



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

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**Fire Chief**

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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 May through 21 June and details activities of the Department.

The summer weather is here and with it, our citizens are looking to the outdoors. Cookouts, the beach, fireworks, sports, hiking and biking are all drawing our attention. As we move outside, the Fire and EMS divisions want all to have a happy safe and healthy summer.

Of special concern at this time is the risk of drowning. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), drowning is the leading cause of death in children aged 1 to 4 second only to birth defects. There are several precautions homeowners should take to prevent these terrible situations. By law, each pool must be fenced and gates must be self closing and latching. Each door to the area from the house should have a door bell activated when the door opens so as to alert the others in the house. And finally, should a child go missing, the first place to check should be the pool. It will provide the highest chance for a successful outcome if this occurs. Here are some basic tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- All caregivers should learn CPR.
- Never leave a toy in or around a pool.
- Never leave a child alone in or near a pool.
- Make sure an adult is always within arm's length.
- Children ages 1 to 4 years old should take swimming lessons. But remember that teaching children to swim does not guarantee their safety in the water.
- Teach children to never run, push or jump on others around water. Teach them never to swim alone.
- Keep a phone by the pool, along with rescue equipment, such as a life preserver and a shepherd's hook -- a long pole with a hook at the end.
- Pools should be surrounded by a fence at least 4-feet high. Pool gates should self-close and self-latch at a height unreachable by small children.

- If you have an inflatable or plastic pool, empty it after each use and turn it upside down.

These tips and others can be found at the following website: <http://www.nih.gov>

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

High School Students Mel Boucher, Liz Costanza, Tim Orlovsky and Haley Omasta rejuvenated the planting area by Headquarters flagpole in advance of Memorial Day as a community service for National Honor Society. They purchased and donated the flowers and mulch, spending about four hours on the project. It is a nice improvement to the look of our entryway to headquarters.

### **PRE-INCIDENT FAMILIARZATION:**

Department members continued their orientation around the airport and working with Tower staff. Some attended a retirement get together for a retiring Controller.

Fire Marshal Johnson, D/C Wiedl and the on duty Assistant Chief attended a meeting with the construction and blasting contractor at Toll Brothers' Reserve Rd. This was to provide site familiarization and information on proposed construction of an explosives magazine to hold approx. 10K lbs. of blasting agent.

### **Meetings and Public Relations:**

Tours were provided at Headquarters for 80 third graders from the Magnet School and 75 third graders from Pembroke School. Lieutenant Chip Daly with E24 crew and HQ personnel assisted in the tours. The Pembroke School tour focused on the historical aspects of HQ and the Fire Service as the school was participating in a "Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Danbury". Park Ave. School's Career Day/Hero Day for 35 kindergarteners and 35 second graders also came to headquarters.

AC Meehan attended a pre-planning meeting with the fireworks committee of the Volunteer Firemans' Council for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks.

FM Johnson and AC Meehan met with the staff of the Matrix, discussing evacuation plans.

E23 crew assisted Danbury High School students with a car wash.

A/C Omasta- CL&P regarding storm restoration plan and Metro North TSEC

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

On 20 May units responded to 2 Abbott Ave. for a vehicle fire close to a building. E22, E21, Trk Company, C30 and SQ6 responded to find a fully involved car fire within 3-4 ft. of an occupied multifamily home. Crews were able to knock the fire down quickly and ensure everyone's safety. FFs noticed heavy damage to the front right quarter panel of the vehicle. The police were notified and were called to investigate. They were able to ascertain the owner's name. Debris on the road in front of #29 Abbott led to the discovery that a car was hit there by the vehicle involved in the fire. Apparently the driver left that accident, with airbag deployed, brake and anti-freeze lines severed and drove around the block, returning to #2, where he had dropped off a

friend moments earlier. The parked car then apparently ignited. DFM Osborne investigated. The investigation continued their effort to locate the driver. Following the fire investigation and overhaul, crews returned to service. No injuries were reported and with the quick knock down no damage to the structure.

