



**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 December 21st, 2014 through January 21st, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

This month we would like to bring attention to the dangers of carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, poisonous gas. CO is called the silent killer because it cannot be seen or smelled. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. Please be mindful of actions to take to prevent CO poisoning:

- CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Test alarms once a month.
- Know the sounds the alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected and will make a different sound if the battery is low or if the alarm should be replaced.
- If the CO alarm sounds, get everyone in the home to fresh air by moving to outdoors or an open window or door, and call the Fire Department.
- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage, and do not run a fueled engine indoors even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure that vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Generators should be used outdoors and away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Use them only outside.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured the new Mayfair Apartment complex on Turner Road, as well as the new salon occupancy at Danbury Square. Crews have also been on the lookout for abandoned houses/structures and adding to the list of same. E23 worked with DFM Bruce on water supply at Belimo building.

Truck provided transportation for Santa and his wife, from Fire Headquarters to the Dorothy Day facility for the annual Christmas party for underprivileged children and their families. The truck was escorted by Danbury Police who cleared the street for the Harley Davidson Reindeer that appeared to be harnessed to Santa's Sleigh, the DFD 100' tower ladder. It was an amazing event to be involved with.

E23 responded to Beech St. to assist an elderly woman in finding her eyeglass lens, which had come out of her glasses when they broke. They found the lens and replaced it into the frames for her.

Lt. Nick Cabral's past involvement with Civil Air Patrol inspired him to arrange a meeting of their principals with SQ1, C30 and the Truck Company to familiarize them with our capabilities and us with theirs and to investigate what can be done to share resources which would enhance response efforts when people go missing and a search is needed. We will be planning a joint exercise with them in the near future.

Numerous tours were conducted at Fire HQ, including Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and a visiting 15 year old fire buff from Norwalk.

An orientation class for the new Truck 1 was held at Headquarters with a representative from the Pierce Manufacturing Company. Members sat through a classroom presentation, and then took the new Truck outside for operational considerations. Crews also conducted training with SCBA, the Department's Gator, and ice rescue training at Hatters Park.



Ice rescue training

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A reported structure fire on January 2nd brought fire units to Stone Street where they encountered a pick-up truck engulfed in flames under a grapevine trellis, and next to a garage. A rapid knock down of the fire limited the damage to the garage, and crews used care to work around the family's grapevines in an attempt to salvage them.

Crews were on standby for possible overcrowding at a concert on Ives Street.

Truck and E23 responded to 6 Fairfield Ave for a water problem. Upon arrival, crews found water pouring through ceiling light fixtures on the first floor. The power to the structure was secured and the cause was determined to be an issue with the roof of this two story house. The wind had rolled a large section of roofing back upon itself and exposed the roof planks to the heavy rains. In the heavy rain, the Truck crew was able to unroll the roofing and secure back in place. This action prevented further water damage.

Incidents at 50 Beaver Brook Rd. were Hazmat responses due to a chemical reaction inside an industrial condo with adjacent mixed occupancies. Workers at Goodlife Energy Savers mixed part A and B components of a dated spray-foam home insulation product in a rolloff dumpster inside their occupancy with the goal of creating a solid product which would be easier to dispose of than the two parts would be separately. The chemicals reacted, creating heat which caused a fire which self-extinguished after generating copious amounts of smoke and charred foam product. The smoke and odor affected all occupancies in the building and necessitated identification, risk analysis, and removal via metering/monitoring, evaluation of building occupants potentially exposed to the smoke, and removal of the container and smoke from the building. A collective effort by all who responded brought the incident to an acceptable conclusion. A second alarm response and level 3 hazmat notifications brought together representatives from career DFD, including the Hazmat team leader, DFM's, and PIO, Danbury Health Dept., DEEP, the building owner, company operations manager, EMS, LoStocco Services and RSA chemical experts, to build consensus regarding incident concerns. One individual was transported to the ED for evaluation after being exposed to light smoke for approximately 15 minutes in the morning. He returned to work and reported that he felt ill again in the afternoon. He was contacted and advised to return to the ED to be screened for possible HCN exposure. He returned to the Hospital. No final disposition is known at this time. It should be noted that Health Dept. and DEEP personnel returned to the scene for the afternoon edition, which was also voluntarily attended by chemical expert Stephanie Weber of RSA Corp. and one of her lead chemists. Their input was very helpful. This incident resulted in advising all FFs working the incident to launder their turnouts and was the principal driver behind our new policy of having the Captains attach a HCN meter to their SCBA going forward.



