



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

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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 April 22 through May 27 and details activities of the Department.

Our annual hydrant testing program has begun. Our goal is to verify the usability of the City's hydrants. We check all the fittings and then check the operation of the opening mechanism. We do not flow a significant amount of water during the test. You will see the crews on the road through out the City.

Late last month on 28 April there was a response to Novella's scrap yard at 114 Triangle St. (incident #2029). 12 drums whose contents were unknown were dropped off at the yard on a Friday. The FD was not made aware of the situation until our Fire Marshal was notified on Monday. He responded, as did two members of the Health Dept. The Health Dept. investigated and determined there was very little liquid in only a couple of the drums. A reading was taken with a Photo Ionization Detector and reported a paint thinner-like odor at the bung of one of the drums. The Marshal requested a fire dept. response. E23, E24, C30 and HM team leader Rodriguez responded. After securing the scene and notifying DEP, A/C Omasta and HM leader Rodriguez decided to attempt classification of the product. On SCBA and in full protective clothing, holding litmus paper ahead of them, 2 FFs approached the drums, metering with 2 meters as they proceeded. With no readings they were able to dip a test strip into the

vapor space of one barrel, confirming HD assessment of low volatility as well as the likelihood of an organic solvent/distillate with weak corrosive properties. DEP arrived on the scene and were confident that the product was as indicated on the barrels, oil used in construction. Eventually, they decided to allow the scrap yard workers to vent and crush the drums. This event ended with little fanfare.

This incident serves to identify a role for the Fire Service that is becoming increasingly familiar. We are responding to calls that are often not fire related but of a much broader nature. We must be prepared to respond to “all hazards” including Fire, rescue, chemical, terrorist and natural disasters. These responsibilities have created high demands on the service, our equipment and training of our personnel. As we strive to meet these demands, we must balance the needs of the community and the budgetary restrictions we face in this time of reduced revenues.

A special note in this regard is the recent completion of a 6 day course presented to 23 Members of the Department. The State of Connecticut requires that any Firefighter wishing to be certified in any of a number of rescue classifications first complete this course known as the rescue technician CORE class. It is the plan for the Danbury Fire Department that our members become certified in these disciplines. The members of the Department who participated in this CORE program did so on their own time with out pay. The department paid only for the instructors and the necessary texts for the program. It is with great admiration for their dedication and professionalism that I relate this to you. In the coming months we will move forward with our training and certification. These members and others will form the basis of specialized teams to respond to rescue situations in the City and with our mutual aid partners. This effort on the part of the firefighters indicates the dedication and willingness to work for betterment of the department and our citizens.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Our pre-incident planning this month included Brookview Commons, the Library Place Parking Garage, Martha Apartments, WCSU downtown campus' Science building Neighborhood familiarizations include Pocono Lane, Sunrise, Charcoal Ridge, Bittersweet, Woodside Ave, Eden Dr. and Huntington Court, the northern end of Middle River Rd. to Aunt Hack Rd. as well as East King St. and East Lake. Units also

acquainted themselves with the Kensington Woods complex on Larson Rd., Tanglewood to Joes Hill to N.Y. and Milltown to Settlers Hill and High Meadow Hill.

Lt. Lori Arconti once again fronted the efforts to present the annual mock Crash scenario at Danbury High School. She completed the planning, setup and delivery of the Mock DUI Crash presentation. The Department's newest vehicle, Squad 1, was featured in the event this year. Other Department members assisting in the Crash included FF Monteavaro, FF Rogers, FF McGowan and Communication Supervisor Pat Sniffin.

Tours of our facilities were presented to a number of groups including King St. Nursery School and Brookfield's Prince of Peace Nursery School.

Assistant Chief Charly Slagle and Fire Fighter John Kennedy had the honor of being drivers in President Bush's motorcade on April 25, 2008. They drove the White House Press Corps from Bradley Airfield field to Hartford and back. Their vans were just a couple of cars behind the President's limousine. And nothing bad ensued.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 5/07 units responded to a house fire on Tanglewood Dr. This is a single family home. On arrival heavy fire was evident. Residents were all out having self evacuated. No injuries were reported but the home suffered heavy damage.

On 5/12 we responded to an AFA (Automatic Fire Alarm) at the Sheraton and found an over heating problem in the cell phone equipment room on the roof. Not only were we able to prevent a fire, quick action by E26 and the Truck company allowed us to cool off the equipment and get the air handling equipment back on-line, preventing a major outage of 6 different Cell companies. It is always our goal to preserve business continuity when possible and keeping these communications systems operational is vital to our community.

