



## **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 31 March through 28 April and details activities of the Department.

The City of Danbury recently hosted a regional water shuttle drill. The event was in the planning for six months. This drill involved developing a simulation of a significant fire needing water from remote sources. The planning for the drill involved personnel from the Fairfield County Emergency Planning Committee and members of the Danbury Fire Department staff. Nine municipalities eventually were involved.

Two draft sites and a dump site consisting of portable tanks were established on the west side of town. The drill was successful and we were able to provide water to the draft site in quantities that would provide sufficient supplies to an aerial water tower. Eleven hundred gallons a minute were constantly supplied for two hours over a two and a half mile shuttle. This drill has familiarized the regions Firefighters with each other, their equipment and capabilities.

Our safety message this month is to remind every one to be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists on our roadways. With the coming of warm weather there will be many people riding and walking on our streets. Please drive carefully and be aware of others on the roads.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Pre-incident tours include: New Police Station Fire Alarm and Suppression Systems, High Meadow Hill/Settlers Hill areas, Natural Gas Facility (Yankee Gas) located on Pahquioque Avenue, 5 Nabby Road, Woodland Hills, Arlington Woods, Birchwood, Knolls of Danbury, Summer Set, Sterling Woods, Premium Point, Shore Road, Sunset Cove, Barnum Road, Middle River Road, Corporate Ctr.

E23 and E24 attended Danbury Hospital's "Kids Day" children's health fair, providing a hands-on show and tell experience for the children in attendance.

15 four-year-olds from King St. Nursery School received a tour of headquarters.

14 children from Park Avenue School toured headquarters. The Truck Company presented a demo for a Fire Prevention class at St James Church.

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

A motor vehicle crash resulted in multiple companies responding to an extrication assignment on Southern Blvd on 1 April. Two vehicles had collided with a resulting entrapment and rollover. The victim was successfully extricated and transported via ambulance to the ED. Bethel Fire provided the second needed ambulance for this incident.

Companies responded to a reported explosion on Mill Plain Road on 2 April. There they encountered the aftermath of what appeared to be a steam explosion. The boiler of the facility had apparently failed catastrophically resulting in an explosion and debris scattering but no fire. No injuries were reported.

Department units responded to a structure fire at Ridgewood Condos on Kohanza St. on 17 April. Crews quickly extinguished a kitchen fire in the rear of unit 95, which apparently was caused by a freezer fan motor. Although no structural damage was evident, significant smoke damage throughout the unit and smoke infiltration into adjacent units resulted from the fire. The point of origin and a tightly sealed apartment (double layered sheetrock, opaque plastic on all windows behind curtains) contributed to lack of much visible smoke on the exterior until it self-vented through a small vinyl window next to the kitchen door, producing visible flame. There were no injuries and we provided an extra measure of customer service by installing 2 smoke detectors for the college students who were tenants in the adjacent unit and had no detectors.

### **Department Executive officers**

The senior staff members of the department participated in the following activities this month:

March 23 Meeting with Volunteer council Executive Board  
March 27 meeting with Union Local 801 regarding Fire Ops.101  
March 31 Boehringer-Ingelheim training with fire brigade  
April 3 Legal Issues conference Farmington Marriott  
April 7 Eng. 6 Annual Dinner and meeting  
April 8 Meeting with Officers of Eng. 6  
April 9 Firefighters Hall of Fame Dinner Aqua Turf  
April 16 Regional Juvenile Fire Setters Meeting  
April 16 FFOY Dinner  
April 17 Salvation Army Breakfast  
April 19 Regional Tanker Drill  
April 20 Fire Department tours of new P.D. Station

## **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 on duty allow firefighters to stay current with pre-hospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been Childbirth and MRSA.

The Danbury Fire Departments First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of Emergency Medicine and can recognize the progression of symptoms which directly impacts patient survivability. Thru rapid deployment and the use of Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support skills, firefighters can stabilize the patient; assist in the care and delivery of the patient to definitive care.

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 Departments community education programs like CPR training and the "File of Life" has increased the patient survival rates in the City of Danbury.

### **Haz-Mat Thursday:**

The final delivery of Hazardous Materials Operations level class was held for C-Group on 4/23/09. This completes the OSHA Mandated yearly refresher for our Department.

