

Simsbury Fire District

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ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI MAY 1, 2015

During the calendar year 2014 there was a total of 592 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, 52 were investigated by this Office. Totals for the previous year, 2013 were 668 incidents and 54 investigations. This represents a decrease of 78 incidents and a decrease of two investigations. There were 2 fire-related injury reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Fire, Other	0	1
Building Fire	6	9
Fires in Structure Other Than in a Building.....	0	1
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	25	19
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue.....	9	2
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained.....	12	5
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained.....	0	3
Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	1	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	4	4
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire.....	1	1
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other	2	3
Forest, woods or wildland fire	0	1
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	5	10
Grass Fire	2	0
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire.....	2	1
Special outside fire, other	0	1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	2	0
Outside Equipment Fire	1	2
Overpressure rupture from Steam, other.....	0	1
Outside mailbox fire	1	0

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Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1	1
Rescue, EMS Incident, Other.....	3	1
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	4	4
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	20	17
Motor Vehicle/pedestrian accident (MVPed).....	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	37	70
Lock-in.....	0	0
Search for Lost Person, Other	2	2
Search for Person on Land.....	2	7
Search for Person in Water	2	0
Extrication, Rescue, Other	0	2
Extrication of Victim(s) from Building/Structure.....	0	1
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle.....	2	2
High Angle Rescue	4	2
Removal of Victim(s) from Stalled Elevator	3	0
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery	1	0
Water and Ice-Related Rescue, Other	2	0
Trapped by Power Lines	0	1
Rescue or EMS Standby	1	0
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	8	2
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other	3	1
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill.....	10	2
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG).....	18	9
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	7	7
Chemical Spill or Leak	1	1
Carbon Monoxide Incident	7	14
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other.....	16	5
Overheated Motor	4	0
Power Line Down	6	12
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	17	24
Aircraft Standby.....	2	0
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup.....	8	5
Service Call, Other.....	1	3
Lock-Out.....	3	4
Water Problem, Other	4	8
Water Evacuation.....	10	3
Water or Steam Leak	4	5
Smoke or Odor Removal	5	4
Animal Problem.....	0	1
Animal Problem, Other.....	0	0
Animal Rescue.....	0	0
Public Service Assistance, Other	6	1
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency	20	26

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Police Matter	2	1
Public service	2	0
Assist Invalid	1	1
Unauthorized Burning.....	23	16
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up	7	9
Good Intent Call, Other.....	30	25
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute	6	11
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	1	1
Authorized Controlled Burning	1	2
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other	1	1
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	75	30
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	0
False Alarm or False Call, Other	0	2
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm	0	1
System Malfunction, Other.....	2	0
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction	1	5
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	7	8
Heat Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	0	0
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction	70	75
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	10	2
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other	18	14
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire – Unintentional	2	5
Extinguishing system activation	0	1
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional	11	11
Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional.....	4	3
Alarm system activation, No Fire – Unintentional	38	30
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO	32	22
Special type of incident, other	1	0
Lightning Strike (No Fire)	0	2
 Total	 <u>668</u>	 <u>592</u>

Inspections were as follows:

New Reinspections New Reinspections

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	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2014</u>
Apartments.....	774	17	714	8
Assembly.....	62	30	57	25
Bed and Breakfast.....	0	0	1	0
Board and Care.....	1	0	1	0
Business.....	151	48	138	43
Day Care/Camps.....	13	4	22	5
Dry Cleaning.....	0	0	1	0
Educational.....	21	13	19	43
Explosive Magazines.....	79	1	0	0
Gas Station.....	2	2	0	0
Health Care.....	1	2	2	3
Hotel/Dorm.....	12	7	12	10
Manufacturing/Industrial.....	25	3	24	11
Mercantile.....	83	22	90	13
Site/Construction.....	1	66	4	51
Storage.....	15	0	26	4
Vacant/Site Construction.....	9	88	0	0
Vacant.....	9	0	7	0
Total.....	<u>1,258</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>1,118</u>	<u>216</u>

During the calendar year 2014 there was a total of 1,334 inspections. This represents an decrease of 227 from the 2013 total of 1,561.

The 592 incidents include approximately \$139,900 in direct property loss. This compares to \$55,500 in 2013. 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.....	79	77	98%	98%

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February47.....	44.....	97%.....	98%
March34.....	31.....	91%.....	97%
April146.....	137.....	92%.....	96%
May177.....	147.....	84%.....	92%
June355.....	352.....	99%.....	94%
July	.....109.....	109.....	100%.....	95%
August	.....48.....	48.....	100%.....	96%
September	.....113.....	104.....	92.....	95%
October	.....67.....	67.....	100.....	96%
November	.....108.....	105.....	98.....	96%
December	.....133.....	133.....	100.....	97%

Additional notes:

1. The fire inspection program again achieved over 97% 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; providing all-hazard training to over 2800 people. The fire extinguisher trailer continues to be used, training public and private employees as well as the citizens of Simsbury. The annual open house at the Main Station again exceeded previous attendance thanks to the participation of the members of the Fire Company. Additionally, the Fire Marshal's office with the exceptional assistance of the Fire Company and the Ladies Axillary sponsored a Pancake Breakfast in March for the Seniors of Simsbury. It was very well received and we were able to speak to the seniors about fire prevention and emergency services.
3. Building projects continue to increase and we are maintaining our goal to expedite the code reviews and provide quality inspections. These goals will assist the developers in bringing their projects in on time. It is expected that over 800 apartments will be completed over the next 2 years.
4. The Emergency Management Section reviewed the Emergency Operations Plan for the town again, 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.
5. The Fire District has received a construction permit for a LPFM radio station with the call sign WSIM 103.5. The plans are to have a part time radio station broadcasting at least 18-20 hours a week. We expect to develop partnerships with the Town SCTV station and the School system for programing. The primary purpose is to be able to broadcast during emergencies to the citizens and visitors of Simsbury. The main studio will be on the second floor of the Main Fire Station. We expect to be broadcasting before the end of June 2015.

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6. The goal to replace the AS 400 system was completed during the first part of the FY13/14, due to the efforts of Captain Todd Kelley, the lead for our information management system. A technology committee will be established in FY15/16 to start the research for a complete new information system software program. The current software met our needs over the years since it was installed in 1991. While the software is upgraded continually, we want to position ourselves to meet new requirements in operations and ease standard input and be able to use more tablet interoperations. I would like to set as a goal to have the new, more modern system, up and running in the FY16/17 year.
7. I attended a Homeland Security sponsored course held at New Mexico Technical University on responding to terrorist bombings. This class completes the series on Terrorist bombings.
8. Finally I would like to thank the firefighters and officer corps who work for fire prevention each call they go to through positive reinforcement in taking every opportunity to speaking to children at the fire house or at calls about stop, drop and roll, not playing with matches, learning two 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,

Kevin J. Kowalski
Fire Marshal

KJK/SL