



# **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 City of Danbury Fire Department. This report covers the period of 28 May through 24 June, 2008 and details certain activities of the Department.

As we enter into the summer months please be sure to take proper precautions for the seasons' activities. Swim only in water you know to be free of under water obstructions and snags. Never swim alone. Never leave children unattended near pools or open water. If a child is missing, please check the water first rather than losing precious minutes searching other less hazardous areas. Learn CPR and rescue breathing. Protect your self and your children with sunscreen and remember to drink fluids to keep hydrated.

When grilling out doors, never allow children near the hot stove or grill. Be especially vigilant with starter fluids and open flame. Propane is a useful and safe tool when used properly and safely. Maintain your propane tanks and grills to ensure safe operations. Check all fittings for wear and do not fill old tanks.

A primary focus of the department beyond our fire suppression and response activities is to provide the best customer service possible. As you read this report, I ask that you pay special attention to the descriptions of the actions the department members have taken to assist members of the public. We are called on repeatedly to perform actions that require small effort yet can have a huge impact on our citizens. Over the past months, I have illustrated a number of these activities. The members of the Fire Department take great pride in our ability to assist people outside of our normal interactions.

Of special importance to the Department, we are saying fare well to two members this month. On 24 June, Lieutenant Robert Blantin retired after 29 ½ years. We wish Bob and his wife Donna a long prosperous and healthy retirement. Thank you, Lieutenant Blantin, for your years of dedicated service.

Please join me in wishing Fire Marshal Barry Rickert good luck in his retirement. Barry has served our citizens for 34 years and seven months. His stewardship of the Fire Marshals office has been one of dedication and loyalty. We wish Barry and his wife Judy a happy, healthy and restful retirement.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

An elderly female was traveling alone when her gas tank fell out of her car at Exit 8. Her car was towed and E24 cleaned up the spill. She was transported to the Train station so that she could get back to her New York apartment.

E24 and C30 assisted a family with a horse and trailer who had a flat tire. The husband was handicapped and the spare was bad. E24 and C30 were able to find a new valve stem and break the bead on the rim. Once the stem was replaced they were able to get the family and horse home to New York safely.

The first grades of Hayestown and Stadley Rough Schools toured HQ and were presented Fire Safety talks.

Crews presented two tours at HQ for 10 adults from "Ability Beyond Disability." Several companies rotated through the day at Stop & Shop, 72 Newtown Rd., for Re-Opening Day. Many children, young and not so young climbed aboard our trucks.

E21 and E22 crews gave a tour of headquarters to 60 third graders and 8 adults from Roberts Ave. School.

Lt. Daly also conducted a "History of Danbury" tour of the FD for 60 third graders from Pembroke Elementary School.

E23 and E24 assisted the Marshal's office at Wal-Mart's Family Safety Day. Fire prevention information, kid's helmets and advice were provided, as well as fire extinguisher demonstrations and training for store employees.

### **Pre-incident planning**

Pre incident tours of the following occupancies were taken: Court Yard by Marriot, 61 Newtown Road, Boston Gardens, Loews Theater, Brookview Apartments.

Crews toured Henry Abbott Technical School with maintenance and contractor representatives as the construction continues.

### **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE**

There was an extraordinary response for this period. This was a large scale operation at bomb threats at King St. Intermediate School and Danbury High School. This response involved DFD, our Haz-Mat Team, DPD, Health, Building, School Depts. and State PD and DEP and FBI. The activation of the City Emergency Operations Center was necessary. The resulting actions were well executed and effective.

Units responded to a structure fire at 50 Elm Street: All hands made an aggressive attack and were able to limit the damage to a small area in the rear of the shop. Heavy smoke damage to the contents but little damage to the building

was noted. This attack on the fire prevented serious damage to the structure, saving the building and allowing the use of the structure to continue. During overhaul numerous code violations were noted and then passed on to the Fire Marshals' office and the building department.

