

Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office
Department of Community Services

Annual Report: 2024

Nunavut Emergency Management





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Message from the Honorable Minister David Akeeagok

As the Minister responsible for the newly established Department of Community Services, I am proud to present the 2024 Nunavut Fire Marshal's Annual Report, marking the first release of this report under our new departmental structure.

The work of the Fire Marshal's office is essential to public safety in our territory. By providing training, equipment and support, the office helps ensure that our firefighters are prepared to respond to emergencies with skill and confidence. From providing support in emergency repairs and replacement of equipment and tools to delivering fire trucks to communities, these efforts make a meaningful difference on the ground.



Beyond support for our Municipal Fire Departments, the Office continues to lead important fire prevention and education initiatives, public awareness campaigns, school visits and community outreach. These activities are aimed at helping Nunavummiut make informed choices both at work and at home.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all our firefighters and first responders for their courage, professionalism and commitment to helping our community members in times of need. I look forward to the synergy my department is currently working to realize, and the benefit Nunavummiut will see in bringing the Nunavut Fire Marshal's office under the auspice of the new department of Community Services!

Hon. David Akeeagok
Minister, Community Services

Message from the Nunavut Fire Marshal

I am pleased to release the Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office Annual Report for 2024, which includes valuable fire-related data for Nunavummiut. The report includes fire loss data from the past year which assists our Office in assessing and determining future strategies and goals for fire loss reduction as well as guiding the development of fire prevention and public education program initiatives locally, regionally and territory wide.

This document is reporting on the calendar year – January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Municipal Fire Departments across Nunavut prioritize firefighting and fire prevention activities, with firefighters serving key roles in ensuring a safer community. However, the responsibility to support their efforts is a shared one, and we must all actively participate.



Our commitment remains constant in ensuring fire prevention strategies are ongoing in our communities, with a specific focus on reducing fire-related fatalities, injuries, property losses and environmental impact. I encourage all Nunavummiut to take an active role in making their homes, businesses, and communities safer by practicing fire safety. Our collective effort makes a significant impact on daily life in our communities.

R.A. John McDermott, IAAI-FIT®, CCFI-B, MIAAI®

Fire Marshal

Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office

Nunavut Emergency Management



Overview of the Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office

The Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office (NFMO) operates under the authority of the *Fire Safety Act*. The NFMO's mission is to provide advice and guidance through leadership and expertise in the preservation of life and property, and the reduction and elimination of hazards contributing to fire loss damage in addition to providing a safe environment for Nunavummiut.

The NFMO plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of Nunavummiut by offering various services including conducting Fire Code inspections based on request, complaint or on a regular schedule, fire origin and cause investigations, fire prevention public education as Firefighter training. The NFMO also provides access to funding to municipal Fire Departments so they can acquire, maintain, or replace essential protective gear, tools or equipment needed to protect their communities throughout the year.

The NFMO works closely with multiple groups, continuously building partnerships among stakeholders at the community, territorial, national, and international level. These relationships foster an environment for the NFMO to give advice and guidance to organizations regarding the facilitation of fire and life safety within the territory of Nunavut.

Throughout 2024, the NFMO performed Fire Code Inspections, delivered, distributed fire prevention public education resources, and provided advice and guidance to stakeholders. As part of our ongoing commitment to the continual improvement process we undertook the review and revision of territorial firefighter training program.

In addition, the NFMO launched an initiative to assist municipal fire departments in replacing their bunker gear in order to remain in compliance with WSCC requirements under the Firefighter Code of Practice. This included sharing strategies with municipalities to budget and plan for the regular replacement of this critical protective clothing.

The Office also continues to support fire services across the territory by providing resources, supporting and conducting fire investigations, and maintaining fire data collection.



Fire Code Inspections

In the 2024 calendar year, like in the 2023 calendar year, the NFMO prioritizes a 100% response rate to Request and or Complaints for Fire Code Inspections. Reports are issued to the buildings' owners, reporting deficiencies which required correction to adhere to the National Fire Code of Canada. Fire Code inspections are prioritized based on risk to life safety and the function/purpose of the infrastructure.

In 2024, 68 Fire Code inspections were completed throughout Nunavut. The previous year, 2023, 630 Fire Code Inspection were complete. This represents an almost 90% reduction in Fire Code inspection year over year. To address the service reduction the NFMO is working through the Government of Nunavut hiring process to reduce staff vacancy. In the interim the department has identified a need to seek contract resources to provide additional support ensuring the NFMO continues to meet its high standard of service.

Measures are expected to be finalized in 2025 that will enable the NFMO to resume a more proactive community services approach, rather than purely regulatory, to territorial Fire Code inspection.

Fire Origin, Cause and Circumstance Investigations

Reported fires in Nunavut are investigated by origin, cause, and circumstance. These fires are investigated either by a Local Assistant to the Fire Marshal (LAFM) located in the community, NFMO staff, or uniformed members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) who are trained in fire origin, cause, and circumstance. Fire causes fall within four accepted classifications: incendiary, accidental, natural, and undetermined. The NFMO proactively uses specific identified causes within the classifications to develop/identify fire prevention programs tailored to the local, regional, or territorial needs.

Fire Prevention and Public Education

The NFMO provides support throughout Nunavut by providing various programs available to communities each year. Public Education Seminars were held by fire prevention and public education teams throughout the territory. Participants learned a variety of fire safety skills, which they consequently implemented in their homes, schools, and communities. The NFMO supported these efforts and provided fire prevention materials, resources, and funding to the fire departments.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was held from October 6-12, 2024, with the campaign "Smoke Alarms. Make them WORK for you!".

Fire Departments across the territory educated the public about the different sounds smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms make and what action should be taken if an alarm sounds. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learned how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provided lifesaving public education to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires. Fire departments also provided fire prevention activities in their communities such as: fire hall tours, fire prevention sessions in schools, and fire department recruitment open houses. Fire prevention educational kits were supplied to fire departments with the support of NFMO for Fire Prevention Week.

