



2020-2023 Summary Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal

JULY | 2024

Government of
Northwest Territories

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English

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French

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłıchq̃ yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newq̃ dè, gots'o gonede.

Tłchq

ʔerihʔ'is Dëne Sų́łiné yatı t'a huts'elkër xa beyáyatı theɣə ɣat'e, nuwe ts'ën yóftı.

Chipewyan

Edi gondi dehgáh got'je zhatié k'ée edat'éh enahddhę nide naxets'é edahíí.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'íne xədə k'é hederı Ɂedjıhtl'é yerııwę nídé dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinohthan jì', diits'àt ginohkhii.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaq'luta.

Inuvialuktun

$C^b d \triangleleft n n^{sb} \Delta^c \wedge r L J \delta r^c \Delta m n D c^{sb} r L j n^b, \triangleright e^c n^a m^c \triangleright i^b c r^a e^{sb} j n^c.$

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqgat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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Message from the Fire Marshal

The 2020-2023 Summary Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) includes statistical reporting from January 1st to December 31st for each of the four years based on the work conducted by the OFM and information submitted by communities to the Office. This information will help guide the work and priorities of the OFM moving forward, and provides valuable insight to the public on the need to take steps for their own fire safety.

The OFM continues to support community governments through the provision of guidance & capacity building. Utilizing the statistics and trends shown herein helps to inform local governments with respect to the risk of fire in their communities and the effective allocation of resources. Working alongside community governments, residents and other partners is critical to strengthening relationships and advancing community emergency services in order to meet industry best practices and territorial safety standards.

At a national level, the OFM acts as a member of the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners (CCFMFC). In partnership with provincial/territorial jurisdictions and the CCFMFC, Statistics Canada conducted a retrospective analysis of fire-related deaths between 2011 and 2020. This analysis showed there was an average of 220 fire deaths annually in Canada. A majority of fire-related deaths (81%) were unintentional, 15% were suicide/homicide and 4% were undetermined. When considering the unintentional fire-related deaths, 92% occurred within a residence with at least one of the following risk factors present:

- cigarettes or smoking materials;
- alcohol, cannabis or illicit drug use; and/or
- the absence of a working smoke alarm

In addition, the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council continues to gather and analyze data related to fires and fire-related deaths among Canada's Indigenous population and communities. The information available so far paints a stark picture of the fire risk that exists within many NWT communities. Nationally, Indigenous peoples are five times more likely to die in a fire when compared to the rest of the population, and that number increases significantly on reserves and in northern Indigenous communities.

The mandate of the OFM is to work with partners to enhance the delivery of emergency services and minimize loss, including to the environment, property, through injury, or loss of life. This is accomplished by ensuring compliance with legislation, applicable standards, best practices, prevention programming, public awareness and investigation into the cause and origin of fires. Ensuring residents are informed of fire risk through public education, strengthening community fire service capacity through training and utilizing the plan review and fire inspection processes to ensure building fire and life safety requirements are met are key activities in meeting this mandate.

The 2020-2023 Summary Report provides an opportunity to review and reflect on the status of fire safety in the Northwest Territories. Fire safety inspections, fire prevention efforts, fire investigations and other activities of community fire departments and the OFM are all integral components in evaluating where we are at and recognizing where we should strive to improve. The statistical data in this report helps to identify issues and trends which will inform our priorities in support of protecting our communities and residents moving forward.

With the evolution of safety legislation, fire operations, building construction, and many other factors, fire services in Canada now have a more challenging environment in which to operate, and have greater responsibility and accountability than at any other time in the past. Operational procedures, compulsory reporting & documentation, and regular training are all mandatory requirements for today's fire service to provide a safe working environment for fire personnel, and in the provision of safe and effective service delivery to their community. The continued challenge with the recruitment and retention of volunteers, especially in our smaller communities with limited population to draw from, is a compounding factor which hinders the delivery of effective emergency services, not only in the NWT but across Canada. As all NWT communities face challenges with these foundational elements, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is committed to working with our various stakeholders to assist and provide guidance to communities in setting reasonable expectations for their fire services considering the community's operational reality and in alignment with current safety standards and industry best practices.

