

# Annual Statistical Fire Report 2012



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

*This report contains British Columbia fires as reported to the  
Office of the Fire Commissioner for 2012*



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# British Columbia Fire Injuries and Fatalities

## 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*
2008	4,384,047	8092	168	41	57	0	4.7/1.3
2009	4,459,947	8718	165	35	53	0	4.4/1.2
2010	4,529,674	7306	163	16	44	0	3.9/0.9
2011	4,573,321	6621	186	25	35	1	4.6/0.7
2012	4,622,573	6780	231	35	35	0	5.7/0.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,569,562</b>	<b>37,517</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.7/0.9</b>
<b>5 Year Average</b>	<b>4,513,912</b>	<b>7503</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>4.7/1.0</b>

\* 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. As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

## Fire Fatalities by Property Classification

Property Classification	Fatalities	%
Residential - 1-2 Family Dwellings	18	51
Residential - Mobile Homes/RV	7	20
Workplace	4	11
Outside Area	3	9
Hotel/ Motel/ Rooming	1	3
Vehicle	2	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>



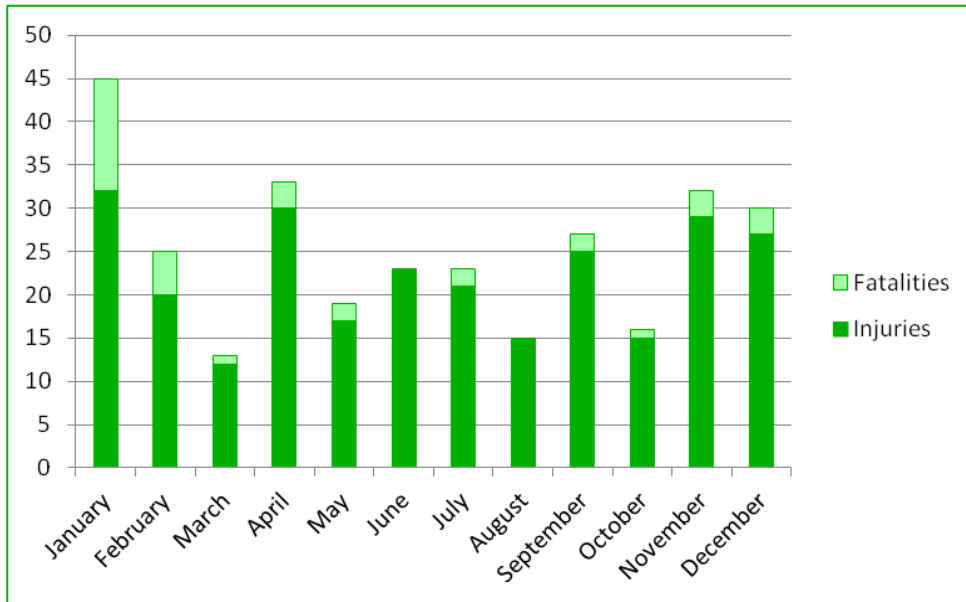
### FIRE FACTS

#### Fire Injuries and Fatalities 2012

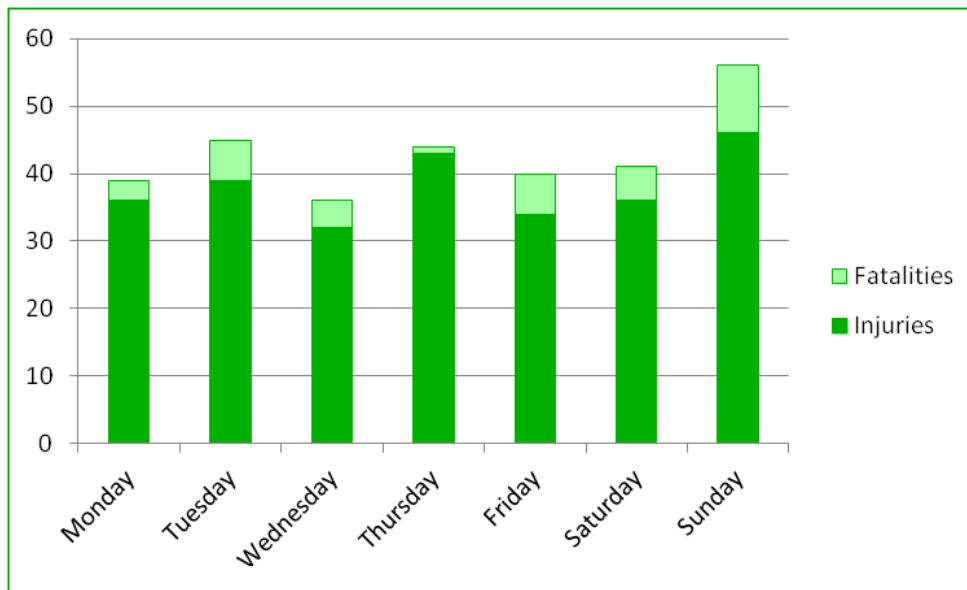
- Injuries occurred consistently throughout the year ranging from 15-32.
- Most fatalities occurred during the winter months (Jan-Feb 51%).
- 22 of fire fatalities this year leading cause were found to be undetermined and 3 deaths were due to candles.
- 33% of fire injuries were caused by cooking and equipment.

# British Columbia Fire injuries and Fatalities

## Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Month



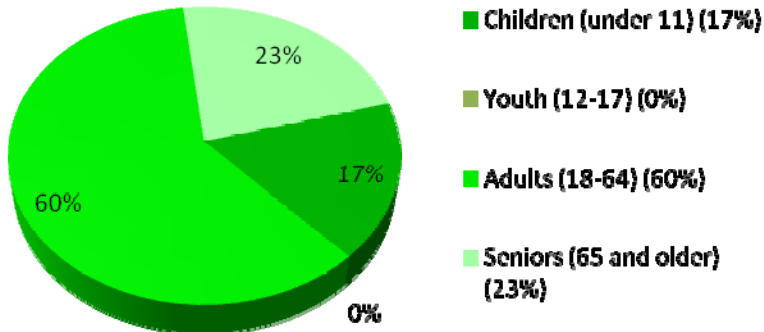
## Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Day of Week



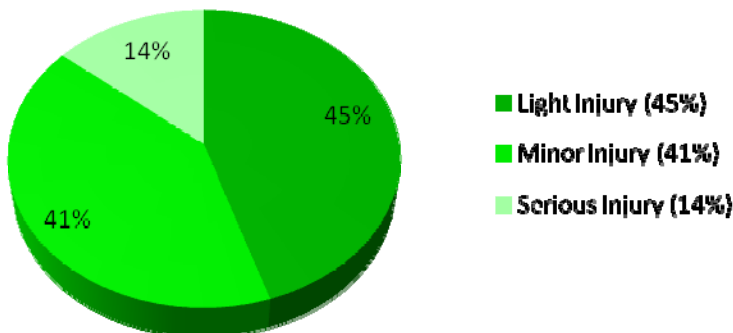
## Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Time of Day

Time of Day Range	Fire Injuries		Fire Fatalities	
	Number	%	Number	%
6:01 am - 11:59 am	55	20	6	17
12 noon - 4:59 pm	61	23	4	11
5 pm - 9:59 pm	76	29	14	40
10 pm – 6 am	74	28	11	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

