



# **CITY OF DANBURY**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**19 NEW STREET**

**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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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 21 December through 21 January and details activities of the Department.

During this period we have experienced many of the weather patterns for which New England is known. We have had ice and snow, extreme cold and heavy rains. Our various call types have also run the gamut as this report illustrates. We have had chimney fires, structure fires and medical calls. Motor vehicle accidents have required cold water rescue suits, extrication and multiple ambulance responses. Calls for carbon monoxide exposure, water rescue and fire response all indicate the wide range of demands which the Department must be prepared to address at any time.

With this all hazard approach to preparedness in mind, the Department continues to seek out and acquire training opportunities. We are preparing to deliver a regional trench Rescue Program Certification class here in the City in the spring. This program will be a regional presentation. The funding for the hiring of the State Academy instructors has been provided through a DEMHS training grant of approximately \$6200. This class will comprise members of the regions' various fire departments as well as our own.

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

Pre-incident planning included: Mill Plain Storage facility, Family and Children's Aid building on Orchard and West Sts, Crown Point Condominiums, AOH Cultural Center,

54 Morris Street, Portuguese American Club, Danbury Sewage Treatment Facility  
Methanol installation on Plumtrees Rd.

FF Zaniewski assisted at the Oxford Special Olympics as a ski coach at Southington Mt. ski area.

Lt. Daly administered a drive for canned/non-perishable food from all FD stations and Pembroke School. This food was delivered to the Danbury Salvation Army.

E22 crew escorted Santa and Mrs. Claus, via their Engine, to a neighborhood block party on Spring St. They were met by hundreds of children, who had waited in line for hours. The children were given toys that had been donated to those in need, including 120 bicycles.

Members of the department have formed a recruitment team. These members will work with Human Resources to develop and administer a recruitment program for the Fire Department. Current plans include job fairs, social and cultural groups and schools as targets for the program. Our next entry test is tentatively scheduled for late May.

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

In the early morning of 26 December a fire was reported at 93 Park Ave., Village Square Condos. This was a structure fire that involved a two story three unit condominium structure. This fire was called in by a visitor to a neighbor, who had stepped out of her unit. Five occupants, in their 20's, likely owe their lives to this woman. On arrival, she pointed out to responders a chimney enclosure with heavy smoke issuing from it. The fire was actually in the attic of the unit. There was nothing connected to the chimney enclosure on the roof. The occupants had not yet awakened and the second floor was clear on our arrival. The fire could be seen around the edge of the pull-down stairs at the top of the stairs to the bedrooms on the second floor. Firefighters could not awaken the occupants to a point where they could help themselves escape. They needed to be dragged or carried out to be evaluated by EMS on scene. Crews contained the fire to the involved unit, although the entire roof structure will need replacing. A pet python was rescued also. FM Johnson and DFM Russell investigated.

On 2 January units responded to an MVA reported on Segar Street. This accident involved a single vehicle coming to rest on its side down an embankment and in the water. The operator had self rescued and exited the vehicle. However, E26 in checking the vehicle used low angle rescue techniques and utilized the cold water rescue suits. This incident provided a different approach to the use of the cold water suits, as it was not the typical walk on a flat ice surface and then lowering yourself into the water. It involved descending through brush and entering a flowing water way to provide a safe method of connecting the vehicle to the wreckers' recovery cables. To mitigate the incident, the responders employed ladders, ropes, rope hardware and the cold water suits.

On 4 January E26 crew responded to a call for an elderly resident with no heat. The responding crew found the 92 year old using an electric stove for heat. Working through DC Wiedl they and were able to get a fuel delivery and have her burner restarted.

On 12 January a fire was reported at Tanglewood Pines Condos at 17 Triangle St. This was a structure fire in an end unit. The homeowner, upon returning home from work, entered his unit and encountered a smoke condition and odor of burning. On investigation, crews found that there had been a fire in a bathroom vanity. Interestingly, the plumbing within the vanity had melted, allowing the water to extinguish the fire. DFM Rao investigated, discovering that the electric kick space heater under the vanity provided a likely ignition source. FFs checked for fire extension, ventilated smoke, and overhauled the scene. Fire crews also vacuumed what water they could from the two levels affected. The occupant was advised to confirm that all of his smoke detectors were functional.

On 13 January Engine 26 responded to 23 Backus Ave., the US Post Office. They arrived to find a man down with CPR in progress. Two postal employees were administering CPR to a fellow employee who had gone into cardiac arrest as he reported in to begin his shift for the day. E26 set up their defibrillator and delivered a shock to the stricken man. E26 continued with patient care as EMS arrived on scene. E26 and EMS worked together to care for and transport the patient. The patient regained a normal cardiac rhythm and spontaneous breathing. Several days after the event, the patient was still receiving care at Danbury Hospital. The teamwork of all involved provided for a positive outcome for this patient. The immediate administration of CPR by fellow employees was the key to the patients' potential survival.

