



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL



Date: June 12, 2013
To: Local Fire Marshals
From: Robert J. Ross, State Fire Marshal
Re: Local Fire Marshal Duties

Below are areas of greater responsibility that are placed upon the local fire marshal. The fire marshal has the prime obligation of enforcing regulations affecting life, property and public protection from the hazards of unfriendly fire.

If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with my office.

The local fire marshal is required to perform a variety of important duties. The following information is provided to help you better understand the widespread responsibilities fulfilled by the local fire marshal's office. To this end, I ask that you share this with your community leaders.

According to the US Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Analysis and Research Division, in 2011 US fire departments responded to an estimated 1,389,500 fires representing an increase of about 4% from 2010. With regard to fire deaths, for the year 2011 there were 3,005 civilian fire deaths and 17,500 civilian fire injuries in the United States. Nationally, the death rate was 11.1 deaths per million population, a decrease of 3.7% from 2010, with the Northeast region being the worst at 11.3 deaths per million, and the West region being the best at 5.2 deaths per million population. For the year 2010, Connecticut's fire death rate was 7.0 deaths per million population. The major strategies for reducing these risks are implemented through the duties of the local fire marshal.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the local fire marshal's role in protecting the community from the devastation of unfriendly fires. Each community must recognize their local

responsibilities and afford the fire marshal the necessary resources to fulfill the statutory mandates.

Fire Marshals are responsible for the enforcement of many of the sections found in Part II of Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) as well as the numerous codes that are promulgated under the provisions of these statutes.

CGS Section 29-305 allows the State Fire Marshal to provide a schedule for the frequency inspections in the State Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Codes. This schedule permits the fire marshal to inspect buildings and facilities of public service and those occupancies regulated by these codes on a frequency of less than annually, except for residential buildings occupied by three or more families which must be inspected annually pursuant to CGS 29-305. Any buildings or occupancies located on state property are subject to inspection by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

The State Fire Safety Code covers all occupancies except one and two family dwellings and currently those located on premises used for manufacturing. The definitions for these occupancies are found in the State Fire Safety Code.



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Examples of the occupancies covered by the State Fire Safety and Fire Prevention Codes are listed below:

ACADEMIES	DRY CLEANING PLANTS	SURFACE, UNDERGROUND AND MARINE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
APARTMENTS	EXHIBITION HALLS	PENAL INSTITUTIONS – JAILS, REFORMATORIES
BUILDINGS	FREIGHT TERMINALS	POOL ROOMS
ARMORIES	GAS PLANTS	POWER PLANTS
ASSEMBLY HALLS	GENERAL OFFICES	PUMPING STATIONS
AUCTION ROOMS	GRAIN ELEVATORS	RECREATIONAL PIERS
AUDITORIUMS	GYMNASIUMS	REFINERIES
BARNs – COMMERCIAL	HANGARS (STORAGE ONLY)	RESIDENTIAL-CUSTODIAL CARE NURSERIES
BED & BREAKFASTS	HOMES FOR THE AGED	RESIDENTIAL-RESTRAINED CARE
BOARD-CARE FACILITIES	HOSPITALS	RESTAURANTS
BOWLING LANES	HOTELS	SAWMILLS
PLACES OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP	INDUSTRIAL OCCUPANCIES	SCHOOLS
CITY HALLS	KINDERGARTENS	SHOPPING CENTERS
CLUB ROOMS	LABORATORIES	SKATING RINKS
COLD STORAGE	LAUNDRIES	SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS
COLLEGES	LIBRARIES	STABLES
CONFERENCE ROOMS	LODGING OR ROOMING HOUSES	SUPERMARKETS
CORRECTIONAL CENTERS	MENTAL DISABILITY CARE	THEATERS
COURTHOUSES	MORTUARY CHAPELS	TRUCK & MARINE TERMINALS
COURTROOMS	MOTION PICTURE THEATERS	UNIVERSITIES
DANCE HALLS	MUSEUMS	WAREHOUSES
DAY CARE CENTERS (CHILDREN AND ADULT)	NIGHT CLUBS	
DENTISTS' OFFICES	NURSERY SCHOOLS	
DEPARTMENT STORES	NURSING HOMES	
DOCTORS' OFFICES	OUTPATIENT CLINICS	
DORMITORIES	PARKING GARAGES	
DRUG STORES	PASSENGER STATIONS & TERMINALS OF AIR,	

Additional duties imposed by the Connecticut General Statutes on local fire marshals are as follows.

- Work closely with your local building official during plans review and the construction of, addition to or renovation of buildings and facilities and the installation of life safety systems within your community to insure compliance with the provisions of Connecticut's fire safety regulations and codes.
- Investigate the origin, cause, and circumstance of all fires and explosions within their jurisdiction, and shall report the same to the State Fire Marshal in the designated format pursuant to CGS 29-302 and 29-303.
- Required to be certified by the State Fire Marshal which includes attend continuing education programs to keep abreast of the changing codes and regulations; and advances in new technology in the fire protection field to maintain a minimum ninety (90) hours of continuing education credit over a determined three year period pursuant to CGS 29-298.
- Provide safety tips, public education and give advice to the general public.
- Upon finding hazards in manufacturing premises, notify the appropriate state or federal agency having jurisdiction over



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- occupational health and safety pursuant to CGS 29-307
- Enforce CGS 29-318b regulating the installation and use of space heaters in residential occupancies other than a single family residence.
 - Inspect all flammable and combustible liquids storage tank installations, such as fuel dispensing stations, for compliance with Connecticut Flammable and Combustible Liquids regulations pursuant to CGS 29-320.
 - Inspect and enforce the Connecticut Regulations concerning storage, use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas pursuant to CSG 29-331.
 - Assist in the administration of the manufacturing employer hazardous materials notification law pursuant to CGS 29-307a.
 - Annually inspect all storage plants and equipment at bulk storage plants for the storage and transportation of hazardous chemicals in accordance with the Connecticut Hazardous Chemical Code pursuant to CGS 29-337.
 - Conduct site inspection of all fireworks and special effects displays for compliance with the Connecticut Fireworks and Special Effects Code and applicable State legislation. Also make the determination of the amount of fire protection and extinguishing equipment to be on site pursuant to CGS 29-357.
 - Inspect and enforce the Connecticut requirements regarding the sale and use of sparklers and fountains pursuant to CGS 29-357.
 - Provide an annual report to the local or regional school board of all inspections of school buildings pursuant to CGS 29-305(b).
 - Issue permits for the use, transportation and storage of explosives in compliance with State Explosives Regulations pursuant to CGS 29-349.
 - *Investigate complaints concerning explosives.*
 - *Inspect explosive storage magazines.*
 - *Spot-check all job sites where explosives are being used.*
 - Inspect regulated tents and portable structures for compliance with the Connecticut Tent and Portable Shelter Code pursuant to CGS 29-140.
 - Upon receiving a complaint from the owner or occupant, inspect one and two family dwellings to assure the statutory requirements regarding smoke detection and warning equipment and carbon monoxide detection are satisfied based upon occupancy date pursuant to CGS 29-305(b).
 - For new residential buildings other than private dwellings occupied by one or two families, ***either*** the Building Official or the Fire Marshal must certify that carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment was installed pursuant to CGS 29-292.
 - Receive quarterly reports and monitor the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in existing nursing homes in accordance with CGS 29-315.
 - Assist applicants, who wish to do so, with the filing of requests for variations or exemptions from a requirement of a code or regulation promulgated pursuant to CGS Chapter 541.