TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

STATISTICS, 1943

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1944.

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-second Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1943.

R. L. MAITLAND,
Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1944.

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REPORT OF FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1944.

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

SIR,—Pursuant to section 44 of the "Fire Marshal Act" I have the honour to submit the Twenty-second Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1943.

The year under review shows, I regret to state, a considerable increase in fire loss over the previous year; in fact, it is the biggest loss since the year 1930. The actual fire loss was $3,995,897, which is an increase of $1,480,553 over the 1942 figures or almost 59 per cent. Some large industrial fires accounted for this increase. One fire particularly, which originated in a fur-storage plant and caused a loss of $827,570, was almost unique in the annals of fire protection on this continent and accounted for more than half of the year's increase. The average fire loss for the ten years, 1933 to 1942, is $1,994,092.

There was an increase in incendiary fires from thirty-four in 1942 with a loss of $24,325 to forty-four in 1943 with a loss of $373,509. One of these fires, involving a loss of more than $130,000, occurred in the City of Vancouver; while two such fires, totalling over $123,000, occurred in new developments in the northern portion of the Province. Three incendiary fires occurred in the Kootenay District west of Nelson, involving a loss of $64,057. There was an increase in the number of fires of unknown origin, although the loss was $201,470 less than in 1942.

During the year 2,073 general inspections were made by the staff of the office. These do not include the inspections made by local Assistant Fire Marshals as recorded in Table I. There were also seventy-eight hospital inspections, 165 school, 225 theatre, 168 bulk storage plants for gasoline and oil, and eighteen dry-cleaning plants. Three plans for the alterations of theatres were checked and approved.

Thirty projectionist examinations were held as follows: Fourteen first class, of which six passed; four second class general, of which four passed; seven second class restricted, of which seven passed; and five third class, of which five passed.

Plans for one new film exchange and one film processing plant were checked and approved. Plans for sixteen bulk storage installations for gasoline and oil were checked and approved. Also plans for four schools, two hospitals, three nursing homes, three hotels, and one old people's home were checked and approved. Thirty-four inspections of Government owned and operated buildings were made; nine shipyards and twelve war supply manufacturing plants were inspected. Nine special oil-burning installations were checked and six manually operated oil-burners were checked and approved. Twenty-four lectures were delivered to fire services. Surveys of fire defences were made in sixty-nine centres and assistance rendered to fire department authorities.

The Fire Prevention Week Poster Competition, inaugurated two years ago by the Dominion Fire Prevention Association, with the assistance of Provincial Fire Marshals and Fire Chiefs, has created quite an interest in the schools of British Columbia. This is a poster competition for High School students during Fire Prevention Week and the subject is, of course, Fire Prevention. There are three prizes in each Province and one Dominion grand prize. Competition was quite keen in this Province and some very fine posters went forward to Ottawa from the local judging committee.

There were twenty-nine deaths by fire in 1943—twenty-four adults and five children. This is a slight improvement from last year, especially among the children, as in 1942 sixteen children met death by fire.

During the year there were sixty-two fire investigations and ten inquiries held. Sixty-four appeals were heard and decided, with no appeals therefrom to the Courts. There were ten arson prosecutions with nine convictions and one acquittal; two perjury prosecutions with one conviction and one acquittal; two false alarm prosecutions with two convictions. There were twenty-nine prosecutions under the "Fire Marshal Act" and regulations, with twenty-eight convictions and one acquittal.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to my staff for their splendid work and loyalty during the year as in the past. I also wish to thank the local Assistant Fire Marshals throughout the Province, the Commissioner and members of the British Columbia Police, the city and municipal police, as well as 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	-----	-----
Armstrong	49	5
Chilliwack	264	16
Courtenay	55	-----
Cranbrook	372	7
Cumberland	53	4
Duncan	31	7
Enderby	-----	-----
Fernie	525	12
Grand Forks	144	2
Greenwood	18	-----
Kamloops	445	-----
Kaslo	-----	-----
Kelowna	708	2
Ladysmith	36	-----
Merritt	-----	-----
Nanaimo	665	2
Nelson	770	2
New Westminster	3,170	582
North Vancouver	1,211	68
Port Alberni	296	39
Port Coquitlam	-----	-----
Port Moody	104	-----
Prince George	126	2
Prince Rupert	763	42
Revelstoke	15	-----
Rossland	905	2
Salmon Arm	15	-----
Slocan	-----	-----
Trail	552	-----
Vancouver	23,301	97
Vernon	288	7
Victoria	18,053	728
Totals	52,934	1,626
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	74	3
Chilliwack	-----	-----
Coldstream	-----	-----
Coquitlam	-----	-----
Delta	-----	-----
Esquimalt	79	-----
Fraser Mills	-----	-----
Glenmore	-----	-----
Kent	-----	-----
Langley	76	-----
Maple Ridge	-----	-----
Matsqui	64	-----
Mission	93	-----
North Cowichan	-----	-----
North Vancouver	-----	-----
Oak Bay	576	10
Peachland	-----	-----
Penticton	330	-----
Pitt Meadows	-----	-----
Richmond	69	16
Saanich	505	16
Salmon Arm	-----	-----
Spallumcheen	-----	-----
Sumas	5	-----
Summerland	-----	-----
Surrey	1	-----

