SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1937

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1938.

To His Honour E. W. HAMBER,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1937.

GORDON S. WISMER,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1938.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Report of Fire Marshal	5
Table I.—Inspections made and Orders issued	7
Table II.—Fires reported	9
Table III.—Causes of Fires	11
Table IV.—Classification of Property burned	13
Table V.—Summary	22
Table VI.—Loss of Life	23

REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1938.

The Honourable Gordon S. Wismer, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—Pursuant to section 44 of the "Fire Marshal Act," I have the honour to submit my Sixteenth Annual Report as Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1937, together with statistics showing fire causes and losses in the Province.

You will note that there has been an increase in the fire losses over the previous year, amounting to $454,360, or approximately 27 per cent. Unorganized districts which have no fire-protection are largely responsible for this increase. It is noted that in two districts alone the loss from fire was $742,435. This, of course, is due to the burning of large industrial plants which are without fire-protection. It must be noted, however, that some of our major cities, which are presumed to be equipped with fire-protection facilities, also show an increased loss. With reference to this I can only refer briefly to a part of my report to the Honourable Attorney-General on March 31st, 1937. The same conditions as noted then exist to-day. We still have our conflagration hazards, careless smokers, defective chimneys, and poor housekeeping. The same economic conditions exist as was noted at that time, and much of the fire-fighting equipment is still obsolete or non-existent.

We are glad to note a decided increase in inspections made under section 18. There is no question but that the enforcement of this section of the Act has aided materially in keeping the fire loss down. The issuing of 5,826 orders to clean up dangerous conditions shows the importance of constant vigilance in this work.

Public Buildings.—One thousand three hundred and seventy-eight inspections of public buildings, other than hospitals, schools, theatres, and film exchanges, have been made by Mr. Oswald, of our Staff, co-operating with the local Assistant Fire Marshals. Special attention has been given to the safety of hotels, apartments, and rooming-houses. A large number of these were found to be below the requirements of the Act with reference to fire-escapes and fire-gongs. Orders were issued by the inspectors, and as far as humanly possible these buildings have been brought up to a reasonable standard of safety.

Sixty-four inspections of hospitals were made and orders for improvements issued by the local Assistant Fire Marshals. Forty-two inspections of schools were made, and in all cases where required, orders for improvements were issued.

In connection with the orders issued by the local Assistant Fire Marshals, 205 appeals have been made to the Fire Marshal during the year and hearings granted. There were no appeals from his decisions to the courts.

Wholesale Gasoline Storage.—One hundred and twenty-seven inspections were made of wholesale gasoline and oil-storage plants under the direction of a member of this Staff, assisted by the local authorities. Thirty-two orders to improve conditions were issued under section 16 of the Act by the local assistants. The chief defects were found in plants installed previous to the coming into force of the regulations governing the sale and storage of inflammable liquids, passed in 1931. Further fire-protection for these plants is now being given consideration and recommendations will be forwarded to you in due course.

Government Buildings.—At the request of the department having jurisdiction, twelve inspections of Government buildings were made and reports submitted.

One hundred and twenty-six plans of buildings, gasoline and oil-storage plants, and oil-burning equipment have been received and checked during the year.

Fire Investigations.—This work, under the direction of Mr. Walker, Deputy Fire Marshal, has been faithfully carried out during the year with the help of the local Assistant Fire Marshals. One hundred and forty-seven special investigations have been conducted, and fifteen inquiries under section 11 of the Act have been held. Four persons were tried for arson, resulting in two convictions. Four persons were convicted of perjury and one for false pretences, arising out of evidence given at inquiries.

Theatres and Film Exchanges.—Under the direction of Mr. Oswald, 216 inspections were made of theatres and eighty-two orders issued to remedy defects. During the year 292 theatres were licensed to show moving pictures. Fifty-six inspections were made of film exchanges. Approximately 90,000 feet of film were destroyed by burning and 3,600,000 feet removed from service and shipped out of the Province. Fourteen orders were issued to improve conditions in these exchanges.

Twenty-two candidates for projectionist licence were examined, of which twelve were successful and received certificates.