On 5/13 units responded to a structure fire at 46 Mill Plain Rd. This was a commercial building of 2 ½ floors. The fire was heavily involved on arrival. Crews held the fire and successfully extinguished it. No injuries were reported but several businesses were stopped or interrupted. Though power was temporarily shut off to the Prespa restaurant, the losses were minimized and the restaurant was able to reopen after three days. This business interruption was kept to a minimum by the aggressive firefighting performed and the restaurant is able to continue serving the community.

On 5/17 we responded to a vehicle extrication at 113 Mill Plain Road. E26, E22, the Truck, DPD, BSI, and Danbury Ambulance were all involved. It appears all victims had minor/moderate injuries but once again everyone performed with alacrity and professional skill to ensure the victims were cared for and handled with respect and treated in a timely fashion. The swift work ensured that the injured were rapidly removed and treated and that Mill Plain Road was reopened to traffic.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certification requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes presented 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 Soft Tissue and Musculo-Skeletal Trauma.

Although these types of injuries are the most common they also can have the greatest impact on the patient as a whole. The mechanism of injury and the amount of kinetic energy that is transferred to the patient during the accident will determine the extent of injury to the patient and what body systems or functions are compromised.

The Danbury Fire Departments First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of Emergency Medical treatments and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impacts patient survivability. Thru rapid deployment and the use of Basic Life Support 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. In our system, cross-trained firefighters are rapidly deployed to an Emergency Medical call increasing the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

Community Education:

Babysitter's class: The Danbury Fire Department, in cooperation with Danbury Hospital, offered to Danbury Middle school students the opportunity to learn basic First Aid and accident prevention skills. The EMS Coordinator provided the First Aid lecture and Lieutenant Lori Arconti presented the rescue breathing lecture.

Haz-Mat Team

The Danbury Fire Department continues to improve its ability to respond to Haz-Mat calls in the City of Danbury and as a part of the Northwest Regional Haz-Mat Team. The Danbury Battalion has been designated as the metering and monitoring component of the team which puts us in the position to receive cutting edge technology meters such as the Ahura Defender Raman Spectroscopy meter which we have recently received through a CDAP grant. This meter has the capability to identify unknown chemical compounds such as the type encountered during white power calls, but is even more effective in identifying liquid chemical compounds. Members of the Haz-mat team have been trained with this meter at the new Western CT. University Science Building with the assistance of their Health and Safety Department.

Fire Marshal - Barry Rickert

This is the report of the Fire Marshal for the period covering April 20, 2008 to and including May 17, 2008.

Abatements/Reports (hrs.):	102
Tickets Issues in Fire Zones:	1
Fire Investigation:	19
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	22
Blasting Permits:	1
Complaints:	54*
Plan Review (hrs.):	118
Fire Prevention Programs:	9
Orders of Abatement:	3

* Resolved or in process of being resolved.

INSPECTIONS:

Place of Assembly:	61
Educational:	5
Businesses:	35
Storage:	0
Health Care:	9
Industrial:	5
Mercantile:	59
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotels (units):	78
Apartments:	260
Day Care:	2
Misc. Inspection:	77
Special Structure &	
High Rise Bldg.:	0
Office Duty (hrs.):	160

TRAINING:

All members of the Fire Marshal's office continue to update their training. Fire Marshal Rickert and Inspector Leach attended the Simplex Grinnell 2008 "Road Show" outlining new fire protection technology in Cromwell, CT.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

All members of the Fire Marshal's office assisted in various phases of the Danbury Hospital Babysitters Program including rescue breathing and fire safety.

Fire Marshal Rickert and Deputy Marshal Rao presented certification of achievement and appreciation to two local students for their fine artwork in our Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES:

Our office worked closely with City Center and local entities to move forward with the Connecticut Film Festival.

Mankind – Phase II construction is moving forward "on time."

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Training

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. At the present time there are 53 department members that have been certified by the state as Emergency Telecommunicators. Each of these members also holds certificates in the advanced techniques of Emergency Medical Dispatch.

System Activity

911 call volumes continue to trend upward. For the third month in a row 911 call volume has increased, this month with an average of 99.82 calls per day received on 911 trunks. Although 911 calls are up, monthly incident activities have actually decreased slightly.

During this reporting period there were incidents of significance that tested both responders and 911 Center personnel. Structure fires on Tanglewood Drive and Mill Plain Road both held the potential for both occupant and responder injury. The Mill Plain Road incident attracted media attention from several regional media outlets, resulting in a number of calls to the PSAP for information.

