

ANNUAL REPORT OF
 FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI
 MAY 1, 2013

During the calendar year 2012 there was a total of 659 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, 79 were investigated by this Office. Totals for the previous year, 2011, were 994 incidents and 77 investigations. This represents a decrease of 335 incidents and an increase of two investigations. There was one fire-related injury reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Fire, Other	4	1
Building Fire	5	19
Fires in Structure Other Than in a Building.....	1	0
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	14	19
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue	11	7
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained.....	14	9
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained.....	4	1
Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fire, Other.....	1	3
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	1	3
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire.....	1	1
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other	4	3
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire	13	5
Grass Fire	2	0
Outside Rubbish Fire, Other	2	1
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire	3	1
Outside Storage Fire.....	0	1
Outside Equipment Fire	1	3
Steam Rupture of Pressure or Process Vessel	1	0
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	1	0
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	4	1
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	27	17
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	47	27
Lock-in	0	1
Search for Lost Person, Other	0	2

Search for Person on Land	1	3
Search for Person in Water	1	0
Extrication, Rescue, Other	1	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Building/Structure	1	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle.....	6	5
High Angle Rescue	1	0
Removal of Victim(s) from Stalled Elevator.....	0	1
Water and Ice-Related Rescue, Other.....	0	3
Trapped by Power Lines	1	2
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	8	12
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other	2	3
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill.....	7	9
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)	9	18
Oil or Other Combustible Liquid Spill	9	13
Toxic Condition, Other	0	2
Chemical Hazard (No Spill or Leak)	0	3
Chemical Spill or Leak	10	17
Carbon Monoxide Incident	8	31
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other	23	35
Overheated Motor	0	1
Power Line Down	12	48
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment.....	46	34
Building or Structure Weakened or Collapsed	1	0
Aircraft Standby.....	1	0
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup	8	9
Attempted Burning, Illegal Action, Other	0	1
Service Call, Other.....	1	2
Lock-Out	4	3
Water Problem, Other	6	19
Water Evacuation.....	4	113
Water or Steam Leak	1	7
Smoke or Odor Removal	2	6
Animal Problem.....	0	1
Animal Problem, Other.....	1	0
Animal Rescue.....	2	1
Public Service Assistance, Other	1	11
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency	12	23
Police Matter.....	2	1
Assist Invalid.....	1	0
Public Service	0	2
Unauthorized Burning.....	20	14
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up.....	5	7
Good Intent Call, Other.....	30	55

Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute.....	7.....	11
Wrong Location	1.....	0
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	3.....	9
Authorized Controlled Burning	3.....	3
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other	3.....	0
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	51.....	56
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke	1.....	1
Smoke from Barbecue, Tar Kettle	0.....	2
Hazard Release Investigation with no Hazard	6.....	1
Malicious, Mischievous False Call, Other.....	0.....	1
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm.....	0.....	1
Local Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm	1.....	0
System Malfunction, Other.....	3.....	1
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction	7.....	6
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	7.....	12
Heat Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	0.....	1
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction	70.....	78
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	7.....	13
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other	5.....	17
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire – Unintentional	2.....	7
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional	9.....	31
Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional	1.....	0
Alarm System Sounded, No Fire – Unintentional	22.....	50
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO	40.....	45
Severe Weather or Natural Disaster, Other	0.....	1
Earthquake Assessment	0.....	3
Wind Storm, Tornado/Hurricane Assessment	1.....	1
Lightning Strike (No Fire).....	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>659</u>	<u>994</u>

Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2011</u>
Apartments.....	790.....	21.....	714.....	8
Assembly.....	70.....	26.....	57.....	25
Bed and Breakfast.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0
Board and Care	4.....	2.....	3.....	1
Business	145.....	29.....	138.....	43
Day Care/Camps	16.....	7.....	22.....	5
Dry Cleaning.....	0.....	0.....	1.....	0

Educational	18.....	23.....	19.....	43
Explosive Magazines	55.....	0.....	0.....	0
Health Care	0.....	0.....	2.....	3
Hotel/Dorm	12.....	2.....	12.....	10
Manufacturing/Industrial	38.....	6.....	24.....	11
Mercantile	64.....	19.....	90.....	13
Site/Construction	3.....	8.....	4.....	51
Storage	60.....	3.....	26.....	4
Vacant/Site Construction	7.....	49.....	0.....	0
Vacant	<u>30</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>1313</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>1120</u>	<u>217</u>

During the calendar year 2012 there was a total of 1,585 inspections. This represents an increase of 248 from the 2011 total of 1,337.

The 659 incidents include approximately \$139,900 in direct property loss. This compares to \$533,250 in 2011 and to \$782,996 in 2010. To put this in perspective, this estimated loss is a loss based on protection of over 2.9 billion dollars' worth of assessed value property.

Percentage breakdown of annual inspections:

	<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>		<u>Cumulative Average</u>
January.....	77.....	76.....	99%.....	99%
February	32.....	27.....	85.....	92
March.....	132.....	132.....	100.....	94
April.....	111.....	109.....	98.....	96
May.....	171.....	171.....	100.....	96
June.....	351.....	349.....	99.....	97
July	109.....	109.....	100.....	98
August	48.....	48.....	100.....	98
September.....	116.....	107.....	92.....	97
October	54.....	54.....	100.....	98
November.....	113.....	106.....	94.....	97
December.....	29.....	29.....	100.....	98

Additional notes:

1. The fire inspection program again achieved over 98% of its required inspections due to the efforts of Deputy Fire Marshal Patrick Tourville.

2. The public fire education program exceeded its goals last year with 30 classes which provided all-hazard training to over 3,000 people. The fire extinguisher trailer continues to be used, training public and private employees as well as the citizens of Simsbury. The annual open house at the Main Station again exceeded previous attendance thanks to the participation of the members of the Fire Company.
3. Building projects continue to increase and we are maintaining our goal to expedite the code reviews and provide quality inspections to assist the developers in bringing their projects in on time.
4. The Emergency Management Section again reviewed the Emergency Operations Plan for the Town, made adjustments and submitted them to the state for approval.

The Fire District again applied and received funding for the emergency manager and staff positions. Initiatives to assist with population notifications more efficiently during power interruptions are still ongoing and awaiting FCC action. The Red Cross, in conjunction with the Town Social Service Department provided a shelter management course that had Ladies Auxiliary members receiving training.

5. The emergency response plans were put to the test again for storm Sandy and a state sponsored exercise. The plan worked very well for both situations and the Emergency Operations Center operated during the storm and two-day exercise without incident. A shelter was opened to service the needs of the community during the four-day power interruption. As noted on previous reports, the Fire District received over \$75,000 in storm reimbursements. This funding was approved for special projects. These funds, as well as a generous donation from the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company, purchased a six-wheel drive off-road vehicle.
6. Plans are ongoing to replace the AS 400 in our information management system. We hope for our systems to be on a Windows platform within the first six months of the year. A technology committee has been established and should assist us in continuing to complete our goal to use electronic media and planning tools during firefighting operations and emergency planning.
7. Deputy Fire Marshal Mike Brown and I attended a Homeland Security sponsored course held at New Mexico Technical University on responding to terrorist bombings.
8. Finally I would like to thank the firefighters and officer corps who work for fire prevention each call they go to through positive reinforcement in taking every opportunity to speaking to children at the fire house or at calls about stop, drop and roll, not playing with matches, learning two ways out, etc. They also check for smoke detector batteries on calls, change

them if necessary and provide support at the open house to further help keep the citizens safe from fire.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Kowalski
Fire Marshal

0507/2013