



CITY OF DANBURY

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET**

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

This is my report and presentation to the Common Council as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. The report covers the period of 27 November 2007 through 21 December 2007 and notes some activities of the Department.

A recent fire at 161 South Street appears to have ignited as a result of multiple wires plugged into a power strip. The wires were powering a number of devices and some of the wires were run beneath the carpeting. At this time of the year, this is especially common. Safety precautions and the proper use of electrical devices, wiring and extensions cords is something we must all be cognizant and aware of throughout the year.

Five recruits have graduated the Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. Graduation ceremonies for Recruit Class #40 took place in Hartford at the Theater of the Performing Arts at 10:00 A.M. on 20 December. After orientation the 5 firefighters start work on their assigned crews the week of December 23rd. The names of the recruits are Gabe Rivera, Phil Espitee, Kevin Lunnie, Denis Rikard and Ken Monteavaro.

The Department continues to be a dynamic environment. We continue to respond to a high volume of medical calls, routinely over 50% of total calls. The first responder system is vital to our citizens as indicated in the response section below.

As the Department moves forward, training of our recently hired firefighters will continue. This will include in the coming months refresher training in specific rescue modalities, continued EVOC classes and new programs currently under research. The Department has also established a number of committees to research and make recommendations for renovation of our training classroom facility at Headquarters and other improvements.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-Incident tours were conducted at the following locations this month. Library Place Parking Garage, 15 Library Place, Danbury Medical Arts Building, Triangle St. Condominiums, Immanuel Lutheran School, Crown Point and Rivington Project

Condominiums, Lowes Home Center, GAR Corp, Pitney Bowes, North Ridge Condos, Covered Bridge Condo complex, ATMI Corp, Sealed Air Corp, RSA Corp, Tilcon and Leahy Fuel Bulk Storage, the new Medical Arts facility at Osborne and Locust, the Beaver Brook Tennis facility on Starr Rd, Fuel Cell Energy facility on Great Pasture Rd., Galleria (Main Street).

- E25 gave a tour to 20 second graders from Immanuel Lutheran School.
- For the last several months the Department has hosted the Ct State Mobile Career Center RV vehicle at Fire Headquarters on New Street. The latest date was 19 December. The vehicle has been in town one day each month and their staff assists in finding employment opportunities for Danbury Citizens.
- Acting Lieutenant Chris Ryan was approached by a sixteen year old girl who inquired about becoming a firefighter. She also expressed interest in an EMT class. Lt Ryan directed her to contact Engine 10 (Germantown Hose). He further contacted her with information regarding the State EMT program.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

- On 19 December, an adult female parent of a student at Rogers Park Middle school activated the pull station at the front door of the school. This activated the Fire alarm and caused an evacuation of the school. School employees witnessed the action and identified the woman. Danbury Police subsequently arrested her for falsely reporting and pulling the fire alarm.
- A fire in a dryer at 128 East Liberty Street occurred on 13 December. E22 found a smoke condition resultant from the fire. There was only one employee working at the time of the fire. He was too busy extinguishing the fire to call 911. The automatic system notified the call center and units were dispatched. Fortunately, the employee was able to safely extinguish the fire and prevent any extension beyond the dryer.
- On 15 December, 24 Engine responded to the Berkshire Shopping Center for a woman hit by a car. While on scene, a second woman was also hit by car. Along with the ambulance crew, they were able to stabilize both patients until extra help could arrive.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certification 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. For the month of December the focus has been to complete the CPR for the professional rescuer recertification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillation

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 70 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes.

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the Danbury EMS system. Cross-trained firefighters that have the ability to provide lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest. This has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrests in the City of Danbury.

Hazardous Materials Thursday

A refresher of Hazardous Materials operational level training has been completed for the entire department. Danbury Police Officer Michael Pederson also participated in the training. This eight hour class delivered, on eight different occasions reinforces the proper procedures, personal protective equipment and techniques used in responding in responding to hazardous chemical releases.

Community Heart-safe Program

The Danbury Fire Departments mission of saving lives has led to several initiatives to make our community a safer place to live and work. A collaborative effort between the Board of Education and the Fire Department placing Public Access Automatic External Defibrillators in the schools and providing CPR and defibrillation training for school personnel is one example. This month four classes have been held at Danbury Fire Headquarters for school nurses and teachers. A total of 50 people have taken advantage of this opportunity. Instruction was presented by Rey Rodriguez and Sue Lavasser, Nursing Coordinator for the Board of Education.

Region Five Haz-Mat Team

The region 5 Haz –Mat team continues to develop. The mutual aid agreement for the region is in review by the respective Corporation Council offices and we expect it to be executed in the near future. The State resources housed in Danbury for the regional and State wide response team include the Mass Decon trailer, the Hazardous Material response vehicle and the foam trailer. In addition Danbury hosts a Squad vehicle as a tow vehicle for the non motored assets.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

As reported last month the Voice Logger failure prompted the department to look to replace this device. This machine is considered to be beyond normal service life and needs to be replaced. To address this, a unique solution was offered and accepted. The company that currently provides contracted maintenance offered to prorate this year's maintenance fee towards the lease of a new state of the art machine. Additionally the cost of leasing this device will be less per year than the maintenance was on the old logger. Thanks to the Finance and Purchasing Departments for their help in this crucial replacement.

Additionally, the new features offered by the better technology will allow dispatchers and supervisory staff easier access to critical recordings during emergencies and a more detailed presentation for evidentiary or citizen requested reports.

As reported previously, on November 20th at approximately 6:00PM the low-band radio transmitter installed at the Danbury Hospital failed. During the two weeks following this outage, radio technicians again serviced the transmitter that failed; these minor service adjustments were to correct paging issues related to Engine 25 and Engine 26.

This problem is one of the many that will be looked at with the ongoing City-Wide radio system project. However it cannot be stressed enough that back-up communications systems are not a luxury, rather required components of a strong public safety network.

Our current radio vendor has also been asked to provide a recommendation of a solution to insure that paging of the volunteer companies can occur in the event of another failure. This is forthcoming.

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	14
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	3
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	283
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	24
Service Call (500-571)	29
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	35
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	90
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
No Report/Incomplete	15
Total Fire Responses	494
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	3661
Abandoned 911 Calls	371

Cellular 911 Calls	1262
911 Hang Up Calls	755
Admin Calls Received	842
Police Calls via 911	376
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	198
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	373
Daily Average	130.75
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	494
Total EMS Responses	703
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	288
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	295
No Patient (CAD 62)	120
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	1
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	16

**** NOTE ****

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

Training - Mark Omasta

We worked on completing our fourth quarter Live Burn training for the Career and Volunteer divisions. All interior burn training took place at our Training Facility on Plumtrees Road. 86 Volunteer firefighters participated in the live burns. Currently there are 93 volunteers eligible to respond to Emergencies as either a Support, Exterior or Interior firefighter. The Volunteer Fire Police continue to provide a valuable service when called upon.

Firefighter I Class

We are currently taking reservations for the next Firefighter I certification class which will start in late January. The class is filling up fast.

Certified Drivers

Two Firefighters completed the many hours of training required to qualify as pump operators.

They are trained on the company level, and then must pass written and practical tests monitored by the Training Officer.

College Credits

The Naugatuck Valley Community College Fall course "Intro to Fire Tech" ends December 20th with the final exam. We are offering "Building Construction" for the Spring Semester which will begin towards the end of January. There continues to be a

strong interest in the degree program and we are pleased to be able to provide classes at Fire Headquarters.

Fire Officer II

We have 13 Officers and firefighters registered to take the Fire Officer II class being offered by the Connecticut Fire Academy. The 80 hour course is scheduled for 10 days in January and February at the Ridgefield Fire Department.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

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

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 completed the fit testing for E-5, E-6, E-11 and E-12. We are still awaiting the necessary materials to fit test E-14's (MSA airpaks are at variance with the remainder of the Department's air paks).

The new E-21 and E-23 have arrived here at Headquarters. We have been acquiring equipment to fit out these two new units. The two way radio bids are to be opened at Purchasing on December 27th.

We had to be called in for Truck-1 "no outrigger power" We were able to repair the problem and placed this unit back in service. We repaired the Bauer Air Compressor; the #1 fill valve was worn out. We removed E-21 from service and pressure washed the engine in order to find the oil leaks. We replaced a power steering hose and repaired the leaking High Pressure Oil Pump. We repaired the plow control on the pick-up and have ordered a replacement part as our repair is temporary.

