

Annual Statistical Fire Report 2008



**Emergency Management BC
Office of the Fire Commissioner**

*This report contains British Columbia fires as reported to the
Office of the Fire Commissioner for 2008*

British Columbia Fire Injuries and Fatalities

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Fire Fatalities and Injuries

BC Dollar Losses, Fire Injuries and Fire Fatalities 5 Year Summary

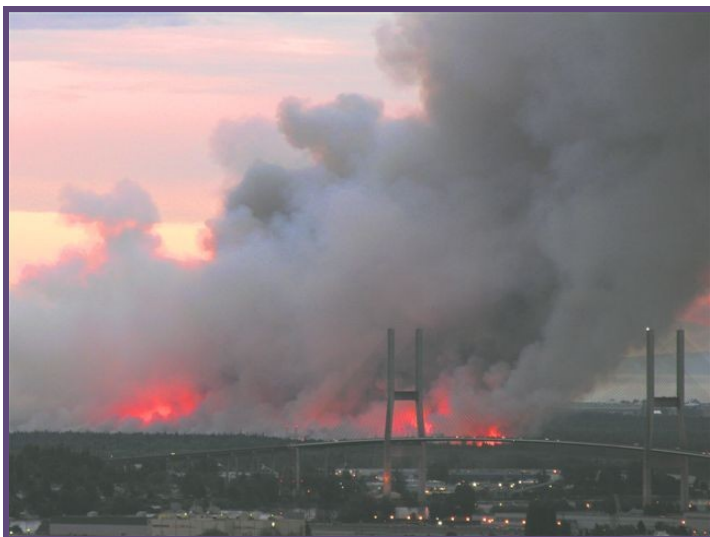
Year	Population for BC	Total Number of Fires	Civilian Injuries	Firefighter Injuries	Civilian Fatalities	Firefighter Fatalities	BC Fire Injury/Fatality Rate*
2004	4,155,170	7622	197	11	28	2	5.0/0.7
2005	4,196,788	7250	175	20	34	1	4.6/0.8
2006	4,243,580	8073	180	21	23	0	4.7/0.5
2007	4,309,632	7846	150	22	43	0	4.0/1.0
2008	4,384,047	8092	168	41	57	0	4.7/1.3
Totals		38,883	870	115	185	3	
5 Year Average	4,257,843	7777	174	23	37	0.6	4.6/0.8

* BC Fire Injury/Fatality Rate per 100,000 populations.

1. Fire is any instance of destructive or uncontrolled burning of combustible solids, liquids or gases. Fire does not include: lightning, forest fires, motor vehicle accidents, and explosions - steam/ammunition.
2. Population Source: BC Stats.
3. Totals as reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Fire Fatalities by Property Classification

Property Classification	Fatalities	%
Residential - One and Two Family Dwellings	38	66.6
Residential - Mobile Home	7	12.2
Outside Area	4	7.0
Hotel/Motel	3	5.3
Vehicle	3	5.3
Garage	1	1.8
Farm/Ranch	1	1.8
Totals	57	100

