



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Oneida Fire Marshal's Office

The purpose of this report is to provide the accomplishments of the Fire Marshal's Office during the past year and to highlight the many services and activities that support our community.

2018 Fire Marshal Report

In 2018, the Fire Marshal's Office continues to support the mission of the City of Oneida Fire Department. This is accomplished through code compliant fire safety inspections of all commercial buildings, places of public assembly, healthcare facilities, and fire prevention related activities.

Middle School Fire Prevention Program

Once again this year, the Fire Prevention Division had teamed up the Otto Shortel Middle school for a very active year in school fire safety practices. Beginning in the early Spring, approximately 550 middle school children (grades 6, 7, 8) and 20 teachers participated in fire extinguisher safety by putting out a real stove fire. Middle school age children are an at risk population due to the fact that many children are left home alone taking care of younger siblings until their parents get home from work. Sometimes they are the one's responsible for starting dinner as well. Under the supervision of a firefighter, each student used a fire extinguisher to put out a burning grease fire on a stove. This was an overwhelming success. Many students and staff alike commented on how they needed to have a fire extinguisher at home and this was needed training for every one of all ages. This not only gave life lessons but also strengthen an already great relationship between the fire department and the school district.



Fire Extinguisher Training / Middle School

Middle School Fire Prevention Continued

The Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher training was delivered over three consecutive days. The week ended with a Live Burn fire sprinkler demonstration. This demonstration included two side-by-side 10'x10' rooms built with wood and normal house-hold furnishings including a chair, small love seat and/or couch. One of the rooms had a single fire sprinkler installed and the other room had no fire sprinkler. The room with no fire sprinkler was ignited first using paper in a waste basket. The demonstration was used to show how fast a fire will spread with normal house-hold furnishings. Within two minutes, the entire room is engulfed in flames. Once the firefighters extinguish the room, the other room with the fire sprinkler was ignited. Within one minute, the fire is large enough to activate the fire sprinkler which controls the fire long enough to allow the occupants to escape if this were a fire in the home. This was a great eye opening experience for all to realize how fast fires develop and how essential it is to have early notification of a fire using smoke detectors and having an escape plan in place.



Burn Pod Demo / Middle School

Middle School Fire Prevention Continued

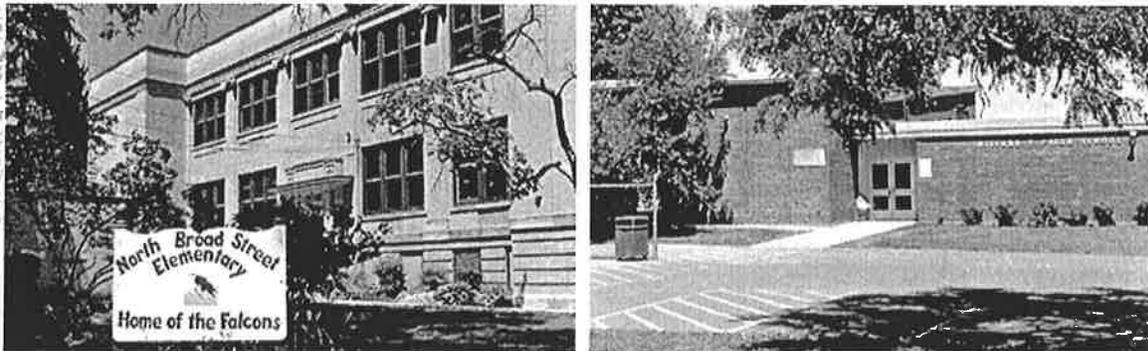
New York Education Law mandates that all schools conduct fire emergency evacuation drills every year. These drills consist of activating the fire alarm system and then timing how long it takes for students to evacuate the school to designated areas. Once students are evacuated, attendance is taken of each class and any missing students are reported to the principal. While these fire drills are extremely important for student safety, unfortunately students become very complacent in always evacuating the same way. To combat this complacency, we decided to utilize a theatrical smoke machine to “smoke the hallway” and make the students and teachers decide whether or not to enter the smoke filled hallway or escape by using the escape window in the classroom. Students and teachers made the right decision and utilized the escape window for egress. This type of escape drill had never been tried in past and had an astounding impact on all involved. This type of drill reinforces that complacency kills and you always have to be prepared for fire to occur.



Smoke Filled Hallway / Window Evacuation

Elementary Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Division delivers various presentations to the community throughout the year. Each program is developed to arm the community with knowledge to prevent situations threatening life safety and how to address emergency situations they may face. This year, the Fire Prevention Officers and firefighters visited all of the elementary schools including St. Patrick's School to deliver essential fire prevention messages. Approximately 1000 children were given hand-outs and fire prevention materials aimed at providing parents and family members' information on fire safety. This is a program that has been ongoing for many decades and will continue into the future.



“Sound the Alarm”

The “Sound the Alarm” challenge was a program developed by Firefighter/Inspector Jeremy Carnahan. Jeremy takes fire prevention very seriously and believes that fire safety is something to practice every day, not just once a year during fire prevention week. His thought was to challenge elementary aged children in testing their home smoke alarms and post a video to the fire department's Facebook page while doing it. This simple but effective action not only taught children the importance of properly working smoke detectors, but also encouraged a conversation with parents, a fire prevention message that included exit drills in the home (EDITH), stop, drop, and roll, and designating a family meeting place once they escape their home.

“Sound the Alarm” Continued

A winning submission from each grade level was chosen and the winners were given a pizza party for their entire class. Firefighter Eric Whipple was so excited about the “Sound the Alarm” challenge and pizza party, that he did a headstand for the kids! This program was a huge success to say the least. Plans are already underway to make next year’s challenge even better.



Pizza Party at St. Patrick’s School

Fire Inspections

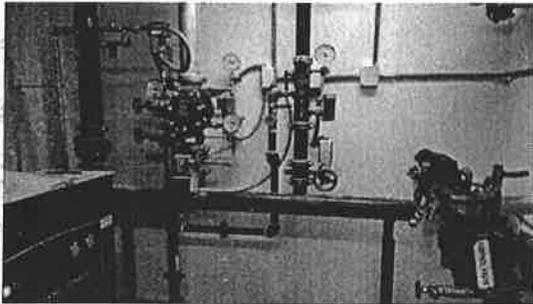
Every year, the Fire Marshal’s Office is responsible for the inspection of commercial buildings and places of public assembly. Fire Inspectors educate building owners and tenants while conducting fire safety inspections. This helps to gain voluntary compliance, as well as limit the number of repeat violations in the future. The fire inspectors conduct annual inspections of all places of public assembly as well as inspections of commercial properties on a three year rotating basis. A large percentage of inspections require at least one follow-up inspection to ensure compliance. In addition to fire safety inspections of commercial buildings and places of public assembly, the fire inspectors have a wide range of other responsibilities which include:

- Review of construction plans for new and remodeled buildings and conducting inspections.
- Timely follow up of complaints/concerns of the community.
- Verifying acceptance testing of all fire safety systems.
- Ensuring fire protection systems in buildings are repaired.
- Conducting special event inspections.
- Enforcing the City’s Open Burning Regulations.

Fire Inspections Continued

- Providing tent inspections/permits.
- Conducting Solid Fuel Burning Device inspections/permits.
- Providing training on the development of emergency procedures and evaluating emergency evacuation procedures.
- Provide additional support to the Fire Prevention Officer's public presentation programs

The fire inspectors are challenged to keep pace with continued growth and the rise in activity for their areas of responsibility. The fire inspectors must fulfill daily obligations to external customers and department members while simultaneously investing sufficient time and resources to meet long-term goals.



Nitrogen/Wet Fire Sprinkler System



Meadow Drive Apartments

Fire Investigation Division

The City of Oneida Fire Department is required by New York State law to investigate all fires and determine where the fire started and the likely cause. The City's Fire Investigation Division is comprised of Lead Fire Investigators and other Fire Investigators within the division. The Division is overseen by the Fire Marshal and coordinates with the City of Oneida Police Department on any fire where the cause is suspicious in nature. Other agencies of interoperability include Madison County Office of Emergency Management, New York State Police, New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, and different private insurance companies. Determination of cause and origin may be as straightforward as a resident reporting that they left food on the stove or fires that are very large and destructive. These types of fires require a considerable amount of investigative time and technique. Fire investigation can be a dangerous, complex, and time consuming task. Using proper investigation techniques, preserving evidence, and thoroughly photographing the fire scene are necessary to make a determination.

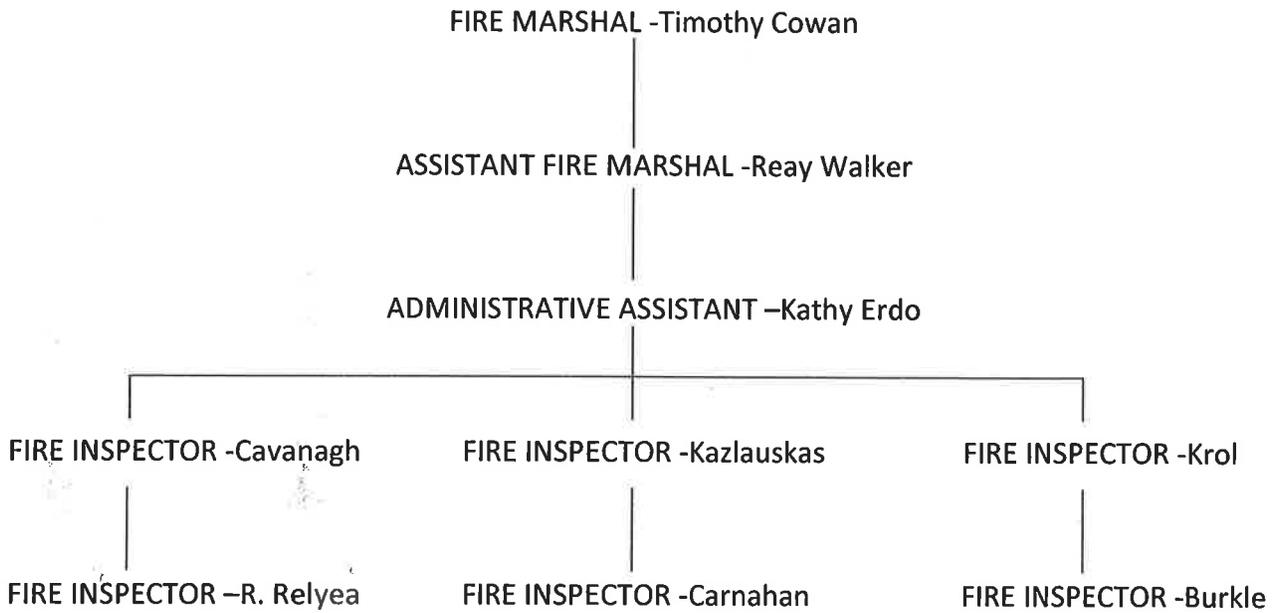
212 Broad Street

On August 2, 2018 at approximately 7:00 p.m., Shift 4 responded to a reported structure fire in an apartment building. Upon arrival, crews were faced with a moderate smoke condition coming from the "Bravo/Charlie" second floor area of the structure. Crews immediately made a search on the first and second floors for occupants, with negative results. At the same time, handlines were deployed to the second floor for fire suppression efforts. Forcible entry was made into the second floor apartment where a working fire was found in the ceiling area of the kitchen. An aggressive interior attack was made, and the fire was quickly knocked down. The fire had extended to the adjoining attic area, with minor heat and smoke damage throughout the entire apartment. The aggressive initial actions of the shift on-duty prevented further damage to the other apartments. The fire was found to be electrical in nature and the building has since been repaired.



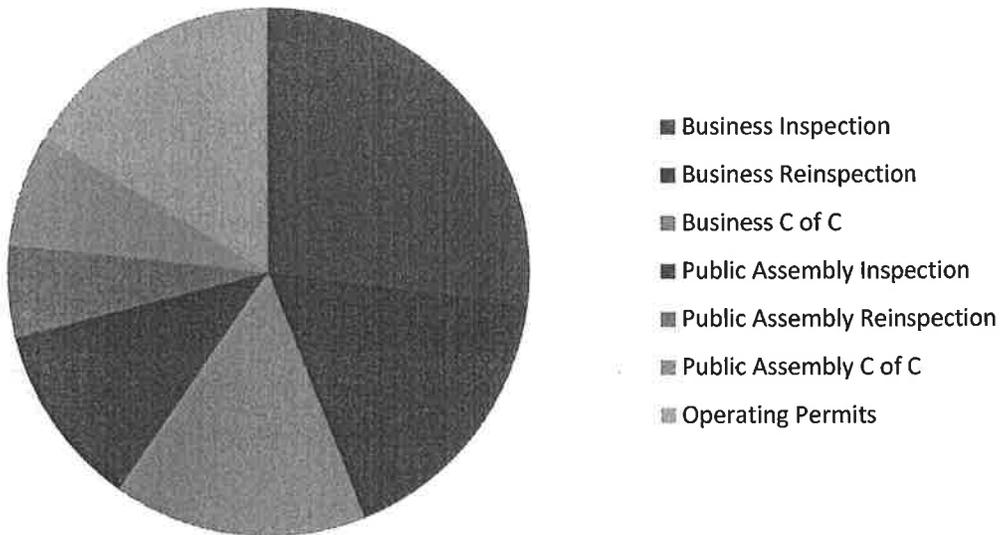
212 Broad Street

Fire Marshal's Office Organization



******Each Shift is comprised of two Fire Inspectors or Fire Marshal/Fire Inspector******

Inspection Breakdown



Business Inspection	63
Business Re-inspection	40
Business C of C	32
Public Assembly Inspection	30
Public Assembly Re-inspection	22
Public Assembly C of C	22
Operating Permits	26

See attached year-end report for remaining hours

CITY OF ONEIDA FIRE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF FIRE

Fire Marshal's Office
Timothy S. Cowan, Fire Marshal



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FIRE MARSHAL YEAR-END REPORT 2018

TOTAL OFFICE HOURS 895.5

OFFICE BREAKDOWN	TOTAL INSPECTIONS
BUSINESS INSPECTION	63
BUSINESS REINSPECTION	40
BUSINESS C OF C	32
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY INSPECTION	30
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY REINSPECTION	24
PUBLIC ASSEMBLY C OF C	22
OPERATING PERMITS	26
SOLID FUEL BURNING DEVICE	9
ORDER TO VACATE	11
VACANT PLACARDS	0
VACANT BUILDING INSPECTIONS	1
KNOX BOX WORK	34.5
COMPLAINTS	6
MEETINGS / CODES SCHOOL	97 HOURS
PLAN REVIEW	29 HOURS
MISCELLEANOUS	119 HOURS
FIRE INVESTIGATION	13.5 HOURS
FIRE PREVENTION	66 HOURS
