

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Statistics | Jan. 1, 2023 – Mar. 31, 2023

The Office of the Fire Commissioner produces quarterly reports each year beginning March 31. Each report aggregates fire statistics based on main areas of interest to the fire services and the public. It follows a standard format to facilitate data comparison among reports.

### New Fires



**Structure**  
632 Fires  
13 Deaths  
26 Injuries



**Vehicle**  
223 Fires  
3 Deaths  
8 Injuries



**Outdoor**  
795 Fires  
0 Deaths  
1 Injury



**Person\***  
6 Fires  
1 Death  
5 Injuries

\*Accidental or otherwise involving a person and fire e.g., refueling, fireworks, campfire etc.

### Fire Loss Statistics

# of Fires	Property Loss	Contents Loss	Total Loss	Injuries	Deaths
1,656	\$40M +	\$12M +	\$53M +	40	17

*There are 5 additional deaths pending further investigation, bringing the potential total fire-related deaths in British Columbia in the first quarter of 2023 to **22**.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> **Disclaimer:** There may be a difference between the Office of the Fire Commissioner's (OFC) and the Coroners Service's fire fatality data due to definitions and criteria. This report provides preliminary data on fire-related incidents and fatalities. The findings should be interpreted with caution as they do not take a coroner's investigative findings into consideration. The OFC and the Coroners Service are working to reconcile their data sets.

## Areas of Interest for this Quarter



**152 fires** this quarter were in apartment buildings compared to **34 fires** in 1-2 family dwellings.



**17 fires** started by a candle, resulting in **2 injuries** and **1 death**.



**85 fires (56%)** of apartment fires were started by a cooking/kitchen fire.



**84 fires** originated in the bedroom, resulting in **5 injuries** and **2 deaths**.

## Fire Cause Contributors

This section refers to the human action or inaction that contributes to the fire cause or which caused the fire for all reported fires.

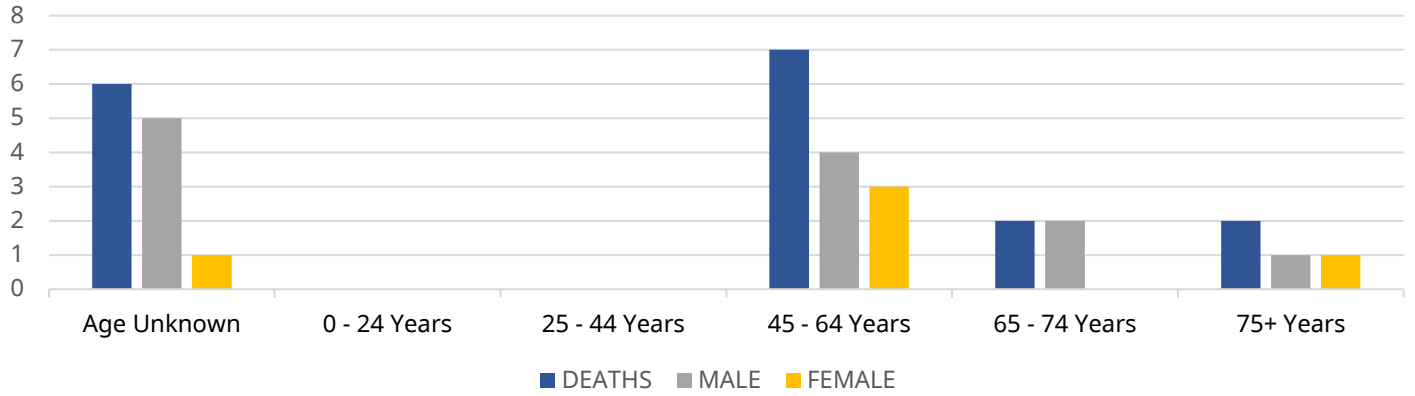
- 160** fires were caused by the ignorance of a hazard
- 56** fires were caused by people who were distracted or preoccupied
- 64** fires were caused by suspected impairment – use of alcohol, drugs, or medication

