



**CITY OF DANBURY  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**19 NEW STREET**

**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**Geoffrey R. Herald  
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1550  
Fax 203-796-1533**

**FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

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

The Danbury Fire Department said farewell to retiring Lt. Ken Stilson this month. Ken served the department for over 30 years. He served his community as a firefighter and lieutenant. Prior to his service here he was a Marine Corps officer as well as a state conservation officer. We wish for him and his wife Althea a long and healthy retirement.

The department would like to extend our best wishes to Shannon and Adam Horosky on the recent birth of their daughter Bradley Horosky. Congratulations!

We would like to again remind everyone that with the extreme cold temperatures our safety message is to dress as appropriate and avoid being outside if at all possible. This weather is especially concerning if there are pre-existing asthma or other breathing conditions. With the very cold air exposure and exertion comes an increased risk of heart attack as well. Please use all precautions such as gloves and face protection. And if you experience symptoms, please immediately contact 9-1-1.

During the past weeks there have been several storms. Many citizens and businesses have made efforts to dig out the hydrants abutting their properties. There are over 1800 hydrants in the city. We encourage all to dig out the hydrants near your properties.

The department has exhausted our donated supply of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. We are looking to replenish our supply so that we might continue this valuable community service. We have some 9-volt batteries that were donated so we can still replace those.

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

With the very cold weather we have had many calls for public service. One involved a citizen on Mill Plain Road who had locked her keys in the car. She was locked out of the house also as the key for the house was on the same key ring. As a public service we were able to respond and open the car thereby allowing her to stay warm and get to work. She was extremely happy for both.

Another service call was discovered while at an automatic alarm at the mall. After addressing the alarm the crew was returning to the engine. A woman was noticed looking for something in the snow in the parking area. The engine company commanded by Lt. Dan Gregory and staffed by firefighters John Kennedy and Roger Bohan asked if there was anything that they might help her with. She had lost her wedding band as she took off her glove.

The crew searched to no avail. They then asked a local sporting goods store to borrow a metal detector but the store would not allow it. They left the scene and the woman gave up her ring as lost. Firefighter Roger Bohan however did not give up. The next day, he borrowed his brothers' metal detector and searched for the ring on his own. He located the ring and he and the crew returned it to the very grateful owner.

Tours this month included Casper St., Mannkind Corp. This pre-plan tour of the plant also reviewed the pending future construction project. Also visited this month was the Danbury Airport and 36 West Wooster St. In addition, crews toured several of the various vacant structures in the city. These pose a special risk to firefighters and gaining familiarity of these structures is critical.

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

Crews responded to 51 Main St., Danbury Commons. This was a fire which had likely been caused by careless use of smoking materials. No evidence of an ignition source was discovered in the dresser drawer containing burned clothing. The drawer was relocated to the occupant's lanai, where the fire was extinguished. Housing Authority employees assisted in smoke removal and interpreting. DFM Osborne investigated. Though the carpeting was new in May, many areas of burned carpet were identified. Management was working with DPD, pursuing a possible reckless endangerment arrest. During the investigation the PD did confiscate all smoking items in the apartment.

On 29 Dec. the department responded to a call for water flowing at the vacant 2 National Place. There we forced entry and found a broken water pipe. Crews were able to secure the flowing water and shut down the power to reduce the threat of short circuiting the electrical system. These actions assisted in limiting the damage to the building.

On 29 December crews responded to a reported fire at Franklin Plaza on Pembroke Road. While there crews discovered issues regarding a woodstove and an

apartment. A Deputy Fire Marshal from the office of Community Risk Reduction investigated. The situations were addressed and the conditions corrected.

On 14 Jan Engine company 24 responded to an imminent childbirth. The company responded to a medical office at 103 Newtown Rd. Lt Miguel, FF Forbes, FF Perrotti provided assistance in the emergency childbirth. The crew assisted the office staff of the MD's office with the delivery and then transport of mother, baby, father and family car to Danbury Hospital. All are reported doing well.

On 15 January the department responded to a structure fire on Sheridan Street. This fire was caused by an issue with the chimney. Despite the very deep snow which always poses a challenge to firefighting, the crews quickly knocked down the fire. During the process portions of an exterior wall were removed. After the fire was extinguished the firefighters covered the wall opening with plywood and tarps to prevent any further weather damage.

