



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

The Danbury Fire Department was recently notified as being awarded a 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant package. The total value of the grant through FEMA is \$370,400 of which the City contribution is 10%. This funding will be used to purchase new vehicle and portable radios, so our firefighters can better communicate with each other en route and on scene. Replacement of aging equipment will allow our firefighters to focus on the emergency situations at hand with renewed confidence in their radios, their lifeline. We are very proud of the teamwork that our personnel provided in their cooperative efforts for the successful writing of this grant proposal in a highly competitive national program. We are very fortunate to be receiving this AFG grant for updating our radio equipment. This federal money will help tremendously to supplement the Fire Department's progress in improving our Public Safety communications infrastructure.

Please join our department while we congratulate Captain Joe Halas as Firefighter of the Year. This honor, sponsored by the Exchange Club of Danbury, is bestowed on Captain Halas for his hard work and initiative in completing a department-wide turnout gear study and replacement program, leading Department efforts to refinish many areas of Headquarters and outstations, and serving our community in many other roles.

October is fire safety month and our public fire safety education program is very busy. The Fire prevention team will be in our schools throughout the month.

Halloween activities will be taking place during the month of October, so please be careful with lit candles in pumpkins or luminaries, keep front porches well lit, and drive with extra caution on trick-or-treat night.

With the onset of the heating season, we are urging all citizens to install carbon monoxide detectors. Each year these devices save lives through alerting residents and businesses to potential risks. If you have a furnace, wood stove, or other

combustion heating device in your home, these devices should be installed as well. Further information is available from the Fire Marshal.

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Members assisted the Hospital and CityCenter Danbury at the Taste of Danbury with setting up components of the Mobile Field Hospital for the Hands Only CPR Instruction event:



GAR Electroforming Corporation conducted an in depth tour of their facility in Commerce Park. GAR is a leader in its field of electroforming, making a number of components for the Nation's Defense and Aerospace industries. The Kennedy Flats project was toured with a detailed walk thru given by the project manager. The Underground Pipeline project on the west side was looked at, and DC Meehan used his drone to photograph some areas of concern for the contractors, where they were asking for the DFD;s assistance in case of a rescue response to the area.

E25 provided their engine and personalities to the pleasure of picnic attendees at King St. School. E25 and E22 gave 3 schoolchildren a ride to school this period. Sq-1 crew assisted a disabled man back to his residence on Well Ave. from Lake Ave. Crewmembers were in attendance at the 9/11 memorial service at Elmwood Park. Personnel played in or attended the DFD vs. DPD Charity Softball Game at Rogers Park. DFD emerged victorious, 19-18.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

Crews responded to a call for severe burns to a 26 year old landscape employee at Tarrywile Park. Apparently the burns resulted from ignition of gasoline accidentally spilled on the worker's pants by a carelessly tossed cigarette from a coworker. First and second degree burns were initially addressed by E22, then EMS. The victim was

eventually transported to the Bridgeport burn unit for definitive care. DFM Bruce investigated.

We were called to a second floor laundry room exhaust fan fire, extinguished by an alert tenant. E22 assessed the situation. Truck Co. assisted with laddering to remove the fan. Following natural ventilation, investigation by DFM Bruce and notification of building owner by C30, all units returned to service.

Another incident involved a vehicle fire secondary to a van hitting a parked car and then a tree in front of Broadview Middle School. Dispatch reported that there was significant fire and that there may be someone still in the vehicle. E23 ascertained that there were no occupants (driver fled the scene) and extinguished the fire. DFM Osborne investigated. DPD on scene.

A fire deep within the building at the former Amphenol factory on East Franklin Street was quickly extinguished averting a serious situation:



Command and Staff Activities

- Weekly Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- City Council Meeting
- Volunteer Council meeting
- Meeting with executive board of the Volunteer Council
- Construction started on the fire School Education building
- Bi- weekly construction meetings
- Ground Breaking Ceremony
- LTs Bergemann and Handau get sworn in as Deputy Fire Marshals
- Orientation for entry level Firefighter applicants
- Retirement Dinner for DFM Marilyn Gillotti
- Friends of Local heroes luncheon at HQ
- 9-11 Ceremony at the 9-11 Memorial
- Customer Appreciation lunch at Northeast Communications
- Salvation Army Benefit Breakfast
- FF Entry level written exam

