



ANNUAL 2003-2004 REPORT

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BELOW: Members of the OPP Provincial Emergency Response Team worked with Ottawa, Toronto, and Windsor firefighters during a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) emergency response exercise at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst in May put together by the OFM's Emergency Management Response Unit



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

May 2006

Honourable Monte Kwinter
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Mr. Kwinter:

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. The report outlines significant accomplishments, activities, and initiatives.

In 2003-04 the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) played a key role in providing support to Ontario's fire service during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) provincial emergency. The OFM was involved in keeping the fire service informed about safety precautions and providing them with up-to-date information.

The blackout of August 2003 interrupted daily operations of the OFM. The OFM produced a public fire safety tips sheet which was distributed to the fire service for sharing with their local communities. The tips sheet contained information on how to be safe while using alternate sources of power and lighting.

In 2003, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services carried out, through a third party, a stakeholder assessment and program audit of the Office of the Fire Marshal to determine how stakeholder organizations, professional organizations and the fire service viewed the OFM and to determine the level of customer satisfaction with OFM programs and services. The results of the assessment generally indicated that stakeholders were either satisfied or very satisfied with their relationship with the OFM and the services, programs, and communication instruments offered by the OFM.

Fire prevention and public education continued to be a major focus of the OFM. Fires caused by candles continued to increase. In response to this fire safety concern, the OFM developed a fire safety campaign that focused on the safe use of candles. In December 2003 the OFM launched a holiday safety campaign designed to snuff out deadly candle fires.

The OFM appreciates your continued support and the support of the Government in our continuing efforts to improve fire safety for Ontario's citizens.

I wish to express my appreciation to the staffs of the OFM and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for their dedication and hard work in serving the citizens of the Province of Ontario and contributing to their fire safety.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by the Fire Marshal)

Bernard A. Moyle
Fire Marshal of Ontario

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE



OVERVIEW

The Fire Marshal acts as the principal adviser to government on public fire protection policy and fire safety issues, and provides leadership, advice, guidance, and assistance to municipalities and the Ontario fire service in matters relating to public fire safety.

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is responsible for administering the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA), which promotes fire prevention and public safety in Ontario, and the Ontario Fire Code, a regulation made under the act that contains comprehensive fire safety requirements applicable to all buildings and premises in the province.

The FPPA grants the Fire Marshal authority to review and monitor fire protection services and take action to resolve fire-related threats to public safety.

Important amendments to the FPPA came into effect on January 1, 2003. The authority for municipal councils to pass by-laws regulating fire prevention and the setting

of open-air fires as well as designating private roads as fire routes was added. Other amendments were made concerning the sanctioning of persons authorized by the fire chief, Fire Marshal, or Assistant to the Fire Marshal, to enter, without warrant, lands or premises for the purposes of firefighting, rescuing, preventing fire spread, and averting serious threats to public safety.

The FPPA also governs the operation of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council—a diverse group of organizations, associations, and individuals working voluntarily to promote fire prevention and public education in Ontario with the technical and administrative assistance of the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The OFM develops and delivers academic and training programs to enhance and promote fire prevention, public education, firefighter safety, and fire protection for the Ontario fire service through the Ontario Fire College as well as other fire protection and support programs at the local level.

MISSION

To contribute to an environment for the residents of Ontario that is safe from fire and other public safety hazards by providing leadership and expertise in the reduction and elimination of these hazards

