

ANNUAL REPORT OF
 FIRE MARSHAL KEVIN J. KOWALSKI
 MAY 1, 2012

During the calendar year 2011 there was a total of 994 incidents responded to by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. Of these incidents, 77 were investigated by this Office. Totals for the previous year, 2010, were 652 incidents and 72 investigations. This represents an increase of 342 incidents and five investigations. There were two fire-related injuries reported to the Fire Marshal's Office.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Fire, Other	1.....	4
Building Fire	19.....	13
Cooking Fire, Confined to Container.....	19.....	24
Chimney or Flue Fire, Confined to Chimney or Flue	7.....	2
Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Contained.....	9.....	13
Trash or Rubbish Fire, Contained.....	1.....	3
Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fire, Other.....	3.....	3
Passenger Vehicle Fire.....	3.....	4
Road Freight or Transport Vehicle Fire	1.....	0
Natural Vegetation Fire, Other.....	3.....	2
Forest, Woods, or Wildland Fire.....	0.....	1
Brush, or Brush and Grass Mixture Fire.....	5.....	17
Grass Fire	0.....	2
Outside Rubbish Fire, Other	1.....	2
Outside Rubbish, Trash or Waste Fire	1.....	4
Dumpster or Other Outside Trash Receptacle Fire	0.....	1
Outside Storage Fire.....	1.....	1
Outside Equipment Fire	3.....	0
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	1.....	1
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	17.....	16
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries.....	27.....	37
Lock-in	1.....	2
Search for Lost Person, Other	2.....	3
Search for Person on Land	3.....	3

Extrication, Rescue, Other	1	2
Extrication of Victim(s) from Building/Structure.....	1	0
Extrication of Victim(s) from Vehicle.....	5	2
Removal of Victim(s) from Stalled Elevator	1	1
Water and Ice-Related Rescue, Other	3	1
Trapped by Power Lines	2	0
Hazardous Conditions, Other.....	12	11
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Liquid Condition, Other	3	2
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill.....	9	7
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG).....	18	12
Oil or Other Combustible Liquid Spill	13	5
Toxic Condition, Other	2	2
Chemical Hazard (No Spill or Leak)	3	1
Chemical Spill or Leak	17	7
Carbon Monoxide Incident	31	13
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other.....	35	26
Overheated Motor	1	1
Power Line Down	48	13
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	34	33
Building or Structure Weakened or Collapsed	0	1
Aircraft Standby.....	0	1
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup.....	9	15
Attempted Burning, Illegal Action, Other.....	1	0
Service Call, Other.....	2	1
Person in Distress, Other.....	0	1
Lock-Out	3	6
Water Problem, Other	19	10
Water Evacuation.....	113	12
Water or Steam Leak.....	7	3
Smoke or Odor Removal	6	8
Animal Problem.....	1	2
Animal Rescue	1	0
Public Service Assistance, Other	11	3
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency	23	9
Police Matter	1	1
Public Service	2	4
Defective Elevator, No Occupants.....	0	1
Unauthorized Burning.....	14	12
Cover Assignment, Standby, Move Up	7	11
Good Intent Call, Other.....	55	27
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute	11	6
Wrong Location	0	5
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address.....	9	7

Authorized Controlled Burning	3	0
Steam, Other Gas Mistaken for Smoke, Other.....	0	1
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke.....	56	22
Steam, Vapor, Fog or Dust Thought to be Smoke	1	0
Smoke from Barbecue, Tar Kettle	2	1
Hazard Release Investigation with no Hazard	1	3
False Alarm or False Call, Other	0	2
Malicious, Mischievous False Call, Other	1	3
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm.....	1	0
Local Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm	0	1
System Malfunction, Other	1	1
Sprinkler Activation Due to Malfunction	6	5
Smoke Detector Activation Due to Malfunction	12	19
Heat Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	1	0
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction	78	56
CO Detector Activation Due to Malfunction.....	13	5
Unintentional Transmission of Alarm, Other	17	7
Sprinkler Activation, No Fire – Unintentional	7	3
Extinguishing System Activation.....	0	1
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional.....	31	20
Detector Activation, No Fire – Unintentional.....	0	4
Alarm System Sounded, No Fire – Unintentional	50	30
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, No CO	45	21
Severe Weather or Natural Disaster, Other.....	1	0
Earthquake Assessment	3	3
Special Type of Incident, Other	0	1
Wind Storm, Tornado/Hurricane Assessment	1	0
Lightning Strike (No Fire)	1	0
Total	<u>994</u>	<u>652</u>

Inspections were as follows:

	<u>New</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2011</u>	<u>New</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>Reinspections</u> <u>2010</u>
Apartments	714	8	752	14
Assembly.....	57	25	71	32
Bed and Breakfast	1	0	0	0
Board and Care.....	3	1	4	1
Business	138	43	143	53
Day Care/Camps	22	5	7	7
Dry Cleaning.....	1	0	1	0

Educational	19	43	18	39
Gas Station	0	0	3	6
Health Care	2	3	1	0
Hotel/Dorm	12	10	11	4
Industrial	24	11	53	36
Industrial/Explosive Magazines	0	0	43	0
Mercantile	90	13	99	42
Site/Construction	4	51	12	119
Storage	26	4	9	3
Vacant	7	0	29	0
 Total	<u>1120</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>1256</u>	<u>356</u>

During the calendar year 2011 there was a total of 1337 inspections. This represents a decrease of 275 from the 2010 total of 1612.

The 994 incidents include approximately \$533,250 in direct property loss. This compares to \$782,996 in 2010 and to \$1,082,300 in 2009. To put this in perspective, this estimated loss is a loss based on protection of over 2.9 billion dollars worth of assessed value property.

Percentage breakdown of annual inspections:

	<u>Required</u>	<u>Completed</u>		<u>Cumulative Average</u>
January	79	79	100%	100%
February	46	40	87	94
March	29	29	100	98
April	125	124	99	98
May	121	121	100	99
June	565	274	75	94
July	83	83	100	95
August	50	50	100	96
September	114	112	99	96
October	56	56	100	97
November	116	110	98	97
December	27	27	100	97

Additional notes:

1. The fire inspection program again achieved over 90% of its required inspections due to the efforts of Deputy Fire Marshal Patrick Tourville. The inspection program was updated this

past year and will now include industrial facilities. These were not required in the past. The Department of Labor maintained jurisdiction. The industrial areas include Dyno Nobel and Ensign-Bickford. They also include auto repair and dealerships. While this is not a great number of companies, it represents a large number of buildings.

2. We have added two Deputy Fire Marshals to the office on an as-needed basis. Mike Brown is from the Fire Company and Ignatius Kapalczynski retired from the State Fire Marshal's office as a Lead Engineer.
3. The public fire education program achieved its goals last year with 22 classes which provided all hazard training to over 1,594 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.
4. Building projects have started to come in to this office for review and our goal is to expedite the code reviews and provide quality inspections to assist the developers in bringing their projects in on time.
5. The emergency management operation again reviewed the Emergency Operations Plan for the Town, made adjustments and submitted them to the state. These plans were put to the test for two disasters, one in late August with Tropical Storm Irene and one in October for Winter Storm Albert. The plan worked very well and the Emergency Operations Center operated during the October storm without incident. The shelter was operated by social services, numerous volunteers and the SVFC Ladies Auxiliary. They worked around the clock and did an amazing job working to maintain the shelter. Over 5,000 people came to the shelter for assistance.
6. The firefighters stayed at their stations and responded to over 200 calls around the clock in very difficult conditions. Geoff Giddings, the Assistant Emergency Manager, also worked around the clock to maintain reports, assuring communications with DEMS/Hartford and the citizens of Simsbury. This proves that planning and training pays off when disasters strike.
7. Goals for next year are to increase the real time data in the CAD. This can be done by inputting preplan information into the business addresses from the field at the time of the inspection. The change from an AS400 format to the new windows CAD program should help us accomplish this.
9. 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

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