



CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
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FIRE DEPARTMENT

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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 January through 21 February and details activities of the Department.

As of this writing we are still experiencing generally mild weather but the risks of winter are still with us. Please be prepared to dig out fire hydrants on your property should we get snow. And beware of the potential for formation of black ice on our streets. Drops in temperature over night or even in the late evening can still create this hazard. Above all, if we do get a heavy snowfall, be careful while shoveling and removing snow. Though we have been fortunate this year, shoveling snow is a high hazard activity and injuries and cardiac incidents are common.

Here is a general view of the call volume and breakout for the types of calls the department responded to in 2011. As expected, we had a significant increase in total call volume and this trend continues. In 2011, the department responded to 9,260 incidents. In 2010, responses were 7,764. This represents an increase of over 19%.

These incidents fall into various categories of responses. The largest single block of calls is Emergency Medical Responses with 4,891. These calls include medical, motor vehicle accidents, burns and rescues. This represents well over 50% of the total responses. The balance of the calls, 4,362 includes fires of all types, service calls, lock in and lock out calls, smoke scares, automatic fire alarms, false fire alarms and hazardous material calls.

The fire responses are further categorized. Of the 196 fires reported in 2011, there were 46 building fires. In addition there were 17 cooking fires where the fire remained confined to the container or stove and 9 chimney fires. Passenger vehicle fires were reported 45 times and there were 16 brush fires. Rubbish and trash fires accounted for 23 fires and the balance were other types such as trucks and RVs.

In regard to the medical calls, the EMS division reports 9,400 total EMS responses for the year. These statistics indicate that the 4,891 calls our first responder fire fighters responded to were just over 50% of the total medical calls generated in the city. Each responding company is equipped with advanced medical equipment such as defibrillators and advanced first aid gear.

This first responder system of firefighters cross trained as medical providers is a proven model across the nation. Having firefighters so trained and able to respond quickly and efficiently is critical to lifesaving efforts in Danbury. Every firefighter hired to the department maintains at least an EMT-B certification with many holding A-EMT or I.V. certifications. We anticipate that the requests for medical response will continue to rise in the coming years. As you read the responses of note, you will find a fairly wide range of calls, indicative of the many responses the department must be prepared to respond to at all times. The Danbury Fire Department is truly an "All Hazards" response agency.

Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations

Assistant Chief Steve Williams of A Group was contacted by Stone Morgan, a student at Zephyrhills High School, Zephyrhills FL. This student had read about our structure fires on Wheeler Dr and Balmforth Ave. He is a student in Mr. Perrault's public service/vocational education class. We were able to research the school and contact Mr. Perrault and Stone on 16 February. The class took part in a live phone conference and had their questions about the fire service answered. The class and Mr. Perrault were all very happy to have had this opportunity to contact and then speak with the members of the department.

Suppression/Response Activities of Note

Units responded to a structure fire on Wheeler Dr. This was a heavily involved garage structure fire. Arriving units prevented further fire spread limiting the damage to living area and contents. After thorough search firefighters units were able to locate two pet cats. These treasured pets were treated by EMS for smoke inhalation. Both were returned alive and recovering to the owners. Responding units included C30, E21, E22, E23, Sq, Trk 1, Volunteer tanker shuttle, EMS, DFM Russell, and DPD.

We responded to Old Stadley Rough for a chimney fire. As units responded there was active fire still in the flue. The fire box was emptied and flue was cleared with the chimney chains. Burning debris was removed to the outside and home owners will have the flue cleaned and checked. Responding units included C30, E23, E24, Truck, Tanker 10 and Sq 7.

A fire on Cross Street occurred in a "green" house. Units responded to a reported structure fire. Upon arrival we found a 20 by 30 green house fully involved behind 25 Cross Street. Units hand stretched a supply and hand lines to the shed. Fire was extinguished and overhaul was completed. Unfortunately, several pet rabbits were killed in the fire and were removed and buried for the owners. Units involved were E23, E24, Truck, E10 Sq7, C30 and DFM Osborne.

