



CITY OF DANBURY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Geoffrey R. Herald
Fire Chief

Phone 203-796-1550
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 21 October through 21 November and details activities of the Department.

The department has spent considerable efforts preparing for the potential flu pandemic. Command staff personnel have attended many seminars and planning sessions regarding the issue and our Department. Unlike many business entities, we will not have the ability to telecommute and work from home. The Fire Department is dependant on personnel being in the stations and on the apparatus.

We have prepared the department through education and acquisition of sanitary supplies. Because of high demand, some of these are increasingly difficult to get. We have reviewed our needs for precautionary measures including cleaning materials, personal protective equipment and training. The department plans to operate with our regular response protocols unless extraordinary pressures force us to modify our standard procedures.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tours and pre-incident planning this month included the following:
Samuels Court Apartments at 5 Scuppo Rd., YMCA building on Boughton St., 10
Federal Road: Fastenal, Center Stage Dance Studio, Penske Truck Rental,
Crossroads Condos at 1 Beaver Brook Rd., 111 Main Street, Duracell

October is Fire Prevention Month and there have been many activities in this regard. Several companies participated in the Family Safety and Fun Day at Lowes Home Improvement Center on Federal Rd. An engine company from headquarters spoke with residents of Pope John Paul Center about our careers and fire prevention.

Tours and/or fire safety presentations were delivered to:

- 50 children from New England Country School at Headquarters
- Members delivered a fire prevention talk and showcased their engine for two classes of 20 preschoolers at WCSU preschool
- 200 schoolchildren at Park Ave. School. (4 sessions- K, 1st and 2nd grades)
- 50 students of Immanuel Lutheran School for a show and tell type class on firefighting equipment
- 13 Brookfield School students
- 15 2 to 5 year olds from the Mom's Club
- Brownie Tour at HQ 20 scouts
- a class of 15 preschoolers from Country Kids Day School
- 60 students of Sacred Heart School
- E21 took part in the 9/11 Heritage Fund Stars and Stripes Show at the Ice Rink.

The department held our annual 2009 Awards Ceremony and prayer service at Headquarters. This event showcased the heroic actions of civilians and uniformed members of our community. This event was very well attended and we thank the many citizens who came out to support us.

The truck company assisted the Emergency Management Director with delivery and installation of equipment on the roof of City Hall.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

E-21 responded to a Motor Vehicle Accident on Lake Avenue. The woman's car was being towed due to the damage from the MVA. The woman had laundry in her car that she wanted to take to the laundromat across the street. However, as she had her 20-month-old son with her she couldn't carry the laundry baskets and wheel the stroller. E-21's crew assisted with carrying her laundry baskets to the laundromat.

A call for an undetermined medical issue ended on a positive note. A call from the patients' husband to dispatch was made due to a probable diabetic issue with his wife. She was out driving her car. He was concerned due to her failure to return from a shopping errand. The dispatcher, Kent Bonsignore, a newly trained dispatcher, made repeated contact with the husband and the engine company while Engine 26 began to search for her vehicle by retracing her likely route. Firefighter Bonsignore made numerous calls to update the company and the concerned spouse. The company found her at the end of the road just short of the woods with the car running. Though in medical need, she was able to assist in her care. The crew of Engine 26 activated EMS and treated her until the arrival of the ambulance. She was successfully transported to the ED. The extra efforts put forth by Firefighter/Dispatcher Bonsignore resulted in the best possible ending to this situation.

On 18 October Units responded to Cypress Dr., for a structure fire called in by the occupant of a neighboring unit in this 6 unit condo dwelling. Apparently the fire burned undetected for a considerable time as dimensional 2x10 floor joists were burned away under a washer and dryer. Crews effected a quick knockdown in zero visibility

conditions. Adding to the hazard was the fact that a substantial floor section was burned away. One firefighter sustained a knee injury when he inadvertently stepped into the hole. No other injuries reported. Two parakeets succumbed to the smoke. Although crews were in position to ventilate the roof, it was not necessary, preventing further structural damage. DFM Rao is investigating the cause but it is considered accidental. Smoke and water from an activated sprinkler head over the furnace affected adjacent units. Damage was minimized due to timely venting and shutdown of the sprinkler flow.

