



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

GEOFFREY HERALD, CFO
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 February 2012 through 21 March 2012 and details activities of the Department.

With the increase in the strength of components of cars, we have found that some of our extrication tools are no longer able to accomplish the job. The automotive engineering is making the vehicles safer in crashes but it is sometimes not possible for us to cut them apart to effect rescue. The new tools and cutters are available but this will require considerable costs. This is an example of unintended consequences. We all hope for safe vehicles but this requires increased costs for the fire service.

It seems we have escaped the clutches of Old Man Winter for the year. This will mean that our citizens will be out using our roads and sidewalks more frequently. With this comes the need for vehicle drivers to be aware that pedestrians and bicyclists are on the roads. Bicyclists, skateboarders and skaters are urged to wear helmets as these will provide significant protection in the event of a crash or fall. While walking, if sidewalks are not available, please remember to walk facing traffic and while riding, ride with traffic. These simple tips will greatly enhance your safety as well as your chances to escape injury.

Another source of potential injury is the use of lawn mowers and other powered garden and lawn equipment. Before using these, please check all fittings and blade attachments to be sure they are securely fastened. Also check to ensure that mice or other wildlife have not nested or chewed through the wires or fuel lines of these devices. When fueling, do not fuel devices inside a garage or enclosed space. Follow manufacturers' guidelines in fuel type and use and do not fuel engines when hot.

Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations

Pre incident inspections and tours included; Blackstone Court on Golden Hill; 68 Mill Plain Rd., 33 Turner Rd., Ashley Ct. area, Crown Pointe, Joe's Hill, Aunt Hack area, 44 Shelter Rock Road, Briar Ridge #1 area, Wooster School, Harwood Dr., Wooster Mt. area, Lake Waubeeka and the City Hangar on the airport grounds

The department hosted a group of Danbury Students filming interviews with firefighters and a tour of the Headquarters Facility. This is a program of advanced students and it is expected that this will be repeated.

Suppression Response Activities of Note

On 24 February a chimney fire was reported by an alert neighbor at 9 Valley Rd. Although the fire was confined to the chimney flue, it reignited several times due to creosote buildup. With burning visible at the weather cap, the roof was laddered as the interior of the house and the wood-burning

insert were inspected. The weather cap was glowing red and difficult to remove initially. Crews emptied the firebox and, following numerous applications of dry chemical and clearing the flue with chains, the fire was extinguished. The homeowner was advised to have the chimney cleaned and inspected before using the woodstove again and it was suggested that the stove be burned hot more often and the weather cap be checked frequently for creosote buildup. No injuries were reported.

On 8 March an automatic alarm and phone call from a worker next door at Doggie Day Care was received. This was for a fire at the Closet Secret, a clothing consignment store at 68 Mill Plain Rd. With nothing visible on arrival, and no alarm sounding, crews checked around the building and found smoke pushing from a boarded-up window opening. The firefighters forced entry as another company checked the 1st floor. A pile of clothing had been too close to an electric space heater and caught fire. Once located, the fire was quickly extinguished with minimal water. However, there was heat damage in the basement and smoke damage throughout the facility. DFM Osborne and Building inspector Ed Schullery investigated. Numerous issues were identified which would need attention prior to reopening for business. Had this fire gone undetected for even a short while longer, the building may have been lost, due to the high fire load present. No injuries were reported.

On 17 March crews responded to 72 James St. During the investigation a broken ground wire on the service entry cable was discovered. On performing a walkthrough of the entire home, they found several overheated surge protectors. The timely discovery of the broken wire prevented the electrical system from overheating and possibly causing a structure fire due to the loss of the power ground.

Companies responded to an MVA on Miry Brook Road. This was an accident where a driver somehow lost control on the curve. The vehicle passed over the guide rail and then a fence. The car then struck a hangar wall on the airport grounds, penetrating the hangar. There the car struck two aircraft. The driver suffered injuries but they were not critical while the damage to the property and aircraft total approximately \$700,000. Eng 26, 22, Squad 23, C30, EMS, and Fire Police responded.

Command and Staff Activities

- Two meetings with Dispatch moving committee
- Several meetings with software vendors re: new software acquisition
- EAP meeting re: firefighter suicide prevention education
- State Fire Service Labor Management meeting
- EMS oversight meeting
- Mayors Leadership meeting
- Mitchell fuel Re; new installation
- Lions Club Fundraiser
- Home fire safety presentation, Senior Center
- FCI CRB meeting
- Arbitration meeting
- Volunteer Firefighters Annual Ball
- Monthly Staff meeting

Donations

The Women of the Moose, Danbury Chapter 314, presented a donation of \$500.00. This money is directed to assist in our distribution of smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors.

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 process has recently been redesigned and there are several changes. The recertification is more demanding and the exam is expected to be so as well. This year's annual EMT-B re-cert is scheduled for 30 March at Danbury Fire Department Headquarters.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

See Department Statistic reports

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division:

The Firefighter I class began on February 21 and is about 25% complete. There are currently 19 Danbury Volunteers enrolled in the class which runs through June 19. First Quarter training is complete with four classes held in February and March. Defensive Driving and Report writing were the main topics.

Career Division: Acquired Structure

Crews continue to utilize the structure at 21 Hospital Ave. for training evolutions including ventilation, search/rescue, rapid intervention, and safety and survival drills.

Fire School: Our burn building had a structural inspection conducted by a private company on Feb. 21. There is a long list of repairs and recommendations that we will address in the near future for the long term health of the building.

CL&P priorities: We are refreshing the crews on the workings CL&P priority dispatch system

Aerial Operator: FF Al Lewis completed his training and is qualified to operate our Aerial Apparatus.