### **EMT-Intermediate Class:**

The following Firefighters F.F. Bierbower, F.F. Bruce, F.F. Horosky, F.F. Kowalski and F.F. McGee are attending the EMT-Intermediate class at the Danbury Hospital. EMT – Intermediates, like Paramedics are highly skilled and highly trained. EMT- Intermediates learn advanced assessment skills and treatment techniques, from advanced airway maneuvers to shock management. As a result of this training the intermediate has

evolved as an important part of the pre-hospital care team. In the City of Danbury where our First Responders operate at the EMT-Intermediate level, this gives our EMS system a level of depth which during peak call volume assures an advanced level of care is maintained.

### Regional Drill –Rehab

The Danbury Fire Department and other Fire Departments cooperated in a Regional Tanker Shuttle drill. As medical officer, Supervisor Rodriguez was assigned to work in rehab with the Ridgefield Fire Department's team. The newly formed team from Ridgefield participated in the drill simulating an emergency response as regional mutual aid. The Rehab group evaluated all participants of the drill and provided rest and re-hydration.

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

The Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. All but one of the department meters are in service. E-22's meter was repaired and returned to service this month. TRK-2's meter which was being used by E-22 was having some intermittent problems and was sent to Biosystems for evaluation. We received an estimate and are now awaiting a purchase order number to authorize the repairs. A newer version of "firmware" for our instruments became available in February. We have downloaded this firmware into all of meters during these past two months.

The Department's SCBA'S are functional. Our air packs are beginning to show their age. As we repair them we are noting increasing repetitive issues. Replacement with newer up to date air-packs is essential. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service.

Last month we repaired the Horton Fan Clutch in Truck-1. We also serviced this unit while it was in "sick bay". This month while investigating a strange engine noise in Truck-1, we discovered a defective charge air cooler. We removed the defective charge air cooler and the radiator from this unit. We received the new unit and sent the radiator out to a shop in West Hartford for repair. This was a difficult job and we would like to thank A-Group for their willingness to help us with the heavy lifting during the removal and installation of these components. The fuse was replaced for the platform controls in Truck-1.

We ordered parts to repair the tank to pump valve in E-22. We qualified several Drivers as to the Apparatus segment of Driver Qualifications. We serviced the vehicles of the E.M.S. Coordinator, Training Officer and the Deputy Chief. We replaced a light module in E-26's light bar. We checked and evaluated the station compressor at E-23 station.

We removed the alternator from Truck-2, this unit needed to be rebuilt due to a bearing failure. We received the updated siren driver and control head back from Whelen and switched the loaner unit out. We went to Wallingford and picked up our Decontamination Unit from Nichols Fire Apparatus. We made temporary repairs the exhaust ventilation system at the Melody-Halas Station. This repair comes with our

exclusive "Taillight Guarantee". A second Plymovent unit needs to be purchased as soon as funds become available.

### **Office of the Fire Marshal- James Johnson**

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. This month, there were 8 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) and all situations have been successfully resolved. This months Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. We still stressed the hazards connected with space heaters and extension cords and non-working smoke detectors.

The bureau completed 21 hrs of continuing education training for re-certification for Deputy Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal Johnson and Deputy Fire Marshal Rao attended the Fairfield County fire prevention poster contest luncheon that recognized the Danbury winner from Pembroke School.

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	57.5
Issued in Fire Zones:	6
Fire Investigations:	5
Fatal Fires:	0
Liquor Inspections:	10
Blasting Permits:	1
Complaints	21*
Plan Review (hrs)	66.5
Fire Prevention Prgs.	5
Orders of Abatement:	1
* Resolved or in the process of being resolved.	

Place of Assembly:	41
Educational:	8
Business:	32
Storage:	1
Health Care:	3
Industrial:	5
Mercantile:	28
Residential Board & Care:	0
Hotel (units):	15
Apartments:	345
Rooming Houses:	0
Day Care:	1
Misc. Inspections	27
Special Structures:	0
Office Duty (hrs):	116.5
Burn Permits	4

### **Training-Mark Omasta**

#### **Firefighter I Class**

Our Firefighter I class is working on the Hazardous materials Operational requirement during the month of April. Students from 5 towns are working towards State Certification as a Firefighter 1. Three new Danbury Volunteers joined us for the Haz Mat Operational Component. Classes are being held at the Beaver Brook Vol. Fire Station and at our Fire School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sundays.

