



**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 April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 through May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

For the upcoming summer month, we would like to highlight grilling safety. July is the peak month for grill fires, followed by May, June and August. According to the NFPA, 86% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill, or smoker. On average, 8,800 home fires are started by grills each year. In 2012, 16,900 patients went to the ER because of injuries involving grills, including 7,400 thermal burns. Children under five account for 37% of burns typically from contact with a hot grill.

**GRILLING SAFETY TIPS**

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons. To keep you and your family safe while grilling, follow these general guidelines:

**General grilling tips**

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

**Propane grills**

Before you use your grill for the first time each year, be sure it's in working order and ready to use. Leaks or breaks are the leading factors contributing to gas grill fires. A few simple guidelines can help:

- Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose.
- Check the gas (propane) tank hose for the potential (gas) leaks. To do that:
  - Turn the propane tank on. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose using a brush or spray bottle. If there is a gas leak, the propane will release bubbles around the hose (big enough to see).
- Once you've determined your grill has a gas leak by smell or by administering the soapy bubble test and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and burners. If the leak stops at that point, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak doesn't stop, call the fire department immediately.
- If you smell gas while cooking, move away from the grill and call the fire department immediately. Do not move the grill.

### **Charcoal grills**

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

### **Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations**

E23 did a building tour of new condos at 116 Osborne Street. E26 checked vacant buildings on Boxwood, Weindorf, Crestdale and Old Ridgebury Roads. E26 toured Abbey Woods facility, and update site map and new key in KX box. E26 assisted NyConn Electric in setting up an opticom for a new traffic light installation on Mill Plain Rd.

Members of the crew attended the LODD funeral in Poughkeepsie, NY. Engine 24 attended Career Day at Shelter Rock School and received many notes of thanks from the students. The Department showed vehicles at the annual Touch-A-Truck event at Danbury High School.



Touch-A-Truck

### **Suppression / Response Activities of Note**

A fire in a battery storage room at Danbury Hospital 7 Tower was controlled by a sprinkler head and smoke was confined to the room of origin. DFM Osborne investigated with Electrical Inspector Eric Kist and determined that either a battery or the charger it was in malfunctioned and caused the fire. No one was injured and no evacuation was necessary. It was realized that there are no floor drains, however, necessitating water vacs to pick up the sprinkler water.

A fire was set at Shepherd Hill condos by an Ability beyond Disability client, who subsequently realized that lighting fires is not a good idea. He apologized for his actions which entailed setting a warehouse sized package of toilet paper on fire in a garage and running away. Lt. Singer and his E24 crew were on scene initially and DFM Osborne investigated. No reports of injury.

A dumpster fire extending up a trash chute at Southgate condos was controlled by a single sprinkler head in the trash chute. The dumpster was moved away from the building. Ventilation was effected on the upper floors. No injuries reported.

An incident at Wooster Cemetery was a low angle rescue of a person with altered LOC, hypothermia and other suspected injuries. Squad 1 managed the rope system, E23 Lt. Silk commanded the incident, and E24 assisted as EMS focused on patient care. The lowering system w/3:1 haul system was deployed quickly and enhanced the overall timeframe from patient contact to transport.

The respiratory arrest of a 92 year old woman on Fourth Street was handled by Lt. Cabral and his crew, who opted to take the call due to the Squad's proximity to the address. They ventilated via BVM, continued to assist on arrival of EMS and provided a driver for the ambulance to the E.D. Later followup indicated that the woman was conscious and talking in the hospital. The enhancement to this call is that the woman's daughter, who had reported her mother's sudden unresponsiveness, was at the house and then at the ED... and the incident occurred on Mother's Day.

Another incident was found to be a low pressure natural gas line break due to workers excavating an old fence. They failed to notify CBYD prior to digging. One worker had stuffed rags in the pipe to slow the leak. The location was across the street from Morris St. School. DFD crews secured the area and metered for gas. The lot was identified as the hot zone and no evacuation was necessary in addition to the immediate area. Eversource responded quickly and repaired the break.

Two mulch fires were responded to by C Group this period at Ferris Mulch Products, 6 Plumtrees Rd. There have been 7 DFD responses to that location for similar issues since 3/22/15. DEEP has advised the owner of control methods and last report was that the pile in question, which was substantial, is no longer of significant volume. Volunteer tankers assisted in a number of the responses.

Crews rescued an injured hiker in Tarrywile Park. The Gator, along with the new stokes was used to extract the 26 year old male hiker from the woods.

