C.2

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2nd QUARTER REPORT

The Vision of The Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department is:

To provide the citizens of The Blue Mountains with pro-active, effective and efficient delivery of fire, rescue, public education and fire prevention services; through a unified forward thinking organization with good morale and with the highest standards of personnel safety, fairness and professionalism.

REPORT TO: Finance & Administration Committee
FROM: Ron Doherty, Fire Chief
DATE: August 18, 2009
SUBJECT: 2nd Quarter Report – 2009

The Blue Mountains Fire Department

Quarterly Report – April – June 2009

This quarterly report is to provide information with regards to the operation and status of The Blue Mountains Fire Department for the second quarter (April – June 2009)

Highlights of 2nd Quarter:

- The department responded to 4 working fires, 37 false alarms, 4 pre-fire conditions and 15 other responses.

- Collingwood Fire Agreement – No further discussions have taken place in regards to the Automatic Aid Agreement, however, we will be continuing with our signed Mutual Aid Agreement.

- EMS – Chief Doherty is working with Mike Muir from Grey County EMS to ensure ambulance services within the Blue Mountains are moving forward in a positive manner as it relates to their base locations on fire department properties.

2009 TRAINING PERCENTAGES – 2nd QUARTER

HALL # 1

Below 50% Attendance	2 Firefighters
50% - 75%	9 Firefighters
76% - 100%	10 Firefighters

2009 RESPONSE CALLS – 2nd QUARTER

HALL # 1

Below 50% Attendance	6 Firefighters
50% - 75%	14 Firefighters
76% - 100%	1 Firefighter

2009 TRAINING PERCENTAGES – 2nd QUARTER

HALL # 2

Below 50% Attendance	0 Firefighters
50% - 75%	6 Firefighters
76% - 100%	14 Firefighters

2009 RESPONSE CALLS – 2nd QUARTER

HALL # 2

Below 50% Attendance	9 Firefighters
50% - 75%	6 Firefighters
76% - 100%	3 Firefighters

Note: Two Firefighters from Station # 2 were injured and not attending emergency calls

Note: Firefighter Mike Cascone (2 Years) experience has left our department for full time employment with Hamilton Fire Department.

YEARS OF SERVICE – HALL #1
Volunteer Firefighters

FIREFIGHTER'S NAME	NUMBER OF YEARS
A. J. Lake	25
Steve Staveley	20
Tom Watts	18
Mike Keaveney	18
Bryan Lowe	18
Randy Osborne	13
Shawn Postma	7
Shawn Everitt	5
Chris Cole	5
Scott Marritt	3
Andrew Morris	3
Luke Sauder	3
Devon McDonald	3
Leah Hewgill	3
Timo Hotari	Probationary
Chris Lowe	Probationary
Michael Hutten	Probationary
Chris Allen	Probationary
Joseph Scott	Probationary
Jim Walton	Probationary
David Dick	Probationary

Summary:
25 Years - 1
20 Years - 1
18 Years - 3
13 Years - 1
7 Years - 1
5 Years - 2
3 Year - 5
Probationary – 7

YEARS OF SERVICE – HALL #2
Volunteer Firefighters

FIREFIGHTER'S NAME	NUMBER OF YEARS
Rob Keith	21
Steve Conn	19
Wayne Marritt	18
Al Sawatzky	9
Scott Wright	9
Bruce Fraser	7
Tyler Spies	7
Mike Keeling	7
Elijah McCaffrey	5
Derek McKenzie	3
Sean McKenzie	2
Colin Macready	2
Marijan Lucic	2
Darren Johnston	2
Mike Cascone	2
Mike Scott	2
Meghan Loney	2
Cody Zanardo	2
Ian Doherty	Probationary
Michelle Lakoseljac	Probationary

Summary:

21 Years - 1
19 Years - 1
18 Years - 1
9 Years - 2
7 Years - 3
5 Years - 1
3 Years - 1
2 Years - 8
Probationary - 2

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
Quarterly Report
Fire Prevention

Months April – June **Year 2009**

Inspections

Request	8
Institutional	2
Commercial	48
Industrial	10
Assembly	36
Residential	25
Tents	9
Display Fireworks	2
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	1
Bunkhouse	51
Total this Quarter	192
Total To Date	214

Fire & Life Safety Education

Focus Group	Topic	# of persons
TBM Employees	Fire Extinguisher Awareness	50
Thornbury Yacht Club	Fire Extinguisher Training	30
TAPP-C	Home Fire Safety	3
The Blue Mountains	2009 Risk Assessment	FPPA requirement

Distribution of Information

Quantity this Quarter	Quantity Year to Date
270	370

Public Service Announcements

Newspaper	Radio
5	6

Target Group Support

Target Group	Service
Thornbury BIA	Consult for Canada Day Emergency Preplans

Fire Safety Plans

Plans Under Review	Buildings Inspected	Plans Approved
	3	3
		2 OPAA

Preplans

Plans Developed	Sites Inspected	Plans Presented to Dept.

Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
4	1

Fire Code Enforcement

Smoke alarm tickets issued – Part 1	Smoke alarm Infractions Issued – Part 3	Part 3 – Fire Code Violations Registered	Results
	2		Guilty - $5K fine

Fire Investigations

Property Type	$ Loss	Possible Cause

Non- Emergency Responses

CO Alarm	Smoke Alarm	Other
3	1	1

TRAINING
2nd Quarter Report
April – June 2009

TRAINING STATS 2nd QUARTER – 2009 (In House)

April 2009		May 2009		June 2009	
Station # 1	**Station # 2**	**Station # 1**	**Station # 2**	**Station # 1**	**Station # 2**
98 Hours	100 Hours	96 Hours	164 Hours	158 Hours	117 Hours

In House training takes place every Monday night throughout the year.

TOPIC	NUMBER OF HOURS
Truck / Equipment Maintenance Checks	194
Farm Industrial Specialized Rescue	62
High Angle / Rappel	102
Auto Extrication / High Pressure Air Bags	92
Portable Pumps	74
Search & Rescue (interior)	130
Hydraulic Ventilation	73
Live fire / Fire Behaviour / Ventilation	103

Ontario Fire College Courses – April 2009

Firefighters	Ontario Fire College Course	Number of Days
2	**Flashover Training**	**2**
3	**CO 101 Legislation**	**1**
3	**Trench Rescue Awareness**	**1**
3	**Structure Collapse Training**	**1**
1	**CO 401 Building Construction**	**5**
1	**CO 501/502 Incident Command**	**5**

Ontario Fire College Courses – May 2009

Firefighters	Ontario Fire College Courses	Number of Days
1	**Confined Space Rescue**	**2**

1	CO 503/504/505 Incident Command	5
1	CO 401 Building Construction	5
1	CO 601/602 Specialized Rescue	5
1	Flashover Training	2

Ontario Fire College Courses – May 2009

Firefighters	Ontario Fire College Courses	Number of Days
2	CO 101 Legislation	1
1	Rope Rescue / Rappel	5
2	F.F. Module "B" Training	5
1	Rural Water Supply	2

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
Quarterly Report
Mechanical

Months – April – June **Year - 2009**

Repair Costs

Unit #	Routine Maintenance	Unexpected Repair	Cost
291	Yes		495
281	Yes		355
171	Yes		495
261		Yes	280
503	Yes		385
261	Yes		
181, 191, 171, 192, 291, 281, 161	Pump Service		2925
Ground Ladders	Yes		2935

ADMINISTRATION

Staff Meetings are held bimonthly to discuss ongoing items within the department and determine ways of dealing with issues. The meetings also allow for the flow of information from each division of the fire department as well as from Senior Management and Council.

Fire Master Plan

The Fire Master Plan has been adopted by Council. The CAO and the Fire Department are working together on the next steps towards our go forward action plan.

Deputy Fire Chief

The CAO and the Fire Department is moving forward on replacing the Deputy Fire Chief position as soon as the job description is modified to better reflect the Fire Master Plan.

Simplified Risk Assessment

The Fire Prevention Officer has completed the department's latest "Simplified Risk Assessment", which is an analysis of the municipality's fire prevention programs and activities necessary to manage the community's fire risk. (This document is attached to this quarterly report).

Resignations

There has only been one firefighter resignation over the last three months:

- Mike Cascone has taken on a full time firefighting position with Hamilton Fire Department.

Computer Software

The department is researching computer software specific to the fire department. We are looking into costing and efficiency issues which will make the running of the department much more effective.

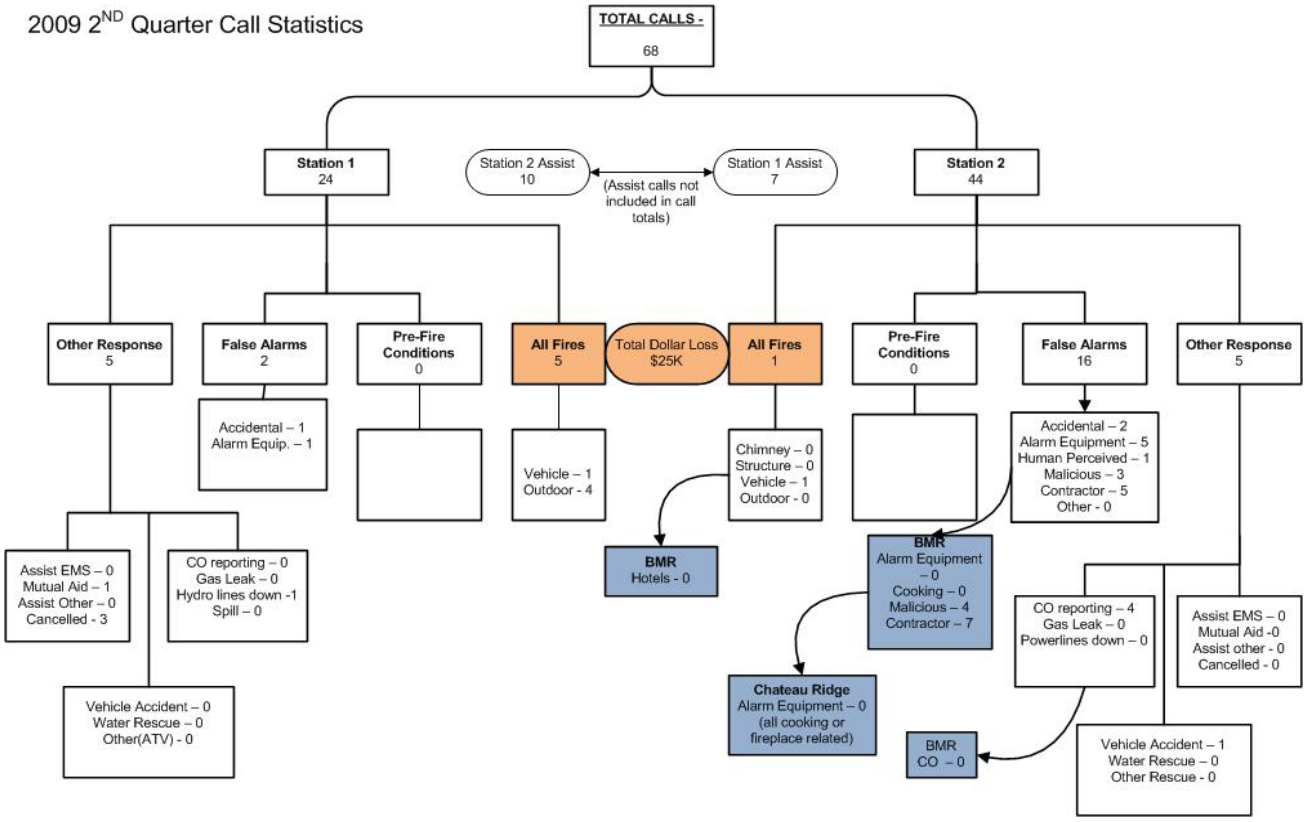
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2nd Quarter Report

April – June 2009

April 2009	Review Annex Critical Infrastructure – make appropriate changes
May 4 – 10, 2009	Emergency Preparedness Week – Public Education 72 hour preparedness Kit.
June 2009	Review Annex H agreements with ski clubs. Met with town staff to discuss working on pandemic business continuity plan for The Town of The Blue Mountains Staff.

2009 2ND Quarter Call Statistics



Town of
The Blue Mountains

Simplified Risk Assessment

2009

Prepared by:
A.J. Lake Fire Prevention Officer
Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Dept.

Document Summary

This Simplified Risk Assessment is an analysis of fire incidents within the Town of The Blue Mountains for the years 2006 – 2008. The analysis will identify programs and activities necessary to effectively manage the community fire risk based upon local needs and circumstances.

This report will demonstrate that when compared to provincial averages and a report completed in 2001, the Town of The Blue Mountains is mitigating its fire risks through various programs and procedures in addition to those required by the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

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Town of the Blue Mountains
Demographic Profile

Age of Population	Number	% of Population
0 – 14	895	18
15 – 64	4250	68
65 and over	1680	14
Total Population	6825	100

Demographic Profile Commentary

The Town of The Blue Mountains continues to be a rapidly growing Municipality with a population growth above the provincial average. The growth appears to be in the 65 and over age group with a 3% increase since 2001. This growth continues to be a trend at double the provincial average. The construction of single family dwellings, equals the population growth for this healthy and active age group, while high density housing continues to accommodate seasonal and weekend population fluctuations.

The full time population of 6825 reside in 52% of the Municipality's private dwellings. If residents sharing their time between homes here and surrounding major centres were taken into account, we would see a more realistic population of 14,000. Part time residents are becoming more of a trend as we move toward a 4 season resort community.

For this analysis, population and dwelling unit statistics are based on the 2006 Canada Census. Marginal dwellings not occupied on census day were not counted. This accounts for a minimum of 2200 units or 5940 persons (based on 2.7 persons per census family). Multi unit residential occupancies appear to have a 5% full time occupancy rate.

Additional accommodation for 500 persons is available in designated motels and hotels. This in addition to multiunit residential buildings offering short term accommodation, boosts our population to 20,500 during peak summer ski season times.

Estimated Population Fluctuation

Full Time	Part Time	Tourist	Total
6825	7225	6450	20500

Demographic Profile Concerns

- Large number of part time residents makes it difficult to communicate or conduct fire prevention activities

- Large number of tourists centred at Blue Mountain continues to be a concern. Bars and eating facilities can entertain 5000 seated guests. On site accommodation for 3100 persons. Off site accommodation for 6400.

- Pedestrian traffic in and around the Village at Blue reduces response times

- Traffic volume often reduces response times

- Alcohol/drug abuse resulting in activities leading to vandalism

- Tourists may not have a high level of fire safety awareness

- Tourists and cottagers often leave any regard for fire prevention/fire safety at home. They are in holiday mode. Unattended cooking, candles and disposal of hot ashes are frequent causes of fires at part time residence

- High cost of living and home ownership appears to be resulting in an increase of illegal apartments and living accommodations not registered with the Town.

Vulnerable groups

- Nursing/retirement home – 120 residents

Population fluctuation

6800 – 20500

- Secondary residences used on a regular basis 14000
- Influx of tourists and part time residents in summer and high ski season times 20,500

Barriers to Public Education

- Part time residents difficult to reach
- Tourists not prepared to listen
- Large area serviced by several medias – east and west regions serviced by different news papers and radio

Municipal Fire Deaths and Injuries

There have not been any fire deaths or fire related injuries reported during this time period.

Town of The Blue Mountains
Building Stock

Occupancy Classification		# of Units
Group A	Assembly Temporary structures	80 Approximately 40 annual permits
Group B	Institutional	2
Group C	Single family	5619
	Multi-unit residential	1200 units +/-
	Hotel / Motel	10
	Mobile Homes & Trailers	
	Migrant Worker Housing	49
Groups D & E	Commercial	170
Group F	Industrial	60
Other occupancies not classified in OBC such as farm buildings.		300
	Totals	**7530**

Total # of mixed occupancy buildings	170

Building Stock Profile Commentary

With the exception of single family dwelling units, property classification statistics are based on 2008 annual fire inspection records. The 300 farm buildings not classified under the Ontario Building Code (OBC) is approximate only.

Assembly occupancies account for 18% of properties inspected annually. These occupancies include club houses, lodges and restaurants affiliated with the tourism industry. The majority of these buildings have occupant loads in excess of 300 persons.
An additional 40 (9%) *temporary* structures can be added to assembly occupancies. Tents having an area larger than 30 square metres require a building permit and are often used to accommodate larger crowds for special events.

Institutional occupancies accounts for 2% of inspected properties. This includes an elementary school with an enrolment of approx 500 students and a nursing/retirement home with a

population of 120 persons. The majority of retirement home residents would require assistance in the event of an emergency.

There were approximately 5600 *private dwellings* based on figures from Statistics Canada 2006. 52% or 2930 of these homes are occupied on a full time basis. Of the full time residents 84% live in single family detached homes while 16% live in multi unit residential buildings including condominiums.

44 *residential buildings* accounted for 10% of annually inspected properties. These buildings include hotels, motels and condominiums. Several of the condominium corporations are used by Blue Mountain Resorts as overflow when residential units on their own property are at capacity. Several condominium corporations providing multi unit residential housing are not included in these statistics since they are not routinely inspected.

Migrant worker housing used to accommodate over 800 workers in our apple industry accounts for 11% of annually inspected properties. Buildings used to house migrant workers are not considered to be agricultural and are therefore applicable to the Ontario Fire Code based on Ontario Fire Marshals office guidelines.

Business, personal services and mercantile occupancies account for 38 % of inspected properties. It is estimated that 90% of these occupancies share building space with residential or other commercial occupancies.

Industrial occupancies account for 13% of inspected properties. F1 or high hazard industrial occupancies account for 10% of these buildings and include Breaker Technology, paint and body shops and chemical distribution depots. F2 or medium hazard account for 70% of industrial properties and include automotive repair garages, storage buildings and service stations. F3 or light hazard industrial accounts for 20% and includes food processing plants, parking garages, warehouse and storage garages.

Although the local agricultural industry is declining and the existing operations are becoming more efficient it is estimated that approximately 300 *farm buildings* remain in use. These buildings are not regulated by the Ontario Building Code and are exempt from the Ontario Fire Code.

Building Stock Profile Concerns

General

- Renovations often completed without permits where exiting, interior finishes and early warning could affect the life safety of occupants
- Wood burning appliances installed without a permit. Clearances not maintained resulting in dollar loss.

Institutional

- East wing of Errinrung - no sprinklers in old combustible section

Hotels/Multiunit Residential

- Frequent malicious or nuisance activation of fire alarm systems in these populated buildings is resulting in a passive response to fire alarms by the occupants and staff

Detached Dwellings

- Large percentage of homes are only part time occupancies – fires occurring in unoccupied homes without monitored alarms are generally a total loss
- part time residents account for a large percentage of careless fires – hot coals from fire place placed in combustible containers then placed on combustible deck – vacuuming hot coals from fp into central vac, unattended candles, unattended cooking
- open air burning in high density residential areas posing fire risk to neighbouring properties and structures
- section 9.8 of the Ontario Fire Code (OFC) applies to numerous unregistered homes

Thornbury and Clarksburg Downtown Cores

- Effective separations questionable between commercial and residential
- Poor spatial separation of buildings

Industrial

- Accessibility and water supply to the rear of BTI

Temporary Structures/Tents

- More frequently used with growing occupant loads
- Flame spread ratings of decorations
- Maintaining clearances to other buildings
- Remote locations

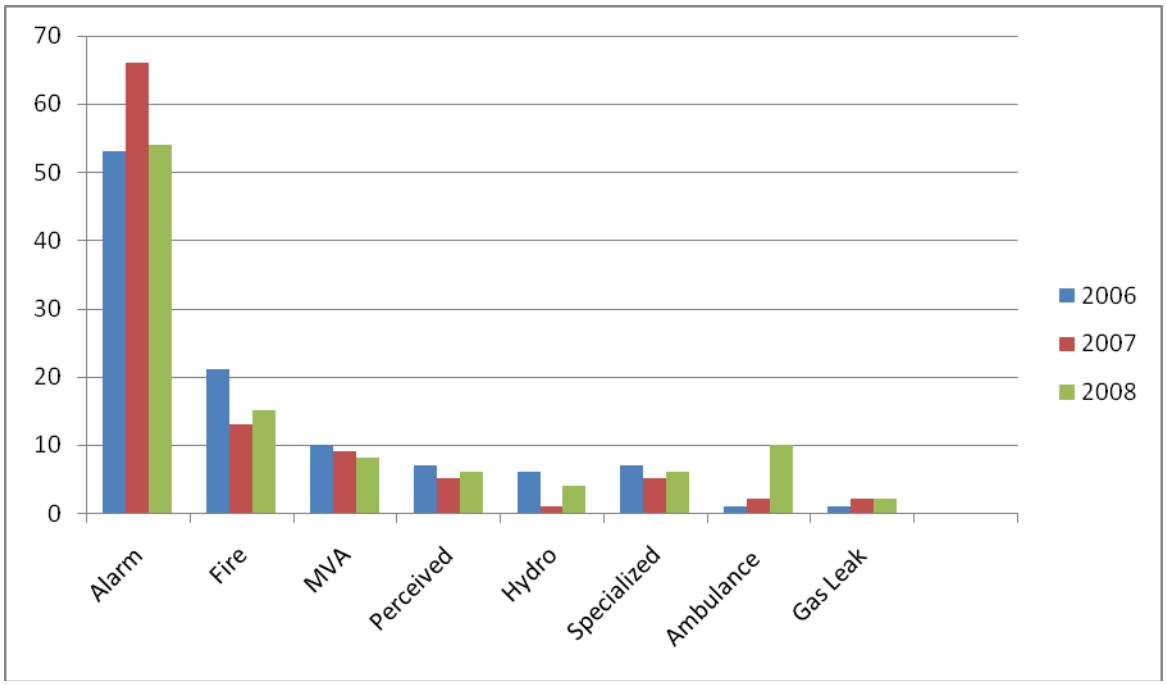
Assembly/Special Events

- Increased occupant loads
- Increased hazards
- Decreased fire access

Other

Events plaza - access

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2006 – 2008
Response Percentage Breakdown



The chart indicates a consistent volume of calls for the 8 response types over the three year period. Over fifty percent of the call volume continues to be commercial and residential alarm calls. The spike in 2007 was due to an alarm design deficiency in one residential building. The problem was identified by Fire Prevention and corrected by the building owner.

Fire responses include incidents where pre-fire and/or light smoke conditions existed. It also includes chimney fires where zero dollar loss was reported by the fire department.

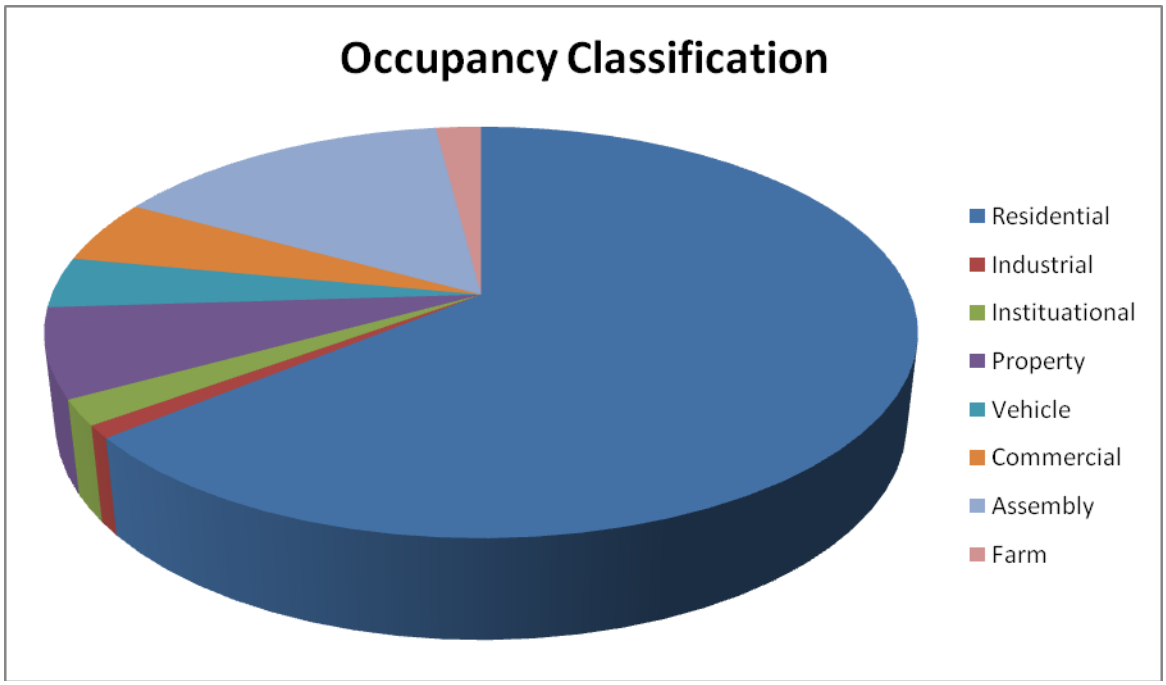
MVA = Motor Vehicle Accident

Perceived = reported incidents where an emergency did not exist

Specialized rescues include high angle, confined space and marine.

Ambulance assist calls are increasing. These are associated with lift assists which include ATV requests for extrication of patients from remote areas suffering recreational related injuries.

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2006 – 2008
Overall Response Break Down



Residential occupancies include single family dwellings, hotels and all multi unit residential buildings.

Industrial occupancies include fabricating facilities, vehicle repair garages, food processing, storage facilities, parking garages.

Institutional occupancies include schools and homes for the aged.

Property includes open land, telephone poles and garbage bins.

Vehicles include all highway, off road and farm vehicles.

Commercial occupancies include all retail, offices and personal services.

Assembly includes community halls, restaurants, licensed beverage establishments, libraries, arenas.

Farm includes buildings not regulated by the Ontario Building Code.

Town of The Blue Mountains
Structural Fires Reporting Dollar Loss

Municipal Property Dollar Loss								
Occupancy Classification		2006		2007		2008		% of Total Dollar Loss (2002-2004)
		# of Fires	$	# of Fires	$	# of Fires	$	
Group A	Assembly	0	0	2	1.5 k	0	0	1
Group B	Institutional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group C	Residential	9	271.5k	4	232.5k	14	383.2k	71
Groups D & E	Commercial	0	0	1	2k	0	0	1
Group F	Industrial	0	0	0	0	2	17k	2
Mobile Homes & Trailers		1	60k	0	0	0	0	5
Barns not regulated by OBC		1	150k	1	10k	1	100k	20
Total Dollar Loss		11	481.5k	8	246k	17	410.4k	

Municipal Fire Loss Profile Commentary

2006

The fire dept responded to 46 fire conditions during this time period. 30 of the responses involved vehicles, hydro pole/wire related fires and property fires (grass/brush). These responses accounted for $65,500 in losses.

Responses to 5 fire conditions reported a zero dollar loss.

75% of this year's 11 loss fires were to single family dwellings

- One single family dwelling was totally destroyed accounting for $250K or 92% of the years residential property dollar loss.
- A mobile home used as a full time residence was also destroyed.
- A barn used as a horse stable also suffered extensive damage during this time period. The barn zoned agricultural is not regulated by the Ontario Fire Code.

2007

The fire dept responded to 31 fire conditions during this time period. 14 of the responses involved vehicles, hydro pole/wire related fires and property fires (grass/brush) which accounted for $71K in loss.

Responses to 9 fire conditions reported a zero dollar loss.

73% of this year's 8 loss fires were to residential buildings. All were single family detached dwellings.

- One single family dwelling was totally destroyed accounting for $225K or 97% of the years residential property dollar loss.
- A barn used for storage was partially destroyed, the barn zoned agricultural was not regulated by the Ontario Fire Code.
- There were 3 responses to assembly occupancies. All were restaurants. Dollar loss was minimal.
- Infractions of the Ontario Fire Code were enforced on one property.
- One commercial fire on the main street resulted in a $2K loss. The business owner was alerted by smoke smell during business hours. A major fire could have resulted if this fire had not been detected in the early stages. There was no fire detection present in this commercial space. 6 downtown businesses and 5 apartments would have been directly impacted.

