TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1942

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1943.

To His Honour W. C. WOODWARD,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1942.

R. L. MAITLAND,

Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1943.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1943.

The Honourable R. L. Maitland, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Twenty-first Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1942.

The fire loss for the year under review was $2,515,344, an increase over the year 1941 of $906,525. I am not very pleased at this showing as uncontrolled fire is an economic waste at any time, but in war-time, when continuity of production is so vital, fire waste should not be tolerated. The increase is largely due to the great development in production of war supplies and the pushing into service of buildings that had long been idle. In many instances these buildings were not suitable for the particular class of occupancy to which they were put for war industry. Under this heading alone there is an increased loss of almost $300,000. The loss in warehouses has increased by $195,209 and the loss in dwellings and hotels is higher by almost $100,000 than the 1941 totals. This increase, of course, is due to various causes such as defective chimneys in old houses brought into occupancy after many years of idleness and neglect. Defective chimneys caused 218 fires, with a total loss of $136,369, and fires classified under the heading of smokers' carelessness numbered 1,280, causing a loss of $156,857. There were 291 fires of unknown origin during the year, causing a loss of $1,173,621. The number of fires under this heading was only twenty-seven more than in 1941 but the loss was $621,500 more. Almost half of this loss was caused by two major fires in remote places and it was impossible for investigation to disclose the origin.

It is regrettable to note that there were thirty-two deaths by fire during the year, which is double the number of last year. Sixteen of these were children, and of these many not much more than infants. In the case of the loss of life of children almost invariably they had been left alone in the house, and, in some instances, were playing with matches or coal-oil, thereby causing fire.

During the year 1,771 general inspections were made by the staff of the office. These do not include the inspections made by local Assistant Fire Marshals as shown in Table I. There were also seventy-four hospital inspections, 130 school inspections, 109 bulk storage plants for gasoline and oil, and twenty-six dry-cleaning establishments.

Owing to disastrous fires in places of public assembly in other parts of the continent, particular stress has been placed on the inspection of public buildings throughout the Province. Local Assistant Fire Marshals have been circularized and the response has been very satisfactory.

Under the Theatre Regulations, 138 theatre inspections and fifty-three film exchange inspections were made. Plans for five new theatres and two film exchanges were checked and approved. Thirty-two examinations of candidates for projectionist licences were conducted as follows: Twelve first class, eight passed; seven second class, two passed; six second class restricted, six passed; and seven third class, seven passed.

Plans for eighteen bulk storage plants for gasoline and oil, seven schools, two hospitals, and one hotel were checked and approved. Twenty-six inspections of Provincial Government owned and operated buildings were made. As British Columbia representative of the National Research Council Fire Hazard Testing Laboratories,

218 oil-burners were inspected and labelled; also forty-two oil-burner installations and seven manually operated oil-burners were checked.

Surveys were made of five shipyards and seven plants manufacturing war supplies. Seventy-four groups were addressed throughout the Province on fire-prevention and fire-protection. Seventeen prosecutions were launched, as follows: Four for arson, with three convictions and one acquittal; three for perjury, with two convictions and one awaiting trial; and under the "Fire Marshal Act" and regulations, ten prosecutions and ten convictions. Sixty-five appeals were heard during the year and from the decisions handed down no appeals were made to the Courts.

During the year one addition to the staff of the Fire Marshal's office has been made in the person of Mr. B. O. Nixon, who was appointed Assistant Fire Marshal.

I wish to express to my staff my appreciation of their splendid work and assistance during the year. Also I wish to thank members of the police forces throughout the Province, local Assistant Fire Marshals, and insurance companies and adjusters for their co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. WALKER,

Fire Marshal.

