



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 August and 21 September and details activities of the Department.

Please join our department while we congratulate Jim Russell as Firefighter of the Year. This honor, sponsored by the Exchange Club of Danbury is bestowed on Jim Russell for his continuing search for excellence for the citizens of Danbury. His customer service and conviviality while working with the Danbury community in fire prevention education and the children's' annual fire safety poster program with the Danbury Schools system has earned him this distinction.

Please congratulate newly appointed Captain Joseph Halas. Joe has been assigned to "D" Shift and recently began his new assignment. We look to a long a fruitful career for Captain Halas.

Our safety message this month is directed toward the coming heating season. Each year as the weather cools, we turn on the heat in our homes. And unfortunately, nationwide each year there are thousands of fires due to poor maintenance, improper use and other issues with heating devices. Danbury has not been immune to these dangers. Each year we experience several potentially life threatening fires or other elevated risks due to heating devices. Here are some of the facts regarding heating fires.

- An estimated 50,100 heating fires in residential buildings occur each year in the United States.
- Heating was the second leading cause of all residential building fires following cooking.
- Residential building heating fires peaked in the early evening hours from 5 to 9 p.m. with the highest peak from 6 to 8 p.m. This 4-hour period accounted for 30 percent of all residential building heating fires.
- Residential building heating fires peaked in January (21 percent) and declined to the lowest point during the summer months from June to August. Heating fires during the summer months tended to be confined fuel burner/boiler malfunction fires (62 percent).
- Confined fires, those fires confined to chimneys, flues, or fuel burners, accounted for 87 percent of residential building heating fires.
- Thirty percent of the non-confined residential building heating fires occurred because the heat source was too close to combustibles.

With these facts in mind we urge our citizens to take several precautions this winter. First, be sure to have and test smoke detectors. Please have all heating devices properly installed and use them per manufacturers' specifications. Have all fire places, chimneys and furnaces inspected by trained

technicians. Do not use any heating device to dry clothing except for a clothes dryer. Do not use an oven or stove top to heat the room or home. Finally, please note that electric space heaters are especially dangerous and are generally illegal to use in multi-family residences. If you have any questions, please call the Community Risk Reduction team at 203-796-1541 or the fire department at 203-796-1550. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Public Education/Prevention/Public Relations

Western Connecticut State University Westside construction, Danbury Hospital, Abby Woods construction, NVCC facility on Main Street, Masonic Temple at 337 Main Street

Suppression/Response Activities of Note

Several companies responded to a possible structure fire on Great Plain Road just before 7 AM. While en route to the call further information was received and the response was upgraded to a second alarm. Fire was discovered on the first floor in the rear of the structure and extending to the second floor. No one was home at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported. Units responding included E23, E24, Sq 22, Trk, C30, C41, E10, E11, E14, Sq7, Danbury P.D. and State Police units. The investigation was handled by the Danbury Fire Marshals. No reported injuries.

Units responded to 1 Beardsley Rd. for a fire reported out by the occupant. This was the result of an unusual sequence of events. Apparently a range hood/fan assembly fell from its' under cabinet position onto the stovetop, turning on a burner which ignited pizza boxes on the stovetop. The fire self-extinguished and was discovered by the occupant upon his return home. There was smoke damage throughout the house. DFM Perry investigated. No reported injuries.

An airport emergency was declared and units responded to runway 26, Danbury Airport. The control tower operator called 911 after witnessing showers of sparks from under a twin engine Piper Seminole, which was landing. E26 was first on scene and reported that the plane was secured and there were no injuries to the pilot or passengers. The pilot, a veteran commercial aviator, apparently did not hear the audible warning alert for his retracted landing gear and landed without it being deployed. His son stated that the landing was so smooth that he didn't notice that there was a problem during the landing! E26 retained command and worked with the airport administrators to resolve the incident. The plane's engines had recently been rebuilt and will likely have to be again.

Incident # 6395, on 9/15/12 at 23:28 at 12 E. King St. was an apparent arson fire involving a Daewoo excavator. The heavy equipment was in a secluded area following demolition of a vacant house there. The fire was spotted by neighbors, who initially thought that youths had a campfire burning. They investigated to find the excavator burning. On arrival of Engine 25, the machine was fully involved with fire. E25 extinguished the fire. DFM Perry investigated along with an Evidence Technician of the Danbury Police Department. The incident is under investigation as a possible arson.