A multi-vehicle accident on I-84 at Exit 7 Eastbound required several units to mitigate. There were several people to be extricated at the same time. This incident again illustrates the Departments' ability to effectively work in several capacities at a scene including medical treatment, traffic and scene control and extrication.

On 13 June a near drowning occurred. Engine 22 responded to the scene. A child had removed his life vest and then sunk to the bottom of the pool. Bystanders removed him to the pool side before the Engine Company arrived. The child was treated by the Engine crew and DHCA staff. This scene ended with the child recovering after transportation to the hospital.

A very significant response of note this month was a propane leak at HOCON, on Payne Rd. While filling a 30,000 gallon fixed propane tank from a 9000 gallon tank truck, the driver reported a failure of a braided stainless steel pipe connector in piping coming from the large tank. He was not using that piping at the time of the failure, as it was for pumping into company trucks at the loading dock. On arrival of Engine 24 to investigate a leak which employees reported as shut off, Lt. Arconti discovered that the flow from the large tank was, in fact, not shut off. Although there was an emergency shutoff in the yard, it was apparently not activated. Actually, it appears as though someone, instead, shut down the nitrogen gas used to actuate the emergency. An electrical switch adjacent to the emergency gas shutoff controlled power to the pumps in the vicinity of the leak. It was not shut off either. Initial reports indicated that, potentially, 15000 gallons of propane may have been released.

Lt. Arconti called for a full response with that information. Her crew then proceeded to meter the affected area and shut off valves on the large tank, effectively eliminating the leak. But a considerable amount of gas had gone down slope to Old Sherman Turnpike. Luckily, it was 6:06 in the morning when we responded, and there were few exposed individuals. Engine 23 evacuated the affected occupancies as they metered their way down grade following a swale under high tension wires heading toward the old Viking Wire. Our meters indicated up to 60% of the lower explosive limit at J&J Pool. Lt. Plank reported that and evacuated those employees in the area on foot, although he and his crew encountered unusual attitudes. The Truck metered all other lower affected areas including Industrial Plaza, 105-107 Newtown Rd. and Wal-mart and found no evidence of the propane. The Danbury Police Department assisted through out the operation. Even with no wind and heavy air, the gas dissipated in about an hour and all returned to normal, with DEP and the Marshal's office investigating the cause as well as safety and training issues found at both Hocon and J&J Pools. Once again multiple City of Danbury and State agencies responded to an emergency situation and cooperatively dealt successfully with the issue.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZMAT - Rey Rodriguez**

## **EMS Wednesday**

The continuous training program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet EMS re-certification requirements of the Danbury Fire Departments First Responder program. These classes held while Firefighters are on duty, ensure firefighters stay proficient with these lifesaving skills.

The focus of this months training has been Pharmacology and Anaphylaxis's. Pharmacology is the study of medications; their sources, characteristics and the effects the medications have on the patient, while anaphylaxis, the human body's exaggerated allergic reaction to an allergen can be a true life threatening condition if not properly treated.

The Danbury Fire Departments First Responder EMT/EMT-IVs are trained to quickly assess the patient, immediately treat life threatening conditions and determine whether the patient needs assistance with administering their all ready prescribed medications, or if they would benefit from the medications that the EMT/EMT-IV are allowed to administer under standing orders from medical control. The First Responder needs to needs to recognize the desired effects of the interventions that have been administered and at the same time to be prepared to treat the side effects associated with certain medications.

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 the scene of an emergency medical call.

### **Region Five Haz-Mat Team**

Twenty Mark One Organophosphates poisoning kits have been received by the Fire Department from The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. These kits are intended to be deployed on our First Responders Apparatus in event of an exposure to nerve agents in a Terrorist attack.

The Department is 100% compliant with the training required by Homeland Security for the disbursement of the Mark One Kits with the last training class on A group on 6/12/08.

### **Community Involvement**

On June 6<sup>th</sup> EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator met with officials from Western Ct. University to discuss the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the need for an emergency incident plan which would identify key individuals and mesh with The Danbury Fire Departments Incident Command System during Emergency operations. The meeting concluded with an agreement from both Agencies to work cooperatively in addressing these needs, the Fire Department providing its expertise and knowledge and the University providing its facilities for joint training and exercises.

