



CITY OF DANBURY

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET**

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

**Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief**

**Phone 203-796-1555
Fax 203-796-1533**

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 25 February through 25 March and details activities of the Department.

You may have noticed a new vehicle on the streets and roads of Danbury recently. This vehicle, denoted as Squad 1 is the Fire Departments Heavy Rescue Vehicle. The crews have been driver training with it preparing for its planned roll out in April. This vehicle, bought through the funds provided by our last Public Safety Bond will increase the capability of the Department to carry out our mission.

I would like to express the thanks of the Department to Saturn of Danbury. Last month for several days, the Department practiced breaching and breaking in their former building on Federal Road. This opportunity allowed the Department to train and practice skills in a real world environment that is rarely encountered off the fire-ground. Acquisition of these buildings is truly crucial to our department as it allows for the advanced skills practice that is so vital to our mission.

The Department operates a Juvenile Fire-Setter program under the direction of Deputy Fire Marshal Johnson. This ongoing program of Fire-setter intervention has been in operation here for over twenty years. Two members of the Department, Provisional Fire Inspector Leach and Firefighter Walter Arteaga have recently returned from the National Fire Academy. While there they attended a week long training symposium. This

program provided for the latest techniques and procedures of Juvenile Fire-setter Intervention. This education is the epitome of training opportunities and we are fortunate to have gotten two of our members into the program. Over the years we have received referrals from the court system and surrounding communities. Nationally, there have been many changes to the program and this recent training will allow us to improve our very high level capabilities.

The training classroom at Headquarters has been enlightened. Through the guidance, advice and practical skills of Acting Lieutenant Steve Rogers and his Engine Company, new lighting was installed. The room is a converted locker room. The lighting up-grade is the first step in what will eventually be a complete make-over of the facility. I estimate the total cost of the renovation to be around forty five thousand dollars. This money is not budgeted to date. These costs include a new HVAC system for the room, desks, chairs, electronics and a web based instructional capability to transmit sessions to our remote stations, career and volunteer.

As we transition into spring, there will be additional activity with our crews testing hydrants and continuing our ongoing programs. Our Fire Marshals ask that as the better weather increases outdoor activities, please be sure to be mindful of those items that have not been in use over the winter months. Check gas grills and fittings to be sure they are in usable condition. Be mindful of animals looking for nesting spots and be sure vents and chimneys are cleared.

Special Note:

We welcomed Fire Fighter Justin Bierbower back home this month. He has been serving in the South West Asia Theatre with the Air Force. Welcome home Justin and thank you.

Dates of Importance:

17 April Rotary Club Firefighter of the Year Recognition Dinner:

This years' recipient is Training Officer Mark Omasta. Since taking on this very difficult position, he has established himself as a leader and educator. Both the Career and Volunteer contingents are benefiting from his drive, professionalism and focus. Please join us when we honor Mark and the Police Officer of the Year Bryon Bishop at the Amber Room Colonnade on 17 April at 6:30 PM.

2 May: Retirement dinner honoring Dispatcher Walter Benz. The dinner is to be held at Anthony's Lake Club on Christopher Columbus Boulevard at 7:00 PM. Join us as we wish Walt and his wife Doris a long happy and healthy retirement.

24 April: 18th Annual Breakfast Honoring Heroes of Western Connecticut. This breakfast will begin at 7:30 at the Amber Room Colonnade.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Members of the Department participated in the recent Saint Patricks' Day Parade at the invitation of Danburys' Ancient Order of Hibernians. A large contingent of Volunteers and Career members marched in the well attended and produced parade.

Several members of the Career Department marched with the Fire Department of the City of New York in the Saint Patricks' Day celebration in Manhattan.

We have continued to assist Danbury Residents with smoke detector issues both with batteries and new detectors.

Deputy Chief Wiedl and Training Officer Omasta attended the Volunteer Firemen's Ball on March 8 at the Amber Room. This annual event was a well orchestrated and attended event.