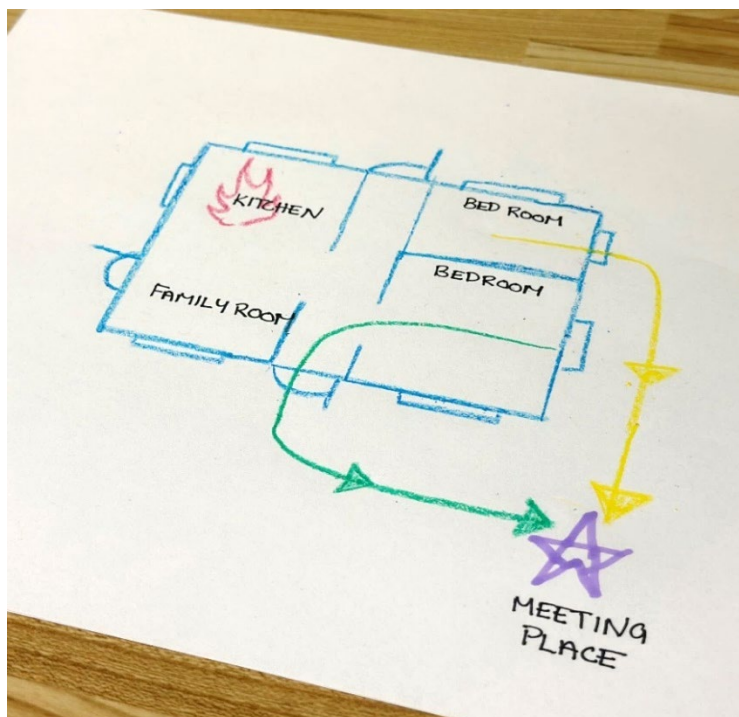


Figure 1 -Home Escape Plan

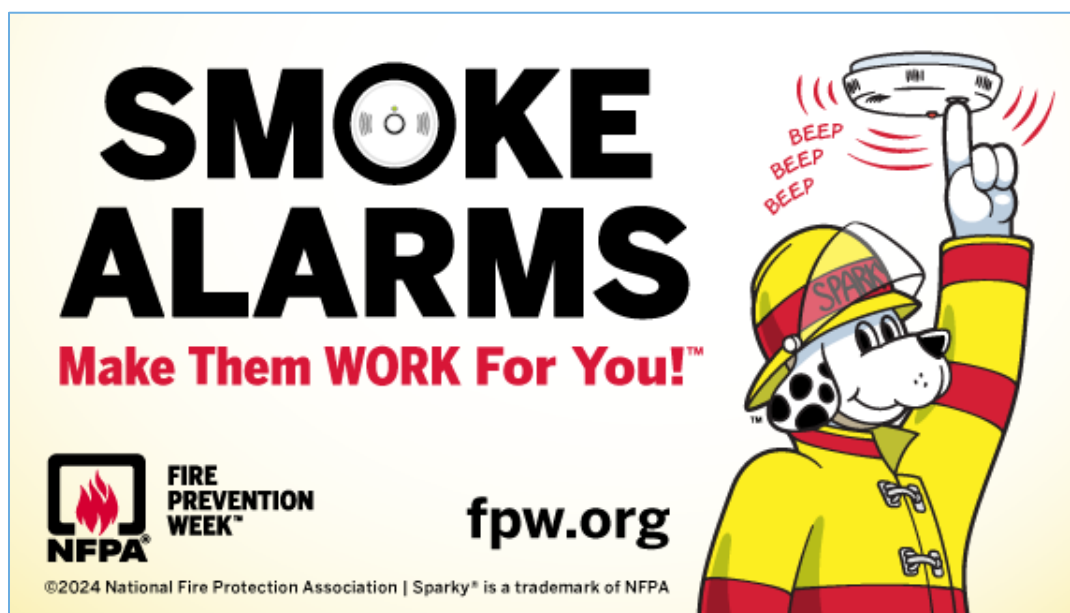


Figure 1: The 2024 Fire Prevention Week banner which reads “Smoke Alarms. Make them WORK For You!”

Nunavut Youth Fire-Setter and Arson Prevention (NYFSAP) Program

The NFMO continues to identify, interview, assess, and intervene with youth referred into its Nunavut Youth Fire-setter and Arson Prevention (NYFSAP) program. The NYFSAP program is aimed towards the prevention of fire-setting behaviour in children and youth. Components explored consisted of identifying children and youth involved in fire-setting, interviewing youth fire-setters and family members, using assessment tools to aid in determining the level of risk for future fire-setting, and providing effective intervention.

‘Remembering When’ Program

The NFMO has continued to promote its ‘Remembering When’ program, which focuses on fire safety messages targeted towards Elders in our communities. This program is a fire safety prevention program provided to local fire departments, caregivers, and other stakeholders with a vested interest in the safety of our Elders across Nunavut. The program provides local individuals with the training and skills to take the ‘Remembering When’ program out to seniors within their own communities.

Territorial Fire Loss for 2024

Fire statistics are broken down into the following four major categories: accidental fire, incendiary fire, natural fire, and undetermined fire. Category terminology and coding has been standardized across Canada from the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners (CCFMC), who provide the Canadian Code Structure on Fire Loss Statistics. In 2024, a total of 127 fires with eleven injuries and two (2) fatalities were reported to the NFMO. When compared to 2023, there were 140 fires reported to the NFMO showing a decrease in number with a slight increase in injuries (eleven) and same number of fatalities (two). Tables 1-3 give a more detailed account of fire loss details reported to the NFMO in Nunavut during 2024.

Table 1: 2023-2024 Territorial Fire Loss Information

	2023 Fire Loss	2024 Fire Loss
Source of Ignition	Number of Fires	
Cooking Equipment	5	1
Heating Equipment	6	3
Appliances and Equipment	2	10
Electrical Distribution Equipment	4	5
Other Electrical Equipment	3	2
Smokers Material and Open Flame Devices	32	25
Exposure	0	0
Miscellaneous/Undetermined	88	81
Total	140	127
Property Classification	Number of Fires	
Assembly	6	6
Institutional	2	3
Residential	66	51
Business and Personal Services	9	6
Mercantile	8	3
Industrial	7	1
Storage Property	8	17
Special Property & Transport Equipment	34	40
Total	140	127
Fire Cause	Number of Fires	
Incendiary	35	5

	2023 Fire Loss	2024 Fire Loss
Accidental	10	26
Natural	0	0
Undetermined	95	96
Total	140	127

Table 2: 2023-2024 Fires reported per community

	2023 Fires	2024 Fires
Community	Number of Fires	
Arctic Bay	3	2
Arviat	7	2
Baker Lake	10	4
Cambridge Bay	4	5
Chesterfield Inlet	3	1
Clyde River	1	9
Coral Harbour	1	3
Gjoa Haven	1	4
Grise Fiord	0	2
Iglolik	10	9
Iqaluit	31	29
Kimmirut	3	0
Kinngait	9	4
Kugaaruk	6	6
Kugluktuk	3	6
Nauyasat	0	1
Pangnirtung	8	9
Pond Inlet	7	9
Qikiqtarjuaq	7	1
Rankin Inlet	7	11
Resolute Bay	1	0
Sanikiluaq	10	6
Sanirajak	1	0
Taloyoak	2	2
Whale Cove	5	2

Total	140	127
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Table 3: 2023-2024 NFMO Fire Statistics

Reports	2023	2024
Reported Fires	140	127
Fire Deaths	2	2
Fire Injuries	6	11
Fire Code Inspections	630	68
Prosecutions under the <i>Fire Safety Act</i>	0	0
Fire Fighter Training Courses	30	7
Fire Fighter Successful in Training	141	n/a*

*In community fire fighting training is not pass or fail therefor a pass-fail metric is not gathered. Refer to section on Fire Fighter training (pg.15) for more information.



