

Annual Statistics Report

Office of the Fire Marshal 2018-2019





**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

SUITE 210
250 BAKER DR., DARTMOUTH
PO BOX 231, HALIFAX
CENTRAL
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
R3L 2M4

DOUG MACKENZIE, FIRE MARSHAL
TEL: 902-424-5721
FAX: 902-424-3239
EMAIL: ofm@novascotia.ca

16 August 2022

The Honourable John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Province of Nova Scotia
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
P.O. Box 216
Halifax, NS
B3J 2M4

RE: Office of the Fire Marshal 2018-2019 Annual Statistics Report

The Annual Report attached, is a compilation of the activities and data collected from our records for the fiscal year April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. During this period, Mr. Fred Jeffers was the appointed Fire Marshal. Today, on his behalf, I have the privilege to submit the report as required by the *Fire Safety Act, 2002, c.6, s.1*.

As the honourable member is apprised, the Department of Municipal Affairs provides programs, grants and funding to municipalities and community groups. The department provides services and guidance to municipalities, towns and villages in many areas including safety and security, budget planning and finance, and policy and program development. We also help municipalities across the province govern and provide municipal services in times of emergency and are responsible for the Emergency Management Office and the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs during this period was the Honourable Derek Mombourquette, from June 15, 2017 to July 05, 2018. The Honourable Chuck Porter was appointed the Minister of Municipal Affairs on July 5, 2018.

Over this period, 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.

Sincerely,
Doug MacKenzie
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.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs during this period was the Honourable Derek Mombourquette, from June 15, 2017 to July 05, 2018. The Honourable Chuck Porter was appointed the Minister of Municipal Affairs on July 5, 2018. Strategically situated within this department, 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.

This Annual Report is a compilation of the activities and data collected from our records for the fiscal year April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Resources

In 2018-2019, 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:
 - Ten (10) 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:
 - Fire Service Coordinator, provides certification and awards support to fire services.
 - Administrative Assistant, provides administrative support for the OFM.
 - Research & Statistics Officer, maintains databases, provides statistical reporting.
 - Fire Code Coordinator, conducts plan reviews, provides technical support.

- Building Code Coordinator, leads policy and administration related to building codes.
- Assistant Code Coordinator, supports Building and Fire Code Coordinators.

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 Hawksbury and Sydney.

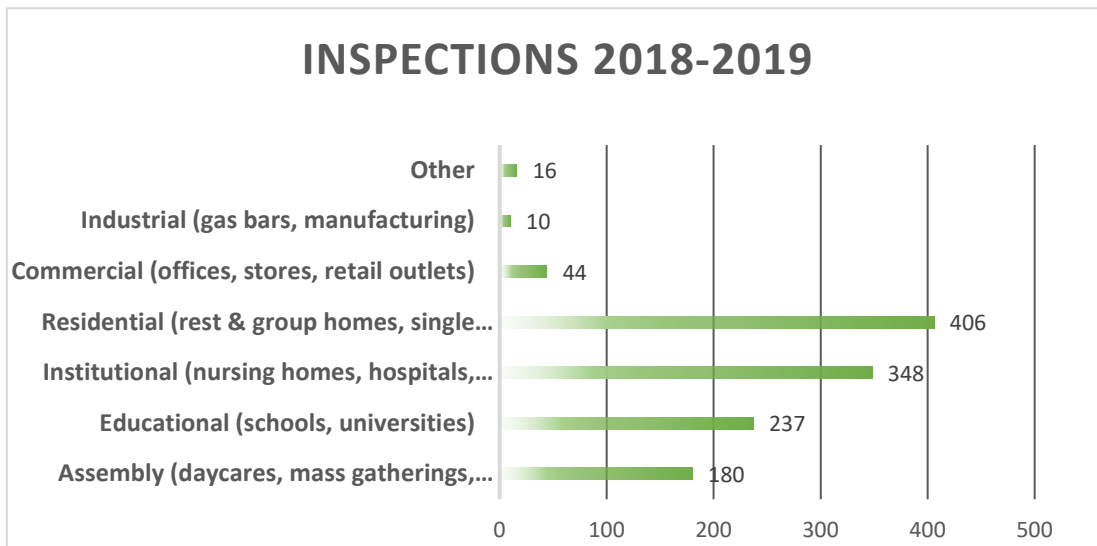
From within DMA, and through other branches of government, the OFM is well supported with regards to Human Resources, Information Technology, Payroll, Financial, Procurement, Legal and Information Access. These key services play an important role in the success of the Office of the Fire Marshal.

