



CITY OF DANBURY

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 26 August through 30 September and details activities of the Department.

Happy Anniversary Engine 26!

Engine 26, which opened on September 11th 2007, has proven to be most effective in reducing response times on the West Side of our City. This welcome addition to the Fire Department has also proven versatile in allowing much greater flexibility in keeping adequate coverage during the extraordinary amount of live fire training that has been done during this year.

Through the first year of service E-26 has responded to 940 alarms. In addition to housing the Engine Company, the station has proven its worth as a staging area for our Hazardous Materials response equipment including the State foam trailer. Several times during this inaugural year the new Company proved its value in filling a significant gap in our Departments' response plan. Notably, Engine 26 was able to rapidly respond to the school bomb threats of this spring at King Street School. This would have been filled by Engine 22 or Engine 23 prior to opening the Station.

With the cooperation and commitment of the Mayor, the Engineering Department and past Chiefs, the City has taken a significant and important step. This was the first expansion of the Department in nearly 40 years and the citizens of Danbury are being well served.

News of Note:

This month we have said good bye to Lieutenant Kevin Plank. He has retired from this department to begin a career as a Wilton Connecticut Firefighter. Kevin has been active in the union and as a progressive Engine Company Lieutenant. I wish him the best of luck in his new position and I thank him for his 29 and one

half years of service to the Career Department and his several years as a volunteer here in Danbury.

On 20 September, Councilman and retired Firefighter Fred Visconti was recognized with an award by the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. This recognition was to honor Fred for his actions at a fire on Mountainville Avenue earlier this summer. We thank you Fred, for your service to the community and for stepping up and saving a life.

The memorial service for the September 11th commemoration was a moving and well attended ceremony. The memorial on Main Street and service is a testament to the City and citizens of our commitment to remember and honor the victims of that terrible day.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Crews performed Stand Pipe Tests at the Danbury Hospital Parking Garages. These tests not only test the capacity of the systems, they also allow for our Fire Department to become familiar with the procedures necessary to operate at the scene.

Members of the Department participated on oral review boards for Bridgeport and Torrington promotional tests. These experiences allow our members to learn other departmental procedures and practices which in turn will assist us in honing our own.

Crews toured the new sprinkler and standpipe connections in Building D of Danbury High School. This upgrade to fire prevention systems will provide significant protection to the students of our high school. This addition of sprinklers illustrates the seriousness of the City's commitment to protecting our student population.

Crews attended an open house at Mannkind Industries and the public toured the Squad (Heavy Rescue). This vehicle is dispatched out of the Melody – Halas Station on Osborne Street.

Crews toured 24 White St., Danbury Beauty Supplies. They developed an overview of occupancy, construction, access, and layout of the occupancy. Additional tours included Union Place Condos,

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

E24 responded to a small explosion with minor burns at a research facility. This facility has a fine safety record but two recent calls there have illustrated that our training and readiness model must not be relaxed. Accidents are unpredictable and our forces must continue to address the all hazards response to our community.

Early on the morning of 29 August, we were dispatched to City Hall for an odor. Crews metered the building and found high carbon monoxide readings. The building was evacuated and the source located. Overnight workers had used a generator that filled the building with exhaust. Positive pressure ventilation was set and the buildings ventilation system was reversed to clear the CO. City Hall employees were allowed to return to work around 10am.

Shortly after the call above was dispatched Department resources were dispatched to another incident, a tractor trailer carrying baled hay on fire at exit 5 of east bound I-84. The fire had melted the trailer brake line. The truck was just

at the exit 5 ramp. The driver was able to get the truck up onto the ramp. I-84 was immediately reopened while suppression continued. CT State DOT brought in a pay loader and Danbury Public works brought in a back hoe. These two machines worked together to unload the burning hay and spread it out on the grass for us to extinguish. We brought in the CT State Foam Trailer to use foam for complete extinguishment. This use of the Foam trailer was excellent creative fire fighting thinking and greatly decreased our on scene time. This was an excellent example of interagency cooperation. Exit 5 was opened by noon.

In the early morning hours of 12 September, an accident occurred on Franklin St. Extension. A young man received fatal injuries when the car he was driving left the roadway and crashed, contacting a utility pole. Headquarters units (E21, E22, Truck Co.), Squad 23 and Car 30 responded with 4 PD units and EMS. Extrication involved crews removing both doors on the driver's side and the B post in gaining access to the victim. CPR was initiated immediately upon removal from entrapment. Volunteer Squad 6 responded to provide lighting for the ensuing Police investigation.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a keystone of our City EMS system. This system provides firefighters with the capability to deliver lifesaving skills rapidly to the scene of an accident or medical emergency. This program 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.