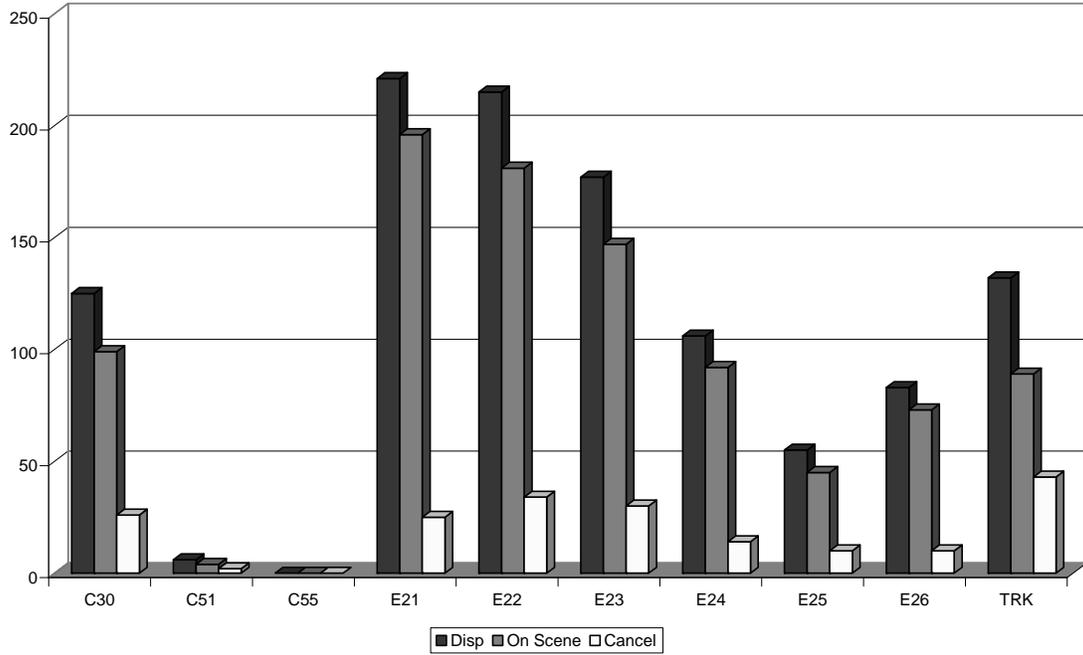
## Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>23</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>3</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>348</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>70</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>54</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>54</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>107</b>
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>0</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>1</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>667</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>3117</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>406</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>1417</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	<b>839</b>
Admin Calls Received	<b>1119</b>
Police Calls via 911	<b>295</b>
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	<b>205</b>
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	<b>323</b>
Daily Average	<b>103.90</b>
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	<b>667</b>
Total EMS Responses	<b>754</b>
Unknown Transport Status	<b>5</b>
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	<b>331</b>
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	<b>322</b>
No Patient (CAD 62)	<b>96</b>
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	<b>8</b>
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	<b>27</b>

