

Annual Statistical Fire Report 2010



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

This report contains British Columbia fires as reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner for 2010

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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*
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
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
Totals	21,926,880	40,035	826	135	220	0	21.7/4.9
5 Year Average	4,385,376	8007	165	27	44	0	4.3/0.9

* 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 - One and Two Family Dwellings	34	77
Residential - Mobile Homes	2	5
Outside Area	1	2
Senior Housing/Community Care	3	6
Vehicle	4	10
Totals	44	100

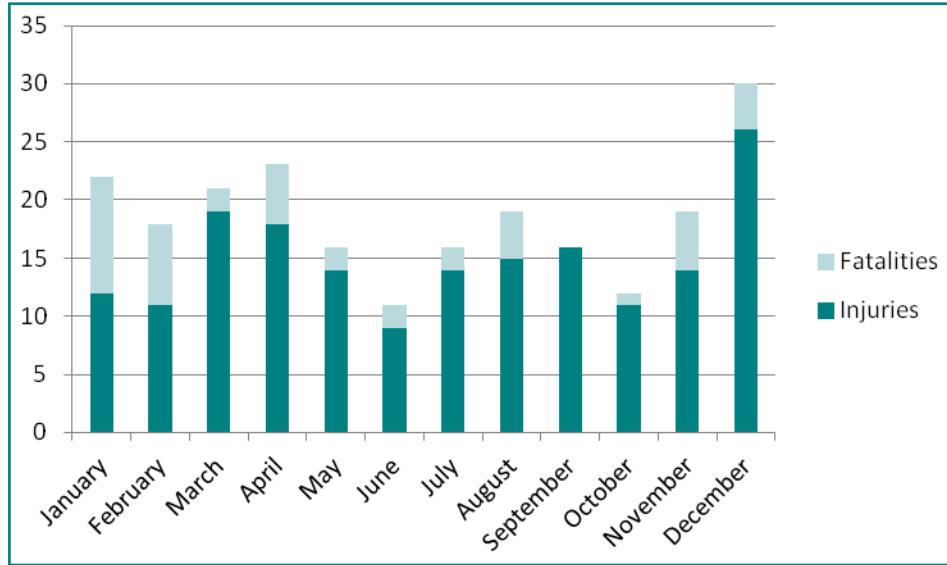


FIRE FACTS

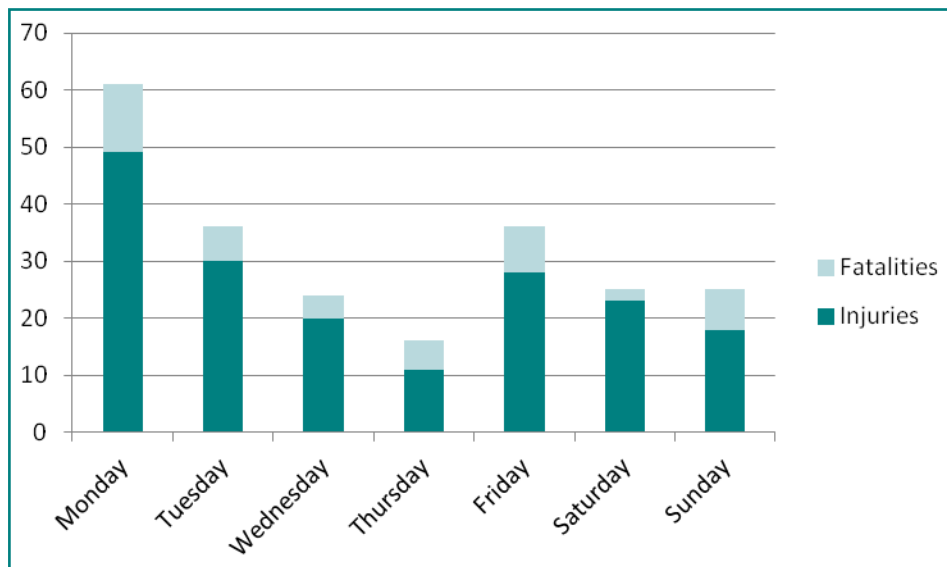
Fire Injuries and Fatalities 2010

- Most injuries occurred (Dec-April 48%).
- Most fatalities occurred during the winter months (Nov-Feb 59%).
- 14% of fire fatalities were caused by smoking materials (cigarette, lighter, matches) and 4 deaths were due to overloaded extension cords.
- 17% of fire injuries were caused by the stovetop/oven where the igniting objects were determined as cause of the fires.

Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Month



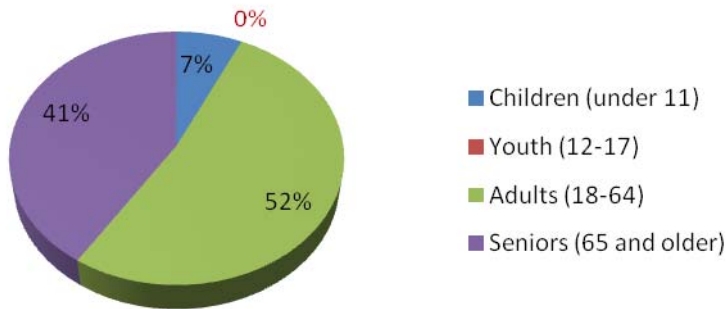
Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Day of Week



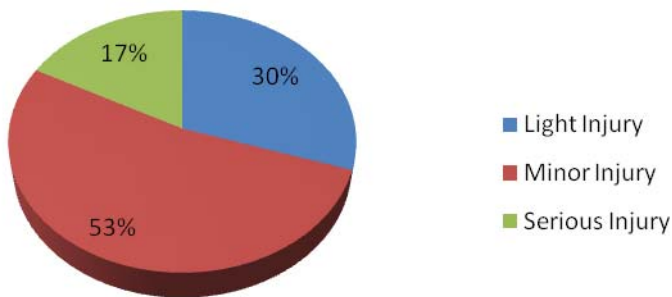
Fire Fatalities and Injuries by Time of Day

Time of Day Range	Fire Injuries		Fire Fatalities	
	Number	%	Number	%
6:01 am - 11:59 am	35	19.6	10	23
12 noon - 4:59 pm	45	25.1	5	11
5 pm - 9:59 pm	40	22.3	8	18
10 pm – 6 am	59	33.0	21	48
Total	179	100	44	100

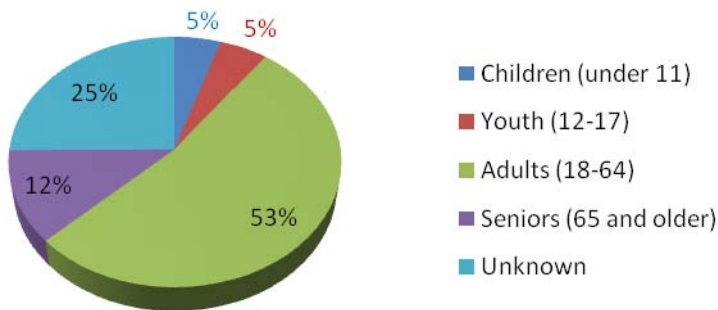
Fire Fatalities % by Age Group



Type of Fire Injuries



Fire Injuries % by Age Group



Location of Fire Fatalities

Burnaby	3
Big Lake	1
Campbell River	1
Chilliwack	2
Cranbrook	1
Coquitlam	1
Duncan	1
Delta	1
Falkland	1
Firvale	2
Gabriola Island	1
Kelowna	2
Kitwanga	1
Lone Butte	1
Mission	1
Pine View	1
Port Hardy	3
Prince George	2
Richmond	2
Surrey	5
Vancouver	6
Victoria	2
Vernon	1
West Vancouver	2
Totals	44

* Above statistics include 16 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 - 30%
2. Living room - 8%
3. Bedroom - 8%
4. Patio - 4%

