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CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department
19 New Street

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August 31, 2005

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of July 25th to August 28th and details some of the activities of the Department.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- ❑ The department participated with the Boy Scout summer camp held at Lake Kenosia. As temperatures were in the mid-90's, scouts and firefighter's alike enjoyed the hose line fog streams. Scouts had an opportunity to learn about fire equipment and department capabilities.
- ❑ This month another Chapter of the Local "Moms" club visited headquarters for an extended tour. These events provide a great opportunity for our firefighters to interact with the community and deliver our message of fire prevention.
- ❑ Firefighters are preparing for the upcoming Fall Fire Prevention month activities. While we attempt to practice and deliver fire prevention and education sessions throughout the year the Nationally recognized Fire Prevention Week" and surrounding months provide us with a great number of additional opportunities.
- ❑ Pre-incident planning continued with on site inspections at Mankind Corporation, Cendant Mobility, The Armory, Sterling Woods, Windsor Gardens, Heritage Heights, Martha

Apartments, 40 Main St., Danbury Mall and the Danbury Schools.

- Hydrant testing continued on Blueberry Lane, Kenmere, Christopher Columbus Ave., Willow Pond Road, Vespucci Dr., Old Ridgebury Rd., Mill Plain Rd., Willow Pond Rd., Vespucci Dr., and Casper Street.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- The fire department had several fire incidents this month. A structure fire in a house located on Society Hill Rd. was extinguished quickly. The house that was over 10,000 square feet suffered minor heat and smoke damage.
- A major tragedy was averted this month when firefighters responded to a structure fire at a commercial strip-shopping complex. A significant fire was extinguished in one of the stores but the entire remaining complex was saved. Heavy fire and smoke damage was sustained in the area of origin a fishing bait and tackle shop. It was the hard work of firefighters operating in humid conditions that spared the entire complex from being destroyed.
- A tractor-trailer fire on Pembroke Road caused severe damage to electric, phone and cable lines as the fuel tanks ruptured. The exposure a single-family house was spared from severe damage.
- Firefighter's operating out of King Street Station 25 saved two lives in a matter of hours this month. An anaphylactic reaction to a bee sting caused a resident to lose consciousness and respiratory function. The quick response of firefighters and their administering of epinephrine brought the individual back. Hours later the crew responded to a resident that fell from a loft and sustained a fractured skull. Again quick action from firefighters and ambulance personnel made the difference in this individual's life. These events highlight the importance of the strategically located Station 25 at King Street, slated for renovation/expansion this month.

Emergency Medical Services/Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS recertifications 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 topics for the months of July and August have been CPR for the professional rescuer and EMT practical skill stations consisting of the KED rapid extrication device, Hare traction splint for compound fractures of the femur, standing takedown on the long spine board and sling and swath for upper extremity injuries.

Each year sudden cardiac arrest strikes about 220,000 Americans. CPR and early defibrillation are the most critical factors in determining patient survival. Studies indicate that survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest can exceed 70 percent if CPR and defibrillation is administered within the few minutes.

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 the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest, this ability coupled with the Danbury Fire Departments community education programs like "CPR Saturday" has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrest in the City of Danbury.

Public Access AED

The Danbury Fire Department's "Heartsafe community" program's initiative to install Public Access Automatic External defibrillators in the public schools in Danbury has completed its objective. Due to a co-operative effort with The Fire Department, Sue Lavasser, Board of Education nurses coordinator, Rick Pallanzo, Director of Public Buildings and Paul Estafan, every Public School in the City of Danbury now has a Public Access AED making the City of Danbury an even safer place to work and live.

Civilian CPR Class

On Saturday Aug 27, 2005 the Danbury Fire Department hosted a civilian CPR class for the after school program providers in the Danbury School system. Sixteen people attended the class and were treated to an in-depth four-hour hand on training class on Adult, Child and Infant CPR and also were trained on the new AED's that are now deployed in the public schools.

COMMUNICATIONS/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Mobile Data Terminals

While the MDT System was initially brought back on line in July with new software and hardware, several software issues have arisen that has limited the ability to stay connected. We are working closely with Data Processing and HTE Inc. to resolve these connectivity problems. The net result is that the Fire Department units are not fully operational at this time. A timetable for full operational status cannot be given at this time due to the inconsistent disconnects that are being experienced.

