



CITY OF DANBURY
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

HEALTH AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT
155 DEER HILL AVENUE

(203) 797-4625
FAX (203) 796-1596

February 24, 2006

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Common Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Re: Department of Health & Housing Monthly Report to the Common Council

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council:

The January 2006 Department of Health & Housing monthly report is provided for your review. Detailed reports are attached for both the Housing & Food Service and the Environmental Health Divisions which identify specific inspections and hours provided by our staff. Should you have any questions regarding these issues, feel free to contact myself or each Division Head directly.

Main Topics

The Food Service Inspection summary scores are continuously posted for public information on the City of Danbury web site. Current inspection results are available for public review, these results area added to the web site by City staff.

A "Healthy Neighborhood is a Lead Safe Neighborhood" continues the collaborative with the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) to provide free blood lead screenings for children under 6 with the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Van. The Grant program provides blood lead screening opportunities to children in Danbury and using the WOW Van services, as well as lead poisoning prevention opportunities.

Additional Topics

In addition to the Department's year round workload, the seasonal issues have changed and added educational and regulatory tasks. The search for our new Senior Inspector was completed this month and a starting date of February 6, 2006, was set for Mr. Daniel Baroody (the former Coordinator of the City of Waterbury, CT, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Department).

Additionally, the Danbury Department of Health is preparing to participate in a federally funded public health emergency drill in Southbury, CT, on April 19, 2006. This drill will help the Health Department test our existing plans for reacting to potential events as Pandemic Flu, SARS, or other events involving the release of similar agents (HazMat spill, etc...). If you would like to volunteer for this event or require more information please contact our Department or refer to the attached News Release from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health about the event.

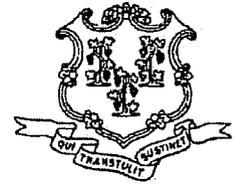
You are encouraged to review all the information for each Division, as it provides details concerning ongoing activities. Also, I thank you for giving the Department of Health & Housing the opportunity to serve the Citizens of Danbury and feel free to contact the Division Supervisors or myself with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Scott T. LeRoy MPH, MS
Director of Health

Cc: Dena Diorio, Director of Finance & Personnel



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 5, 2006

Contacts: Connecticut Department of Public Health
William Gerrish
(860) 509-7270

Volunteer “patients” needed for April public health exercise

Hartford - The Connecticut Department of Public Health and local health departments are looking for volunteer “patients” to help State and local health officials test their response to a mock biomedical disaster during a statewide emergency preparedness exercise on Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

Specifically, DPH and local health officials will test plans to implement the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to quickly distribute antibiotics and other medications in the event of mass public exposure to biological agents such as anthrax or smallpox. *Please note that no actual medications or vaccinations are being administered as part of this drill.*

Connecticut’s current plan requires swift delivery of pharmaceuticals to the state and the speedy deployment of these pharmaceuticals to local Points of Dispensing clinics or PODs located statewide, staffed by medical and non-medical personnel. For this exercise to be successful, the PODs need hundreds of volunteer “patients” from the community at large to test the response skills of the deployed POD personnel. Volunteers may choose to present at “patients” at one of the following POD locations: Glastonbury, New Britain, Groton, Westport, Southbury, Plainfield, and Milford.

“Many volunteers are needed to play patients in this exercise,” commented DPH Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M. D., M. P. H. “Falling as it does during the April vacation week, this exercise is ideal for high school students needing to fulfill community service hours for graduation. It’s also an opportunity for civic groups to get their members together and help the state with an important training exercise.”

Volunteers must be 16 or older on or before the day of the exercise. Those under age 16 may participate if accompanied by a responsible parent or guardian. Volunteers should be ready for a commitment of at least four hours. Individuals and community groups are encouraged to participate. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Infoline at 2-1-1 and have ready for them your contact information and the POD location at which you would like to volunteer.

