ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FIRE MARSHAL

FOR

1975

BRITISH COLUMBIA

HON. GARDE B. GARDOM, Q.C.
Attorney-General of British Columbia

HENRY K. JENNS
Fire Marshal of British Columbia

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

To Colonel the Honourable WALTER S. OWEN, Q.C., LL.D.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Fifty-third Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31, 1975.

GARDE B. GARDOM, Q.C.
Attorney-General

VICTORIA, B.C.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

This annual report for 1975, as you will notice, is reduced in volume from the previous year. We feel that an annual report should contain only the most important information—information that is easy to understand and is useful to the majority of readers. That way, the important information does not get buried in a large volume of figures. Any additional information of a detailed and specific nature may always be obtained from this office at any time.

This annual report is based on the system now advocated by the National Fire Protection Association. It is anticipated that these statistics will provide each municipality with a meaningful basis for fire prevention, fire suppression, and the general upgrading of public safety.

HENRY K. JENNS
Fire Marshal

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Fire Losses in Municipalities and Fire Districts, 1975

City Municipalities

	Incidents	Loss $	Injured	Dead
Armstrong	4	17,000	—	—
Burnaby	409	1,885,391	27	2
Chilliwack	35	133,121	2	1
Courtenay	26	55,498	—	—
Cranbrook	35	355,786	—	2
Dawson Creek	25	90,133	—	—
Duncan	20	47,693	—	—
Enderby	4	1,012,358	—	—
Fernie	—	—	—	—
Grand Forks	4	591,689	—	—
Kamloops	135	1,241,800	4	1
Kelowna	34	510,861	—	4
Kimberley	11	40,737	2	—
Langley	19	66,252	4	—
Nanaimo	67	201,910	4	—
Nelson	27	551,151	—	1
North Vancouver City	104	586,022	20	9
New Westminster	154	798,222	1	—
Port Alberni	84	273,834	7	2
Port Coquitlam	11	23,050	—	—
Penticton	81	1,346,909	7	1
Prince George	306	2,647,245	3	2
Port Moody	27	273,528	—	—
Prince Rupert	17	245,384	—	1
Revelstoke	18	156,058	—	1
Rossland	11	215,550	—	2
Trail	49	87,904	—	—
Vancouver	2,016	7,467,199	51	20
Vernon	81	340,151	1	—
Victoria	229	1,091,095	29	4
White Rock	14	176,493	1	2

District Municipalities

	Incidents	Loss $	Injured	Dead
Abbotsford-Sumas	47	267,870	1	—
Campbell River	45	260,580	1	—
Central Saanich	13	72,232	—	—
Chilliwhack	81	739,822	7	1
Coldstream	7	55,512	—	—
Coquitlam	113	388,818	—	1
Delta	151	861,734	12	2
Esquimalt	32	149,179	—	1
Hudson's Hope	—	—	—	—
Houston	4	375,000	—	—
Kent	3	148,103	—	—
Kitimat	41	345,561	1	1
Langley	123	1,498,064	14	—
Mackenzie	13	136,979	—	—
Mission	27	639,142	—	—
Maple Ridge	103	593,868	7	1
Matsqui	74	286,343	—	—
North Cowichan	41	248,065	—	—
North Saanich	8	102,100	—	1
North Vancouver	244	3,923,391	17	1
Oak Bay	29	26,225	—	1
Peachland	2	90,150	—	—
Port Hardy	7	645,859	—	—
Pitt Meadows	11	65,263	—	—
Powell River	29	337,112	1	2
Richmond	180	1,358,170	11	2
Saanich	112	259,721	1	—
Sparwood	6	85,700	—	—
Summerland	9	88,000	—	2
Salmon Arm	32	817,430	—	—
Spallumcheen	6	21,016	—	1
Squamish	19	762,760	1	—
Stewart	7	75,500	—	—
Surrey	387	2,211,081	14	3
Terrace	42	1,171,700	1	—
Whistler	2	11,000	—	—
West Vancouver	89	326,735	3	1

Fire Districts

	Incidents	Loss $	Injured	Dead
Cariboo County	361	4,384,894	3	7
Colwood	19	15,002	1	—
Ioco	1	6,655	—	—
Kootenay County	158	1,815,569	2	6
Langford	10	23,440	—	—
Nanaimo County	168	3,458,390	3	2
Ocean Falls	7	9,388	—	—
Prince Rupert County	122	2,276,891	—	9
Sooke	3	44,000	—	—
University Area	25	61,390	—	—
Vancouver County	47	851,273	—	2
Victoria County	34	470,601	—	—
View Royal	3	4,200	—	—
Westminster County	46	775,111	1	2
Yale County	252	4,942,188	4	19

Town Municipalities

	Incidents	Loss $	Injured	Dead
Castlegar	8	186,905	—	—
Comox	6	22,478	—	—
Creston	9	26,610	—	—
Golden	1	1,000	—	—
Hope	6	18,955	—	—
Fort St. John	34	428,725	—	—
Kinnaird	7	48,650	2	—
Ladysmith	6	31,369	—	—
Merritt	9	526,819	—	—
Quesnel	32	205,017	—	—
Sidney	—	—	—	—
Smithers	13	68,691	2	—
Williams Lake	22	1,525,262	—	—

Fire Losses in Municipalities and Fire Districts, 1975—Continued

Village Municipalities

	Incidents	Loss $	Injured	Dead
Alert Bay	1	31,239	----	----
Ashcroft	10	367,100	----	----
Burns Lake	3	49,303	----	----
Cache Creek	1	361	----	----
Chetwynd	1	2,500	----	----
Chase	5	600	----	----
Clinton	1	600	----	----
Elkford	2	3,300	----	----
Fraser Lake	1	1,500	----	----
Fort Nelson	14	112,712	----	----
Fruitvale	1	75	----	----
Granisle Village	1	434	----	----
Gibsons Landing	6	42,621	----	----
Gold River	----	----	----	----
Hazelton	1	1,843	----	----
Harrison Hot Springs	3	2,230	----	----
100 Mile House	7	34,410	----	----
Invermere	2	15,150	----	----
Kaslo	1	500	----	----
Keremeos	2	4,600	----	----
Lions Bay	2	2,510	----	----
Lake Cowichan	13	150,093	----	----
Lillooet	----	----	----	----
Logan Lake	8	2,932	1	----
Lumby	1	9,750	----	----
Lytton	----	----	----	----
Masset	6	1,390	1	----
McBride	2	17,253	----	----
Midway	7	51,160	----	----
Montrose	----	----	----	----
Nakusp	2	18,191	----	----
Oliver	3	541,000	----	----
Osoyoos	----	----	----	----
Parksville	12	61,285	----	1
Pouce Coupe	----	----	----	----
Port Edward	3	20,100	----	----
Pemberton	2	12,500	----	----
Port McNeill	3	9,800	----	----
Port Alice	4	14,450	----	----
Princeton	5	68,806	----	----
Qualicum Beach	2	11,000	----	----
Salmo	4	305	----	----
Sechelt	1	1,127	----	----
Fort St. James	24	53,900	----	1
Tahsis	----	----	----	----
Tofino	3	137,400	----	----
Taylor	1	25,000	----	----
Ucluelet	1	77,609	----	----
Valemount	----	----	----	----
Vanderhoof	7	291,500	----	----
Warfield	4	10,000	----	4
Zeballos	----	----	----	----

