



**CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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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 April 21st, 2016 through May 21st, 2016 and details activities of the Department.



SAFETY TIPS

- »»» Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- »»» Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- »»» Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- »»» Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- »»» Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- »»» Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

SMOKE ALARMS

- »»» Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- »»» If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- »»» Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

Pets and Wildfires

Make sure pets are included in your family's wildfire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household. Ensure each kit is a size and weight that can be quickly and easily loaded into a vehicle when packing to evacuate.



FACT

Pets and wild animals have a part in starting about 700 home fires per year. Roughly three-quarters of these fires were started by cooking equipment, fireplaces or chimneys, lighting, or candles.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Pre-incident familiarization tours were conducted at Shepard Hill Condos, Abbey Woods, Kennedy Flats, NVCC renovations at 7 West Street, the Sherry Lane neighborhood, the Forty Acre Mountain Road area, the Exit 2 rest area, and the recently renovated apartment building at 408 Main Street. E22 updated the vacant building list and checked the buildings in the area.

Truck Company and E24 made an educational presentation to 90 fifth-graders at Shelter Rock School. A tour of Headquarters was given to 100 third graders from King Street School. Three third-graders were given a ride to Stadley Rough School. Twenty-five children and their chaperones from the Seventh Day Adventist Church were given a Headquarters tour.



Headquarters tour

Truck 1 crew assisted the driver of a severely disabled vehicle by directing traffic until arrival of a tow truck. E22 replaced a battery, provided and installed a new smoke alarm for a 97 year old citizen. E25 recognized the danger posed by a tree hanging over the Orange trail at Bear Mountain Reserve, cut it down and removed it. E23 gave a fire badge sticker to a 2-year-old after they got her out of the bathroom where she had locked herself.

Members attended the Danbury Police memorial ceremony.

Members participated in a reading program for Fourth Graders at the Ellsworth School. It was well received by the children as Fire and EMS personnel read to four separate classrooms a book on Thunder and Lightning Safety.



LT Schiller & FF Rivera read to Ellsworth Avenue students

D Group participated in the Walgreen Corporations “Red Nose Day” activities that benefits children in poverty:



FF Ray Guard, also known as “The Scorpion” rocked a full house at Molly Darcy’s with his rock band in a benefit for a very sick young child.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

Crews responded to 5 brush, ground cover, or mulch fires with no significant property destruction. Another incident was a bench at Highland Avenue Park that mysteriously caught fire.

A waste basket fire resulting from unintentional misuse of smoking materials occurred at Super 8 Motel. Management responded, extinguished the fire and placed the bucket outside prior to FD arrival.

Crews responded to a vehicle fire on I84 Eastbound before exit 7. Apparently the driver saw his oil light come on, then reported smoke from under the hood to Dispatch, then flames. He was able to exit the vehicle and get a safe distance away. SQ1, E24, E26, C30, Tanker 10 and SPD managed the incident.

A teacher at St. Joseph School noticed smoke coming from windows at Carriage House Apartments at 366 ½ Main Street. She called 911, went over to the building, proceeded to the second floor and returned to the parking lot to meet C30 for a briefing. Crews forced several doors in order to locate the correct unit, as no one answered at any unit on 2nd floor. The source was found to be a smoke condition from a pot of beans left on the stovetop. The hazard was mitigated, owner notified and responded. He was advised of the situation and that no detectors were functioning on the second floor. He assured us he would replace all common area and unit detectors. Notification was made to C47 and a follow up email to FM Russell. If the teacher hadn’t acted, this would very likely have escalated to become a significant apartment fire. C30, E22, Truck 1, SQ1, E23 and DPD responded.

Lt. Cabral, FF Vitolo and FF Lewis were called to Danbury Commons to rescue a very small kitten that was trapped in a car’s engine compartment. After a 30-minute

extrication, the approximately 5 week old kitten was handed over to an animal rescue person, who brought it to Animal Welfare. Once the kitten is more than two pounds, it will live with DC Meehan who is adopting it.



Command and Staff Activities

- Police Dept memorial service and awards
- Lt. and Communications Coordinator Interviews
- Ann's Place Benefit Breakfast
- Public Works Open House
- Jericho Prayer Breakfast
- Annual EMS Recognition dinner; Danbury Fire received the 2016 "EMS Service of the Year Award"
- Monthly Staff meeting
- City Council meeting
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

HAZMAT

All members of the Fire Department will have participated in a Radiological Emergency Response class by the end of May. As a continuation of the 472 Hazardous Materials Technician refresher class held last month, the intent of this class is to teach the HAZMAT Technicians and fire fighters the skills they need to protect the Public's health and safety when responding to hazardous materials emergencies and specifically, to incidents involving radioactive materials.

The Danbury Fire Department has recently received 3 more Gamma Rae II Radiation meters from the Region Five 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program allowing the deployment on this advanced metering technology on every First Responder Apparatus.

The Gamma Rae II, gamma radiation measuring dosimeter is the first line of defense against a radiation hazard. This monitor is designed to alert prior to the exposure of any gamma radiation hazards. Because of its high sensitivity at low radiation levels, it can alert first responders to the presence of a radiation threat well before they might be exposed to health-threatening levels.

The new meters will enhance our departments HAZMAT capability, with First Due units able to properly conduct emergency operations and set up safety perimeters to protect the public during the initial phases of an Emergency Hazardous Material Response.

Smallpox Table Top Exercise

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended a Tabletop Exercise on Monday, May 16, 2016 at the EOC in the basement of City Hall. The exercise included mass inoculation scenario and a review of the City of Danbury's Community Emergency Response Plan.

EMS Award

The Danbury Fire Department received the EMS Service of the Year award from the Danbury Hospital for our efforts in utilizing the drug Naloxone to combat opiate overdoses resulting from the heroin epidemic that plagues our country. Assistant Chief Omasta and Deputy Chief Meehan attended the EMS Dinner sponsored by the Danbury Hospital to receive the award on behalf of the Department.

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Coord. Jamie Gagliardo

- Dispatch tours were given to any remaining members that missed the group tours.
- Responded to 44 Long Ridge Road for a larger brush fire. Communications worked with Deputy Chief Paul Omasta and was assigned the Incident Safety Officer.
- Attended the Region 5 EFS-2 meeting which included a presentation from FirstNet. FirstNet is a federally funded commission tasked with creating a national public safety broadband network funded from the 9/11 commission. This project is underway and may be of value to our emergency services communications in the near future.
- Received a tour of the new Northwest CMED dispatch facility in Waterbury. This facility will serve many local communities with a centralized dispatch center.
- Received a tour of Litchfield County Dispatch Center in Torrington. This facility is very similar to Danbury in many ways. These tours will help us see what procedures other centers use to continually better our dispatch services.
- Attended the annual Jericho Partnership Leadership breakfast at the Amber Room.
- Worked with the Frontier Communications to correct a circuit problem with our Harvest Hill Receive Site. The problem ended up being a power failure within Frontier's system.

- Assisted the Training Division with some repairs to our fire school burn building.
- Worked with FF Gallagher to update NexGen CAD software with some updated response guidelines.
- Worked with the EMS Coordinator to update our Rehab response policies and call back list. For every 2nd alarm or greater, firefighter rehab will respond in addition to our current safety initiatives.
- Attended the Ann's Place breakfast at the Amber Room. The guest speaker was Rebecca Lobo, Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and ESPN TV Analyst.
- Communications has been working to update many of our current communications Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). Many suggestions have been forwarded to the appropriate members for approval.
- Worked with Northeastern Communications on improving our fireground radio recording capabilities along with the repair of Engine Co. 23's mobile radio and some inoperable portable radios.
- Attended the Danbury Police Memorial Service remembering those we've lost.
- Worked with the EMS Coordinator and the Assistant Chief on a firefighter rehab policy along with a rehab officer call back system. From this point forward there will always be a fire department member operating on all working fires and major incidents supervising the firefighter rehab group. This is yet another positive advance in our fire department safety initiatives program.

Ongoing projects:

- Approximately 4 hours a week have been spent in the Danbury 911 center for observation to create a better working system between the fire department and the dispatchers. Every week strengthening of our agency relationships is observed.
- Radio system infrastructure upgrades including replacement mobile and portable radios for all fire department members and apparatus with assistance from Northeastern Communications.
- Communications is assisting the Volunteer Division with the replacement of low band pager equipment. Demo units have been tested out. Research is being done on how many pagers are needed for the division. UHF paging will go along with the current project of replacing low band mobile radios along with the infrastructure upgrades.

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division
Quarterly

2nd Quarter training on Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazmat refresher has been completed.

Career Division

Employee Assistance Program – Annie Linden provided training on professional workplace behavior.

Telestaff Training – Captain Lounsbury had multiple training sessions on the new Telestaff upgrades.

Tree Climber Rescue Training – Captain Lounsbury coordinated and TO Rogers facilitated Bartlett Trees self rescue class.

Code 88 Class – Training Division provided multiple emergency communication training sessions for the Fire Department.

ARFF Training – The Danbury Fire Dept. has scheduled their annual live burn training at the Westover AFB in September. Westover has one of the three certified burn facilities in New England.

Fire School – The fire school was utilized often this month by visiting fire departments ranging from Brookfield, Redding, West Redding, and Sherman.

Hydrant Program – Crews will start testing the approx. 2,200 hydrants located throughout the city.

ICS – The Training Division has completed lesson plans for continued implementation of NIMS Incident Command System.

Recruits – Met with six recruits at CFA, all are doing well.