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February 15, 2006

TO : Danbury Common Council

FROM: Jack Kozuchowski, Coordinator of Environmental & Occupational Health Services

JK

RE: Monthly Status Report - Environmental Health Division
January, 2006

Key Indicators	This Month	Last Month	# Difference	% Difference	YTD
<i>Hazardous Materials Management (hours)</i>	55	134	(79)	(59)	1016
<i>Wetlands / Water Resources Management (hours)</i>	115	115	0	0	736
<i>Natural Resource Management (hours)</i>	33	24	9	38	192
<i>Program Administration (hours)</i>	59	60	(1)	(2)	375
<i>Subsurface Disposal Evaluations (Septic Systems and Wells) (# of site visits)</i>	75	170	(95)	(56)	1086

Current Projects

Name	Status	Next Steps	Finish date
Hazardous Materials Management	1) Bioterrorism (BT) Preparedness Conducted meeting regional "Health Emergency Planning Committee" of area health directors aimed at developing a regional response process for BT events; facilitated discussion of quarantine and isolation protocol for public health emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in regional planning for BT preparedness and response; Initiate goals for 2005-2006 contract year preparedness planning. • Continue training EHD in Bioterrorism preparedness and response. 	On-going
	2) Hazardous materials Reviewed Community Emergency Response Plan update with Fire Department staff and hazardous materials planner	Finish final draft of 2005 Update to Community emergency Response Plan, review with emergency department heads and LEPC, submit update to State Emergency Response Commission	On-going May, 2006
	3) Brownfield Assessments: Barnum Court: Reviewed results of rhizosphere analysis; conducted meetings with project team to discuss wrap up of project	Analyze all results and prepare manuscript for publication of results.	June, 2006
Water Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed application for housing development on Kennedy Avenue / prepare environmental assessment report. • Screened applications for Environmental Impact Commission, prepare reports present reports at EIC meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue staff liaison work with EIC 	On-going
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Kenosia Commission in preparation of 2006-07 budget proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue staff liaison work with Kenosia Commission 	On-going
Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted meeting of Ives Trail Task Force. (1/17) • Assist Conservation Commission in open space projects & staffing of 1/23 meeting. Assisted in preparation of 2006-2007 budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize work teams for trail construction • Construct trail. • Continue staff liaison work with Commission 	February, 2006 April - June, 2006 On-going

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Future Projects

Name	Rationale	Effect
None	Complete current projects before taking on new undertakings.	No new projects to be taken on – except for emergency assignments – due to program overload

Narrative

The status of major project activities of the Environmental Health Division (EHD) for January, 2006 can be summarized as follows.

- **Hazardous Materials Management.** The EHD continued its work to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities with the Health Department staff and our partners in the Housatonic region. The EHD continued its leadership role over the regional “Public Health Emergency Plan” committee, leading a discussion on quarantine and isolation authorities and identifying functional areas that are to be developed for the Housatonic regional plan for the 2006 grant period.

The EHD also reviewed the key sections of the City’s Community Emergency Response Plan with staff of the Danbury Fire Department. The purpose of this review was to solicit input on how to reflect the Fire Department’s current state of operational preparedness and procedural response, which will be encompassed in the 2005 Plan Update.

- **Water Resource Management.** The EHD continued its management of multiple water resource projects, including Lake Kenosia, the Still River, Tarrywile Lake and Rogers Park Pond. The EHD continues its staff support of the EIC, which will continue as best as it can, until the Senior Environmental Inspector position is appointed. The Kennedy Avenue housing proposal was reviewed by EHD staff and an environmental assessment was prepared for submittal at the February 8 meeting of the Commission as our staff report.
- **Natural Resource Management.** Work continued on planning for the Ives Trail. At the January meeting of the Task Force, the EHD directed a discussion on the trail signs and environmental education kiosks that are to be constructed along the trail and designated work team leaders for each section of the Ives Trail that is to be constructed in Spring 2006. The EHD also continued its work in providing professional support to the Conservation Commission.



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HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE REPORT

January, 2006

INSPECTIONS

NUMBER

	This Month	Last Month	Number Diff.	% Diff.	YTD	Last YTD	Number Diff.	% Diff.
A.	273	216	57	26	1836	1957	(121)	(6)
B.	95	74	21	28	596	511	85	17
C.	126	92	34	37	826	766	60	8
D.	43	47	(4)	(9)	383	665	(282)	(42)
E.	58	61	(3)	(5)	410	680	(270)	(40)
F.	27	12	15	125	226	150	76	51

- A. Total Housing Inspections
- B. Total Housing Inspections Common Areas
- C. Total Housing Inspections Dwelling Units
- D. Total Housing Inspections Nuisance
- E. Total Food Service Inspections
- F. Total General Nuisance/Miscellaneous Inspections



Paul Schierloh
Associate Director

NARRATIVE FOR MONTHLY REPORT

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES SECTION

Field activities for housing and food service functions conducted during the reporting period are reflected in the statistical summary attached. In addition to the normal administrative, inspection and enforcement activities associated with these functions, the section undertook the initiatives outlined below which would be deemed to be of special interest or importance.

Four members of the housing and food section continued to participate in bioterrorism and hazmat response training as part of the department's initiative to expand its capability to respond to emergency incidents. A slight decrease in inspection numbers for the housing and food sections will be more than offset by the increased flexibility offered to the department to respond to unexpected events.

Section personnel have completed training in pool inspections to join Environmental Health Section personnel in implementing a comprehensive pool inspection program. Four members of the section received training this past year which will provide the director additional flexibility in implementing the program in the upcoming season.

Food service inspection totals for the year are lower than prior years due to the food inspector position vacancy and the time required for the new public health inspector to obtain the required State certification. The inspector completed field training and became provisionally certified on January 26. She conducted her first food service inspections on January 30. Food service inspection totals will show a marked increase next month. Housing inspection services have also been adversely impacted this year by an extended leave of the public health inspector assigned to housing inspections.

The Office of the Corporation Counsel processed eight housing/health code referrals in January. The housing section made court appearances on two cases while several other cases were resolved prior to court appearances. Every effort is made to encourage cooperation in making needed improvements, but non-compliance leads to court action and possible penalties for contempt of court orders.

The department has discontinued nuisance sweeps in downtown neighborhoods until Spring. This effort also involves distribution of pamphlets on mosquito control and prevention of West Nile Virus. The Department continues to investigate complaints throughout the city referred through the Mayor's Blight Hotline and from other departments in addition to complaints made directly to the department. The department also participates in investigations by the Unified Neighborhood Inspection Team (UNIT). The department also receives complaints

and service requests through the City's Q-Alert program.

The department continued working with the LAMPP Project, the entity sub-contracted by the State to administer lead poisoning prevention and remediation funds awarded to Connecticut by the Federal government. The City has been assisting LAMPP to identify tenants and property owners who would be eligible to receive risk assessments as well as funds to abate lead hazards. This enables Danbury property owners to access funds available to abate lead paint, replace windows, doors and perform other repairs to make units lead safe. Danbury has had two projects consisting of seven total units funded through LAMPP or LAMPP partners. There are currently two additional applications under review by LAMPP, with one application receiving initial approval in December. Work plans and specifications for this project are currently being developed by LAMPP.

The department has made a total of 10 referrals to LAMPP for lead assessments/education for eligible Danbury families since LAMPP opened up the referral process. LAMPP Program activities are being coordinated with the screening and education efforts to be undertaken under the Lead Safe Neighborhood grant secured by Director of Health Scott LeRoy. LAMPP funds will be available to pay for lead inspections and lead hazard abatement in homes of children identified through the new screening effort as having problematic lead blood levels. Lead Outreach Worker Jennifer Percec has been conducting child lead screenings, initiating outreach efforts and providing case management services. The efforts of the lead outreach worker have helped Danbury improve and expand lead poisoning prevention efforts.

The housing section also provides staff support for the Danbury Housing Partnership and the Danbury Fair Rent Commission. The part-time fair housing officer handled one housing discrimination inquiry, received two fair rent inquiries, processed one formal complaint, conducted one site investigation and attended one formal hearing. The fair housing officer hosted a meeting in Danbury of the Fair Housing Association of Connecticut. The officer and the associate director also assisted with monitoring of compliance with affordable housing restrictions in connection with the density bonus project at Poplar Park Condominium.