



# **CITY OF DANBURY**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**19 NEW STREET**

**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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Fire Chief

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## **FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. This report covers the period of 28 July through 26 August 2008 and details activities of the Department.

Last month I reported on the condition of Firefighter Kevin Sullivan. As you remember he was seriously injured in the boating accident on Lake Candlewood. He continues to improve and he has been moved to a facility to undergo rehabilitation. There is still much to do but he has made tremendous progress. We ask that you keep him in your thoughts for a speedy and complete recovery. We are looking forward to his return to duty.

As we come to the end of summer there are a couple of things we would like to ask you to do. As the season cools, please check your heating systems for safe operations. This includes inspecting the chimney for cracks and nesting animals. Please have the chimney of fireplaces, stoves and pellet stoves checked for the integrity of the lining as well as exterior cracks in the masonry. These should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year as well. Chimney fires are a common occurrence and they can be devastating to the structure.

In addition please install a Carbon Monoxide detector in your home if you use these heating methods. Each year there are a number of tragedies that might have been averted with these simple and now readily available devices.

Finally, with the high cost of heating fuel, we in the Fire Service are especially aware of the potential for use of alternate heating methods. Be mindful of heating your home with space heaters or other methods. Be careful to not overload circuitry and follow all use

and care instructions provided by the manufacturer. The potential for damage from fires will far out weigh any savings should a fire occur.

Over the next several weeks the Department will be rolling out an Adopt a Firefighter or Fire Station program. This program will strengthen community ties to the department.

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

Pre-incident tours included the Danbury Municipal Airport and Aircraft 114 South Street Area., Ice Arena, New Bridge on Padanaram Road, High Croft Racing on Miry Brook Road and buildings of WSCU.

Members of Engine 21 crew presented a fire prevention show to Mill Ridge School Day Camp for 20 - 5yr olds. The presentation was well received and enjoyed by the campers.

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

The Department responded to a structure fire at 5 Nabby Road. This fire was minor and little structural damage occurred. However, this fire is one of the types that hold great concern for the Department. East Ridge Condominiums is a very large complex and has a high density of residents. Fire Damage was held to the kitchen of origin, smoke damage was confined to the immediate area and the residents were soon allowed back into their units.

A fire at 38 Highland Avenue resulted in significant damage to the rear of the multi family structure involved. One resident suffered minor injury and was transported to the hospital for treatment. Three families were affected by the blaze but the structure was saved and fire damage was restricted to the unit of origin.

Engine 26 and Fire Police responded to a call of a large limb in the road at 51 Miry Brook Road. As the limb represented a significant hazard to travel and it would take considerable time to await other responsible parties, the Engine company cut up the limb and removed it from the road way. Clearing the road for traffic was very much appreciated as Miry Brook Road is heavily used by industry and residents of the area.

The Danbury Fire Department responded to a Mutual Aid call to assist the Ridgefield Fire Department in a possible drowning. Our boat was utilized in the search.

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez**

##### **EMS Wednesday**

The topic for this months EMS Wednesday has been the introduction and review of the new Emergency Incident Rehabilitation policy for the Danbury Fire Department

Fire department rehab is a vital Firefighting service on the Fire ground, providing Firefighters and other emergency personnel with immediate medical attention including re-hydration, treatment for smoke inhalation, and the prevention of such life-threatening conditions as heatstroke and heart attack.

The objectives of this class were to educate the entire Department on the roles and responsibilities of "The Rehab Group" while reviewing the criteria for individuals to serve as potential Rehab Officers.

### **Region Five Haz-Mat Executive Board Meeting**

On July 30<sup>th</sup> the Region Five Haz-Mat team executive board met to discuss the following issues:

Communications: \$48,000 has been allotted by the state of Connecticut for use by Region Five Haz-Mat Team for the purchase of communication equipment for the Regional response vehicles. The decision to purchase 2 mobile radios for the Danbury and Waterbury Response Vehicle and utilizing the remainder to purchase portables.

Tactical frequencies were also discussed, since these vehicles could be responding to any of the 43 towns in our region. A recommendation was made to utilize the inter-cities frequency, a high band VHF frequency in the 155-265 MHz range.

