



**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 July 21st, 2015 through August 21st, 2015 and details activities of the Department.

We have suspended the Hydrant testing until cooler weather arrives because of discoloration in the water.

During hot weather, it is critical that people drink enough proper fluids to stay hydrated. Heat related injuries have been reported and the department has responded. Cooling facilities operated by the city have been used to provide relief to our citizens needing a cooler environment.

As we participate in outdoor activities, please remain aware of the inherent risks associated with these. Injuries that are common during the summer include head injuries associated with bicycling, skateboarding and sports. Swimming in unknown waters or environs can also be risky. Never dive into water where you are not familiar with the depth. Enjoy the summer but be careful to not take unnecessary risks.

As a final note, we are again reminding everyone to check your smoke detectors for operation and date of installation. These devices are a critical piece of our life safety and fire protection plan and they must be maintained. If they have been installed for longer than ten years, the United States Fire Administration is recommending they be replaced. Smoke detectors should be located in every bedroom and on every level of your home.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

A "Hearts of Hope" presentation was made to Lt. Bergemann, FF Bertrand, FF Browning, Dispatchers Rivera & Perrotti, & DC Meehan for their role in responding to the call for assistance when a seven year old boy tragically passed away. Dispatchers from IXP again did ride time at the FD. Members attended the Police Promotional ceremony for new Sergeants. The new Head Start was toured. The new Colonial

Suburu was toured. The West Indian/Caribbean Festival was visited. The Ann's Place 5-K race was visited. Airport Familiarization was a topic this month, which paid dividends in response to later incidents. Pump training was conducted with FF Culbreth being qualified. HazMat Decon was reviewed. Ropes and Rigging systems were reviewed. More members toured the new Regional Hospice Center.

Captain Halas has nearly completed a department-wide turnout gear inspection, and is readying his budgetary requests for needed replacement gear. Capt. Halas was asked to serve as a Subject Matter Expert on Firefighting Turnout Gear for a North American initiative, and he has been asked to speak in Montreal, Canada on the subject.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

Crews responded to an aircraft down incident, in which this month's primary training topic of Airport Familiarization played a crucial part. A twin engine plane crashed into the grass on the airfield, and the coordination between the FD, Airport Tower, and Airport Admin personnel could not have been any better. One occupant of the aircraft was removed and was uninjured.



A refuse fire inside the vacant Amphenol factory on East Franklin Street was rapidly extinguished by fire personnel in a quick and professional manner, despite hot and humid weather. A catastrophic fire was averted by their professional abilities.

A number of cardiac arrest calls were responded to, prompting a review of how we respond to such incidents, and we are looking to a new response matrix to these types of calls. One difficult call in particular was responded to as a tour bus exited the Interstate with a female in cardiac arrest in the rear row of the bus. Using some technical rescue skills, the victim was removed via the escape windows on the bus, using ladders and a rope system.

A fire was responded to at the Hearthstone Castle. The castle has been in disrepair for approximately thirty years and presents hazards to firefighters. The fire was extinguished at night, without the need for firefighters entering the structure. In the daylight, DC Meehan assisted FM Russell in obtaining overhead photos using his recently acquired drone. This emerging drone technology has the potential to help safeguard fire personnel for instances like this where it is unsafe to enter a building, and a view from above can be remotely obtained.



Vehicle fire at the Mall

Command and Staff Activities

- Weekly Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- City Council Meeting
- Civil Service Recruitment meeting and Exam Prep for entry level firefighters and Communications Supervisor
- Contractor's meetings for new Classroom Building
- Volunteer Council meeting
- Monthly staff meeting
- Meeting with executive board of the Volunteer Council
- Public Works Retirement Party
- Haz Mat Drill at Boehringer Ingelheim
- FCI 75th anniversary
- King Street Vol. Annual Picnic
- Deputy Fire Marshal Interviews
- Communication Coordinator Test Civil Service

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Supervisor Rich Gallagher

Radio communications

FD Communications along with Northeastern completed a site visit walk thru of all of the existing and proposed radio equipment sites. This walk thru was to evaluate the current locations for upgrade viability and to choose additional new site to increase radio system performance. This site visit was also to investigate the use of Point-to-Point communications to eliminate the need of phone lines for the primary carrier of voice traffic. Information gathered on this walk thru will be used to generate a system upgrade plan.

Dispatch

FD Communications continues to work with IXP on streamlining the dispatch process to improve accuracy and efficiency.

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division

Live Burn

TO Rogers participated in a live burn with Engines 3,4,8,9 and Squad 7. We trained with the principles of Mastering the Fire ground, Calming the Chaos. The class was a success.

Fire Instructor Class

FFI class has been scheduled for the fall.

Quarterly Training

3rd Quarter training is scheduled with 5 dates from September through early October. Drills will be conducted utilizing SCBA protocols, Cascade systems, Turnout Gear, and general equipment cleaning.

Out of Town Volunteers

FF Gagliardo assisted with a Foam Trailer Familiarization Class for Newtown Fire.

FF Horosky was Incident Safety Officer for the Town of Redding's live burn.

Career Division

Fire School

TO Rogers participated in a strategic safety and burn building evaluation at Fire School burn building with Dan Gordon from Fire Training Facilities.

Foam Trailer Training

C-group completed the Foam firefighting refresher and practical skills training with our State issued Regional Foam Trailer.

Hydrant

The annual hydrant testing program is underway, with the goal to test all 2,100 hydrants in the city by the end of October. To date, 1,490 hydrants (72%) have been tested.

Airport Familiarization

TO Rogers and Mike Safranek had multiple hour training sessions with A and B group personnel. The program has been successful. Danbury Fire had multiple opportunities to put our training to use with airport/airplane ground emergencies this past month. Understanding how the airport works and getting to plane crashes in an efficient and safe manner benefits all those involved.

Regional Hospice Tour

TO Rogers participated with Jeff Culbertson on A-group tour of Regional Hospice, a beautiful facility. Jeff also headed a tour for B-group.

ICS

Scenario based training continues with Career crews.

Safety Officer

TO Rogers responded as Safety Officer for structure fires located at Chestnut Ave, Candlelight Drive and Old Amphenol bldg on E. Franklin and Maple Ave. I'm happy to report that individuals working at all scenes had appropriate PPE, communications frequency was understood, safety zones were set up, and EMS units were committed to scene.



Meetings/Events for the T.O.

- Meeting with HB Communications about classroom
- Meeting at State Capital with Commissioner Curry about Regional Fire School Funding and real support
- Meeting with DFD EMS Coordinator on HAZMAT scenario stations for “live burn” sessions
- Meeting with Communications Coordinator Gallagher
- Meeting with Frank G., Farid K., A/C Omasta and Comm. Coordinator Gallagher about internet and low-voltage requirements for new classroom
- Candlelight Fire Critique
- Leadership Danbury at the PD and FCI

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

The Bauer Breathing Air compressor here at headquarters was serviced and the quarterly air test was performed.

Per Connecticut Regulations we had to have a vacuum leak test performed on our in ground gasoline storage tank. The test was completed this month and our tank with a couple of cap changes passed the required testing protocols. This test completes our requirements with the State DEEP for the vapor recovery de-commissioning. The two new Fire Marshal vehicles have been lettered and we are awaiting the purchase order number to proceed with the lighting and siren package. We had the pulse unit that counts fuel measurements in the diesel pump replaced because it was defective causing intermittent pump failure.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced defective LR outer tire 10PA1.
- Replaced batteries in Squad-1.
- Replaced rear hatch glass in 09FX.
- Serviced Truck-1 oil, fuel, coolant filters.
- Replaced Injector harness, boost sensor, and gaskets 10PA2.
- Serviced 06FX3.
- Serviced 06FX4.
- Replaced battery Car-30 (13FX).
- Replaced battery and charger in Foam Unit.
- Replaced fuel filters in E-23.
- Replaced grab handles E-23 and E-26.
- Replaced ISG batteries and charger E-25.
- Replaced transmission cooler lines 06FX2.
- Replaced master cylinder in 03FT4.

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

Interviews were given to three people to fill the two openings in the Fire Marshal's Office. If approved by the City Council, Lt. Tyler Bergemann, and Lt. Eric Handau will be promoted to Fire Inspectors in early September. They will then begin the Certification Class put on by the State of Connecticut to be certified as Deputy Fire Marshals. The Certification Class is in two sections, beginning with the Code Section, and then the Fire Investigation section. This class will take several months to complete.

Inspections

This month we inspected 87 apartments. We also did 22 misc. inspections, 16 liquor inspections, 22 places of assembly, 23 businesses, 4 day care, and 14 educational occupancies. There were 9 health care inspections and 7 mercantile inspections. We will increase our numbers as our staff rebuilds to full strength.

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 27 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, a medical building on Main St., Rivington Condos, and Kennedy Flats Apts.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 13 fire investigations. There were 7 building fires, 2 vehicle fires, and 3 rubbish/dumpster fires.

Three Family and Above Fire Inspections

We are in the process of sending out more letters to owners of 3-family and above homes to try and set up fire inspections by street name.

Public Presentations

The Fire Marshal's Office gave Fire Safety Presentations to approx. 80 children at a White St. Day Care.

School Inspections

We have completed the public school inspections. We are in the process of finishing up the private schools.

Special Events

In the coming weeks, Fire Marshal Jim Russell and Deputy Fire Marshal Jordan Leach will be attending an event at the New Haven Fire School called "Operation Save A Life." It is sponsored by News 8, Kidde, Home Depot and the Connecticut Burn and Trauma Center at Bridgeport Hospital. This program is a collective commitment to promote fire and carbon monoxide safety through education and outreach. The focal point of the campaign is the message, understood most thoroughly by fire professionals, that fire fatalities and losses are often preventable through education and the use of working smoke detectors. At this program, Kidde (smoke alarm company), and the Home Depot will be donating smoke alarms, and CO detectors to participants of the program. This gives our City the opportunity to gain several smoke

alarms, and CO Detectors to give out to our citizens in the hope that these detectors may save a life in the future.

Department Statistical Reports
Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	828
Abatements issued	0
Violations issued	0
Complaints	6
Fire Investigations	13
Fire Safety Programs	1