



Government of
Northwest Territories

2016 Annual Report

Office of the Fire Marshal



OFM ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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Office of the Fire Marshal



The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect upon the current status and response activities of community fire departments and the OFM over the calendar year. In addition, the report helps identify trends which highlight challenges and assist in the formation of fire prevention and protection programming designed to protect Northwest Territories (NWT) residents and property from the threat of fire.

Community fire prevention and protection has evolved substantially over the last two decades. Changes in technology/industry best practices/safety and training requirements have placed additional responsibilities on those who deliver and oversee fire services. NWT communities have been challenged in keeping current with these evolutionary changes.

In 2016, the OFM has taken steps to both modernize and systemize its efforts to support communities and regional staff with the necessary tools to guide and support community fire protection efforts. The strategy the OFM has established and implemented in 2016 will provide a foundation that will bring clarity on requirements for municipal leaders and allow communities the flexibility to adapt their community fire service to their existing capacity and available resources.

In the NWT, every community fire department relies on volunteers who are responsible for supporting community fire protection in addition to balancing work and family commitments. The dedication of these individuals, who train and respond to community emergencies, often under difficult and harsh conditions, cannot be over-emphasized.

Respectfully submitted,

Chucker Dewar
Northwest Territories Fire Marshal

Mandate

To work with partners to minimize the risk of fire and any related property damage, injury, or loss of life through prevention, investigation and code compliance.

Duties and Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the OFM are established in the Northwest Territories *Fire Prevention Act* which requires the OFM to perform the following duties:

- Keep a record of fires reported;
 - Disseminate information and advice about fire prevention and fire protection by means of public meetings, press articles, exhibitions, radio, television or other publicity campaigns
- Review plans for the construction, alteration, and repair of structures for compliance with adopted codes and standards, and with a view to determining that proper precautions are taken against fire and the spread of fire;
- Conduct fire prevention inspections from time to time to determine if precautions against fire and the spread of fire are adequate and satisfactorily maintained;
- Conduct fire investigations to determine the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires;
- Contribute to the development of community fire departments through identification of training programs and courses and the provision of guidance to meet industry standards;
- Submit an annual report to the Minister setting out causes and origins of fires, information on fatalities or injuries inflicted by fire, investigations and any necessary inquiries of fires, prosecutions for arson or attempted arson, a summary of OFM administration of fire prevention and community fire protection activity, together with any other information that the Minister may request;
- Advise and make recommendations to the Minister with respect to:
 - The establishment of fire departments, the necessary organization and equipment of fire departments and the establishment of training programs for firefighters
 - The provision of adequate water supply for fire-fighting purposes
 - The installation and maintenance of fire-alarm systems and fire extinguishing equipment
 - The storage, use, sale or disposal of combustibles, explosives or other flammable material
 - The construction and maintenance of fire-escapes and other exit facilities in the event of fire or the alarm of fire
 - The types and adequacy of fire-alarms in communities and, in or on any building or property

Staff

In 2016, the OFM consisted of eight staff members who filled the following positions:

- Fire Marshal
- Chief Code Compliance Engineer (plan review)
- Senior Policy Advisor
- Assistant Fire Marshal, Sahtu Region
- Assistant Fire Marshal, Inuvik Region
- Assistant Fire Marshal, North Slave Region
- Assistant Fire Marshal, Deh Cho Region
- Assistant Fire Marshal, South Slave Region

Partnerships

The OFM works with a variety of organizations and groups on issues associated with fire safety. They are as follows:

- NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC)
- Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT)
- Northwest Territories Fire Chief's Association (NWTFCFA)
- Workers Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC)

The OFM also works with a variety of other organizations and groups on issues associated with fire safety. They are as follows:

- Council of Canadian Fire Marshal and Fire Commissioners (CCFMFC)
- Canadian Fire Safety Advisory Council (CFSAC)
- Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC)
- National Research Council of Canada (NRCC)
- Provincial / Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes (PTPACC)

