



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

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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 October through 21 November 2013 and details activities of the Department.

On a special note, FF Adam Horosky has been promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the Air Force reserves. FF Horosky has 15 years of service, with 8 years active. He has served in three deployments to Iraq, one to Bosnia, and one to Korea. He is stationed at Westover AFB in Massachusetts. In his new rank he is head of supply, and is responsible for keeping equipment and personnel ready to deploy. Congratulations Adam!

As we come into the winter and Christmas Season, we wish all Danburians a happy and safe holiday, however you celebrate. Here at the Fire Department we are working hard to ensure that the city is as safe as can be. We are inspecting stores for storage and holiday lighting safety and issuing the tree sellers safety tags. We have included one here in this report. Here are some holiday safety tips:

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY TIPS

Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Picking the tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Facts about home holiday fires

- One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. On average, one of every 40 reported home structure Christmas tree fires results in a death compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home structure fires.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every six of Christmas tree fires.
- More than half (56%) of home candle fires occur when something that can catch on fire is too close to the candle.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.



Donations

Thank you to Danbury Hospital and Danbury Housing Authority for their donations to host a high-rise training seminar on December 7. We have also received a generous donation of smoke alarm batteries from Energizer.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Smoke detector installs continue. Hydrant program finished up for the year.

DC Meehan assisted with the family of a terminally ill child, "Oliver's Team" taking pictures of various fire departments and firefighters, including Danbury.

E26 presented Fire Safety talks and showed their engine to morning and afternoon Kindergarten classes at Mill Ridge School. On duty companies stood by at the Jericho Festival at St. Paul's Church on Spring Street.

A visit to Mitchell Fuel was arranged where crewmembers were brought up to date on recent upgrades to the facility and had numerous questions answered regarding propane and gasoline storage, transport, and delivery.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A structure fire on Gregory Street was a result of framing built too close to the fireplace masonry; luckily the occupants were home at the time to notice it. A hot liquid asphalt spill occurred at the vacant gas station property at the Exit 8 turnaround for which an Engine Company set up the incident and continued as operations throughout damming of the spilled liquid and recovery of the remaining tank contents. A landscape company dump truck caught fire on West Street; the truck cab was fully involved and the fire was knocked down by responding crews. Crews rescued a very large buck from swimming pool on East Lake Road. A serious MVA on Sugar Hollow Road with ejection and extrication posed challenges.



Command and Staff Activities

- Seminar on Station Night Club Fire in New Haven with Fire Marshals
- State Fire Education Meeting
- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Meeting with Abilita Communication for new telephone system
- Retirement Dinner for Lt. Skip Omasta
- International Conference for Fire & Rescue Executives
- Connecticut Career Chiefs
- Fairfield County Chiefs
- Labor Management with UPPFA

Emergency Medical / Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

For the month of November our focus has been CPR for the professional rescuer certification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillator.

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 50 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes.

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system. Cross-trained firefighters that have the ability to provide these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, which has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrests in the City of Danbury.

Haz-Mat Training

As part of the mandatory year end training for all firefighters, the Training Officer and EMS Coordinator have been utilizing the propane props at the Fire School that the Regional Haz-Mat Team had purchased to train its members. Since the Danbury Fire Department's Fire School is uniquely set up to run these props, we can utilize these props to train all of our firefighters, giving them an additional dimension to the regular fire training evolutions.

Communications / 911 - Provisional Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistic reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly

Fourth quarter training is in progress. Volunteer personnel are participating in live burns at our Training facility on Plumtrees Rd. Live burns include but are not limited to fire attack, search/rescue, ventilation, ladder work and pump operator skills. Incident Command and radio communications skills are worked on extensively during the drills.

Career Division

Mandatory Training

All crews are participating in annual mandatory training at our Fire School facilities. Personnel are practicing their skills by attacking various live fires generated by our propane powered props, including vehicle, gas grill, pressurized vessel and pressurized gas lines. There is extensive use of breathing apparatus and nozzle work during the drills. Crews are also challenged with mitigating various hazardous material leaks utilizing our meters and other resources available to them. Training continues with live burn training in and around our burn building with an emphasis on alternative fire attack scenarios based on recent fire behavior studies published by UL and N.I.S.T.

Recruits

Our 14 recruit Firefighters are progressing well at the CT Fire Academy. They are nearing the end of the 16 week Recruit School and we expect all to graduate on December 6.

Various Classes

FFs Newton and Jewel completed the Fire Instructor I Course and FF Brown finished the Fire Officer I program. Captains Joe Halas and Bill Lounsbury are students in the lengthy Fire Officer II class.

Hydrants/ I-Pads

The crews worked diligently and in a short period of time (to date) completed the inspection and testing of 99% of the city's 2,100 fire hydrants. Firefighter Rich Gallagher, temporarily assigned to I.T. duties, contributed his expertise and many hours of work to convert the hydrant program to a web based system which has improved efficiency and accuracy.

Naugatuck Valley Community college

The new Fire Behavior and Combustion class is going well. This fall semester class will end with the final exam on Dec. 17.

Fire School

Fire Departments from Redding, Ridgefield, Bethel, and Southbury utilized our facilities for various training activities. The school is also being used heavily by the Danbury career and volunteer divisions for annual live burns.

Hose Testing

Annual fire hose testing was completed with over 500 lengths of attack and supply hose passing this pressure test.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- The “Station nightclub” fire seminar at New Haven Fire School
- AEMT bi annual certification test
- Retirement dinner for Lt. Skip Omasta
- St. Paul’s Church’s Fall festival on Spring St.
- Staff meeting with B group



Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Department’s 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month. We replaced no sensors this month! The third new staff car is here and we are still installing required equipment. The Truckvault has been reinstalled after it was returned to the manufacturer for modification. Truck-1 has been in service after it ruptured a hydraulic line for the right rear outrigger. All left side hydraulic lines (which service right side outriggers) were replaced at this time. We will need to remove this unit from service, as time allows in the future, when we replace the right side outriggers’ hydraulic lines as well. These hydraulic lines needed replacement due to corrosion issues related to de-icing materials currently in use. On Saturday 11/23, all of the Department’s ground ladders will be tested and heat labels replaced as required by a third party testing company. The Bauer breathing air compressor had relief valve issues and was

repaired and placed back in service. We have removed from service both our 1997 Crown Victoria's due to severe corrosion of frame and chassis members. These vehicles would require substantial renovations which would be time consuming and costly.

Other repairs completed:

- Truck-1 multiple electrical issues
- Replaced light charger box in E-24
- Replaced tires on E-22, E-23, E-25 and Truck-1
- Fit test E-5
- Replace front pads and rotors, service 03FT
- Truck-1 not leveling properly

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Provisional FM Gillotti

The month began with finishing up the schools for their fire prevention classes. It was a very successful year once again.

Training continues on Telestaff. A presentation in New Haven about the Killer Show book (regarding the Rhode Island nightclub fire) was attended by almost everyone in the office.

Inspections of apartments and fire drills at several businesses continue.

J. Osborne and M. Gillotti did a Fire Safety day at GE Capital which was very well received; approximately 300 people attended.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	418
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	2
Complaints	6
Fire Investigations	6
Fire Safety Programs	0

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3860
Abandoned 911 calls	367
Cellular 911 calls	2049
911 hang up calls	12
Admin calls received	895