

ANNUAL REPORT

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# Office of the Fire Marshal

## 2016–2017



  
NOVA SCOTIA



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Annual Report:  
Office of the Fire Marshal  
2016–2017

Office of the Fire Marshal

April 2018

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Honourable Derek Mombourquette  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Province of Nova Scotia

As Fire Marshal, I have the privilege to submit the Office of the Fire Marshal 2016–2017 Annual Report as required by the Fire Safety Act.

Over the past year, the dedicated staff from the Office of the Fire Marshal have continued to develop and promote the principles of fire prevention for the protection of Nova Scotians against fire.

This Annual Report is a compilation of the activities and data collected from our records for the fiscal year April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

Sincerely,  
Fred Jeffers,  
Fire Marshal

## About the Office of the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal's (OFM) authorities and responsibilities are contained in the Fire Safety Act. The OFM has a mission to promote, coordinate, and facilitate fire and building safety in Nova Scotia. Our vision is that all Nova Scotians will accept their personal responsibility for building and fire safety.

One of the many strengths within the functions of the OFM is fostering successful partnerships. The Office continues to build strong relationships with our key stakeholders, including the fire service, our municipal partners, and other provincial departments. The OFM provides advice and recommendations to persons and/or organizations regarding the principles and practices of fire suppression, fire prevention, fire safety education, safe building code practices, emergency services and related communications systems.

Strategically situated within the Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA), the OFM is well positioned to work closely with the Emergency Management Office, Municipal Services and other key members of the Municipal Affairs team. Our mandate is closely linked with Municipalities, and this connection continues to prove invaluable.

## Resources

In 2016–2017, the OFM consisted of nineteen (19) staff located throughout the province:

- Fire Marshal, Director responsible for the overall direction and management of the OFM
- Assistant Fire Marshal, manages the Operations team
  - Nine Deputy Fire Marshals, conduct inspections, investigations & education activities
  - One Deputy Fire Marshal, coordinates and delivers fire prevention programs
- Manager of Corporate Policy, manages the Administration and Codes' team
  1. Fire Service Coordinator, provides certification and awards support to fire services
  2. Administrative Assistant, provides administrative support for the OFM
  3. Research & Statistics Officer, maintains databases, provides statistical reporting
  4. Plans Examiner, conducts plan reviews, provides technical support
  5. Building Code Coordinator, leads policy and administration related to building codes
  6. Asst. Code Coordinator, supports Plans Examiner & Building Code Coordinator

The Office of the Fire Marshal has an annual budget of approximately \$2.9M. Our head office is located in Halifax with field offices in Yarmouth, Cornwallis, Truro, Port Hawkesbury and Sydney.

From within DMA, and through other branches of government, the OFM is well supported with regards to Human Resources, Information Technology, Payroll, Financial, Procurement, Legal and Information Access. These key services play an important role in the success of the Office of the Fire Marshal.

## OFM Activities

Over the course of 2016–2017, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) conducted fire inspections, performed fire investigations, maintained a database of activities, including fire incident statistics & trends, provided advice and support to stakeholders, promoted building safety, reviewed building plans, provided resources to support fire services, licensed portable extinguisher service providers, and provided fire safety education and training to the general public, government and industry throughout the province. In 2016–2017, the Office also administered the Emergency Services Provider Fund.

December of 2016 saw the retirement of past Fire Marshal Harold Pothier. Harold spent 18 years in the field as a Deputy Fire Marshal before serving as Fire Marshal and Director of the OFM for the past seven (7) years. As Fire Marshal, he laboured tirelessly to develop and promote the work of the OFM. His professionalism and dedication to fire safety served as an inspiration for all and he will be greatly missed.

## Inspections

Throughout this fiscal year, the OFM conducted 1234 inspections of various buildings and properties which generated 1209 inspection reports, 24 orders to take action, one order to vacate and 228 other correspondence. Many of the inspections undertaken were in concert with our provincial partners in the Departments of Health & Wellness, Community Services, Education & Early Childhood Development and the Office of Service Nova Scotia. During the year, we visited numerous nursing homes, group & small option homes, schools, hospitals and public venues. The numbers and types of inspections undertaken are illustrated below:

Type of building	Number of inspections
Assembly (daycares, mass gatherings, licensed)	205
Educational (schools, universities)	292
Institutional (nursing homes, hospitals, care)	305
Residential (rest & group homes, single dwelling)	381
Mercantile (stores, retail outlets)	23
Industrial (gas bars, manufacturing)	17
Other	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,234</b>

## Investigations

The Office of the Fire Marshal provided support to Local Assistants (fire chiefs) in determining the cause and origin of fires. An on-call Duty Deputy Fire Marshal monitored a 24-hour call in number available to fire services. Deputy Fire Marshals are available to respond throughout the province around the clock when requested to conduct fire investigations. During the investigation process, the OFM collaborates closely with Fire Services, Provincial Police Services, NS Medical Examiners Service and the Insurance Industry. The Halifax Fire Prevention Division carry out their own system of investigations.

