



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

**Geoffrey R. Herald, CFO, MS  
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 May through 21 June 2014 and details activities of the Department.

I submit this as my final monthly report as Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. I have been honored and indeed humbled to be allowed to serve in this capacity. I wish to thank Mayor Boughton for appointing me to this position. I would also like to recognize his father, the late Mayor Don Boughton, for appointing me to the Department in 1979. I thank also the City Council, other Department Heads, and City employees for their outstanding service to the community and support of the Danbury Fire Department during my tenure.

To the men and women of the Danbury Fire Department, volunteer and career, I express my gratitude for the privilege of serving with you during my forty years with our Fire Service. Your professionalism in protecting the public is unparalleled. Each day, it is inspiring to witness your willingness to respond to the demands of our most dynamic profession. It has been my honor to serve with you as you made bad days better for our citizens and visitors to Danbury. This testifies to your preparedness and dedication to confront the dangers of our field. I retire knowing that the Department is capable, ready, and willing to respond to protect those at risk in our community.

To the citizens of Danbury, I say thank you for this opportunity and privilege. I can attest that your Fire Department is among the most capable and we can sleep comfortably knowing that they are there and prepared to serve.

At this time of year we have many activities in and about our homes. The garage is the center of many things such as lawn mower repair, working with tools and cleaning solvents, storing items, and vehicular storage. Garages can also be the site of origin for many home fires and the site of injuries.

Each year there are thousands of home fires resulting in 30 deaths, 400 injuries and 457 million dollars in property loss. 93 percent of these garage fires occur in residential one and two family homes. Unfortunately, Danbury has had our share of these garage fires. The single leading cause of these fires is electrical malfunction.

These occur as a result of shorts in wiring, damaged wires and overloading of electrical outlets. We would like to remind Danbury to follow these simple tips to keep homes safe from garage fires:

- Store oil, gasoline, paints, propane and varnishes in a shed away from your home.
- Keep items that can burn on shelves away from appliances.
- Plug only one charging appliance into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when charging an appliance.
- Install:
  - A 20-minute fire-rated door that is self-closing and self-latching from the garage into the house.
  - A ceiling made with 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board (or the equivalent) if you have living space above the garage.
  - A wall with 1/2-inch gypsum board (or the equivalent) if the wall attaches the garage to your home.
  - An attic hatch cover, if you have attic access from the garage.
  - A heat alarm — not a smoke alarm — in your garage. The heat alarm will sound if the temperature rises too high.

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

Crews toured the new performing arts building at WCSU and Planet Fitness on Federal Road. Crews stood-by at the new helipad at Danbury Hospital and attended standpipe testing at the Pavilion addition. Members also attended the Mall's co-gen plant startup and safety training. DC Meehan and FF Culbreth attended an emergency services training day on Plum Island with the Department of Homeland Security.

A tour was given to 40 students from Morris Street School. The Emergency Services Picnic given at Hatters Park was an enjoyable event.

Captain Halas and Truck 1 Company assisted with repairing the flagpole at the F.C.I. just in time for their ceremony to change Wardens and switch the facility to male inmates. Department members held a "Fill the Boot" campaign to benefit the MDA.

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

A serious fire at a lakeside house on Forty Acre Mountain Road in the early hours challenged firefighters. The house, built into the hillside with multiple renovations, was very difficult to get under control. With all career units, multiple Danbury volunteer

units, a crew and the fireboat from Brookfield, the fire was controlled and contained from spreading to nearby houses. Thankfully, there were no injuries.

