



**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 February 21st, 2015 through March 21st, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

Now that warmer weather is finally arriving, we want to bring awareness to the potential trip hazard of unexpected rabbit holes that may be found in lawn maintenance and golf courses. Rabbits may burrow under fences and buildings, and will wreak havoc in gardens by eating flower bulbs, vegetables, and many other forms of vegetation. This aggravating damage can contribute to physical and mental stress.

Remember to clean the dust bunnies out of your dryer's lint collector and vacuum its vent hose periodically. Keep in mind that burning brush, whether for spring cleaning or smoking rabbits out, requires a permit from the Fire Marshal.

Growth of vegetation may hinder the view of your address numbers; do not rely on the appetite of rabbits to trim these areas, and please make sure they are visible from the street so as not to delay the response of Fire, Police, or EMS to your home.

We appreciate the sense of humor and alertness of our residents, as even April is no time for being foolish about safety.



Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Crews toured the new Belimo building. Personnel conducted ropes and knots training and airport familiarization training.

Tours were given to groups of local Cub Scouts, Tiger Scouts, and preschoolers.

Firefighters Gallagher and Heron served as liaisons to IXP to assist with the smooth transition of privatized dispatch.

Firefighters Nolet, Moore, Hines and Culbreth concluded coaching the parochial basketball team of St. Peter's School. E26, Squad Heavy, Truck, and C30 along with the entire volunteer division took part in a photo op for a Seth, a local child with cancer, in the "Yellow Shirts for Seth Program" at Danbury Mall.

Members attended the ceremony where Olivia Halas was recognized with an award by Senator McLachlan for an essay on Women's History. DC Meehan spent time with an Israeli Paramedic during a conference and cultural exchange.

DC Meehan and Dawn Roy, LCSW were awarded a grant by the Southern CT Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to deliver the Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety program for seven, two-day sessions for Fairfield County's First Responders.

Captain Halas led the DFD Ski Team to a Runner's Up position in the annual Firefighters Ski Race at Mohawk Mountain.



Suppression / Response Activities of Note

A structure fire on March 10th brought fire units to Hilltop Manor where they encountered a full size Recreational Vehicle engulfed in flames up against a house, with extension into the house. Units worked harmoniously and coordinated with a transitional attack, applying water to both the RV and inside the house. The fire in the house was held in check to two rooms, salvaging most of the family's possessions.

On March 15th, another disaster was averted on Cottage Street. Called by an alert neighbor, members arrived on the scene of a fire in three family house. Finding the kitchen well involved, members knocked down a lot of fire with a water extinguisher as the hose line was being stretched. Again, firefighters limited damage and were able to re-populate two of the three apartments in the house.

On March 9th, firefighters responded to smoke in a house on Williams Street. Finding smoke in the house on arrival, firefighters had trouble finding the source, until it was discovered that a fire had started behind the electrical meter. Once again due to the expeditious action of firefighters, more serious damage was avoided.

The start of Spring snow event on March 21st caused response to five separate MVA's on I-84. Extremely hazardous conditions and vehicles that were traveling too fast for conditions were the cause for the majority of the events. Crews remained safe with a close call occurring. Crews were working a split scene near exit 6 East bound as a car went out of control and smashed into the center median jersey barrier at the same location on the west bound side. Conditions were far too hazardous for crews to cross the highway to check for injuries, so another assignment was dispatched to the second accident.

Crews also responded to a tractor trailer strike into a house on Grand Street, and a dumpster fire at Winters Brothers on White Street.





Command and Staff Activities

- Luncheon kick-off for Civilian Dispatch
- Incident Command class
- Firefighter Health & Wellness seminar
- Training Officer interviews
- Volunteer Council meeting
- CT Career Fire Chiefs meeting
- Lion's Club lunch for Fire Prevention poster contest winners
- Annual Volunteer Firemen's Ball
- Stony Hill FD annual dinner
- City Council Meeting
- Meeting with Engineering and architect for classroom building

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

This year, along with regularly scheduled on duty EMS Wednesday training, firefighters have been assigned on line classes on the new Kaplan University website. This state of the art web-based training will not only serve to prepare our First Responders for their State of Connecticut EMS re-certification test and practical, but will enhance the training with the latest information on changes that occur in pre-hospital care.

This year's annual EMT-B re-cert is scheduled for March 27th at Beaver Brook Volunteer Fire House. Fifteen personnel are scheduled to test to maintain their EMS certification.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- Education Opportunities
- Trauma Data
- Stoke alert data
- Triage Tag day
- EMS Awards
- Danbury Hospital Medical Director update

Communications / 911 – Communications Supervisor Steven Rogers

See Department Statistical Reports.

