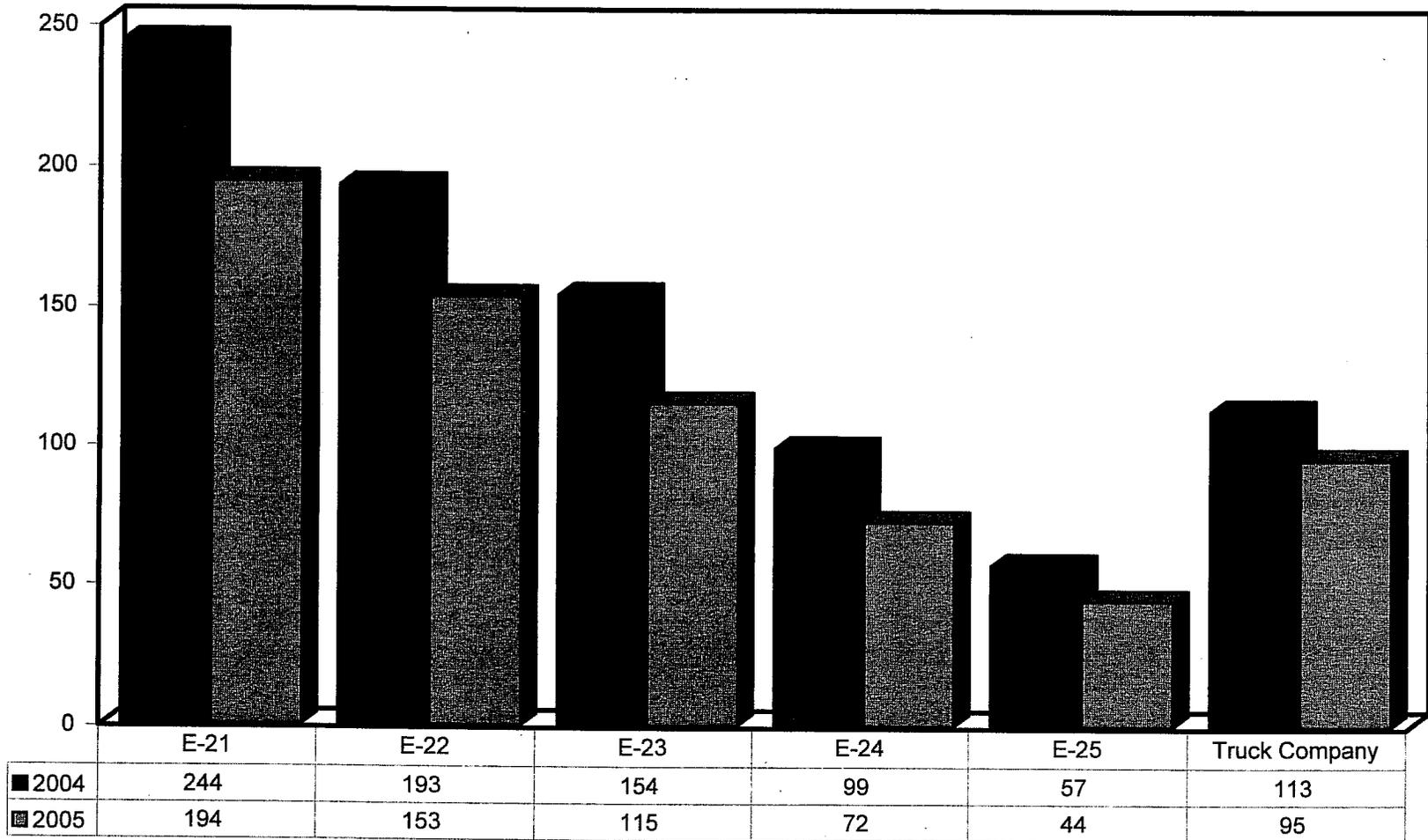
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter J. Siecienski".