We have replaced the intake manifold gasket on the 95CT and placed this unit back in service. We serviced the Hurst Tool on E-22 we also replaced the mounting isolators on this unit. We had a power outage here at Headquarters; our standby generator transferred as expected but would not transfer back after CL&P repaired the problem. While working with the Generator team at Atlantic Detroit Diesel Allison we determined that the problem was with the speed of the generator engine not allowing the hertz cycle to come into synchronization with the incoming hertz cycle from line power. We made the necessary adjustments and the generator is working as it should.

We qualified two new drivers on the engines they are assigned to operate.

We are acquiring prices to purchase wet vacuums w/pumps to replace the twenty five year old backpack units that were assigned to the Truck Company. The very old units are no longer serviceable or repairable.

Office of the Fire Marshal – Barry Rickert

This is the report of the Fire Marshal of the City of Danbury Fire Department for the report period covering November 18, 2007 to and including December 16, 2007.

Abatements/Reports (hrs.)	78
Tickets for Fire Lanes	4
Fire Investigations	11
Fatal Fires	0
Liquor Inspections	14
Blasting Permits	1
Complaints	28
Plan Review (hrs.)	109
Fire Prevention Programs	6

INSPECTIONS:	
Places of Assembly	48
Educational	12
Business	17
Storage	5
Health Care	1
Industrial	1
Mercantile	27
Residential Board & Care	1
Hotel(units)	0
Apartments	160
Day Care	1
Misc. Inspections	50

TRAINING

Fire Marshal Rickert also attended a 2 day seminar in Jamaica, New York, sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories University, funded by The Department of Homeland Security. The focus of this seminar was College Campus Fire Safety.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Fire Marshal Rickert attended the 2nd Annual Action Early Learning Center Family Day at Broadview Junior High representing the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Deputy Fire Marshals Johnson and Wiedl delivered a Fire Safety Program to the Pre-school Program at St. Gregory School.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

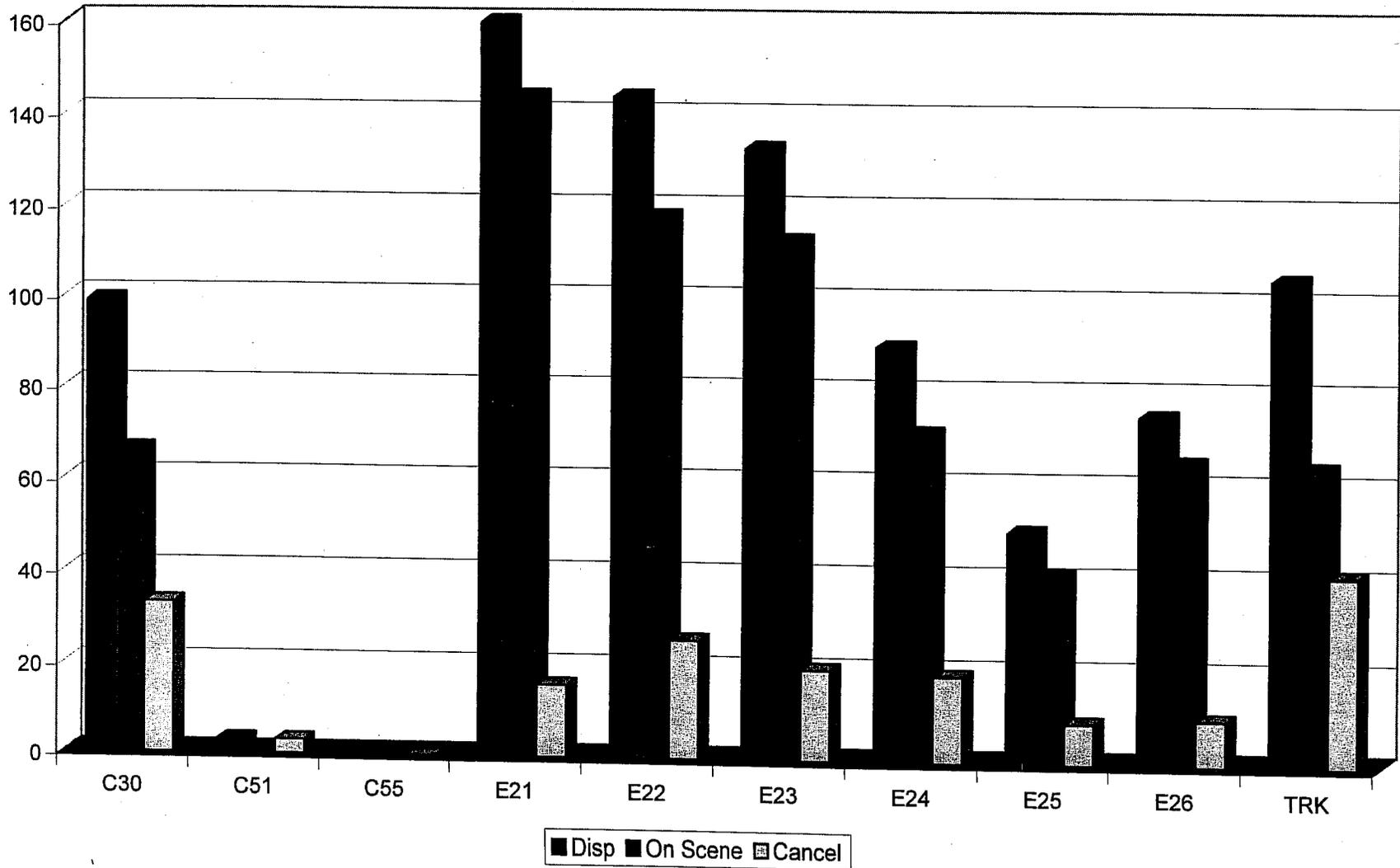
Holiday patrols in the evening and weekends have uncovered many serious violations of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code, all of which have been addressed. We will continue these patrols until December 31, 2007.