2008

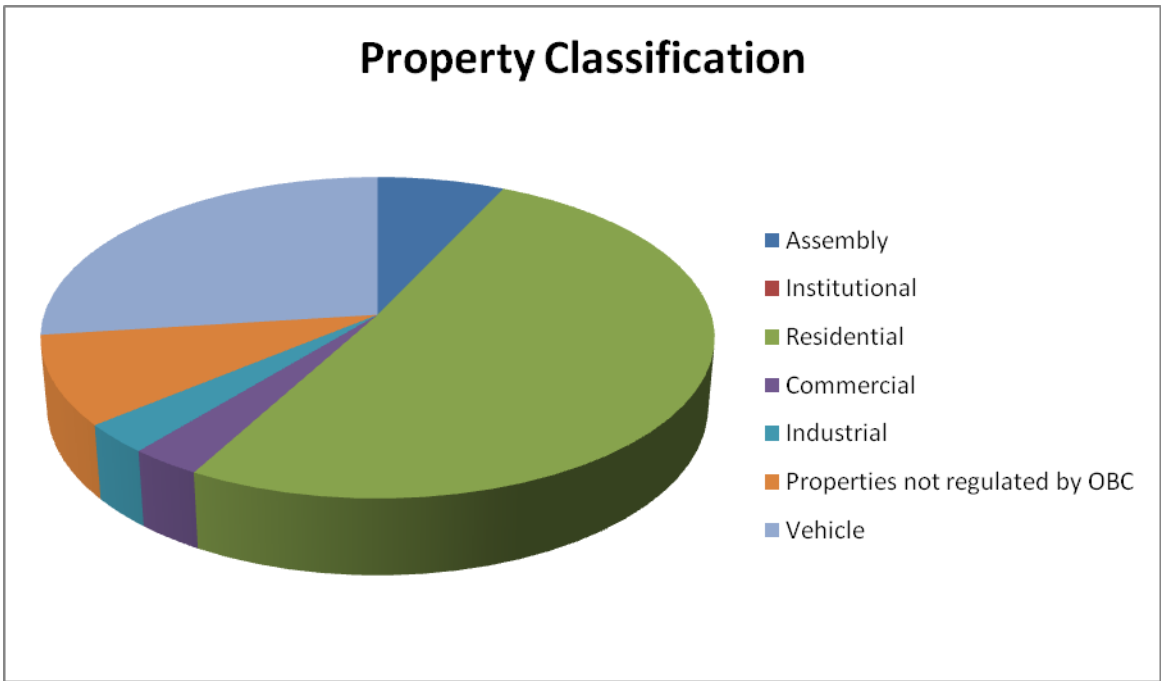
The fire dept responded to 38 fire conditions during this time period. 11 of the responses involved vehicles, hydro pole/wire related fires and property fires (grass/brush). These responses accounted for $72K in loss.

77% of this year's 17 loss fires were to residential buildings. All were single family detached dwellings. 10 fires reported a zero dollar loss.

- One single family dwelling was totally destroyed accounting for $330K or 86% of the years residential property dollar loss.
- A barn used for storage of construction equipment was totally destroyed, the barn zoned agricultural was not regulated by the Ontario Fire Code.
- There were 2 responses to industrial occupancies. One response to BTI a major employer involved a paint booth and the second was to the Grand Georgian parking garage.
- Fires in a public sauna at the Blue Mountain Inn and the Grand Georgian parking garage raises concern for fires associated with vandalism and malicious behaviour of guests.

A more detailed review of fires, actions taken and concerns, can be found in Appendix A on page 20 of this document.

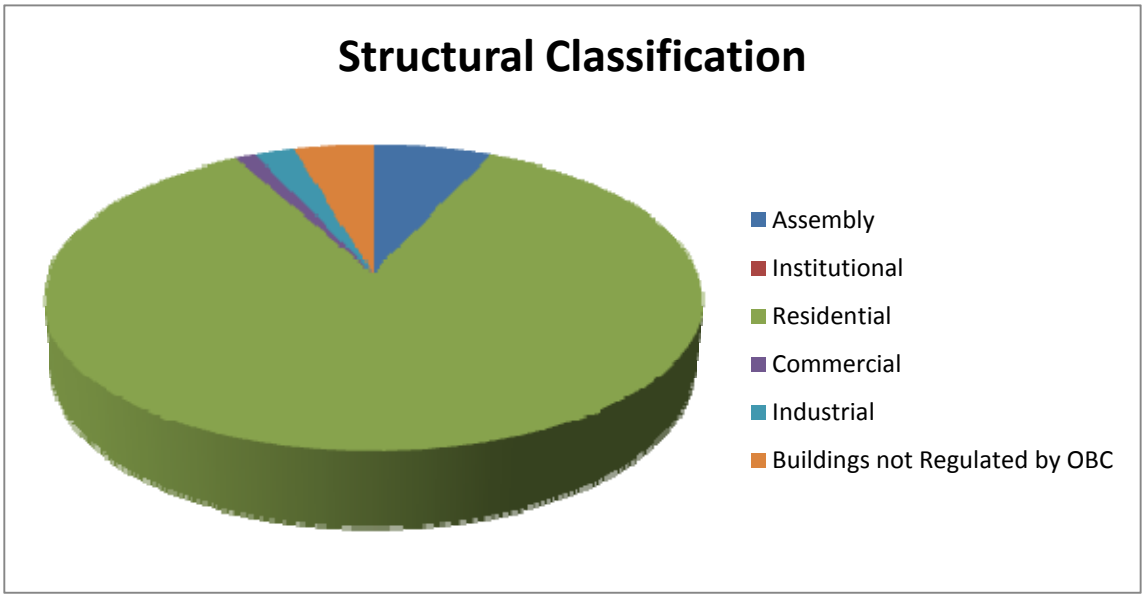
Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
Fires Reporting Dollar Loss
2006 – 2008



Loss Fires

Loss fires averaged over 2006-2008 within the Municipality are in line with Provincial statistics. This is taking into account the increased residential and decreased industrial demographic of our area. Dollar loss for properties not classified by the Ontario Building Code is slightly higher than the Provincial average. This could be a developing concern since several barns are now being used for purposes other than their intended use. As a result fire hazards are increased due to activities and storage in these buildings.

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2006 – 2008
Structural Loss Fires



Loss Fires : Provincial Comparison
2006 Residential Loss Fires

Town of The Blue Mountains

9 residential loss fires x 100,000 = 160 fires per 100,000 dwellings
5619 residential units

Ontario

6071 residential loss fires x 100,000 = 122 fires per 100,000 dwellings
4.9 million units

Based on the 2006 census and statistics from the Ontario Fire Marshals Office, residential loss fires in our Municipality were 14% higher than the provincial average. However, property dollar loss is at par with the provincial average of 5.5 million dollars, when normalized. Also, dollar loss estimates are based on local, average home process. A recent real estate board report indicates that average home prices in 2008 for The Blue Mountains were 60% higher than neighbouring municipalities. Residential dollar loss would be reduced by approximately $350K if an average provincial building cost were used.

When compared to similar statistics recorded in the 2001 Risk Assessment, there is a substantial reduction in residential loss fires over the six year period.

Fire Occurrence Times

0000 – 0800 hrs. = 19%
0800 – 1600 hrs. = 42%
1600 – 2400 hrs. = 39%

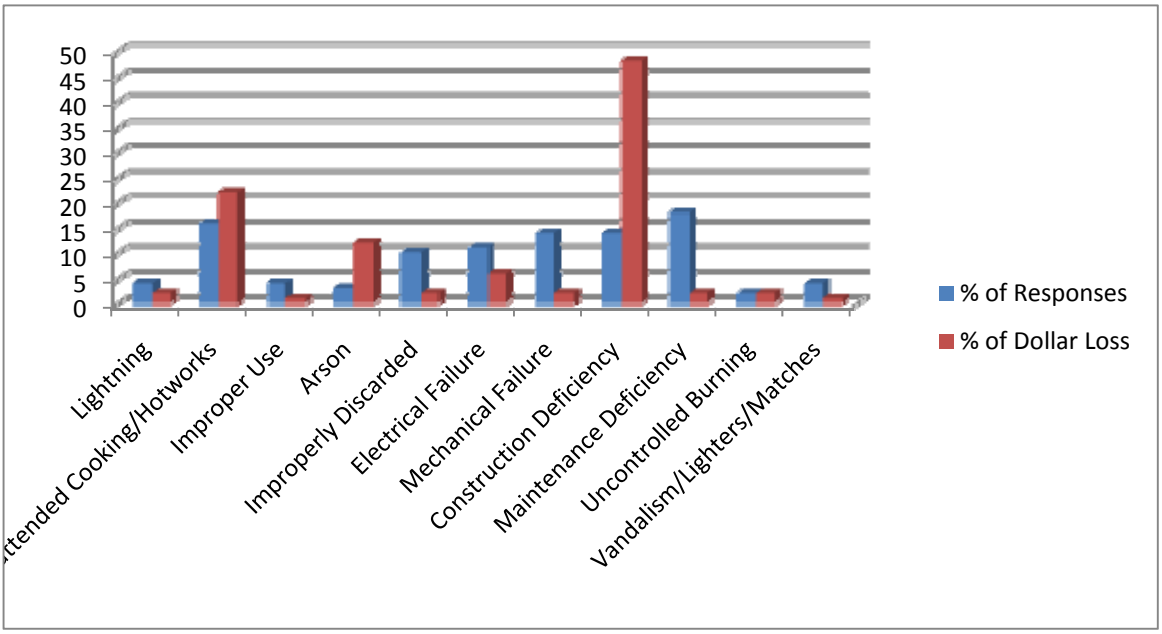
There has been a noticeable change in fire occurrence times since 2000. A 30% reduction in responses during the hours of 0000 – 0800 could be attributed to more awareness of fire safety in the home promoted through public education from the fire dept. A 30% increase in responses during the hours of 0800 – 1600 may be attributed to the increasing popularity of our four season recreational industry and specialized rescues performed by the fire department associated with them. Nuisance activations of monitored fire alarm systems by contractors continues to be a frequent problem during this time period.

Times of Year

January – March = 30%
April – June = 20%
July – September = 23%
October – December = 27%

The above averages were consistent over the 3 years. Poor winter weather conditions in 2006 affected the local ski industry. The decreased tourist traffic during this time period was also noticeable in fire dept responses during January-March.
Although the Municipality is moving toward a 4 season recreation industry, FD emergency response continues to be busiest during the ski season November – March and the resulting increased population and tourist traffic.

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
2006 – 2008
Ignition Sources of Loss Fires



This graph demonstrates the percentage of dollar loss as it relates to the percentage of responses to a particular ignition source.

Fire Cause/Ignition Source

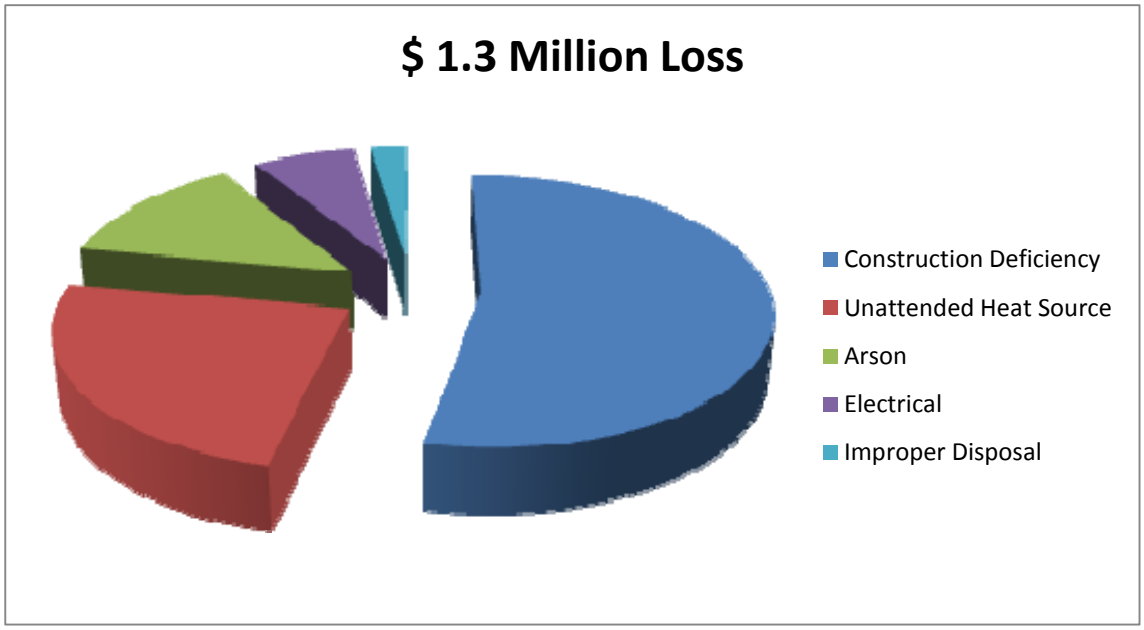
The 3 year average of ignition sources as they relate to all fires with or without dollar loss (fire or prefire) within our Municipality is similar to the Provincial average.

- 18% maintenance deficiencies which 90 % were wood burning appliances
- 16% unattended cooking, candles, light source, soldering iron compared to the provincial average at 22%
- 14% mechanical failure primarily affecting HVAC systems compared to the provincial average at 21%
- 14% construction deficiencies which are not identified in Provincial stats
- 11% electrical failures which are at par with Provincial averages
- 10% improperly discarded = approx 18%

Concerns

- Installation and maintenance deficiencies of wood burning and HVAC systems

Town of The Blue Mountains
2006 – 2008
Ignition Source as a Percentage of Dollar Loss



The following statistics identify percentages of the $1.3 million dollar Municipal property dollar loss averaged over the 3 years as it relates to ignition sources.

- 48% construction deficiency – all relating to single family dwelling, wood burning appliances
- 22% unattended cooking, candles which had minimal dollar loss due to early warning. An unattended light source in a barn and an unattended soldering iron in a single family dwelling resulted in a total loss to both structures.
- 12% Arson
- 6% electrical failure
- 2% improper disposal of ashes, cigarettes

Concerns

- Wood burning appliances being installed without a permit, old appliances being put back into service due to high heating costs
- Smoking in buildings at Blue – is on the rise
- Vandalism at Blue – is on the rise

Primary Ignition Sources:
Initiatives Taken To Mitigate The Problem

The five main contributors to both response and dollar loss in our Municipality have been identified as construction deficiencies, unattended heat sources, arson, electrical and improper disposal of an ignition source.

Construction deficiencies relate to improper clearance of combustible building components to wood burning appliances and venting. All occurrences have resulted when the installation of these systems were completed without required building permits. Although insurance companies often require intrusive inspections of wood burning systems, wooden components undergoing pyrolisis can be easily missed. Improperly installed wood burning appliances have been a major contributing factor to this Municipalities annual fire loss statistics over the last two decades. The occurrence rate appears to be increasing and the resulting dollar loss has increased exponentially. Without the co-operation of all home owners to ensure existing and proposed installations are completed under permit, a solution to this problem will be very difficult. The Fire Department continues to promote wood burning appliance operation and maintenance.

With the exception of non regulated buildings and one major loss over the 3 year period, *unattended heat sources* appears to be a declining cause of fires since the last Risk Assessment was completed. It should be noted that on two occasions monitored residential security systems provided the early detection and fire department response before any major damage occurred. The Fire Department is promoting the installation of early warning security systems. Due to the frequency of false alarms from these systems the fire department is also attempting to implement a “false alarm by-law” which will partner the fire prevention department and home owners in resolving design and maintenance issues along with fire safety education as required.

Fires suspected to be associated with *arson* or malicious behaviour appear to be on the rise at the Village at Blue. These fires have been reviewed with Blue Mountains Resorts management and security in an effort to promote better security in these areas. The areas are also inspected frequently by Fire Prevention to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code and that the area is being used in accordance with its intended design. The Grey Bruce Health Unit is also involved with enforcement of the smoking by-law in these areas.

Electrical fires originating in the primary electrical system are turned over to the Electrical Safety Authority for investigation and follow up. The Fire Department continues to educate the public in the unsafe use of electrical appliances and enforce the improper use of temporary wiring.

Improper disposal of a heat source is also declining in occurrence and loss, since the 2001 assessment. These responses are predominantly to part time single family dwelling units and involve improper disposal of hot ashes from fire places. The home owners are generally very embarrassed and remorseful of their actions. Improper disposal of smoker’s materials is generally occurring in commercial areas where smoking is not permitted. The Grey County Health Unit is involved with policing these areas.

Priority Setting Worksheet					
Priority	**Status**		**Effectiveness, Goals/Objectives**		
Fire Safety Priority **List in order of priority**	**Current fire prevention / public education programs that address the fire safety priority**		**Existing programs adequately address the fire safety priority & ensure compliance with minimum FPPA requirements?**		
				If No, how would you reallocate resources and/or implement additional fire prevention or public education program / activities?	
	Fire Prevention (inspection) Activities	**Public Education Activities**	**Y/N**	**Fire Prevention (Inspection) Activities**	**Public Education Activities**
1) Residential Fires- general fire safety, unattended cooking	Request inspections, Alarmed for Life, Smoke Alarms It's The Law, Tenant Agreements Smoke alarm installation and maintenance enforcement	Open House, Fall Fair, Canada Day, special Events, fire safety contests, station tours, fire safety brochures, PSA's, Put a Lid on It, Older & Wiser,	Y N	Requirement for all multi unit residential occupancies to require fire safety plan in accordance with the OFC,	Recommendation: one local newspaper dedicated to the TBM delivered to each residential unit weekly. Advertising in magazines (Mountain Life) which are distributed throughout multi unit residential buildings.
2) Residential Fires – Wood Burning Appliances	requests are referred to building dept for permits or WETT Tech for inspection	Is Your Woodstove Safe, PSA's,	Y		Recommendation: support from Building Dept in advertising OBC and Municipal permit requirements. Enforcement for installations with no permits
3) Buildings not regulated by the OBC	None	None	Y		Recommendation: insurance company support to promote registering commercial business operations, By-Law enforce zoning
4) Smoking in public areas	Working with Grey County Health/Enforcement		Y		
5) Vandalism	Working with AGCO and BMR Security		Y		
6) Downtown Cores	Annual building inspections	Reviewing concerns with building owners recommending interconnected smoke alarms between residential and commercial	Y		
7) Fires in commercial buildings including residential	Annual building inspections	Enforcement	Y		
8) Errinrung sprinklers	Semi annual inspections, fire dept preplans	Training of staff in fire safety plan and evacuation procedures	Y		
9) BTI water supply	Semi annual inspections of high hazard areas		Y		
10) Residential HVAC maintenance	Request inspections completed within 24 hours	Seasonal PSA's, newspaper articles, publishing of recalls	Y		
11) Special events	Inspections completed as requested	Guidelines in place	Y	Special events bylaw Fireworks bylaw	
12) Tents	Inspections completed as requested	Guidelines in place	Y	Permits required to be submitted a minimum of 2 weeks before event	More detailed list of requirements for owner at the time of permit application
13) Events plaza access	Inspections completed as requested	Enforcement	Y	Special Events By-law	
14) Open air burning	Proposed sites inspected as requested	PSA's	Y	Burning by-law for densely populated areas	
15) 2 unit residential occupancies	Letters sent to By-law dept and owner and inspections completed		Y		PSA's identifying OFC requirements. Zoning enforcement

Municipal Fire Concerns

Aside from these fifteen fire safety priorities, the following two concerns would have a dramatic impact on our local economy and the life safety of building occupants in the event of a major fire.

#1 Fire Concern

- Implementation of Fire Safety plans at the Village at Blue

Risk Behaviours that Contribute to these Concerns

- Lack of training in emergency procedures
- Passive response to fire alarms
- Lack of general fire safety

Contributing Groups of Persons

- Staff
- Management
- Commercial tenants

Groups of Persons Affected

- People of all ages residing in the residential units
- People of all ages in restaurants, bars and commercial units
- Emergency personnel
- BMR

The Village at Blue Mountain which can entertain 5000 guests and sleep 2300 continues to be a concern for the access of firefighters and the safe evacuation of building occupants. Meetings, training sessions and consultations are frequent, as numerous inspection reports are issued to the relevant Property Managers annually. The reports are initiated from routine and/or request inspections and emergency responses. The approved Fire Safety Plans which are specific in identifying fire prevention activities and supervisory staff responsibilities are often disregarded due to frequent staff turnover. The Fire Dept has issued several reports to Blue Mountain Resorts citing training and a passive response to fire alarms by staff as major contributors to improperly implemented fire safety plans.

#2 Fire Concern

- Thornbury and Clarksburg downtown cores lack of fire separations and building exposures

Risk Behaviours that contribute to these concerns

- Apartments reflect low rental housing
- Old electrical/mechanical systems
- Multi unit, mixed occupancies
- Minimum requirements for early warning

Contributing Groups of Persons

- Building owners
- Commercial tenants
- Residential tenants

Groups of Persons Affected

- Business owners
- Apartment owners
- Adjoining businesses/apartments
- Downtown core
- Emergency personnel

Several buildings have undergone major renovations. It is assumed that the renovations have been completed under permit and that fire separations have been established as required by the present Building Code. Thorough building inspections will be completed of the Thornbury/Clarksburg Downtown cores in 2009/2010. Preplans will also be updated indicating confined spaces and hazards to fire fighters. Early warning systems will be promoted in buildings not requiring fire alarms.

Conclusion

The 2009 Risk Assessment indicates a 5% reduction in reported loss fires compared to the 2001 assessment. Since that time there has been a 14% increase in the fulltime population and a 9% growth in single family dwelling units.

	1998 – 2000	***2006 – 2008***
Population	*6000*	*6825*
Dwelling Units	*5165*	*5619*
Loss Fires	*38*	*36*
Total Dollar Loss	*$2,052,000.00*	*$1,137,900.00*

The most significant differentiating factor between the two studies is the development of the Village at Blue. The Village provides accommodation for 3200 guests in five, four storey buildings. The buildings also contain a total of 45 commercial units and three, 2 level underground parking garages.

This report has also indicted that the Municipalities residential fire loss is equally comparable to Provincial averages.

The statistics do not indicate any abnormal fluctuations or trends towards a potential fire risk. In order to maintain this however, we must continue with:

- ✓ Inspections to promote fire prevention and awareness for building owners and occupants
- ✓ Public education in early warning and escape planning
- ✓ Co-operation between Municipal Departments in dealing with fire safety concerns relating to zoning and by-law
- ✓ Partnering with Provincial enforcement agencies (OPP, AGCO, GBHU)
- ✓ Consultation and training with local industry in fire and life safety
- ✓ Enforcement of the Ontario Fire Code for negligent owners

Proposed Actions

- ➢ Building inspection and review with owners in downtown cores to identify and promote fire separation maintenance. Promote interconnected and monitored early warning systems.
- ➢ Fire Safety Plans in all multi unit residential buildings which will identify to visitors
  - Actions to take in the event of a fire
  - Fire prevention practices

Appendix A

Reported Fires: Concerns

The following is a detailed description of circumstances and events surrounding all fire events including zero dollar loss fires, over the 3 year period.