Units responded to a structure fire at Lions Condos on Triangle St. This fire started in a wooden sofa with upholstered cushions in the lobby of the main entrance to building A., apparently due to discarded smoking materials. As E23 approached the entry it became evident that there was a fire in the area. Crews went to work and contained the fire and most of the smoke to the area of origin. The lobby area had concrete floor, walls and ceiling and was isolated from living units by commercial entry doors. On arrival it was reported that no alarms were sounding, which likely worked to our advantage due to the time and location of the fire, the fact that it was contained on arrival and extinguished quickly before doors were opened to the units. United Alarm responded and the system repaired within approx. 12 hours. Fire-watch was required in the interim. E23, E24 C30 and the Truck were initial units on scene, with E21 3rd due, E22 as RIT and T11. DFM Perry investigated the fire. Approximately 30 occupants were displaced for about an hour and then returned to their units. No injuries reported.

A motor vehicle accident involving a pickup truck occurred at 10:30 near 501 Sienna Dr. The truck was traveling on Shelter Rock Rd., apparently at a high rate of speed. The truck ran through a significant section of guardrail. Tearing up support posts from the side of the road it became airborne prior to impacting another pickup truck from above in the lot below grade. This truck and two other vehicles were destroyed while parked at the Arlington Woods condo complex. Neighbors reportedly extricated the operator from a rear window. E22 crew found him sitting on a nearby stoop, conscious and speaking, but seriously injured. His disposition is not known at this time. His truck was also totaled. C30, E22, E24 and E21 responded with EMS and DPD. Luckily, there were no other injuries. Speedi-dri was used to absorb a significant amount of oil and gas. The cause is under investigation.

A fire in an electric overhead heater occurred at 111 Osborne St., Danbury Hospital's Medical Arts Center Dialysis Unit. Numerous heaters are located in the dialysis unit to warm patients as they receive dialysis treatment. The charge nurse saw sparks and embers being emitted from the element/fan type heater as well as flames, likely due to the fan continuing to run. A patient under the heater had his sweatpants ignite and burn, enough to cause a second degree burn to his leg. E23 ensured the patient was moved away from the heater, power was secured and EMS was requested to respond. While FD was on scene, the charge nurse related that this was the third such heater to fail recently. DFM Leach was briefed and advised of the previous incidents, of which the FD was not notified. He is continuing the investigation and will determine whether or not similar problems have occurred elsewhere with these heaters. The nurses intend to discontinue use of the heaters.

Units responded to a reported extrication assignment on Stadley Rough Rd near Forty Acre Mountain. E-24 arrived on scene and found a car that ran off the road, flipped 90 degrees, hit the roof on a utility pole and came to rest on a rock wall. The roof was collapsed onto the driver. E-24 working quickly and by themselves (for a period) were able to assess the patient, cut the A and B posts, remove the drivers' door and with assistance from Squad 23 use a ram to raise the roof. When Car 30 arrived on scene crews were just starting to put the driver on a backboard and extricate him from the vehicle. The crews working did a great job as the time between dispatch and extrication was just over 20 minutes. Squad 7 responded to provide lighting at the request of the Police Department as they were going to reconstruct the accident scene.

Engine 25 responded to an EMS call on Deer Park Rd. A gentleman at that location was not feeling well. Responders found he was diaphoretic (profuse sweating), and had a history of heart issues and Alzheimer's disease. While E-25 and the EMS crew were loading the patient into the ambulance he went into asystole and then V-fib (cardiac dysrhythmia). They gave him one shock via the AED. He returned to a normal rhythm and he was able to sit and talk again prior to leaving the scene.

Command and Staff Activities

- Volunteer Council
- Quarterly Staff
- Vol. 7 Company Dinner
- Dispatch Consolidation
- Commission Fire Prevention & Control Education Committee
- Intermedix & Finance
- ACHE Emergency Sheltering discussion
- Engineering firm HQ study
- Mayors cabinet & leadership
- Firehouse software
- NFPA seminar
- Chamber of Commerce Danbury Economic presentation
- Volunteer exec board

Donations

The department received a 25 dollar donation from San Juanita Mata. This donation will go into our donation account.

