

# 2016 Yukon Fire Marshal's Office Annual Report

The *2016 Fire Marshal's Office Annual Report* provides detailed information about fires and incident responses across Yukon. This information assists the Fire Marshal's Office to identify trends and enhance fire and life safety across the territory.

**Protective Services  
Department of Community Services**



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## About the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office

**MISSION** Reduce the loss of life and property to fire and other related emergencies throughout Yukon.

**GOALS** Continuously improve life safety and fire protection through leadership, education, enforcement and program development for the people of Yukon.

The Fire Marshal's Office has a diverse portfolio that ranges from the administration and enforcement of legislation to fire ground operations and investigations Yukon-wide. This includes administration of the *Fire Prevention Act*, *National Fire Code*, *Gasoline Handling Act* and administration of permits and inspections for above- and below-ground storage tanks for petroleum products pursuant to the *Storage Tank Regulations (Environmental Protection Act)*.

New regulations to protect Yukoners from the risks of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning in their homes came into effect in 2015. The regulations require fire alarms in all dwellings, carbon monoxide alarms in all dwellings with a fuel-burning device or an attached garage, and the installation and modification of oil-fired appliances and fuel oil storage tanks by qualified oil-burner mechanics.

Efforts to educate Yukoners of all ages about fire prevention and life safety have continued. In 2016, the Personal Home Safety Support Program continued for organizations and communities that have designated persons assisting elders/seniors and youth. Existing life safety and fire prevention programs and tools continued, such as the Home Fire Safety Checklist, the Fire Safety Starts With You program for elementary school children, the Seriously Simple campaign for carbon monoxide safety, and the Be a Hero campaign for fire safety and volunteerism.

The Fire Marshal's Office operates 16 fire departments in Yukon unincorporated communities, including the development and implementation of fire department policy and administrative oversight. The men and women of the Yukon fire service are proud to provide a nationally recognized and exemplary level of service in their respective communities.

The Fire Marshal's Office invests in leaders within the fire service, providing training funds and supporting both volunteer and career firefighters in the accredited Fire Officer Program.

To ensure the safety of its volunteer firefighters, the Fire Marshal's Office manages all firefighter training and continues to update the Yukon Fire Service Training Curriculum to be compliant with Yukon Occupational Health and Safety and the National Fire Protection Association requirements. The office introduced medical and physical screening and monitoring



in 2016 to better protect its fire service members and provide an enhanced level of safety and response for all Yukon.

The Fire Marshal's Office also operates and maintains fire halls, firefighting vehicles and equipment in unincorporated communities. In 2016, Yukon government budgeted \$610,000 to purchase two new fire trucks and opened a new \$2.4 million fire hall in Carcross.

As the authority having jurisdiction over the *Fire Prevention Act*, the Fire Marshal's Office provides life safety inspections, fire cause investigations and firefighter training to all rural Yukon municipalities, with select services provided to Dawson City, Town of Watson Lake and the City of Whitehorse upon request from the fire chief.

The Fire Marshal's Office relies on the assistance and support of the municipal fire chiefs in meeting its mandate. The value of the fire service to communities is not only in the protection firefighters provide to lives and property, but in the pride they take in fulfilling that role. In addition, properly equipped and trained fire departments have a noticeable economic effect on communities by reducing the rates levied by insurance providers for Yukon home and business owners.

Although the responsibility for providing the volunteers required to staff a fully operational fire department resides with the communities themselves, the Fire Marshal's Office continued to support rural fire departments in their efforts to recruit volunteer firefighters in 2016. The Fire Marshal's Office uses the 'Be a Hero campaign', social media channels, and other vehicles to communicate the need for volunteers and to recognize volunteers in rural Yukon who exemplify dedication and commitment by ensuring fire suppression services are available to their communities.

The Fire Marshal's Office continues to leverage the efficiencies that have come with being part of Protective Services. From interface fire agreements with Wildland Fire Management, to partnering with Emergency Medical Services to form SOMET, a specialized medical extrication team, Yukon is receiving more coordinated, effective and efficient emergency response than ever before.

### Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of the Fire Marshal's Office is established under the *Fire Prevention Act*. The 2016 organizational structure consisted of the Director of Fire and Life Safety (Fire Marshal), four Deputy Fire Marshals and one Finance Administration Assistant. Reporting to the Fire Marshal's Office are 16 volunteer fire departments (known as FMO-VFDs) and their respective Fire Chiefs.

