



# 2018 Annual Report

Office of the Fire Marshal

# Rapport Annuel 2018

Bureau du commissaire aux incendies

*Le present document contient la traduction française du résumé*



*Prepared by the Department of  
Municipal and Community Affairs*

*Document préparé par le ministère  
d'Affaires Municipales et  
Communautaires*

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English

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.

French

Kīspin ki nitawih̄tīn ē nīhīyawih̄k ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsīnān.

Cree

Tłıchq̄ yatı k'è è . Dı wegodı newq̄ dè, gots'ō gonede.

Tłıchq̄

ʔerih̄t'īs Dēne Sų́líné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóltı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgáh got'ıe zhatıé k'è é edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahıı.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'ı ne xədə k'é hederı ʔedıhtı'é yerııwę ní dé dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ıjāhch'uu zhit yınohthan jı', diıts'āt ginohkhıı.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqłuta.

Inuvialuktun

Ćᵇᵈᵏ ᵏᵏᶜᵇᵔᵕᶜ ᵏᵏᵏᵏᵕᵏᶜ ᵕᵇᵔᵕᵕᶜᶜᵇᵏᵕᵕᵏᵇ, ᵔᶜᶜᵏᵏᵇᶜ ᵔᶜᵇᵕᵕᶜᵕᶜᵔᵕᵏᶜ.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Message from the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect upon the status and response operations of community fire departments and OFM activities over the past year. This report helps identify trends which highlight many of the challenges of operating fire departments in the Northwest Territories (NWT). It also informs the development of fire prevention and protection priorities for the coming year in order to protect NWT residents and property from the threat of fire.



Fire risk due to accidents, natural hazards, human caused and other factors vary across NWT communities. Impacts due to fires can place a heavy burden on families, communities and governments due to losses which are in many cases preventable. Fire prevention and protection is critical to reducing loss of life, injury and damage to our homes, schools and public buildings.

Preventing fires and delivery of fire services in our communities would not be possible without the many career and volunteer firefighters across the NWT who are our most important and valuable resource. They are dedicated, determined and caring individuals fully prepared to defend and protect the lives and property of those who choose to live, work and invest in the NWT. The OFM continues to recognize, and residents continue to celebrate, these selfless individuals for their efforts in protecting NWT communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chucker Dewar  
Northwest Territories Fire Marshal

# Executive Summary

The Office of the Fire Marshal continues its efforts to assist communities with their fire protection and prevention efforts through providing guidance & tools to enhance and support community fire departments. Collaboration with community representatives and other partners is critical to strengthening relationships and advancing community fire service delivery while following industry best practices and meeting extensive safety requirements.

Key initiatives in support of communities for 2018 included:

- Supporting community governments by assisting with the use of tools and establishment of key activities to strengthen community fire protection services;
- Continuing activities identified in the Community Fire Protection Plan focused on supporting and further strengthening community fire protection through assessments;
- Working with communities and other stakeholders to create an action plan to improve the development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system; and
- Continuing work toward updating the *Fire Prevention Act* and *Regulations*.

In 2018, there were 257 reported fires in the NWT, 25 of which required investigation. This is near average when compared to the five year trend. The resulting per capita loss was just above \$10 million, an increase of 4.3% over the previous year. A total of 454 fire safety inspections were completed which is consistent with the five year average. Fire training continued to be offered in support of community fire departments. General observations include a need to:

- Continue working closely with community fire services personnel and residents to bring a greater awareness to Fire Prevention programming.
- Assist communities to understanding their fire training needs and to assist in identifying and developing training curriculum, fire service training priorities and delivery strategies.
- Be flexible across regions in how the OFM meets its regulatory obligations related to fire inspections.
- Work with communities in the development of local fire prevention education programs aimed at raising awareness and managing risks.

Annual activities focus on continuing to inform residents of fire risk, strengthening local fire department capacity, ensuring buildings meet fire safety requirements and to recognizing firefighter contributions to the fire service. These activities include:

- A Fire Prevention Week public awareness campaign to educate residents and promote fire safety;
- Training initiatives to ensure community access to accredited and non-accredited fire training through a variety of delivery methods;
- Plan review activity to ensure building drawings and specifications for construction meet the requirements of the *Fire Prevention Act* and adopted codes and standards; and
- Fire Service Merit Awards to provide recognition of individuals and fire departments for merit and long service.

# Résumé

Le Bureau du commissaire aux incendies poursuit ses efforts pour aider les collectivités à prévenir les incendies et à s'en protéger en leur offrant des conseils et des outils pour améliorer et soutenir les services d'incendie communautaires. La collaboration avec les représentants communautaires et les autres partenaires est essentielle pour renforcer les liens et développer les services d'incendie communautaires tout en respectant les pratiques exemplaires de l'industrie et les nombreuses exigences de sécurité en vigueur.

