

December 2, 2014

MICHIGAN

**OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE
HEARING**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Doctor/Patient LETTERS:

- 1) Lana Waldorf/Dr. Amy Dean
- 2) Carol Garcia/Dr. George Howard
- 3) Carol Garcia- with Dr. James Ziobron
- 4) Linda Hintz/Dr. Amy Dean
- 5) Karen M. Strode/ Dr. Gerald Natzke
- 6) Pamala Wallace/Dr. Laura Kovalcik
- 7) Carol Garcia – Dr. G. Dhillon
- 8) Ida Pardo/Dr. Darren Schmidt
- 9) Cynthia Bezaire/Dr. Darren Schmidt
- 10) April Jones/Dr. Darren Schmidt

Letters of Correspondence/Citizens

- 11) Dr. Paula Davey – Letter to Rep McMillin and Rep Aric Nesbitt
- 12) Rosemary A. Grzywacz – Letter to Michigan State Legislature
- 13) Myron & JoAnn Nims – Letter to Lawmakers, health issues
- 14) Lillian Cusumano/Dr. Mary M. Yenchick
- 15) Ralph Stenman/Dr. Mark P. Lebeis
- 16) Donna Stenman / Dr. David Brownstein

The Experts, AS PRESENTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

- 17) **Dr. David Carpenter** – Director, Institute for Health and the Environment, Univ. of Albany public health physician and former Dean of the School of Public Health at the University at Albany AND co-editor of the Bioinitiative Report.
- 18) **Dr. Paula Davey** – Doctor of Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Environmental Medicine
- 19) **Dr. Amy Dean** – Past President of the Amer. Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM), and she is a practicing Board Certified Environmental Physician who is presently treating patients who developed health problems after a sm was installed on their homes.
- 20) **Jerry Flynn** - Retired Electronic Warfare and Signals Intelligence Officer with 22 years' experience working with American, international and NATO forces
- 21) **Dr. Magda Havas** - is Associate Professor of Environmental & Resource Studies at **Trent University** where she teaches and does research on the biological effects of environmental contaminants, AND authored a section in the Bioinitiative Report.
- 22) **Dr. Sam Milham** – Retired physician and Epidemiologist, expert in EMF exposure for over 30 years, and has over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- 23) **Dr. Ronald Powell** – is a retired **career US Government Scientist** (PhD., Applied Physics, Harvard University, 1975)
- 24) **David Stetzer** – Has military training and extensive experience with thermography, power-quality analyzers, electrician with a specialized background and experience in electronics.
- 25) **Jeromy Johnson** – MS Civil + Environmental Engineer; Copmments for Michigan w/ CPUC
- 26) **Barrie Trower** – Report and understanding of wi-fi

FIRES

- 27) **Presentation of Michigan Fires - Current status**
- 28) **Sharon Noble** – Expert representing “fires” from installation of smart meters, in BC & others known in USA.

News Articles:

- 29) City of Sterling Heights

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIRES

SMART METER – OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 4

FIRES

27) **Presentation of Michigan Fires - Current status**

28) **Sharon Noble** – Expert representing “fires” from installation of smart meters, in BC & others known in USA.

Dear Honorable Representatives, of this Michigan House of Representatives Oversight Committee, on this day, Tuesday, December 2, 2014.

We are submitting the following information which covers an overview of "**Smart Meter FIRES**", as noted for your consideration:

- 1) **Findings Based on Testing from within Industry,**
- 2) **Findings Based on Testing from within Industry, by TESCO,**
- 3) **2014 Smart Meter Recalls,**
- 4) **A Documented Michigan Smart Meter Fire NOT Explained by Crown Investments Corp. Fire Investigation,**
- 5) **Other Smart Meter Related Michigan Fires,**
- 6) **Other Smart Meter Related Michigan Fires that are Still Under Investigation in Livonia & Detroit, Pending Litigation.**
Livonia 10.25.2013
Detroit 10.05.2014
- 7) **Photos of Smart Meter Fires**

We are submitting this information and asking that it is entered into the record.

Respectfully submitted

Dominic & Lillian Cusumano

Smart Meter Fires

Findings Based on Testing from within Industry

2014 Smart Meter Recalls

Documented Michigan Smart Meter Fire NOT explained by Crown Investments Corp. Fire Investigation

Findings Based on Testing from within Industry

Industry testing by TESCO - The Eastern Specialty Company, founded in 1904, website states is 'the source for meter testing instruments and accessories for over 100 years'. TESCO arrived at the following conclusion, Slide 6 of 'Hot Socket Issues Causes Best Practices':

<http://www.slideshare.net/bravenna/hot-socket-issues-causes-best-practices>

“Electromechanical meters withstand hot sockets better than solid state meters.”

Furthermore, TESCO states, Slide 2 of 'Keeping Customers Safe':

<http://www.slideshare.net/bravenna/keeping-customers-safe>

The Issue • Hot Sockets are not a new phenomenon. Virtually every meter man has pulled a meter with a portion of the meter base around a blade melted and virtually every utility has been called to assist in the investigation of a fire at a meter box. • **From 2007 to 2011 the four years before the start of the majority of AMI deployments there were 590 reported fires in the United States that originated in the meter or the meter box.** An average of 125 per year and an incidence rate of less than one in a million meters each year. • Since that time the number has increased dramatically to the point where meter fires have dominated the news locally, nationally and internationally at various times over the past three years. – Utilities going through a full AMI deployment are seeing incident rates one and two orders of magnitude greater than normal, leading to media frenzy and a public focus on the safety of the meter on the side of their house.

2014 Smart Meter Recalls

Florida: Lakeland Electric will soon begin replacing over 10,000 residential smart meters on concerns they might overheat, General Manager Joel Ivy said.

Portland General Electric in Oregon is recalling 70,000 residential smart meters that run the risk of catching fire.

Saskatchewan government has ordered SaskPower to remove all 105,000 smart meters that have been installed across the province following several fires linked to the devices.

A series of Reports were commissioned by Canada's Crown Investments Corporation, CIC, after 105,000 Sensus electric smart meters were recalled due to fires. The estimated cost of meter removal & replacement will be \$47M.

<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2014/october/27/smart-meter-review>

The Reports, at a cost of \$500,000 were released 10.27.2014, concluded: 'An initial study of the causes of the fires **shows that rainwater and contaminants getting into the meters appear to be a major contributing factor in the failures, not issues related to their installation**'.

