THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

TWENTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS, 1945

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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1946.

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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-fourth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1945.

GORDON S. WISMER,
Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., April 30th, 1946.

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Report of Fire Marshal.

OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1946.

The Honourable the Attorney-General,
Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—Pursuant to section 44 of the "Fire Marshal Act" I have the honour to submit herewith the Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1945. I regret to report that the fire loss for the year under review is more than that of the previous year by $1,645,353 and the number of fires exceeds the previous year by 733. The average fire loss for the year is approximately $1,030 as compared with $826 for the previous year. Heavy financial losses are built up by fires which get out of control in buildings where materials of high value are concentrated in small areas. This condition is more noticeable in industrial fires and was more or less unavoidable during the war years. Outstanding among our larger losses was the fire which occurred on the S.S. "Greenhill Park." This fire took a heavy toll of life and property. Unfortunately, during the year there was a heavy loss of life through fire—twenty-five men, twelve women, and twenty-one children—a total of fifty-eight. Eight of these children came by their deaths when left alone in their homes, and in one case two of them had been playing with matches. It will be noted that incendiarism was responsible for thirty-seven fires with a loss of $274,358. In this connection we were successful in having a number of the perpetrators of these crimes brought before the Courts where they were adequately dealt with.

There were fifteen fires during the year with a loss in excess of $50,000 each. Nine of these fires, causing a loss of $2,114,421, were of undetermined origin. It will be readily understood that these fifteen fires occurred, for the most part, in industrial buildings or warehouses where articles of high value were concentrated.

Fire-prevention work was vigorously pursued throughout the year, and in this connection I am pleased to report that a student from one of our schools, Miss Peggy Brown from the John Oliver High School, Vancouver, as well as winning our Provincial prize for a fire-prevention poster, won the Dominion grand prize in the poster contest sponsored by the Dominion Fire Prevention Association.

Hereunder are some of the activities of this office for the year 1945:—

General fire-hazard inspections	1,757
General inspections of public halls	211
Plans checked for changes in existing public halls	25
General inspections of hotels	98
Plans checked for hotels	4
General inspections of schools	139
Plans checked for new schools or additions to existing ones	30
General inspections of hospitals	78
Plans checked for new hospitals	6
General inspections of dry-cleaning plants	14
General inspections of bulk storage plants for gasoline and oils	107
Plans checked for changes, extensions, and new plants for inflammable liquids	105
General inspections of sawmills	8

General inspections of Government buildings	35
Plans checked for arenas	3
Plans checked for apartments	3
General inspections of shipyards	4
General inspections of war-supply plants	6
General inspections of Security camps	4
General inspections of waterworks systems	23
Special surveys	10
Oil-burner installations checked	207
Oil-burners checked for labels	1,375
General inspections of film exchanges	79
General inspections of theatres	194
Plans checked for new theatres	11
Projectionists' examinations held	22

During the year eighty fire investigations were conducted with the following results:—

Fire inquiries held		11
Prosecutions under the " Fire Marshal Act " and regulations		14
Convictions	14	
Prosecutions for arson		18
Convictions	14	
Acquittals	3	
Sent to Mental Hospital	1	
Prosecutions for attempted arson		2
Convictions	1	
Acquittals	1	

Forty-two appeals from orders issued by local Assistant Fire Marshals were heard and decisions given. There was one appeal taken to a County Court Judge who confirmed the decision of the Fire Marshal.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to my staff for their fine work during the past year. Also, I wish to thank all local Assistant Fire Marshals throughout the Province, the Commissioner and members of the British Columbia Police, city and municipal officials, 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 (34).		
Alberni	.....	.....
Armstrong	16	5
Chilliwack	235	6
Courtenay	64	.....
Cranbrook	376	17
Cumberland	30	2
Duncan	50	5
Enderby	96	.....
Fernie	927	2
Grand Forks	199	2
Greenwood	11	1
Kamloops	527	6
Kaslo	.....	.....
Kelowna	778	.....
Kimberley	.....	.....
Ladysmith	146	5
Merritt	.....	.....
Nanaimo	736	2
Nelson	548	8
New Westminster	2,901	523
North Vancouver	1,010	43
Port Alberni	239	28
Port Coquitlam	.....	.....
Port Moody	56	.....
Prince George	141	10
Prince Rupert	742	9
Revelstoke	.....	.....
Rossland	456	22
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Slocan	.....	.....
Trail	844	.....
Vancouver	21,763	79
Vernon	399	10
Victoria	22,761	373
Totals	56,051	1,158
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	935	61
Chilliwack	.....	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	.....	.....
Delta	.....	.....
Esquimalt	76	.....
Fraser Mills	.....	.....
Glenmore	1	.....
Kent	.....	.....
Langley	101	3
Maple Ridge	.....	.....
Matsqui	23	.....
Mission	113	.....
North Cowichan	.....	.....
North Vancouver	.....	.....
Oak Bay	510	3
Peachland	.....	.....
Penticton	393	1
Pitt Meadows	.....	.....
Richmond	416	20
Saanich	352	.....
Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Spallumcheen	.....	.....
Sumas	.....	.....
Summerland	21	.....