Stone Street fire

Command and Staff Activities

- City Council Meeting
- Status meetings with IXP for Dispatch
- Meeting with Engineering for classroom building
- Meeting with Blum Shapiro
- Swearing in of new Deputy Fire Marshal Jonathan DeJoseph
- Bethel Volunteer FD annual dinner



Swearing in DFM Jonathan DeJoseph

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

For the month of December, the focus has been Patient Assessment. Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediately life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Department's First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during emergency medical calls before transport to the Hospital's Emergency Department.

Advanced EMT Medical Control

The Danbury Fire Department's thirty-four Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians have submitted their yearly applications and received Medical Control from our sponsor hospital, Danbury Hospital. In order to maintain medical control the A-EMTs must attend twelve hours of Continuing Medical Education at the Danbury Hospital or an approved provider and an additional twelve hours of in-house Continuing Medical Education classes which are done while firefighters are on duty. Along with the 24 hours of lecture the A-EMTs are required to demonstrate proficiency in various advanced life support skills.

EMS Supervisors Meetings

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting at Danbury Hospital on 1/21/15. Topics of discussion included:

- Educational Opportunities
- Trauma data and lecture series
- Stroke data
- Spinal motion restriction guidelines
- CPAP for BLS providers
- Influenza Vaccination guidelines for ED Room access

Communications / 911 – Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training – Provisional Training Officer David Kirkwood

Volunteer Division

Quarterly Training

First Quarter training is scheduled and notification of the dates have been sent to all companies. We will be covering ICS, blood borne, and HazMat in the first quarter.

Firefighter 1 Class

FF1 has been scheduled and is starting February 12th. Applications are out and we are expecting 15 to 20 participants.

Career Division

Fire Officer Classes

ILEAD

New Lieutenants Shea Hanson and Shawn McGee attended the week long ILEAD program for new officers at the CT Fire Academy. The program was run by the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs. Both individuals reported the class was very informative and recommended we continue sending new Lieutenants.

Fire Officer 1

Lt. Hanson has started a FO 1 class in Seymour.

Fire Officer 3

Connecticut Fire Academy has offered to run a FO 3 class in Danbury. The class will run from the middle of February to the first week of June. This was not a regularly scheduled class and was only offered in Danbury upon our membership showing extreme interest. Within 1 day of announcing the class, we are at 10 of the 12 seats needed to secure it. Danbury continues to be the center of training in our region with FF's and Fire Officers from many departments looking to us to facilitate the college level training courses need to further educate the fire service.

NVCC

The Winter semester class "Building Construction" takes place every Wednesday evening at Fire Headquarters through late May.

Dewalt Safety Training

We were able to start hand tool safety and identification through MSC Supply and Dewalt. The class will continue through February.

New Ladder Tower Training

Pierce provided each crew a 4 hour in service training on our new 2014 ladder tower truck. All crews reported that the training was very informative and helpful. Thank you, Joe Cavo.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.

- Connecticut Fire Instructors January Meeting

Apparatus / Equipment - Joe Cavo

Engine 25 was out of service the past 7 weeks having body work repaired and compartment doors replaced due to corrosion. Engine 23 will be going to the body shop for similar repairs as soon as Pierce Warranty Division accepts the claim and supplies the compartment doors to our vendor. Truck-1 has arrived and is being fitted

out for service. Currently the four crews are discussing where equipment is to be placed and mounted. We had a Trainer here from Pierce for three days going over the operation of the new aerial.

All of the Department's ground ladders were tested last month and we have a few lanyards to replace as well as some minor repairs. As of this report, Truck-1 (old) is out of service again. The pins for the E-track system have failed and we are awaiting parts from our vendor. Fit testing has begun and as soon as the Career division is complete, we will be scheduling the Volunteers.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced two rear tires Truck-1
- Replaced all tires, ball joints and tie rod ends 03FT
- Relocated Pressure Protection Valve E-26
- Rebuilt Unloader Valve in Trk-1
- Replaced blower motor and fans in E-25
- Had transmission rebuilt on 06F1
- Performed full service on E-25
- Replaced Officer's seat belt E-25
- Rebuilt several Ziamatic folding wheel chocks



New Ladder Truck

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

We welcome the addition of a new Fire Inspector, Mr. Jonathan DeJoseph. Jonathan was promoted from his firefighter position, and sworn in on January 7th. He comes to us with a Masters Degree in Fire Science and is well suited for this position. He will be attending a class starting February 18th for the State Certification to become a Deputy Fire Marshal.