Peter J. Siecienski
Fire Chief

Fire Response Breakdown August 28, 2005 to September 25, 2005

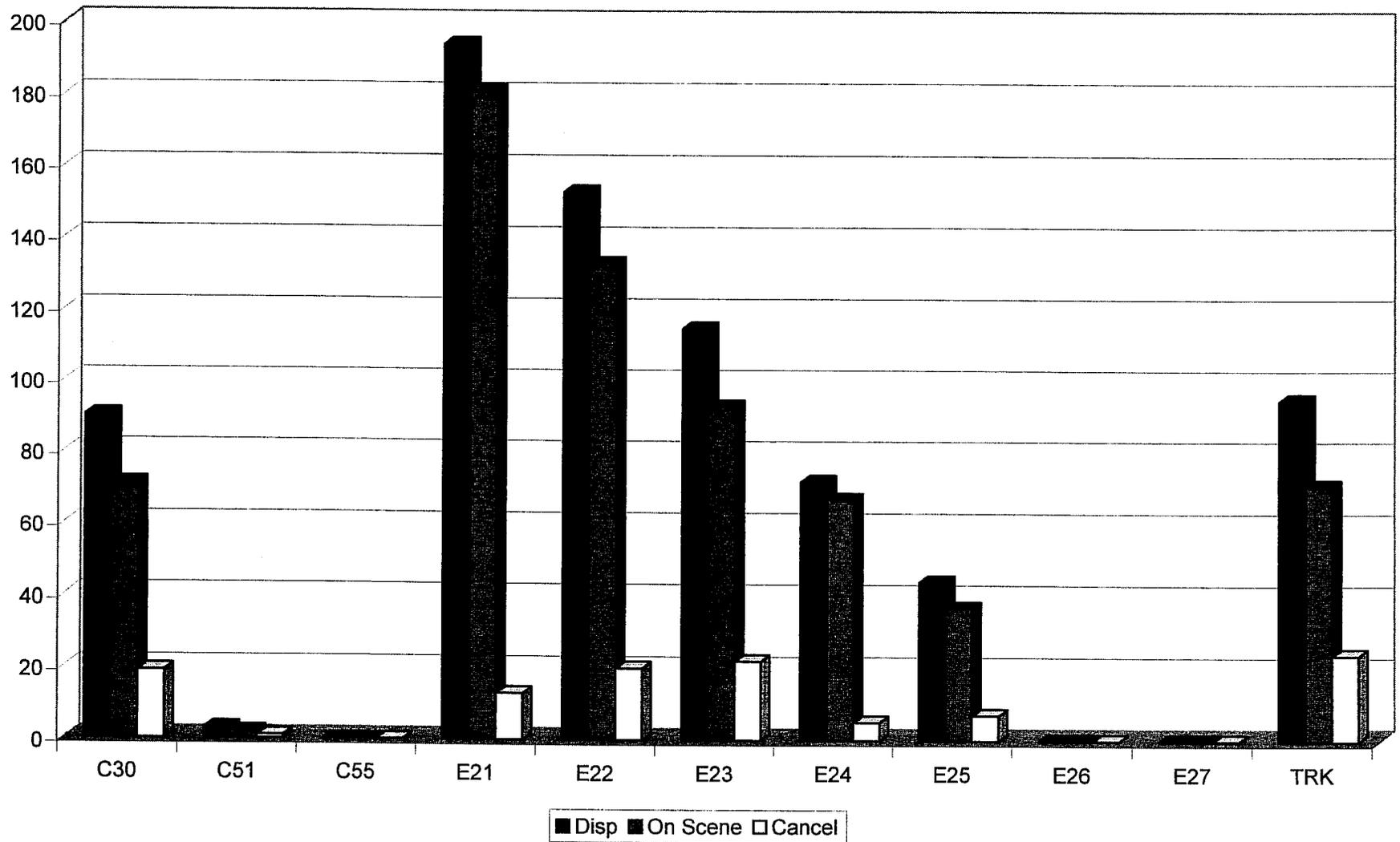


**Danbury Fire Department
September Company Response Statistics**

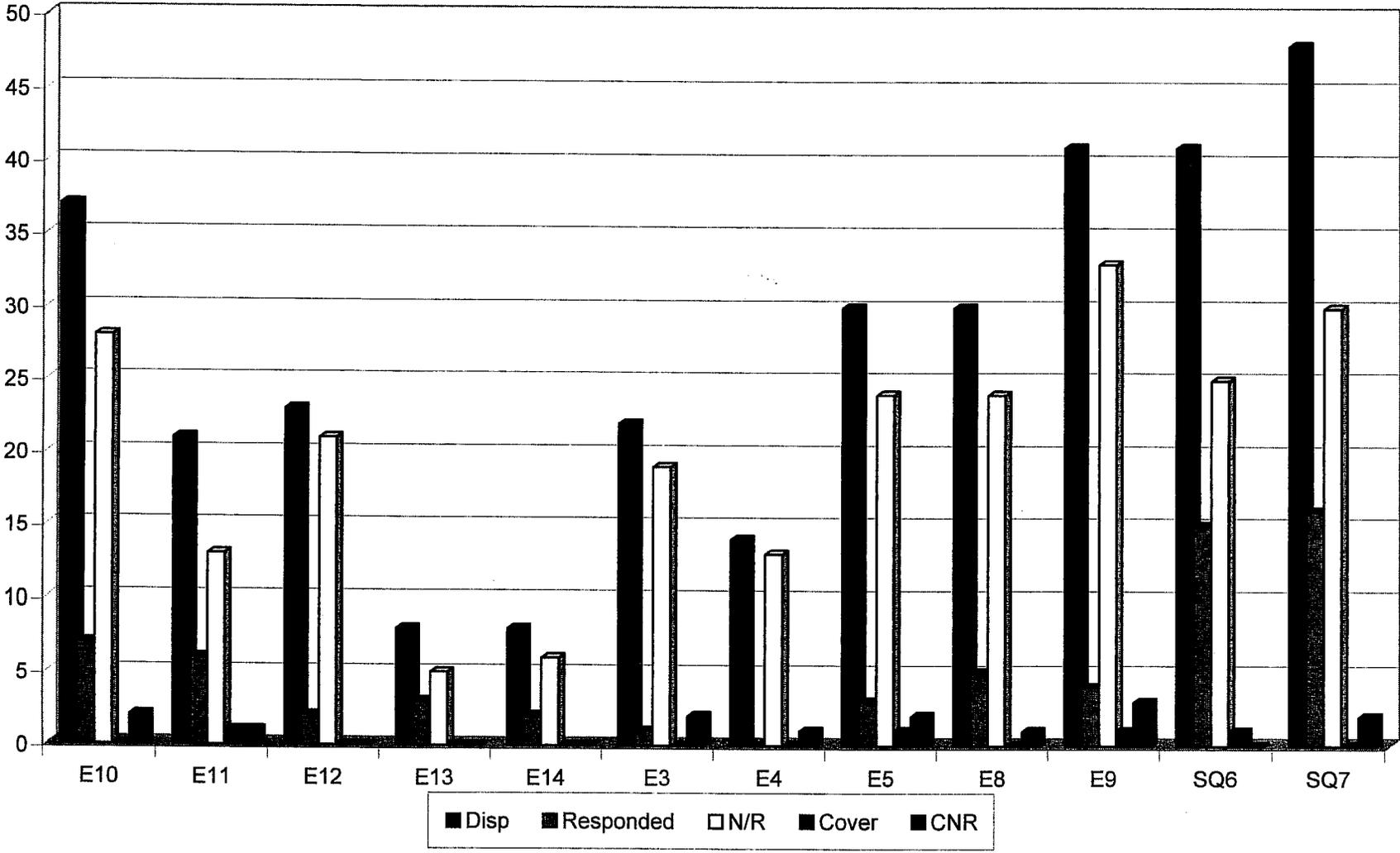


DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES						2005		
	<i>September Response</i>			<i>Statistics</i>				
	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% of Response		
E-3	22	0	2	1	19	14%		
E-4	14	0	1	0	13	7%		
E-5	30	1	2	3	24	20%		
S-6	41	1	0	15	25	39%		
S-7	48	0	2	16	30	38%		
E-8	30	0	1	5	24	20%		
E-9	41	1	3	4	33	20%		
E-10	37	0	2	7	28	24%		
E-11	21	1	1	6	13	38%		
E-12	23	0	0	2	21	9%		
E-13	8	0	0	3	5	38%		
E-14	8	0	0	2	6	25%		
Totals	323	4	14	64	241	25%		