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

	Inspections.	Orders.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Surrey	12	1
Tadanac	60	4
West Vancouver	17	.....
Totals	3,030	93
Village Municipalities (24).		
Abbotsford	55	.....
Burns Lake	13	.....
Chapman Camp	.....	.....
Cranberry Lake	.....	.....
Creston	.....	.....
Dawson Creek	18	.....
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....
Hope	.....	.....
Lytton	.....	.....
Mission	397	44
McBride	.....	.....
New Denver	.....	.....
Parksville	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	34	3
Qualicum Beach	11	1
Quesnel	.....	.....
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	54	18
Stewart	.....	.....
Terrace	21	.....
Tofino	.....	.....
Vanderhoof	77	.....
Westview	.....	.....
Williams Lake	.....	.....
Totals	680	66
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	114	18
Ioco	.....	.....
Kootenay, County of	321	1
Nanaimo, County of	.....	.....
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....
Powell River	230	.....
Prince Rupert, County of	.....	.....
University Area	139	.....
Vancouver, County of	11	.....
Victoria, County of	.....	.....
Westminster, County of	.....	.....
Yale, County of	62	14
Totals	877	33
Grand totals	60,638	1,350
Grand totals, 1944	58,496	1,598
Grand totals, 1943	56,344	1,702
Grand totals, 1942	70,181	1,536
Grand totals, 1941	75,717	2,134

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
City Municipalities (34).		
Alberni	17	$35,583
Armstrong	5	1,475
Chilliwack	13	1,251
Courtenay	6	4,172
Cranbrook	13	1,112
Cumberland	4	2,303
Duncan	12	3,643
Enderby	1	100
Fernie	12	1,426
Grand Forks	7	467
Greenwood	1	16
Kamloops	43	6,064
Kaslo	2	169
Kelowna	35	5,109
Kimberley	10	1,536
Ladysmith	10	618
Merritt	9	7,765
Nanaimo	76	14,487
Nelson	23	3,850
New Westminster	116	24,215
North Vancouver	91	49,847
Port Alberni	35	6,445
Port Coquitlam	6	6,862
Port Moody	3	20,511
Prince George	20	17,558
Prince Rupert	29	113,275
Revelstoke	4	9,377
Rossland	11	2,017
Salmon Arm	7	7,685
Slocan	1	10
Trail	22	6,547
Vancouver	2,649	2,563,645
Vernon	21	1,718
Victoria	352	122,501
Totals	3,666	$3,043,359
District Municipalities (28).		
Burnaby	157	$37,182
Chilliwack	17	41,556
Coldstream	.....	.....
Coquitlam	12	62,926
Delta	15	22,205
Esquimalt	39	14,748
Fraser Mills	1	1,075
Glenmore	.....	.....
Kent	7	9,186
Langley	16	11,789
Maple Ridge	18	44,011
Matsqui	10	10,357
Mission	6	18,929
North Cowichan	12	22,299
North Vancouver	43	7,388
Oak Bay	82	4,198
Peachland	1	9
Penticton	25	15,856
Pitt Meadows	7	11,318
Richmond	47	26,067
Saanich	101	14,760
Salmon Arm	3	134
Spallumcheen	4	3,824
Sumas	4	2,040
Summerland	6	1,180
Surrey	59	56,558

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
District Municipalities—Continued.		
Tadanac	28	$8,505
West Vancouver	98	16,021
Totals	818	$464,121
Village Municipalities (24).		
Abbotsford	4	$208
Burns Lake	1	5
Chapman Camp	1	2,270
Cranberry Lake	3	48
Creston	4	4,789
Dawson Creek	13	27,613
Gibsons Landing	1	35
Hope	4	2,815
Lytton	.....	.....
Mission	8	2,031
McBride	1	175
New Denver	2	325
Parksville	.....	.....
Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Qualicum Beach	2	5,657
Quesnel	4	117
Silverton	.....	.....
Smithers	18	59,435
Stewart	.....	.....
Terrace	4	10,300
Tofino	1	975
Vanderhoof	1	700
Westview	8	792
Williams Lake	3	2,011
Totals	83	$120,301
Fire Districts (12).		
Cariboo, County of	60	$215,350
Ioco	1	6
Kootenay, County of	72	244,163
Nanaimo, County of	122	435,187
Pacific Mills, Limited	4	10,057
Powell River	7	1,297
Prince Rupert, County of	30	143,435
University Area	10	12,239
Vancouver, County of	47	113,069
Victoria, County of	52	37,406
Westminster, County of	19	45,484
Yale, County of	102	361,828
Totals	526	$1,619,521
Grand totals	5,093	$5,247,302
NOTE.—Construction of buildings—		
Fire-resisting	33	$1,426,269
Brick or concrete	316	629,031
Frame	4,744	3,192,002
	5,093	$5,247,302

