



## CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department  
19 New Street

Peter J. Siecienski, Chief  
(203) 796-1550  
Fax (203) 796-1533

August 29, 2006

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

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of July 25, 2006 to August 28, 2006 and details some of the activities of the Department.

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

- On the 20<sup>th</sup> members of the Fire Marshal's Office and on duty personnel took part in the Multi Cultural Carnival which was held on the Danbury Green. They handed out Fire Prevention coloring books and showed the public some of our equipment.
- Engine 21 A Group took their Engine to St. Joseph's Summer Camp and gave a lecture and demo of the engine.
- Engine 24 B Group showed off the Engine and gave Fire Safety talks at Stew Leonards, Lowes and Home Depot.
- Engine 21 C Group gave Fire Prevention Talk at Hudson County Montessori School to 50 children 3-9 years of age.
- Coordinated with Putnam self storage to update Knox box.
- Pre-incident planning continued on site inspections at: WCSU Student center on the Westside campus, Fun Station-40 Mill Pl. Rd., Magnet School, GE Capital, Lowes Home Imp. Center, Avalon Valley - Sand Pit Rd. and Mountainview Terrace, new Condo's on lower South St., Elks Club, Kingswood Kitchens, and the Danbury Ice Arena.

## **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- On July 27<sup>th</sup> we responded to Deer Hill Ave. for an automatic fire alarm. Upon arrival we found smoke coming from a second floor apartment. The tenant had a pot on the stove flare up scorching the cabinets. The tenant put the fire out by her self but not before she burned her hand. EMS checked her out and she refused to be transported to the hospital. The fire caused smoke damage throughout the apartment but no heavy fire damage.
- On August 1st we responded to a Federal Rd. Deli from a call originating from the PD. We forced entry through the front door and could hear water running in the rear of the store. There was a heavy heat and smoke condition. We found the fire origin which had started to melt the solder on a pipe attached to the water heater. The pipe acted like a sprinkler head and put out the main body of the fire. The Health Dept. responded to the scene.
- On August 3<sup>rd</sup> we had two lightning strikes of homes. The first occurred on Ashley Ct. When we arrived we found shingle debris in the yard. After further checking we found a hole in the roof the size of a football. We patched the roof with a 2'X3' piece of plywood. We informed the homeowner to have a licensed electrician check the wiring in the house before turning it back on. The second lightning strike occurred on Marbil Rd. Upon arrival we found a slight smoke haze in the house. After further investigation we found that the TV Cable box had melted. Again we informed the home owner to have an electrician check out the wiring before turning everything back on.
- On Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> we responded to a car accident involving a SUV and a pickup truck pulling a 30' Traveler Trailer. The pickup was rolled over with the trailer on top of it. There were only two minor injures to the passengers. However traffic on I-84 was backed up for over 6 hours causing heavy traffic on the City streets while other cars tried to get around the logjam.
- On Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> we responded to Tarrywile Park for a report of two lost hikers. Many Fire and Police units attempted to locate the hikers from various roads around the park. We

were unable to find them but the dispatchers were able to narrow the search area down for Trooper 1, the State Police helicopter. Upon its arrival, the crew was able to locate and spot the hikers. The hikers were escorted out to Deal Rd. An ambulance was dispatched to evaluate the hikers but they both refused treatment.

- On the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> we responded to Lowe's Building Supply for unknown substance, possibly a bomb. Two bags had been left by the front door. The DPD called for the State Police Emergency Services Unit. All fire units were positioned at a safe distance and we stood by until the State Police declared the area safe. The entire incident took almost two hours.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we responded to Avalon Valley for a report of a structure fire. Upon arrival we found smoke coming from a second floor deck. A small fire had started on a dog's bed that had been on the porch. Some of the exterior vinyl siding had burned and melted. The fire was quickly extinguished before the fire extended into a hidden area above the sprinklers. Some smoke damage occurred to the apartment.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup> we responded to Nancy Dr. for a house fire. Upon arrival we found heavy smoke coming from the front door of the home. The occupants were all outside upon our arrival. The occupants told us that they awoke due to hear the crackling fire noise. The two older children woke up the two younger children. They tried to open the cellar door to call the family pets, but were prohibited from doing it because of the heat and smoke. They exited the building. Firefighters found the two family dogs in the finished basement. Resuscitation attempts were unsuccessful and two dogs perished. There was heavy smoke and heat damage to the home which was structurally saved.

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

### **Haz-Mat Drill**

The Danbury Fire Department has taken the lead in the development of the State of Connecticut sponsored Region Five Haz-Mat Team. This area which starts in Ridgefield and runs to the Massachusetts border includes a total of forty three communities.

The mission of this team will be to provide a level of expertise now only available from municipal career fire departments in Danbury, Waterbury and Torrington in dealing in Hazardous Materials incidents to the entire region.

In order to promote this concept The Danbury Fire Department has proposed a coordinated Hazardous Materials drill with possible terrorist overtones involving the three main battalions Danbury, Waterbury and Torrington Fire Departments to be held in their respective communities. The drill is scheduled for September 10, 2006 the day before the five year anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center; it will start at 9:00am and end at 1:00pm.

The objectives of the drill will be to:

- To demonstrate the need and to encourage involvement in the development of the team from all the communities in the region five area
  - To promote a regionalized approach to resource and cost sharing during emergency operations
  - To demonstrate and develop the ability to respond to multiple simultaneous emergency events
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- To set up and coordinate tactical communications with the ability to set up a separate command frequency that can be used to communicate with other incident commanders in other communities that may be operating under similar circumstances or with the EOC at the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

The entire membership of the Danbury Fire Department has committed the month of August to prepare for this drill. All line personnel have drilled in the use of the technical decon set-up, the decon trailer set up and the use of the I -Call /I -Tac radio system. The Apparatus Division has assisted in repairing equipment found to be not functional or need of repair. The drill in Danbury will be held at the new science building at Western Ct. State University.

#### **File of Life**

A file of life presentation was held at the Kimberly Elderly Housing in Danbury on 8/01/06 by EMS/ Haz/Mat Coordinator Rodriguez.

#### **Other training events**

New Fairfield Fire Department was kind enough to bring down their Rescue Vehicle to be reviewed by the Multi-Purpose vehicle committee so in return A/C Williams, EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rodriguez, Capt Bernie Meehan and A-Group personnel provided a familiarization Drill on the set up and the uses of the Mass Decon trailer for the New Fairfield Fire Dept.

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

Communications Division  
Activity Report -July 24 to August 27, 2006

### E911 Changes

The Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications has installed orthographic pictures as a backdrop to digital mapping. These photographic fly-over's will allow the dispatcher to have a 'top-down' view of mapping. This style of mapping is becoming very popular as it combines both a line map and a photo representation.

### Mobile Data System

The conversion of the mobile data computer back to the Motorola software used initially is in process. The change back to this interface is being made because of the inability of the HTE Mobile Data Browser to properly process Police transactions. This joint decision is in the best interests of Police emergency operations and has no adverse affect of Fire Department usage.

In addition to the change over to the Motorola software, new Panasonic Toughbook computers are replacing the older Data 911 units.

### Operations

During this reporting period two high profile incidents have occurred that required good cooperation and information sharing between all emergency response agencies. 911 Dispatchers played a crucial role in the following calls;

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, two hikers became lost in Tarrywile Park after dark. Fire Dispatchers kept constant contact with the callers and were able to keep these individuals calm and help narrow the search area. With the assistance of the State Police Aviation unit the hikers were located and assisted from the wooded area by Danbury Police officers.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> a domestic stand-off occurred in the city, using limited information from a 911 hang-up call Police quickly responded to the location while other information was being

received. Fire and EMS units supported the SWAT operation and no further injury was reported.

Both of these incidents required rapid coordinated responses from Police, Fire and EMS officers, and with rapidly changing information all responders were kept up to date with the dynamics of each situation.