Provincial Totals

	Incidents	Loss $	Injured	Dead
Provincial totals	7,782	66,461,246	275	129

Fire Loss Statistics for All Fires,[1] 1975

	Incidents	Per Cent of Incidents	Loss	Per Cent of Loss
			$	
Day of week—				
Sunday	1,106	14.2	13,009,590	19.5
Monday	953	12.2	6,867,941	10.3
Tuesday	960	12.3	5,585,229	8.4
Wednesday	1,050	13.4	8,717,032	13.1
Thursday	977	12.5	11,381,482	17.1
Friday	1,178	15.1	9,774,843	14.7
Saturday	1,197	15.3	9,716,620	14.6
Unknown	361	4.6	1,408,509	2.1
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
General construction—				
Combustible, fire-resistance rating—				
Less than ¾ hour	2,783	35.7	32,959,917	49.5
¾ hour or greater	839	10.7	10,460,254	15.7
Heavy timber construction	119	1.5	3,548,506	5.3
Noncombustible, fire-resistance rating—				
Less than 1 hour	131	1.6	1,097,588	1.6
1 hour or greater	250	3.2	2,984,078	4.4
General construction—unclassified	390	5.0	5,154,130	7.7
Unknown or not applicable	3,270	42.0	10,256,773	15.4
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Building height—				
1-storey	2,059	26.4	24,334,831	36.6
2-storey	964	12.3	16,005,783	24.0
3-storey	414	5.3	3,742,960	5.6
4 to 6-storey	170	2.1	1,483,868	2.2
7 to 10-storey	319	4.0	5,386,956	8.1
11 to 20-storey	202	2.5	3,120,338	4.6
21 and more storeys	71	0.9	1,099,577	1.6
Unknown or not applicable	3,583	46.0	11,286,933	16.9
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Year of construction—				
Before 1900	18	0.2	535,924	0.8
1900 to 1920	283	3.6	3,537,937	5.3
1921 to 1940	818	10.5	7,370,510	11.0
1941 to 1960	1,121	14.4	14,747,795	22.1
1961 to 1980	1,838	23.6	24,560,704	36.9
Unknown or not applicable	3,704	47.5	15,708,376	23.6
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Interior fire protection—				
Extinguishers, standpipe system, and manual alarm	281	3.6	3,050,157	4.5
Extinguishers and standpipe system	56	0.7	3,025,252	4.5
Extinguishers and manual alarm system	266	3.4	4,282,762	6.4
Extinguishers	521	6.6	18,489,959	27.8
Standpipe system and manual alarm system	113	1.4	528,044	0.7
Standpipe system	18	0.2	325,484	0.4
Manual fire alarm system	151	1.9	1,265,907	1.9
Manual fire protection facilities—unclassified	296	3.8	3,486,693	5.2
Unknown or not applicable	6,080	78.1	32,006,988	48.1
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Last inspected—				
Less than 30 days	221	2.8	4,430,371	6.6
31 to 60 days	274	3.5	8,848,716	13.3
61 to 90 days	198	2.5	6,346,442	9.5
91 to 180 days	453	5.8	4,628,798	6.9
6 to 12 months	212	2.7	5,810,429	8.7
13 to 24 months	70	0.8	1,445,642	2.1
25 to 36 months	23	0.2	186,768	0.2
Over 36 months	81	1.0	1,659,474	2.4
Not applicable	3,672	47.1	16,320,978	24.5
Unknown or not applicable	2,578	33.1	16,783,628	25.2
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0

[1] Similar information is available for groups of specific property classifications as listed on page 14—Summary of Fire Losses by Property Classifications.

Fire Loss Statistics for All Fires,[1] 1975—Continued

	Incidents	Per Cent of Incidents	Loss	Per Cent of Loss
Sprinkler protection—				
Complete—			$	
Supervised or standard watchman service	44	0.5	459,915	0.6
Alarm to fire department	15	0.1	82,332	0.1
Unsupervised, local alarms only	88	1.1	316,546	0.4
Partial—				
Supervised or standard watchman service	14	0.1	255,613	0.3
Alarm to fire department	52	0.6	8,522	.....
Unsupervised, local alarms only	132	1.6	621,598	0.9
Insufficient information to classify further	17	0.2	80,408	0.1
None	1,897	24.3	38,547,546	58.0
Unclassified	76	0.9	1,180,199	1.7
Unknown or not applicable	5,447	69.9	24,908,567	37.4
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Automatic fire-detection system—				
Complete—				
Heat—				
Alarm to fire department or central station	25	0.3	180,004	0.2
Local alarm only	47	0.6	570,855	0.8
Combustion or smoke—				
Alarm to fire department or central station	5	.....	1,050	.....
Local alarm only	11	0.1	144,559	0.2
Partial—				
Heat—				
Alarm to fire department or central station	23	0.2	71,658	0.1
Local alarm only	259	3.3	4,096,173	6.1
Combustion or smoke—				
Alarm to fire department or central station	48	0.6	22,510	.....
Local alarm only	104	1.3	1,167,940	1.7
Unclassified	230	2.9	2,758,079	4.1
Unknown or not applicable	7,030	90.3	57,448,418	86.4
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Outside fire protection—				
Municipal hydrant and fire department	4,096	52.6	38,682,890	58.2
Municipal hydrant and no fire department	10	0.1	178,486	0.2
Municipal fire department only	372	4.7	6,013,628	9.0
Private hydrant and fire department	87	1.1	965,734	1.4
Private hydrant and no fire department	25	0.3	1,805,491	2.7
Private fire department only	25	0.3	1,020,078	1.5
None	290	3.7	6,435,554	9.6
Unclassified	166	2.1	2,350,926	3.5
Unknown or not applicable	2,711	34.8	9,008,459	13.5
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Water supply flow—				
None	377	4.8	7,974,204	11.9
Less than 200 gpm	105	1.3	1,680,610	2.5
200 to 399 gpm	140	1.7	4,215,919	6.3
400 to 599 gpm	369	4.7	3,199,024	4.8
600 to 799 gpm	475	6.1	8,728,234	13.1
800 to 1,199 gpm	871	11.1	7,640,904	11.4
1,200 to 1,599 gpm	362	4.6	3,969,380	5.9
1,600 or over gpm	1,471	18.9	11,567,122	17.4
Unclassified	41	0.5	877,480	1.3
Unknown or not applicable	3,571	45.8	16,608,369	24.9
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0

[1] Similar information is available for groups of specific property classifications as listed on page 14—Summary of Fire Losses by Property Classifications.

Fire Loss Statistics for All Fires,[1] 1975—Continued

	Incidents	Per Cent of Incidents	Loss	Per Cent of Loss
			$	
Size of water-main (inches)—				
0	287	3.6	5,179,351	7.7
4	284	3.6	2,406,425	3.6
5	15	0.1	744,600	1.1
6	1,873	24.0	15,746,332	23.6
8	1,078	13.8	14,279,813	21.4
10	236	3.0	5,829,443	8.7
12	171	2.1	1,068,857	1.6
14 or over	57	0.7	848,829	1.2
Unclassified	48	0.6	451,116	0.6
Unknown or not applicable	3,733	47.9	19,906,480	29.9
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Fire service—				
Full-time fire department	3,021	38.8	17,924,016	26.9
Volunteer fire department	1,097	14.0	20,532,751	30.8
Combined full-time and volunteer	1,425	18.3	15,001,128	22.5
Police acting as full-time fire-fighters	5	------	13,150	------
Combined police and fire department	48	0.6	163,837	0.2
Combined police and volunteer fire-fighters	17	0.2	216,600	0.3
Contract to others	7	------	52,300	------
None	302	3.8	6,354,923	9.5
Unclassified	50	0.6	1,592,676	2.3
Unknown or not applicable	1,810	23.2	4,609,865	6.9
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Extinguishment—				
Hand fire extinguisher	952	12.2	1,784,592	2.6
Standpipe and hose system	109	1.4	1,111,551	1.6
Makeshift aids	758	9.7	1,053,127	1.5
Fire department—				
Water	3,860	49.6	46,264,301	69.6
Other than water	24	0.3	278,767	0.4
Sprinkler system	33	0.4	209,686	0.3
Fixed system, not sprinkler	14	0.1	64,325	------
Burned out	601	7.7	8,209,073	12.3
Miscellaneous	1,041	13.3	5,978,918	8.9
Unknown	390	5.0	1,506,906	2.2
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Level of origin—				
Basement, sub-basement	532	6.8	5,256,989	7.9
Crawl space, under structure	74	0.9	841,960	1.2
Ground floor, grade level (grade to 9 feet)	2,691	34.5	38,581,520	58.0
2nd storey (10–19 feet above grade)	505	6.4	4,891,079	7.3
3rd storey (20–29 feet above grade)	148	1.9	1,837,428	2.7
4th to 12th storey, inclusive (30–119 feet above grade)	87	1.1	362,162	0.5
Over 12 storeys (120 feet and over above grade)	19	0.2	337,095	0.5
Roof level (includes concealed roof space, attic)	142	1.8	1,052,082	1.5
Unclassified	131	1.6	2,569,488	3.8
Unknown or not applicable	3,453	44.3	10,731,443	16.1
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Extent of damage—				
Confined to—				
Object of origin	1,061	13.6	2,421,498	3.6
Part of room/area of origin	919	11.8	1,484,873	2.2
Room of origin	467	6.0	1,315,356	1.9
Floor area of origin	405	5.2	2,698,509	4.0
Roof	56	0.7	164,019	0.2
Building of origin	1,473	18.9	33,995,142	51.1
Extended beyond building of origin	247	3.1	14,026,612	21.1
Unclassified	131	1.6	2,346,826	3.5
Unknown or not applicable	3,023	38.8	8,008,411	12.0
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0

[1] Similar information is available for groups of specific property classifications as listed on page 14—Summary of Fire Losses by Property Classifications.

Fire Loss Statistics for All Fires,[1] *1975*—Continued

	Incidents	Per Cent of Incidents	Loss	Per Cent of Loss
			$	
Area of origin—				
Means of egress	194	2.4	5,668,186	8.5
Assembly area—				
Lounge, living-room	475	6.1	4,573,883	6.8
Others	67	0.8	2,729,805	4.1
Function area—				
Sleeping	652	8.3	4,256,131	6.4
Kitchen	633	8.1	4,744,773	7.1
Laundry	90	1.1	669,552	1.0
Others	525	6.7	9,755,784	14.6
Storage area inside building	731	9.3	10,270,319	15.4
Service facilities—				
Chimney, flue	94	1.2	176,586	0.2
Others	63	0.8	1,177,843	1.7
Service and equipment area	341	4.3	6,157,638	9.2
Structural area	486	6.2	5,855,778	8.8
Vehicle—				
Engine area	946	12.1	1,033,149	1.5
Fuel area	272	3.4	360,819	0.5
Passenger area	517	6.6	471,310	0.7
Others	649	8.3	2,114,489	3.1
Outside area	615	7.9	4,796,178	7.2
Unknown	432	5.5	1,649,023	2.4
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Source of ignition—				
Heating equipment	525	6.7	6,005,141	9.0
Cooking equipment	508	6.5	2,254,053	3.3
Smokers' material	929	11.9	5,304,183	7.9
Electrical distribution equipment	829	10.6	4,378,925	6.5
Electrical appliances	263	3.3	1,842,976	2.7
Other appliances	768	9.8	1,439,985	2.1
Open flames	1,196	15.3	13,251,685	19.9
Exposure	253	3.2	1,536,388	2.3
Miscellaneous	2,146	27.5	29,119,485	43.8
Unknown	365	4.6	1,328,425	1.9
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Fuel or energy—				
Coal, wood	1,282	16.4	12,311,335	18.5
Fuel oil	223	2.8	2,089,878	3.1
Gasoline	1,195	15.3	5,803,674	8.7
Natural gas	113	1.4	1,037,135	1.5
Propane	176	2.2	3,051,532	4.5
Smokers' material	904	11.6	5,256,612	7.9
Electricity	1,301	16.7	7,448,392	11.2
Lightning	18	0.2	76,082	0.1
Unclassified	604	7.7	7,070,530	10.6
Unknown or not applicable	1,966	25.2	22,316,076	33.5
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Form of heat—				
Spark—				
Ember	240	3.0	3,754,325	5.6
Electrical	1,215	15.6	7,112,015	10.7
Static electrical	38	0.4	176,618	0.2
Direct flame	1,646	21.1	14,644,460	22.0
Friction heat	61	0.7	318,049	0.4
Hot object, conduction or radiation	1,090	14.0	4,483,181	6.7
Spontaneous ignition (not incompatible chemicals)	85	1.0	1,232,102	1.8
Heat from smokers' material	875	11.2	5,307,499	7.9
Unclassified	250	3.2	4,309,664	6.4
Unknown or not applicable	2,282	29.3	25,123,333	37.8
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0

[1] Similar information is available for groups of specific property classifications as listed on page 14—Summary of Fire Losses by Property Classifications.