Smoke Alarm Operation

Smoke Alarm Breakdown by Description in Building Structures	Number of Fires	Total Dollar Loss	Injuries	Fatalities
Cannot be determined	622	\$44,581,073	31	16
Alarm Activated - Assisted Occupant(s) in evacuating	365	\$24,040,774	39	3
Alarm Activated - Inaudible	14	\$1,102,002	0	0
Alarm Activated - Occupant(s) unable to respond	26	\$1,304,224	3	0
Alarm Activated - Unnecessary to evacuate or unoccupied	152	\$6,252,842	3	1
Alarm Activated - Occupant action unknown	90	\$3,945,267	5	0
Alarm Not Activated - Unsuitable location	99	\$984,403	7	0
Alarm Not Activated - No battery or battery dead	58	\$3,484,936	9	1
Alarm Not Activated - AC power not connected, disabled or off	41	\$1,344,412	4	0
Alarm Not Activated - Mechanical Failure	8	\$1,938,404	0	0
Alarm Not Activated - Unknown	313	\$24,484,329	26	10
No smoke alarm installed	351	\$21,090,942	15	2
Sub-total - Smoke Alarm did not activate, or was not installed	870	\$53,327,426	61	13
Totals	2139	\$134,553,608	142	33

Fire Facts

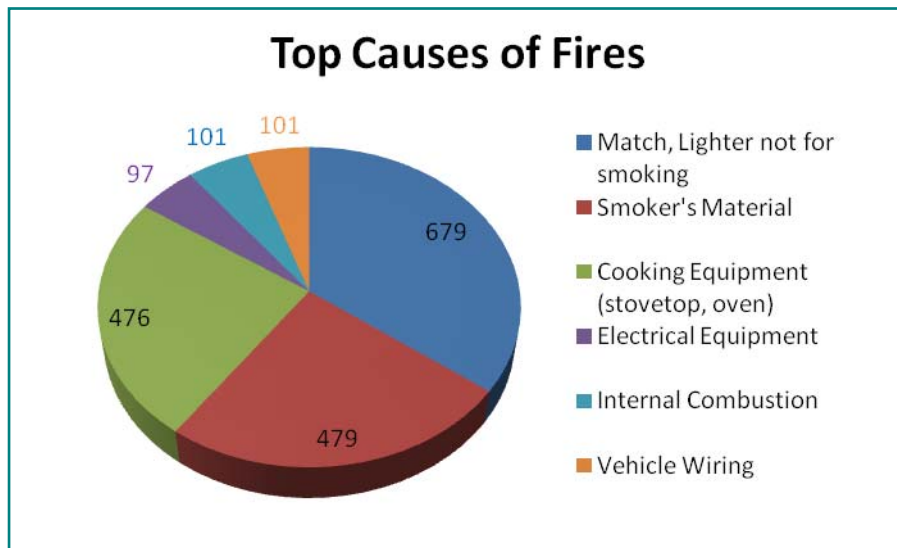
Residential Fires

- In 2010, residential fires accounted for nearly 80% of fire-related injuries in BC.
- On average, a British Columbian is injured by residential fire every 61 hours in BC.
- In 2010, there were 2,139 residential fires reported in B.C., resulting in 44 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

