



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 Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 1 October through 28 October 2008 and details activities of the Department.

October is marked by the advent of Fire Safety and Prevention programs through out the country. As this report shows, the Danbury Fire Department has been very proactive in this area. National Fallen Firefighters day was 5 October. This was the date we presented awards at our annual memorial Mass and Awards Ceremony on 5 October.

As I have previously advised in an earlier report, please be sure to clean and check your heating system. Oil furnaces, pellet stoves, wood stoves and fire places all need regular maintenance. Please be sure to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your homes. After installation of these devices, please change the batteries and clean the detectors as specified by the manufacturer.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dispatcher Dave Sabel was honored as the Exchange Firefighter of the Year for Danbury. The State wide recognition dinner was held at the Aqua Turf in Southington on 23 October. I want to thank the Exchange Club for this support of our Fire Department. This honor was given to Dave largely for his work over the last two years as a trainer and mentor to younger firefighters learning to be relief dispatchers in the 911 Center.

The Department honored civilians and uniformed personnel at our annual awards ceremony on 5 October at Fire Headquarters. 5 October was National Fallen Firefighters Day. The event was very well attended with nineteen awards to Civilians and 38 to uniformed members presented.

On 22 October, members of the Department presented a mock crash to the students and faculty of Immaculate High School. Developed by Lieutenant Lori Arconti, this ongoing program has been very well received. The staged accident

scene is used to present to the audience the risks and dangers of driving while intoxicated. Members of the Department participate using their own time in this worth while endeavor. Lieutenants Eric Handau, Chip Daly and Firefighters Sean McGowan, John Whitehead, Steve Rogers, Jon DeJoseph and Communications Supervisor Pat Sniffin each assisted in the presentation. Support for the presentation was provided by a number of community based entities including Greene Funeral Home, Critellis' Auto Body, DHCA and the Danbury Police Department.

Mayor Boughton has promoted Firefighter Dean Singer to Lieutenant. He was sworn in on 15 October and has begun his new assignment on C Group. Congratulations Dean.

Lt. Daly and his E22 crew presented a "Fire Safety and characteristics/attributes of a firefighter" demonstration to 60 third-graders at Pembroke School.

Members of the Department and Volunteers from the Fire Police participated in the successful Flu Pandemic drill on 11 October. This drill was sponsored and developed by the Health Department.

Crews assisted several citizens in auto and building lock outs, changing a flat tire and other Good Samaritan actions.

Pre-Incident tours this month have included the following: Hologic, Cartus, Danbury Police Department Headquarters (under construction), Home Depot, Sterling Woods Condominiums, Reliant Air (new facility), RK Engineering and The Amber Room.

Fire prevention and education included tours were presented to St. Joseph School, Cedar Gables, Interfaith Day Care, WesCon Day Care, Immanuel Lutheran School.

Tours of Headquarters were given to 50 three to five year olds from New England Country Day School. Many groups toured our facilities this month including the Danbury Moms Club, several class groups from the City schools as well as individual families.

Engine 24 participated in the Family Fun Day at the Ives Center. This was a good opportunity for the attendees to see and inspect a modern front line engine.

Photos of many future firefighters were taken while sitting in the truck. Operation of the Hurst Tools "Jaws of life" was also demonstrated.

Several Units participated in the open house event at Trader Joes on 18 October.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

E24 crew of Lt. Schiller and Firefighters Radlet and Stabile assisted a woman that had unexpectedly delivered a baby in the lobby of the Quality Inn, just seconds before their arrival. They cared for the baby and mother at a critical time. Mother and infant were transported safely to the ED.

Quick reaction by employees of BRT extinguished a small incipient fire on Coal Pit Hill Road. The employees used buckets, harkening back to the days of bucket

brigade fire fighting. This fire in a condo complex could have had significant impact had they not reacted quickly to this incident.

The Truck Company and Engine 26 responded to assist Ridgefield with suppressing a significant structure fire in downtown Ridgefield. Engine 26 provided water to Truck 1 and also assisted Ridgefield Fire Department in making an interior attack to extinguish the fire.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is airway assessment which is the first and most critical part of patient management. If a definitive airway is not established immediately the patient's outcome will be poor. Frequently reassessing the airway is mandatory to ensure that the patient has not decompensated, requiring more aggressive airway management. Mastering these skills and making them a part of all patient management will give our patients the best chance of survival.

