



CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department
19 New Street
April 25, 2006

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of March 28, 2006 to April 25, 2006 and detail some activities of the Department.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- ❑ David Easter Jr. participated in a career day shadowing program on the 12th. David is a junior at Shepaug Valley High School and son of recently promoted Captain Dave Easter.
- ❑ On the 11th Lt. Mark Omasta represented the department at Career Day for Immaculate High School.
- ❑ Engine 22 B Group assisted in a group tour at Headquarters given to a group of students from Broadview Middle School. These were special needs students and the tour was well received by students and staff alike.
- ❑ Engine 22 also went to The Childrens Choice School and put on a demonstration for students at the school.
- ❑ We assisted the Parking Authority at the Patriot Garage with the disposal of a biohazard problem.
- ❑ Lt. Lorinda Arconti spent time preparing a course lecture for the upcoming babysitter program. She also met with Jackie DiNardo from Danbury High School to put the finishing touches on the MADD mock DUI exercise.

- Pre-incident planning continued on site inspections at: 23 Library Pl., Magnet School, underground water tank and connections at Ridgewood CC., Loew's Theater, Sunset Ridge housing development, Brookview Commons, The Omaha Beef Bldg. on Crosby St., Action Day Care on Balmforth Ave. and 72 Balmforth Ave., Loew's Home Improvement, Briar Woods condos - Briar Ridge Rd., parking garage at Centennial Hall WCSU, BRT condo's on Crosby St., The Gardens - Glen Hill, new construction at Broadview Jr. High.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- On March 28th Headquarters' units responded to a possible structure fire on Town Hill Ave. This is the building referred to as the "Barracks". Upon arrival they found a fire in the kitchen of the first floor apartment. With quick action, they brought the fire under control in minutes. The fire apartment was unfit to live in but the other three apartments were saved.
- On March 21st there was a small kitchen fire on Grand St. Oil being heated on a stove burst into flames catching the curtains on fire. The resident was able to put the fire out with a residential fire extinguisher before our arrival. The occupant suffered minor burns but refused treatment.
- On April 6th we responded to a two story garage on Starrs Plain Rd. Upon arrival, we encountered a fully involved fire. Through quick action by the first arriving unit the fire was kept to the garage. They put out the grass and brush which surrounded the garage before it could get to a neighboring structure. The garage and its contents was a complete loss. Because of the lack of hydrants in this area the Volunteers ran a tanker shuttle from a nearby brook. A backhoe had to be brought in to bring down what remained of the structure.
- On April 8th we responded to an automatic fire alarm on Deer Hill Dr. The residence is owned by the State of Connecticut and is used as a group home. The building was evacuated upon our arrival. There was heavy smoke in the west end of the building. Upon entry we found that a ceiling fan in one of the bathrooms had started a small fire. The fire was put out with a water extinguisher, but not before insulation and a few of the roof rafters were charred. As a safety

precaution, all the residents were taken to the emergency room to be checked. They all were released.

- On April 19th we reserved several calls for a structure fire on Hillside Rd. off of Acre Dr. The responding units could see heavy smoke in the sky from several miles away. The responding A/C could see a fully involved structure across the lake from the PAL building. Before we arrived on scene the structure was a total loss. The first units put their water on the exposures to the fire. The wind was blowing out of the north and pushing the fire towards a neighbor's home and the homeowner's garage. After several hours of fighting the fire the structure was a total loss. The garage was heavily damaged and the neighbor's house was saved. Two of our firefighters escaped injury when the fire building collapsed. They were manning a line wetting down the ruins when the north wall collapsed. Their legs were pinned but they escaped without any injuries.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certifications 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 focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been bleeding and shock.

During Emergency Medical Calls the seriousness of their injuries and the duration of time that passes until their injuries are treated are key factors that will determine how quickly shock develops and how deeply into shock they will go.

The Danbury Fire Departments First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of shock and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impacts patient survivability. Thru rapid deployment and the use of Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support skills, firefighters can prevent organ failure, system failure and organism death.

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 an Emergency Medical call, this advanced life support training 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.

Lifestar Training

On Tuesday April 11, 2006 Chief Tierney and A-Group took advantage of a training opportunity held at Danbury Municipal Airport with our EMS provider BSI and Life Star helicopter ambulance to review landing protocols, safety procedures and patient "hot load protocols."

FCI crisis intervention team

On Thursday April 6, 2006 Chief Slagle and B-Group met with representatives of the FCI crisis intervention team. This "field trip" was an opportunity for the team to come to Fire Headquarters to introduce themselves and to find common ground where both agencies can assist each other, share expertise, resources and plan future training opportunities.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Communications Division

Activity Report -March 27, 2006 - April 23, 2006

Radio System

Work on the upgrade to the radio system is nearly completed. With the addition of the fixed site repeaters the department is now simul-casting transmissions on the older Low Band frequency and the UHF high band frequency. The advantage to this unique solution is that the use of mobile repeaters has decreased dramatically. Audio quality and interference issues that were daily concern have been mitigated. One distinct positive is that EMS crews have reported that the problems with radio traffic from areas of the Emergency Department have been resolved and that missed radio calls have not occurred.

A separate UHF frequency has been installed into the Communications Center and can be used for Incident Commanders at a separate simultaneous emergency.

The next phase will be to finish programming all department portables and volunteer portables issued by the city.

In addition to the equipment installed by the Fire Department, all portable radios will be programmed with the state licensed interoperability channels which will provide on scene communications capability through a common channel. These channels are allocated to the Department of Homeland Security and area direct result of research and funding following the

recommendations of DHS in response to communications problems suffered in the 9/11 attacks.

Mobile Data System

Mobile Data Software has been installed in all City EMS units. Early reports from EMS crews on this system are favorable. The ability to see dispatch information has reduced radio traffic and provided EMS responders with additional information during a response that was previously only available to Fire and Police units.

Fire Department PC's installed in apparatus are functioning however there are signs of aging in these 5 year old computers. Planning processes for replacement of these older units has begun.

Training

Training Officer Jim Thorne has submitted his pension papers. Jim has been a member of the Career Department for over 34 years. He was a member of Wooster Hose before becoming a career firefighter. Until his position is filled training has been continuing with each of the Company Officers carrying more of the ball. With the onset of vacation season all the crews are training fill-in drivers. This takes considerable time because not only do they have to know how to handle the trucks but they must know how to operate the pumps and know their first due areas. They must also be tested by the apparatus mechanic on the proper maintenance of the equipment.

Volunteer Quarterly training is being taken care of by the other certified instructors in the department. This quarters training will be on Haz-Mat. The classes will take place on the 7, 8, 21, and 22 of the month.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The generator on the ladder truck has failed once again; the unit will be removed and sent to Hartford to an authorized Onan Dealership for repairs at the end of this week. We have been in contact with Firematic, our Pierce dealer as to the progress of the modifications. We will keep you posted on the progress.

For the past several months we've been reporting that the Apparatus Division along with the assistance of the Communications Supervisor were conducting an inventory of portable radios and started the conditioning of portable radio batteries. This "conditioning" is vital to our firefighters safety by giving them the ability to communicate effectively while operating "on scene" by determining which batteries can effectively remain in service.

Through this testing, it has been determined that a large percentage of the original batteries have met their life expectancy. We have purchased new portable radio batteries and currently the Communications Supervisor is issuing them as required as well as reprogramming all of the department's portables.

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. BioSystems engineers have developed a permanent solution that will stop the problems we are currently having with static electricity. We are currently sending one meter at a time back to BioSystems for the update. This problem in no way affects the reliability of these gas meters.

All of the department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We still have one or two units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Some of the older units currently being used by our recruits at the Fire Academy have been problematic, but that is to be expected due to the nature of the training.

The 2006 Ford Expedition will be going to Economy Sign this Wednesday to be lettered. A requisition has been submitted to purchasing for the installation of equipment, emergency lighting, radios, MDT's, and portable radios.

The Division met with representatives from PlymoVent in order to get an estimate on the cost of a vehicle exhaust ventilation system here at Headquarters.

The Apparatus Division has coordinated the repair to bay 6 with Overhead Door of Brookfield. The final repair was completed on Wednesday

We have ordered two new ground ladders to replace the damaged ones on E 21 they should be arriving soon. We also have purchased two new Harrington large diameter gates; 6"X5" Stortz

Engine 21 had a sudden starter failure, we removed the starter and had it rebuilt and re installed. We took advantage of the unit being out of service and repaired several other items while it was here in the sick bay.

Truck 2 is giving us problems with an erroneous "low hydraulic oil" alarm. The truck is still in service and we are working with Pierce to find out if it is a computer issue.