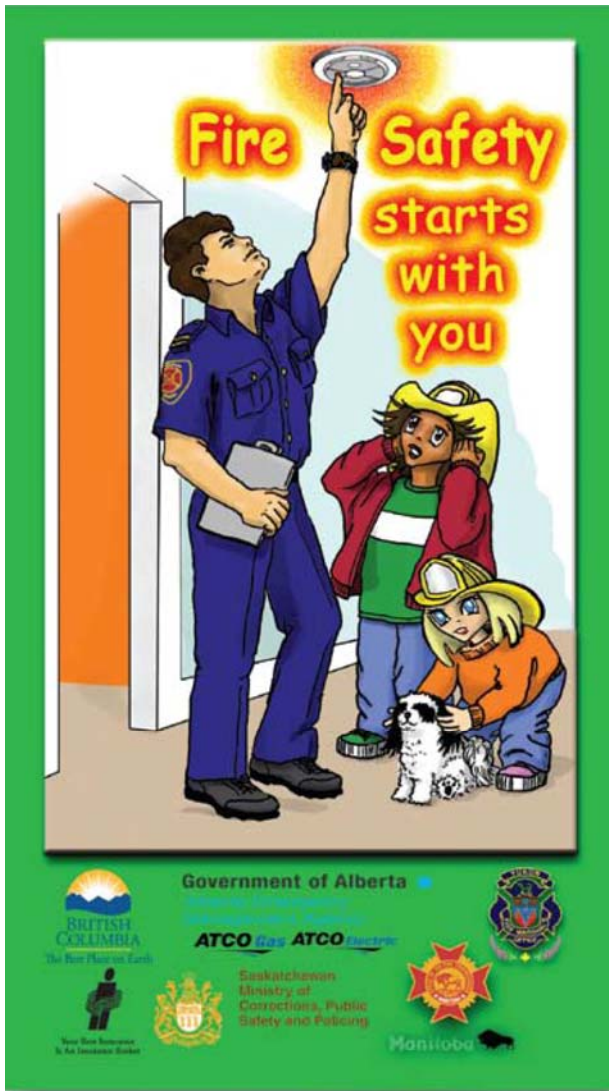
Five Year Fire Dollar Losses in BC

Year	Total Number of Fires	All Fires in BC Dollar Loss
2006	8073	\$236,880,593
2007	7846	\$307,307,614
2008	8092	\$385,910,724
2009	8718	\$291,895,609
2010	7306	\$227,930,819
Totals	40,035	\$1,449,925,359
5 Year Average	8007	\$289,985,071



Breakdown of Fires by Act or Omission with Injury or Fatality

Act of Omission	Percentage	Injured	Fatality	Dollar Loss
Accidental	65%	128	17	\$8,168,397
Undetermined	27%	38	22	\$4,602,319
Incendiary	8%	12	5	\$1,713,611
Natural	0%	1	0	\$5,000
Totals	100%	179	44	\$14,489,327



Fire Prevention Week Facts

Through a federal proclamation signed in 2010, the 3rd to the 9th of October was known as “Fire Prevention Week” across Canada.

The focus of the 2010 campaign was “Smoke Alarms – A Sound You Can Live With” and included lesson plans focused on:

- identifying fire and burn hazards in the kitchen, where most fire injuries happen;
- knowing what to do in case of a fire and who to call;
- recognizing the sound of a smoke alarm and knowing what to do;
- planning an escape and practicing a home escape plan;
- Stop, Drop and Roll technique.

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	61
Female	12
Unknown	4
Total	77

Age Range of Juveniles	No. of Fires Involved
Ages 1-8	9
9-12	19
13-18	44
Unknown	5
Total	77

Ignition Source used to start fires	No. of Fires
Lighter	62
Matches	9
Other	6
Total	77

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2010 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
100 Mile House	1,954	17	0	0	565,072	289.2	8.7
Abbotsford	138,139	388	4	0	12,823,010	92.8	2.8
Alert Bay	485	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anmore	2,202	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armstrong	4,513	1	0	0	2,055	0.5	0.2
Ashcroft	1,755	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barriere	1,712	3	0	0	346,168	202.2	1.8
Belcarra	690	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bowen Island	3,677	3	0	0	863,354	234.9	0.8
Burnaby	227,323	143	19	3	6,928,603	30.5	0.6
Burns Lake	2,142	1	0	0	80,000	37.3	0.5
Cache Creek	1,084	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbell River	31,571	36	1	1	661,226	20.9	1.1
Canal Flats	826	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlegar	7,877	8	0	0	403,072	51.2	1.0
Central Saanich	16,197	13	0	0	235,150	14.5	0.8
Chase	2,487	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chetwynd	2,713	3	0	0	102,299	37.7	1.1
Chilliwack	77,953	177	19	2	4,037,703	51.8	2.3
Clearwater	2,355	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clinton	603	1	0	0	20,000	33.2	1.7
Coldstream	10,286	10	0	0	160,590	15.6	1.0
Colwood	16,574	22	1	0	1,764,300	106.4	1.3
Comox	13,640	4	0	0	1,884,112	138.1	0.3
Coquitlam	126,558	142	5	1	3,056,853	24.2	1.1
Courtenay	24,582	24	0	0	144,588	5.9	1.0
Cranbrook	19,117	20	0	0	685,827	35.9	1.0
Creston	5,244	16	0	0	181,890	34.7	3.1
Cumberland	3,252	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dawson Creek	11,856	41	0	0	1,282,997	108.2	3.5
Delta	99,971	58	0	1	527,980	5.3	0.6
Duncan	4,985	4	0	0	28,038	5.6	0.8
Elkford	2,705	2	0	0	0	0	0.7
Enderby	2,923	1	0	0	1,215,390	415.8	0.3
Esquimalt	17,684	6	0	0	1,768	0.1	0.3
Fernie	4,409	9	3	0	833,050	188.9	2.0
Fort St. James	1,295	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort St. John	19,867	8	0	0	134,045	6.7	0.4