Pandemic Influenza drive through POD Drill:

The Danbury Fire Department EMS Division in conjunction with the City of Danbury Health Department, Danbury VNA, Danbury Hospital, DHCA and Danbury Volunteer Fire Police participated in a pandemic flu inoculation clinic/drill on Oct 11, 2008. Over 175 people received flu shots while the different agencies ran a drill in the background honing the management and technological skills that would be needed during a true pandemic inoculation response.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

System activity remains at a consistent pace with no significant increases noted and there were no major incidents during this time frame.

On 21 October a meeting was hosted by the Department with key personnel of surrounding town's communications centers. The focus of this meeting was to primarily serve as a 'meet and greet' since there has been changes in staff of other towns. Topics discussed were staffing patterns and parameters of mutual aid responses. Representatives of Danbury Fire and Police, Brookfield Police 911, Bethel Police 911, New Fairfield 911, New Fairfield Fire and Ridgefield Fire were in attendance.

The meeting was well received by all who attended and many interesting thoughts regarding training, interoperability and sharing information and resources were voiced. It was interesting to note that while the scale of the problems brought up by each town varied, there is a common thread for all in issues of emergency communications. These generally concerned increasing call volumes and diminishing resources available. We plan to meet regularly to address issues as they arise.

Equipment

No failures of infrastructure to report during this time frame. Several portable radios and 2 laptops computers are being sent out for repair. All related to age and LED screen issues. The laptops are still under a warranty repair.

Training - Mark Omasta

As we lose experienced drivers to promotion and/or retirement we need to train our new firefighters to step up as drivers. We hosted a Q endorsement course which is designed to prepare the potential fire apparatus operator for the testing requirements established by the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. 5 firefighters passed the course in October. The remaining 6 students will test in early November.

The next step for the potential driver is to get the Pump Operator Certification. We are currently hosting the CT Fire Academy 48 hour, six day pump class at Fire Headquarters. We have 14 Danbury career FF.'s, 2 Danbury volunteer FF.'s, a Ridgefield FF. and the Wilton Fire Dept. Apparatus Supervisor enrolled in the course which will run the last two weeks of October.

SCBA Endurance training

The Volunteer and Career Divisions completed The SCBA Endurance training in early October. Approximately 200 Firefighters completed the mandatory drills. The participants learned a lot about their air consumption rates while using SCBA under moderate work loads.

This SCBA training is absolutely vital to our Firefighters. A common denominator in many firefighter deaths on the fire ground is running out of air during operations. It is incumbent that our firefighters learn the limits of their equipment as well as their personal limits in performing their duties. Techniques to stretch the air in the tank have proven vital to successfully completing rescues and other evolutions. This data collected in this drill will assist the department as we develop our future training and personal fitness program.

Other programs:

Sprains and Strains continue to be the leading cause of work related injuries in the Fire Service, with back injuries as the most costly. Physical therapists from Western CT Physical Therapy are presenting a back health and injury prevention class to all of our crews during October.

Hose Testing: Career and Volunteer divisions are in the process of hose testing. Crews pressure test the approximately 45,000 feet of fire hose on an annual basis

Hydrant Testing: Hydrant testing is nearing completion for this year. To date, crews tested over 1,700 hydrants or about 95% of the hydrants in the city.

Fire School

On Saturday, Oct. 6, ten members of the Volunteer division donated their time and energy at the Plumtrees Fire School "clean-up" day. We are using the facilities more and more, and it is important that we keep the facilities clean and as safe as possible. Special thanks are due to members of various companies, Engines 3,4,9,10,12. Dave Hull and Mark Medeiros spent Thursday painting the wood of the Burn Building.

We have the only class "A" burn building in the immediate area and continue to allow other Fire Departments in the area to use the facilities for their live burn training. The small rental fee defrays the cost of providing a safety officer/instructor from our career department.

FAA live burn:

Twelve Firefighters and the Training Officer traveled to Westover AFB in Chicopee, Massachusetts to participate in the FAA required annual live burn training at their training facility. We were also given a tour of one of the C-5 transport aircraft based at Westover.

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.

Training Hours this month: Personnel logged approximately 1,400 man hours of training. The Volunteer division completed 300 man hours of quarterly training. Aerial Operator: FF Nick Cabral was qualified as an Aerial Apparatus driver/operator.