### Regional Tanker Shuttle Drill

Danbury sponsored a tanker Shuttle drill on Sunday April 19 at Lake Kenosia. Fire Departments from 9 area towns participated, including 6 volunteer and 2 career companies from Danbury. Danbury Fire Dept. staff personnel participated as well. This was a large scale drill that went well. Departments in the Region gained experience working and communicating together.

### Pump Operators

Three firefighters successfully completed the requirements for driver/pump operator including the practical skills exam at our Fire School. Firefighters Bohan, Wanat, and DeJoseph are now qualified drivers.

### Tours

The Hocon Propane gas company on Payne Rd. brought a delivery truck ("bobtail") to Fire Headquarters and gave a class and demonstration on the safety features involved with this common type of Propane delivery truck. All 4 crews received the training. Crews toured the new Police Headquarters building on Main St.

### Charleston Fatal Fire Review

All personnel participated in classes covering the final review of the Charleston S.C. furniture store fire where 9 Firefighters lost their lives. Discussions included lessons learned and ways to prevent a similar tragedy.

### Rescue Technician

We continue our efforts to train the department in advanced rescue capabilities. The Rescue Technician Core class (6 days) started on April 20 and will end on May 1. 20 Firefighters, 5 from each crew are attending this advanced Rescue class. This program is the prerequisite to all the advanced rescue certification courses.

### Haz Mat Operations

Crews have completed the annual Haz Mat Operational refresher during April.

### Plumtrees Fire School

We had a gas meter training prop installed on the Burn building complements of Yankee gas.

Public works dug a trench for the underground conduit being installed to improve lighting on the Training grounds.

Addressi Fencing made adjustments to the entry gate.

The Fire School facility remains busy with Firefighter 1 classes from Danbury and Brookfield and live burns from area departments.

### Meetings/Events

- A representative from Thermodyne gas presented a class on the proper use of our Rescue Arc Air Oxygen cutter at the Fire School.
- Attended the Citizens Hose Annual dinner on April 7.

- Attended an all day seminar in Berlin sponsored by the CT Department of Health covering “Responding to Chemical Terrorism”
- Attended the Annual Salvation Army Breakfast on April 17
- Attended the Firefighter/Police Officer of the year dinner sponsored by The Rotary Club-Sunrise on April 16.

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

### **Training**

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A formalized Continuing Dispatcher Education program has begun in the Fire Department. Each Tuesday evening training sessions will be held for all Dispatchers and relief Dispatchers. During these sessions a variety of topics will be discussed that relate to Emergency Medical Dispatch, Incident Management and other timely topics. During these sessions calls will be reviewed for correctness and adherence to policy and procedure. The ultimate goal of these continuing education classes is to keep all dispatchers abreast of topics vital to responder and citizen safety and to provide a means of standardizing the process of call taking and dispatching.

Under a recent labor agreement all dispatch personnel are required to participate in a minimum of 10 hours of Communications training or directly related subject matter.