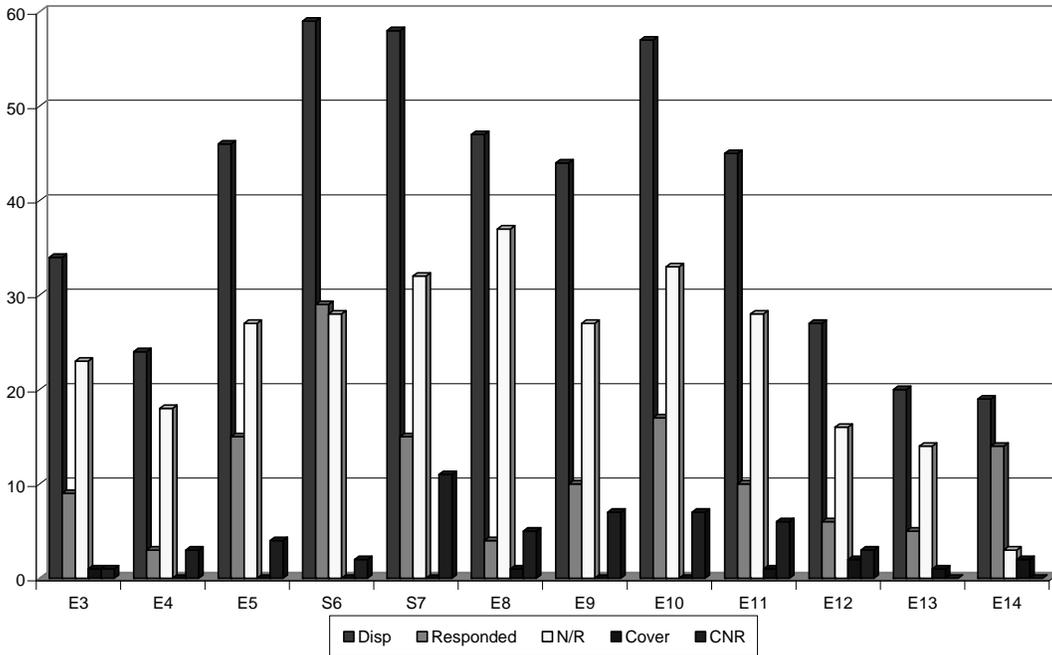
**\*\* NOTE \*\***

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

**Career Company Response**  
**May 22 to June 22, 2008**



**Volunteer Call Counts**  
**May 22 to June 22, 2008**



## **Communications 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 certified Dispatchers current while filling the seat vacated by retiring members.

Additional Firefighters from B Group and D Group were approved as relief dispatchers. Several more members are soon to follow. During the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, FF John Osborne and FF Justin Bierbower are attending the Basic Emergency Telecommunicator Class for their certification as 911 Emergency Telecommunicators.

## **System Activity**

911 call volumes continue to trend upward. During this period the average of 101 911 calls is a new high for daily activity.

During this reporting period there were several large thunderstorms that left the city quite saturated but no worse for the wear. Several reports of stranded motorists were handled as well a few instances of reported lightning strikes.

## **Equipment**

Pagers used to alert the career fire stations are beginning to fail. These units, originally purchased in the late 80's, are slated to be replaced as soon as possible. These pagers and pager bases are no longer manufactured and the availability of repair parts is virtually non-existent. This equipment was manufactured in the same era as our current radio consoles which are also subject to increasing failures due to age. Plans must be put in place for replacement of our vital communication equipment. These units represent the primary means of communicating with units in the field and represent a significant a health and safety factor to the Department, Volunteer and Career.

## **Training - Mark Omasta**

Training for the month included the following: response to Hybrid/Hydrogen vehicles, EMS Allergic reactions, Mark 1 Kits, Aircraft Rescue Parachutes by Cirrus Corp, Apparatus Driver Training, Advancing hand lines, Pump Operations and Physical Training.

Critiques of responses included the Elm Street Fire and the bomb threats at our school.

Crews evaluated demo nozzles and hose for proposed high rise pack revision, ground ladder operations and engine company operations.

Rescue Tech members all passed their written and practical tests.

Many members attended the Connecticut Fire Academy June Fire School.

Chief Herald taught 2 programs at June school. The Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing and the Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombings are the classes presented.

Several members of the Department have completed the NVCC Building Construction Class. The encouraged participation in these classes is helping to build a cadre of properly educated Firefighters. College programs such as this ensure that the Danbury Fire Department will continue to be prepared to meet the demands of the ever changing fire and emergency services industry.

### **Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo**

The following are some of the highlights of the activities of the Apparatus Division.

All of the Departments BioSystem meters are fully functional.