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness	4	$7,886
Alcohol-vapour explosion	8	465
Ashes against wood	57	36,553
Boiler insufficiently protected	3	2,378
Broken gasoline-line	6	1,000
Broken oil-line	2	50
Broken take-up belt	1	20
Bunsen burner, carelessness with	1	40
Candle carelessness	45	1,918
Canvas cover ignited from exhaust	1	25
Carburettor back-firing	31	10,739
Car upset	10	4,360
Chemical explosion	1	23
Children playing with fire	16	8,141
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	93	13,644
Coal-gas explosion	4	26,224
Coal-oil carelessness	7	3,821
Collision	6	279
Curtains from lamp	4	828
Curtains from stove	4	117
Defective acetylene-tank	2	168
Defective acetylene-torch	3	1,568
Defective battery connection	1	20
Defective brooder	2	510
Defective chimney	281	114,403
Defective fireplace	19	1,708
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	11	21,492
Defective gas-oven	1	4,207
Defective motor	1	152
Defective oil-burner	11	7,300
Defective oven	1	76
Defective stove or stove-pipe	34	21,977
Defective wiring	28	44,726
Drive-shaft broke and punctured fuel-tank	1	750
Dust explosion	2	225
Electrical appliances	205	68,790
Engine back-firing	1	31,259
Exposure	146	151,101
Film break at the aperture	1	80
Firecrackers	11	299
Friction on pulley	2	10,162
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	47	53,131
Gas explosion	2	256
Gas from bore-hole ignited by fire in portable boiler	1	4,679
Gasoline carelessness	40	43,695
Gasoline, children with	1	1,600
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	11	2,195
Gasoline-torch carelessness	5	139
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	3	1,542
Grease dripping on hot sawdust	1	20
Grease on stove	69	13,692
Hot stove-lid falling on floor	2	45
Ignition of spray paint	3	1,252
Ignition of turpentine	1	20
Incendiary	37	274,358
Incense-burner upset	1	13
Lamp explosion	1	71
Lamp upset	6	862
Lightning	4	11,431
Live coals	15	210
Match carelessness	77	2,924
Matches, children with	83	31,953
Mattress too near furnace	2	22
Molten metal	10	777
Oil-furnace back-firing	1	25

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

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Oil-stove explosion	1	$25
Oil-stove upset	2	93
Oil-vapour explosion	1	4,847
Overheated electric motor	3	3,054
Overheated machinery bearings	1	148
Overheated motor	1	49
Overheated vulcanizer	1	85
Paint-remover, being heated, ignited	3	301
Sawdust-burner back-firing	20	18,112
Short circuit	223	166,879
Smokers' carelessness	1,942	219,593
Sodium in water	1	161
Sparks from acetylene-torch	16	111,212
Sparks from boiler	5	50,724
Sparks from bonfire	14	2,798
Sparks from buffing-machine	1	186
Sparks from burning rubbish	16	6,767
Sparks from bush-fire	9	149,771
Sparks from chimney	330	97,260
Sparks from engine	2	9,678
Sparks from fireplace	252	6,729
Sparks from forge	1	307
Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	12	24,229
Sparks from grinding-machine	1	211
Sparks from mill burner	5	9,671
Sparks from picker-machine	2	6,612
Sparks from slash fire	1	17,087
Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	77	31,243
Sparks from welding-machine	5	987
Spontaneous ignition	26	17,407
Static electricity	4	1,300
Stove explosion	9	938
Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	170	110,550
Sun's rays	1	17
Tar boiling over	7	1,124
Thawing pipes	3	73,749
Unknown	423	3,054,711
Varnish boiling over	3	1,413
Water in lime	1	895
Wood too near furnace	2	135
Wood too near stove or stove-pipe	5	1,848
Totals	5,093	$5,247,302