EMS Wednesday

This continuous education program is designed to meet the EMS re-certification requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes held, twice every Wednesday while firefighters are on duty, allow them to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

The Topic for this months EMS Wednesday is the OSHA mandated Blood Borne Pathogens review. While there are risks inherent to emergency medical services responses, these can be minimized through proper training. The purpose of this months program is to educate personnel in the types of communicable and infectious diseases, the vectors through which they are transmitted, methods and practices that will reduce the risk of exposure and the procedures that must be followed should an exposure should occur.

CPR classes for the visiting Nurses

The Danbury Fire Department has provided a "CPR for the Professional Rescuer" certification class to the Visiting Nurses of Danbury to assist them in their mission to provide cost effective home, community and public health based care.

Pandemic Influenza Drive through POD Drill

Members of the Danbury Fire Department will participate with the City Health Department, Danbury Hospital, Danbury Visiting Nurses, Danbury Police Dept and EMD Paul Estefan in a pandemic influenza drill on October 11, 2008 to coincide with the Visiting Nurses yearly drive through Flu clinic. The Fire

Department will provide Logistical communications equipment support and expertise.

Region Five Haz-Mat Team

The three Region Five Haz-Mat battalion leaders, Danbury's Haz-Mat Team Leader Rodriguez, Waterbury's Lt. Norica and Torrington's Capt. Rodgers met on Sept 18, 2008 to discuss the mission of the team, future joint training endeavors and the requisition of equipment that will further enhance the teams' capabilities of responding to terrorist events, common tanker rollovers and chemical spills.

State of Ct. Regional Mass Casualty Trailer

The Director of the State Office of Emergency Medical Services met with the representatives of the five organizations that have agreed to host a state regional mass casualty trailer on Sept.22, 2008. Danbury Fire Department EMS / Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the meeting. Discussed were the MOU, current inventory and the future purchases of equipment that will facilitate the maintenance and deployment of the trailers during catastrophic incidents.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

System Activity

Tropical Storm Hanna passed through the Danbury area on Saturday September 6th. While this storm was not as intense as predicted between the hours of 4:00 PM and 7:00 AM on the 7th, 911 dispatchers received over 200 911 calls that accounted directly for dispatching of 28 EMS calls, 20 Fire Dept calls and 29 calls for the Police. Additional calls for service were received on 7 digit circuits. The lack of sustained high winds also minimized the impact.

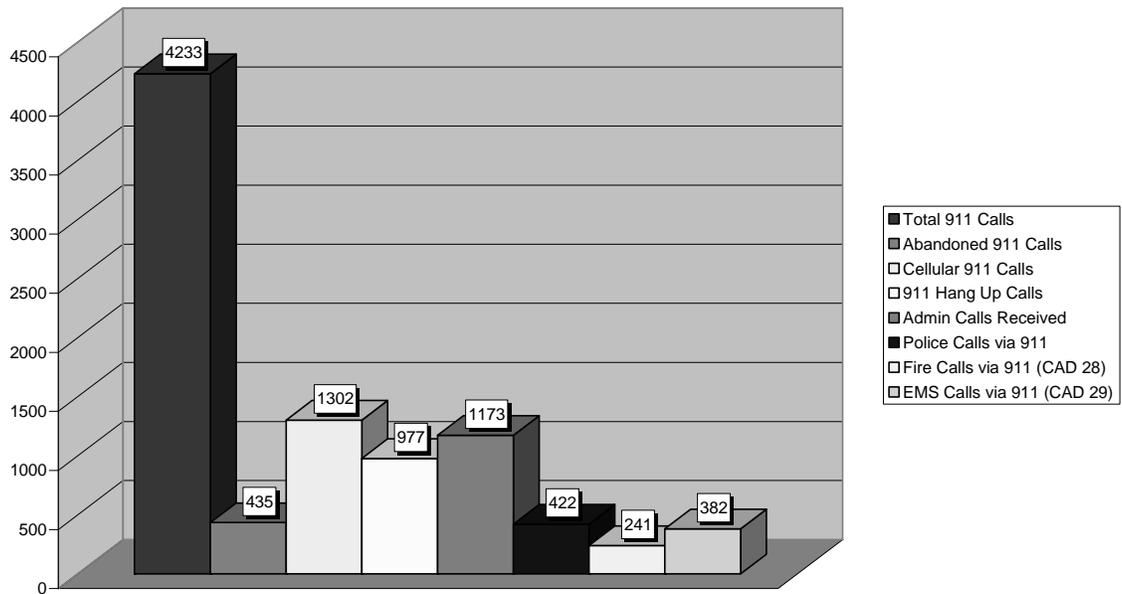
Equipment

A failure of unknown origin struck the computer network links to Fire Headquarters on September 20th. Dispatchers reverted to paper and map style of dispatching while members of the Fire Department, IT department and members of the City Traffic Division examined all city network aspects to restore service.

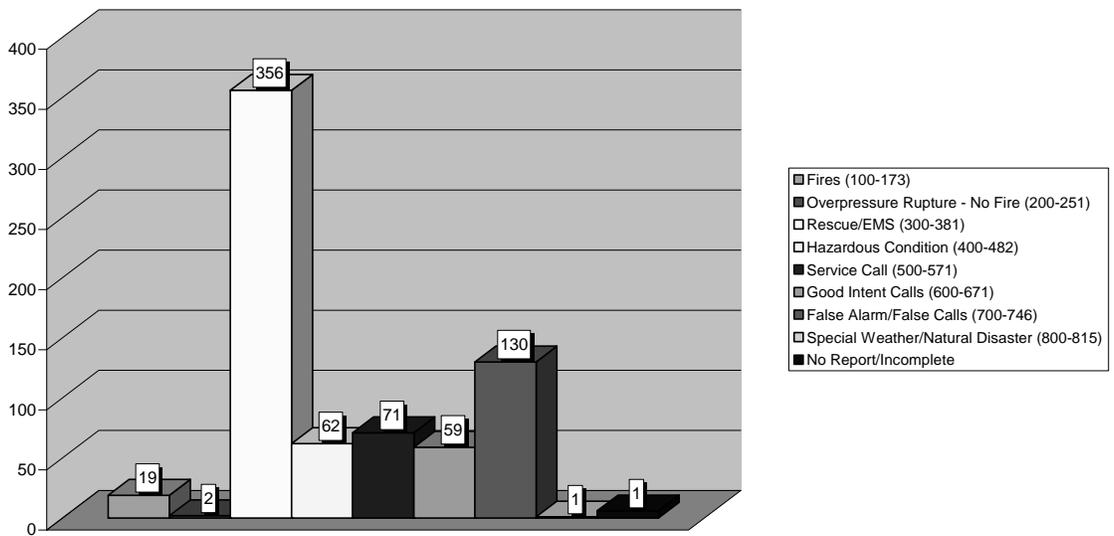
Efforts to diagnose the problem took longer than anticipated, due to the fact the Police Department remained operational on CAD and since the Fire Department had CAD functionality on one laptop with a wireless connection, existing connections were not restarted to insure that what was working remained online. After verifying all fiber connections and switches a cycling of network equipment to the Fire Headquarters was repeatedly cycled and finally synced up.

At this time it is believed that a brief power interruption may have occurred when a pole was damaged in a nearby Motor Vehicle Accident. This cannot be absolutely determined; however the timing of the accident and the outage occurred within a short time of each other. Discussions and planning have begun with the IT Department to create a redundant pathway to network servers from the Fire Department. While this outage was frustrating it happened at a time of low system activity and no data or calls for service were lost.

**911 Center Activity
August 18 to September 21, 2008**



**Fire Response Breakdown
August 18 to September 21, 2008**



Training - Mark Omasta

The Department is conducting our annual SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) refresher and practical drills training during the month for both Career

and Volunteer Divisions. The Danbury News Times printed an article regarding this training with several photographs. Classroom sessions are followed by Practical training. All personnel are participating in this "SCBA Endurance" work by working their way through an 8 station course with each station simulating a fire ground activity. We are timing the training evolution and gathering data which will give the firefighters a better idea of their air consumption rates and realistic working time in minutes while wearing SCBA.

Hydrant Testing

Hydrant testing is nearing completion for this year. To date, Crews tested approximately 1, 500 hydrants, or about 90% of the hydrants in the city.

Confined Space Training

21 Students successfully completed the 48 hour Confined Space Technician Certification course offered through the CT Fire Academy. The Training took place at the end of August with the City Water Treatment plant on Westville Ave and WCSU downtown campus providing the Confined Space facilities. All students passed the practical portion of the exam and are waiting results of the written test.

E.V.O.C.

Working toward our goal of 100% EVOIC certification for both career and volunteer divisions, we ran the CT Fire Academy's Emergency Vehicle Operator Class two more times on Sept. 8 and Sept. 21. All Companies have been maintaining a very aggressive Driver Training program.

Q Endorsement

We currently have 11 of our new Firefighters enrolled in the Q class. This class involves safe driving techniques and includes the driving test monitored by the DMV. The Students will receive the Endorsement required on their driver's license to be allowed to drive Fire Apparatus in Connecticut.

NVCC

The fall class offered through Naugatuck Valley CC will be "Fire Prevention and Inspection". The class is under way at Fire Headquarters on Wednesday evenings and runs to the end of December. 15 Firefighters/Officers are enrolled.