D platoon worked to free an accident victim from a high impact crash on Casper Street. There was also a railcar fire at the Winter Brothers facility that presented some challenges.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Hospital Heliport Meeting
- Jim Johnson's Retirement Party
- Memorial Day Parade Activities
- Library Innovation Center ribbon cutting
- Meeting with Architect about Fire School Classroom
- Line of Duty Death Funeral New Britain
- National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament
- Labor Board Hearings in Wethersfield
- CT West IMT Team Meeting
- Emergency Services Picnic Hatters Park
- Promotional Swearing-In for Communication Coordinator
- Dispatch Board of Awards
- Breakfast with Westerners
- Portuguese Day Ceremony & Parade
- Public Hearing for creating a Regional State Fire School
- 9-11 Museum Visit NYC
- WCSU New Arts Theatre Visit
- Labor Board Hearing Wethersfield
- Fire Department Staff Meeting
- Meeting with Ridgefield Fire Department about Radios
- Hospital ribbon cutting

### **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.

Bi-Annual EMS Certification Audit

The June in-house audit of our EMS First Responders' files ensures that all of our certifications remain current and the proper information is on file and submitted to the State of CT for the City Of Danbury EMS/Division of Danbury Fire Department Certificate of Operations annual renewal. This was submitted to the State on June 13th.

Rehab

Masimo Industries, the maker of the Masimo Rad-57 signal extraction pulse carbon monoxide oximeter, has agreed to provide training on Firefighter Rehab and the

proper use of the Masimo Rad-57 to the four crews of the Danbury Fire Department. The dates are July 9 & 16 and August 6 & 20, 2014. This training will serve as a pilot program for other Fire Departments in the State of CT.

#### Advanced EMT Test

The following Firefighters took and passed their Advanced EMT Certification test with our sponsor, Danbury Hospital.

DFM Mark Perry

Captain David Easter

DFM Gary Bruce

Captain Bill Lounsbury

#### HazMat

All of our personnel have completed the Metering and Monitoring training class required on the new QRAE II meters. July 1<sup>st</sup> is the scheduled deployment of these meters on all of our apparatus.

The Entry Rae Photo Ionization meters, which have been deployed on all of our apparatus for two years now, have been calibrated and maintained by the HazMat team members. The normal life span of the sensors is about 2 years, depending on exposure. Members of the HazMat team replaced the Lower Explosive Level sensors on the meters deployed on Engines 23, 24, 26, and the Truck.

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

See Department Statistical Reports.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

#### *Volunteer Division*

##### Quarterly

Second quarter training is in progress with all companies drilling on standpipe/high rise firefighting techniques.

##### Firefighter 1

Fourteen firefighter 1 students passed the State Practical skills testing and six students passed all phases of the Firefighter/Hazardous materials written exams and are certified firefighters. The students who require a re-taking of the written exams have the opportunity to re-test over the next 12 months.

#### *Career Division*

##### Mandatory Training

All crews participated in the State of CT Fire Academy's two day Rapid Intervention Training class from late May thru June 20. Previously learned practical skills were reinforced and new rescue techniques were introduced and practiced. The training took place at the former Risdon complex on Old Newtown Road, with permission from the Enhance a Colour company that recently purchased the structure.

##### Hydrant Program

The annual hydrant testing program is underway, with the goal to test all 2,100 hydrants in the City by the end of October.

#### Fire School

Fire Departments from Southbury, New Fairfield/Ball Pond, Botsford and Hawleyville utilized our Facilities for various training activities. The Danbury and Brookfield Firefighter I practical exams were also conducted at the school in June. The water Dept. replaced a hydrant, repaired another and installed a training hydrant at the facility.

#### Public Hearing

A public hearing was held at City Hall on June 9 to discuss the proposal to become a State Regional Fire School.

#### Tours

Crews are touring the new Performing Arts building at the WCSU Westside campus as well as the new Danbury Hospital tower building and helipad.

#### Pump Operator

Probational Firefighter Chris Moore successfully completed the CT Pump Operator certification course.

#### Safety Officer

The Training Officer was called in as Safety Officer for structure fires on Forty Acre Mountain Rd and Ellsworth Ave.

#### June School

Various personnel took advantage of the excellent training opportunities provided at the annual June School at the CT Fire Academy.

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

- Memorial Day Parade
- National Fallen Firefighter benefit golf tournament in Bloomfield
- Standpipe drills/testing at the new hospital tower
- Swearing in of Communications Supervisor Steve Rogers
- Public Hearing for the Fire School
- Meetings with City Zoning and an Architect for preliminary discussions on the Fire School classroom
- Confined space drill at WCSU



RIT training



RIT training



RIT training

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

Currently E-23, Truck-1, and Truck-2 meters are out of service with LEL sensor issues. E-26's meter is still out at the factory for repairs.

The New Special Operations vehicle is almost complete. With a combined effort by Lt. Cabral and his crew and our division, we constructed all of the cabinetry and a center console for this new unit. We have a few microphone locations to choose and a few light installations to complete before this unit starts operating as Tac-1. Truck-1 has once again been the highlight of our month. We started off the month replacing the camshaft oil seal with a technician from Detroit Diesel under the engine warranty; two days later the EGR valve coolant hose failed and required an extensive tear down to replace. Mid-month the basket leveling solenoid failed. We also lubed the chassis and replace a defective rear brake chamber.

We were fortunate to attend the CFA June Fire School to recertify as Scott S.C.B.A. technicians and attend a seminar on foam operations.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced the diesel nozzle at fuel depot
- Replaced fuel injector harness in E-21
- Replaced fuel injector harness in E-22
- Serviced 06F5
- Replaced tire tubes in smoke ejectors on Truck-1
- Remounted remote oil level indicator on Truck-1
- Replaced valve stem in E-22 rear tire
- Replaced heater control valve and hose in Truck-1

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

## Inspections

This month we inspected the Palace View apartments and several multi-family dwellings for a total of 241 units. We also inspected the La Quinta Hotel for a total of 135 hotel rooms. There were 41 misc. inspections, 8 liquor inspections, 23 places of assembly, 46 businesses, and 3 educational occupancies. There were 17 health care inspections, most of them at Danbury Hospital. We also did 59 mercantile inspections, 2 day care inspections, and 8 special structures (6 tents).

Mark Perry has done an outstanding job of keeping up with the inspections at Danbury Hospital. He has inspected and approved the fire safety systems including sprinkler, fire alarm, and standpipes for floors 5 through 8 and the Heliport. He will be there almost on a daily basis until the project is completed.

Inspections are also being done for the four schools in Danbury that are being renovated, or having additions. These schools are Stadley Rough Elementary School, Shelter Rock Elementary School, Park Avenue School, and Mill Ridge Middle School.

## Fire Investigations

This month we investigated three vehicle fires, two building fires, two cooking fires, and one fire that injured a woman after her clothes burned from cigarette smoking. The woman remains in the Bridgeport Burn Center with 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns. The two building fires were located at 10 Ellsworth Ave and 84 Forty Acre Mountain Rd. The total dollar loss for these two building fires is estimated at \$875,000.

## Plan Reviews

Our team spent 58 hours this month reviewing plans for several projects in the City. One of the projects is the Rocky Glen Apts., on Memorial Drive which will be renovated with a new fire alarm system. Other renovations or store fit-outs include the Danbury Mall, Berkshire Shopping Center, Cartus Corporation, Wooster School, the Matrix Corporate Center, Lee Farms, and Branson Sonic.

## Continuing Education

Bill Weber, Jim Russell, and Gary Bruce attended a course on NFIRS at the Easton Fire Department. Bill Weber also attended a course on "The Permit Process." Gary Bruce and Mark Perry have recertified their EMT/IV status. John Osborne and Mark Perry were station evaluators at the FF 1 Practical Test for the State.

## Smoke Alarm Program

Our smoke alarm program is ongoing.

## Department Statistical Reports

### Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	583
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	7

Fire Investigations	7
Fire Safety Programs	18

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3991
Abandoned 911 calls	337
Cellular 911 calls	2210
Admin calls received	796