

July 26, 2005

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of June 26th to July 26th and details some of the activities of the Department.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- ❑ Crews continue to keep up with the construction-taking place in their respective districts. There are many condo units and other dwellings being built throughout the City. The construction of new roads and buildings on Federal Rd. sites are continually monitored.
- ❑ Engine Companies spent time at the Children's Safety Day at Danbury Hospital. The children always enjoy the hands on with our equipment. The adults also had many questions.
- ❑ E-25 and E-23 went to the Little Rascals Day School and Cedar Gables Day Care Center for a show and tell session.
- ❑ On July 25th C Group hosted a young man named Josh Danjig for a ride along day. Josh was the winner of a St. of Connecticut Firefighters Assoc. contest.
- ❑ The Department participated in City Camp Day, which took place at five different sites. The firefighters showed their equipment and held Q & A's with the campers.
- ❑ E-25 visited a Block party in the Grammar School Dr. neighborhood, meeting with residents and displaying our equipment.

- Pre- Incident Familiarization - On going familiarization continues on all the crews. Buildings looked at are: vacant office space which was once the Novo Lab on Turner Rd., Arlington Woods, White Oak Estates, Avalon of Danbury, Riverbank Condo's, Water Treatment plant on Peck Rd., Home Depot addition, Oil Mill Condo's, Lion's Condos and Boehringer Ingelheim.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- The month of July has been a slow month in the amount of major incidents. There were two minor kitchen fires. We had one working fire on Balmforth Ave. It involved a vacant building with the fire possibly being set. The Fire Marshal's office is investigating.
- The heavy rains during the month lead to several problems for us. Wires down and flooded basements kept our Volunteers busy. One possible disaster was avoided when the heavy rains caused a particle collapse of the roof at Action Motors on Newtown Rd. There were no injuries but the building had to be vacated.
- A side note of the Action Motors collapse came when one of their employees who had been sent home for the day came upon a person on Casper St. who he had seen fall into the Still River. He immediately jumped into the river and saved the young man. He got the man onto the river bank and cared for him until our people arrived on the scene. It turned out that he was the same person who three months ago help rescue two people from a burning building on Triangle St. Talk about being in the right place at the right time. I am sure he will be awarded a Civilian Award at our Awards Ceremony in October.
- The same night that we had the collapse at Action Motors and the rescue of the young man from the Still River we possibly avoided another major incident. E-22 was dispatched to 15 Franklin St. for an odor of smoke. Upon arrival they encountered several people on the front porch. While searching for the odor they found several fire safety violations. They called for a Fire Marshal and a building inspector. Upon their arrival we were able to determine that there were 38 people living in what was suppose to be a four family apartment. Sixteen people were found to be living in the attic. The electrical inspector had the electricity cut at the street and the landlord was called to the scene.

- o Paul Estefan activated the shelter at the War Memorial to house the residents. This time we were lucky that a fire had not broken out in the middle of the night. On the good side of this incident all the City Departments worked well to make sure the residents of the building were cared for.

- o Firefighters continue the annual hydrant-testing program this month. This joint effort with the Public Utilities department is designed to ensure operational functionality of City hydrants

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES / Haz-Mat – Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous training program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet EMS recertification requirements of the Danbury Fire Departments First Responder program. These classes held while Firefighters are on duty, ensure firefighters current with prehospital care techniques and to maintain sharp practical skills.

This month's topic has been a refresher course on adult, child, and infant CPR. Crews continue to work daily on their EMS skills so that they can make a difference in serving the citizens of Danbury. Another area that was covered during the month was the proper boarding techniques of patients in need of a K.E.D. device.

FF Reed Boullianne continues his EMT class at Danbury Hospital.

COMMUNICATIONS/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Mobile Data Terminals

On July 21st the Mobile Data computers were activated within the Fire Dept. In order to accomplish this goal a great deal of coordination and effort on the part of Data Processing, HTE Inc. and Fire Department staff was expended. The Apparatus/Maintenance division installed all modems and antennas while Wade Anderson directly coordinated the myriad of network issues in changing this technology.

Software customization for Fire Service use was done with the assistance of HTE trainers. All personnel were entered into the system and all apparatus computers were reconfigured for the new modems and software.

Fire officers were trained on July 19th and 20th. Many officers indicated their approval that this tool is once again in use.

