

Fire Marshals report to the Somers Fire Commission for January 26, 2012

December 2011 ended with the vacant Mill in Somerville being re-boarded up and fire department access gained. Twenty feet of over grown brush was removed from blocking access to the mill by the emergency forces. The four abatement issues were cleared up in two weeks time and re-inspected on 12-22-11.

January began the New Year with a call at 1156 PM that the Congregational Church at 599 Main was burning down. Upon arrival at 12:24 am the church collapsed in a fire storm. Glen Reynolds was on the scene at 11:48 PM, called for me and the State Fire Marshals Office. While still responding to the fire I had Glen call Jeremy Simmons at South Hadley, Mass. to respond to the scene in the morning. I knew we would be there for 24 h or more.

Glen had local troopers and state fire marshal already quizzing several local boys who were in the area of the church at the onset. Later on major crime took over that task and all the interviews. In all I put in 14 hours, Glen 15 hours and Jeremy Simmons 12 hours.

I let Glen assume the Investigation; I did the house at 603 Main and the Town Hall exposure damage. Glen and Jeremy worked hand and hand with the State FMO in the basement as each wooden post and beam was removed from the church basement.

People in Town and the neighboring fire departments heaped praise on the job Somers Fire Department did in saving the nearby buildings and town hall.

The Church Daycare is moving to 40 battle street, at the Baptist Church. I am helping them get new permits and state certificates.

Respectfully ;

  
Fire Marshal, Somers

# TOWN OF SOMERS

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SOMERS, CONNECTICUT 06071

2011 Annual report of Somers Fire Marshal to the Somers Fire Commission January 19, 2012

In 2010, the Fire Marshals Office took in \$5,140.00 from Fire Marshal permits. There were 72 Fire Marshal and 40 Burn Permits. In 2011, I issued 67 FM permits, and 91 Burn permits for a total of \$6,040. This was an increase of \$900, because burn permits increased from 40 to 91. In our first year of issuing permits, 2009, we raised \$2,895 on 47 permits in a 4 month period.

Fire Department calls were at a record high 1277. Calls were up 280 this year, from last years 997. An increase of 26 % from 2010. Fire loss was \$373,000 in 2011 down 40% from last years \$530,000. Three events led to the surge in calls. The January 10/11 , Snow storm, 30 inches on top of 11 inches from Dec. 25/26 snow storm in 2010. Then Hurricane Irene in the Fall, followed by a freak, late October snow storm, named Alfred. Electrical power was lost for 10 days in most of the Town of Somers.

Construction began in August at 75 Battle Street adding 64 more senior housing units to "Woodcrest" senior complex, in 6 new buildings. Four new hydrants have been added to the project.

Town Hall is getting a new Digital, fire alarm system with a new addressable panel. It is being installed now and should be tested and in service by the end of January. There were no Blasting permits issued in Town in 2010 and 2011. This is the first time in about 20 years that no blasting for construction has taken place in Somers.

Fire Marshal Morpurgo, Deputy Fire Marshal Glen Reynolds and Fire inspector Jeremy Simmons are all up to date with their certification credits.

Respectfully, Yours



Robert J. Morpurgo  
FIRE MARSHAL