



CITY OF DANBURY

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET**

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

**Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief**

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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 22 January through 25 February and details activities of the Department.

Of note this month is the recent opening of the Jenny Road gate. This gate has been built and is now fully operational. The funding for the gate was provided through a combination of donations to the City from WCI, Boehringer-Ingelheim and the City of Danbury. The use of this access to the Briar Ridge Old Ridgebury Road area of the City has reduced response time by as much as fifty percent. This has had an immediate and measurable effect on response capabilities and potential life saving activities.

Through out the month the Department has distributed numerous smoke and CO 2 detectors to citizens. These detectors were donated last month by Lowes Home Center. This is a benefit to the entire community as these detectors will decrease notification and response times to detected emergencies.

I have received a number of citizen calls thanking Department members for actions above and beyond our regular duties this month. Two examples of these I highlight here.

Recently a power outage in a commercial building resulted in the loss of elevator service. A visitor to a Doctors office became stranded on the third floor. As there was no time established to restore power, the daughter of

the woman called the Fire Department to inquire if we could be of assistance. The company responded and the woman was carried down three floors so that she could return home.

A gentleman in a motorized scooter became stranded as his battery died on New Street. The man is diabetic and was somewhat disoriented. The ambulance responded and checked the man for medical concerns. He refused medical treatment or transport to the E.D. After being served a 'P, B & J' sandwich by Fire Department personnel the man fully recovered and wished to return home. The ambulance could not carry the scooter and a taxi required too much money. The Lieutenant assisted the man into the Department pick up truck and transported both the man and scooter to his home.

These types of calls serve to illustrate that the Fire Department is often called upon to perform non emergent calls that can have a significant impact on the daily lives of our citizens.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Tours of the following facilities and addresses were conducted by our crews:
- Yankee Gas (Pahquioque Ave.), Buzaid Mutual Fuel, Fuel Cell Energy Corp, Hoffman Fuel, Leahy Fuel, Mankind Corp, 19 Main St, Timber Oaks Condos, Wooster Manor, 30 Crosby St, 9 Beaverbrook Rd, 119 Main St and 111 Main St., Rivington/Corporate Center Property, WCSU Westside, 7- Eleven store on Clapboard Ridge Road, Bauer Hardware and Lindquist repair located at 127 Padanarum Road, 120 Clapboard Ridge Road, Raymond Place, Franklin Commons, Beaver St. Co-ops., Boehringer-Ingelheim, Praxair, Jensen's Trailer Park, Crown Point, Lake Place
- A Pre-incident tour of Peacock Alley on Padanarum Road discovered a problem with the sprinkler system that required DFM Johnson to respond and resolve.
- Department members attended Tarrywile Park Winterfest and gave demonstrations of cold water rescue at the pond. The cold water rescue capabilities of the Department are used each year and retraining of the specialized procedures is vital to our readiness model.
- A group of Cub Scouts from New Fairfield visited headquarters for a very thorough tour and lunch they provided. FF Arteaga spearheaded this visit off duty and Firefighters Tomchik and Monteavaro gave the Scouts a thorough presentation and fielded numerous questions during their visit.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE/ SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 15 February C30, TRK, E22 & E23 responded to a roll over accident at 99 Padanaram Rd. involving a pickup truck with two victims trapped inside. The truck was on its side hanging over an embankment with only the front bumper touching a tree holding the vehicle from rolling over and down the embankment. The crew worked diligently to secure the vehicle with heavy ropes and wood cribbing, until a wrecker could be brought in to safely stabilize the vehicle before the victims could be removed safely. Luckily the victims were only shaken up and not seriously injured.

One method of training that we use as often as possible is exploitation of acquired buildings. These buildings present unique opportunities in a real world environment to practice and acquire various skills. The acquired Saturn facility recently presented a training opportunity for Department members. . The focus was roof ventilation and forcible entry, using the Sullair hammer/chisel/drill, etc., rabbit tool and air cart, breaching of walls and roofs. In the near future we will utilizing the former Filenes for similar purposes.

The Department responded to Waterworks corporate headquarters at 60 Backus Ave. (Incident #566) on 4 February for a report of a tow-motor having damaged an overhead natural gas line with gas filling the warehouse. All employees were out on arrival. Warehouse bay doors were open, making it much easier than expected to get a visual on the damaged pipe. E21 metered the structure as the Truck Co. shut off the gas service at the meter. With Yankee Gas notified, the responding units worked with facility management and the HVAC rep to ensure no ignition sources were present and no pocketed gas remained. We assisted in venting the area and were able to allow re-occupancy within a short time.

Units responded to a chimney fire (Inc. # 865) that included some extension, requiring companies to open walls to confine the fire extension. This call was handled with minimal damage to the chimney and surrounding structure. The home owner was pleased with the quick response time and care that was taken to protect the contents of the dwelling, prior to the wall area being opened. Crews remained on scene until the majority of the debris was removed and the area was swept.

On 23 February, units responded to an MVA (Inc. # 927) on Backus Avenue. This became a major extrication with one patient receiving severe internal injuries. The ER Doctors are giving our rapid response and extrication the credit for saving the woman's life.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program is designed to meet EMS certification requirements of the Fire department First Responder program. 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 month's EMS Wednesday has been Medical /Behavioral emergencies

Haz-Mat Thursday

Because of the complexities that Hazardous Materials responses present and the fact that they are labor intensive, education and training is the first responder's first line of defense. The ability for First Responders to switch gears from fire suppression, to rescue, to EMS to support functions to a specialized team is imperative with the demands placed on a modern Fire Service.

Following on the success of EMS Wednesday the first continuous education class geared towards Hazardous Materials for all line personnel was held this month on Thursdays. A review of technical decon procedures coupled with familiarization of the newly acquired decon pools were the focus of this months classes.

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 January 20, 2008 thru and including February 16, 2008.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Abatements/Reports | 76 |
| Tickets Issued in Fire Lanes | 2 |
| Fire Investigations | 10 |
| Fatal Fires | 0 |
| Liquor Inspections | 15 |
| Blasting Permits | 2 |
| Complaints | 9 |
| Plan Review(hrs) | 127 |
| Fire Prevention Programs | 4 |
| Orders of Abatement | 3 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Inspections: | |
| Places of Assembly | 34 |
| Educational | 5 |
| Businesses | 21 |
| Storage | 0 |
| Health Care | 3 |
| Industrial | 3 |
| Mercantile | 17 |
| Residential Board & Care | 1 |
| Hotels(units) | 64 |
| Apartments | 164 |
| Day Care | 11 |
| Misc. Inspections | 28 |

All members of the Fire Marshals' Office continue to receive specialized training to enhance their abilities to perform inspections, investigations, answer complaints, and deliver Fire Prevention Programs.

Fire Marshal Rickert also attended a continuing seminar for supervisory personnel.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

The Fire Marshals Office was represented at the Danbury Fair Mall, Chamber of Commerce, Home Show, by Deputy Marshals Gillotti, Johnson and Inspector Leach. The Fire Prevention Poster Contest is concluded for this school year. Awards and accolades go out to Chloe McGuigan, a fourth grader from King St. Intermediate School and Andrew Kocur, a fifth grader from St. Gregory The Great School. Both will be honored by the Lions Club of Danbury at their April 24, 2008 meeting at a luncheon, at the Holiday Inn in Danbury.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Fire Marshal Rickert delivered Fire Safety and evacuation information at the New Hire Orientation Program at City Hall.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Training

Newer members of the department continue to work to become fully qualified as relief dispatchers. With planned retirements in the near future these relief dispatchers will be providing a vital service to the city and the department as well as gaining valuable knowledge about the city and emergency operations.

Technology Updates

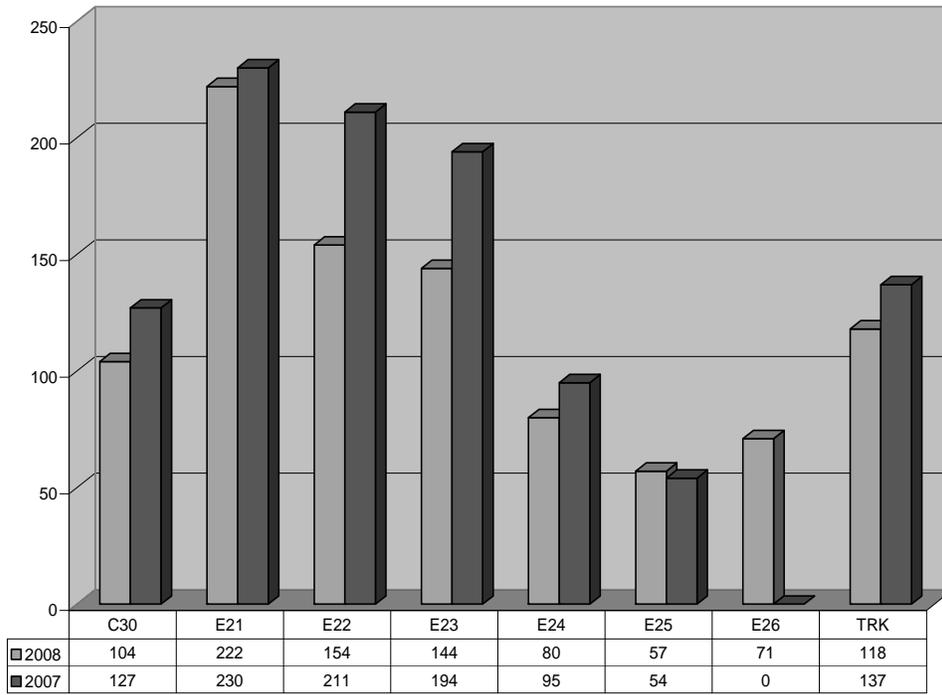
- The committee for the city wide radio system has been having weekly conference calls with the radio consulting firm. The focus of the committee to date has been on identifying potential sites for additional transmitters and receivers. Also being studied is the radio frequencies that are in use and may be used along with the potential number of overall frequencies that will be needed for a fully optimized system.
- The series of failures that has hit the low band radio system seem to be corrected. As parts for this 22 year old equipment are in short supply and further outage may be problematic to repair.
- The voice logger has been installed and is us 24/7 use. This vital tool has a number of easy access features that allow dispatchers to get an instant playback of 911 calls and radio traffic. Also the ability to slow down or loop a recording will certainly assist emergency telecommunicators in the call processing functions for a hysterical caller.

| Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding | |
|---|--------------|
| Fires (100-173) | 7 |
| Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251) | 2 |
| Rescue/EMS (300-381) | 319 |
| Hazardous Condition (400-482) | 66 |
| Service Call (500-571) | 48 |
| Good Intent Calls (600-671) | 34 |
| False Alarm/False Calls (700-746) | 89 |
| Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815) | 0 |
| Special Incident Type (900-911) | 1 |
| No Report/Incomplete | 24 |
| Total Fire Responses | 590 |
| E911 Statistics | |
| Total 911 Calls | 2824 |
| Abandoned 911 Calls | 421 |
| Cellular 911 Calls | 1007 |
| 911 Hang Up Calls | 906 |
| Admin Calls Received | 836 |
| Police Calls via 911 | 1075 |
| Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28) | 260 |
| EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29) | 453 |
| Daily Average | 94.13 |
| Dispatch Incident Statistics | |
| Total Fire Responses | 590 |
| Total EMS Responses | 757 |
| Unknown Transport Status | 37 |
| ALS Patient (CAD 60) | 312 |
| BLS Patient (CAD 61) | 294 |
| No Patient (CAD 62) | 114 |
| EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80) | 4 |
| EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81) | 25 |

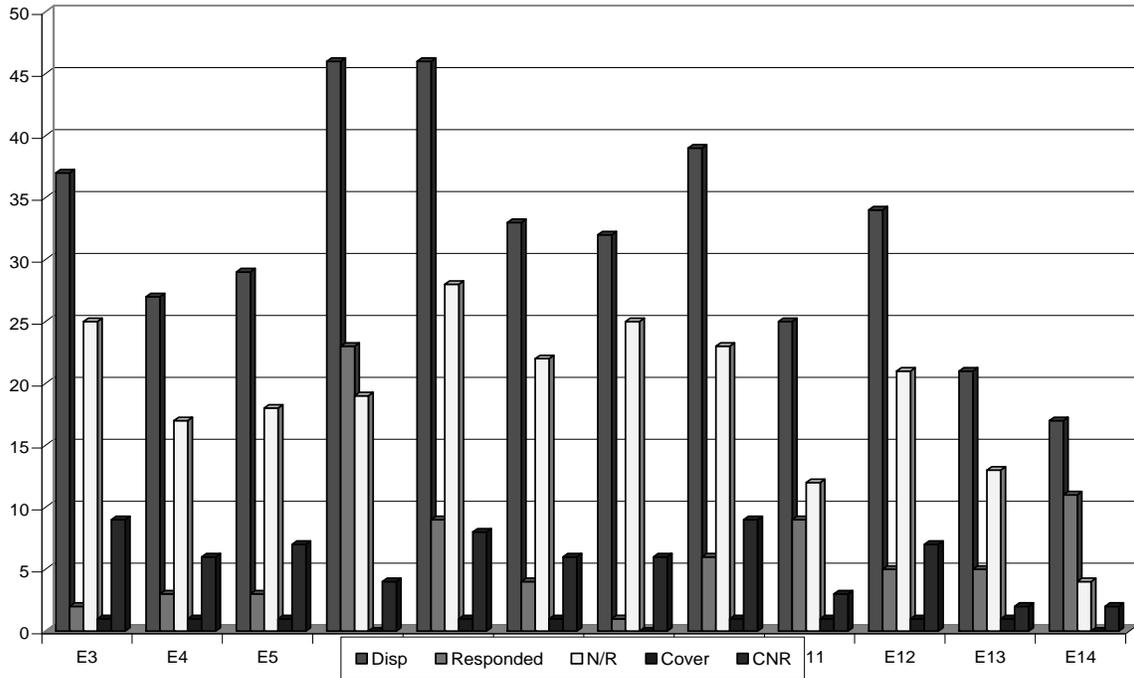
**** NOTE ****

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

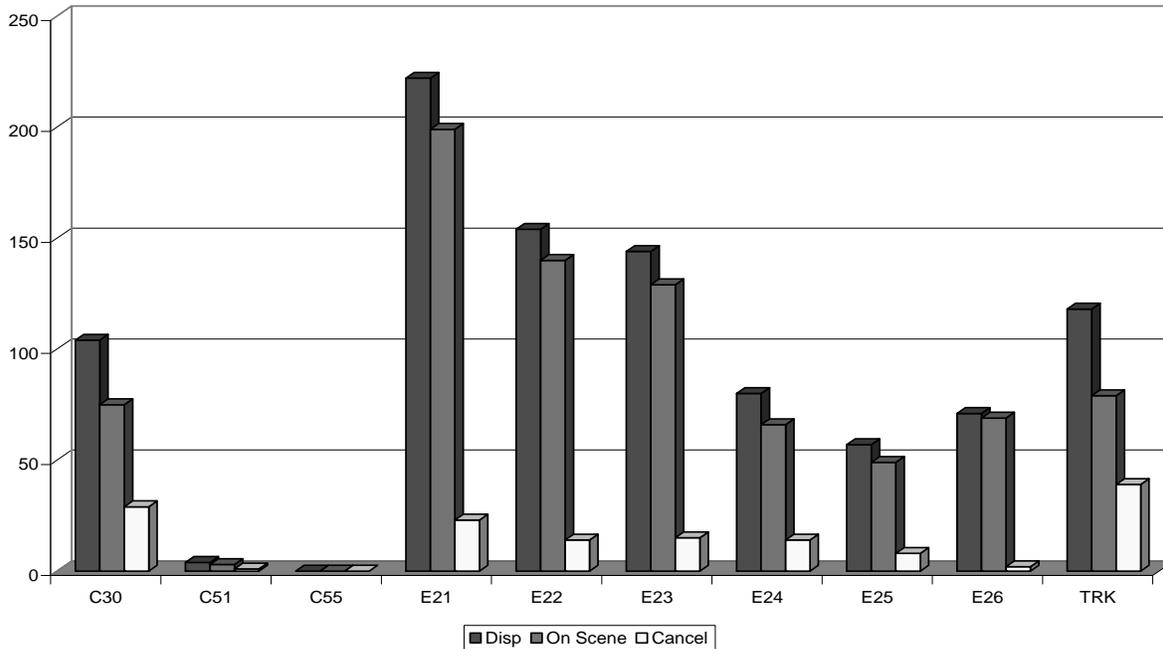
Career Response Comparison for February



**Volunteer Call Counts
Jan 22 to Feb 24, 2008**



**Career Company Response
Jan 22 to Feb 24, 2008**



Training - Mark Omasta

Emergency Vehicle Operations Classes (EVOC) have been completed for all crews in late January. This State Fire Academy certificate course was informative and well received. 90% of the Career and Volunteer now have the training. We expect to run a make up class later in the year to reach our goal of 100% participation in this safe driving training.