Fire Truck Replacement Program

The NFMO supported the Territory's Fire Truck Replacement Program. The 2024-2025 fiscal year capital budget for the truck replacement is \$821,697 per apparatus. Fire trucks in Nunavut are certified to Underwriter Laboratories of Canada Standard S-515 with an expected life span of 20 years. In 2024, fire trucks were purchased for the communities of Arctic Bay and Qikiqtarjuaq with scheduled delivery to each community by July 2025. See Table 4 for the Community Fire Truck Replacement Program schedule.

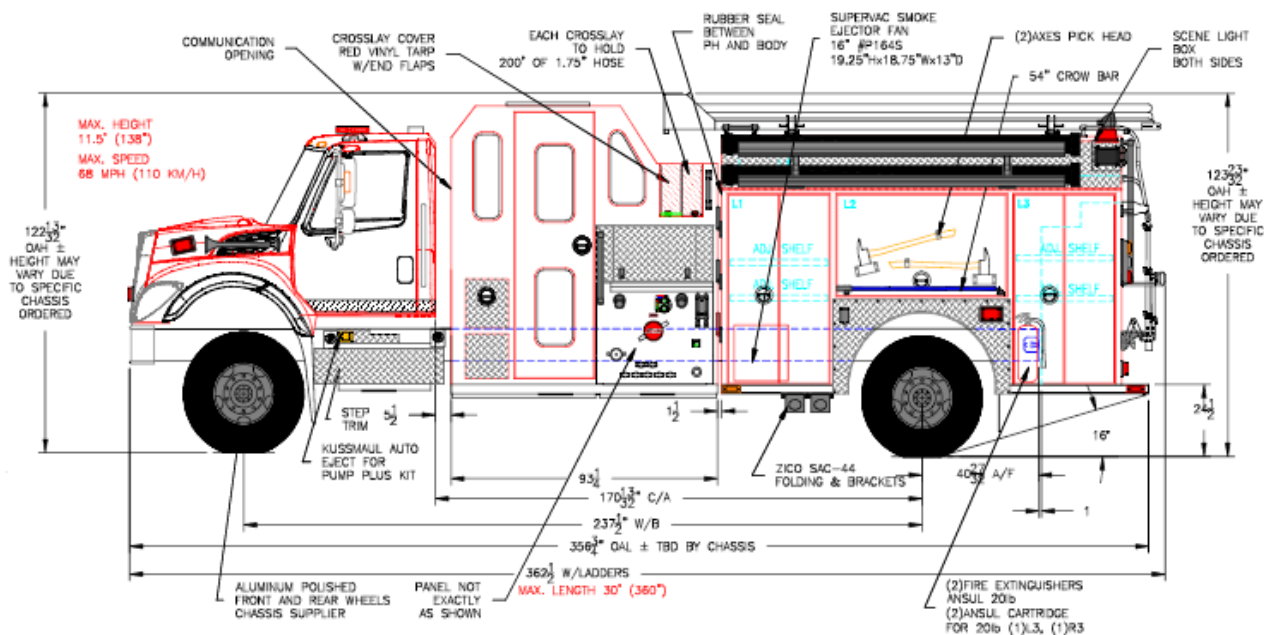


Figure 2: Fire Truck Schematic



Figure 3: Fire trucks designed to be placed in communities



Table 4: Fire Truck Replacement Schedule

Community	Year
Kugaaruk	2021
Coral Harbour	2021
Sanikiluaq	2023
Igloolik	2023
Resolute Bay	2023
Clyde River	2023
Qikiqtarjuaq	2024
Arctic Bay	2024
Sanirajak	2025
Taloyoak	2025
Chesterfield Inlet	2026
Whale Cove	2027
Grise Fiord	2027
Iqaluit	2028
Kimmirut	2028

Firefighter Training

In 2024-2025 the NFMO focused on the review and development of its centralized fire fighter training activities. During this time territorial training resources were strategically invested into the planned update of training and delivery methods. While this a major update to the training delivered in the 2023-2024 fiscal year it is part of a larger process aimed at the continual improvement, including both minor/major changes, of the NFMO program and community service delivery.