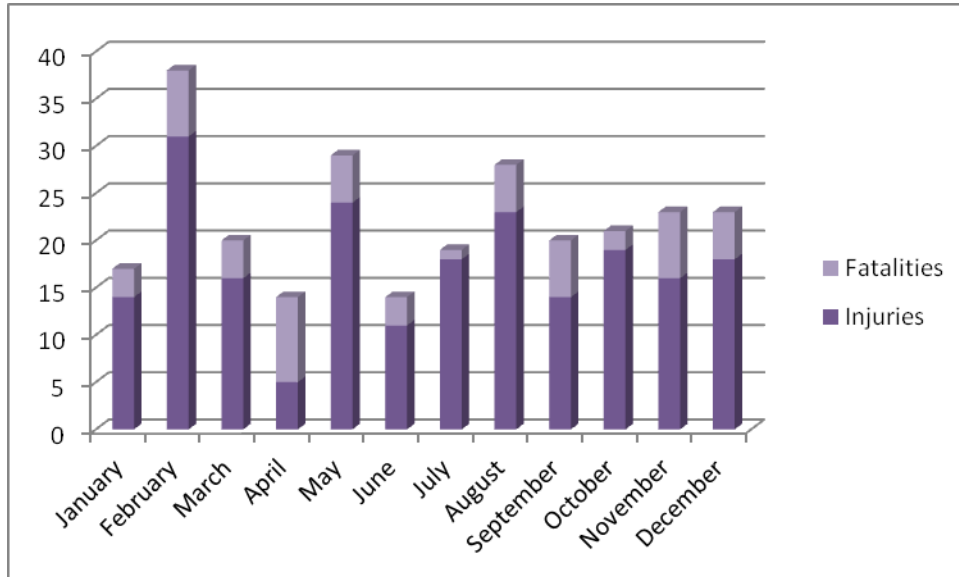


FIRE FACTS

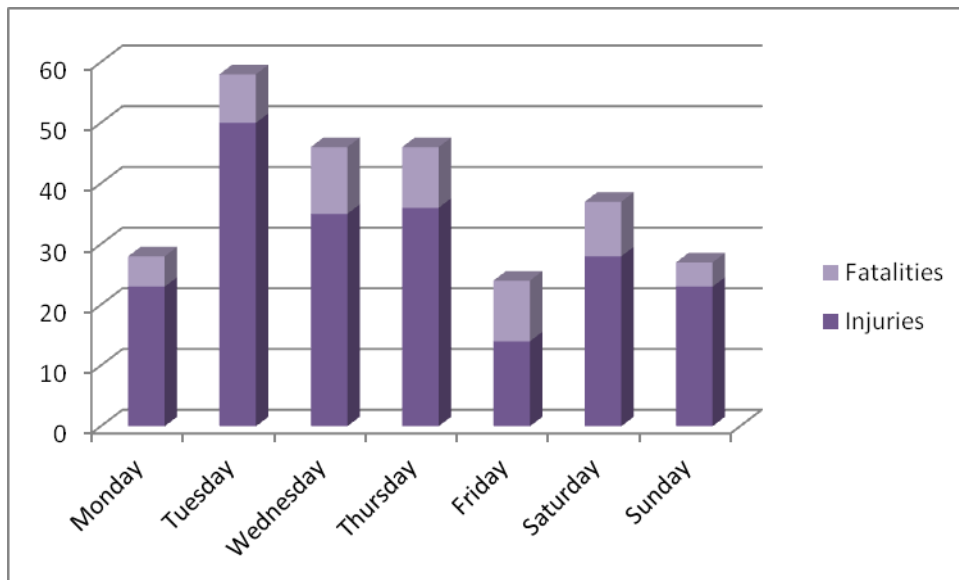
Fire Injuries and Fatalities for 2008

- Most injuries occurred in February, May and August (over 20 in each month).
- The biggest fatalities occurred in February, April, and November totalling (40%) for the year.
- 34% of fire injuries were caused by the stovetop/oven where the igniting object was determined as cause of the fires.
- 79% of all fatalities occur in residential properties.

Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Month



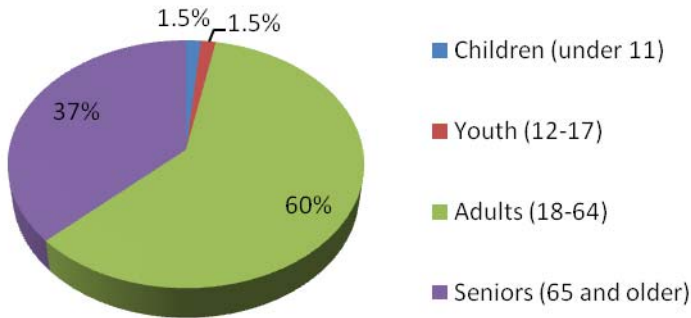
Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Day of Week



