



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 21 November through 21 December and details activities of the Department.

On a special note, we are pleased to announce the two local winners of the Fire Prevention and Safety Poster contest. The winners from Danbury are 4th grader Kasey Peralta from St. Peters School and from Shelter Rock School, 5th grader Alfred Assaf. Congratulations to both of these young artists.

Before disposing of the Christmas tree, please take time to follow a few simple steps and be sure to dispose of Christmas trees properly. Although Christmas tree fires are uncommon, when they do occur, they are often serious; one out of every 21 reported Christmas tree fires results in a fatality. One-third of Christmas tree fires occurred in January.

Dried-out trees should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Carli recommends checking with your local community to find a recycling program. Also, remove outdoor holiday lights. As you unplug and store electric holiday decorations, remember that practicing safety now can keep decorations in working condition and prevent potential hazards from occurring next year. Following are safety tips that can be used when putting away seasonal decorations:

- To unplug electric decorations, use the gripping area provided on the plugs. Never pull the cord to unplug a device from electrical

outlets. Doing so can harm the cord's wire and insulation and even lead to an electrical shock or fire.

- As you're putting away electrical light strings, take time to inspect each for damage. Throw out light sets if they have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.
- Do not place a damaged set of lights back into the storage box for next year's use.
- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags, or wrap the lights around a piece of cardboard.
- Store electrical decorations in a dry place where they cannot be damaged by water or dampness. Also, keep them away from children and pets.

If everyone follows these simple guidelines, many accidental fires can be prevented.

The winter months represent special hazards due to cold and slippery road conditions. If you travel during this time of the year we advise you keep your vehicle in good running order by checking tire inflation and lighting. If you do travel over night it is a good idea to have an emergency kit in your vehicle. This should include blankets, water and emergency lighting.

Another precaution is to be certain that your cell phones are fully charged prior to traveling. Should you become stranded due to weather conditions or mechanical failure these preparations will be welcomed.

Your fire department is trained to respond to many types of rescue situations. One of these that may be needed at this time of the year is the cold water rescue training. Our members are equipped and trained to respond to falls through the ice and vehicles in the water. The responders will wear cold water gear that allows them to function in these very demanding environments. In the next few weeks you may find us at one of the local ponds or lakes practicing the techniques and using the tools to hone our skills. Feel free to stop by to observe the training.

Earlier this month we changed our title for our Fire Prevention Division. This is now the Office of Community Risk Reduction. This change reflects the charge that we have placed on the members. Their job is to ensure public safety through education, prevention, inspection and enforcement. Reducing risks to the community goes well beyond the simple fire inspections of an earlier era. This division will still be the home of our Fire Marshals and it is located on the main floor of City Hall near the permit center.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRE-INCIDENT FAMILIARIZATION: Middle River @ Deer Park, Louis Allen, Larch, Private aircraft hangar, Danbury Airport

PUBLIC RELATIONS: On 7 December the Truck Company went to the Maimonides Academy Pre-school to display the ladder truck and present a fire safety talk.

The Department delivered Santa to two events in downtown Danbury this month. One was at the Palace Theatre on Main Street sponsored by DCS and the second to Stevens Street and the Dorothy Day House.

The Department and the Professional Firefighters Union Local 801 assisted in a Fill the Fire Truck Toy Drive at the Danbury Square Mall. This was in support of the Connecticut Department of Children Services.

The department sponsored our annual canned food drive and Angel Tree Gift Program in support of the Salvation Army. This was again organized by Lieutenant Chip Daly.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

RESPONSES OF NOTE:

A fire at 91 South King Street has been determined to be of suspicious origin and an arrest is pending. The house was fully involved on arrival of responding units and the fire consumed the entire structure. The investigation was conducted by members of the Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal in Danbury, Danbury Police and the State Fire Marshal.

A single family home on Farm Street was damaged due to a kitchen fire. The fire spread to areas just outside of the kitchen. Fire damaged was restricted to those areas already damaged prior to responders' arrival. The Red Cross responded to assist in finding temporary housing for the residents.

The Carter Marshall Elks Lodge at 120 West Street experienced a small fire. A member of the lodge reported smoke in the building. Department members had to search the structure to find the source of the smoke. The fire was inside a closet and had climbed the wall and penetrated the ceiling into the subfloor above. A quick stop prevented possible extensive damage to the structure. Several city departments including the Health, Building and Community Risk Reduction became engaged and worked to assist the Lodge in reopening.

The department responded to the Danbury Airport for an aircraft emergency. The plane had landed with the gear in the retracted position. There were no reported injuries and the fire crews stood by while the plane was made safe and removed to secure area.

Command and Staff Activities

- Ad Hoc Committee for Ordinance
- State Fire Education Meeting, Wethersfield

- Meeting with Finance re: Fire inspection Software Acquisition
- HVCEO Annual Legislative Meeting
- C & D Group Christmas Party
- Housing Authority
- City Council
- Public Hearing at City Hall
- Connecticut Career Chiefs
- Quarterly Staff Meeting
- Prevedi Award and Mayors Annual Statement Luncheon
- Recruit Class Graduation
- A & B group Christmas Party

Donations

Donations this period include a donation from the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs. This \$200.00 donation was placed in our training fund.

A second donation this period was \$1500.00 from the Danbury Hospital. This donation will be used to acquire our Peer Fitness Training equipment.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

Haz Mat Drills

As part of the last quarter training for the year, a Haz Mat training scenario was held in conjunction with the mandatory firefighter training run by the training division. This drill involved a leaking bobtail propane deliver truck with two victims.

