

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 February through 21 March and details activities of the Department.

The winter weather may be behind us for the year but there are still hazards to be considered. As the ice melts on our ponds and lakes, the area surrounding them may become slippery and potentially dangerous. As you walk along these water ways, please be mindful of the possible hazards. Any remaining ice must be considered too thin to support walking on so avoid it.

The spring will bring out pedestrians and bicyclists in significant numbers. As you drive on our streets, please be aware of their presence as you travel. If you ride a bicycle or walk on the streets, be aware of traffic and follow safety guidelines including wearing a helmet while riding and facing traffic while walking.

Through an oversight, the call described here was left off the February report. On 24 January newly appointed Dispatcher Steve Rogers and Acting Dispatcher D.J.Brown were staffing the PSAP. An aide to an 87 year old patient called 9-1-1 to report that the woman was choking on a piece of chicken. While acting dispatcher D.J.Brown dispatched the responding units, Dispatcher Rogers spoke with the aide.

Rogers first determined the aide did not know the Heimlich maneuver. He then talked the aide through performing the maneuver which she performed around 10 times. Finally, the piece of chicken was ejected.

The woman, who had nearly stopped breathing by this time, was able to breathe again.

The ambulance and the engine company arrived on the scene. They described the piece of chicken as being the size of an "Oreo". By this time the patient was breathing normally and refused medical treatment. This was a great effort on the part of the two dispatchers. This method of dispatching, with a call taker and dispatcher, is the model for efficient and effective dispatching today. Dispatcher Rogers is to be commended for his performance.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-incident tours include Danbury Hospital Co-Gen Plant, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ethan Allen Corporate Headquarters, Jensen's Mobile Home Park, New Apartments at 128 Osborne St., Reserve and Crown Point developments off Saw Mill Rd., New condominium's on Chestnut Street and the Danbury Hospital Diagnostic building at 111 Osborne Street. E26 crew familiarized themselves with airport layout and procedures as well as the Airport Emergency Plan and initial response objectives. Other Engine 26 crews also went over roads, maps, and hydrant locations in condo and mall complexes in their district, met with contractor reps at Crown Point, where they reviewed the lower part of the complex and then proceeded to the upper buildings, looking at the interiors and garages, identifying annunciator panels and sprinkler rooms. They also reviewed the Rivington Site, Matrix Building, Microcast, NOVO Labs and Miry Brook Rd. to the Ridgefield line.

E21 familiarized themselves with Fairfield Ridge, Madeline Ridge Condos, and performed a district flood impact assessment including road closures. E22 reviewed Danbury Police Headquarters, St. George Church on Kohanza St. and Brookview Commons on Crosby St. Due to a water main break during recent flooding, additional crew members had the opportunity to become familiar with that building via fire watch assignments. E24 pre-planned their district for building access during flooding. E25 reviewed the northwest portion of their district.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: on 3/1/2011, E23 crew went to the ESL Center on Osborne St. to read to the young children on Dr Seuss' birthday. On 3/12/2011, E23 also attended the Danbury PTO Silent Auction at Stadley Rough School and on 3/13/2011, E23 stood by at the Penguin Plunge at Danbury Town Park

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 2/7/11 at 07:43 at 72 Greenlawn Dr., Jensen Trailer Park there was a response to flooding of Lake Kenosia into the Jensen community. 12 people, 4 dogs, 3 cats and personal effects including oxygen bottles were relocated to the community building or dry ground. No injuries were reported. While on scene, there were responses by Leahy's personnel to retrieve or secure floating propane tanks and Northeast Utilities to secure power to living units affected by meters and wiring which was submerged.

E26 provided door to door service with the boat and were thanked many times by residents and management grateful for DFD response.

On 2/7/11 at 14:34 at the West St. trestle there was a water rescue call for E22 assisted by the Truck Co. and C-30 returning from the second call. The driver of a small car was stranded on her hood as the car was stuck in the predictably large pool of water that is typically present following heavy rain. PD was on scene as crews used the boat to bring her out of the water. Sixty six incidents were responded to that day, due to extensive flooding from approximately 4½ inches of rain. Most calls were ice/water related. Career and volunteer companies were busy throughout the day assessing hazards and assisting people. Volunteer companies 12, 8, 3 and 13 handled the lion's share of pump outs. Volunteer Company 12 did 16 of the calls.

