



**BOROUGH OF CHATHAM
ANNUAL REPORT
2012
FIRE SAFETY BUREAU
WALTER NUGENT III – FIRE OFFICIAL
STEPHEN WILLIAMS – FIRE INSPECTOR**

Fire Safety Inspections

There were a total of 244 new inspections conducted, 68 being Life Hazard Use inspection and 176 being Non-Life Hazard Use. There were 271 re-inspections conducted.

Inspection Summary Comparison 2011 & 2012

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
Life Hazard	68	68	0%
Non-Life Hazard	151	176	17%
Re-Inspections	211	271	28%
Certificates Issued	161	252	57%

Fire Investigations

There were five fire investigations conducted at the following locations. Last year there were a total of four investigations. Removing the one investigation in the township this year, fire investigations within the borough remained constant at 4.

252 Main Street – Angie’s
21 Commerce St – ABC Party Center
540 Main Street – Apartment 3D
471 Main Street – CVS
351 Hillside Ave – Residence Chatham Twp.

Business Registrations

Non-LHU registration fees collected totaled \$ 10,750.00. 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

	2011	2012	Change
Life Hazard Use Registration Fees from State	\$13,532.35	\$16,508.00	22% (*)
Local Non-Life Hazard Use Registrations	\$10,350.00	\$10,750.00	4%
Fire Code Violation Penalties	\$ 1,000.00	0.00	N/A
Permits	\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00	0%
Total	<u>\$25,092.35</u>	<u>\$27,468.00</u>	<u>10.56% (*)</u>

(*) Numbers are actuals, change is due to timing difference

Special Projects

Mobile Computers

In an effort to keep up with the improvements of technology, I have acquired two Panasonic business rugged computers. One computer is being utilized by me and the other is being utilized by Inspector Steve Williams. I am currently working on setting up software to have them communicate properly with my fire inspection program.

Both computers are already set up to temporarily call into our office PC's. This is not the most efficient way to operate but it was the quickest and most cost effective way to get started. Inspector Williams has since been able to log in from home to catch up entering the fire department's fire incident reports that were not entered prior to his employment with the borough.

Knox Boxes

Inspector Williams had business owners install 7 new Knox boxes – Knox boxes help the fire department provide easy access to conduct investigations without creating damage to the building during entry.

Fire Safety Information

Inspector Williams - Developed the fall fire safety brochure, generator safety bulletin, and the carbon monoxide safety sheet.

Emergency Operations Center

Inspector Williams – Is tasked with the responsibility of relocating the operating center from room 216/212 to the council chambers. He is responsible for the equipment and operation.

Everbridge System

Inspector Williams – Undertook with Police Chief Crosson, the implementation of Everbridge System for the Borough of Chatham

Super Storm Sandy

Inspector Williams- Represented the Fire Safety Bureau in the Emergency Operations Center during and post, Super Storm Sandy.

Career Development

Inspector Williams

Completed the State of NJ Division of Fire Safety – Fire Inspector Training Class (90 hours) Morris County Fire Academy.

He began fire investigator training with the International Association of Arson Investigators, on CFI Trainer.net.

Fire Official Nugent

Completed the courtroom testimony class for fire investigators – Class was given by the International Association of Fire Investigators (IAAI). This was the last requirement to obtain my Certified Fire Investigator status with the IAAI which was received this year.

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.

Steve Williams started in the fire safety bureau in June. The best way I can describe the work ethic of Steve Williams is that he “hit the ground running”. Steve is always willing to learn new information, from computer programs, special projects, the investigations of fires and the details of the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code. Steve is an efficient worker never needing things to be explained more than once.

I also appreciate the assistance of Cathy Baldwin for processing our fire safety inspections reports.

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