In 2016–2017, the OFM received 219 requests from local assistants and policing services, resulting in 127 investigations.

<b>Fires investigated by OFM 2016–2017</b>	
County	Number of fires investigated
Annapolis	5
Antigonish	4
Cape Breton	73
Colchester	6
Cumberland	7
Digby	2
Guysborough	1
Halifax	0
Hants	9
Inverness	0
Kings	2
Lunenburg	2
Pictou	10
Queens	2
Richmond	0
Shelburne	0
Victoria	2
Yarmouth	2

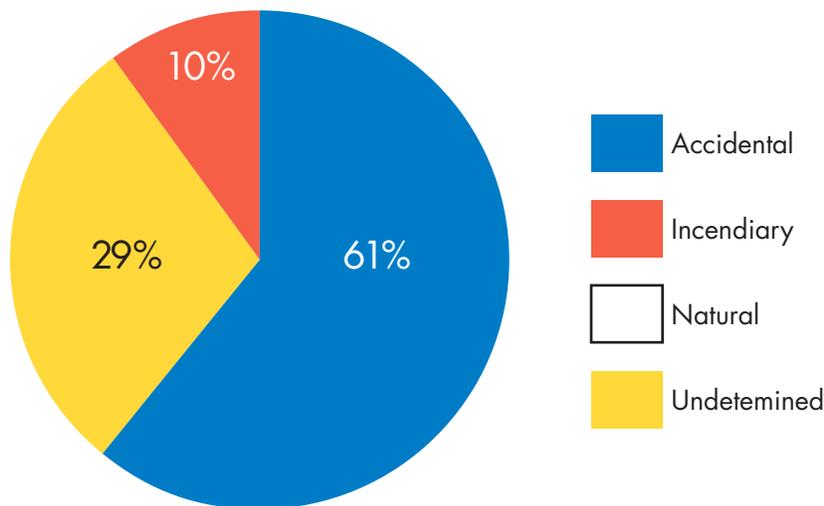
## Fire Statistics

The Office of the Fire Marshal maintains a fire incident database from information submitted by the fire service, OFM staff and the insurance industry. This data forms the basis of the analysis of statistics and trends of fires in Nova Scotia which assists in the development of fire safety education programming.

In 2016–2017, there were 1959 fire service response events reported to the OFM of which 1456 were fire related incidents. There was a reported insured dollar loss of \$33,645,337, an uninsured dollar loss of \$1,390,165 for a total fire loss of \$35,035,502.

Fire Causes are divided into four categories. **Accidental fires** are those for which the proven cause does not involve an intentional human act and include mechanical/electrical misuse and failure, construction/design deficiency and misuse of ignition sources or materials. **Incendiary fires** are fires that are deliberately set with the intent to cause a fire to occur in an area where the fire should not be. **Natural fires** are those fires caused without direct human intervention or action and include fires resulting from lightning, earthquake, wind and flood. **Undetermined fires** are those fires where the cause cannot be proven to an acceptable level of certainty and include fires that are under investigation.

## Fire Causes



In 2016–2017, 879 or 61% of the reported fires were found to be Accidental. There were 146 Incendiary fires reported and only 4 fires found to have been caused by Natural conditions. For a total of 427 or 29% of all reported fires, the cause was deemed to be undetermined.

In 2016–2017, there were nine reported fire related fatalities and 35 fire related injuries reported, including three cases of firefighter injury. Although the number of fire fatalities remains constant over the past few years, there were fewer injuries reported this year, with the number of firefighter injuries decreasing significantly from the 8 firefighter injuries reported last year.