Meetings/Events:

Attended the Volunteer Council meeting on Sept. 22 at Engine 9
Attended the CT Firefighters Assoc. Educational meeting in Simsbury on evening of Oct 25 (with Chief Herald)
Attended the "Luncheon for heroes" at Fire Headquarters on Sept 26
Took the EMT-I refresher Test at Danbury Hospital on Oct. 1
Attended the Exchange Club "FF of the year dinner" on Oct 2
Participated in the Fire School Clean-up on Oct. 4
Attended the Annual Awards ceremony at HQ on Sunday Oct. 5
Attended the CT Fire Instructor's Annual Dinner meeting on Oct 8
Attended the New England Region FAA information seminar with DC Wiedl at Manchester Regional Airport in New Hampshire on Oct. 9
Attended the N.V.C.C. ribbon cutting of the new Sprinkler room at the Waterbury campus the evening of Oct. 9
Met with employees of AT&T on Oct. 14 as they installed new light poles at the Fire School
Attended the swearing in for FF Dean Singer's promotion to Lieutenant
Attended the Staff meeting at the Public Works Dept on Oct 17

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

We experienced a problem with E-22's meter this past month. The O2 sensor had failed. We issued a requisition, and purchased a new sensor. This sensor was installed and calibrated, the meter was returned to service.

The Departments' SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We will normally have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired in house and returned to service. We have

completed the most recent round of hydrostatic testing. As of the typing of this report we have tested over thirty-five. Included in this group were our one hour bottles used for confined space rescue as well as the "sling pack" bottles off of Squad 1. We have filled out a requisition to purchase twenty new 4.5 bottles to replace our aging inventory. The next time these bottles are due for testing they will be removed from service as they will have met their life expectancy and can not be re-tested.

Last month we scheduled the N.F.P.A. 1911 Non Destructive testing of our Aerial Devices with Underwriter Laboratories. UL was here on October 1st and 2nd to test these devices. Both ladders have some minor deficiencies. However, none of these deficiencies would constitute an "out of service" condition. We are currently working on repairing these problems and some have already been repaired since the inspection.

We sent the I.S.G. Thermal Imaging camera from E-25 out for repairs. This unit was repaired, returned and placed back in service last month.

All of our ground ladders were tested on October 4th here at HQ's. We are happy to report that we had no ground ladder failures. However, some of these ladders were flagged for minor repairs. Fortunately they did not meet the "out of service" criteria. We have made all the repairs recommended by our ladder testing company and are awaiting a few parts from our Duo-Safety dealer.

We are currently in "full swing" performing the "fit test" on the members of the Career Department. When we approach completion of the Career Department we will begin testing with the Volunteer Companies.

Several items have been repaired over the past month. These include the generator assigned to Airport 1, the torque arm in Truck-1 and the fuel pump in 97F1. The drivers' seat belt and the tank to pump valve in E-22 were repaired. We have performed a preventative maintenance service on both E-21 and E-23. We replaced one of the two batteries in the 95CT. We are currently working on some lighting issues on E-26

We have researched lights (LED style) to replace the front warning lights on some of our apparatus. The current lights are plaguing us with problems. They have proven to be unreliable, as well as time consuming and costly to repair. We have submitted a requisition for the new replacements and will be doing a much needed fleet wide changeover as soon as we receive the purchase order.

Office of the Fire Marshall - James Johnson

Fire Marshal Johnson and Deputy Fire Marshal Weber attended the 3 day Public Agency Training Council class for Burn Pattern Recognition Certification in South Windsor Ct.

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

October is Fire Prevention Month; numerous programs for different groups were presented and as of this report better than half of all Danbury grade schools have received Fire Safety Training.

Inspections:
 Place of Assembly: 29
 Educational: 6
 Business: 28
 Storage: 3
 Health Care: 4
 Industrial: 2
 Mercantile: 25
 Residential Board & Care: 4
 Hotel(units): 210
 Apartments: 92
 Rooming Houses: 0
 Day Care: 3
 Misc. Inspections 60
 Special Structures: 0
 Office Duty (hrs): 78

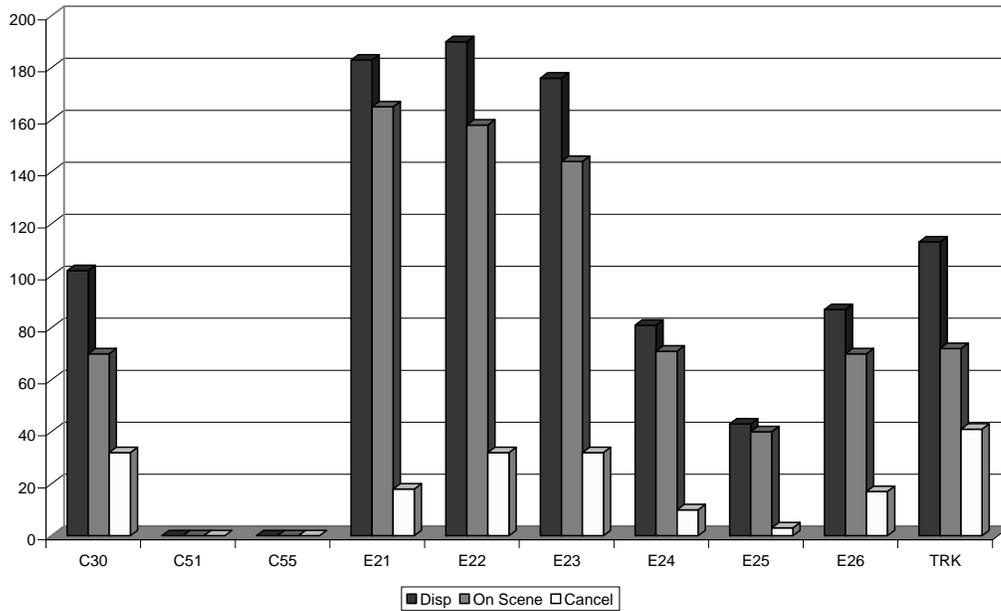
Abatement/Reports (hrs): 65.5
 Issued in Fire Zones: 15
 Fire Investigations: 6
 Fatal Fires: 0
 Liquor Inspections: 10
 Blasting Permits: 2
 Complaints 22*
 Plan Review (hrs) 70
 Fire Prevention Prgs. 30
 Orders of Abatement: 1

* Resolved or in the process of being resolved.

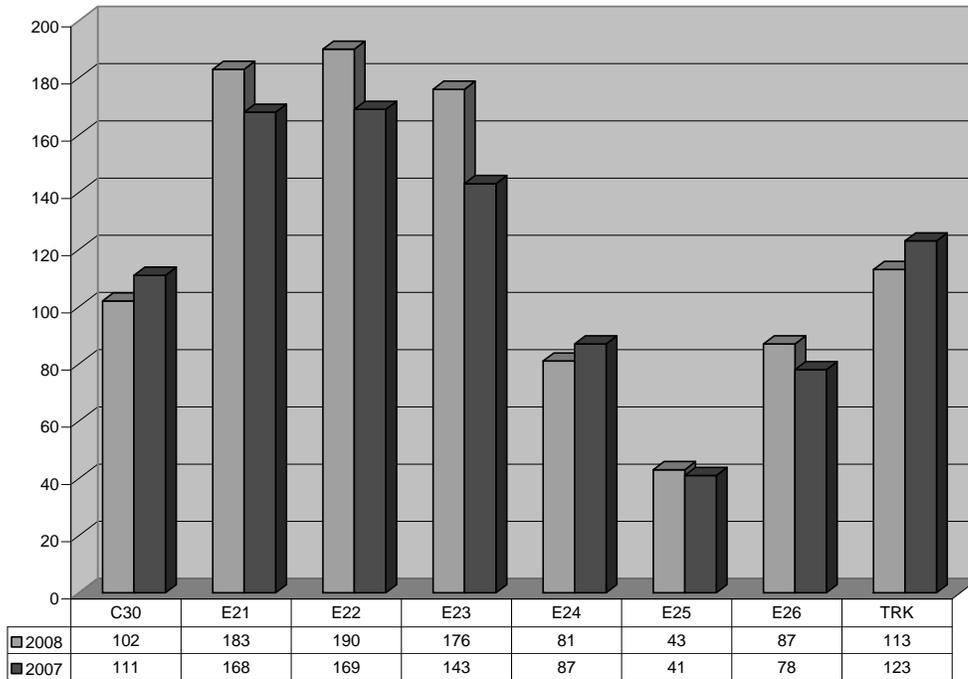
Company Statistics and Response Graphs

| E911 Statistics | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total 911 Calls | 2570 |
| Abandoned 911 Calls | 340 |
| Cellular 911 Calls | 1064 |
| 911 Hang Up Calls | 757 |
| Admin Calls Received | 888 |
| Police Calls via 911 | 303 |
| Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28) | 196 |
| EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29) | 340 |
| Daily Average | 95.19 |
| Dispatch Incident Statistics | |
| Total Fire Responses | 590 |
| Total EMS Responses | 742 |
| Unknown Transport Status | 0 |
| ALS Patient (CAD 60) | 292 |
| BLS Patient (CAD 61) | 310 |
| No Patient (CAD 62) | 140 |
| EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80) | 8 |

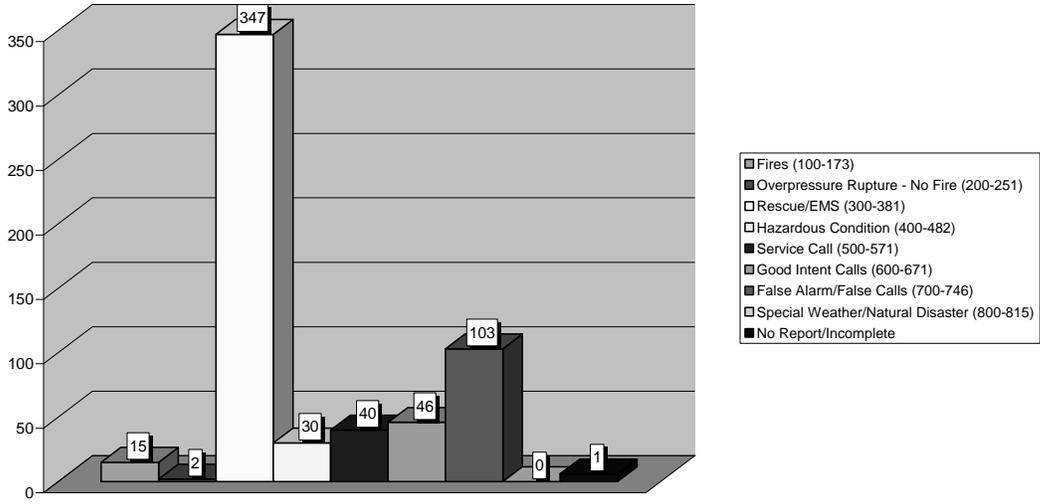
**Career Company Response
September 22 to October 21, 2008**



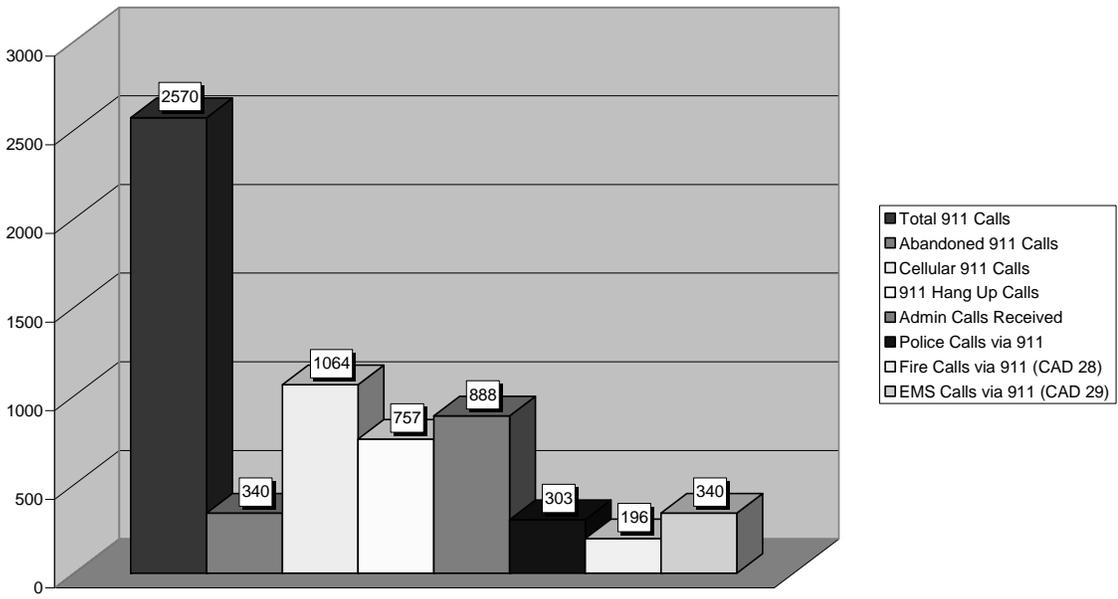
Career Response Comparison for October



**Fire Response Breakdown
September 22 to October 21, 2008**



**911 Center Activity
September 22 to October 21, 2008**



Respectfully,

Geoff Herald, Chief