Pre-planning was performed at the Danbury Square Mall, Rivington Condo Complex, AWD Transfer Station (White St.) and East Ridge Apartments, 7 Eleven Store on Clapboard Ridge, Bauer Hardware and Lindquist repair located at 127 Padanarum Road toured 120 Clapboard Ridge Road, Raymond Place, Franklin Commons, Beaver St. Co-ops. Villages at Timber Oaks, Laurel Gardens, Lions Condos, Hatters Yard, GE Capitol,

Separate from our normal tours we have begun an evaluation of our high hazard responses and hydrant locations. This survey is being done with the intention of the hydrants being fitted by the water department with large diameter outlets to allow for greater water flow. The following Tier II reporting properties have been surveyed to date: Marcus Dairy, Heli-Coil, Republic Foil, Mitchell Fuel, Leahey Fuel, O&G Industries, B.F. Goodrich, Miller Stephenson, Boehringer, Corporate Center (Ridgebury), Banta Corp., Tech Air and Barden Corp.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE/ SPECIAL ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

Incident #1004 at 19 Mabel Ave. was a fire caused by defective masonry. After lighting a fire in the fireplace, a woman noticed a smoke condition developing on the second floor of her home. She left the house with her child and called 911. On arrival, with smoke pushing from the gable vent, crews found fire burning in the gable wall and consuming a built-in cabinet in a second floor bedroom. The seat of the fire was difficult to find initially with smoke banking down quickly on the second floor and in the attic. However, crews made a good stop before roof ventilation became necessary. Damage

was kept to a minimum as was water use. Tanker 11 was on scene immediately on request and two additional tankers arrived also, ensuring adequate water had it been needed.

Incident #1221 at 290 White St., Executive Custom Care Cleaners was a dryer fire where smoke had banked to the floor in the laundromat. An alert patron grabbed a powder gun to put out the bulk of fire and removed burned clothing in a laundry cart to the parking lot. DFM Rao investigated, at which time we learned that these machines have no automatic safety shutoff should a drive belt break or should a unit overheat. We also noted that the lint trap screening is currently power washed approximately every 8 months. The one below the fire unit was significantly clogged, likely due to residue from dryer sheets. We suggested shortening the cleaning intervals.

Incidents #1224 and #1232 at the Danbury Fair Mall and at the Bank of America on Mill Plain Rd. were unknown substance calls resulting in response from the local Health Dept. and State DEP. Although no threat was identified, a whitish substance was present at William Sonoma. It was from a roll of coins and was identified as talcum powder. No actual product was found at Bank of America, where the coin roll originated.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday. The continuous education program is designed to meet EMS certification requirements of the Fire department First Responder program. These classes held while on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills. The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday has been an EMT-B curriculum review.

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system. This system incorporates cross-trained firefighters that have the knowledge of lifesaving medical skills and rapidly deploy to the scene of medical calls. This has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Haz-Mat Thursday

Because of the complexities that Hazardous Materials responses present and the fact that they are labor intensive, education and training is the first responder's first line of defense.

The focus has been to complete the Mark 1 Kit training, Metering and monitoring and Haz-Mat Ops modules on all four crews.

Office of the Fire Marshal- Barry Rickert

TRAINING

All members of the Fire Marshal's Office continue to update their training. Fire Marshal Rickert and Deputy Fire Marshal Johnson attended the quarterly meeting of the Fairfield/New Haven Fire Marshals Association. A presentation on college campus fire safety was part of the program.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Fire Marshal Rickert and Inspector Leach delivered a fire safety and prevention program to the local chapter of AARP at St. Anthony's Church. A video was shown and handouts were given to all in attendance, approximately 30 persons.

Deputy Chief Wiedl, Fire Marshal Rickert and Deputy Marshal Gillotti attended a CERT meeting at Glen Apartments

Abatements/Reports (hrs.):	73	<u>INSPECTIONS:</u>	
Tickets Issues in Fire Zones:	0	Place of Assembly:	69
Fire Investigation:	16	Educational:	5
Fatal Fires:	0	Businesses:	16
Liquor Inspections:	9	Storage:	0
Blasting Permits:	2	Health Care:	4
Complaints:	30*	Industrial:	1
Plan Review (hrs.):	136	Mercantile:	33
Fire Prevention Programs:	1	Residential Board & Care:	0
Orders of Abatement:	5	Hotels (units):	51
		Apartments:	128
		Day Care:	2
		Misc. Inspection:	37
		Special Structure &	
		High Rise Bldg.:	0
		Office Duty (hrs.):	160

* Resolved or in process of being resolved.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments Bio-System meters have been span gas calibrated. All of the departments' meters are fully functional.