On 16 June units responded to the intersection of Balmforth and Osborne. The incident was a broadside Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) resulting in entrapment of the driver of a Honda sedan. The car experienced B-Post and driver side door incursion of approximately 8-10 inches. E23 responded to the initial call for an MVA and upgraded to an extrication assignment on arrival. Two other occupants, one from each of the cars, were being attended to by EMS. SR1 picked up SQ1 at station 23 and responded also. The driver's injuries did not appear life-threatening as crews worked to remove the driver side door, which necessitated cutting and removal of the B-Post. A brief on scene critique was held following extrication and transport of the victims. DPD responded Accident Investigation personnel. C30 transferred command to E23. Other units returned with no emergency service injuries reported.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Met with Commissioner Bradford of the Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection
- State Labor Management
- Memorial Day Parade and Picnic
- Greenwich Oral Board
- Multiple talks with IAFC regarding FEMA regional collaboration training
- Contract Arbitration (multiple)
- Meeting with Union Officers
- Westerners Breakfast Amber Room
- Cabinet Meeting
- Region 5 Steering Committee
- Monthly Staff Meeting
- Meeting with new Mall security Chief

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

The continuous education program we call "EMS Wednesday" is designed to meet the state mandated EMS certification requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes presented on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills. The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been heat related emergencies, water related emergencies and anaphylaxis. These types of injuries are the most common during the summer months and they can have the greatest impact on the patient survivability without quick intervention.

The "First Responder Program" is a key part of the EMS system. The Danbury Fire Department First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of emergency medical treatments and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impact patient survivability. Thru rapid deployment and the use of Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support skills, firefighter first responders have the ability to stabilize and treat the patient until the ambulance arrives. This advanced life support

training coupled with the Danbury Fire Department first responder program has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

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

The dispatch center has been very busy as usual. Call volume is again trending upward and we expect a record again this year. The committee to recommend to the Mayor the next step for civilianizing the dispatch functions has completed the process. The consolidation efforts to bring together the police and fire department dispatch functions are now awaiting a decision from the Mayor regarding the next step.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division:*

Firefighter I class - All 17 students passed the State practical skills test on June 9. The written exam was held on June 19. Results will not be known for 2-3 weeks. The class was focused and worked hard throughout the 4 month course.

Second quarter training for the Volunteer division will consist of Incident Command review and Bio Hazards scheduled for the end of June.

Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) class: 22 students from our region (11 were Danbury Volunteer FF's) completed the 2 day Rapid Intervention Team Training class on June 2 and 3 in Danbury. The training was conducted in the vacant building on 21 Hospital Ave. This training was sponsored by the Department and funded through the DEMHS region 5.

Pump Operator: Mill Plain Vol. Engine Company is hosting the 48 hour State Pump Operator Certification class taught through the end of June.

Engine 11 conducted vehicle fire training at the Fire School June 13.

#### *Career Division:*

Vehicle Extrication Drills: All crews completed the Vehicle Extrication class with practical skills training at our Fire school facilities. The training was provided through the Connecticut Fire Academy.

New Equipment Familiarization: Company reps were at Fire HQ to provide In-Service Training on our newly acquired rescue Struts and Grip-Hoist tool. These are versatile tools that will be valuable additions to our arsenal of rescue equipment.

R.I.T. pack: All crews received initial training on our Rapid Intervention Pack. The mobile air pack will be used to restore or replenish a trapped or injured Fire fighter's air supply.

Ergonomics/ Back School: All crews are receiving a refresher training program from the Physical Therapists at Corporate Health care on healthy habits and injury prevention through ergonomic understanding.

Suicide Prevention: At the request of the department, Tami Hodges from ESI-EAP is presenting a suicide awareness/prevention class to all personnel. There has been an increase of these incidents within the emergency responder ranks and especially the fire services nationwide. This program is designed to build awareness in our department of the signs of possible depression and other background concerns of firefighters.

June School: We had 6 individuals attend classes at the CT Fire Academy during annual June school, June 4-9.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- May 22 CME – cardio at Danbury Hospital
- June 2 CT fire Academy to witness demos of Propane training props
- June 5 Fire Academy for June School- “Officer development”
- June 7 Spring Fling Golf outing at the Newtown CC
- June 8 Danbury Westerners Benefit breakfast
- June 16 Wedding for Lt. John Halas
- June 20 Monthly Staff meeting with B group

### **Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo**

All of the Departments’ 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month. The month of June (six months intervals) is usually when we perform a verification process on the CO sensors in all our meters. We are currently performing the verification as meters are turned in for monthly calibration. Currently, all of the Departments meters are functional. These meters are used frequently and serve to warn of dangerous gasses or low oxygen levels in fire and confined space environments.

E-24 has been in the body shop for the past month, we are hopeful that it will be completed very soon. When it returns from body repairs both of the steering gears will be replaced. We have replaced the flywheel and the starter on R-1 (03PS). This unit appears to have a significant oil leak which we are addressing currently.

