THE FIRE MARSHAL

FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICS, 1946

VICTORIA, B.C.:
Printed by DON MCDIARMID, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1947.

To His Honour C. A. BANKS,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1946.

GORDON S. WISMER,
Attorney-General.

Victoria, B.C., March 31st, 1947.

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REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL.

OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL,
VANCOUVER, B.C., March 31st, 1947.

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

SIR,—Pursuant to section 44 of the "Fire Marshal Act" I have the honour to submit herewith the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31st, 1946. I am happy to report that there was a loss decrease of $1,809,894 from the year 1945, although there were 371 more fires during 1946. The average fire loss for the year 1946 was $629 as compared with $1,030 for 1945. This would indicate that more fires were extinguished before they had a chance to spread or get out of control.

During the year thirty-six persons lost their lives through fire in the Province—twenty-one men, seven women, and eight children. Fires occurring where children were left alone in the home accounted for six deaths.

There were ten fires during the year with a loss in excess of $50,000 each. These fires accounted for $893,346 of our fire loss, and the greater number occurred in industrial plants.

Fire-prevention work was carried out during the year, both by educational propaganda and by actual inspections. During Fire Prevention Week the annual poster contest of the Dominion Fire Prevention Association was conducted among the junior and senior high school students of the Province. Three prizes of $25, $10, and $5 were given for what were considered the best posters on fire-prevention, and these were sent to Ottawa for the Dominion judging.

The following are some of the activities of the Fire Marshal's Office for the year 1946:—

General fire-hazard inspections	1,976
Special inspections of halls	125
Special inspections of hotels	236
Special inspections of schools	320
Special inspections of hospitals	157
Plans checked for new hospitals or alterations to existing ones	15
Plans checked for new schools	26
Plans checked for new hotels and apartments	14
Plans checked for new arenas	6
Inspections of bulk storage plants for gasoline and oils	240
Inspections of oil-refineries	14
Inspections of gasoline service-stations	141
Inspections of sawmills	75
Inspections of dry-cleaning plants	30
Inspections of Government owned or operated buildings	50
Inspections of theatres under the Theatre Regulations	247
Plans checked for new halls or alterations to existing ones	28
Plans checked for new theatres and alterations to existing ones	27
Projectionists' examinations held	26
Inspections of film exchanges and processing laboratories	74

During the year 121 fire investigations were conducted, with the following results:—

Fire inquiries held		6
Prosecutions under the "Fire Marshal Act" and regulations		20
Convictions	20	
Prosecutions for arson		5
Convictions	4	
Acquittals	1	

Forty-seven appeals from orders issued by local Assistant Fire Marshals under the "Fire Marshal Act" were heard and decisions given. There were no petitions to the Courts from the decisions of the Fire Marshal.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to my staff for their splendid work and co-operation during the past year. I also 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.

City Municipalities (34).

	Inspections.	Orders.		Inspections.	Orders.
Alberni	.....	.....	Nelson	678	6
Armstrong	34	12	New Westminster	2,527	449
Chilliwack	407	2	North Vancouver	289	96
Courtenay	117	.....	Port Alberni	181	25
Cranbrook	340	3	Port Coquitlam	.....	.....
Cumberland	46	3	Port Moody	84	7
Duncan	88	.....	Prince George	118	2
Enderby	.....	.....	Prince Rupert	623	2
Fernie	944	.....	Revelstoke	.....	.....
Grand Forks	103	.....	Rossland	614	10
Greenwood	.....	.....	Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Kamloops	616	.....	Slocan	.....	.....
Kaslo	.....	.....	Trail	809	5
Kelowna	818	.....	Vancouver	16,588	54
Kimberley	.....	.....	Vernon	377	2
Ladysmith	192	.....	Victoria	19,751	291
Merritt	.....	.....			
Nanaimo	762	15	Totals	47,106	984

District Municipalities (28).

Burnaby	852	3	Oak Bay	782	13
Chilliwhack	.....	.....	Peachland	.....	.....
Coldstream	.....	.....	Penticton	.....	.....
Coquitlam	.....	.....	Pitt Meadows	.....	.....
Delta	.....	.....	Richmond	310	8
Esquimalt	78	.....	Saanich	365	2
Fraser Mills	.....	.....	Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Glenmore	3	2	Spallumcheen	.....	.....
Kent	.....	.....	Sumas	.....	.....
Langley	99	.....	Summerland	.....	.....
Maple Ridge	8	2	Surrey	15	4
Matsqui	.....	.....	Tadanac	63	10
Mission	105	.....	West Vancouver	2	.....
North Cowichan	.....	.....			
North Vancouver	.....	.....	Totals	2,682	44

Village Municipalities (28).