Additionally during this period, relief dispatchers FF Terry Timan and FF Matt Silk teamed up to successfully provide life saving rescue breathing instructions and simultaneous dispatch to a resident who was reporting that her 12 month old child was not breathing. Due to their efforts and calm professionalism this child was in fact breathing on the arrival of Engine 21 and EMS crews. This call is truly a testament to the superior service offered by Dispatchers, 1st Responders and EMS crews within the City of Danbury.

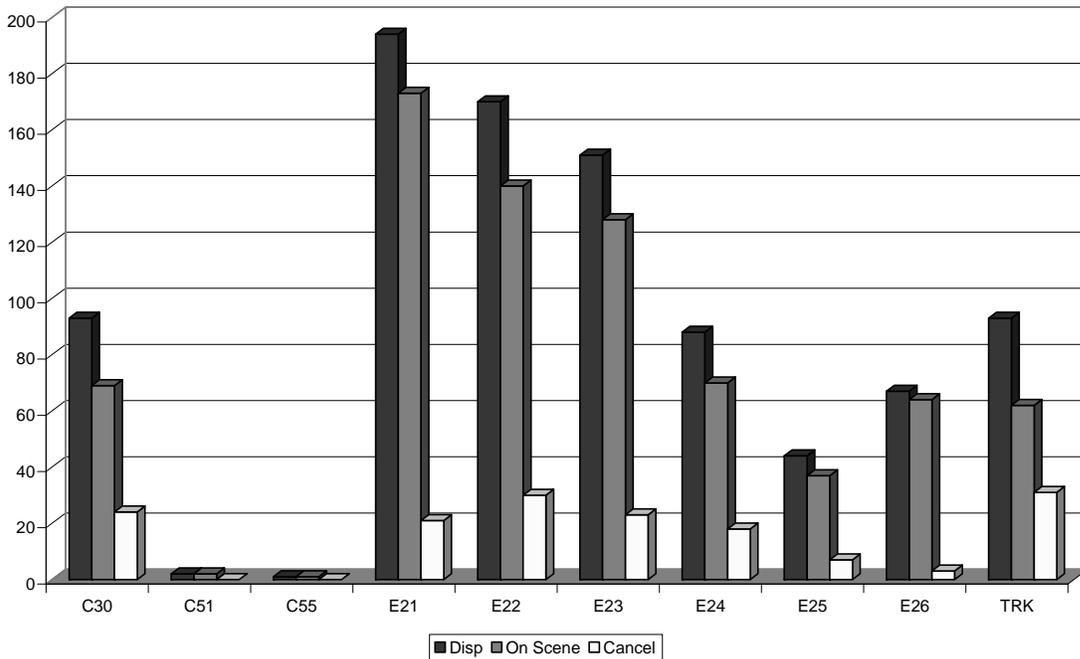
Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	34
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	1
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	315
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	42
Service Call (500-571)	29
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	55
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	85
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	4
Total Fire Responses	565
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2795
Abandoned 911 Calls	382
Cellular 911 Calls	1142
911 Hang Up Calls	258

Admin Calls Received	808
Police Calls via 911	305
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	208
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	335
Daily Average	99.82
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	565
Total EMS Responses	692
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	307
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	272
No Patient (CAD 62)	113
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	4
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	18

