



# CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department  
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Nov. 30, 2005

## FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and details some of the activities of the Department.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- On 10/31 we gave a Hurst Tool Demo to a class from NVCC Fire Science Class.
- FF Jordan Leach helped conduct a Halloween Safety Class at Morris St. School.
- Numerous tours of all the Fire houses were given during the month to coincide with Fire Prevention.
- Lt. Gary Arconti did a Juvenile Fire Setter intervention interview.
- On 11/04/05 E-21 under the leadership of Lt. Kevin Plank gave a First-Aid class to Cub Scout Troop 22 at the Moose Lodge.
- Members of the Dept. participated in Fire Safety Display at Wal-Mart and at Danbury Square Mall.
- Two tours were given at the AM/PM St. Gregory School.

- Lt. Al Mion and the crew of E-21 assisted with a safety talk for Halloween at the Danbury Green.
- Pre-incident planning continued on site inspections at: Hart Bus Facility, Best Buy/Loewe's Theater, Dolan property condo's on South St., Briar Ridge Condos, WCSU Science Bldg., new condos at Wildman's Landing, new condos on Crosby St., and Savings Bank of Danbury at 39 Newtown Rd.

## **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- Incident 4921, a structure fire at Bells Pl. resulted in 26 people being displaced as all electrical service lines ran through the involved basement. The fire was caused by children playing with matches.
- Incident 5005, a structure fire which resulted from the occupant leaving sausage cooking in oil unattended. Damage was confined to the kitchen area. An illegal apartment under construction was discovered in the basement.
- Incidents 5202, 5204, and 5299 at 8 Montgomery St. involved a storm drain blockage causing water to back up into the basement, compromising electrical panels, a boiler and 3 gas meters. A multi-agency response resulted in proper handling of the incident. Eighteen people were displaced.
- Incident 5320 at 30 Peace St. occurred the day before Thanksgiving. A young girl was cooking with oil when she heard the smoke detector. She entered the kitchen to find the pot on fire. She tried to put the fire out with water which only spread the fire. There was extensive smoke damage throughout the house. There was some small fire extension into the cabinets above the stove.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month there was a serious fire on Boughton St. When the first units arrived they found heavy fire in the rear bedroom of the first floor apartment. The fire quickly spread to the entire back of the house due to several clothes lines on the back porches. It took several minutes to get the fire under control due to the balloon construction of the building which allowed the fire to spread to the attic. Three firefighters suffered minor burns and related injuries.

## **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 review and recertification on the Automatic External Defibrillator. Every year 500,000 adult Americans die as a result of coronary heart disease, almost half of these deaths can be attributed to a condition known as sudden cardiac arrest , CPR promptly started plays a big part in resuscitating a patient but the availability of a defibrillator is the only way to correct the underlying problem and return the heart to a proper rhythm.

The Danbury Fire Department continues to lead the state in successful defibrillations, our rapid deployment First Responders trained and equipped for Emergency medical calls, our placement of Automatic External Defibrillators in the school system and this month training an additional 25 school staff in the use of the AED's demonstrates our commitment in making the City of Danbury a safer place to live and work.

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.

### **First Responders File of Life**

On November 4<sup>th</sup> two File of Life presentations were provided to the Senior Center in Danbury. The File of Life program is a program provided by the Danbury Firefighters local 801 in an effort to facilitate the transfer of medical information during Emergency Medical calls should the patient be unable to talk to responders.

## **Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

### **Mobile Data Terminals**

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HTE Inc. and Data Processing are continuing to work through software issues that have prevented the MDT system from being reactivated. An HTE trainer/technician is scheduled to be on site in December to help resolve program errors.

## Communications Center

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SBC recently updated the mapping component of the 911 system. The updated map files are part of the regular quality assurance process of the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications to keep pace with technology and changes in infrastructure/land use within the state.

In the near future the state will also be authorizing 911 calls to be received from individuals that use VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) for phone service. An internet phone user will be required to provide current location information when dialing 911 from these types of phones. Additionally under federal guidelines and accepted waivers, the VOIP provider must present a valid call-back telephone number on the 911 screen.