Abbotsford	16	1	Osoyoos	.....	.....
Alert Bay	.....	.....	Parksville	.....	.....
Burns Lake	.....	.....	Pouce Coupe	.....	.....
Chapman Camp	.....	.....	Qualicum Beach	6	.....
Comox	.....	.....	Quesnel	.....	.....
Cranberry Lake	.....	.....	Silverton	.....	.....
Creston	5	.....	Smithers	99	32
Dawson Creek	.....	.....	Stewart	.....	.....
Gibsons Landing	.....	.....	Terrace	10	1
Hope	.....	.....	Tofino	.....	.....
Lytton	.....	.....	Vanderhoof	48	.....
Mission	328	24	Westview	.....	.....
McBride	.....	.....	Williams Lake	.....	.....
New Denver	.....	.....			
Oliver	.....	.....	Totals	512	58

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

Fire Districts (13).

	Inspections.	Orders.		Inspections.	Orders.
Cariboo, County of	55	4	University Area	8	.....
Ioco	.....	.....	Vancouver, County of	12	.....
Kootenay, County of	417	4	Victoria, County of	.....	.....
Langford	11	2	Westminster, County of	2	.....
Nanaimo, County of	3	.....	Yale, County of	96	.....
Pacific Mills, Limited	.....	.....			
Powell River	.....	.....	Totals	604	10
Prince Rupert, County of	.....	.....			

	Inspections.	Orders.
Grand totals, 1946	50,904	1,096
Grand totals, 1945	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

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED.

City Municipalities (34).

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.	Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Alberni	6	$2,055	Nelson	43	$61,766
Armstrong	6	854	New Westminster	119	78,618
Chilliwack	30	5,636	North Vancouver	111	12,847
Courtenay	12	1,017	Port Alberni	28	7,790
Cranbrook	12	825	Port Coquitlam	8	5,313
Cumberland	2	53	Port Moody	10	5,849
Duncan	17	102,026	Prince George	9	1,521
Enderby	8	12,733	Prince Rupert	30	7,492
Fernie	8	848	Revelstoke	6	306
Grand Forks	9	1,967	Rossland	7	971
Greenwood	4	9,356	Salmon Arm	2	45
Kamloops	37	27,581	Slocan	3	635
Kaslo	.....	.....	Trail	26	2,603
Kelowna	39	10,449	Vancouver	2,764	802,640
Kimberley	6	9,344	Vernon	31	9,363
Ladysmith	8	1,628	Victoria	369	72,714
Merritt	6	5,560			
Nanaimo	59	14,487	Totals	3,835	$1,276,892

TABLE II.—FIRES REPORTED—*Continued.*

District Municipalities (28).

Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.	Districts reporting.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Burnaby	186	$16,918	Oak Bay	95	$5,856
Chilliwhack	17	17,717	Peachland	2	143
Coldstream	1	141	Penticton	40	41,251
Coquitlam	15	152,160	Pitt Meadows	7	6,780
Delta	11	205,402	Richmond	52	109,567
Esquimalt	45	9,526	Saanich	120	16,526
Fraser Mills	3	6,560	Salmon Arm	.....	.....
Glenmore	2	550	Spallumcheen	1	1,800
Kent	12	4,262	Sumas	10	14,646
Langley	36	44,648	Summerland	9	14,429
Maple Ridge	30	23,076	Surrey	58	39,179
Matsqui	13	9,438	Tadanac	32	12,694
Mission	8	12,271	West Vancouver	70	12,385
North Cowichan	8	53,713			
North Vancouver	51	25,016	Totals	934	$856,654

Village Municipalities (28).

Abbotsford	8	$6,447	Osoyoos	3	$22,422
Alert Bay	1	250	Parksville	.....	.....
Burns Lake	2	170	Pouce Coupe	2	6,223
Chapman Camp	1	56	Qualicum Beach	1	25
Comox	1	40	Quesnel	6	360
Cranberry Lake	2	37	Silverton	.....	.....
Creston	8	1,449	Smithers	7	5,717
Dawson Creek	12	3,510	Stewart	.....	.....
Gibsons Landing	5	178	Terrace	2	700
Hope	7	4,568	Tofino	1	25
Lytton	.....	.....	Vanderhoof	2	260
Mission	8	1,506	Westview	9	1,105
McBride	1	100	Williams Lake	3	546
New Denver	.....	.....			
Oliver	3	192	Totals	95	$55,886

Fire Districts (13).

Cariboo, County of	75	$202,800	University Area	7	$181
Ioco	2	36	Vancouver, County of	64	169,880
Kootenay, County of	88	136,691	Victoria, County of	73	48,106
Langford	1	900	Westminster, County of	27	75,538
Nanaimo, County of	128	302,270	Yale, County of	89	128,220
Pacific Mills, Limited	6	4,193			
Powell River	11	7,353	Totals	600	$1,247,976
Prince Rupert, County of	29	171,808			

	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Grand totals	5,464	$3,437,408
NOTE.—Construction of buildings—		
Fire-resistive	58	$37,416
Brick, concrete, or heavy timber	347	319,097
Wood frame	4,622	2,928,758
Metal or corrugated iron	437	152,537
	5,464	$3,437,408

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF FIRES.

Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.	Causes of Fires.	Number.	Amount of Loss.
Acetylene-torch carelessness	3	$448	Ignition of paint	1	$567
Alcohol-vapour explosion	7	463	Incendiary	85	144,538
Ashes against wood	62	25,536	Lamp explosion	5	4,267
Asphalt boiling over	1	50	Lamp upset	8	22,580
Boiler insufficiently protected	4	1,254	Lantern upset	1	4,754
Broken equalizing-rod	1	45	Lightning	9	20,594
Broken gasoline-line	8	1,157	Live coals	6	469
Broken oil-line	2	110	Match carelessness	56	16,810
Bunsen burner,carelessness with	1	251	Matches, children with	78	14,821
Candle carelessness	62	2,157	Mattress too near fireplace	2	53
Canvas ignited from exhaust-pipe	1	5	Mattress too near furnace	2	99
Carburettor back-firing	34	17,287	Molten metal	3	185
Car upset	9	2,973	Oil-burner explosion	1	100
Children playing with fire	14	2,171	Oil leaking from defective oil-drum into furnace-pit	1	364
Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	121	8,396	Oil-vapour explosion	1	2,500
Coal-gas explosion	11	10,074	Overheated machinery bearings	1	139
Coal-oil carelessness	11	5,863	Overheated oven	1	113
Coal-stoker back-firing	3	134	Sawdust-burner back-firing	12	8,835
Collision	4	760	Short circuit	237	160,927
Curtains from stove	6	228	Smokers' carelessness	2,178	327,645
Defective battery connection	1	356	Sparks from acetylene-torch	27	28,293
Defective brooder	8	2,002	Sparks from boiler	9	1,776
Defective chimney	303	94,760	Sparks from bonfire	50	14,079
Defective electric motor	1	25	Sparks from bush fire	4	5,672
Defective electric switch	1	30	Sparks from chimney	215	75,122
Defective film	2	6	Sparks from engine	9	90,665
Defective fireplace	29	5,865	Sparks from fireplace	292	22,268
Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	4	1,162	Sparks from forge	3	185
Defective oil-burner	27	12,689	Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	23	3,110
Defective oven	1	25	Sparks from mill burner	9	8,796
Defective stove or stove-pipe	23	12,946	Sparks from picker-machine	1	75
Defective wiring	35	73,553	Sparks from slash fire	3	3,152
Dust explosion	2	515	Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	93	54,410
Electrical appliances	259	47,168	Sparks from welding-machine	11	7,298
Engine back-firing	1	14,473	Spontaneous ignition	41	296,260
Exposure	62	51,146	Static electricity	1	484
Firecrackers	19	1,911	Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	3	765
Friction on brake-drum	2	668	Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	197	144,013
Friction on conveyer-belt	3	1,720	Sun's rays	2	50
Friction on emery-wheel	1	777	Tar boiling over	8	17,948
Friction on pulley	3	9,750	Thawing pipes	4	84
Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	31	17,503	Unknown	376	1,357,941
Gas explosion	16	13,708	Varnish boiling over	1	90
Gasoline carelessness	57	91,827	Water in lime	2	65
Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	18	3,501	Wood too near furnace	4	895
Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	112	Wood too near stove	4	2,004
Gasoline-torch carelessness	17	15,312			
Gas-plate insufficiently protected	4	646			
Grease dripping on hot sawdust	3	635			
Grease on stove	83	17,374	Totals	5,464	$3,437,408
Hot stove-lid falling on floor	2	21			

TABLE IV.—CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY BURNED AND CAUSES.

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Aeroplane hangars	1	Incendiary	1		$11
Apartments	345	Ashes against wood	3	$6,034	
		Candle carelessness	4	353	
		Clothes too near stove	8	222	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	12	
		Defective chimney	26	1,947	
		Defective fireplace	3	274	
		Defective oil-burner	2	195	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	240	
		Electrical appliances	22	1,695	
		Exposure	2	47	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	2	165	
		Gas explosion	4	51	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	18	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	3	202	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	15	
		Grease on stove	5	280	
		Incendiary	1	170	
		Lamp upset	1	19,234	
		Match carelessness	5	80	
		Matches, children with	3	195	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	2	310	
		Short circuit	5	6,461	
		Smokers' carelessness	192	19,953	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	22	
		Sparks from chimney	26	10,848	
		Sparks from fireplace	3	106	
		Sparks from furnace	2	65	
		Sparks from stove	2	1,831	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	169	
		Unknown	10	28,892	
					100,086
Automobile camps	8	Electrical appliances	1	$11	
		Grease on stove	1	40	
		Short circuit	1	24	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	1,329	
		Sparks from stove	1	42	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	10	
		Unknown	1	655	
					2,111
Automobiles	412	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$10	
		Alcohol-vapour explosion	7	463	
		Ashes against wood	3	158	
		Broken equalizing-rod	1	45	
		Broken gasoline-line	6	882	
		Broken oil-line	2	110	
		Canvas ignited from exhaust-pipe	1	5	
		Carburettor back-firing	17	1,665	
		Car upset	9	2,973	
		Collision	3	510	
		Defective wiring	16	1,054	
		Electrical appliances	1	10	
		Exposure	1	400	
		Friction on brake-drum	2	668	
		Gasoline carelessness	11	3,040	
		Gasoline on exhaust-pipe	18	3,501	
		Incendiary	2	472	
		Match carelessness	3	586	
		Matches, children with	2	41	
		Short circuit	141	15,104	
		Smokers' carelessness	124	10,253	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	9	1,647	
		Sparks from welding-machine	2	529	
		Tar boiling over	1	275	
		Unknown	29	13,586	
					57,987

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
Bakeries	6	Defective chimney	2	$480	
		Defective oil-burner	1	35	
		Defective oven	1	25	
		Electrical appliances	1	32	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	39	
					$611
Banks	3	Smokers' carelessness	1	$40	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	150	
		Unknown	1	535	
					725
Barber-shops	3	Coal-gas explosion	1	$128	
		Exposure	2	2,127	
					2,255
Barges	1	Unknown	1	.....	25
Barns	29	Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	$3,500	
		Incendiary	3	1,665	
		Lantern upset	1	4,754	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	11,085	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	3,200	
		Sparks from engine	1	1,994	
		Spontaneous ignition	5	13,211	
		Unknown	15	156,666	
					196,075
Barracks	4	Coal-gas explosion	1	$6,500	
		Short circuit	1	7	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	3,071	
		Unknown	1	500	
					10,078
Bath-houses	1	Defective stove	1	.....	35
Blacksmith-shops	7	Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	$1,200	
		Short circuit	1	1,050	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	164	
		Sparks from forge	2	175	
		Unknown	2	5,495	
					8,084
Boarding-houses	7	Electrical appliances	2	$59	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	14	
		Sparks from chimney	2	20	
		Unknown	2	7,514	
					7,607
Boat-houses	2	Smokers' carelessness	1	$12	
		Unknown	1	2,450	
					2,462
Bowling-alleys	3	Defective chimney	1	$483	
		Defective oil-burner	1	1,236	
		Unknown	1	1,301	
					3,020
Bridges	1	Incendiary	1	.....	200
Bunk-houses	12	Defective stove-pipe	1	$25	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	408	
		Short circuit	1	893	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Sparks from stove	1	2,630	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	25,658	
		Unknown	3	62,178	
					91,812
Canneries	2	Spontaneous ignition	2	.....	254,841
Chemical plants	2	Gasoline carelessness	1	$4,538	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	2,203	
					6,741
Chicken-hatcheries	1	Unknown	1	.....	14,505
Chicken-houses	28	Defective brooder	8	$2,002	
		Defective wiring	1	5,050	
		Exposure	1	3,210	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Lamp explosion	1	$50	
		Matches, children with	1	20	
		Short circuit	1	11	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	45	
		Stove insufficiently protected	6	1,351	
		Unknown	8	5,798	
					$17,537
Churches	7	Candle carelessness	1	$22	
		Incendiary	1	55	
		Match carelessness	1	25	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	100	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	1,107	
		Sparks from chimney	1	5	
		Unknown	1	200	
					1,514
Clubs	25	Defective chimney	2	$106	
		Defective oil-burner	1	139	
		Exposure	1	28	
		Gas explosion	1	11	
		Grease on stove	1	157	
		Smokers' carelessness	14	5,908	
		Sparks from chimney	1	16	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	1,134	
		Unknown	3	6,120	
					13,619
Dairies	3	Defective chimney	1	$10	
		Match carelessness	1	9,375	
		Short circuit	1	599	
					9,984
Dental laboratories	2	Electrical appliances	1	$1,475	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	30	
					1,505
Dry-cleaning plants	10	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$559	
		Defective electric switch	1	30	
		Defective oil-burner	1	45	
		Defective wiring	1	4,035	
		Electrical appliances	1	25	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	275	
		Match carelessness	1	41	
		Unknown	3	704	
					5,714
Dwellings	3,320	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$25	
		Ashes against wood	35	16,795	
		Candle carelessness	55	1,743	
		Children playing with fire	13	2,081	
		Clothes too near stove	96	4,414	
		Coal-gas explosion	8	3,310	
		Coal-oil carelessness	7	3,951	
		Coal-stoker back-firing	2	122	
		Curtains from stove	5	97	
		Defective chimney	237	74,609	
		Defective electric motor	1	25	
		Defective fireplace	25	6,712	
		Defective furnace or furnace-pipe	3	1,147	
		Defective oil-burner	12	2,482	
		Defective stove or stove-pipe	18	12,371	
		Defective wiring	12	26,422	
		Electrical appliances	190	11,404	
		Exposure	28	17,317	
		Firecrackers	10	1,552	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	21	16,041	
		Gas explosion	3	234	
		Gasoline carelessness	19	16,748	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	5	2,131	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Grease on stove	69	$9,172	
		Hot stove-lid falling on floor	2	21	
		Incendiary	37	55,851	
		Lamp explosion	3	4,202	
		Lamp upset	2	26	
		Lightning	4	93	
		Live coals	5	119	
		Match carelessness	32	1,505	
		Matches, children with	55	12,452	
		Mattress too near fireplace	2	53	
		Mattress too near furnace	2	99	
		Molten metal	1	30	
		Oil-burner explosion	1	100	
		Oil leaking from defective oil-drum into furnace-pit	1	364	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	8	478	
		Short circuit	41	11,016	
		Smokers' carelessness	1,393	59,239	
		Sparks from bonfire	27	1,021	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	50	
		Sparks from chimney	159	57,927	
		Sparks from fireplace	281	21,770	
		Sparks from furnace or furnace-pipe	16	2,042	
		Sparks from stove or stove-pipe	69	12,817	
		Spontaneous ignition	13	6,418	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	128	62,644	
		Sun's rays	2	50	
		Tar boiling over	5	1,405	
		Thawing pipes	1	10	
		Unknown	145	148,162	
		Water in lime	1	30	
		Wood too near furnace	3	795	
		Wood too near stove	4	2,004	
					$693,698
Electrical manufacturing plants	1	Overheated oven	1		113
Electric-light plants	3	Gasoline carelessness	1	$2,703	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	1	225	
		Unknown	1	200	
					3,128
Elevators (grain)	2	Tar boiling over	1	$3,190	
		Unknown	1	69,038	
					72,228
Factories (broom)	1	Sparks from mill burner	1		50
Factories (candied fruits)	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		87
Factories (casket)	1	Unknown	1		33,924
Factories (furniture)	4	Defective chimney	1	$2,273	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	20	
		Static electricity	1	484	
		Unknown	1	22,658	
					25,435
Factories (match)	1	*Friction on conveyer-belt*	1		150
Factories (match-block)	1	Short circuit	1		47,567
Factories (paint)	2	Spontaneous ignition	1	$20	
		Varnish boiling over	1	90	
					110
Factories (roofing material)	1	Tar boiling over	1		13,078
Factories (sash and door)	4	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$60	
		Friction on conveyer-belt	1	1,479	
		Sparks from boiler	1	130	
		Unknown	1	12,543	
					14,212
Factories (spring manufacturing)	1	Sparks from forge	1		10
Fences	2	Smokers' carelessness	2		27
Fishing-boats	39	Broken gasoline-line	1	$200	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Carburettor back-firing	11	$11,967	
		Clothes too near stove	1	75	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	1,750	
		Defective oil-burner	3	1,432	
		Gas explosion	1	11,522	
		Gasoline carelessness	6	11,158	
		Incendiary	1	500	
		Match carelessness	3	4,214	
		Short circuit	1	5	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	500	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	2,850	
		Unknown	6	4,550	
					$50,738
Flour-mills	1	Exposure	1		62
Foundries	8	Defective chimney	1	$50	
		Molten metal	2	155	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	2,310	
		Sparks from furnace	1	151	
		Unknown	2	175	
		Wood too near furnace	1	100	
					2,941
Freight-cars	2	Unknown	1	$1,050	
		Water in lime	1	35	
					1,085
Fruit-processing plants	1	Stove insufficiently protected	1		9,938
Garages (private)	54	Ashes against wood	2	$504	
		Defective battery connection	1	356	
		Electrical appliances	1	400	
		Exposure	3	450	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	3,672	
		Incendiary	3	149	
		Lamp upset	1	1,358	
		Match carelessness	1	429	
		Matches, children with	1	220	
		Short circuit	1	600	
		Smokers' carelessness	16	5,616	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	10	
		Sparks from bonfire	10	543	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	150	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	8	
		Unknown	9	14,264	
					28,729
Garages (public)	28	Carburettor back-firing	1	$150	
		Exposure	2	114	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	3,828	
		Gasoline-pump damaged by car	1	112	
		Ignition of paint	1	567	
		Incendiary	3	10,482	
		Short circuit	3	399	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	2,527	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	4	13,833	
		Sparks from furnace	1	604	
		Sparks from welding-machine	6	6,167	
		Unknown	2	2,377	
					41,160
Gasoline-stations	17	Clothes too near stove	1	$15	
		Defective chimney	3	4,393	
		Firecrackers	1	5	
		Gasoline carelessness	4	455	
		Short circuit	1	49	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	4,700	
		Sparks from stove	1	6	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	2,682	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Unknown	3	$1,713	
					$14,018
Gasworks	2	Gas explosion	1	$350	
		Live coals	1	350	
					700
Golf club-houses	1	Smokers' carelessness	1		55
Greenhouses	4	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$550	
		Sparks from stove	1	96	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	23	
		Unknown	1	6,495	
					7,164
Halls	21	Clothes too near stove	3	$75	
		Defective chimney	1	95	
		Incendiary	6	18,005	
		Matches, children with	1	2	
		Smokers' carelessness	6	8,652	
		Sparks from chimney	1	884	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	976	
		Unknown	2	4,427	
					33,116
Haystacks	2	Unknown	2		565
Hospitals	9	Defective chimney	1	$125	
		Electrical appliances	1	25	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	1,668	
