

According to the cause-of-fire classification given in Table 7, lightning again caused the largest number of individual fires in 1960, accounting for 25 p.c. of the total compared with 16 p.c. in 1959 and an average of 19 p.c. for the ten-year period 1950-59. Fires caused by railways made up 23 p.c. of the total in 1960 as against 16 p.c. in 1959 and those started by campfires, smokers and settlers together caused 31 p.c. as compared with 38 p.c. in the previous year. The 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, dropped from 14 p.c. in 1959 to 8 p.c. in 1960, 2 p.c. below the average for the 1950-59 decade.

7.—Forest Fires, by Cause, 1959 and 1960, compared with Ten-Year Average 1950-59

Cause	Average 1950-59		1959		1960	
	No.	p. c.	No.	p. c.	No.	p. c.
Campfires.....	844	15	766	14	1,014	12
Smokers.....	1,039	18	815	15	1,182	13
Settlers.....	539	10	472	9	507	6
Railways.....	796	14	843	16	2,014	23
Lightning.....	1,077	19	847	16	2,256	25
Industrial operations.....	280	5	324	6	342	4
Incendiary.....	156	3	206	4	302	3
Public works.....	103	2	91	2	102	1
Miscellaneous known.....	565	10	769	14	680	8
Unknown.....	252	4	250	4	482	5
Totals.....	5,651	100	5,383	100	8,881	100

Section 4.—Forest Administration, Research and Conservation

Subsection 1.—Federal Forestry Program

Administration.—The Federal Government is responsible for the protection and administration of the forest resources of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and of other federal lands such as the National Parks, forest experiment stations, military areas and Indian reserves. The Federal Government also administered (until repealed in 1960) the Canada Forestry Act, which provided among other things authority for operation of forest experiment stations and forest products laboratories. The chief responsibility of the Federal Government in the field of forestry is to carry out research in problems affecting the forests and their development, conservation and more effective utilization. Until the passage of new legislation late in 1960, these functions were carried out by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and the Forest Biology Division of the Department of Agriculture. The latter was responsible for all research relating to forest entomology and forest pathology, while the Forestry Branch conducted research in forest economics, in all phases of forestry including silviculture, forest management, forest ecology, tree breeding, forest inventory methods and forest fire protection, and in forest products.

In the summer of 1958, the first representations leading to the formation of a separate Department of Forestry were made by the Canadian Lumbermen's Association, which submitted to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources a brief urging that an extension service be established to bring the results of forest products research to the attention of small operators. Improved informational services were requested and also additional research in specific fields relating to sawmilling and woodworking industries. In the same year, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association also presented a brief to the Minister asking that forest research programs of the Federal Government be increased substantially.