



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

We are now into the fall season and there is a cold weather health and safety concern we want everyone to be aware of. This is hypothermia. Hypothermia is abnormally low body temperature. It occurs when someone is exposed to cold temperatures. Your body will lose heat faster than it can produce it, using up stored energy. Hypothermia affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it. The information below comes to us from the CDC.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Victims of hypothermia are often (1) elderly people with inadequate food, clothing, or heating; (2) babies sleeping in cold bedrooms; (3) people who remain outdoors for long periods—the homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.; and (4) people who drink alcohol or use illicit drugs.

Recognizing Hypothermia

Warnings signs of hypothermia:

Adults:

- shivering, exhaustion
- confusion, fumbling hands
- memory loss, slurred speech
- drowsiness

Infants:

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

What to Do

If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency. Get medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

- Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- If the victim has on any wet clothing, remove it.
- Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.
- Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the victim gently, and get emergency assistance immediately. Even if the victim appears dead, CPR should be provided. CPR should continue while the victim is being warmed, until the victim responds or medical aid becomes available. In some cases, hypothermia victims who appear to be dead can be successfully resuscitated.

As these symptoms can occur even at temperatures in the 40s it is wise to be aware of weather conditions. Drink plenty of fluids and hot liquids at this time of the year. Cover your ears head and hands as you can lose a surprising amount of heat through these areas. Prepare for the weather, dress properly and enjoy the New England fall.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured Fairfield Processing, 99 Federal Road, and Turner Road area, focusing on the new condo complex and Belimo building. Engine #26 crew also checked on the configuration of the standpipes at the Matrix Corporate Center.

HQ crews presented a station tour to 80 Kindergarteners from Ellsworth Ave School. E26 provided a very special ride to school for 11 year old twins, Robert and Vincent Fontenelli. E23 crew assisted 89 year old female neighbor of the fire station with removing her window AC unit.

Firefighters Nolet, Hines, Culbreth, and Moore are coaching Basketball for St. Peters School. These four gentlemen swiftly accepted the plea for coaches that came from Bob Budnik.

Fire Safety talks were presented to preschoolers and kindergarteners on 2 days at St. Joseph School.

Firefighters hosted a tour of Headquarters for a young boy with cancer, along with his brothers. They spend a few hours visiting with the firefighters and seeing how we live.



Family tour of HQ

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

Crews responded to Abbey Woods, Building 3 for a small fire in an apartment on the fourth floor. The fire was out upon arrival, but there was a smoke condition that required ventilation of a large area of the fourth floor hallway.

An incident on I-84 between exits 3 and 4 Eastbound was a UPS tractor w/double trailer, single vehicle accident which resulted in the rear-most trailer flipping over on its side in the left breakdown lane. The trailer contained some hazmats: sulfuric acid, dichloromethane and sodium hydroxide. Although not in large quantities, liquid began leaking from the trailer during the incident. E26 and E22 handled the incident on the highway as C30, Dispatch and HM Tech Whitehead researched the chemicals, contacted and briefed DEEP, and communicated with the on-scene crews. The driver was uninjured and a UPS supervisor responded to coordinate mitigation with DEEP. SPD and DOT assisted also.

An incident on Indian Head Rd. was a three vehicle fire which exposed siding of a garage. The fire occurred when a resident used a solvent to clean soot off window glass of a car which had previously burned. He then used an angle grinder to remove

the door hinges so that he could sell the door assembly. The solvent ignited and, eventually, three vehicles were burned extensively. E25 made a good stop and ensured that the garage was protected. TK14 supplied water, Squad 1 extinguished a residual gasoline fire with an extinguisher, E23 assisted with checking for extension and overhaul, and DFM Osborne investigated. No injuries were reported.

An incident at Bertucci's restaurant was dispatched as a man choking but was quickly upgraded to CPR in progress. E24's response time was under 2 minutes. They provided effective CPR and defibrillated the 87 year old man, who was in the company of his daughter, a nurse, who initiated CPR prior to E24 arrival. The ED considered this a lifesaving effort. Kudos to all who contributed to the effort, including Lt. Arconti, FF Gies and FF Guard from DFD E24.

A response to 64 Locust Ave was a public service call for keys in a storm drain. Following a sustained, persistent effort by E23 and SQ1, the lost keys were retrieved. Not the usual easy retrieval; water was pumped from the drain, the space metered, FF Mansdorf suited up in Tyvek and a N95 mask, after which he descended a box ladder and sifted through a foot of sediment to find the elusive keys.

A trailer fire on I84 between exits 2 and 1 Eastbound appeared to have been caused by a brake fire, burning through the trailer floor, igniting wood pallets holding packaged pasteurized process cheese food boxed in cardboard. The fire was freeburning on arrival of E26, the rear section of the trailer fully involved in fire. E26 worked with E22 to put the fire out. Truck 1 arrived to assist in cutting an inspection opening, to provide scene lighting and assist in overhaul. E10 tanker supplied water, SPD had Modzelewski's Towing respond to clean up and remove everything. The driver had separated the tractor from the trailer upon discovering the fire. No injuries reported. DFM Osborne investigated.