Oil-burner Regulations.—Pursuant to these regulations, 475 inspections of oil-burning equipment were made. Acting as the representative of the National Research Council Laboratories, Mr. Oswald has issued 4,561 labels after inspection of equipment. Approximately 2,500 additional oil-burners of all types have been brought into the Province, carrying the labels of the National Research Council or the Underwriters' Laboratories. This makes a total of 7,100 oil-burners of all types which were brought into the Province during the year and approved by the Fire Marshal. One hundred and forty-one inspections of installations were made and thirty-two orders issued correcting same.

I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation given by the members of my staff in carrying out the duties of our Office, to Assistant Fire Marshals for the work done in the cities and districts, and to Colonel McMullin and the members of the Provincial Police for their splendid support in the unorganized districts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. THOMAS,

Fire Marshal.

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS MADE AND ORDERS ISSUED BY ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS.

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	6	5
Armstrong	62	.....
Chilliwack	189	15
Courtenay	81	.....
Cranbrook	1,105	48
Cumberland	39	8
Duncan	22	1
Enderby	23	.....
Fernie	430	37
Grand Forks	113	12
Greenwood	3	1
Kamloops	309	28
Kaslo	.....	.....
Kelowna	809	8
Ladysmith	51	8
Merritt	70	30
Nanaimo	717	3
Nelson	1,670	.....
New Westminster	5,985	892
North Vancouver	878	67
Port Alberni	114	38
Port Coquitlam	29	.....
Port Moody	81	3
Prince George	206	58
Prince Rupert	1,124	32
Revelstoke	112	8
Rossland	1,314	99
Salmon Arm	27	.....
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	2,087	99
Vancouver	35,917	3,795
Vernon	493	153
Victoria	10,979	273
Totals	65,045	5,721
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	9	5
Chilliwack	20	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	6	.....
Delta	114	.....
Esquimalt	60	3
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Glenmore	5	5
Kent	1	.....
Langley	.....	.....
Maple Ridge	18	.....
Matsqui	5	.....
Mission	124	.....
North Cowichan	.....	.....
North Vancouver	.....	.....
Oak Bay	260	.....
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	468	.....
Pitt Meadows	20	.....
Richmond	132	4
Saanich	33	3
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Spallumcheen	.....	.....
Sumas	6	.....
Summerland	12	.....
Surrey	16	4

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS MADE AND ORDERS ISSUED BY ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS—*Continued.*

Name.	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	22	3
West Vancouver	------	------
Totals	1,331	27
Village Municipalities (19).		
Abbotsford	------	------
Burns Lake	------	------
Chapman Camp	------	------
Creston	------	------
Dawson Creek	12	4
Gibsons Landing	------	------
Hope	------	------
Mission	377	34
McBride	------	------
New Denver	------	------
Pouce Coupe	27	------
Quesnel	12	12
Silverton	13	------
Smithers	------	------
Stewart	15	4
Terrace	------	------
Tofino	------	------
Vanderhoof	39	2
Williams Lake	77	------
Totals	572	56
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	69	1
Ioco	------	------
Kootenay, County of	85	5
Nanaimo, County of	2	1
Pacific Mills, Limited	4	1
Powell River	522	1
Prince Rupert, County of	70	4
University Area	289	------
Vancouver, County of	16	------
Victoria, County of	8	1
Westminster, County of	------	------
Yale, County of	66	8
Totals	1,131	22
Grand totals	68,079	5,826
Grand totals, 1936	66,549	5,929
Grand totals, 1935	52,849	4,742
Grand totals, 1934	53,150	3,502
Grand totals, 1933	56,998	4,325