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Apartments	358	Ashes against wood	4	$93	
		Candle carelessness	2	34	
		Clothes too near stove	6	89	
		Curtains from stove	1	52	
		Defective chimney	24	8,733	
		Defective fireplace	1	72	
		Defective oil-burner	1	180	
		Defective stove-pipe	2	116	
		Electrical appliances	18	754	
		Exposure	10	1,717	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	313	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	3,311	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	2	1,363	
		Grease on stove	3	66	
		Live coals	1	5	
		Match carelessness	7	113	
		Matches, children with	2	46	
		Mattress too near furnace	1	7	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	3,525	
		Short circuit	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	192	40,503	
		Sparks from chimney	35	15,069	
		Sparks from fireplace	11	2,299	
		Sparks from furnace	1	75	
		Sparks from stove	2	67	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	37	
		Stove explosion	1	40	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	14	1,424	
		Unknown	11	677	
					$80,795
Asphalt plants	2	Tar boiling over	1	$79	
		Unknown	1	697	
					776
Automobile camps	7	Defective chimney	1	$20	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	354	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	17	
		Unknown	1	3,482	
					3,878
Automobiles	351	Alcohol-vapour explosion	8	$465	
		Broken gasoline-line	4	600	
		Broken oil-line	1	20	
		Canvas cover ignited from exhaust	1	25	
		Carburettor back-firing	24	2,199	
		Car upset	10	4,360	
		Collision	4	154	
		Defective battery connection	1	20	
		Defective wiring	12	747	
		Drive-shaft broke and punctured fuel-tank	1	750	
		Exposure	3	1,188	
		Gasoline carelessness	8	4,371	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	11	2,195	
		Incendiary	2	900	
		Match carelessness	1	17	
		Overheated motor	1	49	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	10	
		Short circuit	134	15,926	
		Smokers' carelessness	93	5,035	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	3	68	
		Sparks from welding-machine	4	516	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	30	
		Unknown	23	8,984	
					48,629
Bakeries	3	Defective oven	1	$76	
		Sparks from stove	1	58	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Unknown	1	$971	
					$1,105
Banks	2	Defective furnace	1	$10	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	10	
					20
Barber shops	4	Ashes against wood	1	$150	
		Exposure	2	515	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	23	
					688
Barges	3	Sparks from boiler	1	$40,000	
		Unknown	1	500	
		Water in lime	1	895	
					41,395
Barns	37	Exposure	1	$215	
		Incendiary	1	150	
		Lightning	1	10,387	
		Matches, children with	5	4,268	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	850	
		Sparks from chimney	1	300	
		Sparks from engine	1	5,500	
		Spontaneous ignition	4	8,225	
		Unknown	22	62,333	
					92,228
Barracks	12	Coal-gas explosion	1	$19,200	
		Defective wiring	1	975	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	500	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Short circuit	2	135	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	7,894	
		Unknown	2	4,108	
					32,912
Bath-houses	2	Incendiary	1	$15	
		Unknown	1	2,170	
					2,185
Battery manufacturing plants	1	Defective gas-oven	1	.....	4,207
Blacksmith-shops	4	Defective oil-burner	1	$229	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	10	
		Sparks from forge	1	307	
		Unknown	1	1,394	
					1,940
Boarding-houses	7	Defective chimney	1	$67	
		Defective fireplace	1	75	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	26	
		Sparks from chimney	1	12	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	19	
					199
Boat-building works	1	Sparks from boiler	1	.....	1,425
Bottling-works	1	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	.....	50
Breweries	1	Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	.....	179
Bunk-houses	6	Defective stove or stove-pipe	2	$2,820	
		Sparks from chimney	1	767	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	1,300	
		Unknown	2	6,638	
					11,525
Canneries	3	Sparks from bonfire	1	$100	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	677	
		Unknown	1	258	
					1,035
Car-barns	2	Short circuit	1	$57	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	500	
					557
Chemical laboratories	1	Unknown	1	.....	400
Chemical plants	1	Exposure	1	.....	893
Chicken-houses	15	Defective brooder	1	$500	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Exposure	2	$105	
