



CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
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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 July through 21 August and details activities of the Department.

I am very pleased to announce that our Training and Safety Officer, Mark Omasta was selected to receive the International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety and Health Section Safety Officer of the Year award. The award was presented to Mark with his wife Val in attendance at the annual Fire Rescue International Conference in Denver Colorado on August 3rd. Congratulations Mark.

A correction to a report from last month is necessary. While responding to a fire on White Street, members of Engine Company 23, Lt. Bergemann and John Whitehead and Lt Appley of Engine 22 located an unconscious male in the burning apartment. They then rescued the victim and removed him to the outside. The victim was not responsive and was treated and transported to the Danbury Hospital.

The safety message for this month is concerning clothes dryers and associated issues. These dryers are used everyday throughout our city without an issue. Sometimes however, they can prove to be a source of risk. According to a FEMA and United States Fire Administration special report, clothes dryers are responsible for a number of serious fires each year. We have experienced these fires here in Danbury and some have been significant.

According to the report:

- An estimated 2,900 clothes dryer fires in residential buildings are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 5 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss.
- Clothes dryer fire incidence in residential buildings was higher in the fall and winter months, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Failure to clean (34 percent) was the leading factor contributing to the ignition of clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.
- Dust, fiber, and lint (28 percent) and clothing not on a person (27 percent) were, by far, the leading items first ignited in clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.
- Fifty-four percent of clothes dryer fires in residential buildings were confined to the object of origin.

From these statistics, we can see that spending just a few minutes each time the dryer is used checking the filter and being sure the exhaust vent is clear will reduce the threat of fires. The season for higher incidence of these fires is the fall and early winter so now is the time to be especially vigilant. Should you have any questions or if you require more information, please contact the Community Risk Reduction office at 203-796-1541. You can find the entire report at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations

Reviewed construction at new Wesconn Aviation, Reserve Property, Whole Foods, and Danbury Hospital Construction Site.

Crews trained with the new forcible entry “Weddle” tool. Technical Rescue review of Danbury Hospital construction project was completed. Acting Capt Handau led meter calibration with HazMat Technicians. The Haz-Mat incident of last month in Commerce Park was critiqued. HVCEO Storm Planning, Tele-conference at Danbury Hospital.

AC Meehan, with LT Lounsbury, FF Bertrand, & FF Lewis of Engine 26 assisted an elderly male who fell in his garden while attempting to clean his dryer vent. The crew assisted the gentleman back into his home and then cleaned his dryer vent.

Our annual hydrant testing has continued this month. Some of the companies have completed their assignments. This process allows us to confirm the functioning of the city fire hydrants. AC Meehan attended the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department Dinner Dance, as well as the West Redding VFD Annual Clambake.

Suppression/Response Activities of Note

24 July: 103 Boulevard Drive – At about midnight, a house fire was reported. D Platoon arrived to find heavy fire from a house. Crews led the occupants to safety, rescued a dog, and extinguished the fire without any injuries. (See photo)



On 7/22/12 D Platoon members were called to search for a lost hiker in the Tarrywile Property. Using cell phone and GPS Technology, crews found the gentleman and led him to safety.

AC Bernie Meehan, FF Kyle Houser, and FF James Croswell as seen on the set of Connecticut Style on WTNH with Traffic Reporter and Style Host Teresa LaBarbera.



During the late July storm the department responded to more than 20 incidents in 2 hours including 3 structural lightning strikes. These strikes occurred on Golden Hill, High St Ext and Coal Pit Hill. The resulting fires were aggressively attacked and structural damage was minor. Crews responded to an injury at the hospital construction site. The removal of the victim required the use of the construction crane. The rescue was effected through good interagency cooperation and the man was extricated with non-life threatening injuries.

The department responded to a report of a broken pipe at the Danbury Fair Mall. The crews were able to quickly mitigate the incident at the Lucky Brands store.

Command and Staff Activities

- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Met with New Fairfield Fire Department aquatic division re: fire boat
- Torrington Chief John Fields Retirement
- Fire Rescue International Conference
- Janet and Faye's Retirement Dinner
- Firehouse Software
- Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs
- HVCEO Functional Needs Sheltering Workshop
- Bedoukian Research Inc. meeting
- Swearing in Ceremony for new Police Detectives

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

The Danbury Battalion of The Region Five Hazmat Team continues to make great strides forward in our capability to respond to accidental or intentional chemical release emergencies with the acquisition of new equipment.

