



# **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, which covers the period of 27 January through 24 February and details activities of the Department.

Please join us as we welcome back Firefighter Adam Horosky. He has recently returned to work after returning from his 5<sup>th</sup> deployment to the western Asia Theater of operations. He has been serving as an Air force Firefighter. While there he responded to emergencies as well as training Iraqi firefighters in emergency response.

On 10 February I appeared before the State Public Safety Committee to present testimony supporting a petition to designate the City Training Facility on Plumtrees Road as a State Regional Fire School. I am seeking this designation as there are no regional fire schools in the area. As the Danbury area has grown, the need for a facility in our region has also grown significantly. If granted, the Regional Fire School designation will have many benefits for Danbury and the cities and towns of the region. Having a Regional School where the many required programs can be presented locally saves in travel, costs and reduces wear and tear on vehicles. Importantly, it will save time as the closest Regional School is an hour away.

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

In late January, Firefighter John Halas and former Danbury firefighter, now Lt. Chris Coppola of the Fire Department of New York, were eating dinner at a restaurant in Manhattan.

At around 10 pm they heard screaming for help, for a doctor. They both got up and went over to see if they could help. When they arrived at the other table, they found a customer unresponsive, not breathing, cyanotic and in cardiac arrest. Immediately both men pulled the diner to the floor and began resuscitation efforts. After a short while the gentleman began breathing and regained consciousness. Firefighter Halas stated that "I can't believe we got him back."

His wife says she is absolutely thrilled that "the boys" saved her husband. After spending two days in the hospital undergoing testing the man was released. It was found that he has a condition where his heart can slow enough to stop. They are considering installing an automatic defibrillator unit for his heart. This is an example of how our members are always on the job, even out of town.

Department personnel continue to replace batteries and smoke and CO detectors for our citizens. As we have reported, these devices are vital to our life safety and fire education programs. These have a proven track record of notifying citizens and providing warning of fires.

The department continues to disperse the "File of Life" packet and to assist in the use of these valuable resources.

Citizen tours this month include Cub Scouts and two families touring headquarters facilities.

Continuing our pursuit of great customer service, Engine 26 discovered a stranded motorist with a flat tire. The crew was able to successfully assist in changing the tire and the citizen was able to resume her day.

The Fire Department participated in an ice rescue demonstration at the Tarrywile Park during The Winter Fest on 2 February. The demonstration was filmed for a later showing on Fox 61 News.

### **Dates of Importance**

Lt. Kevin Plank, a 29 year member of the Department has retired. We will be celebrating his distinguished career serving the citizens of Danbury on 14 March with a dinner at Anthony's Lake Club. For tickets, please contact Sean Delohery or Michael Tyskiewicz at Headquarters.

The Danbury Fire Department will once again be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on 15 March.

On 7 March, the Danbury Volunteer Fire Department will be celebrating its Annual Ball at the Amber Room.

On 14 March, Beckerle and Company Hose Co. No. 9 will host its annual supper at Two Steps Downtown Grill.

### **Area Familiarization**

Glen Hill/Hayestown, Danbury Airport, Saw Mill Rd. Developments, Honeywell, Lowes, Best Buy, Aunt Hack-Joe's Hill area, 20-30 Backus Ave. 71 Mill Plain, 41 Kenosia, Boehringer Ingelheim, The Forty Acre Mtn. Rd. area around the lake, Henry Abbott Technical School, Holcon Gas, East Ridge Condominium Complex, 10 Main St., Riverbend Condominium Complex, Eden Drive Housing Complex and Windsor Garden Condominiums.

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

Candlelight Dr. was a bathroom fan fire which, if not for the quick and efficient actions of the unit owner, could have resulted in significant damage to multiple units in the complex. The owner/occupant was alerted by a smoke detector; saw smoke issuing from his bedroom, grabbed an extinguisher from the kitchen, proceeded to the bedroom and saw the bathroom fan on fire. He extinguished visible fire from below, then accessed the attic space and applied more powder from above. On our arrival he was ventilating his unit with a fan. He had called 911 initially and brought his dog out to his car. He did everything right. The plastic vent hose was melted at the ridge in the attic. The attic was open above three units with no firewalls of any type.

