



**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 September 21st through October 21st, 2014 and details activities of the Department.

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

However, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment. We would like to make our residents aware of a few safety tips for keeping their loved ones and their homes safe.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop to keep an eye on the food. Stay in the home while cooking the turkey, and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove, and hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, pets, toys, pocketbooks, or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Make sure that electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer, or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, and never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.
- Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Kids can get involved in preparations with recipes or decorating that can be done outside the kitchen.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.
- Turkey fryers that use hot oil are very dangerous and can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property. Splatters and spills of cooking oil, and the ignition of its vapors if overheated, are serious risks.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured 5 Nabby Road, Rivington Hill, Ridge, and Mews.

Fire Safety talks were presented to children at Head Start, Park Ave School, Mill Ridge Primary, Immanuel Lutheran, pre-K classes at Hayestown School, and the daycare program at Boehringer with Ridgefield Fire. Crews displayed fire apparatus to visitors of the annual Halas Farm Juvenile Diabetes Research Fundraiser.

Participants in the Citizens Academy were introduced to the equipment carried on our Heavy Squad, including how that equipment works to help us accomplish tasks necessitated by various incident types. Crewmembers explained the functionality of our turnout gear and demonstrated donning it. Other firefighters accompanied many of the academy attendees in Truck 1's bucket for an evening view of the city. Others provided guided tours of Headquarters, including a look at the 911 center.

On WCSU's day of service, fifteen students came to HQ to clean fire trucks.

Trucks were on hand for the annual Touch-A-Truck event at DHS.

The ladder truck provided an elevated platform for the senior class picture at DHS.

Crewmembers supported the charity softball game vs. DPD this period.

E24 attended the Home Depot Fire Safety Day with DFM Bruce.

Dispatcher Gabe Rivera was honored by the Exchange Club as Firefighter of the Year. A local banquet was held at Anthony's Lake Club on October 2nd and at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on October 16th for the various state honorees.

The annual awards ceremony was held at Fire Headquarters.



Fire Safety Day at Home Depot



Dispatcher Gabe Rivera, family, and Exchange Club members at Aquaturf banquet



Annual DFD Awards Ceremony

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A truck carrying furniture burned in a parking lot on Main Street, creating spectacular flames. Crews brought the fire under control before it could reach any nearby structures.

Crews responded to a structure fire at 39B Mill Plain Road for towels burning in the cabinets inside the deli.

There was an extrication performed on Hawley Road for a victim trapped in an overturned pickup truck.

A number of elevator rescues were performed, including one of note that occurred at the Martha Apartments, where a man was stuck in an elevator that is almost a century old. The rescue required the crew to remove the elevator door, enter the elevator shaft and access the car via a top mounted hatch.

The cause of a fully involved residential structure fire at 1 Crestwood Rd. is under investigation. A video provided by a neighbor appears to show the engine compartment of a car in the garage as the first visible fire. First-in crews assessed life safety and exposure concerns (all occupants were out) and set up for water which would be provided via tanker shuttle from a hydrant near Hawley Rd. On arrival, the house was fully involved. Tankers from Germantown, Beaver Brook, Mill Plain and King St. supplied tanker service. D/C Meehan arrived early to fill the ISO requirement. Impending failure of secondary service wires was the principal hazard. Eventually a partial collapse due to aerial water application into the compromised structure was another concern. CL&P disconnected power at the street. E24, E22, SQ1, Trk Co., E26, C30, C45, E10, Sq7 and Fire Police handled the incident along with Dispatch and PD. Eric Kist of the Building Dept. assisted in coordinating Serv-Pro relief services. No injuries reported. Occupants were evaluated by EMS and met with Red Cross reps, although no immediate relocation was required. DFM Perry investigated.

The incident at 53 Balmforth Ave was a trench rescue. An unsuspecting citizen walking home inadvertently stepped into an excavated portion of the sidewalk and sunk in to his waist. E23 and Squad 1 responded and were able to quickly extricate him from the predicament. C30 responded to manage agency notifications to Dave Newland of the Building Dept. and Steve DiMauro of the Water Dept, who were extremely helpful in identifying the contractor and determining his whereabouts. The victim was transported to Danbury Hospital for evaluation.



Furniture truck fire on Main Street



1 Crestwood Road fire

Command and Staff Activities

- CT Career Chiefs meeting
- Meeting with Volunteer Firemen's Council
- Meetings with IXP regarding Dispatch
- FD vs PD Softball game fundraiser
- Volunteer Gathering at Hatters Park
- Citizens Academy at Fire HQ
- Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year Dinner
- Home Depot Fire Safety Day
- City Council Meeting
- Assistant Chief and Chief Swearing in Ceremony
- Fire Department Annual Awards Ceremony



Swearing-In of Chief Wiedl, and Asst. Chief Omasta with granddaughter



Danbury's new Fire Chief T.J. Wiedl and Asst. Chief Mark Omasta

Emergency Medical / HazMat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The topic for the month of September has been Do Not Resuscitate orders and protocols, and a review of the Infection Control Policies of the Danbury Fire Department in response to the recent EV-D 68 Entero and Ebola Virus outbreak.

Ebola Tabletop Exercise

EMS/HAZMAT Team Coordinator Rodriguez attended a planning session for Region 5 Ebola Tabletop Exercise on Oct. 20, 2014. The objective of this group is to learn from other areas that have dealt with the virus and come up with response protocols and procedures should there be an actual case in Region Five.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended the monthly EMS supervisors meeting at Danbury Hospital. Topics of discussion were:

- Naloxone Administration
- Spinal Immobilization
- Ebola protective measures
- Educational opportunities

Communications / 911 - Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Firefighter II Class

Three members of the King St. Station 14 just completed the Firefighter II class hosted by the Brookfield VFD. The written certification exam will be in a couple of weeks.

Quarterly Training

Third Quarter training was completed in early October. Fourth quarter live burn training is scheduled from Oct 27 through early December. All training will take place at our fire school facility.

Hose Testing

All Companies are in the process of the annual fire hose testing.

Career Division

Rescue Week

Many of our members attended advanced Rescue classes at the CT Fire Academy in early October, where the Annual "Rescue Week" was held.

Advanced rope Rescue

Lt. Nick Cabral attended the week long CMC advanced Rope Rescue Technician I/II course in Concord, New Hampshire.

Fire Officer Class

Lts. Bart McCleary and Nick Cabral are attending the 96 hr. Officer I class. FF's DJ Rickard and Kevin Lunnie are attending the Fire Officer I/II class in Fairfield.

Hydrants

The annual hydrant testing program runs until the end of October. 96% of the city's 2,100 hydrants were tested to date.

Fire Instructor II

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

Hose Testing

All crews completed the annual hose testing.

NVCC

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

The City's Engineering Dept. completed the updated survey (plot plan) of the Fire School property.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- Police/Fire Benefit Softball Game
- Meeting at Fairfield Fire School over new proposed classroom
- Oral Board for New Britain FD Captain position
- Exchange Club FF of the Year dinner
- Public Fire Safety Day at the Home Depot
- Swearing in Ceremony for Chief Wiedl and AC Omasta
- Annual Awards Ceremony at Fire HQ
- Lt. Dave Kirkwood starts appointment as Provisional Training Officer

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

Engine 25 was out of service this past month due to a failed radiator. We removed the radiator and the charge air cooler and had the cooler repaired and the radiator re-cored by a vendor in West Hartford. While we were waiting for the radiator to be repaired, we replaced the rear brakes, hardware kits, drums and repaired brake light switches in this unit as well. This week Underwriter Laboratories will be here to perform Non Destructive Testing (NDT) of both of the department's aerials.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced two rear tires on Truck-2
- Replaced all tires on 06F2
- Replaced brakes (all positions) 06F2
- Replaced Alternators in Truck-1
- Replaced blower resistor in 06F5
- Cleaned and greased both Aerials
- Performed full service on 06F4, 06F3, 03PS (R-1)
- Replaced Officers seat in E-26
- Replaced skylight and trailer hitch in Burn Demo trailer

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

This month we inspected Mountain View Apts. (238), Abbey Woods Apts. (bldg.1, 100 apts.), and Willow Grove Apts. (135). We inspected several multi-family units for a total of 488 apartments. We did 53 misc. inspections, 21 liquor inspections, 53 places of assembly, 27 businesses, and 12 educational occupancies. There were 4 health care inspections. We also did 32 mercantile inspections.

Danbury Public Schools

We have started our fire prevention talks with all elementary schools, and have been giving out “door hangers” with fire safety tips on them to give to each student. Our Fire Prevention visits began on October 1st.

Fire Investigations

This month we investigated 2 vehicle fires and 2 structure fires.

Plan Reviews

Our team spent 54 hours this month reviewing plans for several projects in the city which include renovations to offices in Danbury Hospital, the Danbury Ice Rink sprinkler upgrade, and a renovation at the Cartus Corporation.

Large Projects within the City

Approvals are progressing for the construction of 375 apts. on Kennedy Place. The name of the project is "Kennedy Flats."

Training

Fire Marshal Jim Russell has completed the almost year-long "Leadership Danbury," put on by the Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The program came to its conclusion on September 25th with the final class at Western CT State University West Side Campus.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

Many 4th and 5th graders throughout the city are working on their Fire Prevention posters to be handed in at the end of November. Last year we took in 555 posters.

Speaking Engagements

Gary Bruce did an Emergency Preparedness Presentation at the Danbury Library. It was very well received, and the News Times did an article on the presentation.

Gary Bruce, Jim Russell, and the help of the A-group's Truck, and Eng. 24 crews helped with Fire Safety Day at Home Depot. This was a side by side sprinkler demonstration. It shows how well a home sprinkler system can work in an actual fire, how quickly smoke alarms will alert you, and how fast a real fire will grow.

We also did a fire safety presentation at the Mill Ridge Primary School at a PTO Meeting, which was well received by several parents and teachers.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	697
Abatements issued	5
Violations issued	2
Complaints	6
Fire Investigations	4
Fire Safety Programs	23

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3636
Abandoned 911 calls	308

Cellular 911 calls	2008
Admin calls received	758