- Meeting with Garland industries for Station 24 roof bids
- Community Relations meeting at FCI
- Taste of Danbury



Groundbreaking and foundation work at Fire Training School

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

For the month of September, EMS Wednesday has focused on a review of the proper precautions to reduce the potential of an occupational exposure to a disease. Included is a review of the department's Infectious control policy and the OSHA standard 1910:1030. Firefighters while performing their duties in the field are potentially at risk from diseases transmitted either by contact with body fluids, such as blood or airborne particles. Cross-trained firefighters that provide pre-hospital care, as first responders are likely to encounter a variety of patients suffering from a wide range of illnesses under many different conditions. The possibility of contracting an infectious disease is real if the proper precautions are not taken.

Training also included a practical skill review component: assessing the suspected opiate overdose patient and hands on administration of Naloxone.

Region Five Hazardous Materials Team Meeting
EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez and Chief Brunoli of Torrington Fire Department and Chief Couture of the Waterbury Fire Department met in Torrington on Sept. 3, 2015 to review the \$30,804.00 2015 Homeland Security Grant request for ESF 10 equipment maintenance and the \$35,686.00 EMPG grant funding request for training and interoperability written by EMS/HAZMAT Coordinator Rodriguez.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT coordinator Rodriguez attended the WHCN EMS supervisors meeting on Sept 16th, 2015. Topics of discussion included:

- Education, CME opportunities
- Trauma data
- Stroke data
- Spinal immobilization protocol
- AEMT status
- Revision of State DNR protocol

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Supervisor Rich Gallagher

Radio communications

This past month Danbury Fire has received AFG grand award for the amount of \$370,400 for new apparatus and portable radios. Communications has been working on a plan to utilize this grant to modernize DFD's radio system for both career and volunteer units.

A new system was put into place to monitor DFD's radio infrastructure to watch for failures within the radio equipment. This monitoring system will send out alerts when any part of the system is unavailable and will allow quicker response for repair work.

The 2 new Fire Marshal vehicles had new FD radio systems installed.

IT Projects

The Status Screen system used by DFD will be enhanced by adding additional screen locations and show more real-time content. This system will also be utilized by the City's EMS provider Danbury Hospital.

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

Quarterly

Third quarter refresher and OSHA mandated training has been scheduled for October. Course curriculum design and coordination are completed and ready for implementation.

Career Division

ICS Training

Fire crews continue to participate in ICS training. Implementation of our proposed ICS methodology is occurring at 15 Center Street. This hands on, scenario based training is a key component to our crawl before you run philosophy. Crews are progressing nicely and our after action discussions are proving effective.

ARFF Training

13 Fire department members and Mike Safranek from Danbury Airport administration traveled to Andover Air-force base in Chicopee, MA, for aircraft fire training. The scenario based aircraft fire emergencies were realistic and provided a wonderful opportunity to enhance teamwork, collaboration, and fire hazard mitigation. Danbury is the 2nd busiest airport in the state and it remains necessary for our personnel to remain vigilant and well trained. We've had two aircraft emergencies over the past couple of months and this training goes a long way for us to safely and confidently respond to Danbury Airport's aircraft emergencies.

Roof Work

B-group's Truck Company practiced cutting ventilation holes at 15 Center Street.

GORUCK Class

FF's Ambruso, Sedgwick, McGowan, and Mourgues attended 3 to 4 day strenuous Goruck wild land navigation course in New Hampshire. This course is designed to help improve our wilderness search and rescue skills. We plan to leverage this training to help safely and efficiently find those lost in Tarrywile, Bear Mountain or any other heavily wooded area where lost individuals need our assistance.

Hydrants

The Hydrant program has resumed after a brief respite. This program will continue until the end of October.

Naugatuck Valley Community college

Danbury Fire is hosting the NVCC course, Principles and Practices of Terrorism Response. We have 9 students from various backgrounds enrolled in this 3 credit fall semester class.

Safety Officer

I responded to structure fire on corner on East Franklin and Maple Ave. This building is unique and will be slated for pre-planning in the near future. I also responded to a small fire on Franklin Street.

Pre-Plans

Danbury Fire has started to pre-plan Kennedy Place Apartments. Pre-planning for this large scale project has allowed us to coordinate with Greystar construction on a variety of project components. The GAR building was toured by D Group. We have Engine companies continuing to avail themselves of the airport familiarization opportunities.

Meetings / Events for the T.O.:

- Fire Classroom ground breaking at 21 Plumtrees Road
- Meeting with Mike McHorse from Spectra Energy pipeline project

- CFDIA monthly meeting at the Ct Fire Academy and Board meeting
- Attended info session for entry test at City Hall.
- Attended DFM Gillotti's retirement dinner.
- Friends of Heroes Luncheon at HQ
- Meeting with Greystar's Project Manager and assistant.
- ARFF training at Westover AFB
- Attended NVCC class at fire HQ
- NWC MED Board of Directors meeting



Aircraft training at Westover AFB

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

The two new Fire Marshal vehicles are currently having the lighting and siren package installed. The Breakaway coupling on our gasoline pump was activated last month. We acquired a new one and placed the pump back in service. E-24 had what was eventually determined to be a computer input module failure activating “Check Engine” and “Stop Engine” lights. The modules which have been deemed “bullet proof” by some are a proven technology. This is the first failure we’ve had since their inception 20+ years ago.

Other repairs completed:

- Replaced defective solenoid and switch Truck-1.
- Refill Vogul in Squad-1.
- Replaced right rear brake chamber Squad-1.
- Service 11FT, replace battery.
- Replaced turbo intake hose 10PA2.
- Rebuild Air Dryer purge valve, replace desiccant cartridge Squad-2.
- Replaced transmission cooler lines 06FX3.
- Replaced valve stem LR inner tire, replace LF tire.

- Replaced E-26 LF tire.
- Serviced E-24 pump transmission.
- Rebuilt pump shift in 10PA2.
- Replaced hand light charger base in E-24.

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

We all celebrated DFM Marilyn Gillotti's retirement at a dinner on 9-9-15. There will be another celebration for DFM Mark Perry in early November. They will be missed. On September 3rd, two new Fire Inspectors were sworn in, Tyler Bergemann and Eric Handau. They are both enrolled in the Fire Marshal Certification class in Rocky Hill, CT. The course will take several months to complete, at which time they will both become Deputy Fire Marshals.

Inspections:

This month we inspected 207 Apts. We also did 32 misc. inspections, 5 liquor inspections, 29 places of assembly, 28 businesses, 1 day care, and 19 educational occupancies. There were 4 health care inspections. We also did 11 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 30 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in The Danbury Fair Mall, Sears, Rivington, Kennedy Flats, Cartus, 93 Mill Plain Rd., and others.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 3 building fires, 3 vehicle fires, and 3 rubbish/garbage fires. Investigations were done on all fires.

Public Presentations

DFM Jonathan DeJoseph gave a Fire Safety Presentations at Danbury High School at the "Touch a Truck" outing for kids on 9-19-15. DFM Gary Bruce did a Fire Safety Presentation at "Old Navy" in the Mall on 9-19-15. Manager Kelly Barghaus sent a letter of appreciation to DFM Bruce for his talk, and would like us to do another presentation in the near future.

Grant Received

We have received a grant for \$ 500.00 from The Connecticut Fair Plan to purchase new digital cameras for our department. These cameras will be used for fire investigations by the Deputy Fire Marshals.

School Inspections

We have completed the public school inspections. We are in the process of finishing up the Private Schools.

Special Events

On September 16th, we attended an event at the New Haven Fire School called "Operation Save A Life." It is sponsored by News 8, Kidde, the 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 donated 90 smoke alarms, and 30 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.

Our office had a Fire Prevention Booth set up at The Annual Fire Department VS. Police Department Softball game on 9-16-15.

DFM's DeJoseph, Leach, Handau, and Bergemann attended The Taste of Danbury in our Fire Prevention Booth. DFM Leach also inspected all the vendors' booths for safety issues.

DFM Leach has been working with UTC on Wooster Hghts. to outline safety procedures for their company.

On 9-21-15 DFM John Osborne and DFM Jonathan DeJoseph gave Fire Extinguisher Training to The Ethan Allen Staff, and also to the residents and staff at 10 Harmony St.

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest will begin on October 1, 2015. We have a hard act to follow after having the State Winner in last year's contest. We have already been working in preparation for this year.



New DFMs Tyler Bergemann and Eric Handau

Department Statistical Reports
Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	423
Abatements issued	15
Violations issued	0
Complaints	4
Fire Investigations	9
Fire Safety Programs	18