Training: DEMHS has requested on behalf of Region Five a bid for a 472 Haz-Mat Technician course from the State Fire academy to be held at the Regional Office in Southbury. The class is scheduled to be held this fall

Danbury Fire EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rey Rodriguez was nominated to represent Region Five on the State Training Committee.

### **Northwest Regional EMS council meeting:**

On Aug 20<sup>th</sup> the Northwest Regional EMS Council met to discuss the following issues,

Training: Due to the increase in the cost of fuel the Regional Council passed an increase in the test fee to \$15.00 per person for recertifying EMT certifications. With the recent acquisition from the State of Connecticut of GPS units for EMS response vehicles some of our units will be equipped with them.

### **EMT Class for New DFD Recruits**

The following Firefighters Espitee, Finn, Lewis, Monteavaro, Perrotti and Rivera will start their EMT certification training on Aug 26, 2008 at the Danbury Hospital.

### **Public Access AED**

All the Public Access AED's in The Danbury School system have been inspected by EMS/ Haz-Mat Coordinator Rey Rodriguez. The units were inspected to make sure they conformed to the new American Heart protocols with batteries and pads being replaced as needed

## **Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

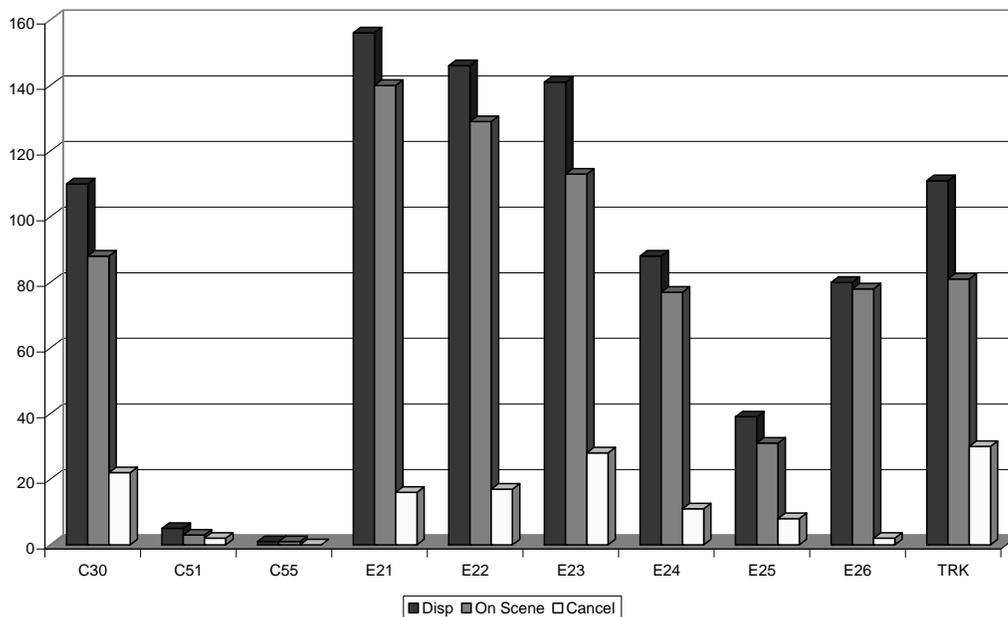
<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver. 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>29</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>2</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>251</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>35</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>53</b>

Good Intent Calls (600-671)	45
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	84
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	3
Total Fire Responses	502
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	3355
Abandoned 911 Calls	473
Cellular 911 Calls	1453
911 Hang Up Calls	773
Admin Calls Received	1046
Police Calls via 911	305
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	186
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	249
Daily Average	139.79
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	502
Total EMS Responses	549
Unknown Transport Status	0
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	245
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	200
No Patient (CAD 62)	104
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	5
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	16