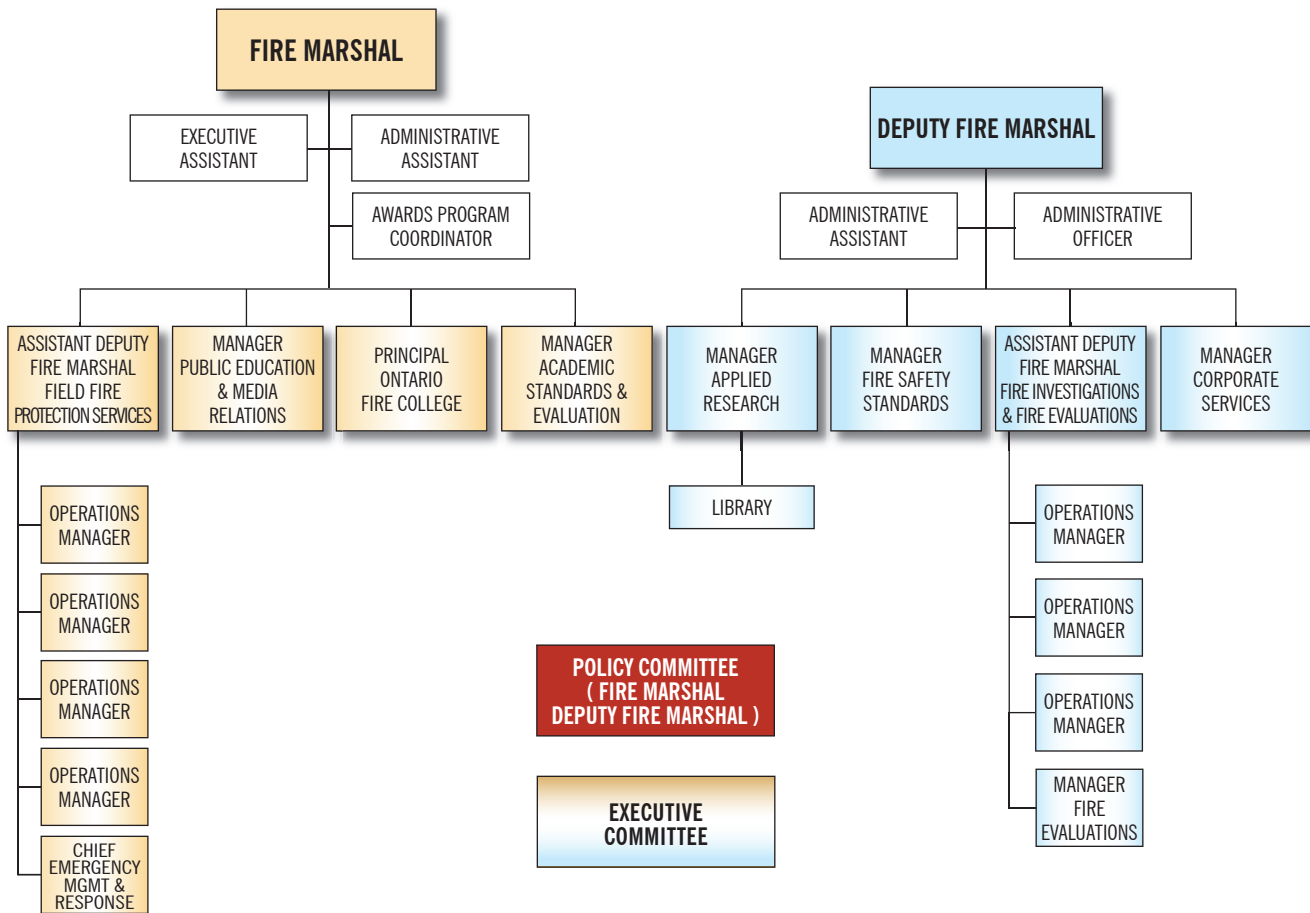
ROLE AND MANDATE

The mandate of the OFM is to minimize the impact of fire and other public safety hazards and their effects on people, property and the environment. Recognized as a foremost centre of knowledge in fire and other public

safety matters, the OFM fulfills its mission by using an integrated multi-disciplinary approach. The OFM serves as the government's adviser on public fire safety and policy, and provides leadership, education and expertise through a variety of programs and activities that include:

- Advising on policy
- Creating partnerships
- Designing public education and fire prevention programs
- Investigating fires
- Monitoring fire protection services
- Implementing policy
- Participating in research
- Offering support
- Acting as a catalyst
- Influencing legislation
- Training and certification programs
- Supporting the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council

STRUCTURE



Visit www.ofm.gov.on.ca for more information about the Office of the Fire Marshal and fire safety.

OFFICES

HEAD OFFICE

5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor
Toronto ON M2M 4J1

SOUTHWEST OFFICE

707 Exeter Road
London ON N6E 1L3

SOUTHERN REGION

2284 Nursery Road
Midhurst ON LOL 1X0

NORTHWEST OFFICE

640 Mountdale Avenue
Thunder Bay ON P7E 6G8

NORTHERN REGION

3767 HWY 69 S, Suite 6
Sudbury ON P3G 1E4

ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE

1495 Muskoka Road N
Gravenhurst ON P1P 1W5

WEB SITE

www.ofm.gov.on.ca

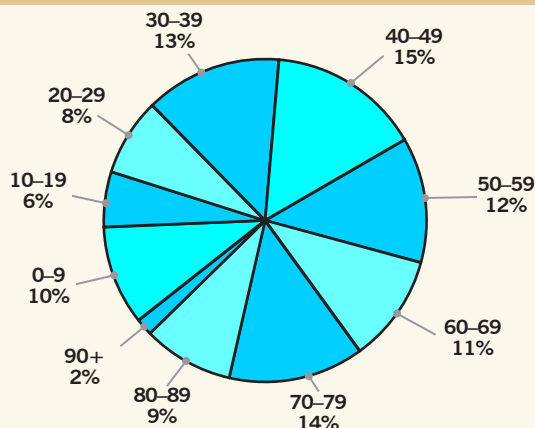
ONTARIO FIRE LOSS STATISTICS



ONTARIO FIRE LOSS STATISTICS: 1997–2003

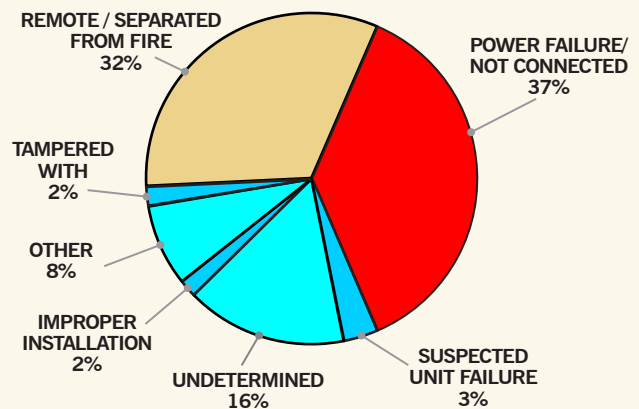
The data presented here is on “fires with loss”—those with an injury, fatality or dollar loss reported. “Preventable” means fires that were not deliberately set. “All” means fires in both preventable and arson fires, including homicides and suicides. All statistics are for the period 1997–2003 for the province of Ontario (excluding first nations properties). The data is subject to change.

RESIDENTIAL FIRE DEATHS BY AGE OF VICTIM



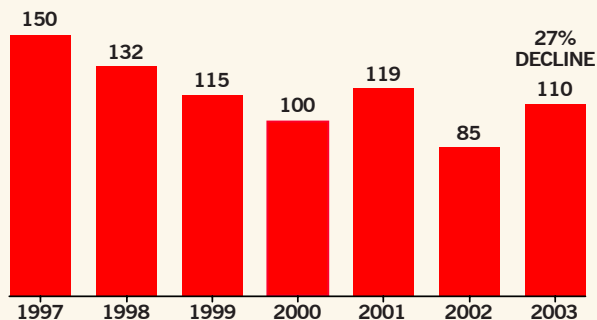
OF ALL RESIDENTIAL FIRE FATALITIES, 28% WERE OF THE AGES 30 THROUGH 49. ADULTS 60 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER (A HIGH-RISK GROUP) ACCOUNTED FOR 36%

RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM FAILURE TO OPERATE BY REASON



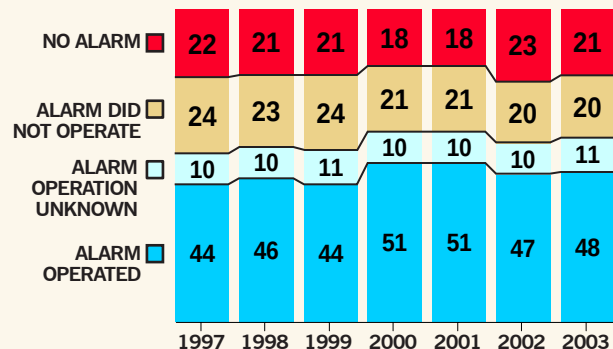
INSTALLED SMOKE ALARMS DID NOT OPERATE IN 28% OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES

FIRE FATALITIES IN ALL FIRES



THERE WERE 110 FATALITIES IN 2003. THE LOWEST NUMBER OF FIRE FATALITIES OCCURRED IN 2002.