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

	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	15	2
West Vancouver	9	.....
Totals	1,896	47
Village Municipalities (22).		
Abbotsford	30	.....
Burns Lake	.....	.....
Chapman Camp	2	.....
Cranberry Lake	.....	.....
Creston	.....	.....
Dawson Creek	18	3
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....
Hope	2	1
Mission	403	8
McBride	3	.....
New Denver	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	1	.....
Qualicum Beach	12	.....
Quesnel	.....	.....
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	.....	.....
Stewart	.....	.....
Terrace	.....	.....
Tofino	.....	.....
Vanderhoof	108	.....
Westview	.....	.....
Williams Lake	.....	.....
Totals	579	12
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	41	7
Ioco	.....	.....
Kootenay, County of	281	6
Nanaimo, County of	.....	.....
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....
Powell River	460	.....
Prince Rupert, County of	5	.....
University Area	32	.....
Vancouver, County of	30	.....
Victoria, County of	.....	.....
Westminster, County of	.....	.....
Yale, County of	86	4
Totals	935	17
Grand totals	56,344	1,702
Grand totals, 1942	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

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (33).		
Alberni	5	$580
Armstrong	3	2,309
Chilliwack	19	1,363
Courtenay	12	3,774
Cranbrook	8	3,141
Cumberland	3	220
Duncan	9	2,489
Enderby	----	----
Fernie	10	500
Grand Forks	8	1,276
Greenwood	2	34
Kamloops	32	20,612
Kaslo	1	25
Kelowna	31	12,295
Ladysmith	13	542
Merritt	6	5,227
Nanaimo	41	3,190
Nelson	22	2,862
New Westminster	111	45,619
North Vancouver	62	18,924
Port Alberni	24	30,696
Port Coquitlam	5	753
Port Moody	2	2,010
Prince George	14	15,735
Prince Rupert	30	91,662
Revelstoke	14	31,651
Rossland	15	4,013
Salmon Arm	7	3,423
Slocan	1	35
Trail	21	24,799
Vancouver	1,973	1,585,053
Vernon	22	19,268
Victoria	327	100,353
Totals	2,853	$2,034,433
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	106	$42,363
Chilliwack	21	14,438
Coldstream	2	5,872
Coquitlam	14	8,437
Delta	12	182,300
Esquimalt	23	3,204
Fraser Mills	1	600
Glenmore	1	4,400
Kent	1	650
Langley	16	13,915
Maple Ridge	20	43,236
Matsqui	9	6,241
Mission	3	1,680
North Cowichan	22	9,227
North Vancouver	23	23,116
Oak Bay	64	15,051
Peachland	2	47
Penticton	31	20,813
Pitt Meadows	4	1,281
Richmond	44	115,057
Saanich	105	13,751
Salmon Arm	----	----
Spallumcheen	3	9,345
Sumas	12	20,150
Summerland	3	1,459
Surrey	31	26,629

