

# Simsbury Fire District

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*Fire Marshal*

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI MAY 1, 2014

During the calendar year 2013 there was a total of 668 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, 54 were investigated by this Office. Totals for the previous year, 2012, were 659 incidents and 79 investigations. This represents an increase of 9 incidents and a decrease of 25 investigations. There were no fire-related injuries reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Fire, Other .....	0	4
Building Fire .....	6	5
Fires in Structure Other Than in a Building.....	0	1
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	25	14
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	9	11
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained.....	12	14
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained.....	0	4
Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fire, Other.....	1	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	4	1
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire.....	1	1
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other .....	2	4
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	5	13
Grass Fire .....	2	2
Outside Rubbish Fire, Other .....	0	2
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire.....	2	3
Dumpster or Other Outside Trash Receptacle Fire.....	2	0
Outside Equipment Fire .....	1	1
Outside Mailbox Fire.....	1	0
Excessive Heat, Scorch Burns with No Ignition.....	1	0
Steam Rupture of Pressure or Process Vessel.....	0	1
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other.....	3	1
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew .....	4	4

*Smoke Detectors  
Save Lives.*

Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries .....	20	27
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries .....	37	47
Search for Lost Person, Other .....	2	0
Search for Person on Land .....	2	1
Search for Person in Water .....	2	1
Extrication, Rescue, Other .....	0	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Building/Structure .....	0	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle .....	2	6
Removal of Victim(s) from Stalled Elevator .....	3	0
High Angle Rescue .....	4	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Machinery .....	1	0
Water and Ice-Related Rescue, Other .....	2	0
Rescue or EMS Standby .....	1	0
Trapped by Power Lines .....	0	1
Hazardous Conditions, Other .....	8	8
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other .....	3	2
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill .....	10	7
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG) .....	18	9
Oil or Other Combustible Liquid Spill .....	7	9
Chemical Spill or Leak .....	1	10
Carbon Monoxide Incident .....	7	8
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other .....	16	23
Overheated Motor .....	4	0
Power Line Down .....	6	12
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment .....	17	46
Building or Structure Weakened or Collapsed .....	0	1
Aircraft Standby .....	2	1
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup .....	8	8
Service Call, Other .....	1	1
Lock-Out .....	3	4
Water Problem, Other .....	4	6
Water Evacuation .....	10	4
Water or Steam Leak .....	4	1
Smoke or Odor Removal .....	5	2
Animal Rescue .....	0	2
Public Service Assistance, Other .....	6	1
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency .....	20	12
Police Matter .....	2	2
Public Service .....	2	0
Assist Invalid .....	1	1
Unauthorized Burning .....	23	20
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up .....	7	5
Good Intent Call, Other .....	30	30
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute .....	6	7

Wrong Location .....	0	1
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	1	3
Authorized Controlled Burning .....	1	3
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other .....	1	3
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	75	51
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke.....	1	1
Smoke from Barbecue, Tar Kettle .....	1	0
Hazard Release Investigation with no Hazard.....	4	6
Local Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm.....	0	1
System Malfunction, Other.....	2	3
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction .....	1	7
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction .....	7	7
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction .....	70	70
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	10	7
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other .....	18	5
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire – Unintentional .....	2	2
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional .....	11	9
Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional.....	4	1
Alarm System Sounded, No Fire – Unintentional .....	38	22
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO .....	32	40
Wind Storm, Tornado/Hurricane Assessment .....	0	1
Special Type of Incident, Other.....	1	0
 Total .....	 <u>668</u>	 <u>659</u>

Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2012</u>
Apartments.....	774	17	790	21
Assembly.....	62	30	70	26
Bed and Breakfast.....	0	0	1	0
Board and Care .....	1	0	4	2
Business .....	151	48	145	29
Day Care/Camps .....	13	4	16	7
Educational .....	21	13	18	23
Explosive Magazines .....	79	1	53	0
Gas Station.....	2	2	0	0
Health Care .....	1	2	0	0
Hotel/Dorm.....	12	7	12	2
Manufacturing/Industrial .....	25	3	38	6
Mercantile.....	83	22	64	19
Site/Construction.....	1	66	3	8

Storage .....	15.....	0.....	60.....	3
Vacant/Site Construction .....	9.....	88.....	7.....	49
Vacant.....	9.....	0.....	30.....	77
Total .....	<u>1258</u> .....	<u>303</u> .....	<u>1313</u> .....	<u>272</u>

During the calendar year 2013 there was a total of 1,561 inspections. This represents a decrease of 24 from the 2012 total of 1,585.

The 668 incidents for 2013 include approximately \$55,500 in direct property loss. This compares to \$139,900 in 2012 and to \$533,250 in 2011. To put this in perspective, this estimated loss is a loss based on protection of over 2.3 billion dollars' worth of assessed property.

Percentage breakdown of annual inspections:

	<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	<u>Average</u>
January.....	85.....	84.....	98.....	98%
February .....	53.....	53.....	100.....	99
March.....	46.....	46.....	100.....	99
April.....	132.....	130.....	99.....	99
May .....	182.....	182.....	100.....	99
June.....	368.....	308.....	84.....	97
July .....	96.....	96.....	100.....	97
August .....	48.....	48.....	100.....	98
September.....	114.....	114.....	100.....	99
October .....	57.....	57.....	100.....	99
November.....	113.....	110.....	98.....	99
December.....	29.....	29.....	100.....	99

Additional notes:

1. The fire inspection program again achieved over 99% 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 28 classes which provided all hazard training to over 1,600 people. The fire extinguisher trailer continues to be used, training public and private employees as well as the citizens of Simsbury. This years fire safety initiative was: Preventing Kitchen Fires. During Fire Prevention Week

Main Station hosted it's annual open house. Thanks to the participation of the Fire Company the open house went extremely well, with a very high attendance.

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. This office participated on the school security system enhancements throughout the project. We were able to blend the importance of protecting the students from unwanted intruders while allowing for rapid egress in the event of a fire or explosion.
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 interruption, went into the next phase as the SFD has received a construction permit to start construction of a FM radio studio. The antenna will be placed on the Firetown Station tower and the transmission studio will operate at the Main Station.

5. In line with our goals for this year, we have replaced our Information Management System hardware with a new Windows based server system. This is the first step to migrate to a new information management software in the near future.
6. Finally I would like to thank the firefighters, officer corps and district employees who work for fire prevention each call they respond to through positive reinforcement by taking every opportunity to speak to children at the firehouse or at calls about stop, drop and roll, not playing with matches or lighters, learning the 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,

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Kevin J. Kowalski  
Fire Marshal

0507/2014