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	3	$25
Armstrong	------	------
Chilliwack	15	9,287
Courtenay	7	186
Cranbrook	8	367
Cumberland	5	135
Duncan	14	2,420
Enderby	6	5,109
Fernie	8	2,393
Grand Forks	10	1,692
Greenwood	------	------
Kamloops	20	8,132
Kaslo	------	------
Kelowna	23	16,771
Ladysmith	6	189
Merritt	2	40
Nanaimo	45	21,053
Nelson	34	17,774
New Westminster	94	14,866
North Vancouver	31	3,568
Port Alberni	12	1,839
Port Coquitlam	2	4,009
Port Moody	6	10,440
Prince George	5	245
Prince Rupert	16	5,155
Revelstoke	5	11,364
Rossland	17	3,135
Salmon Arm	4	12,356
Slocan	------	------
Trail	25	4,249
Vancouver	1,428	547,761
Vernon	13	3,993
Victoria	229	75,366
Totals	2,093	$783,919
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	77	$19,943
Chilliwack	9	12,930
Coldstream	2	2,168
Coquitlam	8	35,316
Delta	5	2,101
Esquimalt	18	1,475
Fraser Mills	1	4,000
Glenmore	1	29
Kent	3	3,672
Langley	19	33,008
Maple Ridge	17	15,729
Matsqui	11	12,116
Mission	------	------
North Cowichan	15	18,319
North Vancouver	27	9,513
Oak Bay	60	3,896
Peachland	------	------
Penticton	18	14,092
Pitt Meadows	1	2,347
Richmond	32	24,948
Saanich	61	14,002
Salmon Arm	------	------
Spallumcheen	1	17
Sumas	14	16,387
Summerland	6	5,901
Surrey	22	16,832
Tadanac	6	735
West Vancouver	31	2,536
Totals	465	$272,012

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Village Municipalities (19).		
Abbotsford	6	$3,704
Burns Lake	3	14,565
Chapman Camp	.....	.....
Creston	1	52
Dawson Creek	.....	.....
Gibsons Landing	2	14
Hope	.....	.....
Mission	4	44
McBride	.....	.....
New Denver	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Quesnel	5	3,186
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	3	1,176
Stewart	1	120
Terrace	1	37
Tofino	.....	.....
Vanderhoof	1	15
Williams Lake	3	830
Totals	30	$23,743
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	45	$97,979
Ioco	1	15
Kootenay, County of	84	494,004
Nanaimo, County of	101	248,431
Pacific Mills, Limited	9	3,646
Powell River	6	402
Prince Rupert, County of	19	23,430
University Area	2	17
Vancouver, County of	36	72,669
Victoria, County of	38	34,753
Westminster, County of	14	10,956
Yale, County of	66	78,102
Totals	421	$1,064,404
Grand totals	3,009	$2,144,078

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	24, loss	$24,013
Brick or concrete	243, ,,	613,117
Frame	2,742, ,,	1,506,948
	3,009, ,,	$2,144,078

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$370
Ashes against wood	39	6,919
Asphalt boiling over	1	450
Boiler insufficiently protected	3	76
Broken oil-line	1	30
Candle carelessness	13	2,259
Carburettor back-firing	35	13,240
Car upset	7	2,406
Children playing with fire	4	473
Clothes too near fireplace	4	44
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	48	7,375
Cloth used on stove, thrown in cupboard	1	611
Coal-oil carelessness	2	353
Collision	1	245
Curtains from candle	5	181
Curtains from lamp	3	22
Curtains from stove	4	76
Defective chimney	193	187,174
Defective fireplace	38	5,924
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	6	577
Defective gas generator	1	188
Defective lamp	1	300
Defective matches	11	151
Defective oil-burner	6	1,109
Defective oil-stove	1	110
Defective stove or stove-pipe	24	4,443
Defective wiring	21	24,836
Dust explosion	3	554
Electrical appliances	117	14,126
Engine back-firing	2	2,418
Exposure	57	18,697
Film piling up in sound-head	1	2
Fire-crackers	18	1,083
Friction of logging-cable	1	1,147
Friction on brake-drum	1	17
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	17	2,545
Gas-burner insufficiently protected	2	11
Gas explosion	7	289
Gasoline carelessness	65	11,205
Gasoline explosion	7	14,410
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	8	1,068
Gasoline-torch carelessness	10	121,021
Grease on stove	34	3,266
Hot brick placed in bed	1	193
Incendiary	48	123,946
Incense-burner upset	1	20
Kettle boiling dry	1	4
Lamp explosion	5	5,765
Lamp upset	10	5,175
Lantern upset	2	967
Lightning	6	19,885
Live coals	18	250
Match carelessness	32	635
Matches, children with	44	2,220
Mattress too near stove	1	17
Molten metal	1	149
Oil-furnace back-firing	3	1,090
Oil overflowing on heater	1	26,935
Oil-stove explosion	1	2,724
Overheated electric motor	1	5
Overheated generator	2	3,515
Overheated machinery bearings	5	5,971
Paper from stove	6	83
Sawdust-burner back-firing	9	6,496
Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	1	125