Responses

We utilized our Foam Trailer on I-84 east exit 5 for a tractor trailer load of burning hay bails. The addition of foam helped in the extinguishment and reduced our on scene time.

As Scene Safety Officer, T.O. Omasta responded to a structure fire on Sept. 1 on Ball Pond Road.

Training Hours this month: Personnel logged approximately 1,600 hours of training.

Accident Scene Safety Train the Trainer:

Lieutenants Charlie Payne and Eric Handau along with the Training Officer attended a three day Course which covered multiple topics including new vehicle

design as it relates to vehicle extrication, vehicle fires and safety systems. Highway Safety and other topics were also covered. This class was a "Train the Trainer" program. These members will now set up training schedules with in the Department to bring all members up to the level required.

Meetings/Events attended:

- Volunteer Council Meeting on August 25 at Engine 8.
- Volunteer Council Executive Board on Sept. 8
- State of CT Instructors meeting at the Academy on Sept 3
- Retirement dinner for retired Fire Marshall Barry Rickert on Sept. 15.
- 9-11 Memorial service
- State of Connecticut Fire Education Committee mtg.

Office of the Fire Marshal – James Johnson

Inspections:

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	50	Place of Assembly:	21
Tickets Issued in Fire Zones:	6	Educational:	7
Fire Investigations:	11	Business:	15
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	1
Liquor Inspections:	5	Health Care:	7
Blasting Permits:	2	Industrial	3
Complaints	18*	Mercantile	24
Plan Review (hrs)	37	Residential board and Care	1
Fire Prevention Programs	6	Hotel (units):	0
Orders of Abatement:	1	Apartments	121
		Rooming Houses	1
		Day Care	4
		Misc. Inspections	92
		Special Structures	0
		Office Duty (hrs)	85

Fire Marshal Johnson attended the International Code Council Conference and the Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis Minn. for the 2009 ICC Code changes. We are happy to report that this year a requirement for Fire Sprinklers in one and two family homes was adopted at the final action hearings. These will be in the ICC code in 2009.

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

Deputy Fire Marshal Rao as the Fairfield County Rep. distributed this years Fire Prevention Poster Contest materials to all the schools.

Deputy Fire Marshals Gillotti and Rao did a one day fire extinguisher refresher for Fuel Cell Energy.

The Fire Marshals Office and the Suppression division of the Fire Department were represented at The Taste of Danbury. Both were well received by the public.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

Metering of hazardous environments has become a common place activity in the Fire Service. Our Department uses meters to determine carbon monoxide levels, explosive atmospheres, low oxygen and potential presence of poisons and toxic fumes. These have become a front line and vital tool to the Fire Service. All of the departments' 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 Department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. Each week we have a couple of units needing minor repairs and generally these are done in house. We have continued sending bottles out for mandatory hydrostatic testing. As of the typing of this report we have sent out over thirty bottles which should complete 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 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 received those batteries and placed them in service. Rechargeable batteries and associated costs are a significant budgetary concern.

We have scheduled the N.F.P.A. 1911 Non Destructive testing of our Aerial Devices with Underwriter Laboratories. UL is expected to be here on October 1st and 2nd to test these devices. We have also scheduled all of our ground ladders to be tested on October 4th here at HQ's.

We ordered and installed a new garage door opener for Bay 8 here at Headquarters, replaced the alternators in 99C2 and 99C3 and repaired the shore line plug on the Prime Mover.

We replaced all of the rear tires on E-22 (06PD) last month. Unfortunately we had to replace these tires again this past month as there was a performance problem with the previous set. In addition, E-22 went to Firematic for a scheduled replacement of Ball Joint Boots.

We performed a complete service on E-25 including the repair to the High Pressure Oil Pump, replaced a seal in the differential, as well as replaced the front brakes. We have sent the I.S.G. Thermal Imaging camera from E-25 out for repairs.

Last month we diagnosed and ordered repair parts for the Bauer Air Compressor here at Headquarters. We have received those parts and installed them; this important unit is once again fully operational.

E-24 had given us quite a problem with the transmission last month during the heavy rains from Ike. We located a small wire in the transmission harness that had worn through on the front spring hanger and shorted to ground. While this unit was in sick bay we serviced it, rebuilt the tank to pump valve as well as repacked the fire pump. We also replaced the defective primer motor in this unit.

We had the Deputy Chiefs Explorer repaired at the body shop due to damage that was sustained in an accident on Interstate 84 (not the Deputy Chiefs fault!) Our annual fit testing has begun and E-10 personnel were fit tested this past week. We plan to start testing the Career Department this week.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief