



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

**Geoffrey R. Herald, CFO  
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1550  
Fax 203-796-1552**

**FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 February 2014 through 21 March 2014 and details activities of the Department.

Congratulations to our recently promoted officers, Lieutenant Robert "Shea" Hanson and Deputy Fire Marshal Gary Bruce. Both were sworn in to their new positions in a well-attended ceremony at City Hall on 5 March. Lieutenant Hanson will now serve as an Engine company officer on "D" Platoon and Deputy Fire Marshal Bruce is working with the Community Risk Reduction team under Fire Marshal James Russell. These newly minted officers will serve the Department and city well.

Though we hope to be leaving the winter weather behind us for the year, there are still hazards to be considered. We will be seeing more and more residents hiking and enjoying the outdoors and as the ice melts on our ponds and lakes, the area surrounding them may become slippery and potentially dangerous. If you do venture along these water ways, please be mindful of the possible hazards. Any remaining ice must be considered too thin to support walking on so please avoid it.

Motorcyclists and bicyclists will appear in increasing numbers as the weather warms. All drivers whether on bicycles, motorcycles or in automobiles need to be aware of the slippery conditions that can still appear and of road debris such as sand. As you drive on our streets, please be aware of their presence as you travel. If you

ride a bicycle or walk on the streets, be aware of traffic and follow safety guidelines including wearing a helmet while riding and facing traffic while walking.

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

Crews were rotated between stations in this period and are getting familiarized with the nuances each district brings. Crews toured Shops at Marcus Dairy, Hilton Garden, Trader Joe's, Danbury Porsche, and continue to look at the Reserve Property. The new Elks Club on Sugar Hollow Road was toured.

DC Meehan attended a two day program on providing Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid. Crews put in a number of hours studying the new Regional EMS protocols.

DC Meehan, LT Ryan, FF Vitolo & FF Culbreth assisted the State Police & DEEP Conservation Officer in the capture of an injured Great Horned owl on Interstate 84. The owl was brought to Wildlife in Crisis in Weston by the DEEP Officer, and at last report is recovering quite well and will be returned to the wild.



Whooooo is taking my picture?

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

February 24<sup>th</sup> proved to be a busy day, as we had two working house fires and a serious chimney fire. Every member of the platoon worked at a fire that day. A “hat” trick of three fires in a single day is thankfully, an extremely rare event for the City of Danbury.



Car fire at Chuck's Steak House

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Firefighter Safety Seminar at Danbury Hospital
- Volunteer 10 Meeting at HQ
- Council Meeting
- Swearing in Ceremony
- Meeting with BlumShapiro regarding the "Smart Gov" initiative.
- Fire Dept. Staff Meeting
- NexGen Meeting at City Hall
- Radio Mapping Meeting with Motorola and the Police Department
- Meeting with Fairfield County Coordinator Dennis Ring
- Meeting with new Firematic Gear Rep. Brian Fynch
- Meeting with Legislators
- Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs
- Labor Management with UPFFA
- FCI Community Relations Board
- Danbury VOIP planning meeting

### **Emergency Medical / HazMat - Rey Rodriguez**

This year, along with regularly scheduled on-duty EMS Wednesday training, firefighters have been assigned online classes on the new Kaplan University website. This state of the art web based training will not only serve to prepare our First Responders for their State of Connecticut EMS recertification test and practical, but

will enhance the training with the latest information on changes that have occurred in pre-hospital care standards. This year's annual EMT-B recertification is scheduled for March 28 at Beaver Brook Fire house. Thirty-nine staff members are scheduled to test to maintain their EMS certification.

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- Education Affiliation policy
- Social media policy
- New Emergency Department update
- Triage Tag day
- Danbury Hospital Medical Director update

There are four paramedics on the Department who have completed the new protocol review and test. DC Meehan, LT Handau, & LT Bergemann, FF. Freundt had to study extensively and then be tested on these new paramedic protocols; all four were successful.

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

This month has been an incredibly busy time for the Communications Division. The "go live" date for our new Computer Aided Dispatch or CAD is 1 April. This has been in process for over a year. There has been a coming together of all the aspects of this very complicated process and as of this writing, we are "go" to launch. In addition, the Communications Supervisor has been working with the various radio vendors and the Police Department on our project to rebuild the radio systems for the emergency Response divisions of the City. The radio project is working towards a project scope document so that we can then put a proposal to the Mayor and City Council for funding to complete the build out.

See Department Statistical Reports for PSAP data.

## **Training - Mark Omasta**

### *Volunteer Division*

#### Quarterly

Emergency Vehicle Operations classes presented by the CT Fire Academy are in progress for all members.

#### Firefighter I

We just completed the Haz Mat Awareness/Operational portion of the Firefighter I course. There are 21 students from various Danbury Volunteer Fire Stations including Engines 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

### *Career Division*

#### Modern Fire Behavior

We are presenting information to all crews covering how fires are behaving in modern structures with modern furnishings. Using scientific findings from UL, NIST, and

various live burn tests by numerous fire departments, this program was developed by FF Doug Zaniewski. Doug is delivering the class in conjunction with the Training division. The response to the initial programs has been overwhelmingly favorable. The information being presented illustrates some very controversial realities for the fire service on fire flows, smoke and heat travel and proper technique in combatting fires.

#### Fire School

The Firefighter I class has utilized the training grounds during the winter months, and live burn training has begun for the busy spring season.

#### Aerial Operator

Fire Fighter DJ Brown successfully completed all of the requirements for Driver-Aerial Operator.

#### Structure fires

A Safety Officer was called in for a structure fire on Belair Dr., President St. and a power line emergency at Hospital and Locust Ave.

#### Pre-fire

Crews toured the new Elk's Lodge building under construction on Sugar Hollow Rd.

#### Chief Goldfeder Seminar

The Fairfield County Chiefs sponsored the Bill Goldfeder Firefighter Safety and Survival Seminar hosted by Danbury Hospital on Feb. 26. This was a very informative four hour program with approximately 270 area firefighters in attendance.

#### Naugatuck Valley Community College

The spring semester class "Safety and Survival" is at the halfway point.

#### Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- CME at Danbury Hospital
- Goldfeder Seminar at Danbury Hospital
- Swearing in for Lt. Hanson and DFM Bruce
- SOP meeting with Lt. Corbett
- CT Fire Instructors meeting and CT Fire Academy Update
- Volunteer Fireman's Ball
- Staff Meeting with B group
- At State Capital for various bills effecting the Fire Service

### Fire Fighter I Training Activity



Decontamination drill for Firefighter 1 class



Firefighter Walter Arteaga and FF I class



Air-pack drill at FF I Class

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

Our 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month. We continue to research replacement for these aging units. Currently, E-22's meter is out of service with an O2 sensor issue. We have received Truck-2's meter from BioSystems repaired. E-26's meter had no sound or warning light. It was found to have a defective solder joint in the printed circuit board. We were able to repair this unit and place it back in service.

E-24 has been returned to service after undergoing extensive repairs, including fuel tank, complete rear brake replacement, new starter, new primer cable, new batteries, new front brakes, turbo charger, EGR valve, VPOD, pump service, engine service, plus other minor issues.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced steering gears in E-25.
- Replaced the on board battery charger in the SRV.
- Rebuilt Hurst power head pump E-22.
- Replaced front shocks in E-25.
- Replaced door latch components in E-23 and E-25.
- Repaired several hand lights.
- Removed Hurst tool rollout shelf in TRK-1 for repairs.
- Replaced the batteries in TRK-2 and E-25.

Other actions of the Division:

Apparatus Superintendent Cavo testified before the State Transportation Committee on Road De-Icing materials and the effects on our fleet. Both the Superintendent and the mechanic traveled to Wisconsin to meet with Pierce Engineers about the new TRK-1.

**Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell**

Code Enforcement

The Community Risk Reduction Division has three upcoming Whaler’s games this weekend which will end the regular season. There could be playoff games to follow if they win. Hopefully, our City will be able to collect on the debt that has accrued.

Inspections

This month we have inspected two hotels, the Crown Plaza with 242 rooms, and the Courtyard Marriot with 124 rooms. We have also inspected Bishop Curtis elderly housing (88 units), Abbey Woods Apartments (100 units), several multifamily homes, 58 places of assembly, and 15 health care facilities, including Danbury Hospital. We have also done inspections at 1 storage facility, 20 store fronts, 5 day care facilities, and 8 other inspections.

Investigations

This month there were several fires to report.

Hospital Ave. – Birthing Center, Danbury Hospital, small outside fire

2 Jeanette St. – Electrical fire

116 Coal Pit Rd – Building fire

41 Rowan St. – Kitchen fire

3 President St. – Building fire

30 Belair Dr. – Structure fire

53 Sand Pit Rd. – Avalon Apts. Building fire

14 Orchard St. – Building fire

45 Morris St. – Fuel Burner malfunction

NFIRS

Deputy Fire Marshal Leach has completed the reports for this year and submitted up state.

Plan Reviews:

Plan reviews continue to be reviewed for several stores in the Mall, a 34 home subdivision off of East Gate Rd called Heatherwood Acres, the Turner Rd project, and other small projects.

#### Public Education

The Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest finished up with a luncheon sponsored by the Lions Club of Danbury, in which the two winners were honored for their work on the winning posters. The winners were Christian Jolly from 4<sup>th</sup> grade at South Street School, and Tanya D'Mello from 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Pembroke School. There was a very good turnout and the children enjoyed the event. We had a very successful year with the poster contest with 555 posters turned in this year, more than ever before! We are pleased to participate in this event that brings the opportunity to teach fire prevention to so many Danbury students.

#### Smoke Alarm Initiative

The Alarm Initiative is back in full swing. Last weekend, there were several alarms installed. We even had a gentleman call in with good words to say about our crew headed by Lt. Cabral.

### Department Statistical Reports

#### Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	735
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	6
Complaints	17
Fire Investigations	11
Fire Safety Programs	9

#### Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3263
Abandoned 911 calls	307
Cellular 911 calls	1668
911 hang up calls	59
Admin calls received	693