

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 MAY 14, 2018

During the calendar year, 2017 there was a total of 631 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, this Office investigated 53. Totals for the previous year, 2016 were 678 incidents and 58 investigations. This represents a decrease of 47 incidents and a decrease of 5 investigations. There was one civilian fire-related injuries reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Fire, Other	0.....	2
Building Fire	13.....	9
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	26.....	11
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	4.....	2
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained	3.....	5
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained.....	4.....	0
Mobil property (vehicle) fire, other.....	2.....	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	2.....	6
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire	1.....	0
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire.....	0.....	1
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other	3.....	3
Forest, woods or wildland fire.....	2.....	1
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	13.....	4
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire	2.....	0
Construction or demolition landfill fire	0.....	1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire.....	3.....	1
Outside Equipment Fire.....	0.....	1
Air or gas rupture of pressure or process vessel.....	1.....	0

.....

Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition.....	4	2
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other.....	1	1
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew.....	6	5
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury.....	1	0
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries.....	7	17
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries.....	13	21
Lock-in (if lock out, use 511).....	2	4
Search for Lost Person, Other.....	1	3
Search for Person on Land.....	7	4
Extrication, Rescue, Other.....	1	0
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle.....	5	9
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator.....	1	3
High Angle Rescue.....	1	2
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery.....	0	1
Water & ice-related rescue, other.....	1	1
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue.....	0	1
Trapped by power lines.....	0	1
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	6	6
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other.....	2	0
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill.....	5	2
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG).....	15	13
Oil or other combustible liquid spill.....	2	5
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak).....	0	2
Chemical Spill or Leak.....	0	3
Carbon Monoxide Incident.....	9	7
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other.....	7	7
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn.....	1	1
Overheated motor.....	2	2
Power Line Down.....	17	23
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment.....	14	20
Accident, potential accident, other.....	3	3
Aircraft standby.....	2	2
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup.....	66	29
Attempted burning, illegal action, other.....	1	1
Service Call, Other.....	9	2
Person in distress, other.....	0	3
Lock-Out.....	5	8
Water Problem, Other.....	5	3
Water Evacuation.....	10	3
Water or Steam Leak.....	4	4

.....

Smoke or Odor Removal.....	9.....	10
Animal Rescue.....	0.....	1
Public Service Assistance, Other.....	3.....	4
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency.....	14.....	18
Police Matter.....	1.....	1
Public service.....	1.....	5
Assist Invalid.....	2.....	3
Unauthorized Burning.....	20.....	18
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up.....	11.....	13
Good Intent Call, Other.....	16.....	29
Dispatched and Cancelled En route.....	9.....	16
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	4.....	0
Authorized Controlled Burning.....	1.....	4
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other.....	3.....	2
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	24.....	20
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke.....	2.....	0
Smoke from Barbecue, Tar Kettle.....	2.....	0
Hazard Release Investigation with no Hazard.....	5.....	2
False Alarm or False Call, Other.....	2.....	4
Malicious, mischievous false call, other.....	1.....	0
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm.....	1.....	1
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm.....	1.....	0
System Malfunction, Other.....	9.....	4
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction.....	9.....	4
Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction.....	0.....	1
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	34.....	35
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction.....	47.....	44
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	17.....	9
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other.....	8.....	13
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	7.....	2
Extinguishing system activation.....	3.....	2
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	36.....	51
Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	12.....	11
Alarm system activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	27.....	16
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO.....	18.....	11
Lightning strike (no fire).....	2.....	1
Special type of incident, other.....	1.....	2
Citizen complaint.....	1.....	1
Total.....	678.....	631

.....
Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Re-inspections</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>Re-inspections</u> <u>2017</u>
Apartments	717	28	1275	26
Assembly	66	33	67	27
Bed and Breakfast	0	0	1	0
Board and Care	5	2	3	2
Business	144	49	185	48
Day Care/Camps	18	2	5	7
Dry Cleaning	0	0	1	1
Educational	18	22	21	44
Explosive Magazines	52	0	0	0
Gas Station	1	3	5	1
Health Care	3	4	1	4
Hotel/Dorm	10	3	13	31
Manufacturing/Industrial	1	2	3	3
Mercantile	70	3	74	32
Site/Construction	21	151	16	170
Storage	49	6	34	6
Vacant	3	0	1	1
Barn	1	0	0	0
Totals	1179	335	1705	403

During the calendar year 2017 there was a total of 2,108 inspections. This represents an increase of 594 inspections from the 2016 total of 1,514.

The 631 incidents include approximately \$377,200 in direct property loss. This compares to \$663,003 in 2016. 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>
January.....	102.....	102.....	100%.....	100%
February	117.....	115.....	98%.....	99%
March.....	200.....	197.....	99%.....	99%
April	122.....	119.....	98%.....	99%
May	128.....	121.....	94%.....	98%
June	370.....	338	91%.....	95%
July	131.....	131.....	100%.....	97%
August	53.....	52.....	99%.....	97%
September.....	237.....	206.....	87%.....	96%
October	47.....	41.....	87%.....	94%
November.....	117.....	100.....	85%.....	93%
December.....	126.....	126.....	100%.....	95%

*June inspections completed in July=151

There were 31 classes coordinated by this office that provided direct contact to over 1,295 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. The fire inspection program again achieved over 95% of its required inspections due to the efforts of Deputy Fire Marshal Patrick Tourville and now DFM Michael Brown. There was a substantial increase of inspections added to our required inspection list. We have added Michael Brown to help, by working 2 days a month in a pilot program.
2. Last years expected building boom has come to past. There were over 500 apartments added to the apartment inspection list so far; it is anticipated that number will double with the units that have been permitted and are under construction.
3. Improvements are continuing with the emergency ponds. The Stone Post hydrant was repaired and will now deliver in excess of 900 GPM. The wet

.....

lands permit was approved for The Cricket Lane pond rehab and a contractor has been awarded the job. That pond work has an expected completion of summer of 2018. The High Ridge pond is next to be rehabilitated; it is hoped that we can schedule the work in the fall of 2018.

4. The Emergency Management section was active this year as Michael Berry reviewed the town wide Emergency Operations Plan, participated in the state mandated emergency exercise. This year there will also be meetings with the Board of Ed to assist in their future hazard planning, which would include active shooter training.
5. The FMO participated in several meeting with the Town Planning personnel and Deep Water Solar to work out details on a possible 30-megawatt solar farm in the north end of town. This project will go through the siting council review, with a potential start in mid-2018, if approved.
6. WSIM is broadcasting with more and more listeners reporting on our WSIM face book page. Fire Fighter Joe Barret has been transferred to the radio station as a Technical Member of SVFC. He has done a great job making advancements in programing and training new radio announcers. He also is working with FF Chris Travoto and Steve Petrella to broadcast the Local Simsbury High School football games in real time using remote equipment. Joe went on the air last year during a large snowstorm and was able to get information out to the residents for a 12-hour period. Future goals include streaming the station on the internet and providing info on the songs that are being played, without an announcer.
7. The Information Management System is operational with data input on a daily basis. All fire apparatus have IPAD info windows installed in them to assist firefighters during the responses.
8. 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,

Kevin J. Kowalski
Fire Marshal

KJK/SL