



June 8, 2022

**Announcement from the Office of the Fire Commissioner:
2021 Annual Report and Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard**

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) has released the [2021 Annual Report](#). This report includes some very concerning trends that are reflected across Canada.

Between 2019 and 2021, fire-related deaths in British Columbia rose from 27 to 56—a 107 percent increase. In 2021, there were 59 additional fire-related deaths—a five percent increase from the previous year. Only 42 percent of reported residential structure fires had a working smoke alarm. This indicates a significant public safety opportunity for the fire service to increase fire prevention education campaigns with an emphasis on working smoke alarms. Over the last two reporting years, there has been a 119 percent increase in fire-related deaths.

In addition to the Annual Report, I would like to draw your attention to a recent pilot project. The OFC has partnered with Statistics Canada to create a Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard. The dashboard will provide statistical and geographical information to fire services to identify neighbourhoods at greatest risk of structure fires. We will be able to use this tool to provide safety information targeted to areas at greatest risk within communities. This will help protect residents, firefighters, and reduce the social and financial impacts to communities from those fires. The tool is intended to be available to all fire services in early 2023.

Working together, I am confident we will decrease fire-related injuries and deaths. It is imperative that fire services continue to increase fire prevention public education efforts, particularly home fire safety programs for the youth and older adults who are over-represented in the category of fire injuries and fire deaths. The data and other research also show that working smoke alarms remain the most effective measure for preventing fire injuries and death.

I hope the information in the report will be useful in your continued efforts to keep the people in British Columbia safe.

Brian Godlonton
Fire Commissioner