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	21	$3,401
West Vancouver	67	16,846
Totals	661	$603,509
Village Municipalities (22).		
Abbotsford	5	$79
Burns Lake	.....	.....
Chapman Camp	2	526
Cranberry Lake	4	7,700
Creston	2	345
Dawson Creek	28	212,451
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....
Hope	2	160
Mission	10	9,431
McBride	1	30
New Denver	1	1,700
Pouce Coupe	1	700
Qualicum Beach	5	392
Quesnel	.....	.....
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	5	127
Stewart	.....	.....
Terrace	1	20,653
Tofino	2	3,100
Vanderhoof	4	4,220
Westview	8	1,856
Williams Lake	6	5,697
Totals	87	$269,167
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	63	$238,840
Ioco	.....	.....
Kootenay, County of	59	132,984
Nanaimo, County of	127	326,260
Pacific Mills, Limited	7	5,651
Powell River	6	769
Prince Rupert, County of	17	132,618
University Area	5	290
Vancouver, County of	47	59,028
Victoria, County of	39	30,062
Westminster, County of	17	41,484
Yale, County of	80	120,892
Totals	467	$1,088,878
Grand totals	4,068	$3,995,987

NOTE.—Construction of buildings—

Fire resisting	35, loss	$15,515
Brick or concrete	306, ,,	1,276,150
Frame	3,727, ,,	2,704,322
	4,068, ,,	$3,995,897

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness	2	$780
Alcohol-vapour explosion	13	730
Ashes against wood	55	15,430
Asphalt boiling over	1	450
Boiler insufficiently protected	1	408
Broken gasoline-line	11	3,362
Bunsen burner, carelessness with	1	22
Candle carelessness	14	3,458
Carburettor back-firing	30	8,206
Car upset	5	3,558
Children playing with fire	7	1,756
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	70	8,426
Coal-gas explosion	4	585
Coal-oil carelessness	5	1,712
Collision	4	11,845
Curtains from lamp	1	2
Curtains from stove	3	192
Defective acetylene-tank	1	5
Defective brooder	7	911
Defective chimney	250	124,160
Defective film	1	30
Defective fireplace	23	1,816
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	15	26,143
Defective oil-burner	15	3,958
Defective oven	2	1,694
Defective stove or stove-pipe	25	14,820
Defective wiring	28	35,941
Dust explosion	1	126
Electrical appliances	169	848,914
Engine back-firing	4	29,135
Exposure	124	268,363
Firecrackers	6	98
Friction of cable	1	45,288
Friction of loose rail	1	100
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	46	119,844
Gas explosion	9	373
Gasoline carelessness	28	49,961
Gasoline explosion	5	10,653
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	4	472
Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	300
Gasoline-torch carelessness	11	2,513
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	3	38
Grease on stove	72	16,819
Hot slag falling on wood	2	300
Incendiary	44	373,509
Lamp upset	6	2,372
Lantern upset	2	3,638
Lightning	6	1,236
Live coals	20	5,438
Match carelessness	55	4,578
Matches, children with	76	15,019
Mattress too near stove	1	22
Melted wax falling on smoke-pipe	1	70
Molten metal	8	18,773
Oil-furnace back-firing	5	35,237
Oil-stove explosion	1	15,321
Overheated electric motor	1	14,260
Overheated lime rock	2	300
Overheated machinery bearings	1	27,405
Paint-remover, being heated, ignited	2	52
Red-hot rivets	1	10
Sawdust-burner back-firing	12	18,861
Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	3	18
Short circuit	163	41,217
Smokers' carelessness	1,175	118,500

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Sparks from acetylene-torch	3	$1,728
Sparks from boiler	4	24,485
Sparks from bonfire	5	2,315
Sparks from burning rubbish	39	19,277
Sparks from bush fire	16	78,470
Sparks from chimney	352	104,827
Sparks from engine	3	107,819
Sparks from fireplace	276	6,754
Sparks from forge	2	1,320
Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	11	4,192
Sparks from locomotive	1	3,600
Sparks from mill burner	4	10,351
Sparks from picker-machine	2	18,096
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	58	21,741
Sparks from welding-machine	2	257
Spontaneous combustion	32	78,329
Static electricity	2	15,722
Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	3	2,853
Stove explosion	13	4,317
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	152	119,721
Tar boiling over	6	5,023
Thawing pipes	44	31,830
Thawing radiator	3	58
Unknown	364	972,151
Wood too near furnace	2	662
Wood too near stove	3	556
Totals	4,068	$3,995,987