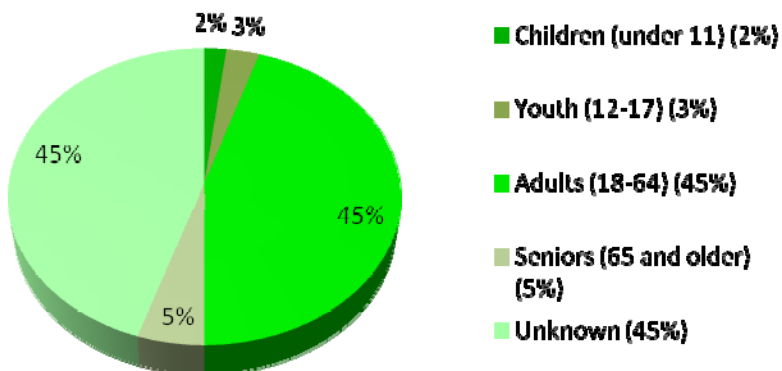
## Fire Fatality by Age Group



## Type of Fire Injuries



## Fire Injuries by Age Group



## Location of Fire Fatalities

Boston Bar	1
Burns Lake	2
Clinton	2
Clearwater	1
Coombs	1
Delta	1
Duncan	1
Fraser Valley Regional District	1
Hope	1
Granisle	1
Kamloops	1
Kelowna	1
Lantzville	2
MacKenzie	2
Nanaimo	1
New Westminster	1
North Vancouver	1
Saanich	1
Sicamous	3
Prince George	3
Surrey	2
Tumbler Ridge	1
Vancouver	3
Vernon	1

**Totals** 35

\* Above statistics include 35 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:

1. Kitchen -34%
2. Living room - 8%
3. Bedroom - 8%
4. Patio - 5%

### Smoke Alarm Operation

Smoke Alarm Breakdown by Description in Building Structures	Number of Fires	Total Dollar Loss	Injuries	Fatalities
Cannot be determined	580	\$61,572,979	56	18
Alarm Activated - Assisted Occupant(s) in evacuating	475	\$58,220,476	60	0
Alarm Activated - Inaudible	6	\$113,300	0	0
Alarm Activated - Occupant(s) unable to respond	30	\$631,500	2	0
Alarm Activated - Unnecessary to evacuate or unoccupied	170	\$13,344,374	5	0
Alarm Activated - Occupant action unknown	124	\$4,841,287	11	1
Alarm Not Activated - Unsuitable location	100	\$1,901,137	1	0
Alarm Not Activated - No battery or battery dead	53	\$2,562,099	5	1
Alarm Not Activated - AC power not connected, disabled or off	30	\$1,088,403	9	2
Alarm Not Activated - Mechanical Failure	11	\$62,151	0	0
Alarm Not Activated - Unknown	308	\$11,995,363	23	0
No smoke alarm installed	319	\$18,887,597	24	0
<b>Sub-total - Smoke Alarm did not activate, or was not installed</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>\$36,496,750</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2206</b>	<b>\$175,220,666</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>22</b>

### Fire Facts

#### Residential Fires

- In 2012, residential fires accounted for nearly 74% of fire-related injuries in BC.
- On average, a British Columbian is injured by residential fire every 32 hours in BC.
- In 2012, there were 2,206 residential fires reported in B.C., resulting in 22 fatalities.
- Adults have the highest risk (50%) of dying in the home fires.
- Cooking is the leading cause of the determined home fires and fire related injuries.

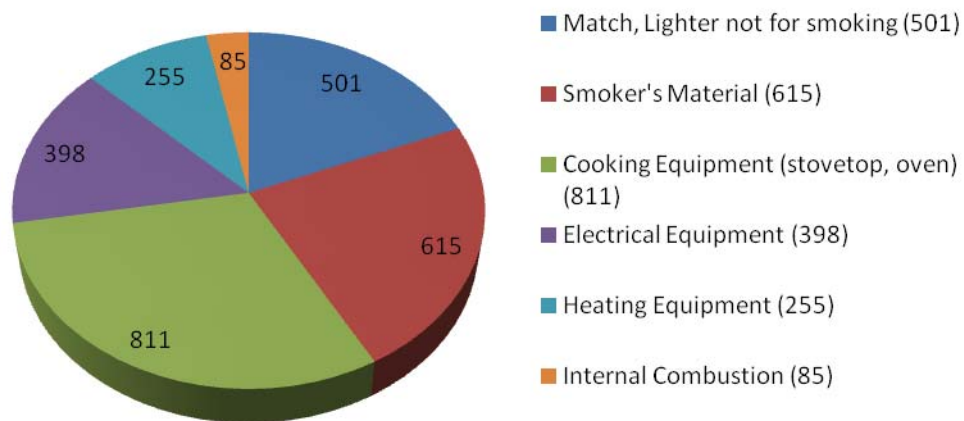
# Fire Dollar Losses in BC and Top Causes of Fires

## Five Year Fire Dollar Losses in BC

Year	Total Number of Fires	All Fires in BC Dollar Loss
2008	8092	\$385,910,724
2009	8718	\$291,895,609
2010	7306	\$227,930,819
2011	6621	\$337,184,370
2012	6780	\$388,486,994
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,517</b>	<b>\$1,631,408,516</b>
<b>5 Year Average</b>	<b>7503</b>	<b>\$326,281,703</b>



## Top Causes of Fires



## Breakdown of Fires by Act or Omission with Injury or Fatality

Act of Omission	Percentage	Injured	Fatality	Dollar Loss
Accidental	61%	172	11	\$6,650,258
Undetermined	27%	60	21	\$88,811,050
Incendiary	12%	34	3	\$6,106,801
Natural	0%	0	0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$101,978,109</b>





**Fire Prevention Week Facts**

Through a federal proclamation signed in 2012, the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of October was known as “Fire Prevention Week” across Canada.

The focus of the 2012 campaign was “Have Two Ways Out” and included lesson plans focused on:

- understanding how quickly we must escape our houses if there is a fire;
- smoke alarms and creating a home escape plan;
- identifying fire, burn and other hazards;
- Fun activities that children can enjoy doing while learning safety.

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 of Juvenile	No. of Fires Set
Male	27
Female	1
Unknown	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

Age Range of Juveniles	No. of Fires Involved
Ages 1-8	2
9-12	3
13-18	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

Ignition Source used to start fires	No. of Fires Set
Lighter	18
Matches	10
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

## Fires Per Capita by Location \*

Location Name	2012 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
100 Mile House	1,919	15	0	0	363,500	189.4	7.8
Abbotsford	140,235	189	4	0	2,070,375	14.8	1.3
Alert Bay	485	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anmore	2,202	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armstrong	4,513	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashcroft	1,755	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barriere	1,712	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belcarra	690	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bowen Island	3,777	1	0	0	40,000	10.6	0.3
Burnaby	231,811	133	4	0	10,751,754	46.4	0.6
Burns Lake	2,142	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cache Creek	1,084	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell River	31,888	6	0	0	55,647	1.7	0.2
Canal Flats	826	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlegar	7,958	3	0	0	94,600	11.9	0.4
Central Saanich	16,172	16	0	0	1,237,789	76.5	1.0
Chase	2,487	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chetwynd	2,713	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chilliwack	79,617	186	13	0	4,343,198	54.6	2.3
Clearwater	2,332	2	0	1	1,500,000	643.2	0.9
Clinton	609	2	1	2	105,000	172.4	3.3
Coldstream	10,271	4	0	0	1,156,000	112.5	0.4
Colwood	16,838	22	1	0	477,100	28.3	1.3
Comox	13,504	1	0	0	100,000	7.4	0.1
Coquitlam	129,716	155	17	0	3,832,190	29.5	1.2
Courtenay	25,116	13	0	0	827,870	33.0	0.5
Cranbrook	19,125	18	0	0	1,860,820	97.3	0.9
Creston	5,208	20	0	0	658,151	126.4	3.8
Cumberland	3,252	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dawson Creek	12,475	57	2	0	7,171,955	574.9	4.6
Delta	100,337	143	7	1	4,893,468	48.8	1.4
Duncan	4,904	1	0	0	6,002	1.2	0.2
Elkford	2,698	8	0	0	105,000	38.9	3.0
Enderby	2,892	2	0	0	930,671	321.8	0.7
Esquimalt	17,639	1	0	0	600	0	0.1
Fernie	4,502	3	0	0	15,800	3.5	0.7
Fort St. James	1,295	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	20,992	5	0	0	70,748	3.4	0.2

\*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

## Fires Per Capita by Location \*

Location Name	2012 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Fraser Lake	1,152	3	1	0	350	0.3	2.6
Fruitvale	2,035	2	0	0	70,000	34.4	1.0
Gibsons	4,461	1	0	0	11,000	2.5	0.2
Gold River	1,361	3	0	0	1,621,000	1191.0	2.2
Golden	3,835	1	0	0	3,000,000	782.3	0.3
Grand Forks	3,863	3	0	0	1,057,367	273.7	0.8
Granisle	392	1	0	1	3,900	9.9	2.6
Greenwood	685	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison Hot Springs	1,597	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazelton	333	1	0	0	15,000	45.0	3.0
Highlands	2,256	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hope	6,136	23	2	1	717,000	116.9	3.7
Houston	3,041	3	0	0	2,150,000	707.0	1.0
Hudson's Hope	1,074	4	0	0	142,000	132.2	3.7
Invermere	3,625	1	0	0	65,000	17.9	0.3
Kamloops	87,647	222	6	1	10,800,631	123.2	2.5
Kaslo	1,183	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kelowna	122,455	170	0	1	4,219,713	34.5	1.4
Kent	5,564	13	0	0	705,550	126.8	2.3
Keremeos	1,540	1	0	0	285,000	185.1	0.6
Kimberley	6,646	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kitimat	9,176	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ladysmith	8,376	52	0	0	1,214,850	145.0	6.2
Lake Country	12,041	14	1	0	1,319,100	109.6	1.2
Lake Cowichan	3,151	5	1	0	245,750	78.0	1.6
Langford	31,195	97	3	1	1,365,090	43.8	3.1
Langley District Municipality	107,505	297	2	0	7,363,412	68.5	2.8
Langley, City of	26,261	21	0	0	181,522	6.9	0.8
Lantzville	3,652	2	0	0	10,085	2.8	0.5
Lillooet	2,423	3	0	0	1,400,000	577.8	1.2
Lions Bay	1,394	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan Lake	2,207	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lumby	1,859	1	0	0	440,000	236.7	0.5
Lytton	226	1	0	0	10,000	44.2	4.4
Mackenzie	3,772	2	0	2	1,455,000	385.7	0.5
Maple Ridge	78,124	1	0	0	2,990	0	0
Masset	914	1	0	0	15,000	16.4	1.1

\*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

## Fires Per Capita by Location \*

Location Name	2012 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
McBride	677	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merritt	7,283	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metchosin	5,061	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midway	663	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	37,614	30	0	0	3,845,251	102.2	0.8
Montrose	1,046	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nakusp	1,544	7	0	0	13,000	8.4	4.5
Nanaimo	87,515	359	4	0	1,704,550	19.5	4.1
Nelson	9,810	22	2	0	1,183,695	120.7	2.2
New Denver	510	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Hazelton	603	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Westminster	68,534	110	10	1	973,666	14.2	1.6
North Cowichan	30,168	12	0	1	1,293,000	42.9	0.4
North Saanich	11,108	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Vancouver District Municipality	89,437	86	4	1	3,224,326	36.1	1.0
North Vancouver, City of	51,870	98	0	0	886,009	17.1	1.9
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (Fort Nelson)	5,742	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oak Bay	17,910	38	2	0	38,850	2.2	2.1
Oliver	4,380	2	0	0	0	0	0.5
Osoyoos	5,223	1	0	0	277,000	53.0	0.2
Parksville	11,828	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peachland	5,128	39	0	0	2,507,495	489.0	7.6
Pemberton	2,472	4	0	0	18,000	7.3	1.6
Penticton	33,318	24	0	0	14,264,941	428.1	0.7
Pitt Meadows	18,604	5	0	0	228,500	12.3	0.3
Port Alberni	17,747	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Alice	842	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Clements	456	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Coquitlam	58,517	88	0	0	1,008,630	17.2	1.5
Port Edward	571	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Hardy	3,730	24	0	0	360,800	96.7	6.4
Port McNeill	2,587	2	1	0	366,000	141.5	0.8
Port Moody	34,567	30	2	0	887,860	25.7	0.9
Pouce Coupe	792	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

## Fires Per Capita by Location \*

Location Name	2012 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Powell River	13,596	21	1	0	602,875	44.3	1.5
Prince George	76,286	388	40	3	85,719,472	1123.7	5.1
Prince Rupert	12,913	45	0	0	637,400	49.4	3.5
Princeton	3,101	2	0	0	336,000	108.4	0.6
Qualicum Beach	8,584	2	0	0	503,100	58.6	0.2
Quesnel	9,951	17	0	0	726,006	73.0	1.7
Radium Hot Springs	1,026	1	0	0	650	0.6	1.0
Revelstoke	7,277	8	2	0	384,032	52.8	1.1
Richmond	199,949	446	17	0	28,283,906	141.5	2.2
Rosland	3,560	5	0	0	511,000	143.5	1.4
Saanich	114,013	147	9	1	2,405,000	21.1	1.3
Salmo	1,070	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon Arm	17,129	12	0	0	815,000	47.6	0.7
Sayward	334	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sechelt - including Indian Government	9,494	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sicamous	2,901	1	0	3	50,000	17.2	0.3
Sidney	11,597	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silverton	205	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slocan	439	1	0	0	11,000	25.1	2.3
Smithers	5,304	4	0	0	650,000	122.5	0.8
Sooke	11,125	31	0	0	602,150	54.1	2.8
Spallumcheen	5,152	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sparwood	3,835	1	0	0	8,500	2.2	0.3
Squamish	19,252	1	0	0	600,000	31.2	0.1
Stewart	495	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summerland	10,855	45	0	0	727,310	67.0	4.1
Sun Peaks	396	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	482,725	555	38	2	29,122,878	60.3	1.1
Tahsis	380	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor	1,553	1	0	0	20,000	12.9	0.6
Telkwa	1,402	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terrace	12,182	42	0	0	653,150	53.6	3.4
Tofino	1,894	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trail	7,283	13	1	0	1,021,944	140.3	1.8
Tumbler Ridge	2,835	3	0	1	100,000	35.3	1.1
Ucluelet	1,605	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valemount	1,062	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	666,517	1,321	49	3	25,017,709	37.5	2.0

\*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

## Fires Per Capita by Location \*

Location Name	2012 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Vanderhoof	4,113	7	0	0	193,242	47.0	1.7
Vernon	39,139	90	0	1	2,280,870	58.3	2.3
Victoria	84,360	37	3	0	1,369,998	16.2	0.4
View Royal	9,740	0	0	0	0	0	0
Village of Queen Charlotte	959	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warfield	1,808	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wells	278	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Kelowna	27,661	51	0	0	771,000	27.9	1.8
West Vancouver	44,284	29	0	0	1,480,062	33.4	0.7
Whistler	10,620	8	0	0	58,900	5.5	0.8
White Rock	19,211	4	0	0	171,791	8.9	0.2
Williams Lake	10,938	42	0	0	2,745,825	251.0	3.8
Zeballos	166	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unincorporated Areas	531,681	463	16	9	84,270,825	158.5	0.8
<b>BC Total Population</b>	<b>4,459,674</b>	<b>6780</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$388,486,994</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>

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

### Fire Facts

- OFC coordinated 10 deployments of structure protection personnel/equipment in 2012.
- There were 55 fires related to school property with a total dollar loss of \$637,030.
- There were 118 industrial fires totaling \$139,890,212 in dollar losses, with 14 injuries and 5 fatalities. Babine Forest Products and the Lakeland Mill explosion were the devastating events that increased the fatalities and injuries. 53% of these fires were related to wood, furniture, paper and printing manufacturing.
- In 2012 there were 29 fires with a total dollar loss of \$46,300 caused by fireworks.
- There were 15 structure fires related to illegal activities from grow ops and methamphetamine labs which caused over \$2 million dollars in losses.

**Act or omission (AO)** - 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*

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*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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