



**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 22 April 2014 through 21 May 2014 and details activities of the Department.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to Lynda Miguel, a member of our extended family. She was recently named as a winner of the Nightingale Nursing award for Danbury Hospital. For those of us who know her, she is always a welcome sight at the Danbury Hospital Emergency Department and a worthy recipient of this recognition. She is the wife of Fire Lieutenant Mark Miguel. Well done Lynda!

Bicycles and pedestrians are now using the roads extensively. We remind all Danburians to be mindful of these alternate users of our road ways. Bicyclists are reminded they need to obey traffic laws, wear proper safety apparel including vests and helmets and use lighting when riding at night. Riders should always ride with traffic.

Pedestrians need to be especially aware of traffic conditions. They should walk against traffic and wear clothing that makes them visible to drivers especially after dark. Carrying a flashlight as well is also recommended. Following these simple rules will increase your safety. We hope everyone enjoys the beautiful Connecticut spring.

**Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations**

Crews toured the Belimo and Abbey Woods construction projects, Cedar Gables and Abbott Tech schools, 98 Mill Plain Rd, the old Risdon property on Old Newtown Rd, and North Street Shopping Center.

The ladder truck assisted the repair of the flag pole at the Senior Center. The ladder truck also provided the aerial platform for Broadview Middle School's annual egg drop experiment.

Engine companies participated in several "Touch a Truck" and other community events at Rogers Park and several schools. Tours were conducted at Headquarters for visiting students, including Morris Street first graders and special education classes from Broadview. Crews collected donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association via "Fill the Boot" campaigns.

Headquarters hosted a fire safety tour and discussion for the Ability Beyond organization.

DC Meehan arranged for the Fairfield County Trauma Response Network to deliver a presentation on recovery from Trauma. The program was well received and will be delivered to the rest of the department in the near future.

DFD hockey players participated in two charity hockey games in Norwalk and Ridgefield.

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

A hiker who became lost during a sudden severe thunderstorm at Tarrywile Park was located by firefighters. An active shooter drill was held at the Mall.

A structure fire on Tamanny Trail damaged the kitchen and smoke damaged other areas of the house.

A structure fire on Morris Street was believed to have been started by a carelessly discarded cigarette. Initially, a significant smoke condition was reported on two floors. The area of origin appeared to be at the basement level. Considerable overhaul was effected as fire could be heard in the wall space. Minimal water was used to fully extinguish the fire, once it was located. No injuries were reported and no tenants were displaced.

A grass and brush fire occurred at WCSU Westside campus near the athletic field during, and as a result of, a fireworks display for Westfest. Luckily, an Engine Company and FM Russell were on site for Fire Watch at the time and were able to quickly locate and confine the fire. E26 and E12 Brush Truck responded to assist from the Logan's Way side of the area to complete extinguishment.

Headquarters units were on the scene of a large disturbance and fatal shooting between Elm Street and White Street.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Presentation to the Danbury New Fairfield Woman's Club
- Budget Meeting, City Council Ad Hoc
- Labor Management Sessions, Union and Administration
- Community Health Forum
- Boehringer-Ingelheim Haz Mat and site response
- Congressional Fire Service Institute

- Several Meetings regarding Dispatch RFPs
- Regional REPT Meetings
- Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association
- DPH "Hotwash" AAR
- DSET PSAP and Next Generation 9-1-1
- Senior Tsunami at Senior Center
- The Compliance Engine presentation
- Abbott Tech Safety & Security meeting

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

#### EMS Wednesday

The topic for this month was Summertime Emergencies which covers a variety of typical emergencies First Responders encounter during the warmer weather, including heat related emergencies, drowning, allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.

#### HazMat

The Danbury Fire Department has recently received Ten QRAE II four gas meters from the 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program. These meters will replace the aging four gas meters that are in service on all of our apparatus and that are reaching the end of their serviceable life span.

The new meters will enhance our departments HazMat capability, with First Due units able to properly conduct air monitoring operations and set up safety perimeters to protect the public during the initial phases of an Emergency Hazardous Material Response. The Department has also received 24 CO single gas meters from the same grant. Company Officers will wear them on non-Fire calls to alert them of the presence of Carbon Monoxide.

Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable gas that individuals may not know they are being exposed to. It initially produces flu like symptoms at low levels but the affects are accumulative and on average causes about 170 deaths in the United States every year. All members of the Department will participate in a "Metering and Monitoring HazMat Response" refresher by the end of this month and then the meters will be deployed accordingly.

#### Conference

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the 2014 Emergency Management Symposium in Cromwell on May 6, 2014.