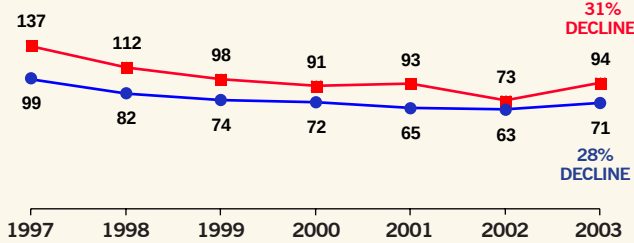
RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM OPERATION AS % OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES



ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES. IN 41% OF THE RESIDENTIAL FIRES THAT OCCURRED IN 2003, EITHER THERE WERE NO SMOKE ALARMS OR THEY DID NOT OPERATE.

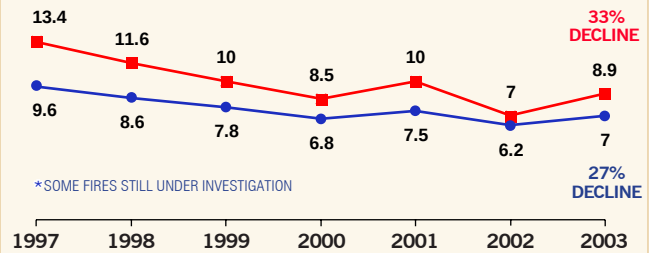
ONTARIO FIRE LOSS STATISTICS: 1997 – 2003

ALL FATAL FIRES ■ & PREVENTABLE FATAL STRUCTURE FIRES ●



ALL FATAL FIRES AND PREVENTABLE FATAL STRUCTURE FIRES HAVE DECLINED FROM 1997 TO 2003

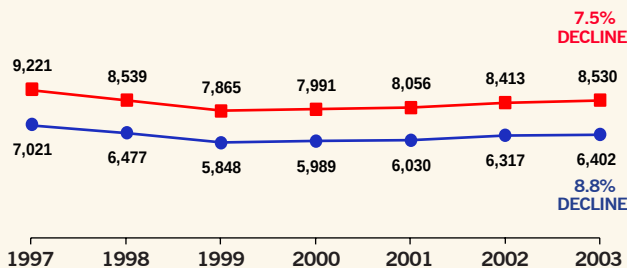
FIRE FATALITIES PER MILLION POPULATION ALL FIRES ■ & PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES ● *



*SOME FIRES STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

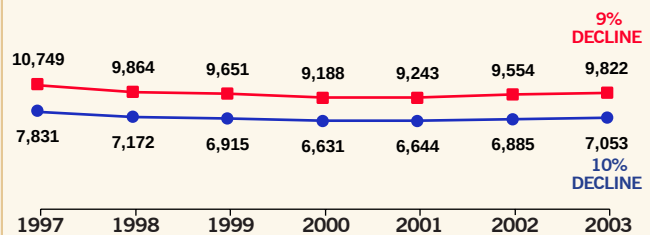
THE FIRE DEATH RATE FOR 2003 IS 8.9 PER MILLION POPULATION

PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES WITH LOSS STRUCTURES ■ & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ●



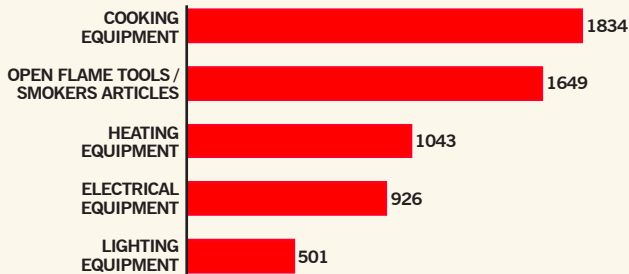
THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES HAS DECLINED FROM 1997 TO 2003

STRUCTURE FIRES WITH LOSS ALL STRUCTURES ■ & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ●



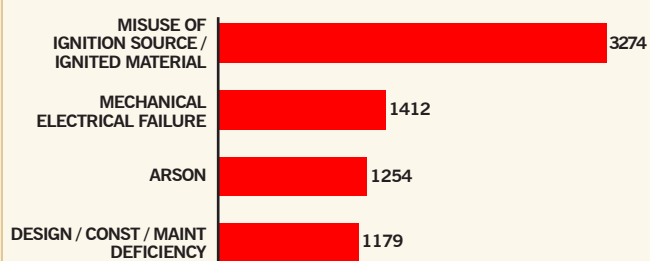
ALL STRUCTURE AND RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRES HAVE DECLINED FROM 1997 TO 2003

7-YEAR AVERAGE # STRUCTURE FIRES BY IGNITION SOURCE



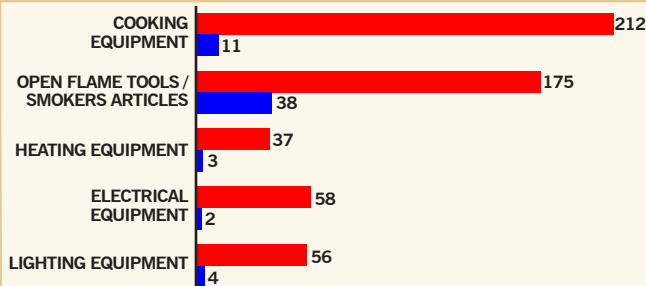
COOKING EQUIPMENT REMAINS THE TOP IGNITION SOURCE OF STRUCTURE FIRES IN ONTARIO

7-YEAR AVERAGE # STRUCTURE FIRES BY CAUSE



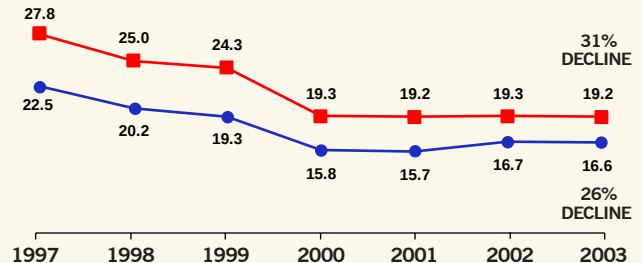
MISUSE OF IGNITION SOURCES CONTINUES TO BE THE #1 CAUSE OF STRUCTURE FIRES IN ONTARIO