Other repairs completed:

- Serviced the A/C in R-2.
- Replace both alternators in Trk-1.
- Send 12FE to Economy Sign for lettering.
- Repaired brake pedal in E-21.
- Replace front tires on TRK-1.
- Replace rear struts in 03T2.
- Replaced Spark plug wires in 03T3 and 97F2.
- Repair oil leak in E-22.
- Replaced Command Zone Screen in E-21.

- Replaced the cable on the winch assigned to the Squad.

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

The incidences of illegal occupancies continue to arise thru UNIT inspections. There were four inspection(s) for such unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) with one involving 3 persons in an basement. All situations have been resolved. We continue to monitor several locations as there have been repeat offences. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens.

Members completed 18 hours of continuing education for required annual Fire Marshal Certification. Our office investigated several fires, with no injuries reported. As part of our Community Risk Reduction are participating in a cultural diversity program with the Department of Justice. Chief Herald, Fire Marshal Johnson and Deputy Fire Marshal Russell attended and presented programs in Seymour and Bridgeport. We are looking into sponsoring a program here in Danbury.

Our Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention team did follow-ups on three young people. The team is working with the Juvenile Court on another youth in Danbury and assisted a neighboring community Fire Marshal with two boys who had started a fire in a vacant building.

### Department Statistical Reports

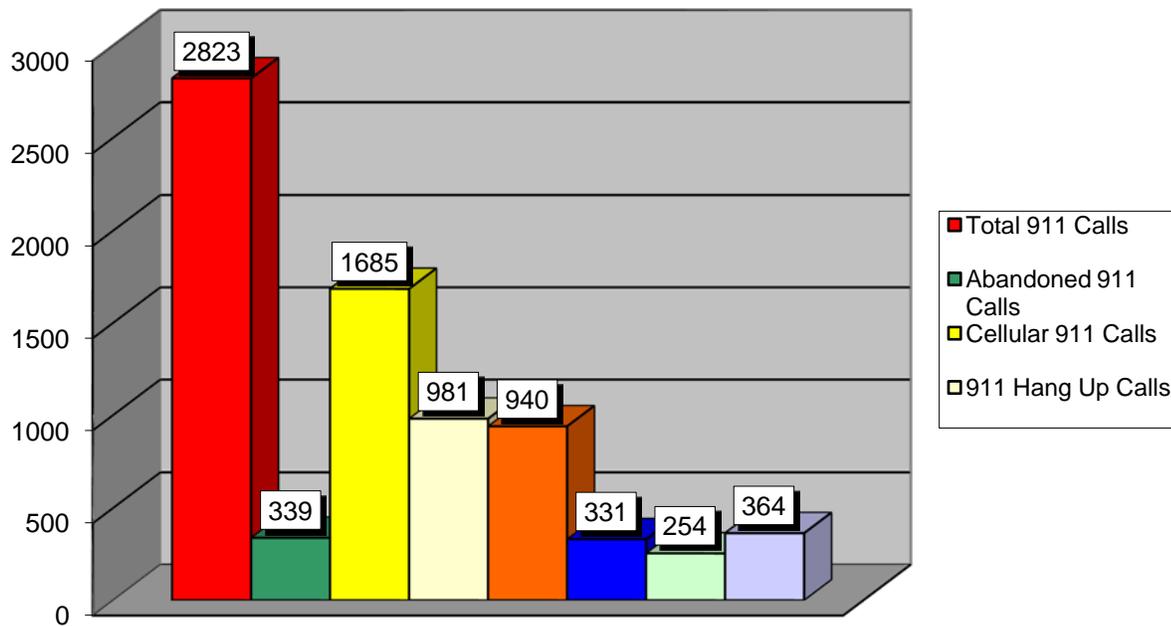
<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>20</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>3</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>461</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>22</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>115</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>77</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>70</b>
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>0</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>0</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>774</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>2823</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>339</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>1685</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	<b>981</b>
Admin Calls Received	<b>940</b>
Police Calls via 911	<b>331</b>
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	<b>254</b>

EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	364
Daily Average	94.10
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	774
Total EMS Responses	820
Unknown Transport Status	14
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	330
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	353
No Patient (CAD 62)	123
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	7
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	24

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

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

### 911 Center Activity May 22, 2012 to June 2, 2012



# Fire Response Breakdown May 22, 2012 to June 2, 2012