Good of the Organization

- Six new recruits are doing well at the Fire Academy. Graduation is scheduled for May 17th.
- All the on duty Companies participated in Clean-up Danbury Day. They cleaned up the area around their buildings.
- The Danbury Fire Hockey Team defeated the Danbury Police Team on April 2nd. The monies raised will go to various charities.
- Capt. Keenan and Lt. Handau are actively working on Driver training addendum for driver skills.
- The members of the Department are starting a weight loss/body building challenge competition in house. Flyers are posted around the stations. It is set to start May 1st.
- All the Stations began their spring cleaning. At Hdqts. D Group raked, spread mulch and planted flowers around the flag pole.
- FF. Ken Altberg retire this month. Ken retired on a disability. He was an 18 year veteran of the Department.
- On the 21st several members of the Department attended the Salvation Army Breakfast at the Ethan Allen Inn.

- On the 27th the Staff of the Department will be the guests of the Mission Danbury breakfast which will be held at the Amber Room.
- On the evening of the 27th Lt. Randy Esposito will be honored by the Rotary Club of Danbury as the Firefighter of the Year. This year the event is being held at Cappellaro's in Bethel.
- We send our condolences to FF Mike Jewell whose mother passed away on the 23rd.
- The Deputy Chief met with representatives of the Morning Pride Company which manufactures our fire gear. We were able to air some of our concerns about quality control and timely delivery of gear.
- By this time next month we hope to be able to tell you that E-25 renovation is completed.
- FF Heather Anderson has returned to full duty after the birth of her son Daniel on Feb.10th. Heather had been on light duty assignment prior to the birth.

Dates of Importance

- Recruit Graduation - May 17th
- May 8th - Public Service Awards for 20 years veterans of Career Depts. At CCSU.
- 29th - Memorial Day

INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	31
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	3
Rescue/EMS	251
Hazardous Condition	35
Service Calls	38
Good Intent Calls	46
False Alarm/False Calls	85
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	0
No Report/Incomplete	8

Total Fire Calls..497.....

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	99
BLS Patient Calls	266
ALS EMS Calls	226
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	9
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	26

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 2257 with a daily average of 80.61 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	497
EMS Response calls.	593
Abandoned Calls	368
911 Hang Ups	594
Admin Calls Received	744
Cellular 911 Calls	1005

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 for Fire Response Breakdown, Company Response, Volunteer Company Call and Response Statistics, and EMS Transport Activity Statistics for the reporting period.

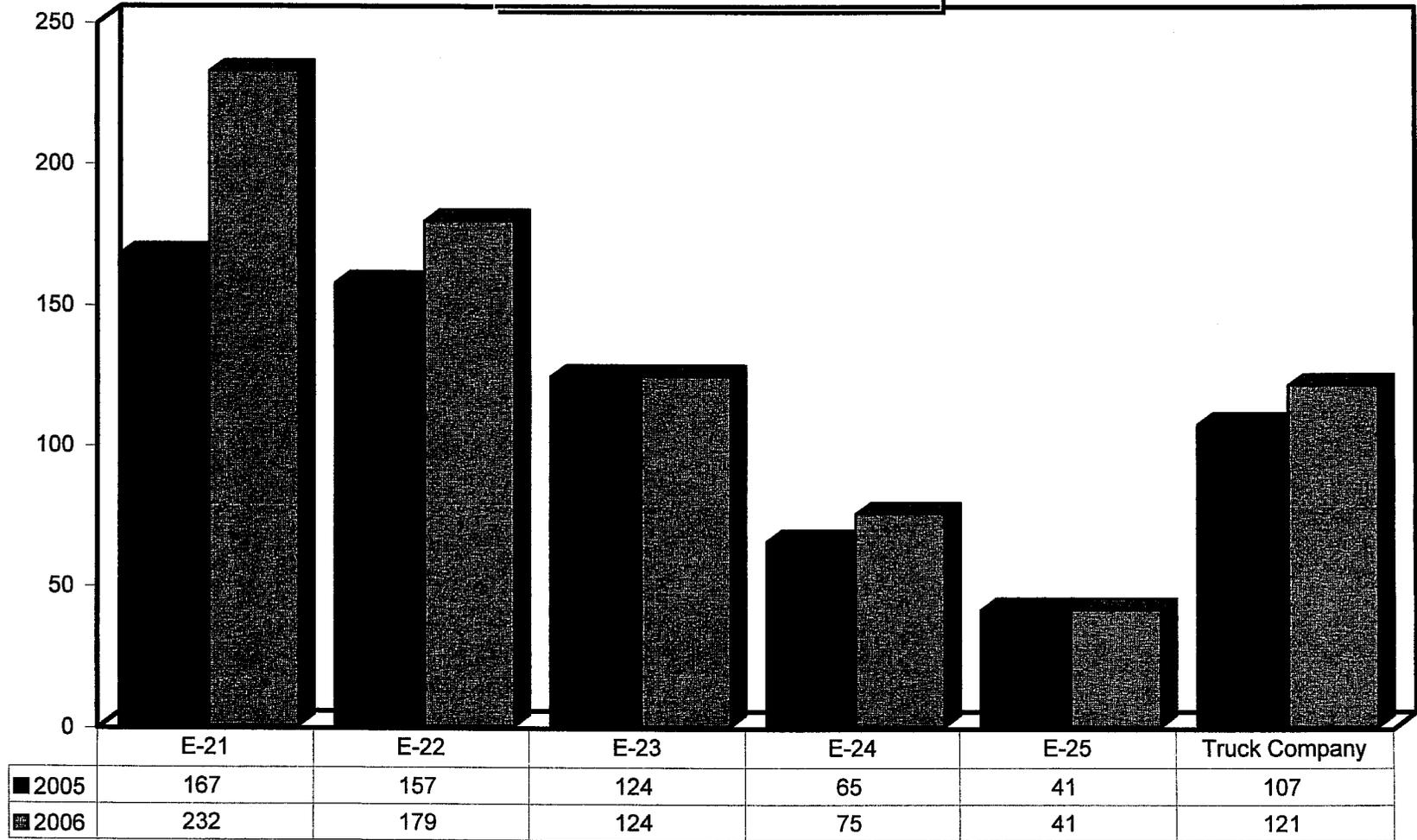
If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,



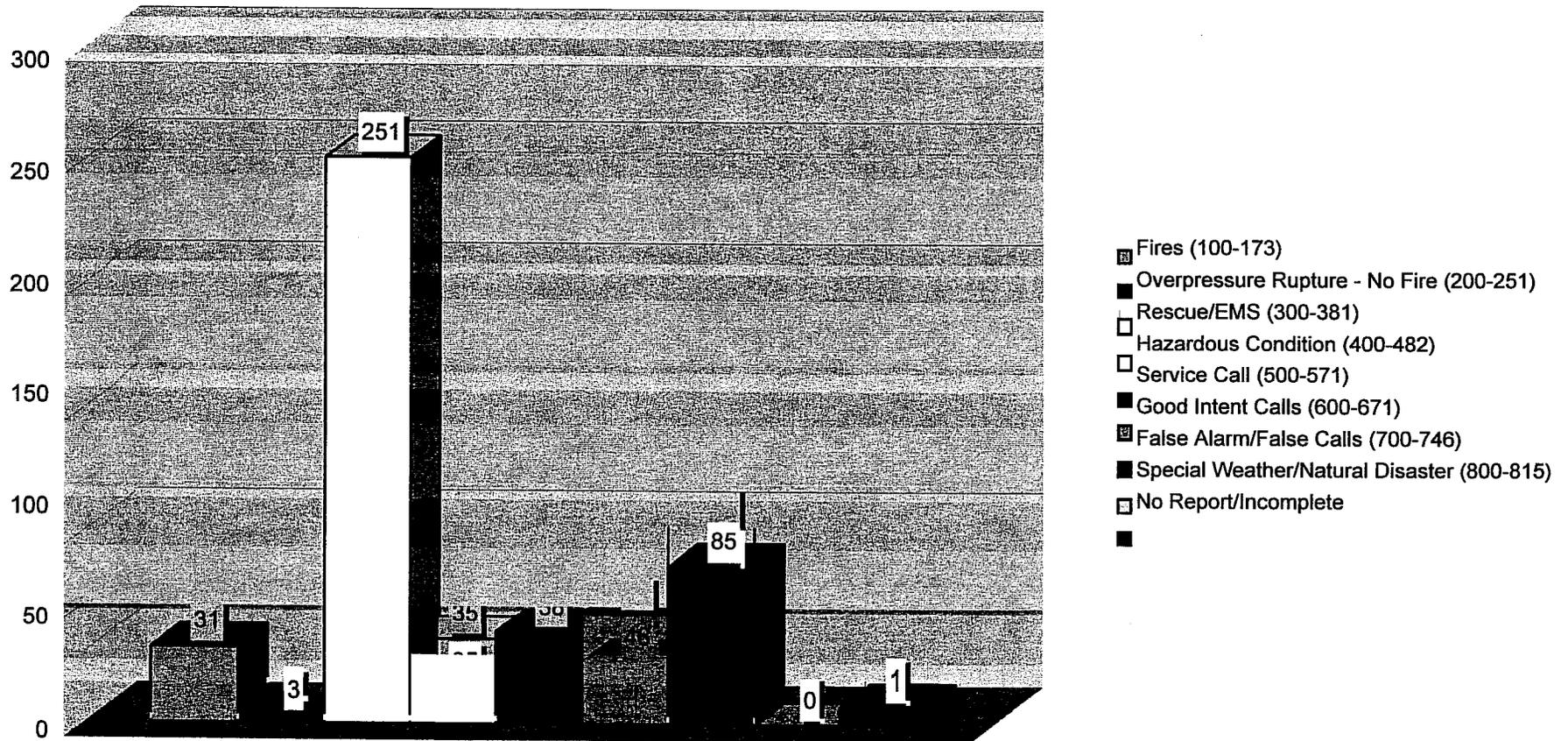
Peter J. Siecienski
Fire Chief

**Danbury Fire Department
April Company Response Statistics**

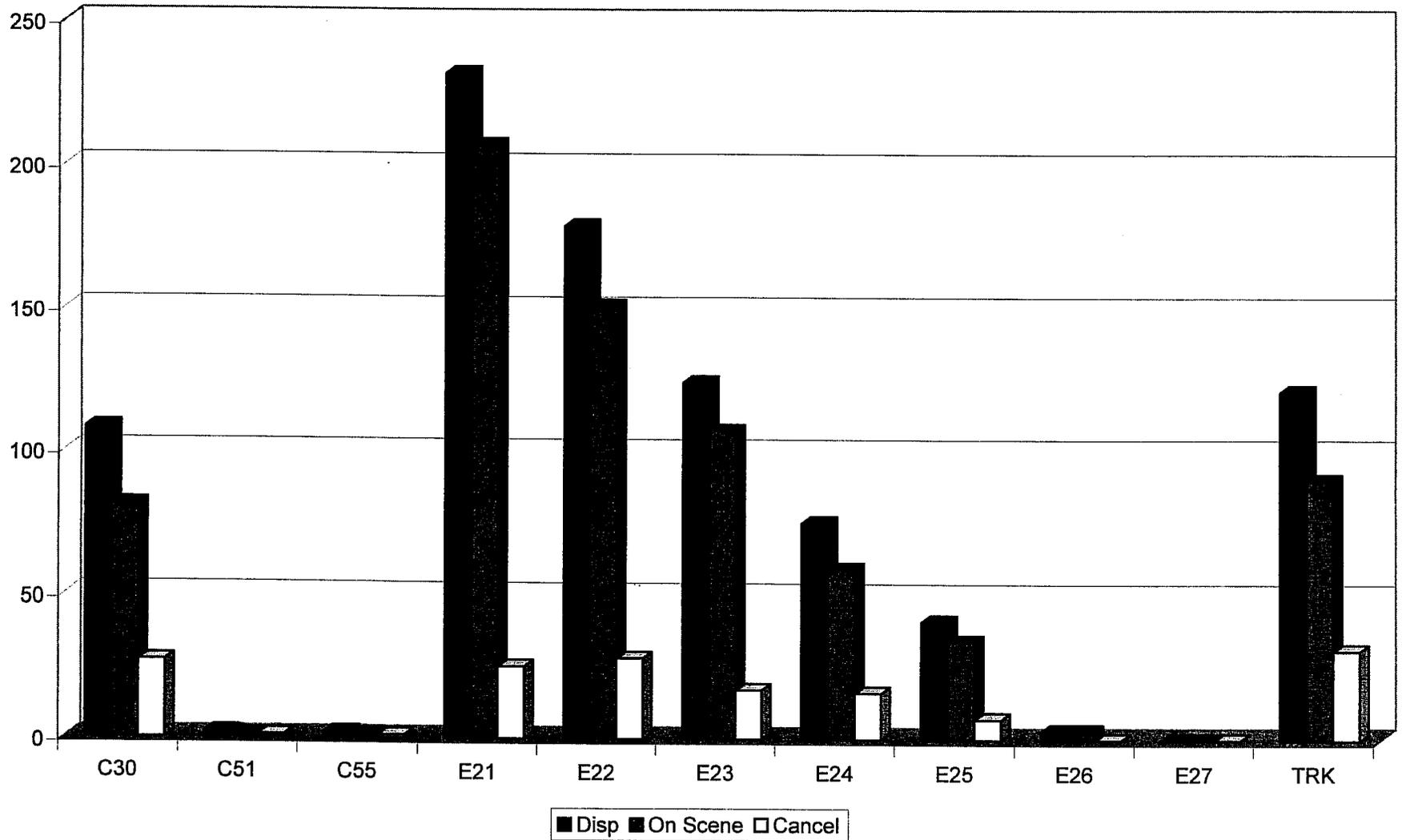


DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES						2006		
<i>April Response Statistics</i>								
	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% of Response		
E-3	33	0	2	1	32	9%		
E-4	15	0	1	0	15	7%		
E-5	46	0	2	8	32	22%		
S-6	11	0	1	4	6	45%		
S-7	88	1	3	27	57	35%		
E-8	6	0	0	2	4	33%		
E-9	55	3	5	3	44	20%		
E-10	40	2	4	14	20	50%		
E-11	35	3	2	9	21	40%		
E-12	27	2	2	6	17	37%		
E-13	22	1	0	7	14	36%		
E-14	16	2	1	5	8	50%		
Totals	394	14	23	86	270	31%		

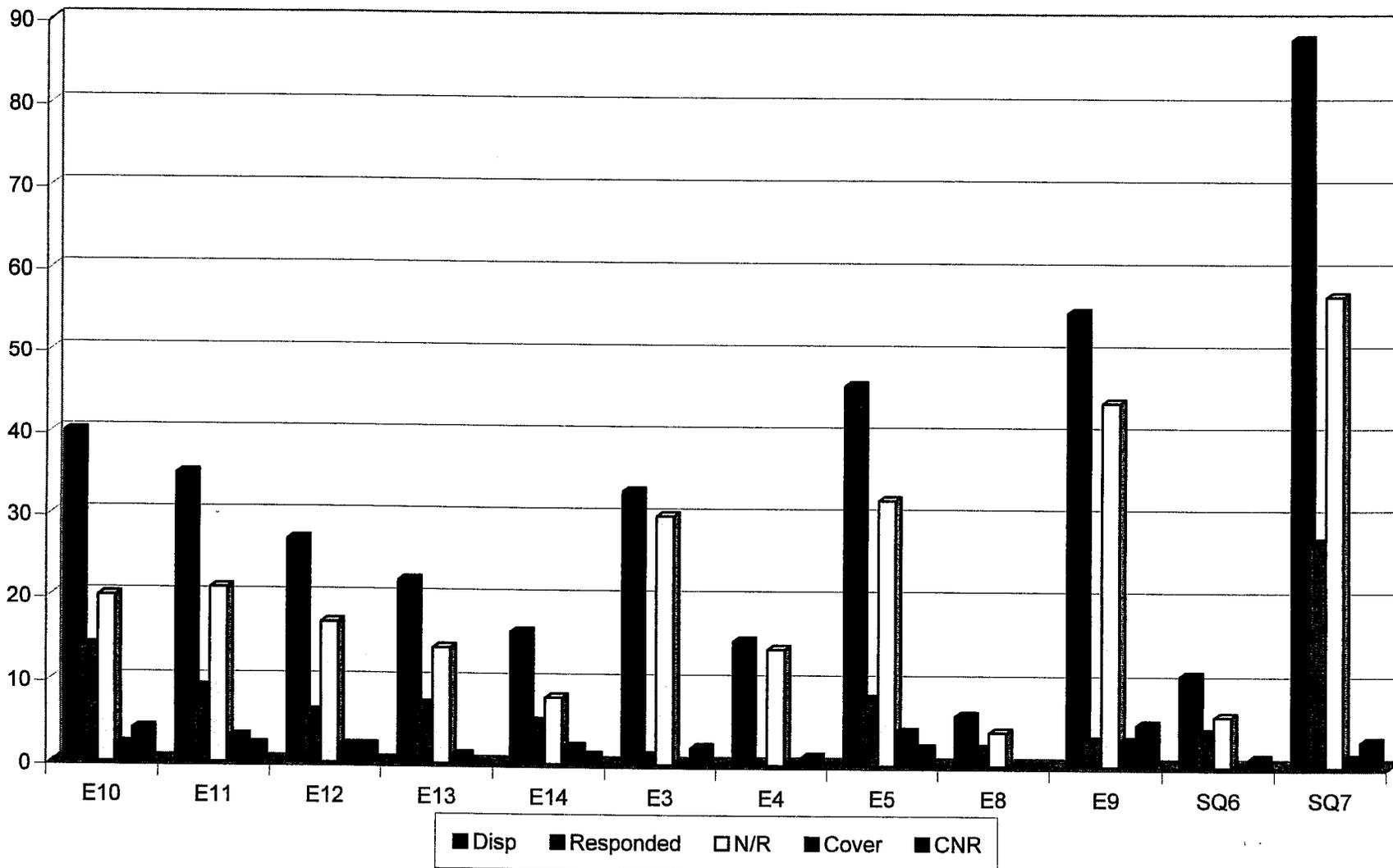
Fire Response Breakdown March 27, 2006 - April 23, 2006



