



CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Fire Department
19 New Street

Geoffrey R. Herald, Chief
(203)796-1550
Fax (203) 796-1533

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

27 November 2007

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. This report covers the period of 30 October 2007 through 27 November and details some of the activities of the Department.

November has been an interesting month for the Department. We have received our new Multi-purpose Vehicle. This vehicle will be put into service in the near future. This vehicle, designated as Squad 1, will be an important addition to our capabilities. The unit is a "heavy rescue" type vehicle and will be equipped to provide assistance at fires, vehicle extrications, rope rescue situations and other rescue calls as necessary.

The Department sent a delegation to Appleton Wisconsin this month to inspect for delivery two new pumpers. These are now in state at our local dealer and will be in Danbury soon. The delivery of these engines will bring the total of Pierce apparatus in the Department to eleven. This standardization allows the easier repair and maintenance of the vehicles. Having one supplier of replacement parts has allowed the Department to develop a relationship with our supplier that facilitates our acquisition of parts and reduces the down time of our apparatus. As a result the firefighting force needs less time to familiarize with the apparatus when switching vehicles and the time required for driver and operation training of the crews is reduced.

Please note that with the Yule Season upon us we must all be especially vigilant in our safety awareness. The use of candles and alternate heating methods can be a dangerous practice if not used correctly and with vigilance. May we all have a safe and healthy Yule Season as we close out the year.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Herald, Chief

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The following are property tours conducted by crews this month: Timber Oaks Condo's, Brookview Commons Apartments, Library Place Parking Garage, Saturn Dealership, Wal-Mart Store, FCI, Rivington Condo's, Lakewood Condo's, Danbury Hospital Medical Arts Building, Borders Books, Loew's Bldg Products, the changes at the Mall (stairs, escalators), 9-15,17,19,21 Library Place, Peacock Alley, 1 Padanarum Rd. E26 helped an elderly couple at #1 Crestdale Terrace, with installation of smoke and CO detectors.

- ❖ Halloween candy and light sticks were provided by Local 801 and given out at all stations for Halloween.
- ❖ Fire preventions tours and talks to St Joseph and Great Plain Schools.
- ❖ Tour and fire Prevention Film for a birthday Party of 8 ten year olds on 7 November.
- ❖ Truck 1 to Relay For Life at Danbury Fair Mall
- ❖ Meeting with the Tri-Community Association, approximately 25 members from the Spruce Mtn Rd area.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

- ❖ Incident # 5855, 35 Fairfield Ave., structure fire. A reported kitchen fire showed heavy smoke on arrival and a substantial main body of fire down the entry hallway to the kitchen in a 2 story protected woodframe dwelling with living space in both basement and attic. Within seconds flashover occurred, with the entire first floor involved in fire, which pushed out the front door and rolled out and over the full width front porch roof, involving the electrical service drop on side A of the structure. E21 made entry, followed by E22 and E23 crews on a second line, with a 3rd line to the rear as the entire body of fire was pushed through the first floor toward open rear sliders. Knockdown was fast and thorough, with no fire extension to the 2nd floor. E5 and Squad 7 performed salvage work and provided lighting.
- ❖ Incident # 5730, Kenosia Ave, man down. E26 responded in less than 3 minutes to a 75 year old man who collapsed while working at the cemetery. E26 crew took over CPR, which was already in progress and defibrillated the victim 3 times. FF Zaniewski also started an IV. The patient had a pulse on arrival of EMS.
- ❖ Incident 5845 at 90 Osborne St., the new WESCONN science building. This incident involved a low oxygen alarm in the area of the HAZMAT Vault. Early information indicated that there might be a possible gas product release, so a level 2 Haz-Mat Incident was given and we began to set up for HAZAMAT operations. Further investigation showed the O2 alarm to be from a power failure and the vapor that was thought to be a gas release was actually from an accidental tripping of a CO2 extinguishing suppression system. The

response level was immediately down graded and the companies released as they became available.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL /HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

❖ EMS Wednesday

This month's topic has been CPR for the professional rescuer, which includes adult, child infant and automatic external defibrillation. The continuous education program EMS Wednesday is designed to meet the EMS certification 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.

- ❖ 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 ability to provide these lifesaving skills are rapidly deployed to the scene of a victim of a sudden cardiac arrest. The system has increased the patient survival rates of sudden cardiac arrests in the City of Danbury.

❖ Hazardous Materials Thursday

Starting in November, Thursdays have been set aside for Hazardous Materials training. The first objective is to meet the OSHA mandated Haz-Mat operations level training for the entire department. Once the entire department is compliant, the training will evolve into more specialized training to enhance the abilities of the department and meet the training needs of the Haz-Mat team. These sessions will address both the local needs and the needs of the Regional Haz-Mat team.

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL - Barry Rickert

Abatements/Reports (hrs.)	73
Tickets in Fire Lanes	7
Fire Investigations	19
Fatal Fires	0
Liquor Inspections	18
Blasting Permits	3
Complaints	18
Plan Review (hrs.)	126
Fire Prevention Programs	37

INSPECTIONS:

Places of Assembly	36
Educational	12
Business	13
Storage	6
Health Care	2
Industrial	0
Mercantile	17
Residential Board & Care	1
Hotel(units)	315
Apartments	206
Day Care	2
Misc. Inspections	19

TRAINING:

Fire Marshal Rickert and Deputy Marshal Wiedl attended a 2 day Seminar in Farmington, CT hosted by the International Association of Arson Investigators, Connecticut Chapter.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Danbury Public and Parochial Schools: All personnel participated in the final segment of our Fall Fire Prevention Programs.

Ives Manor and Rocky Glen

Deputy Marshals Johnson and Wiedl, Fire Safety program for the residents

Halloween on the Green: Deputy Marshals Rao and Gillotti
Fire Safety Presentation

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Numerous complaints regarding fire lanes, overcrowded nightclubs, mercantile exits and aisles blocked. Holiday Patrols have already begun.

On a special note, Deputy Marshal Rao has been appointed a Principal member of the National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee on Building Construction. This will enable us to introduce recommendations for upgrades to

our National Fire Codes. This is a significant appointment on a National level and indicates a significant level of professionalism and dedication by DFM Rao.

Training Division - Mark Omasta

Narrative:

We identified Emergency Vehicle Driver Training as a priority for our Department, with a goal of training our Volunteer and Career Drivers and Officers about safe Vehicle operations within the next 12 months. We contracted with the Connecticut Fire Academy to provide the four hour basic, plus the four hour Officer's Role EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations) class. In the last two months, we provided three 8 hour classes. To date, approximately 70 Volunteer Firefighters and 20 Career personnel received this valuable training. We expect to continue the training and add a practical driving component next spring. The Beaver Brook and Miry Brook Volunteer Companies hosted the three classes. Fourth quarter training for the Volunteer division continues into early December. This training will include the OSHA mandated Live burns/SCBA drills, and will be held at our Training facility on Plumtrees Road.

Confined Space Entry

The Danbury Fire Department is listed as the Rescue Service for any Confined Space Emergencies in the City. OSHA mandates annual refresher training for these types of rescues. We ran Confined Space entry drills for all crews in late October through mid November. The first drill was a joint effort with Safety personnel from the Federal Correction Institute (FCI). The FCI made their pump house on Barnum Road available to us for all of our crews.

Live Burns

All career crews have been utilizing the Training Facility this month for the OSHA mandated live burn training. Along with the fire attack evolutions, crews are working on their Rapid Intervention Training techniques and ladder and Search and Rescue drills. The live burn training offers a chance for us to train our future pump and aerial operators in a controlled environment.

Many area businesses have been happy to donate wood pallets for our burn evolutions.

Recruits

Our 5 Recruit Firefighters are in their 11th week of the 14 week Academy Class at the CT. Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. They are progressing well.

College Credits

The Naugatuck Valley Community College course "Intro to Fire Tech," continues at Headquarters and runs until mid December.

We will be offering another three credit class, "Building Construction," for the Spring Semester.

Hazardous Materials

All crews are attending the required Haz-Mat Operational refresher training this month. Haz Mat team coordinator Rey Rodriguez is presenting this required Haz Mat review.

Communications Division- Pat Sniffin

- ❖ **During this reporting period there were two equipment failures of significance. The workstation that serves as a remote control and archive device for the Dictaphone Voice logger has failed. This PC based component provides the ability to archive voice recordings, remotely monitor or review calls and to perform maintenance functions on the main tape decks without stopping record functions. At the present time two options for this device are being explored;**

Can it be rebuilt to operate as it has for the last 10 years?

Determine replacement costs and availability through an RFP process.

It was anticipated that this equipment would have to be replaced during this budget cycle due to the fact that the Dictaphone Corp. has deemed this device to be beyond normal service life. Effective March 2008, they will no longer support installations, repair or service of these units. While this failure is an inconvenience there is no loss of operational status in the Communications Center.

- ❖ **On November 20th at approximately 6:00PM the low-band radio transmitter installed at the Danbury Hospital failed. This unit was in place as the sole transmitter for 2 low-band radio channels. Upon contacting radio service it was determined that the power amplifier for the unit failed. This unit was installed in the mid-1980 and has been in use 24/7. At the time of this report, radio repair indicates that this unit can be repaired. Given the age of the unit, 22 years, the ability to find repair parts in the future will be difficult. (This unit was successfully repaired and reinstalled)**
- ❖ **This failure highlights the need to have redundant critical communications systems in place. Again at the time of this writing due to a lack of a working backup, Fire Dispatchers are using a combination of UHF portable radios and telephone alerting to dispatch**

crews. While his has been a good test of low tech alerting methods, it is a solution that should be used only in urgent cases.

- ❖ This problem is one of the many that will be looked at with the ongoing City-Wide radio system project. However it cannot be stressed enough that back-up communications systems are not a luxury. Rather, they are required components of a strong public safety network.

	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% Response
E-3	28	0	2	0	26	7%
E-4	11	1	3	0	7	36%
E-5	17	2	1	2	12	29%
S-6	32	0	1	18	13	59%
S-7	47	0	3	10	34	28%
E-8	20	0	2	3	15	25%
E-9	39	1	0	4	34	13%
E-10	30	2	2	5	21	30%
E-11	12	0	2	2	8	33%
E-12	23	1	0	4	18	22%
E-13	24	1	1	5	17	29%
E-14	12	2	2	3	5	58%
Totals	295	10	19	56	210	29%

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

We have replaced the Oxygen sensor in E-24's meter this past month and have just received for repair the meters off Truck-2 and an engine company with what seems to be the same problem. As these meters start reaching the age of 2+ years the Oxygen sensors will all need to be replaced. Currently, the rest of the departments' meters are fully functional.

The department's SCBA'S are generally functional. Two or three units a week are removed from service due to mechanical issues. Generally, they are repaired and returned to service. We have completed the hydrostatic testing of all our air bottles that were due this cycle and have placed in our budget request for the 2008/2009 year the purchase of new bottles since these bottles have reached the end of their life cycle. These purchases will be a significant cost but are necessary to keep the Department current with OSHA and NFPA rated equipment.

We have completed the annual fit testing for E-4. 6 out of 7 firefighters we tested had mask issues and we advised them on how to fix them. The 7th

individual couldn't be tested due to a facial hair issue. This proves exactly why this program is so vital to firefighter safety. E-6 is scheduled to be here on December 6th for their fit tests.

Because Engine 14 uses MSA's, the department is unable to fit test their masks. All other companies in town use the SCOTT packs and testing is standardized. As OSHA requires annual fit testing, Engine 14 personnel will reimburse the Department for the material to conduct the tests. This material has been ordered. If testing is not done then the company would be non compliant and will not be able to respond.

All other companies and the Career Division use Scott Packs. These are interchangeable and this allows for interoperability. In an emergency, this might prove live saving. The department encourages the purchase and use of like equipment.

E-23 had a hole in the top of the fuel tank and it was replaced. We removed the fuel injectors and sent them for testing to a fuel shop in Agawam MA. They were, as we suspected, the cause of the hard starting problems. We purchased new injectors, a new high pressure oil injector pump as well as a new fuel pressure regulator and installed them and placed this unit back in service.

We replaced the rear rotator lights on E-21 that were removed by driving through the partially opened bay door a few months ago. Other damage that was sustained in the same accident was repaired last month.

Three members of the Department went to Wisconsin to inspect the new E-21 and E-23. These two new Engines have arrived in Connecticut this week and we have started acquiring equipment to fit out these two new units.

We have replaced the power steering hoses in Truck-1. We also had a communication failure in one of Truck-1's computers which we repaired. We repaired the seat in the 99C1 and returned this unit to service. We replaced the brake lines in the 97F2 and have returned this unit to service. We are currently replacing the intake manifold gasket on the 95CT. We serviced the Departments pick-up, repaired the right rear tire and installed the plow in order to be ready for the upcoming winter.

A detailed budget for the Apparatus Division for the 2008/2009 year has been prepared.

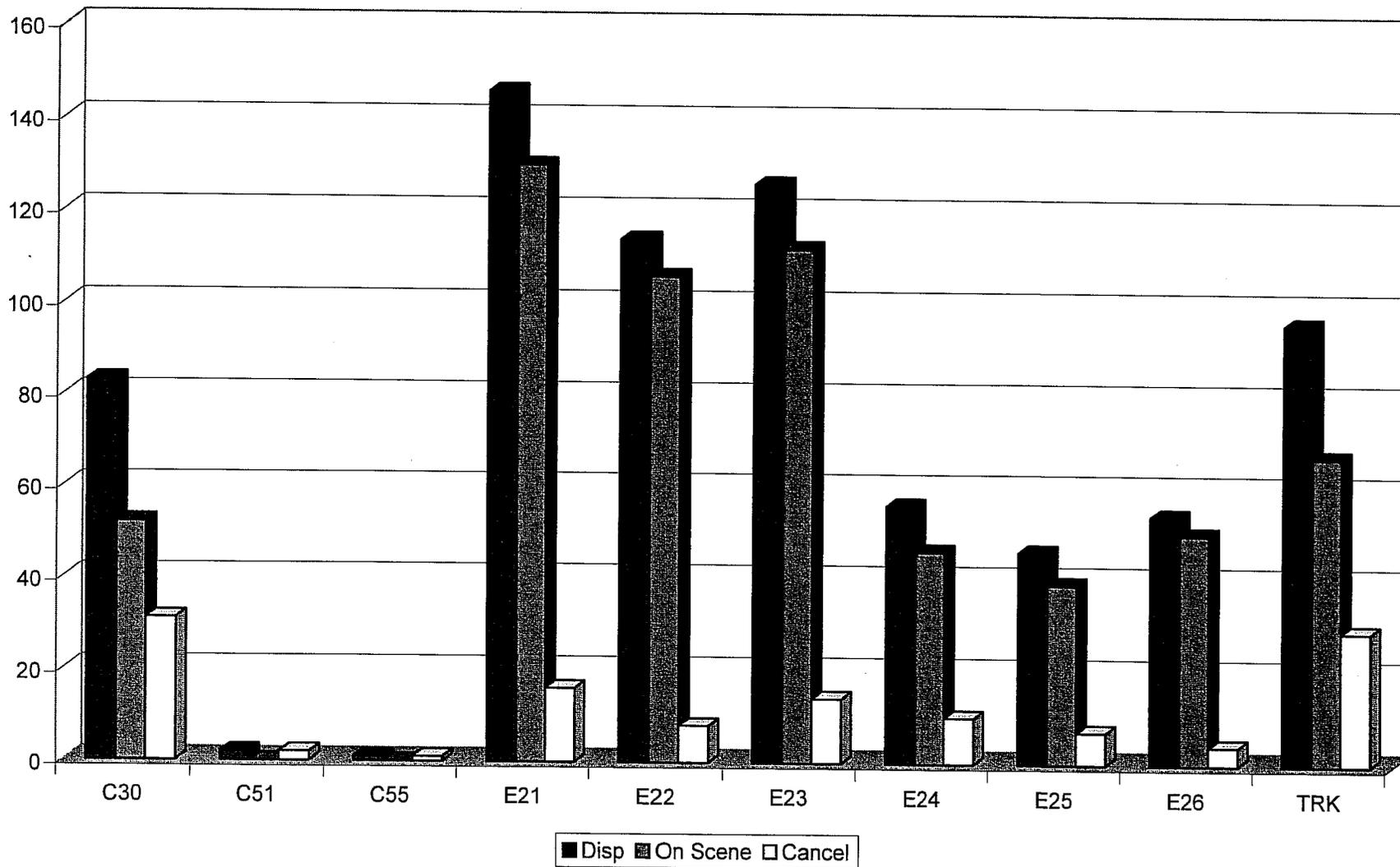
Dates/Items of Interest:

Firefighter Justin Bierbower will be spending the Holidays in the Middle East. He is deployed with his Firefighting Unit with the Air Force reserves. We wish Justin all the best and a safe return home.

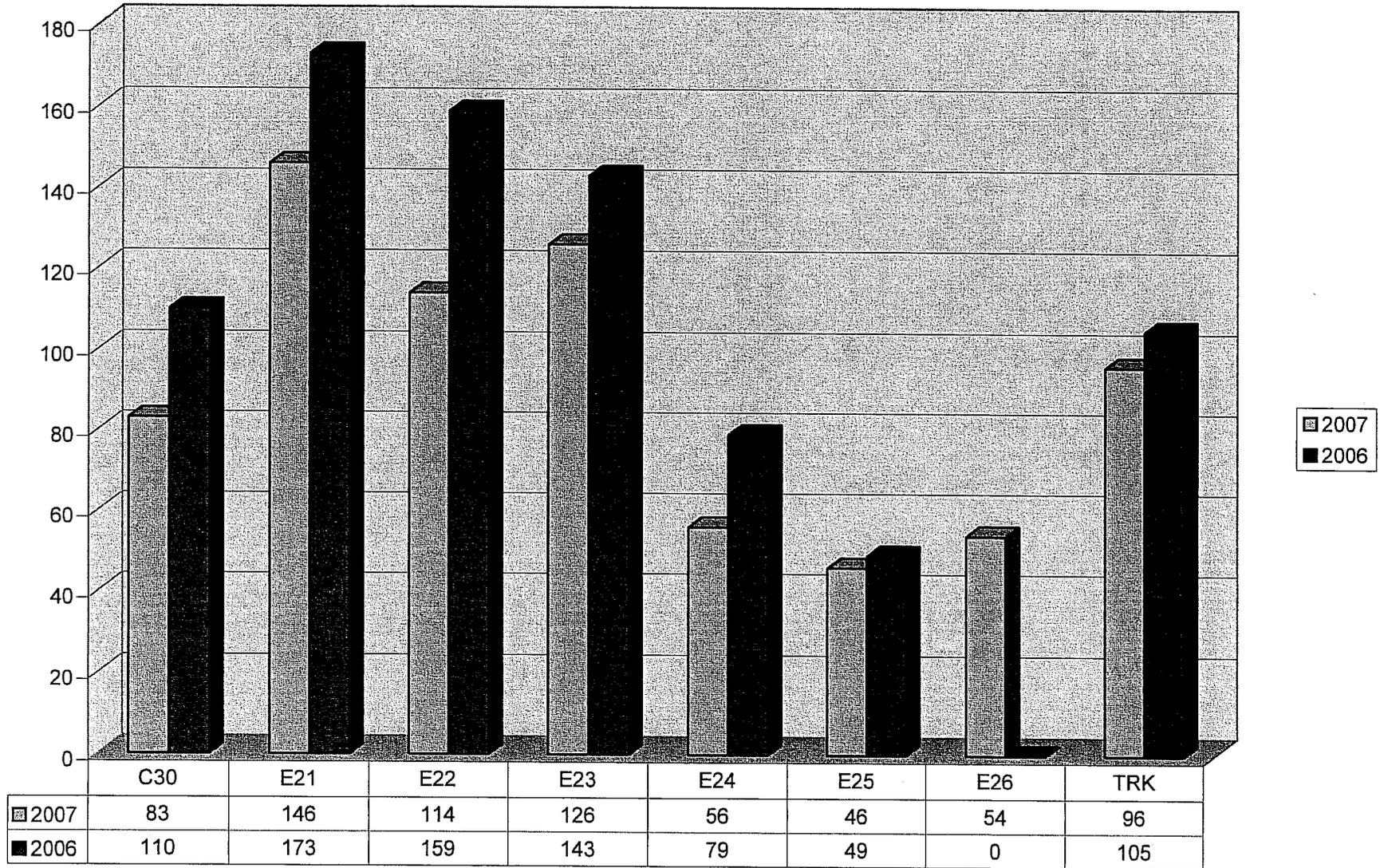
5 December: Swearing in of the Deputy Chief, 1430 hrs, Council Chambers.

Fire Chief
Geoffrey Herald

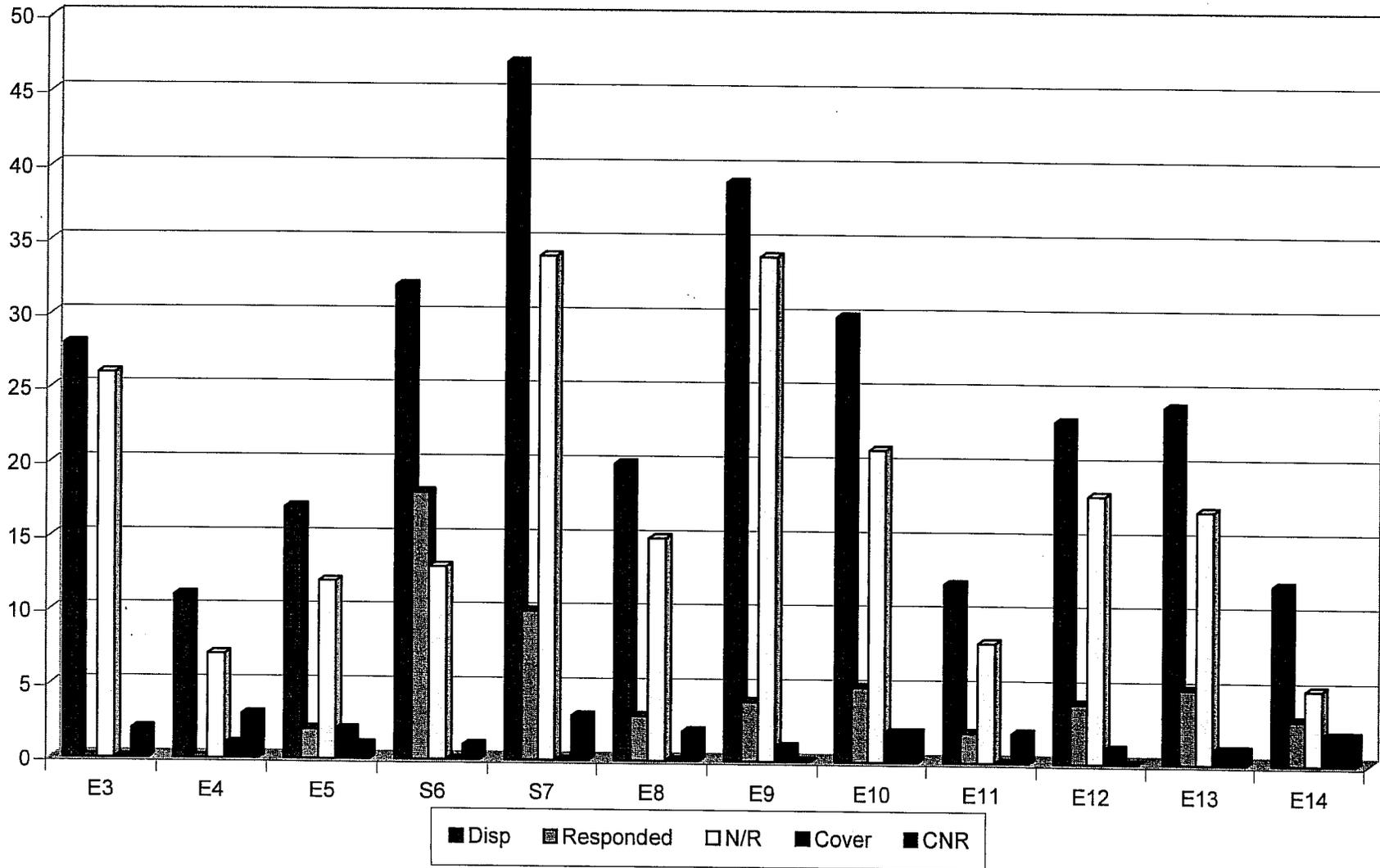
Career Company Response October 26 to November 20, 2007



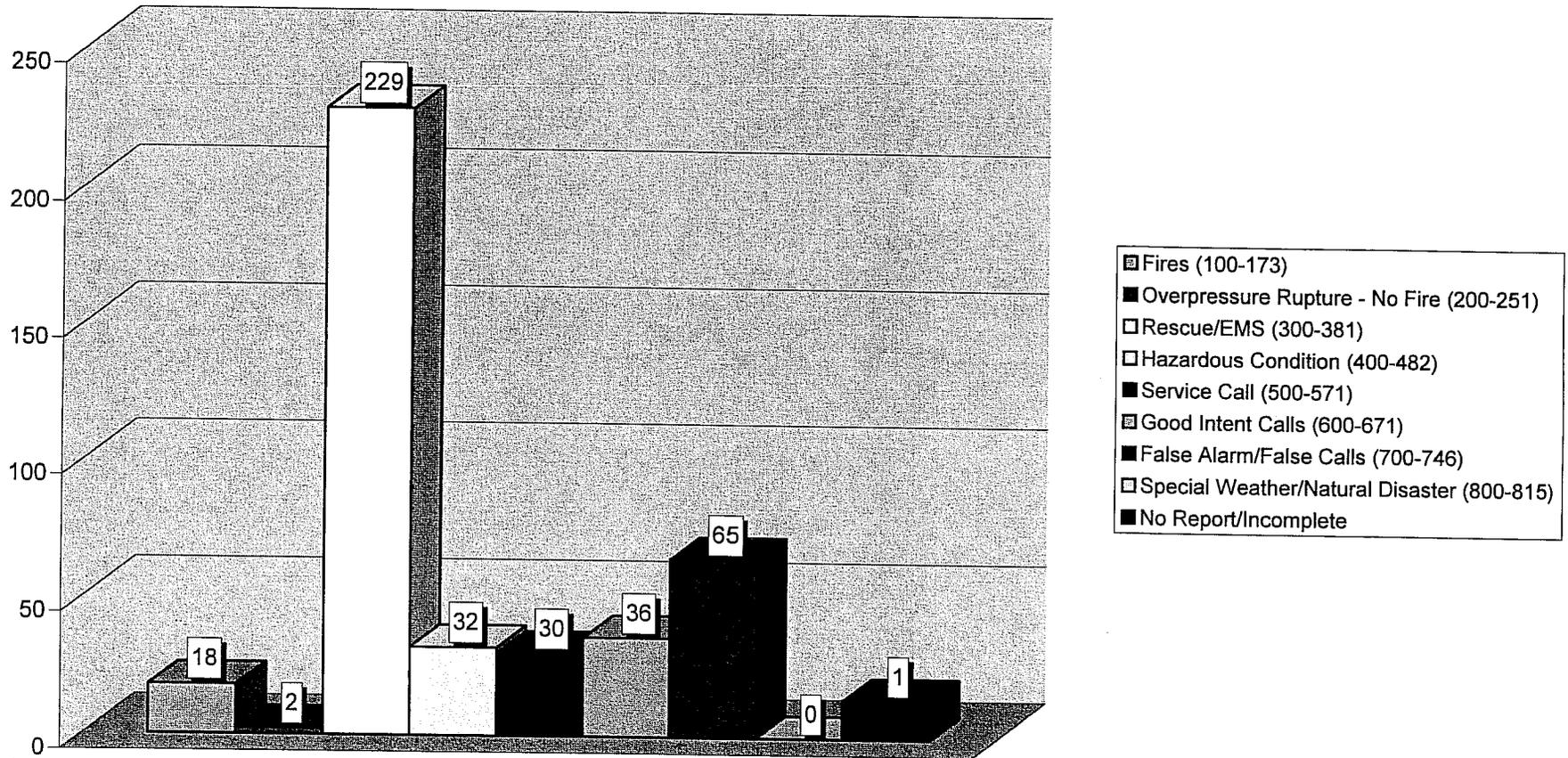
Career Response Comparison for November



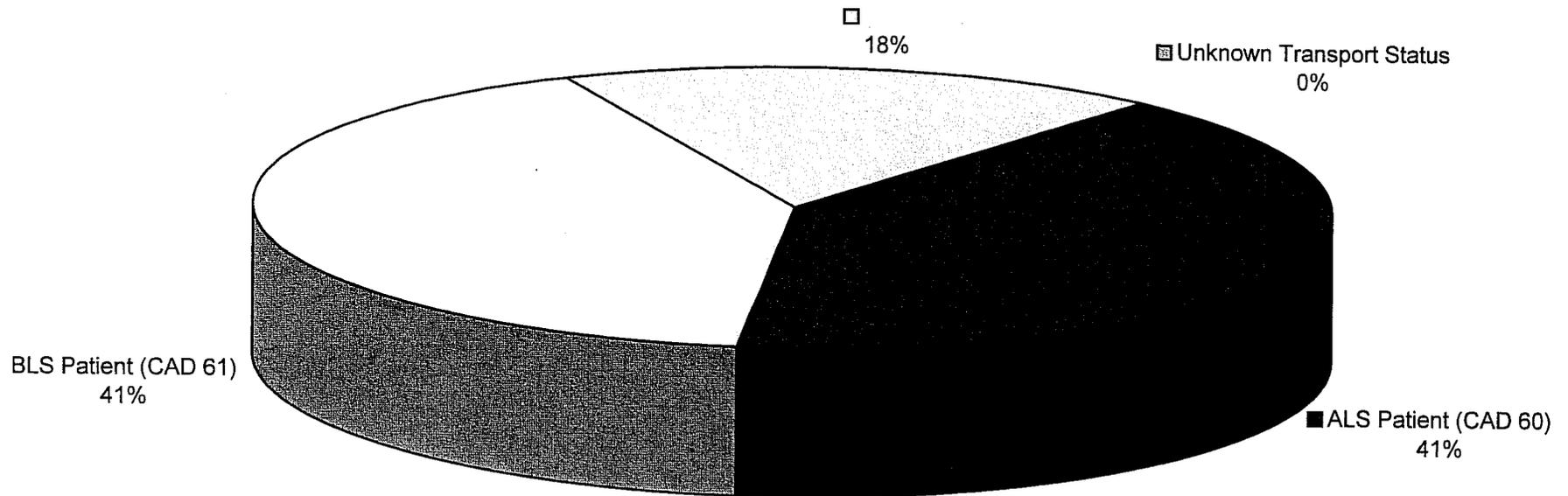
Volunteer Call Counts October 26 to November 20, 2007



Fire Response Breakdown October 26 to November 20, 2007



EMS Transport Activity October 26 to November 20, 2007



911 Center Activity October 26 to November 20, 2007