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Aircraft manufacturing plants	1	Exposure	1		$5,895
Apartments	254	Ashes against wood	2	$69	
		Candle carelessness	3	62	
		Clothes too near stove	4	141	
		Curtains from lamp	1	2	
		Curtains from stove	1	20	
		Defective chimney	38	6,743	
		Defective fireplace	1	25	
		Defective oil-burner	1	581	
		Defective wiring	1	1,338	
		Electrical appliances	11	1,173	
		Exposure	2	55	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	41	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	964	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	3	75	
		Grease on stove	2	34	
		Incendiary	3	378	
		Live coals	2	51	
		Match carelessness	2	77	
		Matches, children with	3	130	
		Short circuit	2	13	
		Smokers' carelessness	90	10,214	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	10	
		Sparks from chimney	46	11,713	
		Sparks from fireplace	7	67	
		Sparks from furnace-pipe	1	726	
		Sparks from stove	2	13	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	11	1,918	
		Thawing pipes	1	15	
		Unknown	10	2,795	
					39,443
Arenas	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		253
Asphalt plants	1	Asphalt boiling over	1		450
Automobiles	263	Alcohol-vapour explosion	12	$705	
		Ashes against wood	1	575	
		Broken gasoline-line	11	3,362	
		Carburettor back-firing	26	1,413	
		Car upset	5	3,558	
		Collision	3	1,845	
		Defective wiring	8	251	
		Exposure	4	1,969	
		Firecrackers	1	12	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	781	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	4	472	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	62	
		Incendiary	2	1,025	
		Match carelessness	3	885	
		Short circuit	83	8,080	
		Smokers' carelessness	67	7,695	
		Tar boiling over	2	2,523	
		Thawing radiator	3	58	
		Unknown	23	12,631	
					47,902
Bakeries	8	Ashes against wood	1	$5,275	
		Defective furnace	1	200	
		Defective oven	1	1,534	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	75	
		Sparks from chimney	1	4	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	309	
		Unknown	2	4,490	
					11,887
Barber-shops	2	Electrical appliances	1	$20	
		Exposure	1	5,627	
					5,647

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Barns	44	Defective chimney	1	$225	
		Defective stove	2	1,764	
		Engine back-firing	1	202	
		Exposure	1	2,255	
		Gasoline explosion	1	4,717	
		Incendiary	4	2,689	
		Lantern upset	1	2,038	
		Matches, children with	5	3,433	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	611	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	500	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	9	9,365	
		Sparks from locomotive	1	3,600	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	7,277	
		Unknown	14	14,101	
					$52,777
Barracks	12	Smokers' carelessness	2	$14	
		Sparks from chimney	1	15	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	25,617	
		Unknown	5	22,471	
					48,117
Blacksmith-shops	2	Sparks from forge	2		1,320
Boarding-houses	9	Clothes too near stove	1	$25	
		Electrical appliances	1	75	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	187	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	15	
					322
Boat-building works	2	Exposure	1	$1,577	
		Unknown	1	33,300	
					34,877
Boat-houses	6	Exposure	4	$1,425	
		Short circuit	1	1,950	
		Unknown	1	350	
					3,725
Breweries	1	Unknown	1		452
Bridges	3	Friction of loose rail	1	$100	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	310	
					410
Bunk-houses	9	Clothes too near stove	1	$260	
		Defective furnace	1	16,000	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	2,300	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	10	
		Stove explosion	1	1,506	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	1,383	
		Unknown	3	2,031	
					23,490
Canneries	1	Unknown	1		6,735
Carpenter-shops	4	Electrical appliances	1	$11	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	50	
		Sparks from engine	1	105,926	
		Unknown	1	2,556	
					108,543
Chemical plants	1	Exposure	1		500
Chicken-houses	21	Defective brooder	7	$911	
		Defective oil-burner	1	106	
		Electrical appliances	1	5	
		Exposure	1	103	
		Grease on stove	1	7	
		Lamp upset	1	1,827	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	124	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	10	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	150	
		Unknown	6	7,210	
					10,453