Current Initiatives

Office of the Auditor General (OAG) Action Plan

Between October 2015 and August 2016, the OAG conducted a Performance Audit of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) focusing on areas involving health and safety. MACA welcomed the opportunity to complete the review of its supports for the delivery of essential services and cooperated fully with the OAG through all phases of the audit. As part of the examination, the OAG carried out interviews with various departmental stakeholders and travelled into some communities to interview local community governments. Stemming from this work, 13 recommendations were made by the OAG to improve the level and type of support provided to NWT community governments. Each recommendation was accepted and reflected in an Action Plan for Improving Support to Community Governments in the NWT, including taking immediate actions to reassess whether communities with fire departments meet requirements under the *Safety Act*. For those fire departments that do not, MACA should work with community government to establish a plan to assist them in meeting requirements. For community governments without fire departments, the Department should work with them to develop a strategy for fire safety.

In response to the OAG's recommendations, the OFM is implementing tools and actions to strengthen community fire protection services for NWT communities, including consultation on updating the *Fire Prevention Act* and further defining community government's role in fire protection.

The Department's efforts also include a fire department assessment tool, scheduled for completion in spring 2016, which will assess administrative aspects of community fire services including compliance under the *Safety Act*. Once the assessment tool is complete, the Department will provide councils and staff with information on the tool and seek their commitment and interest in using it to identify current levels of service and gaps or risks. As assessments are completed, the Department will work with community governments to identify actions required to address gaps, obtain compliance with the *Safety Act*, and meet their desired level of service.

The full suite of tools and resources, including sample by-laws, standard operating procedures, training strategies, and public education tools will be complete by winter 2018.

If a community does not have a fire department, efforts will focus on fire prevention to reduce the risk of injury or damage.

Community Government Fire Protection Presentation

In 2016, fire protection partners produced a Community Fire Protection Video Presentation to help provide community governments with a good understanding of the critical elements of the fire service, and to guide their efforts towards achieving community fire protection goals and outcomes.

The video highlights some of the advantages that can be achieved by having a well-organized, managed, and trained fire service in the community and includes recommendations on fire protection measures, best practices, regulations, and available support for establishing, maintaining, and strengthening a community's fire service.

Community Fire Protection Assessments & Action Plans

In 2016, the OFM developed a Fire Department Assessment Tool to provide community leaders with an efficient means to assess their fire department's current capacity, identify any critical gaps, and determine resource needs. Information gathered from the assessment will help communities develop a detailed action plan towards a sustainable and desired level of service.

Assessment items in the tool are directly linked to key performance indicators in MACA's Accountability Framework for Community Governments. Ultimately, the tool will help community governments maintain a regular system of inspection and evaluation of their fire service.

Fire Prevention Act Review Update

MACA continues efforts to review the legislative framework that governs structural fire prevention in the NWT. This legislative framework relates to the investigation and reporting of structural fires, regulates fire hazards, and allows for the adoption of codes and standards for the prevention and extinguishment of structural fires. The legislative framework is made up of the *Fire Prevention Act (Act)*, as well as the *Fire Prevention Regulations*, *Fireworks Regulations*, and the *Propane Cylinder Storage Regulations*, established under the act.

In 2016, a public discussion document was released to engage residents and stakeholders for the purpose of gaining feedback to help MACA understand what is and what is not working within the current legislative framework. The results of this initial round of consultation will form the basis of a focused dialogue with stakeholders in 2017, which will inform development of a legislative proposal during the 18th Legislative Assembly.

Plan Review Guidelines

Plan review plays a vital role in the GNWT's obligation to protect occupants and property from fire and spread of fire. Pursuant to the *FPA*, the OFM conducts a review of construction plans and specifications to determine if they meet the requirements of the *FPA* and its Regulations. Once the OFM has reviewed plans and specifications, a written report is provided to the person who submitted the documents.

In 2014, MACA added rigor to the Plan Review function to ensure adequate safety for residents. The previous approach involved a general review only, which did not adequately serve to confirm code requirements were actually being achieved in the final designs and plans. In 2015, this work was supplemented by a detailed examination of the plan review function to ensure the OFM is meeting its regulatory responsibility and to validate alignment of regulatory requirements with the current operating environment.

