



C I T Y O F D A N B U R Y

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 March through 29 April and details activities of the Department.

As the recent Brushy Hill fire has illustrated and this report notes, Danbury can be subject to serious grass and brush fires that threaten buildings and lively hoods. We in the Fire Service ask that every one please use care when out doors and be especially aware of the dangerous environmental conditions.

All officers and acting officers were trained on the use of our new web-based training reporting system. This system will be a more efficient and accurate way to document our training. The program was developed in house by Firefighter Richard Gallagher who put in well over a hundred hours of his own time creating the system. The use of this will more accurately track our training in all the various categories. This is especially important as it will allow the Department to provide reports to the various agencies that require training documentation such as the FAA, OSHA and other State entities. The program is easy to learn and user friendly, a definite plus for integration into our procedures.

Over the past two years, the Department has acquired a number new apparatus. We will host an open house to provide an opportunity to the Common Council and public to view this new equipment. We will provide a picnic lunch to attendees and demonstrate some of the skills the department practices in the field. The date for the event is Saturday 28 June and the Rain date is Sunday 29 June.

Dates of Importance

26 May: Memorial Day Parade

28 June: Open House at Fire Headquarters

PREPLANNING/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Pre-Incident survey tours were conducted at 51 Main St, 30 Crosby St., 75 West St.(U-Haul) and Rivington Condos, Eastridge Condos on Nabby Rd., Riverbend Condos, Bear Mtn. Rd., Margerie Manor, Hamilton Dr., Wheeler Rd., Sconcet Park development off Clapboard Ridge, 55 Backus Ave. (Miller Stevenson facility).

Headquarters companies and E23 toured the Palace Theater as one of the theaters there is slated to open on May 20th, for the upcoming film festival downtown. Much work remains to be done at this historic venue.

We recently feted Training Officer Mark Omasta as the Rotary Club Fire Fighter of the Year at the Amber Room in Danbury. The dinner was well attended and Mark was properly recognized for the great job he his doing.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

Incident #1598. 5 Bells Lane. The cause of this fire in a vacant building remains undetermined. Early reporting of the fire resulted in a quick knockdown before any significant fire extended into the structure. On arrival wood siding was on fire on 2 floors with fire into the soffit and eaves.

Incident # 1561. Units responded to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Melrose Avenue and Osborne Street. The initial call indicated an accident with ensuing fire and possible entrapment. Two civilians came upon the accident, Danny Hayes and Val Cassola. At risk to him, Val Cassola got her out of the car and with Mr. Hayes, assisted in her treatment. These good Samaritans deserve this recognition.

Incident #1420. 12 E. Hayestown Rd.. An Easter Sunday morning fire ruined a planned family dinner but resulted in minimal damage thanks to quick action by the homeowner and her son with two small dry powder extinguishers. Apparently a candle ignited artificial flowers which in turn ignited curtains and then caused flash burning of flammable surfaces throughout the dining area. The quick knockdown saved the home from possible extensive damage. Notwithstanding sooty coatings, a large number of various collectibles survived the event.

Incident #1532. 6 Woodside Ave. An individual with poor fire safety habits regarding disposal of cigarette butts resulted in a fire which burned under wooden siding into a joist bay and affected some wiring. On scene fire personnel and Marshal Rickert emphasized the need to dispose of cigarettes properly.

Incident #1469. E23 responded to a transformer fire on Holley Lane. This incident escalated to involve the Health Dept, the electrical inspector and the Fire Marshal. Numerous code violations were discovered in this dangerous location. This incident gave E23 an inside and outside look at this occupancy, a bottling factory.