E21 responded to Police Headquarters to investigate an unknown substance brought there by a citizen. There was a fibrous material in an envelope which could not be positively identified. There was no associated or perceived credible threat. Lt McCleary and his crew handled the incident by securing the area and the woman who had brought the envelope in and coordinated with Joe Mead of the Health Dept., who requested DEP respond with a hazmat ID kit. The substance was identified as a cellulose material, not hazardous. Occasional calls of this nature provide an opportunity to revisit our SOPs and consider how we can better handle these situations with consistency.

A cooking fire which generated significant smoke and resulted in one man receiving second degree burns to his hand as he moved a pan of hot oil out of the kitchen via a window. The other unit occupants, a pregnant woman and two infants, relocated to another unit away from the smoke.

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

### **EMS Wednesday**

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certifications requirements of Fire Department First Responders. These classes held while on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

The Topic for this months EMS Wednesday was Diabetic Emergencies and Altered Mental Status. These emergencies require that First Responders recognize and treat the condition that diabetes or poor management may cause, determine what type of patient you are dealing with and what modalities of treatment are appropriate. The chief sign is an altered mental status, proper assessment of the patient and good patient history to determine whether the patient is a diabetic or is a victim of a stroke or cerebral vascular accident.

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 an Emergency Medical call. This advanced life support training coupled with the Danbury Fire Department's community education programs like CPR training and the "File of Life" has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

### **Hazardous Materials Thursday**

An on duty hazardous materials operational level training refresher has begun in the month of February and will continue through March, meeting the OSHA annual training requirement for the entire department. This eight hour class delivered on eight different occasions reinforces the proper procedures, personal protective equipment and techniques used in responding to hazardous chemical, biological or radiological releases.

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

#### **Center Activity**

While the Communications Center day to day activity has remained steady, there were no major events to speak of. Since the opening of Engine 26 response district changes and district assignments are being reviewed. Career and volunteer districts boundaries were changed prior to the opening of the West Station of Engine 26. These adjustments were made to address the improved access via the Jenny Rd. Gate. Any areas found to be less efficient will be corrected.

#### **Equipment**

Plans are being put in place to replace the aging transmitter/receiver located on the Hospital and this problem should be resolved in the near future.

#### **911 Training**

An additional 6 members will be attending Basic Telecommunicator training in a class being held at the Connecticut State Police Academy from March 2 to the 10<sup>th</sup>. These members will then continue training in-house on the CAD system. After the training is complete, these members will be qualified to serve as 911 Telecommunicators.

<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>21</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>4</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>313</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>30</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>52</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>44</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>81</b>
Special Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>0</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>0</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>549</b>
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>2838</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>297</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>943</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	<b>824</b>
Admin Calls Received	<b>608</b>
Police Calls via 911	<b>245</b>
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	<b>203</b>
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	<b>328</b>
Daily Average	<b>101.36</b>
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	<b>549</b>
Total EMS Responses	<b>647</b>
Unknown Transport Status	<b>0</b>
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	<b>306</b>
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	<b>227</b>
No Patient (CAD 62)	<b>114</b>
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	<b>5</b>
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	<b>12</b>

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

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

## **Training - Mark Omasta**

### **Firefighter I Class**

Our Firefighter I class started on January 15 and the 23 students are progressing well. Classes are being held at the Beaver Brook Vol. Fire Station and at our Fire School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sundays.

## **Volunteer Firefighter Training**

Volunteer FF first quarter training continues through February and into March. Topics include the Bio Hazard refresher, Electric Safety for First Responders, and Incident Command.

## **Online Training Grant**

The Danbury Fire Dept was selected to receive the Target Safety Online Training Grant. Our Volunteers will have access to this web-based training between January and the end of June. This is a great way to get safety training out to all of our volunteers who take advantage of the program.

## **Health/Safety**

Representatives from the Foundation for Wellness Professionals, Inc. (a non-profit organization) are giving Wellness seminars to the crews on topics including nutrition, proper exercise techniques, stress reduction and injury prevention.

## **NVCC**

The Naugatuck Valley CC Spring Semester 2009 class, "Municipal Fire Administration" got underway at Headquarters on January 28 and will run through May.

## **Forcible Entry Prop**

Crews are working on their forcible entry techniques using our heavy duty Forcible entry Door the Department was able to purchase last year.

## **New Equipment**

Boehringer Ingelheim generously donated a new rescue tripod. The crews are getting familiar with this new equipment prior to placing it into service.