The departments HazMat team members have just completed training on the use and calibration of two new meters in our inventory. The first is the "Entry Rae" meter. This meter is a confined space photo ionization meter capable of detecting organic chemicals in parts per million. The second meter is a "Radseeker". This is a radiological detection meter capable of not only detecting but also identifying radioactive source material. The manufacturer of this device, Smiths Detection, is based in Danbury. The company was approached regarding this meter and subsequently agreed to allow the

department the use of the device as a field test. This meter is at the pinnacle of current technology and having this device in our inventory is a significant boost in our capability.

The department Haz-Mat technicians will be familiarizing the rest of our personnel on the proper use of both meters.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Dispatcher training is ongoing. The review of the newly acquired "Firehouse" software is complete. Continued maintenance on headquarters radio hardware is ongoing.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Firefighter I class – Five students retested and passed the Haz Mat section of the FFI written certification exam. To date, 14 out of the 17 students passed all sections and are certified to the FFI level. We expect the three remaining students to schedule their written re-tests in the near future.

Second quarter training is complete. We had 119 members from the Volunteer division participate in this mandatory training. Third quarter training is scheduled from late August through September.

Second Firefighter I course: Due to the interest of new volunteer members, we will offer a second firefighter I course this fall. The class will run from September thru mid December.

Career Division

The Plumtrees Training Facility was utilized by numerous Fire Departments during a second two day RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) training class.

On duty crews assisted with spreading gravel to level areas around the burn building, making it safer for training evolutions.

Foam Training: All crews are participating in the annual foam trailer refresher training at the Fire School. The foam trailer is a regional asset housed at Station 26.

Hydrant Testing: All crews are performing hydrant testing per our annual hydrant-testing program. Over 1500 hydrants were tested as of Aug. 20.

Special hazard: The Danbury Hospital construction site is large and presents many potential challenging rescue situations for our crews. We are training with the on-site medical first responders and the crane operators who will assist with moving an injured worker to safety. We conducted a drill with the crane operators to familiarize our people with the equipment and procedures necessary to integrate the crane into our operations.

Critique: We conducted a post incident analysis for the Haz-Mat Incident at Bedoukian.

Safety Officer Responses: T.O. Omasta was called out as Safety Officer for the structure fire on Boulevard Drive.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- July 30 Vol. quarterly training at Germantown VFD

- Aug 1-4 Attended the IAFC conference in Denver
- Aug 8 Training at the Danbury Hospital Construction site.
- Aug. 14 Danbury Hospital for “fires in operating rooms” class
- Aug. 16 Wake for Larry Miguel
- Aug 17 Funeral for Larry Miguel
- Aug. 18 Stag party for Lt Jaime Schiller
- Aug. 21 Monthly staff meeting with D group

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments’ 4 Gas meters were calibrated. Currently E-26’s meter is out of service due to a faulty noise generator, all of the remaining meters are fully functional.

R-1 (03PS) computer issue was resolved and this unit is currently in service. The Apparatus Division has been working on specifications for the new ladder truck as well as a new Incident Command vehicle. A new style forcible entry tool, the “WeddleTool” that allows firefighters quicker access to structures while minimizing damage to doors and windows was purchased and placed in service this month. The departments’ pick-up truck is in the body shop having repairs made to the damage recently caused by a tire blowout.

Other repairs completed:

- Serviced E-22.
- Replaced the AC compressor/service 51-DA.
- Repaired air horns and Large Diameter Gate on E-26.
- Replaced power supply in gas pump.
- Replace AC lines in E-21 and E-22.
- Replace Fire Research lens E-25.
- Serviced light tower.
- Replaced all wheel sensors in 06FX2.
- Replaced all tires on 99C2 and Car 30.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Despite continuing efforts to reduce the issue, we continue to find illegal occupancies in the city. Most are identified through UNIT inspections. There were several such inspections this month. Unsafe occupancies were identified either in basements or attics and all situations have been resolved or in process. We continue to monitor several locations where there have been repeat offences. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens.

