

Fire & Injury Prevention

Includes:

- *Fire & Injury Prevention Education*
- *Fire Inspection*

Service Overview

DESCRIPTION

To protect citizens, and minimize loss of life and property due to fire through ensuring adherence to existing building standards for construction, safety, and egress.

To provide citizens with fire and life safety education, advice, and promote safe choices that will reduce the need for emergency fire, rescue and medical services.

KEY GOALS

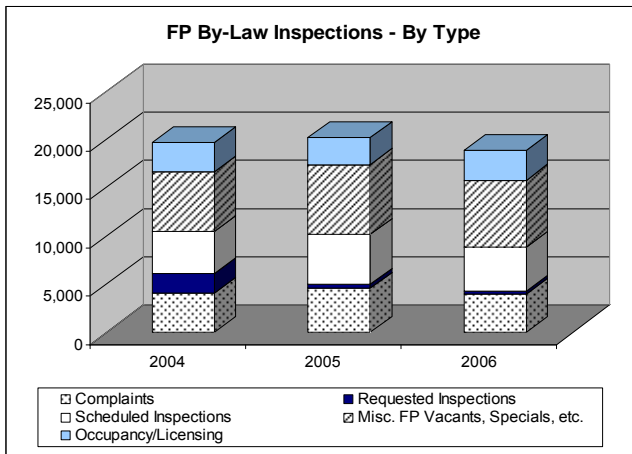
1. Ensure safety of housing and other buildings through plan examinations, inspections, and fire code and by-law enforcement.
2. Identify and engage key target audiences to maximize effectiveness of educational opportunities.
3. Decrease the incidence of fire or injury emergencies through expansion of public education programs.
4. Investigate and pursue partnerships to enhance ability to prevent fire and injuries.
5. Save lives through promotion of public access defibrillation (PAD), and 'demand reduction' initiatives such as plan examinations, and residential sprinklers.

SERVICE STATISTICS

Description	2003	2004	2005	2006	4 Year Average
Fire Prevention By-Law/Bldg Code Inspections	11,216	10,728	10,554	9,814	10,578
Permits Issued	291	346	448	439	381
Property File Searches/Plans Examined	1,331	1,299	1,333	1,257	1,305
Fire Safety House	111	106	119	168	126
Other Community Events	393	380	402	285	365
Fire Safety Lectures/Presentations	212	389	347	626	394
Medical/Injury Prevention Lectures/Presentations	151	141	127	107	132
Youth Fire Stop	156	165	154	226	175
Career Symposiums	17	17	11	44	22
Car Seat Inspections	393	609	520	469	498
Evacuation Fire Drills	97	120	122	125	116
Fire/Paramedic Station Tours	378	412	427	387	401
CPR/AED Training	0	13	41	76	33

A variety of Public Education and Community Relations activities are provided by the department. These educational presentations are focussed on reducing emergencies by promoting education and safe lifestyles. Larger Community Events largely target children with simple fire safety and survival messages, Evacuation Fire Drills are held at schools and other facilities to ensure safe egress, the Car Seat Inspection program, in partnership with MPI, ensures child car seats are properly installed in vehicles to reduce injuries in collisions.

Public Education activities at public events are provided by the Public Education Branch, Fire Inspections and Training Staff, and Operations Staff (firefighters and paramedics), who attend many of the larger outdoor events such as the Teddy Bears' Picnic and other festivals. In 2006, although the department participated in more events overall, due to the omission of some large events such as the Home Expressions Show, the end of the Cadet program, and poor weather at some of the largest outdoor events, the resulting number of participants is lower.



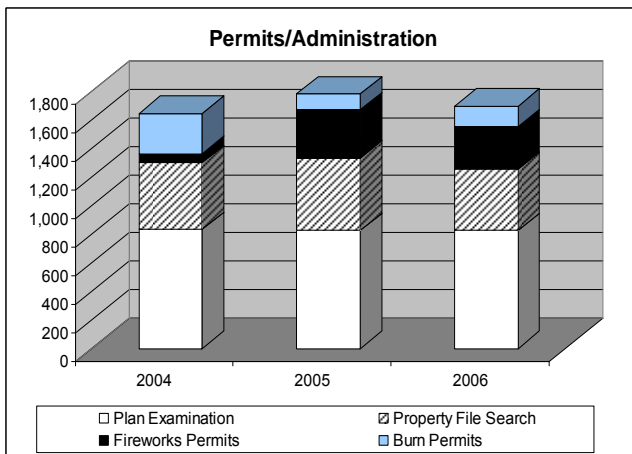
Complaints – as a result of a complaint received from the public or firefighters

Requested Inspections – usually requested as part of a property sale. These requests declined significantly in 2005 after the introduction of a fee for this service.