		Firecrackers	1	15	
		Match carelessness	1	16	
		Short circuit	1	4,300	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	3	2,390	
		Stove explosion	1	120	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	258	
		Unknown	4	3,068	
					$10,772
Churches	10	Defective chimney	1	$100	
		Defective oil-burner	1	50	
		Exposure	1	275	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	629	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	1,122	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	4,107	
		Sparks from chimney	2	2,507	
		Stove explosion	1	43	
		Unknown	1	2,300	
					11,133
Clubs	15	Defective chimney	1	$130	
		Exposure	2	218	
		Short circuit	2	212	
		Smokers' carelessness	8	7,696	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	3,408	
					11,664
Dairies	5	Defective stove	1	$50	
		Exposure	1	1,454	
		Sparks from chimney	1	345	
		Sparks from furnace	1	23,866	
		Unknown	1	2,431	
					28,146
Dental laboratories	1	Defective acetylene-tank	1		155
Distilleries	3	Furnace insufficiently protected	1	$300	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	40	
		Sparks from furnace	1	12	
					352
Dredges	1	Sparks from boiler	1		1,000
Dry-cleaning plants	11	Electrical appliances	2	$45	
		Exposure	1	55	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	965	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	350	
		Sparks from chimney	2	720	
		Static electricity	1	50	
		Unkonwn	1	450	
					2,635
Dwellings	3,112	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$194	
		Ashes against wood	33	17,728	
		Candle carelessness	42	1,730	
		Chemical explosion	1	23	
		Children playing with fire	15	8,131	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	72	12,941	
		Coal-gas explosion	3	7,024	
		Coal-oil carelessness	7	3,821	
		Curtains from lamp	3	824	
		Curtains from stove	2	49	
		Defective brooder	1	10	
		Defective chimney	217	94,581	
		Defective fireplace	16	1,312	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	9	11,812	
		Defective oil-burner	7	5,625	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	24	16,168	
		Defective wiring	9	10,525	
		Electrical appliances	151	8,406	
		Exposure	46	14,963	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Firecrackers	6	$129	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	36	13,244	
		Gas explosion	1	218	
		Gasoline carelessness	14	9,297	
		Gasoline, children with	1	1,600	
		Gasoline-torch careelssness	2	82	
		Grease on stove	53	5,397	
		Hot-stove-lid falling on floor	2	45	
		Incendiary	13	6,332	
		Incense-burner upset	1	13	
		Lamp explosion	1	71	
		Lamp upset	6	862	
		Lightning	2	44	
		Live coals	14	205	
		Match carelessness	54	1,933	
		Matches, children with	62	25,147	
		Mattress too near furnace	1	15	
		Molten metal	1	14	
		Oil-stove explosion	1	25	
		Oil-stove upset	2	93	
		Paint-remover, being heated, ignited	3	301	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	16	7,725	
		Short circuit	43	10,750	
		Smokers' carelessness	1,251	66,845	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	50	
		Sparks from bonfire	9	966	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	5	1,093	
		Sparks from bush fire	5	360	
		Sparks from chimney	245	66,801	
		Sparks from fireplace	232	4,243	
		Sparks from furnace	8	266	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	66	21,468	
		Spontaneous ignition	6	1,680	
		Stove explosion	4	618	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	105	42,291	
		Sun's rays	1	17	
		Tar boiling over	3	305	
		Thawing pipes	2	1,807	
		Unknown	167	195,760	
		Varnish boiling over	2	130	
		Wood too near furnace	2	135	
		Wood too near stove or stove-pipe	4	1,833	
					$706,077
Electric-light plants	2	Electrical appliances	1	$623	
		Exposure	1	1,164	
					1,787
Elevators (grain)	1	Sparks from grinding-machine	1		211
Factories (brick and tile)	1	Defective wiring	1		15,196
Factories (furniture)	5	Ignition of turpentine	1	$20	
		Sparks from chimney	1	90	
		Sparks from picker-machine	2	6,612	
		Static electricity	1	975	
					7,697
Factories (paint)	1	Spontaneous ignition	1		501
Factories (paper-bag)	1	Unknown	1		11,532
Factories (roof products)	1	Gasoline-torch carelessness	1		25
Factories (rope)	1	Static electricity	1		245
Factories (sash and door)	1	Defective wiring	1		97
Factories (toy)	1	Ignition of spray paint	1		40
Fences	1	Matches, children with	1		10
Fishing-boats	14	Carburettor back-firing	3	$7,983	
		Defective stove	1	693	
		Electrical appliances	1	550	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	438	

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

Property.		*Causes.*		*Amount of Loss.*	
		Short circuit	1	$900	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	565	
		Unknown	5	4,959	
					$16,088
Foundries	10	Molten metal	4	$554	
		Short circuit	1	102	
		Sparks from furnace	1	10	
		Unknown	4	92,916	
					93,582
Freight-cars	3	Exposure	1	$5,975	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	50	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	22	
					6,047
Fruit-evaporating plants	1	Unknown	1		13,098
Fruit-packing plants	1	Defective chimney	1		227
Garages	77	Acetylene-torch carelessness	3	$7,692	
		Ashes against wood	1	337	
		Candle carelessness	1	154	
		Electrical appliances	2	96	
		Exposure	9	22,005	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	13,173	
		Incendiary	3	5,576	
		Match carelessness	1	215	
		Matches, children with	3	1,275	
		Overheated vulcanizer	1	85	
		Short circuit	7	102,039	
		Smokers' carelessness	14	4,812	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	50	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	4	212	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	1,378	
		Unknown	21	159,169	
					318,268
Gasoline-stations	9	Gasoline carelessness	1	$8,976	
		Ignition of spray paint	1	20	
		Short circuit	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	130	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	9	
		Unknown	1	550	
					9,700
Golf Club-houses	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		28
Gravel plants	1	Sparks from burning rubbish	1		313
Greenhouses	6	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$375	
		Defective chimney	1	435	
		Defective stove	1	65	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	486	
		Unknown	1	80	
		Wood too near stove-pipe	1	15	
					1,456
Halls	13	Ashes against wood	1	$124	
		Clothes too near stove	1	55	
		Defective fireplace	1	249	
		Electrical appliances	1	32	
		Exposure	2	344	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	250	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	1,252	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	13	
		Unknown	3	5,232	
					7,551
Haystacks	1	Unknown	1		54
Hospitals	13	Electrical appliances	1	$25	
		Incendiary	1	2,000	
		Smokers' carelessness	7	134	
		Sparks from chimney	2	52	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	100	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Unknown	1	$86	
					$2,397
Hotels	116	Clothes too near stove-pipe	1	$310	
		Curtains from stove	1	16	
		Defective chimney	3	263	
		Electrical appliances	3	151	
		Exposure	2	1,843	
		Short circuit	2	297	
		Smokers' carelessness	95	10,405	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	45	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	3	1,224	
		Unknown	4	12,071	
					26,625
House-boats	1	Defective oil-burner	1		1,216
Launches	8	Carburettor back-firing	2	$365	
		Clothes too near stove	2	40	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	1,300	
		Unknown	2	4,010	
					5,715
Laundries	5	Short circuit	2	$3,987	
		Sparks from chimney	1	85	
		Spontaneous ignition	2	171	
					4,243
Loading-platforms	1	Static electricity	1		30
Logging camps	21	Electrical appliances	1	$25	
		Engine back-firing	1	31,259	
		Friction on pulley	2	10,162	
		Sparks from bush fire	3	148,311	
		Sparks from engine	1	4,178	
		Sparks from slash fire	1	17,087	
		Sparks from stove	1	500	
		Unknown	11	71,782	
					283,304
Lumber piles	3	Ashes against wood	1	$100	
		Incendiary	1	1,285	
		Unknown	1	25	
					1,410
Machine-shops	10	Defective acetylene-tank	1	$13	
		Defective acetylene-torch	2	283	
		Defective furnace	1	9,670	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	340	
		Match carelessness	1	12	
		Molten metal	1	20	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	187	
		Unknown	2	7,215	
					17,740
Mining properties	7	Gas from bore-hole ignited by fire in portable boiler	1	$4,679	
		Grease on stove	1	5,350	
		Short circuit	1	12,000	
		Unknown	4	30,987	
					53,016
Motor-cycles	3	Collision	2	$125	
		Unknown	1	75	
					200
Mushroom plants	1	Defective chimney	1		35
Offices	41	Bunsen-burner, carelessnes with	1	$40	
		Clothes too near stove	1	25	
		Defective chimney	3	360	
		Defective wiring	1	2,911	
		Electrical appliances	1	51	
		Exposure	6	9,810	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	12	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	620	
		Grease on stove	1	15	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Short circuit	4	$4,215	
		Smokers' carelessness	11	1,678	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	100	
		Sparks from chimney	2	1,373	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	511	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	10	
		Unknown	5	6,950	
					$28,681
Oil-refineries	1	Oil-vapour explosion	1		4,847
Old people's homes	1	Sparks from chimney	1		30
Paper-mills	3	Lightning	1	$1,000	
		Unknown	2	120,017	
					121.017
Post-offices	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		3,920
Power-houses	3	Short circuit	1	$36	
		Unknown	2	72,383	
					72.419
Power-shovels	1	Carburettor back-firing	1		142
Printing offices	6	Defective motor	1	$152	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	325	
		Incendiary	1	1,708	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	1,619	
		Unknown	1	138	
					3,942
Restaurants	33	Clothes too near stove	1	$50	
		Defective stove	1	74	
		Electrical appliances	1	56	
		Exposure	6	14,128	
		Grease on stove	5	928	
		Incendiary	1	25	
		Smokers' carelessness	9	3,118	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Stove explosion	1	99	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	183	
		Unknown	5	3,880	
					22,561
Rock-crushing plants	1	Unknown	1		52,595
Rooming-houses	136	Ashes against wood	3	$223	
		Children playing with fire	1	10	
		Clothes too near stove	1	10	
		Curtains from lamp	1	4	
		Defective chimney	9	501	
		Electrical appliances	4	123	
		Grease on stove	2	23	
		Match carelessness	3	68	
		Short circuit	1	85	
		Smokers' carelessness	92	12,283	
		Sparks from chimney	9	2,757	
		Sparks from fireplace	3	75	
		Stove explosion	1	18	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	15	
		Unknown	4	8,411	
		Varnish boiling over	1	1,283	
					25,889
Rowboats	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		15
Sawmills	32	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$1,953	
		Incendiary	1	37,774	
		Overheated electric motor	1	2,579	
		Overheated machinery bearings	1	148	
		Short circuit	2	2,040	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	110,000	
		Sparks from boiler	2	8,299	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	1,500	
		Sparks from bush fire	1	1,100	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from mill burner	3	$9,500	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	471	
		Thawing pipes	1	71,942	
		Unknown	16	152,375	
					$399,681
Schools	25	Clothes too near stove	1	$6	
		Defective chimney	1	50	
		Electrical appliances	1	22	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	5	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	17	
		Incendiary	6	216,564	
		Short circuit	1	1,675	
		Smokers' carelessness	3	1,626	
		Sodium in water	1	161	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	25	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	73	
		Sparks from chimney	1	215	
		Sparks from stove	1	1,090	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	1,669	
		Unknown	4	5,007	
					228,205
Scows	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$350	
		Unknown	1	397	
					747
Sheds	83	Ashes against wood	3	$105	
		Defective chimney	1	20	
		Defective wiring	1	175	
		Exposure	5	629	
		Firecrackers	3	110	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	10	
		Incendiary	3	107	
		Match carelessness	2	340	
		Matches, children with	9	904	
		Short circuit	2	195	
		Smokers' carelessness	18	1,781	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	26	
		Sparks from bonfire	2	159	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	85	
		Sparks from chimney	4	387	
		Sparks from stove	1	12	
		Spontaneous ignition	4	5,280	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	132	
		Unknown	20	21,197	
					31,654
Sheet-metal works	4	Exposure	1	$75	
		Molten metal	1	59	
		Sparks from stove	1	9	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	9,898	
					10,041
Shingle-mills	6	Sparks from mill burner	2	$171	
		Unknown	4	42,161	
					42,332
Ships	8	Defective acetylene-torch	1	$1,285	
		Exposure	1	50	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	66	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	10	
		Unknown	4	1,453,370	
					1,454,781
Shipyards	9	Electrical appliances	3	$39,850	
		Exposure	2	2,294	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	4,161	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	2	136	
		Unknown	1	310	
					46,751

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Smelting plants	26	Ashes against wood	2	$100	
		Broken gasoline-line	1	50	
		Broken oil-line	1	30	
		Defective chimney	1	100	
		Dust explosion	2	225	
		Electrical appliances	1	350	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	35	
		Molten metal	3	130	
		Oil-furnace back-firing	1	25	
		Overheated electric motor	2	475	
		Short circuit	3	565	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	2	550	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	40	
		Spontaneous ignition	2	215	
		Tar boiling over	1	15	
		Unknown	2	550	
					$3,455
Smoke-houses	1	Grease dripping on hot sawdust	1		20
Stables	1	Unknown	1		3,860
Stadia	1	Unknown	1		26,457
Stores	161	Ashes against wood	4	$3,657	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	6	113	
		Defective chimney	6	8,265	
		Electrical appliances	11	17,452	
		Exposure	25	50,713	
		Firecrackers	1	45	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	33,699	
		Gas explosion	1	38	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	15	
		Grease on stove	3	1,769	
		Incendiary	2	32	
		Match carelessness	4	81	
		Short circuit	1	85	
		Smokers' carelessness	63	29,203	
		Sparks from burning rubbish	1	54	
		Sparks from chimney	4	318	
		Spontaneous ignition	2	30	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	15	32,706	
		Unknown	10	8,332	
					186,607
Stores and apartments	25	Clothes too near stove	1	$5	
		Defective chimney	4	204	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	991	
		Exposure	5	5,295	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	123	
		Short circuit	1	1,618	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	136	
		Sparks from chimney	4	306	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	20	
		Unknown	2	357	
					9,055
Stores and dwellings	30	Defective chimney	2	$40	
		Exposure	6	5,778	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	1,450	
		Match carelessness	2	29	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	5,730	
		Smokers' carelessness	9	295	
		Sparks from chimney	1	311	
		Sparks from fireplace	2	31	
		Sparks from stove	1	5,649	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	4,300	
		Unknown	4	6,166	
					29,779
Stores and offices	7	Electrical appliances	1	$12	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Short circuit	2	$462	
		Sparks from buffing-machine	1	186	
		Unknown	3	27,535	
					$28,195
Stores and rooms	68	Ashes against wood	3	$13,916	
		Defective chimney	3	272	
		Exposure	3	6,594	
		Grease on stove	1	144	
		Incendiary	1	1,890	
		Matches, children with	1	303	
		Short circuit	1	118	
		Smokers' carelessness	39	7,109	
		Sparks from chimney	7	3,170	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	5	6,318	
		Unknown	4	11,866	
					51,700
Street-cars	4	Defective wiring	1	$10,100	
		Short circuit	3	317	
					10,417
Sugar-refineries	1	Unknown	1		2,321
Tar-pots	1	Tar boiling over	1		125
Telephone-poles	1	Unknown	1		25
Theatres	4	Ashes against wood	1	$20	
		Broken take-up belt	1	20	
		Film break at the aperture	1	80	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	8	
					128
Tractors	3	Broken gasoline-line	1	$350	
		Carburettor back-firing	1	50	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	439	
					839
Tug-boats	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$200	
		Unknown	1	115	
					315
Undertaking-parlours	1	Sparks from chimney	1		225
Warehouses	31	Defective wiring	2	$5,000	
		Electrical appliances	1	167	
		Exposure	1	2,806	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	1	3,500	
		Short circuit	1	2,058	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	7,622	
		Sparks from chimney	2	1,395	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	401	
		Tar boiling over	1	600	
		Unknown	15	289,866	
					313,415
Welding-shops	1	Unknown	1		24,183
Woodworking plants	3	Ignition of spray paint	1	$1,192	
		Short circuit	1	2,675	
		Unknown	1	3,425	
					7,292
Totals	5,093		5,093		$5,247,302

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (34).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (24).	Fire Districts (12).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1945.										
January	292	63	4	39	398	$75,879	$11,344	$1,661	$52,880	$141,764
February	272	59	5	40	376	154,497	75,127	9,650	122,140	361,414
March	340	80	7	45	472	1,483,222	19,593	2,166	38,440	1,543,421
April	312	81	21	45	459	136,607	76,214	62,066	148,613	423,500
May	267	54	5	31	357	110,088	45,028	4,401	194,445	353,962
June	300	63	5	39	407	94,775	63,362	3,805	202,789	364,731
July	274	59	4	51	388	420,801	29,794	829	302,907	754,331
August	289	54	5	33	381	76,667	12,822	9,654	123,154	222,297
September	253	50	7	32	342	199,384	21,499	1,670	74,818	297,371
October	323	78	6	49	456	97,775	64,408	1,602	105,739	269,524
November	321	77	7	52	457	66,262	22,937	2,090	157,636	248,925
December	423	100	7	70	600	127,402	21,993	20,707	95,960	266,062
Totals, 1945	3,666	818	83	526	5,093	$3,043,359	$464,121	$120,301	$1,619,521	$5,247,302
Totals, 1944	3,049	733	73	505	4,360	1,412,051	863,436	155,882	1,170,580	3,601,949
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
	14,481	3,336	328	2,378	20,523	$7,898,569	$2,688,025	$632,579	$5,750,228	$16,969,401

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1941–45.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.		
		Men.	Women.	Children.
Apartments	Gasoline carelessness	....	1	....
Apartments	Smokers' carelessness	....	1	....
Automobile	Car upset	....	1	1
Barracks	Unknown	1	....	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	....	....	1
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	....	1	1
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	....	....
Dwelling	Defective chimney	....	....	2
Dwelling	Defective stove-pipe	....	....	2
Dwelling	Electrical appliances	....	1	....
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	....	1	1
Dwelling	Gasoline, child with	....	....	1
Dwelling	Incendiary	....	1	....
Dwelling	Match carelessness	....	1	....
Dwelling	Matches, children with	....	....	2
Dwelling	Smokers' carelessness	....	1	....
Dwelling	Sparks from fireplace	....	....	1
Dwelling	Stove explosion	....	....	2
Dwelling	Stove insufficiently protected	1	....	....
Dwelling	Stove insufficiently protected	....	....	2
Dwelling	Stove insufficiently protected	1	....	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....	....
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....	....
Dwelling	Unknown	....	1	....
Dwelling	Unknown	....	1	1
Dwelling	Unknown	....	....	1
Dwelling	Unknown	....	....	2
Offices	Spontaneous ignition	1	....	....
Rooming-house	Clothes too near stove	....	1	....
Shed	Gasoline carelessness	1	....	....
Ship	Defective acetylene-torch	2	....	....
Ship	Unknown	8	....	....
Store and dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	1	....	....
Store and office	Unknown	....	....	1
Store and rooms	Unknown	1	....	....
Warehouse	Unknown	3	....	....
Totals, 1945		25	12	21
		Men and Women.		
Totals, 1944		14		5
Totals, 1943		24		5
Totals, 1942		16		16
Totals, 1941		13		3

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