The review and update were an important step in ensuring high standards are maintained and to identify opportunities to enhance training to better support firefighter safety and effectiveness across the territory. The NFMO recognizes and acknowledges the short-term impact this may have had on local fire departments and greatly appreciates the continued dedication of firefighters during this transitional period. The centralized territorial firefighter training program is planned to resume delivery in the 2025-2026 training year.

While centralized training was paused the NFMO continued its community specific firefighter training. During the 2023-2024 training year, there were seven (7) informal community-based fire service training, and breathing apparatus training sessions. These sessions were held in conjunction with scheduled visits by NFMO and tailored to the needs of each hamlet's fire department. These sessions focused on our community firefighters building and refining their skillset using their own equipment, in their own communities, strengthening team cohesion, and operational readiness at the local level.



Figure 5: An Assistant Fire Marshal teaching donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during a Community Based Training class in Sanirajak.

Closing

The NFMO works to promote and develop, building and life safety initiatives across the territory. This work is underpinned by a genuine commitment to a continual improvement process aimed at increasing the effectiveness of our office and its programs. Our office works in collaboration with Local, Territorial and National partners to deliver programming that raises community awareness, supports local fire departments, strategically working to address fire and life safety at the territorial level.

Glossary

Accidental Fire

Accidental fires involve all those for which the proven cause does not involve an intentional human act to ignite or spread fire into an area where a fire should not be. When the intent of a person's action cannot be determined or proven to an acceptable level of certainty, the correct classification is undetermined.

Assembly Occupancy

A building, or part thereof, used for the gathering of persons for civic, political, travel, religious, social, educational, recreational or like purposes, or for the consumption of food or drink. Some examples are theatres, churches, community halls, libraries, license beverage establishments, restaurants, cafes, schools, arenas, and gyms.

Business / Personal Services Occupancy

A building, or part thereof, used for the transaction of business or the rendering or receiving of professional or personal services. Some examples are banks, hairdressing shops, dental offices, medical offices, offices, and police stations.

Fire Protection

Fire protection means the protection of the life and safety of persons and property from fire, including its engineering, prevention, public education, suppression, and investigation.

Incendiary Fire

A fire that is intentionally ignited in an area or under circumstances where and when there should not be a fire.

Industrial Occupancy (High Hazard)

A building used for the assembling, fabricating, manufacturing, processing, repairing, or storing of goods and materials and which contains sufficient quantities of highly combustible and flammable or explosive materials that, because of their inherent characteristics, constitute a special fire hazard. Some examples are bulk plants for flammable liquids, bulk storage warehouses for hazardous substances, distilleries, flour mills, grain elevators, spray painting operations, and wastepaper processing plants..

Industrial Occupancy (Medium hazard)

A building, or part thereof, used for the assembling, fabricating, manufacturing, processing, repairing, or storing of goods and materials in which the combustible content is more than 50 kg/m² or 1200 MJ/m² of floor area and not classified as

high hazard industrial occupancy. Some examples are cold storage plants, factories, laboratories, repair garages, service stations, warehouses, and woodworking factories.

Industrial Occupancy (*Low hazard*)

A building used for the assembling, fabricating, manufacturing, processing, repairing, or storing of goods and materials in which the combustible content is less than 50 kg/m² or 1200 mJ/m² of floor area. Some examples are factories, laboratories, storage garages, warehouses, and workshops.

Institutional Occupancy

A building, or part thereof, used by persons who require special care or treatment because of cognitive or physical limitations or by persons who are restrained from, or are incapable of self-preservation because of security measures not under their control. Some examples are nursing homes, penitentiaries, prisons, hospitals, and care homes with sleeping accommodations for more than ten persons.

Local Assistant to the Fire Marshal

A person appointed as a Local Assistant to the Fire Marshal subject to the direction of the Fire Marshal, shall perform the duties imposed and may exercise the powers conferred on a Local Assistant defined in the Fire Safety Act and Regulations.

Mercantile Occupancy

A building, or part thereof, used for the displaying or selling of retail goods, wares, or merchandise. Some examples are departments stores, exhibition malls, markets, shops, stores, and supermarkets.

Natural Fire

Natural fires are fires caused without direct human intervention or action, such as fires resulting from lighting, earthquake, wind, and flood.

Residential Occupancy

A building, or part thereof, used by persons for whom sleeping accommodation is provided but who are not harboured for the purpose of receiving care or treatment or are not involuntarily detained. Some examples are apartments, dormitories, hotels, houses, and motels.

Undetermined Fire

Undetermined fires are fires that have not yet been investigated or those that have been investigated, or are under investigation, and have insufficient information to classify further. The fire may still be under investigation where the cause may be determined later with the introduction or discovery of new information or evidence.