



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

**T. J. Wiedl
Interim Fire Chief**

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

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Interim Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of August 21st through September 21st, 2014 and details activities of the Department.

Colder weather is here, which means it's time to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these tips to get ahead of the Winter freeze:

- ✓ Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional.
- ✓ Get your chimneys and vents cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year; not cleaning a chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built-up creosote.
- ✓ The supply of wood for the fireplace or wood stove is dry and seasoned.
- ✓ Your fireplace screen should be metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition, and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- ✓ A covered metal container is ready to use for disposal of cooled ashes, and should be kept at least 10 feet away from the home and any nearby buildings.
- ✓ Children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove, or other space heaters.
- ✓ Portable space heaters need to have an automatic shut-off and are plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- ✓ Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to make sure they are working. Smoke alarms are needed on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area. CO alarms should be on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured the new Army Reserve Center on Wooster Heights. All Companies toured the new Danbury Hospital facility.

HQ companies provided a tour to KinderCare students. Crews working on the Labor Day holiday enjoyed a complimentary lunch from Olive Garden. Members attended the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Elmwood Park's 9/11 monument. The City's first responders enjoyed the annual Friends of Local Heroes Luncheon at Headquarters. The group who presents the luncheon did an outstanding job and the event was well attended by EMS workers, police officers, and firefighters.

In recognition of September 11th, the Paul Mitchell School hosted a pancake breakfast and social hour for first responders at their location on National Place. St. Peter's School then hosted a ceremony for Police, Fire, and EMS workers. The schoolchildren presented personalized thank-you cards and flowers to emergency responders and provided cookies and juice afterwards. Our presence seemed to mean a lot to the students and faculty alike.

The Department attended the retirement party for Chief Herald at Anthony's Lake Club.

The Taste of Danbury was another event this period at which the DFD had a significant presence, as well as bringing apparatus and personnel to an event put on by Ventura, Ribeiro, & Smith, recognizing the service provided by emergency responders. The firm presented a donation to the Department while we were on scene also. They were a very appreciative group. Lt. Daly and his E23 crew presented a fire prevention talk, including characteristics of a firefighter, to students at Pembroke School. That same day they were joined by Lt. Cabral and his crew to assist a resident in capturing an injured swan on Kelner's Pond. They were successful and their efforts appreciated by witnesses to the event.

Engine 23 brought a young student Ziya Shabazz to Great Plain School on her birthday.



Ziya Shabazz and friends enjoy a ride to school in Engine 23



Fire Chief Wiedl and Police Chief Baker at 9/11 Ceremony



Friends of Local Heroes Luncheon



Volunteer Firemen's Council present patches to Chief Herald at his retirement party

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

Truck, Tac 1, Car 30 (with boat), E23, and E22 responded to the town boat ramp to perform search and rescue for a pickup truck submerged underwater.

An incident at 63 Ta'agan Pt. Rd. was a structure fire which is believed to have self-extinguished, possibly by water from a pipe joint which failed due to heat and aided by restricted ventilation. There was considerable damage to the kitchen area and smoke damage throughout the house. Crews preserved the scene for DFM's Bruce and Perry, then thoroughly overhauled the damaged area to complete extinguishment. No injuries reported.

An incident on Kelner's Pond, 34 Appleblossom La. was a Public Assist / Animal Rescue. E23 and Squad 1 responded with the boat to attempt capture of an injured swan. Commandeering a rowboat and kayak and using the DFD inflatable, the crews were able to snag the swan, which was transported to bird rehabilitators in Weston. No injuries reported.

A call to 97 Boulevard Dr. was another Public Service / Animal Rescue. E26 was able to get a worried citizen's cat out of a storm drain by removing the grate and lifting the cat out. No injuries - good PR.

Engine 22 responded to an interesting call at 130 Federal Rd., Phone Surgeons. Apparently an iPhone battery overheated, smoked, and melted while the phone was being repaired. Employees hit it with a dry-chem extinguisher, causing smoke detector activation, then moved it to outdoors. No injuries.

A brush fire deep in the woods between Lake Waubeeka and Route 7 required some land navigation using our new GPS & iPad technology. Ultimately the State of Connecticut D.E.E.P. Forestry Division sent a crew in the woods using our GPS Coordinates to extinguish the fire.

Captain Halas continues to work on the firefighting turn out gear inspection and replacement program. Crewmembers removed a layer of brick wall inside the Fire School burn building, and then assisted in preparing for a new layer of fireproof tiles to be installed. Captain Halas and his crew are installing some new interior modifications to the Fire School burn building.

Command and Staff Activities

- CT Career Chiefs meeting
- 9/11 Memorial Ceremony
- Chief Herald's retirement party
- Meeting with Volunteer Firemen's Council
- Meetings with IXP regarding Dispatch

Emergency Medical / HazMat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The topic for the month of September focused on a review of the proper precautions to reduce the potential of an occupational exposure to a disease, including a review of the Department's infectious control policy and the OSHA standard 1910:1030.

Firefighters while performing their duties in the field are potentially at risk from diseases transmitted either by contact with body fluids, such as blood or airborne particles. Cross-trained firefighters that provide pre-hospital care as first responders are likely to encounter a variety of patients suffering from a wide range of illnesses under many different conditions. The possibility of contracting an infectious disease is real if the proper precautions are not taken.

Region Five REPT Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez and Chief Brunoli of the Torrington Fire Department attended the REPT meeting in Watertown to review the 2014 Homeland Security Grant request from ESF 10 (HAZMAT TEAM) and justify the request for additional funding for training and interoperability. At the meeting \$18,000 was allocated to cover the delivery cost associated with the OSHA mandated training.