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES—*Continued.*

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Short circuit	133	$71,285
Smokers' carelessness	803	57,423
Sparks from acetylene-torch	3	6,312
Sparks from boiler	3	1,343
Sparks from bonfire	1	52
Sparks from burning rubbish	7	8,289
Sparks from bush fire	14	5,477
Sparks from chimney	249	58,497
Sparks from engine	1	1,444
Sparks from fireplace	234	4,178
Sparks from forge	1	10
Sparks from furnace	6	6,959
Sparks from grass fire	1	270
Sparks from grinding-machine	1	25
Sparks from mill burner	4	15,495
Sparks from picking-machine	1	144
Sparks from slash fire	2	10,295
Sparks from smudge fire	1	255
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	41	10,350
Sparks from welding-machine	2	520
Spontaneous combustion	19	36,890
Static electricity	1	577
Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	2	714
Stove explosion	9	2,644
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	132	56,942
Sulphur burning	1	486
Sun's rays	5	3,937
Tar boiling over	4	864
Thawing pipes	11	2,611
Unknown	282	1,119,450
Welding-machine insufficiently protected	1	8
Wood too near furnace	2	1,891
Wood too near stove	6	432
Woodwork ignited from exhaust	3	38
Totals	3,009	$2,144,078

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	133	Ashes against wood	1	$5	
		Curtains from stove	1	9	
		Defective chimney	5	174	
		Defective fireplace	2	85	
		Defective furnace-pipe	1	20	
		Defective stove	1	499	
		Electrical appliances	7	54	
		Exposure	1	66	
		Fire-crackers	1	17	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	25	
		Gas explosion	1	15	
		Grease on stove	4	75	
		Match carelessness	1	17	
		Matches, children with	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	78	6,443	
		Sparks from chimney	12	4,758	
		Sparks from fireplace	4	25	
		Stove explosion	1	5	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	6	178	
		Unknown	4	337	
					$12,822
Armouries	1	Grease on stove	1		250
Automobile camps	3	Smokers' carelessness	2	$27	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	179	
					206
Automobiles	263	Carburettor back-firing	29	$6,961	
		Car upset	7	2,406	
		Collision	1	245	
		Defective chimney	1	2	
		Defective wiring	10	1,110	
		Electrical appliances	1	5	
		Exposure	4	211	
		Fire-crackers	1	2	
		Friction on brake-drum	1	17	
		Gas explosion	1	111	
		Gasoline carelessness	8	442	
		Gasoline explosion	1	535	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	8	1,068	
		Incendiary	5	670	
		Match carelessness	1	85	
		Short circuit	87	12,137	
		Smokers' carelessness	67	4,589	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	52	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	158	
		Unknown	25	5,678	
		Woodwork ignited from exhaust	3	38	
					36,522
Bakeries	2	Ashes against wood	1	$622	
		Sparks from stove	1	15	
					637
Banks	1	Exposure	1		75
Barber-shops	1	Paper from stove	1		10
Barns	39	Ashes against wood	1	$800	
		Exposure	1	20	
		Incendiary	4	2,300	
		Lantern upset	1	957	
		Matches, children with	1	85	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	502	
		Sparks from chimney	1	917	
		Sparks from smudge fire	1	255	
		Sparks from stove	1	636	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	3,295	
		Unknown	23	39,327	
					49,094
Bath-houses	1	Defective chimney	1		175

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Blacksmith-shops	4	Defective chimney	1	$37	
		Matches, children with	1	15	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	3,512	
		Sparks from forge	1	10	
					$3,574
Boarding-houses	6	Exposure	1	$70	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	25	
		Sparks from chimney	2	185	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	10	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	15	
					305
Boat-houses	2	Gasoline carelessness	1	$57	
		Unknown	1	300	
					357
Bridges	1	Unknown	1		10
Bunk-houses	4	Sparks from chimney	1	$347	
		Sparks from stove	1	150	
		Unknown	2	11,303	
					11,800
Canneries	4	Dust explosion	1	$225	
		Incendiary	1	50,000	
		Sparks from chimney	1	1,746	
		Unknown	1	39,032	
					91,003
Car-barns	1	Unknown	1		7,800
Chicken-houses	24	Defective chimney	1	$35	
		Defective lamp	1	300	
		Defective oil-stove	1	110	
		Lamp upset	1	240	
		Lantern upset	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5	
		Sparks from bush fire	4	520	
		Sparks from chimney	2	200	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	154	
		Unknown	10	1,220	
		Wood too near stove	1	138	
					2,932
Churches	5	Ashes against wood	1	$19	
		Electrical appliances	1	35	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	10	
		Unknown	2	6,227	
					6,291
Clubs	14	Defective chimney	1	$23	
		Electrical appliances	2	44	
		Match carelessness	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	9	457	
		Sparks from chimney	1	151	
					685
Cold-storage plants	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		33
Cooperages	1	Unknown	1		23,679
Dairies	2	Electrical appliances	1	$2,250	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	80	
					2,330
Dry-cleaning establishments	4	Electrical appliances	2	$11	
		Sparks from chimney	1	25	
		Static electricity	1	577	
					613
Dwellings	1,827	Ashes against wood	24	$4,946	
		Candle carelessness	13	2,259	
		Children playing with fire	4	473	
		Clothes too near fireplace	4	44	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	42	2,322	
		Cloth used on stove, thrown in cupboard	1	611	
		Coal-oil carelessness	2	353	
		Curtains from candle	5	181	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Curtains from lamp	3	$22	
		Curtains from stove	3	67	
		Defective chimney	160	87,373	
		Defective fireplace	35	5,804	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	5	557	
		Defective matches	9	129	
		Defective oil-burner	4	882	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	19	3,844	
		Defective wiring	6	13,557	
		Electrical appliances	78	3,718	
		Exposure	22	5,899	
		Fire-crackers	11	470	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	11	1,930	
		Gas explosion	4	147	
		Gasoline carelessness	9	632	
		Gasoline explosion	1	800	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	4	231	
		Grease on stove	22	1,376	
		Hot brick placed in bed	1	193	
		Incendiary	18	16,911	
		Incense-burner upset	1	20	
		Kettle boiling dry	1	4	
		Lamp explosion	5	5,765	
		Lamp upset	9	4,935	
		Lightning	2	30	
		Live coals	17	235	
		Match carelessness	22	383	
		Matches, children with	24	1,426	
		Mattress too near stove	1	17	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	2	863	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	2,724	
		Paper from stove	5	73	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	6	4,564	
		Short circuit	19	10,967	
		Smokers' carelessness	480	19,241	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	5	1,689	
		Sparks from bush fire	10	4,957	
		Sparks from chimney	203	48,646	
		Sparks from fireplace	227	4,114	
		Sparks from furnace	3	4,481	
		Sparks from grass fire	1	270	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	30	6,839	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	777	
		Stove explosion	7	2,636	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	95	44,417	
		Sulphur burning	1	486	
		Sun's rays	4	3,895	
		Tar boiling over	3	830	
		Thawing pipes	9	1,568	
		Unknown	106	111,834	
		Wood too near furnace	2	1,891	
		Wood too near stove	3	198	
					$446,506
Dye-works	1	Sparks from chimney	1		20
Electrical sub-stations	1	Lightning	1		2,000
Electric-light poles	1	Short circuit	1		75
Engines	2	Short circuit	1	$140	
		Unknown	1	1,000	
					1,140
Factories (bed and mattress)	1	Sparks from picking-machine	1		144
Factories (box)	2	Overheated machinery bearings	1	$935	
		Sparks from boiler	1	893	
					1,828
Factories (broom)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		9

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Factories (candy)	2	Grease on stove	1	$117	
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	74	
					$191
Factories (coffee and spice)	1	Sparks from grinding-machine	1		25
Factories (cotton and wool waste)	2	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$15	
		Sparks from chimney	1	105	
					120
Factories (glove)	1	Defective chimney	1		49
Factories (marmalade)	1	Defective chimney	1		38
Factories (roof products)	2	Asphalt boiling over	1	$450	
		Unknown	1	2,850	
					3,300
Fences	2	Matches, children with	1	$5	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	32	
					37
Fishing-boats	5	Gasoline carelessness	2	$475	
		Sparks from stove	1	600	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Unknown	1	50	
					1,225
Fish-reduction plants	1	Unknown	1		2,149
Foundries	4	Short circuit	1	$50	
		Sparks from furnace	2	119	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	73	
					242
Garages	43	Ashes against wood	1	$7	
		Defective wiring	1	16	
		Exposure	3	147	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	6,297	
		Gasoline explosion	1	100	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	2	723	
		Incendiary	1	376	
		Lightning	1	10	
		Matches, children with	6	337	
		Overheated generator	1	15	
		Short circuit	1	208	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	7,102	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	1,854	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	60	
		Unknown	10	2,762	
		Welding-machine insufficiently protected	1	8	
					20,022
Gasoline-shovels	1	Gasoline-torch carelessness	1		1,000
Gasoline-stations	6	Defective gas generator	1	$188	
		Exposure	1	15	
		Gas explosion	1	16	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	15	
		Short circuit	1	285	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	377	
					896
Golf-club houses	1	Unknown	1		33,259
Greenhouses	5	Defective oil-burner	1	$177	
		Defective stove	1	6	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	606	
		Sparks from boiler	1	400	
		Unknown	1	900	
					2,089
Halls	15	Ashes against wood	1	$30	
		Exposure	1	15	
		Fire-crackers	2	83	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	448	
		Incendiary	4	10,287	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	636	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	7	
		Unknown	1	2,560	
					14,066

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Hop-kilns	1	Unknown	1		$2,792
Hospitals	13	Electrical appliances	3	$147	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	75	
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	1,250	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	250	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Tar boiling over	1	34	
		Unknown	1	14	
					1,790
Hospitals (dog and cat)	1	Unknown	1		149
Hotels	102	Defective chimney	4	$15,273	
		Defective fireplace	1	35	
		Electrical appliances	3	49	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	10	
		Grease on stove	1	51	
		Match carelessness	2	35	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	227	
		Short circuit	2	39,751	
		Smokers' carelessness	76	2,380	
		Sparks from chimney	5	407	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	110	
		Thawing pipes	1	700	
		Unknown	4	33,417	
					92,445
Launches	7	Carburettor back-firing	3	$2,668	
		Gasoline explosion	1	5,000	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	40	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	2,000	
		Unknown	1	200	
					9,908
Laundries	3	Sparks from chimney	2	$64	
		Unknown	1	500	
					564
Libraries	2	Sparks from furnace	1	$2,359	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	2,359	
					4,718
Logging-camps	12	Clothes too near stove	1	$4,964	
		Electrical appliances	1	6,000	
		Friction of logging-cable	1	1,147	
		Sparks from engine	1	1,444	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	331	
		Unknown	7	54,635	
					68,521
Lumber-yards	3	Ashes against wood	1	$122	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	185	
					312
Machine-shops	1	Electrical appliances	1		100
Mining property	8	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$370	
		Oil overflowing on heater	1	26,935	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	2,531	
		Sparks from slash fire	2	10,295	
		Unknown	3	372,963	
					413,094
Motor-cycles	2	Carburettor back-firing	2		320
Offices	17	Exposure	3	$4,247	
		Gas-burner insufficiently protected	2	11	
		Grease on stove	1	1,284	
		Match carelessness	1	3	
		Short circuit	1	16	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	46	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	6,000	
		Sparks from stove	1	7	
		Unknown	4	48,841	
					60,455