After responding to an MVA, E-21 assisted the driver of one vehicle who was awaiting a ride so he could go to the hospital. His mother had suffered minor injuries and was transported by ambulance. The gentleman had a car load of groceries and couldn't take them in the ambulance. E-21 took him down to Marcus Dairy to await his ride so he wouldn't have to wait on the side of the road alone in the dark, as everybody else was leaving the scene.

While at a medical call, E-21 crew noticed the smoke detector batteries in the apartment were all chirping. After the patient was taken care of, E-21 replaced the batteries on two of the three detectors. E-21 contacted the Housing Authority to have maintenance take care of the third detector as our supply of batteries was depleted.

On 14 October a fire was reported at 6 Crosby St., the Concordia Society. The fire originated in the Carpenter's Union office. A call from a passerby resulted in fairly early detection and intervention by the FD. The fire was contained to the second floor office of origin. This building is known to have considerable void spaces and it would be extremely difficult to limit damage in the event of fire entering these spaces. DFM Rao investigated.

Coincidental with the fire above, an MVA/extrication occurred on Ball Pond Rd. With the majority of career resources at the fire scene, E25, E26 and volunteer E10 were able to remove the occupant of a Saturn Vue. The patient suffered with only minor injuries. Extrication was accomplished through the roof of the vehicle. In the course of the accident, the vehicle had taken down numerous guardrail posts and came to rest against a pole down a steep embankment.

Another fire incident on 14 October occurred at Heartwood La. This was a moderately smoky fire. It was extinguished for the most part by the homeowner. He had fallen asleep with food on the stove. He was awakened by a sounding smoke detector to find a smoke condition and his wooden cutting board, paper materials, etc. burning. He applied water to the fire. E23 removed everything to the sink and completed extinguishment. DFM Rao investigated.

Command and Staff Activities

Yonkers Firefighter Funeral: Yonkers Firefighter Patrick Joyce Jr. was killed in the line of duty while fighting a fire in Yonkers. Local 801 secured a donation of a bus from HART and 20 department members attended the funeral.

Annual Awards Ceremony at Headquarters

EMS oversight committee regarding H1N1 planning and response

Volunteer Association Sept. meeting

Twenty eight members of the Department attended the state wide Exchange Club

Firefighter of the Year awards dinner in Southington honoring Danbury Lt. Chip Daly and other state recipients

FBI presentations to all crews re: integrated WMD response

The Danbury Fire Department has begun our recruitment program for our next entrance level testing. We have a soft date for our exam of next May. We hope to complete testing and then hire for the September Fire Academy Class. To this effort, we have started to actively seek out and encourage people to take the entrance test. Our first effort at this was the college fair at the Danbury Mall. During the coming months we will participate in other events to raise awareness of the testing.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

The focus of this month's EMS Wednesday has been Legal and Ethical issues that face the first responder in the course of our duties. Medical, legal and ethical considerations are a part of every emergency response. Firefighters occupy a special realm in society. Firefighters respond to the request for assistance from civilians thru the 911 system. This request implies a certain level of trust and the expectation of expertise and professionalism of the Fire Service. The public trusts that when the Fire Dept. is on the scene with any emergency that it will be handled in an expeditious manner and that the priorities will be life safety and the protection of property. Fire Departments are expected to be multi-faceted and proficient in many different disciplines comprising Fire Fighting, Technical Rescue, EMS and Haz-mat.

Firefighters as professional rescuers and patient advocates make difficult decisions during emergency operations every day, often under the worst possible conditions. In our litigious society, this high level of expectation from the public could lead to potential criticism of the strategy and tactics employed. This may lead to claims of negligence should the outcome of the response be unfavorable. Operating within the scope of training and maintaining a high level of expertise will minimize the adverse effects potential legal actions.

The Danbury Fire Departments' First Responders have a comprehensive knowledge of emergency medical treatments 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 prevent organ failure, system failure and death. The Danbury Fire Department First Responder Program is a key part of the EMS system. In this system, cross-trained firefighters that have knowledge of these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to an Emergency Medical call. 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.

Communcations/911 - Patrick Sniffin

This month our communications division has been working with the provider of our new software. This software install is nearing completion and will be operational soon. The updates will significantly improve our information gathering and dispatch operations.

Training of our dispatchers has continued. At this time we have over 50 trained and certified dispatchers in the department. After initial training in a classroom setting with an outside agency, our dispatchers continue to train through presentations of our

senior staff and communications supervisor. These are done on duty in the PSAP and in our training class room.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Quarterly Training

Third quarter training was completed in early October. 100 Volunteer Firefighters participated in the SCBA refresher and confidence drills that were offered on five separate dates. The Training prop was constructed by our personnel. All training was conducted at our Fire School on Plumtrees Road.

Hydrant Testing

The Hydrant testing program for 2009 is coming to a close. Our Engine and Truck Companies tested approximately 1,500 city hydrants. The city water department works closely with the fire department in repair of out of service hydrants.

Hazardous Materials Technician Course:

Danbury Fire is hosting this 160 hour Haz Mat course which runs from September through December. There are a total of 16 students. Nine from the Danbury Career Division, one from the Volunteer division, a Danbury Police Officer, and students from Stamford, Derby, Newtown, Southbury and Brookfield. The course is partially funded through Region 5 and presented by the Connecticut Fire Academy. Several local companies have assisted in this endeavor with equipment and expertise: Leahy's Fuel, Mitchell Fuel, the Hocon gas company and the Wallingford Fire Dept.

ARFF Training:

Our 13 Certified Airport Rescue Firefighters participated in their FAA required annual live burn training exercises at Bradley Field on Sept. 25. Our firefighters trained with the Bradley Firefighters and ARFF personnel from other Connecticut Airports. Bradley Fire Department provided the Aircraft Simulator for the drills.

Vehicle Fire Hazards:

We are having classes for all crews concerning the hazards involved with extinguishing vehicle fires. Our Eng 21 crew recently escaped serious injuries when a front bumper exploded from a burning car and struck Eng 21 with parts of the bumper penetrating the windshield. Firehouse Magazine will feature this event in its next issue.

Hose Testing:

Annual Hose testing is underway for the thousands of feet of fire hose used by the Career and Volunteer divisions.

Fire School:

This is the busy season for our training building on Plumtrees Rd as we start our Annual live burn drills. The school will also be utilized by many of our neighboring Fire Departments. Work has commenced on our newest training aid which will be a Roof Ventilation Prop. Crews will be able to practice their roof ventilation techniques with this prop near ground level (for safety). Once constructed, we will be able to incorporate other training evolutions within this prop.

Structure Fires:

The Training Officer was called out as a Safety Officer for Structure Fires on Crosby St. and Sterling Woods Condominiums (Oct 14 and 18)

Meetings/Events:

- Participated in the Fire Dept. Fall golf outing in Newtown on Sept. 23
- Attended a Stag Ceremony for FF Pat Heron on Sept 23
- Attended the Grand Opening Ceremony for our New classroom on Sept 28
- Attended the Exchange Club Danbury Firefighter of the Year dinner in honor of Lt Chip Daly on Oct 1
- Statewide Exchange Club FF/year dinner at the Aqua Turf in Southington Oct 22
- Attended the Annual memorial and Awards ceremony at HQ on Oct 4
- Attended the Funeral for Yonkers Firefighter Patrick Joyce Jr. on Oct 6 who was killed fighting a structure fire in Yonkers NY
- Attended a class at the Fire Academy on Oct 19 on Train the Trainer for Haz Mat Awareness and Operational

Fire Marshal - James Johnson

We continue to find illegal occupancies thru UNIT inspections. There were 4 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic); all situations have been resolved or are in the process of being resolved.

This months Fire Prevention consisted of numerous programs for different groups. As October is Fire Prevention Month all schools were given fire safety lectures. When completed we will have talked to an estimated 5000 young people.

DFM Rao once again is the Fairfield County rep. for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The program was implemented at the start of Fire Prevention Week. DFM Leach is still working on the implementation of a regional Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program with the HVCEO members. DFM Osborne attended and also participated in an investigation class with the Danbury PD evidence techs.

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

This past month the Apparatus Division traveled to Cheshire to inspect our Mass. Decontamination Unit. This unit was recently returned to Headquarters and our staff is currently evaluating the repairs with the Haz-Mat team. We have received the ordered parts and repaired our Plymovent exhaust system for E-22 and Truck-2 at Headquarters. Communications with Pierce Manufacturing Co. regarding a recall of our Smart Dock air pack brackets due to continued operational difficulties is ongoing. All of the departments' 4 Gas meters have been re-calibrated.

Other repairs completed:

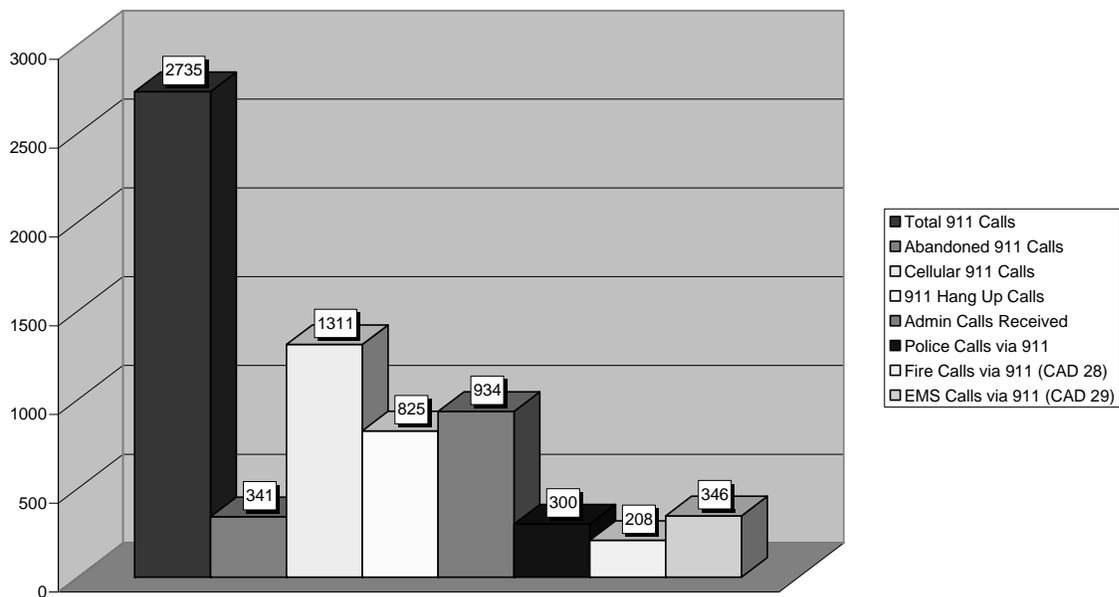
- Inspected and adjusted the brakes on E-21.
- Replaced the speedometer in E-24.
- Inspected and adjusted the brakes on Truck-1.
- Replaced two brake chambers on Truck-1.

- Replaced the turbo control valves on Truck-1.
- Replaced the Synchronous Reference Sensor in E-26.
- Install new MSA thermal imaging camera in Truck-1.
- Service E-26 including brake inspection and adjustment.
- Replace two seatbelts in E-26.
- Repaired smoke ejector from Truck-2.
- Repaired several saws from both Truck Companies.
- Replaced some pump plumbing in E-24.

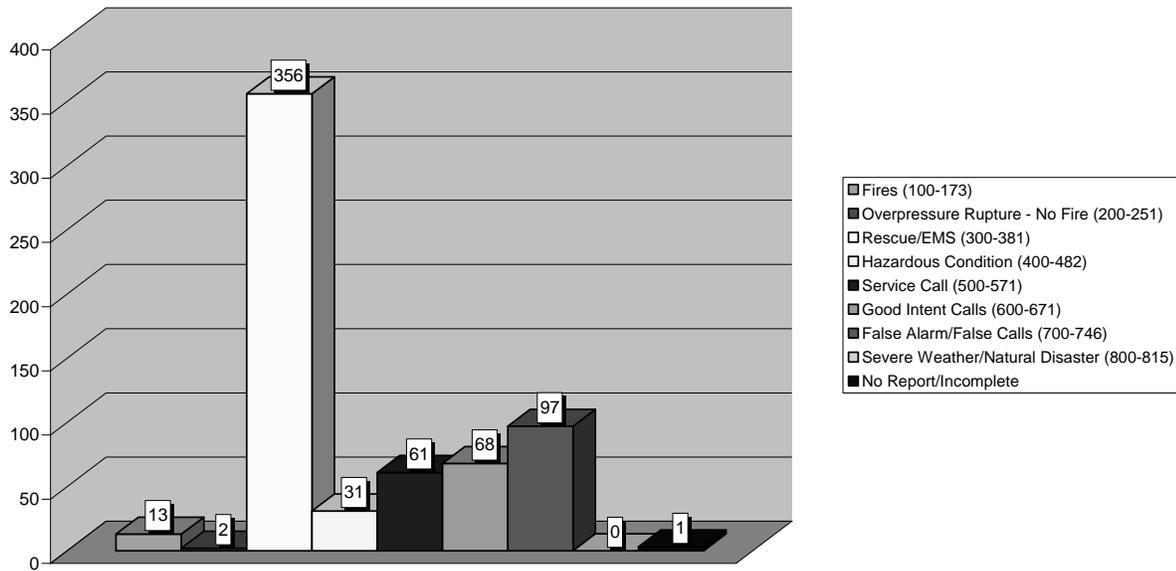
Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	36.5	Place of Assembly:	31
Issued in Fire Zones:	4	Educational:	3
Fire Investigations:	6	Business:	10
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	2
Liquor Inspections:	7	Health Care:	1
Blasting Permits:	4	Industrial:	3
Complaints	16**	Mercantile:	19
Plan Review (hrs)	36	Residential Board & Care:	2
Fire Prevention Prgs.	33	Hotel (units):	0
Orders of Abatement:	1 (unit)	Apartments:	100
** Resolved or in the process		Rooming Houses:	0
of being resolved.		Day Care:	4
Some of these complaints		Misc. Inspections	66
Were thru and with the UNIT.		Special Structures:	1
		Office Duty (hrs):	148.5
		Burn Permits	0

**911 Center Activity
September 21 to October 21, 2009**



**Fire Response Breakdown
Sepetmber 21 to October 21, 2009**



Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
Fires (100-173)	13
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	2
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	356
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	31
Service Call (500-571)	61
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	68
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	97
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	0
No Report/Incomplete	3
Total Fire Responses	631
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	2735
Abandoned 911 Calls	341
Cellular 911 Calls	1311
911 Hang Up Calls	825
Admin Calls Received	934
Police Calls via 911	300
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	208
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	346
Daily Average	97.68

Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	631
Total EMS Responses	784
Unknown Transport Status	15
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	300
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	332
No Patient (CAD 62)	137
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	7
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	22

**** NOTE ****

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Herald