



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

For many years, October has been promoted as fire safety month and is always a very busy month for our department. Prevention teams across the country present special programs to many citizens, students and adults alike. These cover various aspects of fire safety in schools with escape drills, home safety tips such as "EDITH" exercises and "Stop, Drop and Roll" practice. These have proven to be life savers in many instances.

The Danbury Fire Department is a participant in this effort. The easiest fire to fight is one that never starts. Through this program we have educated many thousands of Danbury students over the years. This information may surface years later in a totally unexpected way and save a life.

As we move into the winter heating season it is again imperative that everyone is cautious with heat sources. Oil furnaces, wood stoves and other devices each require specific maintenance and upkeep. Before using these for the first time, please check for air flow, animals and frayed wiring. Let us all enjoy the fall safely.

We would like to recognize Captain Gary Arconti for his 30 years of service and to congratulate him on his recent retirement. A flag ceremony was held on October 9th and a dinner in his honor will be held on November 30th. We wish him many years of health and enjoyment!

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Six preschool classes from Hayestown Ave School had the opportunity to interact with firefighters and view an engine and equipment this period, and 75 kindergarten students from Park Avenue School were beneficiaries of a fire safety educational presentation.

Smoke alarms were installed for residents of 9 Seeley St. E26 assisted a woman who needed her child's car seat installed in her vehicle.

Workers operating propane fueled floor buffing equipment at the Dollar store were counseled on the hazards of Carbon Monoxide exposure following a response at which elevated levels were metered, likely due to poorly tuned equipment.

The crew set up the burn prop for the Home Depot Fire Safety Day. Since October is Fire Safety Month, numerous tours were conducted in the fire stations and at schools and sites across the city. Companies stopped in at Halas Farm for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation fundraiser.

The Truck Company assisted the Westside Middle STEM Academy with their 100 foot ladder to test their engineered "egg escape pods" to see which raw eggs would survive the fall with a parachute.



Westside Middle School Egg Drop Experiment

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

An investigation was conducted at West and Harmony Streets of a discarded 20# pressurized container marked as “pentafluoromethane,” a refrigerant gas. Luckily, Chief Wiedl was able to enlist help from Sid Harvey Industries in Commerce Park, a wholesale supplier of refrigeration, heating and air conditioning. The company voluntarily picked up the tank at the scene.

An incident at Toys R Us, Danbury Square Mall, 17 Backus Ave. was initially dispatched as a possible structure fire, then changed to a rolloff connected to the structure, and finally on arrival, was reported by E26 as a small dumpster, away from the building, with minimal contents. E26 handled.

Crews responded to a call at Residence Inn, 22 Segar Street, for a dryer fire in the basement laundry area. The fire was contained with a 2.5 gal. water extinguisher. However, active fire continued to burn in the lint-filled ductwork which was the vent for the dryer. Crews accessed various parts of the duct in attempts to ensure extinguishment and applied water from the roof level also. DFM Osborne was on scene early and coordinated with management to get facilities maintenance and a duct-cleaning company to respond. Hotel management was proactive in ensuring evacuation of guests. Minimal smoke infiltration to common areas or units. No injuries reported.

A structure fire at 29C Grand Street was apparently started on the deck of one unit and spread to the adjacent unit. E22 had first water on the involved deck area. E23 manned second line after laying 5” hose from a hydrant. E26 made the hydrant. E26 officer was assigned Division A Supervisor responsibilities. Truck split up and addressed Search and Roof operations. Roof Group cut ventilation openings in the roof over the two involved units. Additional companies addressed Search in adjacent units, assisted with extinguishment, secured utilities, removed pets, assisted in checking for extension, overhaul and checking conditions in other buildings. Companies also assisted DFM Osborne with his investigation. C51 arrived as Safety. Medic 1 coordinated medical evaluation of firefighters with EMS personnel from two ambulances on scene. Canteen 13 arrived as part of rehab. Eversource was on scene as well as Red Cross to relocate the occupants of 29C. Crystal Restoration was on scene and the City’s Building Inspector was contacted.