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Offices and apartments	1	Unknown	1		$2,641
Post-offices	3	Defective chimney	1	$110	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	17	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	175	
					302
Power-houses	3	Lightning	2	$17,845	
		Short circuit	1	5,148	
					22,993
Printing-offices	8	Electrical appliances	1	$183	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	57	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	1,296	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	1	125	
		Short circuit	1	50	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	25	
		Unknown	2	93,782	
					95,518
Pulp-mills	3	Overheated machinery bearings	1	$52	
		Unknown	2	1,080	
					1,132
Pump-houses	1	Short circuit	1		200
Railway-stations	1	Incendiary	1		325
Restaurants	14	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$12	
		Clothes too near stove	1	5	
		Defective chimney	1	50	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	10	
		Defective wiring	1	50	
		Gasoline explosion	1	217	
		Short circuit	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	61	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	1,172	
					1,587
Rooming-houses	43	Clothes too near stove	2	$31	
		Defective chimney	2	2,202	
		Defective matches	1	12	
		Electrical appliances	3	17	
		Exposure	1	68	
		Match carelessness	1	1	
		Matches, children with	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	24	482	
		Sparks from chimney	5	480	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	4	
		Thawing pipes	1	343	
		Unknown	1	10	
					3,665
Sawmills	27	Dust explosion	1	$29	
		Engine back-firing	1	15	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	118,952	
		Incendiary	1	100	
		Overheated generator	1	3,500	
		Short circuit	1	40	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	7,905	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	2,500	
		Sparks from boiler	1	50	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	15,300	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	25,861	
		Unknown	14	130,287	
					304,539
Schools	17	Defective chimney	1	$51,600	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	71	
		Electrical appliances	1	9	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	80	
		Incendiary	8	22,599	
		Match carelessness	1	51	
		Short circuit	1	5	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	$25	
		Unknown	2	500	
					$74,940
Sheds	33	Ashes against wood	3	$19	
		Defective chimney	1	400	
		Exposure	1	25	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	50	
		Grease on stove	1	20	
		Incendiary	2	85	
		Match carelessness	1	5	
		Matches, children with	3	35	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	190	
		Sparks from chimney	1	50	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	340	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	15	
		Unknown	10	881	
					2,115
Shingle-mills	7	Engine back-firing	1	$2,403	
		Incendiary	1	20,000	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	10	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	514	
		Unknown	3	4,971	
					27,898
Ships	3	Gasoline carelessness	1	$10	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	200	
		Unknown	1	15	
					225
Sign-shops	1	Unknown	1		107
Skating-rinks	1	Short circuit	1		30
Slaughter-houses	1	Unknown	1		11,222
Smelting plants	7	Ashes against wood	1	$30	
		Broken oil-line	1	30	
		Dust explosion	1	300	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	75	
		Molten metal	1	149	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	300	
					884
Stables	3	Gasoline explosion	1	$2,958	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	600	
		Unknown	1	150	
					3,708
Stores	91	Ashes against wood	3	$39	
		Clothes too near stove	1	3	
		Defective chimney	3	22,690	
		Defective matches	1	10	
		Defective stove-pipe	2	35	
		Defective wiring	2	4,625	
		Electrical appliances	8	1,364	
		Exposure	8	1,219	
		Fire-crackers	2	161	
		Grease on stove	2	68	
		Incendiary	1	275	
		Matches, children with	2	5	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	30	
		Short circuit	8	400	
		Smokers' carelessness	27	1,101	
		Sparks from chimney	3	166	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	2	1,937	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	1,453	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	6	3,918	
		Sun's rays	1	42	
		Unknown	6	5,122	
		Wood too near stove	1	9	
					44,672
Stores and apartments	16	Defective wiring	1	$5,478	
		Electrical appliances	1	25	

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Exposure	1	$3,512	
		Live coal	1	15	
		Matches, children with	2	51	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	19	
		Sparks from chimney	1	11	
		Sparks from stove	2	130	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	25	
		Unknown	3	333	
		Wood too near stove	1	87	
					$9,686
Stores and dwellings	35	Carburettor back-firing	1	$3,291	
		Defective chimney	5	2,389	
		Electrical appliances	2	11	
		Exposure	3	2,881	
		Fire-crackers	1	350	
		Grease on stove	1	25	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	944	
		Sparks from chimney	1	163	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	25	
		Sparks from stove	1	14	
		Stove explosion	1	3	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	5	1,577	
		Unknown	6	20,229	
					31,902
Stores and offices	12	Electrical appliances	1	$104	
		Exposure	3	102	
		Incendiary	1	18	
		Match carelessness	1	45	
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	3,660	
		Short circuit	1	272	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	2,592	
					6,793
Stores and rooms	30	Ashes against wood	1	$280	
		Defective chimney	2	54	
		Exposure	1	95	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	1,086	
		Matches, children with	1	106	
		Smokers' carelessness	16	263	
		Sparks from chimney	3	31	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	51	
		Unknown	2	18,738	
					20,704
Street-cars	3	Overheated electric motor	1	$5	
		Short circuit	2	1,471	
					1,476
Telephone exchanges	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		125
Theatres	4	Exposure	1	$30	
		Film piling up in sound-head	1	2	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	33	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	450	
					515
Tug-boats	5	Clothes too near stove	1	$50	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	1,000	
		Gasoline explosion	1	4,800	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	75	
		Unknown	1	700	
					6,625
Warehouses	13	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$49	
		Defective chimney	1	4,500	
		Defective oil-burner	1	50	
		Short circuit	1	30	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	279	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	1,735	
		Unknown	6	19,343	
					25,986

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES—*Continued.*

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Welding-shops	1	Sparks from welding-machine	1		$241
Wood-working plants	1	Unknown	1		1,838
Wood-yards	1	Unknown	1		1,713
Workshops	2	Matches, children with	1	$125	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	845	
					970
Totals	3,009		3,009		$2,144,078

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (19).	Fire Districts (12).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1937.										
January	241	69	13	50	373	$224,459	$21,054	$18,165	$35,592	$299,270
February	153	43	3	35	234	30,050	19,972	1,013	86,933	137,968
March	166	35	2	23	226	116,263	30,528	906	13,117	160,814
April	165	32	4	45	246	29,488	13,197	2,954	80,164	125,803
May	179	25	----	51	255	36,279	8,028	------	147,843	192,150
June	211	41	1	37	290	63,547	24,831	29	65,520	153,927
July	169	30	1	27	227	40,006	22,971	25	36,909	99,911
August	157	36	2	30	225	97,536	30,711	30	32,307	160,584
September	157	34	----	32	223	75,213	32,402	------	113,371	220,986
October	140	45	2	29	216	19,391	12,925	239	385,535	418,090
November	148	34	----	26	208	20,941	39,133	------	21,286	81,360
December	207	41	2	36	286	30,746	16,260	382	45,827	93,215
Totals, 1937	2,093	465	30	421	3,009	$783,919	$272,012	$23,743	$1,064,404	$2,144,078
Totals, 1936	1,768	443	26	422	2,659	730,478	314,036	16,221	628,983	1,689,718
Totals, 1935	1,900	479	30	415	2,824	759,958	384,373	23,398	773,973	1,941,702
Totals, 1934	1,540	390	30	399	2,359	443,482	261,479	31,782	1,251,758	1,988,501
Totals, 1933	1,748	463	33	391	2,635	737,602	398,039	64,820	651,792	1,852,253
	9,049	2,240	149	2,048	13,486	$3,455,439	$1,629,939	$159,964	$4,370,910	$9,616,252

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1933–37.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	--
Dwelling	Lamp explosion	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Totals, 1937		3	--
Totals, 1936		4	1
Totals, 1935		6	5
Totals, 1934		2	2
Totals, 1933		6	--

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