Units responded to a tractor trailer accident. This was on I-84 at Exit 7 East bound. The tractor saddle tanks were split open and this created a diesel fuel incident. The department applied hazardous material training and resources to correct the situation. This incident was addressed successfully through coordination efforts with the Connecticut DEP and state police.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Danbury Health Care Associates Meeting on Dispatch Cardiac Response
- Health and Safety Meeting
- Volunteer Council Executive Board Meeting
- Ad Hoc CC Meeting
- Danbury association of Retired Firefighters Meeting
- Budget review with Finance Director
- Red Cross Blood Drive at Fire Headquarters
- State Career Chiefs
- Mayors' Cabinet mtg.

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

**EMS Wednesday.** The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Patient Assessment. Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediately threatening problems so that treatment can be provided. The fire Department First Responders stabilize and treat the patient pending arrival of City EMS units who take over and then transport the patient to the hospital emergency department.

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system. Cross-trained Danbury firefighters with lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of medical calls, and this coupled with the Danbury Fire Departments' community education programs like CPR training has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

**Medical Control for Advanced EMTs:** The yearly re-application of medical control from the Danbury Hospital for our Advanced Emergency Medical personnel has been completed. The Danbury Fire Department has thirty-eight First Responders that have been trained to the Advanced Life Support level. This training provides our firefighters with a higher level of pre-hospital medical skills. This training will assist in our treating and stabilizing patients until the arrival of EMS and delivery to definitive care at Danbury Hospital.

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

Dispatcher Steven Rogers was promoted and is now serving as a dispatcher on B Group. Ongoing refresher training was curtailed during this period. The hardware 9-1-1 PSAP and the software for the CAD system received some minor maintenance but there were no significant issues noted.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### Volunteer Division

The Fire Fighter I/ Hazardous Materials Operational-WMD class started on January 11 and will run through the middle of May with final testing in June. This is a 160 hour challenging course. We have 16 Danbury Volunteer Firefighters in the class with 2 students from neighboring departments. Eleven Danbury Volunteers successfully completed FF1 in 2010. Danbury Volunteers completed approximately 5,000 hours of training in 2010.

#### Career Division

#### Training Hours for 2010

The 94 Fire Suppression personnel who comprise the four shifts completed 18,175 man hours of training in calendar 2010. These hours include training in Fire Suppression, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials, EMS and other related topics.

#### NVCC

18 students successfully completed the fall semester class, "Hydraulics for the Fire Service". The Spring semester course, "Sprinklers and Standpipes" taught by Adjunct professors DC Wiedl and Asst. Chief Slagle will start on January 26 with full enrollment.

#### "Modern Marvels"

The Modern Marvels television special, "What's in your pockets?" (portions were filmed in Danbury in December) is scheduled to air on March 18.

#### Pre-fire tours

All crews toured the facilities of the Mannkind Corporation on Casper St. over the last two weeks.

#### Snow-Snow-Snow

Crews have been busy locating and digging out hydrants throughout the city.

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

- Ct Fire Instructors meeting and Haz Mat updates on January 5 at the Academy

- ❑ Mentoring a student for an hour per week at Rogers Park Middle School
- ❑ Participating in the 9 month “Leadership Danbury” program sponsored by the Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The group meets one day per month.

### **Apparatus/Equipment**

The LEL sensor in Truck-1’s meter was replaced. The new E-22 is in pre-service and is being outfitted with the required equipment. Final radio installation was completed this week and this unit will be going into service soon. All of the Departments’ 4 Gas meters were calibrated. Last month Truck-1 suffered a compressor failure. While Truck-1 was O.O.S several issues were addressed regarding hydraulic leaks as well as some cooling issues. Due to the severe weather we have been quite busy in a “rapid triage” sort of way. This weather is very hard on fire apparatus and we have been doing our best to keep our fleet on the road. Two new chain saws were added to our inventory and assigned to E-26 and the Gator.

Other repairs completed:

- Assisted Motorola Technician with reprogramming radios.
- Replaced 4 McPherson struts on 03F2.
- Replaced batteries in R-1.
- Replaced four tires and performed an alignment on 97F2.
- Rebuilt the “Go Light” on Car 30.
- Repaired department snow thrower.
- Repaired the “fenderette” on E-26.

### **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson**

During this period there were 2 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic); these situations have been resolved. Fire Prevention this month consisted of presentations focused especially on the elderly. The office investigated several serious fires, we are happy to report there were no injuries reported.

Members of the Community Risk Reduction team attended several continuing education classes to maintain required certifications. Four people in the office are enrolled at NVCC working toward their degrees. The class this semester is “Sprinkler Systems”.

DFM Leach attended the National Fire Academy for a Public Fire Education class.

### **Department Statistical Reports**

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>15</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>3</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>400</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>41</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>91</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>76</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>61</b>
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>0</b>

Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
No Report/Incomplete	8
Total Fire Responses	696
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	3467
Abandoned 911 Calls	316
Cellular 911 Calls	1317
911 Hang Up Calls	49
Admin Calls Received	818
Police Calls via 911	284
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	215
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	335
Daily Average	123.82
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	696
Total EMS Responses	637
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	235
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	278
No Patient (CAD 62)	124
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	9
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	28

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

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

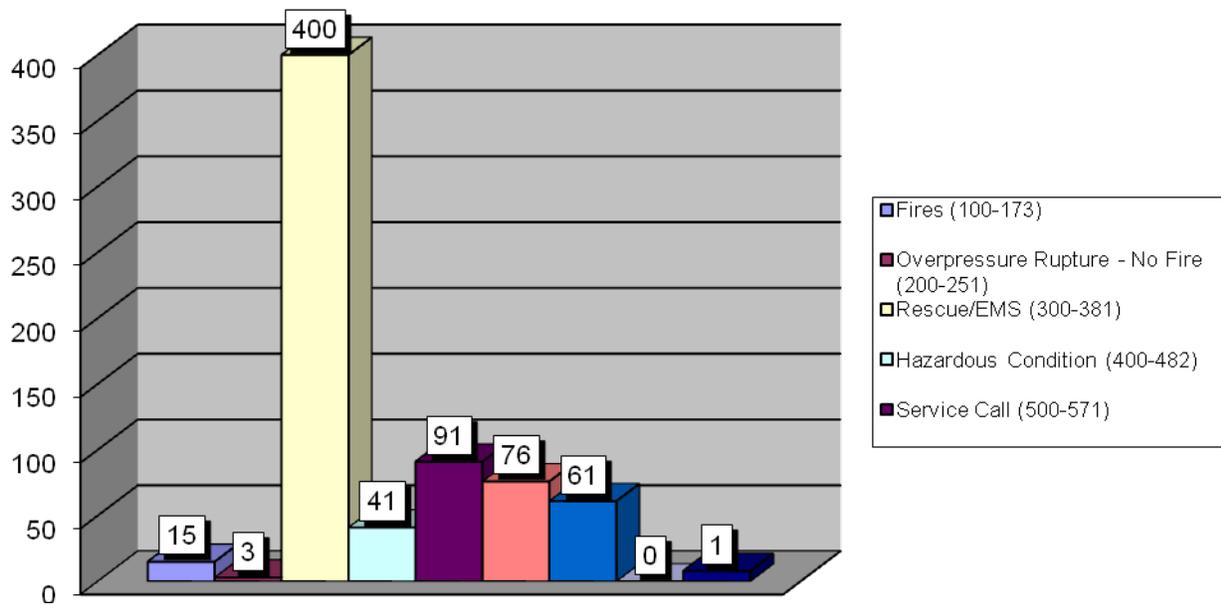
### Community Risk Reduction

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	42.5	Place of Assembly:	37
Issued in Fire Zones:	12	Educational:	3
Fire Investigations:	21	Business:	36
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	0
Liquor Inspections:	15	Health Care:	1
Blasting Permits:	2	Industrial:	2
Complaints	20**	Mercantile:	22
Plan Review (hrs)	78.5	Residential Board & Care:	1
Fire Prevention Prgs.	15	Hotel (units):	125
Orders of Abatement:	1	Apartments:	75
Service Stations	1	Fuel Trucks	0
Misc. Inspections	31	Rooming Houses:	2
Special Structures:	0	Day Care:	2
Office Duty (hrs):	188	Burn Permits	1
Meetings (Reserve, Matrix, Sports Complex, Litigation etc.)			48
Continuing Ed Class, College Class			12

\*\* Resolved or in the process of being resolved.

Some of these complaints were found through actions of the U.N.I.T.

### Fire Response Breakdown December 22, 2010 to Jan 21, 2011



### 911 Center Activity December 22, 2010 to Jan 21, 2011