Voici les principales initiatives menées pour appuyer les collectivités en 2019 :

- soutenir les administrations communautaires en les aidant à utiliser des outils et à mettre en place les activités clés pour renforcer les services de protection contre les incendies communautaires;
- poursuivre les activités cernées dans le Plan communautaire de protection contre les incendies visant à appuyer et à renforcer la protection communautaire contre les incendies grâce à des évaluations;
- travailler avec les collectivités et d'autres intervenants pour élaborer un plan d'action visant à améliorer le développement et l'entretien du système de Services d'ambulance terrestre et de secours routier des TNO;
- poursuivre la mise à jour de la *Loi sur la prévention des incendies* et de ses *règlements*.

En 2018, il y a eu 257 feux signalés aux TNO, dont 25 qui ont nécessité une enquête. Ces chiffres approchent de la moyenne lorsque l'on effectue une comparaison sur cinq ans. La perte enregistrée a été tout juste supérieure à 10 millions \$, soit une augmentation de 4,3 % par rapport à l'année précédente. En tout, 454 inspections de sécurité incendie ont été réalisées, ce qui correspond à la moyenne sur cinq ans. La formation sur la lutte contre les incendies est encore offerte dans les services d'incendie communautaires. Voici certaines observations générales sur les besoins :

- continuer à travailler en étroite collaboration avec le personnel des services d'incendie communautaires et les Ténos afin d'accroître la sensibilisation aux programmes de prévention des incendies;
- aider les collectivités à comprendre leurs besoins de formation sur la lutte contre les incendies, et à déterminer et à élaborer le programme de formation, les priorités en matière de formation et des stratégies pour offrir la formation;
- faire preuve de souplesse selon les différentes régions dans la façon dont le Bureau du commissaire aux incendies applique les exigences réglementaires sur les inspections de sécurité incendie;
- travailler avec les collectivités pour élaborer des programmes d'information locaux sur la prévention des incendies axés sur la sensibilisation et la gestion des risques.

Les activités annuelles visent à informer les Ténos sur les risques d'incendie, à renforcer les capacités des services d'incendie locaux, à s'assurer que les immeubles respectent les exigences de sécurité incendie et à reconnaître la contribution des pompiers aux services d'incendie. Ces activités comprennent :

- la Semaine de prévention des incendies, une campagne de sensibilisation destinée à informer les Ténos et à promouvoir la sécurité incendie;

- des initiatives de formation pour assurer un accès à des formations en lutte contre les incendies accréditées ou non par l'entremise de différentes méthodes;
- un examen du plan pour s'assurer que les dessins et les spécifications techniques des immeubles respectent les exigences de la *Loi sur la prévention des incendies*, et les codes et les normes en vigueur;
- les prix d'excellence des services d'incendie pour souligner l'excellence et les états de services des services d'incendie et de leurs membres.



# Office of the Fire Marshal

## Mandate

To work with partners to minimize the risk of fire and any related property damage, injury, or loss of life through prevention, investigation and code compliance.

## Duties and Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the OFM are established in the Northwest Territories *Fire Prevention Act* which requires the OFM to perform the following duties:

- Keep a record of fires reported;
- Disseminate information and advice about fire prevention and fire protection by means of public meetings, press articles, exhibitions, radio, television or other publicity campaigns;
- Review plans for the construction, alteration, and repair of structures for compliance with adopted codes and standards, and with a view to determining that proper precautions are taken against fire and the spread of fire;
- Conduct fire prevention inspections from time to time to determine if precautions against fire and the spread of fire are adequate and satisfactorily maintained;
- Conduct fire investigations to determine the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires;
- Contribute to the development of community fire departments through identification of training programs and courses and the provision of guidance to meet industry standards and best practices;
- Submit an annual report to the Minister setting out causes and origins of fires, information on fatalities or injuries inflicted by fire, investigations and any necessary inquiries of fires, prosecutions for arson or attempted arson, a summary of OFM administration of fire prevention and community fire protection activity, together with any other information that the Minister may request; and
- Advise and make recommendations to the Minister with respect to:
  - The establishment of fire departments, the necessary organization and equipment of fire departments and the establishment of training programs for firefighters;
  - The provision of adequate water supply for fire-fighting purposes;
  - The installation and maintenance of fire-alarm systems and fire extinguishing equipment;
  - The storage, use, sale or disposal of combustibles, explosives or other flammable material;
  - The construction and maintenance of fire-escapes and other exit facilities in the event of fire or the alarm of fire; and
  - The types and adequacy of fire-alarms in communities and, in or on any building or property.



## Staff

In 2018, the OFM consisted of eight staff members who filled the following positions:

- Fire Marshal;
- Chief Code Compliance Engineer (plan review);
- Senior Policy Advisor;
- Assistant Fire Marshal, Sahtu Region;
- Assistant Fire Marshal, Inuvik Region;
- Assistant Fire Marshal, North Slave Region;
- Assistant Fire Marshal, Dehcho Region; and
- Assistant Fire Marshal, South Slave Region.