Fire Loss Statistics for All Fires,[1] *1975*—Continued

	Incidents	Per Cent of Incidents	Loss	Per Cent of Loss
Material first ignited—			$	
Structural components	1,186	15.2	13,580,576	20.4
Furniture, furnishings	1,110	14.2	5,674,302	8.5
Clothing, textiles	255	3.2	1,549,184	2.3
Wood, paper	979	12.5	11,695,789	17.5
Flammable liquids	1,588	20.4	7,270,580	10.9
Flammable gases	179	2.3	2,627,964	3.9
Chemicals	86	1.1	854,463	1.2
Agricultural, forestry products	174	2.2	1,000,686	1.5
Miscellaneous	2,225	28.5	22,207,702	33.4
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0
Act or omission—				
Incendiary	1,729	22.2	15,869,428	23.8
Misuse of source of ignition	1,106	14.2	7,170,250	10.7
Misuse of material ignited	423	5.4	4,397,351	6.6
Mechanical or electrical failure	1,966	25.2	10,913,076	16.4
Construction deficiency	181	2.3	1,210,610	1.8
Misuse of equipment	80	1.0	463,409	0.6
Human failing	644	8.2	3,851,844	5.7
Vehicle accident	130	1.6	518,384	0.7
Miscellaneous	1,170	15.0	20,706,149	31.1
Unknown	353	4.5	1,360,745	2.0
Totals	7,782	100.0	66,461,246	100.0

[1] Similar information is available for groups of specific property classifications as listed on page 14—Summary of Fire Losses by Property Classifications.

Summary of Fire Losses by Property Classifications, 1975

Uniform Reporting Manual Codes	Property Classifications	Incidents	Per Cent of Total Incidents	Loss	Per Cent of Total Loss	Fatalities	Per Cent of Total Fatalities	Injured	Per Cent of Total Injured
	Assembly—			$					
131–139	Educational	106	1.4	6,068,568	9.1	.....	.....	7	.....
172–173	Nightclubs, taverns	11	.....	346,877	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
171, 174, 179	Restaurants, eating establishments	70	.....	1,220,804	1.8	.....	.....	8	.....
111–129	Others	93	1.2	2,569,121	3.9	.....	.....	.....	.....
141–169									
181–199									
	Institutional—								
221–229	Home for aged	11	.....	38,415	.....	1	.....	1	.....
231–249	Hospital	57	.....	117,509	.....	1	.....	1	.....
211–219, 299	Others	14	.....	132,703	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
311–319	One- and two-family dwellings	2,045	26.3	16,247,309	24.4	77	59.7	111	42.2
321–329	Apartments	539	6.9	3,708,598	5.6	10	7.8	47	17.1
331–359	Hotels, motels, rooming-houses	235	3.0	3,048,417	4.6	12	9.3	25	9.1
361–369	Dormitory	21	.....	761,425	1.1	.....	.....	.....	.....
371, 375	Mobile home, mobile camp	141	1.8	1,250,671	1.9	3	.....	5	.....
372–374	Recreational vehicle	62	.....	333,111	.....	4	.....	4	.....
376, 379, 399	Residential—others	73	.....	294,775	.....	.....	.....	2	.....
400–499	Business and personal service	63	.....	1,021,276	1.5	.....	.....	.....	.....
500–599	Mercantile	235	3.0	7,482,844	11.3	.....	.....	4	.....
600–699	Industrial manufacturing	231	3.0	8,773,758	13.2	1	.....	.....	.....
700–799	Industrial storage	415	5.3	5,505,264	8.3	5	3.9	28	10.2
811–829	Outdoor property, piers, wharves	243	3.1	29,668	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
841–849	Watercraft	56	.....	911,945	1.4	.....	.....	4	.....
851–859	Rail transport and equipment	16	.....	72,645	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
861	Ground transport, automobile	1,910	24.5	1,585,415	2.4	12	9.3	16	6.2
862–869, 881–889	Other ground transport and special vehicles	519	6.7	1,986,189	3.0	1	.....	6	.....
871–879	Aircraft	2	.....	1,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
831–839, 899	Others, miscellaneous	612	.....	2,952,439	.....	.....	.....	6	.....
900–999									
	Totals	7,782	.....	66,461,246	.....	129	.....	275	.....

Fire Losses of $250,000 and Over, 1975

Date	Municipality	Occupancy	Cause	Loss
				$
02-22	Williams Lake	Supermarket	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	1,200,000
02-05	Richmond	Elementary school	Criminal offence	465,203
04-16	Yale County	Sawmill, planing-mill	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	700,000
04-07	Nanaimo County	Sawmill, planing-mill	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	1,000,000
04-18	Penticton	Elementary school	Criminal offence	1,050,000
05-22	Vancouver	Restaurant	Incendiarism[2]	263,500
05-08	Enderby	Junior high, intermediate school	Fuel spilled accidentally	1,000,000
05-15	Salmon Arm	Miscellaneous mercantile[1]	Arson or other fires[1]	645,000
05-31	Squamish	Marine passenger terminal	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	706,604
05-21	Powell River	Builders' supply sales	Disposal of smokers' material	260,592
05-02	Delta	Machinery	Welding or cutting too close	250,000
05-14	North Vancouver	General warehouse	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	1,331,125
05-25	North Vancouver	Sawmill, planing-mill	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	1,700,000
05-08	Terrace	General warehouse	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	572,174
05-26	Ashcroft	Arena, stadium	Mischief, vandalism; no charges laid	320,000
06-21	Victoria	Hotel, year-round use	Human failing[1]	250,000
06-13	Nelson	Junior high, intermediate school	Incendiarism[2]	275,000
07-02	Port Hardy	Apartment, over 20 units, with or without business	Criminal offence	365,359
07-21	Mission	Sawmill, planing-mill	Welding or cutting too close	450,000
07-20	Oliver	Furniture store	Child playing with fire	500,000
08-07	Yale County	Fruit, vegetable packing	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	800,000
08-14	Cariboo County	LP gas tanks	Part failure, leak, break	250,000
08-16	Vancouver	Apartment, one- or two-units with business	Incendiarism[2]	264,000
09-18	Vancouver	Hotel, seasonal use (in season)	Incendiarism[2]	340,000
09-28	Prince George	Machinery	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	483,610
09-25	Yale County	Elementary school	Arson or other fires[1]	500,000
09-30	Merritt	Variety store (large)	Lack of maintenance	450,000
10-12	Prince Rupert County	Motor-vehicle manufacturing and assembly	Mechanical and electrical failure[1]	732,000
10-09	Vancouver County	School, college, university dormitory	Criminal offence	297,000
10-24	Burnaby	Freight terminal	Part failure, leak, break	535,500
10-12	Prince George	Elementary school	Mischief, vandalism; no charges laid	500,000
11-15	Houston	Apartment, over 20 units	Inadequate control of "open" fire	350,000
11-27	Langley	Elementary school	Criminal offence	600,000
12-21	Yale County	Restaurant	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	250,000
12-21	Surrey	Elementary school	Miscellaneous act or omission[1]	450,000
12-07	Grand Forks	Hardware store	Criminal offence	570,000

[1] Unclassified or unknown. [2] Or suspected incendiarism (no charges laid).