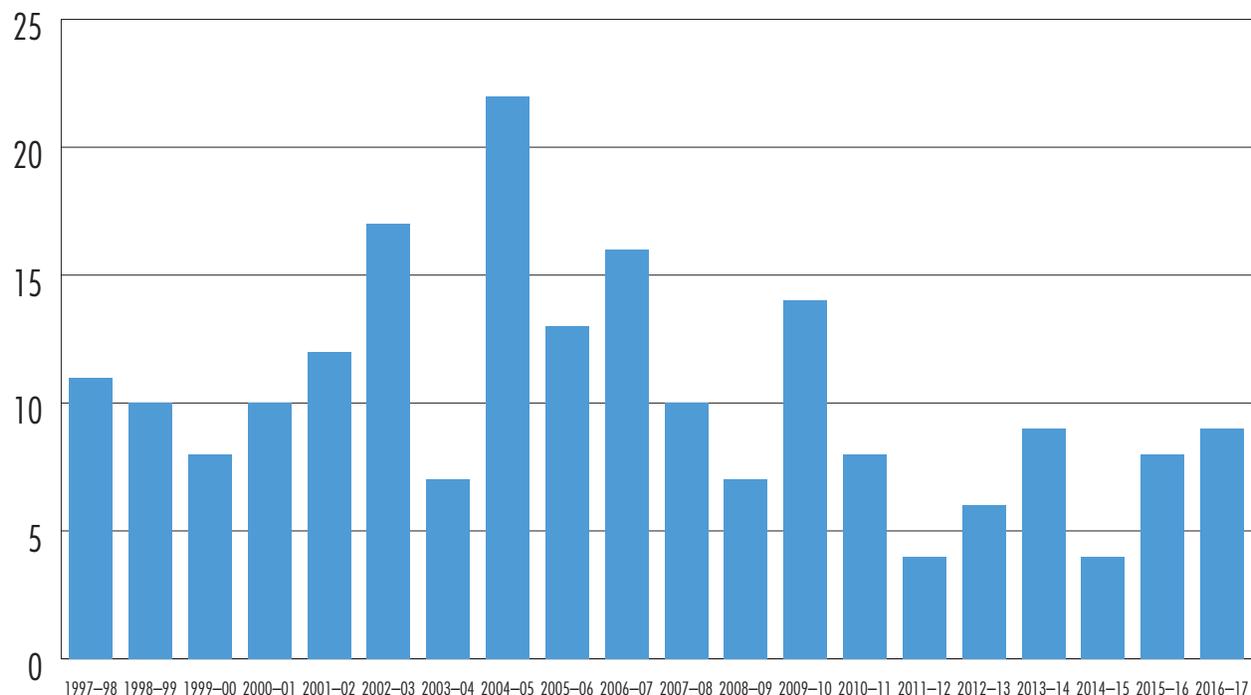
There were also 141 confirmed cases of arson which was a slight increase from 2015–2016. Throughout this year, 78 accidental fire incidents caused by unattended cooking were reported. Although this continues to be one of the leading causes of accidental fires, the number reported for 2016–2017 has decreased from the previous year.

A complete outline of fire incident data for 2016–2017 is illustrated in Appendices A-1 to A-5.

## Trends

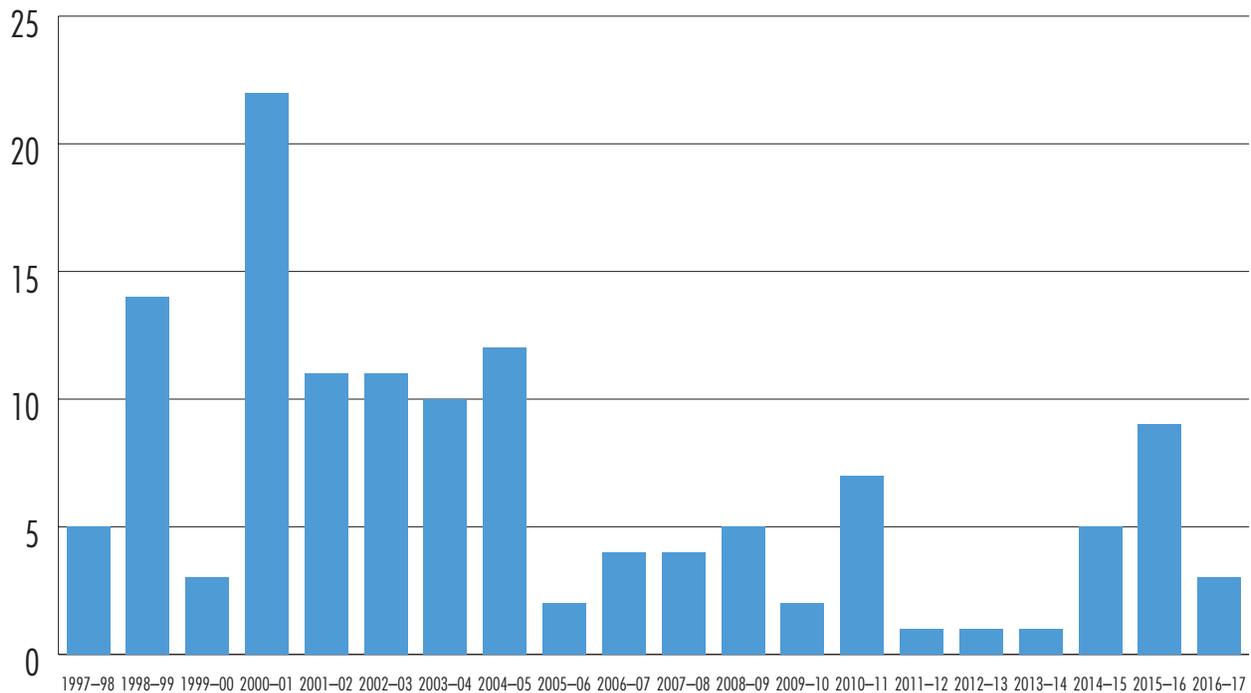
A 20-year review of fire statistics has indicated that fire fatalities have decreased in Nova Scotia over that time period. During a five-year period from 1997 to 2002, there were an average of 10 fire related fatalities per year. In the most recent five-year period from 2012 to 2017, the average number of fire related fatalities per year decreased to 7. Upgraded requirements for smoke alarms in recent building codes, efforts of the insurance industry, and fire prevention education have all contributed to improved public awareness of fire safety.

## Fire Fatalities 1997–2016



A 20-year review of fire statistics has indicated that injuries to firefighters have steadily decreased in Nova Scotia over that time period. During a five-year period from 1997 to 2002, there were an average of 11 firefighter injuries reported per year. In the most recent five-year period from 2012 to 2017, the average number of reported firefighter injuries decreased to 4 per year. Improved safety programs, personal protective equipment and awareness throughout the fire service has contributed to this trend. The Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia, Unionized Firefighters of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Firefighters' School are just some of the organizations that have worked to support and promote safety for firefighters.

### Fire Fighter Injuries 1997–2016



### Consulting with Stakeholders

One of the key activities for staff from the Office of the Fire Marshal is to act as a resource for the many partners and stakeholders with whom we interact. OFM staff at all levels provide information, advice and recommendations regarding numerous aspects of building & fire safety as well as fire service delivery. This includes support for municipal building and fire inspectors, architects, engineers and other consultants as well as private citizens.

The OFM collaborates regularly with many provincial counterparts from the Departments of Justice, Health & Wellness, Education & Early Childhood Development, Community Services, Natural Resources, Labour & Advanced Education, and Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal. Office of the Fire Marshal staff conduct numerous inspections for provincial licensing and provide advice and recommendations relating to fire and building safety for over 3000 Provincially owned properties.

The Office of the Fire Marshal continues to foster and develop relationships with fire services in Nova Scotia. The OFM provides information and often works closely with fire services as a bridge to other Provincial departments, the Association of Municipal Administrators, and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities for a variety of subjects such as dispatching, wildfire management, motor vehicle concerns, training standards and occupational health & safety.

## Building Safety

With regards to Building Safety, the OFM establishes policies, regulations and programs for the regulation of construction for all buildings in Nova Scotia. OFM staff develop education materials, deliver training, and provide stakeholders with sound technical advice on construction codes.

In 2016–2017, OFM Building Safety staff supported our partners in their delivery of 8 Building Code Courses provided to Municipal Building Officials.

Code presentations were given to stakeholders such as the Maritime Region of the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating, the Nova Scotia Home and Building Designers, Nova Scotia Home Builders Association and the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association.

Heather Corrigan continued to act as the Chair of the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee (NSBAC). The Committee is currently comprised of thirteen members who represent building construction stakeholders and include members from the design, construction and regulatory fields. Throughout the year, this committee scheduled and held nine meetings. The NSBAC also received, reviewed, and actioned six appeals regarding the application of the Nova Scotia Building Code. The Committee completed the adoption of the 2015 National Building Code, National Plumbing Code and National Energy Code for Buildings that became effective on April 1, 2017.

## Construction Plan Review

The Nova Scotia Fire Safety Regulations and the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations require building plans be submitted to the OFM for review by the owner for certain occupancies. When requested, the OFM also conducts fire and life safety plan reviews for Nova Scotia government construction projects that do not fall within the scope of the occupancies noted in the Fire Safety Regulations.

Plans submitted to the OFM are reviewed to ensure conformance to Nova Scotia Building Code for Fire and Life Safety requirements. During the process, which can take a few hours for a small renovation project to weeks for a large complex building, the plan examiner tracks the progress of each project. Where municipal building permits are required for a project, the Municipal Building Official is copied on correspondence and the Plans Examiner works with the local Building Official to coordinate efforts. The area Deputy Fire Marshal is copied and all correspondence is tracked in the OFM database. In 2016–2017, thirty-three separate building plans were received by the OFM.

Thirty were reviewed to ensure Nova Scotia Building Code Fire and Life Safety requirements were met, three did not require a review due to the scope of the project.

## Support to Nova Scotia Fire Services

As part of our continuing commitment to the fire services in Nova Scotia, the Office of the Fire Marshal employs a full-time Fire Service Coordinator to administer several programs to support these first responders.

### Nova Scotia Fire Services Long Service Medal

First awarded in 1980, “The Fire Services Long Service Medal” is an expression of public appreciation for the dedication and hard work of Nova Scotia firefighters. It is officially recognized by the province and is included in the Fire Safety Act, 2003. Both career and volunteer firefighters can qualify for the medal.

The long service medal is available to those who have achieved a minimum of 25-years in the fire service. Beginning in 2015, 35, 45 and 55-year service bars were also made available. Service bars are only available to recipients who achieved their 35-years of service on or after 31 December 2007.

The OFM provides support to the Nova Scotia Fire Service as the administrator of the Long Service Medal review and approval process. During the fiscal year 2016–2017, the Fire Marshal recommended to the Minister of Municipal Affairs the awarding of 98 Nova Scotia Long Service Medals (25 years of service) and 128 Nova Scotia Long Service Bars (35 years of service).

## Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal

The Governor General presents honours and awards on behalf of all Canadians to recognize those people who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring special credit to this country.

The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal, created on August 29, 1985, honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks, and were employed on or after the date of creation of the Medal. Recognized fire services include Canadian fire departments, fire marshals' offices, fire commissioners' offices and the Canadian Forces fire services. Exemplary service is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency.

The Office of the Fire Marshal has been established as the provincial awards committee whose primary function is to make recommendations to the Governor General for the medal or bar.

During the fiscal year 2016–2017, the OFM recommended to the Governor General the awarding of 98 Fire Services Exemplary Service Medals (20 years of service); 76 Fire Services Exemplary Service Bar (30 years of service); 37 Fire Services Exemplary Service Bar (40 years of service); 4 Fire Services Exemplary Service Bar (50 years of service); and 1 Fire Service Exemplary Service Bar (60 years of service).

## Nova Scotia Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board

The Nova Scotia Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board (NSFSPQB) was formed in 1997 under the auspices of the Registry of Joint Stocks and is governed by and reports to the Office of the Fire Marshal. The Board consists of members from stakeholder groups that are involved in fire service training. The OFM has a permanent seat on the Board which is held by the Fire Marshal.

It is the objective of the NSFSPQB to provide a forum for firefighters to access a provincial firefighter certification program. It is the goal of the NSFSPQB that the combined efforts of the member entities will provide for an effective, efficient and cost-effective certification program.

The NSFSPQB provides a mechanism for the establishment of uniformity in fire service training and testing and promotes safety for firefighters and civilians through certification. The certification process offered by the NSFSPQB is accredited through both the ProBoard Fire Service Professional Qualifications System and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and is accepted worldwide in the fire service community.

The OFM Fire Service Coordinator provides support for the NSFSPQB through the preparation and grading of examinations and by providing certifications, which are distributed through the Nova Scotia Firefighters' School.

During the fiscal year 2016–2017, the OFM processed 617 fire service certifications.

## Licensing of Portable Extinguisher Service Providers

Under the Fire Safety Act, agencies that sell and service portable extinguishers are provided to be licensed by the Province of Nova Scotia on an annual basis. The OFM administers this licensing process and during the 2016–2017 fiscal year, 36 licenses were issued. A current list of licensed service providers is maintained on the OFM webpage as a resource for the general public and other regulatory authorities.

## Public Education

As part of the OFM's continued commitment to Fire Prevention and Public Education, one Deputy Fire Marshal is dedicated to this program full-time. The Office of the Fire Marshal continued to increase its fire and life safety education initiatives during 2016–2017, including:

### Fire and Life Safety Program

The OFM completed 71 Fire and Life Safety seminars for nursing homes, residential care facilities, group homes, and others who provide care to the residents of these facilities. These seminars provide caregivers with information on how to select and use a portable fire extinguisher, their duties when the fire alarm sounds, and how they can control a fire until the fire department arrives. A total of 917 caregivers participated in this program.

### Fire Equipment and Evacuation Training

The OFM conducted 10 two-day Fire Equipment and Evacuation Training (FEET) sessions throughout the year. This program is directed toward facility management personnel and focusses on a more in depth look at fire protection systems and evacuation planning. A total of 105 students participated in this program.

### Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Assistants

The OFM held 5 Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Assistants Course for local fire chiefs or other local assistants to the Fire Marshal. The program outlines the expectations for this position, legislative responsibilities and provides insight on how the role can be better fulfilled. This program was conducted in Yarmouth, Colchester, Lunenburg, Guysborough and Cape Breton Counties.

## Remembering When

The Remembering When Program is an internationally acclaimed fire safety and falls prevention program provided to local fire service, caregivers, and other stakeholders interested in seniors' safety. The intent of this program is to provide local individuals with the training and skills to take the Remembering When program out to seniors within their own communities. This year, seminars were conducted on two occasions to train these local volunteer facilitators.

## Arson Prevention Program for Children

The Arson Prevention Program for Children, known as TAPP-C, is aimed at children and youth with some potential interest or risk for fire setting. The program provides participants with information on the consequences of fires to themselves, family, friends, and property. It has been very successful and those who participate have learned that fire is good when used in an acceptable manner. This year, five participants each met with the Program Administrator three times.

## Don't Wait – Plan Your Escape!

The Office of the Fire Marshal released a new video **Don't Wait – Plan Your Escape!** during Fire Prevention Week 2016. The video, available on the OFM webpage at <http://novascotia.ca/dma/firesafety/> helps families plan and practice safely exiting their home during a fire or other emergency.

## Emergency Services Provider Fund

The Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) is intended to assist first responder organizations in Nova Scotia with the purchase of equipment used directly in response to fire or emergency situations. Fire departments, hazardous materials (HazMat) organizations, and ground search & rescue groups may apply for funding for personal protective equipment, water supply equipment, communications equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus, and specialty equipment such as thermal imaging cameras or HazMat equipment. The Program pays 50% of the total eligible costs, up to a maximum grant of \$20,000.

In 2016–2017, the Office of the Fire Marshal placed a priority on applications for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which was identified as an important safety issue to stakeholders. In 2016-2017, the OFM supported applications totaling \$958,000.

## Partnerships

In 2016–2017, the Office of the Fire Marshal continued to build on its positive working relationships with many partners.

Staff from the OFM participate in several Federal/Provincial Territorial Advisory Councils and Committees on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia.

### Council of Canadian Fire Marshals & Fire Commissioners

The Council of Canadian Fire Marshals & Fire Commissioners is comprised of representatives from each of the Provinces, Territories and the Department of National Defense. The Council is a recognized and trusted source of national leadership and knowledge for fire safety issues and in support of emergency resilience across Canada. Enabled by its professional network, the Council applies a cohesive and consistent national approach to fire service issues and concerns. The Fire Marshal is Nova Scotia's representative on the Council.

### Canadian Commission on Building & Fire Codes

The Canadian Commission on Building & Fire Codes and its various Standing Committees, are established by the National Research Council of Canada. The Commission develops and maintains Codes Canada publications. Members are selected from across Canada for their individual interests and expertise, rather than as delegates of any association or group, and with a view to providing broad technical and geographical representation. Staff from the OFM are currently sitting on several of these Committees.

### Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Code Committee

The Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Code Committee operates under the authority of the Canadian Commission on Building & Fire Codes. It is made up of representatives from the provincial and territorial ministries responsible for building, plumbing and fire safety regulation and provides policy advice to the Commission. The OFM Building Code Coordinator is Nova Scotia's representative on the Committee.

As part of our ongoing responsibility to provide advice to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the OFM participates in 3 Provincial Agencies, Boards, and Commissions.

### Nova Scotia Fire Safety Advisory Council

The Nova Scotia Fire Safety Advisory Council is a non-adjudicative council made up of representatives of a variety of stakeholders with an interest in fire safety, fire suppression and fire prevention. The role of the Council is to receive and hear petitions, briefs and comments from individuals or groups with respect to the Fire Safety Act and advise the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Fire Marshal sits on this Council and is currently serving as the Chair.

### Nova Scotia Building Code Advisory Committee

The Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee is an adjudicative committee made up of representatives appointed from among persons from various stakeholder groups with an interest in building design and construction. The Committee provides the Minister of Municipal Affairs with advice and assistance concerning the Building Code Act and regulations. They provide liaison between the Minister and the National Research Council and others interested in construction standards. The Committee conducts hearings where disputes arise and respond to matters referred to them by the Courts. The OFM Building Code Coordinator acts as the secretary for this Committee, and the Fire Marshal is currently representing the OFM, which has a permanent seat on this committee.