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Churches	11	Ashes against wood	1	$15	
		Defective wiring	1	16,088	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	1,469	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	134	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	827	
		Unknown	3	7,293	
					$25,826
Clubs	14	Electrical appliances	1	$27	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	75,000	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	535	
		Sparks from chimney	1	25	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	10	
		Sparks from stove	1	1,412	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	30	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	115	
		Unknown	1	608	
					77,762
Dairies	2	Sparks from chimney	1	$101	
		Unknown	1	650	
					751
Dry-cleaning establishments	12	Defective chimney	3	$203	
		Electrical appliances	1	229	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	22,582	
		Gasoline explosion	2	603	
		Short circuit	1	200	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	24	
		Unknown	2	885	
					24,726
Dwellings	2,389	Ashes against wood	36	$8,268	
		Candle carelessness	10	3,386	
		Children playing with fire	7	1,756	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	58	5,748	
		Coal-gas explosion	4	585	
		Coal-oil carelessness	4	1,312	
		Curtains from stove	1	2	
		Defective chimney	177	88,985	
		Defective fireplace	22	1,791	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	11	6,951	
		Defective oil-burner	9	1,650	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	21	12,997	
		Defective wiring	13	9,052	
		Electrical appliances	115	7,059	
		Exposure	42	21,570	
		Firecrackers	3	53	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	33	11,543	
		Gas explosion	7	278	
		Gasoline carelessness	8	7,272	
		Gasoline explosion	2	5,333	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	4	69	
		Grease on stove	56	3,474	
		Incendiary	12	7,060	
		Lamp upset	4	420	
		Lantern upset	1	1,600	
		Lightning	5	920	
		Live coals	17	5,372	
		Match carelessness	40	2,797	
		Matches, children with	44	6,615	
		Mattress too near stove	1	22	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	4	237	
		Paint-remover, being heated, ignited	2	52	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	10	2,267	
		Sawdust-burner insufficiently protected	2	12	
		Short circuit	34	8,452	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Smokers' carelessness	682	$39,779	
		Sparks from bonfire	3	915	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	15	777	
		Sparks from bush fire	4	2,476	
		Sparks from chimney	256	85,295	
		Sparks from engine	1	1,750	
		Sparks from fireplace	262	6,545	
		Sparks from furnace	6	377	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	44	12,148	
		Spontaneous combustion	7	4,362	
		Stove explosion	11	2,801	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	91	25,846	
		Tar boiling over	1	15	
		Thawing pipes	32	9,512	
		Unknown	150	149,826	
		Wood too near furnace	2	662	
		Wood too near stove	3	556	
					$578,602
Electrical sub-stations	2	Short circuit	1	$1,400	
		Unknown	1	3,122	
					4,522
Engines	4	Carburettor back-firing	1	$961	
		Unknown	3	3,104	
					4,065
Factories (bed and mattress)	1	Sparks from picker-machine	1		158
Factories (brush)	1	Electrical appliances	1		187
Factories (cheese)	1	Sparks from chimney	1		2,262
Factories (furniture)	2	Electrical appliances	1	$25	
		Static electricity	1	15,022	
					15,047
Factories (insulating material)	2	Oil-furnace back-firing	1	$35,000	
		Unknown	1	2,535	
					37,535
Factories (jam)	1	Incendiary	1		46,207
Factories (paper-box)	1	Spontaneous combustion	1		438
Factories (roof products)	1	Unknown	1		3,137
Factories (sash and door)	2	Sparks from boiler	1	$50	
		Unknown	1	5,555	
					5,605
Factories (spring manufacturing)	1	Electrical appliances	1		11
Factories (trunk and bag)	1	Exposure	1		253
Fences	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		5
Fire-halls	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$52	
		Sparks from furnace	1	2,856	
					2,908
Fishing-boats	6	Exposure	1	$1,150	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	150	
		Unknown	4	9,265	
					10,565
Foundries	20	Defective chimney	2	$300	
		Electrical appliances	1	100	
		Exposure	1	285	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	45	
		Molten metal	6	18,489	
		Short circuit	1	200	
		Sparks from chimney	1	4	
		Sparks from furnace	1	128	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	14,725	
		Unknown	5	29,350	
					63,626
Fruit-packing plants	3	Unknown	3		17,821
Fur-storage plants	1	Electrical appliances	1		827,570
Gaols	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		20