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

	Inspections.	Orders.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	11	-------
Armstrong	100	-------
Chilliwack	338	8
Courtenay	49	-------
Cranbrook	553	28
Cumberland	24	-------
Duncan	42	-------
Enderby	30	-------
Fernie	333	4
Grand Forks	129	8
Greenwood	75	6
Kamloops	454	1
Kaslo	-------	-------
Kelowna	835	3
Ladysmith	103	1
Merritt	30	-------
Nanaimo	785	-------
Nelson	919	6
New Westminster	3,315	692
North Vancouver	1,245	44
Port Alberni	206	41
Port Coquitlam	6	3
Port Moody	134	4
Prince George	116	26
Prince Rupert	610	3
Revelstoke	67	1
Rossland	762	32
Salmon Arm	21	1
Slocan	-------	-------
Trail	1,276	21
Vancouver	37,418	70
Vernon	299	-------
Victoria	15,120	412
Totals	65,405	1,415
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	430	13
Chilliwack	28	11
Coldstream	-------	-------
Coquitlam	-------	-------
Delta	-------	-------
Esquimalt	76	-------
Fraser Mills	-------	-------
Glenmore	-------	-------
Kent	2	-------
Langley	-------	-------
Maple Ridge	-------	-------
Matsqui	26	-------
Mission	115	-------
North Cowichan	-------	-------
North Vancouver	-------	-------
Oak Bay	1,161	3
Peachland	-------	-------
Penticton	228	2
Pitt Meadows	-------	-------
Richmond	132	8
Saanich	619	34
Salmon Arm	-------	-------
Spallumcheen	-------	-------
Sumas	-------	-------
Summerland	5	-------

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

	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Surrey	4	------
Tadanac	2	------
West Vancouver	14	------
Totals	2,842	71
Village Municipalities (22).		
Abbotsford	16	------
Burns Lake	10	------
Chapman Camp	------	------
Cranberry Lake	------	------
Creston	10	------
Dawson Creek	71	2
Gibsons Landing	2	------
Hope	6	------
Mission	399	9
McBride	15	------
New Denver	80	------
Pouce Coupe	2	------
Qualicum Beach	10	2
Quesnel	------	------
Silverton	11	------
Smithers	118	15
Stewart	2	------
Terrace	10	------
Tofino	------	------
Vanderhoof	119	15
Westview	------	------
Williams Lake	15	2
Totals	896	45
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	47	4
Ioco	------	------
Kootenay, County of	235	1
Nanaimo, County of	------	------
Pacific Mills, Limited	------	------
Powell River	552	------
Prince Rupert, County of	------	------
University Area	25	------
Vancouver, County of	50	------
Victoria, County of	15	------
Westminster, County of	------	------
Yale, County of	114	------
Totals	1,038	5
Grand totals	70,181	1,536
Grand totals, 1941	75,717	2,134
Grand totals, 1940	76,912	5,104
Grand totals, 1939	73,464	5,530
Grand totals, 1938	74,371	5,864

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	6	$1,039
Armstrong	4	401
Chilliwack	13	175
Courtenay	9	351
Cranbrook	12	23,003
Cumberland	3	1,091
Duncan	19	2,177
Enderby	2	37
Fernie	13	5,808
Grand Forks	3	153
Greenwood	4	1,344
Kamloops	16	593
Kaslo	1	25
Kelowna	25	4,293
Ladysmith	5	62
Merritt	5	1,680
Nanaimo	54	46,658
Nelson	28	32,402
New Westminster	80	24,974
North Vancouver	46	98,100
Port Alberni	23	20,340
Port Coquitlam	5	3,397
Port Moody	6	3,297
Prince George	11	13,959
Prince Rupert	22	9,960
Revelstoke	7	362
Rossland	22	4,141
Salmon Arm	4	2,608
Slocan	------	------
Trail	36	7,234
Vancouver	1,860	621,401
Vernon	15	1,047
Victoria	265	23,469
Totals	2,624	$955,581
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	93	$25,939
Chilliwack	16	25,364
Coldstream	------	------
Coquitlam	10	6,992
Delta	10	9,489
Esquimalt	27	9,870
Fraser Mills	3	9,387
Glenmore	2	276
Kent	8	3,741
Langley	10	4,621
Maple Ridge	13	38,863
Matsqui	9	4,329
Mission	7	14,065
North Cowichan	13	22,430
North Vancouver	26	7,118
Oak Bay	80	12,838
Peachland	1	115
Penticton	20	18,342
Pitt Meadows	3	843
Richmond	34	27,092
Saanich	88	9,789
Salmon Arm	------	------
Spallumcheen	2	2,535
Sumas	6	2,710
Summerland	2	96
Surrey	39	16,599