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2010 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Fraser Lake	1,160	1	0	0	24,460	21.1	0.9
Fruitvale	2,012	2	0	0	35,000	17.4	1.0
Gibsons	4,414	7	0	0	1,474,159	334.0	1.6
Gold River	1,410	11	0	0	954,390	676.9	7.8
Golden	3,934	26	1	0	1,149,910	292.3	6.6
Grand Forks	3,997	2	0	0	25,224	6.3	0.5
Granisle	396	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwood	685	2	0	0	218,863	319.2	2.9
Harrison Hot Springs	1,597	1	0	0	3,531	2.2	0.6
Hazelton	302	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highlands	2,256	2	0	0	95,000	42.1	0.9
Hope	6,320	34	0	0	867,859	137.3	5.4
Houston	3,007	7	0	0	1,235,900	411.0	2.3
Hudson's Hope	1,056	1	0	0	190,000	179.9	0.9
Invermere	3,617	6	0	0	532,421	147.2	1.7
Kamloops	87,085	219	8	0	4,459,167	51.2	2.5
Kaslo	1,183	1	1	0	40,000	33.8	0.8
Kelowna	121,271	164	1	2	8,489,027	70.0	1.4
Kent	5,578	11	0	0	2,694,260	483.0	2.0
Keremeos	1,516	5	0	0	137,371	90.6	3.3
Kimberley	6,646	5	0	0	343,000	51.6	0.8
Kitimat	9,176	31	0	0	1,838,523	200.4	3.4
Ladysmith	8,240	37	0	0	518,835	63.0	4.5
Lake Country	11,509	14	2	0	503,500	43.7	1.2
Lake Cowichan	3,183	3	0	0	325,000	102.1	0.9
Langford	29,150	68	0	1	1,111,102	38.1	2.3
Langley District Municipality	104,666	325	2	0	7,117,514	68.0	3.1
Langley, City of	25,850	30	0	0	113,565	4.4	1.2
Lantzville	3,688	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lillooet	2,367	2	0	0	9,400	4.0	0.8
Lions Bay	1,394	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logan Lake	2,207	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lumby	1,815	5	0	0	16,351	9.0	2.8
Lytton	226	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mackenzie	3,705	4	0	0	133,383	36.0	1.1
Maple Ridge	76,396	30	0	0	908,072	11.9	0.4
Masset	920	2	0	0	0	0	2.2

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2010 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	4	0	0	147,834	20.3	0.5
Metchosin	5,061	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midway	663	1	0	0	0	0	1.5
Mission	37,563	80	0	0	3,423,422	91.1	2.1
Montrose	1,046	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nakusp	1,536	17	0	0	500	0.3	11.1
Nanaimo	85,487	408	8	0	4,504,586	52.7	4.8
Nelson	9,791	23	0	0	1,316,905	134.5	2.3
New Denver	510	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Hazelton	603	1	0	0	90,000	149.3	1.7
New Westminster	66,873	97	5	0	3,806,163	56.9	1.5
North Cowichan	29,828	13	1	1	226,667	7.6	0.4
North Saanich	11,108	2	0	0	7,056	0.6	0.2
North Vancouver District Municipality	88,345	55	2	0	1,690,070	19.1	0.6
North Vancouver, City of	50,711	100	2	0	4,121,560	81.3	2.0
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (Fort Nelson)	5,742	32	1	0	312,477	54.4	5.5
Oak Bay	18,006	41	4	1	429,197	23.8	2.3
Oliver	4,549	9	0	0	627,883	138.0	2.0
Osoyoos	5,201	4	0	0	252,284	48.5	0.8
Parksville	11,828	2	0	0	47,679	4.0	0.2
Peachland	5,170	13	0	0	1,353,952	261.9	2.5
Pemberton	2,437	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penticton	33,068	77	0	0	535,397	16.2	2.3
Pitt Meadows	18,131	6	0	0	199,227	11.0	0.3
Port Alberni	17,747	13	0	0	424,729	23.9	0.7
Port Alice	842	1	0	0	370,235	439.7	1.2
Port Clements	456	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Coquitlam	57,414	109	0	0	529,370	9.2	1.9
Port Edward	571	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Hardy	3,949	15	0	3	486,374	123.2	3.8
Port McNeill	2,647	2	0	0	24,389	9.2	0.8
Port Moody	33,923	11	0	0	128,233	3.8	0.3
Pouce Coupe	792	1	0	0	7,000	8.8	1.3

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2010 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Powell River	13,570	14	4	0	572,279	42.2	1.0
Prince George	75,546	319	0	1	2,583,221	34.2	4.2
Prince Rupert	12,990	36	3	0	2,344,331	180.5	2.8
Princeton	2,994	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qualicum Beach	8,727	3	0	0	159,300	18.3	0.3
Quesnel	9,743	33	1	0	3,345,524	343.4	3.4
Radium Hot Springs	1,015	1	0	0	6,400	6.3	1.0
Revelstoke	7,269	15	0	0	79,754	11.0	2.1
Richmond	196,801	441	5	2	7,217,039	36.7	2.2
Rosland	3,553	2	0	0	10,000	2.8	0.6
Saanich	114,107	168	5	0	3,393,439	29.7	1.5
Salmo	1,070	1	0	0	25,000	23.4	0.9
Salmon Arm	17,123	12	0	0	683,743	39.9	0.7
Sayward	334	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sechelt - including Indian Government	9,494	4	0	0	1,029,446	108.4	0.4
Sicamous	2,962	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sidney	11,597	3	0	0	13,183	1.1	0.3
Silverton	205	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slocan	397	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smithers	5,407	4	0	0	526,402	97.4	0.7
Sooke	10,873	34	1	0	949,599	87.3	3.1
Spallumcheen	5,152	13	0	0	404,980	78.6	2.5
Sparwood	3,770	1	0	0	766	0.2	0.3
Squamish	17,892	6	0	0	492,209	27.5	0.3
Stewart	495	1	0	0	400,000	808.1	2.0
Summerland	11,004	48	0	0	851,389	77.4	4.4
Sun Peaks	396	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	462,211	595	21	5	27,506,588	59.5	1.3
Tahsis	380	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor	1,497	11	0	0	91,000	60.8	7.3
Telkwa	1,402	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terrace	11,927	37	1	0	497,027	41.7	3.1
Tofino	1,894	1	0	0	5,100	2.7	0.5
Trail	7,240	11	1	0	324,105	44.8	1.5
Tumbler Ridge	2,408	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ucluelet	1,605	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valemount	1,062	1	0	0	1,037	1.0	0.9
Vancouver	642,657	1,083	25	7	12,993,489	20.2	1.7

*As reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Fires Per Capita by Location *

Location Name	2010 Population	Number of Fires	Injuries	Fatalities	Fire Dollar Loss	Per Capita Loss	Fires per 1000 Persons
Vanderhoof	4,047	3	0	0	19,688	4.9	0.7
Vernon	38,883	90	0	1	1,002,240	25.8	2.3
Victoria	83,338	32	0	0	861,045	10.3	0.4
View Royal	9,740	6	2	0	36,200	3.7	0.6
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	27,235	1	0	0	21,440	0.8	0.0
West Vancouver	44,046	34	0	2	1,344,263	30.5	0.8
Whistler	10,528	8	0	0	3,423,540	325.2	0.8
White Rock	19,272	15	0	0	182,400	9.5	0.8
Williams Lake	10,998	45	0	0	261,282	23.8	4.1
Zeballos	166	1	0	0	20	0.1	6.0
Unincorporated Areas	521,799	817	20	10	54,857,453	105.13	1.5
BC Total Population	4,459,674	7306	179	44	\$227,930,819	65.45	2.0

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

Fire Facts

- OFC coordinated 20 deployments of structure protection personnel/equipment in 2010.
- There were 68 fires related to school property with a total dollar loss of \$2,447,662.
- There were 101 industrial fires totaling \$20,545,996 in dollar losses, with 2 injuries and no fatalities. 52% of these fires were related to wood, furniture, paper and printing manufacturing.
- In 2010 there were 43 fires with a total dollar loss of \$524,044 caused by fireworks.
- There were 24 structure fires related to illegal activities from grow ops and methamphetamine labs which caused over \$5 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

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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