### Nova Scotia Fire Services Advisory Committee

The Nova Scotia Fire Services Advisory Committee is a non-adjudicative committee comprising of representatives of a variety of stakeholders with a direct interest in the delivery of fire suppression services. The role of the Committee is to advise the Minister of Municipal Affairs on provincial legislation and policies with respect to the delivery of fire services. The Committee receives and hears petitions, briefs and comments from individuals/groups, recommend legislation, policies and practices to promote efficiency in the administration and operation of emergency fire services. The Committee advises the NS Fire Safety Advisory Council on matters with respect to the delivery of fire services. The Fire Marshal sits on this Committee and is currently serving as the Chair. OFM staff also support a number of other key stakeholder organizations which support municipalities.

### Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board

The Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board was formed as a non-profit organization pursuant to the Companies Act for the purposes of achieving the qualification objectives of the Building Code Act and Regulations. These purposes include accrediting training courses, organizations, institutions and facilitators of courses; establishing the minimum standards for education, training and internship requirements for the various levels of qualification for Municipal Building Officials and issuing diplomas for the various levels once achieved. The Board is comprised of representatives of groups and professional organizations which share a common goal in seeing that the Building Code Regulations are administered by qualified persons. The OFM has a permanent seat on the Board which is held by the Building Code Coordinator.

### Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia Board of Directors

The Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia is the voice of the fire service and the Board of Directors represent the fire service from all counties in the province, the Office of the Fire Marshal and the NS Firefighters' School. The Association is dedicated to providing leadership and representation to the fire service, government, the private sectors and citizens of Nova Scotia by developing, evaluating and communicating policy and programs through consultation, research and education in the matters of fire and public safety. The OFM has a permanent seat on this Board which is held by a Deputy Fire Marshal.

### Fire Inspectors Association of Nova Scotia

The Fire Inspectors Association of Nova Scotia is a professional association that represents individuals and organizations that are dedicated to saving lives and property through the prevention of fire. The Association has developed a comprehensive professional studies and certification program for fire inspectors in Nova Scotia and the Office of the Fire Marshal supports this organization through membership, participating in the education programs and by providing resources to assist in the delivery of the professional studies. The OFM has a permanent seat on the Board of Directors which is held by the Assistant Fire Marshal.

### Nova Scotia Building Officials Association

The Nova Scotia Building Officials Association is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1963 to advance the needs of building officials in the areas of professional development, training and education to assist in a uniform interpretation of the Building Code. The Association represents Municipal Building Officials and community stakeholders throughout the province and membership is divided between 5 geographical zones, each represented on the Board of Directors. Several OFM staff are members of the Association and the Office of the Fire Marshal provides support to this organization through the Building Code and Assistant Building Code Coordinators.

### Nova Scotia Firefighters School

The Nova Scotia Firefighters School is a registered Not for Profit organization whose primary mandate is to provide emergency responders with needful professional instruction and training at a minimum cost. The Board of Directors of the School is represented by members of the fire service from all counties in Nova Scotia, the Fire Service Association of NS, the Office of the Fire Marshal and several members at large, all of whom have an interest in education and training programs for the fire service and other emergency responders.

## Looking Forward

### Upgrades to Database System

Over the past two years, the Office of the Fire Marshal has been carrying out a significant upgrade to its main database that will enhance information gathering capacity and provide the opportunity to acquire information from our stakeholders in the fire and insurance industries. These improvements will include new capabilities in areas not previously captured such as fire service awards, fire service certification records, and personnel data.

Upgrades will also include substantial improvements for the plan review process, fire prevention education reporting, fire safety inspection reporting, fire investigation documentation, and fire incident reporting. It is anticipated that this project will be substantially complete during 2018.

### Joint Municipal Fire Services Study

In 2016–2017, the Association of Municipal Administrators and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, with support from the Department of Municipal Affairs commissioned a study to identify and prioritize key issues in the delivery of fire services from the perspective of fire departments and municipalities. The Office of the Fire Marshal will be working with representatives of the Fire Service, and Municipalities to review the report and determine next steps to support the future success of the Fire Service for Nova Scotians.

## In Closing

The Office of the Fire Marshal continues to promote and develop building and fire safety in Nova Scotia. Our dedicated staff maintain a high level of professionalism as they work with our partners to support the many initiatives and programs that we undertake. As we carry out our daily tasks and activities, we will take advantage of opportunities to improve upon our effectiveness and efficiency so that we can continue to provide for the safety of all Nova Scotians.

