



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

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**Fire Department Monthly Report**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 September through 21 October and details activities of the Department.

For many years now October has been promoted as fire safety month. As a result it is always a very busy month for the fire department. Prevention teams across the country present special programs to many citizens, students and adults alike. These cover various aspects of fire safety in schools with escape drills, home safety tips such as "EDITH" exercises and "Stop, Drop and Roll" practice. These have proven to be life savers in many instances.

The Danbury Fire Department is a participant in this effort. The easiest fire to fight is one that never starts. Through this program we have educated many thousands of Danbury students over the years. This year alone we have addressed some 4960 students. This information may surface years later in a totally unexpected way and save a life.

As we move into the winter heating season it is again imperative that everyone is cautious with heat sources. Oil furnaces, wood stoves and other devices each require specific maintenance and upkeep. Before using these for the first time please check for air flow, animals and frayed wiring. Let us all enjoy the fall safely.

Capt. Bernie Meehan was named Danbury Firefighter of the Year for the Exchange Club. The local recognition dinner was in Danbury and the State wide dinner in Southington at the Aqua Turf. Congratulations Captain!

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

On 20 October the department hosted a breakfast meeting at HQ for IAFF President Harold Schaitberger and Congressman Chris Murphy. President Schaitberger addressed the members of the department as well as other department representatives. Congressman Murphy also spoke with the members and assured them of his continued support.

On 5 October the Department in conjunction with Danbury Hospital, the Connecticut Department of Homeland Security, Firematic Inc, Spotted Dog Technologies and the Monroe Fire Officers Association sponsored a firefighter safety seminar at Danbury Hospital. This seminar, "Not Everyone Goes Home" presented by Chief Billy Goldfeder, was a presentation on risk analysis and decision making for the fire-ground. It was attended by firefighters from across the region and the state.

The crew of Engine 25 gave Fire Prevention talks and demonstrations for approximately 175 children from Park Avenue School's kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes. They also gave a Fire Prevention and "Character Traits of Firefighters" talk to 70 third graders at Pembroke School.

Other tours and fire safety presentations included:

- Balmforth Ave. preschool
- Immanuel Lutheran preschool, kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Marcus Dairy "Touch a Truck"
- Home Safety Day at Lowes Home Center
- 36 and 37 Apple Ridge Rd.
- Yankee Gas Facility on Pahquioque Ave
- WCSU Alumni Hall-preschool
- Safety drill at Honeywell on Eagle Rd.
- Inter Faith Early Learning Center
- Halas Farm for Juvenile Diabetes "Paint a Pumpkin"

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

There have been several instances at various dates throughout the month where issues with gas were reported. These ranged from pilot lights out to capped lines leaking to elusive leaks whose sources still remain a mystery. These types of calls are becoming more frequent. We're getting better and more consistent in how we deal with them. If you do smell gas please call 9-1-1 immediately.

Most of us are familiar with some of the YankeeGas street crew workers or supervisors. We are constantly metering for the presence of gas with those workers alongside us. They're more in tune with ICS than in the past. We have to use the 8-step process a lot more often and think of alternate response routes, approaching from upwind and uphill. Officers are wary of not stopping directly in front of the reporting address and potentially becoming a part of the incident. It is more important now than ever that our meters are calibrated and functioning properly. Members are becoming familiar with the purging habits of Spectra Energy, Leahy's and Algonquin.

Earlier this year there was a problem when gas was distributed from Massachusetts without odorant over the summer.

The department pays special attention to familiar gas odor areas like Pahquioque Ave. There are many older pipes carrying gas under our city streets and there are varying degrees of leaks from them constantly, occasionally requiring us to close sections of roads or building access to ensure public safety. When people smell what they think is a gas leak, 9-1-1 is who they should call first.

On 8 October units responded to a structure fire on East Pearl St. This was a fire seated on the second floor of a residential structure. The fire was well established and the responding crews experienced a tough fire to extinguish. This firefighting effort was well delivered and though difficult the crews were successful in restricting the fire to that area that was already imperiled on arrival. The spread of the blaze was checked and though the structure received heavy damage, it was preserved. There were no injuries reported in the blaze.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Chamber of Commerce leadership Taskforce Danbury Graduation
- Facility Task Force
- Education Committee Meeting
- Monthly Staff Meeting
- Not everyone Goes Home Fire Safety Seminar
- Danbury Housing Partnership Breakfast
- Firefighter of the Year Dinner Captain Bernie Meehan
- Shipman and Goodwin Labor Law Update
- Firefighter of the Year Dinner Aqua Turf
- Career Chiefs Litigation and Legislative Update

### **Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez**

#### **EMS Wednesday**

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been Medical /Legal and Ethical issues that face the first responder. Medical, legal and ethical issues are a part of every emergency response. Firefighters occupy a special niche in today's society. Firefighters respond to the request for assistance from civilians thru the 911 system. This request implies a certain level of trust and the expectation of expertise and professionalism from the Fire Service.