In addition to the mobile data software, the CAMEO [Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations] program was loaded on each truck computer. This program is designed to provide tools for responders to lookup hazardous chemicals, facilities using hazardous chemicals and specific information regarding chemical compounds and release mitigation. This program is used throughout the country by LEPC's and will give Fire Officers a useful tool in managing Hazardous material incidents.

At the current time planning is underway to allow local businesses and industry to submit required chemical data electronically using the companion Teir2-Submit program. Having industry submit electronically would reduce the amount of data entry necessary.

Dispatcher Training

With retirements and promotions the department will be promoting two members to the position of dispatcher. These individuals have been scheduled for required State Telecommunicator training and Emergency Dispatcher training.

Following this and a brief period on hands-on work in the Communication Center, both new dispatchers will be assigned for duty.

911 System

This office regarding the recent public safety announcements about proper use of 911 has received positive feedback. These PSA's were developed to increase public awareness of 911 services. It is noticeable that callers are now staying on the phone longer and providing more details in response to dispatcher's questions. This understanding and awareness can be key in a successful outcome to an emergency.

Another note of interest within 911-call volume is the increase in calls originating for cellular devices. The number of 911 calls from cell phones have been steadily increasing however in this reporting period there is a definite up tick in cell volume. This can be attributed to summer weather and outdoor activities. The mapping component installed by the State last year has been a reliable tool in locating these callers.

TRAINING - Jim Thorne

The volunteers have finished their 2nd quarter training. The training period had to be extended because two companies failed to schedule their training. The training finished up on Sunday July 10th.

The Fire School burn building is almost completed. Electric power still has to be connected to the trailer. Sewer and water connections have yet to be made. Hopefully by this time next month we will be able to report that the entire school is up and running fully.

The DECON Trailer was used in Ridgefield for a Command Center by DEP after the fuel tanker fire. The trailer has been returned to the airport hangar where it resides when not in use.

Hydrant testing is still in progress every Tues. and Thurs. mornings.

Coordinated letters for entry level firefighters [Danbury Volunteers] to be used by them to gain points under the new Civil Service Rules.

A class was conducted by Capt. Herald to raise awareness to the possibility of clandestine methamphetamine labs operating in our area.

Crews had table talk discussions about the recent gasoline tanker accident and fire in Ridgefield. The crews discussed how we might have handled a situation such as this in Danbury.

We recently had the opportunity to try a new blade for the K-12 saw. FF. Ron Hollister had been able to get the blade on loan from the Cuttersedge Company. We found that the blade would be a great enhancement for our saw. It is capable of cutting through metal and concrete much faster than the blades we now have. It also would last a lot longer than the blades we are now using.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE - Randall Morits

The Prime Mover vehicle to tow our Decon Trailer should be in soon. Our vehicle which is number 13 has been delivered to the state for inspection. That inspection will be done the week of August 1st. We should probably expect delivery to us the second week in August.

All our vehicles had new modems put in last month for our Mobile Data Terminals. We were waiting for the new SIM cards for these modems. We received them this month and were installed. All the M.D.T.s are now in service.

Several vehicles encountered problems this month. E-25 had a defective brake seal and it was fixed. E-23 had an antifreeze leak and a defective cooling fan. We are awaiting the parts from the manufacturer and it will be put back in service.

E-23's I.S.G. Thermal Imaging Camera had to be sent back to Georgia for repairs. It has been repaired and was placed back in service.

E-23 has received a new air compressor for use around the station. It also has fittings to hook into the vehicles that are stationed there, to keep the air brake system fully charged at all times.

We have filled out a requisition for three new vehicles to replace C1 {Chief}, C2 {Deputy Chief} and C30 {Asst. Chief}. We hope to receive these vehicles soon.

Two hundred gallons of AFFF Firefighting Foam will be ordered by the end of the month. Our foam supply is getting low and need to replenish our stock.

The Prime Mover vehicle should be delivered shortly. The vehicle will be used to move the Dec-Con trailer and it's crewmembers in case the Dec-Con trailer is needed.

GOOD of the ORGANIZATION

Local # 801 held their annual picnic at the Sokol Club on the lake in Brookfield on Sat. the 23rd of July.

7/10/05 Benefit Ride - FD members Newton, Artega and Singer participated in a motorcycle ride to benefit the Joshua Foundation. Joshua is a relative of FF Karl Drentwett.

During the month of August all the Career Companies will be out on the City streets participating in Fill the Boot Campaign for MDA.

This month three of our members retired. Lt. Thomas McNulty retired 7/17/05 after 34 years of service. Disp. Harry Leonard retired 7/20/05 after 34 years of service. Lt. Charles Ballard retired on 7/10/05 due to a job disability.

DATES of IMPORTANCE

Aug. 9th. - Retirement Dinner for Lt. Tom McNulty. It will be held at Anthony's Lake Club at the Vespucci Club. It starts at 7:00PM and runs until 11:00PM.

Sept. 13th - Retirement Dinner for Disp. Harry Leonard. It will be held at Anthony's Lake Club at the Vespucci Club. It starts at 7:00PM and runs until 11:00PM.

INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	23
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	2
Rescue/EMS	228
Hazardous Condition	37
Service Calls	40
Good Intent Calls	52
False Alarm/False Calls	89
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	1
Special Incident Type	1
No Report/Incomplete	12

Total Fire Calls 485

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 593 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	580
No patient EMS Calls	93
BLS Patient Calls	271
ALS EMS Calls	216
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	7
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	28

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 2978 with a daily average of 106.36 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

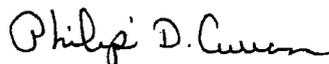
Fire Response Calls	485
EMS Response calls.	580
Abandoned Calls	438
911 Hang Ups	581
Admin Calls Received	797
Cellular 911 Calls	1113

Note - Since multiple 9-1-1 calls are received for many responses, call volume is reflected as a total. Multiple calls received are recorded on individual fire reports and not on CAD generated totals.

Attached please find graphic displays and the Fire Response Breakdown, Company Response, Volunteer Company Call and Response Statistics, and EMS Transport Activity Statistics for the reporting period.