Our office investigated several very serious fires some with burn injuries. DFM Leach attended a weeklong course at the National Fire Academy. DFM Russell concluded the annual inspections of all of the city’s schools. Other than the need for replacement batteries for emergency lighting, there were no serious issues noted.

Department Statistical Reports

	Inspections	Number/Amount
Apartments		275
Business		20

Day Care	3
Education	24
Fuel Trucks	6
Hazmat (Tank Install)	1
Health Care	0
Hotel (Rooms)	250
Industrial	1
Liquor	21
Merchantile	25
Misc.	37
Place of Assembly	43
Res. Board & Care	1
Rooming House	0
Service Stations	1
Special Structure	1
Storage	0
TOTAL	709

Topics	Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	52
Blasting Permits	2
Burn Permits	2
Complaints	18
Cont. Ed. Hours	56
Fatal Fires	0
Fire Investigation	23
Fire Safety Prgms.	3
Meetings (Hrs)	36
Office Duty (Hrs.)	186
Orders of Abatement	
Plan Review (hrs.)	62
Tickets Issued	
TOTAL HRS.	392

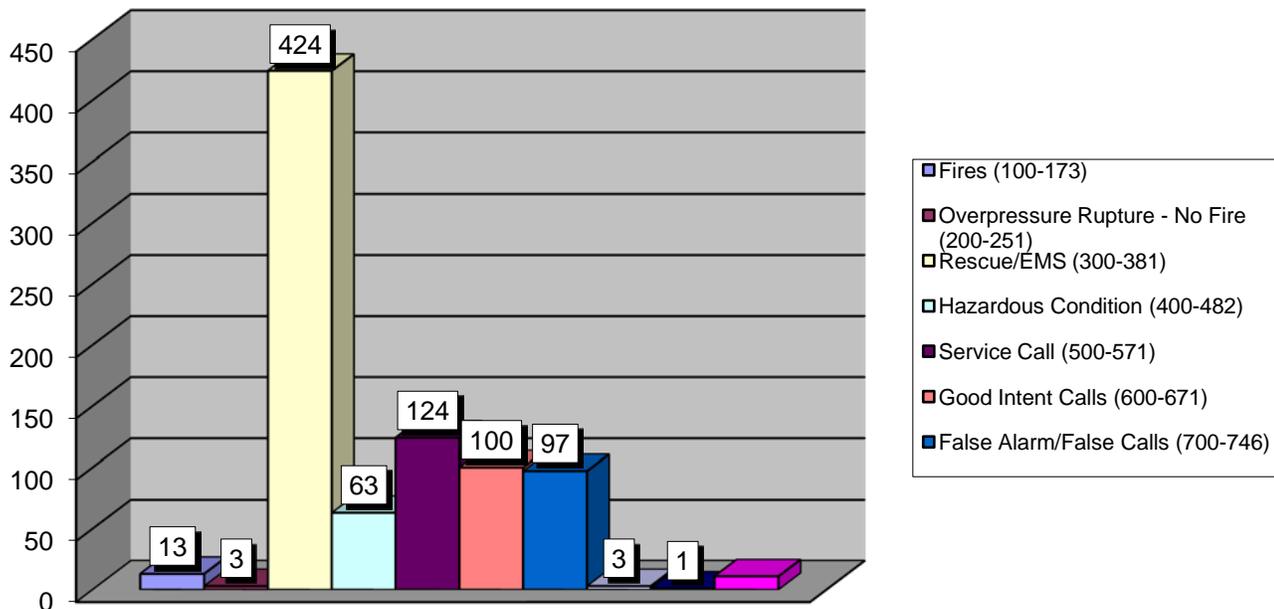
Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	13
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	3
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	424
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	63
Service Call (500-571)	124
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	100
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	97
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	3
Special Incident Type (900-911)	1
No Report/Incomplete	11
Total Fire Responses	839
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	3008
Abandoned 911 Calls	441
Cellular 911 Calls	1963

911 Hang Up Calls	1077
Admin Calls Received	948
Police Calls via 911	330
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	221
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	304
Daily Average	107.43
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	839
Total EMS Responses	785
Unknown Transport Status	20
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	324
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	315
No Patient (CAD 62)	126
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	10
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	26

**** NOTE ****

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

Fire Response Breakdown July 21, 2012 to August 20, 2012



911 Center Activity July 21, 2012 to August 20, 2012