## 2016 Yukon Fire Service Response and Incidents

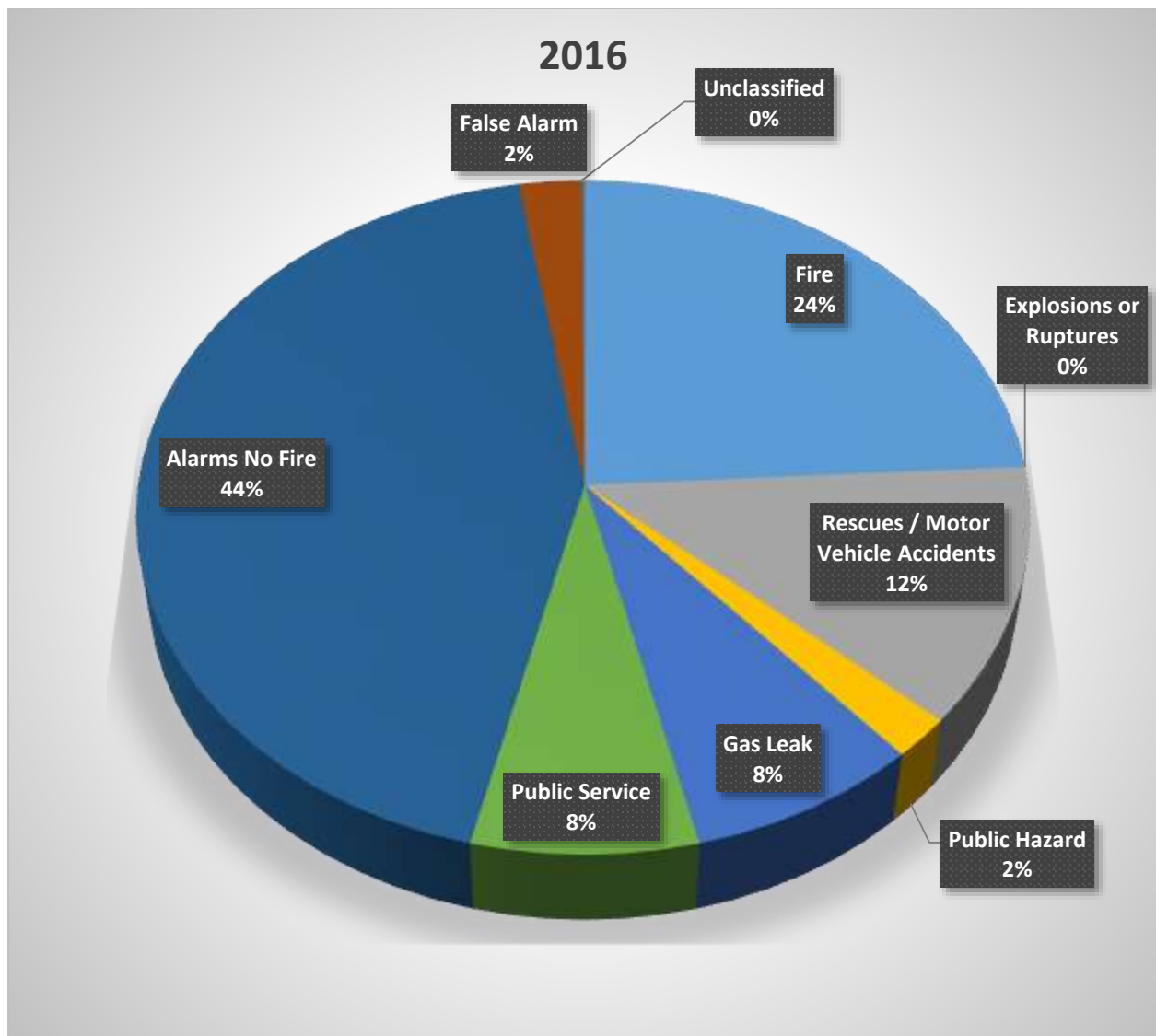
In 2016, the Yukon Fire Service responded to 637 incidents.

The Yukon Fire Service consists of the following agencies:

- 22 active structural fire departments (FMO and municipal)
- Erik Nielson Whitehorse International Airport Fire Department

### Response by type

Data is based on information available at the time of reporting from 20 of the 22 active fire departments that provided incident information.



## Fire Loss Value vs. Saved Value

Location	Fire Calls	Other Calls	Total Calls	Fire Loss	Saved
Beaver Creek	0	2	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Burwash Landing	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carcross	2	1	3	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Carmacks	1	4	5	\$5,105.00	\$0.00
Dawson City	1	0	1	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Faro	1	8	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Golden Horn	3	3	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Haines Junction	0	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hootalinqua	2	3	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ibex Valley	3	8	11	\$200,750.00	\$0.00
Klondike Valley	1	1	2	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Marsh Lake	2	5	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mayo	2	0	2	\$870.00	\$270.00
Mendenhall	0	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Lorne	3	8	11	\$40.00	\$360.00
Old Crow	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pelly Crossing	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ross River	2	1	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rural (unprotected)	1	0	1	\$33,000.00	\$0.00
Tagish	3	2	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Teslin	0	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Upper Liard	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Watson Lake	0	9	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Whitehorse	119	432	551	\$837,552.00	\$3,934,504.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>\$1,117,817.00</b>	<b>\$3,935,134.00</b>

## Source of Ignition

Source	# Calls	Fire Loss
General	1	\$0.00
Cooking Equipment	8	\$89,000.00
Heating Equipment	21	\$30,040.00
Appliances & Equipment	1	\$0.00
Electrical Distribution Equipment	6	\$145,500.00
Other Electrical Equipment	0	\$0.00
Smoker's Material & "Open" Flame	20	\$107,620.00
Exposure	2	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	9	\$450,002.00
Undetermined	79	\$290,655.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$1,112,817.00</b>

### Mutual/Automatic Aid Responses

Location	Times Given
Beaver Creek	0
Carcross	4
Dawson City	1
Faro	2
Golden Horn	0
Hootalinqua	1
Ibex Valley	2
Klondike Valley	0
Marsh Lake	1
Mayo	0
Mount Lorne	2
Tagish	1
Watson Lake	0
Whitehorse	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

### Property Classification

Type	# Calls	Total Loss
<b>Assembly</b>		
Theatre, Studio, Auditorium	15	\$0.00
Amusement, Recreation Place (Excluding Social, Sport Clubs)	7	\$0.00
School, College, University	20	\$0.00
Church, Funeral Parlour	1	\$0.00
Social, Sports Club	1	\$0.00
Library, Museum, Art Gallery	6	\$0.00
Food or Beverage Establishment	3	\$0.00
Passenger Terminal Station	2	\$0.00
<b>Institutional</b>		
Penitentiary, Correctional Facility, Reformatory	7	\$0.00
Home for Aged	15	\$0.00
Community Care Facility	13	\$0.00
Medical Facilities	18	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Institutional	5	\$0.00
<b>Residential</b>		
One- & Two-Family Dwellings	142	\$332,660.00
Apartment, Tenement, Flat, Townhouse, Condominium	72	\$544,000.00
Rooming, Boarding, Lodging House, Hostel	2	\$0.00
Hotel, Inn, Lodge	12	\$0.00
Motor Hotel, Motel	2	\$0.00
Dormitory	4	\$0.00
Mobile Home, Mobile Accommodation, Trailer	16	\$180,000.00
Camp/Retreats – Seasonal Use	3	\$0.00
Miscellaneous- Residential	4	\$8,105.00

<b>Business &amp; Personal Service</b>		
Office	27	\$750.00
Personal Service	1	\$0.00
<b>Mercantile</b>		
Food, Beverage Sale	8	\$0.00
Furniture, Appliance, Electronic Equipment, Hardware	1	\$0.00
Recreation, Hobby Supplies	1	\$0.00
Repair Shop, Laundry, Dry Cleaner	1	\$0.00
Motor Vehicles, Boats, Sales & Service	8	\$0.00
Department, Variety Store	5	\$0.00
<b>Industrial Manufacturing Properties</b>		
Beverage, Tobacco, Soap, Margarine	0	\$0.00
Vehicle & Related Equipment Manufacturing	0	\$0.00
Miscellaneous – Industrial Manufacturing Property	2	\$0.00
<b>Agriculture Products Storage</b>		
Flammable Liquids, Gases, Petroleum Products Storage	1	\$0.00
Vehicle Storage	3	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Storage Products	4	\$0.00
<b>Special Property &amp; Transportation Equipment</b>		
Outdoor Property	97	\$0.00
Under Construction or Demolition - Vacant	2	\$0.00
Watercraft	1	\$0.00
Ground Transport Vehicles	86	\$12,050.00
Aircraft	2	\$0.00
Special Vehicles	1	\$0.00
<b>Miscellaneous Property</b>		
Laboratories	1	\$0.00
Farm Facilities	1	\$750.00
Miscellaneous Outbuildings	4	\$6,502.00
Utility	5	\$33,000.00
Cement, Glass, Pottery Manufacturing	1	\$0.00
Communications	2	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Equipment	2	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>\$1,117,817.00</b>





