

Simsbury Fire District

871 Hopmeadow Street • Simsbury, Connecticut • 06070

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ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI January 13, 2020

During the calendar year, 2019 there were 687 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, this Office investigated 47. Totals for the previous year, 2018 were 736 incidents and 58 investigations. This represents a decrease of 49 incidents and a decrease of 11 investigations. There were two fire-related injuries reported to the Fire Marshal's Office, one civilian and one firefighter.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Fire, Other	8.....	5
Building Fire	10.....	7
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	19.....	15
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	4.....	5
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained	3.....	3
Mobil property (vehicle) fire.....	0.....	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	4.....	6
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire	1.....	0
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire.....	1.....	0
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other	0.....	1
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	1.....	3
Grass fire.....	0.....	2
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire	2.....	4
Construction or demolition landfill fire	0.....	1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire.....	2.....	0
Special outside fire, other.....	2.....	1
Outside storage fire	0.....	1
Outside Equipment Fire.....	1.....	1

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Overpressure rupture from steam, other	1	0
Fireworks explosion (no fire)	1	0
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1	5
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other	3	5
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	5	13
Emergency medical service incident, other.....	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	14	8
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	12	9
Lock-in (if lock out, use 511).....	1	2
Search for lost person, other	1	3
Search for person on land	5	6
Search for person in water	1	0
Extrication, rescue, other.....	1	0
Extrication of victim(s) from Vehicle	4	6
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	2	6
High Angle Rescue	0	2
Water & ice-related rescue, other	0	2
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	0	1
Swift water rescue.....	0	1
Hazardous conditions, other	4	11
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other.....	0	1
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	12	2
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)	14	20
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	20	6
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak).....	0	1
Chemical spill or leak	5	1
Carbon Monoxide Incident.....	10	10
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other	4	5
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn.....	3	1
Overheated motor	1	2
Power Line Down	25	24
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	32	11
Accident, potential accident, other	2	9
Building or structural weakened or collapsed.....	0	1
Aircraft standby	2	1
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup.....	48	34
Service Call, Other	3	8
Safety survey.....	1	0
Person in distress, other	2	2
Lock-Out.....	6	8

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Water Problem, Other	10.....	7
Water Evacuation.....	16.....	8
Water or Steam Leak	8.....	8
Smoke or Odor Removal.....	10.....	11
Animal problem	1.....	1
Animal Rescue.....	4.....	2
Public Service Assistance, Other.....	1.....	2
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency	13.....	23
Police matter	1.....	0
Public service	6.....	3
Assist invalid	1.....	1
Unauthorized burning	16.....	14
Cover assignment, standby, move up.....	15.....	13
Good Intent Call, Other.....	21.....	15
Dispatched and Cancelled En route	13.....	22
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address	4.....	0
Authorized Controlled Burning	6.....	3
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other	2.....	0
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	31.....	29
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke.....	3.....	1
HazMat Release Investigation with no HazMat	6.....	8
False Alarm or False Call, Other.....	7.....	8
Malicious, Mischievous False Call, Other	1.....	1
Telephone, malicious false alarm.....	0.....	1
System Malfunction, Other.....	8.....	4
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction.....	2.....	4
Extinguishing System Activation Due to Malfunction.....	0.....	1
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	38.....	18
Heat Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	2.....	2
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction.....	58.....	53
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	12.....	13
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other	15.....	21
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire - Unintentional	3.....	8
Extinguishing system activation.....	2.....	0
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	52.....	42
Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional.....	12.....	10
Alarm system activation, No Fire - Unintentional	20.....	21
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO	9.....	21
Wind Storm, Tornado/Hurricane Assessment	1.....	2
Lightning strike (no fire).....	1.....	1

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Special type of incident, other	1	1
Total	<u>736</u>	<u>687</u>

Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>Re-inspections</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Re-inspections</u> <u>2019</u>
Apartments	1321	39	1378	20
Assembly	70	28	73	18
Bed and Breakfast	2	1	1	1
Board and Care.....	3	1	3	0
Business	180	37	160	36
Day Care/Camps.....	21	6	6	7
Dry Cleaning.....	0	0	1	0
Educational	20	16	22	33
Explosive Magazines	29	0	52	4
Gas Station	1	0	3	2
Healthcare	2	1	1	1
Hotel/Dorm.....	13	3	12	9
Manufacturing/Industrial	1	3	6	7
Mixed	2	0	3	1
Mercantile.....	58	12	71	22
Site/Construction	17	133	46	151
Storage	47	7	32	7
Vacant	1	0	3	0
Totals	<u>1788</u>	<u>287</u>	<u>1873</u>	<u>319</u>

During the 2019 calendar year, there were 2,192 inspections. This represents an increase of 117 inspections from the 2,075 inspections in 2018.

The 687 incidents include approximately \$482,000 *#in direct property loss for 2019. This compares to \$1,072,500.00 in 2018. To put this in perspective, this estimated

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loss is a loss based on protection of over 3 billion dollars' worth of assessed value property.

**Awaiting final loss statement for incident at 34 Hopmeadow st fire. This may increase loss calculation to 1,230,000.00.

Percentage breakdown of annual inspections for 2019:

	<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>		<u>Cumulative Average</u>
January.....	101.....	99.....	99%	99%
February	115.....	102.....	89%	95%
March.....	255.....	196.....	77%	88%
April	125.....	118.....	94%	89%
May	129.....	12.....	97%	91%
June	370.....	239.....	65%	87%
July	343.....	329.....	95%	89%
August.....	52.....	52.....	100%	89%
September.....	243.....	234.....	97%	92%
October	64.....	60.....	94%	91%
November.....	117.....	110.....	95%	91%
December.....	127.....	127.....	100%	92%

Additional notes:

1. There were 31 classes coordinated by this office that provided direct contact to over 1081 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 tools that we can implement. Any time we can prevent a fire it is a win for all concerned.
2. As noted above we are awaiting dollar loss on star product change in the Cura Leaf facility at 34 Hopmeadow st. We believe the product loss will increase \$748,000.00.
3. Fire inspections surpassed 2018 numbers again as they approached 98% of requirement, that was due to the addition of more apartments coming on line and because the additional hours being provided for a part time Deputy FM

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starting in July. These numbers reflect the outstanding job DFM Patrick Tourville and DFM Michael Brown have done.

4. Construction projects increased in town to include additional apartment units, the assisted Living facility in Weatogue, a major solar farm in the north end of town, and the Big Y started. The board of Education continued with their modernization of the middle school and should be completed by the summer of 2020. I attend several development meeting on the future McLean home project. A five story, 50 unit assisted living facility on their complex. This is to be built spring of 2020.
5. Public Fire Education again met its goals again; highlights included the fire Extinguisher training, the senior Breakfast in May.
6. This office coordinated the Public protection of the large assemblies. The members of the Fire Company, of course, supported this through part time work.
7. Goals for next year is to insure a smooth transition to a new Fire Marshal and to continue with the Preplanning of all commercial building and installing these plans into our response software. We also want to continue with the Fire pond improvements; this year will be the pond on High ridge. Work should continue with the Community risk reduction plan to include a committee made up by key FD representatives as well as representation of our customer base.
8. This year we have included some additional reporting about the Man-hours and type of calls the SVFC responds to.
9. Finally I would like to thank the District Executive Committee, Fire District staff, the Fire Company members and the Ladies Aux for their assistance in the fire Marshal's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Kowalski
Fire Marshal

KJK/SCP