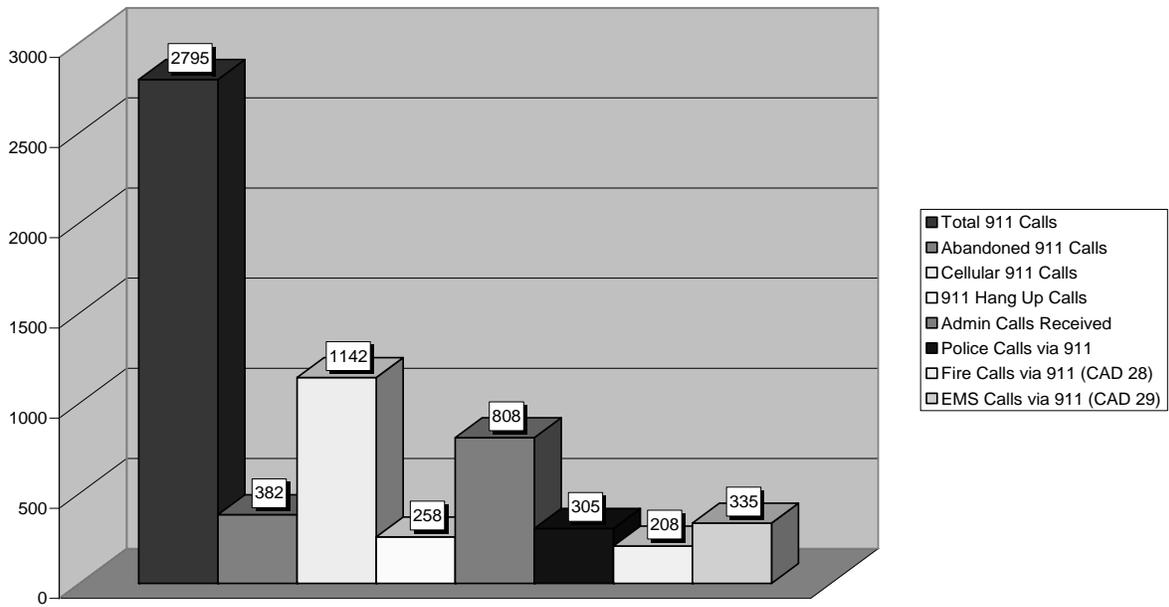
**** NOTE ****

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

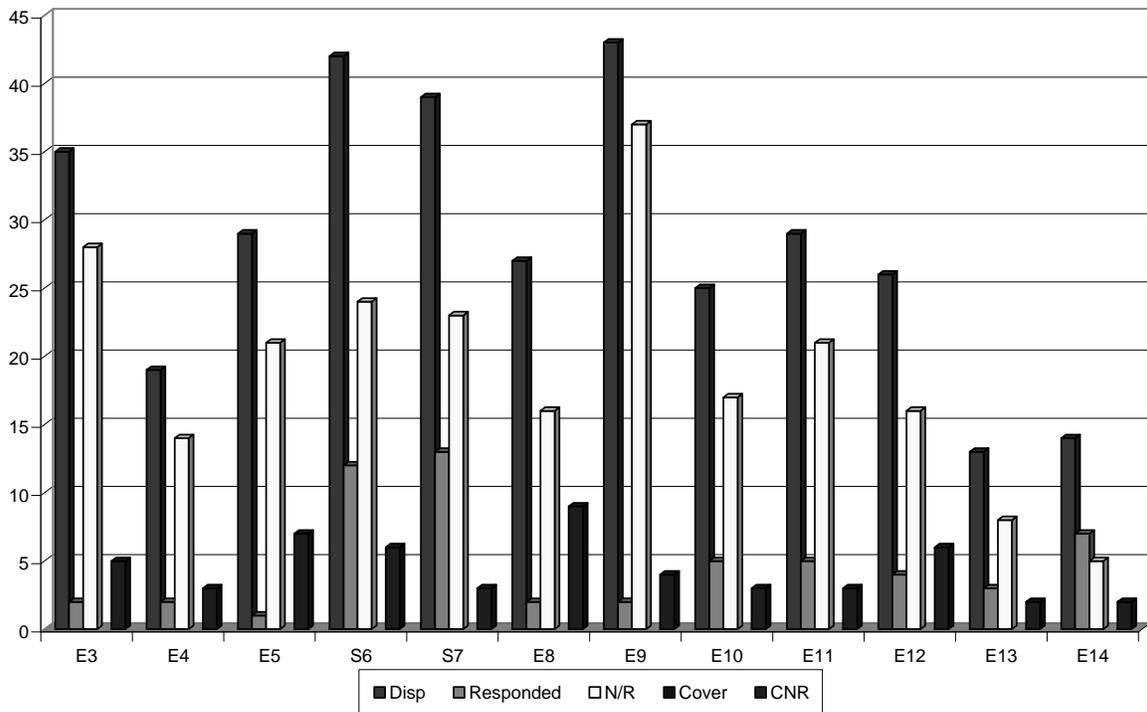
**Career Company Response
April 21 to May 21, 2008**



**911 Center Activity
April 21 to May 21, 2008**



**Volunteer Call Counts
April 21 to May 21, 2008**



Training - Mark Omasta

All crews are training with the new Multi-purpose Rescue vehicle, concentrating on driver training and getting familiar with all of the operating systems and the multitude of specialized rescue equipment onboard this specialty rig. This truck is a valuable resource and will enhance our ability to perform a variety of technical rescues. It was utilized already at a multi-vehicle crash on I-84.

To enhance and expand our rescue capabilities, we hosted a 6 day (48 hr) State Fire Academy certification class called Rescue Technician-Core. This course is designed to introduce the student to the job performance requirements of NFPA 1006 Rescue Technician. This program is a prerequisite for all technical rescue certification courses, such as Confined Space, Trench and Vehicle Extrication. The final exam for the 21 Rescue-core students is May 23.

The Volunteer Firefighter 1 State Practical Exam was held on May 3 at the Fire School and the Beaver Brook Vol. Fire Dept. All sixteen students passed the practical portion of the certification Exam. The written exam is scheduled for Thursday May 22.