Local fire services help build community spirit, bring communities together for a common purpose and provide for the safety of residents; firefighters should be role models for the next generation in our communities. MACA supports community efforts in building local fire service capacity through the provision of fire service training coordinated by the Community Government Learning and Development division (formerly School of Community Government) and through the development of various tools and resources that can help guide community governments. Most importantly, success can only be realized with strong community support and dedicated community members.

I would be remiss not to recognize the many individuals who form the NWT Fire Service across our many communities. These dedicated volunteer and career firefighters are our most valuable resource and should be recognized and supported as such. They sacrifice time away from family and friends, are devoted to their communities and neighbours, and are caring individuals fully prepared to protect the lives and property of all those who choose to live, work, visit and invest in the NWT. The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to recognize their efforts in protecting NWT communities not only from structure fires that occur, but also during the unprecedented wildfire seasons we have experienced.

Craig Halifax
Northwest Territories Fire Marshal

Statistical Summaries

Statistical summaries for the NWT are broken down by region and are provided as they relate to fire incidents, false alarms, fire investigations and fire inspections. The data contained on the following pages helps to enhance our understanding of the fire problem within the NWT while also providing valuable insights into regional differences that exist throughout the territory. Year-to-year trends help guide decisions related to priorities for communities and the OFM to ensure the safety and security of residents.

Of note for readers, although there is recognition of the significant impact to communities and residents coming from the 2023 wildfire season, the data contained in this report does not include structure loss data as a direct result of wildfire.

NWT

	Fire Incidents ¹				False Alarms				Fire Investigations ²				Fire Inspections ³			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Beaufort Delta	33	48	41	33	27	97	64	30	8	0	2	4	23	11	10	12
Deh Cho	1	14	11	7	0	8	43	15	1	6	3	0	9	11	23	33
North Slave	135	123	140	141	218	185	245	178	13	5	14	6	117	186	298	282
Sahtu	6	0	6	6	0	8	0	5	2	0	2	5	17	13	13	14
South Slave	21	63	43	43	82	64	51	63	7	3	2	2	119	91	89	41
TOTAL	196	248	241	230	327	362	403	291	31	14	23	17	285	312	433	382

¹ Fire incidents are considered emergency calls for service to the community fire department related directly to fire, and do not include calls for medical service or false alarms, which are categorized separately

² Fire investigation totals are based on fire incidents where the OFM was the lead investigating authority; they do not include general investigations conducted by the local authority under the Fire Prevention Act

³ Fire inspection totals include special occasion occupancy permit applications under the Liquor Act and Regulations

Beaufort Delta

	Fire Incidents				False Alarms				Fire Investigations				Fire Inspections			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aklavik	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
Fort McPherson	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
Inuvik	31	46	40	25	27	97	64	30	6	0	1	2	4	8	8	10
Paulatuk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Sachs Harbour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Tsiigehtchic	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Tuktoyaktuk	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	1	0
Ulukhaktok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
Hinterland	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	33	48	41	33	27	97	64	30	8	0	2	4	23	11	10	12

List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Year	Community	Building Type	Dollar Loss
2020	Inuvik	Residential	\$1,700,000
2020	Tuktoyaktuk	Residential	\$300,000
2020	Fort McPherson	Residential	\$396,000
2021	Inuvik	Care	\$350,000
2021	Fort McPherson	Residential	\$400,000
2022	Inuvik	Residential	\$500,000
2022	Tuktoyaktuk	Residential	\$200,000
2023	Fort McPherson	Residential	\$200,000

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

(OFM investigations)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidental	0	0	1	3
Natural	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	6	0	0	1
Undetermined	2	0	1	0

Dehcho

	Fire Incidents				False Alarms				Fire Investigations				Fire Inspections			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fort Liard	0	1	6	3	0	0	32 ¹	10	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	6
Fort Simpson	1	12	4	3	0	8	11	5	1	5	1	0	5	6	9	22
Jean Marie River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Nahanni Butte	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	2
Sambaa K'e	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	0
Wrigley	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2
Hinterland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	14	11	7	0	8	43	15	1	6	3	0	9	11	23	33

