

Local Fire Marshal Duties

The local fire marshal is required to perform a variety of important duties. The following information is provided to better understand the widespread responsibilities fulfilled by the local fire marshal's office.

In 2000, the number of fires decreased across the United States. However, the number of civilian deaths increased more than 13% over the same period. 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 fire marshal's role in protecting the community from the devastation of fire.

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 Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as well as numerous codes that are promulgated under the provision of these statutes.

The local fire marshal is required to annually inspect all buildings and facilities of public service and occupancies regulated by the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code.

The State Fire Safety Code covers all occupancies except one and two family dwellings and premises used for manufacturing.



Examples of the occupancies covered are listed below.

ACADEMIES	EXHIBITION HALLS	AND MARINE PUBLIC
APARTMENTS HOUSES	FACTORIES OF ALL KINDS	TRANSPORTATION
ARMORIES	FREIGHT TERMINALS	PENAL INSTITUTIONS – JAILS,
ASSEMBLY HALLS	GAS PLANTS	REFORMATORIES
AUCTION ROOMS	GENERAL OFFICES	POOL ROOMS
AUDITORIUMS	GRAIN ELEVATORS	POWER PLANTS
BARNs - COMMERCIAL	GYMNASIUMS	PUMPING STATIONS
BOARD-CARE FACILITIES	HANGARS	RECREATIONAL PIERS
BOWLING LANES	HOMES FOR THE AGED	REFINERIES
BULK OIL STORAGE	HOSPITALS	RESIDENTIAL-CUSTODIAL CARE
CHURCHES	HOTELS	NURSERIES
CITY HALLS	KINDERGARTENS	RESIDENTIAL-RESTRAINED
CLUB ROOMS	LABORATORIES	CARE
COLD STORAGE	LAUNDRIES	RESTAURANTS
COLLEGES	LIBRARIES	SAWMILLS
CONFERENCE ROOMS	LODGING OR ROOMING HOUSES	SCHOOLS
CORRECTIONAL CENTERS	MENTALLY RETARDED CARE	SHOPPING CENTERS
COURTHOUSES	MORTUARY CHAPELS	SKATING RINKS
COURTROOMS	MOTION PICTURE THEATERS	SPECIAL AMUSEMENT
CREAMERIES	MUSEUMS	BUILDINGS
DANCE HALLS	NURSERY SCHOOLS	STABLES
DAY CARE CENTERS	NURSING HOMES	SUPERMARKETS
DENTISTS' OFFICES	ORPHANAGES/AGE 5 & OLDER	THEATERS
DEPARTMENT STORES	OUTPATIENT CLINICS	TRUCK & MARINE TERMINALS
DOCTORS' OFFICES	PARKING GARAGES	UNIVERSITIES
DORMITORIES	PASSENGER STATIONS &	WAREHOUSES
DRUG STORES	TERMINALS OF AIR,	
DRY CLEANING PLANTS	SURFACE, UNDERGROUND	

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

- ◆ Shall investigate the cause, origin and circumstance of all fires within their jurisdiction, and shall, within ten (10) days report the same to the State Fire Marshal in the designated format.
- ◆ Issue permits for the use, transportation and storage of explosives in compliance with State Explosives Regulations.
 - ↳ *Investigate complaints concerning explosives.*
 - ↳ *Inspect explosive storage magazines.*
 - ↳ *Spot-check all job sites where explosives are being used.*
- ◆ Notify the Labor Commissioner of fire hazards found in manufacturing establishments.
- ◆ Enforce statute regulating the installation and use of space heaters.
- ◆ Inspect all flammable and combustible liquids storage tank installations for compliance with Connecticut Flammable and Combustible Liquids regulations.
 - ↳ *Inspect all cargo tank vehicles that transport flammable and combustible liquids, in accordance with regulations.*
 - ↳ *Issue certificate of approval to each vehicle once it's in compliance.*
 - ↳ *Inspect all gasoline service stations.*
- ◆ Inspect, at least once each year, all dry cleaning and dry dyeing establishments for compliance with the appropriate code.
- ◆ Inspect and enforce the Connecticut Regulations concerning storage, use and transportation of liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas.
 - ↳ *Inspect, at least once each year, all cargo tank vehicles transporting liquefied petroleum gas or liquefied natural gas.*
 - ↳ *Issue certificate of approval to each vehicle.*
- ◆ Administer manufacturing employer hazardous materials notification law.
- ◆ Annually inspect all storage plants and equipment and cargo tank vehicles at bulk storage plants for the storage and transportation of hazardous chemicals.
 - ↳ *Issue certificate of approval to each transportation vehicle.*
- ◆ Conduct site inspection of all fireworks and special effects displays for compliance with applicable State legislation. Also make the determination of the amount of fire protection and extinguishing equipment to be on site.
- ◆ Inspect all tents and portable structures for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Regulations.
- ◆ Conduct review of plans and specifications for various occupancies and facilities being proposed within the town for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Regulations.
- ◆ Attend schools and seminars to keep abreast of the codes, regulations and new technology.
- ◆ Required to be certified by the State Fire Marshal.
- ◆ Required to maintain ninety (90) hours of continuing education credit over three (3) year periods.

- ◆ Provide safety tips and give advice to the general public.
- ◆ Upon receiving a complaint, inspect one and two family dwellings to assure the statutory requirements regarding smoke detection and warning equipment are satisfied.
- ◆ Sign open burning permits §22a-174
 - ↳ *To municipalities for burning of brush at the refuse facility.*



I have attempted to point out the areas of greater responsibility 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.

John Blaschik Jr.
Deputy State Fire Marshal

JB/lcs11/03

1111 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 2794
Middletown, CT 06457-9294
(860) 685-8380 FAX: (860) 685-8359
Website: www.state.ct.us/dps/DFEBS/OSFM.htm
An Equal Opportunity Employer