The focus of this drill was communications and tactics by the First Due Engine Co and the second due Engine Co. The intent was to have an opened ended dynamic drill where the IC upon arrival would give a size up and because the conditions encountered would be forced to make a quick tactical decision. Relaying this information to the second arriving engine company would affect the decisions made by the second officer in order to support and protect the operation.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Training of our dispatchers has been ongoing as required. This training has brought our dispatcher cadre up to a high level of proficiency. Currently the department can field over 70 qualified and certified dispatchers.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division: Fourth quarter training was completed in December for all companies. 104 Volunteer FF's participated in this live burn training on 5 different dates at our Training Facility on Plumtrees Road. The Miry Brook Ladies Auxiliary Canteen participated as well.

Travis Weber from Engine 3 passed all of his exams and is now a Fire Fighter 1.
Career Division

Technical Rescue: The 48 hour, 6 day, CT Fire Academy Technical Rescue- Core class ended on Nov 29 with the Practical skill exercises at the Hayestown Ave school

grounds. 18 firefighters from Danbury and two from Ridgefield successfully completed the course. A "Confined Space" drill was conducted at the FCI pumping station on Barnum Rd by on duty crew on Nov 24.

Mandatory Training Day: The 8 hour training day was completed by all four crews on 4 dates in December. Personnel participated in SCBA Confidence drills (using our new prop); live burn evolutions and a propane leak Incident with our bobtail tank truck. Classroom sessions included the above topics and safety updates. All training was held at our Training Facility on Plumtrees Rd.

Recruit Fire Fighter: William Ratajack completed the 15 week (700 hours) CT Fire Academy Recruit Training in Windsor Locks. He graduated December 17, with 40 other recruits at a ceremony held at Manchester Community College. FF Ratajack is assigned to "B" group and started on shift December 21.

Fire School: A maze was constructed by our crews under the roof prop. Firefighters crawl through the maze "on air" using their Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to reinforce their skills and to gain confidence while maneuvering in tight quarters.

NVCC: The 3 credit fall semester "Hydraulics" course ended on Dec. 15. The spring semester course will be "Sprinklers and Standpipes" taught by Adjunct professors DC Weidl and Asst Chief Slagle.

"Modern Marvels": A production crew from the "Modern Marvels" television show (A & E) was in Danbury on Dec. 21 and 22 filming an episode for an upcoming show. They filmed at Fire Headquarters and at our Fire School burn building where our Fire Fighters demonstrated their bail out life saving rope kits and other items. The show is scheduled to air in March of 2011.

Meetings/events for the Training Officer

- Excel Training class at HQ on Nov. 22 by Melissa Adams from the I.T. Dept.
- Critique of South King St. Arson fire on Sunday Nov. 28
- N.V.C.C. Hydraulics class – Wednesday evenings
- Call back for Structure Fire- Farm St Nov 28.
- Funeral for DPW employee and Volunteer FF Bobby Beers Dec 4
- CME "Trauma review" at Roxbury Town hall on Dec 15
- Ct Fire Academy on Dec 3 for a seminar on Propane Emergencies
- C&D group Christmas Party Dec 4 at "Two Steps"
- A&B group Christmas Party Dec 18 at "Danbury Plaza"

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The LEL sensor in E-22's meter was replaced. The new E-22 has arrived and is being outfitted with the required equipment. This unit will go into service in the beginning of January. Truck-1 suffered a compressor failure. Truck-2 was in Rocky Hill at Firematic Supply having the scheduled body repairs performed. Due to the breakdown of Truck-1, we were forced to take Truck-2 out of the body shop early. The

departments' pick-up was serviced and the plow installed as well as the snow blower. The new E-21 was placed in service and the old E-21 was serviced, re-numbered and placed into service as E-25. Contractual servicing of all of our HURST tools ("Jaws of Life") has been completed.

Other repairs completed:

- Serviced all of the Departments Hurst tools.
- Replaced 4 rear tires on E-22.
- Replaced left rear brake chamber on E-22.
- Replaced front tires on 03F1.
- Replaced governor and air lines on Truck-1.
- Replaced compressor on Truck-1.
- Replaced the windshields in both the 97F1 and 97F2.

Community Risk Reduction, Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

There have been illegal unpermitted occupancies discovered thru U.N.I.T. activities. This resulted in 4 inspections for unsafe occupancy in an attic or basement. All known situations have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved. There were several fires reported this period but luckily we have no reports of injuries. One large dollar loss fire was reported with the total loss of the structure.

DFM Russell once again is the Fairfield County rep. for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The winners from Danbury are 5th grader Alfred Assaf from Shelter Rock School, 4th grader Kasey Peralta from St. Peters School. Training included FM Johnson and DFM's Gillotti & Russell completing the Hydraulics' course from NVCC.

Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	30.5	Place of Assembly:	34
Issued in Fire Zones:	14	Educational:	1
Fire Investigations:	11	Business:	22
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	2
Liquor Inspections:	0	Health Care:	4
Blasting Permits:	3	Industrial:	0
Complaints	18**	Mercantile:	63
Plan Review (hrs)	78	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs.	18	Hotel (units):	80
Orders of Abatement:	1 (unit)	Apartments:	35
** Resolved or in the process		Rooming Houses:	0
of being resolved.		Day Care:	5
Some of these complaints		Misc. Inspections	19
were thru and with the UNIT.		Special Structures:	0
Service Stations	4		
Fuel Trucks	2	Office Duty (hrs):	216
		Burn Permits	2