The public trusts that when the Fire Dept. is on the scene that whatever emergency exists' it will be handled in an expeditious manner and that the priorities will be life safety and the protection of property.

Fire Departments are expected to be multi-faceted and proficient in many different disciplines' such as Fire Fighting, Technical Rescue, EMS and Haz-Mat. Firefighters as professional rescuers and patient advocates make difficult decisions during emergency operations every day, sometimes under the worst conditions. Operating within their scope of practice, maintaining their level of training will minimize the level

of scrutiny and liability. The Danbury Fire Departments' First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of Emergency Medical treatments and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impacts patient survivability.

### **Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

The Communications Division has been working to complete the outfitting of the two incoming engines. This includes the radios and the computer installations. Training of our firefighters as dispatchers has also been ongoing.

The division is monitoring laws and potential changes to our equipment. These may be necessitated by new federal laws affecting the frequencies and required hardware. These efforts are being made nationwide so as to ensure communications and interoperability in the emergency services.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### **Volunteer Division**

Third quarter training was completed for all companies in early October. 102 volunteers attended the classes which covered the operation of the Hazardous atmosphere monitoring meters, and a Hazardous Atmosphere review. Volunteer Firefighter Ron Incanstanti (Eng 12) is enrolled in a Firefighter II class in Brookfield. Travis Weber, Cody Reeves (Eng 3), and Ron Incanstanti, Eric Svege (Eng 12) are finishing up their EMT-B course work. Dean Smith, Dan Notaro (Eng 14) successfully completed the FF1/Haz Mat Ops/WMD course in Southbury are Certified Firefighter I. Chris Brosz (Eng 3) completed his testing and is now a certified FF1/Haz Mat Ops/WMD

#### **Career Division**

##### **Pump Operator**

The Pump Driver/Operator 48 hour course was completed Sept 24 and the State written Certification exam was on Oct 4. On average the 20 students scored in the 85% range.

##### **Aerial Operator/Pump Operator**

FF Sean Wanat completed his in house training and is qualified as an Aerial Driver/Operator.

FF's Gabe Rivera and Keith Sellick passed the DMV driving test for the State of CT Q endorsement required to drive Fire Apparatus.

##### **ARFF**

The 12 Airport Rescue Certified Firefighters conducted the required annual live burn training at the Westover Air Force Base burn facility on September 30.

##### **Recruit Fire Fighter**

Recruit Fire Fighter William Ratajack completed his 7<sup>th</sup> week (half way point) at the CT Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. This recruit class ends in late December.

### Honeywell Drill

In conjunction with the Honeywell (Prestone) Corp. on Eagle Rd, we responded to a Fire Drill for their employees on Sept. 23 with training smoke added for realism. The drill went well. Lessons were learned. The Fire Marshall division concluded the drill with a safety talk.

### Ropes/Knots class

All crews had a update and review class on ropes and knot tying. C group conducted a high angle rope rescue evolution at the WCSU Westside campus on Oct 7.

### Hose Testing

Annual hose testing is in progress for all crews and should be complete by the end of October. Over 21,000 feet of hose has been tested to date.

### Fire School

The Fire School on Plumtrees Rd is booked for Live Fire Training from October through December. CL&P replaced a failed Utility pole and relocated a second pole with new lighting added to both. New Steel doors were fabricated and installed at the rear basement entrance to the Burn building.

### Meetings/events for the T.O.

- Attended the wake for FF Sean Delohery's brother Jim on Sept 29
- State Firefighters Education Committee meeting on Sept. 23, Wethersfield
- Health/Safety meeting on Sept. 27
- Annual Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 3
- Chief Bill Goldfeder lecture "Not everyone goes home" at the Danbury Hospital Auditorium Oct 5
- Retirement dinner for 35 year veteran Lt. John Gillotti Oct. 6
- Exchange club Firefighter of the year dinner for Capt. Bernie Meehan on Oct 7
- Conducted a makeup session for Vol. FF's on Oct 13
- Staff meeting for D group on Oct 19
- IAFF president Harold Schaitberger visited Danbury Fire HQ on Oct 20 for an informational session as part of his tour through Connecticut

### Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following is a partial list of some of the activities and highlights of the Apparatus Division for October. All of the Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated. E-23 was serviced. The first generation Smart Docks, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) holders, were removed from this unit and were replaced with second generation Smart Docks. Several S.C.B.A.'s were repaired and returned to service as well as several P.A.S.S. alarms. The smallest and most annoying oil leak on E-22 has finally been stopped. It took a very unique and hard to find tool to accomplish the repair. This specialty tool was located and purchased in Stratford, CT. E-22 was also serviced at this time. The departments' pick-up truck was serviced and

prepared for plowing. The annual service of the Bauer Air Compressor was performed. Currently Truck-1 is out of service due to compromised air lines. This unit will be serviced and have some brake work performed while it's in "sick bay." The Apparatus Division is still spending a significant amount of time preparing for the delivery of our two new engines (ordering supplies and equipment) to properly outfit these units.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced Hurst tool hoses on E-26 spreaders.
- Replaced ignition switch in E-23.
- Repaired a 5" Storz (2) 2.5" appliance damaged during hose testing.
- Serviced the Smoke Ejector on Truck-1.
- Replaced the right high beam bulb and wire harness in C-30.
- Replaced a compartment door handle on Truck-2.
- Reworked several lengths of fire hose.

### **Fire Marshal - James Johnson**

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections: there were 2 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic). These situations have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved.

October is National Fire Prevention month. Proper use of "SMOKE DETECTORS" is the main theme. All schools will be visited by our office and the Fire Engine/Truck companies. During this month we have presented this education to 4960 students in the Danbury schools.

DFM Russell once again is the Fairfield County rep. for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The program will be implemented at the start of Fire Prevention Week. We will be at all schools with this years' Fire Safety Message.

FM Johnson attended a 10 day "Arson/Fire – Origin and Cause" class at the National Fire Academy.

### **Dates of Importance**

Please join the members of the department in a fund raiser "Tip a Firefighter Night". The Professional Firefighters Local 801 members will be serving customers at Two Steps Downtown Grill on 3 November between the hours of 630 PM and 1130 PM. Monies raised will be put toward the Arthur C Luf Childrens Burn Camp and the Professional Firefighters Local 801 Scholarship Fund.

### **Department Statistical Reports**

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	32.5	Place of Assembly:	11
Issued in Fire Zones:	1	Educational:	11
Fire Investigations:	12	Business:	25
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	1
Liquor Inspections:	8	Health Care:	6
Blasting Permits:	1	Industrial:	0
Complaints	18**	Mercantile:	23

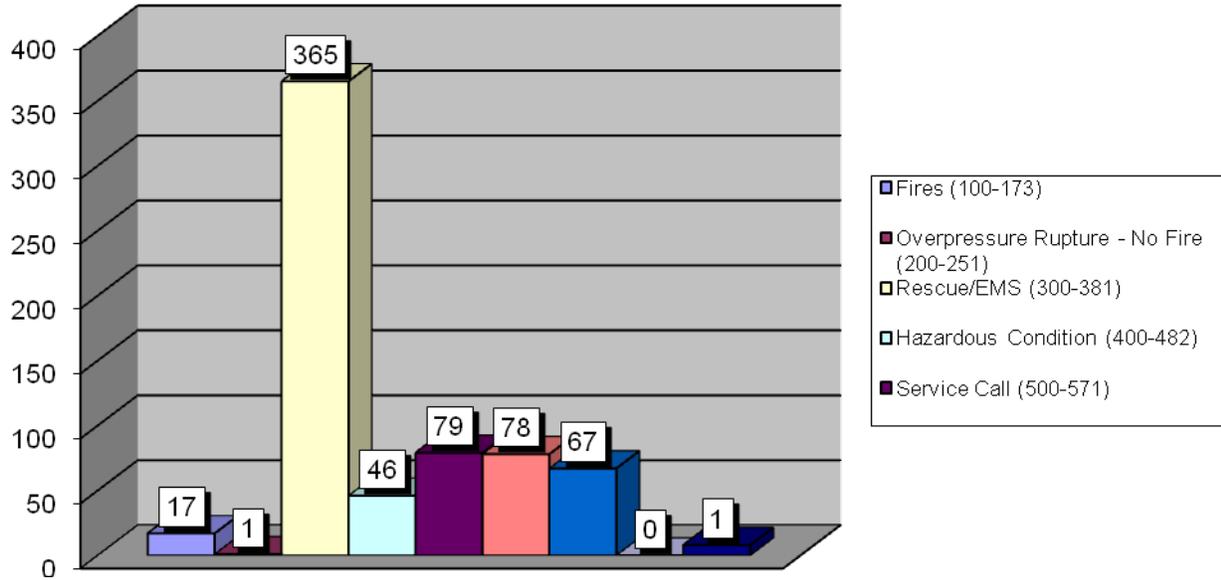
Plan Review (hrs)	53	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs.	22	Hotel (units):	110
Orders of Abatement:	1 (unit)	Apartments:	195
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	0
Some of these complaints were thru and with the UNIT.		Day Care:	2
		Misc. Inspections	30
		Special Structures:	2
		Office Duty (hrs):	144
		Burn Permits	2
		Service Stations	2

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	17
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	365
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	46
Service Call (500-571)	79
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	78
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	67
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	8
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>663</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	2736
Abandoned 911 Calls	363
Cellular 911 Calls	1408
911 Hang Up Calls	855
Admin Calls Received	822
Police Calls via 911	340
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	209
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	318
Daily Average	97.71
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	663
Total EMS Responses	743
Unknown Transport Status	9
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	310
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	321
No Patient (CAD 62)	103
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	6
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	16

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

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

### Fire Response Breakdown September 22 to October 21, 2010



### 911 Center Activity September 22 to October 21, 2010