With new apparatus in service, we have changed designation on some units we repositioned this month. We repaired the leaking High Pressure Oil Injection Pump on the 03PS which was replaced by the new E-21. We repaired a few other items on this unit and placed it in service on February 26th as E-25.

We installed the laptop and mount along with some modem modifications in the new E-23. Aside from frequent minor problems we encounter when placing a new unit in service the new E-23 went in service on 29 February.

We were fortunate to attend our Mechanics Association meeting which was held at Whelen Technologies in Chester CT. We were able to discuss current problems with regard to proper and dependable emergency lighting on fire apparatus, as well as what's new in emergency lighting technology.

We had a factory recall performed on both TRK-1 and E-22. This campaign required that both steering arms and the center links be replaced on both units as a safety recall.

We have removed TRK-1 from service in order to replace the front brakes. We have experience some difficulty in getting information on this very modern and "European" style brake system. We are waiting on one part to arrive from our dealer and we will hopefully be placing this unit back in service by next week

We are still experiencing quite a lot of problems with our small gasoline engine equipment. Due to the higher volume of ethanol in today's gasoline we are finding that it is causing starting and performance issues. This month we spent quite a bit of time with our foam trailer as well

We replaced the king pins in E-25. We replaced the officers' seatbelt in TRK-1. We also repaired an antifreeze leak in E-21. We mounted new scene lights on E-25. We added a sleeve to E-21 and E-23's officers' side seat belts to try and prevent damage to the belts as they get caught in the door on the Nader bolt. We ordered a new fuel tank for E-24 which sprung a leak while refueling on Monday. We delivered the M.P.E.R.V. to Firematic in Rocky Hill on March 25th to have the Hurst Tools and other loose equipment mounted. This could take several weeks to fabricate all the bracketing needed.

Training-Mark Omasta

March was a productive month at our Fire School with on-duty crews spending time with clean-up and making repairs and improvements. All of the light construction wood shutters were replaced with heavy duty wood shutters constructed and installed by our firefighters. The wood for the shutters came from discarded lumber, and some was donated by Matz Lumber. Firefighters donated their time and removed about one dozen trees from the south side of our property to help make the area more accessible for our apparatus and training evolutions.

Lieutenant Payne and Firefighter Radlet donated time and equipment for the above mentioned work.

Volunteer Firefighter I Class is at the half way point completing its eighth week. 18 students continue to work towards FF1 certification. We were able to offer this class the National Fire Academy's ICS100 and 200, 16 hour certification (Incident Command for the Fire Service) through a grant. Three Volunteer Instructors from Eng 9 assisted with the FF1 class on March 4.

1st Quarter Training for the Volunteers (Haz Mat and Bloodborne Pathogens) will be completed with a make-up class on March 26.

Volunteer Eng 10 utilized the Fire School for a vehicle extrication drill.

Fire Officer II

All 13 career personnel who completed the intense 80 hour Fire Officer II class passed the final exam and received certification from the Connecticut Fire Academy.

Well done Officers and Firefighters.

Fire School

The Fire School was used for Interior live burn training on three occasions, exterior fires for the FFI class and numerous days for Pump Operator training.

Pump Operator training was conducted on our newly acquired Pierce pumpers. We started drilling all crews on Drafting from a static water source. The boat ramps at Lake Kenosia and Candlewood were used for the drills.

FCI

We participated in a drill at the Federal Correctional Institute on March 20. The drill was coordinated through the FCI's safety department, and was a reported Fire in a Cell Block. We entered the secured facility and stretched supply lines and attack lines to the reported fire location. The drill was followed by a tour of the facility.

College Credits

The Naugatuck Valley Community College Spring course "Building Construction", taught by former Danbury Chief Pete Siecienski at Fire HQ is going well with a full class of 20 students.

