



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Fire Loss Report

2004

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Prepared for:
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

by:
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Headquarters



Travaux publics et
Services gouvernementaux
Canada

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Cette publication est aussi disponible
en français sous le titre:

Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada
Rapport 2004 des pertes
causées par les incendies

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides fire loss statistics in First Nation communities for the 2004 calendar year along with comparative information from previous years. Data has been interpreted and analysed in a manner consistent with previous years' reporting methods. It should be emphasized that the data is based on information reported by participating First Nations and, as a consequence, the report may not represent a complete picture. Assessing the proportion of First Nations reporting is difficult but, over the years, the level of participation has improved in some areas but not in others.

Statistical information is presented in graph and tabular form and comparisons are made with fire loss statistics of earlier years to show trends. Fire losses associated with the forestry, mining, oil and gas industries are excluded from this report.

In summary, the 2004 statistics were as indicated in the following table:

Category	Number	% Change over last year	10 year average	% Change over 10 year average
Deaths	16	+33 %	16	0 %
Injuries	43	+79 %	33	+30 %
Value of losses	\$18.1 million	-9 %	\$14.8 million	+22 %

2.0 DEATHS AND INJURIES

In 2004, 16 reserve residents (12 adults and 4 children) died in fires. This total increased from 12 (1 child and 11 adults) in 2003. Reported fire injuries increased to 43 (18 children and 25 adults) from the 24 (3 children and 21 adults) reported in 2003.

The 2004 fire death rate in First Nation communities, expressed as the number of deaths per 100,000 population, was 3.9. The 2003 rate shows a slight decline but is still higher than the 1998 figure of 1.7. The rate is 3.1 times higher than the 1999 Canadian national average of 1.27 (the latest available figure), which is considered high among first world countries. The Canadian 10 year national average death rate is 1.36 deaths per 100,000 population.

Over the past 20 years there has been a reduction in the fire death rate in First Nation communities. There is, however, a gradual levelling off in the rate. As in previous years, most fire deaths occur in dwellings, meaning dwelling fires are more likely to result in death than other fires.

Figure 1 shows the annual fire death rate over the last 27 years. During this period, the death rate has fluctuated but, on average, it has decreased by approximately 8% per year.

Figure 1. Fire Death Rate in FN Communities

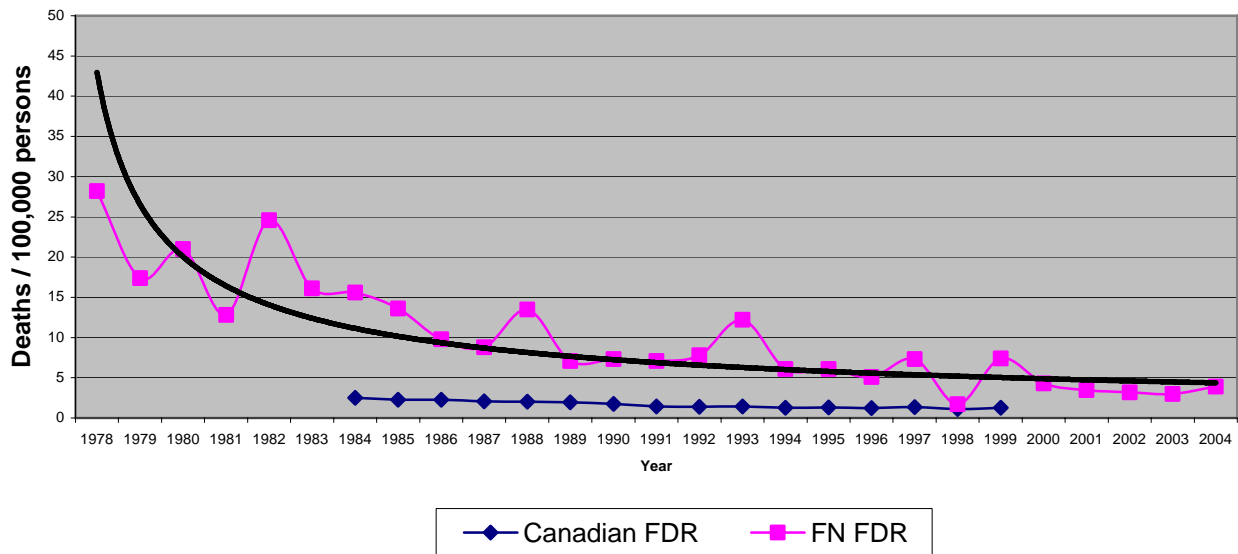


Table 1 provides breakdowns by year, showing the number of reported fire related deaths and reported fire injuries for children and adults, over the period 1978 to 2004.

Table 1. Reported FN Fire Deaths and Injuries

Year	Fire Deaths			Fire Injuries		
	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
1978	21	34	55	14	3	17
1979	25	9	34	15	5	20
1980	27	14	41	9	7	16
1981	17	8	25	7	3	10
1982	30	18	48	17	10	27
1983	22	16	38	13	2	15
1984	28	10	38	10	4	14
1985	28	6	34	8	4	12
1986	17	9	26	8	6	14
1987	13	10	23	18	1	19
1988	15	22	37	22	13	35
1989	15	4	19	17	7	24
1990	16	4	20	24	7	31
1991	14	6	20	11	4	15
1992	16	7	23	19	4	23
1993	18	19	37	11	9	20
1994	13	6	19	14	6	20
1995	13	7	20	22	5	27
1996	11	6	17	9	5	14
1997	16	9	25	38	7	45
1998	5	1	6	26	7	33
1999	15	12	27	27	11	38
2000	9	7	16	27	3	30
2001	12	1	13	20	1	21
2002	12	0	12	37	15	52
2003	11	1	12	21	3	24
2004	12	4	16	25	18	43

Figures 2 and 3 display this same information in bar graph form.

Figure 2. Reported Fire Deaths (1978-2004)

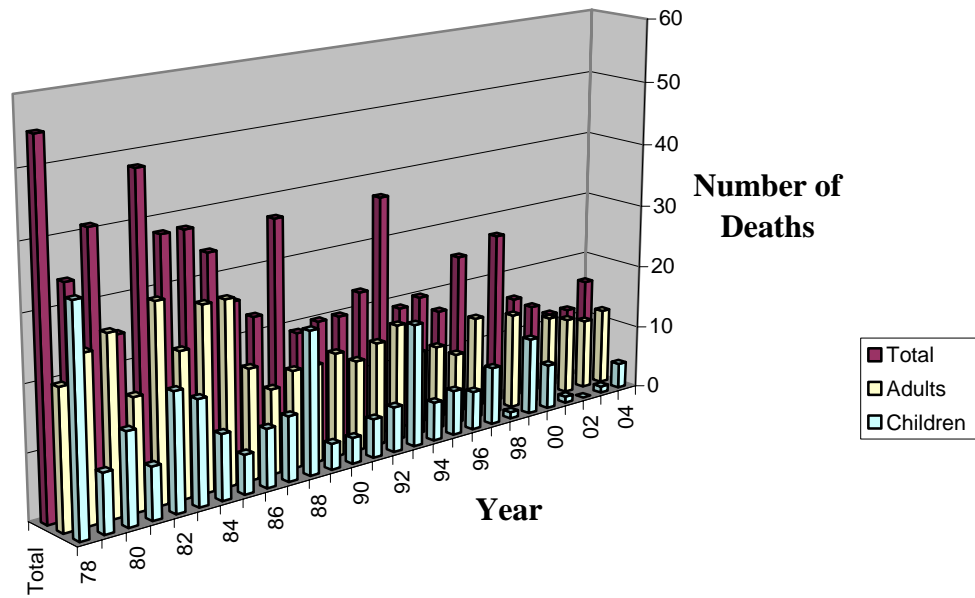


Figure 3. Reported Fire Injuries (1978-2004)

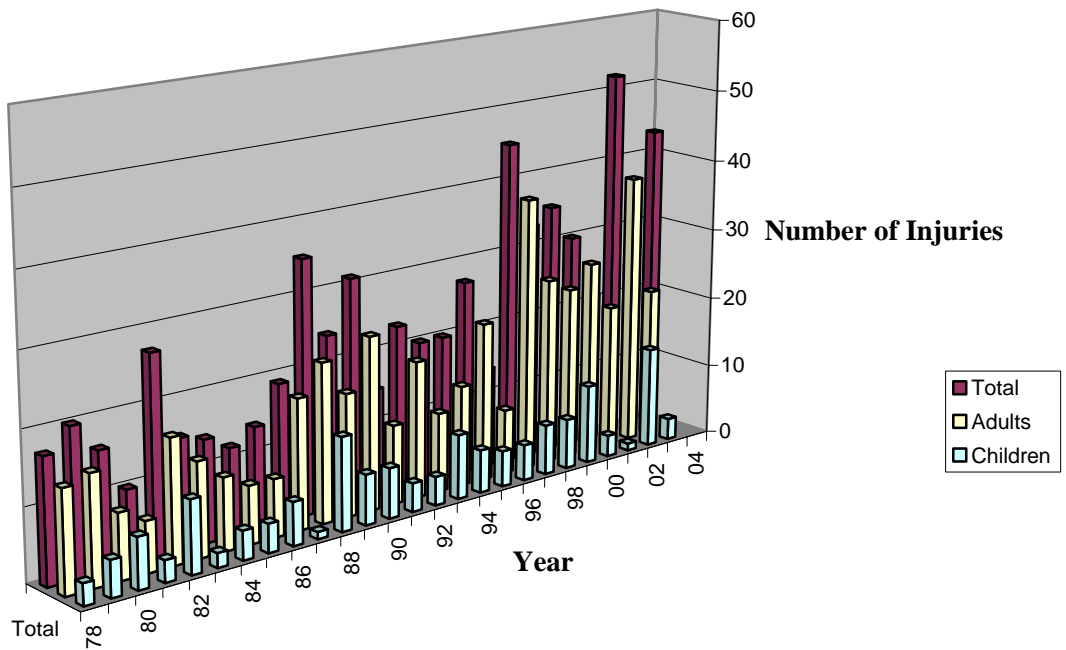


Table 2 provides information on the number of reported fires, the estimated property loss, the number of injuries to adults and children, and the number of deaths of adults and children by province for 2004.

Table 2.
Reported Fire Losses
Summary by Province/Territory

Province	No. of reported fires	Estimated value of property losses	Injuries		Deaths	
			Adult	Child	Adult	Child
<i>Newfoundland</i>	0	\$0	0	0	0	0
<i>New Brunswick</i>	18	\$1,264,000	2	5	1	0
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	15	\$442,000	2	1	1	0
<i>PEI</i>	0	\$0	0	0	0	0
<i>Québec</i>	36	\$1,005,050	2	1	0	0
<i>Ontario</i>	134	\$5,668,563	2	4	2	0
<i>Manitoba</i>	306	\$1,919,405	2	2	2	0
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	50	\$1,966,000	3	1	4	4
<i>Alberta **</i>	96	\$4,795,036	5	4	2	0
<i>British Columbia</i>	79	\$962,747	6	0	0	0
<i>Yukon</i>	1	\$100,000	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	735	\$18,122,801	25	18	12	4

* The level of detail of reporting varies. Some First Nations report all "responses" including false alarms, vehicle accidents, grass fires, etc., while others report only fires involving financial loss.

** Fire statistics for Alberta have been supplied by the Fire Commissioner's Office, Alberta Labour. They exclude grass, brush and forest fires.