

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 27TH SESSION

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 7-27₆

TABLED ON JUNE 2, 1964



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 7, 1964 (First Session)

ANNUAL REPORT N.W.T. FIRE MARSHAL - 1963

The Annual Report of the year ending December 31st, 1963, is submitted for your information and approval and has been prepared in accordance with Section 4 (e) of the Northwest Territories Fire Prevention Ordinance.

I regret to report that there were six (6) fatalities due to fires of which two (2) were children and the remainder adults.

All fire losses reported have been recorded and a comparison for the five year period from 1959 to 1963 is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Amount of Loss</u>
1959	67	\$1,410,071.00
1960	68	679,708.00
1961	70	306,208.50
1962	79	203,508.60
1963	109	454,641.96

The increase in the number of fires recorded is mainly attributed to more small loss residential and transportation fires being reported.

I wish to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation received from the staffs of the Territorial and Engineering Divisions of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. The continued co-operation of the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Department of Transport is also greatly appreciated. The fire chiefs and members of the volunteer fire brigades are to be commended for their efforts in fighting fires and fire prevention activity.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) R.G. Whatmough

R.G. Whatmough,
Fire Marshal, N.W.T.

RECORD OF FIRES

These figures are based upon reports which have been forwarded to the Fire Marshal by Federal Government Departments, the RCMP and Local Assistants, Insurance Companies and Adjusters for the calendar year 1963.

DISTRICT SUMMARY

<u>District</u>	<u>Population 1961 Census</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Loss \$</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>
Keewatin	2,345	8	111,145.00	-
Franklin	5,758	10	177,670.00	-
Mackenzie	14,895	91	165,826.96	6
TOTAL	22,998	109	454,641.96	6

MONTHLY STATISTICS

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Fatalities</u>	<u>Building Loss</u>	<u>Content Loss</u>
January	11	1	161,305.52	62,435.77
February	11	-	2,510.00	245.00
March	13	-	4,089.30	800.00
April	11	2	3,502.00	4,492.07
May	16	1	4,552.30	1,756.28
June	8	-	39,100.00	20,285.00
July	5	-	50.00	-
August	-	-	-	-
September	14	-	45,795.00	31,496.77
October	3	-	1,372.45	224.50
November	9	2	11,690.00	11,525.00
December	8	-	51,715.00	55,700.00
TOTAL	109	6	265,681.57	188,960.39

NOTE: The above totals include 30 fires in Federal Government owned buildings at a loss of \$243,943.00.

CAUSES OF FIRES

<u>Cause</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Loss \$</u>
<u>HEATING</u>		
Coal & Wood Furnaces & Boilers	2	2,525.00
Coal & Wood Stoves & Heaters	7	565.00
Oil Fired Furnaces & Boilers	3	159.87
Oil Fired Stoves & Heaters	16	10,578.00
Gas Fired Equipment	2	450.00
Defective & Overheated Chimneys & Flues	6	3,580.00
Hot Ashes & Coals	3	160.00
Salamanders	2	58,500.00
TOTAL	41	76,517.87
<u>ELECTRICITY</u>		
Wiring & Equipment	4	66,501.95
Heating Appliances	3	2,297.30
Appliances Other Than Heating	4	13,161.29
Motors & Generators	1	-
Transformers	1	-
TOTAL	13	82,010.54
<u>SMOKING</u>		
Smokers Carelessness	10	82,742.00
Matches, Lighters, Etc.	6	51,497.07
TOTAL	16	134,239.07

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

Gasoline Stoves & Lamps	6	5,200.00
Kerosene Stoves & Lamps	4	3,185.00
Internal Combustion Engines	3	295.00
Fats & Greases on Stove	2	55.00
Candles	1	45.00
Blow Torches	2	100.00
Others	<u>1</u>	<u>70.00</u>
TOTAL	19	8,950.00

EXPOSURE

From Rubbish Fires	<u>1</u>	<u>125.00</u>
TOTAL	1	125.00

INCENDIARISM

Mischief	<u>1</u>	<u>75.00</u>
TOTAL	1	75.00

MISCELLANEOUS

LP Gas	2	500.00
Grass & Brush Fires	2	-
Rubbish Fires	2	-
Others	<u>4</u>	<u>133.20</u>
TOTAL	10	633.20

UNKNOWN

	<u>8</u>	<u>141,530.00</u>
TOTAL	109	454,641.96

OCCUPANCY GROUP CLASSIFICATION

<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>\$</u>
Residential	60	48,013.30	
Assembly	7	148,037.41	
Manufacturing	3	3,211.28	
Mercantile	2	155,101.77	
Storage	3	1,222.00	
Transportation	10	5,408.20	
Miscellaneous	<u>24</u>	<u>93,648.00</u>	
TOTAL	109	454,641.96	

SUMMARY OF FATALITIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Circumstances</u>
SHAE John Alex	4	M	Jan. 15	Fort Good Hope	Child left unattended - clothing caught on fire presumably from stove.
COURTOREILLE Patricia Gale	17	F	Apr. 9	West Channel Hay River	Married Couple - Fire discovered in advanced state by passer-by at 3:30 a.m. - cause unknown Oil stove known to be faulty.
COURTOREILLE Sylvester	21	M	Apr. 9	"	"
MESSER Gerome Patrick	10 months	M	May 27	Yellowknife	Child left unattended - cause of fire unknown

SNOWSHOE Clarence	21	Nov. 13	Peel River Indian Village	Fire discovered in advanced state about 3:00 a.m. - cause unknown. Deceased. Only occupants had been drinking all evening.
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VITTEKWA William	34	M Nov. 13	"	"
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LARGE LOSSES OVER \$50,000.00

JANUARY 23rd, WHALE COVE

Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources School, totally destroyed. Smoke noticed in building at 2:00 a.m. but not reported. Fire observed about 8:00 a.m. Winds gusting to 90 mph helped spread fire. Suspected cause - electrical short circuit - \$ 82,000.00

JANUARY 25th, COPPERMINE

Department of Transport - Standby power plant (unattended), interior wood sheathed. Fire discovered at 3:50 a.m. Suspected cause - short circuit \$ 65,000.00

JUNE 13th, MOULD BAY

Department of Mines and Technical Surveys - (Polar Continental Shelf Project). Building caught fire while thawing frozen ground under building with open flame. Complete loss \$ 58,000.00

SEPTEMBER 5th, FORT McPHERSON

A one storey wood frame store. Fire discovered about 2:15 a.m. and soon out of control due to delay in starting water truck, also some hose threads were not uniform. \$ 50,713.05

DECEMBER 5th, FROBISHER BAY

A one storey wood frame store, 24 ft. x 80 ft. Fire well developed at time of alarm at 1:00 p.m. Fire brigade prevented fire from spreading to other buildings. \$105,000.00

INVESTIGATION OF FIRES

All the fires listed in the Record of Fires were investigated either by the RCMP Police, municipal fire chiefs, fire prevention officials of the Department of Transport, or by this office. Reports of all fires are on file in the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The reports are all closely reviewed with a view to ascertaining lessons which may be used to reduce the loss of life, injury or property damage. This information is passed on to municipal and government officials, fire chiefs, and engineering departments. Where faulty design or operation of equipment has been evident, the various fire test and approval laboratories have been advised.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

The following inspection trips were made either by the Fire Marshal or Deputy Fire Marshal:

March 25th - April 11th

Fort Smith	Aklavik
Yellowknife	Fort McPherson
Cambridge Bay	Inuvik
Coppermine	
Holman Island	

Pine Point
Providence
Enterprise

Fort Rae
Stag River
Hay River

August 8th - August 11th

Frobisher Bay
Apex Hill

August 22nd - September 11th

Fort Smith
Hay River
Fort Simpson

Pine Point
Enterprise

November 17th - December 3rd

Eskimo Point
Rankin Inlet
Chesterfield Inlet

Coral Harbour
Whale Cove

The 500 gpm fire truck which was purchased for Aklavik was inspected and tested at the factory at Pierreville, Quebec, before it was shipped north.

MUNICIPAL PROTECTION

FACILITIES

Major improvements have been implemented in the following locations:

Aklavik - A new 500 gpm fire truck was placed in service. A vacant building renovated as a fire station was located in a more central location.

Fort Smith - A new two bay fire hall with a bachelor suite and office located on the first floor was officially opened in August. Meeting room facilities are provided in the basement. The waterworks system was extended and two hydrants were installed.

Fort Rae - A 500 gallon domestic water delivery truck was provided. The truck is equipped with a small amount of fire hose and nozzles.

Fort Simpson - The waterworks system was extended and three fire hydrants were installed.

TRAINING

A Fire Officers' Training Course was conducted at Fort Smith from August 24th to 29th. Seventeen men enrolled and represented the settlements of Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Consolidated Discovery Gold Mines, Con Mines, Yellowknife and Fort Smith. Two members of the Uranium City Fire Department also participated in the training.

The five day course included instruction and practical exercised on the use of breathing apparatus, pumper operations, ladder drills, fire extinguisher maintenance, tactical exercises and discussion of fire prevention activities.

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING SERVICES

Plans and specifications for Federal and privately owned buildings were examined. Fire protection requirements were determined and recommendations were made to provide adequate protection.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Posters, proclamations and special newspaper editions were sent to all fire chiefs for distribution during Spring Clean-Up and Fire Prevention Week Campaigns.

Two 16mm. films with sound were purchased for the film library at Fort Smith. These included - "The Nozzleman" and "The Price of Fire."

The Inuvik Fire Department brought honours to the Territories by placing third in their population class of 2500 and under in the National Fire Prevention Contest for all of Canada. Highlights of their year's activity included a comprehensive building inspection plan, fire evacuation drills and fire prevention lectures to building maintenance cleaning staffs.