Incident #1844. On 18 April a seven acre Brush fire burned on Brushy Hill RD. 28 Units responded to the scene to control the fire. Crews prevented the fire from burning a radio tower and control building. All fire fighters worked hard to prevent damage to adjacent houses, radio towers and out buildings. Responding crews included mutual aid from Ridgefield and Bethel. The day was 82 degrees. This hot early spring day was quite taxing to Firefighters and dehydration resulted in several crew members receiving intravenous treatment to restore fluids and electrolytes in the field. These Firefighters then returned to the fight. One Firefighter was treated and released from the hospital. A note of special thanks from the owners of the WLAD and 98Q radio stations has been received. Thank you to all the Fire responders, Danbury, Bethel, Ridgefield and also to the EMS personnel who assisted in our re-hab procedures, keeping the crews on the line.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certifications requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes held while on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been bleeding and shock. During Emergency Medical Calls the seriousness of their injuries and the duration of time that passes until their injuries are treated are key factors that will determine how quickly shock develops and how deeply into shock they will go. The Danbury Fire Departments' First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of shock and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impacts patient survivability. Thru rapid deployment and the use of Basic and Advanced Life Support skills, firefighters can prevent organ failure, system failure and organism death.

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system, cross-trained firefighters that have the knowledge of these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to an Emergency Medical call. This advanced life support training coupled with the Danbury Fire Departments community education programs like CPR training and the "File of Life" has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Public Access Automatic External Defibrillators

The Danbury Fire Department, as an extension of our First Responder Program to increase the survivability of victims of sudden cardiac arrest in Danbury has deployed

AEDs in our school system and City Hall. The Department continues to maintain these Defibrillators and recently replaced seven sets of batteries and pads which had expired.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Training/Personnel

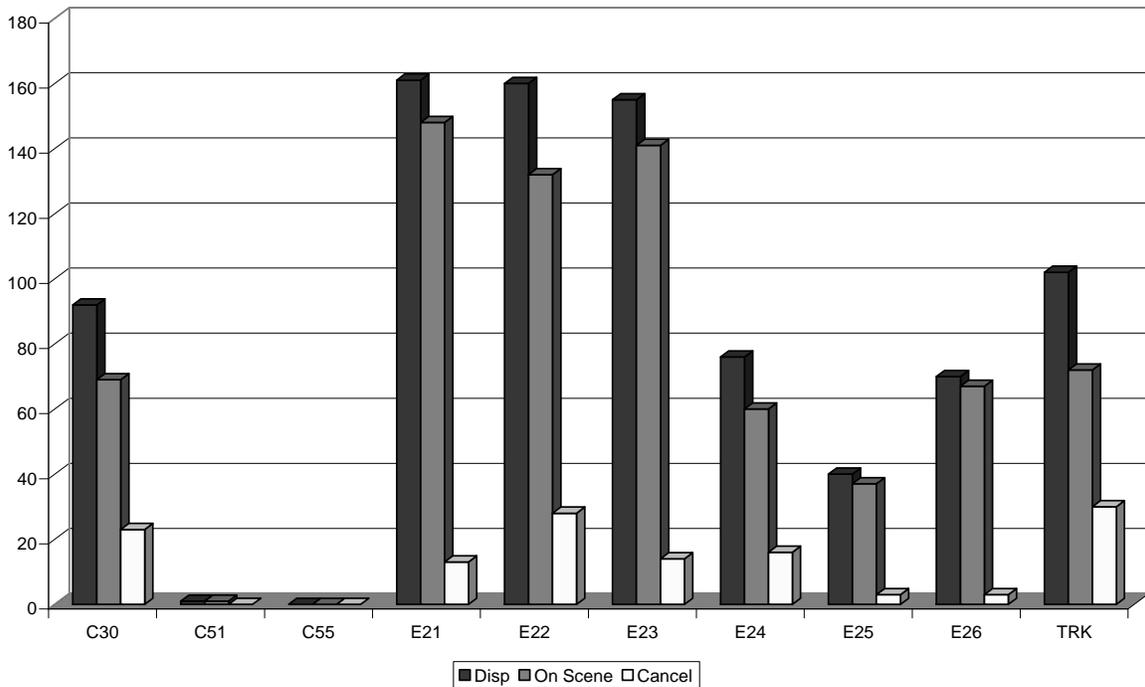
Additional members have been signed off as qualified for dispatching duties and have begun to serve in this capacity. This trend of training and certification of newer dispatchers is providing the department with more options for keeping existing dispatchers current while filling the seat vacated by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

Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	31
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	288
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	31
Service Call (500-571)	40
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	34
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	82
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	6
Total Fire Responses	514
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2596
Abandoned 911 Calls	378
Cellular 911 Calls	1084
911 Hang Up Calls	829
Admin Calls Received	880
Police Calls via 911	311
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	179
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	304
Daily Average	92.71
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	514
Total EMS Responses	654
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	279
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	260
No Patient (CAD 62)	115
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	6

**** NOTE ****

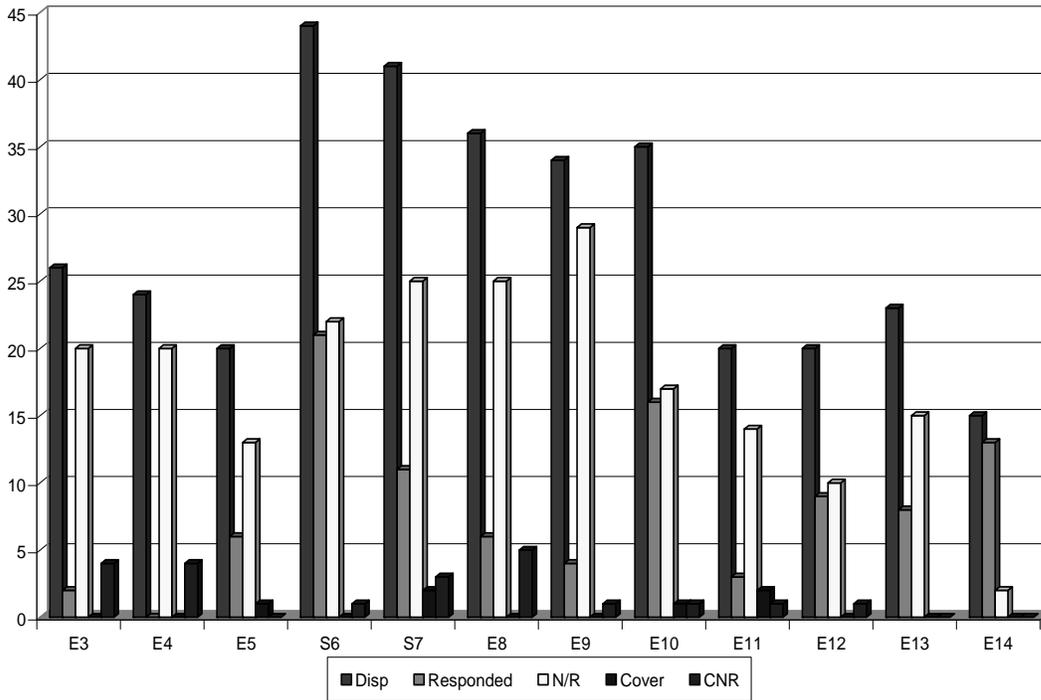
Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS Incidents are attached to Fire Incident Reports