¹ False alarms were not reported for Fort Liard prior to 2022

List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Year	Community	Building Type	Dollar Loss
2021	Fort Simpson	Residential	\$350,000
2021	Fort Simpson	Residential	\$450,000
2021	Fort Simpson	Residential	\$170,000
2021	Fort Simpson	Residential	\$400,000
2022	Fort Simpson	Residential	\$350,000
2022	Nahanni Butte	Residential	\$400,000
2022	Fort Liard	Residential	\$100,000

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

(OFM investigations)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidental	1	3	2	0
Natural	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	0	3	1	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0

North Slave

	Fire Incidents				False Alarms				Fire Investigations				Fire Inspections			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Behchokò	4	1	0	7	6	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	4	2	2	3
Dettah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Gamètì	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	4
Łutsel K'e	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Ndilò	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Wekweètì	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Whatì	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	2
Yellowknife	126	120	138	132	210	185	245	171	9	4	12	6	106 ¹	177 ¹	286 ¹	269 ¹
Hinterland	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	135	123	140	141	218	185	245	178	13	5	14	6	117	186	298	282

¹ Fire inspection totals include those conducted by the Yellowknife Fire Department and OFM

List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Year	Community	Building Type	Dollar Loss
2020	Yellowknife	Residential	\$100,000
2020	Ingraham Trail	Residential	\$650,000
2020	Yellowknife	Accessory Building	\$200,000
2020	Yellowknife	Residential	\$100,000
2020	Yellowknife	Residential	\$1,075,000
2020	Yellowknife	Residential	\$210,000
2020	Yellowknife	Residential	\$175,000
2020	Behchokò	Residential	\$600,000
2021	Yellowknife	Residential	\$900,000
2021	Yellowknife	Assembly	\$250,000
2021	Yellowknife	Residential	\$150,000
2022	Yellowknife	Residential	\$600,000
2022	Hinterland	Accessory Building	\$1,200,000
2022	Yellowknife	Residential	\$1,100,000
2022	Yellowknife	Residential	\$1,800,000
2022	Yellowknife	Accessory Building	\$150,000
2023	Yellowknife	Residential	\$175,000
2023	Yellowknife	Residential	\$276,828
2023	Yellowknife	Residential	\$6,500,000
2023	Yellowknife	Residential	\$150,000

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

(OFM investigations)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidental	9	2	4	3
Natural	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	1	2	4	2
Undetermined	3	2	7	1

Sahtu

	Fire Incidents				False Alarms				Fire Investigations				Fire Inspections			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Colville Lake	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Délne	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	3
Fort Good Hope	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	7	5
Norman Wells	3	0	1	3	0	3	0	3	1	0	1	3	2	3	3	4
Tulita	1	0	1	1	0	5	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	1	2	1
Hinterland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6	0	6	6	0	8	0	5	2	0	2	5	17	13	13	14

List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Year	Community	Building Type	Dollar Loss
2020	Norman Wells	Residential	\$315,000
2022	Norman Wells	Residential	\$315,000
2022	Fort Good Hope	Residential	\$200,000
2022	Délne	Residential	\$200,000
2023	Norman Wells	Residential	\$500,000
2023	Norman Wells	Residential	\$100,000
2023	Tulita	Residential	\$100,000
2023	Délne	Residential	\$350,000

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

(OFM investigations)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidental	2	0	0	3
Natural	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	2	2

South Slave

	Fire Incidents				False Alarms				Fire Investigations				Fire Inspections			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Enterprise	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Fort Providence	2	0	1	1	14	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	11	7	15	3
Fort Resolution	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	4	9	0
Fort Smith	6	42	22	10	21	26	9	21	1	1	1	1	23	14	31	18
Hay River	12	18	19	30	45	38	42	42	3	1	1	1	80 ¹	63 ¹	28	15
Kakisa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kát'odeeche First Nation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3
Hinterland	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	21	63	43	43	82	64	51	63	7	3	2	2	119	91	89	41

¹ Fire inspection totals for 2020 and 2021 include those conducted by the Hay River Fire Department and OFM.

List of fires that caused over \$100,000 in damage

Year	Community	Building Type	Dollar Loss
2020	Hay River	Residential	\$100,000
2020	Hay River	Residential	\$500,000
2020	Hay River	Residential	\$100,000
2020	Fort Smith	Residential	\$282,000
2020	Fort Resolution	Residential	\$100,000
2020	Fort Providence	Residential	\$800,000
2021	Hay River	Residential	\$451,000
2021	Hay River	Residential	\$100,000
2021	Hay River	Residential	\$100,000
2021	Hay River	Residential	\$250,000
2022	Hay River	Residential	\$2,000,000
2023	Fort Smith	Residential	\$750,000
2023	Kátł'odeeche First Nation	Residential	\$100,000
2023	Hay River	Commercial	\$1,000,000
2023	Hay River	Residential	\$300,000
2023	Hay River	Residential	\$150,000

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

(OFM investigations)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accidental	6	3	2	2
Natural	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	1	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0

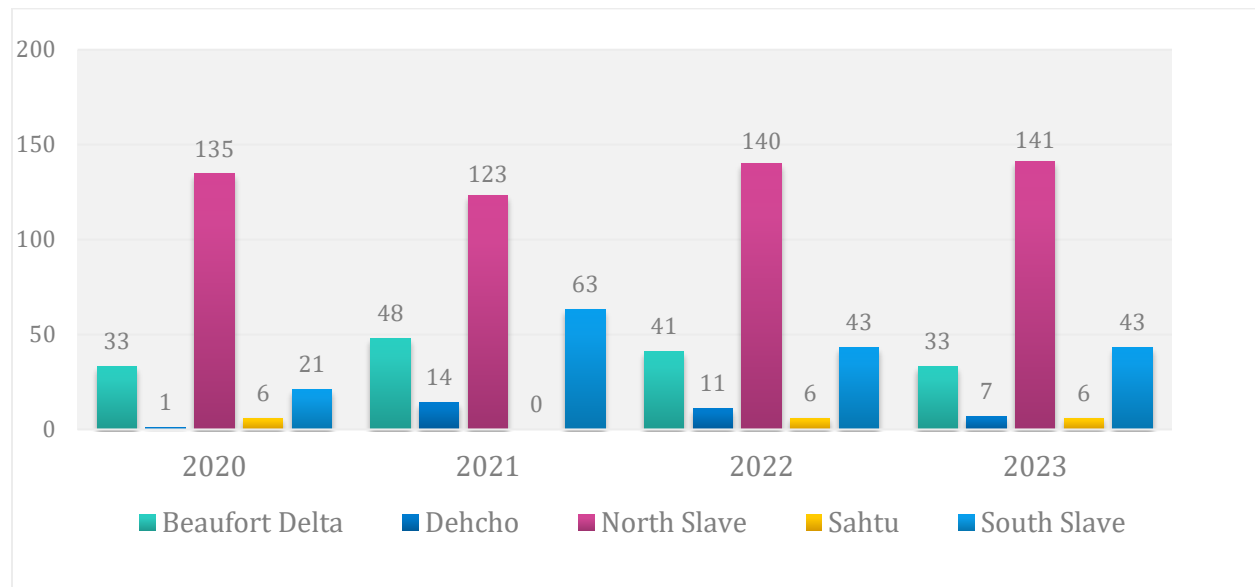
Regional Data Analysis

A critical finding from the above regional data is where fires are actually occurring. Of the 59 fires in the NWT showing a loss of greater than \$100,000, 53 of those fires occurred in a residential occupancy, equating to 90% of total fires. This is in line with the national data on page 2, which illustrates that 92% of unintentional fires occur in residential occupancies.

Knowing that approximately 9 out every 10 fires of high monetary loss occur in a residential location, it is imperative that residents take the necessary measures to help protect themselves and their families. Ensuring you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, conducting regular servicing of building systems like furnaces, keeping a minimum of one fire extinguisher serviced and accessible for use and ensuring safe and proper disposal of smoking materials are all steps people can take in becoming more “fire safe”.

