

As shown in Table 7, lightning caused 34 p.c. of the forest fires in 1961. Although of record proportions, this figure does not convey the full importance of lightning as a fire cause. In Ontario and New Brunswick, lightning-caused fires accounted for 99 p.c. and 90 p.c., respectively, of the areas burned. For Canada as a whole, more than 50 p.c. of the area burned resulted from lightning fires. Human carelessness remained a major cause of forest fires, smokers and campers being the worst offenders.

7.—Forest Fires, by Cause, 1960 and 1961, compared with Ten-Year Average 1951-60

Cause	Average 1951-60		1960		1961	
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Campfires.....	843	15	994	13	1,085	13
Smokers.....	1,014	18	1,055	14	1,596	18
Settlers.....	529	10	495	7	774	9
Railways.....	461	8	536	7	296	3
Lightning.....	1,236	23	2,237	31	2,901	34
Industrial operations.....	288	5	338	5	391	5
Incendiary.....	168	3	286	4	367	4
Public works.....	108	2	100	1	115	1
Miscellaneous known.....	590	11	846	12	638	7
Unknown.....	259	5	459	6	492	6
Totals.....	5,496	100	7,346	100	8,655	100

Section 4.—Forest Administration, Research and Conservation

Subsection 1.—Federal Forestry Program

Administration.—The Federal Government is responsible through several departments and agencies 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, Indian reserves, military areas, and forest experiment stations. Prior to Oct. 1, 1960, when the Department of Forestry Act became effective, research in forestry and forest products and certain other forestry activities was carried out by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources under the authority of the Canada Forestry Act of 1949. Research in forest insects and diseases was conducted by the Forest Biology Division of the Department of Agriculture. These organizations were combined in the Department of Forestry.

The Department of Forestry Act (which repealed the Canada Forestry Act) sets out the duties, powers and functions of the Minister of Forestry as extending to and including "all matters over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction relating to the forest resources of Canada". The main functions of the Department include: (1) provision for the conduct of research relating to the protection, management and utilization of the forest resources of Canada and the better utilization of forest products; (2) undertaking, promoting or recommending measures for the encouragement of public co-operation in the protection and wise use of the forest resources of Canada; (3) co-operating with provincial governments and others by means of agreements relating to forestry matters; (4) provision of forest surveys and advice relating to the protection and management of federally administered forest lands; and (5) assuming responsibility for forest protection and management on federal lands at the request of the department or agency concerned. The Minister may consult with and inaugurate conferences of provincial or municipal authorities, universities, representatives of industry or other interested persons. The Act provides for the establishment of laboratories and other necessary research facilities, and of forest experimental areas on federal lands and for regulations for the protection, care and management of such areas.