



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FOREST FIRE STATISTICS

REPORTING YEAR: 2021

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Forestry and Wildlife

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Reporting Year: 2021	4
Historic Fire Totals - 10 Year Average	4
Newfoundland and Labrador Forest Fire Statistics	5
Total Fires	5
Area and Forest Type in Hectares (ha)	5
Fire Occurrence	5
STANDARD CAUSE CLASSIFICATIONS (3 CATEGORIES)	6
Cause of Fire (Known or Suspected)	6
Responsible Group (Known or Suspected)	6
Means of Ignition (Known or Suspected)	7
Fires by Month	8
Area Burned by Size	8
Glossary	9

INTRODUCTION

REPORTING YEAR: 2021

In 2021, the fire season began on the island portion of the Province on May 1 and in Labrador on May 15 the season remained in effect until September 30. Although the official season ran from May until September, data collected by the department and presented in the following statistics, are for the entire calendar year.

HISTORIC FIRE TOTALS - 10 YEAR AVERAGE

The 2021 Forest Fire Season saw **85** fires burning a total of **341.0 hectares**, and was below the 10-year average of **101.9 fires per year**.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FOREST FIRE STATISTICS

TOTAL FIRES

REGION	TOTAL
Eastern	47
Western	26
Labrador	12
Total:	85

AREA AND FOREST TYPE IN HECTARES (HA)

REGION	TOTAL AREA	PRODUCTIVE	NON-PRODUCTIVE
Western	146.0	47.0	99.0
Eastern	121.8	18.5	103.3
Labrador (full response)	72.1	1.1	71.0
Labrador (modified response)	1.1	0.0	1.1
Total:	341.0	66.6	274.4

FIRE OCCURRENCE

CAUSE	NUMBER	AREA BURNED (HA)
Lightning	3*	95.6
Resident	47	45.5
Forest Industry	2	10.1
Other Industrial Operations	0	0.0
Incendiary	4	0.0
Railroad	1	0.1
Recreation	16	14.2
Garbage Dump	2	0.3
Miscellaneous Known	10	175.2
Total:	85	341.0

STANDARD CAUSE CLASSIFICATIONS (3 CATEGORIES)

CAUSE OF FIRE (Known or Suspected)

	EASTERN	WESTERN	LABRADOR	TOTAL
Lightning	2*	0	1*	3*
Resident	25	17	5	47
Forest Industry	1	1	0	2
Other Industrial Operations	0	0	0	0
Incendiary	1	3	0	4
Railroad	0	0	1	1
Recreation	12	2	2	16
Garbage Dump	2	0	0	2
Miscellaneous Known	4	3	3	10

RESPONSIBLE GROUP (Known or Suspected)

	EASTERN	WESTERN	LABRADOR	TOTAL
Resident	28	20	7	55
Mischance	6	4	1	11
Recreation	3	1	1	5
Mining Operation	0	0	1	1
Forestry Industry	1	1	0	2
Government Activities	0	0	0	0
Children	5	0	1	6
Industrial Operation	2	0	0	2
Other	2	0	1	3

** There were 3 lightning fires during the 2021 forest fire season – of which 2 occurred in Eastern region and 1 in Labrador.

MEANS OF IGNITION (Known or Suspected)

	EASTERN	WESTERN	LABRADOR	TOTAL
Match and/or Lighter	16	14	3	33
Cigarette, Cigar, Pipe	4	1	2	7
Camp Fire	9	0	0	9
Chimney Spark	1	0	0	1
Explosions	0	0	0	0
Power Saw	0	0	0	0
Hydro Wire	1	1	0	2
Vehicle Fire	1	1	2	4
Structural Fire	2	2	0	4
Slash and/or Debris Fire	4	2	1	7
All-Terrain Vehicle	1	0	0	1
Heavy Equipment	0	1	0	1
Lightning	2	0	1	3
Spontaneous Combustion	2	1	1	4
Other	4	3	2	9

FIRES BY MONTH

MONTH	NUMBER OF FIRES	AREA BURNED (HA)
January	0	0.0
February	0	0.0
March	2	0.4
April	6	2.7
May	21	177.7
June	15	93.9
July	14	33.3
August	21	27.7
September	5	5.3
October	0	0.0
November	1	0.0
December	0	0.0
Total:	85	341.0

AREA BURNED BY SIZE

FIRE SIZE (HA)	NUMBER	AREA BURNED (HA)
Less than or equal to 0.1	56	1.8
0.11 – 1.0	15	6.0
1.1 – 10.0	8	24.6
10.1 – 100.0	5	183.6
100.1 – 1,000.0	1	125.0
1000.1 – 10,000.0	0	0.0
Greater than 10,000.0	0	0.0
Total:	85	341.0

GLOSSARY

Productive Forest Type: Area of Forest capable of producing at least 35 cubic meters per hectare (m^3/ha) at rotation.

Non-Productive Forest Type: Area of Forest that is not capable of producing at least 35 cubic meters per hectare (m^3/ha) at rotation.

Hectare (ha.): The metric unit of area measurement and can be measured as follows:

- 1 hectare = 100 meters by 100 meters or 0.01 km^2
- 1 hectare = 2.47 acres

Full Response Fire: A wildfire which requires immediate, aggressive initial attack and/or sustained suppression action until the fire is declared out.

Modified Response Fire: A wildfire that is allowed to burn within set policy and management guidelines or may be actioned in such a manner as to bring the wildfire back within those guidelines.