First Night activities this year will include a Fireworks display downtown. The State permit for this event was forwarded by this office and approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The various venues for 1st Night are also being inspected by this office to insure the safety of the public.

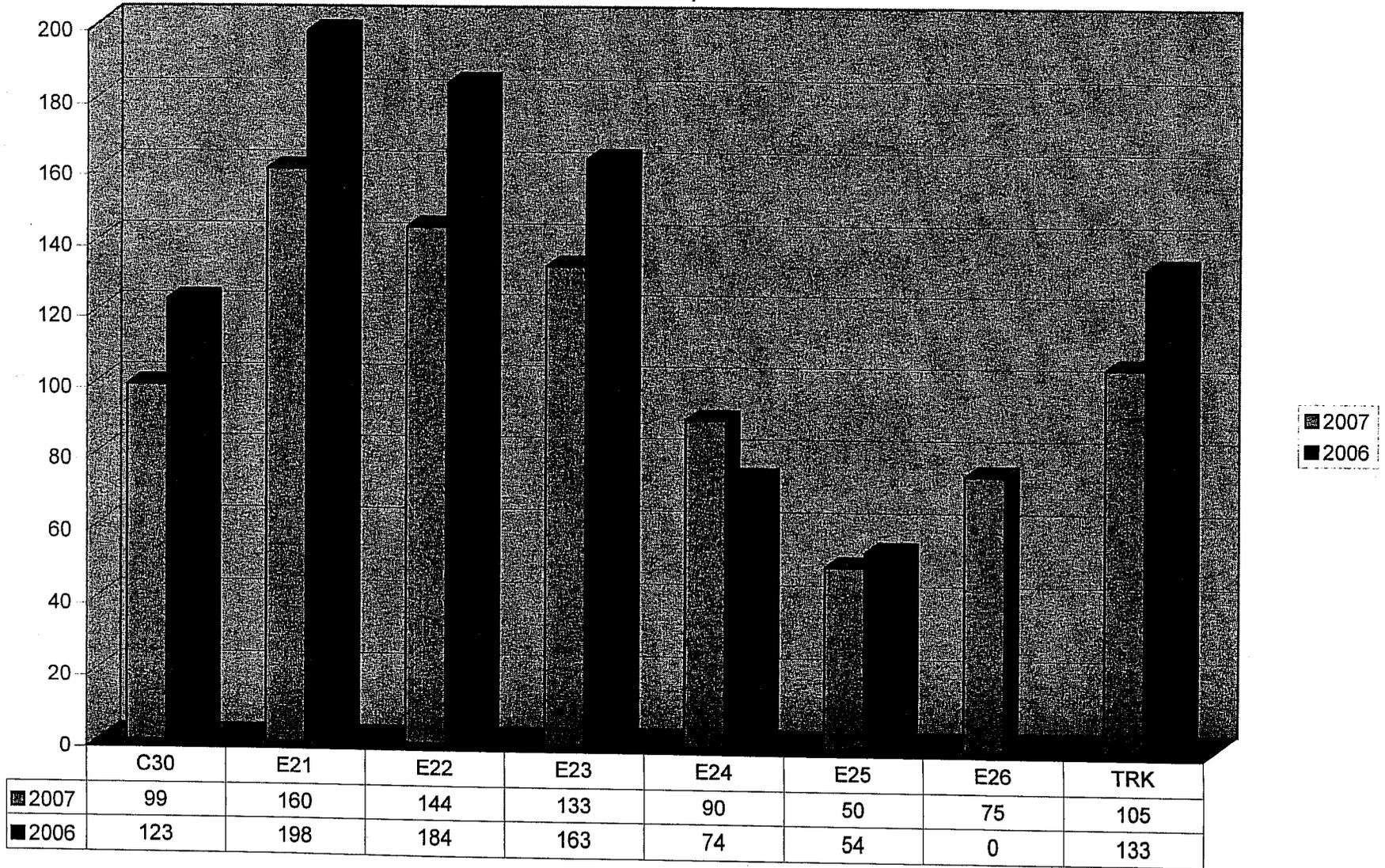
Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey R. Herald, Chief