**Career Company Response
March 20 to April 20, 2008**

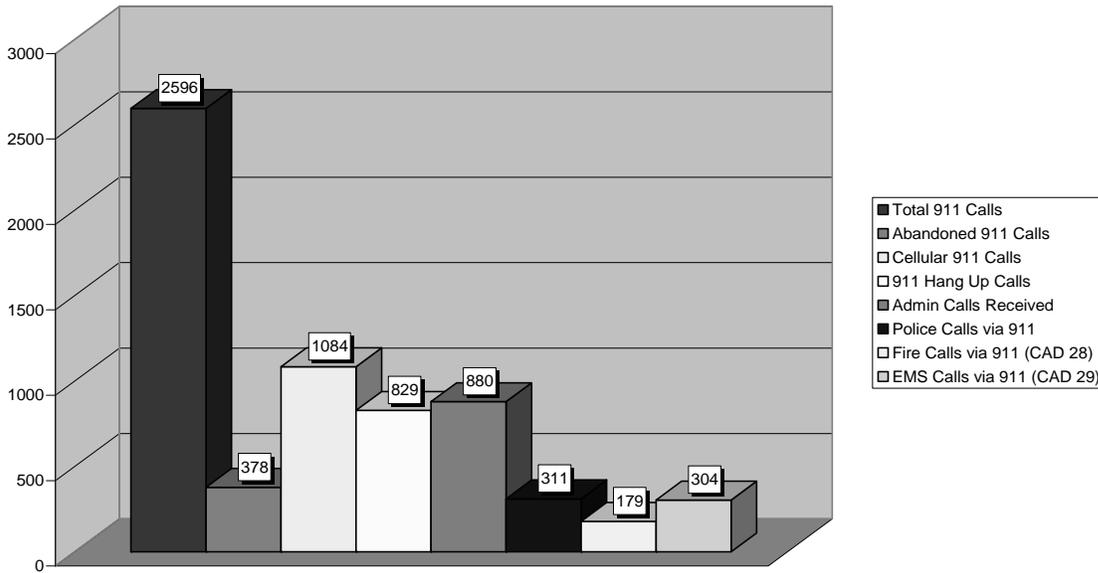


This month long time Dispatcher and Firefighter Thomas Lynch retired with more than 28 years of service with the Fire Department and to the city. 'Moose' as he is well known throughout the city, served as a 911 dispatcher since the activation of 911 Services in Connecticut. As a dispatcher Tom was a tremendous asset to the department. His ability to handle more than one incident at a time was a great asset. Over his career on the fire ground Tom was credited with many feats of strength and he also served as an acting Lieutenant on C Group. While Moose is leaving the department, he will remain active in the community with his activities as an Industrial Softball League umpire, a pass-time he has enjoyed for many years. The members of the Communications Division wish Tom and his wife Christy continued health and happiness. Thanks!

**Volunteer Call Counts
March 20 to April 20, 2008**



**911 Center Activity
March 20 to April 20, 2008**



	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% Response
E-3	26	0	4	2	20	23%
E-4	24	0	4	0	20	17%
E-5	20	1	0	6	13	35%
S-6	44	0	1	21	22	50%
S-7	41	2	3	11	25	39%
E-8	36	0	5	6	25	31%
E-9	34	0	1	4	29	15%
E-10	35	1	1	16	17	51%
E-11	20	2	1	3	14	30%
E-12	20	0	1	9	10	50%
E-13	23	0	0	8	15	35%
E-14	15	0	0	13	2	87%
Totals	338	6	21	99	212	37%

Training - Mark Omasta

Work continued at our property at the Fire School facility on Plumtrees Road. The Public Works Dept. was a tremendous help as they provided equipment and manpower to level a portion of our property that was otherwise unusable. This added area will allow much improved access to our burn building for our apparatus and personnel.

The use of the Fire School Facility continues to grow. The facility is not only used for the burn building but for pump operator training, vehicle extrication drills and other evolutions. We trained with the Airport Crash rescue vehicle at the school this month to familiarize our firefighters with the foam fire suppression equipment capabilities of that apparatus. Volunteer Eng. 10 utilized the school for "live" interior burns and vehicle extrication training.

The Volunteer Firefighter I class is nearing completion with the CT state practical test scheduled for 3 May. The students completed the required Haz Mat Operational class as part of the Firefighter 1 training this month. Volunteer Firefighter Robson Chavez Sr.

from Independent Hose Company #4 passed his written exam and is now a certified FF1.

Pump Operator testing and evaluation was successfully completed by FF Seth Ambruso. He joins the list of recently certified pump operators/drivers. Pump Operator drafting drills continue for all crews.

Recruit Firefighters

Our six recruit firefighters are 10 weeks into their training at the Connecticut Fire Academy and are doing well. The graduation date is scheduled for May 22.

College Credits

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

Fire Officer 1

Two of our firefighters, Shawn McGee and Gary Bruce successful passed the required exams and are now State certified Fire Officer 1.

National Fire Academy

We were able to send 12 of our Officers and Firefighters to attend Connecticut Weekend at the NFA in Emmitsburg Maryland the weekend of April 11-13. These individuals attended 16 hours of National Fire Academy sponsored classes of various topics.

Other Training Activities/Meetings by the Training Officer

The Training Officer attended the week long Fire Dept Instructors Conference in Indianapolis. He participated in live training evolutions and classroom workshops. The FDIC is the largest Fire Dept conference world wide with some 28,000 participants. The latest in training techniques and technology and safety is presented during the week long conference.