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

See Department Statistical Reports

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division*

#### Firefighter I

The course is complete. CT State Certification testing is scheduled for May 24 for practical skills evaluations and June 5 for the written exams. There are 17 students

from various Danbury Vol. Fire Stations including Engines 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

### *Career Division*

#### Airport Rescue Firefighters

The Danbury Fire Dept. 14 member ARFF team conducted their annual live burn training at the Westover AFB in early May. Westover has one of the three certified burn facilities in New England.

#### Fire School

The fire school was utilized often this month by our Firefighter 1 class, on duty career crews, as well as visiting Fire Depts. from Brookfield, Bantam, Litchfield and Roxbury.

#### Structure Fires

A Safety Officer was called in for a structure fire on Morris St, a wild land fire on Bear Mountain, and a motor vehicle accident on Rt. 7 South.

#### Hydrant Program

Crews started testing the approx. 2,200 hydrants located throughout the City.

#### Naugatuck Valley Community College

The spring semester class, "Safety and Survival" ended with final exams on May 14. Fourteen students successfully completed the three credit course held at Fire Headquarters.

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

- Evacuation drill at the Danbury Fair Mall with the P.D.
- Meeting/Training with all participants in the regional Foam program
- Meeting/training with the Asst. Airport Administrator on live burns
- CISD training
- Meeting with Danbury Hospital Construction Supervisor on progress
- Attended the Safety/Training Officers Summit in Philadelphia

#### Firefighter 1 Class





ARFF Team Training Activity

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

All of the Department's 4-gas meters were calibrated this month. Currently E-23, E-25, and Truck-2 meters are out of service with LEL sensor issues. E-26's meter is still at the factory for repairs.

The previous C-30 has returned from the body shop repaired from damages it received while operating on I-84 during a Christmas Eve ice storm. For three days this past month, Scott Technicians from Shipman's Fire Equipment Co. were here at HQ conducting the mandated annual flow tests on all of the departments breathing apparatus as required by N.F.P.A. Division members Beers and Cavo attended a Disc Brake seminar in Milford hosted by our brake component vendor.

Other repairs completed:

- Installed mud flaps on 13SR
- Serviced E-25
- Replaced front pads E-25
- Serviced Squad-1
- Replaced right rear seat belt Truck-1(rear facing) belt
- Move plow to E-23 for summer storage
- Replaced front bumper E-25
- Repaired Bullet saw, chain saws E-22, E-26, and a K950 from Trk-1

- Repaired and replaced tray in Truck-1
- Replaced the turn signal switch in Truck-1

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

### **Inspections**

This month we inspected Wooster Manor, Crosby Manor, and several multi-family homes, for a total of 313 apt. inspections. We also inspected The Super 8 Hotel (89 rooms) and Danbury Health Care. Inspections have been ongoing at Danbury Hospital's new tower. The soft opening will be June 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark Perry continues to do a great job as lead Fire Marshal at Danbury Hospital. He has inspected the start up of the new fire pump for the new tower and dealt most recently with the heliport, sprinkler system, standpipes, pressurization of the stairwells, airshafts, and egress routes.

### **Fire Investigations**

There were 5 building fires, 3 vehicle fires, 1 chimney fire, 6 brush fires, and 3 outside rubbish/trash fires.

### **Plan Reviews**

There were several plan reviews this month in the Danbury Mall, Mannkind Pharmaceuticals, Danbury Orthopedic, Pitney Bowes, and several tents.

### **Continuing Education**

Bill Weber and Gary Bruce attended continuing education classes in Easton on inspecting multi-family homes. Jim Russell attended a two week course at the CT Fire Academy on Advanced Fire Investigation.

### **NFIRS**

Gary Bruce and Jim Russell have been working on the NFIRS in Jordan Leach's absence. Both will attend an NFIRS class on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Compliance Engine**

The Community Risk Reduction Department attended a video/conference on The Compliance Engine on May 14<sup>th</sup>. All in attendance seemed to like the idea of creating a city ordinance which would require that all businesses in Danbury submit their sprinkler/fire alarm reports to our office. This would force a higher level of inspections, and a higher level of compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Code.

### **Public Education**

John Osborne and Gary Bruce gave fire extinguisher training to approx. 30 employees at the Danbury Airport. These employees work at the FBO's that are located around the airport.

Jim Russell gave a class on fire safety, and a tour of Headquarters to a group of about 14 people from Ability Beyond.

## Department Statistical Reports

### Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	585
Abatements issued	9
Violations issued	4
Complaints	10
Fire Investigations	18
Fire Safety Programs	7

### Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3835
Abandoned 911 calls	328
Cellular 911 calls	1997
Admin calls received	811



Our Apparatus Division prepping our Air Conditioning units for the coming hot weather