

Simsbury Fire District

871 Hopmeadow Street • Simsbury, Connecticut • 06070

Kevin J. Kowalski
Chief Administrative Officer

Phone 658-1971
Fax 658-5611

ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI January 2, 2019

During the calendar year, 2018 there was 736 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, this Office investigated 58. Totals for the previous year, 2017 were 631 incidents and 53 investigations. This represents an increase of 105 incidents and an increase of 5 investigations. There were no civilian or firefighter fire-related injuries reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Fire, Other	2	8
Building Fire	9	10
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	11	19
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	2	4
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained	5	3
Mobil property (vehicle) fire, other	1	0
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	6	4
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire	0	1
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1	1
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other	3	0
Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire	4	1
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire	0	2
Construction or demolition landfill fire	1	0
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire.....	1	2
Special outside fire, other.....	0	2
Outside Equipment Fire	1	1
Overpressure rupture from steam, other	0	1
Fireworks explosion (no fire)	0	1

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Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition.....	2	1
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other.....	1	3
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew.....	5	5
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries.....	17	14
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries.....	21	12
Lock-in (if lock out, use 511).....	4	1
Search for Lost Person, Other.....	3	1
Search for Person on Land.....	4	5
Search for person in water.....	0	1
Extrication, Rescue, Other.....	0	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle.....	9	4
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator.....	3	2
High Angle Rescue.....	2	0
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery.....	1	0
Water & ice-related rescue, other.....	1	0
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue.....	1	0
Trapped by power lines.....	1	0
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	6	4
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill.....	2	12
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG).....	13	14
Oil or other combustible liquid spill.....	5	20
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak).....	2	0
Chemical Spill or Leak.....	3	5
Carbon Monoxide Incident.....	7	10
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other.....	7	4
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn.....	1	3
Overheated motor.....	2	1
Power Line Down.....	23	25
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment.....	20	32
Accident, potential accident, other.....	3	2
Aircraft standby.....	2	2
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup.....	29	48
Attempted burning, illegal action, other.....	1	0
Service Call, Other.....	2	3
Safety survey.....	0	1
Person in distress, other.....	3	2
Lock-Out.....	8	6
Water Problem, Other.....	3	10
Water Evacuation.....	3	16
Water or Steam Leak.....	4	8

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Smoke or Odor Removal.....	10.....	10
Animal problem	0.....	1
Animal Rescue.....	1.....	4
Public Service Assistance, Other.....	4.....	1
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency	18.....	13
Police Matter.....	1.....	1
Public service	5.....	6
Assist Invalid	3.....	1
Unauthorized Burning	18.....	16
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up	13.....	15
Good Intent Call, Other.....	29.....	21
Dispatched and Cancelled En route	16.....	13
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address	0.....	4
Authorized Controlled Burning	4.....	6
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other.....	2.....	2
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	20.....	31
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke.....	0.....	3
HazMat Release Investigation with no HazMat	2.....	6
False Alarm or False Call, Other.....	4.....	7
Malicious, Mischievous False Call, Other	0.....	1
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm	1.....	0
System Malfunction, Other.....	4.....	8
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction.....	4.....	2
Extinguishing System Activation Due to Malfunction.....	1.....	0
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	35.....	38
Heat Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	0.....	2
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction.....	44.....	58
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	9.....	12
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other	13.....	15
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire - Unintentional	2.....	3
Extinguishing system activation.....	2.....	2
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	51.....	52
Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	11.....	12
Alarm system activation, No Fire - Unintentional	16.....	20
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO.....	11.....	9
Wind Storm, Tornado/Hurricane Assessment	0.....	1
Lightning strike (no fire).....	1.....	1
Special type of incident, other	2.....	1
Citizen complaint.....	1.....	0

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Total **631..** **736**

Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>Re-inspections</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>Re-inspections</u> <u>2018</u>
Apartments	1275	26	1321	39
Assembly	67	27	70	28
Bed and Breakfast	1	0	2	1
Board and Care.....	3	2	3	1
Business	185	48	180	37
Day Care/Camps.....	5	7	21	6
Dry Cleaning.....	1	1	0	0
Educational	21	44	20	16
Explosive Magazines	0	0	29	0
Gas Station	5	1	1	0
Healthcare	1	4	2	1
Hotel/Dorm.....	13	31	13	3
Manufacturing/Industrial	3	3	1	3
Mixed	0	0	2	0
Mercantile.....	74	32	58	12
Site/Construction	16	170	17	133
Storage	34	6	47	7
Vacant	1	1	1	0
Totals	1705	403	1788	287

During the 2018 calendar year, there was a total of 2,075 inspections. This represents a decrease of 33 inspections from the 2017 total of 2,108.

The 736 incidents include approximately \$1,072,500 in direct property loss for 2018. This compares to \$377,200 in 2017. 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 for 2018:

	<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>Average</u>
January.....	105	104	99%

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February	101	101	100%	99%
March	206	206	100%	100%
April	153	149	99%	100%
May	126	121	96%	98%
June	359	323	90%	97%
July	277	210	76%	94%
August	49	48	100%	95%
September	244	222	91%	94%
October	49	45	92%	94%
November	107	95	89%	93%
December	130	130	100%	97%

There were 29 classes coordinated by this office that provided direct contact to over 902 people. This included firehouse visits by schools, fire extinguisher training for town employees and business employees in the community, day care visits and the all-important open house by the Fire Company in October every year. Public Fire education is one of the most important tool that we can use, as any time we can prevent a fire before it starts is a win for all concerned.

Additional notes:

1. Recurring inspection program again has succeeded in over 90% of the required inspection. Next year will be a challenge to maintain the percentage with the increase of over 700 new inspections required on the new apartments.
2. The Fire Prevention programs have again exceeded our goals for reaching the citizens. DFM Tourville and the members of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company have gone out and given talks, provided education classes to children and older adults.
3. The Smoke /Co alarm replacement program again exceeded last year's numbers and I thank the Fire District Executive Committee for authorizing funds to buy the Detectors when we ran out of the Donated ones. This program is working because of the hard work of the volunteers that respond to homes and, replace the batteries in the detectors or install new Smoke CO alarms in homes that never had them. Additionally we go out upon request to the Senior citizens who cannot change batteries or install new ones. This also gives DFM Tourville and myself the opportunity to speak to the citizens about fire prevention.
4. Additional apartment buildings were started this year; these are wood framed 3 story buildings. Again, while they have Fire Sprinklers in most they are all built with lightweight truss construction. This office has initiated a voluntary Plaque card for these buildings to warn our firefighters of the hidden dangers of this

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- type of construction. All new building have agreed to post this Plaque in a very noticeable spot. We are hopeful that during the upcoming recurring inspection program additional warning plaques can be added to existing buildings.
5. We continue to have pond work scheduled for the District. Unfortunately, the weather has not cooperated and our wetlands permit frowns upon work during the high water times. We do have confidence that the work can be completed soon. These ponds have a high degree of value to our ISO FP rating of 4 when placed together with the volunteer firefighters training and hard work using the tankers. Thus reducing Insurance rates for the citizens.
 6. Inspections began at the Curaleaf, medical marijuana facility this year. They are relocating from Millpond to The old CL&P site on Hopmeadow st. This is over an 11 Million dollar rehab project. The facility should open in the summer of 2019.
 7. The Tobacco Valley Solar project will start in the spring of 2019. We have met several times with the owner and construction manager to insure that the Firefighters will receive proper training to keep them safe in the event of a response. They will provide training.
 8. Training continues for The Fire Marshal's office for Myself, DFM Tourville and Brown. Subjects to stay up on the new codes being published new investigation technique that are employed to reduce exposure at fires during overhauls. Purchasing and using air monitoring during these toxic times.
 9. The fire prevention effort goes extremely well in Simsbury. In large part due to the hard work of the members of the fire Marshal's office and the Simsbury Volunteer Fire company top include the ladies Aux. . Their dedication in efforts like the open house each year , the Pancake Breakfast and individual classes are un-match when compared to other Departments. Thank you for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Kowalski
Fire Marshal

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