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

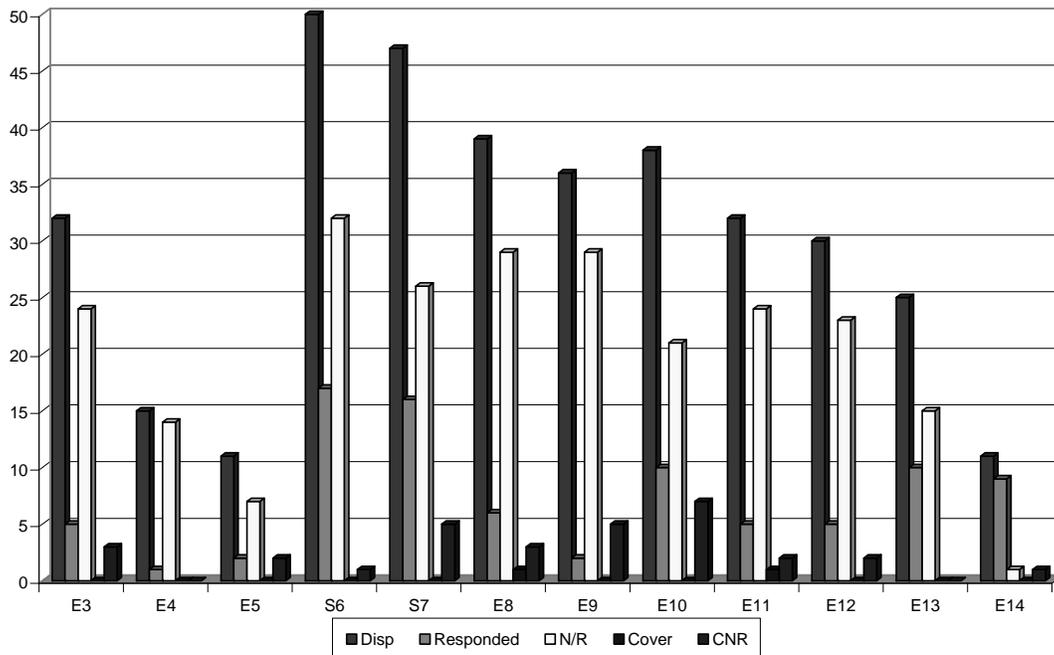
Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And EMS  
Incidents are attached to Fire Incident

**Career Company Response  
July 21, 2008 to August 17, 2008**



Reports

**Volunteer Call Counts**  
**July 21, 2008 to August 17, 2008**



**Training - Mark Omasta**

Occasionally, a structure or structures due for demolition are made available to the Fire Dept. for training purposes. We acquired two wood frame structures at 33 and 35 Germantown Rd, for training, courtesy of the Hawley Management Company. We had use of the buildings for four days in late July and were able to have all crews and Volunteer Eng 10 take advantage of this “hands on” opportunity.

Taking advantage of the summer weather, we continued with our pontoon boat training, standpipe operations, and Foam fire fighting training. We completed our foam trailer refresher training to 90% of the career force. The trailer is stationed at Engine 26 and is available as a resource for incidents in Danbury and the western part of the State.

The hydrant testing continues weekly. Crews have tested approximately 1,100 hydrants, about 70% of the hydrants in the city.

With the cooperation of WSCU we utilized the west side campus parking garage for training in standpipe operations and hose work.

We are currently hosting the 48 hour Confined Space Technician Certification course offered through the CT Fire Academy. The 21 students need to pass two days of skills assessments and practical exams as well as a written exam to become certified in this field. We are utilizing Confined Space facilities at the City Water Treatment plant on Westville Ave and at WCSU downtown campus. This program will yield the department 21 members fully certified to the latest NFPA standards for confined space rescue requirements.

Web-based training initiative:

All crews are going through the orientation phase of our new Web based training program. To date, there are 208 hours of on-line training completed. The first assignments covered mandatory topics such as Incident Command and SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) review. This web-based system will help us get the required training to all of our personnel.

Training Hours this month: Personnel logged 835 hours of training

CT Fire Academy ongoing education:

Six members attended an eight hour Seminar titled Engine Company Operations on August 8

Fire School improvements:

We now have a 1,000 square foot concrete pad, where we can perform vehicle extrication drills. The excavation and form work was donated by Earth Movers Inc. and Konover Construction provided the concrete and labor to pour the slab.

