



Springfield Fire Department Fire Safety Division 2022 Annual Report

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Springfield Fire Department (SFD) Fire Safety Division is guided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 1730: *Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation, and Public Education Operations*. Fire Safety has built upon this foundational model by also focusing on preventing death, injuries and property loss by promoting a safe living environment through Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programming. This implementation of education and strategies is targeted to specific areas that put community and its citizens at risk.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Safety Division has a wide range of responsibilities within the Springfield Fire Department. **Fire code enforcement** activities include: building inspections, maintaining Knox Box key access to commercial structures, fireworks permit review and oversight, and records management. **Plan review** involves working with building design professional and developers to ensure that buildings in our jurisdiction meet or exceed minimum safety standards, being an active member of the Sangamon County Land Subdivision Committee and being part of the City of Springfield building and zoning permit issuance process. **Investigations** are mandated by the State of Illinois to be performed on all fires. They are conducted to determine fire cause and origin as well as to bring to justice those who have intentionally and maliciously caused these fires. Investigations require excellent communication and documentation skills. Investigations often involve evidence collection, and interactions with property owners, insurance company representatives, police detectives, and the Sangamon County State's Attorney Office. **Public education and intervention** programs historically were directed towards children. The new Community Risk Reduction programming has taken a more global approach to include all ages. This program area is best served utilizing personnel with a long-term commitment toward building relationships within the community. These areas of responsibility require varying degrees of specialized training, certification, and continuing education.

LEADERSHIP

Members of the Springfield Fire Department Fire Safety Division conduct fire prevention inspections and code enforcement activities under the direction of the City Fire Marshal, also known as the Division II Chief and City Fire Marshal. The Captains assigned to this division are by City code 94.22 Deputy Fire Marshals and shall have the powers of police officers while performing their duties. spent many hours in meetings and in research, on a topic that was ever changing, with doctors and public health officials.

Fire Safety Staffing

Springfield Fire Chief

Brandon Blough

City Fire Marshal

Ed Canny

Senior Arson Investigator

Captain Ryan Evans

Public Education Officer

Captain Jim Price

Inspector/Investigator

Captain Doug Iwanicki	Captain Bill Benedict	Captain Clint Warnisher
Captain Jacob Maxedon	Todd Taylor	Captain Adam Crowder
Taylor	Captain Patrick Trees	Captain Todd
	Captain Doug Iwanicki	

Administrative Clerk II

Casey Carpenter

Duties of the Fire Safety Division

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fire Prevention Inspections | Home Safety Visit Program |
| Fireworks/Pyrotechnic Safety | Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention |
| Annual License Programs | Fire Investigations |
| Knox Box Management | Hazardous Materials Program |
| Regional Planning | Professional Development |
| Fire & Life Safety Plan Review | FOIA Request Management |
| Fire Watch / EMS Standby | Grant Program Management |
| Fire & Life Safety Education Programs | Community Risk Reduction |

Fire Prevention Inspection/Code Enforcement

The Fire Safety Division is responsible for ensuring public safety through compliance enforcement of the fire codes adopted by the Springfield City Council.

2022 Inspection Activities

686	Plan Reviews
1254	Code Violations Cited
528	Code Violations Corrected
26	Fireworks Site Inspections
2522	Inspection Activities

Fireworks/Pyrotechnic Safety

Fireworks permit processing and plan reviews are conducted by Fire Inspectors. Fireworks permits are largely regulated by state and federal laws and enforced by local fire officials. Each permit is processed according to state and local regulations by the Fire Safety Division. The following are the fireworks permits numbers over the past 4 years

2019	19
2020	3
2021	22
2022	26

Home Safety Visit Program

The Springfield Fire Department Home Safety Visit Program is a targeted and pro-active fire and life safety prevention program. The program is designed to have trained firefighters conduct

home safety surveys in targeted homes and provide free smoke alarm installations. The program aims to reduce the incidents of fire death and injury in the most vulnerable populations of our community.

The SFD Home Safety Visit Program is the model for success in our region. It is supported through a partnership with the American Red Cross and other local community partners along with grant funding from multiple groups.

The program is now fully established and appointments are accepted on a weekly basis. All fire apparatus in Springfield now carry smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and installation kits. This public safety service is available to all residents every day of the year through the Springfield Fire Department. All Springfield residents can call the Fire Safety Division office at 217-789-2170 to schedule a Home Safety Visit.

Due to COVID -19, our Home Safety Visit Program was suspended. This was in part the decision of the Springfield Fire Department, and was also influenced by the Partners we work with to deliver the program also halting their activities. We were able to assist those that we ran calls for assistance on until our supply of detectors ran low. We have applied for a grant to purchase additional detectors for 2021. We are hopeful that when the COVID -19 mitigation reaches Phase 5, we will be able to resume our program. This will require funding, either through grants or generous donors. **2022 179**

Carbon monoxide alarms Installed	91
Households	142
# of people in these houses	335

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program

The goal of the Springfield Fire Department Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program is to reduce the frequency and severity of the tragedy and trauma caused by child and youth fire related activities. The Fire Safety Division established this national program locally more than twenty years ago.

The Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program is an educational tool that is not punitive. Juveniles that are identified as being involved with fire related activities are referred to the program. Once referred, a parent/guardian accompanies the juvenile to meet with one or more Juvenile Fire Setter Interventionist. This meeting is to determine the level of risk a juvenile has at being involved with additional fire setting activity. After that risk level is

determined, an educational plan is most often implemented. Occasionally, a juvenile may be referred to a mental health professional based on the level of risk.

The program does not purport to be the solution to a juvenile's fire setting tendencies, however, experience with those that have participated in fire setter intervention programs here and throughout the country has shown that incidents of repeat fire setting has been reduced significantly.

Fire Investigations Program

Illinois State Law makes it the responsibility of local fire departments to investigate the cause of fires in their jurisdiction for the purpose of collecting data to predict trends and make the communities safer by apprehending those that set fires intentionally.

The Springfield Fire Department accomplishes this through its Fire Safety Division which is comprised of seven certified Fire Investigators which have been trained in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Office of the State Fire Marshal of Illinois. These Fire Investigators are collectively known as the Fire Investigation Unit. Of the seven Fire investigators, three are trained Arson Investigators and have police powers.

The SFD Fire Investigations Unit conducted **10330** fire investigations in 202022. Our investigators also conducted other types of investigations such as those for malicious activations of fire alarm systems and unlawful burning. The results of these investigations are as follows:

Arrests Made	98
Pending Arrests	3
Fatalities	20
Arson cases	54
Fires in Vacant Structures	28

Our goal for 20213 is to acquire an accelerant detection K-9 from the ATF. This K-9 is trained to sniff out small traces of accelerants potentially used to start a fire. It enhances the ability of the investigator to collect precise fire debris as it relates to intentionally set fires.

Hazardous Materials Program

The Fire Safety Division works with hazardous materials information in several areas. We are the location within the City of Springfield that is responsible for maintaining information related to properties with Tier II reportable quantities of chemicals and storage tanks (both underground and above). We have a seat on the Sangamon Valley Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and attend monthly meetings. The LEPC collects and maintains information related to hazardous materials for the community. Another side of the Fire Safety Division role is to take in and distribute hazardous materials related information to the SFD Operations Division and Haz-Mat Team. The Fire Safety Division is a key component of emergency planning in the Greater Springfield Region.

The Fire Safety Division maintains permanent storage tank files and current files of Tier II reports containing hazardous materials. The Tier II reports are produced annually and are delivered to our office from entities (both public and private) with reportable quantities of hazardous materials. This is mandated by Federal law. The Fire Safety Division maintains a close working relationship with the Sangamon Valley LEPC to make this information available and useful for the community. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) provides statewide permits and cataloguing of both underground and above ground storage tanks. This information is documented in the Fire Safety Division within our permanent address files. We are often asked about these files in the form of FOIA requests from developers and prospective owners while conducting environmental assessments for properties. These are required for bank loans and insurance underwriting purposes.

Fire Safety Professional Development

The Fire Safety Division encompasses a broad range of public safety services. In addition to the ongoing training and certification requirements of professional firefighters and emergency medical responders, the ten uniformed members of the Fire Safety Division have a wide breadth of specialized training and certifications that must be maintained to meet our responsibilities to the community (as outlined in NFPA 1730). This requires that each Fire Safety member have an individualized training plan. This is recognized as the best approach to meeting the needs of the Springfield Fire Department and the community that we serve.

Fire investigation 55