



CITY OF DANBURY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

19 NEW STREET

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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Fire Chief

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April 23, 2007

FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of March 27, 2007 to April 23, 2007 and details some of the activities of the Department.

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION

- E-24 under the leadership of Lt. Al Mion stopped at a private residence to give a warning to a parent of two young children they spotted playing in their driveway. The children were lying down on the ground behind the family SUV and could not have been seen by the operator if it was backed up. The mother was extremely grateful that they took her family's safety to such a level of concern.
- E-22 B Group was touring at Laurel Gardens and showed several children the Engine and their gear.
- E-25 D Group provided a show and tell class at the King St. Intermediate School.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- On April 10th we responded to 19 Thorpe St. Ext. for a structure fire. Upon arrival we found heavy smoke coming from the attic area of the home. The fire was quickly extinguished with minimal damage to the rest of the house. The Fire Marshal determined that a poorly used extension cord was the cause of the fire.

- On April 13th we responded to 55 Cross St. for a possible structure fire. Upon arrival we were met by the owner who told us he had heavy smoke and heat in his apartment. Upon further investigation we found a battery charger had malfunctioned and melted on top of an electrical organ. It was no longer burning. We ventilated the apartment and advised the tenant not to stay there until he had the apartment cleaned of the smoke odor.

- On April 13th we were requested to give mutual aid to the Town of Ridgefield for a structure fire at 427 Ridgebury Rd. We assisted at the fire by ventilation and overhauling the structure.

- On April 14th we responded to 198 Main St. for a report of smoke in the hallway on the second floor. Upon arrival we found smoke coming from apt. 236 which was caused by a small fire on the stove. It took us about an hour to rid the apartment and the second floor hallway of the smoke.

- From 5:00PM on the 15th of April to midnight on the 18th we responded to 235 calls for assistance. Most of these calls were for storm and water related problems. The Departments assets were taxed to the maximum. The career Department brought back off duty people to man all our spare equipment. All the Volunteer companies stepped up and did a superb job. Two of the Companies Squad 6 and Squad 7 pumped out cellars for two days straight. There was some good news during this storm. Several areas that in the past had been huge problems turned out to be no problem this time. Center St., Park Pl. 51 Main St. and Rocky Glen remained in good shape. We did have problems at Jensen's Trailer Park as we had in the past. We needed to use boats to remove some of the tenants. We had to use boats in the Williams St. East Pearl area. Under the leadership of Paul Estefan the War Memorial was opened as a temporary shelter. Considering the amount of rain we received I believe this Department handled all the problems in a timely manner. The Volunteer division of the Department should be commended for their outstanding work throughout this trying period.

- On the 22nd members of D group responded to rescue a man that had fallen in the woods near Mt. Pond off Long Ridge Rd. The man had broken his ankle and the crews entered the woods for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and treated and packaged the victim. The new FD Gator was brought to the scene and used to

remove the man from the woods. Special thanks for use of his personal trailer to transport the Gator is due Firefighter Steven Johnson.

- Pre-incident planning continued on site inspections at: Brookview Commons, Renaissance, new Student Center WCSU Westside Campus, Danbury Fair Mall, WCSU Student Center downtown Campus, Health South medical complex Sand Pit Rd., Woodland Hills Development, River Woods Condo's, Westville Commons, Westside Campus Student Center, and the BRT apartments on Clapboard Ridge Rd.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES/HAZ MAT - Rey Rodriguez

The following Firefighters took and passed the written part of the State EMT test to renew their EMT -B certification. The class grade average was an 86%

A-group	B-group	C-group	D-Group	Staff
Arteaga	Bowers	Arconti	Guard	Beers
Boulianne	Gallager	Bierbower	McGowan	Perry
Esposito	Hanson	Brennan	McQuade	Weber
Gerlach	Jewel	Daly	Silk	
Arconti	Johnson	Easter	Timan	
Sedgwick	Kennedy	Gregory	Herald	
Williams	Lounsbury	Hernly	Sedlak	
	Rozzi	Krikorian	Halas	
	Ryan	Omasta, Paul		
		Payne		
		Plank		
		Radlet		
		Tomchik		

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 childbirth. The Danbury Fire Departments First Responders have a comprehensive emergency medicine 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 stabilize a patient condition until definitive care is provided at the Emergency room.

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.

Housing Authority:

EMS/Haz-Mat Coordinator Rey Rodriguez provided an in-depth class to employees of the housing authority on how to handle suspicious packages on April 3, 2007. The class reviewed what constituted a suspicious package, pre-arrival instructions and what to do if an individual is accidentally exposed to an unknown substance.

EMS-Instructors Seminar

A mandatory EMS-I seminar was attended by Rey Rodriguez and John Osborne on April 21, 2007. This seminar was hosted by Region 5 for Emergency Medical Service instructors that were renewing their Instructors' license this year. This is an opportunity to stay abreast of changes that are occurring in patient care, the law and liability and in technology.

Community Education

The Danbury Fire Department in conjunction with the Danbury Hospital is hosting the annual babysitter's class at the Danbury Hospital, on April 26, 2007 EMS Coordinator Rodriguez will do a presentation on First Aid.

On April 24 members of the Danbury Fire Department will meet with the Boy scouts from St Gregory's in Danbury to discuss Emergency operations.

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

Communications Division

Activity Report -March 26, 2007 to April 22, 2007

Operations

During this reporting period department activity was relatively high with 5 working structure fires being reported. In addition to the normal activities the storm responses of April 15-17 added significantly to call counts.

As of this time there were 181 calls for various Water Problems as a result of flood waters. Several cases of motorists being rescued from vehicles stalled in rising water were reported. Volunteer companies working with career forces kept a steady pace of pumping water from basements, building and businesses for two days.

While there were many challenges faced by all responders, the lessons learned by the department during Tropical Storm Floyd were applied and many of the citizens requesting help actually got served faster than expected. This is a tribute to the dedication of the volunteer members that spent long hours going from call to call. The dispatchers that worked in this period kept a calm focus on the tasks at hand should also be recognized for their efforts.

No injuries were noted and many people were evacuated to a safe shelter at the War Memorial. All department members should be pleased with how this event was handled.

Radios

During Tropical Storm Floyd one of the noted deficiencies was the radio system. During the storm of April 15-17, all units were working and radio traffic was high, however the upgrades that were made as temporary fixes served the department well and no critical radio transmissions were lost.

- That being said, the department along with the Police Department continued the process begun on the city-wide radio system. The committee, after interviewing the top four companies and through a difficult deliberation process has selected a consultant to design the new system. The committee believes the selected company will provide a high level of technical expertise and provide the City of Danbury with a number of options to create a highly reliable public safety radio system

Training - T.O. Mark Omasta

The Firefighter 1 class for the volunteers continues. There are eleven volunteers in the program which meets two to three times per week. The Fire Academy taught ISC/NIMS through a grant. +Certification testing should take place in mid June. Current records show 89 volunteer firefighters certified for the fire ground.

The training officer, Deputy Chief and Fire Chief met with the volunteer leadership at HQ on April 9 to introduce Chief Herald and discuss current issues.

Five new recruits on the Career side are about two thirds through the recruit class at the Academy in Windsor Locks. They are progressing well and to date, we have received positive evaluations for all five recruits. May 16 is the projected graduation date.

The department sent nine of our members to Connecticut Officers Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland March 30- April 1. Some of the class topics included Fire Prevention, NFIRS, and Fire behavior in Residential and Commercial structures.

Training classes Career for April:

We had eleven members take and pass the State Certification Test for Incident Safety Officer.

Airport emergency operations classes continue for all the crews. 11 Firefighters completed the 2Q apparatus driving certification class and are awaiting a test date by the DMV.

D and C groups conducted live burns at the Plumtrees Training facility.

Tours of the Mannkind Corp. on Casper St. commenced for all crews.

A representative with the E.A.P. program started to update all crews on changes within the program.

We had a representative from the foam trailer manufacturer (United Plastic Fabricating) come down from New Hampshire to give a training class on the operation of our Regional Foam Unit. A representative from the Fairfield FD was also at the training.

The Training Officer gave a presentation at Career day at Immaculate High School.

The Department sent the T.O. to the FDIC (Instructor's Conference) in Indianapolis where he participated in Hands On training and Classroom courses.

We accepted donations of a mobile home and a van for training purposes.

Meetings with:

A regional inspector from the FAA for the Annual Inspection and review of our response capabilities at the Airport. (April 4 and 5)

Pembroke Pumping concerning the water/sewer hookups at the Fire School.

The Fire Science degree program Coordinator from N.V.C.C. for continued discussion on future college courses for Danbury Fire. Volunteer Council April 23.

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 April. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

All of the Departments BioSystem meters have been span gas calibrated. Currently all of the Departments meters are fully functional.

The department's SCBA'S are for the most part functional. We still have two or three units a week that are removed from service due to mechanical issues. The new Recruits at the Fire Academy have been returning at least one SCBA a week for repairs due to the rigorous training involved.

We have declared the 1987 and 1988 Mack pumps surplus. We have removed any reusable fixtures and equipment from both of these units. It is our understanding that the bids were opened. We are eagerly awaiting the final approval of the Common Council for the final disposition of these two units.

Engine 24 (99PS-2) had suffered a coolant leak in the #5 piston sleeve seal. Antifreeze leaked into the crankcase and had caused severe damage to most of the engines internal components. We received an estimate for an "in frame overhaul" We submitted a requisition to Purchasing, and a purchase order number was issued to Atlantic Detroit Diesel Allison of Middletown. The rebuild went as planned and this apparatus was returned to service in an efficient and timely manner.

We received a foam trailer from the State Of Connecticut. This unit contains 500 Gallons of AFFF foam. Because of its size and weight we will have to tow this unit with the Prime Mover. We fitted this unit with a trailer plug consistent with those in use on the departments other trailers. We also had a training session on this unit as to its use, care and maintenance.

This past month we performed a full service on E-21.

We had to repair/fabricate a better bracket system to hold the Stokes basket on the side of the ladder on Truck-1.

We repaired an air leak in the brake system on the Prime Mover. We also sent this unit to Economy Sign to be lettered as "Squad-2" so as to properly identify it while in use.

The spare pump while in use for E-24 suffered an engine sensor failure and had to be towed in during the night. We were able to obtain a new sensor the next morning and returned this unit back into service.

Engine-23 suffered a sudden failure/explosion of the engines turbocharger, this unit also had to be towed in. While out of service waiting for the remanufactured turbocharger to arrive, we did a complete service on this unit. After completing the turbocharger installation we returned this unit back into service.

Good of the Organization

- This month we lost to former members of our Department. Ret. FF Roser Gallo was killed in Florida when he was involved in a motor vehicle accident. Ret. A/C Tony Ferriaulo died this past week in Danbury Hospital. Our condolences go out to both their families.
- On Thursday April 5th Chief Geoff Herald took command of the Danbury Fire Department. Everyone in the Department wishes the new Chief much success.
- Dep. Chief Curran, A/C Slagle represented the Danbury Fire Dept. at an all day seminar given by DEMHS in Southbury.
- Capt. Meehan and FF Jim Lillis also attended the DEMHS seminar representing their home communities Roxbury and Bridgewater.
- Several members of the Department attended the annual Salvation Army Breakfast on April 20th. The breakfast was held at the Ethan Allen Inn.
- FF Tim Smith played the bagpipes in the Savannah Ga. St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Comm.Sup.Pat Sniffin and FF Fred Pollard have been appointed to the committee to over see the purchase of the new emergency radio system for the City.
- Capt. Arconti and FF Artega worked with a Juvenile Fire Setter Case this pass month.
- Chief Herald, Capt. Easter, Lt. Handau, and Lt. Tyskiewicz, Lt. McQuade, Lt. Arconti and Lt Bergemann served on an Oral Board for the Bridgeport Fire Dept.
- Members of the Department attended the Conn. Weekend Classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md.
- Several members of the Department attended a retirement dinner for Chief Siecienski at Anthony's. Everyone wished the Chief success in his new position in Greenwich.

- All employees of the Department participated in a class given by the company which supplies employee assistance.
- FF Louis DeMici will be honored as the Firefighter of the Year by the Rotary Club on April 26th. At the time of this report we have over 100 people signed up to attend the affair which will be held at the Amber Room.
- The Local 801 IAFF Golf Tournament will be held on June 4th at Richter Park. Proceeds of the tournament go to the Burn Camp and to the Union's Scholarship program.

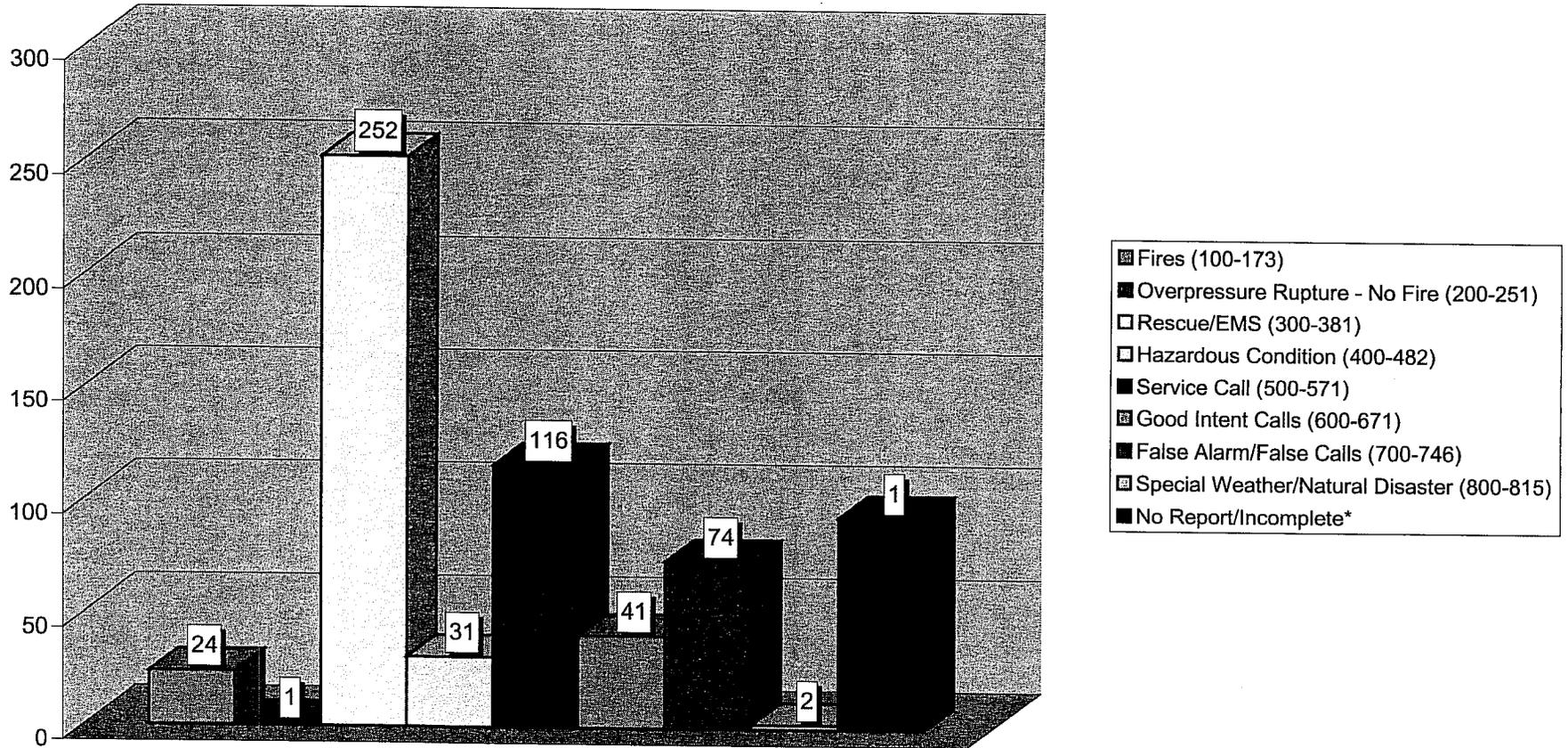
Dates of Importance

- April 26th - The Annual Rotary Club Firefighter of the year dinner. It starts at 6:30PM and it is being held at the Amber Room.
- May 13th - Mother's Day
- May 16th - FF Recruit Graduation - Windsor Locks
- May 28th - Memorial Day
- June 4th - Local 801 Golf Tournament

Fire Chief

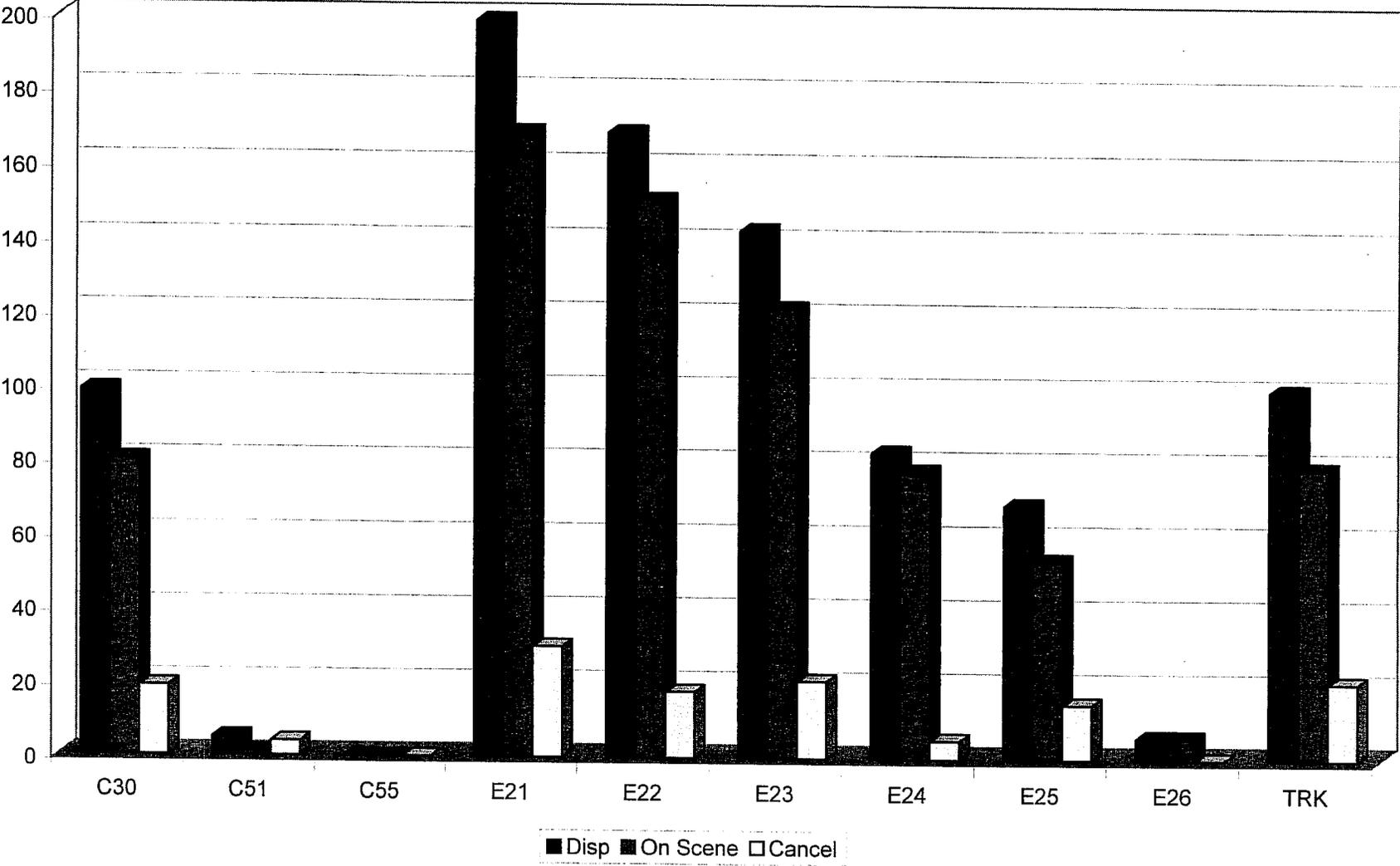
Geoffrey R. Herald

Fire Response Breakdown March 26 to April 22, 2007

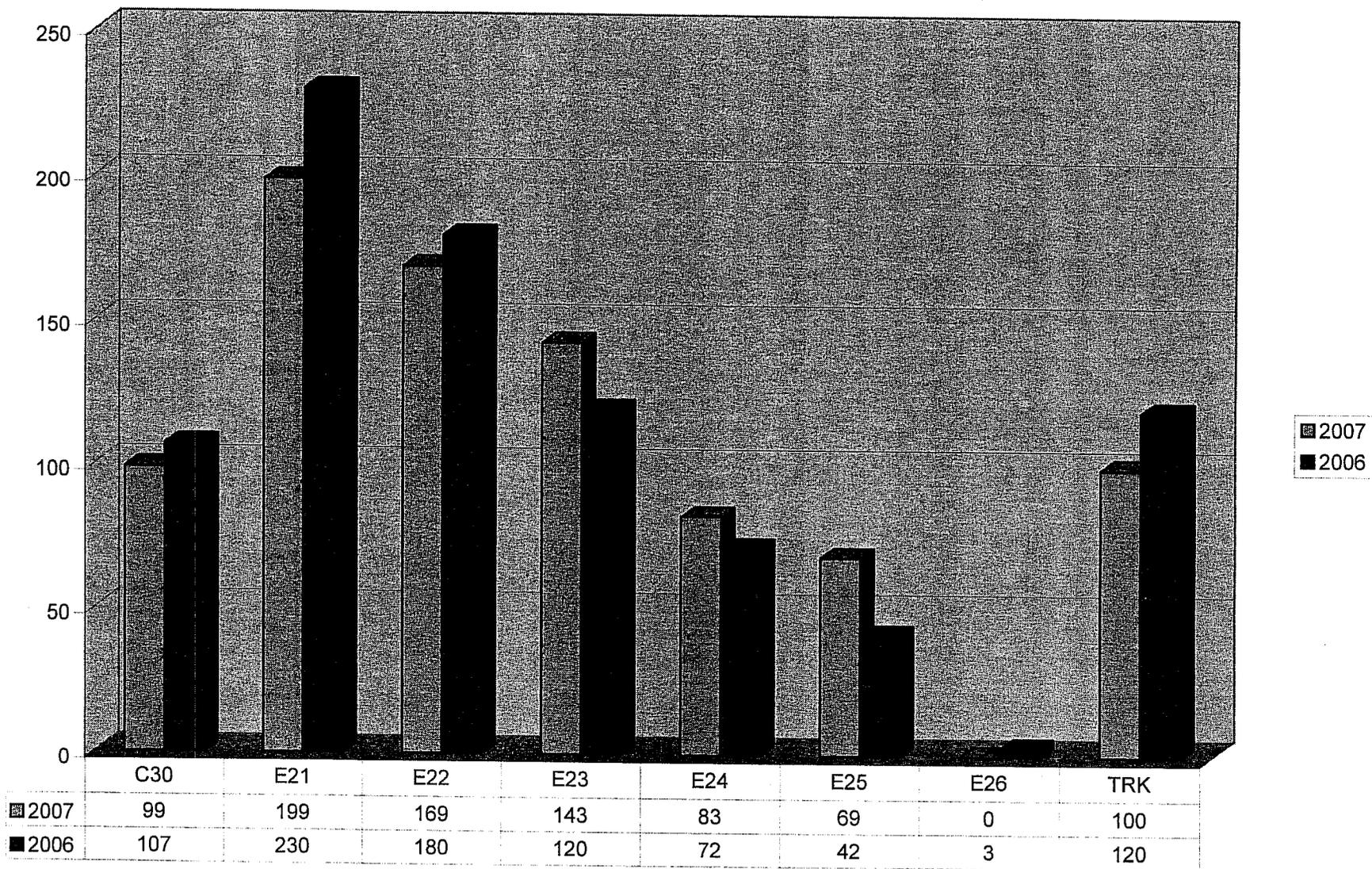


*Volunteer Reports from the Nor'Easter are still being compiled and entered.

Career Company Response
March 26 to April 22, 2007



Career Response Comparison for April

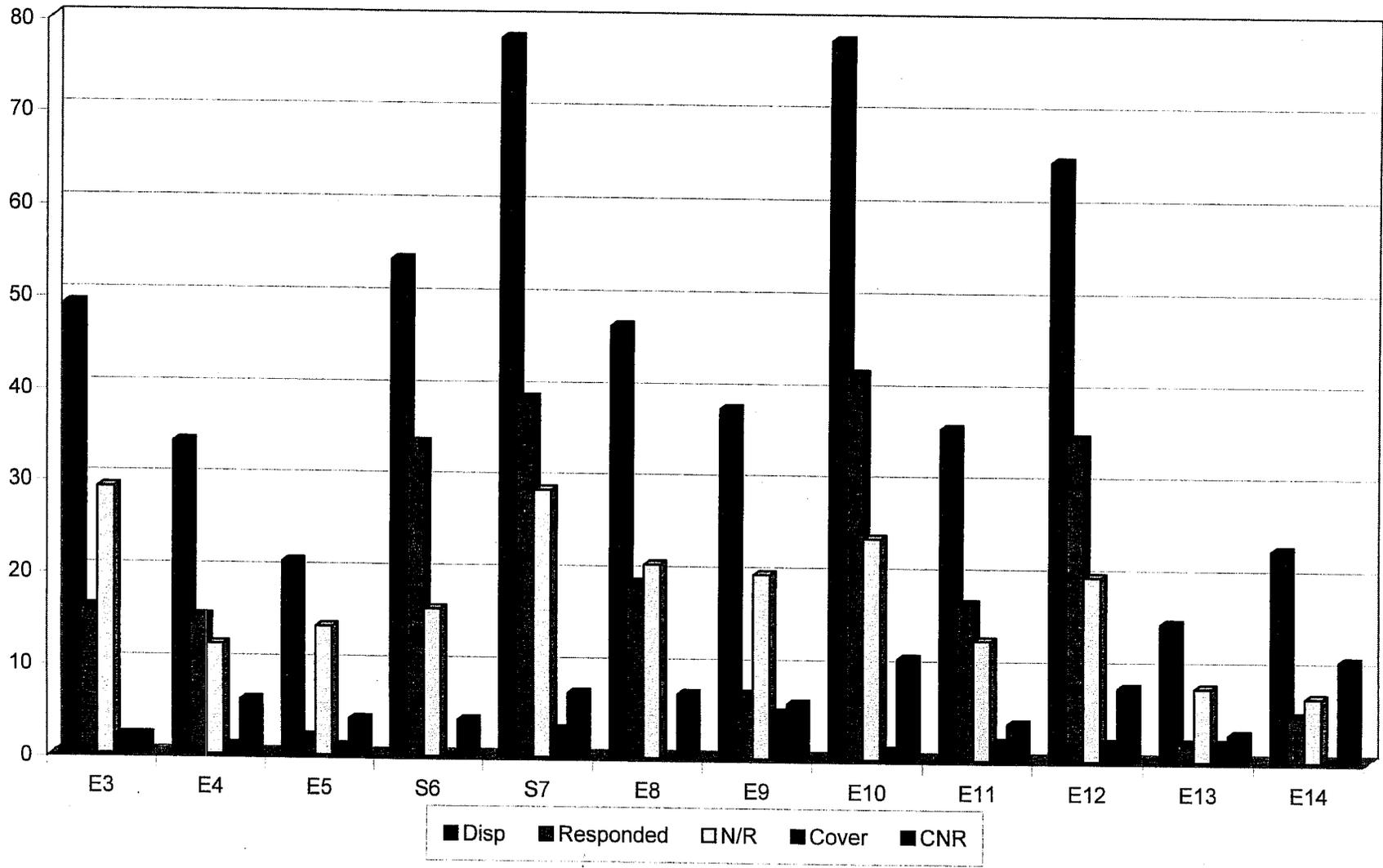


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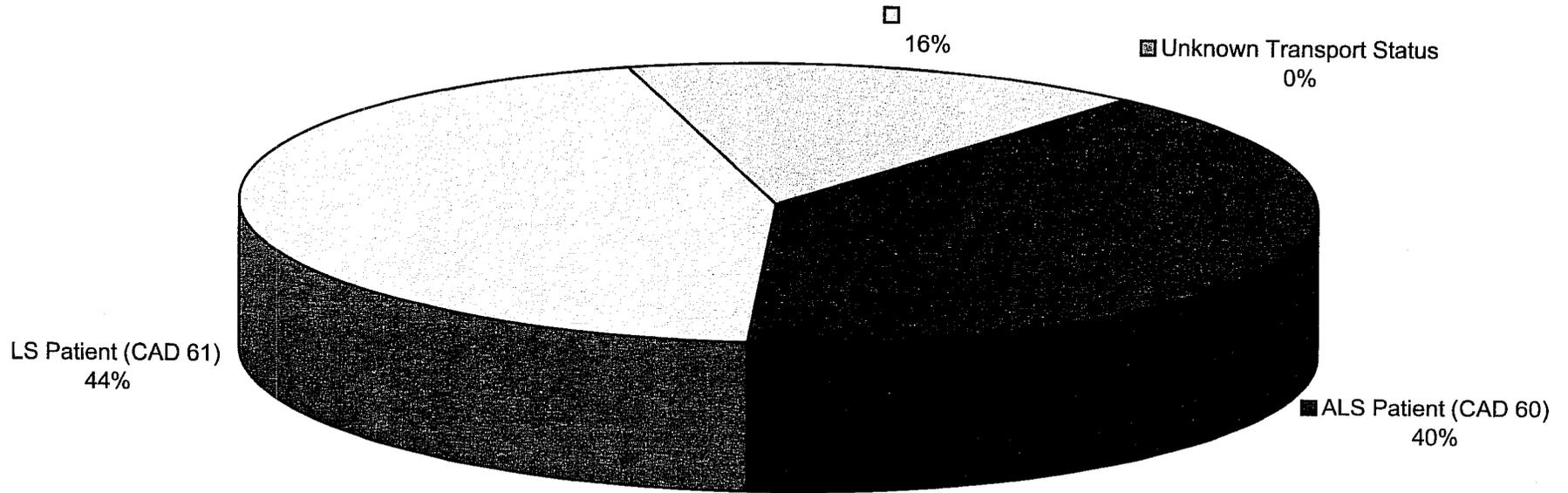
April Response Statistics

	Calls	Cover	Canceled	Response Total	No Response Total	% of Response
E-3	49	2	2	16	29	41%
E-4	34	1	6	15	12	65%
E-5	21	1	4	2	14	33%
S-6	54	0	4	34	16	70%
S-7	78	3	7	39	29	63%
E-8	47	0	7	19	21	55%
E-9	38	5	6	7	20	47%
E-10	78	1	11	42	24	69%
E-11	36	2	4	17	13	64%
E-12	65	2	8	35	20	69%
E-13	15	2	3	2	8	47%
E-14	23	0	11	5	7	70%
Totals	538	19	73	233	213	60%

Volunteer Call Counts March 26 to April 22, 2007



EMS Transport Activity
March 26 to April 22, 2007



911 Center Activity March 26 to April 22, 2007