## **Meetings/Events**

- Met with Program Director Barry Groman from Naugatuck Valley CC to coordinate the Spring semester class and discuss future projects
- Attended the Volunteer Fire monthly council meeting on January 26.
- Had a Critique for a Fire at 7 New St.
- Attended the Connecticut State Firefighters Education meeting in Wethersfield on January 22.
- Attended the Germantown (Eng 10) FD annual dinner on Jan.24
- Met with the FAA for our semi annual inspection on Feb. 3
- Attended the public hearing in Hartford concerning our desire to have our Fire School designated as a Regional Facility on Feb. 10
- Met with New Image Associates as part of our Leadership Development to continually enhance individual and team performance.
- Attended an all day seminar at the CT Fire Academy titled the "Street Smart Safety Officer"
- Attended the seminar on NFPA 1851, protective fire gear maintenance at the Academy on Feb. 20.

## Fire Marshal - James Johnson

### Inspections:

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	40.5
Issued in Fire Zones:	3
Fire Investigations:	9
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	16
Blasting Permits:	0
Complaints	18*
Plan Review (hrs)	57
Fire Prevention Prgms.	1
Orders of Abatement:	3

\* Resolved or in the process of being resolved

Place of Assembly:	31
Educational:	2
Business:	31
Storage:	0
Health Care:	3
Industrial:	0
Mercantile:	18
Residential Board & Care:	1
Hotel (units):	125
Apartments:	222
Rooming Houses:	1
Day Care:	0
Misc. Inspections	24
Special Structures:	0
Office Duty (hrs):	102

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. There were 11 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic). All situations have been successfully resolved.

This month's Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. At this time of year we stress the hazards connected with space heaters and extension cords.

Our office completed 40 hrs of continuing education training required for re-certification of Deputy Fire Marshals.

## Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

The following is a partial list of some of the activities and highlights of the Apparatus Division for February.

All of the Department's BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. All but one of the department's meters is fully functional. E-22's meter which we reported last month as having intermittent problems was sent to Biosystems Inc. for evaluation and repair. We are currently awaiting a report and estimate for the repair of this unit. With the help of Field Services, we have downloaded some new "firmware" for our

instruments. We will continue downloading this firmware as our meters come in for the monthly calibration.

Two or three SCBA units per week are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service. The SCBA's that were sent to Shipman's have been evaluated and cost estimates have arrived. The purchase order number has been received and Shipman's has been given the go ahead to repair these units. We expect that they will be returned sometime early next week.

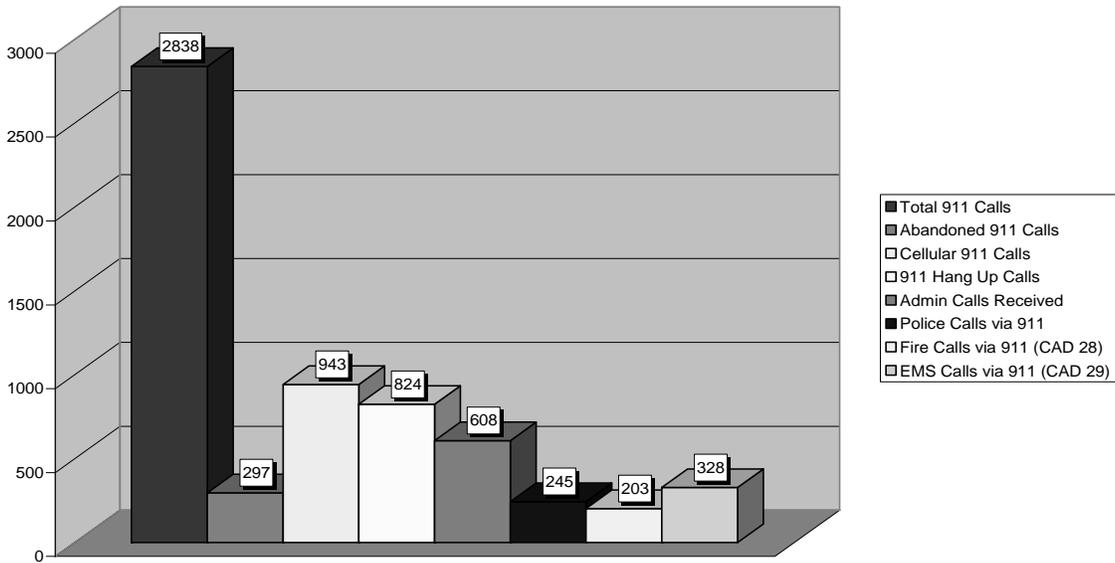
The purchase order number for the repair of E-12's thermal imaging camera has been received. We have been in touch with Thermal Imaging Systems and have authorized them to complete the repairs and return the unit to us as soon as possible.

This past month fit tests for Volunteer companies E-5 and E-11 were completed. On Monday February 23, E-7 and E-8 are scheduled. We are awaiting contact from the remaining Volunteer companies to schedule their fit testing.

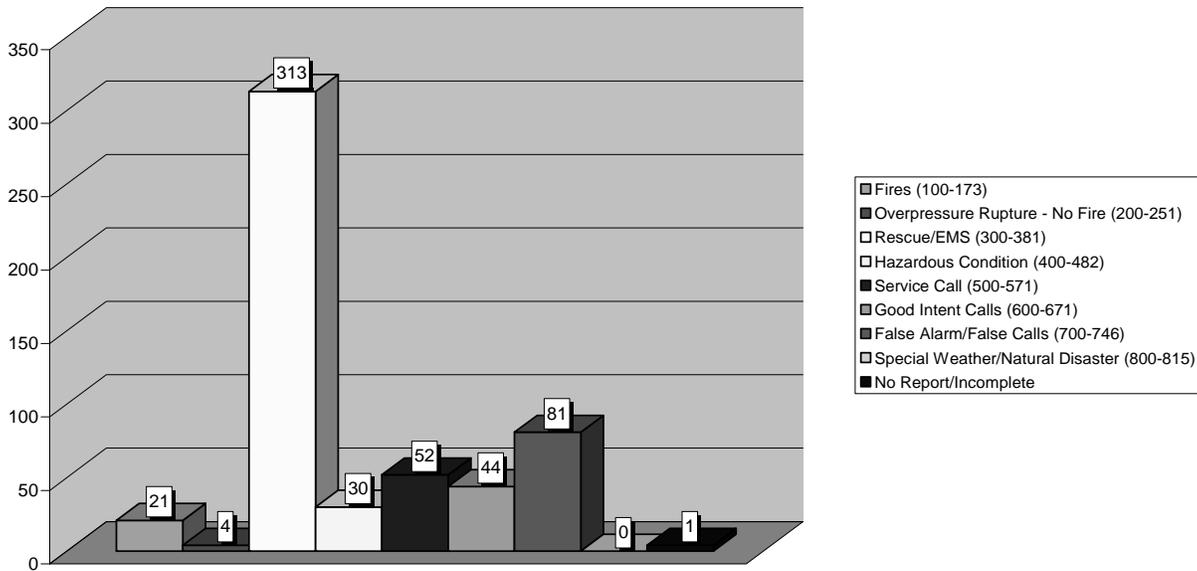
E21's and Truck-1's Plymovent unit here at Headquarters were serviced and adjusted. The relief valve on Airport 20 was repaired. The voltage regulator on E-22 was replaced. We replaced the alternator on the 95CT. The seatbelts in E-26 were replaced as well as all four drive tires. We are awaiting prices and part numbers for the repair parts for the Bullet saw. We repaired the outrigger warning alarm, the broken scene light, the damaged DOT lights, and the side ladders on Truck-1.

The pressure governor switch and master pump gauge on E-25 were replaced as were the compound gauge on E-24 and a damaged tire on Truck-1. We serviced the 06F1. We replaced a brake air chamber, inspected and adjusted the brakes on E-25, and inspected and adjusted the brakes on Truck-1. The auto eject units for the shorelines on both Truck-1 and E-22 were replaced as was the air dryer assembly in Truck-1. The cab door latches on both E-22 and E-26 were repaired. We replaced the turn signal assembly on 97F1. Truck-1 is currently out of service due to a fan clutch issue. A parts order is being processed and parts will be ordered upon approval.

**911 Center Activity  
January 22 to February 19, 2009**



**Fire Response Breakdown  
January 22 to February 19, 2009**



Respectfully Submitted,

Geoffrey Herald