Scheduled Inspections - generated by the Fire Prevention Office.

Occupancy/Licensing – includes post-fire inspections, and those to support occupancy permit and other licensing requirements.

Misc. FP Vacants, Specials, etc. – vacant properties and other concerns referred from firefighters for inspection.



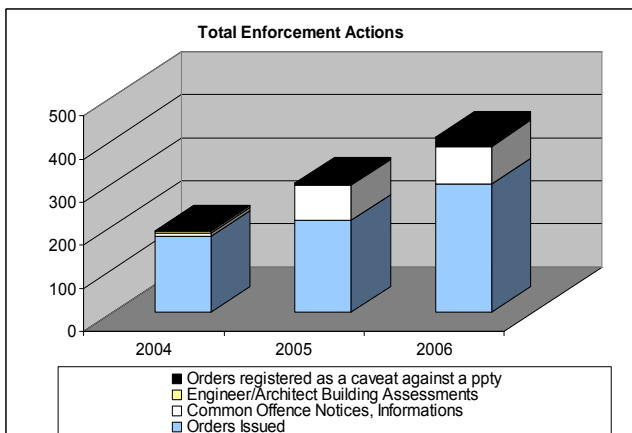
The Fire Prevention Branch issues a number of permits to ensure knowledge of and adherence to requirements.

Fireworks Permits - increased significantly as a result of changes to the FP By-Law.

Burn Permits - decreased significantly as a result of changes to the FP By-Law. Backyard fire pits do not require a permit, however, all other types of burning require a permit and a fee.

Plan Examination – review of building plans to ensure adherence to By-Laws.

Property File Search – a search for outstanding violations on a property.



Changes in legislation have reduced the number of enforcement actions that city departments issue under the FP By-law, however, at the same time, the number of enforcement actions issued under the Vacant and Derelict Buildings By-law have risen sharply since its implementation in 2004

Strategic Direction

LINK TO PLAN WINNIPEG

1A-03 Promote a Safe Downtown
1B-02 Promote Neighbourhood Safety
1C-01 Facilitate Provision of Safe and Affordable Housing
4A-03 Expand Capacity to Address Safety
4A-04 Address Emerging Problems of Safety and Security
4B-02 Promote Safety in Buildings
4C-01 Support Effective Public Health Services

SYNOPSIS OF POLICY DIRECTION

The Manitoba Fire Code (adopted by Winnipeg Fire Prevention By-law) and the Manitoba Building Code (adopted by Winnipeg Building By-law), provide safety measures for the occupants of buildings and for firefighters. These regulations for public health, fire safety, egress, and structural sufficiency, establish a standard of safety for the construction of buildings including additions, alterations, renovations, upgrading or a change of occupancy.

The Fire Paramedic Service provides comprehensive fire inspection, plans review, and by-law enforcement in addition to quality fire and life safety public education programs to promote awareness, educate, and safeguard the citizens of Winnipeg.

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING SERVICE DELIVERY

Demographics

- Population increases in Winnipeg over the last several years, have been higher than in previous years, causing an increase in demand for emergency response services.
- The population in Winnipeg is aging, which has resulted in increased calls for emergency medical service and inter-facility transfer services, and an increased number of people at risk for specific injuries and health problems. In addition, anecdotal evidence suggests that seniors request assistance more frequently for low priority situations such as personal assistance. Education regarding accessing appropriate resources may reduce the impact on the EMS system.
- Socioeconomic distinctions between neighborhoods of the city influence the need to educate members of the public concerning healthy lifestyles and injury prevention because

of the increased risk for specific injury potential and health problems.

- Socioeconomic distinctions between neighborhoods of the city dictate the type of awareness, ability and willingness to participate in health and fire prevention activities (e.g. renters are subject to conditions provided by the landlord).