## Partnerships

The OFM works with a variety of organizations and groups on issues associated with fire safety. They are as follows:

- NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC);
- Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT);
- Northwest Territories Fire Chief's Association (NWTFCFA); and
- Workers Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC).

The OFM also works with a variety of other organizations and groups on issues associated with fire safety. They are as follows:

- Council of Canadian Fire Marshal and Fire Commissioners (CCFMFC);
- Canadian Fire Safety Advisory Council (CFSAC);
- Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC);
- National Research Council of Canada (NRCC); and
- Provincial / Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes (PTPACC).

# Current Initiatives

## Supporting Community Governments

In 2017, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) completed a Performance Audit of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) focusing on areas involving health and safety. Stemming from this work, 13 recommendations were made by the OAG for MACA to improve support for community governments, including immediate actions to reassess whether communities with fire departments meet requirements under the *Safety Act*. For those fire departments that do not, MACA should work with community government to establish a plan to assist them in meeting requirements. For community governments without fire departments, the Department should work with them to develop a strategy for fire safety.

In response to the OAG's recommendations, the OFM implemented tools and actions in 2017 to strengthen community fire protection services for NWT communities, including a community fire protection presentation to educate municipal governments on roles, responsibilities, and key elements of their fire service; a community fire department assessment to provide an efficient means to determine the operational status and resource needs of fire departments; and a planning tool to help community governments identify priority activities and monitor progress. A key benchmark for the assessment is the WSCC's Firefighter Code of Practice.

Since implementing the assessment tool in 2017, twenty-three (23) community fire departments have been reviewed and action plans have been developed for fourteen (14). Results from the assessments indicate a need for updated bylaws, trained volunteers, standard operating procedures and maintenance programs. The OFM created templates for communities to ensure these important foundational elements are implemented to meet safety requirements.

Work continues in 2019 to complete assessments for the remaining communities that require them and to help community governments implement corresponding action plans.

## Community Fire Protection Plan – Update

In 2018, the OFM continued working on the Community Fire Protection Plan which aims to support and strengthen community fire protection in the NWT. Initiatives in the Plan are implemented and maintained by an advisory committee, which includes the NWT Association of Communities, the Local Government Administrators of the NWT, the NWT Fire Chief's Association, and the NWT Workers Safety Compensation Commission. Since the start of the initiative in 2014-15, the following progress has been achieved:

- A web-based community fire protection resource centre for community governments and local fire officials;
- A community fire protection presentation to help educate elected officials on roles, responsibilities, and key elements of the fire service;
- A Firefighter Code of Practice which provides practical guidance to achieve the safety requirements of the NWT and Nunavut Safety Acts and related Regulations;
- A fire department assessment tool;
- A fire protection action planning tool and guide for community governments;
- A community fire protection bylaw template;
- A standard equipment guide;
- A volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention toolkit for community governments;
- A scene safety and security course for communities with limited response capability;
- An annual fire prevention week campaign;
- An information campaign to warn the public about the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning; and
- A derelict building management tool.

Initiatives planned for the final year of the Plan in 2019 include templates for standard operating procedures, a central resource for fire training and safety information, and continued efforts to support community fire departments with capacity building and achieving compliance with safety requirements. Newly developed tools have been applied in approximately twenty-three fire departments across the NWT and efforts continue in helping communities strengthen their capacity.

## Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Action Plan

Since 2017, MACA has been working with stakeholders and community governments to create an action plan to improve development and maintenance of the NWT's ground ambulance and highway rescue system. Considerable work occurred in 2018 which culminated in a research and consultation report that formed the basis of an action plan. The action plan places an immediate priority on a governance framework and establishing an acceptable fiscal arrangement between the GNWT and community governments. A key success factor is mandating the OFM to lead the initiative starting in summer 2019. Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services are delivered by community fire departments, which is a common service delivery model in Canada.

Over the next two years, the OFM will work closely with community fire departments to examine key cost drivers, revenue streams, and other service related data. This information will be used as a basis for updating the current funding arrangement. In the meantime, \$185,000 available in MACA's budget will continue to flow to communities delivering services on territorial highways.

Further details about the Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Action Plan Project are available on MACA's website.

## Fire Prevention Act Review - Update

In 2018, it was MACA's intention to continue work on the *Fire Prevention Act (FPA)* and *Regulations*, which started in 2017 with public consultation on desired changes. However, given the need to focus considerable attention on key provisions in the legislation involving building code compliance, the legislative initiative is now deferred to the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Section 5 of the *Act* serves to verify that construction plans and specifications comply with adopted codes and standards and stakeholders have confirmed a desire to further discuss the current approach with a view to adequately balancing infrastructure development with public safety. MACA anticipates the scope of future work will consider other related inspection, permitting, and code-compliance activities administered by municipal authorities and GNWT infrastructure departments, with a view to encouraging an integrated approach for code compliance in the NWT, as is common in throughout Canada.