TAC-1 and Car 30 responded to the victim run over by a garbage truck at Winter Brothers.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- Weekly Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Meeting with the Union Principal Officers
- FF recruitment meeting with Civil Service
- Budget hearing at City Hall
- Board of Awards meeting
- City Council Meeting
- Introduced the new ICS system to all crews
- Met with City Engineering to finalize plans for the new classroom building
- CME Danbury Hospital
- Met with Union and Legal over hiring rules
- Jericho Partnership Annual Prayer Breakfast at the Amber room
- All day Staff meeting with Deputy Chiefs
- Public Works Day
- Staff meeting with Division heads

### **Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez**

The Danbury Fire Department has recently received Four Gamma II Radiation meters from the 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program.

The Gamma Rae II, gamma radiation measuring dosimeter is the first line of defense against gamma radiation hazard. This monitor is designed to alert prior to the exposure of any gamma radiation hazards. Because of its high sensitivity at low radiation levels, it can alert first responders to the presence of a radiation threat well before they might be exposed to health-threatening levels.

The new meters will enhance our departments HAZMAT capability, with First Due units able to properly conduct emergency operations and set up safety perimeters to protect the public during the initial phases of an Emergency Hazardous Material Response. All members of the Department will participate in a Radiological Metering and Monitoring HAZMAT Response refresher by the end of this month and then the meters will be deployed accordingly.

Nine members of the Danbury Fire department have enrolled in the 472 Hazardous Materials Technician class sponsored by the Region Five HAZMAT team.

### **Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Supervisor Rich Gallagher Radio communications**

The UHF system upgrade for the Fire Department continues with the installation of 2 additional receiver sites at the FCI location on Pembroke Road and at our Spruce Mountain Lane location. The Spruce Mountain site should be online by the end of May and the FCI location is planned on being operational by the end of June.

Additional receiver sites and transmitter sites are in the beginning stages of planning.

### **Information Technology - IT**

Additional status screens have been installed in the Headquarters apparatus bays. These units should be operational by mid - June.

With the absence of dispatch personal at HQ, the security monitors can now be seen from the Day room to allow monitoring of the front door at FD Headquarters.

### **Dispatch**

Ongoing system geo-information improvements continue. These improvements include adding premises to the dispatch mapping system, updating location contact information and adjusting the FD/EMS responses as needed.

See Department Statistical Reports.

## **Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers**

### ***Volunteer Division***

#### **Firefighter I**

- The course is nearing completion. CT State Practical Exam is scheduled for June 13th and June 25 for the written exams. There are 12 students from various Danbury Vol. Fire Stations.
- Second Quarter Training has been scheduled for June and July 2015.

### ***Career Division***

#### **Airport Rescue Fire fighters**

The Danbury Fire Dept. has scheduled their annual live burn training at the Westover AFB in September. Westover has one of the three certified burn facilities in New England.

#### **Fire School**

The fire school was utilized often this month by our Fire fighter 1 class, on duty career crews, as well as visiting Fire Depts. from Brookfield, Redding, West Redding, Ridgefield, Hawleyville and Botsford.

Drillmaster Rogers is in the process of reviewing protocols with individuals who work as ISO's at the fire school.

#### **Structure fires**

A Safety Officer was called in for a structure fire on 55 Mill Plain Rd Apartment 18.

## **Hydrant Program**

Crews started testing the approx. 2,200 hydrants located throughout the city. Prov. Communications Officer is holding iPad review classes for hydrant work.

## **Pre-fire Planning**

D/C Slagle and Drillmaster Rogers pre-planned an acquired structure on State St.

## **Naugatuck Valley Community College**

The Spring semester class, "Building Construction" ended with final exams on May 13. Eleven students successfully completed the three credit course held at Fire HQ.

## **Hazmat Technician Class**

Danbury has hosted Hazmat OPS for six days this month. Nine from Danbury and five from Torrington have taken part. We had instruction from DEEP, CTS (Army National Guard), CT State Police and the FBI. Classes have been excellent and are enhancing the Hazmat response capabilities for the Danbury Fire Department.

## **New Nozzles**

Career companies on each crew have been testing the new 1-3/4 smooth bore nozzle with 7/8 tip. Data is still being collected validating the efficacy of this device.

## **Electric Hurst Tool**

Electric Hurst tool was put into service in mid May. This new tool should enhance our extrication capabilities.

