



# CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department  
19 New Street

Geoffrey R. Herald, Chief  
(203)796-1550  
Fax (203) 796-1533

## FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

**30 October 2007**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department; this report covers the period of 25 September 2007 through 30 October 2007 and details some of the activities of the Department.

This month has been another busy one for the department. There have been activities related to Fire Prevention Month, the dedication of the Memorial to Lt Melody and Firefighter Halas, a number of responses and a significant number of training classes.

The department has begun the focused safety training of all members with the State taught Emergency Vehicles Operations Courses (EVOC). These classes were being scheduled prior to the horrible accident in Waterbury last spring. That fatal accident, involving two fire apparatus responding to an incident, serve to remind all Fire Service members of the hazards of emergency response and point out the need for continued training and vigilance.

The EVOC is designed to teach emergency vehicle operators safe practices in responding to emergencies as well as general road operations. There are two specific courses being taught to our members, one that focuses on operators and a second course delivered to officers instructing them on their responsibilities and requirements for the safe operation of Fire Trucks and other emergency vehicles. These classes are being presented a number of times and all department members, career and volunteer are required to attend.

The Department is undergoing a very significant change with the tremendous number of new personnel. With the opening of our new West Side Station Engine 26 and an unusually high number of recent retirements, currently over 47% of our firefighters have 3 years or less experience on the Department.

**Average years of service for the department.....11.42**

**Average years of service for the rank of FF..... 6.63**

**28% of the department has less than 3 years service**

**47% of the FF's have less than 3 years service**

This has presented our department with a unique opportunity. In order to bring the new hires up to proper OSHA and Department compliance, we need to

**train these new hires in a large number of skills. Each new Firefighter must be taught Rope Rescue skills, below grade Trench Rescue and Confined Space skills, Vehicle Extrication, Hazardous Materials Operations and a host of skills related to Fire suppression.**

**We here in Danbury are very fortunate in that the city sends each newly hired Firefighter to the Connecticut State Fire Academy in Windsor Locks for Firefighter Basic Training. This Academy is one of the premier such training facilities in the nation. The basic course is a fourteen week session. This training provides the recruit with a core of knowledge of suppression, rescue, safety and hazardous material response. When they return to the city, we must begin their advanced training. Most of this training is accomplished on the company or crew level. However, even with this training in house, there are a significant number of classes and training programs that occur with outside agencies either due to the specialized nature of the course or the need for certification.**

**These training requirements, such as Firefighter Safety and Survival, Strategy and Tactics, Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT), Trench Rescue, National Incident Management System (NIMS), Confined Space, EVOC and several others are taught through the State or other provider which then issues certification for the training. Because these programs require intensive class room and practical skills, they are taught off duty so to provide full attention to the training and to not split up the class with responses.**

**An additional need that has arisen due to the high number of retirements and promotions is the need to train new drivers and apparatus operators. In June I applied for a grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants for this training. Pump Operators courses, Aerial Operators courses and EVOC would all be paid for from this grant if it is received. To date, we have not received the grant. Unfortunately, we can not wait to start this training. Therefore, the EVOC classes have begun this fall.**

**The Department Training Officer, Mark Omasta, has worked very diligently to provide for the proper training of the department. To this end we have used the last several months to bring in a number of these classes as "seed" classes. These programs are presented to certain members of the crews who will then bring that training back to the crew. This program will ensure the greatest possible range of training. Even so, there are a number of classes that all members will need to receive in the coming months.**

**Because of the need for advanced presentations that can not be done through our personnel, the department is approaching a critical point in our training of recently hired firefighters and newly promoted officers. This need is acute and will require much of the department in the way of creative ways to acquire the training. We will be making much use of the reopened Fire School on Plumtrees Road and we will be in the community at various structures and facilities. Rope Rescue training, Confined Space and other classes are some of these advanced programs we will need to bring to the Department in the near**

**future. With your continued support, the Department will continue to provide the high level of capability and service the Citizens of Danbury have come to expect.**

**Respectfully,  
Geoffrey Herald, Chief**

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

- ❖ Pre-incident planning of the month included the following: Danbury Airport-fixed base operators, WCSU Westside student center, Brookview Commons on Crosby St., Peacock Alley, 30 Crosby St., The Reserve, Corporate Center, 39 Old Ridgebury Rd, 46 White St., 163 south St. (South Gate Condos), St. James Church, ACE on Locust Ave., Westwood Village, Lake Waubeeka, the Magnet School, the O'Neill Center, Timber Oak Condos and Paul Mitchell Studio, FCI, Peck Rd. Water Treatment Plant, Rivington Condo's, Library Place Parking Garage.
- ❖ On 10 October Engine Company 21 conducted a fire prevention presentation Street for the residents of 400 Main Street
- ❖ On 21 October E21 attended the JDRF (Diabetes fund raiser) at the Halas Farm Market. E21 was on display for all to look through and explore.
- ❖ On 26 Oct. Lt. Miguel, E25 and Firefighter Joseph Halas (off Duty) presented a tour and fire prevention talk for the Pre-K program at Mill Ridge School.
- ❖ Lt. Lounsbury, with help of members from A, B, C, and D group, has developed and installed a prototype fire extinguisher filling station. This device will provide a more efficient and accurate method of filling the departments 2-1/2 gallon water can fire extinguishers.
- ❖ A tour at Headquarters was provided for 60 school children from Roberts Ave. School, 60 Danbury High School students and 20 WCSU Day Care students.
- ❖ A tour of Engine Company Station 25 was presented 20 second graders from Immanuel Lutheran School.
- ❖ E24 crew presented a Fire Prevention session at Park Ave. School for 180 students from kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.
- ❖ Lt. Daly also gave Fire Prevention/ "Character traits of a firefighter" talk at Pembroke School to 60 third graders.
- ❖ On 14 October at Station 23 on Osborne St. the Memorial for Butch Melody and Joe Halas was dedicated. The Department also held our annual awards ceremony. Many have commented, both with in and outside the Department that it was well presented and worthy of the purpose. The Memorial is certainly a fitting tribute to the individuals for which it was presented. The memorial will remind future generations of firefighters and visitors of their