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Garages	66	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$180	
		Ashes against wood	1	50	
		Carburettor back-firing	1	5,750	
		Defective chimney	2	5,100	
		Exposure	7	61,388	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	13,393	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	220	
		Incendiary	3	124,200	
		Lamp upset	1	125	
		Matches, children with	5	541	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	14,844	
		Short circuit	8	3,156	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	351	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	3	182	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	5	
		Sparks from chimney	4	897	
		Sparks from engine	1	143	
		Sparks from welding-machine	2	257	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	2,298	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	2,256	
		Unknown	10	10,750	
					$246,086
Gasoline-stations	4	Gasoline carelessness	1	$120	
		Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	300	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	7,358	
					7,798
Graders	1	Short circuit	1		1,000
Greenhouses	3	Sparks from chimney	1	$65	
		Sparks from stove	1	200	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	10	
					275
Halls	11	Defective wiring	1	$4,250	
		Electrical appliances	1	6	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	23,565	
		Incendiary	1	233	
		Matches, children with	2	110	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	5	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	698	
		Unknown	2	2,890	
					31,757
Haystacks	2	Incendiary	1	$1,072	
		Matches, children with	1	400	
					1,472
Hospitals	12	Grease on stove	1	$551	
		Match carelessness	1	98	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	275	
		Sparks from chimney	4	763	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	100	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	1,453	
		Unknown	1	203	
					3,443
Hotels	115	Ashes against wood	1	$9	
		Candle carelessness	1	10	
		Curtains from stove	1	170	
		Defective chimney	3	12,193	
		Electrical appliances	4	8,067	
		Exposure	3	59,922	
		Short circuit	6	658	
		Smokers' carelessness	84	21,236	
		Sparks from chimney	1	150	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	50	
		Sparks from stove	3	176	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	$605	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	19,809	
		Unknown	3	166	
					$123,221
House-boats	3	Sparks from chimney	1	$15	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	175	
					190
Ice-cream plants	1	Unknown	1		14,984
Launches	6	Carburettor back-firing	1	$32	
		Exposure	1	250	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	300	
		Matches, children with	1	50	
		Short circuit	1	150	
		Unknown	1	3,400	
					4,182
Laundries	8	Defective chimney	1	$186	
		Incendiary	1	19,451	
		Match carelessness	1	416	
		Sparks from chimney	2	48	
		Unknown	3	2,690	
					22,791
Logging camps	26	Engine back-firing	1	$23,333	
		Friction of cable	1	45,288	
		Short circuit	1	1,641	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	3,471	
		Sparks from bush fire	11	75,989	
		Sparks from chimney	1	141	
		Unknown	9	34,710	
					184,573
Lumber piles	1	Unknown	1		71
Machine-shops	6	Defective acetylene-tank	1	$5	
		Exposure	1	3,415	
		Short circuit	1	109	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	96	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	650	
		Unknown	1	3,240	
					7,515
Mining properties	5	Short circuit	2	$5,468	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	75	
		Sparks from chimney	1	265	
		Unknown	1	250	
					6,058
Motor-cycles	1	Carburettor back-firing	1		50
Offices	38	Bunsen burner, carelessness with	1	$22	
		Clothes too near stove	1	10	
		Electrical appliances	1	28	
		Exposure	6	4,439	
		Grease on stove	2	1,027	
		Incendiary	1	1,554	
		Match carelessness	1	4	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	15,321	
		Short circuit	2	660	
		Smokers' carelessness	12	883	
		Sparks from chimney	2	204	
		Sparks from stove	1	30	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	35	
		Stove insufficiently protected	3	1,059	
		Thawing pipes	1	500	
		Unknown	1	5	
					25,781
Oil-houses	1	Unknown	1		3,300
Oil refineries	1	Sparks from furnace	1		30
Paper-mills	4	Defective wiring	1	$496	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	$1,500	
		Unknown	2	49,310	
					$51,306
Peat plants	5	Short circuit	1	$887	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	35,236	
		Unknown	3	214,018	
					250,141
Piggeries	2	Sparks from chimney	1	$900	
		Unknown	1	3,450	
					4,350
Power-houses	3	Short circuit	2	$1,658	
		Unknown	1	1,150	
					2,808
Printing-offices	6	Furnace insufficiently protected	1	$1,967	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	66	
		Melted wax falling on smoke-pipe	1	70	
		Molten metal	2	284	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	7,135	
					9,522
Railway-stations	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		25
Restaurants	25	Clothes too near stove	1	$5	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	400	
		Defective oil-burner	1	171	
		Exposure	2	17,906	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	4,500	
		Gas explosion	1	80	
		Grease on stove	4	4,407	
		Incendiary	3	11,909	
		Short circuit	3	2,078	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	123	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	118	
		Thawing pipes	2	705	
		Unknown	1	9,779	
					52,181
Rinks	1	Tar boiling over	1		43
Rooming-houses	113	Clothes too near stove	1	$22	
		Defective chimney	8	132	
		Electrical appliances	4	86	
		Exposure	2	4,330	
		Incendiary	1	23	
		Live coals	1	15	
		Match carelessness	2	22	
		Matches, children with	2	41	
		Smokers' carelessness	71	1,545	
		Sparks from chimney	7	689	
		Sparks from fireplace	4	70	
		Stove explosion	1	10	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	25	
		Unknown	8	3,672	
					10,682
Roundhouses	1	Unknown	1		6,400
Sawmills	23	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$600	
		Boiler insufficiently protected	1	408	
		Engine back-firing	1	1,900	