In late 2015, MACA met with industry stakeholders to better understand their current operating environment, which resulted in published guidelines to help industry navigate the plan review process. The new guidelines were released in early 2016 and will improve the likelihood of code compliance in the early stages of the design phase for construction projects in the NWT.

Adoption of 2015 Codes

The National Building Code of Canada (NBC), published by National Research Council (NRC) and developed by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, sets out technical provisions for the design and construction of new buildings. The *National Fire Code of Canada (NFC)*, published by NRC and developed also by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, sets out the technical provisions regulating

activities related to the construction, use or demolition of buildings and facilities, the condition of specific elements of buildings and facilities, and the design or construction of specific elements of facilities related to certain hazards as well as the protection measures for the current or intended use of buildings. Both the NBC and NFC are adopted by the GNWT through the *Fire Prevention Regulations*, which guide the OFM's plan review function.

The 2015 NBC and NFC were formally adopted by the GNWT through the *Fire Prevention Regulations* effective November 15, 2016. Adoption of the latest national model codes ensures that infrastructure development in the NWT occurs in a manner consistent with the latest research and building technologies. Ultimately, this helps ensure maximum protection from fire and the spread of fire.

The next edition of the national model codes will be released in 2020.

Occupancy Load Permitting Guidelines

In 2016, the OFM created occupancy load permitting guidelines and an online application process to assist residents that are planning special events such as weddings, sports events and other functions. An occupant load is necessary to provide for the safety of occupants and can be defined as *"the total number of persons that might occupy a building or portion thereof at any one time"*.

As a requirement of adopted codes and standards in the *Fire Prevention Regulations*, OFM is responsible for establishing occupancy loads and issuing permits for assembly spaces/public spaces or where a change of use is being proposed, whether temporary or permanent.

The OFM is also responsible for ensuring these facilities are safe from the threat of fire. In order to do that, the OFM may inspect or request information related to the maintenance of a buildings life safety systems i.e. – fire alarm/sprinkler system, emergency lighting, back-up generator, commercial cooking and heating equipment etc. This is to confirm a building or space is safe for use prior to issuing an occupant load permit. The OFM may also require additional measures to ensure the fire safety of occupants when events occur in structures not normally intended as assembly spaces or for the serving of alcohol.

An OFM occupancy load permit is required prior to receiving a special event license through the Liquor Licensing Board.

Fire Prevention Activities

Each year, the OFM looks to Fire Prevention Week (FPW) to educate residents and promote fire safety awareness initiatives in line with the national theme. This year's FPW took place October 9th through 15th. The theme for 2016 was "DON'T WAIT CHECK THE DATE: Replace smoke alarms every 10 years".

The OFM targets three main audiences during FPW:

General Public

Providing information to NWT residents that helps them understand the importance of being prepared for the dangers of fire.

Schools

Involvement and support from schools is essential for successful use and distribution of FPW materials.

Community Fire Departments

Providing messaging about the importance of educating the public on fire safety, and providing community fire departments with tools to help them engage the public on these issues.

The OFM has sourced a number of printed materials for distribution to **local fire departments, schools, and residents** including:

- A guide for local fire departments to plan and implement a successful smoke alarm installation program within their communities;
- A **Fire Safety Starts With You (FSSWY)** school activity booklet with puzzles, games, quizzes, and general fire safety information;
 - The FSSWY program is developed annually in collaboration with public fire and life safety educators in the western provinces and territories.
- A school newsletter and fire safety tips poster;
- A teacher lesson plan which provides suggested activities on how to make effective use of FSSWY activity booklets; and
- A family letter and home fire safety inspection checklist encouraging parents to review the FSSWY activity booklets with their children and inspect their home for fire safety.
 - NWT residents and their children who completed the checklist are entered in an **online contest** to win one-of-five regional **home fire safety prize kits**, which include: combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, an emergency flashlight, and a fire station LEGO kit.

Regional Statistical Summaries

South Slave Region

| | Fires Reported | False Alarms ¹ | Fire Investigations | Fire Inspections |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Enterprise | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Fort Resolution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Fort Smith | 1 | 0 | 1 | 22 |
| Hay River | 6 | 17 | 6 | 10 |
| Fort Providence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Kátł'odeeche First Nation | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Kakisa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hinterland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 8 | 17 | 8 | 44 |

Fires causing over \$100,000 in damage

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Fort Smith | Men's Correctional Garage | \$100,000 |
| Hay River | Alex Pinto Mackenzie Highway | \$140,000 |
| Hay River | 4 Abby Place | \$250,000 |
| Hay River | Emergency Training Center | \$200,000 |
| Kátł'odeeche First Nation | Single Family Residence | \$100,000 |

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Accidental | 5 |
| Natural | 0 |
| Incendiary | 2 |
| Undetermined | 1 |

¹ False alarm data is typically only reported by larger communities.

Deh Cho Region

| | Fires Reported | False Alarms | Fire Investigations | Fire Inspections |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Fort Liard | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fort Simpson | 3 | 6 | 3 | 18 |
| Jean Marie River | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nahanni Butte | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sambaa K'e | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wrigley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hinterland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 3 | 6 | 3 | 19 |

Fires causing over \$100,000 in damage

There were no losses due to fire that exceeded \$100,000 in damages.

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Accidental | 3 |
| Natural | 0 |
| Incendiary | 0 |
| Undetermined | 0 |

Sahtu Region

| | Fires Reported | False Alarms | Fire Investigations | Fire Inspections |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Colville Lake | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Déline | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Fort Good Hope | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Norman Wells | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Tulita | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hinterland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 |

Fires causing over \$100,000 in damage

There were no losses due to fire that exceeded \$100,000 in damages.

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Accidental | 1 |
| Natural | 0 |
| Incendiary | 0 |
| Undetermined | 0 |

Inuvik Region

| | Fires Reported | False Alarms | Fire Investigations | Fire Inspections |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Aklavik | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Fort McPherson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Inuvik | 10 | 84 | 10 | 36 ² |
| Paulatuk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Sachs Harbour | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Tsiigehtchic | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Tuktoyaktuk | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14 |
| Ulukhaktok | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Hinterland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 12 | 84 | 12 | 108 |

Fires causing over \$100,000 in damage

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Inuvik | Housing 6 Plex | \$2,000,000 |
| Inuvik | Millennium Construction | \$200,000 |

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Accidental | 3 |
| Natural | 0 |
| Incendiary | 6 |
| Undetermined | 3 |

² Inuvik Fire Department conducts all inspections within its municipal boundaries.

North Slave Region

| | Fires Reported | False Alarms | Fire Investigations | Fire Inspections |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Dettah | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Behchokò | 4 | 3 | 1 | 11 |
| Gamètì | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Łutsel K'e | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| N'Dilo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Wekweètì | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Whatì | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Yellowknife | 205 | 157 | 7 | 430 ³ |
| Hinterland | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 213 | 160 | 11 | 472 |

Fires causing over \$100,000 in damage

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Hinterland | #6 Prelude East | \$498,000 |
| Yellowknife | Fitzgerald Carpeting | \$1,700,000 ⁴ |
| Yellowknife | 3815 Bretzlaff | \$323,500 |
| Yellowknife | 144 Moyle Drive | \$655,000 |
| Yellowknife | 124 Enterprise Dr. | \$188,300 |
| Behchokò | Our Video | \$840,000 |
| Hinterland | Lot 324 Pickerel Lake | \$301,000 |
| Hinterland | Namushka Lodge | \$1,200,000 |
| Yellowknife | Coyote's Restaurant | \$1,400,000 |

Fire Loss by Act or Omission

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Accidental | 7 |
| Natural | 0 |
| Incendiary | 2 |
| Undetermined | 2 |

³ Yellowknife Fire Department and OFM share fire inspection responsibilities carried out within Yellowknife's municipal boundaries. Each agency completed 215 inspections of the reported 430 inspections conducted in 2016.

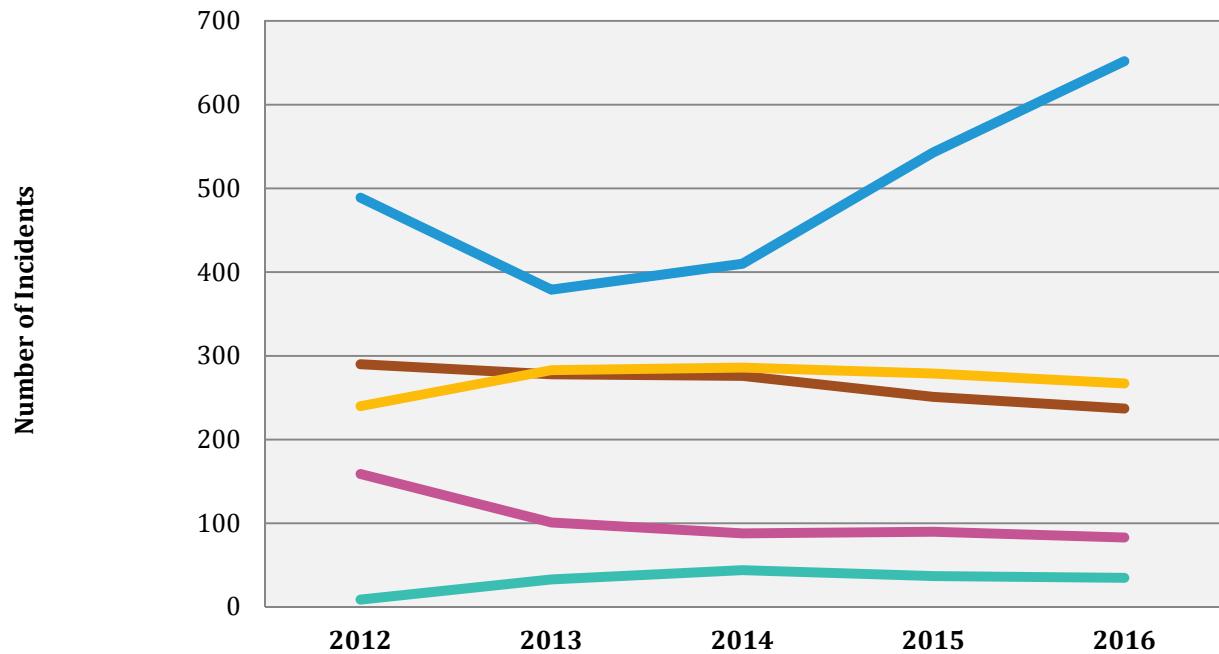
⁴ Value based on structure only.

Territorial Statistical Summary

Summary by Region and Response Type

| | Fires Reported | False Alarms | Fire Investigations | Fire Inspections |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| South Slave | 8 | 17 | 8 | 44 |
| Deh Cho | 3 | 6 | 3 | 19 |
| Sahtu | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Inuvik | 12 | 84 | 12 | 108 |
| North Slave | 213 | 160 | 11 | 472 |
| | 237 | 267 | 35 | 652 |

Territorial 5-Year Comparative Summary



| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Fires Reported | 290 | 278 | 276 | 251 | 237 |
| False Alarms | 240 | 283 | 286 | 279 | 267 |
| Fire Investigations | 9 | 33 | 44 | 37 | 35 |
| Fire Inspections | 489 | 379 | 410 | 543 | 652 |
| Plan Reviews | 159 | 101 | 88 | 90 | 83 |

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 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are the lead investigative agency with the OFM providing fire investigation expertise and support as needed. In 2016, there were 32 arson investigations, a 16 percent decrease from the previous year.

Arson investigation outcomes were as follows:

| ARSON INVESTIGATIONS SUMMARY | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Cleared of charge | 3 |
| Cleared (under 12 yrs) | 5 |
| Cleared (diversion program) | 2 |
| Unsolved | 16 |
| Unfounded | 3 |
| Remain under investigation | 3 |
| TOTAL | 32 |

Injury & Cost Analysis

The following is a summary of population, fire and cost statistics for the five regions of the NWT in 2016.

| | South Slave | Dehcho | Sahtu | Inuvik | North Slave | Northwest Territories |
|----------------------|----------------|--------|-------|---------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Population | 7,176 | 3,450 | 2,535 | 6,684 | 24,624 | 44,469 |
| Fires Reported | 8 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 213 | 237 |
| Dollar loss (000) | \$790 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,200 | \$7,106 | \$10,096 |
| \$\$ loss per Capita | \$110 | \$0 | \$0 | \$329 | \$330 | \$227 |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Injuries | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

General Observations

- Fires classified as accidental continue to impact NWT residents. This signals a necessity for the OFM to continue to work closely with community fire services personnel and residents to bring a greater awareness to fire prevention measures (i.e. Public Education and Fire Prevention Inspections).
- Community reporting of fires to the OFM remains challenging in the NWT. This is a trend across Canada and demonstrates the need for the OFM to educate communities on the necessity and importance of reporting and to simplify fire reporting to the extent possible. Fire reporting contributes to identification for fire prevention programming in the NWT and the tracking of Territorial statistics.
- An anomaly exists in the 5 year comparative summary chart which indicates a significant increase in Fire Inspections over the period. This trend is due to increased demand for OFM regulatory inspections for the North Slave Region (i.e. liquor licensing, business licensing, daycares, etc.). Of the reported 652 inspections conducted throughout the Territory for 2016, 472 occurred in the North Slave Region. This trend exerts an increasing pressure for the OFM to perform this function for the region.
- The OFM conducts all fire inspections in smaller communities due to limited community capacity; which results in increased pressure, particularly when travel to conduct follow-up is required.
- The majority of regulatory activity (inspections/investigations) continues to occur in the North Slave Region due to the high concentration of infrastructure and population.
- Per capita dollar loss increased in the North Slave and Inuvik regions from 2015 which can be attributed to several high dollar loss fires.
- Out of the 35 fires investigated by the OFM in 2016, 29 percent were suspicious in nature; this represents a 12 percent decrease from the previous year. The difference between number of fires the OFM investigated versus the arson statistics can be attributed to 3 of the fire investigations resulting in no identifiable cause.

On-Going Activities

Training Initiatives

MACA's School of Community Government (SCG) provides communities with accredited and non-accredited fire training through a variety of delivery methods i.e. - in-community (face to face) and online delivery methods using instructors from the NWT and College of the Rockies fire training instructors who also provide evaluation to the Territory.

Customized fire training programs allows flexible and community driven initiatives to enhance community protection and preparedness. Accreditation by the College of the Rockies allows participants to hold certification under recognized Fire Fighting standards and enhances personal development as well as generates a set base of volunteers with skills that are applicable anywhere in the NWT or Canada.

Communities can request training from a Basic level (prevention based) up to a Professional level - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1001) depending on community objectives, available resources, needs and capacity. Additional training options are also available i.e. – Fire Inspection training (NFPA 1031) / Fire Investigator (NFPA 1033) / Fire Officer (NFPA 1021) for community application.

The following chart identifies fire training that was provided in the NWT for 2016 based on the type of training received:

| Course offered | Host Community | Start Date | Number of Students | Student's Community |
|---|----------------|------------|--------------------|---|
| Professional Level of Service – NFPA 1001 (various chapters) | Fort Smith | 1/1/2016 | 4 | Fort Smith - 4 |
| NFPA 472 | Online | 1/21/2016 | 7 | Hay River - 4 Ft. Smith – 1 Inuvik - 2 |
| Professional Level of Service – NFPA 1001 (various chapters) | Fort Simpson | 3/2/2016 | 6 | Fort Simpson - 6 |
| Professional Level of Service – NFPA 1001 (various chapters) | Inuvik | 4/13/2016 | 8 | Inuvik – 8 |
| Professional Level of Service – NFPA 1001 (various chapters) | Yellowknife | 4/20/2016 | 6 | Yellowknife – 6 |
| Fire Service Instructor – NFPA 1041 | Yellowknife | 5/27/2016 | 11 | Yellowknife – 11 |
| Standard Level of Service (Level I) – Defensive | Enterprise | 6/24/2016 | 6 | Enterprise – 6 |
| Standard Level of Service (Level II) – Defensive | Enterprise | 7/22/2016 | 7 | Enterprise – 6 Hay River – 1 |
| Standard Level of Service (Level III) – Defensive | Enterprise | 10/15/2016 | 8 | Enterprise – 6 Hay River – 2 |
| Hazardous Materials Operations – NFPA 472 | Hay River | 10/28/2016 | 10 | Hay River - 6 Fort Smith – 2 Inuvik – 2 |

Plan Review

The OFM is responsible for reviewing plans of all construction excluding single family dwellings and ancillary structures for single family dwellings.

With the exception of Yellowknife, there is no regulatory authority in the NWT to ensure a building is safe for public occupancy in relation to adopted codes and standards, beyond the fire safety requirements identified by the *FPA*. Plans and specifications are reviewed by the OFM to determine whether they meet the fire safety requirements adopted by the *Fire Prevention Regulations*, developers are responsible to ensure all statutory requirements are met and construction is completed in a manner consistent with the OFM plan review assessment.

The OFM also participates as a member of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, and the Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes. These committees coordinate the development and revision of the codes adopted through the *FPA* that govern all construction and renovations in the NWT.

The plan review activity involves a wide variety of construction projects including multi-residential, commercial, resource development, fuel storage and dispensing, mining, oil and gas, water supply, etc. Plan review is conducted on a fee for service basis.

In 2016, the OFM reviewed 83 plans for construction of new buildings and/or alterations of existing buildings.

Fire Service Merit Awards

Community firefighters and fire departments play a critical role in safeguarding residents and communities of the NWT. Firefighters are relied upon to provide an essential service that protects the lives and property of all NWT residents. MACA acknowledges the vital contributions made by fire fighters and fire departments through the Fire Service Merit Awards Program (FSMA).

All community fire departments, volunteer, and paid fire fighters in the NWT are eligible to receive a FSMA. Nominees are considered for awards based on their contribution to the NWT fire service and/or community fire protection.

This contribution may include, but is not limited to:

- An outstanding achievement in fire protection;
- An innovative idea or solution to a fire related issue;
- A high degree of personal commitment;
- A demonstrated improvement over the past year (including training achievements); and
- The impact of achievements on the community and/or the territory.

Community fire service awards are presented to recognize outstanding efforts to the NWT fire service made by a community. Only those communities that have shown a marked enhancement of emergency service to the community, measured against a formal assessment by the OFM, will be considered in a given year. A selection committee chooses award recipients from among all nominations received by the public.

FSMA may be presented to recipients at a public awards ceremony to be held each year to coincide with FPW (the week containing October 9th of each year). Awards are presented regionally.

In 2016, the following nominee's received a FSMA:

Individuals

Lieutenant Adam Catcher, Yellowknife Fire Department

- Lieutenant Catcher was recognized for his contributions to community fire departments through MACA's School of Community Government NFPA 1001 online firefighter training program.

Fire Departments

Norman Wells Fire Department

- The Norman Wells fire department was recognized for their teamwork during a technical rescue operation.

Enterprise Fire Department

- The Enterprise fire department was recognized for their efforts in advancing their community fire department in-line with industry standards and safety requirements.

Length of Service Awards

MACA recognizes volunteer and paid firefighters who have served for lengths of two, five, ten, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years with individual certificates as well as length of service pins, medals, or a commemorative clasp and service bar for each period.

All volunteer and paid firefighters are eligible to receive length of service awards. As MACA does not keep records on community firefighters, the Department issues a call annually to fire departments and community governments for applications for each level of award as firefighters become eligible. Length of service will be verified by the community Senior Administrative Office or Fire Chief on each application.

The OFM issues length of service awards as applications are received and verified. Awards may be sent directly to recipients or may be presented at an organized event.

In 2016, ceremonies took place in the South Slave, Inuvik and North Slave regions to recognize NWT volunteer and paid firefighting personnel.

Contact Information

Office of the Fire Marshal

Chucker Dewar, Northwest Territories Fire Marshal

Public Safety Division

Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

Government of the Northwest Territories

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