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Patient Assessment. Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediate life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Department First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during emergency medical calls before transport to the hospitals' Emergency Department

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system, cross-trained firefighters that have the knowledge of lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of medical calls, and this ability has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Regional Haz-Mat :

At a recent Region Five Haz-Mat team meeting, the three main battalions, Danbury, Waterbury and Torrington have decided to hold a multiple Haz-Mat / Terrorism event drill with a target date of April 29, 2012. Objective of this drill will be to demonstrate the ability to respond to multiple events in our Region, and interoperability of manpower and equipment between Battalions.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

There has been much activity for the division this month. The primary efforts have been working in step with the police department on the development of the merger plan for our two dispatch functions. This has required several meetings and much office and phone time. The setting up of schedules, arranging meetings and attending meetings to accomplish this has been rigorous. The process is proving fruitful as we now have the plan fairly well in hand. Working with AT&T, our contractor services and the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) we are preparing to acquire the first pieces of hardware that will be needed to bring this to completion.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

The Firefighter I class starts February 21 and runs through June. There are 21 Danbury Volunteers registered.

Quarterly training is in progress for all members. Defensive Driving and Report writing are the main topics.

FF Eric Svege from the Mill Plain Vol. Engine Company #12 completed the state exams successfully to obtain his Fire Instructor 1 certification.

Career Division

New SCBA

The Department placed 30 new Scott 75 Breathing Apparatus in service on February 11.

This next generation of SCBA has numerous safety features built into the design of the pack. All crews went through orientation training with this equipment, as well as fit testing due to SCBA mask design changes.

Acquired Structure

Crews are participating in various drills to gain confidence with the new air packs in the structure at 21 Hospital Ave. The property owner, Habitat for Humanity granted the Fire Dept. use of the building prior to scheduled demolition in April.

Hybrid/ Electric Vehicles: All crews completed the NFPA class on Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Safety for first responders.

Fire School

Our burn building had a structural inspection conducted by a private company on Feb. 21. We will see what recommendations are made for the long term health of the building.

Structure fires

The training officer was called out as Safety Officer to structure fires on Balmforth Ave, and Wheeler Drive. Critiques were held for both fires

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Jan 24 CME Danbury Hospital
- Jan 25, Feb. 1,8,15,18 Mentor at Rogers Park Middle School
- Jan 26 Staff meeting
- Feb. 1,8,15,22 Mentor at Rogers Park Middle School
- Feb 6 Conference call with "Firehouse" software with I.T.
- Feb. 6 Wake for Mr. Charles Plank
- Feb. 14 CME at Danbury Hospital
- Feb 21 Staff meeting with "B" group
- Feb 21 meeting with the Volunteer Council E Board.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month and were functional. Engine-5 owns a Biosystems meter. Our division performed a function test and span gas calibrated this unit. The thermal imaging cameras (TIC) assigned to E-23 and E-25 are at the manufacturer for repair evaluations. E-23's camera has a purchase order issued to repair it. Car 30's TIC was on loan to E-25 and now, is also out of service. When E-23's camera returns we will send out Car-30's for an estimate.

This past month the department was very fortunate to acquire and place into service thirty new Scott Series 75 S.C.B.A. units. These new units are state of the art breathing apparatus and are a welcome addition to our very tired S.C.B.A. inventory. The department was required per N.F.P.A to remove our older units as they are no longer compliant. Just as a side note on cost vs. value, some of the S.C.B.A.'s that were removed were originally placed in service in 1982. This is just the beginning however as we still need to acquire another 30 to complete our transition to the new SCBA type.

The division spent a tremendous amount of time working on the S.C.B.A change over. Fit testing almost half of the department and changing nose cups in face pieces for the other half, removing old units and installing new ones while keeping the department fully functional presented its challenges. Many thanks to all of those department members who helped us overcome these challenges and provided a smooth transition.

A recommendation on how to properly dispose of the old S.C.B.A. units will be as soon as we have a chance to collect the needed data. Other repairs completed:

- Serviced Charge Guard in the SRV.
- Repaired the Officers S.C.B.A. bracket in E-25.
- PM service, brake inspection, replace muffler E-24.
- Replaced heater control valve in R-1.
- Replaced thermostat and spark plug wires in 97F2.
- Repaired the lock mechanism on the Bauer air compressor.
- Currently performing complete brake replacement on TRK-1.

- Perform Flow tests on 15 S.C.B.A. units.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Despite significant efforts, we continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. There were several inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) and all situations have been resolved or are in the process of resolution. We continue to monitor several locations as there have been repeat offences.