If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

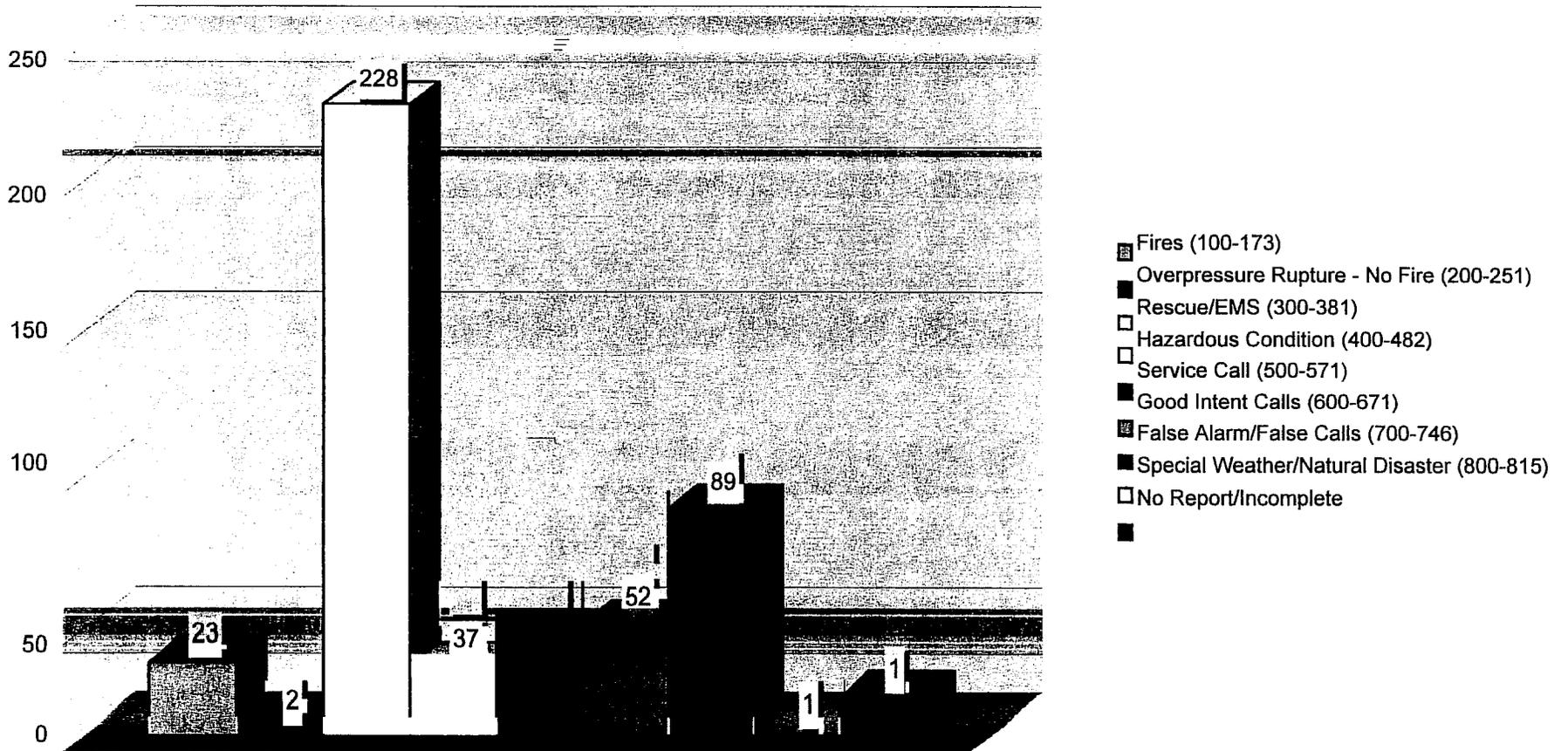
Respectfully submitted,



Philip D. Curran

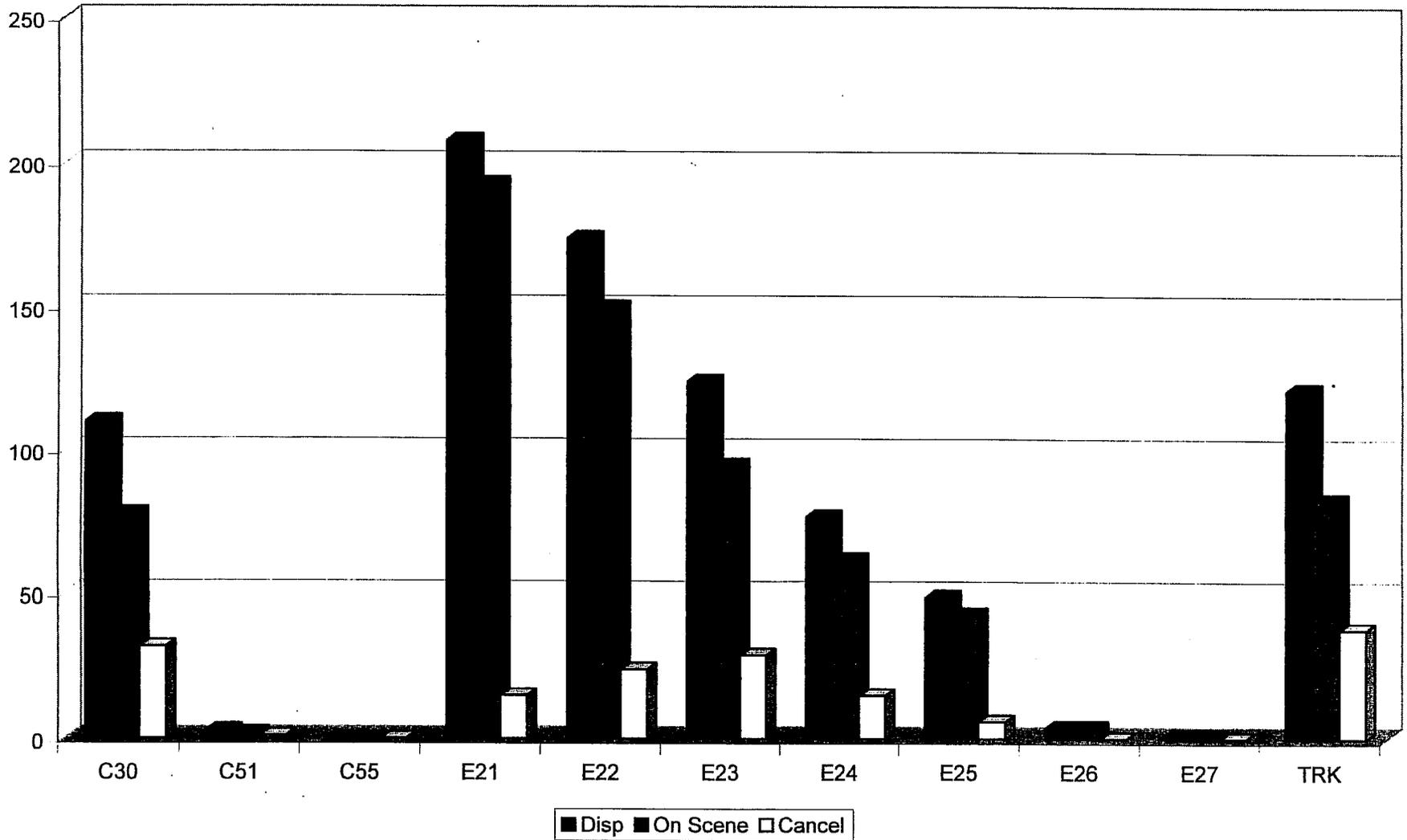
Deputy Fire Chief

Fire Response Breakdown June 27, 2005 to July 24, 2005

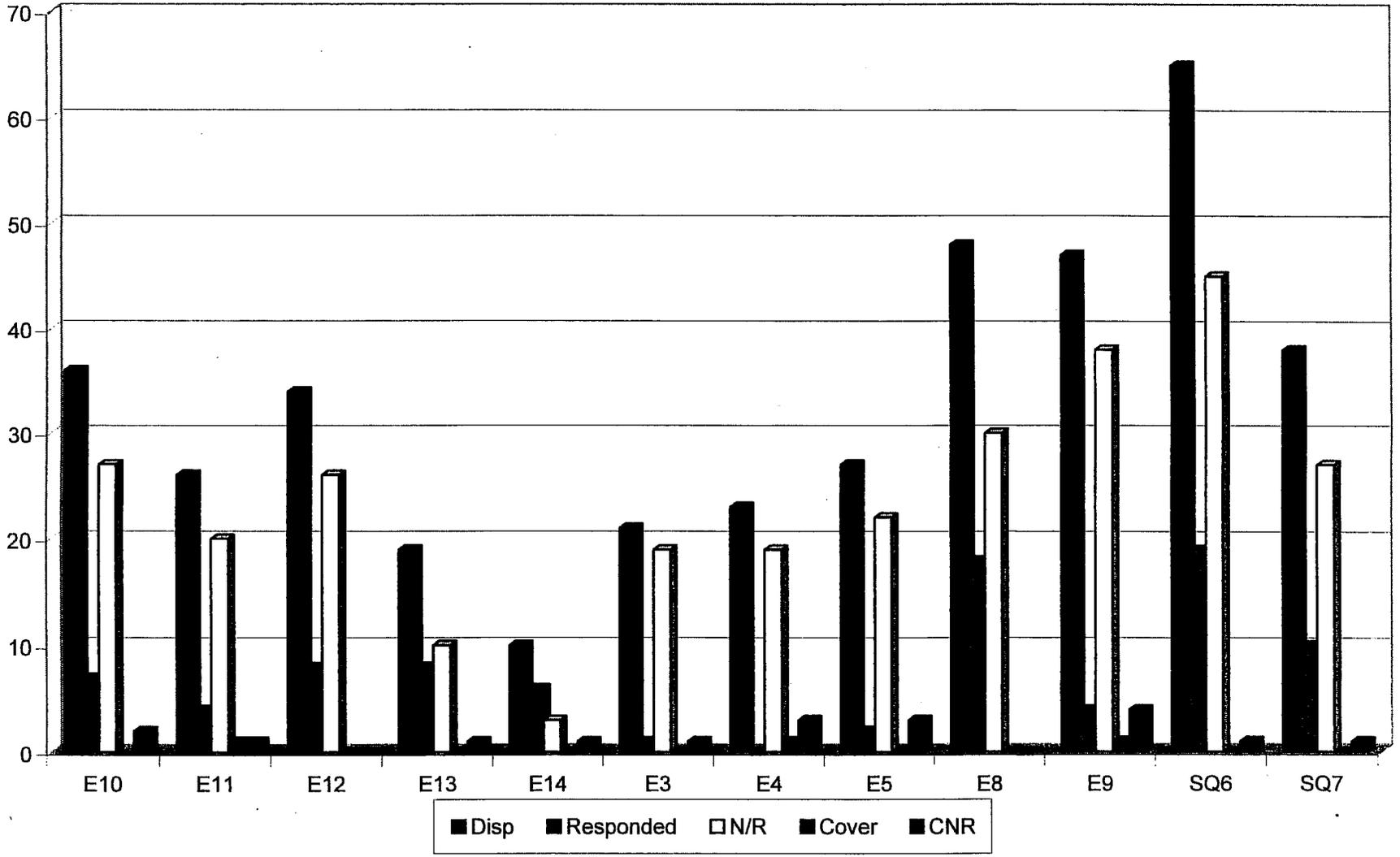


DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES									