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. With some of our older air packs, this is becoming increasingly difficult and time consuming. Our plans call for the replacement of packs over the coming budget cycles. Significant changes have occurred in Air-Pak technology and the new units meet the latest NFPA codes. We assigned new Scott Air Pack masks to our recent hires. Their issued masks were damaged at the Fire Academy in the flash over simulator.

Last month we spent a considerable amount of time cleaning out the Apparatus Divisions side of our large storage unit. Besides being able to move our tire inventory into this unit we also were afforded the room to clean out and store items that we have had in our shop for some time now.

We repaired the generator on Truck-2 and repaired and serviced the Smoke Ejector on Truck-1. We re-worked and replaced the Auto Eject in E-24's unit. We also removed the Data 911 system in E-24 and installed a new Panasonic "Toughbook" with modem, mount and all related wiring. We replaced an antenna on E-25. We replaced the muffler bracket on 99C3. We replaced the RF tire on E-22 and a steer tire on Truck-1. We repaired the water tank level sending unit in E-25. We serviced the E.M.S. coordinators Expedition (06F3) as well as Truck-1 (04PL) we also replaced all six batteries in Truck-1. We repaired some minor body damage to the back of Truck-1. On E-22, we repaired the latches on both the front and rear left side doors and the front suction valves as well as the cam lock mechanism on the deck gun. We replaced/repairs lights in all units this month. This morning we had an issue with Truck-1 more specifically the aerial would not retract. We found a defective pressure switch in the waterway to be the cause; we currently have that switch by-passed and have ordered a new one from Pierce.

We replaced the broken window in Truck 1's bay door. We also repaired the garage door openers in Truck 1's bay as well as the unit over at E-23's Melody-Halas station. We repaired the Truck bay faucet as well as the heat problem in the Dispatchers booth. We have inspected the generator at the Melody-Halas station and have ordered parts to make repairs to this unit. As soon as the parts arrive we will install them and hopefully make this unit operational once again. We had our hands full with the "Plymovent" diesel exhaust system but with the help of our dealer we were able to fix it.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us at 796-1556.

## Fire Marshal – Barry Rickert

I hereby submit my report as Fire Marshal of the City of Danbury Fire Department for the report period covering May 18, 2008 to and including June 15, 2008.

Abatements/Reports (hrs.):	73	<u>INSPECTIONS:</u>	
Tickets Issues in Fire Zones:	4	Place of Assembly:	38
Fire Investigation:	17	Educational:	6
Fatal Fires:	0	Businesses:	11
Liquor Inspections:	12	Storage:	0
Blasting Permits:	3	Health Care:	5
Complaints:	18*	Industrial:	5
Plan Review (hrs.):	107	Mercantile:	35
Fire Prevention Programs:	3	Residential Board & Care:	0
Orders of Abatement:	3	Hotels (units):	221
		Apartments:	27
		Day Care:	5
		Misc. Inspection:	46
		Special Structure &	
		High Rise Bldg.:	0
		Office Duty (hrs.):	152
		Rooming houses	3

\* Resolved or in process of being resolved.

## TRAINING

Residential Fire Sprinkler Symposium, East Hartford, CT - Fire Marshal Rickert and Inspector Leach

All members of the Fire Marshals Office continue to receive updated training and information in conformance with the re-certification requirements as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

98A Elm St, SRO, (Single Room Occupancy) Fire Safety Presentation DFM Marilyn Gillotti.

Rogers Park Junior High, Fire Safety Presentation to 1,000 plus students and staff, Fire Marshal Rickert and Inspector Leach.

Danbury Senior Center, Fire Safety Table and Information, Fire Marshal Rickert and Inspector Leach.

WALMART Department Store, Fire Extinguisher Training for employees and Fire Safety Literature for the public: Fire Marshal Rickert and Deputy Marshal Rao.

## MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

King St. School Campus, Fire Marshal Rickert , Inspector Leach and Engine 25, assisted in the evacuation and re-location of the students and staff to the King St. Fire Station. We also assisted in the dismissal of students, staging of EMS Unit, and overall coordination of public safety personnel.

Respectfully,  
Geoff Herald, Chief