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	12	$1,785
West Vancouver	52	17,201
Totals	586	$292,429
Village Municipalities (22).		
Abbotsford	2	$766
Burns Lake	------	------
Chapman Camp	1	550
Cranberry Lake	1	37
Creston	4	583
Dawson Creek	5	6,403
Gibsons Landing	3	67
Hope	1	50
Mission	7	2,543
McBride	1	6,723
New Denver	2	35
Pouce Coupe	------	------
Qualicum Beach	1	20
Quesnel	3	1,205
Silverton	------	------
Smithers	7	1,470
Stewart	1	25
Terrace	5	1,151
Tofino	1	11
Vanderhoof	2	42
Westview	5	3,637
Williams Lake	4	1,101
Totals	56	$26,419
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	71	$94,680
Ioco	1	37
Kootenay, County of	65	72,441
Nanaimo, County of	123	277,840
Pacific Mills, Limited	5	19,519
Powell River	5	279
Prince Rupert, County of	34	296,097
University Area	5	108
Vancouver, County of	32	358,572
Victoria, County of	43	20,402
Westminster, County of	13	24,571
Yale, County of	51	76,369
Totals	448	$1,240,915
Grand totals	3,714	$2,515,344

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire-resisting	26, loss	$11,032
Brick or concrete	313, ,,	310,566
Frame	3,375, ,,	2,193,746
	3,714, ,,	$2,515,344

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness	3	$668
Alcohol-vapour explosion	3	305
Ashes against wood	41	7,507
Asphalt boiling over	1	2,000
Boiler or boiler-pipe insufficiently protected	8	82,832
Broken gasoline-line	5	1,718
Broken oil-line	1	822
Bunsen burner, carelessness with	4	82
Candle carelessness	15	492
Carbon from exhaust falling on canvas	1	509
Carburettor back-firing	43	10,769
Car upset	5	1,795
Charcoal-heater upset	1	1,350
Children playing with fire	4	1,649
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	61	3,519
Coal-gas explosion	6	20,034
Coal-oil carelessness	5	4,549
Collision	1	70
Curtains from lamp	3	78
Curtains from stove	2	53
Defective brooder	5	9,728
Defective chimney	218	136,369
Defective fireplace	27	2,343
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	3	3,243
Defective gasoline-torch	2	25
Defective muffler	2	718
Defective oil-burner	12	1,777
Defective stove or stove-pipe	24	19,484
Defective wiring	22	12,833
Dust explosion	9	19,985
Electrical appliances	153	42,338
Engine back-firing	2	5,945
Exhaust-pipe from engine insufficiently protected	2	831
Exposure	85	65,138
Firecrackers	7	252
Floor wax, being heated, exploded	1	350
Friction in brake-drum	1	5
Friction in pulley	3	1,036
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	25	8,047
Gas explosion	9	621
Gasoline carelessness	26	10,932
Gasoline explosion	2	135
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	3	1,370
Gasoline-torch carelessness	6	2,478
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	525
Grease on stove	61	5,219
Hot oil upset on motor	1	55
Ignition of ammonia	1	1,811
Incendiary	34	24,325
Lamp explosion	1	111
Lamp upset	13	7,654
Lantern upset	1	1,200
Lightning	14	11,119
Live coals	20	361
Match carelessness	56	4,054
Matches, children with	46	15,405
Molten metal	7	386
Oil-furnace back-firing	4	1,079
Oil-stove explosion	3	1,502
Overheated machinery bearings	1	2,911
Radiator in body of truck overheating	2	372
Sawdust-burner back-firing	19	9,168
Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	3	61
Short circuit	132	31,174
Smokers' carelessness	1,280	156,857