On 3/12/11 at 22:28 at 25 Patch St. there was a reported structure fire. On arrival crews found a fully charged apartment on the third floor of a 3-story, 7 unit apartment building. The tenant had apparently fallen asleep with a pan on the stove. Awakened by a smoke detector, she could not turn off the stove as the knobs had burned off. A neighbor also heard the detectors and responded, retrieving a fire extinguisher from a 1st floor tenant and extinguished the fire. There was some extension to the range hood and surrounding cabinets. The lighting circuit for the unit was also damaged. No injuries were reported. FD crews completed overhaul following investigation by DFM Osborne.

On 3/13/2011, E25 crew responded to a cardiac arrest call at 23 Maplewood Dr., where they found a 57 year old man in arrest. E25 crew found the patient's son doing CPR with instructions from a Trooper at the Southbury Barracks, where the 911 cell call was originally received. E25 crew used a defibrillator and CPR in conjunction with EMS crew with meds to restart the heart. The patient is still hospitalized as of this writing.

Command and Staff Activities

- Charity hockey game
- Chamber of Commerce Economic forecast
- State labor management mtg.
- Negotiations and Legal update seminar
- Connecticut Career Chiefs
- Phoenix Hose vehicle modification mtg.
- Monthly Staff mtg.
- CL&P emergency response mtg.
- Volunteer Fireman's Ball
- Economic Outlook Meeting at The Matrix
- City Council Meeting
- City Utilities Underground/Above Ground Tank Meeting
- Staff and Command Class

Donations

The fire department has received a very generous donation from Bedoukian Research Inc. This donation in the amount of \$15,000 will be used to acquire a Thermal Imaging Camera for Engine 24. This camera is completes our equipping of our engines with these life saving devices. The remainder of the donation will be used

to purchase night vision equipment to assist in night Haz-Mat and search and rescue operations.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Though we continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections, there was only 1 inspection for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic). This situation has been resolved. This month our Fire Prevention efforts included programs presented to groups, the mall home show, and the annual Fire prevention Poster Contest hosted by the Lions Club.

Members of the CCR Bureau attended several continuing education classes to maintain our Certification. Four Marshals are enrolled at NVCC: this semesters' class is "Sprinkler Systems". The Fire Marshal's office also hosted a state wide continuing education class this month at Hatters Park which was well received by all who attended (115). Our Juvenile Firesetters program has also been quite active with several counseling sessions this month.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been a review to prepare our First Responders for their State of Connecticut EMS recertification test and practical exam. The annual EMT-B recertification testing is scheduled for March 30 at Beaver Brook Fire house.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

During this period the difficult winter continued to prove challenging to not only the citizens of Danbury but to all the public safety personnel as well. As the piles of snow began to shrink and warmer temperatures took over, a series of significant rain storms turned many areas prone to flooding into lakes and ponds. As crews dealt with the 'normal' areas of flooding, such as Jensens' Mobile Home Park and the West Street bridge area, a rain event on March 6 and 7 dumped nearly 4.5 inches of rain on the area.

During the next several days' crews responded to 125 calls for water problems and approximately 75 other calls related to miscellaneous problems created by the storms. Many volunteer fire crews worked tirelessly to assist their neighbors throughout the city. Constant communications and cooperation between dispatch personnel and the volunteer field crews allowed an extremely stressful circumstance to become an exercise in compassion and teamwork.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

1st Quarter training is 80% complete. The last training session is scheduled for March 30 at Miry Brook VFD. The Fire Fighter I/ Hazardous Materials Operational-WMD class completed 10 weeks of the 18 week course. There are 2 more weeks of Firefighting, then 5 weeks of Haz-Mat training.

Career Division

Airport Training: All crews stationed at Eng 26 are training on the Airport with familiarization with the layout and Communications with Air Traffic Control.

Building Construction review

All crews completed on duty classes covering Building Construction review with an emphasis on new light weight building materials.

Structure Fire- Floods: Crews fought a structure fire on Housman St., doing a nice job while dealing with winter weather issues. Career and Volunteer crews were extremely busy with water problems throughout the city during the heavy rains and snow melt.

Fire School: The Fire School facilities remain busy with Firefighter 1 training, company drills and live burns. The facility is booked for Live Burns through May.

House Bill # 5489 to designate the Danbury school has been approved by the Public Safety Committee and will move the House Floor for a vote.

New Recruit: Recruit fire fighter Tim O'Hanlon is progressing well at the CT Fire Academy as the Platoon leader of Recruit class #47. Graduation is scheduled for May 19.

Light Duty: Personnel assigned to the training Division while on light duty are working on merging the Fire Dept's Hydrant list with the Water Dept's information. This should help both departments communicate hydrant issues more effectively.

NVCC

The college class, "Sprinklers and Fixed Extinguishing Systems" had mid terms in mid March. Classes are held at Fire Headquarters on Wednesday evenings.

ICS class: The Training Division presented the "Introduction to the Incident Command System" class to personnel from the Miry Brook Ladies Auxiliary and the Salvation Army. Canteen 13 will be working with our Rehab sector providing fluids and food at Emergencies and Training evolutions.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Connecticut Fire Instructor's meeting at the New Haven Fire School, March 2
- CME at Danbury Hospital on March 8
- Danbury Regional Fire School Public Hearing in Hartford on Feb. 22
- Volunteer Fireman's Ball on March 12
- Danbury Fire Dept vs. Danbury Police Charity Hockey game on March 13
- Leadership Danbury Seminar at the News Times on Feb. 24
- Monthly Staff meeting with "A" group on March 15
- Mentoring a student for an hour per week at Rogers Park Middle School

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The LEL sensor in E-24's 4-Gas meter was replaced. One meter is currently out of service and it has been sent to the factory for evaluation and repair. The new E-22 has been placed into service. The "old E-22" has been serviced, re-lettered and has been

assigned in service, as the “new E-24”. Annual Fit Testing of the Career Department is almost complete. Fit testing is being scheduled for the Volunteer contingent.

Other repairs completed:

- Rebuild the carburetor on the Foam Unit-6.
- Replaced Kussmaul covers on three Engines and Truck-1.
- Replaced the heater control valve in Truck-1.
- Install new 2 way radios in Squad 2, 06FX1, 06FX2, and 06FX3.
- Integrate the new Tempest electric fans on Truck-1 and Truck-2.
- Replace both rear brake chambers E-23.
- Remove Alternator from 03PS and send out for evaluation and repair.
- Replace two rear tires on 07PD.
- Performed a complete brake evaluation on Truck-1

Department Statistical Reports

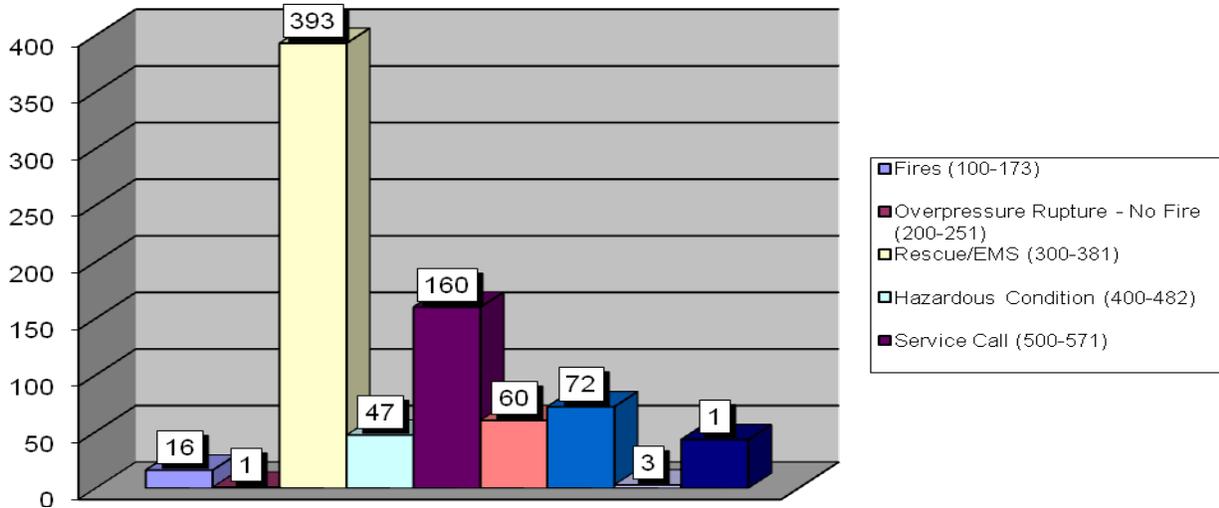
Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	16
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	393
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	47
Service Call (500-571)	160
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	60
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	72
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	3
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	43
Total Fire Responses	795
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2859
Abandoned 911 Calls	363
Cellular 911 Calls	1417
911 Hang Up Calls	891
Admin Calls Received	848
Police Calls via 911	332
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	276
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	375
Daily Average	109.96
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	795
Total EMS Responses	776
Unknown Transport Status	17
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	361
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	300
No Patient (CAD 62)	98
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	5
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	13

** NOTE **

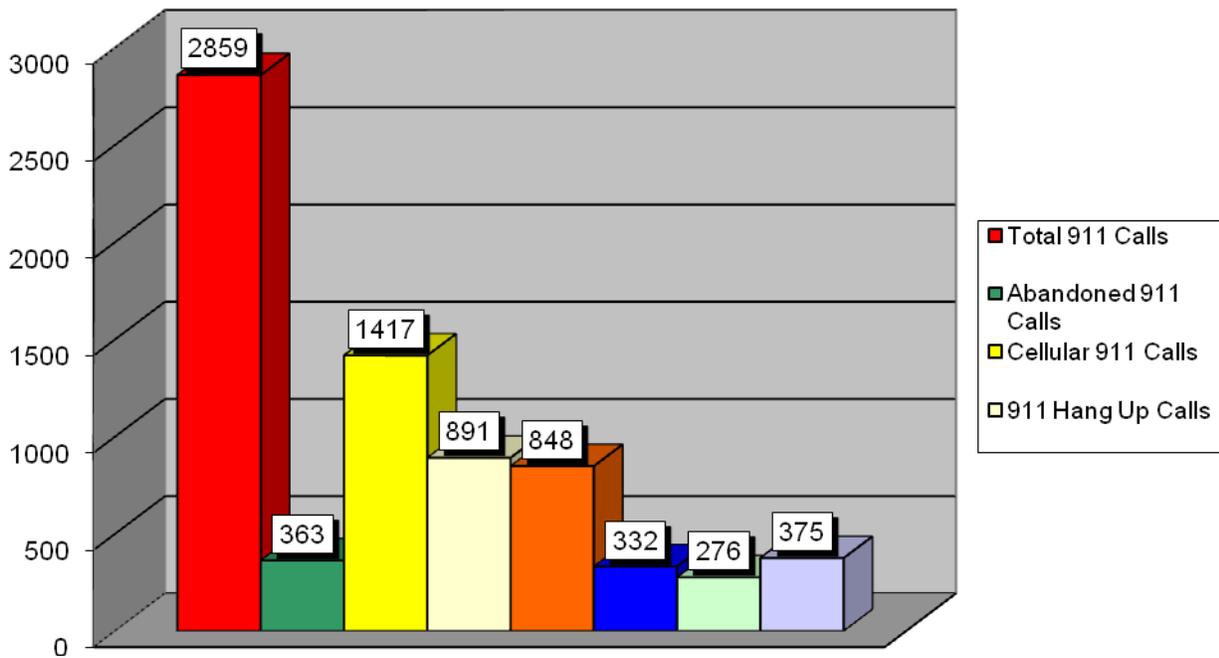
Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And

EMS
Incidents are attached to Fire Incident
Reports

Fire Response Breakdown Feb 17 to March 20 , 2011



911 Center Activity Feb 17 to March 20 , 2011



Life Safety Inspections

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	45.00	Place of Assembly:	15
Issued in Fire Zones:	2	Educational:	3
Fire Investigations:	4	Business:	72
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	0
Liquor Inspections:	10	Health Care:	3
Blasting Permits:	1	Industrial:	2
Complaints	4**	Mercantile:	20
Plan Review (hrs)	63.5	Residential Board & Care:	1
Fire Prevention Prgs.	14	Hotel (units):	320
Orders of Abatement:	1	Apartments:	286
Service Stations	0	Fuel Trucks	0
Meetings (Reserve, Matrix, Sports Complex, Litigation etc.)			24
Continuing Ed Class, College Class			68
** Resolved or in the process of being resolved.		Rooming Houses:	0
Some of these complaints		Day Care:	0
Were thru and with the UNIT.		Misc. Inspections	13
		Special Structures:	1
		Office Duty (hrs):	165
		Burn Permits	1