OFM Activities

Over the course of 2018-2019, 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 2018-2019, the Office also administered the Emergency Services Provider Fund.

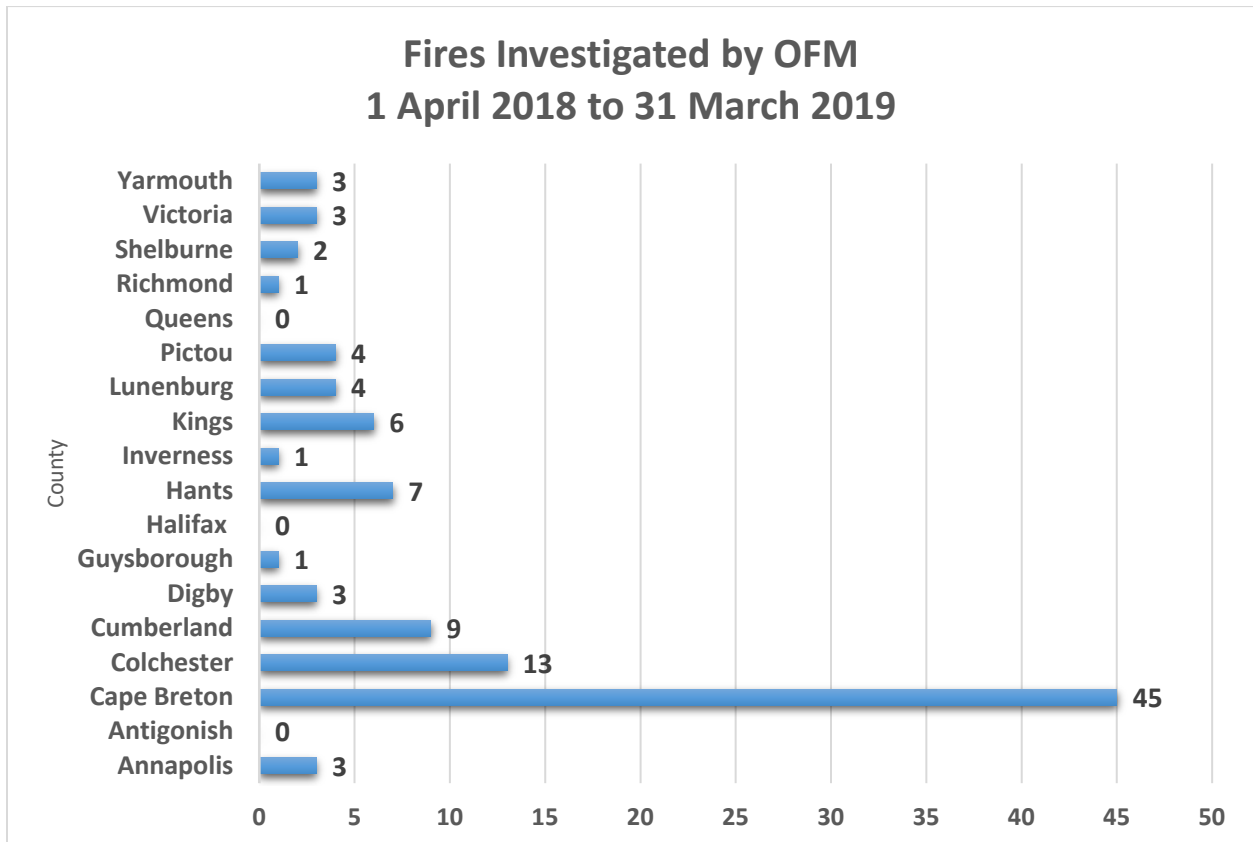
Inspections

Throughout this fiscal year, the OFM conducted a total of 1244 activities at various buildings and properties, which generated 863 inspection reports, 39 orders to take action, 1 order to vacate and 341 other-event 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:



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, with assistance provided by the OFM if requested.

In 2018-2019, the OFM received 216 requests from local assistants and policing services. Through consultations with our on-duty Deputy Fire Marshals, the Local Assistants were guided through the process to determine the cause of the fire or to make the determination if it was safe for Deputy Fire Marshals to attend the scene, resulting in 105 fire investigations being performed by the OFM.

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.

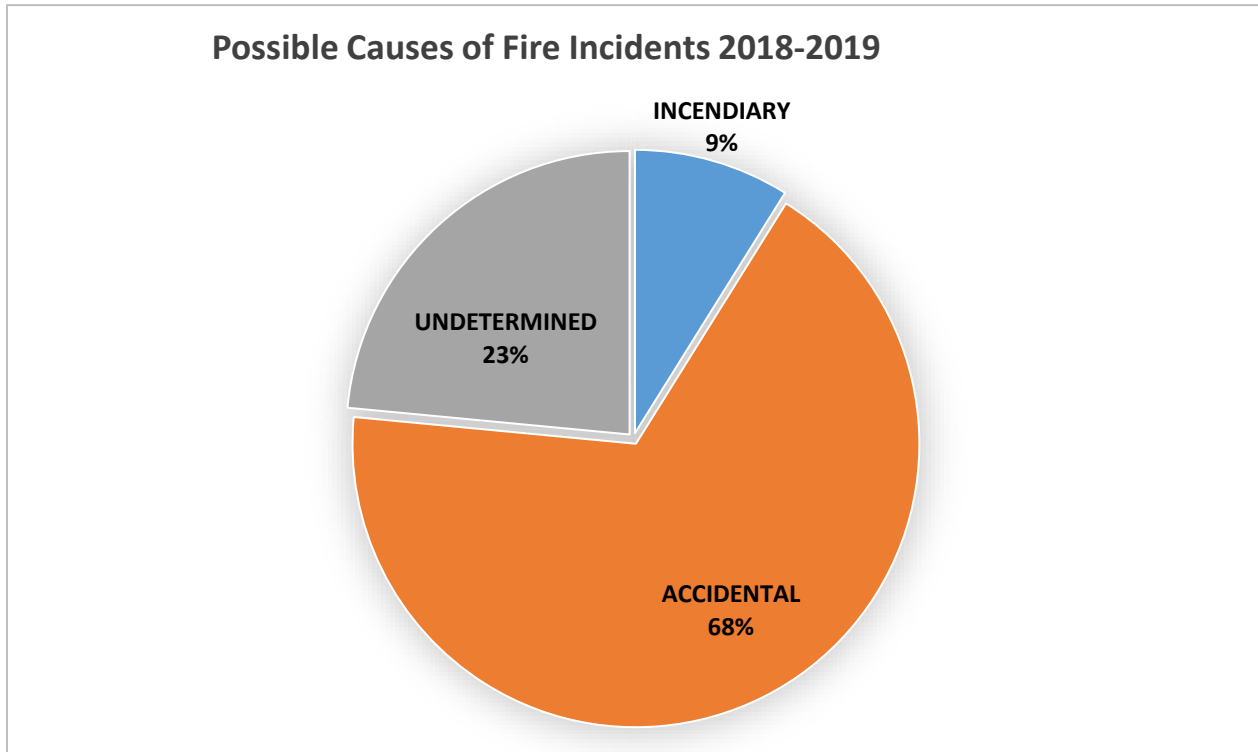
In 2018-2019, there were 1910 fire service response events reported to the OFM of which 1690 were fire related incidents. There was a reported insured dollar loss of \$34,886,319; an uninsured dollar loss of \$1,395,334; for a total fire loss of \$36,191,653.

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, where additional evidence may change the cause determination.

A total of 921, or 68%, of the reported fires were found to be Accidental. There were 121 Incendiary fires reported. Of all reported fires, a total of 320, or 23%, the cause was deemed to be undetermined.

In 2018-2019, there were 19 reported fire related fatalities and 59 fire related injuries reported, including 15 cases of firefighter injury. Although the number of fire fatalities remains constant over the past few years, there were more injuries reported this year, with the number of firefighter injuries increasing significantly from the 5 cases of firefighter injuries reported last year.



There were also 71 confirmed cases of arson and 13 suspicious fires which was a decrease from 2017-2018. Throughout this year, 50 accidental fire incidents caused by unattended cooking were reported. There were 412 Single Dwelling Fires and 187 Semi Detached / Town House / Multi Unit Dwelling Fires.

A complete outline of fire incident data for 2018-2019 is illustrated in Appendices A-1 to A-5.

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 all 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; occupational health & safety; procedure advice on bylaws; authority under the Municipal Government Act and the Fire Safety Act.

Building Safety

With regard 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 2018-2019, OFM Building Safety staff supported our partners in their delivery of 13 Building Code Courses provided to Municipal Building Officials.

Code presentations were given to stakeholders such as the Nova Scotia Architects Association, Interior Designers of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Heather Corrigan continued to act as the Chair of the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee (NSBAC). The Committee is currently comprised of 11 members who represent building construction stakeholders and include members from the design, construction and regulatory fields. Throughout the year, this committee scheduled and held 8 meetings. The NSBAC also received, reviewed, and actioned 5 appeals regarding the application of the Nova Scotia Building Code. The Committee began work and research on recreational cabins, adaptable housing and tiny homes. The proposals for changes to the regulations went out for public notice on October 31, 2018. Some housekeeping changes to the regulations went out along with those other changes.

Building Plan Review Process

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. These occupancies include:

- Assembly occupancy (Group A) that are more than 3 stories high including the stories below grade, or have an area greater than 600 m², or non-residential buildings used for a school, college or university and that has an occupant load of more than 40 persons;
- Care or Detention occupancy (Group B);
- Residential occupancy (Group C) that is licensed or regulated under the Homes for Special Care Act; and
- High hazard Industrial occupancies (Group F1) more than 2 stories high or has an area greater than 600 m².

The OFM also conducts fire and life safety plan reviews for Nova Scotia Government projects that do not fall within the scope of the occupancies noted in the Fire Safety Regulations when requested.

The Office of the Fire Marshal employs a full-time Fire Code Coordinator to fill the need for full time plans review. Plans submitted to the OFM are reviewed to ensure conformance to *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations* for Fire and Life Safety requirements to ensure fire and life safety to occupants. The OFM responds to all plans received recognizing receipt of plans, and once a plan review is complete, sending out correspondence identifying compliance or deficiencies and advising if, or when, inspections by a Deputy Fire Marshal are required.

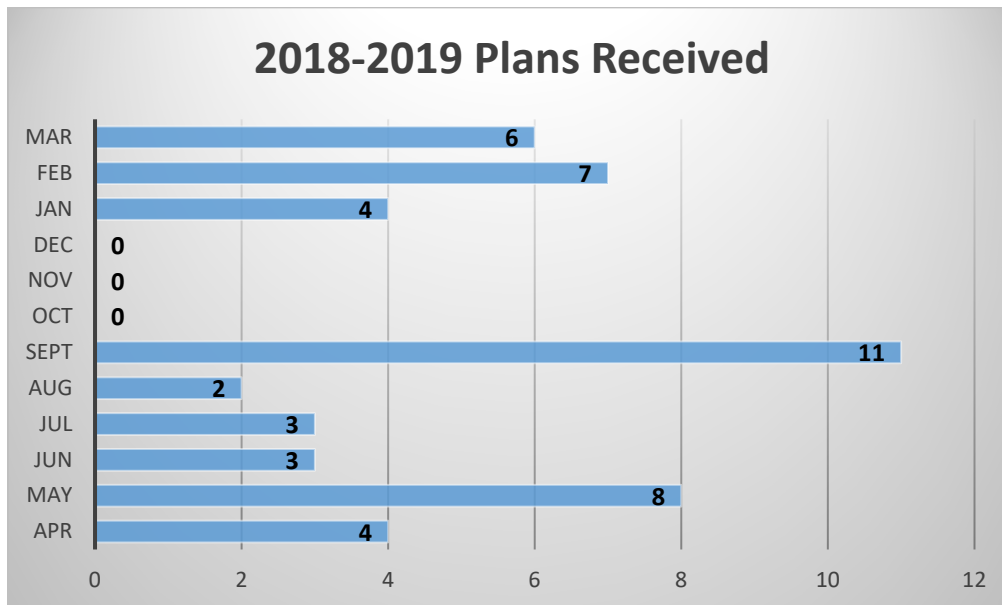
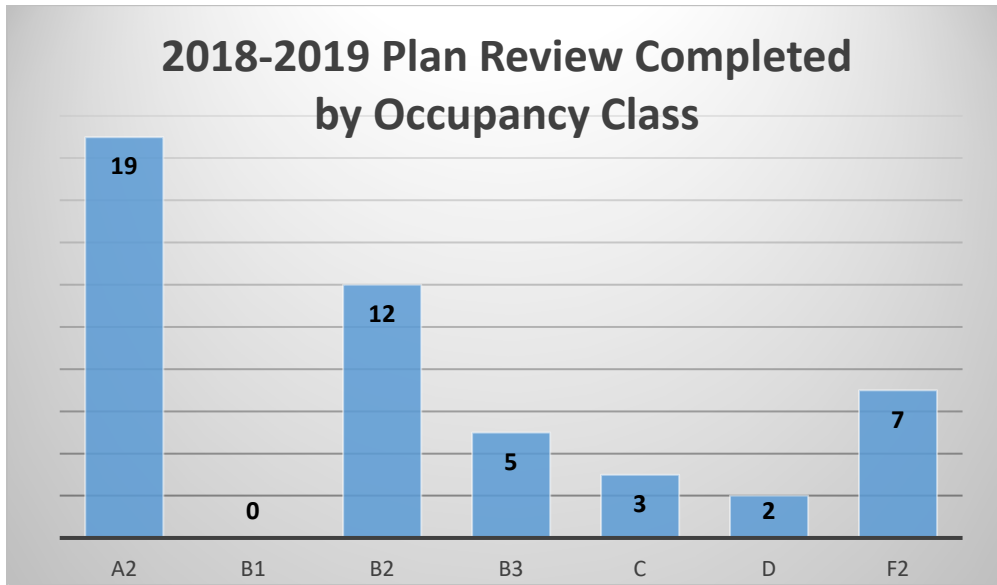
In October 2018, a full-time Assistant Code Coordinator position was added to the OFM. This fluid position synchronizes with the Building Code Coordinator and the Fire Code Coordinator, performs as a resource in the mandate of the OFM to promote and enforce the principles and practices of fire safety and to provide information and advice on initiatives and issues concerning building and fire safety.

Building Plans Review Summary

In 2018-2019, 86 separate building plans were received by the OFM. Of this number, 48 were reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act* and *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*, and 12 plans did not require a review due to the scope of the projects and applicants were notified of this. The average number of days involved to complete a plan review was 12 days. The time it takes to review a set of plans is dependent on a number of factors and whether the submission contains all the information necessary. The size and complexity of the building plays a large part in the amount of time it takes to review a plan and in some cases the time of year can also affect the timeframe. Springtime generally results in an influx of plans. A lower number are received during the summer months, which is typically construction season.

There were 99 formal responses relating to plan reviews were mailed out from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

A complete summary of Building Plans Submitted to the OFM for Review for 2018-2019 is illustrated in Appendix B-1.



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. In 2015, 35, and 45-year service bars were made available. Service bars are only available to recipients who achieved their 35-years of service on or after 31 December 2007 and 45-years of service on or after 31 December 2017.

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 2018-2019, the Fire Marshal recommended to the Minister of Municipal Affairs the awarding of 104 Nova Scotia Long Service Medals (25 years of service) and 97 Nova Scotia Long Service Bars (35 years of service) and 49 Nova Scotia Long Service Bar (45 years).

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 2018-2019, the OFM recommended to the Governor General the awarding of 141 Fire Services Exemplary Service Medals (20 years of service); 83 Fire Services Exemplary Service Bar (30 years of service); 31 Fire Services Exemplary Service Bar (40 years of service); 7 Fire Services Exemplary Service Bar (50 years of service); 2 Fire Services 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 by the partners of the Nova Scotia Firefighters' School Professional Qualifications Board.

In support of the NS Professional Fire Services Qualifications Board, the OFM processed 558 fire service certifications during the fiscal year 2018-2019.

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 2018-2019 fiscal year, 39 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. During this period, many education power point presentations were created and/or updated to meet current requirements, fill identified fire safety education priorities and/or to bring existing training up to date.

The Office of the Fire Marshal completed a total of 49 sessions with 1096 people trained in fire and life safety programs. We are pleased to continue to increase the fire and life safety education initiatives during 2018-2019, including:

Fire and Life Safety Program – Long Term Care

The OFM completed 4 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.

Conferences, Displays and Tradeshows

The OFM attended 6 different events including Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society (CHES), North American Occupational Safety & Health (NAOSH), Senior's Expos, etc.

In addition, during November 2018, the OFM participated in the first ever Government of Nova Scotia Career Fair, held at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, in Halifax. The Government of Nova Scotia showcased the public service as an employer to students providing over 25 exhibitors from different departments and offices. It was a great opportunity for the OFM to introduce students to the OFM's role in the province and to provide messages about home fire escape planning and practice. The students enjoyed trying to put out a virtual fire with the OFM's Bullex digital fire extinguisher system and answered fire safety questions from staff to earn entry for a prize.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL



- Enforcement
- Fire Inspections
- Building Plans Review
- Education & Training
- Fire Investigations
- Research, Advice & Support
- Resources to Fire Services
- License Extinguisher Agents
- Statistics & Trends
- ... And More!

What We Do.



Fire Marshal
Assistant Fire Marshal
Deputy Fire Marshals (10)
Fire Service Program Coordinator
Manager of Corporate Policy
Research & Statistics Officer
Administrative Assistant
Building Code Coordinator
Fire Code Coordinator
Assistant Code Coordinator

Fire Equipment and Evacuation Training

The OFM conducted 7 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.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Assistants

The OFM held 2 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.

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 4 occasions.

Arson Prevention Program for Children: TAPP-C

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. TAPP-C consists of three one-hour sessions, for all age groups. The first session begins at the family home or place of residence. The other two are held at the local fire station. It has been very successful and those who participate have learned that fire is good when used in an acceptable manner. This year, 6 programs were conducted with the Program Administrator for a total of 18 sessions. Additionally, 1 Train the Trainer program was held for a total of 20 sessions.

Portable Fire Extinguishers

A total of 6 fire extinguisher training programs with the Bullex digital system were held.

Fire Prevention Week

The 2019 Fire Prevention Week theme was:

“Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!”

From October 6-12, the campaign recognized the everyday people who motivate their households to develop and practice a home fire escape plan. The 2019 campaign year worked to celebrate people of all ages who learn about home fire escape planning and practice. From young students who learn about the campaign at school to parents who attend a community event like a tradeshow or fire station open house, bringing that information home can move the entire family to action. They are all truly heroes because they're taking steps to make their households much safer from fire. What seems like a basic act, can have life-saving impacts.

“Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” also focused on what a home escape plan entails and the value of practicing it. These messages are more important than ever, particularly because today’s homes burn faster than ever. Synthetic fibers used in modern home furnishings, along with the fact that newer homes tend to be built with more open spaces and unprotected lightweight construction, are contributing factors to the increased burn rate.

At home, people tend to underestimate their risk to fire, with the feeling of safety leading to complacency toward home escape planning and practice. Time and again it has been proven that advance planning can make a potentially life-saving difference in a fire situation.

A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) that’s a safe distance from the home. Home escape plans should be practiced twice a year by all members of the household.



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 (PPE) AND Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Communications, Miscellaneous Fire Fighting Equipment, Rescue Equipment, HazMat and Water Supply and Suppression Equipment. The Program pays 75% of the total eligible costs, up to a maximum grant of \$20,000.

Priority was given to those organizations that received low percentage of ESPF funding in the past and in the most need of financial help. As financial statements are required to be provided for this purpose, if not provided the application is not evaluated.

In 2018-2019, the OFM supported applications totalling \$1,020,000.

Partnerships

In 2018-2019 the Office of the Fire Marshal continued to build on its positive working relationships with many partners, including in part:

► **Federal:** Staff from the OFM participate in many Federal Provincial/Territorial Advisory Councils and Committees on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, including in part:

- Council of Canadian Fire Marshals & Fire Commissioners
The Fire Marshal is Nova Scotia's representative on the Council and First Vice President.
 - Canadian Council of Fire Marshals & Fire Commissioners
- Underwriters Laboratories of Canada National Advisory Council
 - Underwriters Laboratories Collaborative Standards Development Committees
- CSA / ICC B805 Rainwater Harvesting Standard
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – Fire & Life Safety / Public Education Committee
- Canadian Regulatory Committee on Plumbing (CRCP)
- Canadian Advisory Committee on Plumbing (CACP)
- Federal Provincial Territorial Energy Codes Implementation Group
- Canadian Commission on Building & Fire Codes
Staff from the OFM are currently sitting on several of these Committees, including in part:
 - Standing Committee on Fire Protection
 - Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Code Committee (PTPACC Joint Task Group on Alterations to Existing Buildings The OFM Building Code Coordinator is Nova Scotia's representative on the Committee.
 - Canadian Commission on Construction Materials Evaluations (CCCME)

► **Provincial:** As part of our ongoing responsibility to provide advice to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, staff from the OFM participate in many Provincial Agencies, Boards, and Commissions, including in part:

- Nova Scotia Fire Safety Advisory Council
The Fire Marshal sits on this Council and is currently serving as the Chair.

- Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee
The OFM Building Code Coordinator acts as the executive secretary for this Committee. The Fire Marshal is currently representing the OFM, which has a permanent seat on this committee.
- Nova Scotia Fire Services Advisory Committee
The Fire Marshal sits on this Committee and is currently serving as the Chair.
- Medical First Responders Stakeholders Committee
- Fire Service Association of NS Executive Committee
- Nova Scotia School Fire Safety Committee
- Nova Scotia Emergency Planning Committee
- EMO Working Group Urban Search and Rescue
- Special Care Emergency Preparedness Association of NS
- EmergHub
- QUEST Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board
- Nova Scotia Firefighter School Board of Directors
- Built environment Standards Development Committee
- Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board
- NS Law Enforcement Working Group

► OFM staff also support a number of other key stakeholder organizations which support municipalities, including in part:

- Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board
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 OFM has a permanent seat on this Board which is held by a Deputy Fire Marshal.
- Fire Inspectors Association of Nova Scotia
The OFM has a permanent seat on the Board of Directors which is held by the Assistant Fire Marshal.
- Nova Scotia Building Officials Association
Several OFM staff are members of the Association and the Office of the Fire Marshal provides support to this organization through the Building Code, Fire Code and Assistant Code Coordinators.
- Nova Scotia Firefighters School

Looking Forward

Upgrades to Database System

Significant upgrades to the main database system have been ongoing. The OFM looks forward to greatly enhancing information gathering capabilities and opportunities to acquire information in areas not previously captured.

Joint Municipal Fire Services Study

In 2017-2018, 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.

In August 2018, the Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Fire Services Committee, Phase I Recommendations and Workplan was established, including:

- the committee received approval from Government to continue with its work from the items identified in the POMAX report, this is beyond the original end date for the committee and this will see the committee continue with this work;
- developed the bulletins for messaging to the fire service and municipalities;
- continue to work on the action plan items.

The Office of the Fire Marshal is continuing to work with representatives of the Fire Service, and Municipalities as we move forward with 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.

Sincerely,
Doug MacKenzie
Fire Marshal

On behalf of Fred Jeffers
Fire Marshal 2017-2021

Appendix A: 2018-2019 Fire Incident Statistics

Appendix A-1

Uninsured and Insured Losses from Fire 2018-2019

Uninsured Building Loss	\$	1,085,874
Uninsured Contents Loss	\$	219,460
Total Uninsured Loss	\$	1,305,334
Insured Building Loss	\$	24,970,003
Insured Contents Loss	\$	9,916,316
Total Insured Loss	\$	34,886,319
Total Loss	\$	36,191,653

Appendix A-2

Fatalities from Fire 2018-2019										
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
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined		68 Undetermined	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined		68 Undetermined	0	3	0	0	4	0	7
342 Mobile Home	40 Flue Pipe		68 Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	332 Wood Stove		23 Installation Deficiency	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
214 Home for the Aged	71 Smokers Articles(cigars,pipes		39 Other Misuse	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined		49 Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	11 Stove Range-top Burner		42 Improper Handling	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	23 Distribution Equipment/Panels		52 Electrical Failure	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
323 Multi-Unit Dwelling 13 plus	71 Smokers Articles(cigars,pipes		42 Improper Handling	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
321 Multi-Unit Dwelling 2- 6 Unit	23 Distribution Equipment/Panels		52 Electrical Failure	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	23 Distribution Equipment/Panels		52 Electrical Failure	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Totals			3	5	0	7	4	0	19

Appendix A-3

Injuries from Fire 2018-2019

Property Classification	Igniting Object	Possible Cause	Male Adult Injuries	Male Child Injuries	Male FF Injuries	Female Adult Injuries	Female Child Injuries	Female FF Injuries	Total Injuries
603 Motor Vehicle Repair Garage	332 Wood Stove	33 Used/Placed Too Close/Combust	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	11 Stove Range-top Burner	32 Unattended	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
365 Detached Garage	72 Cutting/Welding Equipment	49 Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	93 Hot Ashes/Embers/Spark	31 Improperly Discarded	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	332 Wood Stove	32 Unattended	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
302 Semi-Detached Dwelling		68 Undetermined	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
321 Multi-Unit Dwelling 2- 6 Unit			1	1	0	1	1	0	4
342 Mobile Home	34 Space Heater - Portable	32 Unattended	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
301 Detached Dwelling	332 Wood Stove	39 Other Misuse	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	11 Stove Range-top Burner	34 Used for Purpose Not Intended	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
311 Rooming/Boarding/Lodging Hous	332 Wood Stove	32 Unattended	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
709 Cold Storage - Processed Food	92 Open Fire (Camp/Rubbish/etc)	32 Unattended	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
323 Multi-Unit Dwelling 13 plus	28 Cord/Cable for Appliances	52 Electrical Failure	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
321 Multi-Unit Dwelling 2- 6 Unit	30 Other Electrical Distribn lte	52 Electrical Failure	1	2	0	1	0	0	4
301 Detached Dwelling	71 Smokers Articles(cigars,pipes	31 Improperly Discarded	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	52 Electrical Failure	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
321 Multi-Unit Dwelling 2- 6 Unit	11 Stove Range-top Burner	67 Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	43 Clothes Dryer	51 Mechanical Failure	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	98 Other	42 Improper Handling	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
899 Other Misc Structure/Property			0	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
607 Marina, Marine Service Statio	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
607 Marina, Marine Service Statio	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
322 Multi-Unit Dwelling 7-12 Unit	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
341 Motor Home, Camper, Trailer			0	0	0	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
399 Other Residential	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
922 Commercial	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
303 Attached Dwelling-Town house	99 Undetermined	68 Undetermined	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
335 Detached Dwell/Apt above grd	11 Stove Range-top Burner	49 Other	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
323 Multi-Unit Dwelling 13 plus	11 Stove Range-top Burner	32 Unattended	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
863 Tree, Hedge	99 Undetermined	03 Vandalism	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
301 Detached Dwelling	29 Extension Cord/Temp Wiring	41 Improper Storage	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
999 Other Vehicle	93 Hot Ashes/Embers/Spark	67 Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Totals		17	6	15	11	2	0	59

Response Type 2018-2019	
Property Fires/Explosions	
Fire	1356
Combustion Explosion (no fire)	1
False Fire Calls	
Alarm Equipment - Malfunction	33
Alarm Equipment - Accidental	69
Human - Malicious	10
Human - Perceived Emergency	15
Human - Accidental	5
Other False Fire Call	10
Public Hazard	
Gas Leak - Propane	3
Gas Leak - Miscellaneous	1
Spill, Gasoline or Fuel	1
Spill - Toxic or Chemical	1
Spill - Miscellaneous	1
Ruptured Water, Steam Pipe	5
Other Public Hazard	2
Power Lines Down - Arcing	29
Rescue	
Vehicle Extraction	1
Water Rescue	16
Water/Ice Rescue	4
Persons Trapped in Elevator	3
Home/Residential Accident	1
Vehicle Accident	120
Other Rescue	3
Medical/Resuscitator Call	
Heart Attack, CPR	2
Person Fainted, Nausea	1
Drug Related	1
Asphyxia/Respiratory Condition	2
Medical Aid not Required	42
Other Medical - Resuscitate	126
Other Calls	
Assist Other Fire Department	8
Assist Other Agencies	1
Assist Police	2
Other Response	7
Details Not Reported	28
Total	1910

Possible Causes of Fire Incidents 2018-2019

INCENDIARY	
Arson	71
Riot/civil Commotion	1
Vandalism	22
Youth Vandalism (Age 12-17)	14
Suspicious Fire	13
ACCIDENTAL	
Children Playing (Age 1-11)	1
Vehicle Accident/Collision	53
CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN DEFICIENCY	
Design Deficiency	2
Construction Deficiency	4
Installation Deficiency	8
Maintenance Deficiency	22
Other Deficiency	7
MISUSE OF SOURCE OF IGNITION	
Improperly Discarded	64
Unattended	85
Used/Placed too Close to Combustibles	23
Used for Purpose Not Intended	5
Creosote Buildup	39
Other Misuse of Source	30
MISUSE OF MATERIAL IGNITED	
Improper Storage	13
Improper Handling	29
Used for Purpose not Intended	4
Other Misuse of Material Ignited	326
MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL FAILURE	
Mechanical Failure	51
Electrical Failure	120
Short Circuit	35
OTHER-UNDETERMINED	
Other	80
Undetermined	320
Under Investigation	47
Not Reported	426
Total	1915

Appendix B: Summary of Building Plans Submitted to the OFM for Review

Appendix B-1

Annual Summary of Building Plans Submitted to the OFM for Review
April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019

Occupancy Type	Number of Plans	Project Category	Count	Notes
		NSTIR PROJECTS	18	
		NSHealth PROJECTS	9	
A2	19	NSHousing PROJECTS	1	
B1	0	NSSC	3	
B2	12	** Education	2	
B3	5	Others	15	** Plans that did not appear to have NSTIR Oversight (NSTIR not on plans)
C	3		48	
D	2			
F2	7			
	48	Average number of days to complete a plan review = 12 days		
When Plans were Received		Submission not requiring review (not within scope of FSR): 12		
Apr	4			
May	8			
Jun	3			
Jul	3			
Aug	2			
Sept	11			
Oct	0			
Nov	0			
Dec	0			
Jan	4			
Feb	7			
Mar	6			
	48			

