



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

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**FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my monthly report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. This covers the period of 21 May through 21 June and details activities of the Department. With the onset of summer and the predictions of severe weather from increased hurricane activity, we wish to pass on to Danbury the methods to prepare for these storms. The information below is derived from FEMA, NOAA and the USFA. Much of the information can apply to threats such as that of severe thunderstorms. Over the last few years we here in New England have experienced several such storms and there is every reason to believe this trend will continue. The high winds and heavy rainfall of hurricanes and severe thunderstorms can lead to flying debris, flooding, landslides, and other dangerous situations.

**Before a Hurricane**

Hurricane season is officially under way, and preparing for a hurricane may be especially critical. The high winds and heavy rainfall of hurricanes can lead to flying debris, flooding, landslides, and other dangerous situations.

Use these five tips to make sure you have what you need to stay safe:

**1. Have a family communications plan.** In an emergency situation, your family might not all be together and traditional means of communication (like cell phone service) may not be readily available. Have an alternative plan in place to contact your family.

**2. Create an emergency kit.** Strong storms can knock out power for a long time and if you're unable to evacuate, you'll need to have enough food and water on hand until power can be restored. FEMA recommends having enough to last for at least 72 hours for all members of your household.

**3. Don't forget about your pets.** Animals are an important part of many families, so you want to make sure they're prepared for a hurricane as well. That means having additional food and water on hand for them and making sure their tags are up to date in case you get separated. If you evacuate, don't leave your animals behind. They often can't fend for themselves during a storm.

**4. Learn the appropriate evacuation routes.** Knowing the evacuation routes in advance will help you react calmly during an evacuation and help move your family to safety. Follow the direction of local emergency officials and law enforcement. If they tell you to evacuate, make sure you do so.

**5. Know whether you live in a flood zone.** Hurricanes can cause serious flood damage to your property. If you live near rivers, streams or other bodies of water that could overflow, make sure you are prepared to deal with flooding and have proper insurance coverage to protect you.

For more information go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- Know your surroundings.
- Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding are forecasted.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.

- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.
- Make plans to secure your property:
- Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.
- Consider building a safe room.

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (NFIP) Web site, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-800-427-2419.

## **Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations**

Crews toured the Matrix Corporate Center, the Reserve area neighborhood, and Emhart Technologies on Shelter Rock Lane. Community Outreach was provided at Danbury High School. A Touch-a-Truck event took place at Mill Ridge School. The Union, Professional Firefighters Local 801 sponsored a Fishing Derby. An engine company stood by a T-ball picnic and showed children the fire trucks. Tours of HQ were given to Girl Scouts, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and middle school students.

## **Suppression / Response Activities of Note**

Crews assisted DEEP and DPD with getting a bear out of a tree behind Bishop Curtis Homes on Main Street. A trapped duck family was rescued on Backus Avenue, after which the children who reported them sent us a kind thank-you note. A fatal MVA on Federal Road required the extrication of 4 patients. Aid was provided at the ER for a child with a finger stuck in a metal tube. Crews responded to a wheels-up landing at the Airport. An MVA on Memorial Drive required the extrication of two patients trapped in a vehicle under a pickup truck. We responded to a tractor trailer rollover on I-84 with CT and NY Fire and Police. A fire on Merrimac Street was quickly knocked down.



Here we see department members working on the accident scene on Memorial Drive

## **Command and Staff Activities**

- Statewide Emergency Exercise
- Ad Hoc committee
- Meeting with Volunteers
- National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament
- Portuguese day ceremonies

- Mayors Leadership and Cabinet
- Pat Sniffin's Retirement Dinner
- Justin Bierbower's Retirement Dinner
- Danbury Area Retired Firefighter Meeting
- Connecticut Fire Academy Graduation
- Telestaff Advanced Training

### **Donations**

A used dumpster was donated by Winters Brothers to be used for training at the Fire School. This will be used in conjunction with our new propane fired prop to train firefighters on these dangerous fires.

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

#### EMS Wednesday

This Continuing Medical Education class is held for Firefighters while they are on duty to enhance their pre-hospital medical knowledge and skills.

The topics for this month's EMS Wednesday was Summer type emergencies including Heat Exhaustion, Heat Stroke, and Allergic Reactions, and the completion of the Musculoskeletal/Tourniquet training for the personnel that had missed the previous presentations.

#### Ambulance Certificate of Operation:

Ambulance Certificate of Operations renewal was completed by the June 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 deadline and submitted to the State of Connecticut.

#### A-EMT Certification:

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has concluded that elimination of the A-EMT certification would not service the best interest of the public in terms of patient care and that the adoption of the National Scope of Practice would be the direction the State of CT should pursue.

The Danbury Fire Department has 35 A-EMTs serving on First Responder Engine Companies which provide rapid deployed, highly trained, pre-hospital care providers to the scene of a medical emergency, enhancing our ability to save lives in the City of Danbury.

### **Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers**

See Department Statistic reports.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

*Volunteer Division*

### Quarterly

Second quarter training continues through June. Communications and Incident Command updates are the main topics.

### Fire fighter II

Firefighter II is going well with 16 Danbury volunteer fire fighters participating in this Certification class. Test date is July 20.

### *Career Division*

#### SCBA Endurance

All crews are participating in the SCBA Air Consumption Rate Awareness training. With full PPE and SCBA, the fire fighters navigate a seven station course at the burn building, simulating a normal fire fighter workload. With the data from this drill we calculate the average air usage per minute for each individual. We also document total bottle duration time and escape time.

#### Fire School

A 1,000 gallon propane tank was installed by Mitchell Fuel. This will fuel our propane training prop. We utilized the new propane fed burn pan during our Firefighter II class this month. This prop will provide unlimited training exercises while burning much cleaner than other combustible liquids.

The school facilities were utilized for training by various departments including Brookfield, Botsford, Hawleyville, Ridgefield, Southbury Training School and Southbury VFD.

#### Aerial Strategy and Tactics

We hosted the CT Fire Academy class, Aerial Operator Strategy and Tactics on the weekend of June 15 and 16. We had 18 students attend from Danbury and surrounding departments.

#### Various Classes

We have personnel enrolled in various certification classes through the CT Fire Academy. Our students are taking classes for Fire Instructor I and II, Rescue Technician Core, and Rescue Tech Vehicle and Machinery. The Vehicle Rescue class will be hosted by our Department in May.

#### Safety Officer

Safety Officer was called in for an airplane emergency on the Airport and for vehicle extrication in Rogers Park.

#### Aerial Driver

FF Ted Mourges met the qualifications as an Aerial Operator/Driver.

Meetings/events for the T.O.:

- June 1 – Played in the Fallen Firefighters benefit golf tourney in Bloomfield
- June 5 – CFDIA monthly meeting at Bradley Airport Fire HQ

- June 7 – CT Fire Academy for a seminar on Solar Panel safety for FF's
- June 11 – Played in the Fire Dept. Spring Gold tourney at Newtown CC
- June 12 – Took written exam for Rescue Tech- Vehicle
- June 15 – Attended stag gathering for FF Sullivan
- June 18 – Staff meeting for D group
- June 19 – Met with NVCC Fire Science Dept Head concerning new course offering in Danbury



Here we see several of our firefighters undergoing our air management training exercises.





This is the new Propane burn Pan donated By Dr. Bedoukian

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

Truck-1's replacement meter has arrived and been placed in service. One new staff car has arrived. It has been equipped and placed in service. The unit this replaced was serviced and passed down continuing the department's practice. Truck-1's Charge air cooler has arrived but so have a lot of other issues. Truck-1 will now need a new engine; it is losing oil by the piston rings and has probable crack(s) in the cylinder head. Nursing this unit is becoming a daily chore. Truck-2's ladder is currently out of service due to a damaged outrigger. The replacement part has been ordered and we are hopeful for a delivery by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The issue with the "bedding" of TRK-1's ladder is still current as well, the Encoder has been ordered and we are waiting its arrival. Fit testing the Volunteer Division is beginning.

Other repairs completed:

- Fabricate mounting hardware for ResQue Jacks
- Mount ResQue Jacks on E-24 and E-26
- Replace lower radiator hose in Station 26 Generator
- Evaluate damage/order parts Truck-2 outrigger
- Rework S.C.B.A.'s for Training Division
- Service E-23
- Replace front tires E-23 and RF E-21
- Replace brake chamber and slack adjusters E-23
- Service 11FT
- Repair Bullet saw and smoke ejector Truck-2

### **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - Acting FM M. Gillotti**

Congratulations to DFM Russell, our newest NVCC Fire Tech degree graduate! Many hours have been spent this month with different businesses doing fire extinguisher training, a great and essential public service. Several hotels and elderly complexes have been inspected this month as well as miscellaneous mercantile spot inspections.

Merchants and gas stations selling fireworks have been inspected to make sure they are within CT State Regulations.

A heavy amount of plans keep rolling in to the office including updates to Mall tenants, new buildings at Rivington, the Hospice on Milestone Road, the new Homewood Suites on Prindle Lane, Belimo's new building, and renovations and additions at Boehringer-Ingelheim. The Sports Dome is nearing completion with emergency lighting being made sufficient. Several meetings with the Building and Zoning Departments on new projects continue that concern access and water supply. We also continue our involvement on UNIT inspections and dealt with a hoarding issue at the Lions condos. Many apartment inspections are coming up including Avalon's two properties and over 200 units at Crown Point.

### **IT Special Assignment – Rich Gallagher**

The main focus is to continually improve the implementation of the Firehouse software package for the Fire Department. The following areas are currently being worked on:

1. Setting up an apparatus and equipment inventory list which can be used by all aspects of the fire department such as incident use, training and maintenance.
2. Using the Firehouse iPad application called FH inspector, the FD is locating all hydrants and applying GPS coordinates to them. The intent with this is to verify the number and location of all hydrants within the city.
3. Working with the Training Officer to use Firehouse to record and track all training done by the FD.
4. Working with the Fire Marshals division to use the Firehouse iPad application to aid in their inspections.
5. Improve the integration with TeleStaff for better roster accuracy within Firehouse and the incident reports.

### **Department Statistical Reports**

#### **Community Risk Reduction**

Monthly inspections: 365

Abatements issued: 0

Violations issued: 4

#### **Public Safety Answering Point**

Total 911 calls: 3696

Abandoned 911 calls: 826

Cellular 911 calls: 1951

911 hang up calls: 12

Admin calls received: 825