

**5.—Forest Fire Losses, by Province, 1958 and 1959, compared with Ten-Year Average
1949-58—concluded**

Item		Average 1949-58	1958	1959
Saskatchewan—				
Forest fires.....	No.	151	244	169
Area burned.....	acres	125,291	119,260	6,444
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	150,059	345,794	237,206
Alberta—				
Forest fires.....	No.	218	464	469
Area burned.....	acres	423,362	230,993	87,959
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	2,739,186	4,308,852	2,045,318
British Columbia—				
Forest fires.....	No.	1,894	3,995	1,954
Area burned.....	acres	425,921	2,062,073	271,315
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	2,454,956	13,072,514	3,045,654
Federal Lands—				
Yukon Territory—				
Forest fires.....	No.	55	96	60
Area burned.....	acres	232,351	1,554,402	42,196
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	283,664	1,692,355	42,240
Northwest Territories—				
Forest fires.....	No.	60	71	78
Area burned.....	acres	514,830	85,293	110,845
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	273,597	606,802	277,611
National Parks—				
Forest fires.....	No.	35	40	21
Area burned.....	acres	3,897	1,404	9
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	16,407	9,386	1,693
Indian Lands—				
Forest fires.....	No.	58	105	53
Area burned.....	acres	10,903	12,607	14,001
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	49,598	146,763	24,424
Other Federal Lands (incl. military areas)—				
Forest fires.....	No.	4	5	18
Area burned.....	acres	7	8	121
Fire fighting cost and damage.....	\$	272	241	1,484

According to the cause-of-fire classification given in Table 6, lightning again caused the largest number of individual fires in 1959, although the number thus caused was only a little more than half the total for 1958 and not much more than two-thirds the average for the 1949-58 period; of the total, lightning caused 16 p.c. in 1959, 21 p.c. in 1958 and an average of 19 p.c. for the 1949-58 decade. Railways also caused about 16 p.c. of the fires in 1959 and campers and smokers together caused 29 p.c. The 1959 percentage for "Miscellaneous known", which classification includes fires started as a result of such incidents as falling aircraft, broken power lines and motor vehicle mishaps, stood at a little over 14 p.c. of the total; this was the second highest percentage for this classification since the record began in 1918, reflecting the changing technological patterns in Canada.

6.—Forest Fires, by Cause, 1958 and 1959, compared with Ten-Year Average 1949-58

Cause	Average 1949-58		1958		1959	
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Campfires.....	881	15	970	12	766	14
Smokers.....	1,096	19	1,222	15	815	15
Settlers.....	568	10	604	8	472	9
Railways.....	790	14	1,529	20	843	16
Lightning.....	1,126	19	1,620	21	847	16
Industrial operations.....	271	5	339	4	324	6
Incendiary.....	157	3	263	3	206	4
Public works.....	109	2	131	2	91	2
Miscellaneous known.....	542	9	835	11	769	14
Unknown.....	264	4	304	4	250	4
Totals.....	5,804	100	7,817	100	5,383	100