		Incendiary	1	50	
		Overheated electric motor	1	14,260	
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	27,405	
		Sparks from boiler	2	23,682	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	10,271	
		Unknown	13	71,914	
					150,490
Schools	12	Alcohol-vapour explosion	1	$25	
		Clothes too near stove	1	10	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Electrical appliances	1	$42	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	775	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	6,422	
		Sparks from chimney	2	51	
		Sparks from stove	1	105	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	377	
		Unknown	3	713	
					$8,520
Sheds	72	Ashes against wood	3	$70	
		Defective wiring	1	10	
		Electrical appliances	2	40	
		Exposure	4	6,500	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	700	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	2,009	
		Incendiary	7	5,690	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Matches, children with	8	678	
		Short circuit	1	20	
		Smokers' carelessness	10	882	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	900	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	4	904	
		Sparks from chimney	3	210	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	75	
		Sparks from stove	2	221	
		Spontaneous combustion	6	3,899	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	20	
		Unknown	14	7,847	
					30,775
Sheet-metal works	2	Incendiary	1	$3,342	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	180	
					3,522
Shingle-mills	3	Sparks from boiler	1	$753	
		Unknown	2	46,670	
					47,423
Ships	4	Red-hot rivets	1	$10	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	120	
		Spontaneous combustion	1	255	
					385
Shipyards	5	Short circuit	1	$12	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	48	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	110	
		Unknown	2	171	
					341
Smelting plants	14	Ashes against wood	1	$25	
		Defective chimney	1	150	
		Defective furnace	1	550	
		Electrical appliances	1	75	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	40	
		Hot slag falling on wood	2	300	
		Overheated lime rock	2	300	
		Short circuit	2	400	
		Static electricity	1	700	
		Tar boiling over	1	75	
		Unknown	1	150	
					2,765
Stables	2	Unknown	2		3,136
Steam-boilers	1	Defective oil-burner	1		24
Stores	183	Ashes against wood	4	$725	
		Clothes too near stove	1	5	
		Defective chimney	6	4,036	
		Defective wiring	1	4,136	
		Electrical appliances	12	3,570	
		Exposure	21	31,163	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Firecrackers	2	$33	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	489	
		Gas explosion	1	15	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	1,307	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	78	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	2	19	
		Grease on stove	5	560	
		Incendiary	2	148,626	
		Match carelessness	2	142	
		Matches, children with	4	2,321	
		Short circuit	6	4,458	
		Smokers' carelessness	78	17,595	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	2	1,432	
		Sparks from chimney	4	206	
		Sparks from furnace	1	75	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	5	
		Sparks from stove	2	7,411	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	871	
		Stove insufficiently protected	5	1,687	
		Thawing pipes	4	20,929	
		Unknown	11	32,698	
					$284,592
Stores and apartments	15	Defective chimney	2	$315	
		Electrical appliances	1	25	
		Match carelessness	1	12	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	6	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	1,997	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	60	
		Sparks from chimney	2	449	
		Unknown	2	725	
					3,589
Stores and dwellings	26	Ashes against wood	1	$9	
		Defective chimney	2	4,173	
		Defective oil-burner	1	1,042	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	19	
		Exposure	4	5,742	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	4,315	
		Sparks from chimney	2	165	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	12	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	215	
		Tar boiling over	1	2,367	
		Thawing pipes	3	119	
		Unknown	1	2,100	
					20,278
Stores and offices	2	Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	$19	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	20	
					39
Stores and rooms	42	Ashes against wood	2	$205	
		Defective chimney	3	134	
		Electrical appliances	1	204	
		Exposure	3	854	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	26	
		Smokers' carelessness	17	1,825	
		Sparks from chimney	4	150	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	6	3,380	
		Thawing pipes	1	50	
		Unknown	4	17,271	
					24,099
Street-cars	3	Collision	1	$10,000	
		Short circuit	2	1,003	
					11,003
Theatres	6	Defective film	1	$30	
		Electrical appliances	2	105	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Exposure	2	$392	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	2,428	
					$2,955
Tobacco-kilns	1	Unknown	1		1,010
Tractors	1	Unknown	1		40
Tug-boats	6	Clothes too near stove	1	$2,200	
		Defective oil-burner	1	384	
		Defective wiring	1	320	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	150	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Unknown	1	4,500	
					7,654
Warehouses	38	Defective chimney	3	$3,064	
		Defective oven	1	160	
		Dust explosion	1	126	
		Electrical appliances	2	174	
		Engine back-firing	1	3,700	
		Exposure	4	24,909	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	410	
		Grease on stove	1	6,759	
		Lightning	1	316	
		Match carelessness	1	25	
		Matches, children with	1	700	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	1,750	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	1,152	
		Sparks from picker-machine	1	17,938	
		Spontaneous combustion	2	7,811	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	18,806	
		Unknown	7	72,971	
					160,771
Welding-shops	2	Ashes against wood	1	$135	
		Unknown	1	65	
					200
Wharves	3	Exposure	2	$2,750	
		Unknown	1	3,352	
					6,102
Workshops	3	Sparks from stove	1	$25	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	1,300	
		Unknown	1	107	
					1,432
Totals	4,068		4,068		$3,995,987

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.
1943.										
January	406	88	11	60	565	$224,672	$33,988	$16,078	$122,726	$397,464
February	219	43	21	35	318	43,791	15,382	166,784	71,099	297,056
March	291	84	12	48	435	64,911	66,877	24,170	50,789	206,747
April	214	47	5	37	303	87,524	23,177	333	93,569	204,603
May	242	34	4	52	332	98,244	51,355	21,400	110,272	281,271
June	209	36	6	41	292	88,926	206,563	9,907	97,903	403,299
July	217	47	3	26	293	35,535	25,553	1,110	35,342	97,540
August	205	55	6	29	295	214,157	30,653	4,457	68,766	318,033
September	187	50	2	41	280	869,077	23,871	196	155,791	1,048,935
October	203	49	6	37	295	46,865	59,354	1,074	138,593	245,886
November	216	47	2	25	290	133,263	38,499	59	52,533	224,354
December	244	81	9	36	370	127,468	28,237	23,599	91,495	270,799
Totals, 1943	2,853	661	87	467	4,068	$2,034,433	$603,509	$269,167	$1,088,878	$3,995,987
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
	12,535	2,860	237	2,254	17,886	$4,662,276	$2,161,003	$402,372	$4,564,976	$11,790,627

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1939–43.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.	
		Adults.	Children.
Dwelling	Clothes too near stove	--	1
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	--	1
Dwelling	Defective stove	1	--
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	--	1
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	1	--
Dwelling	Lamp upset	1	--
Dwelling	Smokers' carelessness	1	--
Dwelling	Stove insufficiently protected	--	1
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	2	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	1	--
Dwelling	Unknown	--	1
Fishing-boat	Unknown	1	--
Fishing-boat	Unknown	1	--
Garage	Gasoline carelessness	1	--
Gasoline-station	Stove insufficiently protected	1	--
Launch	Unknown	1	--
Paper-mill	Unknown	1	--
Restaurant	Coal-oil carelessness	1	--
Store and apartments	Smokers' carelessness	1	--
Warehouse	Defective chimney	5	--
Totals, 1943		24	5
Totals, 1942		16	16
Totals, 1941		13	3
Totals, 1940		7	--
Totals, 1939		7	--

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