		Sparks from chimney	2	60	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	42	
					1,920
Hotels	172	Clothes too near stove	1	$240	
		Defective chimney	4	1,775	
		Defective stove	1	240	
		Defective wiring	2	36,304	
		Electrical appliances	3	746	
		Exposure	2	6,670	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	212	
		Short circuit	2	465	
		Smokers' carelessness	148	68,953	
		Sparks from chimney	4	225	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	200	
		Unknown	2	13,881	
					129,911
House-boats	3	Short circuit	1	$141	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	15	
		Unknown	1	50	
					206
Launches	8	Carburettor back-firing	2	$182	
		Defective oil-burner	1	369	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	35	
		Unknown	3	3,220	
					3,806
Laundries	8	Electrical appliances	1	$206	
		Incendiary	1	2,009	
		Short circuit	2	463	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	55	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	10	
		Unknown	2	98	
					2,841
Lighthouses	1	Sparks from stove	1		30,000
Logging camps	33	Clothes too near stove	1	$1,566	
		Engine back-firing	1	14,473	
		Lightning	2	16,893	
		Short circuit	1	2,299	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	8,395	
		Sparks from bonfire	2	6,711	
		Sparks from bush fire	2	5,622	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from engine	4	$3,439	
		Sparks from slash fire	3	3,152	
		Unknown	15	99,611	
					$162,161
Lumber-yards	1	Sparks from bonfire	1		670
Machine-shops	11	Defective oil-burner	1	$107	
		Electrical appliances	1	68	
		Friction on emery-wheel	1	777	
		Gas explosion	1	340	
		Lightning	1	898	
		Short circuit	2	1,381	
		Sparks from welding-machine	2	152	
		Unknown	2	71	
					3,794
Medical clinics	1	Defective chimney	1		691
Mining properties	7	Lightning	1	$148	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	1,330	
		Sparks from stove	1	84	
		Unknown	4	34,960	
					36,522
Motor-cycles	4	Carburettor back-firing	2	$323	
		Collision	1	250	
		Incendiary	1	135	
					708
Offices	28	Ashes against wood	1	$82	
		Defective chimney	1	95	
		Defective oil-burner	1	509	
		Electrical appliances	2	1,345	
		Exposure	1	166	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	205	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	9	
		Incendiary	2	4,340	
		Short circuit	3	4,360	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	87	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	37	
		Sparks from furnace	1	213	
		Sparks from stove	2	519	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	5	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	4	3,220	
		Unknown	1	174	
					15,366
Oil experimental stations	1	Gasoline carelessness	1		4,545
Oil-refineries	1	Oil-vapour explosion	1		2,500
Old people's homes	2	Defective chimney	1	$170	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	5,537	
					5,707
Paper-mills	2	Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	$163	
		Unknown	1	3,318	
					3,481
Peat plants	1	Unknown	1		667
Poles	1	Unknown	1		50
Pool-rooms	2	Incendiary	1	$30	
		Sparks from furnace	1	10	
					40
Post-offices	1	Unknown	1		2,200
Power-houses	5	Sparks from engine	2	$78,782	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	9,000	
		Unknown	2	16,495	
					104,277
Power-saws	2	Match carelessness	1	$55	
		Unknown	1	101	
					156
Printing offices	4	Ashes against wood	1	$700	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	50	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from picker-machine	1	$75	
		Unknown	1	10,273	
					$11,098
Radio-stations	1	Sparks from chimney	1		17
Railway-stations	1	Unknown	1		10
Restaurants	32	Defective chimney	1	$20	
		Electrical appliances	2	455	
		Exposure	1	950	
		Gas explosion	1	323	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	561	
		Grease on stove	3	288	
		Smokers' carelessness	12	2,058	
		Sparks from stove	2	2,290	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	6	5,183	
		Thawing pipes	1	25	
		Unknown	2	2,882	
					15,035
Rooming-houses	119	Ashes against wood	1	$40	
		Candle carelessness	1	33	
		Clothes too near stove	1	10	
		Curtains from stove	1	131	
		Defective chimney	3	121	
		Electrical appliances	5	95	
		Exposure	3	670	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	5,450	
		Grease on stove	2	120	
		Incendiary	1	734	
		Match carelessness	2	34	
		Matches, children with	1	15	
		Smokers' carelessness	78	5,967	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	275	
		Sparks from chimney	6	293	
		Sparks from fireplace	6	239	
		Sparks from stove	2	3,640	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	3,351	
		Unknown	2	80	
					21,298
Sawmills	31	Boiler insufficiently protected	1	$85	
		Clothes too near stove or stove-pipe	2	1,157	
		Electrical appliances	2	3,534	
		Friction on conveyer-belt	1	91	
		Friction on pulley	1	9,700	
		Gasoline carelessness	2	36,194	