Major Causes of Fires Resulting in Death, 1975

Cause	Men	Women	Children	Total
Careless use of smoking materials	31	15	3	49
Automobile accidents	4	1	7	12
Electrical	1	1	4	6
Wood-fired stove and space heater	5	1	---	6
Grain terminal explosion	5	---	---	5
Oil stove	2	2	---	4
Overheated grease	1	1	2	4
Gas stove	1	2	1	4
Suicide	3	1	---	4
Propane leak	1	1	2	4
Other	17	6	8	31
Totals	70	32	27	129

Fire Casualties by Month, 1975

Month	Injuries			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
January	15	2	17	7	3	10
February	17	8	25	3	2	5
March	19	9	28	7	2	9
April	18	3	21	10	5	15
May	14	4	18	7	2	9
June	25	4	29	9	6	15
July	14	7	21	7	7	14
August	11	4	15	6	6	12
September	11	10	21	4	3	7
October	24	5	29	9	5	14
November	19	7	26	5	---	5
December	17	8	25	7	7	14
Totals	204	71	275	81	48	129

Fire Casualties by Day of Week, 1975

Day	Dead	Injured
Sunday	22	32
Monday	7	30
Tuesday	22	36
Wednesday	14	40
Thursday	14	32
Friday	20	51
Saturday	30	54
Totals	129	275

Fire Casualties by Age, 1975

Age	Deaths	Injuries
Unknown	1	17
Under 2	5	2
2–10 years	13	8
11–18 years	12	22
19–70 years	84	216
Over 70 years	14	10
Totals	129	275

Circumstances Contributing to Fire Casualties, 1975

	Deaths	Injuries
Condition of casualty—		
Asleep at time of fire	35	45
Bedridden or other handicap	7	2
Impairment by alcohol	27	16
Impairment by drugs	2	6
Under restraint or detention	----	1
Too young to act	5	4
Left unattended (children)	----	4
Unclassified	25	77
Unknown or not applicable	28	120
Totals	129	275
Action of casualty—		
Injured while attempting to escape	13	50
Overexertion or heart attack	1	1
Volunteer entered—		
Remained for rescue purpose	2	16
Remained for fire-fighting	1	69
Remained to save property	----	5
Loss of judgment or panic	11	13
Received delayed warning	10	8
Unclassified	40	56
Unknown or not applicable	51	57
Totals	129	275
Ignition of clothing or other fabrics—		
Outer clothing	23	41
Sleepwear	20	9
Underclothing	3	1
Bedding or bed linen	10	10
Mattress or pillow	4	8
Upholstered furniture	4	6
Unclassified	13	7
Unknown or not applicable	52	193
Totals	129	275

	Deaths	Injuries
Type of fabric or material ignited—		
Cotton	23	16
Wool	2	6
Other natural fibre	1	----
Other synthetic fibre	5	8
Mixed fibres	7	9
Plastic foam	----	2
Unclassified	22	10
Unknown or not applicable	69	224
Totals	129	275
Cause of failure to escape—		
Trapped—		
Vertical spread of fire/smoke	18	4
Horizontal spread of fire/smoke	20	5
High flame spread—combustible interior finish	13	5
Falling debris	----	3
Explosion	14	35
Exit blocked or obstructed by fire	9	4
Outdoor fire	1	----
Unclassified	26	33
Unknown or not applicable	28	186
Totals	129	275

Fire Crime Statistics, 1975

	Motive Unknown	Insurance Fraud	Revenge	Cover Crime	Mischief	Mental	Total
Incendiary, suspected or known—							
Provincial totals	1,266	7	20	3	426	39	1,761
Time—							
0001–0800	594	2	11	1	93	17	718
0801–1600	188	2	2	....	127	7	326
1601–0000	484	3	7	2	206	15	717
Property—							
Assembly	90	....	1	....	70	4	165
Institutional	11	....	....	....	.....	7	18
Residential	390	2	8	1	104	14	519
Office	22	....	....	....	12	....	34
Mercantile	72	1	....	....	16	2	91
Manufacturing	25	....	....	....	4	1	30
Storage	137	....	1	1	39	2	180
Vehicles, outside areas	489	4	4	1	159	7	664
Miscellaneous	27	....	....	....	20	2	49
Incendiary method—							
Unknown	745	3	2	1	174	10	935
Flammable liquids	203	3	3	1	47	4	261
Incendiary devices	7	....	....	....	7	....	14
Matches and combustibles	305	1	15	1	188	25	535
Other	5	....	....	....	10	....	15
Not applicable	1	....	....	....	.....	....	1
Persons involved—							
Unknown	1,185	1	3	3	349	3	1,544
Adult male	45	6	7	....	4	17	79
Adult female	8	....	8	....	.....	10	26
Juvenile male	26	....	1	....	68	5	100
Juvenile female	2	....	1	....	5	4	12
Persons charged—							
Adult male	35	6	6	....	4	9	60
Adult female	9	....	7	....	.....	2	18
Juvenile male	18	....	....	....	24	....	42
Juvenile female	.....	....	....	....	2	....	2
Total persons charged	62	6	13	....	30	11	122
Offences cleared—							
By charge	62	6	13	....	30	11	122
Other	11	....	3	....	42	24	80
Not cleared	1,193	1	4	3	354	4	1,559
Disposition of charge—							
Convictions	10	....	8	....	6	1	25
Dismissals	3	....	....	....	.....	....	3
Pending	60	6	6	....	28	9	109
Withdrawn	4	....	....	....	.....	....	4
Stay of proceedings	.....	....	....	....	.....	....	.....
Committed	.....	....	—	....	.....	1	1
Authority for charge—							
Criminal Code—							
Sec. 387	15	2	4	....	22	3	46
Sec. 389 (1)	43	4	9	....	6	3	65
Sec. 389 (2)	2	....	....	....	.....	....	2
Sec. 390	4	....	1	....	4	4	13
Sec. 392 (1)	3	....	....	....	.....	1	4
Other	11	....	....	....	2	....	13

Inspections and Orders by Local Assistant Fire Marshals, 1975

CITY MUNICIPALITIES (32)

	Inspections	Orders		Inspections	Orders
Armstrong	21	—	New Westminster	5,884	3
Chilliwack	1,096	5	North Vancouver	2,983	19
Courtenay	.....	—	Penticton	1,699	7
Cranbrook	1,821	4	Port Alberni	230	1
Dawson Creek	268	—	Port Coquitlam	.....	—
Duncan	148	2	Port Moody	433	—
Enderby	.....	—	Prince George	624	—
Fernie	.....	—	Prince Rupert	.....	—
Grand Forks	.....	—	Revelstoke	149	1
Greenwood	.....	—	Rossland	238	—
Kamloops	86	43	Trail	311	—
Kelowna	2,782	—	Vancouver	27,301	416
Kimberley	575	—	Vernon	1,848	—
Langley	610	143	Victoria	6,073	29
Nanaimo	1,262	—	White Rock	421	—
Fort St. John	198	—	Totals	57,617	675
Nelson	556	2			

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES (38)

Abbotsford	37	—	North Saanich	43	3
Burnaby	1,070	—	North Vancouver	.....	—
Campbell River	.....	—	Oak Bay	2,846	14
Central Saanich	95	—	Peachland	.....	—
Chilliwhack	480	17	Pitt Meadows	.....	—
Coldstream	.....	—	Port Hardy	.....	—
Coquitlam	414	—	Powell River	18	—
Delta	1,040	435	Richmond	1,898	742
Esquimalt	304	—	Saanich	3,541	1
Fraser Mills	.....	—	Salmon Arm	310	1
Houston	.....	—	Spallumcheen	.....	—
Hudson's Hope	.....	—	Sparwood	27	1
Kent	.....	—	Squamish	40	2
Kitimat	31	—	Stewart	43	—
Mackenzie	.....	—	Summerland	293	1
Maple Ridge	288	—	Surrey	5,499	—
Matsqui	332	—	Terrace	677	—
Mission	398	12	West Vancouver	916	3
North Cowichan	353	—	Totals	20,993	1,232

Inspections and Orders by Local Assistant Fire Marshals, 1975—Continued

VILLAGE MUNICIPALITIES (59)

	Inspections	Orders		Inspections	Orders
Alert Bay	----	----	Montrose	37	----
Ashcroft	----	----	Nakusp	----	----
Burns Lake	----	----	New Denver	----	----
Cache Creek	----	----	Oliver	2	1
Chase	----	----	100 Mile House	----	----
Chetwynd	----	----	Osoyoos	20	----
Clinton	2	----	Parksville	126	----
Cumberland	----	----	Port Alice	12	3
Elkford	----	----	Pemberton	----	----
Fort Nelson	----	----	Port Edward	----	----
Fort St. James	----	----	Port McNeill	----	----
Fraser Lake	----	----	Pouce Coupe	----	----
Fruitvale	----	----	Princeton	17	----
Gibsons	----	----	Qualicum Beach	----	----
Gold River	----	----	Salmo	----	----
Granisle	----	----	Sayward	----	----
Harrison Hot Springs	----	----	Sechelt	----	----
Hazelton	----	----	Silverton	----	----
Invermere	----	----	Slocan	----	----
Kaslo	----	----	South Fort George	----	----
Keremeos	----	----	Tahsis	----	----
Lake Cowichan	----	----	Taylor	----	----
Lillooet	----	----	Telkwa	----	----
Lions Bay	----	----	Tofino	----	----
Logan Lake	24	2	Ucluelet	----	----
Lumby	----	----	Valemount	----	----
Lytton	----	----	Vanderhoof	----	----
McBride	10	----	Warfield	21	----
Masset	81	----	Zeballos	----	----
Midway	6	----	Totals	358	6

TOWN MUNICIPALITIES (10)

Comox	104	----	Quesnel	33	----
Creston	----	----	Sidney	----	----
Golden	----	----	Smithers	----	----
Hope	85	----	Williams Lake	156	1
Ladysmith	34	4	Totals	412	4
Merritt	----	----			

FIRE DISTRICTS (15)

Cariboo, County of	----	----	Sooke	----	----
Colwood	----	----	University Area	1,079	----
Ioco	----	----	Vancouver, County of	----	----
Kootenay, County of	14	1	Victoria, County of	141	1
Langford	----	----	View Royal	38	----
Nanaimo, County of	25	1	Westminster, County of	----	----
Ocean Falls	128	----	Yale, County of	222	----
Prince Rupert, County of	----	----	Totals	1,647	3

	Inspections	Orders
Grand totals, 1975	81,027	1,920
Grand totals, 1974	91,418	1,544
Grand totals, 1973	87,266	1,686
Grand totals, 1972	63,940	888
Grand totals, 1971	84,104	588
Grand totals, 1970	81,056	92
Grand totals, 1969	77,927	197
Grand totals, 1968	92,074	172
Grand totals, 1967	85,969	529
Grand totals, 1966	84,874	603

10-year Property Fire Loss Comparison, 1966–75

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
(1) Number of fires	6,903	6,934	7,010	7,602	7,546
(2) Loss	$23,145,579	$21,490,053	$21,116,871	$27,514,446	$34,561,074
(3) Loss per fire (2) ÷ (1)	$3,353	$3,099	$3,012	$3,619	$4,580
(4) Population (thousands)[1]	1,873.7	1,945.0	2,003.0	2,060.0	2,128.0
(5) *Per capita* fires [(1) ÷ (4)] × 1,000	3.68	3.57	3.50	3.69	3.55
(6) *Per capita* loss (2) ÷ (4)	$12.35	$11.05	$10.54	$13.36	$16.24
(7) Adjustment Factor (A)[2]	.699	.746	.799	.851	.912
(8) Adjusted *per capita* loss (A) (6) ÷ (7)	$17.67	$14.81	$13.19	$15.70	$17.81
(9) CPI Adjustment Factor (B)[2]	.843	.874	.906	.937	.969
(10) Adjusted *per capita* loss (B) (6) ÷ (9)	$14.65	$12.64	$11.63	$14.26	$16.76
(11) Fire fatalities	70	106	100	87	104

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
(1) Number of fires	7,454	8,120	7,613	7,526	7,782
(2) Loss	$34,716,758	$37,389,116	$45,693,116	$62,842,182	$66,461,246
(3) Loss per fire (2) ÷ (1)	$4,657	$4,605	$6,002	$8,350	$8,540
(4) Population (thousands)[1]	2,184.6	2,241.4	2,302.4	2,375.7	2,433.2
(5) *Per capita* fires [(1) ÷ (4)] × 1,000	3.41	3.62	3.31	3.17	3.20
(6) *Per capita* loss (2) ÷ (4)	$15.89	$16.68	$19.85	$26.45	$27.31
(7) Adjustment Factor (A)[2]	1.000	1.101	1.232	1.347	1.440
(8) Adjusted *per capita* loss (A) (6) ÷ (7)	$15.89	$15.15	$16.11	$19.64	$18.97
(9) CPI Adjustment Factor (B)[2]	1.000	1.040	1.110	1.239	1.377
(10) Adjusted *per capita* loss (B) (6) ÷ (9)	$15.89	$16.04	$17.88	$21.35	$19.84
(11) Fire fatalities	153	100	116	129	129

[1] Population statistics were provided by Statistics Canada. The figures for 1966 and 1971 are actual census figures. The others are estimates by Statistics Canada.

[2] Adjustment Factor: In an effort to get a more realistic picture of losses over the years, some form of adjustment factors were necessary to take inflation into consideration. We chose

(A) the B.C. Residential Building Construction Input Price Index, as provided by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corp., using 1971 as a base of 1.000; and

(B) Consumer Price Index for Vancouver with 1971 = 1.000.

NUMBER OF FIRES, 1966-75

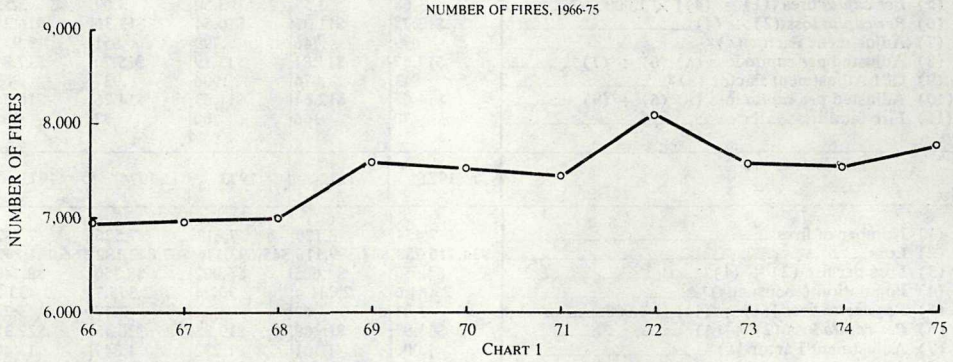

CHART 1

FIRES PER CAPITA, 1966-75

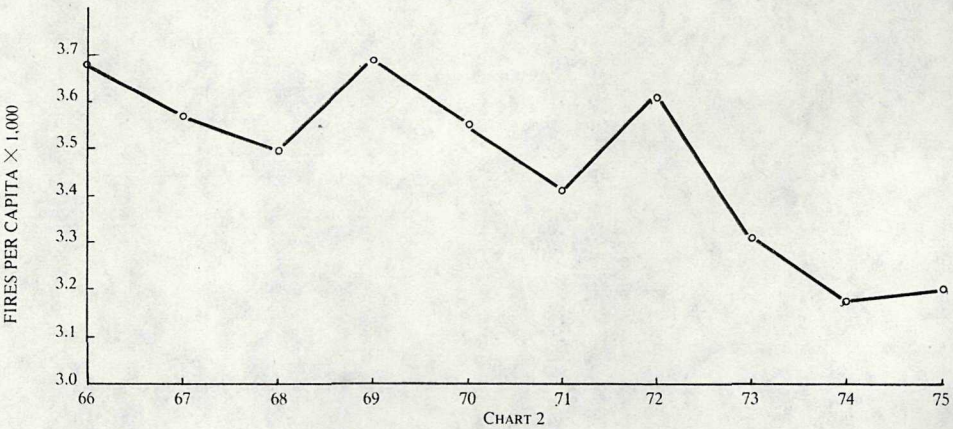

CHART 2

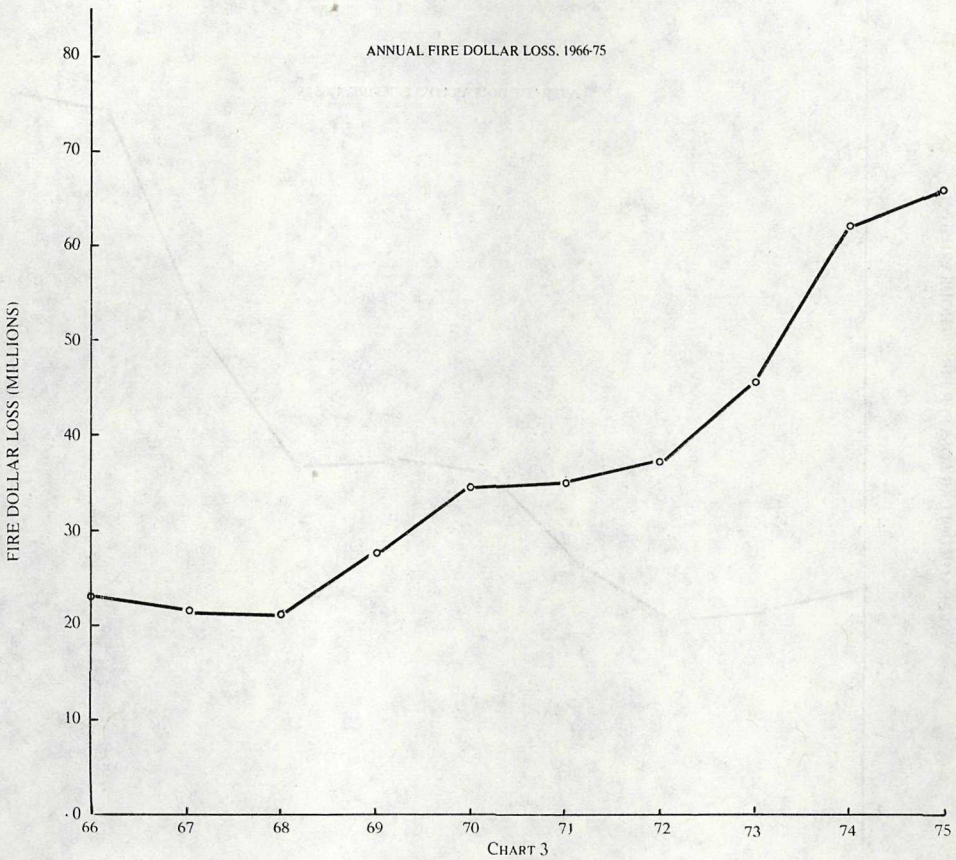
ANNUAL FIRE DOLLAR LOSS, 1966-75
FIRE DOLLAR LOSS (MILLIONS)
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75

CHART 3

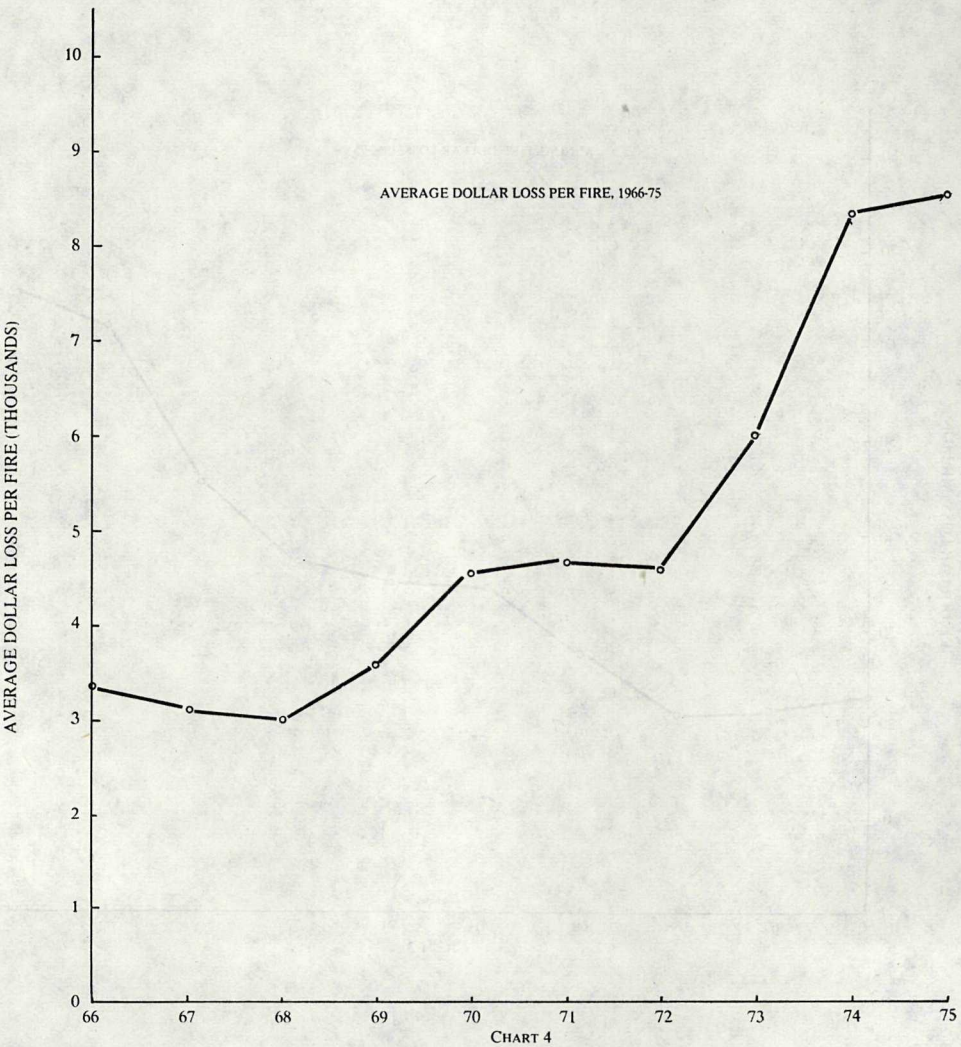
AVERAGE DOLLAR LOSS PER FIRE, 1966-75
AVERAGE DOLLAR LOSS PER FIRE (THOUSANDS)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75

CHART 4

ACTUAL AND ADJUSTED PER CAPITA FIRE LOSS (DOLLARS), 1966-75

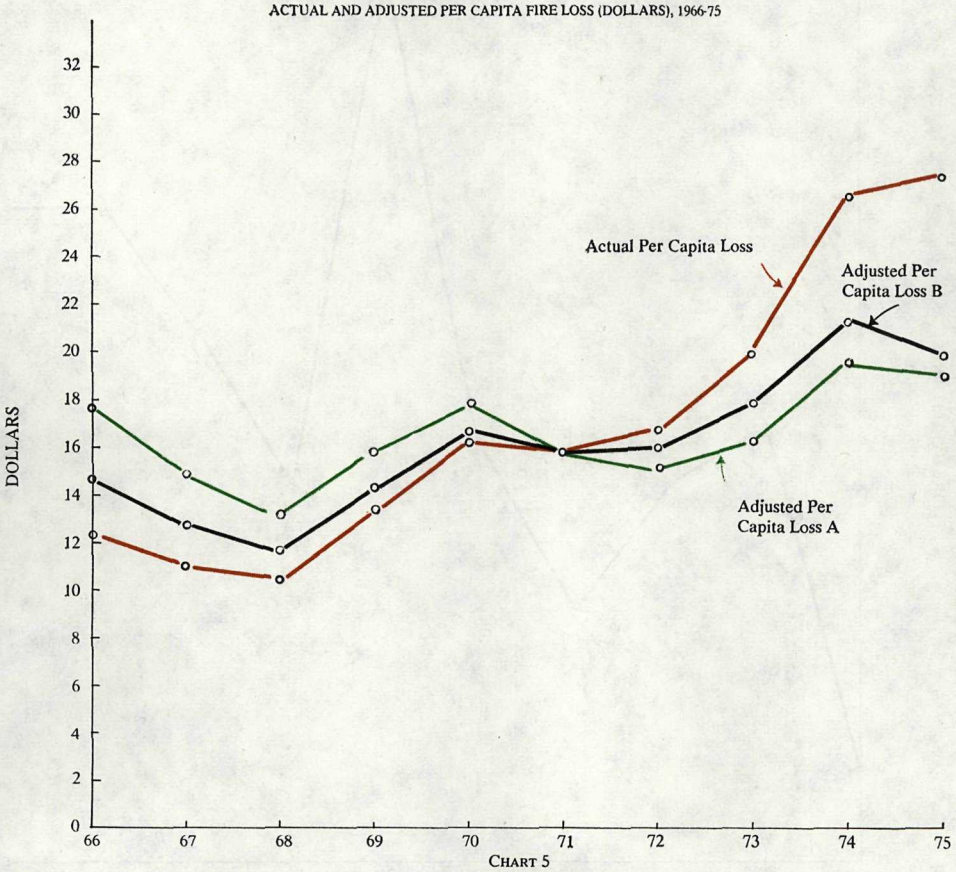

CHART 5

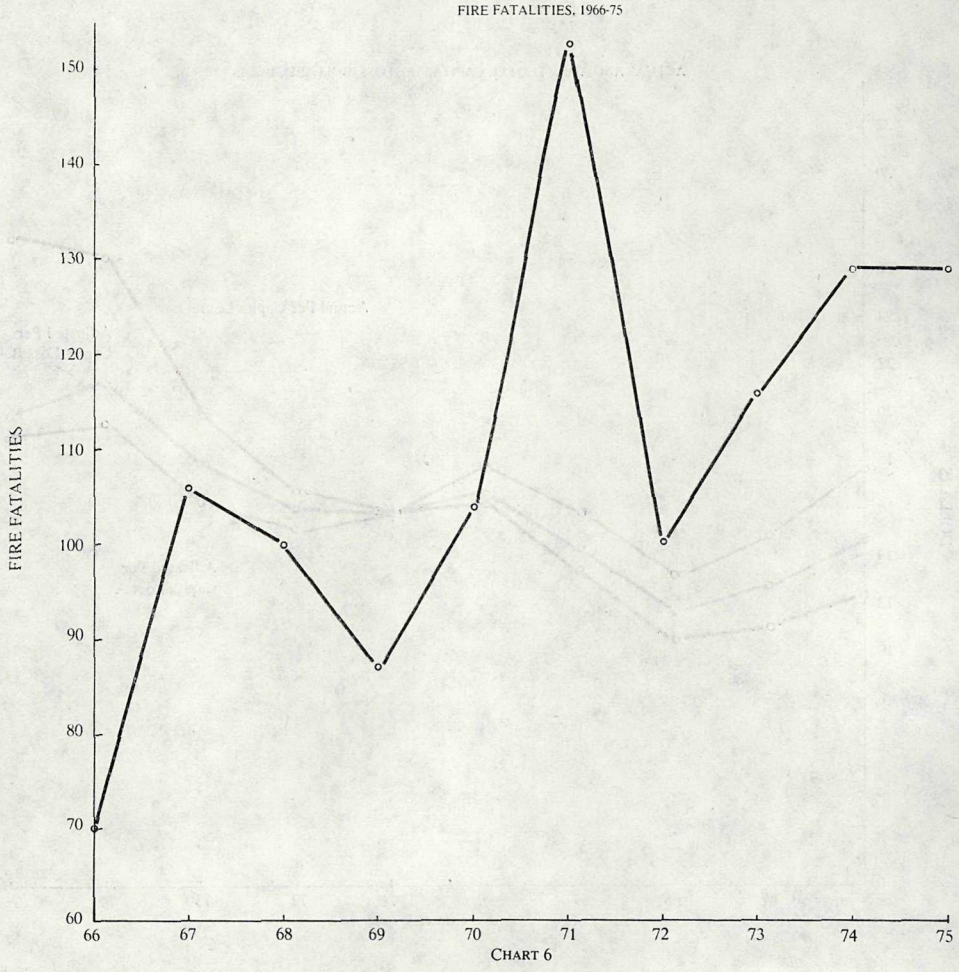

CHART 6

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