Inspections

This month we inspected 12 apartments. We also did 7 misc. inspections, 11 liquor inspections, 10 places of assembly, 17 businesses, and 3 educational occupancies. There were 10 health care inspections and 12 mercantile inspections. An inspection of the Holiday Inn (114 rooms) was completed.

Fire Prevention/Fire Department Presentations

During the month of January, our office gave a Fire Safety Presentation to approx. 38 members of the Exchange Club of Danbury. Topics included fire safety tips, such as disposal of fireplace ashes, safe cooking, space heaters, and heating systems in general. We spoke about Carbon Monoxide and the use of C/O detectors and of the importance of smoke alarms.

Plan Reviews

Our team spent 27 hours this month reviewing plans for several projects in the city. Some of the projects are Kennedy Flats apartments (375 units), Town Line apartments, (46 units), and Bates Place Condos (11 units).

Fire Investigations

This month we had 3 building fires, 4 vehicle fires, 4 dumpster fires, and 3 brush fires.

Projects within the City

Site work is underway at the Kennedy Flats project on Kennedy Ave (375 units), Fast Freddie's gas station, and 112 Newtown Rd (renovation of building). The new Hospice building is also about ready to open.

Continuing Education

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

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

The Fire Prevention Poster Contest is underway. We have collected all the finished posters from the schools. The judging has taken place and the winners are: Jackson Claviho, 4th grade of St. Peter's School, and Vatsal Bandaru, 5th grade of Shelter Rock School. These two students will be recognized at a luncheon put on by the Lion's

Club sometime in March. Their posters are currently being judged by another panel of judges, and if chosen, they will become County winners. This would enable their posters to be on next year's calendar, and also have their posters displayed at the State Capital in Hartford.

Fire House Software

We have been advancing our use of Fire House Software in the office. We are now entering all activities on a daily basis into Fire House (such as inspections by occupancy, complaints, training, etc.) Everyone is catching on and it is working well.

Abandoned Building List

Deputy Chief Charly Slagle has worked very hard to update the Abandoned Building List. Several buildings were found to be very dangerous to our firefighters if there was a fire. Our office has been checking these buildings. Crews are encouraged to pre plan these buildings for their safety.

Upcoming Class

On January 28th, John Doucette from the Office of Education and Data Management will come to our office and give a class on Gas Station Inspections. After the class we will travel to the Sunoco Station on Germantown Road to do an actual inspection at the station. We will then start doing inspections on a regular basis.

NFIRS

Deputy Fire Marshal, Gary Bruce has been doing an outstanding job at bringing the NFIRS up to date. At this time there is only about 12 outstanding reports to be done throughout the department. He will be working hard to finalize the reporting for the year 2014. We need to be fully compliant with the NFIRS to obtain any grants from FEMA.

Incident at 36 West Wooster St.

On December 30th, 2014, a young man intentionally set off the sprinkler system on the 7th floor of Wooster Manor (Elderly Housing Complex). The water came down through the building, flooding 28 apts. Power in parts of the building had to be temporarily shut off, and they lost the use of the elevators. Our department and many volunteer units were there to help clean up the water. The Housing Authority responded and called in Serve Pro to do the final clean up. Dave Newland was also on scene from the Building Department. The young man that activated the sprinkler system was caught in the act of committing this crime by their security camera. He was identified and was arrested the next morning by the Danbury Police Department.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

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| Monthly inspections | 203 |
| Abatements issued | 0 |
| Violations issued | 0 |
| Complaints | 5 |
| Fire Investigations | 11 |
| Fire Safety Programs | 6 |

Public Safety Answering Point

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|----------------------|------|
| Total 911 calls | 3695 |
| Abandoned 911 calls | 471 |
| Cellular 911 calls | 2096 |
| Admin calls received | 689 |