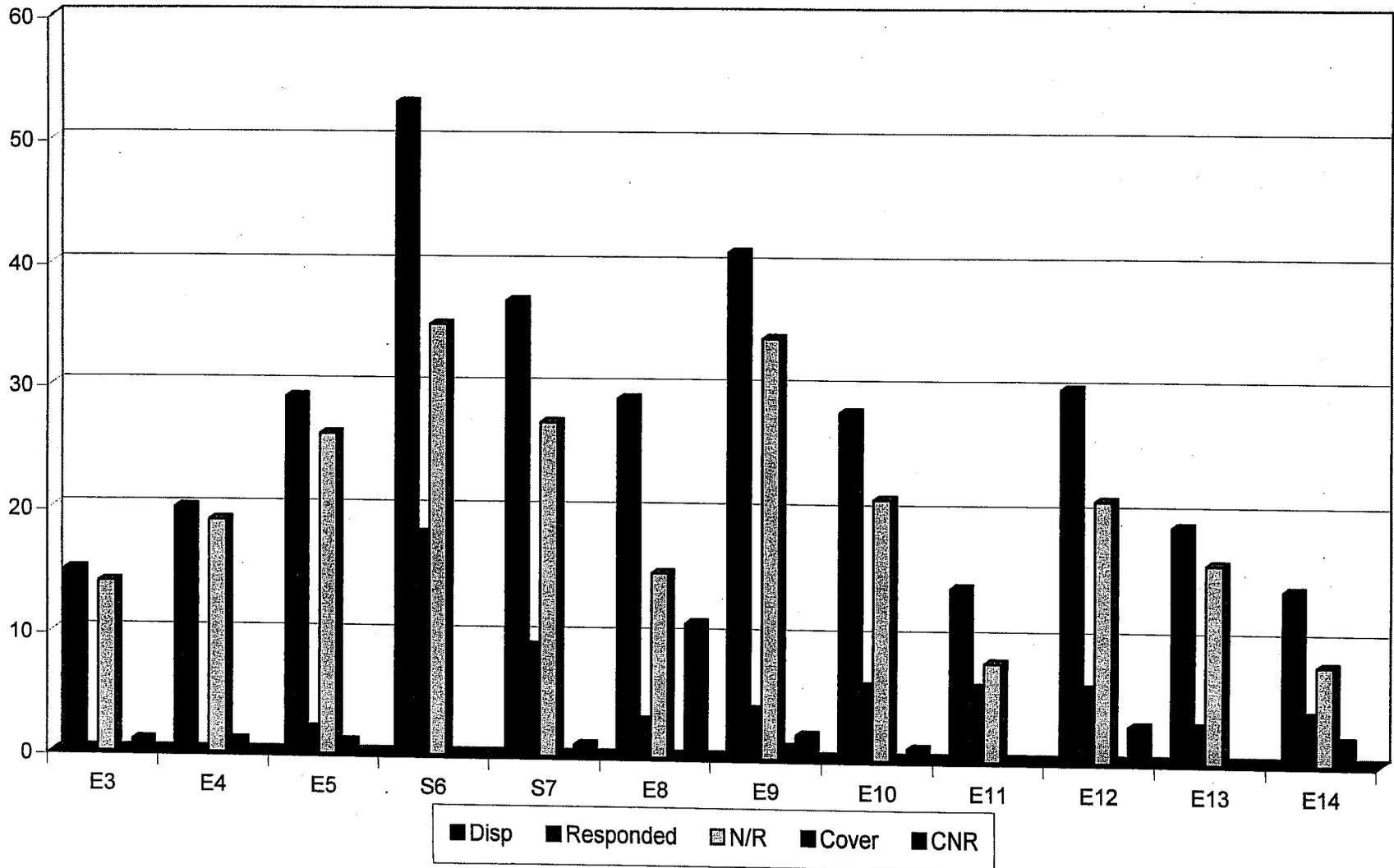
Career Company Response November 21 to December 20, 2007