sacrifices. All involved should be proud of the results. Please stop by and see the memorial.

- ❖ FF. Sean Delohery was selected as Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year. The award was presented at a ceremony at Anthony's Lake Club. Congratulations to Sean and thank you to the Exchange club for their recognition and in honoring our Firefighters.

## **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE**

- ❖ A building explosion with resulting fire occurred on Payne Road. At this fire, Lieutenant Robert Blantin experienced difficulty breathing and was transported to the hospital. It was determined that he had suffered a "minor" heart attack. He is home and we all wish him a speedy recovery.
- ❖ A fatal residential fire occurred 22 Sept. 2007 on Rodline Dr.
- ❖ Mutual aide response to a fatal motor vehicle accident and extrication on I-84 in Bethel on 14 Oct., 2007.
- ❖ On 21 Oct., 2007 units responded to a one car accident just past exit 7 I-84 eastbound. The car ran off the road and down an embankment 50-60 feet below the road. The car could not be seen from the road. Engines 21, 22, Truck 1 and Car 30 responded. A rope raise system was set up to get two patients up to the ambulances. Fire department personnel drove the ambulances to the ED.
- ❖ A lightning strike during severe weather damaged a residence on Moody La. The house was struck at one corner, opening up the siding and sheathing about 8". A dining room circuit was damaged with some structural charring which was doused by the homeowner. The breaker for that circuit was split and destroyed at the main panel.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez**

**EMS Wednesday:** CPR for the Professional Rescuer training is slated for Nov & Dec. Our goal is 100% compliance.

**Haz-Mat Ops & Mark I Training:** Starting Nov 1, Thursdays will be set aside for Haz-Mat training.

### **Region 5 and State Assets:**

The Danbury Fire Department due to its strategic location and the multi-faceted abilities of its personnel has been designated as a key deployment site for regional assets provided and maintained by the State of Connecticut.

*Region Five Haz-Mat:* The Regional Haz-Mat team which is divided in to three battalions is lead by Danbury, Waterbury and Torrington Fire Departments and supported by area volunteer fire departments. Response vehicles are at 90% deployment capacity in regards to equipment, with the target date of being on line December 1, 2007.

*State Mass Casualty Trailer:* EMS Supervisor Rodriguez participated with BSI employees Reed and Rice and in the stocking of the mass casualty trailers at Brainerd Field in Hartford. The trailers have been stocked with BLS and ALS emergency medical supplies and will be outfitted with a "stocks box" which is the cross brand radio frequency enabler. The trailers are now receiving the final mechanical inspection and are scheduled to be deployed October 23, 2007.

*DeconTrailer:* The State has awarded the contract for the maintenance of the Mass Decon trailers to Nichols Fire Apparatus. Inspections and repairs will be scheduled accordingly.

*Stocks Boxes:* DHEMS has ordered one hundred of the cross band radio frequency repeaters. The determination on where and what agencies receives a cross band repeater will be done by application. Notification of the application process will be sent out shortly.

*Prime Mover.* The primer mover is under a 10 year guarantee but needs to be inspected by Pierce yearly to maintain that warranty

## OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL – Barry Rickert

Abatements/Reports (hrs.)	69
Tickets issued in Fire Lanes	8
Fire Investigations	16
Fatal Fires	1
Liquor Inspections	14
Blasting Permits	2
Complaints	12
Plan Review (hrs.)	102
Fire Prevention Programs	61

<b>INSPECTIONS:</b>	
Places of Assembly	46
Educational	8
Business	12
Storage	1
Health Care	2
Industrial	1
Mercantile	22
Residential Board & Care	2
Hotel (units)	18
Apartments	92
Day Care	6
Misc. Inspections	51

**TRAINING:** All members of the Fire Prevention Bureau continue to receive diversified training. This training is provided thru many sources including the State Fire Marshals' Office.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Danbury Public and Parochial Schools.

All personnel participated in the delivery of detailed fire prevention and safety information which included handouts and video presentations (28 Schools).

Danbury Ice Arena: Fire safety program with video and roundtable discussion including information for fire extinguisher use and evacuation plans presented by Fire Marshal Rickert and Deputy Marshal Wiedl.

Danbury Hospital: Medical Town Meeting

"JUST IN CASE: EMERGENCY INCIDENT & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS".