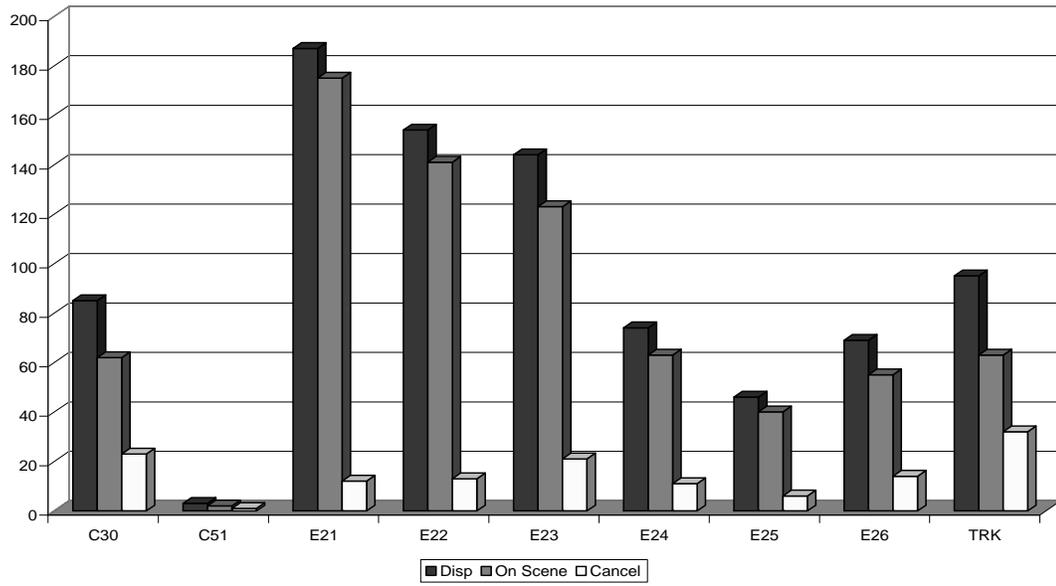
### **Radios**

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During the planning for the multiple agency tanker shuttle drill held on April 19<sup>th</sup> a number of goals were set for the Communications Division. One of the major items was to determine the communications capability of surrounding mutual aid partners and to integrate them seamless into an incident managed by the department.

This was accomplished through the use of the Statewide ICALL/ITAC command radio network and the use of a locally deployed state issued tactical cross band repeater. To complete the communications plan we issued a small number of portable radios. As a result this drill was highly successful from a communications interoperability standpoint. All agencies and units involved were able to communicate with each other with no problems. With a few minor planning adjustments the lessons learned on this drill will serve as a good working model of communications interoperability for the Danbury region.

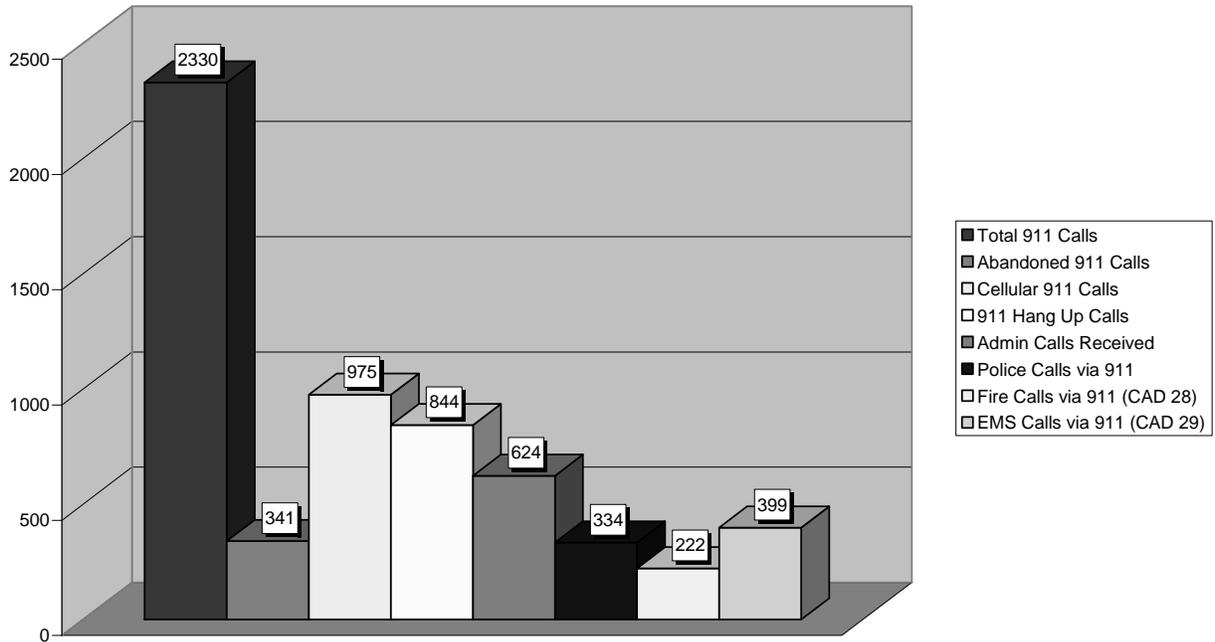
**Career Company Response**  
**March 23 to April 21, 2009**



### Fire Response Breakdown March 23 to April 21, 2009



**911 Center Activity  
March 23 to April 21, 2009**



**Dates of Importance**

25 May: Memorial Day Parade

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief