

Simsbury Fire District

871 Hopmeadow Street • Simsbury, Connecticut • 06070

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Chief Administrative Officer

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ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI MAY 1, 2017

During the calendar year 2016 there was a total of 678 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, this Office investigated 58. Totals for the previous year, 2015 were 622 incidents and 46 investigations. This represents an increase of 56 incidents and an increase of 12 investigations. There were no fire-related injuries reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Fire, Other	3	0
Building Fire	10	13
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container	10	26
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	2	4
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained	2	3
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained	1	4
Fire in portable building, fixed location	1	0
Mobil property (vehicle) fire.....	1	2
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	3	2
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire.....	0	1
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other	1	3
Forest, woods or wildland fire.....	5	2
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	13	13
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire	0	2
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	2	3
Outside Equipment Fire.....	1	0
Outside mailbox fire	1	0
Air or gas rupture of pressure or process vessel.....	0	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition.....	0	4

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Fireworks explosion (no fire)	1	0
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other.....	0	1
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	5	6
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries.....	14	7
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	38	13
Lock-in (if lock out, use 511)	0	2
Search for Lost Person, Other	0	1
Search for Person on Land.....	3	7
Extrication, Rescue, Other	0	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle	4	5
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	0	1
High Angle Rescue	0	1
Water & ice-related rescue, other	0	1
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	2	6
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other .0	0	2
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill	5	5
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)	16	15
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	9	2
Toxic condition, other	1	0
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	2	0
Chemical Spill or Leak	2	0
Carbon Monoxide Incident	10	9
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other	17	7
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	2	1
Overheated motor.....	0	2
Power Line Down	13	17
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	23	14
Biological hazard, confirmed or suspected.....	1	0
Accident, potential accident, other	2	3
Aircraft standby	0	2
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup	31	66
Attempted burning, illegal action, other	0	1
Service Call, Other	2	9
Lock-Out	6	5
Water Problem, Other	13	5
Water Evacuation.....	9	10
Water or Steam Leak	7	4
Smoke or Odor Removal	3	9

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Animal Rescue.....	1	0
Public Service Assistance, Other.....	2	3
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency.....	18	14
Police Matter.....	0	1
Public service.....	1	1
Assist Invalid.....	0	2
Unauthorized Burning.....	15	20
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up.....	13	11
Good Intent Call, Other.....	10	16
Dispatched and Cancelled En route.....	6	9
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	2	4
Authorized Controlled Burning.....	3	1
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other.....	1	3
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	37	24
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke.....	2	2
Smoke from Barbecue, Tar Kettle.....	1	2
Hazard Release Investigation with no Hazard.....	4	5
False Alarm or False Call, Other.....	3	2
Malicious, mischievous false call, other.....	1	1
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm.....	0	1
Central station, malicious false alarm.....	1	0
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm.....	0	1
System Malfunction, Other.....	5	9
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction.....	8	9
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	20	34
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction.....	64	47
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	12	17
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other.....	9	8
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	3	7
Extinguishing system activation.....	1	3
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	17	36
Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	6	12
Alarm system activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	30	27
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO.....	25	18
Lightning strike (no fire).....	2	2
Special type of incident, other.....	0	1
Citizen complaint.....	2	1
Total.....	622	678

Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2016</u>
Apartments	992	41	717	28
Assembly	66	30	66	33
Bed and Breakfast	3	0	0	0
Board and Care	4	1	5	2
Business	148	49	144	49
Day Care/Camps	23	7	18	2
Dry Cleaning	1	0	0	0
Educational	18	36	18	22
Explosive Magazines	57	2	52	0
Gas Station	1	0	1	3
Health Care	1	3	3	4
Hotel/Dorm	8	10	10	3
Manufacturing/Industrial	7	5	1	2
Mercantile	77	29	70	3
Site/Construction	13	196	21	151
Storage	41	13	49	6
Vacant	11	0	3	0
Barn	0	0	1	0
Totals	1471	422	1179	335

During the calendar year 2016 there was a total of 1,514 inspections. This represents a decrease of 379 from the 2015 total of 1,893.

The 678 incidents include approximately \$663,003 in direct property loss. This compares to \$500,000 in 2015. 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:

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	<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>		<u>Cumulative Average</u>
January	80	78	98%	98%
February	42	39	93%	95%
March	35	33	94%	95%
April	110	109	90%	94%
May	176	174	99%	95%
June	354	178	50%	87%
July	133	132	99%	90%
August	47	47	100%	92%
September	114	105	92%	94%
October	57	35	61%	89%
November	108	94	87%	88%
December	117	117	100%	89%

There were over 35 classes coordinated by this office that provided direct contact to over 1817 people. This included fire house 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 the fire before it starts is a win for all concerned.

Additional notes:

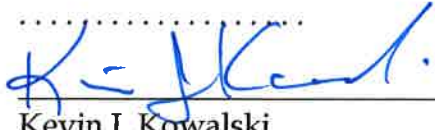
1. The fire inspection program again achieved over 89% of its required inspections due to the efforts of Deputy Fire Marshal Patrick Tourville.
2. This past year we witnessed the unfortunate demolition of the Hartford Insurance complex; one of Simsbury's largest employers and taxpayer. This property is being developed into mixed use, residential, institutional and business.
3. There is a major building boom in the community with an expected 1200 plus apartment and condominium units being built in several locations of town over a three-year period. This will be an increase of over 60% in required annual residential inspections by this office.

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4. Water supply improvements have been completed in the south end of town by Avon Water Company. Additionally, there were enhancements at Ethel Walker School with both their private water system and a suction line to access their 250,000 gallons of water from the new indoor pool. The Scully family has installed a dry hydrant to a pond on their property on Notch Rd. that should provide over 1000GPM. More improvements are scheduled for 2017/18.
5. The Simsbury Fire District made a presentation during a Selectman's meeting to Mr. and Mrs. Tartaglia of West Point Terr. For their life saving actions at an early morning fire at 15 Crestview. Their quick actions no doubt saved the family from serious injury or worse.
6. The Emergency Management section was very active this year as Michael Berry reviewed the town wide Emergency Operations Plan, participated in the state mandated emergency exercise and assisted in development of Simsbury's very large training exercise at the old Hartford Insurance complex. The exercise included over 300 participants from 12 different agencies and departments. This excellent test was able to stress the response agencies; an after action report was developed and while generally the exercise worked out very well, we are employing improvements that were recommended.
7. The Information management system for the Fire District and Fire Company activities was awarded to Alpine software. This was after an in-depth review of several software providers for the fire service. I would like to thank the key players on the committee for this very complex project. The Members were Deputy Chief Jepeal, Assistant Chief Tourville, Assistant Chief Chesanek, Capt. Kelley, and Dispatcher Lombard. It is our belief that this system will improve the automation and record keeping in this District for many years to come. Additionally, this will enable us to increase in-vehicle information transfer.
8. WSIM has been gaining listeners almost daily based on our Facebook page and phone calls to the station. The Volunteer group operating the station is doing a great job improving the product. PSAs are going out; the system has been tied to the NOAA weather reports for emergency notifications, as well as alerts.
9. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the officers and members of the SVFC and the Fire District for your hard work in support of fire prevention and assistance given to this office investigating the fires that do occur.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin J. Kowalski
Fire Marshal

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