# Regional Statistical Summaries

## South Slave

	Fires Reported	False Alarms <sup>[1]</sup>	Fire Investigations	Fire Inspections
Enterprise	0	0	0	3
Fort Resolution	0	0	0	10
Fort Smith	14	20	0	59
Hay River	17	32	2	16
Fort Providence	1	0	1	7
Kát'odeeche	0	0	0	0
Kakisa	0	0	0	1
Hinterland	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>96</b>

### List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Community	Building Name	Dollar Loss
Hay River	35-105St	\$200,000
Fort Providence	Housing Materials Shop	\$150,000
	Total	\$350,000

### Fire Loss by Act or Omission (OFM investigations)

Accidental	0
Natural	0
Incendiary	0
Undetermined	3

<sup>[1]</sup> False alarm data is typically only reported by larger communities.

<sup>[2]</sup> Hay River Fire Chief conducted 20 of the 96 reported inspections.

## Deh Cho

	Fires Reported	False Alarms	Fire Investigations	Fire Inspections
Fort Liard	0	0	0	1
Fort Simpson	14	6	0	13
Jean Marie River	0	0	0	1
Nahanni Butte	0	0	0	1
Trout Lake	0	0	0	2
Wrigley	0	0	0	1
Hinterland	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>

### List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Community	Building Name	Dollar Loss
There were no fire losses exceeding \$100,000		

### Fire Loss by Act or Omission

Accidental	0
Natural	0
Incendiary	0
Undetermined	0

## Sahtu

	Fires Reported	False Alarms	Fire Investigations	Fire Inspections
Colville Lake	0	0	0	0
Déljñę	0	0	0	4
Fort Good Hope	0	0	0	6
Norman Wells	1	0	1	3
Tulita	1	0	1	2
Hinterland	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>

### List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Community	Building Name	Dollar Loss
Tulita	NWT Housing 4 Plex	\$100,001
	Total	\$100,001

### Fire Loss by Act or Omission (OFM investigations)

Accidental	1
Natural	0
Incendiary	0
Undetermined	1

## Beaufort Delta

	Fires Reported	False Alarms	Fire Investigations	Fire Inspections
Aklavik	2	0	2	5
Fort McPherson	1		1	5
Inuvik	25	72	1	10
Paulatuk	0	0	0	5
Sachs Harbour	0	0	0	4
Tsiigehtchic	0	0	0	3
Tuktoyaktuk	1	0	0	4
Ulukhaktok	0	0	0	5
Hinterland	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>

*\*2 of the 4 fire investigations conducted were done by the RCMP due to no road access.*

### List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Community	Building Name	Dollar Loss
Inuvik	Personal Residence	\$500,000
	Total	\$500,000

### Fire Loss by Act or Omission (OFM investigations)

Accidental	2
Natural	0
Incendiary	2
Undetermined	0

## North Slave

	Fires Reported	False Alarms	Fire Investigations	Fire Inspections
Dettah	0	0	0	1
Behchokö	1	0	1	13
Gamètì	0	0	0	8
Łutsel K'e	0	0	0	0
N'Dilo	0	0	0	1
Wekweètì	0	0	0	6
Whatì	0	0	0	1
Yellowknife	179	231	15	252
Hinterland	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>282</b>

*\*188 of the 252 inspections listed in Yellowknife were conducted by the OFM. The remaining 64 were conducted by the Yellowknife Fire Department.*

### List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

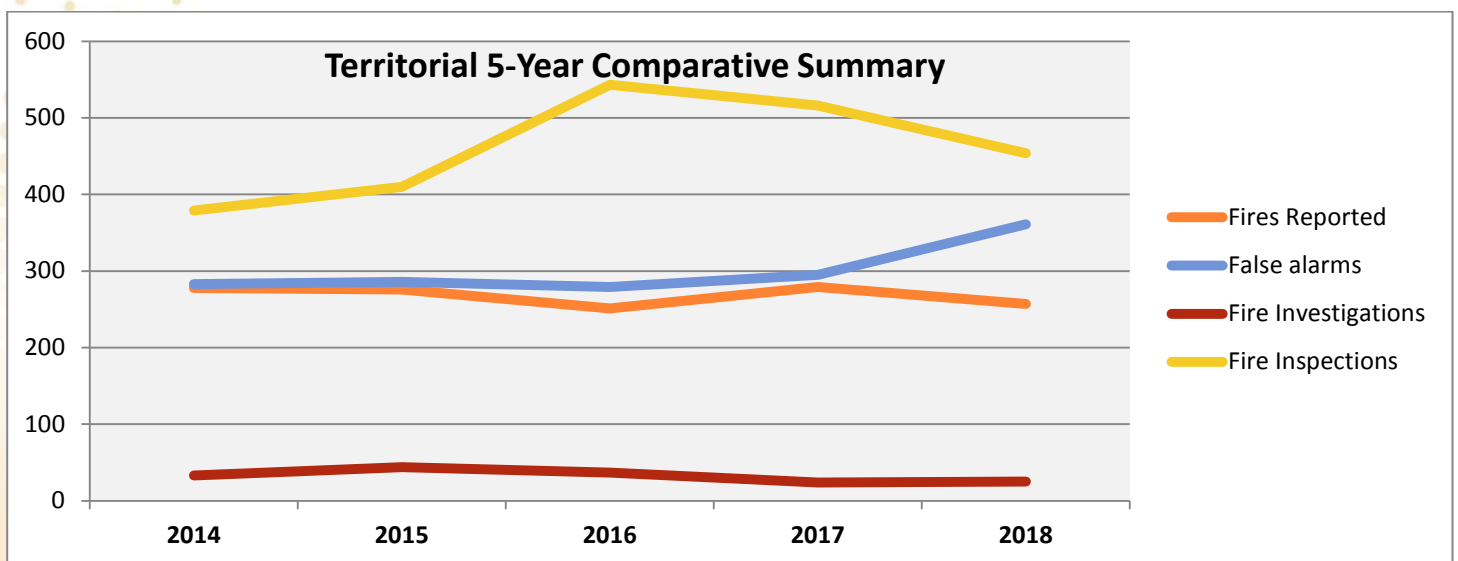
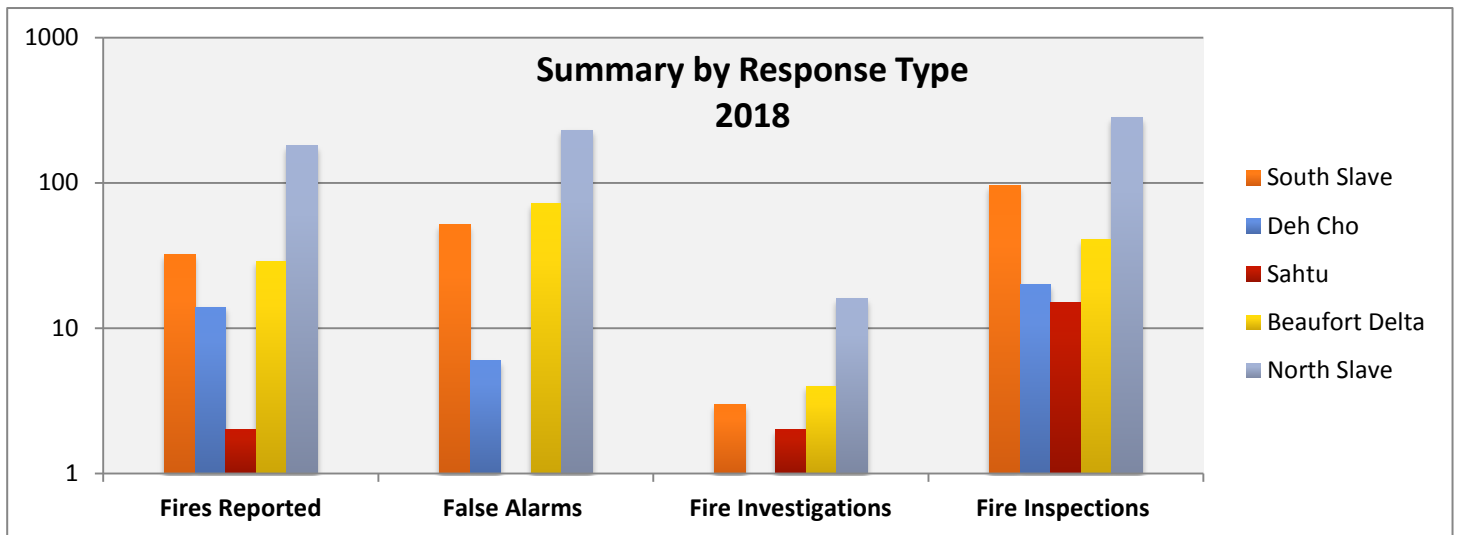
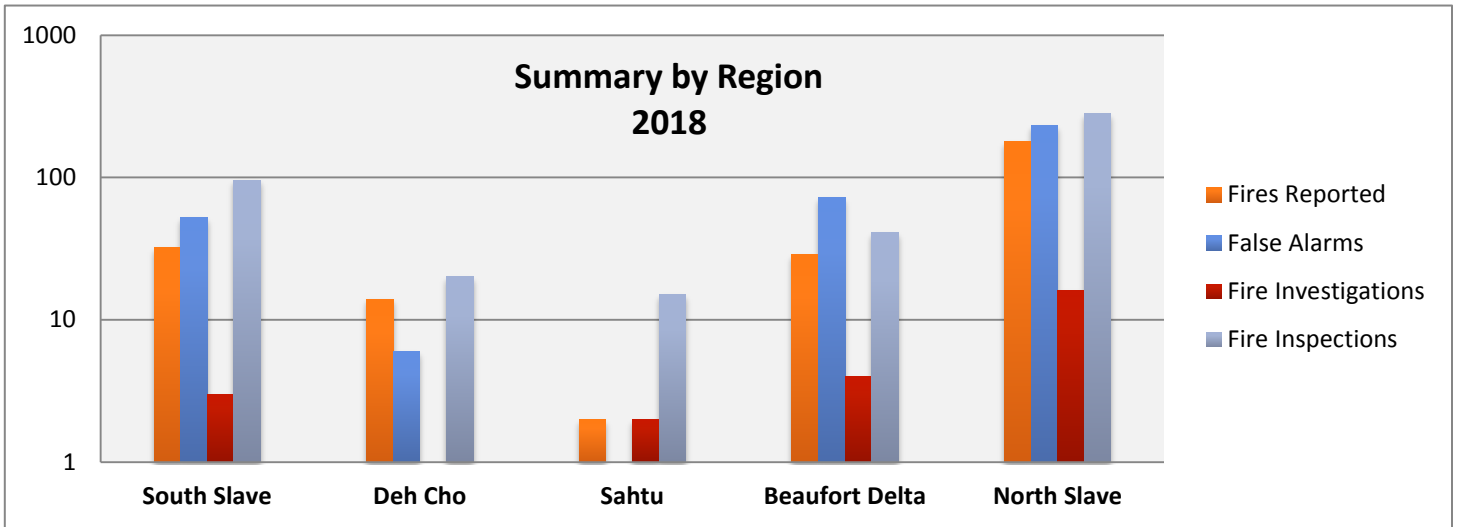
Community	Building Name	Dollar Loss
Yellowknife	76 Curry Drive	\$750,000
Yellowknife	4916 – 46 St.	\$203,000
Yellowknife	402 Byrne Rd.	\$210,000
Yellowknife	5124 49th St.	\$2,000,000
Yellowknife	Ace Enterprises	\$227,000
Yellowknife	Rockhill Apartments	\$5,100,000
Yellowknife	11 Gold City Court	\$500,000
Yellowknife	5612 51A Ave	\$750,000
	Total	\$9,740,000

### Fire Loss by Act or Omission (OFM investigations)

Accidental	9
Natural	0
Incendiary	1
Undetermined	6



# Territorial Response Statistics



## Incendiary Fire Occurrences (Arson)

An incendiary fire (Arson) is the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property. Arson fires occur every year in the NWT and continue to be a concern to the OFM. When a fire occurs with criminal intent, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are the lead investigative agency with the OFM providing fire investigation expertise and support as needed. **In 2018, the RCMP reported 46 arson investigations; this is a 35% increase from the previous year.**

Arson investigation outcomes were as follows:

<b>*ARSON INVESTIGATIONS SUMMARY</b>	
Cleared of charge	6
Cleared (under 12 yrs)	2
Cleared (diversion program)	2
Unsolved	28
Unfounded	7
Remain under investigation	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>

\* RCMP maintain independent statistics on arson related fires and provide to OFM annually

## Injury & Cost Analysis

The following is a summary of population, fire and cost statistics for the five regions of the NWT in 2018.

	South Slave	Dehcho	Sahtu	Beaufort Delta	North Slave	Northwest Territories
<b>Population</b>	7,570	3,374	2,637	6,880	24,080	44,541
<b>Fires Reported</b>	32	14	2	29	179	256
<b>Dollar loss (000)</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$9,740</b>	<b>\$10,690</b>
<b>\$\$ loss per Capita</b>	\$46	\$0	\$38	\$73	\$404	\$240
<b>Fatalities</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Injuries</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

## General Observations

- The total number of fires reported in 2018 was 257 of which 25 required an OFM investigation.
  - The number of fires classified as accidental increased over the 2018 period. These types of fires have a known cause and origin which indicates a need to continue working closely with community fire services personnel and residents to bring a greater awareness to Fire Prevention programming.
  - The number of fires classified as undetermined remained similar to 2017. Fires are classified as undetermined when the cause cannot be proven to an acceptable level of certainty, or where there is insufficient information to classify further.
- In 2018 the loss per capita increased by 4.3% from the 2017 statistical data. This measure is based on the economic loss per person in the Territory resulting from fires exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.
  - In 2018 the total dollar loss for the Territory was slightly over 10 million dollars, similar to the previous year. However, approximately 50% of the total loss can be attributed to a multi-residential apartment building fire in Yellowknife.
- Fire safety inspections ensure compliance with adopted codes and standards. There were 454 inspections conducted in 2018, 63 percent of these occurred in the North Slave Region. This indicates the need for flexibility across regions in meeting the OFM's regulatory obligations.
- RCMP data shows a 35% increase in arson investigations over the previous year. The OFM works with communities in the development of local fire prevention education programs aimed at raising awareness and managing risks.
- In 2018 the OFM collaborated with MACA's School of Community Government to ensure community access to accredited and non-accredited fire training. The focus of fire training for smaller communities was related to scene safety and security and defensive firefighter training. Larger communities possessing greater capacity focused on the professional firefighter training program. The OFM should continue to:
  - Assist with identifying and developing training curriculum, fire service training priorities and delivery strategies consistent with the OFM's Fire Protection strategy.
  - Assist communities in understanding their fire training needs and developing appropriate fire training plans.

# On-Going Activities

## Fire Prevention Week

Each year, the OFM looks to Fire Prevention Week (FPW) to educate residents and promote fire safety awareness initiatives in line with the national theme. In 2018, FPW occurred October 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>, and the theme was “Look, Listen, Learn – Be Aware, Fire Can Happen Anywhere!” NWT fire and life safety educators helped to raise awareness on the various causes of fires.

The OFM targets three main audiences during FPW:

### Residents

General fire safety information is shared with NWT residents to help them understand and better prepare for the dangers of fire. In 2018, the following materials were shared with residents:

- Fire Safety Starts With You (FSSWY) student activity booklets;
- Fire chief/teacher/parent letters;
- NFPA fire safety tip sheets; and
- MACA maintains Fire Prevention Week webpage.

### Schools

Schools have an important role in helping to educate children and their families on the importance of fire safety. Fire department members may also be invited to participate in a school presentation, activity, or sharing fire safety tips. This year the following materials were shared with schools:

- A principal and teacher letter describing the FPW campaign and encouraging participation;
- FSSWY student activity booklets with puzzles, games, quizzes, and general fire safety information;
- A teacher lesson plan with suggested activities on how to make effective use of the activity booklets; and
- A family letter and home fire safety inspection checklist encouraging parents to review the FSSWY activity booklets with their children and inspect their home for fire safety.

### Community Fire Departments

Program materials and guidance information is provided to assist community fire departments with maximizing the effectiveness of FPW activities. This year the following materials were shared with fire departments:

- A letter to fire departments encouraging their participation in FPW;
- General tips for promoting FPW; and
- A community smoke alarm program guide.

## Training Initiatives

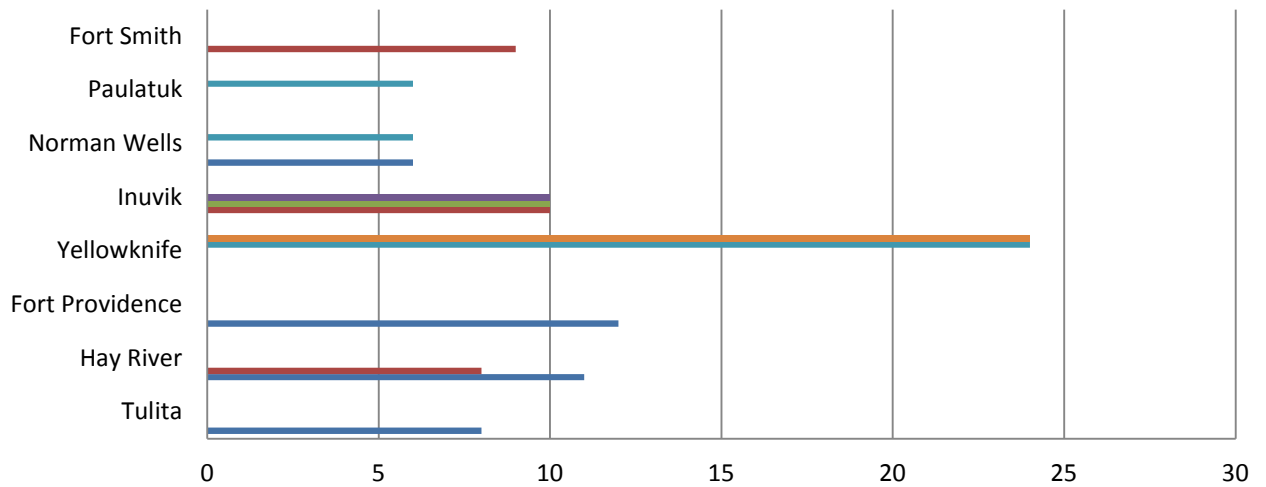
MACA's School of Community Government (SCG) provides communities accredited and non-accredited fire training through a variety of delivery methods (i.e. in-community (face to face) and online delivery methods) using Territorial and College of the Rockies fire training instructors who also provide evaluation of firefighters in the form of written and practical testing that meets industry standards.

Customized fire training programs allows flexible and community driven initiatives to enhance community protection and preparedness. Accreditation by the College of the Rockies allows participants to hold certification under recognized Fire Fighting standards and enhances personal development as well as generates a set base of volunteers making those skills applicable anywhere in the NWT or Canada.

Communities can request training from a Basic level (prevention based) up to a Professional level - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1001) depending on community objectives, available resources, needs and capacity. Additional training options are also available (i.e. Fire Inspection training (NFPA 1031) / Fire Investigator (NFPA 1033) / Fire Officer (NFPA 1021)) for community application.

The chart identifies fire training that was provided in the NWT for 2018 based on the type of training received.

### Fire Protection Training Stats 2018



	Tulita	Hay River	Fort Providence	Yellowknife	Inuvik	Norman Wells	Paulatuk	Fort Smith
■ Pump Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
■ NWT FCA AGM	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0
■ NWT Fire Scene Security	0	0	0	24	0	6	6	0
■ NFPA 472 Hazmat Operations	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
■ NFPA 472 Hazmat Awareness	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
■ NFPA 1001 Professional Firefighter	0	8	0	0	10	0	0	9
■ Level 2 - Defensive	8	11	12	0	0	6	0	0

\*numbers represent participants

## Plan Review

Plan review is the examination of building drawings and specifications to ascertain whether they meet the requirements of the *Fire Prevention Regulations* and adopted codes and standards. The OFM is responsible for reviewing plans for all construction in the NWT excluding single family dwellings and ancillary structures for single family dwellings.

With the exception of Yellowknife, there is no regulatory authority in the NWT to ensure a building is safe for public occupancy in relation to adopted codes and standards, beyond the fire safety requirements identified by the *Fire Prevention Act*. Plans and specifications are reviewed by the OFM to determine whether they meet the fire safety requirements adopted by the *Fire Prevention Regulations*, and developers are responsible to ensure all statutory requirements are met and construction is completed in a manner consistent with the OFM plan review assessment.

The OFM also participates as a member of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, and the Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes. These committees coordinate the development and revision of the codes adopted through the *Fire Prevention Act* that govern all construction and renovation in the NWT.

The plan review activity involves a wide variety of construction projects including multi-residential, commercial, resource development, fuel storage and dispensing, mining, oil and gas, water supply, etc. Plan review is conducted on a fee for service basis.

**In 2018, the OFM reviewed 94 plans for construction of new buildings and/or alterations of existing buildings.**

## Fire Service Merit Awards

Community firefighters and fire departments play a critical role in safeguarding residents and communities of the NWT. Firefighters are relied upon to provide an essential service that protects the lives and property of all NWT residents. MACA acknowledges the vital contributions made by fire fighters and fire departments through the Fire Service Merit Awards Program (FSMA). The FSMA includes awards for individuals and community fire departments.

All community fire departments, volunteer, and paid fire fighters in the NWT are eligible to receive a FSMA. Nominees are considered for awards based on their contribution to the NWT fire service and/or community fire protection.

This contribution may include, but is not limited to:

- An outstanding achievement in fire protection;
- An innovative idea or solution to a fire related issue;
- A high degree of personal commitment;
- A demonstrated improvement over the past year (including training achievements); and
- The impact of achievements on the community and/or the territory.

Community fire service awards are presented to recognize outstanding efforts to the NWT fire service made by a community. Only those communities that have shown a marked enhancement of emergency service to the community, measured against a formal assessment by the OFM, will be considered in a given year. A selection committee chooses award recipients from among all nominations received by the public.

FSMA may be presented to recipients at a public awards ceremony to be held each year to coincide with FPW (the week containing October 9th of each year). Awards are presented regionally.

In 2018, the following nominee's received a FSMA:

#### **Individual**

- Steve Nicoll – Fort Simpson Fire Department – Dedication and commitment to residents of Fort Simpson and his mentorship of FSFD Volunteers;
- Combined Award - Yellowknife Fire Chief John Fredrick's and IAFF President Christian Bittroff – Outstanding Collaboration in achieving OH&S and Community Fire Protection Excellence; and
- John Steinwand – Whati Fire Chief – Outstanding dedication and commitment to providing for the safety of the residents of Whati.

#### **Fire Departments**

- Fort Providence Fire Department – Significant advancements in achieving organizational excellence and safety compliance; and
- Wekweeti Fire Department – Response efforts to July 11, 2018 Wildfire in community.

## **Length of Service Awards**

MACA recognizes volunteer and paid firefighters who have served for lengths of 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years with length of service pins, medals, or a commemorative clasp and service bar for each period.

All volunteer and paid firefighters are eligible to receive length of service awards. As MACA does not keep records on community firefighters, the Department issues a call annually to fire departments and community governments for applications for each level of award as firefighters become eligible. Length of service is verified by the community Senior Administrative Officer or Fire Chief.

The OFM issues length of service awards as nominations are received and verified. Awards are typically presented at a community organized event. OFM may attend at the request of the community.

In 2018, ceremonies took place in the South Slave and DehCho regions to recognize NWT volunteer firefighters.

## **Contact Information**

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