7-YEAR AVERAGE # STRUCTURE FIRES INJURIES ■ & FIRE FATALITIES ● BY IGNITION SOURCE



SMOKERS' ARTICLES (CIGARETTES, LIGHTERS, MATCHES) RANKS AS THE HIGHEST CAUSE OF FIRE FATALITIES

PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES WITH LOSS RATES PER 10,000 STRUCTURES STRUCTURES ■ & RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES ●



THE RATE OF PREVENTABLE STRUCTURE FIRES IS DECLINING EVEN THOUGH THE BUILDING STOCK HAS INCREASED

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: TOWARD A WORLD WHERE NO ONE IS HURT BY FIRE

From time to time, the OFM receives visitors from other countries who have a professional interest in fire prevention and safety to share knowledge, resources, and expertise; provide an overview of the Ontario fire service, legislation, and the Office of the Fire Marshal; and explore partnership opportunities.

CHINESE DELEGATION

In February, the OFM hosted a three-person delegation from the People's Republic of China representing the Fire Department Ministry and the Ministry of Construction. The Chinese have been seeking assistance from Canadian experts in learning about using wood in building construction and in rewriting their building regulations to better address the fire-safe use of wood products in buildings. The Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, and a member of Toronto Fire Services presented information on the topics requested: fire prevention and fire suppression systems in Toronto, Ontario's fire safety legislation, the OFM's programs and activities, and the role of the Fire Marshal in the overall fire protection/fire prevention system.

The delegation was very pleased with the presentation and invited the Fire Marshal to visit the People's Republic of China to learn about their fire protection system.

ISRAELI DELEGATION

As part of a North American tour, an Israeli delegation requested a meeting with the Ontario Fire Marshal to discuss fire safety approaches in Ontario. On October 24, 2003, the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal met with Fire and Rescue Commissioner and Chief Fire Inspector for the State of Israel, and the Director General of Friends of Israel Firefighters. They described Ontario's fire safety legislation as well as the OFM's duties, activities, and public fire safety education programs. The two visitors

received information on the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, public education and prevention programs, Ontario firefighter training and certification programs, and the Ontario Fire College.

The visitors commented that the Ontario fire protection model was the most comprehensive and efficient that they had seen. They expressed interest in exchanging knowledge and resources and exploring partnership opportunities with the OFM. They discussed the possibilities of sending a delegation to the Ontario Fire College to attend courses and discussed offering their knowledge and experience with terrorism, which may prove useful in connection with Ontario's counterterrorism programs and initiatives.

JAPANESE DELEGATION

Early in 2004, a delegation from the Tokyo Fire Department visited the OFM to learn about the role of the OFM and the delivery of fire protection services in Ontario.

BELOW: Joining Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle were (from left) Translator Makiko Ogasawara, Fire Lieutenant Hiroshi Morijiri & Fire Sergeant Tamiko Inoue



SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

On March 26, 2003, the Premier of Ontario declared SARS a provincial emergency. As a result, several measures were taken to assist health, emergency, and fire service responders in dealing with SARS and preparing for eventualities. Through the concerted efforts of a stakeholder action group, which included fire coordinators, a regulation made under the Highway Traffic Act was amended that subsequently allowed firefighters defined under the FPPA to drive ambulances during emergency situations. On April 3, 2003, the Fire Marshal issued a communiqué to the fire service that the regulation had come into force.

The Office of the Fire Marshal assessed the impact of SARS on the fire service. During the state of emergency and for several weeks thereafter, the OFM was actively involved in providing the most current SARS information to the Ontario fire service. With the co-operation and assistance of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Toronto Fire Services, and several additional stakeholders, the OFM prepared ten informational bulletins covering procedures, safety precautions, update information, and additional resources and posted them on the OFM Web site.

ONTARIO FIRE SERVICES LONG SERVICE MEDALS AND AWARDS

The Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal is an expression of appreciation and recognition of uniformed staff for 25 years of dedication and hard work within the Ontario fire service. At 30 years of service and every 5 years thereafter, a service bar may be requested and added to the medal's ribbon. Spouses of medal recipients receive a companion brooch. Approximately 500 medals and 300 service bars are awarded each year.

The Fire Marshal of Ontario issues medals, bars, and brooches under the authority of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, based on established eligibility criteria. Fire chiefs submit application forms for medal candidates to the Awards Coordinator of the Office of the Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal issues the medals at investiture ceremonies held throughout the province as warranted from April through November each year. The OFM held nine investiture ceremonies this fiscal year.

The Fire Marshal also recognizes administrative personnel of fire departments and the OFM who have completed 20 years of service. Each female recipient receives an engraved brooch and certificate, and each male recipient receives an engraved tie tack and certificate.

STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM AUDIT

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services hired a private consulting firm to conduct a program review and stakeholder assessment of OFM programs and services to determine how the OFM is viewed by its peers and other professional organizations, to determine the level of client satisfaction with OFM programs and services, and to assist the Ministry in finding ways to enhance OFM service delivery as part of a continuous improvement strategy.

In June 2003, the consultants distributed questionnaires to 86 stakeholder organizations, which included fire service associations, fire departments, and other organizations that work with the OFM. The overall return rate of the survey was 70%, with all stakeholder groups represented. The consultants also conducted follow-up telephone interviews, and held face-to-face meetings with five key stakeholder associations.

The consulting firm presented its report dated December 3, 2003, to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety Division. It was found that, other than one stakeholder group, stakeholders identified that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their relationship with the OFM and with the services, programs, and communication instruments offered. All stakeholders believed in the importance of having a good, professional relationship with the OFM, and that the programs, services, and communication instruments offered were important to their work. The report also recommended improvements or actions that lie within the mandate of the OFM and those that lie within the mandate of the Ministry but outside the mandate of the OFM. The Ministry sent copies of the report to each of the five key stakeholder associations for comment.

STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT & PROGRAM AUDIT MAIN AREAS ASSESSED

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
• Fire Protection Advisory Services • Fire Investigation Services • Training and Education • Public Education • Communication Vehicles • Long Service Medal Program • Professional Advice & Assistance • Information Requests	• Credibility • Expertise • Leadership • Openness to Suggestions & Ideas • Competence • Courtesy • Helpfulness • Overall Satisfaction

The Ontario Fire College offers in-residence courses of study in fire protection technology to municipal fire department officers. Together with Field Fire Protection Services, the college coordinates regional training for municipal firefighters in the basic skills of fire prevention and firefighting. Curriculum assistance in the development of training programs is offered to fire departments.

Construction of a new fire station, library/resource centre, and an auditorium was underway as part of the continued growth of the Ontario Fire College (OFC) and its Emergency Management Training Centre. These new facilities will help the OFM fulfill its mandate of leading the development and delivery of new inter-agency education and training programs and supporting the increase in the number of courses and seminars offered by the College.

The number of students attending courses grew to 3882 on-campus and 1986 off-campus in regional delivery. The OFC Associate Instructor initiative, which enables fire departments to qualify their own personnel to deliver OFC courses, grew in terms of numbers of participants and in the local delivery of courses.

Currently housed in two portable buildings, the OFC Resource Centre is a special technical library whose primary service is to the students who attend fire service officer development programs and specialty training programs on campus. To support the needs of the students and fire departments, its collection includes material on public fire education, fire prevention, codes and standards, fire suppression techniques and technologies, hazardous materials, CBRN and disaster

response, occupational health and safety, leadership and management, adult education, training practices, and specialty training. Students used the available books, journals, vertical files, and computers to complete course assignments, conduct independent and group research, and prepare presentations on a variety of topics related to their fields of study.

Among several new initiatives, the Ontario Fire College successfully:

- Established a challenge exam for existing fire prevention officers seeking certification under the "Window of Opportunity," permitting those who passed to begin the academic requirement for certification.
- Implemented an update course for experienced fire prevention officers, allowing them to complement the academic requirement for certification.
- Implemented the first comprehensive review and examination course in the Company Officer Diploma Program. Graduates of this course received their OFC Company Officer diplomas.
- Offered the initial Hazardous Materials–Operations Level course to members of the Level 2 and Level 3 provincial response teams. Picture below.



APPLIED RESEARCH

Applied Research staff provide expert technical advice to the fire service, OFM staff, the private sector, and other stakeholders (e.g., Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission). Responsibilities include investigating and reporting on large fires that may endanger the community or environment, conducting annual summer inspections to enforce provisions under the Lightning Rods Act and regulation, preparing articles on new issues and trends identified through environmental scanning and disseminating them to the fire service, and maintaining an emergency management Web site for high-rise and high-risk buildings. Applied Research operates the Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre, whose extensive collection serves not only OFM staff but also fire and emergency services and others interested in public safety.

This year, Applied Research staff:

- Investigated fires that impacted the community and the environment. Fires were investigated at a plastics manufacturing plant, an auto wrecking and tire storage site, a waste transfer station, and an abandoned electroplating plant.
- Reviewed 200 recalls/warnings and posted 29 that are relevant to Ontario on the OFM Web site.
- Under the Lightning Rods Act, carried out 164 inspections of new installations of lightning rod systems throughout Ontario.
- Provided technical assistance on fire safety issues to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for nuclear power plants located in Ontario.
- Assisted other agencies on issues that impact fire safety; for example, provided comments on 30 standards under development, developed multi-agency enforcement articles for the Ontario Provincial Police and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario newsletters regarding assembly occupancies, Canadian Environmental Protection Act Environmental Emergencies proposed legislation, and Health Canada's reduced ignition propensity cigarettes.
- Carried out research in support of technical inquiries from the fire service (e.g., pyrotechnics/fireworks, flammable liquids used in pesticide foggers, sewage sludge fires, ethylene fruit ripening, combustibility of plastic shower enclosures, and oxygen enriched bathrobe burn tests).

The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre provides current fire resources to support the Office of the Fire Marshal as well as fire departments, emergency services, fire-related industries, and the general public throughout Ontario.

The collection consists of books, reports, journals, standards, statutes and regulations, and audio-visual resources representing safety, disaster and emergency planning, fire investigation, fire science and technology, training, leadership, and management. In addition, the library has a specialized collection of standards from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials), Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), and Canadian Standards Association (CSA). In 2003/04, new resources were purchased in the following subject areas: building safety, emergency planning, hazardous materials, public education programs, and terrorism.

The library provides current awareness services to OFM staff and fire-related industries through the monthly What's New newsletter, which provides a listing of new books and videos as well as the table of contents of the top thirty journals.

Online information is available via the Resources section of the OFM Web site. This year, the library added books and audio-visual resources to the Emergency Building Measures site.

FIRE SCIENCES LIBRARY & AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCE CENTRE	
# REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED	2267
# ONSITE USERS	1158
# ITEMS LOANED	
Books	899
Journals	66
Technical Reports	369
Videos/DVD	3126
RESEARCH CONDUCTED	
# Online Searches	377
# News Items Clipped	3831
# NEW RESOURCES PURCHASED	
Books/Reports/Legal	214
Videos/DVD	128

BELOW: Fire Protection Engineer Dave Horne, Applied Research section, identifies the presence of a combustible liquid hazard at an abandoned warehouse. The municipality subsequently obtained Fire Safety Commission authorization to clean up the site, protecting the community and environment from potentially serious fire consequences.



Academic Standards and Evaluation is responsible for the development of training programs and evaluation systems to improve practices relating to fire protection services as legislated by the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. Development and administration of certification and accreditation programs for fire services and Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) occupational roles are also within the mandate of this section. Another major activity of this section is to develop partnerships and alternative delivery mechanisms aimed to enhance fire service accessibility to standardized educational/training programs. This section directs the development of OFM occupational performance standards within government policy. Section staff provide process assistance and consultative services to further professional development and corporate training initiatives within the OFM, and ensure the quality and integrity of the programs.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE CORE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In order to provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to multi-agency training and education, the OFM established an Emergency Preparedness/Response Core Planning Committee in 2002. The committee's mandate is to provide advice and recommendations on the development and coordination of training projects for multi-disciplinary team response to large scale or complex emergencies. This committee, which meets at least three times a year, now has representatives of more than 15 agencies that include fire, police, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), Emergency Health Services (EHS), public health, and hospitals.

The following courses were offered this year.

TERRORISM/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS TRAINING

The Terrorism/Hazardous Materials Awareness for First Responders in Ontario: Self-Study course was revised in June 2003 to meet NFPA 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents, 2002 Edition. The goal is to reach as many first responders as possible, and, in keeping with the Provincial Response Strategy, to encourage all fire, police, and ambulance/emergency health first responders to develop skills and knowledge so that they meet the outcomes of awareness level training.

The course has been distributed to first response agencies in Ontario and is published on the OFM Web site. This year there were 16,653 downloads, and the on-line course is accessed by many multi-agency responders. The Ontario Fire College continues to offer Certificates of Completion to those who have completed the course. This year 3,848 certificates were issued.

NEW MULTI-AGENCY SENIOR OFFICER/MANAGER COURSE

The Multi-Agency Senior Officer/Manager Course is a new course to support communities in their emergency preparedness when dealing with complex emergencies and in keeping with the Provincial Response Strategy. The target group is senior decision-makers, officers, and managers who work together in local communities to plan for and respond to complex emergencies. Offered this year for the first time, the course is being rolled out for regional delivery in key communities within the province. Two courses have been held, and 63 certificates have been issued.

A key responsibility of committee members is to provide agency-specific work team members to assist the OFM in the development of course materials so that the identified learning needs of the targeted groups of responders are met.

NEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS COURSE

A Hazardous Materials Operations Course was developed for delivery to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) Level Two teams. This course, which has been accredited by the International Fire Services Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) to meet the Operations level of the NFPA 472 Standard, is offered on location by local instructors who have been qualified as associate instructors with the Ontario Fire College. Using in-depth classroom activities that focus on skill and knowledge, first responders who take this course will be prepared to analyze hazardous materials incidents, determine the nature of the hazards, plan a safe response, and practice decontamination procedures.

This year there were 198 participants, and 34 IFSAC seals were issued. Learners who successfully complete courses/programs that are accredited by IFSAC receive IFSAC seals on their Certificates of Achievement. The seal is an internationally recognized symbol intended to indicate that the required level of quality learning has been achieved.

2ND ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR (CBRN) RESPONSE TEAMS TRAINING AND EXERCISE

The OFM hosts annual exercises for CBRN Level Two and Level Three teams, where responders work at enhancing their capabilities in responding to simulated complex CBRN emergencies. A new workshop and exercise are designed each year. The workshops associated with these training sessions have focused on identification of hazards, intervention, rescue, recovery, and decontamination. A major one-day multi-agency exercise tests the response and decision-making actions within a unified Incident Management System. Participants and observers from OPP, EMS, and EMO support the team members in the exercise. This year there were 39 participants.

PRE-SERVICE FIREFIGHTER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program is a three-semester community college certificate program aimed at preparing a pool of qualified, skilled, and professional candidates for entry into the Ontario Fire Service as full-time firefighters. The program, which is endorsed by the Endorsement Review Board, is offered either full-time or part-time, depending on the college. The first group to complete the program graduated from Conestoga College in January 2003.

The program was introduced in 2001 following the development of a pre-service curriculum by the OFM and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC). The OFM and the O AFC entered into partnerships with interested colleges of applied arts and technology and fire departments to implement the program. Twelve community colleges and 20 fire departments are involved in the program.

The standardized curriculum for the pre-service training program integrates a solid theoretical base with practical experience. The curriculum covers many areas, including basic fire science, fire suppression, firefighter emergency patient care, fire prevention and public education, specialty modules such as confined space entry/rescue, water/ice rescue, and general courses to meet college certificate requirements. Learners also complete a practicum component at a partnering fire department. Following completion of the college requirements, graduates may write provincial qualification tests administered by the Testing Unit of the OFM. Successful completion awards the individual with the academic component of provincial firefighter certification.

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS

Certification is a voluntary process for individuals. It is based on a candidate's ability to meet established education/training qualifications, meet job experience and employment requirements, and demonstrate competency to current standards. Once deemed to have met the requirements for certification, candidates are awarded certification by the Ontario Fire Marshal. There is also a certification renewal requirement in which candidates must demonstrate ongoing training and education and continued competence to the current standards.

ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS		
PROGRAM	LAUNCH DATE(S)	# CERTIFIED AT 31-03-2004
Firefighter Certification Program	May 1998	Firefighters: 544 Career Firefighters: 1305
Fire Prevention Officer Certification Program	April 2001 & May 2003	37
Company Officer Certification Program	May 2003	6

OFM CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS		
PROGRAM	LAUNCH DATE(S)	# CERTIFIED AT 31-03-2004
Fire Investigator Certification Program	1997	31

TESTING UNIT STATISTICS		
TESTS ADMINISTERED	# TESTS	# PERSON-TESTS AT 31-03-2004
Ontario Firefighter Curriculum	846	4473
Pre-Service Firefighter Education & Training Program	595	691
Company Officer Written Comprehensive Exam (open-ended questions)	32	45
Fire Prevention Officer Written Comprehensive Exam (open-ended questions)	22	22

The mandate of the Public Education & Media Relations section is to research, identify, develop, implement, and evaluate key fire and life safety programs to assist the fire service in reducing fire deaths, injuries, and property losses in Ontario through public education and awareness. Staff are responsible for news media relations on public education issues, including public service announcements, training videos, media advisories, and special media events. This section publishes The Ontario Fire Service Messenger magazine that contains educational material and feature articles of interest to the Ontario Fire Service. On an ongoing basis, staff provide administrative and technical assistance to the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and actively participate in several Council activities.

PUBLIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATORS' COURSE

Section staff facilitate the Public Fire and Life Safety Educators' Course at the Ontario Fire College. As of December 2004, 187 persons graduated from the program. Public Education & Media Relations spearheaded the development of the course and now its staff coordinate and teach the course, mark all coursework, and organize the graduation ceremony at the annual Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference.

**When fire strikes...
Get out!
Stay out!**



**Practise your
home escape
plan. Never go
back inside a
burning building.**



**DON'T LEAVE
ME THIS
WAY!...**



**Candle fires
are on the rise.
Keep lit candles
away from
children and
pets, and snuff
them out before
you leave the
room.**



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2003

The theme for October 2003 Fire Prevention Week theme was "When Fire Strikes...Get out! Stay out!" This year's activities encouraged families to make sure their smoke alarms work, to know what they sound like, to plan and practice a home escape plan, and to have a designated meeting place outside. Section staff developed several public service announcements (PSAs) and distributed them to fire departments and news media across the province to raise awareness of the Fire Prevention Week theme and reinforce other fire safety messages. Staff also organized a news conference launching Fire Prevention Week, responded to enquires from fire departments and the media about Fire Prevention Week, and arranged interviews with media representatives.

CANDLE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

In December 2003, the Fire Marshal and fire chiefs from across the Greater Toronto Area launched a holiday safety campaign designed to snuff out deadly candle fires.

The number one cause of candle fires is leaving them unattended. The intent of the campaign was to remind people to always snuff out candles before leaving a room or going to bed and to keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

The campaign included a news conference in Toronto organized by Public Education & Media Relations staff, and the development of a 30-second television public service announcement (PSA) focusing on candle safety entitled "You Meant to Come Back," which was produced in partnership with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and SMARTRISK. Section staff coordinated the distribution of the PSA to fire departments and television stations across the province.

In addition to these initiatives, Public Education & Media Relations staff fielded enquiries concerning the campaign from the media and fire departments, and arranged media interviews.

WORKING WITH THE FIRE MARSHAL'S PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL (FMPFSC)

11TH ANNUAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE

The Fire Marshal's Public Safety Council and the St. Catharines Fire Services presented the 11th Annual Fire and Life Safety Educator's Conference, themed "Learn it Through the Grapevine" in St. Catharines November 19–21, 2003.

Highlights of the conference included: a Pre-Conference Seminar on The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C); Statistical Update on Fires in Ontario; Prevention, Detection and Escape Considerations for People with Disabilities; Effective Presentations and Influencing the Invincible — Teaching Teenagers. Speakers included Sharon Gamache, Executive Director of the Center for High-Risk Outreach, NFPA; Alan Speed, former fire chief, Toronto Fire Services; Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle; Terry Allen, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs; Shaun Belding, Belding Skills Inc.; and Dr. Robert Conn, SMARTRISK.

Each year, the Public Education & Media Relations staff promote the conference within the Ontario fire service and work with a host fire department to organize the conference and develop a speakers' roster. This year, section staff partnered with the St. Catharines Fire Services to organize an extremely informative conference.

ANNUAL NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO PUBLIC FIRE & LIFE SAFETY CONFERENCE

This annual conference provides a valuable opportunity to learn from renowned professionals in their respective fields and a chance to network with other professionals with similar goals.

Each year, Public Education & Media Relations promotes the conference within the Ontario fire service and partners with the Northwestern Fire Safety Coalition to develop a speakers' roster and organize a successful conference.

The Fire Marshal's Public Safety Council and the Northwestern Fire Safety Coalition presented the Northwestern Ontario Public Fire & Life Safety Conference entitled "Practice, Policy & Partnership" in Kenora May 23–24, 2003.

Conference workshops included: teaching children; Police Safety Programs; Safe Communities; Risk Watch injury prevention program for children; The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C) and Older & Wiser.

FIRE SAFETY AWARDS

The annual Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council Fire Safety Awards recognize outstanding contributions to fire protection and prevention in Ontario. Each year, Public Education & Media Relations staff organize the awards ceremony, solicit award nominations from the Ontario fire service, and work with Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council members to determine award winners. Section staff are also responsible for working with the media to generate public awareness of the event and award recipients. This includes writing and disseminating media releases and arranging media interviews.

This year's awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto on June 18, 2003. The Fire Marshal and Saäd Rafi, Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Policing Services, presented the awards to 13 individuals and organizations, including six children.

FIRE SAFETY PARTNER AWARDS

One of this year's four Fire Safety Partner Award recipients is The Wellington Advertiser—a free weekly newspaper with a circulation of about 35,000.

During Fire Prevention Week, the newspaper provides two full pages of coverage free. It runs seasonal public service announcements and covers fire department events and initiatives at no cost. For the past five years, The Wellington Advertiser has donated the proceeds of their annual hockey pool to support fire prevention and public education programs in the area.

MORE FM 105.5 in Huntsville is another of this year's winners. The station provided on-air support for the Muskoka Injury Prevention Coalition's fundraising efforts. Through the generous support of MORE FM and other community partners, the coalition raised thousands of dollars for the *Risk Watch*® injury prevention program for children. Over the years, MORE FM has been a strong supporter of the fire department and has always been willing to bring life-saving messages to people of the Muskoka District.

FIRE SAFETY PARTNER AWARDS GO TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PARTNERED WITH FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE FIRE SAFETY SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY.