Six new recruits started their firefighting careers on Feb. 8. They had a few days of orientation then started their 14 week firefighter training at the Academy on February 13. Graduation should be in late May.

Firefighter I Class

The firefighter 1 class for the Volunteers is in its fourth week. We have 18 students and meet at Fire Headquarters and the Fire School two to three times per week thru mid May.

1st Quarter Training

First quarter training for the Volunteers is taking place this month and involves the OSHA mandated Haz Mat Operational Refresher and Bloodborne Pathogen/Biohazard training.

Fire Officer II

13 career personnel completed the intense 80 hour Fire Officer II class with a final exam on Feb. 18. These individuals took this demanding course on their own time.

Acquired Building

The Saturn car dealership building at 102 Federal Road was made available to us for training evolutions. All four crews were able to take advantage of this opportunity to do interior and exterior training in a commercial structure. The building is scheduled for demolition later this month.

Tarrywile Winter Carnival

We conducted a cold water/ice rescue demonstration on Park's Pond on Feb. 9.

College Credits

The Naugatuck Valley Community College Spring course "Building Construction", taught by Greenwich Fire Chief Pete Siecienski at Fire HQ is going well with a full class of 20 students.

Critique

We held a post incident critique for the structure fire on Scuppo Road.

Training

Training Officer attended a 3 hour class at City Hall; the topic was Microsoft Excel *The Basics*.

State Regional Foam Trailer Program

The T.O. represented our Department at a meeting in Hartford on Feb 21 which included representatives from the eight foam trailer "host" cities. Discussions included dispatch protocols, maintenance and training issues.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following are some of the highlights and activities of the Apparatus Division.

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 outfitted the six new recruits with S.C.B.A.'s as they went off to the Fire Academy. Once again E-6 was able to loan us six cylinders so we didn't deplete our inventory of spare cylinders.

We have completed the fit testing for E-5, E-8, E-9 and finally E-14. With the exception of a few Volunteer members, we have completed the fit testing for both the Career and the Volunteer Divisions.

We fit tested the six new Recruits, assigned them face pieces and P.A.S.S. alarms to go to the Fire Academy.

The new E-21 was placed into service on Valentine's Day, despite having a tremendous amount of trouble getting the radios to work properly we have to say "thanks" to our Communication Supervisor Sniffin and our radio vendor. With combined efforts we were able to work out the problems with these units. We are hoping to get the old E-21 ready to be placed into service as the new E-25 by next week. We then will be able to remove some needed hardware from the reserve unit to "fit out" the new E-23.

We were fortunate to attend an E.V.O.C seminar which was both informative and well presented.

We participated in the Department Staff meeting of 6 February.

We replaced the number #1 fill valve on the Bauer breathing air compressor. We replaced the driver's side mirror on the Chiefs Explorer. We purchased some of the final equipment for the Multi Purpose Vehicle. We replaced both front spring packs in E-21 due to a failed main leaf. We replaced damaged seat belts in E-21, E-22,E-23,E-26, TRK-1, and we currently have seat belts for other units on order. We replaced the right rear brake chamber and adjusted the brakes in E-21. We completed a fleet wide brake inspection along with servicing and adjustment of all wheel positions on E-21,E-22,E-23,E-24,E-25,E-26,Reserve,TRK-1 and TRK-2. We replaced the battery in the Assistant Chiefs car; we replaced the batteries in the Decontamination Trailer for the on-board generator. We serviced the Tempest blower off of TRK-1. Specified apparatus forms and ordered them from Economy Printing. We received, marked and tested the new 3" hose that is now in service atop the new E-21.

Special notes:

Dispatcher Walter Benz has announced he will be retiring in March. Walt has been a member of the Department since November of 1974. Please stop down to wish him and his wife Doris a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Dates of Importance

Spring returns 20 March

Good Friday 21 March

Easter 23 March

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief