

# Simsbury Fire District

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI MAY 9, 2016

During the calendar year 2015 there was a total of 622 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, 46 were investigated by this Office. Totals for the previous year, 2014 were 592 incidents and 52 investigations. This represents an increase of 30 incidents and a decrease of 6 investigations. There were 6 fire-related injury reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Fire, Other .....	1	3
Building Fire .....	9	10
Fires in Structure Other Than in a Building.....	1	0
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	19	10
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	2	2
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained.....	5	2
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained.....	3	1
Fire in portable building, fixed location .....	0	1
Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle .....	1	0
Mobil property (vehicle) fire, other .....	0	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	4	3
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire.....	1	0
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other .....	3	1
Forest, woods or wildland fire .....	1	5
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	10	13
Grass Fire .....	0	0
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire.....	1	0
Special outside fire, other .....	1	0
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire .....	0	2
Outside Equipment Fire .....	2	1

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Overpressure rupture from Steam, other.....	1	0
Outside mailbox fire .....	0	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition .....	1	0
Fireworks explosion (no fire).....	0	1
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other.....	1	0
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew .....	4	5
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries .....	17	14
Motor Vehicle/pedestrian accident (MVPed).....	1	0
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries .....	70	38
Search for Lost Person, Other.....	2	0
Search for Person on Land.....	7	3
Extrication, Rescue, Other .....	2	0
Extrication of Victim(s) from Building/Structure.....	1	0
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle.....	2	4
High Angle Rescue .....	2	0
Trapped by Power Lines.....	1	0
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	2	2
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other .....	1	0
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill.....	2	5
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG).....	9	16
Oil or other combustible liquid spill .....	7	9
Toxic condition, other.....	0	1
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak).....	0	2
Chemical Spill or Leak .....	1	2
Carbon Monoxide Incident.....	14	10
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other.....	5	17
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn.....	0	2
Power Line Down .....	12	13
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment.....	24	23
Biological hazard, confirmed or suspected.....	0	1
Accident, potential accident, other.....	0	2
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup.....	5	31
Service Call, Other.....	3	2
Lock-Out.....	4	6
Water Problem, Other .....	8	13
Water Evacuation.....	3	9
Water or Steam Leak .....	5	7
Smoke or Odor Removal .....	4	3
Animal Problem.....	1	0
Animal Rescue.....	0	1
Public Service Assistance, Other .....	1	2
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency .....	26	18
Police Matter.....	1	0
Public service .....	0	1

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Assist Invalid .....	1	0
Unauthorized Burning.....	16	15
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up .....	9	13
Good Intent Call, Other.....	25	10
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute .....	11	6
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	1	2
Authorized Controlled Burning .....	2	3
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other .....	1	1
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	30	37
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke.....	1	2
Smoke from Barbecue, Tar Kettle .....	0	1
Hazard Release Investigation with no Hazard .....	0	4
False Alarm or False Call, Other .....	2	3
Malicious, mischievous false call, other .....	0	1
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm .....	1	0
Central station, malicious false alarm.....	0	1
System Malfunction, Other.....	0	5
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction .....	5	8
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction .....	8	20
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction.....	75	64
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	2	12
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other .....	14	9
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire – Unintentional .....	5	3
Extinguishing system activation .....	1	1
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional .....	11	17
Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional.....	3	6
Alarm system activation, No Fire – Unintentional .....	30	30
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO .....	22	25
Lightening strike (no fire).....	2	2
Citizen complaint.....	0	2
Total .....	<u>592</u>	<u>622</u>

Inspections were as follows:

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	<u>New 2014</u>	<u>Re-inspections 2014</u>	<u>New 2015</u>	<u>Re-inspections 2015</u>
Apartments.....	714	8	992	41
Assembly.....	57	25	66	30
Bed and Breakfast.....	1	0	3	0
Board and Care.....	1	0	4	1
Business.....	138	43	148	49
Day Care/Camps.....	22	5	23	7
Dry Cleaning.....	1	0	1	0
Educational.....	19	43	18	36
Explosive Magazines.....	0	0	57	2
Gas Station.....	0	0	1	0
Health Care.....	2	3	1	3
Hotel/Dorm.....	12	10	8	10
Manufacturing/Industrial.....	24	11	7	5
Mercantile.....	90	13	77	29
Site/Construction.....	4	51	13	196
Storage.....	26	4	41	13
Vacant.....	7	0	11	0
Totals.....	1,118	216	1471	422

During the calendar year 2015 there was a total of 1,893 inspections. This represents an increase of 559 from the 2014 total of 1,334.

The 622 incidents include approximately \$500,000 in direct property loss. This compares to \$139,900 in 2014. To put this in perspective, this estimated loss is a loss based on protection of over 3 billion dollars' worth of assessed value property.

Percentage breakdown of annual inspections:

<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Cumulative Average</u>
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January .....	77.....	54.....	70%.....	70%
February .....	50.....	50.....	100%.....	85%
March .....	32.....	24.....	75%.....	80%
April .....	129.....	126.....	99%.....	84%
May .....	183.....	180.....	99%.....	86%
June .....	368.....	307.....	84%.....	85%
July .....	121.....	121.....	100%.....	89%
August.....	47.....	47.....	100%.....	92%
September .....	217.....	199.....	92%.....	92%
October.....	61.....	60.....	99%.....	92%
November.....	123.....	118.....	95%.....	92%
December .....	142.....	142.....	100%.....	93%

Additional notes:

1. The fire inspection program again achieved over 93% of its required inspections due to the efforts of Deputy Fire Marshal Patrick Tourville.
2. Additional plans for new apartments were received by this office; the total units that will be constructed over the next two years will be over 800. This will increase our annual inspection list by over 50%. Planning is taking place by this office to insure that we will be able to inspect them annually.
3. New Buildings are also being planned for Westminster School and Ethel Walker. These will be large projects with completion over the next two years.
4. An ordinance was adopted to help with the obstructions of fire hydrants in our community. The ordinance provides for a clear 5 feet in diameter around the hydrant and 3 feet in front of hydrant.
5. Michael Berry was appointed as the Deputy Emergency Management Director; he will be working part time /on call. His duties will include reviewing the Emergency Operations Plan for the community as well as assist the residence through education in readiness. This office has also expanded its role with NIMS training in the school system for administrators and teachers.
6. The District went through an ISO review to determine if there had been enough improvement in the fire protection services to enhance our Fire Protection Ratings. We were at the top of the 4 scale. It is an insurance rating that is 1 to 10, one being the best class. The ISO ratings underwent a substantial change and are more difficult to achieve a higher grade now. After the inspection we did improve however not enough to achieve a three.

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7. The Fire District and Fire Company's Information Management System will undergo an upgrade in the summer of 2016. A committee is working very hard to meet a very aggressive schedule. Vendors have been vetted and we anticipate award of a contract in May of 2016. Thanks go out to this team in achieving the goal that was established.
8. The Simsbury Fire District was successfully awarded the Assistance to Firefighter grant of \$451,628.00 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus. This amount paired with \$300,000.00 that was budgeted over the last several years was enough to replace all our aging systems in the department.
9. WSIM, our LP FM community radio stations is up and running fully licensed by the FCC. This radio station, housed in the Main Station, will be used for emergency radio network communications to the residents of Simsbury as well as Public Fire Education with Public Service Announcements. When not in use during emergencies, the station will be playing assorted music provided by Firefighter Joe Barrett. Thanks go to Joe , Jeff Hugabonne and Lt. Steve Hess for their efforts in the project. It will help the citizens of Simsbury as well as give us the ability to deliver public safety messages in the future.
10. The Fire Prevention effort was again very strong this year with direct deliveries to over 1900 people. These were all specific programs targeting the age group that attended. We had an excellent open house this past October with over 800 people attending. This was possible due to the firefighters, ladies auxiliary and junior firefighters that assisted that day; providing an excellent opportunity to teach fire prevention.

Last certainly not least thanks go to the Fire District for their support in our initiatives, Fire Company members and the Ladies Auxiliary members for their support in many of the operations that the Fire Marshal's and Emergency Management office is involved with. They would not be possible without their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin J. Kowalski  
Fire Marshal

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