The broad mandate of the Fire Safety Standards section is to ensure that appropriate fire safety standards are in place and to provide advice and assistance for effective enforcement of fire safety regulations and legislation by the municipal fire service. This involves the overall administration of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA), the Ontario Fire Code, the Fire Safety Commission—an adjudicative agency that renders decisions for appeals and applications related to specific matters identified under the authority of the FPPA, and a number of related programs as follows.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Under the authority of the FPPA, staff provide advice and assistance to the government, the fire protection community and the public on Ontario Fire Code compliance and enforcement. The section provides opinions on application of the legislation, develops inspection standards and guidelines related to interpretation and enforcement, and assists the Fire Marshal in fulfilling other duties under the FPPA, including approval for the closure of premises due to unsafe conditions. The section also processes appeals filed under the authority of the FPPA, renders decisions in the dispute, and provides assistance to the Fire Safety Commission in processing appeals and applications under the legislation. Staff activities for this fiscal year are summarized below.

ADVICE AND OPINIONS

4,666 Telephone inquiries handled
91 Written inquiries processed
161 Web site inquiries processed

INQUIRIES WITH RESPECT TO UNSAFE CONDITIONS ON PREMISES

35 Requests for assistance or approval processed

APPEALS

27 Appeals processed

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Section staff provide expert advice to government agencies on amendments respecting fire safety legislation and regulations, develop proposals for technical amendments to the Ontario Fire Code based on input from the public and users of the code, and participate in the coordinated national process for development of the model National Fire Code of Canada.

EXPERT ADVICE ON FIRE SAFETY MATTERS TO MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES

As part of the role in providing expert advice to government on fire safety matters, staff carry out plan review and approvals for schools, health care facilities, and select government buildings (on request). Staff activities for this fiscal year are summarized below.

PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVALS

153 School projects
111 Health care facilities

OTHER CORPORATE PROGRAMS

Staff provide expert technical support for a variety of other corporate programs including implementation of inquest recommendations, review of national standards, publication of fire safety related articles and Fire Marshal's Communiqués, and implementation of public fire safety information initiatives. Staff activities for this fiscal year are summarized below.

OTHER CORPORATE PROGRAMS

6 Communiqués developed
6 National standards reviewed

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Section staff deliver training, seminars, and information sessions related to the section mandate including:

- Occupancy-specific fire safety materials for industrial facilities and care occupancies
- Sessions related to FPPA and Ontario Fire Code administration
- Information on legislative and regulatory amendments
- Staff delivered a total of 29 courses, workshops, and other seminars during this fiscal year.

FIELD FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

The role of the Field Fire Protection Services (FFPS) section is to assist municipalities in ensuring they are in compliance with the public fire safety education and fire prevention requirements as set out in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 and to assist them in determining that the fire protection services they provide are in accordance with their needs and circumstances.

The core services of FFPS are:

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Advisory Services
- Program Development
- Emergency Management and Response

The business goals for the year were:

- Fulfilling OFM responsibilities under the FPPA
- Developing Phase 2 of Shaping Fire Safe Communities
- Meeting obligations under the Northern Fire Protection Program (NFPP)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 106 Certificates of Compliance have been issued. Sixty-three surveys have been completed, and 33 of 54 communities in the NFPP were deemed compliant
- Successfully completed the inspection transfer program audit
- Developed seven public fire safety guidelines

- Monitoring activities resulted in increased staffing levels in at least six fire departments, and 17 municipalities are currently being monitored
- Noticeable improvements in municipal record-keeping due to Municipal Fire Protection Information Survey (MFPIS) and monitoring activities
- Developed the Rural Staffing Guideline and Workbook, which was piloted in four municipalities.
- Delivered five basic fire prevention and inspection courses and 29 trainer/facilitator courses
- Essentials of Management seminar was developed for fire chiefs and municipal officials and was successfully piloted at Northeast FireCon in North Bay
- Designed and implemented a performance measurement software program, developed user manual, and piloted the program in 23 fire departments
- Obtained Policy Committee approval of section restructuring proposal

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS & FIRE EVALUATIONS

The Fire Investigations & Fire Evaluations section has the primary responsibility of investigating any fire in which there is provincial interest in accordance with the duty outlined in Clause 9(2)(a) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA). The authority to enter a fire scene and the powers upon entry are contained in Section 14 of the FPPA. In addition to the cause and origin of the fire, the section reports on all factors that contributed to the outcome.

Local municipal fire and police departments notify the OFM of any occurrences that meet established criteria. Once the preliminary information is received by the OFM, an assessment is made on whether it fits the criteria for OFM investigation, the urgency of response that is required, and to what level the investigation is to be conducted.

The levels of investigations are identified as Phase 1, 2, or 3. Investigations that are at a Phase 2 or a Phase 3 level receive a more comprehensive evaluation of factors beyond origin and cause that may have affected the outcome of the fire.

The OFM is mandated to investigate fires and provide expert testimony in court. During the 2003/04 fiscal year investigation staff investigated a total of 557 fires of which 21 were investigated to a Phase 2 level and two at a Phase 3 level. One of the Phase 3 investigations conducted was the explosion at 3887 Bloor St. W. in Toronto where 7 persons were killed. OFM staff were also involved in preparing for and providing testimony at Coroner's Inquests. The section was a significant contributor at a major inquest involving a firefighter death in Barrie. The inquest resulted in a number of recommendations affecting firefighter safety in the province.

FIRE INVESTIGATORS RESPOND TO FIRE AND EXPLOSION OCCURRENCES ANYWHERE IN THE PROVINCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

ALL FATAL FIRES OR CRITICAL INJURY INCIDENTS	24-hour response
EXPLOSIONS	24-hour response
SUSPECTED INCENDIARY FIRES	Monday through Sunday during normal working hours: 0830 hours–1700 hours
LARGE LOSS FIRES	\$500,000 and over: 0830 hours–1700 hours
FIRES OF UNUSUAL ORIGIN OR CIRCUMSTANCE	Unusual fire/smoke spread or involves circumstances that may result in widespread public concern, e.g., environmental hazard: 0830 hours–1700 hours
MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES	Where fire spread is beyond unit of origin: 0830 hours–1700 hours