We held another EVOC class (Emergency Vehicle Operations) for the Volunteer Division on May 4 at the Beaver Brook Volunteer Fire station. That class was well attended and means that over 90% of the Volunteer force is compliant with this important training. The State Fire Academy reports that the Danbury Fire Department is the most pro-active department in the state in regards to Vehicle safety training.

Second quarter training for the Volunteers has been scheduled for late May into June.

Fire School- Plumtrees Rd.

Sewer and Water lines were hooked up to our classroom at the Fire School this past month by Pembroke Pumping, who generously donated the equipment and labor. We will soon have a functioning bathroom! The Earthmovers Company also donated equipment and labor to prepare an area for a concrete pad. This pad will be used for vehicle extrication evolutions.

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

Recruit Firefighters

Our six recruit firefighters successfully completed their grueling 14 weeks at the CT Fire Academy. The graduation ceremony is on Thursday May 22 in Hartford. These recruits will be assigned a crew and start on shift the week of 25 May.

College Courses

The Naugatuck Valley Community College Spring course "Building Construction" has ended. 20 students successfully completed this 3 credit class towards a degree in Fire Technology. We will offer at least one class at Headquarters for the 2008 fall semester.

We utilized the Charles Bardo parking garage for a major standpipe operations drill on Sunday May 18. This was a combined training/public service evolution as the crews washed down the construction and winter salt/sand from the garage.

FAA inspection

The FAA was in Danbury for the annual inspection of the Airport on April 23 and 24. The Inspector reviewed our training records and we successfully completed the Practical skills test at the Airport with the Airport Crash Truck.

Our department hosted a Connecticut OSHA permit required Confined Space Class at Hatter's Park on April 23. This was a three hour class on Confined Space regulations and awareness taught for no charge by CONN OSHA.

Other Training Activities/Meetings by the Training Officer

The Training Officer was called out as a Safety Officer to structure fires at Tanglewood Drive and Mill Plain Road.

Critiques were held for the large brush Fire at Tarrywile and the structure fire on Tanglewood.

Other meetings/events:

Attended the April monthly meeting of the Volunteer Council.

Attended the retirement dinner for Walter Benz.

Assisted the baby sitters class at the hospital with Rescue Breathing

Visited the recruits and joined them in Live Fire evolutions at the Springfield Mass. Burn facility.

Attended the "MOCK CRASH" at Danbury High School on April 30.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following is a list of some of the highlights and activities of the month for the Apparatus Division. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. All of the departments' meters are fully functional. These meters are used in a variety of situations including Fire over haul, Carbon Monoxide metering, smell of gas calls and other Hazardous Materials responses. In addition, we use these as a primary source for below grade and confined space metering. These are a vital piece in our arsenal.

The department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We regularly 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 are becoming more seriously

outdated. We plan to replace the older packs which no longer meet the requirements of the NFPA and OSHA over the next budget cycles.

We serviced the Assistant Chiefs car as well as the Chiefs car. In addition, as normal ongoing maintenance we replaced the turn signal/headlight/windshield wiper switch in 97F2. We replaced both front tires on Truck 1 as well as repaired the exhaust system. We replaced the engine cooling fan in Truck 2 due to some physical damage as well as some stress fractures. We also replaced all of the engine drive belts. We repaired the light bar on E-24, E-25 and Truck 1 and the chain saw from E-24. We ordered and replaced the whip hoses on the Departments Bauer Air compressor. We finished the installation on the two way radio in Squad 1 as well as numerous other items in order to place this new unit into service. We also performed an "in service" for the on duty crews as to the proper operation of the air compressor, light tower, awnings and other related equipment. We repaired the front warning lights on Truck 1 as well as the left side scene light, serviced the fuel and air systems and replaced a defective radiator hose. We repaired the driver's door latch, an antifreeze leak and performed a brake inspection and adjustment on E-22. As of today's date we are awaiting the arrival of some replacement parts.

This past month we cleaned out the Apparatus Divisions side of our large storage unit. This was a very time consuming project but was well worth it. By doing this, we were able to move our small tire inventory into our trailer so that the inter-modal unit may be repositioned to better serve the Departments needs.

We repaired the Diesel fuel pump here at Headquarters and we are replacing the broken window in Truck 1's bay door. We repaired

Dates of Importance

28 June City Fire Service Day. Headquarters and volunteer stations will sponsor open houses. Please come and see the latest in the City Fire Department inventories. Bring your families. Rain Date will be 29 June, Sunday.

Fire Department open house, 0900 to 1400 9am to 1 pm, 19 New Street, HQ