Here are a few of the Meetings/Events for T.O Rogers:

- April 23 – Drillmaster Rogers returned from FDIC in Indiana
- April 24 – Drillmaster Rogers at fire school with Brookfield.
- April 26 – Telestaff training
- April 27 – EAP training
- April 29 – TO Rogers met with six recruits at fire school.
- May 1 – 2nd Quarter training with volunteers
- May 3 – Tree climber class with Bartlett Tree
- May 4 – Jericho Fellowship dinner
- May 6 – Tree climber class with Bartlett Tree
- May 8 – Fire School with Brookfield
- May 9 – Code 88 Class
- May 9 – West Redding live burn
- May 13 – Burn Building repairs
- May 14 – Brookfield Live Burn
- May 15 – At fire school with Ridgefield
- May 17 – Amber Room breakfast with Rebecca Lobo

- May 19 – Live Burn with Ridgefield

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

We spent a considerable amount of time cleaning Old Truck-1 in preparation of a more in-depth inspection. This inspection was required to determine the extent of damage to the torque box and outrigger assemblies as flagged during the UL Non Destructive inspection. The inspection performed by Firematic Supply, our Pierce dealer revealed that although there are delaminating rust issues (which we are aware) physical measurements and ultrasonic testing show that these issues are not an out of service condition at this time. The Weddle tool from the Truck Company was turned in for repair. Unfortunately we were unable to fix this unit and sent it to the factory for repairs. A purchase order was issued and we are awaiting the tools return. We have scheduled Hurst annual service work and Scott Air Pak flow tests to be performed here in June.

Other repairs completed:

- Serviced the transmission in Truck-1 (filters and oil)
- Replaced transmission cooler line Truck-1
- Lay up plow for summer storage
- Replaced officer's and back stepper's seat bottom in 10PA2
- Charged batteries in R-2
- Replaced officer's seat belt in Truck-1
- Checked and serviced brakes in E-24, inspected Front End
- Repaired rear roll up door "open" light E-26
- Reworked Scene lights on E-21, E-22, E-24 and E-26
- Replaced battery charger in Foam Unit 6
- Replaced brake chamber Truck-1
- Replaced 5" front suction valve E-23

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell Staff

DFM Gary Bruce has sent hundreds of letters to owners of three-family and above homes to gain access for fire inspections. In these inspections we check for working smoke alarms, proper egress, overcrowding, and any other hazards. To date, the response has been very good.

TeleStaff Training for the Fire Marshal's Office was held on 4-28-16 at our new training facility. Captain Bill Lounsbury was our trainer.

Fire Marshal Jim Russell and DFM John Osborne traveled to the New Hampshire Fire Academy for three days to attend a course in Electrical Fire / Arson training. The course was put on by the Public Agency Training Co.

This month our department attended 60 hours of continuing education courses. We are required by the State of Connecticut to obtain 90 hours each, every three years.

DFM Tyler Bergemann has taken the exam for a National Fire Investigator Certification.

DFM Jonathan DeJoseph attended the Jericho Partnership Prayer Breakfast at the Amber Room, representing our Fire Department. He also has taken his EMT recertification exam, and taken the Lieutenant's promotional exam.

DFM Eric Handau and DFM Tyler Bergemann have attended a CME class in Ridgefield to continue their EMT / Paramedic certifications.

Inspections

This month we inspected 192 apartments. We also did 74 misc. inspections, 10 liquor inspections, 11 places of assembly, 53 businesses, 5 day care, 9 educational occupancies, 3 health care inspections, and 58 mercantile inspections. We have also been working with the UNIT and Health Department to find illegal living spaces and overcrowded apartments.

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 71 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall and the Danbury High addition. Some other buildings reviewed were an office building at 41 Eagle Rd, Cartus on Apple Ridge Rd, and many more.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 1 building fire, 2 vehicle fires, and 6 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires. Investigations were done on all fires.

Training

DFM Bruce has completed the 22nd annual Advanced Fire Investigation School held at the CT Fire Academy. There was a very large number of applicants with the most qualified being selected. This is a great opportunity to advance his fire investigation skills with the State of Connecticut's best fire investigators and prosecutors. This program was taught by the State of CT Fire and Explosion investigators from the State Police as well as leading prosecutors and attorneys. The course included a hands-on fire investigation, with a real time mock court trial to prepare investigators for courtroom proceedings and areas of improvement in their fire investigation reports.

On-going projects

Primark, which occupies the 2nd floor of the Sears building at the Danbury Fair Mall, is closer to completion. DFM Bruce has been working with Shawmut Contractors on verifying the emergency light, exit signs, fire alarm and sprinklers are installed and operating. The anticipated completion is the end of May 2016. The contractors appear to be on schedule. DFM Bruce attended a meeting with Maura Ruby and Chip Jowdy from the mall, Primark's security specialist, and the Primark Regional VP on fire safety and prevention. All parties are on the same page with security and fire safety.

Bounce Trampoline Park, located on Prindle Lane, has opened for business.

Presentations

Chief T. J. Wiedl and Fire Marshal Jim Russell gave a Leadership / Fire Safety talk on Dormitory Fire Safety for the PEER Leadership students at Danbury High School.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

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| Monthly inspections | 423 |
| Abatements issued | 3 |
| Violations issued | 0 |
| Complaints | 4 |
| Fire Investigations | 4 |
| Fire Safety Programs | 1 |

Public Safety Answering Point

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Total 911 calls | 3334 |
| Cellular 911 calls | 2387 |
| Abandoned 911 calls | 403 |
| Admin calls received | 781 |