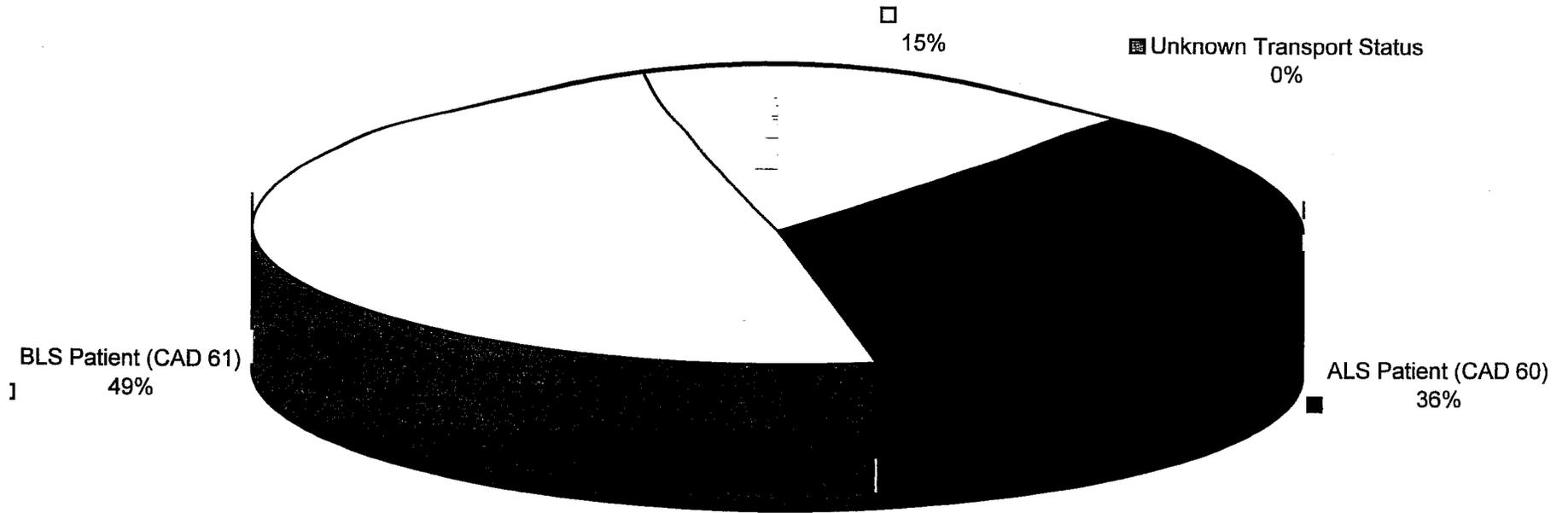
Career Company Response August 28, 2005 to September 25, 2005



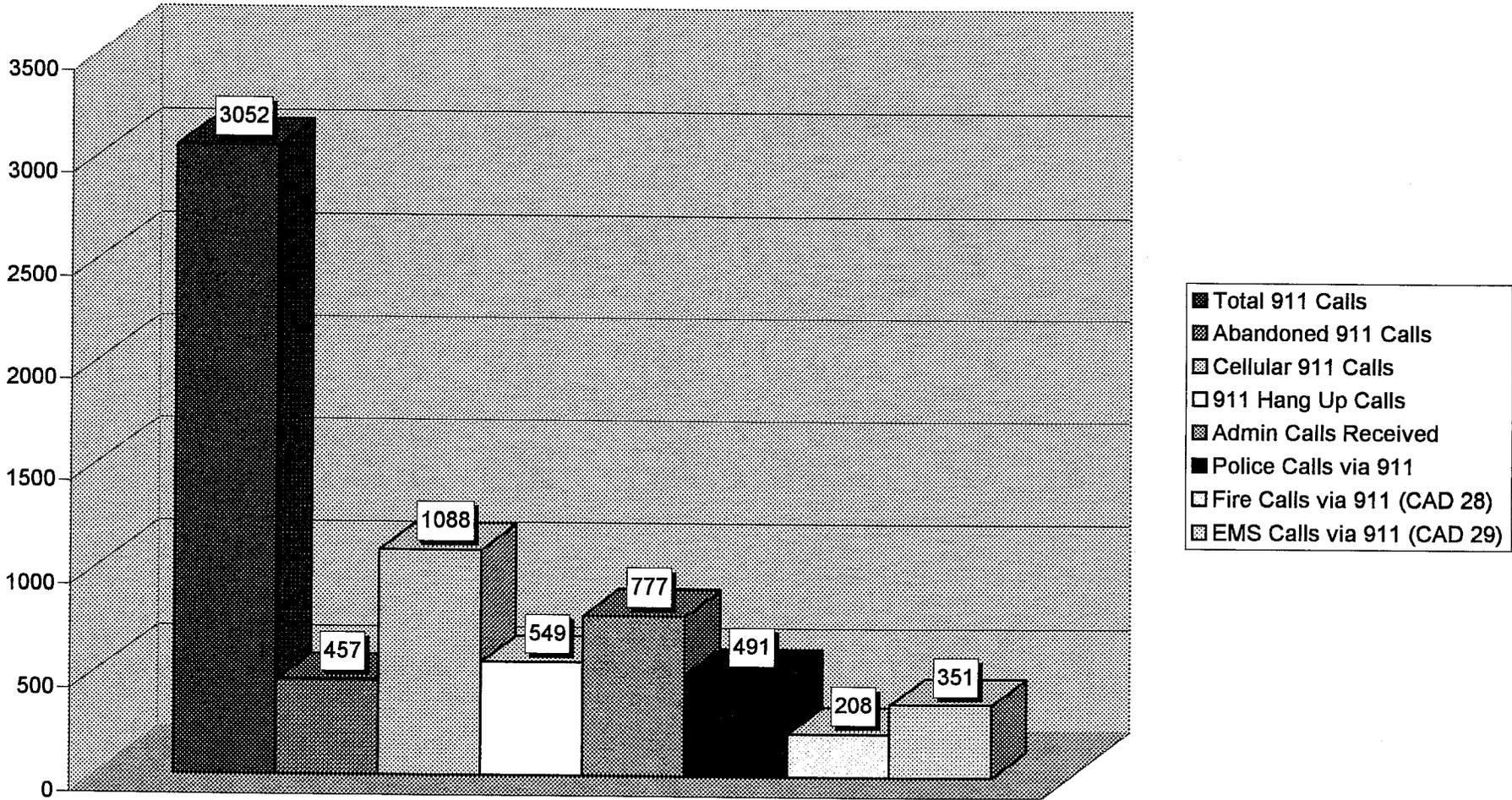
Volunteer Call Counts August 28, 2005 to September 25, 2005



EMS Transport Activity
August 28, 2005 to September 25, 2005



911 Center Activity August 28, 2005 to September 25, 2005



CITY OF DANBURY
Office of Emergency Management
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September 28, 2005

Emergency Management Report

I hereby submit my report as Emergency Management Director for the City of Danbury. This report summarizes recent activities and concerns since the reorganization of the department in late August.

Staff Alignment and Responsibilities

- Several working group meetings were held with Department Heads and key personnel to identify roles and responsibilities in the case of the Emergency Operations Center being activated. The meetings were extremely productive and important information and operational concerns were addressed.
- Several new individuals were brought into responsible roles of the Emergency Plan. DFM T.J. Weidl will assume the role of Public information Officer. Police Lt. Peter Gantert will handle the EOC facility development. Communication Supervisor Patrick Sniffin will coordinate communications issues. Paul Estefan will fill the role of Deputy Emergency Management Director.
- An Organizational chart has been developed to highlight positions of command and control. The chart is developed based on the adoption of a unified command structure. The structure brings representation from all disciplines; Police, Fire, Health, Utilities, Public Works and the Mayor's office together in an approach to prepare and handle severe emergency situations.

Exercise and Drills

- On September 15th we participated in a statewide drill to test the Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Plan against a Category 3 Hurricane hitting the Connecticut Coast.
- On September 26 we participated in the Local Emergency Planning Committee's annual drill. The drill was designed to test the EOC, Unified Command Structure, the LEPC Plan and biohazard annex.

Regional and State Initiatives

Numerous meetings and conference calls were conducted with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). Conference calls were held with regards to the gulf disaster and assistance that is available.

Region I coordinator Rich Fournier spent time in Danbury reviewing initiatives and organizational plans.

On September 13th Deputy Commissioner Sanford met with me to discuss transitional issues and extend the Department's assistance as we upgrade our current systems.

Discussions were held on the possibility of realigning the Emergency response regions within the State. The alignment would move Danbury into Region V, which would include the HVCEO communities.

Equipment and Grant Opportunities

Meetings with State officials on accessing grant funding available through DEMHS were held. Immediate attention was given to an outstanding application for Buffer Zone Protection funds that will assist the Police Department in procuring equipment designed to protect the Danbury Fair Mall and potentially airport borders.

Additional attention was focused on communications needs and previous proposals from HVCEO regarding video conferencing between municipalities.

Identifiable assets and deficiencies

Through evaluation, meetings and drills during this period we have been able to identify solid areas of preparedness for the Community. As part of our critical evaluation we have also identified areas that are in need of improvement.

Our continued focus will be on updating our evacuation and shelter plans, improving interoperable communications, meeting equipment needs and completing the Emergency Operations Center renovation.

There is a strong foundation that has been laid in the area of preparedness for our City. The transition into an all hazard emergency management center while certainly challenging will result in a confident state of emergency management and a secure homeland consistent with Regional, State and Federal initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peter J. Siecienski
Emergency Management Director