## **New Truck One**

New Truck One was put into service the weekend of May 16<sup>th</sup>. Drivers are being signed off by the Captains, D/C's and Apparatus Supervisor. The sign off sheet is being provided by the Training division.

## **ICS**

All crews have completed modules one and two of "Mastering Fire-ground Command".

## **Meetings/ events for the T.O.**

- April 19- 24 – Drillmaster Rogers and FF Zaniewski went to FDIC in Indiana.
- May 2 – Drillmaster Rogers and FF Mourges took part in a Para-Strut class in Mahwah NJ.
- May 12-14 and 26-28 – Hazmat Technician class
- Met with volunteer counsel at Engine 4.
- May 21 – Leadership Danbury meeting at Eversource.



Hydrant work

### **Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo**

The new Truck-1 is now in service. Unfortunately, the fuel gauge has failed and we are awaiting a new sending unit to be delivered from Pierce. Old Truck-1 is still out of service due to a torsion rod adjuster failure that most likely resulted from the severe duty cycle and the general fatigue of this unit. We were awaiting one final part from Pierce which was delivered earlier this week. Currently, we have the suspension back together and will be making final adjustments later today. Fit testing for the Volunteers has begun and we are in contact with and scheduling companies almost daily. Squad-2 was out of service due to a problem with the air dryer, fortunately we were able to return this unit to service by making a temporary repair. We are awaiting a price quote for replacement parts from our vendor. A new inflatable boat has been delivered and placed in service. We have completed the annual flow tests of all our S.C.B.A.'s with our Scott vendor, Shipman's Fire Equipment. A big thank you goes out to Deputy Chief Williams, Captain Arconti and all of A-group who were extremely helpful in getting this important test procedure accomplished.

#### **Other repairs completed:**

- Serviced 06F4, replaced driving light assembly
- Replaced both front seat belts Squad-1
- Replaced Officer and Officer's side rear facing seat belts E-22
- Serviced E-24, repaired cab lift, brake inspection
- Replaced wheel on Trk-2
- Checked steering issue E-23, ordered steering gears
- Performed Stability Test with Pierce Technician on Trk-1
- Replaced brakes (all positions) and brake line in 03PT
- Car 30's bodywork was completed
- Repaired several Plymovent and bay door issues

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

Retirements: This month DFM Gillotti and DFM Perry will be retiring. With the recent retirement of DFM Weber, and the fact that our new Fire Inspector, Jonathan DeJoseph, will be in the State Certification class until the end of June, we will be down four people in our office because DFM Leach is at headquarters, working on light duty. Our new Fire Inspector Jonathan DeJoseph is attending the second half of 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 78 apartments. We also did 7 misc. inspections, 7 liquor inspections, 18 places of assembly, 5 businesses, and 3 educational occupancies. There were 3 health care inspections and 13 mercantile inspections.

### **Plan Reviews**

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 31 hours reviewing plans for Kennedy Flats, several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall including Sears, renovations at Immaculate High School, the Edge Fitness Club at the old Expect Discount Store, Cartus renovations, and many more.

### **Fire Investigations**

This month we had 8 fire investigations. There were 3 building fires, 5 vehicle fires, and 4 rubbish/dumpster fires. There were 13 other types of fires as well (brush, mulch, vegetation, and a chimney).

### **Continuing Education**

This month our team spent 32 hours in continuing education courses. DFM Bruce attended a Fire/Arson Class in Wallingford, put on by Public Agency Training. The class was 2 ½ days.

### **Three Family and Above Fire Inspections**

We had sent out letters to all residents that streets begin with “A” and “B”. We have received some calls, and completed some inspections on these streets. We continue to try and inspect as many three families and above as possible.

### **Public Relations**

In an effort to stay in the Public’s eye, we attended a two day country fair at St. Gregory’s School and had a booth set up with fire prevention materials. We answered many questions regarding fire safety. The fair was well attended. DFM Gary Bruce attended a fire safety event at the Head Start School with fire safety information. DFM Bruce also did a fire safety presentation at the Department of Social Services at 346 Main Street for “Bring your child to work day,” where he had a captive audience.

On 5-13-15, we attended Public Works Day in the City. We were able to give out Fire Hats to about 200 school children that were at this event. They were able to see our trucks and learn some tips about fire safety.

## Department Statistical Reports

### Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	266
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	2
Complaints	4
Fire Investigations	8
Fire Safety Programs	5

### Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	2997
Abandoned 911 calls	333
Cellular 911 calls	2073
Admin calls received	880