

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

25 September 2007

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department; this report covers the period of 28 August 2007 through 25 September 2007 and details some of the activities of the Department.

This month has been a busy one for the department. With the anthrax investigation on Padanarum Rd. the Department deployed members of the Haz-Mat team for a technical decontamination of the State Police Special Unit Team. The team performed very well and we received many favorable reports from the attending State Police and FBI field representatives. As a result of this investigation, Padanarum Road was closed and traffic was rerouted around the incident. The city police were unable to provide the traffic officers for the 4 day long traffic detour. The volunteer Fire Police were asked to provide personnel to man the detour barricades and they provided 384 man hours of service to the City. Thank you to the members of the Fire Police Corps.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ❖ Pre-incident tours were conducted at 30 Crosby St, Westcon Pinny Hall, Centennial Hall, Grasso Hall, Henry Abbot Technical School, Sports Authority, Rivington Condo's, Sterling Woods Condo's and GE Capital. Glen Apts. Danbury Hospital Emergency Department, Police Headquarters, Ives Manor, Bluu Café.
- ❖ Lt. Kevin Plank provided the sole EMS presence for the AJGA golf tournament for four days as a volunteer.
- ❖ Engine Company 21 participated in the "Babies R' Us" baby fest on 8 September.
- ❖ On duty Companies participated in the Taste of Danbury on 8 and 9 September.
- ❖ The West Side Station, Engine Company 26 became operational on 11 September.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

- ❖ There were three major incidents of note. The first was an Anthrax incident at 69 Padanaram Rd., where we provided Technical Decon for the State Emergency Services Unit. The second was the hangar fire on Wibling Road. The third was the fatal fire in a residence on Rodline Drive.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS recertification 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 educate 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 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 and AED training for school personnel and the "File of Life" has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Regional Haz-Mat Drill

The Hazardous Materials Disaster drill held on Sept 23, 2007 in Litchfield demonstrated the Danbury Fire Departments commitment to the Regional Haz-Mat team and its ability to respond to and take a leadership position in a multi-agency catastrophic emergency response event that would test the resources of any community.

The drill which involved an unknown Hazardous Materials release in Litchfield and a Mass Casualty Incident which quickly overwhelmed the local resources and required a Regional response (Danbury, Waterbury, Torrington) and drew upon the resources of several emergency response agencies from surrounding communities served to demonstrate the ability of the agencies to work together under the command and control of one Incident Commander utilizing the National Incident Management System.

This drill is the regularly scheduled yearly regional drill designed to test preparedness, interoperability and the sharing of resources that that will serve to enhance our ability to respond to such events.

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL - Barry Rickert

I hereby submit my report as Fire Marshal of the City of Danbury Fire Department for the report period covering August 25, 2007 to and including September 20, 2007.

Abatements/Reports(hrs.)	54	INSPECTIONS:	
Tickets issued in Fire Lanes	2	Places of Assembly	47
Fire Investigations:	16	Educational	23
Fatal Fires:	0	Business	13
Liquor Inspections	12	Storage	1
Blasting Permits	0	Health care	1
Complaints	14	Industrial	0
Plan Review (hrs)	84	Mercantile	26
Fire Prevention Programs	12	Residential Board & Care	0
		Hotel (units)	397
		Apartments	383
		Day Care	4
		Misc. Inspections	120

TRAINING

All members of the Fire Prevention Bureau continue to update their training thereby providing a superior service to our community. This training is provided thru many sources including the State Fire Marshal's Office.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

National Night Out - CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) Preparedness

Fire Marshal Rickert and Engine Company 21: Presentation included a "live burn" fire extinguisher demonstration with the Crosby Manor CERT Team as lead presenters.

CERT Development: Chief Herald and Fire Marshal Rickert participated in a CERT night at Glen Apartments

Fire Marshal Rickert along with other State and Local Agencies participating in the kick-off of this new team.

Taste Of Danbury - September 8th and 9th. Danbury Green

Fire Safety Informational table and demonstration: Bureau participants were Fire Marshal Rickert

Deputy Marshal Gillotti, Deputy Marshal Weber, Deputy Marshal Wiedl and "Sparky" the Fire Truck Robot

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

The bureau received numerous complaints regarding blasting activities and illegal apartments.

Barry W. Rickert, Fire Marshal

Training Division - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division: Third Quarter Training started on August 26 and was completed on September 23. The primary goal of the drills was to practice providing a continuous water supply in non hydrant areas using a tanker shuttle system. Drills included draft pumping, attack line, and master stream work. All drills were conducted at Lake Kenosia.

83 Volunteers attended the drills. Vol. Dennis Ring from Eng 12 offered technical assistance and equipment at each drill.

A live burn was conducted at an acquired structure at 22 Kenosia Ave. on Sunday, Sept. 2. We were able to conduct interior fire suppression evolutions prior to working on defensive operations. This was a major training event that utilized 39 Volunteers (including 9 Fire Police) and 7 Career instructors. The drill's duration was 5 hours.

Training classes in Aug. /Sept.

Eight recruit FF's completed their 11 week (400 hours) training at the CT Fire Academy and graduated on September 7. After a couple of days of orientation

they were assigned to a crew and started their regular duties on September 11.

