

**BOROUGH OF
CHATHAM**

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

**BUREAU OF FIRE
SAFETY**

WALTER NUGENT III – FIRE OFFICIAL

Fire Investigations

Two fire investigations were conducted at the following locations.

01-25-09	31 Front Street	Single Family Residence
05-12-09	12 River Road	National Manufacturing

Penalty Account

There was one penalty collected totaling \$500.00.

Building Department Coverage

Coverage is provided to the building department as needed during Bill Jankowski's absence to conduct Fire Sub-Code plan review and inspections of new construction projects.

Business Registrations

Fees collected totaled \$ 11,960.00. 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.

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.

Additional pre-plan information has been and is still being acquired for high risk buildings including schools, large apartment buildings and a nursing home. Photos include aerials and multiple still shots. This information is being put into a power point presentation to be presented to the Fire Department at an upcoming drill.

Fire Safety Bureau Revenue

Life Hazard Use Registration Fees from State	\$11,960.05
Local Non-Life Hazard Use Registrations	\$13,609.00
Fire Code Violation Penalties	\$ 500.00
Permits	\$ <u>336.00</u>
Total	<u>\$26,405.05</u>

Fire Safety Inspections

There were a total of 215 new inspections conducted, 73 being Life Hazard Use inspection and 142 being Non-Life Hazard Use. There were 249 re-inspections conducted. This brings the total number of inspections to 464.

Inspection Summary for 2009

Life Hazard	73
Non-Life Hazard	142
Re-Inspections	249
Certificated Issued	144

Special Projects

- Janice Piccolo organized a “grant team” comprised of herself, multiple members of the Fire Department including Councilman Marts and myself. I have researched and provided fire service information to Ms. Piccolo as needed. Detailed Fire Department records including training have been improved to provide required information for grant applications. We have met on multiple occasions and have collectively submitted three grants to FEMA for financial assistance. We are optimistic in being awarded Federal fund soon and are beginning research on our next application to be submitted in 2010.
- Principal of ECLC and I met multiple times to discuss specific needs of students pertaining to a building evacuation. ECLC has put much time and effort perfecting their evacuation procedures. I am confident that they are well prepared to handle emergencies at their school. Plans are constantly being reviewed and updated to fit changing needs.
- I acquired my Building Inspector RCS License from the NJ State Department of Community Affairs

Final Comments

In the field of fire prevention it is almost impossible to document a specific day that a fire was prevented. It is much more obvious to identify those fires that did occur. There were only two fires that required a fire cause investigation one was in a one family residence and the other was in a commercial property. The fire in the commercial property was located inside of processing equipment that would have been impossible to prevent during the course of an annual fire inspection. Fortunately both fires did not spread far and were quickly extinguished. Every year that inspections are conducted occupants level of fire awareness is raised.

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.

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