## Core Activities



### Life Safety Inspections & Fire Prevention Activities

42 life safety inspections were completed Yukon-wide.

Fire safety education activities included:

- CO and oil-fired appliance safety announcements;
- Be A Hero campaign;
- Monthly community Fire Safety Calendar;
- Fire prevention week in October;
- Fire safety brochure and magnets, grades K-7, territory wide;
- Launch of Personal Home Safety Support Program.



### Firefighter Training

80% of all active departments participated in training provided by FMO. 90 firefighter training sessions were held, including:

- Safe Response & Exposure Protection (Fire Fighter Basic);
- Exterior Fire Ground Operations (Fire Fighter Advanced);
- Interior Fire Ground Operations (Fire Fighter 1);
- Fire Officer courses;
- 18 specialized courses on safety, rescue training, driver's training;
- Rapid Intervention Team & Yukon Strategy, Tactics and Accountability (YSTA) courses.

Fire Service medical assessments were implemented. Fire Service physical assessments begin in 2017.



### Mobile Live Fire Training Unit

Live fire training unit was deployed to Watson Lake, Whitehorse and to the FMO Fire Service Training Centre at Golden Horn Fire Department.

- More than 28 training sessions conducted for FMO and municipal firefighters.
- Used for Rapid Intervention Team (firefighter rescue) training.



### Storage Tank Removal Permits

- 21 residential storage tank inspections and removal permits were issued.
- 52 commercial tanks were inspected and permits issued.



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### Hose, Ladder and Breathing Apparatus Testing

- Continues to test hose and ladders as per Occupational Health and Safety.
- Staff continue to flow test, certify and replace self-contained breathing apparatus systems to ensure compliance.



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### Fire Investigation & Response

- 10 fire investigations were undertaken.
  - Deputy Fire Marshals provided expert information for 1 RCMP investigation and 5 municipal investigations.
  - 57 carbon monoxide investigations. The increase in awareness has resulted in an increase in response.
  - 1 large hazmat incident.
  - Incident Command support for 4 fires.
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## Notable Initiatives 2015/2016

### Fire Apparatus

1 mini-pumper delivered to Dawson City VFD for the protection of West Dawson.

### Fire Hall Replacement/Expansion

A new fire hall opened in Carcross in 2016. It is a joint training center for Tagish, Carcross and Mount Lorne fire departments.

### Special Operations Medical Extrication Team (SOMET)

The volunteer-based SOMET was launched in fall 2016. It was created in partnership with Yukon Emergency Services to provide advanced medical care during emergency extrication of patients from difficult terrain.



### Medical Examinations and Physical Assessments

The Fire Marshal's Office developed a medical screening program to ensure firefighters are medically cleared by a designated Yukon Fire Service medical physician to undertake firefighting duties.

Annual physical assessments for all firefighters will be mandatory though a 'no-fail' pilot program beginning 2017.

Health and fitness is promoted through a series of initiatives, notably, the Yukon Fire Service Firefighter Combat Challenge teams, with representation from across the Yukon.

### Home Fire Prevention and Life Safety

Combination carbon monoxide/smoke detectors continued to be purchased for distribution throughout Yukon. With Health and Social Services, carbon monoxide and smoke alarms were delivered at home visits to vulnerable Yukon residents.

### Municipal Fire Departments

As committed by the Minister, the FMO increased its presence in municipal fire department operations.

- FMO staff continued to work with every municipality and with the Faro, Teslin and Watson Lake fire departments and Chief Administrative Officers to bring the departments into compliance with Occupational Health and Safety.
- FMO continues to assist municipal departments by loaning equipment and providing guidance.
- A review of all Mutual Aid agreements with municipal government will be conducted in 2017.