Building/Construction

- The existence of many aging and deteriorating buildings increases the fire risk and justifies a need for more comprehensive fire inspection and prevention programs.
- The increased use of early warning systems such as smoke detectors, monitored systems, automatic extinguishing devices and residential sprinkler systems impacts the type of fire inspections required.
- The increased use of early warning systems such as smoke detectors, monitored systems, automatic extinguishing devices and residential sprinkler systems, combined with an increased emphasis on fire safety regulations and technological advances in construction methods and materials has decreased the potential for fires to occur, improved citizens' egress, reduced the fire involvement potential, and has changed the role of fire prevention inspectors.
- Across North America, there is a movement toward the incorporation of fire sprinkler systems in single-family residences to minimize loss of life and property in the event of fire. Some Canadian jurisdictions have already adopted this requirement as part of new building requirements for fire safety, and the WFPS will continue to promote the residential installation of sprinklers in Winnipeg.
- National codes have transitioned from prescriptive-based codes to objective-based codes over the last decade, which requires more flexibility in the plans review process.

Public Education

- Some public school systems have mandated fire and injury prevention education as part of the curriculum. In Winnipeg, while that is not the case, the education system has increased its requests for fire and injury prevention education programs to be provided in schools.
- Requests for fire and emergency medical services public education attendance at public and private functions have increased.
- With the advent of Carbon Monoxide alarm technology, there is an increasing need to educate members of the public regarding the

dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, and the correct use and maintenance of carbon monoxide detection systems.

- Programs such as Prevention of Alcohol-Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) which addresses the prevention of injuries as a result of alcohol or drug ingestion, require frequent updates as new drugs are introduced in the community.
- Many services are providing broader programs to the public including blood pressure and cholesterol screening in addition to healthy lifestyle education.

New Technology/Other Trends

- Since the introduction of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) several years ago, their use has steadily expanded to most Emergency Medical Response units. As the reliability, ease of use, and affordability increases, AED units are being located throughout North America in malls, airports, sports facilities, high rises, etc. The WFPS has implemented a training program to support the use of this technology in city facilities and wishes to support the expansion of AED into the community.

Policy Compliance

- Revisions to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines, referenced under the Manitoba Building and Fire Codes, impacts inspection requirements.
- Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) regulations impact our ability to share information internally, result in increased storage space (electronic and paper) and require protection of private information.

Legislation and Council Direction

- Provincial legislation is continuously evolving, requiring frequent service delivery adjustments. In April 2007, a new *Fire Safety Inspections Regulation* under *The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act* was introduced. This provincial regulation mandates an increased level of inspections in a number of buildings including elderly housing, child care centres, personal care homes, residential care facilities, licensed premises, schools, recreation centres, hotel/motels, and restaurants. Compliance with this regulation will require additional fire inspection resources.
- Fire Prevention By-law amendments which introduced permit and re-inspection fees, have significantly reduced the number of re-inspections required to achieve compliance.
- The new Vacant and Derelict Building By-law has provided a more comprehensive tool to assist fire inspectors ensuring that vacant and derelict buildings are maintained in a manner safe to the

public and firefighters, and that they are re-occupied or demolished when indicated.

SUMMARY OF GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. Ensure safety of housing and other buildings through plan examinations, inspections, and enforcement.

- Continue to administer the Fire Prevention By-law.
- Administer the Vacant and Derelict Buildings By-law jointly with the Property, Planning and Development Department, which covers all buildings.
- Continue to expand the role of operational firefighters in providing fire inspections and public education.
- Define and report performance benchmarks.

2. Identify and engage key target audiences to maximize effectiveness of educational opportunities.

- Participate in large or high profile events such as Safe Kids Week, Winnipeg Public Works Expo, Teddy Bear's Picnic and International Children's Festival.
- Continue to work with school divisions where possible to educate school-age children through presentation of programs such as "Learn Not to Burn" by public education officers and front line personnel.
- Continue to focus on specific at-risk individuals through working closely with seniors' organizations to provide relevant information (e.g. Emergency Response Information Kit (ERIK) program).
- Work cooperatively with other agencies to explore partnerships and identify new opportunities and audiences.

