

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
 APARTMENTS HOUSES
 ARMORIES
 ASSEMBLY HALLS
 AUCTION ROOMS
 AUDITORIUMS
 BARNs - COMMERCIAL
 BOARD-CARE FACILITIES
 BOWLING LANES
 BULK OIL STORAGE
 CHURCHES
 CITY HALLS
 CLUB ROOMS
 COLD STORAGE
 COLLEGES
 CONFERENCE ROOMS
 CORRECTIONAL CENTERS
 COURTHOUSES
 COURTROOMS
 CREAMERIES
 DANCE HALLS
 DAY CARE CENTERS
 DENTISTS' OFFICES
 DEPARTMENT STORES
 DOCTORS' OFFICES
 DORMITORIES
 DRUG STORES
 DRY CLEANING PLANTS

EXHIBITION HALLS
 FACTORIES OF ALL KINDS
 FREIGHT TERMINALS
 GAS PLANTS
 GENERAL OFFICES
 GRAIN ELEVATORS
 GYMNASIUMS
 HANGARS
 HOMES FOR THE AGED
 HOSPITALS
 HOTELS
 KINDERGARTENS
 LABORATORIES
 LAUNDRIES
 LIBRARIES
 LODGING OR ROOMING HOUSES
 MENTALLY RETARDED CARE
 MORTUARY CHAPELS
 MOTION PICTURE THEATERS
 MUSEUMS
 NURSERY SCHOOLS
 NURSING HOMES
 ORPHANAGES/AGE 5 & OLDER
 OUTPATIENT CLINICS
 PARKING GARAGES
 PASSENGER STATIONS &
 TERMINALS OF AIR,
 SURFACE, UNDERGROUND

AND MARINE PUBLIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 PENAL INSTITUTIONS – JAILS,
 REFORMATORIES
 POOL ROOMS
 POWER PLANTS
 PUMPING STATIONS
 RECREATIONAL PIERS
 REFINERIES
 RESIDENTIAL-CUSTODIAL CARE
 NURSERIES
 RESIDENTIAL-RESTRAINED
 CARE
 RESTAURANTS
 SAWMILLS
 SCHOOLS
 SHOPPING CENTERS
 SKATING RINKS
 SPECIAL AMUSEMENT
 BUILDINGS
 STABLES
 SUPERMARKETS
 THEATERS
 TRUCK & MARINE TERMINALS
 UNIVERSITIES
 WAREHOUSES

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.

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Deputy State Fire Marshal

JB/lcs11/03

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