	<i>July Response Statistics</i>								
	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% of Response			
E-3	21	0	1	1	19	10%			
E-4	23	1	3	0	19	17%			
E-5	27	0	3	2	22	19%			
S-6	65	0	1	19	45	31%			
S-7	38	0	1	10	27	29%			
E-8	48	0	0	18	30	38%			
E-9	47	1	4	4	38	19%			
E-10	36	0	2	7	27	25%			
E-11	26	1	1	4	20	23%			
E-12	34	0	0	8	26	24%			
E-13	19	0	1	8	10	47%			
E-14	10	0	1	6	3	70%			
Totals	394	3	18	87	286	27%			

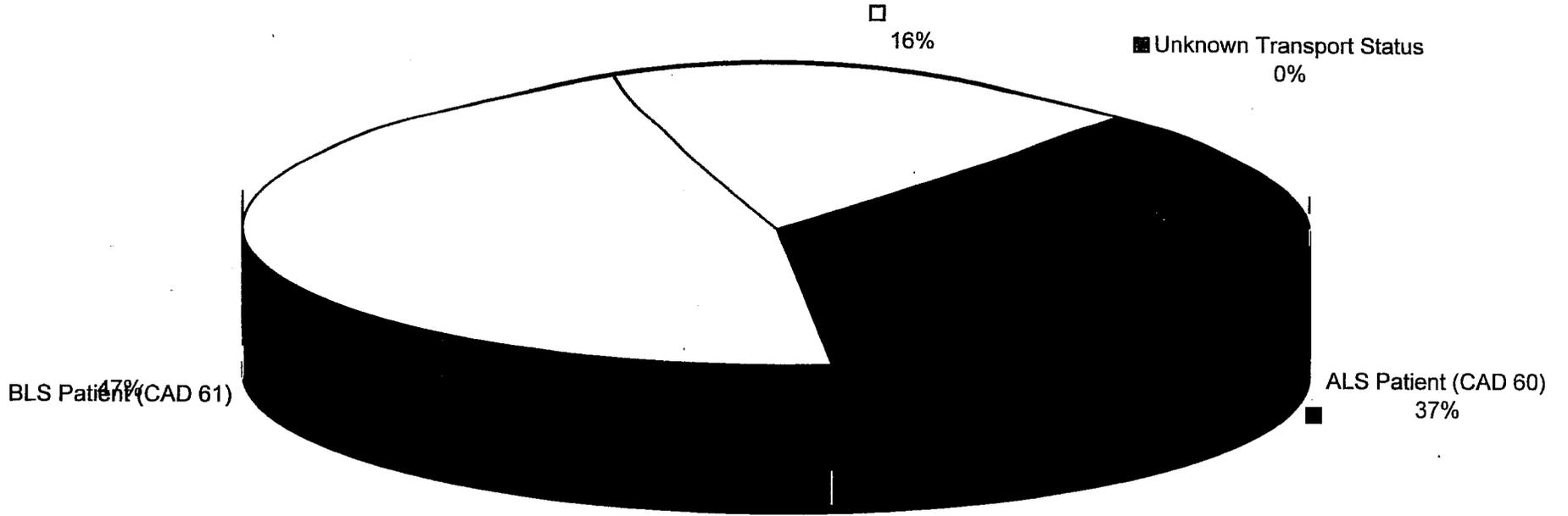
Career Company Response June 27, 2005 to July 24, 2005



Volunteer Call Counts June 27, 2005 to July 24, 2005



**EMS Transport Activity
June 27, 2005 to July 24, 2005**



911 Center Activity June 27, 2005 to July 24, 2005