Other Training Activities/Meetings by the Training Officer

The Training Officer was qualified as a Proctor to administer placement exams for our people in the Fire Technology degree program at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Training officer Mark Omasta met with the CT Fire Instructors at Sikorsky in Stratford. A presentation was given by the Sikorsky Fire Dept. followed by a tour of the production plant.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Technology Updates

The department is in the beginning stages of updating the methodology for industry to report hazardous chemical locations and quantities to the city. In the past industry would supply this information on papers forms that would then be copied and disseminated to all fire apparatus'. This process was not only untimely but also very difficult to rapidly

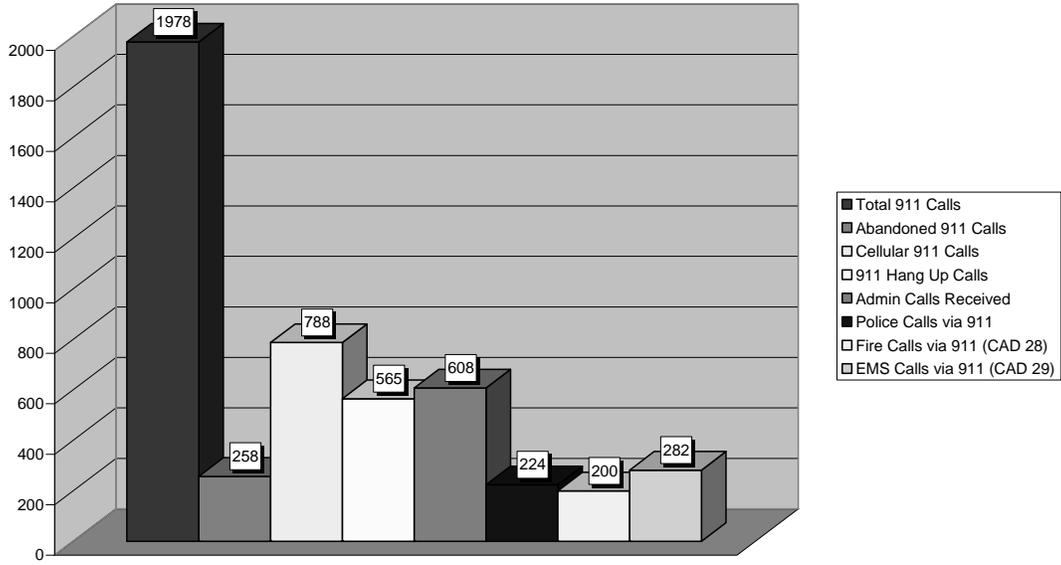
retrieve the record for a specific occupancy. This initiative will provide the means to accept these reports electronically and install these databases on mobile computers in the fire apparatus. The software being used for this tracking is provided and updated free of charge to industry and government by NOAA, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	14
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	233
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	40
Service Call (500-571)	33
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	34
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	45
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	21
Total Fire Responses	420
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	1978
Abandoned 911 Calls	258
Cellular 911 Calls	788
911 Hang Up Calls	565
Admin Calls Received	608
Police Calls via 911	224
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	200
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	282
Daily Average	86.00
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	420
Total EMS Responses	510
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	228
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	201
No Patient (CAD 62)	81
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	2
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	16

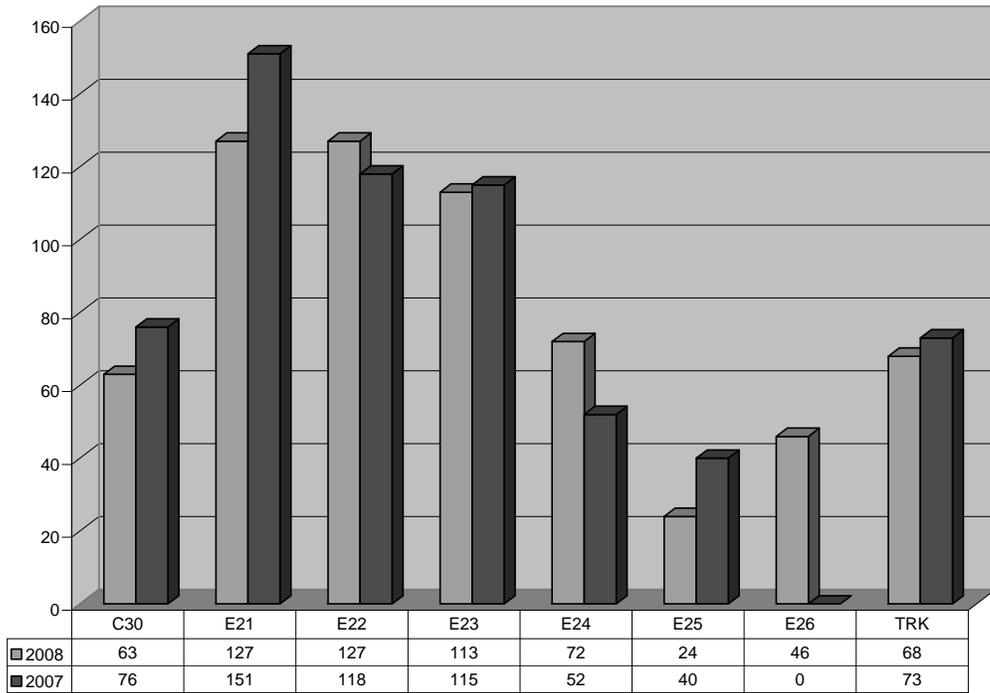
**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Reports

**911 Center Activity
Feb 25 to Mar 19, 2008**



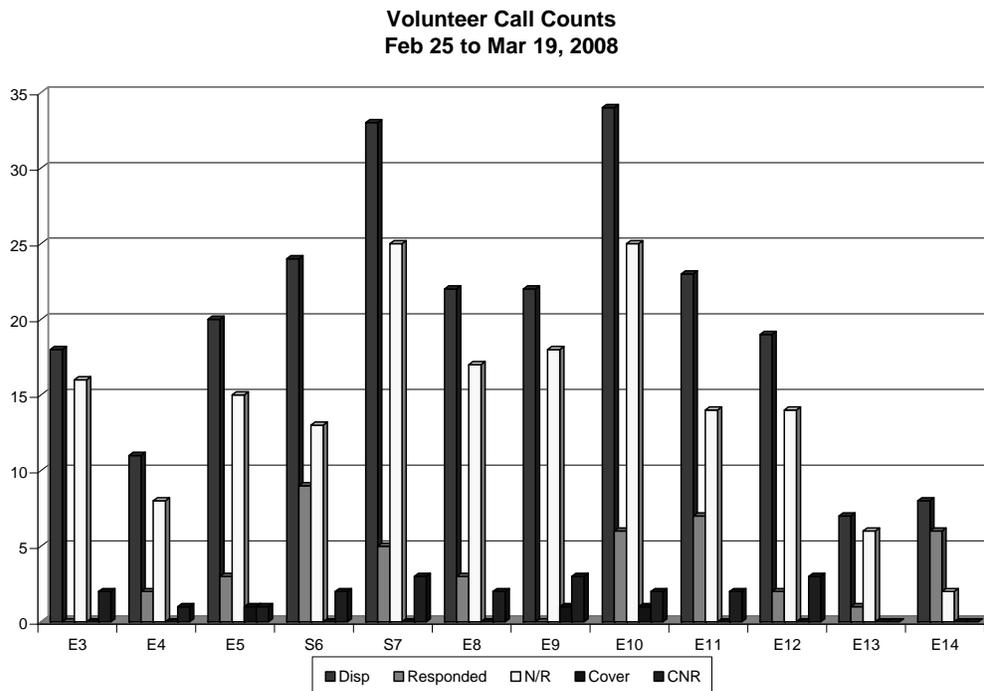
Career Response Comparison for March



Training/Personnel

Additional members have been signed off as qualified for dispatching duties and have begun to serve in this capacity. This trend of training and certification of newer dispatchers is providing the department with more options for keeping existing dispatchers current while filling the seat vacated by retiring members.

This month Dispatcher and long time Firefighter Walter Benz retired with more than 30 years of service with the Fire Department and to the city. The past two plus years Wally was one of the dispatchers on A Group. His steadfast commitment to doing the job and learning new tasks was an asset to the department and those he served. We wish Wally and his wife Doris, many happy healthy years of retirement spent watching Yankees baseball and Giants football. Thanks Walt, happy retirement!!



Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief