

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

8<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 59<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 4-59

TABLED ON May 17, 1976



GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

PLEASE QUOTE

FILE A--3

*Subject Doc 4-59*

*Subled May 17, 1976*

Yellowknife, N.W.T.,  
XOE 1HO.

May 7, 1976.

COMMISSIONER,

I have the honour of submitting the 1975  
Fire Loss Report as required under the Fire Prevention  
Ordinances.

The report shows a summary sheet of the activities  
for 1975 with five year comparison charts. Fire losses for  
1975 were down considerably.

The inflationary aspect of building appreciation  
is taken into consideration.

I am sad that I must report to you eight  
deaths and 12 injuries which were caused by fires.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Adrian,  
Chief, Safety Division  
and  
Fire Marshal for the N.W.T.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
FIRE MARSHAL OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND  
CHIEF OF THE SAFETY DIVISION

The Fire Marshal of the Northwest Territories is also Chief of the Safety Division. Many of the duties overlap. The Organizational Chart shows two sections: Fire/Safety and Mechanical Safety.

The Division has been placed under one Chief since it allows maximum flexibility and optimum use of manpower. The Division has been divided into sections in order to maintain proper jurisdictional powers under the various protection ordinances administered. There are many overlapping areas of responsibility and personnel of each section must be aware of the requirements of the other section in order to educate the public in the whole concept of Safety.

Travelling costs have been kept to a minimum since one section administers more than one ordinance.

The Division is responsible for organizing volunteer groups who work in the community providing functional services such as fire protection, safety education, etc. There is a very close liaison between our Division and any groups interested in safety.

We regret that we have to include reporting of eight deaths and four injuries.

Deaths - 6 adult males

2 children

Injuries - 12 adult males

2 females

2 children

A six year statistical chart is found elsewhere in the report. The investigations of the causes of fires resulting in death reveal that the consumption of alcohol is directly or indirectly continuing to be a major contributing factor related to these deaths.

Fire losses for 1975 were down compared to 1974 and 1973.

Fire losses are calculated on the current value of the property. Property in most instances has and is continuing to appreciate in value rather than depreciate.

I would also bring to your attention that we have reviewed buildings valued at more than \$45,000,000. The increased number of properties in the Territories have to be taken into consideration in comparative statistics.

#### Fire Brigades

There are fifty-two fire brigades with over 500 registered volunteers. The volunteers are active in training, inspections and promoting fire safety in their community. One responsibility of the Fire Marshal's Office is to assist whenever possible in this training.

### Literature

Communities were supplied with fire prevention and safety literature. Over 25,000 pieces were distributed. Included were safety books translated into the Eskimo language.

### Training in School

2,300 elementary school children were trained in the save-a-life and extinguisher use program.

### Films

The division has 85 training and public education films on fire and safety. In 1975 seventy six were used by fire department and community organizations for training and public education. These were used 235 times and were viewed by 10,773 people.

### Inspections

In 1975 total dwelling inspections by our division were down. However inspections by community fire departments increased. More emphasis was placed on training the public in the use of fire extinguisher and training of fire departments. We feel that fire losses in 27 buildings were kept under \$200.00 because occupants used the extinguishers effectively. Occupants of seven dwellings were alerted by home smoke detectors and were able to escape or else fight the fires in the incipient stage.

Fire Safety Inspections	2,300
Electrical Inspections	3,274
Boiler Inspections	1,651
Boiler Registrations	2,112
Elevator Inspections	28
Welder's Exams	3
Engineer's Exams	17
New Boiler Design Reviews	46
Plan Reviews	143
Electrical Permits	925

Revenue Recovered from Electrical  
Permits, Boiler Registrations and  
Elevator Inspections. \$66,683.87

SAFETY DIVISION ORGANIZATION CHART

80 00

CHIEF, SAFETY  
DIVISION  
Fire Marshal

80 2511

HEAD, FIRE SAFETY  
Deputy Fire Marshal

Clerk Stone  
80 0042

80 2226

HEAD, MECHANICAL SECTION

80 2354  
Clerk Typist

Safety  
Officer  
80 2718

Fire &  
Safety  
Officer  
80 0043

Fire &  
Safety  
Officer  
80 0044

Fire &  
Safety  
Officer  
80 0551

Fire &  
Safety  
Officer  
80 1639

Trained  
Positio

Boiler &  
Pressure  
Vessel  
Inspector  
80 2572

Electrical  
& Elevato  
Inspector  
80 2520

Electrical  
& Elevato  
Inspector  
80 9019



The Fire Marshal for the N.W.T. is also Chief of the Safety Division which enforces and administers all Fire and Safety Ordinances, including inspections and investigations, the Fire Prevention Ordinance which sets and regulates standards required for fire prevention safety; the Petroleum Products Ordinance which regulates the handling of bulk oil and gas; the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance which regulates the installation and operation of boilers and pressure vessels, including the regulation of high pressure welding; and the Electrical Protection Ordinance which sets electrical safety standards; the Safety Ordinance which sets the standards for a safe working environment. The function also includes the enforcement of general safety practices including the inspection and regulation of equipment such as oil, gas and propane installations and elevators. Public education is a necessary element in the administration of this program.

DEATHS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
1970	-	-	7	7
1971	1	2	1	4
1972	5	1	9	15
1973	4	1	2	7
1974	6	2	-	8
1975	6		2	8

INJURIES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
1970	7	-	1	8
1971	5	1	-	6
1972	14	2	4	20
1973	5	4	3	12
1974	25	3	1	29
1975	12	2	2	16

1 Residential Properties

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	80	354,960.38
1971	98	388,432.86
1972	174	386,007.23
1973	174	1,216,417.74
1974	203	1,134,906.49
1975	140	941,278.82

2 Institutional Buildings

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	5	650.00
1971	6	195,300.00
1972	4	700.00
1973	3	4,070.00
1974	5	150,000.00
1975	2	350.00

3 Assembly Buildings

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	1	5.00
1971	3	12,550.00
1972	25	40,482.00
1973	9	817,555.00
1974	23	584,160.00
1975	3	5,575.00

4 Farm Properties

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	-	-
1971	-	-
1972	-	-
1973	-	-
1974	-	-
1975	-	-

5 Manufacturing Properties

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	15	164,430.00
1971	6	43,750.00
1972	-	-
1973	3	76,368.19
1974	3	500,000.00
1975	5	7,800.00

6 Mercantile Properties

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	33	484,555.00
1971	12	192,604.00
1972	46	811,320.27
1973	45	569,819.00
1974	74	1,795,682.37
1975	48	1,039,185.00

7 Miscellaneous Properties

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	37	30,000.00
1971	38	103,329.00
1972	107	82,055.00
1973	65	50,643.43
1974	69	37,697.00
1975	48	309,700.00

Totals

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	171	1,034,720.58
1971	163	935,965.86
1972	356 (includes call- outs)	1,320,564.50
1973	272	2,734,873.33
1974	377	4,202,455.86
1975	246	2,353,888.82

## Listing as to causes of fires:

## 1. Heating:

1 Stoves, Furnaces and Boilers

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	38	92,782.00
1971	43	306,746.21
1972	70	433,417.42
1973	60	400,267.00
1974	55	227,712.24
1975	38	673,625.00

a. Solid Fuel

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	4	2,405.00
1971	2	7,000.00
1972	4	4,500.00
1973	7	49,250.00
1974	4	14,000.00
1975	5	13,980.00

b. Oil Fired

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	32	89,327.00
1971	40	295,246.21
1972	59	398,252.42
1973	41	305,815.00
1974	45	113,112.24
1975	27	241,435.00

c. Gas Fired

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	2	1,050.90
1971	1	4,500.00
1972	7	40,665.00
1973	12	45,202.00
1974	6	90,600.00
1975	5	418,210.00

11 Defective and Overheated Chimneys and Flues

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	2	200.00
1971	1	10.00
1972	7	10,600.00
1973	5	2,350.00
1974	6	11,246.00
1975	4	175,550.00

111 Hot Ashes, Coals Open Fires

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	16	28,150.00
1971	4	3,024.00
1972	85	194,695.00
1973	19	1,017,210.00
1974	13	51,465.00
1975	13	40,850.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	17	34,078.58
1971	22	184,982.27
1972	52	187,549.63
1973	24	294,170.00
1974	59	1,138,733.00
1975	40	177,765.00

## 3. Smoking:

1 Matches

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	15	12,185.00
1971	18	23,454.88
1972	26	39,307.50
1973	32	141,285.00
1974	60	34,490.00
1975	27	99,695.00

11 Smokers' Carelessness

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	15	6,500.00
1971	24	42,949.50
1972	46	42,851.45
1973	39	219,607.00
1974	55	274,715.25
1975	40	210,388.00



## 4. Petroleum and Its Products

14

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	15	172,990.00
1971	10	65,430.00
1972	17	20,530.00
1973	11	12,080.00
1974	20	1,584,200.00
1975	21	46,625.00

## 5. Exposure

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	3	100.00
1971	9	14,885.00
1972	1	11,000.00
1973	9	14,390.00
1974	5	1,150.00
1975	6	75,300.00