## Actions Taken to Combat the Fire

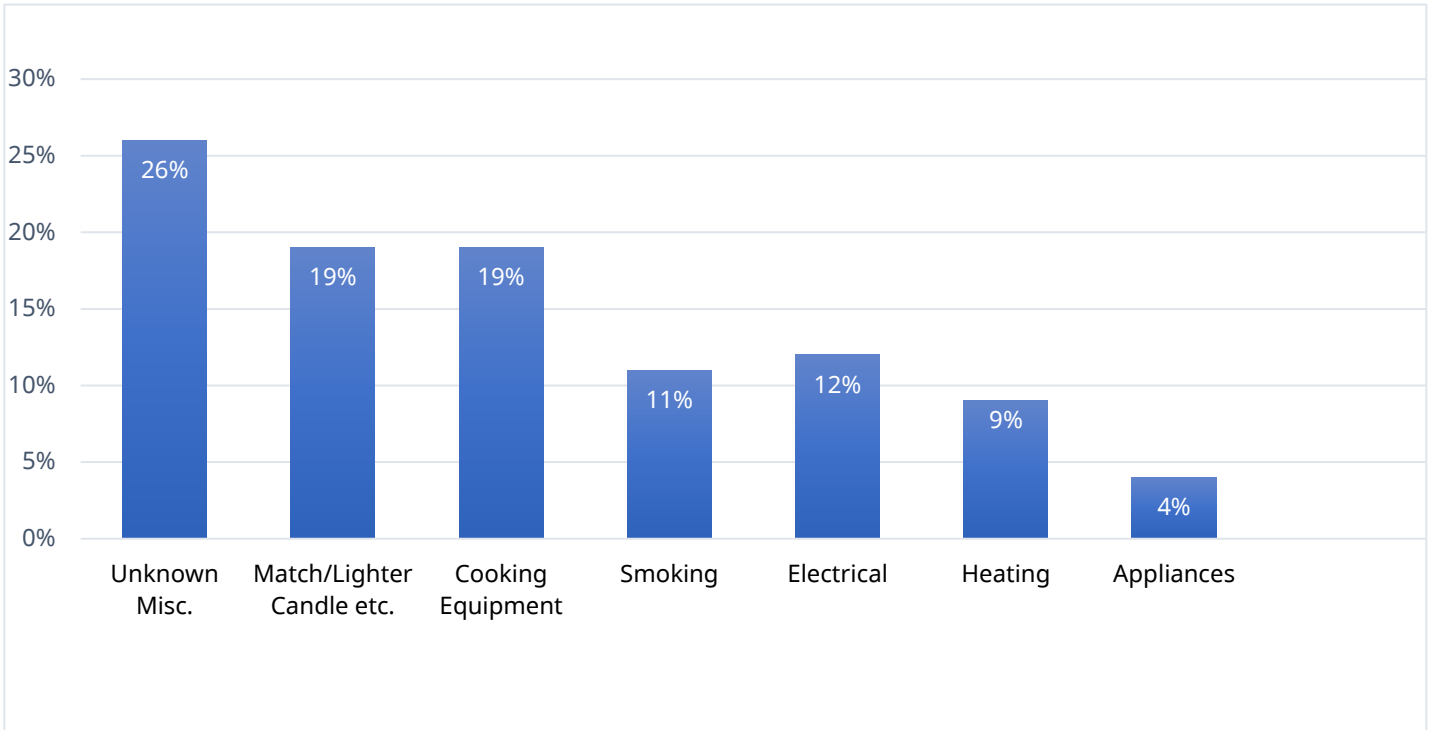
- 72%** of fires were extinguished by a fire department
- 13%** of fires were extinguished by others (passer-by, occupant, witness etc.)
- 10%** of fires that did not require extinguishing and burned out
- 5%** of fires where actions varied, e.g., fire extinguished by automatic system; shut off gas, oil, electricity; no action taken (exposure damage only – blistering, etc.)

## Deaths

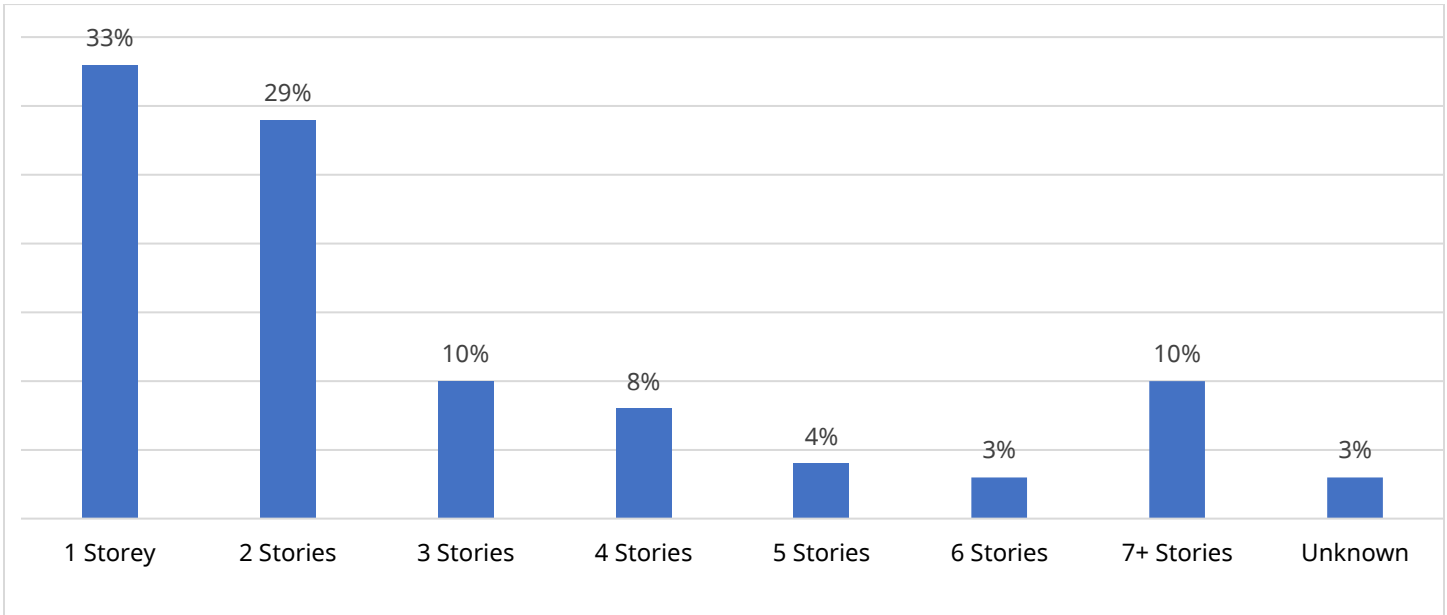
There were **17** reported deaths in BC during 2023 Q1 versus **11** deaths reported in 2022 Q1.



## Sources of Ignition for STRUCTURE Fires



## Building Height: Fire Breakdowns

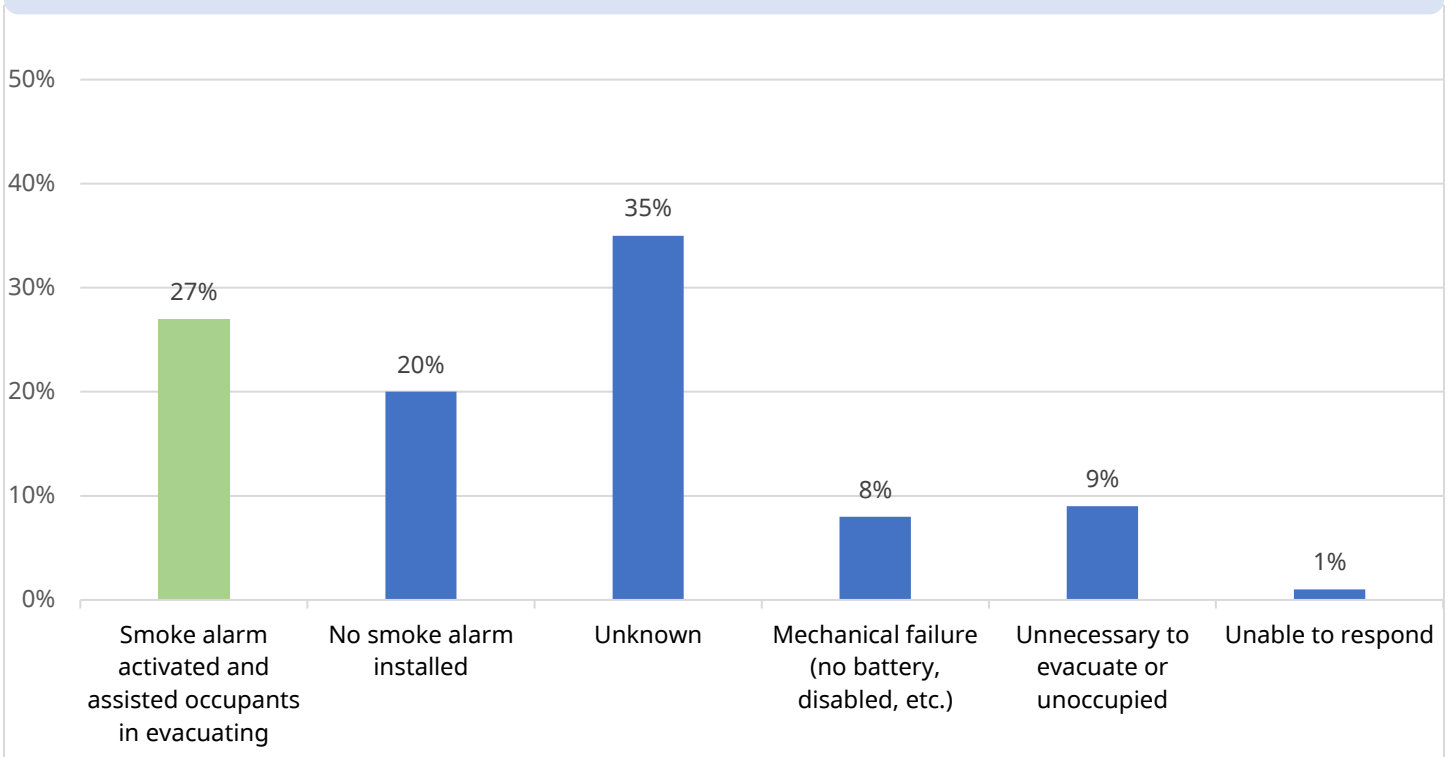


209 fires	181 fires	64 fires	51 fires	26 fires	19 fires	65 fires	17 fires
6 injuries	13 injuries	2 injuries	0 injuries	1 injury	2 injuries	1 injury	0 injuries
8 deaths	6 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths
\$26M loss	\$19M loss	\$1M loss	\$1M loss	\$400K loss	\$100K loss	\$500K loss	\$90K loss

## Fire Incidents by OFC Region

	# of Fires	Total Loss \$	Injuries	Deaths	# of Locations Reporting for 1st Quarter
<b>Region 1:</b> Vancouver Island	150	11M	6	4	39
<b>Region 2:</b> Lower Mainland	1,053	18M	26	5	30
<b>Region 3:</b> Kootenay	101	8M	2	1	33
<b>Region 4:</b> Interior	268	15M	4	6	41
<b>Region 5:</b> Northern	84	1M	2	1	18
<b>PROVINCIAL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>53M</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>161</b>

## Smoke Alarm Operation



## Fires, Injuries and Deaths by Smoke Alarm Operation

<b>Smoke alarm activated and assisted in evacuation</b>	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 168 fires</li> <li>• 6 injuries</li> <li>• 0 deaths</li> </ul>
<b>No smoke alarm installed</b>	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 129 fires</li> <li>• 3 injuries</li> <li>• 4 deaths</li> </ul>
<b>No (or dead) battery in smoke alarm</b>	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 fires</li> <li>• 0 injuries</li> <li>• 0 deaths</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke alarm in unsuitable location</b>	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 fires</li> <li>• 3 injuries</li> <li>• 1 death</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke alarm AC power disabled</b>	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 fires</li> <li>• 1 injury</li> <li>• 0 deaths</li> </ul>
<b>Smoke alarm activated but occupant(s) unable to respond</b>	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 fires</li> <li>• 0 injuries</li> <li>• 2 deaths</li> </ul>

**Note:** These statistics are based on fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner. They are subject to change as fire reports are continuously submitted by communities after the date of this publication.