Presented by Fire Marshal Rickert

Union Savings Bank: Health & Safety Fair

Halloween on the Green: Safety Presentation by Deputy Marshals Rao, Wiedl, and "Sparky"

**MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:** Numerous complaints regarding blasting activities and illegal apartments

## **Training Division - Mark Omasta**

The continuing skyrocketing rates of emergency vehicle fatalities and serious injuries clearly illustrates the fact that Fire Departments need to get back to the basics with regard to training our drivers. With this serious issue in mind, our Department will train all of our personnel, Career and Volunteer, with the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). EVOC is a system of interlocking areas of responsibilities that extend from the driver's seat to the officer's seat all the way to the Chief of the Department. Our first 8 hour class was held Sunday Oct. 21, for the Volunteer division, with 37 volunteers attending. Our goal is to have all personnel attend the training within the next year.

Fourth quarter training for the Volunteer division is scheduled in November and December. We will be doing our OSHA mandated "Live" burn training.

### **Training: Career**

In an attempt to make the most out of our contract mandated 8 hours of training, we opted to offer a variety of training opportunities that, in essence, would cover multiple topics and be job focused.

August 28, 29- R.I.T.: 24 members attended the training at an acquired structure at 22 Kenosia Ave.

Oct 3 Live Burn, Westover AFB: 12 members attended (FAA required)

Oct. 6, 7 - Strategy/Tactics: 15 members attended

Oct. 17, 18 - Safety and Survival: 24 members attended at our Training Facility on Plumtrees Road.

Nov. 8 E.V.O.C 8 hr class scheduled @ Miry Brook Fire Dept.

**Apparatus Drivers:** The Career division is losing many qualified drivers to retirement and/or promotion. Company Officers have been working diligently with their Firefighters to help prepare them to become responsible drivers and pump operators. Three

Firefighters successfully completed the required training and were cleared as pump operators this past Month.

FAA issues: The training requirements for ARFF (Airport Rescue Firefighters) became more stringent since 2003/04. ARFF FF's need to cover 12 training topics on an annual basis, including a live burn at a certified facility. We have been training the E26 crews on Airport and Aircraft Familiarization, and Communication with the Tower and the Airport Emergency Plan. The twelve Firefighters assigned to Engine 26 participated in the required Live Burn training at the Westover Air Force Base on October 3.

Fire Instructor I: Congratulations to the 16 Individuals who successfully completed the 48 hour Fire Instructor Course on Oct. 12 and are now certified Fire Instructors. Note that the majority of training occurs at the company level. These new instructors will be at the heart of the training for the department.

The Training Officer attended the following classes:

Sept. 28 Hydrogen Vehicle Briefing @ GM training facility in Ardsley NY

Sept. 29 Train the trainer 8 hr class from the CT Instructors Assoc. at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

Oct 9 OSHA injury recording documentation @Windsor CT

Oct 12 Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) seminar @ CFA

Confined Space Training: The department continues its OSHA mandated Confined space training with drills at the FCI pump station on Barnum Road. Crews are using ropes and other hauling systems to bring a simulated victim out of the confined space.

College Credits: The Naugatuck Valley Community College course "Intro to Fire Tech" continues at Headquarters and runs until late December. We expect to offer another class for the Spring Semester.

Recruits: Our five new recruits are working hard at the Fire Academy. They are halfway through the 14 week Recruit class which ends on 20 December, 2007.

## **Communications Division- Pat Sniffin**

A change in the interface for the HTE Public Safety applications has been installed and is in the test phase. The Naviline interface provides a window based application to access critical data and complete reports. This application has a more user friendly appearance and provides some functionality not currently available; such as spell checking and word-wrap for reports. All users will begin to be trained in this application during the first weeks of November.

The Electronic Field Study program from Pictometry Corp is currently being installed on select Fire Department laptops. The program presents a view of parcels from 5 different views. Unlike the Assessor's Office who may use this program to generate additional revenue, the Fire Department staff will be testing the possibility of using this program during incident responses to get an 'eye-in-the-sky' view, so to speak. Having these top down photographs readily accessible the Incident commander will be able to make critical decisions about firefighting tactics based on actual building

photographs. This is being viewed as a tremendous tool to augment health and safety on the fire ground or in the pre-fire planning.

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>23</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>2</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>328</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>40</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>56</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>36</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>114</b>
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>1</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>3</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>621</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>3175</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>458</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>1358</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	<b>808</b>
Admin Calls Received	<b>1063</b>
Police Calls via 911	<b>426</b>
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	<b>211</b>
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	<b>358</b>
Daily Average	<b>93.38</b>
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	<b>621</b>
Total EMS Responses	<b>759</b>
Unknown Transport Status	<b>0</b>
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	<b>325</b>
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	<b>294</b>
No Patient (CAD 62)	<b>140</b>
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	<b>2</b>
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	<b>10</b>

**\*\* NOTE \*\***

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

**Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo**

The following notes some of the highlights and activities of the Apparatus Division. 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 10 or more bottles a week to Shipman's Fire Equipment for the required three year hydrostatic testing. To date we have sent 60 bottles out for testing, we have 1 bottle left to test in this cycle. We 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.

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.

We have been functioning as the "site managers" of the fuel tank replacement project here at Headquarters. We are happy to report that we are now able to dispense gasoline here at Headquarters.

We have received the 4 new packs for E-26; they were assembled, tested and placed in service after a training session with the Training Officer.

We completed a major brake service on Truck -1 and 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. Last month we had a problem with the ladder not wanting to "raise" 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.

We have completed our Fit Testing program for the Career Department for the 07-08 year. This program is vital for the health and safety of our Firefighters, and is an O.S.H.A. requirement. We have forwarded a complete report to your office for review. We started fit testing the Volunteer Division. We have completed E-3 and are in the process of acquiring an adapter to test E-14 (MSA's) these are the only two companies that have been in contact with us so far.

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 sent the car to Putnam Automotive Group for repair and it is now back in service.

We replaced the hydraulic lines for the Power Take Off unit on Truck 1. E-21 went to Danbury Auto Spring to have both Torque Radius Arms replaced. E-23 had a hole in the top of the fuel tank. We have replaced the tank and are currently working on starting problems.

Truck-1 was involved in an accident with a tree. The heat shield on the platform was damaged. We ordered a new shield and replaced the damaged one.

We replaced the high side compartment door on E-21 that was removed when the engine left the bay with it in the open position. We put the "borrowed door" back on the reserve unit. We also repaired the scene lights that were removed by driving through the partially opened bay door and we are awaiting the two new rear rotators that were also damaged in the same accident.

We have a new overhead lube system here in bay 12. As soon as we have time to complete the installation we will be going over its general operation with the Training Officer so that he can bring everyone up to speed on its proper operation.

We sent a team to Wisconsin to inspect the Multi Purpose Truck (Squad-1). Squad-1 has arrived here at Headquarters this week and has been stationed at E-26's. Some of the equipment that we have already acquired for this unit has been sent to E-26 for "staging and lay-out" of this new unit. We will be heavily involved in the "fitting out" of this new unit over the next several months.

We have continued to acquire supplies for hydrant testing as needed.

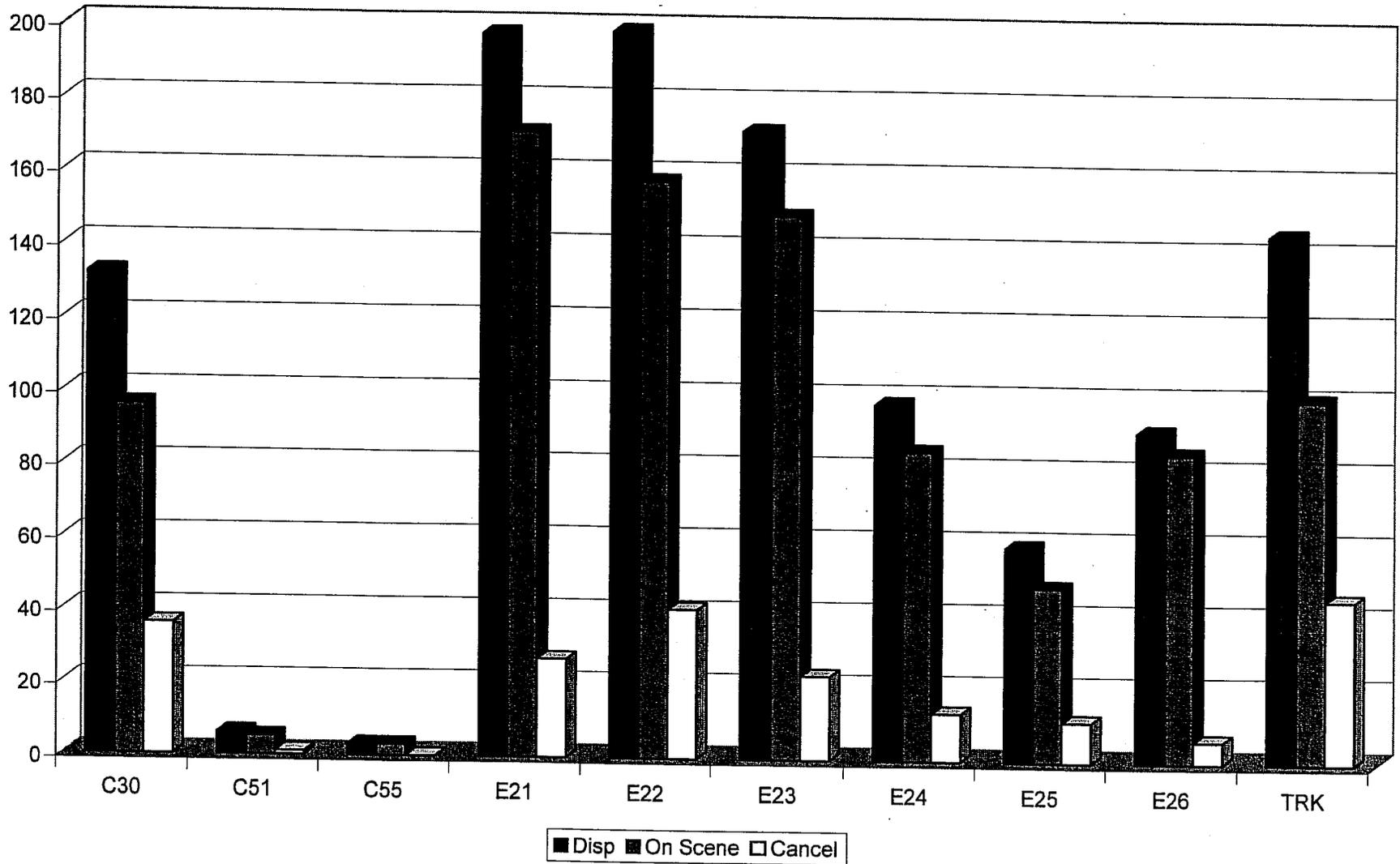
We are very concerned about our 07/08 budget. To date we have spent approximately 63% of our monies in the course of our daily operations. We have had some unexpected repairs and damage to our apparatus that have caused us to purchase parts and services as required. We will be closely monitoring our needs over the next several months and will make every attempt to control our purchasing to the best of our ability. If things keep going as they are we will need a transfer of money before June 30, 2008 in order to keep our fleet operational.

### **Dates of Interest:**

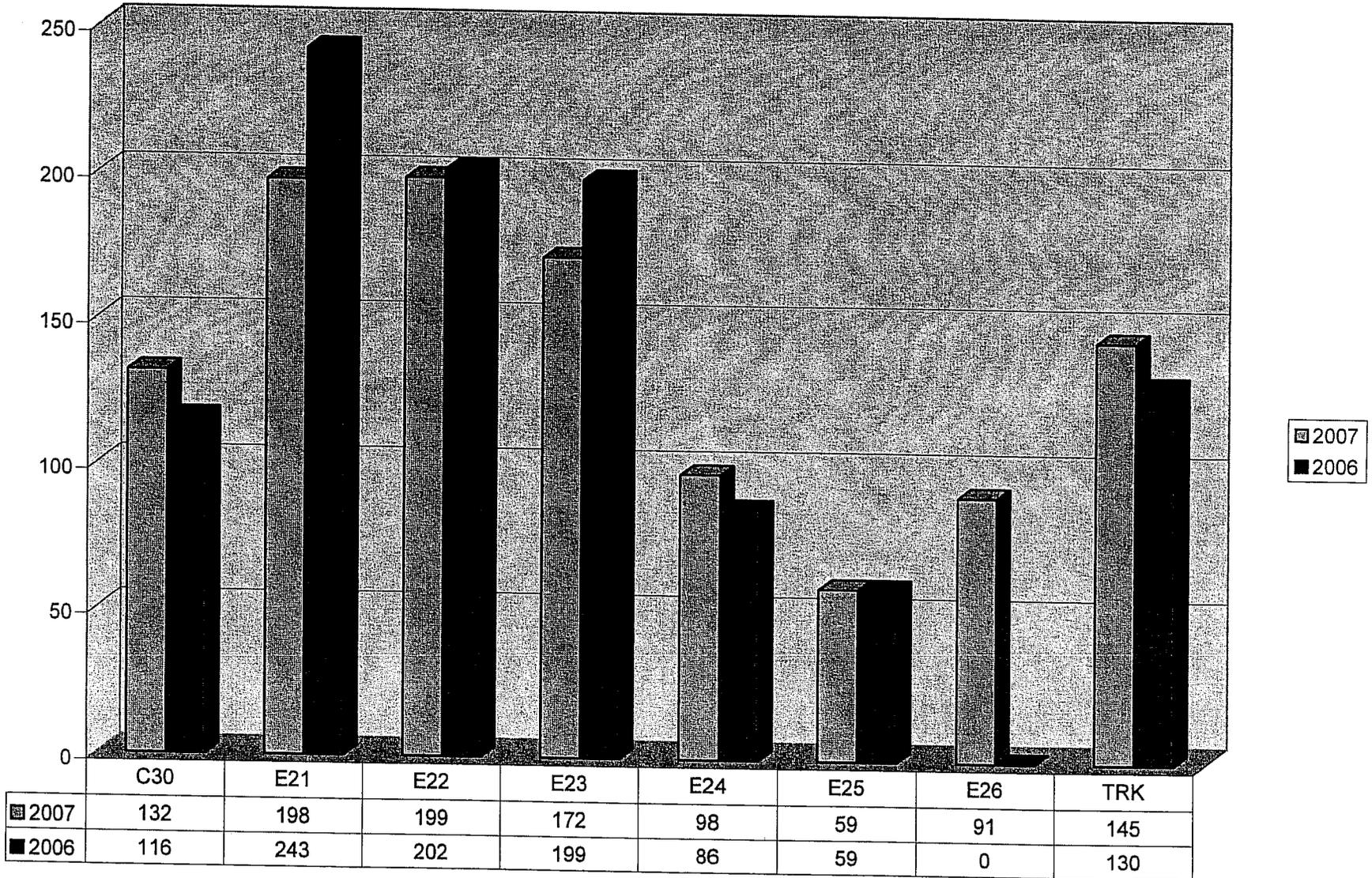
**9 November 1100 hrs. Swearing in of four Lieutenants.**