Command and Staff Activities

- Command and Control of Natural and Man Made Disasters, National Fire Academy
- FCI Community Relations Board
- 9-11 ceremony
- Friends Of Local Heroes Luncheon
- NexGen software meeting
- Region 5 HazMat Committee
- Firehouse software meeting

Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday:

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been the review of the Emergency Response Scene Personal Rehabilitation program and to familiarize and set up the equipment that has been purchased to facilitate this requirement. Limited manpower, extreme weather conditions, multiple incidents and the physical exhaustion that can complicate emergency operations have necessitated the need to better manage our most important resource, our personal, so that they will be able to perform their duties without injuries.

Region Five HazMat:

The Danbury Battalion of The Region Five Hazmat Team participated in a Tr-State drill which included New York State, Massachusetts and the State of Connecticut Region Five Emergency Support Function Groups.

The drill which was held in North Canaan, CT. consisted of a train tanker car collision with a tractor trailer with caused a simulated release of a toxic chemical. The fictitious chemical the rail car was transporting, methyl bromide, is a commonly used pesticide in farm applications and extremely toxic. The plan was to create a scenario to test all of the Emergency Support Function groups in their field of expertise and the incident management teams' ability to manage a large scale incident with multiple agencies.

Meetings Attended: Region Five HazMat team meeting
Region Five REPT meeting
Danbury Hospital Supervisors meeting

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

During this period the department began the process of changing to Firehouse Software as an incident reporting and records management software. In this regard to date, most aspects of department reports are being examined to collect, correct and export data from existing systems for import into Firehouse. Firehouse Software is a nationally recognized and utilized package which will consolidate many facets of Fire Department reporting issues into one application that is both easy to use and more importantly easier to create written records and reports.

The capabilities inherent to Firehouse software will allow department staff to analyze department activity from not only an emergency response standpoint but also for planning and financial management of the department at a level that was difficult to track prior to this. Current expectations are that the setups and preliminary training will be completed by the end of October with the system going live shortly after that.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Third quarter training consisting of a Hazardous Materials refresher and a Suicide Awareness class is in progress through Sept. 25.

Firefighter I course

The fire fighter 1 class started Sept. 4 and will continue through December 11. We have 12 Danbury volunteers in the class and one volunteer from Hawleyville.

Firefighter I Spring class – To date, 15 out of the 17 students passed all sections and are certified to the FFI level.

Eng 14, King St is hosting the 48 hour Fire Instructor I certification course in September and October. A number of Volunteer and Career Firefighters are attending the course.

Vol. Firefighter Eric Svege from Engine 12 completed the Incident Safety Class in Hartford

Career Division

The Danbury Fire Training Facility was utilized by the Hawleyville and Bethel Fire Departments, as well as Danbury Career and Volunteer Companies.

Concrete block cutting work was completed on the top floor in preparation for the new rappel railing and hooks.

Foam Training

All crews completed the annual foam trailer refresher training at the Fire School. The foam rig is a regional asset housed at Station 26 by the airport.

Airport Rescue Fire Fighter annual live burn training was conducted at the Westover Mass Air Force Base. 12 certified ARFF firefighters participated in these live fire training evolutions.

Hydrant Testing

Approximately 1,800 city hydrants have been tested to date.

FF Arteaga

Walt Arteaga completed the week long Advanced Technical Rope Rescue CCM course in Concord New Hampshire.

Advanced classes

We have individuals enrolled in various courses including Company Officer1, Instructor 1, Advanced Rope Rescue, and College classes in the Fire Science Program.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- Aug 23 Ct State Education/regional fire school meeting in Wethersfield
- Aug 24 Danbury Hospital Emergency Management Meeting
- Aug 29 Work with the Firehouse Software rep over converting our data
- Sept 4. Conference Call for Hospital Evacuation Drill
- Sept. 5 Ct Fire Instructors meeting at the Ct Fire Academy
- Sept. 5 Meet with High School Senior interested in the Fire Service
- Sept 11 Meet with Fire House software Rep over data conversion
- Sept. 13 Attend Kaplan University demo at the Branford Fire Dept.
- Sept 14 “Hero” luncheon at HQ- Tables and Chairs from St. Paul’s Church
- Sept. 17 FD golf outing at Newtown CC
- Sept 22 Wake for Volunteer Firefighter Ray Sherwood



Here our troops train at Westover Air Force base for Airport Rescue Fire Fighting.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated. Currently E-26's meter has been returned to the factory for repairs, all of the remaining meters are fully functional. E -22 is currently out of service due to an air induction issue involving the engines turbo charger and charge air cooler. Parts have been ordered. The Apparatus Division has been working on specifications for the new ladder truck as well as the new Shift Commanders car and SRV. The Rabbit Tool from Hurst has been repaired and placed back in service. The departments' pick-up truck body work has been completed and this unit is back in service. The Apparatus Division is currently working with Putnam Automotive Group to complete the warranty body repairs authorized by Pierce. Both of our aerial devices were third party "Non Destructive Tested" this month by Underwriters Laboratory. There were no NFPA non compliant issues found with either device. The final test reports will be sent to HQ's upon completion by the technician. NFPA required ground ladder testing was also completed on 48 ladders this month. There are no outstanding issues with the current "gaggle" of ground ladders in use by this department.