## **Command and Staff Activities**

Activities of the command staff for the period include:

- Meeting with Union and Mayor
- Volunteer Council mtg
- Haz Mat Team
- Meeting with WCSU, engineering
- Facility task force mtg (2)
- State Chiefs mtg
- Mayors Cabinet
- Recruit mtg
- Managing A Combination Fire Dept. seminar
- Red Cross Blood mobile, HQ
- Monthly Staff mtg
- DHS education mtg
- Quarterly staff mtg
- C of C Leadership Danbury

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

EMS Wednesday: Patient assessment is a systematic approach to immediately discover life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Departments First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during Emergency medical calls before transport to the Hospitals Emergency Department

Haz-mat update: The Danbury Fire Department Regional Haz-mat Team has received a new Ahura Tru-Defender meter from the State of CT. Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The meter is a state of the art Raman spectroscopy meter that can conclusively identify liquid or chemical products by heating the unique chemical bonds in an unknown compound and compare the result with a stored library of chemical compounds and provide fast identification in the field.

State of CT. Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Meeting: DEMHS, at a meeting in Hartford on Tuesday 19 January discussed the need to revamp the training curriculum currently provided by the State Fire Academy for Haz-Mat Technician. Discussion revolved around the need to adequately train Haz-Mat responders in a time efficient and cost effective manner. A committee has been formed to consider that the EPA 40 hour technician class be used as a baseline standard with the opportunity for enhancement classes and the requirement for recertification to demonstrate competency. This committee will work with the State Fire Academy to further this initiative.

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

With the holidays and the ongoing training in other areas, the weekly communications classes were temporarily curtailed. These will be reinstated in the coming weeks. Relief dispatchers have continued to work individually on their EMD recertification. A records audit of all dispatch personnel is being performed to update all information pertaining to state certification requirements. These updated profiles will be forwarded to the State Office of Emergency Telecommunications for their files.

## **Training - Mark Omasta**

Hazardous Materials Technician Course:  
The 160 hour Hazardous Materials Technician course hosted in Danbury has ended. Danbury Fire had 9 participants and all passed the Practical and Written exams and are now certified to the Technician level. These individuals will fill vacancies on our 20 man Haz Mat Team. Volunteer Firefighter Glen Lake Jr and police officer Mike Pederson also completed the course. Funding for the class was provided in part by of the State DEMHS Region 5. Our Haz Mat team is a part of the Connecticut Region 5 Haz Mat Response team.

Fire Instructor I: The 17 Fire Instructor I students successfully passed the certification exam on Dec 18. We now have 80 CT state certified Fire Instructors on staff.

Volunteer Division: Currently there are 119 volunteer firefighters available to respond to emergencies with 19 newly enrolled in the Firefighter 1 class. First quarter training is scheduled for February.

Fire Fighter 1 Class: The Firefighter 1 class started on January 14 and runs through the end of May. This is a 160 hour course with classes being held at Fire Headquarters and our Fire School. There are 19 Danbury Volunteers and three from N. Fairfield and Sherman enrolled.

Fire School: The shutter replacement project moved forward with the installation of 5 steel shutters on the remaining first floor windows on our burn building in December. Jim's Welding Service fabricated and installed the shutters. This is a major operational and safety improvement to the school. The Fire School was used often during last year for live burns for Danbury firefighters and firefighters from our surrounding towns.

Aerial Operator: FF's Kent Bonsignore and Walter Arteaga successfully met the Department's requirements to become an aerial Operator/Driver in December 2009.

Naugatuck Valley Community College: "Fire Investigation" is the offering for the spring semester, starting Jan. 25 at Fire Headquarters.

Safety Officer: The training officer was called to a structure fire at Village Square Condos on Park Ave. December 26.

#### Meetings/Events:

- Participated in the Department Staff meetings on 19 and 21 January
- Met with Barry Groman, NVCC coordinator of the Fire Science Degree Program along with personnel at the NVCC satellite office on Crosby St.
- Met with the director of the CT Fire Academy covering multiple issues
- Attended the Padanaram Hose Co. #3 annual dinner Jan 20

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

This past month the Apparatus Division has received purchase orders related to ground ladder testing and Non Destructive testing of both of the department aerials. We have had our ground ladders tested and will be scheduling the tests for our aerials as soon as possible. These tests are difficult to perform at this time of the year here in New England. These tests require at least eight hours of steady work per device and due to our shops physical limitations can only be performed outside. We replaced the Duo-Tox sensor in E-22's meter. We have filed a requisition to purchase an O2 sensor for E-26's meter. We have calibrated the remainder of the Departments' 4 Gas meters.