Communications / 911 - Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Fire Instructor Class

King St. Station 14 is hosting the CT Fire Academy Fire Instructor I class. The course is being held on Sundays in August and September.

Quarterly Training

Quarterly training is in progress for all companies through early October. Drills are being conducted utilizing our propane fueled props at the Fire School.

Career Division

Pre Incident

Tours were conducted at the new Army Reserve Center on Wooster Heights Road and the new Tower "Pavilion" building at Danbury Hospital including the new Emergency Department and Helipad.

Fire School

A major renovation project was completed in the burn building with the installation of padgenite tiles on the walls in the basement burn room. These tiles replaced the deteriorating fire brick and are engineered to withstand the repeated heating of the structure.

Jim's Welding Co. completed the steel reinforcing of all the first floor windows. Our on duty crews built and installed a partition wall on the second floor. This will enhance the search and rescue training options.

New Classroom

Preliminary meetings were held with various City departments and an architectural firm for the construction of a new classroom building at the Fire School facility on Plumtrees Road. This structure will replace the old mobile home that has been serving as a classroom. Construction is scheduled to begin next Spring/Summer!

Extrication

The Hurst tool company sent a representative and a wide variety of the latest hydraulic and battery powered rescue tools to our Fire School for a day. Our crews had the opportunity to demo and train with all of the equipment.

Hydrants

The annual hydrant testing program is well underway, with approximately 90% of the City's 2,100 hydrants tested to date.

Fire Instructor II

We are hosting the CT Fire Academy's Instructor II certification course which runs from Sept. 15 – Dec. 15.

NVCC

The Fall semester class "Municipal Fire Administration" takes place every Wednesday evening at Fire Headquarters through late December.

ARFF

Our remaining Airport Rescue Firefighters completed their annual live burn training with an invitation from the Bradley Fire Dept at Westover AFB in early Sept.

Aerial Operator

FF Joe Stabile successfully completed the requirements for Aerial Driver/Operator.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- CFDIA meeting at the Fire Academy
- Meeting with architect and engineering
- Memorial Service at Elmwood Park
- Friends of local heroes lunch at HQ
- Chief Herald's retirement picnic



Aerial Ops practice



Extrication drills

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

Truck-1 was out of service due to a failed hose in the air compressor circuit. This is a Detroit only hose that was a special order which took two weeks to locate, buy and deliver to us. This unit has returned to service. We removed all the department radios/equipment from three expired staff cars and sent these vehicles to Public Works to be sold at the next surplus auction. We had a Hurst Technician remove the 100' Hurst tool hoses (2) from Truck-1 and re-install them into E-21. The EMS Division acquired 10 new 4 gas meters. We removed the old meter chargers and installed the new docking stations in all of our apparatus.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced all four rear tires E-25
- Replaced both front tires Truck-1
- Replaced left rear tires E-22
- Replace Plymovent drop hose in E-22 bay
- Repaired parking brake cables in 03T2
- Repaired/patched the floor of our Quicksilver inflatable boat
- Perform full service on 03T3, 11FT, 13AP and 03T4
- Replaced Officer's seat in E-25 and repaired the front seats in E-21

- Replaced brakes and serviced 06FX
- Replaced battery in Sullaire compressor

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

Inspections

This month we inspected the Holiday Inn Express (80 rooms). We inspected several multi-family units for a total of 486 apartments. We also did 548 misc. inspections, 11 liquor inspections, 31 places of assembly, 26 businesses, and 18 educational occupancies. There were 11 health care and 29 mercantile inspections. The private schools' inspections have now been completed as well as the fixed based operators around the Danbury Airport.

Danbury Public Schools

We have scheduled our fire prevention talks with all elementary schools, and have compiled "door hangers" with fire safety tips on them to give to each student. Our Fire Prevention visits begin on October 1st.

Fire Investigations:

This month we investigated two vehicle fires and two structure fires.

Plan Reviews

Our team spent 62 hours this month reviewing plans for several projects in the City. Renovations or store fit-outs include the UniGlo Store in the Danbury Mall and the Danbury Ice Rink.

Large Projects Within the City

Danbury Hospital is now completed. The Belimo project is also coming to an end. As reported last month, there has been a problem with a valve in their fire protection storage tank, which has led to other problems with the City's water pressure at the west end of town. All involved are working on a fix. The problem continues, but will be repaired soon.

Training

Fire Marshal Jim Russell is continuing to attend "Leadership Danbury," put on by the Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The program will end September 25th with the final class at Western CT State University West Side Campus.

The Fire Prevention Poster Contest

All materials have been picked up and delivered to schools for the start of this year's poster contest. It officially starts on October 1st.

Safety Planning

DFM Mark Perry was invited to the FCI to take a tour of the facility and give suggestions on anything that pertains to fire safety. He has completed the tour and was able to give several suggestions to the FCI Safety Manager (as the FCI is a

Federal Building, we do not have jurisdiction in Federal Facilities). They were very appreciative of his efforts.

Jim Russell attended a conference at the New Haven Fire School called "Operation Save A Life." It was a conference sponsored by Kidde Smoke Alarms, Home Depot, Channel 8 News, and the Bridgeport Hospital, burn center to bring out awareness of the use of Smoke Alarms and CO Alarms. We received 90 free smoke and CO alarms. Lunch was also provided.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	940
Abatements issued	1
Violations issued	1
Complaints	5
Fire Investigations	4
Fire Safety Programs	21

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3695
Abandoned 911 calls	311
Cellular 911 calls	1551
Admin calls received	809