## Appendix A: 2016–2017 Fire Incident Statistics

### Appendix A1: Fatalities from Fire 2016–2017

Property Classification	Igniting Object	Possible Cause	Male Adult Fatalities	Male Child Fatalities	Male FF Fatalities	Female Adult Fatalities	Female Child Fatalities	Female FF Fatalities	Total Fatalities
Detached Dwelling	Other Heating Equipment	Other Misuse	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Lighters (open flame)	Arson	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Apt above grd	Vehicle – Mechanical	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mobile Home	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Automobile	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Apt above grd	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

### Appendix A2: Uninsured and Insured Losses from Fire 2016–2017

Uninsured Building Loss	\$1,215,663
Uninsured Contents Loss	\$174,502
<b>Total Uninsured Loss</b>	<b>\$1,390,165</b>
Insured Building Loss	\$26,596,234
Insured Content Loss	\$7,049,103
<b>Total Insured Loss</b>	<b>\$33,645,337</b>
<b>Total Loss</b>	<b>\$35,035,502</b>

## Appendix A3: Injuries from Fire 2016–2017

Property Classification	Igniting Object	Possible Cause	Female Adult Injuries	Female Child Injuries	Female FF Injuries	Male Adult Injuries	Male Child Injuries	Male FF Injuries	Total Injuries
Mobile Home	Extension Cord/Temp Wiring	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Other Heating Equipment	Other Misuse	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
School – Tech, Indust Trade	Cutting/Welding Equipment	Other Misuse	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Attached Dwel/Apt above grd	Distribution Equipment/Panels	Electrical Failure	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Automobile	Other	Vehicle Accident/Collision	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Candle	Unattended	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other Vehicle	Vehicle – Electrical	Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Semi-Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Agricultural Products	Heat Treatment Equipment/Kiln	Mechanical Failure	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

## Appendix A3: Injuries from Fire 2016–2017 (continued)

Property Classification	Igniting Object	Possible Cause	Female Adult Injuries	Female Child Injuries	Female FF Injuries	Male Adult Injuries	Male Child Injuries	Male FF Injuries	Total Injuries
Multi-Unit Dwelling 13 plus	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rooming/ Boarding / Lodging House	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Multi-Unit Dwelling 2-6 Unit	Space Heater – Portable	Electrical Failure	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Home for the Aged	Other	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Multi-Unit Dwelling 13 plus	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Other	Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Multi-Unit Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Semi-Detached Dwelling	Other	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Multi-Unit Dwelling 7-12 Unit	Circuit Wiring – Copper	Electrical Failure	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Multi-Unit Dwelling 2-6 Unit	Circuit Wiring – Copper	Electrical Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Multi-Unit Dwelling 13 plus	Undetermined	Arson	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Detached Dwelling	Undetermined	Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>

## Appendix A4: Response Type 2016–2017

<b>Property Fires/Explosions</b>	
Fire	1,456
Combustion Explosion (no fire)	3
<b>False Fire Calls</b>	
Alarm Equipment – Malfunction	24
Alarm Equipment – Accidental	49
Human – Malicious	10
Human – Perceived Emergency	2
Human – Accidental	7
<b>Public Hazard</b>	
Spill, Gasoline or Fuel	3
Ruptured Water, Steam Pipe	1
Power Lines Down – Arcing	23
<b>Rescue</b>	
Vehicle Accident	108
<b>Medical/Resuscitator Call</b>	
Heart Attack, CPR	3
Medical Aid not Required	12
Other Medical – Resuscitate	157
<b>Other Calls</b>	
Assist Other Fire Department	11
Assist Other Agencies	13
Other Response	19
Details Not Reported	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,959</b>

## Appendix A5: Possible Causes of Fire Incidents 2016–2017

<b>Incendiary</b>	
Arson	73
Riot/Civil Commotion	1
Vandalism	34
Youth Vandalism (Age 12–17)	17
Suspicious Fire	21
<b>Accidental</b>	
Children Playing (Age 1–11)	5
Vehicle Accident/Collision	42
<b>Construction/Design Deficiency</b>	
Design Deficiency	6
Construction Deficiency	2
Installation Deficiency	5
Maintenance Deficiency	40
Other Deficiency	10
<b>Misuse Of Source Ignition</b>	
Improperly Discarded	58
Unattended	78
Used/Placed Too Close to Combustibles	28
Used for Purpose Not Intended	5
Creosote Buildup	49
Other Misuse of Source	25
<b>Misuse of Material Ignited</b>	
Improper Storage	3
Improper Handling	33
Used for Purpose Not Intended	6
Other Misuse of Materials	220
<b>Mechanical/Electrical Failure</b>	
Mechanical Failure	45
Electrical Failure	110
Short Circuit	27
<b>Other – Undetermined</b>	
Other	49
Undetermined	388
Under Investigation	39
Not Reported	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,456</b>