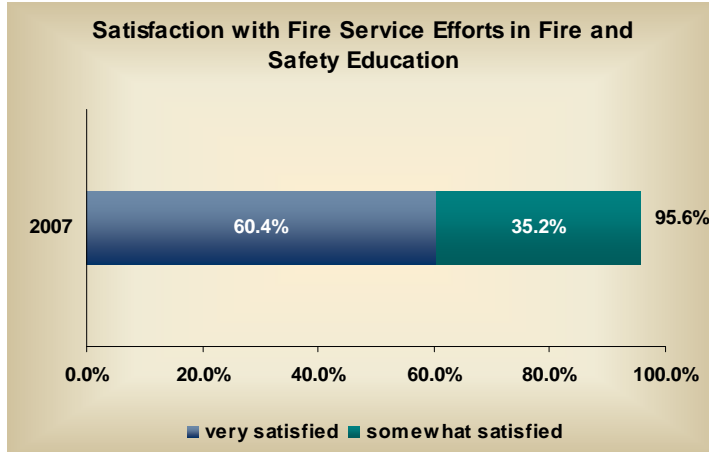
3. Decrease the incidence of fire or injury emergencies through expansion of public education programs.

- Increase public education staff resources.
- Increase involvement of firefighters and paramedics in the delivery of fire and injury prevention presentations and training to the public.
- Continue to operate the mobile training facility 'Fire Safety House' at community events.
- Continue to offer child car seat inspections to citizens at local Fire Paramedic Stations.
- Stay abreast of new initiatives and trends in the industry to develop and introduce new and relevant programs as required. (ERIK, PARTY, etc.)
- Expand public education intern program to include other community based initiatives focused on fire and injury prevention, including

- door to door campaigns to promote the ERIK program and other injury prevention initiatives.
 - Recognize the concern about personal safety that fire setting causes in a community by monitoring, tracking, and solving fire setting incidents.
 - Provide victims of fire and/or injury emotional support, referrals to community agencies and tips about prevention of future incidents.
- 4. Investigate and pursue partnerships to enhance ability to prevent fire and injuries.**
- Recognize the contributions residents make in injury prevention by developing positive working relationships with community-based initiatives such as MPI and Manitoba Car Seat Coalition and their Child Car Seat Safety Programs.
 - Partner with Firefighters' Burn Fund to display Fire Safety House/Sprinkler Trailer, which is used for fire and injury prevention education and to promote effectiveness of residential sprinklers.
 - Explore community partnerships to assist with delivery of the Youth Fire Stop Program.
 - Liaise with the Downtown Biz to ensure that identified concerns are addressed in a meaningful manner.
 - Establish partnerships to provide cholesterol and blood pressure screening to the public in community Fire Paramedic stations.
- Support life safety initiatives for City employees and citizens by providing training for City staff.
 - Continue partnership with Manitoba Brain Injury Association for Prevention of Alcohol-Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) program.
 - Partner with other groups/organizations to develop and deliver new injury prevention programs, such as partnering with seniors' organizations to deliver fall-prevention programs.
- 5. Save lives through promotion of public access defibrillation (PAD), and 'demand reduction' initiatives such as plan examinations, and residential sprinklers.**
- Expand public education intern program to include other community based initiatives focused on fire and injury prevention, including door to door campaigns to promote the ERIK program and other injury prevention initiatives.
 - Continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of residential sprinklers through use of the Fire Safety House/Sprinkler Trailer.
 - Partner with developers to encourage communities with sprinkles in future developments.
 - Partner with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and other community organizations and businesses to expand Public Access Defibrillation (PAD).

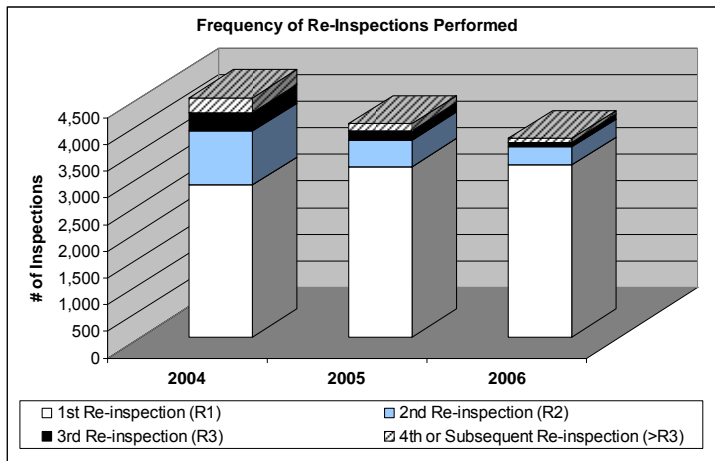
Performance Information

CITIZEN SATISFACTION



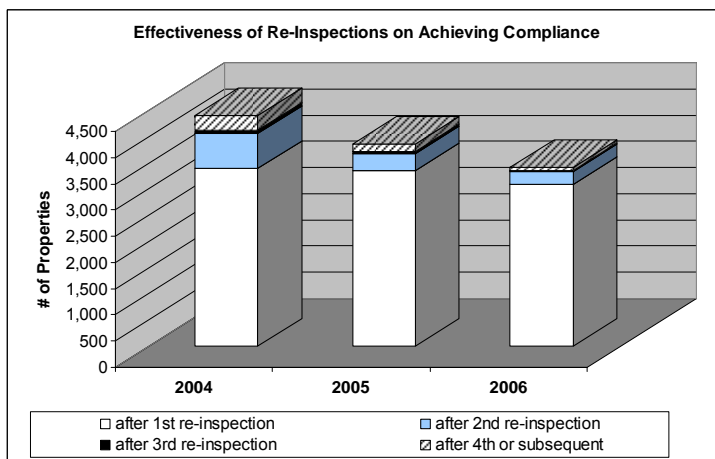
This is a new measure for 2007. Citizens are extremely satisfied with fire efforts in fire and safety education.

EFFECTIVENESS MEASURES



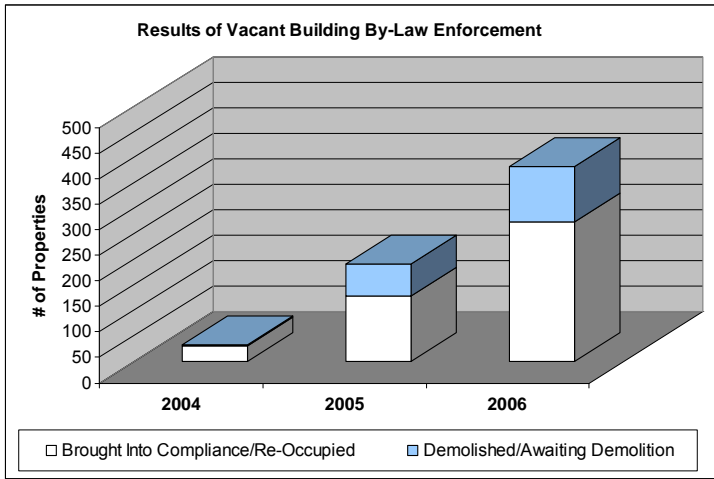
There is no charge for the initial fire inspection of a building or the first re-inspection, however in 2005, a fee was implemented for the second and each subsequent inspection.

The implementation of this fee has significantly reduced the number of re-inspections required for property owners to achieve compliance. This reduction has allowed inspections staff to focus on other areas such as plans review and vacant buildings inspections/complaint investigation.



In 2005, WFPS implemented a re-inspection fee for those property owners who require more than one re-inspection before compliance is achieved.

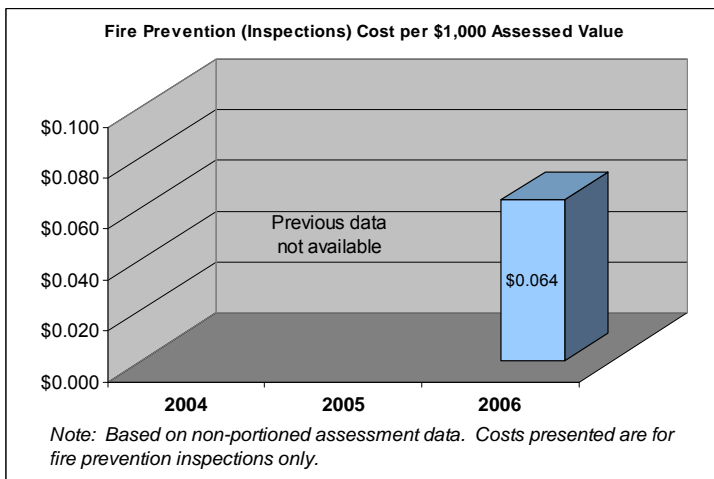
This has dramatically increased the number of property owners who have achieved compliance by the first re-inspection.



Since the introduction of the Vacant & Derelict Buildings By-Law, a number of properties have been inspected. This By-Law is enforced jointly by Planning, Property, and Development and the Fire Paramedic Service.

In 2006, 382 vacant buildings were either re-occupied or brought into compliance under this by-law.

EFFICIENCY MEASURES



There are currently 21.25 FTEs established in Fire Inspections.

The cost of inspections per \$1,000 of assessed property value is 6.4 cents.