According to the government's review:

"The primary issue of **catastrophic meter failures** which prompted the AMI program to be halted was **not** identified as an initial program risk. When additional information about smart meter fires from other sources came to light, the risk of **catastrophic meter failures** did **not** prompt an independent reevaluation of the risk related to Sensus smart meters."

Additional key findings:

- **Moisture and contaminants getting inside the meters were a major factor in the meter fires.**
- There is **no** evidence to indicate the fires were the result of improper installation or hot sockets.
- **SaskPower did not adequately consider the potential for significant meter failures resulting in damage to homes.**

Documented Michigan Smart Meter Fire NOT explained by Crown Investments Corp. Fire Investigation

Muskegon Heights Fire Department Report, Incident date 11.23.2013, attached at end of document.

Home of Theresa Doze, -as of 12-02-2014, 86 years of age:

Pg 2

'Resident heard a loud banging noise'

Pg 3

'The fire started at the meter that was inside the home and spread throughout'.

Pg 4

F1 Equipment Involved in Ignition

213 Electric meter, meter

Statement 1:

Description of Doze's fire and follow-up.

The 'loud banging noise' by resident, noted in Fire Report:

Is what caused Theresa Doze to get out of bed to see what had caused the noise.

After finding nothing at her front & back doors, Theresa per chance opened her basement door. Smoke was present.

Theresa ran over to neighbors. Neighbors called Fire Dept.

The Fire Report states: '**fire started at the meter that was inside the home**'

Statement 2:

Theresa Doze & John Kelley on requesting written report of Consumers Energy fire investigation:

John Kelley is a friend assisting Theresa due to her advanced age.

Consumers Energy Securities Investigator told John Kelley:

'Electrical meters do not start fires.

The new meters are like cell phones. That's how they read meters.

There's not enough electrical power at the meter to start a fire.'

He then said 'the fire started on the right upper corner of the electrical box because the wood the box was mounted to was burnt there'.

The Investigator would provide NO written report of investigation.

Theresa's home was not insured.

CIC Report

The CIC Reports' results, do not explain what caused the fire at Theresa Doze's home.

'The fire started at the meter that was inside the home' per the Muskegon Heights Fire Department.

Consumers Energy's, GE Itron smart meter, was located in the basement of Theresa's home.

Furthermore, a smart meter related fire, resulting in the death of a Reno Nevada woman, prompted the NV Public Utilities Commission to 'Petition for a Request for Information' from NVE. This was filed 09-22-2014.

http://pucweb1.state.nv.us/PDF/AxImages/DOCKETS_2010_THRU_PRESENT/2014-9/41297.pdf

Itron smart meters have been installed by both DTE & Consumers Energy.

There have been fires in DTE territory suspected of being smart meter related.

Photo below, taken **after** Consumers Energy's Investigation of Theresa Doze's smart meter.
Consumers smart meter had melted over electric panel,
Consumers removed melted material, opened electric panel.
Consumers investigator said, 'if anyone disturbs anything in electrical box to let him know'.

A 06111 MI 11 23 2013 13-0001510 000 Station Incident Number * Exposure *		<input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Activity NFIRS -1 Basic
B Location* <input type="checkbox"/> No text box to increase that the address for this incident is provided in the digital file. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Street address 2505 9TH ST <input type="checkbox"/> Intersection <input type="checkbox"/> In front of <input type="checkbox"/> Rear of <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/> Directions Muskegon Heights MI 49844 State Zip Code		
C Incident Type * 1111 Building fire -Working Fire		E1 Date & Time Midnight is 0000 Check boxes if applicable Alarm * 11 23 2013 01:58:16 Arrival * 11 23 2013 02:02:21 Last Unit Cleared 11 23 2013 06:14:41
D Aid Given or Received* <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual aid received <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic aid recvd. <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual aid given <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic aid given <input type="checkbox"/> Other aid given <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		E2 Shift & Alarm Shift of Alarm E3 Special Studies
F Actions Taken * 11 Extinguishment by fire 12 Salvage & overhaul 51 Ventilate		G1 Resources * <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apparatus 0003 0006 <input type="checkbox"/> EMS <input type="checkbox"/> Other
G2 Estimated Dollar Losses & Values LOSSES: Reported for all types of losses. Optional for fire. Property \$ 020,000 Contents \$ 015,000 PMS-INCIDENT VALUE: Optional Property \$ 037,000 Contents \$ 025,000		H1 Casualties None H2 Detector <input type="checkbox"/> Detector alerted occupants <input type="checkbox"/> Detector did not alert them <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
H3 Hazardous Materials Release <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Natural Gas: other than as produced by human activities <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Propane gas: not in tank or as home BBQ product <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Gasoline: vehicle fuel tank or portable container <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Kerosene: two burning equipment or portable storage <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Diesel fuel/fuel oil: vehicle fuel tank or portable <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Household solvents: household spray, cleaning only <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Motor oil: from engine or portable container <input type="checkbox"/> 8 PESTIC: from point source containing > 11 gallons <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Other: special handling actions required or spill - specify		I Mixed Use Property <input type="checkbox"/> Not Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Assembly use <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Education use <input type="checkbox"/> 33 Medical use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40 Residential use <input type="checkbox"/> 51 Row of stores <input type="checkbox"/> 53 Enclosed mall <input type="checkbox"/> 58 Bus. & Residential <input type="checkbox"/> 59 Office use <input type="checkbox"/> 60 Industrial use <input type="checkbox"/> 63 Military use <input type="checkbox"/> 65 Farm use <input type="checkbox"/> 00 Other mixed use
J Property Use* Structures 131 Church, place of worship 161 Restaurant or cafeteria 162 Bar/Tavern or nightclub 213 Elementary school or kindergarten 215 High school or junior high 241 College, adult education 311 Care facility for the aged 331 Hospital 341 Clinic, clinic type infirmary 342 Doctor/dentist office 361 Prison or jail, not juvenile 419 1- or 2-family dwelling 429 Multi-family dwelling 439 Rooming/boarded house 449 Commercial hotel or motel 459 Residential, board and care 464 Dormitory/barracks 519 Food and beverage sales 539 Household goods, sales, repairs 579 Motor vehicle/boat sales/repair 571 Gas or service station 599 Business office 615 Electric generating plant 629 Laboratory/science lab 700 Manufacturing plant 819 Livestock/poultry storage(barn) 882 Non-residential parking garage 891 Warehouse 936 Vacant lot 938 Graded/care for plot of land 946 Lake, river, stream 951 Railroad right of way 960 Other street 961 Highway/divided highway 962 Residential street/driveway 981 Construction site 984 Industrial plant yard Outside 124 Playground or park 655 Crops or orchard 659 Forest (timberland) 807 Outdoor storage area 919 Dump or sanitary landfill 931 Open land or field		
Property Use 419 1 or 2 family dwelling NFIRS-1 Revision 03/21/99		

A 06111 MI 11 23 2013 MH 13-0001510 000 <small>1210 * State * Incident Date * Station * Incident Number * Exposure *</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> Delete <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> No Activity	NFIRS -1 Basic
B Location* <input type="checkbox"/> <small>Check box to indicate that the address for this incident is provided in the adjacent form. Member to Section B "Alternative Location Specifications". See also the Fieldbook Form.</small>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Street address 2505 9TH ST <input type="checkbox"/> Intersection <input type="checkbox"/> In front of <input type="checkbox"/> Rear of <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/> Directions <small>Number/Milepost Profile Street or Highway Street Type Suffix</small> <small>Apt./Suite/Room City State Zip Code</small> <small>These areas are designated as optional.</small>			
C Incident Type * 1111 Building fire - Working Fire <small>Account # 12</small>		E1 Date & Times <small>Midnight is 0000</small> <small>Check boxes if dates are the same as Alarm date.</small> <small>ALARM always required</small> Alarm * 11 23 2013 01:58:16 <small>ARRIVAL required, unless cancelled or did not arrive</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrival * 11 23 2013 02:02:21 <small>CONTROLLED optionally required for working fires</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled <small>LAST UNIT CLEARANCE required except for residential fires</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last Unit Cleared 11 23 2013 06:14:41	
D Aid Given or Received* 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual aid received 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic aid recvd. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual aid given 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic aid given 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other aid given N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <small>These Incident Number</small>		E2 Shift & Alarm* <small>Local Option</small> 3 01 <small>Shift or Alarm District Station</small>	
F Actions Taken* 11 Extinguishment by fire <small>Primary Action Taken (2)</small> 12 Salvage & overhaul <small>Additional Action Taken (2)</small> 51 Ventilate <small>Additional Action Taken (2)</small>		G1 Resources* <small>Check box if resource counts include aid received resources.</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <small>Check box if resource counts include aid received resources.</small> <small>Apparatus Personnel</small> Suppression 0003 0006 EMS Other G2 Estimated Dollar Losses & Values <small>LOSSES: Required for all fires if known. Optional for non-fires.</small> Property \$ 020,000 Contents \$ 015,000 PRE-INCIDENT VALUE: optional Property \$ 037,000 Contents \$ 025,000	
Completed Modules <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire-2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure-3 <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Fire Cas.-4 <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Serv. Cas.-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EMS-6 <input type="checkbox"/> HazMat-7 <input type="checkbox"/> Midland Fire-8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apparatus-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personnel-10 <input type="checkbox"/> Arson-11		H1 Casualties <input type="checkbox"/> None <small>Deaths Injuries</small> Fire Service Civilian H2 Detector <small>Required for Contained Fires.</small> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Detector alerted occupants 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Detector did not alert them 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
H3 Hazardous Materials Release N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Gas: also leak, no evacuation or hazard noticed 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Propane gas: 45 lb. tank not in leak exp. position 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline: volatile fuel, tank or portable container 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Kerosene: fuel burning equipment or portable storage 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel fuel/fuel oil: vehicle fuel tank or portable 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Household solvents: home/office spills, cleanup only 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Motor oil: same as 6 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Paint: from paint cans totaling > 15 gallons 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Special Report section required if spill > Spill... <small>Please complete the Report Form</small>		I Mixed Use Property NN <input type="checkbox"/> Not Mixed 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly use 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Education use 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Medical use 40 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential use 51 <input type="checkbox"/> Row of stores 53 <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed mall 58 <input type="checkbox"/> Bus. & Residential 59 <input type="checkbox"/> Office use 60 <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial use 63 <input type="checkbox"/> Military use 65 <input type="checkbox"/> Farm use 00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other mixed use	
J Property Use* <small>Structures</small>			
131 <input type="checkbox"/> Church, place of worship 161 <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant or cafeteria 162 <input type="checkbox"/> Bar/Tavern or nightclub 213 <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary school or kindergarten 215 <input type="checkbox"/> High school or junior high 241 <input type="checkbox"/> College, adult education 311 <input type="checkbox"/> Care facility for the aged 331 <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital 341 <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic, clinic type infirmary 342 <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor/dentist office 361 <input type="checkbox"/> Prison or jail, not juvenile 419 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1- or 2-family dwelling 429 <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-family dwelling 439 <input type="checkbox"/> Rooming/boarding house 449 <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial hotel or motel 459 <input type="checkbox"/> Residential, board and care 464 <input type="checkbox"/> Dormitory/barracks 519 <input type="checkbox"/> Food and beverage sales 539 <input type="checkbox"/> Household goods, sales, repairs 579 <input type="checkbox"/> Motor vehicle/boat sales/repair 571 <input type="checkbox"/> Gas or service station 599 <input type="checkbox"/> Business office 615 <input type="checkbox"/> Electric generating plant 629 <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory/science lab 700 <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing plant 819 <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock/poultry storage (barn) 882 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-residential parking garage 891 <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse 936 <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant lot 938 <input type="checkbox"/> Graded/care for plot of land 946 <input type="checkbox"/> Lake, river, stream 951 <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad right of way 960 <input type="checkbox"/> Other street 961 <input type="checkbox"/> Highway/divided highway 962 <input type="checkbox"/> Residential street/driveway 981 <input type="checkbox"/> Construction site 984 <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial plant yard Look up and enter a Property Use code only if you have not checked a Property Use box. Property Use 419 1 or 2 family dwelling NFIRS-1 Revision 03/11/99			

K1 Person/Entity Involved

Local Option: _____ Business Name (if applicable): _____ Area Code: _____ State Number: _____

Check this box if same address as incident location. Then skip the three duplicate address lines.

Mr./Ms./Mrs. First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____

Number: _____ Prefix: _____ Street or Highway: _____ Street Type: _____ Suffix: _____

Post Office Box: _____ Apt./Suite/Room: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

More people involved? Check this box and attach Supplemental Forms (NFIR-15) as necessary

K2 Owner

Local Option: _____ Business Name (if applicable): _____ Area Code: _____ State Number: _____

Same as person involved? Then check this box and skip the rest of this section.

Check this box if same address as incident location. Then skip the three duplicate address lines.

Mr./Ms./Mrs. First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____

Number: _____ Prefix: _____ Street or Highway: _____ Street Type: _____ Suffix: _____

Post Office Box: _____ Apt./Suite/Room: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

L Remarks

Local Option

Event spawned from UNKNOWN PROBLEM. [11/23/2013 01:58:06 MCDSSQ]ACROSS THE STREET, UNK PROBLEM, SHUN ASKED THEM TO CALL FOR POLICE [11/23/13 01:58:30 MCDLW1][LAW] (D712) REQ FIRE AT 2505 9TH... POSS STRUC [11/23/13 01:58:19 MCDSSQ][LAW] (D712) HOUSE FILLED WITH SMOKE... EVERY ONE OCT [11/23/13 01:58:54 MCDSSQ]SINGLE STORY, WOOD FRAME, NOTHING SHOWING CHECK AND ADVISE [11/23/13 02:02:32 MCDJJI]HYDRANT AT 6TH/HUME THE NORTH HALF OF THE BLOCK [11/23/13 02:13:00 MCDJJI]HYDRANT AT PARK/HOME NORTH HALF OF THE BLOCK [11/23/13 02:13:45 MCDJJI]UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER [11/23/13 02:16:54 MCDJJI]ELECTRICAL FIRE [11/23/13 02:17:58 MCDJJI]UDTS: MFPD - WORKING FIRE [11/23/13 02:19:15 MCDJJI](120) WORKING FIRE [11/23/13 02:18:31 MCDJJI][OTHER] 1023175555 [11/23/13 02:20:53 MCDJJI]UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER [11/23/13 02:28:14 MCDJJI]UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER [11/23/13 02:40:16 MCDJJI]FIRE KNOCKED DOWN, WIRES ARE STILL LIVE [11/23/13 02:40:46 MCDJJI]AWAITING CONSUMERS ARRIVAL [11/23/13 02:40:56 MCDJJI]STATION MANNED WITH 2 [11/23/13 02:46:32 MCDSSQ]RESPOND NON EMERG TO THE SCENE.. STATION 10 4 [11/23/13 02:47:27 MCDSSQ]UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER [11/23/13 02:51:50 MCDSSQ]UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER [11/23/13 03:02:39 MCDSSQ]10 MIN ETA FOR CONSUMERS [11/23/13 03:02:56 MCDSSQ]POWER IS OUT... NO FURTHER TIMER [11/23/13 03:11:03 MCDSSQ]

11/23/2013 07:46:48 whidtr11

On 11/23/2013 at 01:58:16 dispatched to 2505 9TH ST /Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. The location is a 1 or 2 family dwelling. The incident was determined to be a (N) Building fire -Working Fire. Event spawned from an unknown problem. resident heard a loud banging noise so PD was dispatched to call. PD found light smoke coming from the back door and call fire dispatch for MFPD to respond. 120 arrive on scene to find two story wood frame construction with nothing showing. I immediately call dispatch for consumer's energy because we were

L Authorization

Officer in charge ID: 254 Signature: Love, Fonta T Position or rank: LT Assignment: 120 Month: 11 Day: 23 Year: 2013

Check box if: 254 Signature: Love, Fonta T Position or rank: LT Assignment: 120 Month: 11 Day: 23 Year: 2013

Officer Number making report ID in charge.

06111	MI	11	23	2013	MH	13-0001510	000	Complete Narrative
UNIT *	STATE *	INCIDENT	DATE *		STATION	INCIDENT NUMBER *	EXPOSURE *	

Narrative:

Event spawned from UNKNOWN PROBLEM. (11/23/2013 01:58:06 MCDSSQ1)ACROSS THE STREET, UNK PROBLEM, SUBJS ASKED THEM TO CALL FOR POLICE (11/23/13 01:53:30 MCDVLM11)[LAW] (D712) SEQ FIRE AT 2505 9TH... POSS STRUC (11/23/13 01:58:19 MCDSSQ1)[LAW] (D712) HOUSE FILLED WITH SMOKE... EVERY ONE OUT (11/23/13 01:58:54 MCDSSQ1)SINGLE STORY, WOOD FRAME, NOTHING SHOWING CHECK AND ADVISE (11/23/13 02:02:32 MCDAJJ1)HYDRANT AT 9TH/HOME THE NORTH HALF OF THE BLOCK (11/23/13 02:13:00 MCDAJJ1)HYDRANT AT PARK/HOME NORTH HALF OF THE BLOCK (11/23/13 02:13:45 MCDAJJ1)UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER (11/23/13 02:16:54 MCDAJJ1)ELECTRICAL FIRE (11/23/13 02:17:58 MCDAJJ1)UDTS: MHFD - WORKING FIRE (11/23/13 02:18:15 MCDAJJ1)(120) WORKING FIRE (11/23/13 02:18:31 MCDAJJ1)[OTHER] 1023179555 (11/23/13 02:20:53 MCDGJ1)UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER (11/23/13 02:28:14 MCDAJJ1)UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER (11/23/13 02:40:16 MCDAJJ1)FIRE KNOCKED DOWN, WIRES ARE STILL LIVE (11/23/13 02:40:46 MCDAJJ1)AWAITING CONSUMERS ARRIVAL (11/23/13 02:40:56 MCDAJJ1)STATION MANNED WITH 2 (11/23/13 02:46:32 MCDSSQ1)RESPOND NON EMERG TO THE SCENE.. STATION 10 4 (11/23/13 02:47:27 MCDSSQ1)UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER (11/23/13 02:51:50 MCDSSQ1)UDTS: FIRE INCIDENT TIMER (11/23/13 03:02:39 MCDSSQ1)10 MIN ETA FOR CONSUMERS (11/23/13 03:02:54 MCDSSQ1)POWER IS OUT... NO FURTHER TIMER (11/23/13 03:11:03 MCDSSQ1)

11/23/2013 07:46:48 mhfdt11

On 11/23/2013 at 01:58:16 dispatched to 2505 9TH ST /Muskegon Heights, MI 49444. The location is a 1 or 2 family dwelling. The incident was determined to be a (n) Building fire -Working Fire. Event spawned from an unknown problem, resident heard a loud banging noise so PD was dispatched to call. PD found light smoke coming from the back door and call fire dispatch for MHFD to respond. 120 arrive on scene to find two story wood frame construction with nothing showing. I immediately call dispatch for consumer's energy because we were unable to fight the fire due to the meter being inside of the basement. I Lt. Love conducted a 360 degree size-up, and found that the wires down in the basement was glowing orange, fire personnel enter to extinguish with a dry chemical extinguisher. The fire had grown and burn through floor truss, so fire personnel attacked with a 1 3/4 inch hose line to extinguish the fire.

The base of the fire was knocking down and salvage & overhaul was started. There was smoldering fire burning throughout the house up and down stair at several electrical outlets, cause by the metal conduits in the home. (The fire started at the meter that was inside of the home and spread throughout.)
The homeowner stayed at the neighbor's house and said that she would contact family tomorrow. Red Cross was offered and will continue to be.

02:02:21 arrived on scene.
The following actions were performed on scene:
Extinguishment by fire service personnel
Salvage & overhaul
Ventilate

Units responding were:
Unit 120 responded.
Unit 130 responded.
Unit 142 responded.

06:14:41 all units back in service.

A		MI 11 23 2013 <small>MI State Incident Date</small>	MI 13-0001510 <small>MI Incident Number</small>	000 <small>Agency</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Other	NFIRS - 2 Fire
B Property Details		C On-Site Materials <input type="checkbox"/> None or Products		<small>Complete if there were any significant amounts of commercial/industrial, medical, or agricultural products or materials on the property, whether or not they became involved.</small>		
B1 <input type="checkbox"/> 0001 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Residential <small>Approximate number of residential living units or buildings of similar nature or not all units become involved</small>		Enter up to three codes. Check one or more boxes for each code entered. <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <small>On-site material ID</small>		1 <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk storage or warehousing 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Processing or manufacturing 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Packaged goods for sale 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Repair or service		
B2 <input type="checkbox"/> 001 <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings not involved <small>Number of buildings involved</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <small>On-site material ID</small>		1 <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk storage or warehousing 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Processing or manufacturing 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Packaged goods for sale 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Repair or service		
B3 <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Less than one acre <small>Acres burned Less than one acre</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <small>On-site material ID</small>		1 <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk storage or warehousing 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Processing or manufacturing 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Packaged goods for sale 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Repair or service		
D Ignition		E1 Cause of ignition		E3 Human Factors Contributing To Ignition		
D1 <input type="checkbox"/> 82 <input type="checkbox"/> Conduit, pipe, utility, etc. <small>Area of fire origin</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if this is an exposure report. Skip to section G. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Intentional 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Unintentional 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failure of equipment or heat source 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Act of nature 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Cause under investigation 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Cause undetermined after investigation		Check all applicable boxes: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Asleep <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly impaired by alcohol or drugs 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Unattended person 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly mental disabled 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Physically Disabled 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple persons involved		
D2 <input type="checkbox"/> 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical arcing <small>Area of fire origin</small>		E2 Factors Contributing To Ignition		7 <input type="checkbox"/> Age was a factor Estimated age of person involved: _____ 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
D3 <input type="checkbox"/> 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Structural member or fire spread <small>Area of fire origin</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical <input type="checkbox"/> None <small>Factor contributing to ignition ID</small>		1 <input type="checkbox"/> Male 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
D4 <input type="checkbox"/> 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple types of fire spread <small>Area of fire origin</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None <small>Factor contributing to ignition ID</small>				
F1 Equipment Involved in Ignition		F2 Equipment Power		G Fire Suppression Factors		
<input type="checkbox"/> None if equipment was not involved. Skip to Section G. <input type="checkbox"/> 213 <input type="checkbox"/> Electric meter, meter <small>Equipment involved</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical <small>Equipment power source</small>		Enter up to three codes. <input type="checkbox"/> None Fire suppression factor ID: _____ Fire suppression factor ID: _____ Fire suppression factor ID: _____		
Street: _____ Model: _____ Serial #: _____ Year: _____		F3 Equipment Portability 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Portable 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stationary <small>Portable equipment normally can be moved by one person, is designed to be used in multiple locations, and requires no tools to install.</small>				
H1 Mobile Property Involved		H2 Mobile Property Type & Make		Local Use		
<input type="checkbox"/> None 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Not involved in ignition, but burned 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in ignition, but did not burn 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Involved in ignition and burned		Mobile property type: _____ Mobile property make: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Fire Plan Available <small>Some of the information presented in this report may be based upon reports from other Agencies.</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Arson report attached <input type="checkbox"/> Police report attached <input type="checkbox"/> Coroner report attached <input type="checkbox"/> Other reports attached		
Mobile property color: _____ Mobile State Address: _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		Mobile property color: _____ Mobile State Address: _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____				

I1 Structure Type * If fire was in enclosed building or a portable/mobile structure complete the rest of this form		I2 Building Status *		I3 Building * Height Count the ROOF as part of the highest story		I4 Main Floor Size* NFIRS-3 Structure Fire		
1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed Building 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Portable/mobile structure 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Open structure 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Air supported structure 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Tent 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Open platform 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Underground structure 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Connective structure 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other type of structure		1 <input type="checkbox"/> Under construction 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied & operating 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Idle, not routinely used 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Under major renovation 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant and secured 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant and unsecured 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Being demolished 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		Total number of stories at or below grade <u>002</u>		Total square feet <u>001</u> , <u>500</u>		OR Length in feet BY Width in feet
				Total number of stories below grade <u>001</u>				
J1 Fire Origin * <u>002</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Below Grade Story of fire origin		J3 Number of Stories Damaged By Flame Count the ROOF as part of the highest story		K Material Contributing Most To Flame Spread <input type="checkbox"/> Check if no flame spread OR same as material listed elsewhere OR unable to determine Skip to Section L				
J2 Fire Spread * 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Confined to object of origin 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Confined to room of origin 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Confined to floor of origin 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confined to building of origin 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Beyond building of origin		Number of stories of minor damage (11 to 24% flame damage) <u> </u> Number of stories of significant damage (25 to 44% flame damage) <u> </u> Number of stories of heavy damage (45 to 64% flame damage) <u> </u> Number of stories of extreme damage (65 to 100% flame damage) <u> </u>		K1 <u> </u> Item contributing most to flame spread K2 <u> </u> Type of material contributing most to flame spread Required only if item contributing more than 50%				
L1 Presence of Detectors * (In area of the fire) N <input type="checkbox"/> None Present Skip to section M 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Present U <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		L3 Detector Power Supply 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Battery only 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwire only 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Plug in 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwire with battery 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Plug in with battery 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple detectors & power supplies 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		L5 Detector Effectiveness Required if detector operated 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Alerted occupants, occupants responded 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Occupants failed to respond 3 <input type="checkbox"/> There were no occupants 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Failed to alert occupants U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined				
L2 Detector Type 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Heat 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Combination smoke - heat 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler, water flow detection 5 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 type present 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Other U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		L4 Detector Operation 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Fire too small to activate 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Operated (Complete Section L5) 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Failed to Operate (Complete Section L5) U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		L6 Detector Failure Reason Required if detector failed to operate 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Power failure, shutoff or disconnect 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Improper installation or placement 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Defective 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of maintenance, includes cleaning 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Battery missing or disconnected 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Battery discharged or dead 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Other U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined				
M1 Presence of Automatic Extinguishment System * N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Present 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Present Complete rest of Section M		M3 Automatic Extinguishment System Operation Required if fire was within designed range 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Operated & effective (Go to M4) 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Operated & not effective (M4) 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Fire too small to activate 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Failed to operate (Go to M4) 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		M5 Automatic Extinguishment System Failure Reason Required if system failed 1 <input type="checkbox"/> System shut off 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough agent discharged 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Agent discharged but did not reach fire 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong type of system 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Fire not in area protected 6 <input type="checkbox"/> System components damaged 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of maintenance 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Manual Intervention 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined				
M2 Type of Automatic Extinguishment System * Required if fire was within designed range of AES 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Wet pipe sprinkler 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Dry pipe sprinkler 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Other sprinkler system 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Dry chemical system 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Foam system 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Halogen type system 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) system 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other special hazard system U <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined		M4 Number of Sprinkler Heads Operating Required if system operated <u> </u> Number of sprinkler heads operating		NFIRS-3 Revision 01/19/99				

0611

MI

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23

2013

KH

13-0001510

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Responding
Units/Personnel:

Unit	Notify Time	Enroute Time	Arrival Time	Cleared Time
1 Engine 120	01:58:14	01:59:00	02:02:21	06:14:41

Staff ID	Staff Name	Activity	Rank	Position	Role
100	Wells, Gary J	On Duty	Firefighter	Fire Fighter	Company Officer
101	Robinson, Andrew Eric	On Duty	Firefighter	Fire Fighter	Driver
102	Wells, Bruce J	On Duty	Lieutenant	Fire Lieutenant	Incident Commander

17 Central & Rescue	02:20:14	02:20:00	02:25:08	06:14:41
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Staff ID	Staff Name	Activity	Rank	Position	Role
100001	Reagan, John Earl	On Duty	Firefighter	Fire Fighter	Company Officer

1 Truck 101	02:48:49	02:48:40	02:52:29	06:14:41
-------------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Staff ID	Staff Name	Activity	Rank	Position	Role
100	Reagan, John E	On Duty	Firefighter	Fire Fighter	Company Officer
100001	Reagan, John E	On Duty	Firefighter	Fire Fighter	Driver

PRESS DOWN FIRMLY - INSURE CLEAR COPIES.



CITY OF MUSKEGON HEIGHTS

Invoice / Receipt

№ 102655

DATE 2 Dec. 2013

NAME John Kelley

ADDRESS 822 W. 14th Ave. Norton Street

5313 10

Fine Report For 2505 9th

Report # 1510

PERMIT:

LICENSE:

CHARGE ACCT #:

10 50

COUNTERSIGNED BY

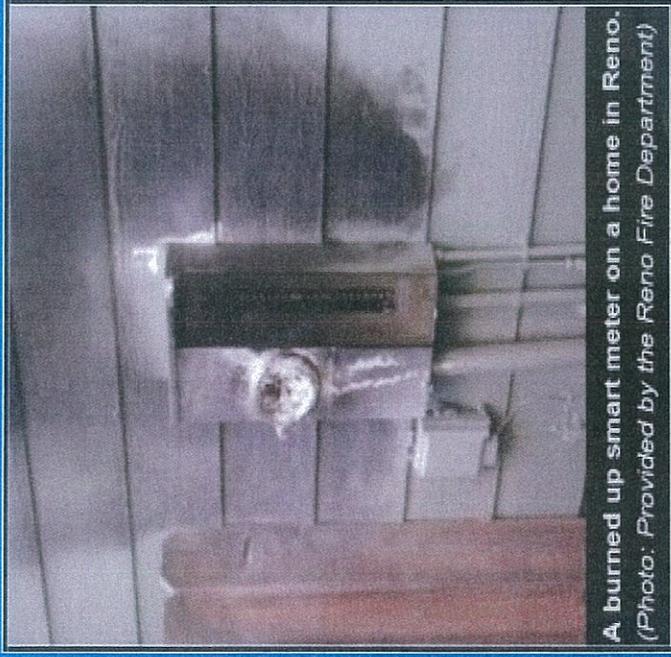
PAYABLE AT OFFICE OF CITY TREASURER
NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED PAID BY CITY TREASURER
WHEN PAYING BY CHECK - PLEASE SHOW INVOICE NUMBER

RE-ORDER FROM GRAND VALLEY PRINTING 616-837-4627

HOUSE FIRE related to Smart Meter



NEVADA FIRE from SMART METER



A burned up smart meter on a home in Reno.
(Photo: Provided by the Reno Fire Department)



“Be very aware, very vigilant”
says Reno Fire Chief after Smart Meter fires
were reported in Reno and Sparks.

Fires

Last Updated: 11/24/2014

1. [Michigan Fires](#)
2. [Fires Lead Canadian Province to Order Removal of All Smart Meters](#)
3. [Pennsylvania Halts Smart Meter Installation for One Month Due to Fires](#)
4. [Woman Killed in Nevada Smart Meter Fire; Man's Face Burned in Another NV Fire](#)
5. [Fires in the U.S.](#)
6. [What Causes These Fires?](#)



Burned meter, from [Ontario Fire Marshall's Report](#).

Smart meters are repeatedly catching fire, including here in Michigan. The electric company usually attributes the fires to something else. In Reno, utility employees and contractors have told reporters that the utility has been regularly covering up fires. Two dogs died in a smart meter fire in Detroit. One woman has already died in Nevada, and customers in other states have also been killed by fires. On July 30, 2014, Saskatchewan Province ordered the removal of all smart meters due to fires, and Portland, Oregon ordered the removal of 70,000. Pennsylvania halted its smart meter program for a month due to fires. Meters likely catch fires, says the Ontario Fire Chief's [website](#), because "the base plates, or four-pronged sockets that meters plug into, can become compromised and start to burn if they're old or suffer rough handling during installation." Said a utility [spokesperson](#): "Unless a homeowner notices problems after the installation — such as lights flickering on and off, or dimming and brightening — there's no need to worry about a problem with the plate." A comprehensive Powerpoint, with numerous pictures of burned meters, from the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office can be found [here](#). Many more fire stories can be found at the [EMF Safety Network](#) and elsewhere.

Michigan Fires

Detroit Fire

Detroit Smart Meter Fire, October 5, 2014.

Two dogs were killed in a smart meter fire in Detroit. The woman inside the home escaped by crawling out of a window. The man crawled out the front door.

[Fox News](#), in its usual incompetent reporting, simply accepted DTE's assertion that no fires or explosions have been caused by DTE smart meters, when, in fact, they have, and a simple web search would turn them up. Those additional fires and explosions are reported by us below. Every time Fox News does a story on smart meter health effects--supposedly giving time to individuals affected by smart meters--it diligently reports DTE's claims that smart meters do not cause health problems and gives the bulk of its story time to these assertions. In doing this, they follow in the footsteps of Taylor Fire Marshall John Hager, who claimed to have done a thorough investigation of whether there were any smart meter fires in the U.S., or even the world. His search was so incompetent that he could not even find the stories in the previous post about smart meter fires and explosions in Ann Arbor and Livonia.



Livonia

Livonia House Fire Started by Smart Meter.

A fire ripped through a Bayberry Street home during the installation of a smart meter. According to the [Detroit News](#) the fire caused extensive damage. "DTE spokesman Scott Simons said service technicians were removing an old meter and installing an advanced meter when they saw signs of fire." [CBS Detroit](#) also reported on the fire stating the resident Kirk Lytwyn stated: "A representative from DTE was out here to change the meters and in the process of changing the meters, from what I understand, it blew on him, blew right in his face," Lytwyn said. "Apparently he was wearing the appropriate protective gear." 10/25/2013.

Ann Arbor Home's Meter Burns Up.

Bonnie Medd contacted the Smart Meter Education Network immediately after a smart meter exploded on her home. [WXYZ](#) and Michigan Radio reported on the explosion. Ms. Medd wrote the following [letter](#) after Taylor Fire Marshal John Hager [claimed](#) to have done a thorough investigation of whether there were any smart meter fires in the U.S., or even the world: *"I am a DTE customer who was excited to get the new technology of the smart meters. Less than two months after installation, the meter exploded and could have caused serious damage. It is NOT true that people who are reporting these fires were people who were already against smart meters and had bias regarding them. We were on Channel 7 News and I'd be happy to talk to the "investigator" [Taylor Fire Marshal John Hager] regarding our issue. DTE is burying these fires and they do NOT get included in any investigations."*

Taylor Fire Chief Claims That No Fires Have Been Started by Smart Meters.

Taylor Fire Marshal John Hager [claimed](#) to have done a thorough investigation of whether there were any smart meter fires in the U.S., or even the world. He was apparently incapable of doing a simple web search that would have showed, prior to the date of publication of his "investigation," a fire in Ann Arbor, a fire in Livonia, the fact that Pennsylvania shut down its entire smart meter program due to fires, and the fact that the Ontario Fire Chiefs' Association had issued a report and an extensive Powerpoint presentation on smart meter fires throughout Canada and the U.S.

Fires Lead Canadian Province to Order Removal of All Smart Meters



Burned meter in California, from [Ontario Fire Marshall's Report](#)

All Smart Meters Ordered Removed from Canadian Province Due to Fires. Sensus smart meters implicated in fires. Cost of removal tops \$14 million. The head of the utility oversight did not rule out the possibility of SaskPower using smart meters again some time in the future, but said their reintroduction would have to be carefully evaluated. "We are not going to see these smart meters installed any time soon, that's for sure," he said. "We will continue to evaluate the technologies going forward. We'll continue to evaluate additional smart meters going forward and look at them in

the context of Saskatchewan's climatic conditions to ensure that they will be absolutely safe." Read more on the [CBC](#) website and at Canada's [Global News](#). [More](#) on Canadian fires. In late October 2014, a [report](#) issued by a government-appointed investigator stated that water and other contaminants getting into the meters were the likely cause of the fires.

Pennsylvania Shut Down Its Entire Smart Meter Program for One Month Because of Meters Catching Fire

Read more [here](#).

Woman Killed in Nevada Smart Meter Fire; Man's Face Burned in Another NV Fire

September 2014. A 61-year-old woman died in a smart meter fire in Reno. Other Nevada fires have maimed individuals or damaged their homes. The fire chief said meter fires are particularly concerning because they start on the outside of the house, won't be picked up by indoor smoke detectors and can escape immediate notice. Flickering and dimming lights and appliances that burn out for no apparent reason are warning signs. Fire Chief Garrison said that a fire "can burn a long time and enter the attic or the walls. The occupants inside may not even be aware the house is on fire. This is very alarming to me."

One of the fires in Reno burned a man's face. The meter burst into flames when he flipped a breaker switch, scorching him. He put out the flames with a fire extinguisher and was treated at a local hospital. Another home in Sparks was significantly damaged.



*The fire departments gave the suspect meters to the utility.
This is like handing a gun back to a murder suspect for investigation!*

In an interview last week, an electrician who helps NV Energy replace the meters told the [Reno Gazette-Journal](#) that often meters would be fixed before the fire department could even be called. The RGJ has withheld his name because he continues to do work for NV Energy and didn't want to put his employment at risk.

"NV Energy was so quick in having me or one of the other guys out there that the fire department never knew about them," he said. "We'd have the panel changed out and power turned on within five hours and a guy painting the wall right behind us."

He said that he's fixed 15 or 16 burned-out meters in the past two years in Reno, Sparks and Gardnerville.

"The fire department was never called on most of them. I only saw the fire department on two or three of them," he said.

Read more at the [Reno Sparks Gazette](#). This is one of the most unbiased smart meter stories out there and worth reading for the information it contains. Read more on the cover-ups at the [Reno Gazette-Journal](#).

Fires in the U.S.

There are numerous news stories of smart meter fires in the U.S. We provide links to a few of them here. See the [EMF Safety Network](#) for more stories.