Territorial Response Statistics

Fire Incidents

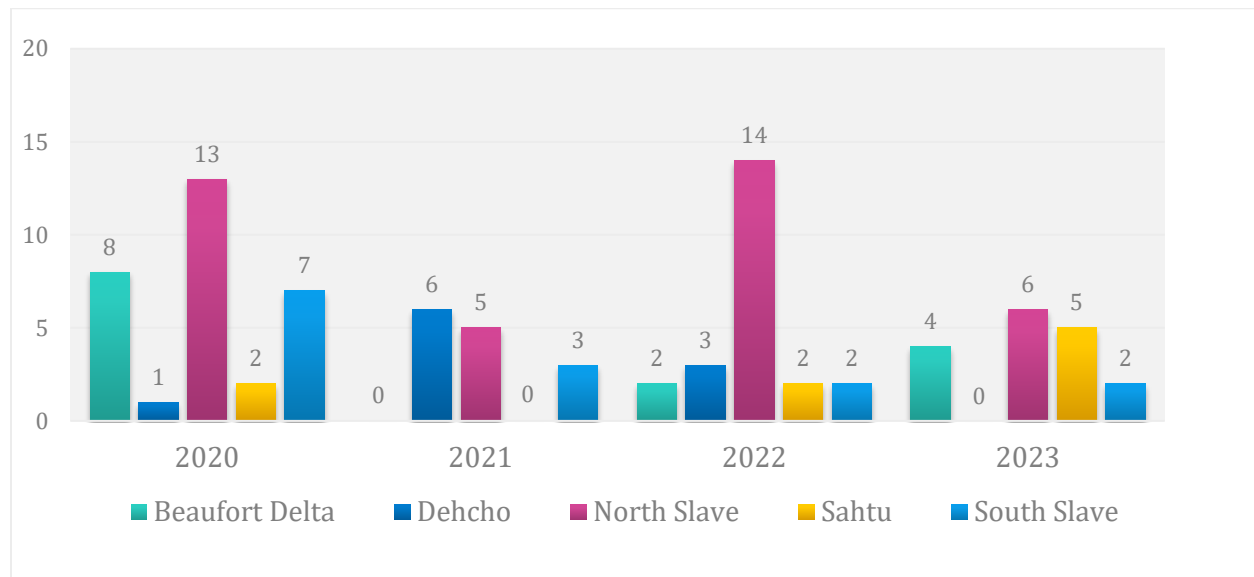


In 2020 there were 196 reported fire incidents, 248 in 2021, 241 in 2022, and 230 in 2023. The five-year average is 235 fire incidents across the NWT each year. In 2020, the total reported fire incidents were 17% lower than average, whereas 2021 through 2023 were in line with the expected number of incidents. Without additional information and analysis, it is difficult to ascertain the reason for the decrease of fire incidents in 2020 but could be due to a variety of factors; such as more communities with inactive fire departments resulting in reduced reporting, how communities tracked and reported their incident data, or issues related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and limited community activities.

The noticeable regional variance of the North Slave as compared to the other four regions directly correlates to the population base of Yellowknife and the other regional communities.

Approximately 55% of the NWTs population resides in the North Slave region and the average number of fire incidents per year over the reported years is 135, which represents 58% of the total reported fire incidents for the NWT. The number of fire incidents as relates to population base is consistent from region to region.

Fire Investigations

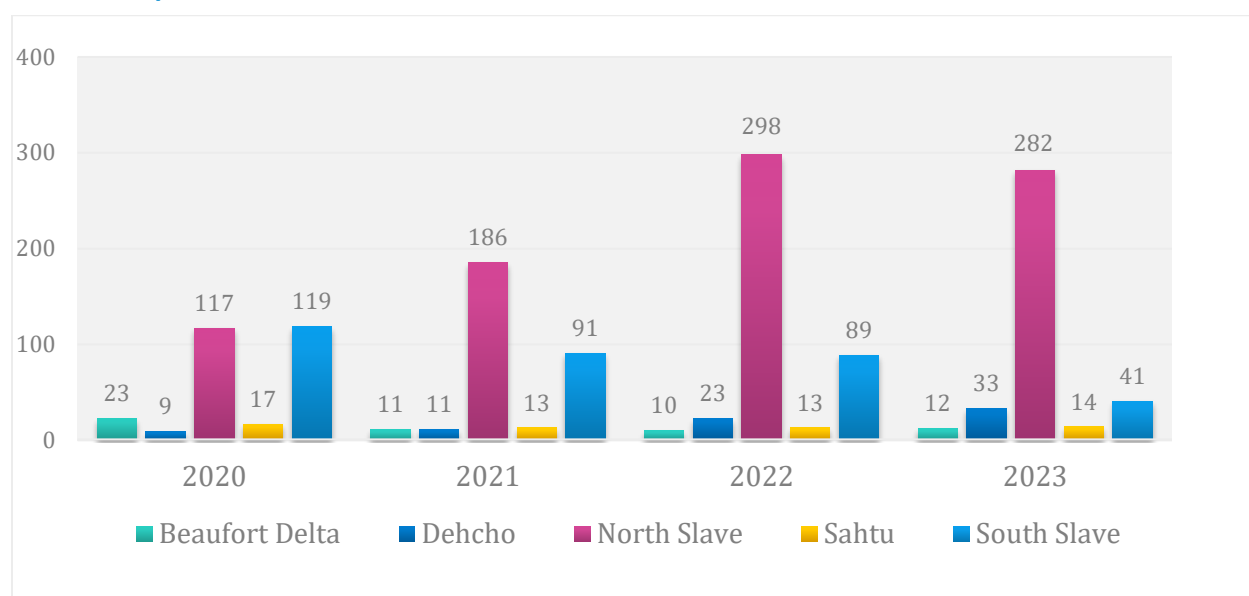


Fire investigation statistics provided are only those investigations that are directly investigated by the OFM and do not include those fires that are investigated by the local authority as a Local Assistant to the Fire Marshal. Several factors are considered in determining whether the OFM will directly investigate or only act as a support to the local authority. The OFM will investigate all fires that resulted in fire-related deaths, fires that led to serious injuries, fires that are considered deliberate [acting in support of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)], or explosion incidents. Additionally, the OFM will also investigate based on the circumstances and information provided by the local authority if deemed warranted.

The number of fire investigations conducted by the OFM in 2020 was 31, 14 in 2021, 23 in 2022 and 17 in 2023. The five-year average for OFM fire investigations is 22. Year to year differences can be attributed to the types of fires, as some may not meet the threshold for direct investigation by the OFM, differences in the capacity of the local authority to provide basic fire origin & cause investigation, or whether the requirements for notifying the OFM were met.

With small sample sizes, any slight change in the number of fire investigations creates a significant variance in the data but is not necessarily indicative of any trends of concern with respect to the numbers or cause of fires in the NWT. Improvements in data collection starting in 2023 will help define the fire problem more clearly as it relates to the cause and origin of OFM-investigated fires.

Fire Inspections

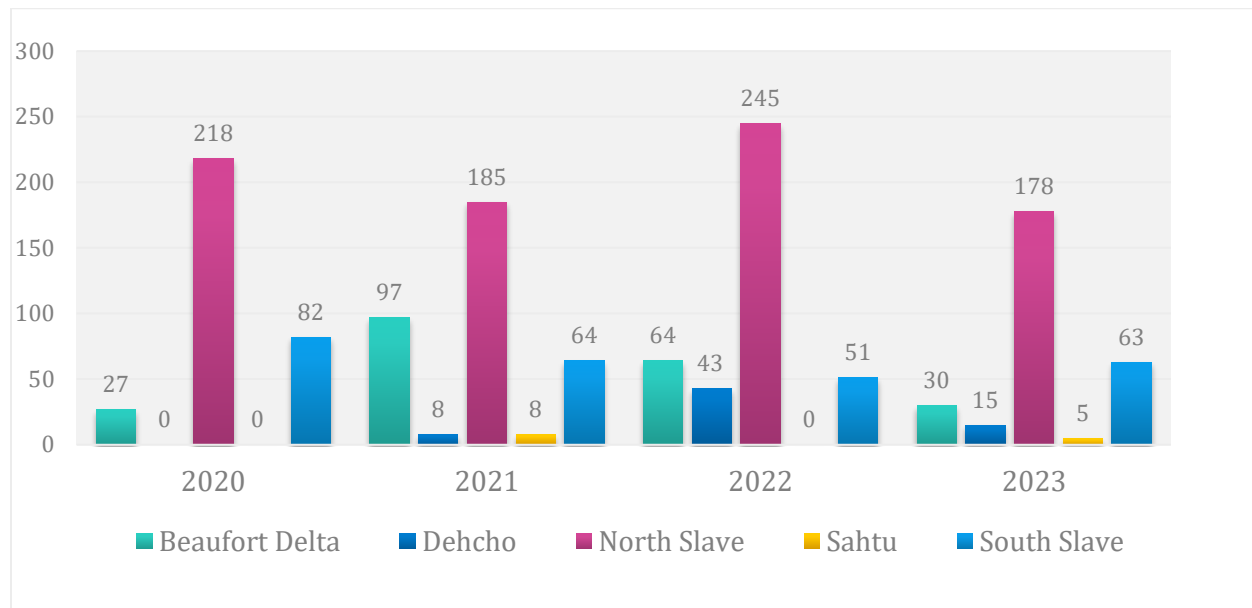


Fire safety inspections ensure compliance with the adopted edition of the *National Fire Code* and standards as per the *Fire Prevention Act* and *Regulations*. The OFM conducts fire inspections on existing or already constructed buildings, which should not be confused with building inspections. Building inspections are inspections conducted at various stages of construction of a new building, or for a change in use of an existing building, to ensure compliance with the *National Building Code* and related standards.

The fire safety inspection statistics provided include inspections conducted by the OFM, and those conducted by the Yellowknife and Hay River Fire Departments in their respective regions. It is important to note that based on the reporting parameters for 2020 to 2023, occupant load permits based on the *Liquor Act* are included.

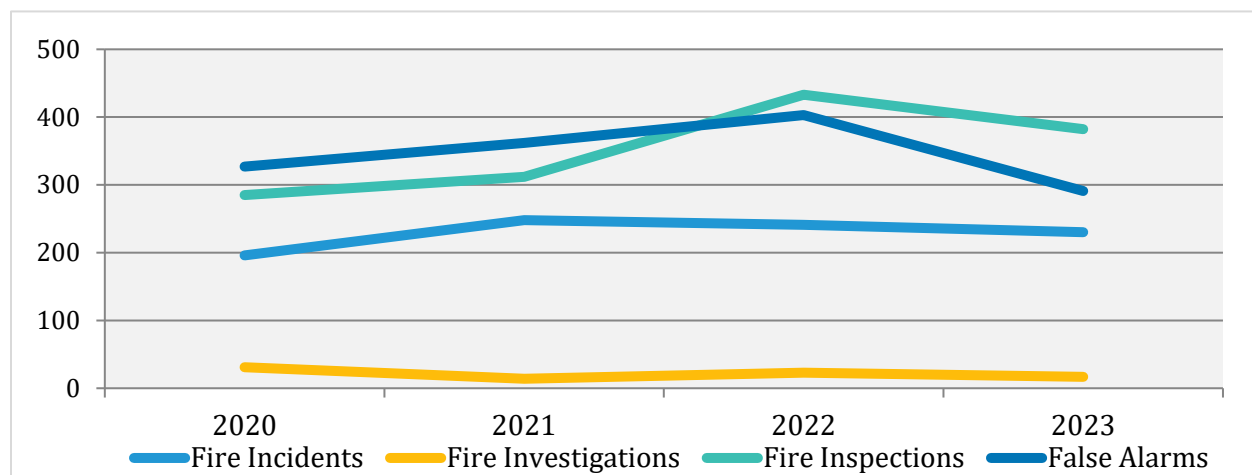
From 2020 to 2023, the majority of fire safety inspections occurred in the North Slave and South Slave regions (from 82%-91% of all inspections territory-wide). This trend in total inspections has been consistent over the last several years and indicates an uneven distribution of inspection needs based on community population, urbanization, and types of structures. There is a continuing need for flexibility across regions in meeting the OFM's regulatory obligations related to fire safety inspections. It should be noted that staffing levels within the OFM and vacancies as they occur have the greatest effect on the number of inspections completed, as the primary limiting factor is staff time, availability and travel needs.

False Alarms



¹ False Alarms are not included in the Fire Incident data but are still a response of the local fire department.

4-Year Comparative Summary



The 4-year comparative summary and information in the previous graphs show relative consistency, with slight variance in relation to fire incidents, false alarms and fire investigations. However, the fire inspection program area saw a significant decrease in 2020, with a subsequent increase back to the relative average. While fire incidents, false alarms, and investigations are tied to actual fire occurrences, which have remained consistent, fire safety inspections, while required by legislation, are not associated with incidents, and as such, can vary more from year to year. The 2020 decrease in fire safety inspections can be directly attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gatherings associated with liquor permitting, and also the modification of work activities of the OFM to meet the COVID-19 safety requirements as set out by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer.

Incendiary Fire Occurrences (Arson)

An incendiary fire (arson) is the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property. Arson fires occur every year in the NWT and continue to be a concern to the OFM. When a fire occurs with criminal intent, the RCMP are the lead investigative agency with the OFM providing fire investigation expertise and support as needed. The below statistics are independently maintained by the RCMP and provided to the OFM for reporting purposes.

The reported 4-year average (2020-2023) for arson fire investigations is 28 per year, while 2019 was much higher at 41. In 2020, the number of arson fires was approximately 30% below the reported 4-year average, and for 2023 there was an increase of 25% over the average.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cleared by charge/charge recommended	3	4	7	4
Cleared other	3	7	1	4
Insufficient evidence to proceed	12	13	16	24
Unfounded	2	4	4	1
Victim/complainant declines to proceed	0	0	0	2
Grand Total	20	28	28	35

Definitions of RCMP clearance codes:

Cleared by charge/charge recommended:

At least one charged/suspect chargeable (CSC) has been identified and there are charges laid against or recommended to be laid against this individual in connection with the incident.

Cleared other:

At least one CSC has been identified and there are sufficient grounds to lay charges, but no charges are laid.

Insufficient evidence to proceed:

For incidents where there is insufficient or conflicting evidence for the police service to lay charges or recommend charges to the Crown.

Unfounded:

An incident is unfounded if it has been determined through police investigation that the offence reported did not occur, nor was it attempted.

Victim/complainant declines to proceed (No CSC identified):

For incidents where victim/complainant do not want to actively participate in the investigation and so no one is identified as CSC.

Injury and Cost Analysis

Injury and cost analysis helps in the evaluation of fire prevention and protection efforts. Territorial losses are evaluated in comparison with losses suffered in other jurisdictions in Canada to understand the impact of program initiatives and help guide the best use of limited resources. The following is a year-to-year regional and territorial summary of reported losses due to fire for the past four years and the cost per person the NWT suffered as a result of fire losses including injuries and fatalities.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Population	45,346	45,597	45,605	44,972
Fire Incidents	196	248	241	230
Dollar loss (k) *	7,703	4,321	9,115	10,652
\$ loss per Capita	170	95	200	237
Fatalities	1	1	1	1
Injuries	0	0	1	1

*** Dollar loss statistics for the NWT are high level estimates based on incidents involving losses over \$100k.**

The NWT 4-year average for dollar loss per capita (2020-2023) was \$175, with this rolling average being slightly lower than the previous average. Although the number of NWT fire incidents has remained relatively consistent year to year, the financial impact of those fires is beginning to trend upwards against that 4-year average. A contributing factor may be due to an increase in insurable property values and costs for replacement. Estimated dollar loss from large fires (>\$100,000) in 2023 was almost 34% higher than the average of the previous three years.

Conclusion

NWT communities continue to make strides forward in the many areas related to fire and life safety, but also recognize the challenges that exist. In spite of these challenges, communities continue to make extraordinary efforts to deliver services effectively, and to the best of their ability, with a focus on working together for the betterment of all residents. MACA, through the OFM and other program areas, will continue to support all NWT communities in the provision of services in a safe and efficient manner. Collaboratively, we continue to work towards improving awareness of fire risk in our communities, enhancing fire protection and prevention programming and increasing the capacity of local fire services throughout the territory. The OFM looks forward to continuing its work with its many stakeholders to support the advancement of emergency services throughout the NWT and to improve fire safety for all residents and visitors.

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