		Incendiary	1	15,000	
		Short circuit	2	6,250	
		Sparks from boiler	3	725	
		Sparks from engine	1	3,950	
		Sparks from mill burner	5	8,471	
		Unknown	10	56,043	
					141,200
Schools	19	Clothes too near stove	1	$10	
		Defective chimney	1	190	
		Exposure	1	2,000	
		Incendiary	1	75	
		Matches, children with	1	278	
		Short circuit	1	326	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	77,464	
		Sparks from chimney	1	20	
		Sparks from stove	1	15	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	5	2,116	
		Unknown	4	131,168	
					213,662
Sheds	87	Ashes against wood	5	$459	
		Clothes too near stove	1	456	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Coal-gas explosion	1	$136	
		Coal-oil carelessness	1	50	
		Defective wiring	1	175	
		Exposure	3	550	
		Firecrackers	2	200	
		Gasoline carelessness	3	468	
		Incendiary	4	1,852	
		Lamp explosion	1	15	
		Lamp upset	3	312	
		Match carelessness	1	250	
		Matches, children with	6	1,480	
		Short circuit	1	10	
		Smokers' carelessness	16	7,134	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	90	
		Sparks from bonfire	2	285	
		Sparks from chimney	2	3,209	
		Sparks from engine	1	2,500	
		Sparks from mill burner	2	200	
		Sparks from welding-machine	1	450	
		Spontaneous ignition	6	2,379	
		Stove insufficiently protected	7	2,118	
		Unknown	16	10,533	
					$35,311
Sheet-metal works	2	Gas explosion	1	$5	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	50	
					55
Shingle-mills	9	Overheated machinery bearings	1	$139	
		Sparks from boiler	3	776	
		Sparks from mill burner	1	75	
		Unknown	4	173,959	
					174,949
Ships	4	Sparks from acetylene-torch	2	$500	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Unknown	1	500	
					1,100
Shipyards	4	Smokers' carelessness	1	$6,000	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	2	3,570	
		Sparks from chimney	1	425	
					9,995
Skating-rinks	1	Spontaneous ignition	1	.....	15
Slaughter-houses	1	Defective chimney	1	.....	4,000
Smelting plants	28	Ashes against wood	2	$220	
		Asphalt boiling over	1	50	
		Defective furnace	1	15	
		Dust explosion	2	515	
		Electrical appliances	1	6,500	
		Friction on pulley	2	50	
		Gas explosion	2	559	
		Short circuit	6	2,100	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	75	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	3	350	
		Sparks from boiler	2	145	
		Sparks from bonfire	1	25	
		Sparks from furnace	1	25	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	200	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	250	
		Thawing pipes	1	15	
					11,094
Smoke-houses	3	Grease dripping on hot sawdust	3	.....	635
Stores	171	Ashes against wood	4	$144	
		Clothes too near stove	5	156	
		Coal-stoker back-firing	1	12	
		Defective chimney	1	55	
		Defective oil-burner	2	4,811	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Defective stove-pipe	1	$35	
		Electrical appliances	8	16,658	
		Exposure	4	1,269	
		Firecrackers	4	104	
		Furnace or furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	2	550	
		Gas explosion	1	313	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	2,552	
		Gas-plate insufficiently protected	1	20	
		Incendiary	7	12,259	
		Match carelessness	4	116	
		Matches, children with	4	88	
		Sawdust-burner back-firing	1	6,306	
		Short circuit	7	5,456	
		Smokers' carelessness	77	12,453	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	100	
		Sparks from chimney	3	474	
		Sparks from stove	7	241	
		Spontaneous ignition	2	115	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	7	14,194	
		Thawing pipes	1	34	
		Unknown	15	79,949	
					$158,464
Stores and apartments	38	Ashes against wood	1	$113	
		Candle carelessness	1	6	
		Defective chimney	2	541	
		Defective fireplace	1	15	
		Defective oil-burner	1	1,329	
		Electrical appliances	1	5	
		Furnace-pipe insufficiently protected	1	100	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	2	78	
		Short circuit	1	25	
		Smokers' carelessness	23	739	
		Sparks from chimney	1	10	
		Spontaneous ignition	1	12	
		Stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	257	
					3,230
Stores and dwellings	41	Defective chimney	5	$744	
		Defective fireplace	1	431	
		Defective wiring	1	350	
		Electrical appliances	4	159	
		Exposure	3	10,385	
		Firecrackers	1	38	
		Lightning	1	2,562	
		Match carelessness	1	100	
		Smokers' carelessness	14	244	
		Sparks from chimney	1	639	
		Sparks from fireplace	1	116	
		Stove insufficiently protected	2	354	
		Unknown	6	25,973	
					42,095
Stores and offices	8	Bunsen burner, carelessness with	1	$251	
		Defective wiring	1	163	
		Electrical appliances	1	165	
		Grease on stove	1	7,247	
		Smokers' carelessness	4	3,757	
					11,583
Stores and rooms	42	Ashes against wood	2	$45	
		Children playing with fire	1	90	
		Defective chimney	5	220	
		Electrical appliances	2	47	
		Exposure	2	4,639	
		Firecrackers	1	12	
		Grease on stove	1	70	
		Smokers' carelessness	22	4,593	