### **Training**

This month the long awaited opening of the new fire school became a reality. All the crews were able to take part in live burns for the first time in five years at Plumtrees Rd. All participants were quite pleased with the facility. Soon we will have a new Training Officer in place and the training at the school will become a regular event for both the career and volunteer divisions.

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

The following is a partial list of some of the highlights and activities of the Apparatus Division for the month of August. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Truck 1 has returned from Firematic. They have modified our generator so that it should no longer pick up road dirt, which was causing this unit to fail. The air conditioning needed to have parts ordered from the manufacturer; as soon as they arrive they will be installed here at Headquarters. The cab lift system was also repaired at the same time.

This past week the Fire Chief authorized me to purchase SCBA equipment consistent with our current specifications not to exceed \$35,000.00. With these monies we were able to purchase nine new Scott Series 50 air packs along with twelve 30 minute carbon wrapped bottles as well as eleven AV3000 face pieces. The addition of these "state of the art" units will be a welcome addition to our ever-aging SCBA inventory.

We have had all of the departments ground ladders tested. A 24' ladder assigned to Engine 22 failed due to bent rails and had to be removed from service. We have received a replacement ladder and it has been placed in service.

The department's pick-up truck has had the body and frame work repaired from the damages sustained in the accident on January 6, 2006. It has returned from the body shop and is currently in service.

All of the parts for Truck 1 from the damage that was sustained at the Great Plain Road fire have been installed. Except for some minor body damage this unit has been restored to pre accident condition.

We have experienced several breakdowns involving the engine-cooling fan on Engine 23. After much interaction with engineers from Kysor Cooling, Borg Warner, Detroit Diesel, International/Navistar, and Pierce it was decided that the best course of action was to retrofit this unit with a Horton fan clutch assembly. Currently this unit is still out of service due to a conflict with the Engines ECM. (Electronic Control Module). We are hoping that a representative from Detroit Diesel will be here to install the corrected software and place this unit back in service.

This past month we spent a considerable amount of time repairing staff vehicles. Due to the amount of time spent repairing fire apparatus last month (our priority) staff car repairs were accumulating. Currently all staff car are operational.

Truck 1 had a complete service. E-24 was out of service for the replacement of the front springs. We repaired the winch for the antenna as well as a power problem for the I-CALL/ I TAC Radio in the Decontamination Unit.

The Apparatus Division spent a considerable amount of time working with representatives from TRC with regards to the replacement of the gasoline storage tank here at Fire Headquarters.

We also worked with Overhead Door of Brookfield on the replacement of all of the overhead door openers at Headquarters.

We currently are working with Air Cleaning Specialists during the installation of the new Plymovent Exhaust System, which is currently being installed also here in Fire Headquarters.

The Apparatus Division has received a tremendous amount of Hurst Tool Equipment. This new equipment adds a level of reliability and effectiveness to our rescue and extrication

capabilities never before seen in the history of this department.

All of these additions/improvements are a direct result of grant monies. These grants not only save Danbury Taxpayers money, but also GREATLY improve our ability to safely respond to their needs in a more effective and efficient manner.

### **Good of the Organization**

- Overhead Door of Brookfield replaced our door motors at Headquarters. The motors that were replaced had been in operation for 37 years.
- Public Works did a great job clearing and grading the Fire School on Plumtrees Rd. This month we began live burns in the new building. We no longer will have to go out of town now for our quarterly burns. It will allow our firefighters to keep their skills at peak level.
- Public Works also did a nice job replacing the driveway and the front side of Engine 5 Coal Pit Hill. The work was long over due. It became possible with the paving of Coal Pit Hill.
- E-5's truck roof was repaired this month by Pana Roofing. The roof has been giving them problems for quite sometime. We are now in the process of obtaining bids on an exterior paint job for the building. It has been over ten years since it was last painted.
- Our recruits have passed the half way point of their training. They are scheduled to graduate on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> the Hdqts units had to vacate the premises while New St. was repaved.
- T.O. James Thorne retired on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month. Jim had over 34 years of service to the Department. We wish Jim and his Peggy many years of happiness and good health.
- FF Ray Guard rode the 911 Memorial motorcycle ride to DC, Pa., and NYC.

## Dates of Importance

- Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> Recruit Graduation from the State Fire Academy.
- Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Region 5 Haz-Mat Drill.
- Sept. 9,10 Taste of Danbury

## INCIDENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Fires	12
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire	6
Rescue/EMS	293
Hazardous Condition	41
Service Calls	37
Good Intent Calls	53
False Alarm/False Calls	111
Special Weather/Natural Disaster	2
Special Incident Type	3
No Report/Incomplete	22

Total Fire Calls..580.....

For the month, the City Ambulance Service responded to 754 Emergency Medical Calls. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Total EMS responses	754
No patient EMS Calls	117
BLS Patient Calls	333
ALS EMS Calls	299
EMS Mutual Aid Requests	13
EMS Calls passed to Back-up	26

The total calls into the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for the month were 3188 with a daily average of 93.76 calls per day. The call volume is broken down as follows:

Fire Response Calls	580
EMS Response calls.	754

Abandoned Calls	362
911 Hang Ups	853
Admin Calls Received	844
Cellular 911 Calls	1189

*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.

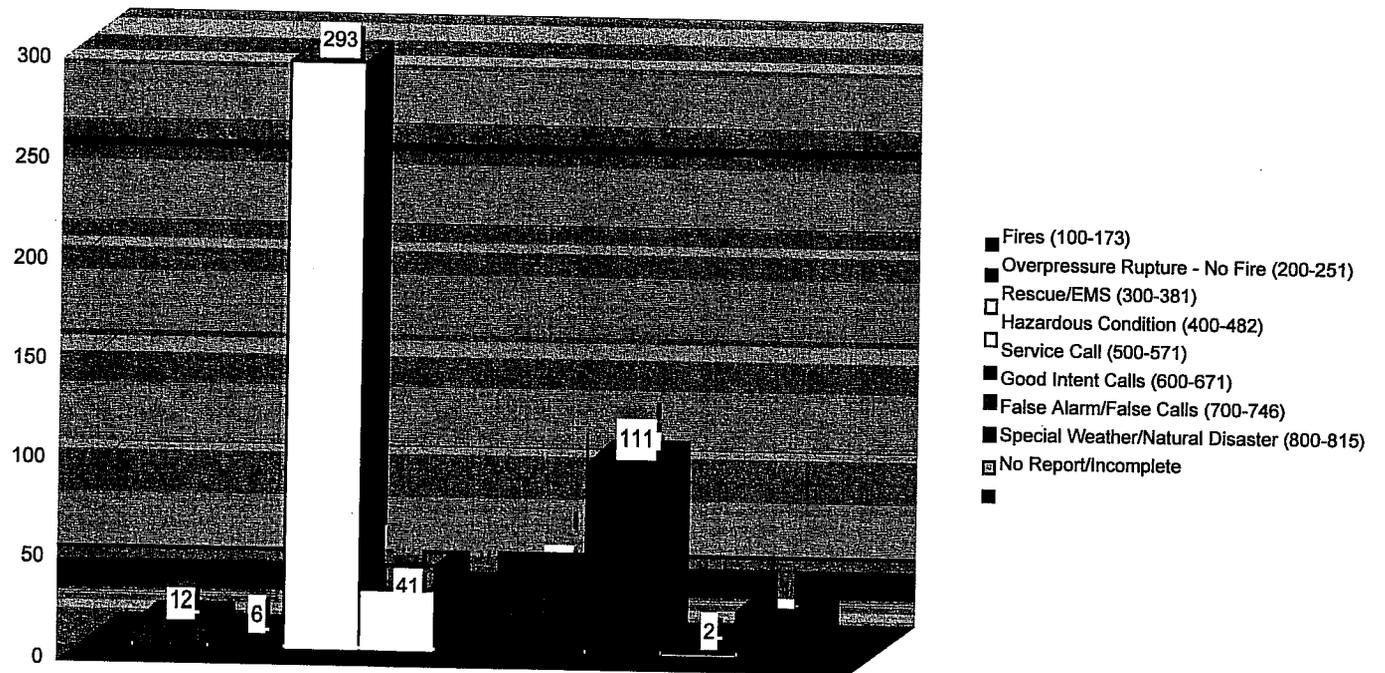
If additional information or clarification is needed, please contact me directly.