#### Other repairs completed:

- We replaced the starter in a K-950 rescue saw
- Replaced all 4 Oxygen sensors in 97F1
- We rebuilt the starter in Truck-1
- We repaired the wiring harness in Truck-1

- Serviced several staff vehicles
- Replaced the fan and clutch in E-24
- Repaired Ignition coils and replaced spark plug wires in 99C1
- Replaced both alternators in Truck-1
- Replaced two power steering hoses in Truck-1
- Repaired the smoke ejector from Truck-2

### Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Again this month there have been newly reported illegal occupancies. These were reported and then investigated through the UNIT assignments. There were 2 inspections for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic) and these are resolved. Fire Prevention presentations this month consisted of several programs for various groups. In addition, we also interviewed 4 youths involved with fire play through our Juvenile Fire Prevention program. The office of the Fire Marshal investigated several serious fires during this period. Happily, none of these resulted in injuries.

### Department Statistical Reports

Abatements/Reports (hrs):	36.5	Place of Assembly:	15
Issued in Fire Zones:	6	Educational:	3
Fire Investigations:	10	Business:	18
Fatal Fires:	0	Storage:	5
Liquor Inspections:	5	Health Care:	4
Blasting Permits:	2	Industrial:	2
Complaints	28**	Mercantile:	24
Plan Review (hrs)	74	Residential Board & Care:	0
Fire Prevention Prgs.	8	Hotel (units):	165
Orders of Abatement:	3	Apartments:	35
** Resolved or in the process		Rooming Houses:	1
of being resolved.		Day Care:	3
Some of these complaints		Misc. Inspections	30
were thru and with the UNIT.		Special Structures:	3
		Office Duty (hrs):	135
		Burn Permits	0

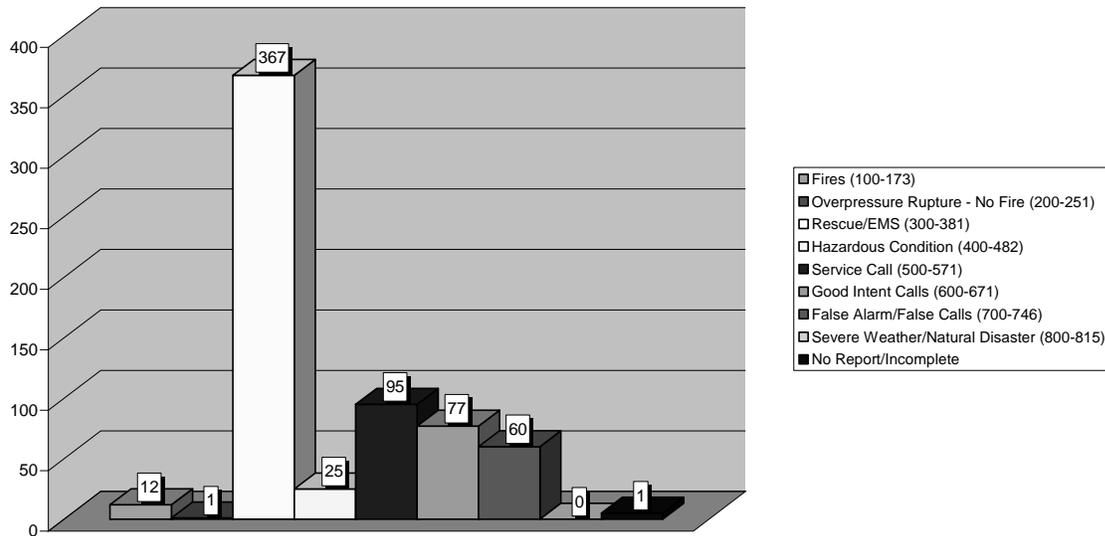
<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	<b>12</b>
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	<b>1</b>
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	<b>367</b>
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	<b>25</b>
Service Call (500-571)	<b>95</b>
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	<b>77</b>
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	<b>60</b>
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	<b>0</b>
Special Incident Type (900-911)	<b>0</b>
No Report/Incomplete	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<b>642</b>

<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	<b>2494</b>
Abandoned 911 Calls	<b>344</b>
Cellular 911 Calls	<b>1201</b>
911 Hang Up Calls	<b>333</b>
Admin Calls Received	<b>757</b>
Police Calls via 911	<b>306</b>
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	<b>223</b>
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	<b>362</b>
Daily Average	<b>89.07</b>
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	<b>642</b>
Total EMS Responses	<b>762</b>
Unknown Transport Status	<b>14</b>
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	<b>287</b>
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	<b>337</b>
No Patient (CAD 62)	<b>124</b>
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	<b>8</b>
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	<b>32</b>

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

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

**Fire Response Breakdown  
December 21, 2009 to January 21, 2010**



**911 Center Activity  
December 21, 2009 to January 21, 2010**