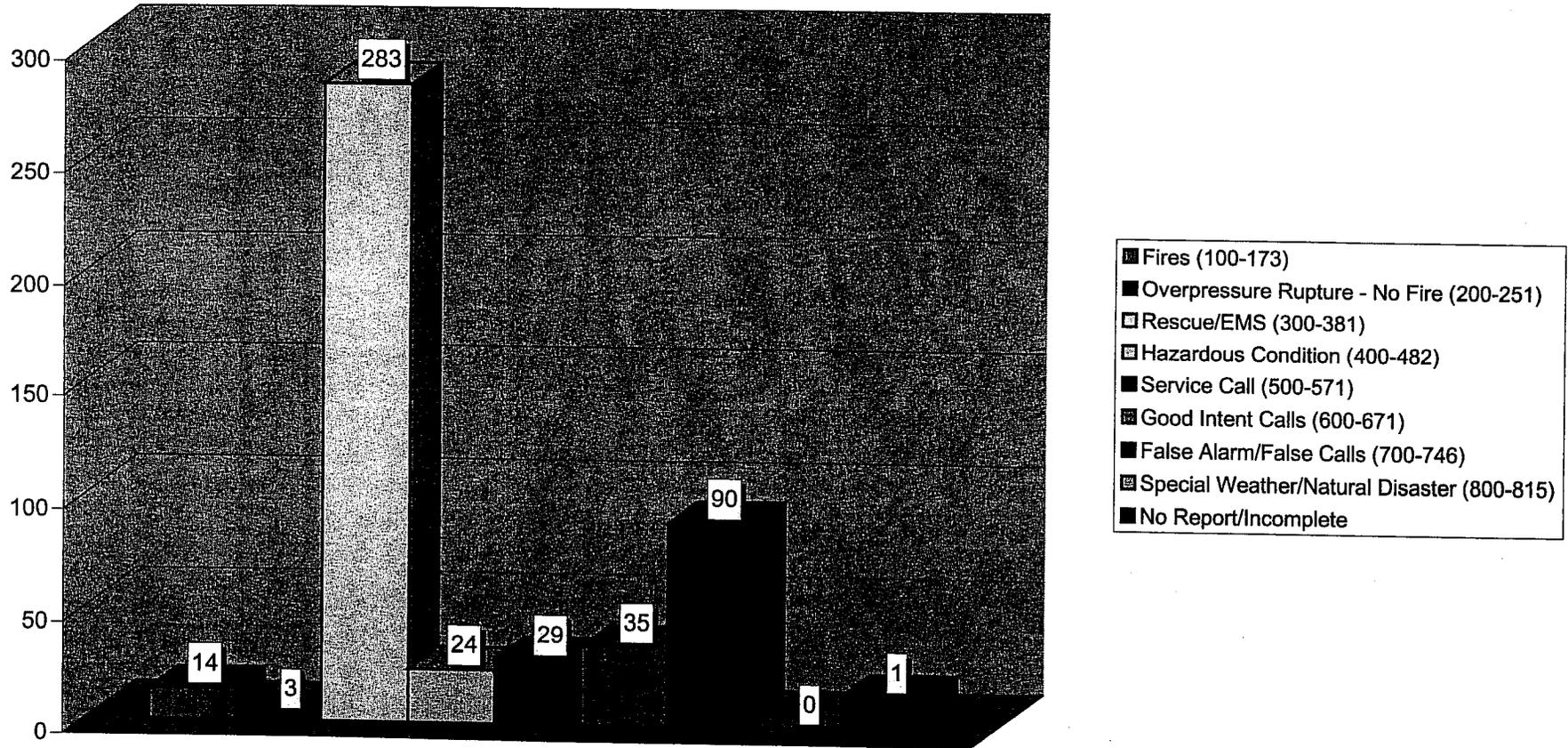
Career Response Comparison for December



Volunteer Call Counts November 21 to December 20, 2007

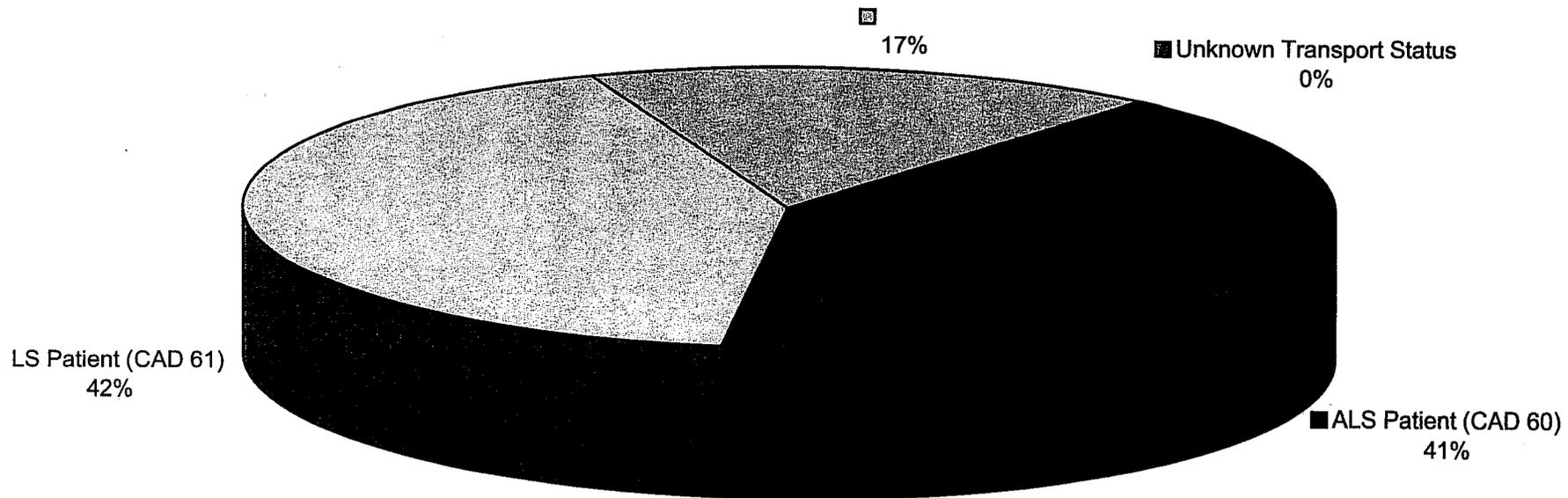


Fire Response Breakdown November 21 to December 20, 2007

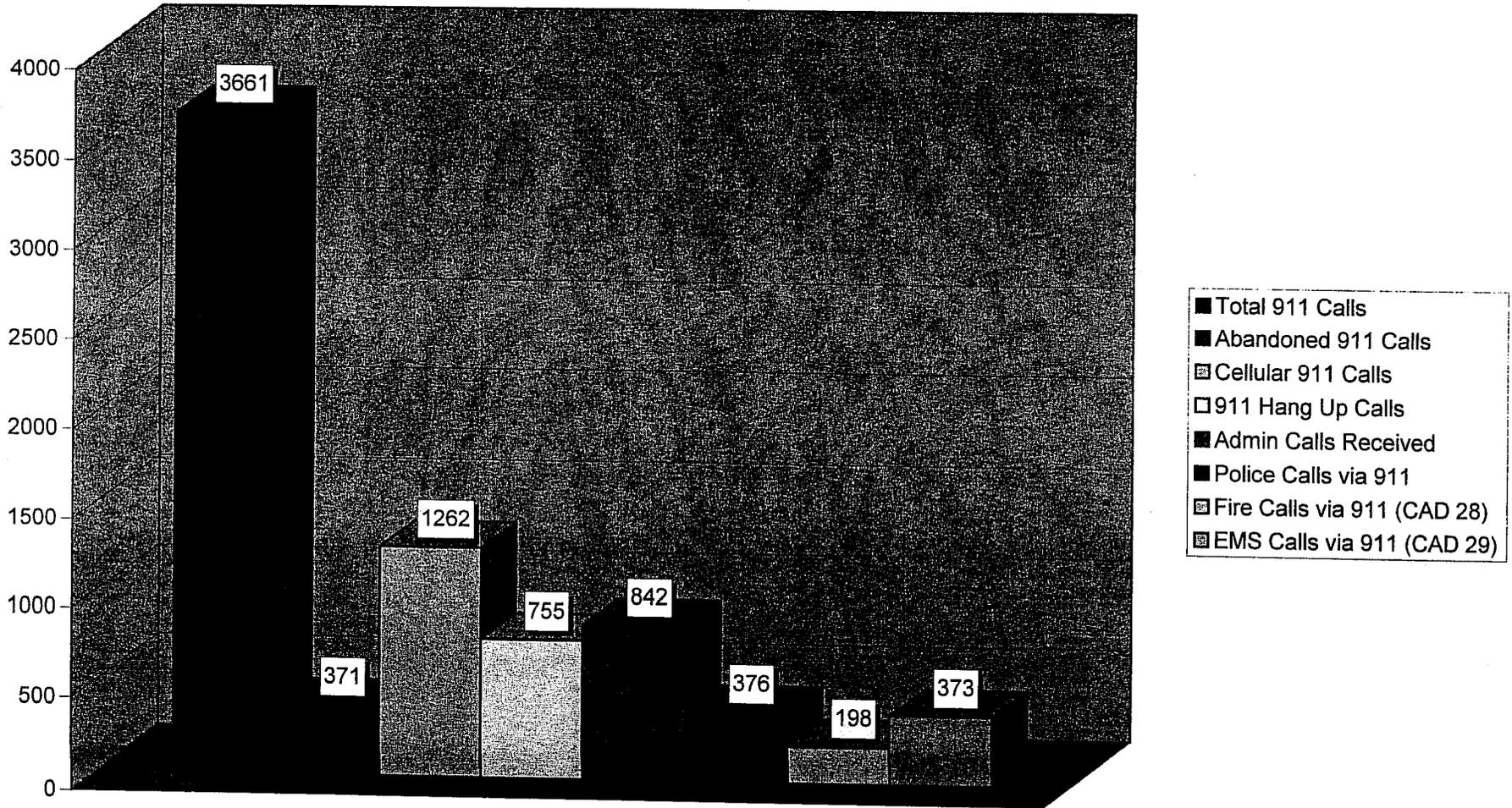


EMS Transport Activity

November 21 to December 20, 2007



911 Center Activity November 21 to December 20, 2007



DANBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER

RESPONSE STATISTICS

	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% of Response
E-3	15	0	1	0	14	7%
E-4	20	1	0	0	19	5%
E-5	29	1	0	2	26	10%
S-6	53	0	0	18	35	34%
S-7	37	0	1	9	27	27%
E-8	29	0	11	3	15	48%
E-9	41	1	2	4	34	17%
E-10	28	0	1	6	21	25%
E-11	14	0	0	6	8	43%
E-12	30	0	3	6	21	30%
E-13	19	0	0	3	16	16%
E-14	14	2	0	4	8	43%
Totals	329	5	19	61	244	26%