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Sparks from acetylene-torch	3	$470
Sparks from boiler	7	25,928
Sparks from bonfire	13	1,463
Sparks from burning rubbish	22	9,042
Sparks from bush fire	28	337,477
Sparks from chimney	260	62,806
Sparks from engine	2	9,626
Sparks from fireplace	258	8,366
Sparks from furnace	11	721
Sparks from mill burner	6	8,843
Sparks from oven	1	500
Sparks from picker-machine	1	2,500
Sparks from sanding-machine	1	44
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	71	26,304
Sparks from welding-machine	2	156
Spontaneous combustion	19	3,195
Static electricity	1	221
Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	2	8,874
Stove explosion	3	240
Stove-lid falling on floor	2	13
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	122	66,979
Stove upset	1	350
Tar boiling over	8	1,770
Thawing pipes	5	301
Turpentine upset on furnace	1	49
Unknown	291	1,173,621
Wood too near furnace	5	1,193
Wood too near stove	6	2,159
Totals	3,714	$2,515,344

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	222	Ashes against wood	4	$108	
		Candle carelessness	2	244	
		Clothes too near stove	4	72	
		Coal-gas explosion	2	16	
		Curtains from stove	1	20	
		Defective chimney	16	1,125	
		Defective fireplace	2	80	
		Defective oil-burner	2	79	
		Electrical appliances	7	165	
		Exposure	10	1,077	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	3	158	
		Gas explosion	1	31	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	27	
		Grease on stove	5	117	
		Lightning	1	62	
		Match carelessness	1	10	
		Matches, children with	1	25	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	2	
		Short circuit	1	2	
		Smokers' carelessness	117	28,967	
		Sparks from chimney	18	7,588	
		Sparks from fireplace	5	85	
		Sparks from stove	2	46	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	25	
		Stove explosion	1	16	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	9	6,091	
		Unknown	4	12,098	
					$58,336
Automobile camps	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		60
Automobiles	305	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$450	
		Alcohol-vapour explosion	3	305	
		Ashes against wood	1	30	
		Broken gasoline-line	5	1,718	
		Broken oil-line	1	822	
		Carburettor back-firing	37	6,987	
		Car upset	5	1,795	
		Charcoal-heater upset	1	1,350	
		Collision	1	70	
		Defective muffler	2	718	
		Defective wiring	12	206	
		Electrical appliances	2	25	
		Friction in brake-drum	1	5	
		Gasoline carelessness	8	940	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	3	1,370	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	20	
		Incendiary	3	920	
		Match carelessness	1	825	
		Matches, children with	2	78	
		Radiator in body of truck overheating	2	372	
		Short circuit	80	9,253	
		Smokers' carelessness	98	4,343	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	270	
		Tar boiling over	1	300	
		Unknown	33	11,082	
					44,254
Bakeries	10	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$5,811	
		Electrical appliances	1	1,043	
		Firecrackers	1	90	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	10	
		Sparks from oven	1	500	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	981	
		Unknown	3	38,758	
					47,193
Banks	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		33

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Barns	35	Defective brooder	2	$8,322	
		Defective wiring	1	40	
		Engine back-firing	2	5,945	
		Exhaust-pipe from engine insufficiently protected	1	131	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	2	1,981	
		Incendiary	3	4,049	
		Lantern upset	1	1,200	
		Match carelessness	1	1,000	
		Matches, children with	2	812	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	1,335	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	75	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	2,029	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	3,070	
		Sparks from chimney	2	690	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	1,480	
		Unknown	7	6,065	
					$38,224
Barracks	7	Smokers' carelessness	4	$1,229	
		Sparks from chimney	1	500	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	10	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	322	
					2,061
Bath-houses	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		9
Blacksmith-shops	3	Electrical appliances	1	$98	
		Tar boiling over	1	35	
		Unknown	1	4,485	
					4,618
Boarding-houses	10	Defective fireplace	1	$63	
		Electrical appliances	1	5	
		Match carelessness	1	5	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	44	
		Sparks from chimney	2	67	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	8	
					192
Boat-houses	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		2,349
Bottling-works	1	Defective chimney	1		768
Bunk-houses	4	Gasoline carelessness	1	$80	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	25	
		Sparks from chimney	2	1,015	
					1,120
Bus depots	1	Exposure	1		2,100
Canneries	3	Stove insufficiently protected	1	$4,276	
		Unknown	2	290,170	
					294,446
Chicken-houses	12	Defective brooder	2	$1,386	
		Defective stove	1	375	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	45	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	2,995	
		Unknown	5	1,650	
					6,451
Churches	4	Candle carelessness	1	$16	
		Exposure	1	1,000	
		Incendiary	1	65	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	3,500	
					4,581
Clubs	13	Defective fireplace	1	$49	
		Exposure	1	115	
		Firecrackers	1	102	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	72	
		Short circuit	1	17	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	3,403	
		Sparks from chimney	1	60	
					3,818

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Dairies	8	Boiler insufficiently protected	2	$51	
		Electrical appliances	1	48	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	10	
		Ignition of ammonia	1	1,811	
		Sparks from chimney	2	533	
		Unknown	1	1,978	
					$4,431
Dog pounds	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		389
Dry-cleaning establishments	6	Defective oil-burner	1	$5	
		Electrical appliances	1	364	
		Sparks from chimney	1	4	
		Static electricity	1	221	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	28	
		Unknown	1	374	
					996
Dwellings	2,166	Ashes against wood	27	$2,118	
		Candle carelessness	12	232	
		Children playing with fire	3	1,644	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	53	2,805	
		Coal-gas explosion	3	2,428	
		Coal-oil carelessness	5	4,549	
		Curtains from lamp	2	33	
		Curtains from stove	1	33	
		Defective brooder	1	20	
		Defective chimney	170	74,284	
		Defective fireplace	21	2,044	
		Defective oil-burner	3	479	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	21	19,069	
		Defective wiring	7	4,610	
		Electrical appliances	103	11,409	
		Exposure	34	24,936	
		Firecrackers	2	19	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	16	3,080	
		Gas explosion	5	181	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	265	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	5	
		Grease on stove	46	3,892	
		Incendiary	16	10,167	
		Lamp explosion	1	111	
		Lamp upset	11	6,994	
		Lightning	10	1,444	
		Live coals	19	356	
		Match carelessness	46	951	
		Matches, children with	28	3,723	
		Molten metal	1	10	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	2	142	
		Oil-stove explosion	2	1,467	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	17	8,366	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	3	61	
		Short circuit	23	3,518	
		Smokers' carelessness	695	37,091	
		Sparks from bonfire	8	1,050	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	9	3,170	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	429	
		Sparks from chimney	191	37,162	
		Sparks from fireplace	246	8,162	
		Sparks from furnace	10	321	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	58	22,371	
		Spontaneous combustion	4	391	
		Stove explosion	2	224	
		Stove-lid falling on floor	2	13	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	82	28,663	
		Stove upset	1	350	
		Tar boiling over	3	949	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Thawing pipes	5	$301	
		Turpentine upset on furnace	1	49	
		Unknown	119	112,789	
		Wood too near furnace	4	734	
		Wood too near stove	5	1,427	
					$451,091
Electrical sub-stations	1	Short circuit	1		8,834
Engines	2	Short circuit	1	$22	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	4,050	
					4,072
Factories (bed and mattress)	2	Sparks from chimney	1	$10	
		Sparks from picker-machine	1	2,500	
					2,510
Factories (box)	4	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$20	
		Friction in pulley	1	25	
		Sparks from boiler	2	185	
					230
Factories (brick manufacturing)	1	Sparks from chimney	1		4,182
Factories (clay products)	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		40
Factories (clothing)	1	Electrical appliances	1		12
Factories (furniture)	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$910	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	605	
					1,515
Factories (peanut butter)	1	Ashes against wood	1		5,017
Factories (roof products)	1	Unknown	1		27,697
Factories (rope)	2	Incendiary	1	$97	
		Short circuit	1	50	
					147
Factories (sash and door)	2	Stove insufficiently protected	1	$185	
		Unknown	1	7,537	
					7,722
Factories (vegetable processing)	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		574
Factories (wood-pipe)	3	Incendiary	1	$132	
		Sparks from boiler	2	96	
					228
Fire-halls	1	Unknown	1		28,000
Fishing-boats	11	Carburettor back-firing	1	$3,250	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	658	
		Short circuit	1	150	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	1,835	
		Unknown	4	3,722	
					9,615
Fish-packing plants	1	Unknown	1		2,037
Flour-mills	1	Dust explosion	1		325
Foundries	10	Defective furnace	1	$288	
		Defective oil-burner	1	446	
		Electrical appliances	1	50	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	1,642	
		Molten metal	4	214	
		Sparks from chimney	1	10	
					2,650
Freight-cars	2	Children playing with fire	1	$5	
		Exposure	1	2,500	
					2,505
Gaols	1	Unknown	1		1,814
Garages	49	Carburettor back-firing	2	$222	
		Clothes too near stove	1	21	
		Defective wiring	1	261	
		Exposure	4	551	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	5,124	
		Matches, children with	4	4,160	
		Short circuit	6	4,464	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	1,752	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	$146	
		Sparks from chimney	1	159	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	2	60	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	130	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	108	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	1,025	
		Unknown	10	5,616	
					$23,799
Gasoline-stations	9	Defective gasoline-torch	2	$25	
		Electrical appliances	2	75	
		Exposure	2	78	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	16	
		Sparks from sanding-machine	1	44	
		Unknown	1	20	
					258
Gasoline-storage plants	1	Exposure	1		4,972
Golf club-houses	3	Smokers' carelessness	2	$23	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
					28
Grandstands	1	Exposure	1		475
Greenhouses	4	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$25	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	185	
		Unknown	1	200	
					410
Halls	21	Curtains from lamp	1	$45	
		Exposure	1	958	
		Incendiary	2	126	
		Match carelessness	1	10	
		Matches, children with	1	1,791	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	1,013	
		Sparks from chimney	5	84	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	11	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	20	
		Unknown	3	6,525	
		Wood too near furnace	1	459	
					11,042
Haystacks	2	Sparks from bush fire	1	$1,000	
		Unknown	1	1,000	
					2,000
Hospitals	10	Floor wax, being heated, exploded	1	$350	
		Short circuit	1	37	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	50	
		Sparks from chimney	4	5,968	
		Unknown	2	215	
					6,620
Hotels	119	Defective chimney	4	$22,977	
		Defective fireplace	1	85	
		Electrical appliances	1	41	
		Exposure	2	703	
		Lamp upset	1	10	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	35	
		Short circuit	1	47	
		Smokers' carelessness	100	31,670	
		Sparks from chimney	2	610	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	4	
		Unknown	5	27,276	
					83,458
House-boats	4	Defective oil-burner	1	$250	
		Exposure	1	35	
		Incendiary	1	5	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	120	
					410
Ice-cream plants	1	Short circuit	1		50

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Launches	6	Carbon from exhaust falling on canvas	1	$509	
		Carburettor back-firing	1	150	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	767	
		Match carelessness	1	750	
		Unknown	2	205	
					$2,381
Laundries	4	Electrical appliances	1	$5	
		Sparks from chimney	2	60	
		Unknown	1	11,597	
					11,662
Logging camps	34	Coal-gas explosion	1	$17,590	
		Friction in pulley	1	884	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	462	
		Lightning	2	9,310	
		Sparks from bush fire	19	142,080	
		Sparks from engine	1	9,341	
		Unknown	9	104,188	
					283,855
Lumber-piles	3	Sparks from burning rubbish	3		57
Machine-shops	3	Exposure	1	$6,216	
		Gas explosion	1	160	
		Unknown	1	1,250	
					7,626
Meat-packing plants	1	Grease on stove	1		325
Mining properties	3	Sparks from engine	1	$285	
		Unknown	2	2,718	
					3,003
Motor-cycles	3	Carburettor back-firing	2	$160	
		Unknown	1	100	
					260
Mushroom-houses	1	Unknown	1		779
Offices	21	Ashes against wood	1	$7	
		Bunsen burner, carelessness with	4	82	
		Clothes too near stove	1	18	
		Electrical appliances	1	12	
		Exposure	3	501	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	55	
		Gas explosion	1	234	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	7	
		Short circuit	1	350	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	881	
		Unknown	3	770	
					2,917
Paper-mills	2	Dust explosion	1	$18,540	
		Short circuit	1	75	
					18,615
Peat plants	3	Exhaust-pipe from engine insufficiently protected	1	$700	
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	2,911	
		Unknown	1	280	
					3,891
Pool-rooms	1	Electrical appliances	1		12,904
Post-offices	2	Defective chimney	1	$2,631	
		Unknown	1	972	
					3,603
Power-houses	2	Exposure	1	$7,941	
		Short circuit	1	2,900	
					10,841
Printing-offices	2	Molten metal	1	$62	
		Unknown	1	100	
					162
Restaurants	28	Ashes against wood	1	$5	
		Electrical appliances	1	200	
		Grease on stove	5	790	
		Match carelessness	1	12	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	$800	
		Short circuit	2	281	
		Smokers' carelessness	11	568	
		Sparks from chimney	1	290	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	3,123	
		Unknown	3	4,789	
					$10,858
Rooming-houses	97	Clothes too near stove	1	$13	
		Defective chimney	7	237	
		Defective fireplace	1	22	
		Electrical appliances	5	204	
		Exposure	2	512	
		Live coal	1	5	
		Match carelessness	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	66	1,814	
		Sparks from chimney	4	1,840	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	60	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	59	
		Unknown	4	6,438	
					11,219
Sawmills	22	Boiler or boiler-pipe insufficiently protected	2	$68,925	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15	
		Sparks from boiler	3	25,647	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	11,848	
		Sparks from mill burner	6	8,843	
		Unknown	8	97,674	
					212,952
Schools	14	Defective chimney	1	$10,311	
		Defective oil-burner	1	234	
		Exposure	1	1,627	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	2	3,040	
		Incendiary	1	20	
		Lightning	1	303	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	100	
		Sparks from chimney	1	10	
		Sparks from stove	1	370	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	50	
		Unknown	2	12,259	
					28,324
Sheds	52	Ashes against wood	3	$158	
		Asphalt boiling over	1	2,000	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	5	
		Exposure	3	261	
		Firecrackers	1	10	
		Incendiary	3	2,144	
		Lamp upset	1	650	
		Matches, children with	4	2,197	
		Short circuit	2	95	
		Smokers' carelessness	12	241	
		Sparks from bonfire	2	43	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	85	
		Sparks from chimney	1	100	
		Spontaneous combustion	3	155	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	183	
		Tar boiling over	1	296	
		Unknown	10	7,787	
					16,410
Sheet-metal works	1	Unknown	1		8
Shingle-mills	3	Boiler-pipe insufficiently protected	1	$8,000	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	25	
		Unknown	1	35,000	
					43,025
Ships	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		300

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Shipyards	6	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$53	
		Short circuit	1	100	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5,641	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	5	
		Unknown	2	89,455	
					$95,254
Smelting plants	13	Dust explosion	7	$1,120	
		Gas explosion	1	15	
		Molten metal	1	100	
		Short circuit	1	100	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	175,000	
		Sparks from chimney	1	50	
		Sparks from furnace	1	400	
					176,785
Stores	153	Ashes against wood	1	$21	
		Defective chimney	9	1,771	
		Electrical appliances	16	14,754	
		Exposure	6	4,637	
		Firecrackers	2	31	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	125	
		Gasoline explosion	2	135	
		Grease on stove	3	75	
		Match carelessness	2	476	
		Matches, children with	3	2,609	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	477	
		Short circuit	3	236	
		Smokers' carelessness	79	15,146	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	10	
		Sparks from chimney	2	457	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	10	
		Sparks from stove	3	244	
		Stove insufficiently protected	6	455	
		Unknown	12	30,357	
					72,026
Stores and apartments	11	Defective chimney	2	$68	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	2,805	
		Sparks from chimney	2	48	
		Sparks from stove	1	28	
					2,949
Stores and dwellings	25	Ashes against wood	1	$25	
		Clothes too near stove	1	590	
		Defective furnace-pipe	1	226	
		Defective wiring	1	7,716	
		Electrical appliances	1	26	
		Exposure	2	66	
		Grease on stove	1	20	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	100	
		Sparks from chimney	1	66	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	35	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	2	2,515	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	324	
		Tar boiling over	1	65	
		Unknown	2	15,527	
					27,301
Stores and offices	6	Defective oil-burner	1	$4	
		Short circuit	1	363	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	117	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	56	
					540
Stores and rooms	58	Ashes against wood	1	$18	
		Defective chimney	5	923	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	35	
		Electrical appliances	2	521	
		Exposure	2	80	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	$525	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	460	
		Smokers' carelessness	33	15,006	
		Sparks from chimney	8	543	
		Sparks from stove	1	20	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	35	
		Unknown	1	76	
		Wood too near stove	1	732	
					$18,974
Theatres	1	Unknown	1		1,242
Tractors	1	Short circuit	1		230
Tug-boats	3	Defective oil-burner	2	$280	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	400	
					680
Undertaking parlours	1	Unknown	1		2,094
Warehouses	34	Defective chimney	1	$20,851	
		Defective furnace-pipe	1	2,729	
		Electrical appliances	2	62	
		Exposure	4	3,797	
		Friction in pulley	1	127	
		Incendiary	2	6,600	
		Matches, children with	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	355	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	65	
		Sparks from chimney	1	695	
		Sparks from stove	1	650	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	26	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	8,846	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	18,203	
		Tar boiling over	1	125	
		Unknown	12	156,848	
					219,989
Welding-shops	1	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1		165
Woodworking plants	1	Electrical appliances	1		315
Workshops	1	Hot oil upset on motor	1		55
Totals	3,714		3,714		$2,515,344

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (33).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (22).	Fire Districts (12).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1942.										
January	346	68	3	41	458	$69,412	$20,919	$226	$46,329	$136,886
February	195	42	6	28	271	105,726	31,464	195	25,353	162,738
March	243	48	4	36	331	100,138	18,226	977	20,668	140,009
April	206	59	7	50	322	43,593	39,609	372	36,918	120,492
May	222	40	4	24	290	49,889	20,058	1,966	49,020	120,933
June	177	28	3	32	240	88,962	3,911	1,075	17,255	111,203
July	209	40	1	53	303	70,491	34,581	290	326,859	432,221
August	214	46	6	34	300	78,779	31,986	3,525	322,644	436,934
September	202	41	5	55	303	43,549	33,909	1,649	232,530	311,637
October	183	66	6	28	283	34,042	25,495	227	47,578	107,342
November	195	56	7	28	286	214,500	8,665	12,763	22,794	258,722
December	232	52	4	39	327	56,500	23,606	3,154	92,967	176,227
Totals, 1942	2,624	586	56	448	3,714	$955,581	$292,429	$26,419	$1,240,915	$2,515,344
Totals, 1941	2,289	538	29	432	3,288	453,145	464,530	60,810	630,334	1,608,819
Totals, 1940	2,397	532	39	451	3,419	488,195	495,855	37,484	945,333	1,966,867
Totals, 1939	2,372	543	26	456	3,397	730,922	304,680	8,492	659,516	1,703,610
Totals, 1938	2,206	516	45	471	3,238	1,458,720	319,784	74,554	676,976	2,530,034
	11,888	2,715	195	2,258	17,056	$4,086,563	$1,877,278	$207,759	$4,153,074	$10,324,674

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1938–42.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	2
Dwelling	Defective chimney	1	1
Dwelling	Defective stove-pipe	--	1
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	--	1
Dwelling	Lamp upset	2	--
Dwelling	Matches, children with	--	2
Dwelling	Oil-stove explosion	1	--
Dwelling	Smokers' carelessness	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	--	4
Dwelling	Unknown	--	2
Dwelling	Unknown	--	3
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	2	--
Gaol	Unknown	1	--
Garage	Gasoline carelessness	1	--
Hospital	Floor wax, being heated, exploded	1	--
Hotel	Defective chimney	1	--
Launch	Match carelessness	2	--
Store	Gasoline explosion	1	--
Totals, 1942		16	16
Totals, 1941		13	3
Totals, 1940		7	--
Totals, 1939		7	--
Totals, 1938		7	3

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