Extinguisher Class: Crews are being refreshed on portable Fire Extinguisher use and maintenance.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- March 8 Red Cross Annual "heroes" breakfast
- March meeting with Water dept on hydrant program and software changes
- March 6 met with Firehouse software Rep an new program
- March 10 Annual Volunteer Fire Fighter's Ball
- March 12 met with Joe Mead concerning Fire School drainage project
- March 12 Union meeting
- Feb. 29- March 7 Mentor at Rogers Park Middle School
- March 20 Staff meeting with D group

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The "4-Gas" meters from E-22 and E-23's meters are currently out of service. The Apparatus computer is experiencing software issues that prevent us from properly diagnosing these units. These software issues hopefully will be resolved soon. The thermal imaging cameras (TIC) assigned to E-23 has returned from the factory and is in service. A requisition has been submitted for E-25's camera repair. We are awaiting an estimate for the repair of Car 30's camera which is currently at the manufacturer. These cameras are labor intensive and costly to maintain.

This month a complete foundation brake replacement (all wheel positions) was performed on Trk-1. This unit was serviced as well. The drivers' side scene light on E-24 was replaced as a unit. E-24, E-25 and E-26 were in for front end alignments. E-26 was out of service for PM work and brake inspection. There was a recall issued by Pierce for 2010 apparatus with regards to a software issue, our units were NOT affected by this recall. Squad-1 serviced for PM work and brake inspection.

Other repairs completed:

- Evaluate and order parts for Airport-20 Hurst Tool power head.
- Worked on an inventory of older S.C.B.A's .
- Re-mounted a two way radio antenna 06F2.
- Replaced the batteries in Squad-1.
- Met with representatives from Crowley Ford for layout of FM car.
- Repaired the "Plymovent" at E-23's and E-25's station.
- Replaced the batteries in E-24.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

In an effort to reduce non compliant dwellings the city has stepped up our effort to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. This period there were 8 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) all situations have been resolved. This months' Fire Prevention consisted of several programs for elderly. DFM's Osborne and Leach did programs for Praxair with 136 in attendance. DFM Russell did a program for NVCC students.

FM Johnson and DFM Russell attended a 2 ½ day arson case management course. We completed 36 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. Our office investigated several fires. DFM Leach did an interview at Family and Children's Aid with a young person for our Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention program.

Department Statistical Reports

Inspections	Amount
Apartments	150
Business	23
Day Care	2
Education	1
Fuel Trucks	0
Hazmat (Tank Install)	2
Health Care	2
Hotel (Rooms)	105
Industrial	2
Liquor	7
Merchantile	23
Misc.	45
Place of Assembly	22
Res. Board & Care	1
Rooming House	2
Service Stations	2
Special Structure	2
Storage	4
TOTAL	395

77 units

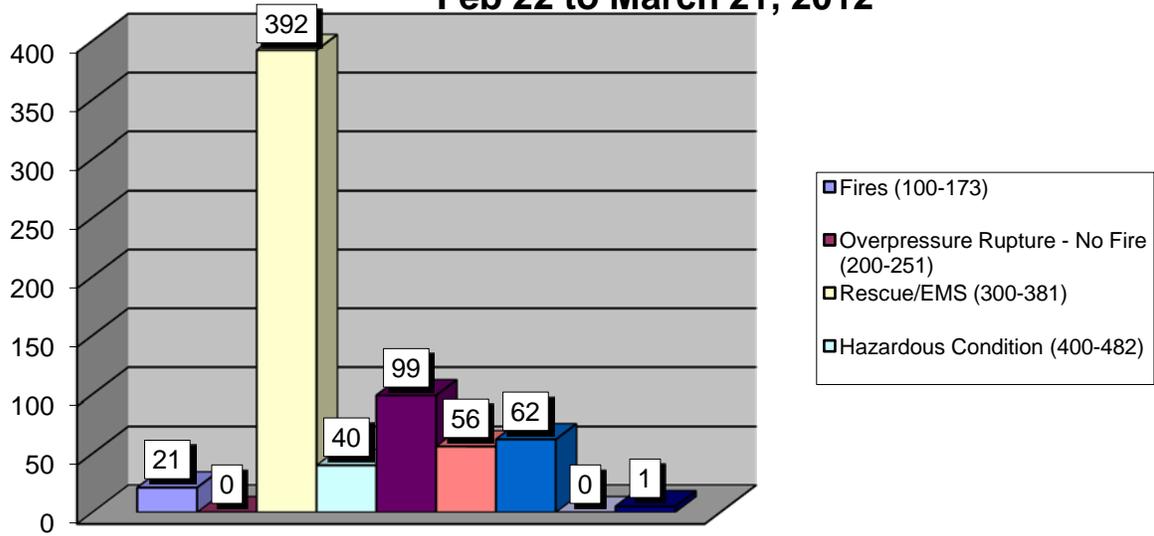
Topics	Amount	
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	77	
Blasting Permits	2	
Burn Permits	1	
Complaints	22	
Cont. Ed. Hours	36	
Fatal Fires	0	
Fire Investigation	8	
Fire Safety Prgms.	5	
Meetings (Hrs)	23	
Office Duty (Hrs.)	147	
Orders of Abatement		0
Plan Review (hrs.)	92	
Tickets Issued		8
TOTAL HRS.	375	

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	21
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	392
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	40
Service Call (500-571)	99
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	56
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	62
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	5
Total Fire Responses	677
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	3074
Abandoned 911 Calls	393
Cellular 911 Calls	1124
911 Hang Up Calls	828
Admin Calls Received	720
Police Calls via 911	290
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	216
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	303
Daily Average	109.79
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	677
Total EMS Responses	725
Unknown Transport Status	10
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	297
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	309
No Patient (CAD 62)	109
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	4
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 22 to March 21, 2012



911 Center Activity Feb 22 to March 21, 2012