We completed 25 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. Our office investigated several fires, with no injuries. Two of these were serious with 18 people being displaced. With one fire; illegal apartments were discovered and have been issued orders to cease. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens. DFM Russell and FM Johnson interviewed one youth as part of the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program with positive results. DFM Russell and Chief Herald attended an NFPA seminar on fire code changes.

Department Statistical Reports

Inspections	Amount
Apartments	324
Business	31
Day Care	3
Education	6
Fuel Trucks	1
Hazmat (Tank Install)	2
Health Care	10
Hotel (Rooms)	75
Industrial	0
Liquor	21
Mercantile	26
Misc.	43
Place of Assembly	33
Res. Board & Care	2
Rooming House	1
Service Stations	1
Special Structure	2
Storage	0
TOTAL	581

Topics	Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	52
Blasting Permits	4
Burn Permits	2
Complaints	18
Cont. Ed. Hours	25
Fatal Fires	0
Fire Investigation	12
Fire Safety Prgms.	8
Meetings (Hrs)	21
Office Duty (Hrs.)	195
Orders of	0

Abatement
 Plan Review (hrs.)
 Tickets Issued

95

6

TOTAL HRS.

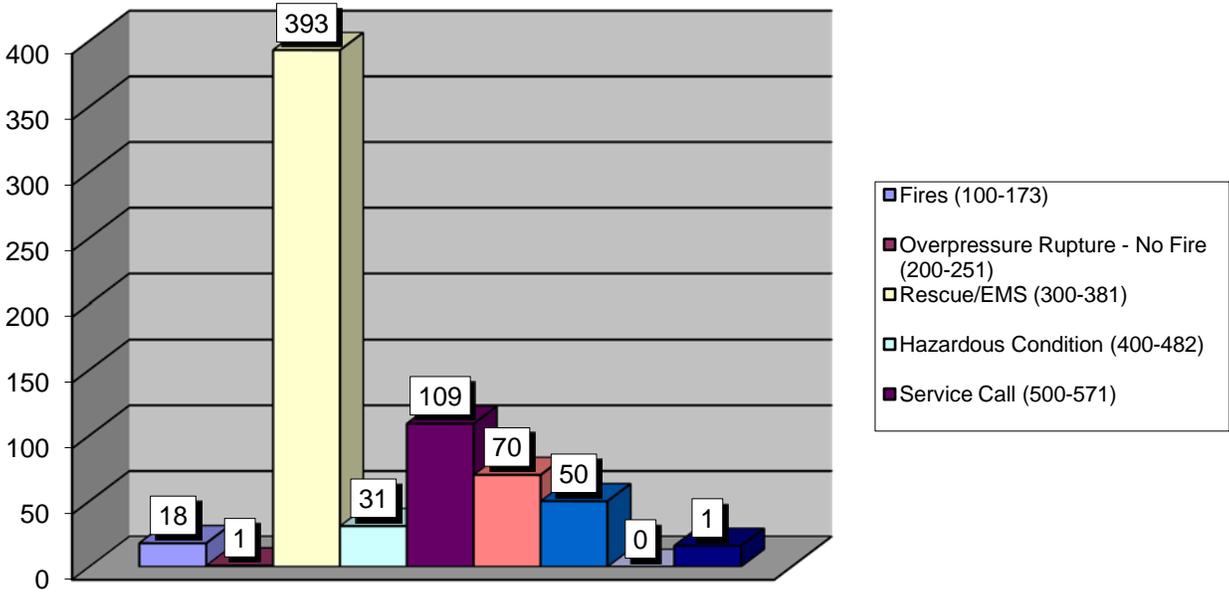
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Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0	
Coding	
Fires (100-173)	18
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	393
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	31
Service Call (500-571)	109
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	70
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	50
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
No Report/Incomplete	16
Total Fire Responses	689
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2409
Abandoned 911 Calls	297
Cellular 911 Calls	1169
911 Hang Up Calls	990
Admin Calls Received	748
Police Calls via 911	344
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	230
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	353
Daily Average	86.04
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	689
Total EMS Responses	782
Unknown Transport Status	13
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	333
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	304
No Patient (CAD 62)	132
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	3
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	7

**** NOTE ****

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

Fire Response Breakdown Jan 22 to Feb 21, 2012



911 Center Activity Jan 22 to Feb 21, 2012

