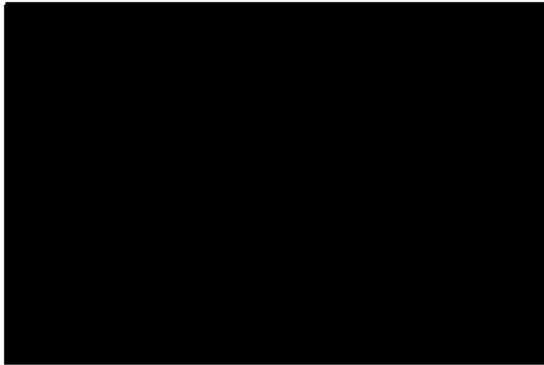




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19 September 2018



Information Request – Statistical information relating to the cause of fire in commercial buildings in NZ

I refer to your official information request dated 23 August 2018 regarding Statistical information relating to the cause of fire in commercial buildings in NZ.

In accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982, I *enclose* the information you requested between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2018. I have also provided you with the percentage of property saved in a commercial structure fire within the above said period.

Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bella Sutherland".

Bella Sutherland
Director, Office of the Chief Executive

encl

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2018

Incidents		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Carelessness with Heat Source	Careless disposal or use: cigarettes, ashes, embers	33	22	17	27	16	7	122
	Carelessness with heat source - Other	26	31	18	30	18	18	141
	Equipment unattended		5	14	4	17	7	47
	Falling asleep smoking	1				1		2
	Heat source too close to combustibles	37	32	42	33	33	19	196
	Inadequate control: openfires/campfires/bonfires	5		4	1	2	2	14
	People impaired by drugs or alcohol		1		2			3
	People playing with heat sources				1			1
	Unattended cooking	43	67	57	65	45	33	310
	Total	145	158	152	163	132	86	836
Carelessness with Material Ignited	Carelessness with material ignited - other	6	4	9	9	5	3	36
	Combustible placed too close to heat source	8	12	8	10	5	4	47
	Flammable liquid used:Kindle fire/cleaning/painting	2	1		2			5
	Flammable liquid/gas accidentally spilled/released	1	2	4	3	1		11
	Improper container	2	3	2	1	1		9
	Improper storage procedures	2	4	6	9	5	1	27
	People playing with combustibles	1			1			2
	Total	22	26	29	35	17	8	137
Deliberately Lit Fire	Controlled burn, land clearing fire				1			1
	Deliberately lit fire - not classified above	4	1	2	2		1	10
	Lawful	9	6	3	10	5	2	35
	Legality not known	1		6			1	8
	Suspicious	37	18	29	27	22	19	152
	Unlawful	52	53	37	25	24	15	206
	Total	103	78	77	65	51	38	412
Design Construction, Installation Fault	Construction deficiency	2	4	3	5	1		15
	Design deficiency	8	12	6	8	17	4	55
	Design, construction or installation fault - Other	8	8	2	6	5	6	35
	Installation deficiency	6	3	14	7	7	4	41
	Installed too close to combustibles	8	3					11
	No spark arrester or it was improperly installed	3	1	3	1	1		9
	Total	35	31	28	27	31	14	166
Mechanical Failure or Malfunction	Automatic control failure	14	16	10	13	14	7	74
	Backfire	1	4	3	2	2	2	14
	Lack of maintenance	15	16	15	16	12	4	78
	Manual control failure	7	3		2	1	1	14
	Mechanical failure, malfunction - Other	17	15	30	23	27	25	137

Incidents		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Mechanical Failure or Malfunction	Other electrical failure	121	130	117	140	112	109	729
	Part failure, leak or break	72	62	70	69	61	45	379
	Poor Workmanship			1		3		4
	Short circuit, earth fault	63	75	63	60	64	53	378
	Total	310	321	309	325	296	246	1,807
Natural Causes	Extreme conditions - not classified above	1	1	1		1	1	5
	High temperature	8	4	9	5	7	2	35
	High water, floods	2	1		1	1	1	6
	High wind	3		1	1			5
	Lightning	2		1	1	1	3	8
	Solar, sun	1				1		2
	Total	17	6	12	8	11	7	61
Operating Failure	Accidentally turned on: not turned off	4	4	3	9	4	2	26
	Collision, overturn, knockdown			1	2	3		6
	Equipment not being operated properly	5	6	6	10	5	4	36
	Equipment overloaded	37	29	15	32	18	13	144
	Equipment unattended	9	6					15
	Equipment used for purpose not intended	1	1	1		1	1	5
	Failure to clean	37	39	35	57	46	30	244
	Improper startup or shut down procedures	6	4	3	4	4	3	24
	Operating deficiency - not classified above	29	31	31	34	38	24	187
	Total	128	120	95	148	119	77	687
Other or Undetermined Cause	Animal	1			1			2
	Exposure fire	11	10	7	9	4		41
	Failure to use ordinary care	7	9	5	10	4	4	39
	Friction (sparks etc.)	14	16	11	13	7	3	64
	Pyrophoric	3	2	2		1		8
	Rekindled from previous fire, Re-ignition	5	7	6	3	7	4	32
	Spontaneous ignition	21	13	21	18	8	11	92
	Unable to classify	3	8	10	20	13	13	67
	Undetermined	37	44	48	59	49	28	265
	Total	102	109	110	133	93	63	610
Reckless (involving fire)	Reckless act (involving fire)	5	4	1	5	2		17
	Reckless with fireworks	1	1		1	1		4
	Total	6	5	1	6	3		21
Not Recorded	Information not recorded					6	31	37
	Total					6	31	37

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2018

Incidents	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
	868	854	813	910	759	570	4,774

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2018

Incidents		0 - 10%	11 - 20%	21 - 30%	31 - 40%	41 - 50%	51 - 60%	61 - 70%	71 - 80%	81 - 90%	91 - 100%	Not Recorded	
2013	Commercial - not classified above	5	1	1		3	1			1	41		53
	Industrial, Manufacturing	12			2	2	1	5	3	5	181		211
	Restaurant, Pub, Tavern	1	1		1	6	5	1	1	2	124		142
	Service/Repair, Dry cleaner, Laundry, Workshop	5	1	1	2	1	2			5	23		40
	Shop, Mall, Supermarket, Gas station, Sales, Other	7	1	3	2	3	1	1	6	5	192		221
	Storage, Warehousing	11		1		5	2	2	4	1	47		73
	Office, Bank, Embassy, Fire/Ambo/Police station	1	1							1	125		128
	Total	42	5	6	7	20	12	9	14	20	733		868
2014	Commercial - not classified above	4			1	1			1	3	42		52
	Industrial, Manufacturing	12		2		1	2	1	6	12	195		231
	Office, Bank, Embassy, Fire/Ambo/Police station	2				1		1	1	1	129		135
	Restaurant, Pub, Tavern	5		1				1	1	3	106		117
	Service/Repair, Dry cleaner, Laundry, Workshop	4	3	1		1	1		3	7	37		57
	Shop, Mall, Supermarket, Gas station, Sales, Other	8	1		1				3	5	176		194
	Storage, Warehousing	12	2	1		3			1	1	48		68
	Total	47	6	5	1	8	3	3	16	32	733		854
2015	Commercial - not classified above	4	3		2		1			1	42		53
	Industrial, Manufacturing	9			2	4	1		3	3	164		186
	Office, Bank, Embassy, Fire/Ambo/Police station	1							1	3	167		172
	Restaurant, Pub, Tavern	5		1	1	1			2	4	97		111
	Service/Repair, Dry cleaner, Laundry, Workshop	7	1	1		1			2	2	33		47
	Shop, Mall, Supermarket, Gas station, Sales, Other	10		1		3	2	1	3	2	136		158
	Storage, Warehousing	17	2		1				1	5	60		86
	Total	53	6	3	6	9	4	1	12	20	699		813
2016	Commercial - not classified above	4			1			1	4	3	55		68
	Industrial, Manufacturing	15	2		3	1	1	3	1	4	174		204
	Office, Bank, Embassy, Fire/Ambo/Police station	1					1				142		144
	Restaurant, Pub, Tavern	1		1		3	1	1	5	6	131		149
	Service/Repair, Dry cleaner, Laundry, Workshop	8		2	1	5		1	2	3	36		58
	Shop, Mall, Supermarket, Gas station, Sales, Other	7		2	1	2		5	2	1	189		209

Between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2018

Incidents		0 - 10%	11 - 20%	21 - 30%	31 - 40%	41 - 50%	51 - 60%	61 - 70%	71 - 80%	81 - 90%	91 - 100%	Not Recorded	
2016	Storage, Warehousing	19	1			2	2	2	1	1	51		79
	Total	55	3	5	6	13	5	13	15	18	778		911
2017	Commercial - not classified above	8				1				4	23	1	37
	Office, Bank, Embassy, Fire/Ambo/Police station	1	1				1			2	113		118
	Restaurant, Pub, Tavern	3							1	4	110		118
	Service/Repair, Dry cleaner, Laundry, Workshop	5			2			1	2	1	29		40
	Shop, Mall, Supermarket, Gas station, Sales, Other	2				1		2	2	5	147		159
	Storage, Warehousing	9	1		1	2	1	2	2	4	45	1	68
	Industrial, Manufacturing	9	1	1	2	4		2	1	7	192		219
	Total	37	3	1	5	8	2	7	8	27	659	2	759
	2018	Commercial - not classified above	2							1		37	1
Industrial, Manufacturing		6		1		5		1		6	101		120
Restaurant, Pub, Tavern					1	2		1	1	1	78		84
Service/Repair, Dry cleaner, Laundry, Workshop		6			1	1				3	18	1	30
Shop, Mall, Supermarket, Gas station, Sales, Other		1			1	1		1	2	5	115	2	128
Storage, Warehousing		8				3		2	2		45	1	61
Office, Bank, Embassy, Fire/Ambo/Police station		2							1		103		106
Total		25		1	3	12		5	7	15	497	5	570
		259	23	21	28	70	26	38	72	132	4,099	7	4,775

Released under the Official Information Act 1982