Training – Provisional Training Officer David Kirkwood

Volunteer Division

Quarterly Training

1st quarter training is complete with Blood Borne and Hazmat refreshers being covered in February. ICS was addressed in March with an outside presenter, Chief Anthony Kastros.

Firefighter I

We are 8 weeks into the four month Firefighter I/Haz Mat Operations course. There are now 18 students from various Danbury Vol. Fire Stations participating.

Career Division

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Naugatuck Valley Building Construction class is ongoing.

Mastering Fire Ground Command, Calming the Chaos

This ICS series was offered to all Officers in the career department. The class was very informative and we are looking to implement some of the strategies in the DFD.

Fire School

The Fire School will open April 6th and scheduling has been brisk.

Incident Safety Officer

7 members of the DFD are currently taking the ISO course in Brookfield, which was awarded a grant for the class and Brookfield offered us the seats at no cost.

Dewalt Tool Safety Class

We continue the ongoing Dewalt safety classes.

OSHA Safety – Guidelines and Responsibilities

Fed OSHA has come to instruct the crews on basic safety guidelines and when OSHA should be notified when we are out in the field. It was a very informative class.

Safety Officer

The Safety Officer was called in on for a structure fire at Hilltop Manor.

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

Truck-1 is ready for service here, and we are awaiting a few needed parts to arrive from Pierce Manufacturing. When they arrive the truck needs to go back to our dealer in Rocky Hill for a couple of warranty items that we found while fitting out this unit. The severe weather of the past ten weeks has been causing a host of issues with our apparatus and we have been busy keeping the rest of the fleet functioning.

While we await the report and recommendations from Pierce for the refurbishment of one of our older Aerials, Truck-1 is once again out of service due to a complete failure of one of its two alternators. We should be receiving the parts soon and will return this unit to service as soon as possible. Fit testing for the Career Division is complete. We will be scheduling the Volunteers as soon as we can catch up on some of these other repairs. All of the department stand-by generators were serviced and performance tested this month, and there are no outstanding issues. Squad-2 is out of service due to a defective "Air Management Unit." We have a new one on order. A new inflatable boat has been specified and ordered.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced rear brake chambers and slack adjusters E-22
- Replaced four rear tires E-21
- Replaced hydraulic hose on the Fisher plow
- Repaired damaged wiring harness Trk-1
- Repaired slide out tray in TAC-1
- Moved Foam Unit-6 to Waterford CT for state service
- Replaced Fuel Pump Driver Module and side view mirror 06F3
- Replaced diesel pump swivel
- Replaced power steering hose in Squad-1
- Removed E-26 from service for brake issue

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

Our new Fire Inspector Jonathan DeJoseph is attending the Pre Certification Course put on by the Office of Education and Data Management (OEDM) of the State of

Connecticut. He will be attending this class three days a week at the Rocky Hill Fire Department. The class will end in June, at which time he will become a Deputy Fire Marshal.

Inspections

This month we inspected 51 apartments. We also did 31 misc. inspections, 3 liquor inspections, 16 places of assembly, 15 businesses, and 5 educational occupancies. There were 2 health care inspections, 22 mercantile inspections, and two hotels (the Crown Plaza with 242 rooms and the Courtyard by Marriot with 125 rooms).

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 31 hours reviewing plans for Kennedy Flats and several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 14 fire investigations. There were 5 building fires, 7 vehicle fires, and 2 dumpster fires.

Continuing Education

This month our team spent 50 hours in continuing education courses.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

On March 12th, we attended a luncheon put on by the Lion's Club of Danbury to recognize the two winners in our Poster Contest. The students were very pleased to receive their awards in front of their parents, teachers, and principals. Chief Wiedl and Asst. Chief Omasta were in attendance.

Tier II Reporting

We are working very hard to gather, store, and forward information on the Tier II Reporting, with many thanks to Deputy Fire Marshal Gary Bruce in these efforts.

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 better each month.

Three Family and Above Fire Inspections

We had sent out letters to all residents on Balmforth Ave. last month. We have received some calls and completed some inspections on this street. We will continue to try and inspect as many three families and above as possible.

Knox Box Program

Thanks to all in our department for brainstorming to come up with ideas to improve our Knox box situation. Much thanks to Gary Bruce for putting this on paper and helping to come up with a way to store the data needed for this program. We have obtained a list

from the Knox Company of all of our Knox box locations. We are working on the program to better organize the information.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

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|----------------------|-----|
| Monthly inspections | 418 |
| Abatements issued | 0 |
| Violations issued | 0 |
| Complaints | 2 |
| Fire Investigations | 14 |
| Fire Safety Programs | 2 |

Public Safety Answering Point

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|----------------------|------|
| Total 911 calls | 2590 |
| Abandoned 911 calls | 358 |
| Cellular 911 calls | 1743 |
| Admin calls received | 1564 |