2006

- The $250K loss was caused by the home owner leaving a soldering iron on and unattended when he left the house. The home was located at the southern most end of the Municipality in a very remote location. The home was totally engulfed when the fire was discovered upon the home owners return.
- An arsonist responsible for a $150K loss was apprehended and convicted.
- A $15K loss was caused by clothing and combustibles stored in a residential sauna. The electric heating unit inside the sauna was accidentally turned on resulting in the fire.
- 25% of the reported fires were determined to result from electrical failure. All of which were old services
- Mechanical failures related to heating equipment and lack of maintenance.
- Chimney fires continue to be of concern. Although $ loss was minimal for these events 2 of the fires were determined to be caused by construction deficiencies while 3 were poor maintenance.
- It is believed that an improperly discarded cigarette resulted in a grass fire, then caused $3K damage to a home. The home was located on a busy street in Thornbury.

Concerns

- Wood burning appliance installation and maintenance
- HVAC maintenance

2007

- The $225K loss was caused by clearance to combustibles in the vicinity of the fire place and chimney which occurred when the home owner was present. The fire was well established in an outside wall when it was first detected. The home owner's attempts to extinguish the fire delayed notification of the fire department resulting in more extensive damage to the home. It was determined that the fire was caused by an improperly installed wood burning appliance. The fire place was installed without a building permit.
- There was an increase in the fire responses to Assembly occupancies. The 3 responses involved restaurants which are routinely inspected semi-annually. The Fire Code was enforced on one occasion due to poor maintenance (guilty-$12.5K), and mechanical failures were identified in the other 2 minor loss fires.
- A fire in a commercial unit on the main street of Thornbury was identified as faulty electrical
- Six chimney fires during this time period resulted from construction deficiencies on 2 occasions and maintenance issues on 4.

- $5K damage to the outside of a home as the result of a teenager playing with a lighter.
- Unattended ignition sources accounted for 3 fires and $1K in damages. A brick layers exterior heat source ignited building components of a home under construction. Early warning systems alerted 2 home owners of prefire conditions resulting from unattended cooking.
- A barn used for storage suffered $10K damage due to fire spread from a brush pile being burned by the owner.

Concerns

- Wood burning appliance installation and maintenance
- Downtown cores - fire separations, early warning

2008

- 2 lightning strikes resulted in $28K loss to single family dwellings
- There was a notable increase in the number of prefire conditions resulting from unattended cooking/candles
- One attempted arson remains under investigation by the OPP
- Improperly discarded fire place ashes resulted in $1200 property damage to single family dwellings
- Improperly discarded smokers materials resulted in $3K damage to a home under construction. Careless smoking was also the result of a fire in the parking garage at 156 Jozo Weider Blvd. below Grand Georgian. The parking garage fire also involved improperly stored combustibles. The Fire Code was enforced on this occasion for improper storage of combustibles (guilty-$10.5K).
- Overheats relating to mechanical failures continue to remain consistent in HVAC systems. One $500 loss to a fulltime resident was the result of a product recall which has been advertised by the manufacturer and this fire department on several occasions.
- 3 occasions where wood burning appliance installation deficiencies were identified as the result of dollar loss. A wood burning appliance installed without a permit was determined to be the cause of a $330K loss fire to a single family dwelling.
- Maintenance of venting in wood burning appliances in single family dwellings on 2 occasions.
- Breaker Technology suffered a $15K loss to a paint booth. It is suspected that a spark initiated a fire in accumulated combustible dust of the ventilation system. The booth has since been replaced with an NFPA compliant paint booth and paint kitchen which have full suppression systems.
- A fire in a sauna at the Blue Mountain Inn resulting in $2K damage was caused by vandals placing combustible towels on top of the electric heating unit.

Concerns

- Unattended cooking
- Maintenance of wood burning fire places and ash disposal
- Water supply to the rear of BTI
- Vandalism at Blue Mountain Resorts

Appendix B

Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department
Annual Report
Fire Prevention

Months **January - December** **Year** **2008**

Inspections

Request	63
Institutional	4
Commercial	180
Industrial	60
Assembly	95
Residential	90
Tents	39
Display Fireworks	9
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	

Fire & Life Safety Education

Focus Group	Topic	# of persons
BVO Crayon Box	Fire Safety	10
Girl Guides	Camping Fire Safety	11
Grade 5	Home fire safety poster contest	60
Wellness fair	General Fire safety	
Canada Day	General fire safety, draws	
BVCS Grades 1 and 2	Water Safety	50
3 Beaver Valley Day Camps	General Safety	55
Beaver Valley Preschool	General Fire Safety	24
Medical centre Fundraiser	General Fire Safety, draws	
Errinrung Staff	Fire Extinguisher	12
LE Shore preschoolers	Fire Safety	8
Fall Fair	General fire Safety	
Craigleith Ski Club Staff	Fire Extinguisher	22
Open House	General Fire Safety, draws	
TBM employees	Office Fire Safety	
BVCS JK & SK	Station Tour, Fire Safety	95
Grade 2 Station Tour	General Fire Safety	40
Sparks Station Tour	General Fire Safety	25
Georgian Peaks Staff	Fire Extinguisher	50

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Distribution of Information

Quantity this Quarter	Quantity Year to Date
	7000

Public Service Announcements

Newspaper	Radio
85	150

Target Group Support

Target Group	Service
Errinrung Staff	7 training sessions between the hours of 1000 and 2300 hours for all shifts. Building systems, evacuation procedures, fire safety plan
Bus Patrollers	Accident preparedness, fire extinguisher training
Grade 2 - 3	Smoke alarm installation, escape planning
Buildings requiring fire alarms, not monitored	Design, supply and install 2007 OFC required signage
Buildings requiring hose cabinets	Design, supply and install 2007 OFC required signage
BMR Management and Security Staff	Continued meetings regarding OFC noncompliance issues and staff responsibilities in regard to Fire Safety Plan requirements

Fire Safety Plans

Plans Under Review	Buildings Inspected	Plans Approved
12	12	12

Preplans

Plans Developed	Sites Inspected	Plans Presented to Dept.
14	14	14

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Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
54	32

Fire Code Enforcement

Smoke alarm tickets issued – Part 1	Smoke alarm Infractions Issued – Part 3	Part 3 – Fire Code Violations Registered	Results
1	1	12	$25,855.00

Fire Investigations

Property Type	$ Loss	Possible Cause
Residential-commercial	2000	Malicious
Residential (euphrasia)	20,000	Clearance to combustibles from a heating unit
Residential	1000	Smoking
Residential	500	HVAC recall
Residential	200	Improper disposal
Vehicle	50,000	Accumulation of combustible on exhaust
Residential (euphrasia)	300,000	Electrical
Residential	1000	Arson
Farm building	100,000	Improper use of a light source
Farm Building	300	Electrical
Residential	25000	Lightning
Residential	330,000	Clearance to combustibles wood stove installation
Assembly	100	Improper use
Industrial	1000	malicious

Non- Emergency Responses

CO Alarm	Smoke Alarm	Other
4	3	2

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