Five new recruits were hired and started their 14 week recruit training at the Academy on Sept. 10. (Recruit Training will now be 14 weeks, up from the original 11 week program)

R.I.T. Training

24 FF's (6 from each crew) received 2 days of rapid intervention training taught by CT Fire Academy Instructors. This was a physically demanding course designed to train firefighters on different techniques available to rescue a downed FF from a structure. The class was held at an acquired structure on Kenosia Ave. August 28 and 29.

Crews continue to utilize our Fire School for training evolutions including pump operator training for our Firefighters. Two firefighters were qualified as driver/pump operators.

The Naugatuck Community College three credit class "Introduction to Fire Technology" started on September 6 at Fire HQ and will run into December. There are 14 people in the class being taught by Adjunct Instructor Pete Siecienski. We are pleased to have the Degree program classes available here at Danbury. A special thanks to Councilman Duane Perkins from N.V.C.C. for his support of this project.

We have 16 individuals enrolled in the 40 hour CT Fire Academy class working towards their certification as Fire Service Instructor I. Because of the interest and large enrollment, we were able to host the class in Danbury. The class started on Sept. 7 and will end on Oct 1 with a test date of Oct 12.

The Hydrant testing program continues through the summer. To date approximately 80% of the city's 1,700 hydrants have been tested. Problem hydrants are identified by the Fire Dept. and then reported to the water department who schedule them for repair.

Incident Critiques were conducted for the structure fire at 1 Wibling Rd. and the Anthrax response to Padanaram Rd.

The Training Officer was called in as Safety Officer to structure fires at 1 Wibling Rd, 18 Highland Ave. and 6 Rodline Rd. We logged approximately 14,000 Training man hours from January 1, 2007 through Sept. 23, 2007. These hours include the Career division, recruit training, and the Volunteer Division.

Communications Division- Pat Sniffin

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0	
Coding	
Fires (100-173)	18
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	241
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	20
Service Call (500-571)	31
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	39
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	82
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1

No Report/Incomplete	11
Total Fire Responses	443
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2238
Abandoned 911 Calls	893
Cellular 911 Calls	867
911 Hang Up Calls	608
Admin Calls Received	812
Police Calls via 911	294
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	163
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	324
Daily Average	74.60
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	443
Total EMS Responses	586
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	230
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	251
No Patient (CAD 62)	105
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	4
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	5

**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Reports

Efforts of the communications Division were largely directed toward the opening of our new company and station, Engine 26. Redistricting of response territories was completed; computer lines and telephone lines were all installed and set up. In addition, the change over for the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) in the PSAP was completed. Due to the opening of the new station and the addition of the company, there will be some additional changes to the response districts over the coming weeks and months. Generally, the switch over to the new systems and districts has been seamless.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following is a partial list of some of the highlights and activities of the Apparatus Division for the month of September. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. E-21's meter has received a new battery pack and is back in service. We issued E-26 their new meter. All of the department's meters are fully functional.

The department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We still have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally they are repaired and returned to service. We have been sending about 7 or 8 bottles a week to Shipman's Fire Equipment for the required three year hydrostatic testing. To date we have sent 50 bottles out for testing, We have 10 left to test in this cycle and have rounded up 8 of

them as of today's date. We currently have four bottles that were condemned because they have reached the maximum service life of 15 years. We will need to look into purchasing some new bottles in the 08/09 budget year as this will be the last hydrostatic test these bottles will be able to have.

We have received the 4 new packs for E-26, they were assembled, tested and will be placed in service as soon as we have a chance to go over the new changes and updates with the Training Officer.

We had to send Truck 1's I.S.G. (Thermal Imaging Camera) out for repairs this month. We received the estimate and filled out a requisition and are awaiting a P.O. number so we can get this camera repaired.

We completed a major brake service on Truck-2. This included the replacement of all the brakes shoes, drums and all related hardware. We also performed a complete service on Truck 2's ladder. Later in the month we had a problem with the ladder not wanting to "rise" out of the body. With the help of Pierce Engineers we narrowed the problem down to the Ladder Voltage Regulator. After performing a service on this highly technical device the ladder performed as it should and was placed back in service.

This past month we spent the bulk of our time working to "Fit Out" E-26 this included mounting loose equipment, finalizing the installation of the communication systems, installation of the engines laptop.

E-24 was taken out of service this month due to a failing alternator. While it was in sick bay we also replaced a transmission oil line that was leaking and the engine fan belt tensioner.

Just prior to the Airport fire the 06 Expedition that is the Assistant Chiefs car was involved in a MVA on Main St. We have received three estimates and have sent the car to Putnam Automotive Group for repair.

We replaced the hydraulic lines for the Power Take Off unit on truck 1. E-21 went to Danbury Auto Spring to have both rear Torque Radius Arms replaced.

Dates of Interest:

14 October: 1000 hrs Memorial Mass, Dedication of Halas-Melody Memorial
Halas-Melody Station, Annual Fire Department Awards 210 Osborne St.

**Fire Chief
Geoffrey Herald**