I-84 trailer fire

Command and Staff Activities

- Swearing-in Ceremony promoting FF Shawn McGee to Lieutenant
- Ebola response meeting with City Departments
- Volunteer Council Meeting
- Meeting with Ridgefield Fire Department and Boehringer Ingelheim over response issues
- Retired Chief Herald's luncheon
- City Council Meeting
- Meeting with all IXP employees
- Meeting with Executive Board of the Volunteer Council about Grant opportunities
- Public Housing Council Meeting
- Meeting with Danbury Orthopedics
- Budget Kickoff Meeting
- Meeting with Local 801 Executive Board
- Mentoring at Danbury High School



Promotion of Lt. Shawn McGee

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

For the month of November, the focus has been CPR for the professional rescuer certification, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillator.

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 50 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes.

The Danbury Fire Department's First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system. Cross-trained firefighters that have the ability to provide these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrests in the City of Danbury.

Ebola Tabletop Drill

EMS/ HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended several meetings that culminated in a tabletop drill to test our preparedness to deal with a sudden viral outbreak such as the Ebola virus. The meetings allowed for open discussion and review of Policies, Procedures and capabilities. Most important was the opportunity to work with other agencies that will play an important role should such an outbreak ever occur within our jurisdiction.

Communications / 911 – Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training – Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Quarterly Training

Fourth Quarter live burn training is under way with 3 of the 5 sessions completed. All 4th quarter training will be completed by December 7th.

First Quarter training is being scheduled, we will be covering ICS, blood borne and Hazmat in the first quarter.

All members were notified to save the date for the week of March 16th, Mastering Fire ground Command.

Hose Testing

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

Career Division

Career Live Burns

As of November 20th, all career live burns are complete. Anyone who had missed their burn will be picked up with the 2 remaining volunteer burn days.

Fire Officer Class

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

Hydrants

All hydrant testing is complete with the exception of E24 B group. The water department is allowing us the opportunity to complete the task. Lt. Anderson is working on finishing up in the wake of Lt. Pollards retirement.

Fire Instructor II

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

NVCC

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

Know Your Flow

Elkhart Brass street wise hydraulic class included 1-hr presentation with hands on flow analysis of our current equipment. The class outlined current flow requirements for the modern day fire.



Elkhart Brass hands on flow analysis

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following is a partial list of the Apparatus Division's accomplishments this past month. We completed aerial services on both Truck-1&2. Underwriter Laboratories (UL) came to HQ and performed our annual Non Destructive Testing (NDT) to both aerials per N.F.P.A. Standards. Both aerials require some minor repairs; Truck -1's corrosion issues will need to be addressed as soon as our new aerial is in service and up to speed.

We investigated a complaint of a no start condition in Truck-1 but couldn't duplicate condition. One of our astute drivers noticed a fuel leak and we addressed that issue. We replaced the spotlight mount at the platform at the same time as well as a new rear mudflap.

We replaced the starter, fuel injector seals and re-worked the exhaust system in R-1. We also removed and re-sealed the power steering pump in this unit as well.

- Re-coupled copious amounts of Large Diameter Hose post hose testing
- Replaced parking brake valve in E-23 and repaired air horns
- Ordered a new door jamb switch for the high side compartment in E-24
- Performed a complete brake and engine service on 06F3
- Serviced the compressors for the building's heating system and replaced a drive belt and a pressure switch in one of the units
- Sharpened the chain saw for E-26
- Replaced the Plymovent bladder E-23 Melody-Halas Station
- The body damage on the department pickup was repaired, and we also serviced this unit and installed the plow

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

This month we inspected 423 apartments. We also did 21 misc. inspections, 15 liquor inspections, 27 places of assembly, 32 businesses, and 10 educational occupancies. There were 4 health care inspections, 44 mercantile inspections, and 86 hotel rooms at the Maron Hotel.

Fire Prevention Presentations

During the month of October and into November, members of our office gave 25 Fire Safety Presentations to all elementary schools, both public and private. We showed age appropriate videos which we obtained through the NFPA. The videos were very much enjoyed by the students. We also gave door hangers to each student with fire safety tips on them.

Gary Bruce also gave a fire safety presentation to the Western Connecticut Mental Health Network. It was very well received, and recently we received a letter of thanks, which is on file in our office.

We also gave a fire safety presentation and fire extinguisher training to the United Jewish Center on Deer Hill Ave.

Plan Reviews

Our team spent 33 hours this month reviewing plans for several projects in the city including renovations to offices in Danbury Hospital, the Hospital's south building, and elevator sprinkler system, as well as several tenant fit-outs in the Danbury Fair Mall.

Projects within the City

There is early interest for a major restaurant to be constructed on Newtown Road; plans are forthcoming.

Training

This month our team spent 12 hours in continuing education courses.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

The poster contest is underway. We will be collecting all the finished posters by the end of November. Judging will follow after the holidays.

Fire House Software

Fire Marshal Jim Russell and Deputy Fire Marshal Gary Bruce met with Fire Marshal, Tim Smith of the Town of Orange. They use Fire House Software exclusively for their inspections. The purpose of our meeting was to learn how they do their inspections. We are just starting to use the software in our office for this purpose. Gary will be training each one of us as we do the inspections until we come up to speed. This should save a lot of time and make it easier for reporting each month.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	672
Abatements issued	4
Violations issued	0
Complaints	1
Fire Investigations	6
Fire Safety Programs	31

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3987
Abandoned 911 calls	354
Cellular 911 calls	2061
Admin calls received	862