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

Property.		Causes.		Amount of Loss.	
		Sparks from chimney	1	$5	
		Sparks from stove	1	81	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	15	
		Unknown	3	268	
					$10,085
Street-cars	2	Short circuit	2		25
Tents	1	Sparks from bonfire	1		60
Theatres	4	Ashes against wood	1	$232	
		Defective film	2	6	
		Electrical appliances	1	37	
					275
Tractors	3	Broken gasoline-line	1	$75	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	477	
		Short circuit	1	251	
					803
Trailers	6	Coal-oil carelessness	1	$100	
		Electrical appliances	1	10	
		Gasoline carelessness	1	3,300	
		Lamp upset	1	1,650	
		Smokers' carelessness	2	125	
					5,185
Tug-boats	5	Carburettor back-firing	1	$3,000	
		Smokers' carelessness	1	10	
		Steam-pipe insufficiently protected	1	510	
		Stove insufficiently protected	1	500	
		Unknown	1	17	
					4,037
Warehouses	40	Acetylene-torch carelessness	1	$413	
		Electrical appliances	2	2,002	
		Exposure	1	92	
		Furnace insufficiently protected	2	230	
		Gasoline-torch carelessness	1	140	
		Incendiary	2	15,869	
		Matches, children with	3	30	
		Sawdust burner back-firing	1	1,741	
		Short circuit	4	53,584	
		Smokers' carelessness	5	2,027	
		Sparks from acetylene-torch	1	2,000	
		Sparks from chimney	1	25	
		Sparks from stove	1	118	
		Spontaneous ignition	4	6,220	
		Stove or stove-pipe insufficiently protected	2	65	
		Unknown	9	57,574	
					142,130
Wharves	1	Unknown	1		1,301
Woodworking plants	1	Unknown	1		3,200
Workshops	1	Ashes against wood	1		10
Totals	5,464		5,464		$3,437,408

TABLE V.—SUMMARY.

	Fires reported.					Amount of Loss.				
	City Municipalities (34).	District Municipalities (28).	Village Municipalities (28).	Fire Districts (13).	Totals.	City Municipalities.	District Municipalities.	Village Municipalities.	Fire Districts.	Totals.
1946.										
January	363	79	9	34	485	$95,274	$29,398	$742	$20,981	$146,395
February	324	89	7	33	453	172,874	13,425	7,337	100,055	293,691
March	324	91	3	46	464	72,527	38,219	422	49,963	161,131
April	306	84	2	55	447	67,311	233,243	45	78,339	378,938
May	332	81	10	79	502	108,515	41,637	1,447	206,837	358,436
June	266	50	6	53	375	50,069	31,629	22,331	85,981	190,010
July	286	67	9	50	412	137,509	80,210	749	97,515	315,983
August	237	53	11	53	354	57,997	20,528	2,279	206,020	286,824
September	279	60	9	40	388	116,591	20,794	681	121,792	259,858
October	341	88	8	44	481	57,128	43,063	7,301	144,737	252,229
November	339	89	10	59	497	182,023	137,576	3,950	43,837	367,386
December	438	103	11	54	606	159,074	166,932	8,602	91,919	426,527
Totals, 1946	3,835	934	95	600	5,464	$1,276,892	$856,654	$55,886	$1,247,976	$3,437,408
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
	16,027	3,732	394	2,546	22,699	$8,722,316	$3,080,149	$627,655	$6,367,870	$18,797,990

TABLE VI.—LOSS OF LIFE, 1942–46.

Occupancy.	Cause of Fire.	Loss of Life.		
		Men.	Women.	Children.
Apartment	Smokers' carelessness	1	....	....
Apartment	Unknown	....	1	....
Barn	Unknown	1	....	....
Cannery	Spontaneous ignition	1	....	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	....	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	1	....	....
Dwelling	Coal-oil carelessness	....	1	....
Dwelling	Defective chimney	....	....	1
Dwelling	Defective chimney	1	....	....
Dwelling	Defective chimney	1	....	....
Dwelling	Defective oil-burner	....	....	2
Dwelling	Defective stove	1	1	....
Dwelling	Defective stove-pipe	....	1	....
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	....	....	2
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	....	1	....
Dwelling	Gasoline carelessness	1	....	....
Dwelling	Matches, children with	....	....	1
Dwelling	Smokers' carelessness	1	....	....
Dwelling	Smokers' carelessness	1	....	....
Dwelling	Sparks from fireplace	....	1	....
Dwelling	Unknown	....	....	1
Dwelling	Unknown	....	....	1
Dwelling	Unknown	1	....	....
Fishing-boat	Stove insufficiently protected	1	....	....
Fishing-boat	Unknown	1	....	....
Fishing-boat	Unknown	2	....	....
Hotel	Smokers' carelessness	1	....	....
Hotel	Unknown	1	....	....
Old people's home	Stove insufficiently protected	1	....	....
Sawmill	Unknown	1	....	....
Stores and offices	Bunsen burner, carelessness with	1	....	....
Trailer	Gasoline carelessness	....	1	....
Totals, 1946		21	7	8
Totals, 1945		25	12	21
		Men and Women.		
Totals, 1944		14		5
Totals, 1943		24		5
Totals, 1942		16		16

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