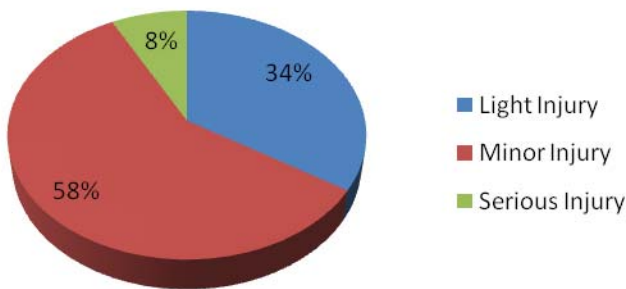
Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Time of Day

Time of Day Range	Fire Injuries		Fire Fatalities	
	Number	%	Number	%
6:01am - 11:59am	23	11.0	12	21.0
12 noon - 4:59pm	80	38.3	5	8.8
5pm - 9:59pm	43	20.6	10	17.5
10pm - 6am	63	30.1	30	52.6
Total	209	100	57	100

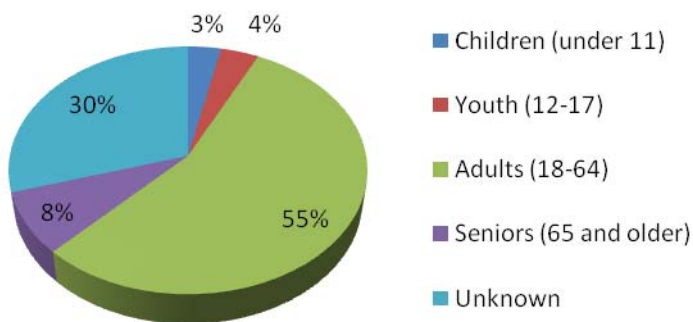
Fire Fatalities by Age Group



Type of Fire Injuries



Fire Injuries by Age Group



Location of Fire Fatalities

Barriere	1
Blackpool	1
Cassidy	1
Christina Lake	1
Coquitlam	1
Courtenay	2
Creston	4
Dease Lake	1
Delta	3
Denman Island	1
Gibsons	1
Grand Forks	1
Kamloops	1
Kelowna	2
Kitchener	1
Ladysmith	1
Lumby	2
Maple Ridge	1
Masset	1
Merritt	1
Nanaimo	1
Nelson	1
North Vancouver	5
Penny	1
Prince George	3
Quesnel	2
Richmond	1
Saanichton	2
Surrey	2
Vancouver	5
Vernon	1
Victoria	5
Totals	57

* Above statistics include 41 firefighter injuries and 0 firefighter fatalities.

* See glossary for definitions of types of injuries.

Residential Fires and Smoke Alarm Operation

Top Areas of Origin for Fires Started in Residential Homes

- Kitchen - 24%
- Structural (roof, crawlspace, wall, ceiling) - 15%
- Bedroom - 9%
- Living room - 9%
- Chimney - 1%



Smoke Alarm Operation

Smoke Alarm Breakdown by Description in Residential Structures	Number of Fires	Total Dollar Loss	Injuries	Fatalities
Cannot be determined	710	\$64,305,457	30	24
Alarm Activated - Assisted Occupant(s) in evacuating	420	\$29,331,935	45	4
Alarm Activated - Inaudible	8	\$5,932,150	0	0
Alarm Activated - Occupant(s) unable to respond	18	\$195,751	0	0
Alarm Activated - Unnecessary to evacuate or unoccupied	139	\$5,243,395	2	0
Alarm Activated - Occupant action unknown	122	\$5,495,752	20	7
Alarm Not Activated - Unsuitable location	107	\$1,920,246	5	0
Alarm Not Activated - No battery or battery dead	69	\$2,378,103	10	3
Alarm Not Activated - AC power not connected, disabled or off	43	\$1,930,110	6	3
Alarm Not Activated - Mechanical Failure	11	\$42,350	0	0
Alarm Not Activated - Unknown	345	\$17,566,144	19	2
No smoke alarm installed	455	\$25,074,281	25	4
Sub-total - smoke alarm did not activate, or was not installed	1030	\$48,911,234	65	12
Grand Totals	2447	\$159,415,674	162	47

Fire Facts

Residential Fires:

- In 2008, there were 2,447 residential fires accounting for 78% of fire-related injuries in BC.
- On average, a British Columbian is injured by residential fire every 54 hours in BC.
- Adults have the highest risk (57%) then seniors (38%) of dying in the residential fires.
- Smoking in your residence was the leading cause of residential fatalities in 2008.
- Cooking was the leading cause of the determined residential fires and fire related injuries. Candles ranked second to cooking for residential fires.

