




4th Quarter Statistics | Oct. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2023

Data notes: There may be a difference between the Office of the Fire Commissioner’s (OFC) and the British Columbia’s 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 data sets.

New Fires



Structure
864 Fires
7 Deaths
37 Injuries



Vehicle
308 Fires
4 Deaths
10 Injuries



Outdoor
1116 Fires
0 Deaths
4 Injury



Person*
15 Fires
2 Deaths
8 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
2,303	\$105M+	\$19M +	\$124M +	59	13

There are no additional deaths pending further investigation this quarter.

Areas of Interest for this Quarter



103 fires in a hotel, motel, lodge, or boarding homes resulting in **1 death** and over **7 million dollars in loss.**



29 fires were started in masonry and metal chimneys causing close to **1 million dollars in property and contents loss.**



Mattresses and bedding were the first materials ignited in **59 fires** resulting in **1 death** and **6 injuries.**



13 fires occurred in areas where there was no fire service resulting in close to **1 million dollars in loss.**

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.

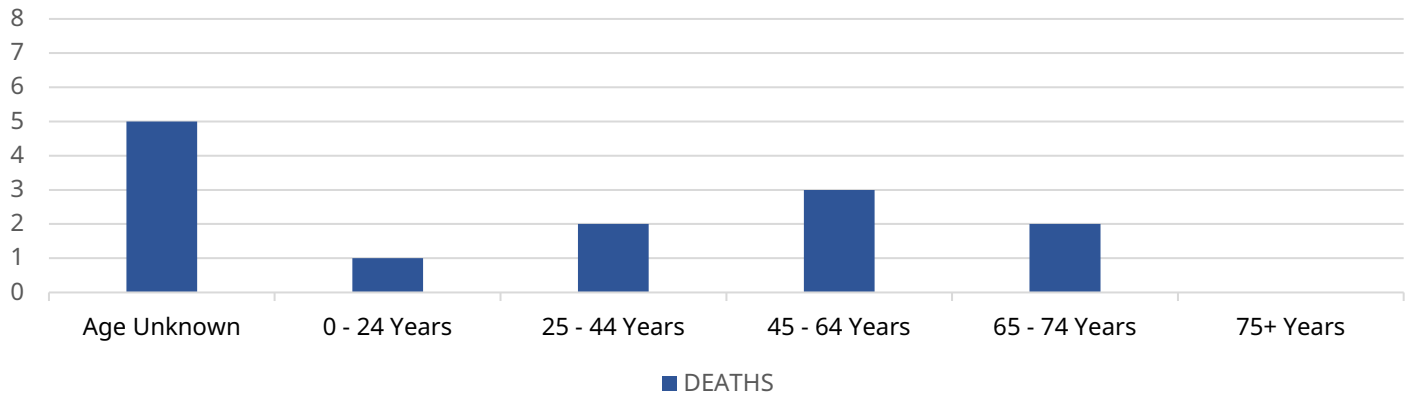
- 285** fires were caused by the ignorance of a hazard
- 106** fires were caused by people who were distracted or preoccupied
- 74** fires were caused by suspected impairment – use of alcohol, drugs, or medication

Actions Taken to Combat the Fire

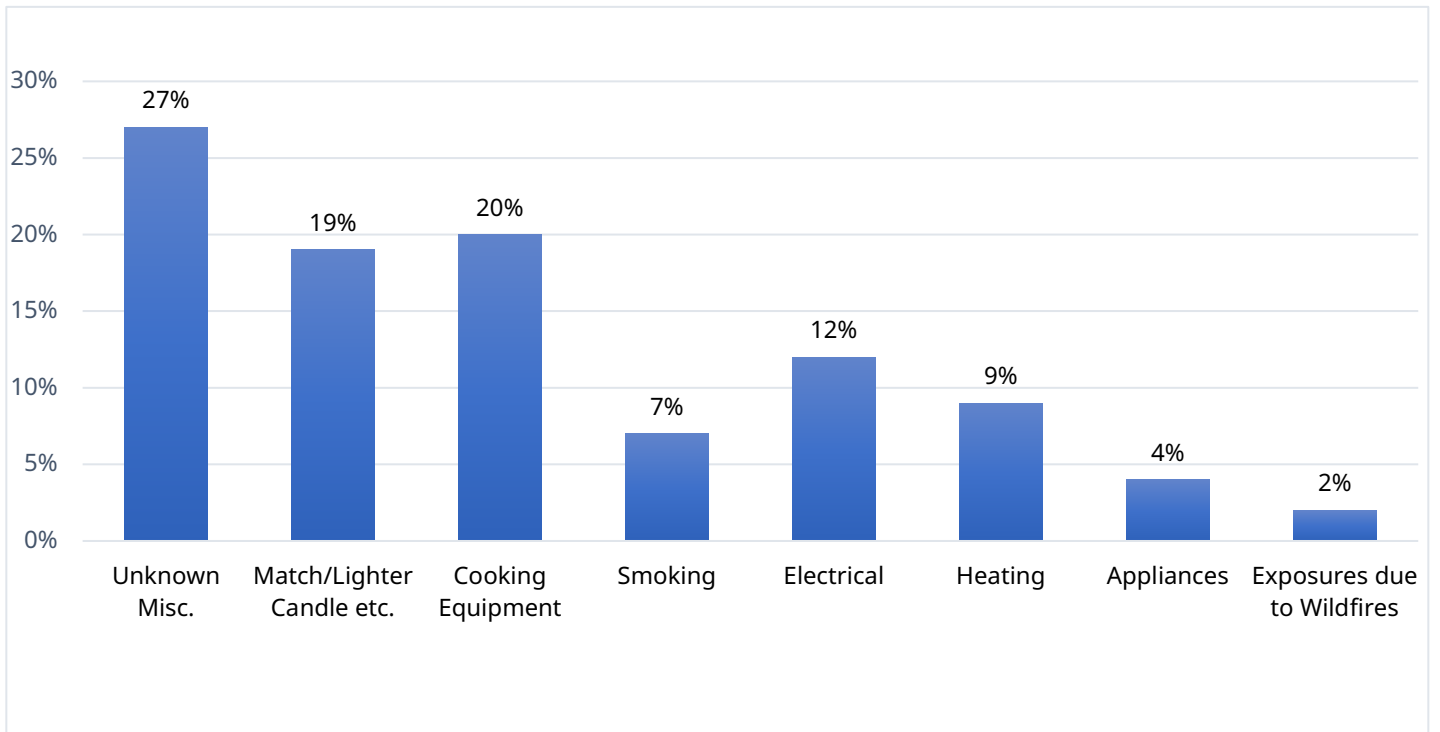
- 71%** of fires were extinguished by a fire department
- 14%** of fires were extinguished by others (passer-by, occupant, witness etc.)
- 11%** of fires that did not require extinguishing and burned out
- 4%** of fires where actions varied, e.g., fire extinguished by automatic system; shut off gas, oil, electricity; no action taken (exposure damage only – blistering, etc.)

Deaths

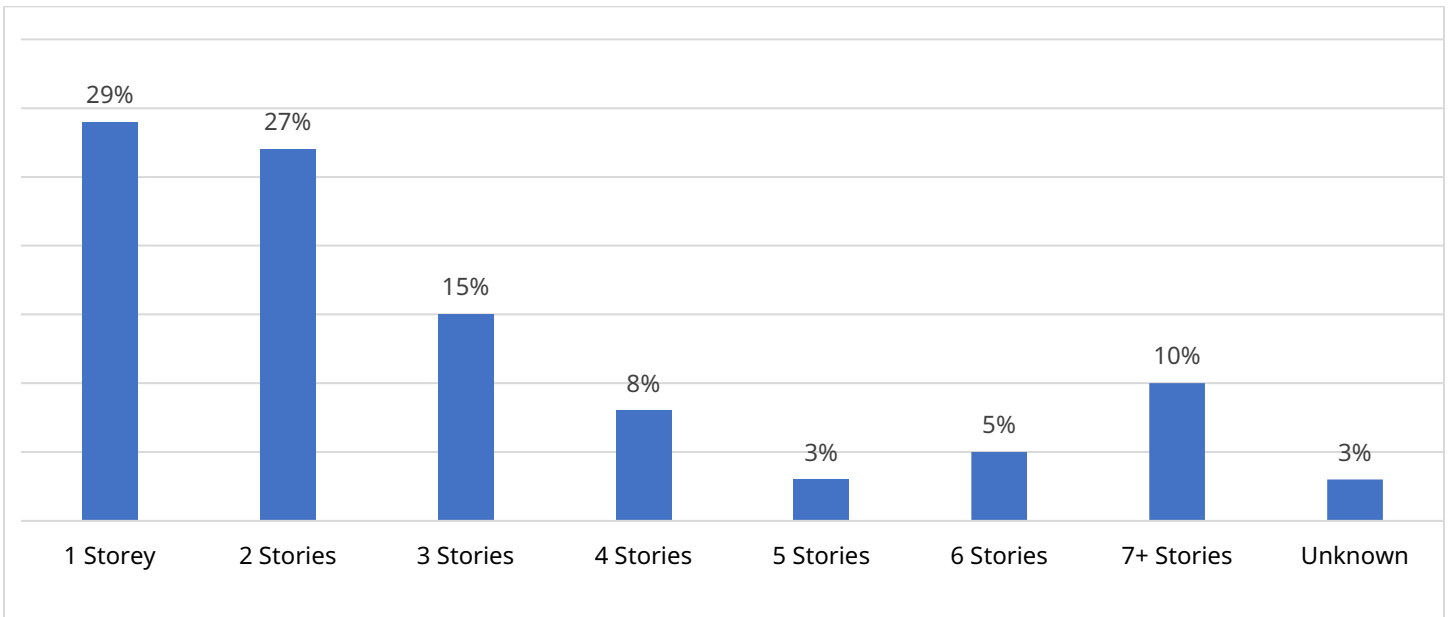
There were 13 reported deaths in BC during 2023 Q4 and 13 deaths reported in 2022 Q4.



Sources of Ignition for STRUCTURE Fires



Building Height: Fire Breakdowns

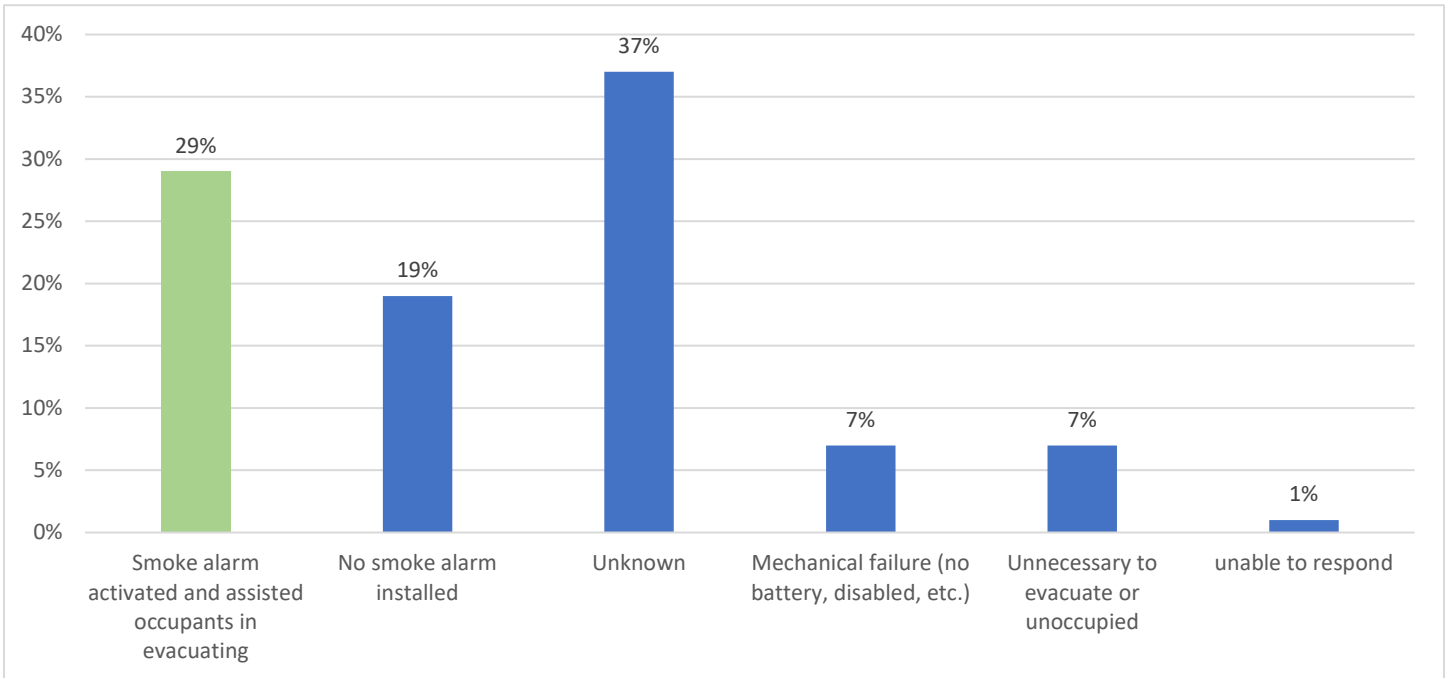


249 fires	237 fires	126 fires	70 fires	28 fires	47 fires	86 fires	21 fires
19 injuries	5 injuries	4 injuries	3 injuries	1 injury	3 injuries	7 injuries	5 injuries
5 deaths	1 death	1 death	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths	0 deaths
\$69M loss	\$69M loss	\$10M loss	\$500K loss	\$100K loss	\$200K loss	\$1.6M loss	\$1M loss

Fire Incidents by OFC Regions

	# of Fires	Total Loss \$	Injuries	Deaths	# of Locations Reporting for 4th Quarter
Region 1: Vancouver Island	180	6M	5	3	37
Region 2: Lower Mainland	1,542	88M	38	7	39
Region 3: Kootenay	106	5M	4	0	30
Region 4: Interior	360	17M	9	2	49
Region 5: Northern	115	8M	3	1	23
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	2,303	\$124M	59	13	178

Smoke Alarm Operation



Fires, Injuries and Deaths by Smoke Alarm Operation

Smoke alarm activated and assisted in evacuation	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 252 fires • 14 injuries • 1 death
No smoke alarm installed	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160 fires • 2 injuries • 4 deaths
No (or dead) battery in smoke alarm	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 fires • 3 injuries • 0 deaths
Smoke alarm in unsuitable location	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 fires • 3 injuries • 0 deaths
Smoke alarm AC power disabled	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 fires • 1 injury • 0 deaths
Smoke alarm activated but occupant(s) unable to respond	➔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 fires • 1 injury • 0 deaths

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.