Dispatcher Training

Newly promoted Dispatchers Dave Bonner and Rick Gerlach have completed their required Telecommunicator training. Over the past few weeks both individuals attended the State of Connecticut Basic Telecommunicator Course where over the 56 hours training schedule they satisfactorily met the requirements of the state. Topics in this class included radio Techniques, Police Fire and EMS dispatching, Telephone Techniques for 911 calls and records management. These dispatchers also attended the 24 Power Phone Emergency Medical Dispatch class where the training was concentrated on Classification of EMS calls and the vital skill of providing life saving Pre-Arrival medical instruction.

We welcome these new Dispatchers to the Communications Division and wish them well in this critical area of the department.

Radio System

Equipment bids to upgrade the department radio system to a UHF band with fixed site repeaters were received and awarded. Shortly work is expected to commence which will install new receivers and transmitters that will shore up the gaps in radio coverage.

Through this transition to a UHF system the department will increase the potential for interoperable communications between local Fire, Police and EMS agencies. Operational plans and

procedures will be amended or developed as needed to insure that this technology provides the highest level of safety to all responders.

Training - Jim Thorne

Volunteer companies began 3rd quarter training this month. Engine 8, 12 and Squad 7 have completed the evolutions to date.

The fire school is going through the "punch" list for the building official and will hopefully be available soon.

Hydrant testing and maintenance is continuing as scheduled.

Engine 22 is now loaded with 5" large diameter hose for increased water supply needs. Engine 23 and 24 will also be retrofitted with new hose this month adding to our tactical options.

Apparatus/Equipment Maintenance

The parts for Truck 2 arrived and the monitor has been repaired. The wiring harness was replaced and all functions are now in working condition.

Engine 25 (96 Pierce) was taken out of service for a defective axle seal. The repairs were done and it was put back in service

100 gallon of AR/AFFF Firefighting foam was ordered and received on 8/15/05

Fit Testing for BSI employees has begun. About half of the employees are done and the rest should be done soon. As soon as we finish BSI we will start doing fire department personnel. After the fire department is complete, the Health Department is next.

Engine 23 (99 Pierce) has been O.O.S. for almost four weeks now. We are waiting for a fan that had to be manufactured. We ordered a spare fan so that when this repair is necessary again it will be done in a short time.

We received purchase orders for body repair for E22, E23, E24 and Truck 2. As soon as some parts from Pierce arrive, these repairs will be done.

We have received notification that our Prime Mover #13 has been inspected and is ready for delivery. As soon as all the paperwork and registration is complete we should take delivery.

Good of the Organization

Headquarters continues to be spruced up with the completion of the painting of our stairwells. The exterior of the building is currently being power washed. This is the first time since 1969 that the exterior façade has been addressed.

The new entry level written test for firefighters was administered on the 22nd. It remains to be seen if testing will be completed to have recruits for the October 3rd class at the academy.

The department has seven vacancies currently. The staffing minimum is 22 per shift. It is imperative that vacancies are filled quickly or overtime costs will escalate dramatically.

After the retirements of Captain Roy Gannon, Lieutenant Tom McNulty and Lieutenant Charles Ballard the department was stricken with the additional loss of Firefighter Doug Lyle. Douglas was killed with his traveling companion in a motorcycle accident in Iowa.

Bids for the renovation and construction of Station 25 have been advertised and will be opened on September 20th.

Fire Marshal Barry Rickert had an opportunity to play in this month's Buick Classic in Cromwell. Barry won a contest offered by Filenes's. To our knowledge there are no reports of injuries from the crowd.

Dates of Importance

September 11th - Memorial Service

October 9th - Annual Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony, Fire Headquarters

INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	32
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	2
Rescue/EMS	299
Hazardous Condition	36
Service Calls	34
Good Intent Calls	53
False Alarm/False Calls	96
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	1
Special Incident Type	1
No Report/Incomplete	3

Total Fire Calls..557.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 728 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	728
No patient EMS Calls	131
BLS Patient Calls	312
ALS EMS Calls	285
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	8
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	20

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 3655 with a daily average of 107.50 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	557
EMS Response calls.	728
Abandoned Calls	553
911 Hang Ups	748
Admin Calls Received	868
Cellular 911 Calls	1327

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter J. Siecienski".

Peter J. Siecienski
Fire Chief