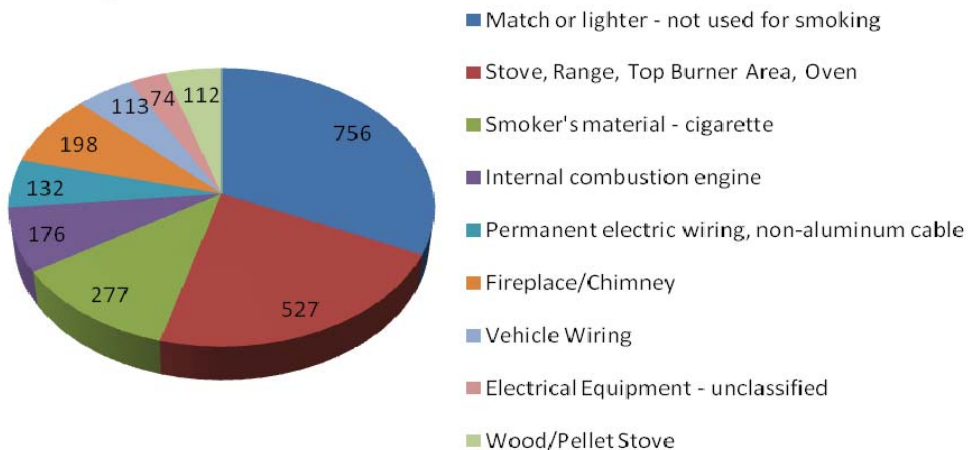
Fire Dollar Losses in BC and Top Causes of Fires

Five Year Fire Dollar Losses for BC

Year	Total Number of Fires	All Fires in BC Dollar Loss
2004	7622	\$167,801,269
2005	7250	\$213,474,122
2006	8073	\$236,880,593
2007	7846	\$307,307,614
2008	8092	\$385,910,724
Totals	38,883	\$1,311,374,322
5 Year Average	7777	\$262,274,864



Top Causes of Fires



Breakdown of Fires by Act or Omission

Act or Omission	Percentage	Injured	Fatality	Dollar Loss
Accidental	44%	126	26	\$100,506,224
Undetermined	32%	57	27	\$107,878,541
Incendiary	23%	24	4	\$72,053,700
Natural	1%	2	0	\$105,472,259
Totals	100%	209	57	\$385,910,724



Fire Prevention Week Facts

- The 2008 Fire Prevention Week theme is “It’s Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!” The focus for this year is on raising awareness of the four major causes of house fires – cooking, electrical, heating appliances and smoking materials.
- The Fire Safety Activity Booklet highlights fire and burn safety hazards, smoke alarms, knowing what to do in case of a fire and home escape planning.
- BC Fire departments are the catalysts that get the Fire Prevention Week message out to BC schools, targeting kindergarten through grade 3 children and their families. Without fire department engagement, creative initiatives, communications and steadfast support to their communities, the fire safety message would not be as successful as it is.

Juvenile Firesetter Statistics

Gender for Juvenile Firesetters	No. of Fires	Age Range of Juveniles that set fires	No. of Fires	Ignition Source used to start fires	No. of Fires
Male	69	Ages 1-8	8	Lighter	52
Female	7	9-12	25	Matches	16
		13-18	35	Other	8
		Unknown age	8		
Totals	76		76		76