NVCC

The fall semester class offering through Naugatuck Valley CC will be "Fire Prevention and Inspection". This is a required course for the Fire Science Degree Program and will start in early September at Headquarters.

As safety officer T.O. Omasta responded to a Haz Mat situation on Augusta Drive, July 29, and to a structure Fire on August 1 on Highland Ave.

Intern

An intern, (Danbury High School senior Alan Webb) from the City of Danbury Summer Youth Employment Program was assigned to the Training Division for six weeks (July 7-August 15). Alan assisted with tasks in and around the Training Office concentrating on filing and data entry. His assistance is greatly appreciated.

Training Officer Meetings/Events.

Staff meeting at Hatters Park on August 1

Attended the Volunteer Council Meeting on July 28 at Engine 7

Met with the Boehringer-Ingelheim Safety Manager concerning Confined Spaces on their campus

Attended Training Seminar at the Academy on Aug. 8

Met with NVCC program Coordinator Barry Groman concerning College issues

Met with Hawley Construction concerning Acquired Structures

Attended the City Council Meeting on August 5

Attended a luncheon for retired Fire Marshall Barry Rickert on August 20

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

All of the Departments BioSystem meters are fully functional. We have discovered a problem with E-24's meter charger. It's location in the cab is not allowing the meter to charge properly. As time allows we will be relocating this charger to a better location thus eliminating the potential problems.

The Departments' SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We still have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service. We have continued sending bottles out for hydrostatic testing. As of the typing of this report we have sent out over twenty bottles with an expected total of thirty to thirty five to be completed in this round of testing. Included in this group are our one hour bottles used for confined space rescue as well as the "sling pack" bottles off of Squad 1.

This past month we performed a major service on E-24 including new front brakes and rotors. We repaired and serviced the Headquarters Plymovent system. We attended and participated in a Departmental Staff meeting as well as a safety seminar presented by CIRMA. We performed a major service on E-22 (06PD) including a full brake inspection and adjustment and repaired the high side compartment. We also replaced all of the rear tires on the unit. We serviced the 99C1 with new brakes and rotors. We serviced the 03FT and replaced the battery and alternator as well. We ordered new batteries and chargers for the ISG Thermal Imaging Cameras as well as 18 and 24 Volt batteries for some of our DeWalt power tools. We are scheduling the N.F.P.A. 1911 Non Destructive testing of our Aerial Devices with Underwriter Laboratories. We ordered a new garage door opener for Bay 8 here at Headquarters. As soon as it arrives we will be installing it.

We experienced the fun job of putting together the new gear racks for Headquarters..... You would think that sooner or later we would learn not to volunteer for these projects. We repaired and painted the fence outside the Apparatus Division. We have diagnosed an issue and ordered repair parts for the Bauer Air Compressor here at Headquarters.

### **Fire Marshal- James Johnson**

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	53
Tickets Issued in Fire Zones:	3
Fire Investigations:	15
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	5
Blasting Permits:	3
Complaints	27*
Plan Review (hrs)	39
Fire Prevention Programs:	3
Orders of Abatement:	1

\*Resolved or in the process of being resolved

#### Inspections:

Place of Assembly:	20
Educational:	17
Business:	11
Storage:	1
Health Care:	0

Industrial:	1
Mercantile:	13
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotel(units):	0
Apartments:	400
Rooming Houses:	1
Day Care:	2
Misc. Inspections	31
Special Structures:	0
Office Duty (hrs):	85

Our office attended the Fire Safety Day sponsored by G.E. Capitol along with FD personnel. It was well attended by their people and a great deal of interest in our programs and equipment.

Jordan Leach, a new Deputy in the office was certified by the National Fire Academy as a Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist.

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections; all situations have been successfully resolved.

#### **Good of the Organization**

Mayor Mark Boughton officiated at the swearing in of Lieutenant Heather Anderson and three Fire Inspectors this month. The Fire Inspectors are Jordan Leach, John Osborne and James Russell. These promotions bring the Department to a full compliment of suppression officers and bring the Fire Marshals' Bureau to a compliment of seven.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey Herald