**Fire Chief  
Geoffrey Herald**

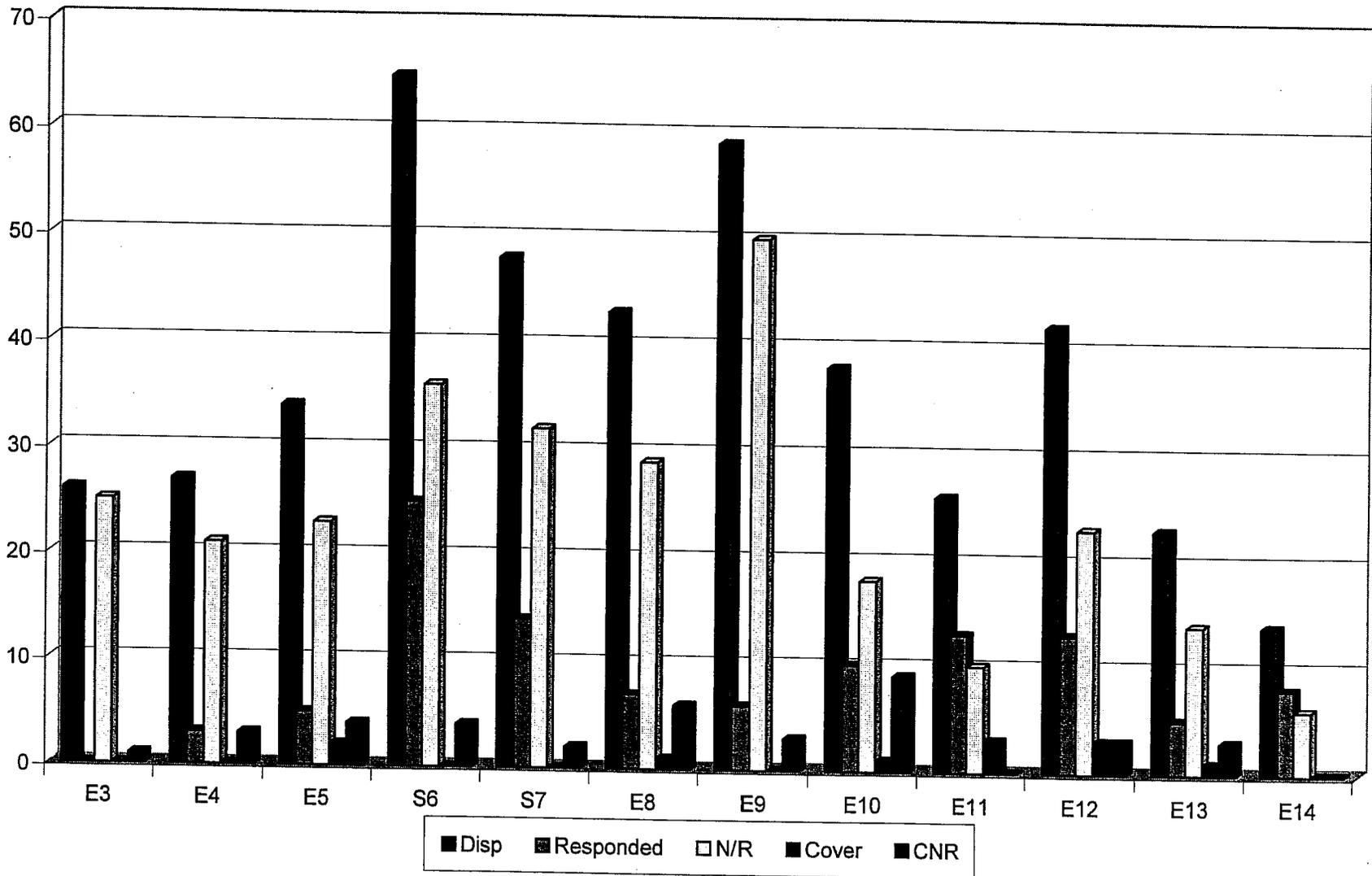
### Career Company Response September 21 to October 25, 2007



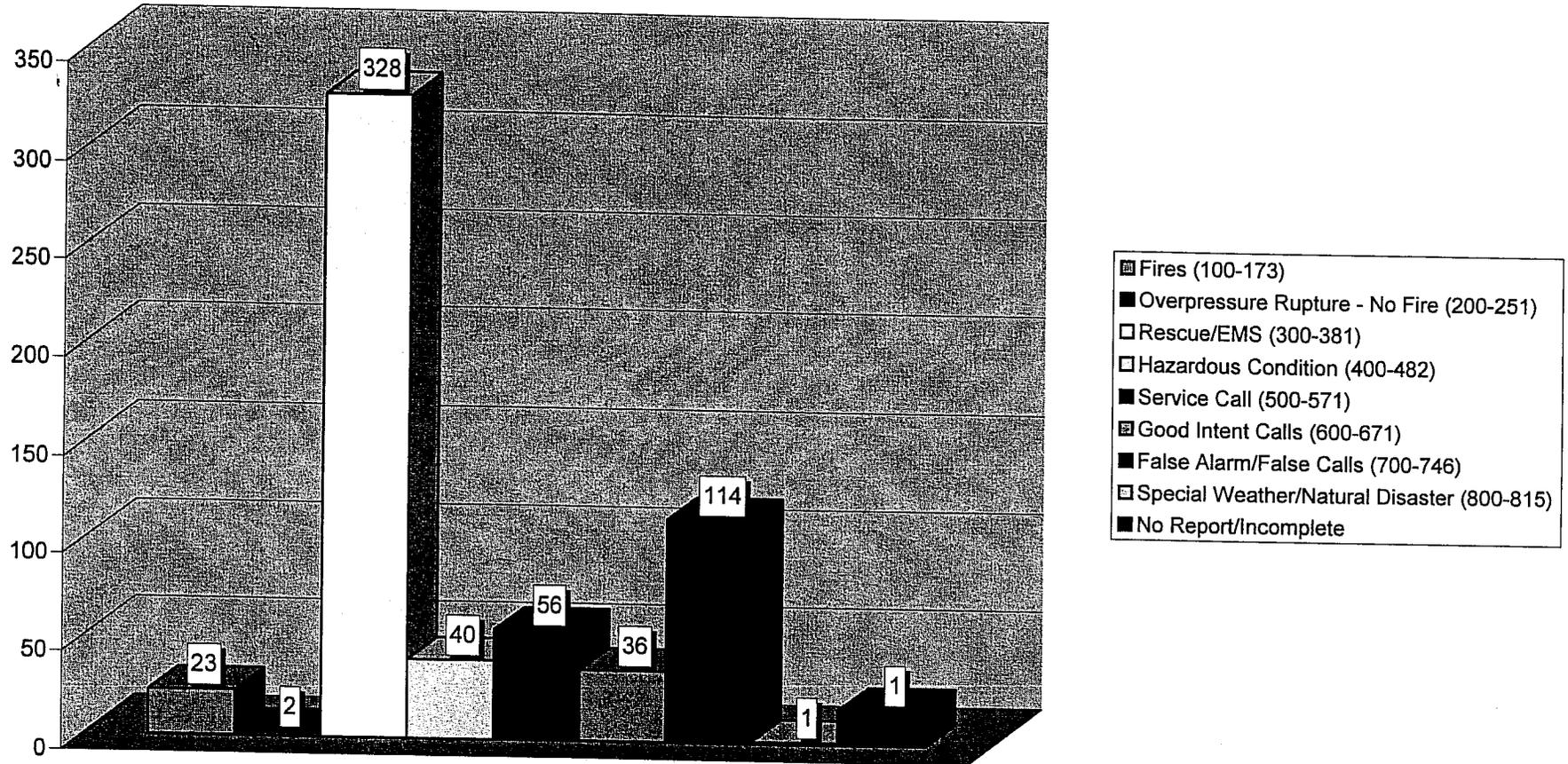
### Career Response Comparison for October



## Volunteer Call Counts September 21 to October 25, 2007

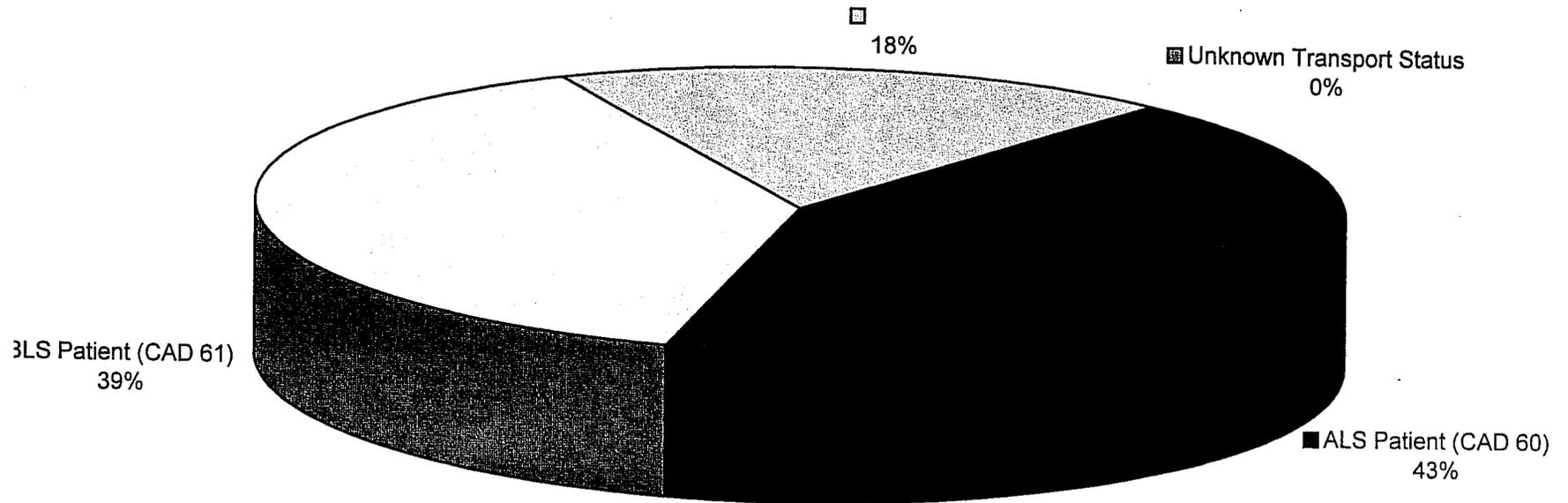


## Fire Response Breakdown September 21 to October 25, 2007

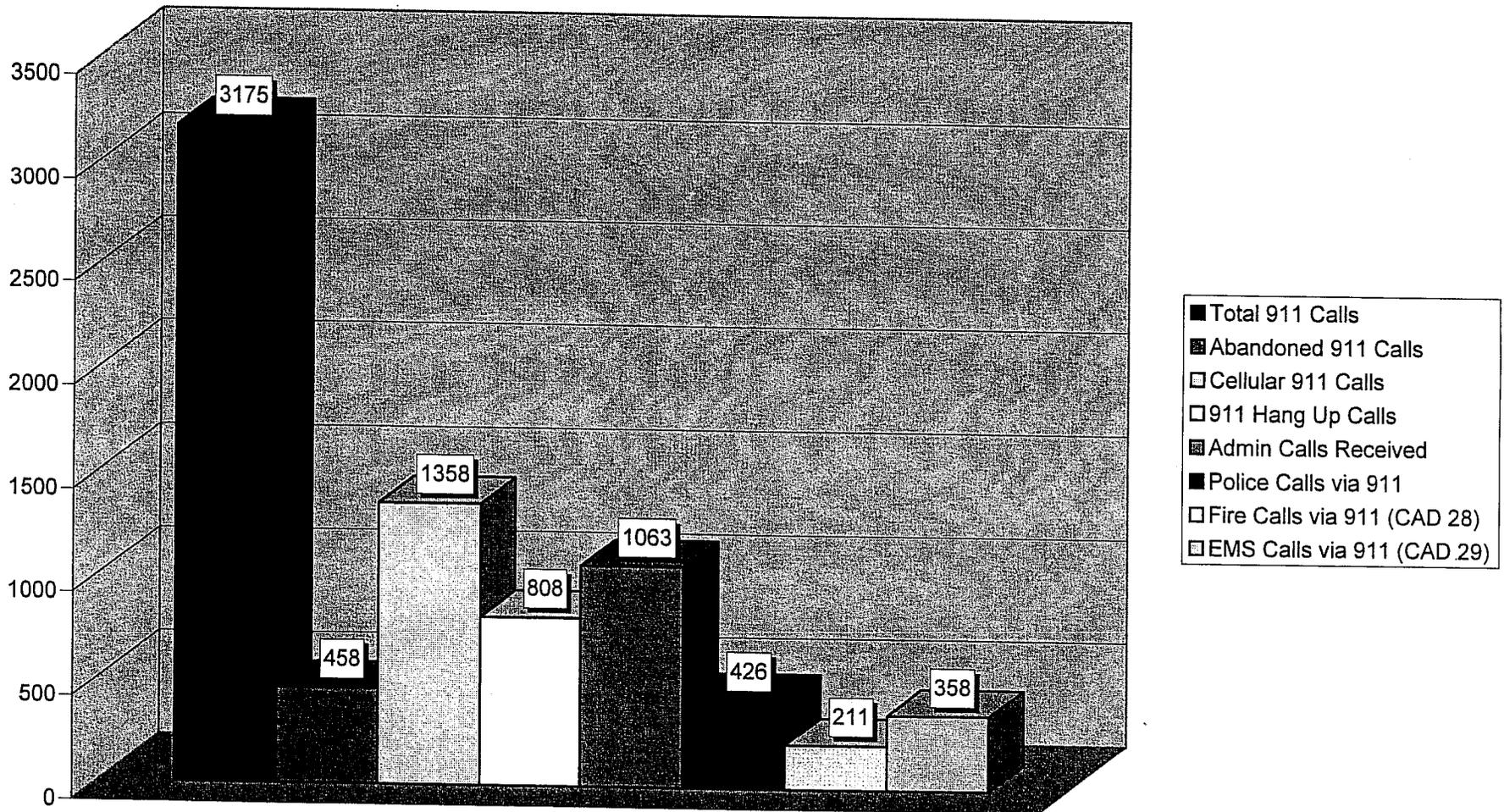


\*Volunteer Reports from the Nor'Easter are still being compiled and entered.

# EMS Transport Activity September 21 to October 25, 2007



## 911 Center Activity September 21 to October 25, 2007



**DANBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
*OCTOBER RESPONSE STATISTICS*

	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Cover</b>	<b>Canceled</b>	<b>Response Total</b>	<b>No Response Total</b>	<b>% of Response</b>
<b>E-3</b>	26	0	1	0	25	4%
<b>E-4</b>	27	0	3	3	21	22%
<b>E-5</b>	34	2	4	5	23	32%
<b>S-6</b>	65	0	4	25	36	45%
<b>S-7</b>	48	0	2	14	32	33%
<b>E-8</b>	43	1	6	7	29	33%
<b>E-9</b>	59	0	3	6	50	15%
<b>E-10</b>	38	1	9	10	18	53%
<b>E-11</b>	26	3	0	13	10	62%
<b>E-12</b>	42	3	3	13	23	45%
<b>E-13</b>	23	1	3	5	14	39%
<b>E-14</b>	14	0	0	8	6	57%
<b>Totals</b>	445	11	38	109	287	36%