Other repairs completed:

- Evaluate and order parts for Plymovent.
- Replaced batteries in Trk-1.
- Align E-22 front end.
- Replaced batteries in Decon Trailer
- Fabricate and install drip edge on Trk-1.
- Replaced belts on 85CV.
- Order batteries for portables.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Thru UNIT inspections, there were three inspection(s) for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) one involved 3 persons in a basement. All situations have been resolved. Our office investigated several fires, with only minor injuries. One of those fires is being investigated along with the PD as intentional. The Illegal Apartment Enforcement Team (part of the unit) continues to follow up on complaints from citizens.

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention completed follow-up on one young person in Danbury.

October is Fire Prevention Month. This year Home Depot is building two stand-alone rooms for a Sprinkler/Non-sprinkler fire demo. This will be done on Oct. 6 2012 in conjunction with Fire Department. We will also be visiting all schools to deliver our Fire Safety message. We expect to see about 7000 young people.

DFMs' Russell and Weber presented a "hands on" fire extinguisher class for 30 people at GE Capital.

Department Statistical Reports

Inspections	Amount
Apartments	225
Business	18
Day Care	2
Education	8
Fuel Trucks	48
Hazmat (Tank Install)	0
Health Care	1
Hotel (Rooms)	70
Industrial	1
Liquor	19
Mercantile	25
Misc.	42
Place of Assembly	23
Res. Board & Care	1
Rooming House	1
Service Stations	0
Special Structure	1
Storage	0
TOTAL	485

Topics	Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	48
Blasting Permits	2
Burn Permits	2
Complaints	24
Cont. Ed. Hours	12
Fatal Fires	0
Fire Investigation	12
Fire Safety Prgms.	3
Meetings (Hrs)	28
Office Duty (Hrs.)	190
Orders of Abatement	

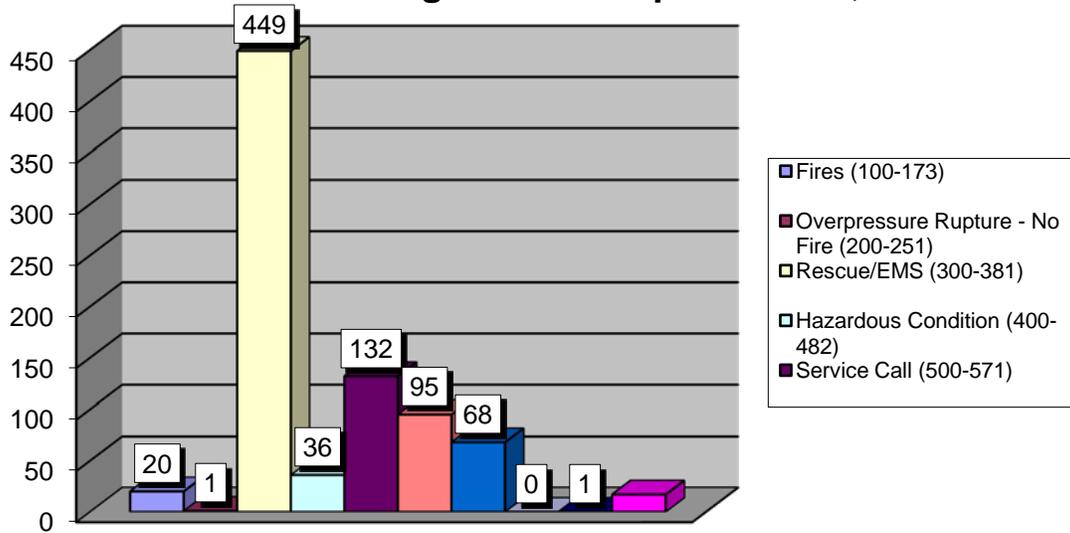
TOTAL HRS. 346

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	20
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	449
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	36
Service Call (500-571)	132
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	95
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	68
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	17
Total Fire Responses	818
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	3918
Abandoned 911 Calls	421
Cellular 911 Calls	1889
911 Hang Up Calls	1031
Admin Calls Received	988
Police Calls via 911	311
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	256
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	333
Daily Average	139.93
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	818
Total EMS Responses	839
Unknown Transport Status	20
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	368
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	323
No Patient (CAD 62)	128
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	7
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	41

**** NOTE ****

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

Fire Response Breakdown August 21 to September 21, 2012



911 Center Activity August 21 to September 21, 2012