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2008 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
100 Mile House	1,933	12	0	0	310,600	160.7	6.2
Abbotsford	133,547	434	5	0	7,349,566	55	3.2
Alert Bay	487	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anmore	2,122	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armstrong	4,468	1	0	0	984	0.2	0.2
Ashcroft	1,741	1	0	0	5,552	3.2	0.6
Barriere	1,725	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belcarra	688	1	0	0	0	0	1.5
Bowen Island	3,582	1	0	0	12,000	3.4	0.3
Burnaby	218,440	118	10	0	6,089,081	27.9	0.5
Burns Lake	2,149	5	0	0	1,270,000	591	2.3
Cache Creek	1,085	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell River	31,006	73	0	0	679,961	21.9	2.4
Canal Flats	783	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlegar	7,631	8	0	0	63,057	8.3	1
Central Saanich	16,171	21	1	0	295,652	18.3	1.3
Chase	2,469	1	0	0	13,431	5.4	0.4
Chetwynd	2,640	1	0	0	4,000	1.5	0.4
Chilliwack	74,943	209	17	0	4,101,824	54.7	2.8
Clearwater	2,382	8	0	0	81,000	34.0	3.4
Clinton	597	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coldstream	10,155	9	0	0	347,200	34.2	0.9
Colwood	15,948	34	0	0	671,450	42.1	2.1
Comox	13,265	20	2	0	491,300	37	1.5
Coquitlam	121,574	138	0	1	3,198,438	26.3	1.1
Courtenay	23,981	18	0	2	1,789,565	74.6	0.8
Cranbrook	18,938	28	0	0	388,889	20.5	1.5
Creston	5,193	20	3	3	2,304,750	443.8	3.9
Cumberland	3,045	1	0	0	4,681	1.5	0.3
Dawson Creek	11,422	79	0	0	1,563,177	136.9	6.9
Delta	99,523	16	0	3	1,875,472	18.8	0.2
Duncan	4,995	7	0	0	44,329	8.9	1.4
Elkford	2,559	10	0	0	0	0	3.9
Enderby	2,890	10	0	0	982,231	339.9	3.5
Esquimalt	17,661	14	0	2	532,700	30.2	0.8
Fernie	4,367	11	0	0	931,050	213.2	2.5
Fort St. James	1,343	1	0	0	1,959	1.5	0.7
Fort St. John	18,796	40	26	0	2,572,246	136.9	2.1
Fraser Lake	1,119	2	0	0	2,000	1.8	1.8

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2008 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Fruitvale	2,049	4	0	0	269,941	131.7	2
Gibsons	4,361	2	0	1	15,00	3.4	0.5
Gold River	1,425	3	0	0	440,000	308.8	2.1
Golden	3,914	21	0	0	276,400	70.6	5.4
Grand Forks	4,184	17	0	1	559,900	133.8	4.1
Granisle	390	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwood	668	3	0	0	7,506	11.2	4.5
Harrison Hot Springs	1,597	1	0	0	9,235	5.8	0.6
Hazelton	298	2	0	0	29,280	98.3	6.7
Highlands	2,115	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hope	6,203	41	2	0	501,637	80.9	6.6
Houston	3,007	2	0	0	273,500	91.0	0.7
Hudson's Hope	1,031	0	0	0	0	0	0
Invermere	3,465	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kamloops	86,200	137	6	0	9,051,904	105.0	1.6
Kaslo	1,170	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kelowna	118,685	233	1	1	6,410,421	54.0	2.0
Kent	5,461	20	0	0	5,863,212	1073.7	3.7
Keremeos	1,462	14	0	0	20,545	14.1	9.6
Kimberley	6,523	20	0	0	503,371	77.2	3.1
Kitimat	9,182	26	0	0	988,249	107.6	2.8
Ladysmith	8,066	40	0	1	538,068	66.7	5.0
Lake Country	11,009	19	0	0	718,384	65.3	1.7
Lake Cowichan	3,025	24	0	0	215,143	71.1	7.9
Langford	26,123	59	0	0	507,720	19.4	2.3
Langley District Municipality	101,435	334	0	0	5,730,210	56.5	3.3
Langley, City of	25,388	24	1	0	1,618,201	63.7	0.9
Lantzville	3,745	1	0	0	310,753	83.0	0.3
Lillooet	2,373	8	0	0	435,200	183.4	3.4
Lions Bay	1,398	2	0	0	384,730	275.2	1.4
Logan Lake	2,198	5	0	0	2	0.0	2.3
Lumby	1,754	14	0	2	605,400	345.2	8.0
Lytton	226	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mackenzie	4,255	4	0	0	79,917	18.8	0.9
Maple Ridge	73,988	39	0	1	977,042	13.2	0.5
Masset	913	1	0	1	0	0.0	1.1
McBride	678	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merritt	7,455	15	0	1	339,654	45.6	2.0

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2008 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Metchosin	5,108	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midway	662	5	0	0	926,000	1398.8	7.6
Mission	36,758	45	1	0	4,026,845	109.6	1.2
Montrose	1,046	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nakusp	1,523	9	0	0	717,500	471.1	5.9
Nanaimo	82,763	407	4	1	3,900,051	47.1	4.9
Nelson	9,803	21	0	1	2,382,914	243.1	2.1
New Denver	526	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Hazelton	611	2	0	0	467,500	765.1	3.3
New Westminster	63,783	72	1	0	1,956,641	30.7	1.1
North Cowichan	29,249	13	0	0	1,022,800	35.0	0.4
North Saanich	11,025	7	0	0	599,000	54.2	0.6
North Vancouver District Municipality	86,114	89	3	1	5,809,384	67.5	1.0
North Vancouver, City of	47,783	106	13	4	4,103,886	85.9	2.2
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (Fort Nelson)	n/a	22	1	0	3,475,050	790.0	5.0
Oak Bay	18,070	71	1	0	437,125	24.2	3.9
Oliver	4,594	8	0	0	17,188	3.7	1.7
Osoyoos	5,045	7	0	0	62,979	12.5	1.4
Parksville	11,617	2	3	0	3,800	0.3	0.2
Peachland	5,222	12	0	0	133,702	25.6	2.3
Pemberton	2,339	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penticton	32,980	90	0	0	11,708,389	355.0	2.7
Pitt Meadows	17,434	11	0	0	1,933,427	110.9	0.6
Port Alberni	17,681	12	2	0	1,235,871	69.9	0.7
Port Alice	843	2	0	0	0	0	2.4
Port Clements	461	1	0	0	0	0	2.2
Port Coquitlam	55,574	156	1	0	1,009,497	18.2	2.8
Port Edward	585	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Hardy	3,933	2	0	0	32,588	8.3	0.5
Port McNeill	2,605	4	0	0	500	0.2	1.5
Port Moody	31,511	11	2	0	1,072,211	34.0	0.3
Pouce Coupe	738	2	0	0	255,000	345.5	2.7
Powell River	13,285	15	0	0	324,009	24.4	1.1
Prince George	73,899	422	3	3	111,987,393	1515.4	5.7
Prince Rupert	12,832	63	2	0	1,870,050	145.7	4.9

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2008 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Princeton	2,722	4	0	0	39,718	0.2	1.5
Qualicum Beach	8,754	2	0	0	80,515	9.2	0.2
Quesnel	9,627	37	6	2	1,368,070	142.1	3.8
Radium Hot Springs	973	4	0	0	252,500	259.5	4.1
Revelstoke	7,268	12	1	0	244,386	33.7	1.7
Richmond	189,064	458	15	1	14,720,153	77.9	2.4
Rosland	3,476	2	0	0	10,000	2.9	0.6
Saanich	113,203	228	2	2	4,667,127	41.2	2.0
Salmo	1,048	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon Arm	17,046	18	0	0	318,614	18.7	1.1
Sayward	329	4	0	0	437,952	1331.2	12.2
Sechelt - including Indian Government	9,850	13	0	0	458,818	50.9	1.4
Sicamous	2,939	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sidney	11,551	5	0	0	316,000	27.4	0.4
Silverton	198	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slocan	369	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smithers	5,288	2	0	0	73,400	13.9	0.4
Sooke	10,414	24	2	0	346,500	33.3	2.3
Spallumcheen	5,017	10	0	0	152,897	30.5	2.0
Sparwood	3,780	8	0	0	90,524	23.9	2.1
Squamish	16,586	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stewart	510	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summerland	11,143	42	0	0	589,430	52.9	3.8
Sun Peaks Mountain	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	434,583	650	15	2	29,831,776	68.6	1.5
Tahsis	380	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor	1,469	4	0	0	325,500	221.6	2.7
Telkwa	1,359	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terrace	11,553	59	0	0	2,355,854	203.9	5.1
Tofino	1,812	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trail	7,365	14	0	0	629,836	85.5	1.9
Tumbler Ridge	2,441	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ucluelet	1,577	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valemount	1,015	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	615,888	1070	24	5	25,135,850	40.8	1.7
Vanderhoof	4,123	2	0	0	130,300	31.6	0.5
Vernon	38,348	25	0	0	3,751,219	97.8	0.7
Victoria	81,890	82	1	1	2,647,292	32.3	1.0

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2008 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
View Royal	9,355	12	0	0	591,200	63.2	1.3
Village of Queen Charlotte	952	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warfield	1,799	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wells	257	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Kelowna	27,169	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Vancouver	42,915	35	0	0	2,182,621	50.9	0.8
Whistler	9,688	19	0	0	1,681,340	173.5	2.0
White Rock	18,901	14	0	0	742,291	39.3	0.7
Williams Lake	11,144	63	0	0	989,425	88.8	5.7
Zeballos	174	2	0	0	2,212,000	12712.6	11.5
Unincorporated Areas	513,951	991	32	14	51,422,646	100.05	1.9
BC Total Population	4,384,047	8092	209	57	\$385,910,724	0	0

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner
Population Source: BC Stats

Fire Facts

- OFC coordinated 26 deployments of structure protection personnel/equipment in 2008, double the number from the previous year.
- There were 69 fires related to school property with a total dollar loss of \$1,295,281.
- There were 127 industrial fires totaling \$111,557,160 in dollar losses, and 6 injuries. 55% of these fires were related to wood, furniture, paper and printing manufacturing.
- Fireworks caused 34 fires with a total dollar loss of \$421,186.
- There were 23 structure fires related to illegal activities from grow ops and methamphetamine labs.

Act or omission - The human element by which someone has done something (an act) or failed to do something (an omission). The act or omission indicates whether the fire was deliberate, neglectful or accidental.

Area of origin - The area of a building or vehicle where the fire started.

Fire - Fire is any instance of destructive or uncontrolled burning of combustible solids, liquids or gases. Fire does not include:

- Lightning, forest fire, motor vehicle accidents, explosion - steam/ammunition.

Fire Fatality - A person killed as a direct result of a fire or a person who dies from a fire injury within one year following the date on which the injury was sustained.

Fire Injury - A person injured as a direct result of a fire.

Light Injury - An injury that required admission to a hospital for between 24 hours to 48 hours and/or absence from work for a period of two to fifteen days.

Minor Injury - An injury that does not require hospitalization of more than a 24-hour period or absence from work of not more than one full day.

Serious Injury - An injury that required admission to a hospital for a period of more than 48 hours and/or an absence from work for a period exceeding fifteen days.

Incendiary or Set Fires - Includes arson, suspected arson, riot, mischief or vandalism.

Juvenile Firesetter - Children and/or adolescents (under 18 years of age) that engage in fire setting.

Material first ignited - The actual material that ignites and creates the fire condition.

Property classification - The principal use or occupancy of the building.

Residential property- Property in which sleeping accommodation is provided for normal residential purposes. Includes one and two family dwellings, apartments, rooming or boarding houses, hotels, motels, dormitories and mobile homes.

Smoker's Material and 'Open' Flames - Includes cigarettes, pipes, cigars and/or matches, lighters when used in conjunction with smoking. This includes matches and lighters not associated with smoker's material, candles, cutting torches, welding equipment and hot ashes.



Acknowledgements

Photo Acknowledgements

The Office of the Fire Commissioner would like to thank the photographers who submitted amazing pictures. They may not be copied or used elsewhere without permission from the original copyright holder.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, or require more detailed statistical information, we encourage you to contact us.

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The Office of the Fire Commissioner uses a real-time database environment. Therefore, statistics are subject to change as fire reports are completed.

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