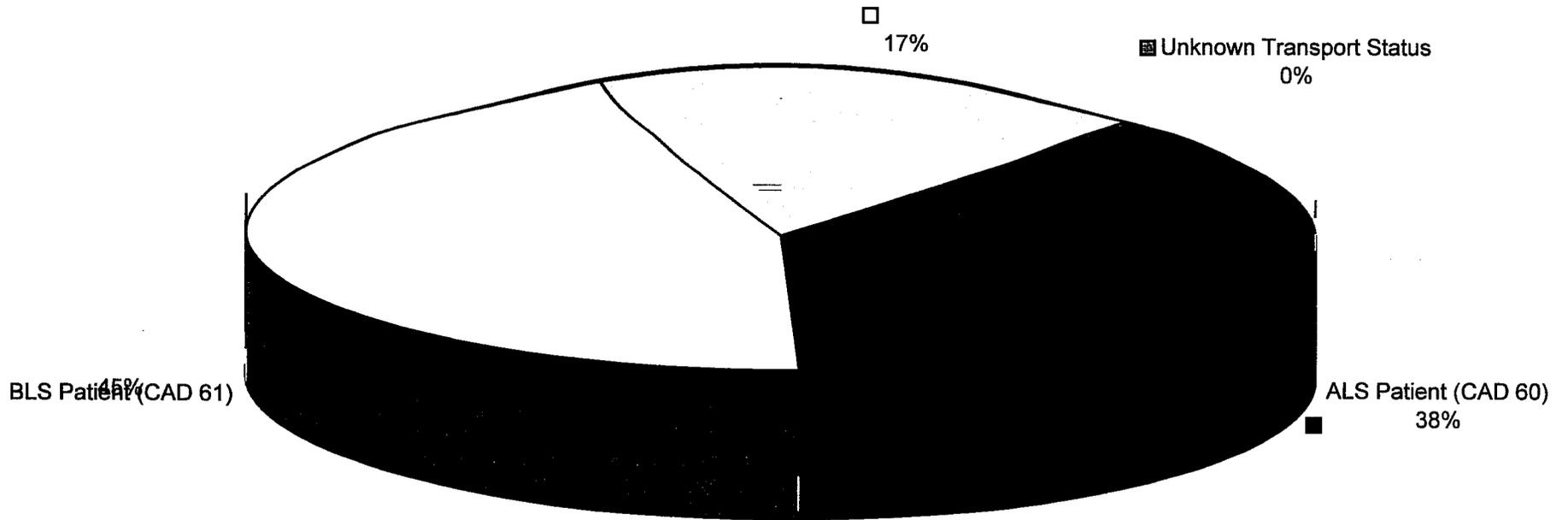
Career Company Response
March 27, 2006 - April 23, 2006



Volunteer Call Counts March 27, 2006 - April 23, 2006



EMS Transport Activity
March 27, 2006 - April 23, 2006



911 Center Activity March 27, 2006 - April 23, 2006