On Sunday October 18th, Tankers 12 and 13, along with Squad 7 responded to a large barn fire on Ridge Road in New Milford to assist.



Drone view at Grand Street fire

Command and Staff Activities

- Bi-weekly Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- City Council Meeting
- Bi-weekly construction meetings for the new classroom facility
- Monthly EMS/dispatch steering committee
- Danbury Exchange Club FF of the year dinner for Capt. Joe Halas
- Statewide FF of the year dinner at the Aqua Turf
- Annual FF Memorial and Awards Ceremony
- Swearing in of Lts. Krikorian and Mourges
- Police Retirement Dinner
- Flag Ceremony for retiring Capt. Arconti
- Teach the NVCC class Terrorism for First Responders
- Structure fires on Segar St. and Grand St.
- Staff meeting
- Participated in the Statewide Emergency Planning and Preparedness Exercise
- Attended the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) ESF-4 regional meeting (Emergency Support Function - firefighting for Region 5)



New Lieutenants Rich Krikorian & Ted Mourges



Captain Halas honored as Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year Statewide dinner

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

For the month of October, EMS Wednesday has focused on heart failure. Heart failure occurs when the heart muscle is weakened and cannot pump enough blood to meet the body's needs for blood and oxygen. Firefighters commonly encounter cardiac emergencies when responding to emergency medical calls. Many cardiac diseases have similar signs and symptoms while others have presentations unique to that particular disease. Recognizing the difference and knowing the modalities of treatment specific to the needs of the patient will translate into greater patient survivability.

EMS Supervisors Meeting

EMS/HAZMAT coordinator Rodriguez attended the WHCN EMS supervisors meeting on October 21, 2015. Topics on the agenda include:

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

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Coord. Jamie Gagliardo

With the help of the Candlewood Amateur Radio Association, the metal container that houses Danbury Fire's radio equipment is being painted with epoxy style paint. This paint will preserve the current condition of this structure and seal any small holes. The epoxy being used is a marine grade substance that was originally developed for the Navy.

To date, two (2) primer coats have been applied and cured. The plan for the next few weeks is to apply two (2) finish coats.



Roof condition & amount of rust present



First primer coat on the roof

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division

Quarterly – Third Quarter training is scheduled to be completed by late October with a reschedule date for early November. Fourth quarter live burn training is scheduled from November through early December. All live burn training will take place at our fire school facility.

Hose Testing – All Companies are in the process of the annual fire hose testing.

Career Division

Rescue Week – Members attended advanced Rescue classes at the CT Fire Academy in early October where the Annual “Rescue Week” was held.

Hydrant – The annual hydrant testing program runs until the end of October and 98% of the city’s 2,100 hydrants were tested to date.

Fire Instructor I – We are hosting the CT Fire Academy’s Instructor I certification course which runs October 9th to Dec 4th.

Hose Testing – All crews are near completion of annual hose testing.

NVCC – The Fall semester class, “Principles of Terrorism,” takes place every Wednesday evening at Fire Headquarters through December.

Other – The City Engineering Dept. visited burn Building on Plumtrees Road. C-group had a scheduled Regional Hospice tour.

Meetings / Events for the T.O.:

- Leadership Danbury at WCSU Westside campus
- CFDIA Meeting in Avon
- Met with Rob at R&B in Oxford
- Exchange Club FF of the Year dinner for Joe Halas
- Swearing in Ceremony for Ted and Rich for Lieutenants
- Gary Arconti flag ceremony
- Judy Bonner, wife of retired Dispatcher Dave Bonner, funeral at St. Gregory’s
- Structure fires at Segar and Grand Streets, TO Rogers was Safety Officer.
- Live burn Brookfield
- Multiple visits to Fire School to monitor progress



Construction progress at Fire School classroom building

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

The two new Fire Marshal vehicles are in service, and as we have taken in older vehicles, they have been inspected and serviced as required. Currently we are assigning them as requested by the Fire Marshal. E-24 is currently a guest here in apparatus with a multitude of Malfunction Indicator Codes. We have been able to rectify them and this unit will return to service. E-23 is currently in Rocky Hill at the Pierce dealer having the body doors replaced under warranty as well as the body repaired and painted. We have a soft date of November 11th and 12th for annual NDT ladder testing for our aerials and a ground ladder testing date of November 21st scheduled.

Other repairs completed:

- Repaired wiring in E-24
- Replaced Delta P sensor and service EGR E-24
- Serviced Truck-2 Ladder
- Replaced Control Module for Basket Leveling Truck-1
- Replaced Basket Angle sensor Truck-1
- Replaced brakes on forward rear axle old Truck-1 (rear axle scheduled)
- Replaced upper and lower ball joints Truck-1
- Replaced four tires on Burn Demonstration Trailer
- Repaired Bauer Air Compressor
- Serviced E-24 pump transmission
- Replaced floor siren switch in R-2
- Mounted spanner wrench brackets Trk-1

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

Our two new Fire Inspectors, Tyler Bergemann and Eric Handau, continue to attend Fire Marshal Certification Class in Rocky Hill three days each week. They are scheduled to finish the first portion of the class in mid December and begin the Fire Investigation portion of the class sometime after the holidays.

DFM Bruce has recently sent out another mailing to all streets beginning with “C” in an effort to set up fire inspections in all three-family and above homes. Great progress is being made.

DFM DeJoseph has our hotel inspections almost completed for this year. There is only one hotel remaining to be done In mid November to complete our list.

DFM Osborne is having great success with completing our annual Assembly/Liquor inspections.

Inspections

This month we inspected 98 apartments. We also did 74 misc. inspections, 8 liquor inspections, 38 places of assembly, 54 businesses, 1 day care, and 21 educational occupancies. There were 4 health care and 27 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 98 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, Sears, Rivington Condos, Riverview Dr, Elm St. condo project, and more.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 2 building fires, 2 vehicle fires, and 3 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires. Investigations were done on all fires.

Public Presentations

October is Fire Safety Month. We are in the process of giving Fire Safety Presentations to all elementary schools in the city, both Public and Private. We are speaking at one or two schools each day, sharing fire safety tips, and showing fire safety videos.

Special Events

Poster Contest

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest began on October 1, 2015. We have a hard act to follow after having the State Winner in last year’s contest and are already working in preparation for this year. All material has been delivered to the schools that are participating.

Home Depot Fire Safety Day, October 3rd

For the fourth year in a row, we have participated in this event. It is held in the Home Depot Parking Lot on Federal Road. Our fire department has built two identical 8ftX8ft

rooms: one with a sprinkler system, and one without. We add furniture alike in each room and light them on fire one at a time. This demonstration is to show how quickly smoke alarms will sound in a real fire. It also shows how quickly fire will grow, and how the use of sprinklers can snuff out a fire in just seconds. It involves a lot of work and preparation on everyone's part. We get all the materials needed from Home Depot. The set up takes the better part of a day by our department. The tear down/clean up afterwards takes several hours and is done by the volunteers and our department. DFM Gary Bruce is instrumental in pulling it all together and narrating the event. The Volunteers also have a couple of junk cars brought in and do a demonstration of vehicle extrication by removing doors and the roof of a vehicle using the Jaws of Life.

We must thank DFM Gary Bruce, C-Group Truck Company, Squad, and Eng. 24 for their help in setting up the rooms, and Fire Stop Sprinkler Co., Charlie Rieve, and Eric Rieve for their donations of sprinkler equipment each year. We would also like to thank Joe Cavo and Jimmy Beers for helping out by getting the trailer up and running so we could transport our demonstration rooms to Home Depot. We are also grateful to Joe Lostocco for donating a dumpster for the cleanup and Habitat for Humanity for donating furniture. Last but not least, we must thank all the Volunteer Companies for their help in putting the fire out, and tearing down the rooms, and cleaning up afterwards. We could not do this demonstration without everyone's help. Thanks to all!!!

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	325
Abatements issued	1
Violations issued	0
Complaints	3
Fire Investigations	17
Fire Safety Programs	19

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	2897
Abandoned 911 calls	311
Cellular 911 calls	2049
Admin calls received	910