Respectfully submitted,



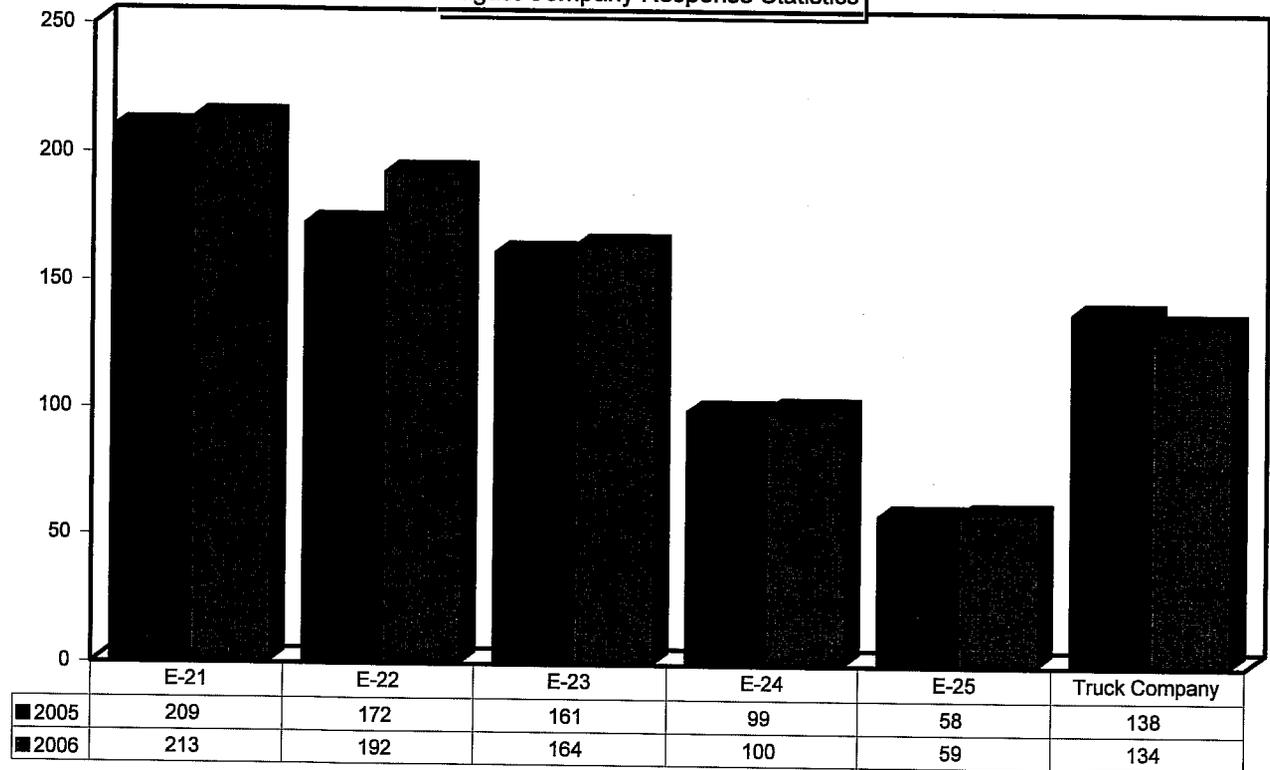
Peter J. Siecienski  
Fire Chief

## Fire Response Breakdown July 24 to August 27, 2006



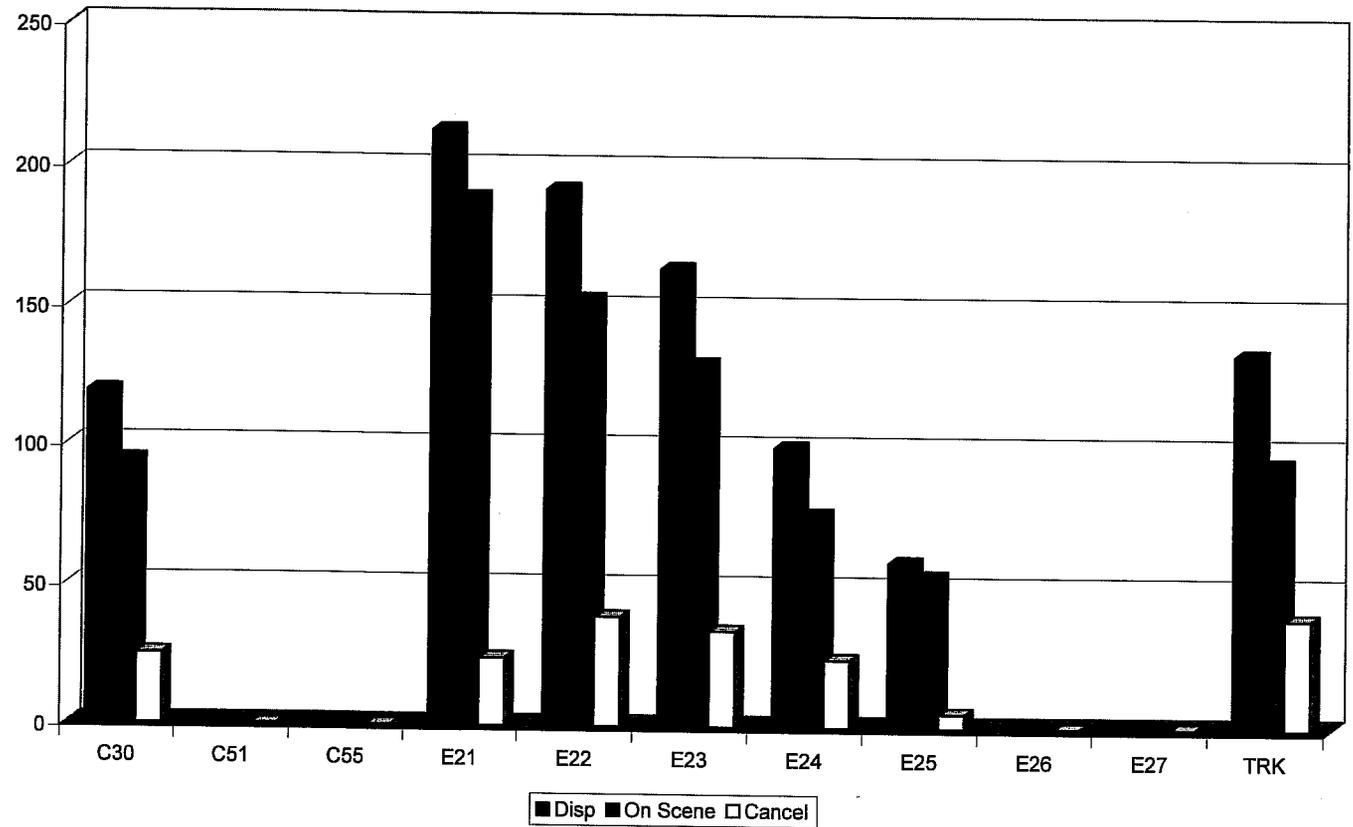
Current

**Danbury Fire Department  
August Company Response Statistics**

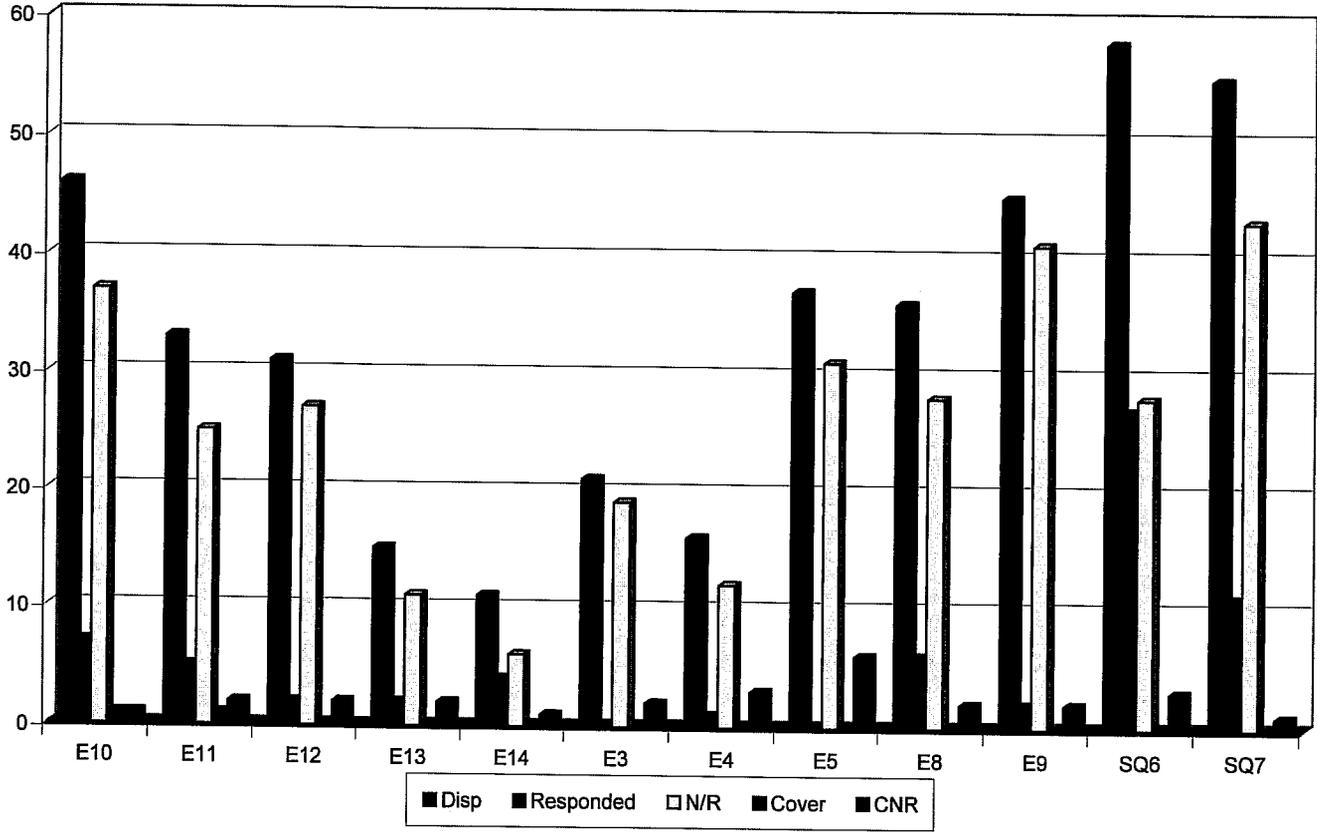


DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE RESPONSES						2006		
	<i>August Response Statistics</i>							
	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Cover</b>	<b>Canceled</b>	<b>Response Total</b>	<b>No Response Total</b>	<b>% of Response</b>		
<b>E-3</b>	21	0	0	0	21	0%		
<b>E-4</b>	16	0	0	1	15	6%		
<b>E-5</b>	37	0	0	0	37	0%		
<b>S-6</b>	58	0	0	27	31	47%		
<b>S-7</b>	55	0	0	11	44	20%		
<b>E-8</b>	36	0	0	6	30	17%		
<b>E-9</b>	45	0	0	2	43	4%		
<b>E-10</b>	46	1	0	7	38	17%		
<b>E-11</b>	33	1	0	5	27	18%		
<b>E-12</b>	31	0	0	2	29	6%		
<b>E-13</b>	15	0	0	2	13	13%		
<b>E-14</b>	11	0	0	4	7	36%		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>17%</b>		

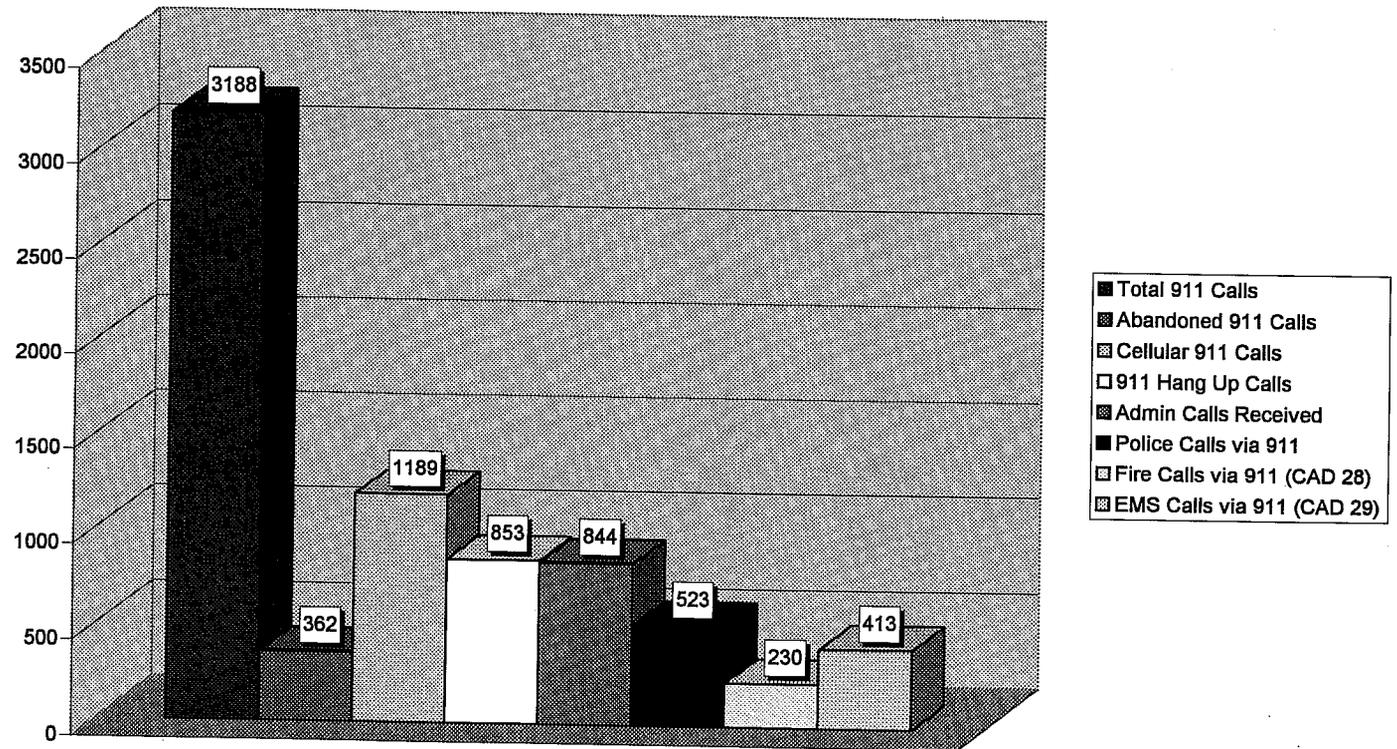
**Career Company Response  
July 24 to August 27, 2006**



**Volunteer Call Counts  
July 24 to August 27, 2006**



**911 Center Activity  
July 24 to August 27, 2006**



**EMS Transport Activity  
July 24 to August 27, 2006**

