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CANADIAN FIRE STATISTICS

By Richard Schulte

A research paper titled "*Canadian and U.S.A. Fire Statistics for Use in the Risk-Cost Assessment Model*" authored by J. Gaskin and D. Yung of the Canadian Institute for Research in Construction dated January 1993 contains a few interesting statistics on fire in Canada. While the statistics are almost 20 years old, these statistics are still worth a look.

"No equivalent plots were made for office buildings because there was only one death in office buildings in both Ontario and in the U.S.A. during those years [mid-to late-1980's]." (Page 2)

"TABLE 5. Apartment Fire Types in Ontario, with sprinklers (FLRS, 1984-1987)

Fire Type	No. of Fires	Percent of Total
Smouldering	537	18.3
Non-Flashover	2,269	77.2
Flashover	132	4.5
Total:	2,938	100.0

FLRS: Fire Loss Reporting System" (Page 5)

"The effect of different combinations of smoke alarm and sprinkler protection on the death rate was also determined for both Ontario and the U.S.A. Only results for apartment buildings were obtained because there was insufficient data for office buildings. The results show that the sprinkler protection reduces the death rate by a factor of three." (Page 9)

Analysis

Perhaps the most interesting statistic contained in this paper is the statistic that only roughly 1 in 20 fires which occur in apartment occupancies grows to flashover stage.

It is also interesting to note that the fire safety record of office buildings in Ontario mirrors the record for office buildings in the United States.

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