## 6. Incendiarism

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	4	2,850.00
1971	3	180,700.00
1972	5	2,337.00
1973	10	48,858.40
1974	10	46,500.00
1975	3	2,400.00

I Lightning

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	-	-
1971	-	-
1972	-	-
1973	-	-
1974	-	-
1975	-	-

II Lights, Other than Electrical

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	-	-
1971	-	-
1972	-	-
1973	-	-
1974	-	-
1975	1	300

III Sparks on Roofs

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	-	-
1971	3	2,124.00
1972	-	-
1973	3	1,000.00
1974	-	-
1975	-	-

IV Spontaneous Ignition

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	3	108,500.00
1971	2	17,150.00
1972	5	5,580.00
1973	1	-
1974	2	5,590.00
1975	-	-

V Miscellaneous

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	11	472,280.00
1971	16	59,010.00
1972	23	319,950.00
1973	34	96,063.19
1974	19	28,494.00
1975	29	475,515.82

## 8. Unknown

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
1970	32	103,985.00
1971	9	35,500.00
1972	19	42,476.50
1973	24	487,592.74
1974	72	298,150.37
1975	23	330,815.00

Over \$50,000.00 Loss

<u>1970</u>				
<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OCCUPANCY</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>\$ LOSS</u>
Feb. 3	Terra Mine	Mine Building	Friction	296,000.00
Aug. 8	Clyde River	Power Plant	Friction	135,000.00
Sep. 27	Resolute Bay	Camp	Propane	160,000.00
Dec. 4	Frobisher Bay	Restaurant	Spontaneous	103,700.00
<u>1971</u>				
Jan. 15	Hall Beach	Hangar	Fuel	51,000.00
Jan. 30	Hay River	Hangar	Furnace	70,500.00
Feb. 24	Frobisher Bay	Garage	Furnace	65,000.00
Mar. 21	Fort McPherson	Nursing Station	Incendiarism	180,000.00
Nov. 1	Frobisher Bay	Apartment Block	Electrical	73,149.00
<u>1972</u>				
Jan. 18	Inuvik	Workshop	Welding	50,000.00
May 17	Igloolik	Bunkhouse	Oil Heater	60,000.00
May 21	Hay River	Fuel Barge	Engine	250,000.00
July 3	Frobisher Bay	Freight Shed	Oil Heater	170,000.00
Oct. 14	Resolute Bay	Workshop	Welding	72,000.00
<u>1973</u>				
Jan. 15	Cambridge Bay	Apartment Block	Candle	360,000.00
Mar. 14	Cambridge Bay	School	Heater	707,000.00
Mar. 22	Inuvik	Apartment Block	Unknown	278,538.74
Aug. 23	Frobisher Bay	Legion Hall	Match	108,000.00
Sep. 9	Terra Mine	Mine Building	Unknown	50,000.00
Nov. 18	Yellowknife	Hangar	Smoking	75,000.00
Nov. 23	Unsettled Area	Garage	Electrical	255,000.00
Dec. 12	Yellowknife	Shop/Dwelling	Heater	50,000.00
Dec. 18	Fort Simpson	Motel	Smoking	85,000.00
Dec. 13	Inuvik	Warehouse	Heater	52,000.00

Arson Investigation & Allied Crimes

<u>Year</u>	No. of <u>Investigations</u>	No. of <u>Prosecutions</u>	No. of <u>Convictions</u>
1970	5	-	-
1971	2	1	-
1972	5	1	-
1973	17	-	-
1974	21	2	1
1975	14	1	1

S U M M A R Y

I would like to draw to your attention the following statistics in the report.

- (1) The largest number of fires are caused by smoker's carelessness. This cannot be legislated against. The only avenue open to us is public education.
- (2) The next largest loss is caused by malfunctioning of electrical wiring and appliances. The electrical inspections number over 3,200, however, these inspections covered mostly new installations. We do not have the manpower to inspect all the installations in existence prior to 1973.
- (3) Malfunction of heating equipment was responsible for starting 38 fires. A contributing cause is the lack of enough qualified maintenance heating mechanics.
- (4) Children playing with matches caused 27 fires. A cursory study revealed that most of these fires started when the younger children were left unattended or attended by fairly young babysitters. Adult oriented social behavioural patterns seem to be a contributing factor such as leaving the small children alone for an hour or less while shopping

or socializing.

Public awareness through education is the only answer to correcting this problem.

4,250,000

4,000,000

3,750,000

3,500,000

3,250,000

3,000,000

2,750,000

2,500,000

2,250,000

2,000,000

1,750,000

1,500,000

1,250,000

1,000,000

750,000

500,000

250,000

Dotted line shows residential fire loss in relationship to the total loss.