The T.O. attended a "Permit required Confined Space" class given by CT OSHA.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. We had a failure of the LEL sensor in E-26 meter. Apparently the meter was exposed to a form of silicone that damaged the LEL sensor. We received a new sensor under warranty and replaced the damaged one. All of the departments' meters are fully functional.

The department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We normally have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service. Many of these packs or air bottles are

approaching the end of their usability due to constraints of OSHA and other regulatory agencies. We will need to replace these in coming budget cycles.

We removed TRK-1 from service in order to replace the front brakes. A damaged brake caliper needed replacement. This unit had to be shipped from Germany as it is of a newer design and local stocks did not have one available. When it arrived it was damaged and had to be returned. We eventually received the replacement and installed it and placed the truck back in service.

E-24 received a new fuel tank. We replaced the motor on the turret "gun" on the Airport truck and serviced this unit while it was here at Headquarters. We performed a complete service of all of the departments Hurst Tool equipment including lubrication of rams, jaws and cutters as well as pressure testing of all power heads and hoses. We replaced several hoses, all safety decals and performed engine service to all units. These units are used for vehicle extrication in addition to other fire ground use.

We delivered the Decontamination trailer to Nichols Fire Apparatus to have an annual service performed. We had Danbury Auto Spring replace the left rear spring pack on R-1. We also serviced the pump transmission on this unit and the Prime Mover where we replaced the left front wheel seal. We replaced the siren floor switch in E-25. and repaired a water leak in E-21's pump. The division serviced the Deputy Chief, Training Officer, and the Fire Marshalls' cars. We assisted Utility Communications with the installation of a new radio in E-25. We removed the plow from our pickup and "summerized" both it and our snow blower. We assisted Ridgefield Fire and E-14 at the fire off of Brushy Hill Rd. We removed the floor in the inflatable boat and cleaned the debris out of the area and re-installed the floor noting that one section of floor will need to be replaced in the near future. The motor was run at this same time.

We performed the final night of air mask Fit Testing for the Volunteer company members that had missed their scheduled Fit Testing date. We will be starting the annual Career Department fit testing once again sometime in August, with the Volunteers to follow.

Fire Prevention – Barry Rickert

TRAINING

Fire Marshal Rickert and Inspector Leach attended the annual Connecticut Fire Marshals Conference in Cromwell, CT. Among the topics of discussion was "how to deal with difficult people".

National Fire Academy

FM Rickert - Juvenile Fire setter Specialist 1, Insp. Leach - Specialist 2

Connecticut Fire Academy

All members of the Bureau attended the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.

Connecticut Department of Public Safety Office of Education and Data Management

Interviewing at Fire Investigations, DFM Gillotti, DFM Johnson, DFM Weber

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Danbury Hospital Children's Day - DFM Gillotti, DFM Weber

Putnam Towers - Safety Program - FM Rickert, Insp. Leach

Union Carbide Facility - Fire Safety, DFM Johnson, Insp. Leach

Broadview Middle School - Fire Prevention and Safety, FM Rickert, DFM Rao

Fuel Cell Technologies - Fire Extinguisher Training, DFM Gillotti, DFM Weber

Danbury Airport - Fire Extinguisher Training, DFM Johnson, DFM Weber

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Mankind Corporation, 1 Casper St. - Phase 1 complete C/O Issued

Danbury Ice Arena - Indoor Circus

Federal Rd. -Bob's Store Parking Lot - Carnival

Abatements/Reports/ (hrs): 79		<u>INSPECTIONS:</u>	
Ticket Issues in Fire Zones:	6	Place of Assembly:	24
Fire Investigation:	20	Educational:	12
Fatal Fires:	0	Businesses:	21
Liquor Inspections:	10	Storage:	0
Blasting Permits:	3	Health Care:	6
Complaints:	62*	Industrial:	2
Plan Review (hrs.):	144	Mercantile:	56
Fire Prevention Programs:	10	Residential Board & Care:	1
Orders of Abatement:	3	Hotels (units):	1
		Apartments:	44
		Day Care:	0
		Misc. Inspection:	40
		Special Structure & High Rise Bldg.:	5

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief