



# CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department  
19 New Street

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May 30, 2006

## **FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of April 25, 2006 to May 30, 2006 and detail some activities of the Department.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION**

- ❑ The month of May is a busy time in the Department for School and Group tours. It gives us a great opportunity to enhance our fire safety message to a variety of age groups. Groups included: multiple classes from St. Joseph School, Prince of Peace Day Care, Cub Scout Troops, King St. Nursery School.
- ❑ On Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> members of the Department under the leadership of Lt. Lorinda Arconti put on their annual MADD demonstration at Danbury High School. Over the years we are sure we have had a positive influence on our High School Juniors and Seniors. We hope it continues with a safe Prom season.
- ❑ D Group taught a Scout Troop First-Aid and Fire Safety.
- ❑ On the 20<sup>th</sup> C Group assisted the Fire Marshal's Office with a Safety Day sponsored by Trader Joe's. That same day they made an appearance at the Spring Fling Carnival held at Pembroke School.
- ❑ Members of D Group along with members of the Fire Marshal's Office instructed the CERT team at Kimberly Place on the proper use of fire extinguishers.

- On the 9<sup>th</sup> E-22 C Group visited to Laurel Gardens and gave the children a fire safety talk.
- Pre-incident planning continued on site inspections at: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Danbury Hospital, Triangle St. - NAPA building, Marriot Hotel, Holiday Inn, Westville Ave. Water Treatment Plant, Sealed Air, Commons a new condos on Old Ridgebury Rd. Loews Theaters, Hancock Hall, North St. Shopping Center, Stadley Rough Sewer Project, Candlewood Pines and Marjorie Manor response areas.

## **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May we responded to a report of a fire in the early morning hours. Upon arrival we were informed by the owner that the fire was out but one of his children might still be upstairs in his bedroom. We checked the entire second floor and found no one. We later found out that the son had stayed over a friend's house. The father was transported to the ER by ambulance for possible smoke inhalation and later released. The house was vacated until the electric wiring was checked by a licensed electrician.
- On May 6<sup>th</sup> we responded to Pond Ridge Rd. for a possible structure fire. Upon arrival we found an exterior wooden column in the front of the house was displaying minor smoke. With the use of the ISG thermal imaging camera we were able to locate a small fire inside the column which appeared to have started from landscape munch. We removed the outer layer of the column and put out the fire with minor damage.
- On May 8<sup>th</sup> we responded to Kingswood Rd. for a possible brush fire. Upon arrival we found the home owner extinguishing a fire in a woodpile on his back deck. The deck was burned through in several areas. The Fire Marshal's office was called to investigate the cause.
- On May 10<sup>th</sup> we responded to Great Plain Rd. for a structure fire. Upon arrival we found a one story home with heavy fire and smoke coming from the back of the house. One of the occupants informed us that everyone was out of the house except three pet cats. They also informed us that their mother's wedding gown was hanging in her bedroom. We were able to rescue the dress but unfortunately the cats all died in the fire. The home was heavily damaged by smoke

and fire and vacated by the building department. The Red Cross was called to the scene. The occupant of the house was an employee at Target's and they agreed to put the family up in a local hotel. While we were fighting the fire it was brought to our attention that Mayor's car was smoking out on Great Plain Rd. Volunteer companies 11 and 7 put the fire out with a portable extinguisher.

- On May 15<sup>th</sup> we responded to Middle River Rd. for a possible structure fire. Upon arrival we found that the home owner had placed a paper bag full of old ashes from his fireplace in a plastic container in his garage. The ashes had melted the container and charred part of the wall. The smoke detector in the garage had alerted the home owner.

## **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 while 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 Soft Tissue and Musculo-Skeletal Trauma. Although these types of injuries are the most common they also can have the greatest impact on the patient as a whole. Depending on the mechanism of injury, depending on the amount of kinetic energy that is transferred to the patient during the accident will determine the extent of the injury to the patient and what body systems/ functions are compromised

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 organism death.

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.

### **Community Education**

**Babysitters class:** The Danbury Fire Departments annual Babysitters class held in cooperation with the Danbury Hospital offered to Danbury Middle school students the opportunity to learn basic First Aid and accident prevention skills. EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez provided the lecture and or assisted on the following nights.

5/04/06 First Aid

5/11/06 Rescue Breathing

5/25/06 Home hazards and emergency actions

**Alternative Center of Education - ACE:** The Senior class at ACE participates in a White water rafting trip towards the end of the school year, this year Barbara Romer whom I had collaborated with to place Public Access Defibrillators in the Schools and to then coordinate training of staff contacted me to offer CPR and First Aid training to these students. The response of the students was so great that two classes had to be offered. These students having received certifications in CPR and First Aid from the Danbury Fire Department will be able to utilize these certifications to get summer jobs at Day camps as camp counselors.

### **Confined Space Training**

A representative of the Water Department contacted EMS /Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez on the routine entry to an underground confined space. This information led to an opportunity to coordinate some impromptu confined space training on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Geoffrey Herald and members of D-Group took advantage of this opportunity and set up a confined space emergency entry and retrieval of a trapped victim utilizing the tripod and ropes.

### **Haz-Mat Training for Volunteer Firefighters**

In order to meet the OSHA required training standard regarding Firefighters at the Hazardous Materials operational level, second quarter training for volunteer firefighters was held at Fire Headquarters on the following dates May 7 & 8th and May 21 & 22<sup>nd</sup> by EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez

### **New Recruit Orientation**

Capt Steve Williams and EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez collaborated to insure that the new recruits transition to the line would be smooth and that they would be familiar in the manner that the Danbury Fire Department operates. A two day orientation was provided covering roles and responsibilities of a firefighter in everything from Engine Company operations to Emergency Medical responses.

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

Communications Division  
Activity Report - April 24, 2006 to May 25, 2006

### **E911 Changes**

During the recent state legislative session, the requirement for PSAP's to provide EMS data reporting has been dropped. This report which was problematic, required a dispatcher to 'tag' any call received on 911 circuits with an EMS identifier if an ambulance was sent. The idea behind this was to attempt to determine an accurate number of EMS responses by 911 calls. Several factors including the multitude of cell phones in use, often gave an erroneous view of call volume versus dispatched incidents.

The state and SBC will be working toward a method to provide more accurate breakdowns of 911 call dispositions.

## **Training**

All the EMT-I personnel attended CME Classes at the Danbury Hospital. The classes covered strokes, trauma alerts and cardiology.

The four crews were given an extensive tour of the Boehringer facility. Over the years there have been extensive changes and improvements done at the site. The tour allowed our people to get up to date on the changes. It also gave them a refresher on the areas they had been to on previous calls.

Since the new recruits have come on board all the crews have worked with each of them to ease their transition into the Department. So far it looks like we have six more excellent additions to the Department.

All the Volunteer Companies have completed their quarterly training. Haz-Mat operations was the topic and it was taught by EMS Sup. Rey Rodriquez in the absence of Training Officer Thorne.

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

The generator on the ladder truck has been repaired once again. We have been in contact with Firematic, our Pierce dealer to schedule the modifications so that we can finally repair this unit so as to stop its continuing failure. We will keep you posted on the progress.

We have purchased new portable radio batteries. The Communications Supervisor has issued them as required as well as reprogramming all of the department's portables.

All of the department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We still have one or two units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. We are currently rotating some air pack and some confined space bottles out to Shipman's for required hydro testing.

Our new Recruits have graduated from the Fire Academy and have had their masks evaluated and fitted with the Scott voice amplifier.

The 2006 Ford Expedition has been lettered and is waiting for its time slot with Specialty Warning Systems of Danbury for the installation of equipment, emergency lighting, radios, MDT's, and portable radios (this should be the last week of May or the first week of June). The Command cabinet has been ordered and will be installed at the same time

The two new ground ladders to replace the damaged ones on E 23 have arrived and been placed in service. The two new 6"X5" Stortz Harrington large diameter gates have also arrived and have been placed in service as well. Every one of our engines now has one of these gates in service.

Truck 2 is still giving us problems with an erroneous "low hydraulic oil" alarm. The truck is still in service and we are working with Pierce to find out what the exact problem is.

We have ordered the two new rescue saws, pike poles, fire brooms, saw blades as well as a plethora of other parts in order to affect repairs on our fire apparatus.

Truck 1 has received five new tires. Repairs and a parts order have been set in motion after the damage that was sustained at the Great Plain Road fire.

E-22 had a leak in the transmission cooler lines; new lines have been fabricated and installed. We took advantage of the unit being out of service and repaired several other problems.

The Baur air compressor needs a new high-pressure valve. It has been ordered and upon its arrival we will be installing it. This does not affect the use of the compressor for filling our air bottles.

We have installed a siren in the Training Officers car. This unit will be used as a Safety Officers Vehicle.

We have also received two 2006 Ford Expeditions from the Department of Homeland Defense.

### **Good of the Organization**

- ❑ Six new recruits graduated from the State Fire Academy on Wed. the 17<sup>th</sup>. They were sworn in on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. All joined their new crews and are now working on the fire line.
- ❑ On Sat. the 6<sup>th</sup> the Peer Leadership class from Danbury High School cooked breakfast for the members of the Department and their families. A good breakfast was had by all.
- ❑ On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> members of the Career Departments throughout the State with twenty or more years of service were honored by the St. of Conn at CCSU in New Britain.
- ❑ Work continues on the new E-25. The new date for completion is June 7<sup>th</sup>. By this time next month I hope to report that we are in and operating out of the new station.
- ❑ This month we took delivery on two new Ford Expeditions. Both vehicles were given to us by Ct. Homeland Security.
- ❑ We received a beautiful needle point from Mrs. Harriet Miller. She asked that it be placed in the new E-25. It will occupy an honored space in the Station.
- ❑ We had over thirty members marched in the Memorial Day parade. After the parade the marchers and their families enjoyed a picnic back at Headquarters,

## Dates of Importance

- Danbury Westerners Breakfast - June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Local #801 Golf Tournament - June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Opening of the New E-25
- June 1<sup>st</sup> Babysitters Graduation

## INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	25
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	3
Rescue/EMS	285
Hazardous Condition	36
Service Calls	40
Good Intent Calls	48
False Alarm/False Calls	86
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	1
No Report/Incomplete	3

Total Fire Calls..527.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 693 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	693
No patient EMS Calls	101
BLS Patient Calls	294
ALS EMS Calls	298
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	7
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	15

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 2937 with a daily average of 101.28 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	527
EMS Response calls.	693
Abandoned Calls	496

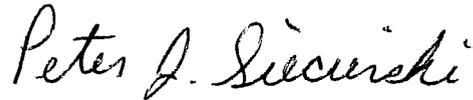
911 Hang Ups	657
Admin Calls Received	1122
Cellular 911 Calls	1161

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 for 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.

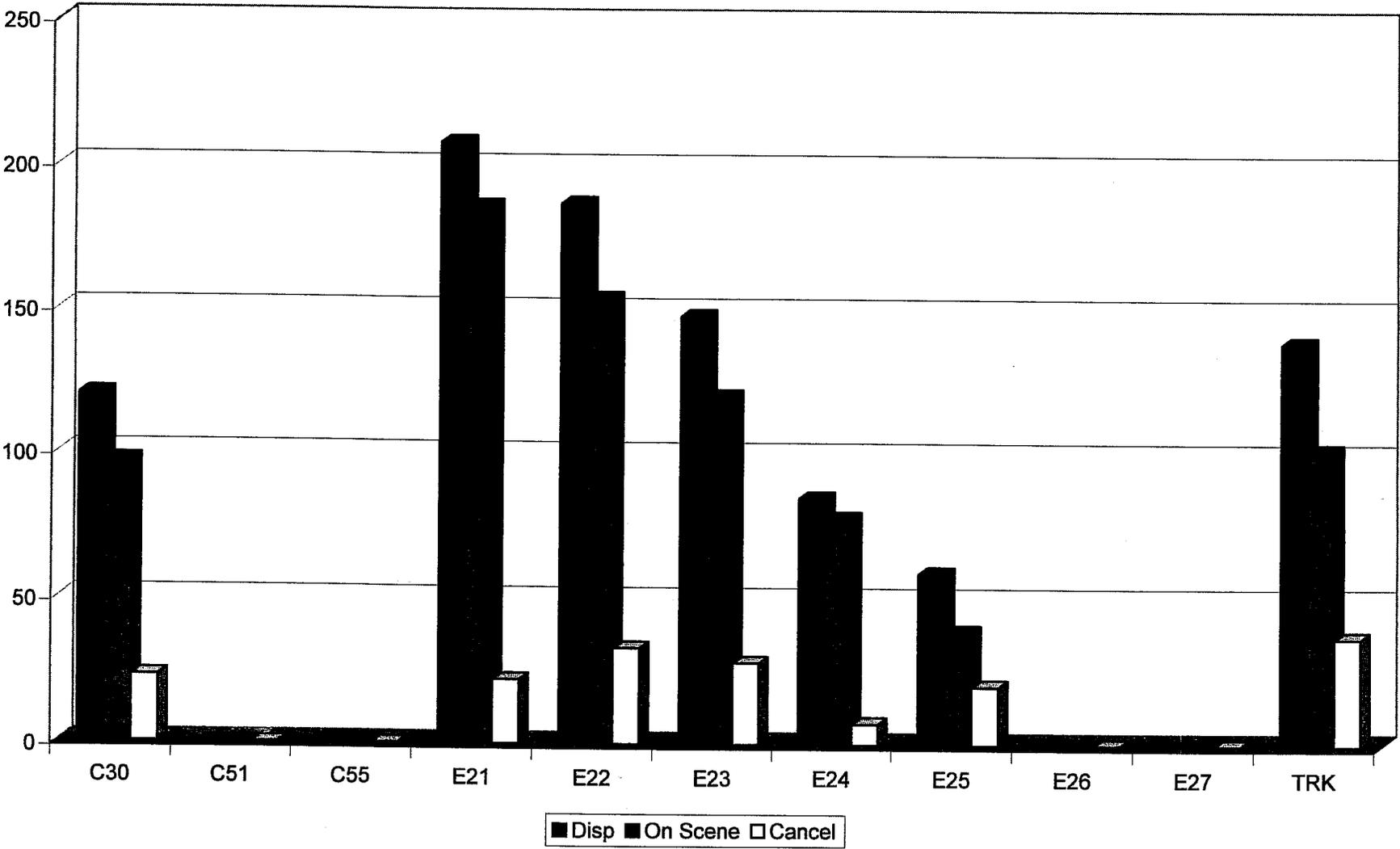
Respectfully submitted,



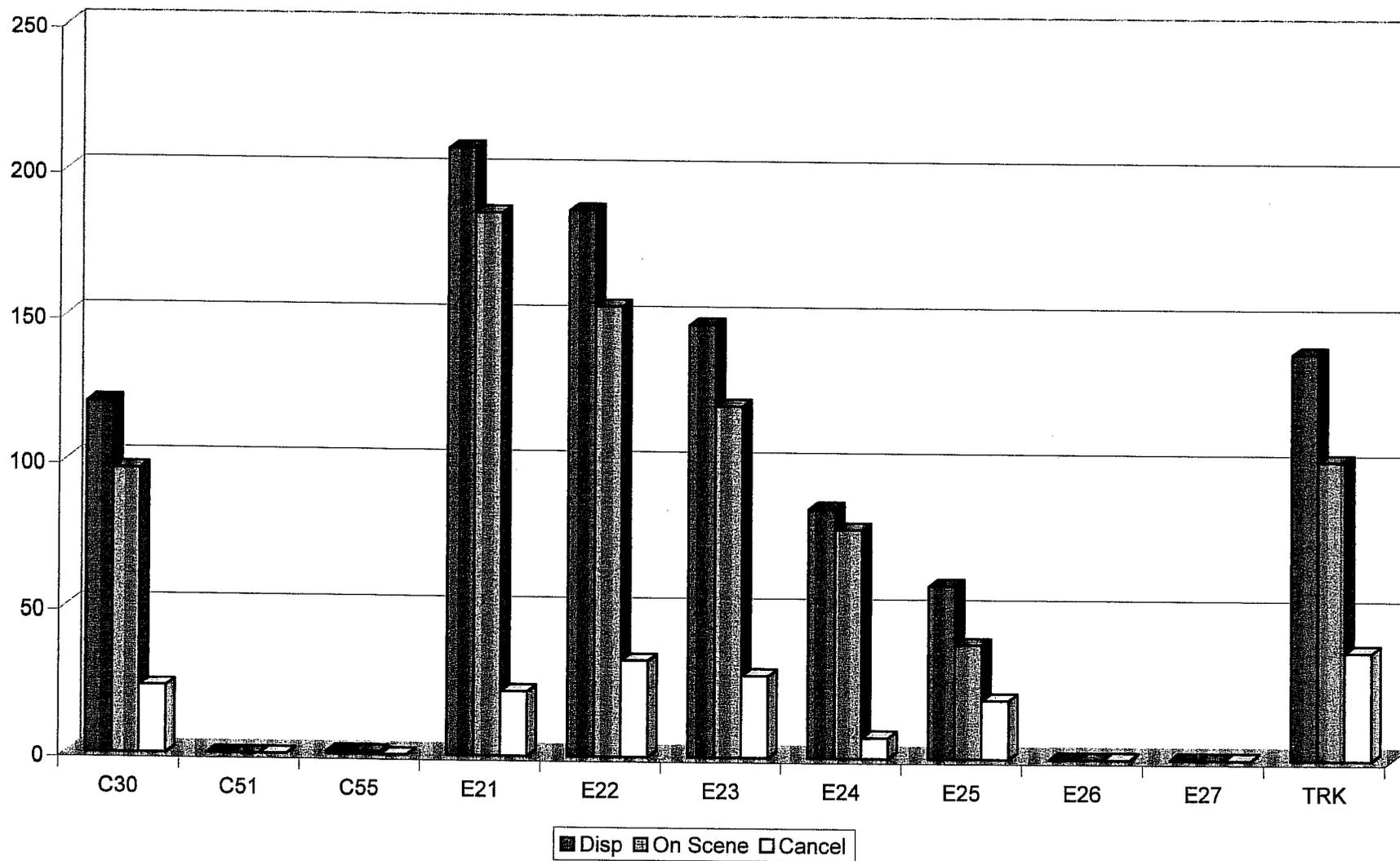
Peter J. Siecienski

Fire Chief

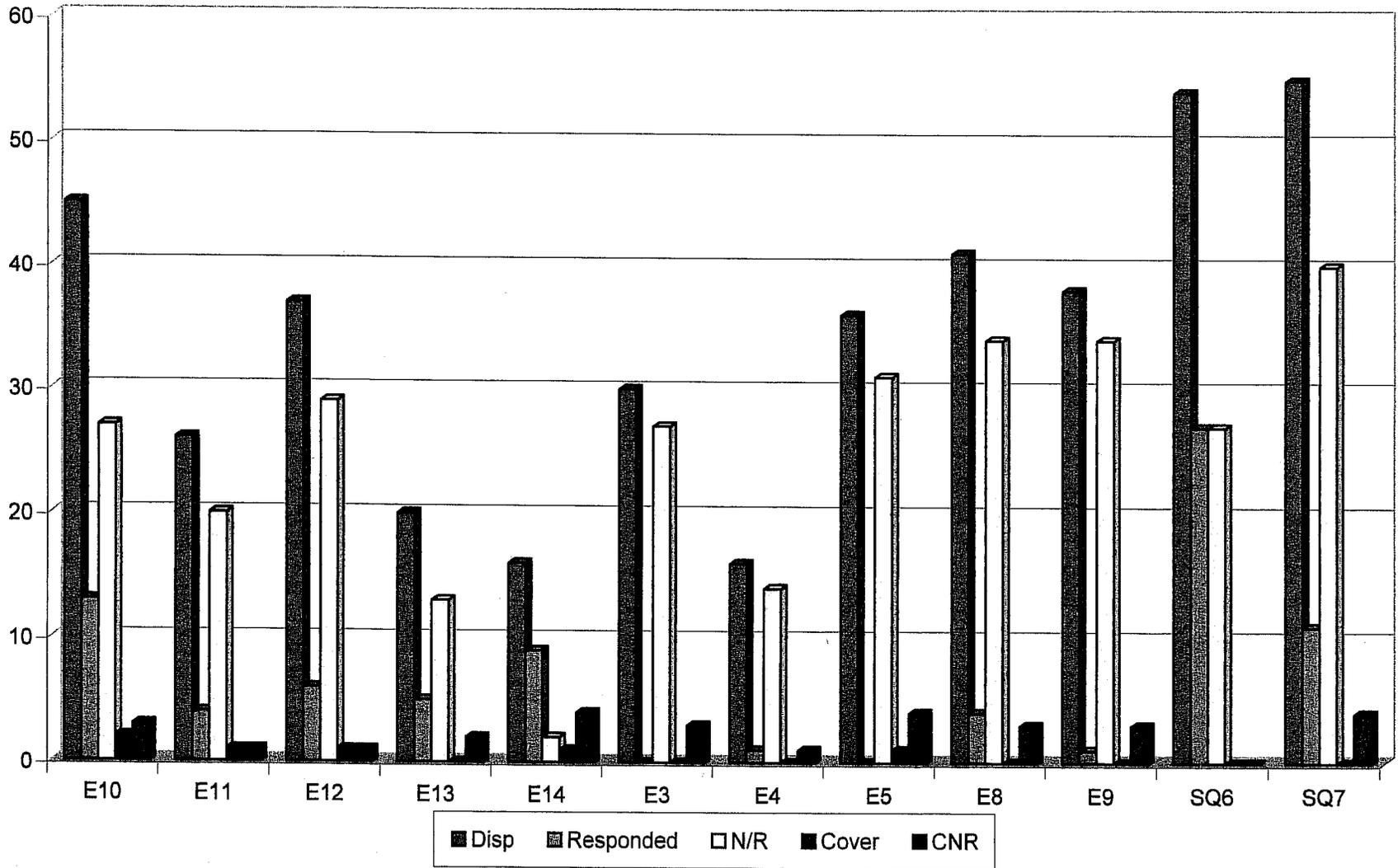
**Career Company Response**  
**April 24 to May 25, 2006**



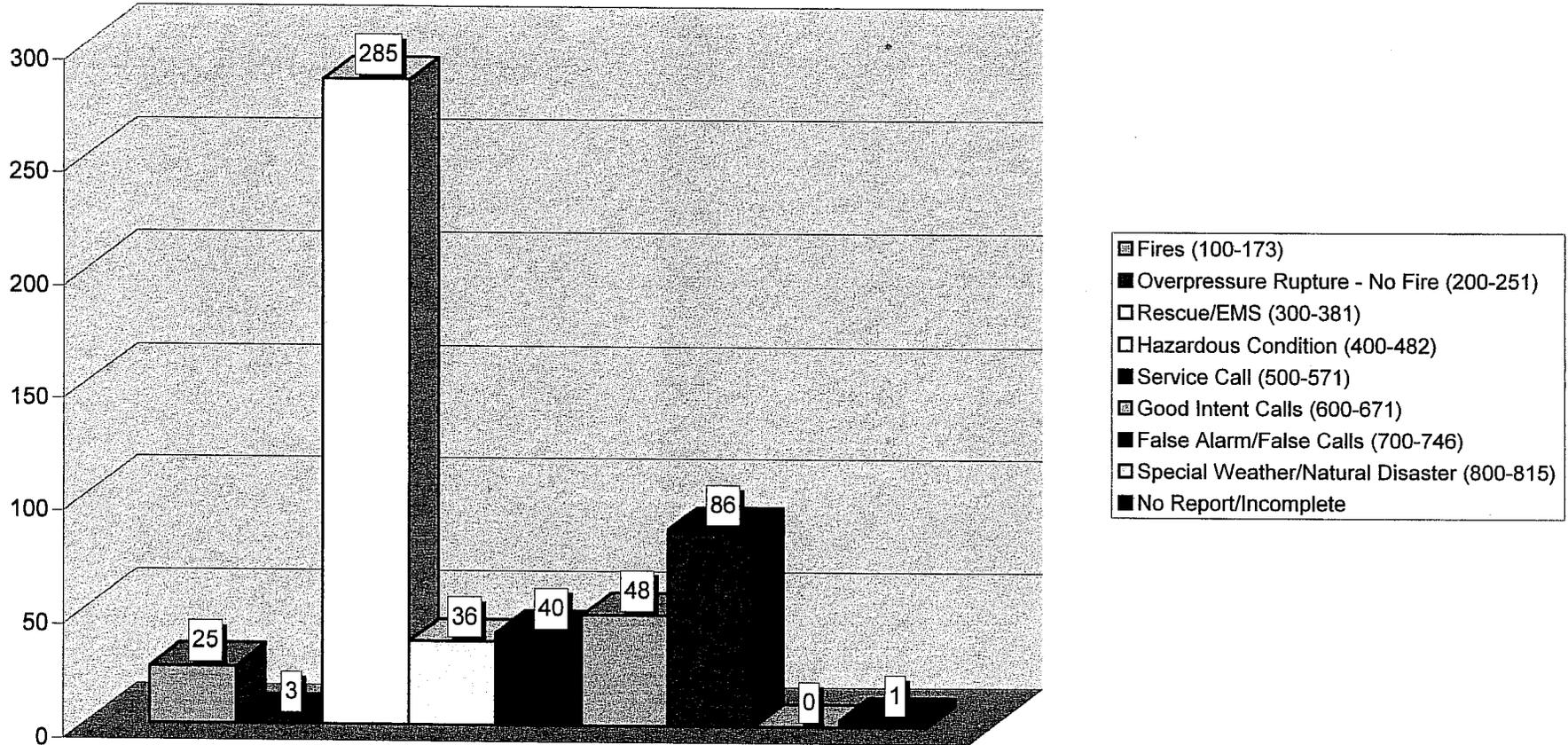
### Career Company Response April 24 to May 25, 2006



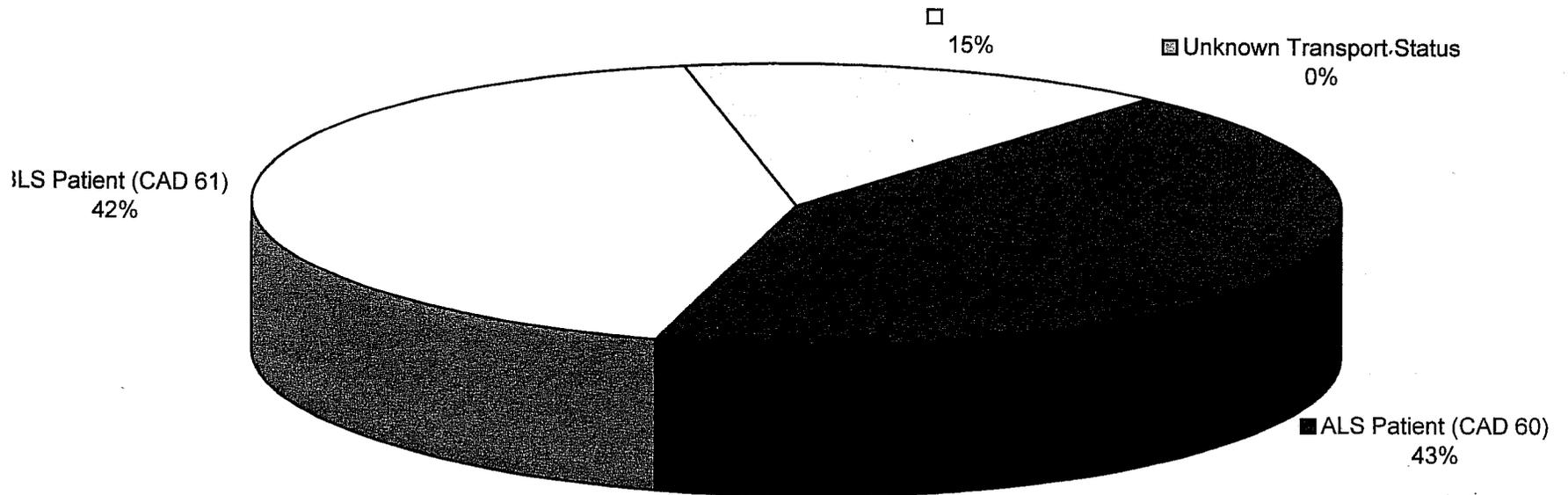
## Volunteer Call Counts April 24 to May 25, 2006



## Fire Response Breakdown April 24 to May 25, 2006



# EMS Transport Activity April 24 to May 25, 2006



# 911 Center Activity April 24 to May 25, 2006

