

BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

2011

BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY

WALTER NUGENT III – FIRE OFFICIAL

Fire Safety Inspections

There were a total of 219 new inspections conducted, 68 being Life Hazard Use inspection and 151 being Non-Life Hazard Use. There were 211 re-inspections conducted.

Inspection Summary for 2011

Life Hazard	68
Non-Life Hazard	151
Re-Inspections	211
Certificated Issued	161

Fire Investigations

A fire investigation was conducted at the following location.

02-24-12	275 Main Street	Bean Curd
03-17-11	153 Center Street	Truck Fire
09-08-11	44 Dunbar Street	Single family residence
11-01-11	19 Vincent Street	Single family residence

Penalty Account

There were two penalties collected, totaling \$ 1,000.00.

Business Registrations

Non-LHU registration fees collected totaled \$ 10,350.00. This process as recommended by the State Division of Fire Safety has enabled us to obtain and maintain current information of all building owners and business owners in the Borough in addition to offset costs of the operation of the Bureau of Fire Safety.

Fire Safety Bureau Revenue

Life Hazard Use Registration Fees from State	\$13,532.35
Local Non-Life Hazard Use Registrations	\$10,350.00
Fire Code Violation Penalties	\$ 1,000.00
Permits	\$ <u>210.00</u>
Total	<u>\$25,092.35</u>

Special Projects

Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)

We are continuing to work on preparing grants with Janice Piccolo. Grant applications were submitted to FEMA for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grant team has been meeting prior to this in preparation for this opportunity. As of this date we have not been awarded any grant funding for the fire department.

Emergency Preplan Information

Building preplan information is being maintained in the Emergency Software Products software program. Information will be utilized to assist the fire department during an emergency. Utility controls has been identified, sprinkler connection and control information has been obtained. Any special hazards identified are also noted in the emergency preplan. Information is verified and updated during each fire inspection.

Final Comments

A conscious effort is made during each inspection to educate building occupants as to why certain conditions should not exist. I have noticed that this helps to gain compliance quicker and it also reduces the chance of hazard reoccurring.

The Fire Safety Bureau was able to accomplish the inspections it did this year due to the assistance provided by Charles Salin, the Borough Firefighter/Driver who conducted many of the reported inspections. I would also like to thanks Cathy Baldwin for here assistance in processing all of the paperwork post inspection. This allows me and Charles Salin to spend more time out of the office conducting fire inspections.

I pride myself on enforcing the NJ State Fire Code uniformly and fairly to all business located in Chatham Borough. I view it as my responsibility to assist building owners in avoiding fire tragedies. Unfortunately, there are fires that were not able to be prevented. I am required to make sure that the cause of the fire is thoroughly investigated.

Respectfully Submitted,


Walter Nugent III
Fire Official