



Fire Marshal's Office Report Year 2022

Overview:

For the year of 2022 the office worked towards completing more inspections now that the covid pandemic had ended. For the year the office completed 249 inspections making a monthly average of 20 inspections completed a month. The office had 9 call outs for fire investigations and assisted in 2 hazardous materials incidents during the year. The office worked directly with the Building official's office and the planning department on several new buildings being built in the city to include hotels, carwashes and a major renovation to the High School. Members from the office attended several training classes throughout the year to keep up to date with the changing hazards that are dealt with on a daily basis. As of 2022 the office is staffed with one full time position which is Deputy Fire Marshal J. B. Jennings, but there are 4 other members that help out Battalion Chief E. Albert, Lt. A. Dodd, FF T. Schane and Volunteer president D. Woolard, these personnel use the title as Assistant Fire Marshal when conducting business in the office.

Inspections:

The office completed inspections at all the city schools and required daycare centers inside the city limits. A lot of inspections were based off of complaints and or third-party inspection reports that came into the office. We have been working to update the system with contact information for business that may have come into the city over the past few years that never was updated and also took this opportunity to complete general fire inspections while on scene. We haven't focused on one certain area of the city or a certain kind of business but have been visiting different type and locations throughout the city.

116 – General inspections were completed on site at business in the city.

55 – Notices to have the kitchen hood fire suppression system inspected per code.

14 – Notices sent out for fire alarm inspection reported per NFPA 72.

35 – Notices to have fire sprinkler system inspected and test per NFPA 25.

29 – Site and plans reviewed for new construction.

This office has been working closely with Code Enforcement on several properties throughout the city with over grown vegetation in an attempt to get these issues resolved. There have been several fire code violations issued for these locations based on codes set by the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. This is an on-going issue and will not be resolved overnight.



Investigations:

The Fire Marshal's office had 9 cases assigned this year.

5 – Cases were determined to be accidental

2 – Cases were labeled as undetermined

2 – We had two similar cases of trash cans being burned but were unable to locate any evidence on these incidents, both are still open investigations.



Hazardous Materials:

The department responded to 41 hazardous materials incidents, which 27 were natural gas, 9 involved gasoline or another combustible liquid and 5 involved carbon monoxide.



Public Educations:

In 2022 the department conducted:

107 – Smoke detector installations or checks (2021 - 38)

2 – Child Safety Seat Checked and Educations (2021 - 14) taken over by the Sheriff's department

8 – Knox Box installations or updating the key (2021 - 9)

7 – Carbon monoxide detector installations or checks (2021 – 0)

10 – Public educations (2021 – 5)