Traditional location information may not be available from a VOIP telephone set, therefore the longitude and latitude of the registered callers address will be plotted. Unfortunately this address may not actually be the location of the computer the caller is using at the time of the call.

An important note to users of VOIP telephones is that these phones will not function without power or an active internet connection.

VOIP is another example of the dynamic changes that have occurred in the 911 field as a result of technology.

## Radio System

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Work will commence in the next few days on the installation of the UHF radio system. This system will be used primarily for on scene communications from Incident Commanders to dispatch. Dispatch operations will continue on the low band frequency.

Having this increased channel capacity should reduce the number of communications problems that arise with simultaneous dispatches or broadcasts from the field.

## **Training - Jim Thorne**

- Three different CME classes were held during the month. The subjects covered were: treatment of pediatric animal

bites, new born respiratory care and CPR, and bomb blast injuries.

- This month B group was given the first of the classes by OSHA on Trench and Confined Space Rescue. The other crews will receive the class over the next few weeks.
- The last of the hose was tested during the month.
- A Captain's Test orientation was given for the benefit of those Lieutenants that are planning to take the Captains test.
- EMS Sup. Rey Rodriguez did a Defib Training review for all career personnel.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter training continues on Wed. nights and Sundays for all the Volunteer Companies.

## **Apparatus/Equipment - Randy Morits**

- Firematic has been here to repair Truck 1's electrical problems. Both alternators have been replaced and it seemed to have cured the problem. This work was all done under warranty.
- All of the new 5" LDH is now on our pumpers. Engines 21, 22, 23, and 24 all have 5" hose with all the appliances that were needed. They all have 5" gated relief valves on the intake.
- We did get two new air tanks for the spare pumper (88MP) They have been replaced and should cure most of the air problems.
- Six new portable radios for the new recruits were programed. They will be ready for them on the Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. I believe that will be the day they start on the line. Apparatus will have Scott masks and voice amps ready them, also. Radio case and slings are ordered and will be in shortly.

- o The division did get the pickup ready for the winter including putting the plow on, which was already used on Thanksgiving Day. Snow blowers and related equipment are at the ready.

## **Good of the Organization**

- Capt. Geoff Herald was interviewed by Channel 8 News regarding the Methamphetamine Training presented to the Department. Capt. Herald and Capt. Keenan are both Certified Instructors in clandestine drug labs.
- Local 801 IAFF is collecting Canned Food at all the career fire stations. All proceeds are given to the Salvation Army to be distributed over the Christmas Holidays.
- Lt. Lorrie Arconti is busy planning the annual Christmas Party for all the Career firefighter children and grand children.
- All the crews helped make the transition from E-25 to the trailer as easy as possible.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> we assisted the Ct. Natl. Guard by standing by for a helicopter landing on the Westside Campus of WCSU. The Guard was doing a demo to help in their recruitment.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> the Deputy Chief met with the EMS Oversight Committee. We have been trying to develop ways in which we might be able to cut back on our Code 1 responses. Due to the heavy volume of calls and the amount of traffic we encounter it would be wise to cut back on our emergency responses.
- On Halloween Night candy and glow sticks were distributed and purchased by Local #801 IAFF.
- Once again we have suffered the loss of a retired firefighter this month. Ret. FF John Botelho passed away on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. John was a firefighter for 26 years with the Department. He retired on Sept. 19, 1981 when he turned 65. John was 89 at the time of his death.

## Dates of Importance

- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - Retirement Party for Capt. Roy Gannon at Anthony's.
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - City Employee Christmas Party at the Sheridan.
- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> - Recruit graduation from Ct. St. Fire Academy at Windsor Locks.

## INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	21
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	2
Rescue/EMS	263
Hazardous Condition	46
Service Calls	44
Good Intent Calls	70
False Alarm/False Calls	100
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	1
No Report/Incomplete	22

Total Fire Calls..569.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 722 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	722
No patient EMS Calls	113
BLS Patient Calls	344
ALS EMS Calls	254
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	9
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	22

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 3262 with a daily average of 93.22 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	569
EMS Response calls.	722
Abandoned Calls	487
911 Hang Ups	588
Admin Calls Received	865
Cellular 911 Calls	1399

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