Smart Meter Kills California Man Due to Fire It Caused the Day After Installation. Larry Nikkel died from an electrical fire that consumed his home *the day after* a smart meter was installed on his home. The day the meter was installed, Larry had tried to boot up his laptop to watch a DVD that evening, but the computer would not function. The cable box did not work either. Larry and his brother both heard a very loud, high pitched "snap" coming from the wall. Later that night, after Larry's brother had returned home, he received a call from Larry, who said that the 'house was humming.' According to electrical engineers, the popping, humming, and appliance damage are all telltale signs of an electrical problem caused by arcing, possibly from a meter that was not installed properly. Arcing can lead to fires and explosions. The case was settled out of court, showing that the utilities and meter manufacturers were alarmed about the potential to lose the case, as well as more terrible publicity related to their meter program. Read more [here](#).

Portland, Oregon's utility is [replacing 70,000 residential "smart" meters](#) after several meters caught fire. The company is voluntarily recalling the meters, said the utility's vice president for customer service, because the risk of fire "is small, but it's totally unacceptable to us." So interesting that they never say that about the health issues. The meter were installed in 2012.

Florida Smart Meter Catches Fire Three Feet from Children's Bedroom. Read more [here](#).

Smart Meter Likely Cause of Fire in [Georgia](#).

Pennsylvania Shut Down Its Entire Smart Meter Program for One Month Because Meters Catching Fire. Read more [here](#).

What Causes These Fires?

Some fires have originated in the meter socket and may be a direct consequence of the practice of "hot-swapping" (replacing meters while current is flowing through them). Sometimes it may be the result of poorly trained installers forcing the meter into an older socket where the contacts might not be lining up correctly. Or it can be the result of poor quality control in the meters themselves, as in the Pennsylvania situation where an enormous number of defective meters were delivered to the utility by a manufacturer rushing to meet a deadline to qualify for federal money.

We also hear of fires starting somewhere in a house remote from the meter socket. And we hear of refrigerator motors, computers and high-end sound systems burning out right after an install. Apparently the poor power quality ("dirty electricity") may cause some of these events. Here is some information from Smart Grid News, a utility industry publication:

http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies_Metering/Smart-meter-fire-hazards-A-safe-and-sane-approach-5167.html#UmvgsLLD-iM

"Forensic evidence suggests that the problem is a known issue commonly called "hot socket"—a case where the blades of the socket receptacle are not making good electrical contact due to spreading, corrosion, or other insulating effect. As a result, the current flow encounters higher resistance at the contacts, causing excessive temperature rise and possible flash-over."

http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies_Metering/Smart-meter-fire-hazards-A-safe-and-sane-approach-5167-page2.html

Video with Dick Hutter, Assoc in Electrical Engineering, worked on large-scale computer equipment for Univac since 1959. Good practices not used, connections not cleaned and not aligned properly, leads to resistance, which leads to heat, which can lead to fire. They need an electrician to do this, and they don't want to pay for that. Use a jelly on connections to make a better connection.

http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/Technologies_Metering/Smart-meter-fire-hazards-A-safe-and-sane-approach-5167-page2.html

Mass change-out of meters at rates of thousands of meters per day cannot be done by the experienced meter professionals at the utilities. The migrant meter swappers employed for this work must be compensated in a way to encourage the reporting of suspicious bases rather than being paid by the meter.

Some meters do in fact have sensors to determine if this "hot socket" condition is starting. This alarm is also used to determine that the customer is drawing more current than their service is designed for. Generally the overheating is caused by 3 things.

1. Bad/worn/deteriorated contacts
2. customer upgraded service and did not upgrade wiring from meter can (code violation)
3. customer connections at meter are loose

There are also design flaws in the meters themselves. An important one is that they have lithium batteries to hold data when the power goes out. Lithium batteries explode when heated. They are encased in combustible plastic and placed on homes, sitting in the hot summer sun. Not a good

combination. But the sun is not the only thing that will heat the meters. Power surges, and other incidents could and will.



December 2, 2014

Dear Honorable Representatives:

We are submitting the following information which covers "**Smart Meter FIRES**", denoting concerns of "risk and safety" .

We are submitting this information and asking that it is entered into the record.

Respectfully,

Sharon Nobel
BC Hydro



The truth about Smart Meter Fires and Failures in British Columbia

Introduction

Energy Minister Bill Bennett and BC Hydro state that there have been no fires or dangerous incidents involving smart meters. Are they deceitful or just incompetent?



If they truly want us to believe that there have been no smart meter fires or failures, then they should explain:

1. Why there are reports of smart meter fires and failures originating from such sources as the **Fire Commissioner, BC Safety Authority** and even the quite contrarian **BC Hydro** itself;
2. How they know that there haven't been fires or failures since no agency is able to track them;
3. What the reason is for Hydro removing smart meters after a fire before they can be examined by the Fire Inspector – which is against the law;
4. How they know there is no danger when there is little or no interagency communication regarding fires/failures which is needed for information of those incidents to reach the responsible officials, and there is no penalty for failure to communicate;
5. How they know there is no danger when the evidence of the cause of the fire is destroyed by the fire since these plastic meters are composed mostly of combustible materials;
6. How they can expect us to accept as reliable the reports attesting to the safety of smart meters when the authors get their data exclusively from agencies that are unable to track smart meter fires and failures.



How can we get EVIDENCE of fires if Minister Bennett and BC Hydro couldn't? Or wouldn't? Because we looked!

Beginning with media reports, information was requested from various agencies via Freedom of Information. Additional reports were requested that were based on information provided directly by victims. It can only be assumed that many more "events" have occurred because, as we have found, not all fires make it to the newspaper.

I. Reports of Fire

A. From BC Safety Authority - Reports obtained via FOI

- 1) **Sparwood Post Office**, Aug. 2012 where the meter sparked and smoked, but no major fire resulted because there was an immediate response. (EMAIL #14)*

B. From BC Hydro - Reports obtained via FOI

<http://tinyurl.com/m5bpzpw>

- 1) **Coquitlam** – “Smart meter installed July 2012. Preliminary investigation indicates excessive consumption load over-heated socket and created fire.”
(#16 ON HYDRO’S LIST <http://tinyurl.com/m5bpzpw>)
- 2) **Abbotsford**, Dec. 2012 – “Abbotsford Fire Dept. reported an incident where a homeowner claimed his newly installed smart meter was smoking and proceeded to get his camera to take a picture of it. Supposedly, while taking the picture, the smart meter shot off the wall – this has not been verified, there is no photo, and there is no further information. Smart meter installed March 2012.” (#24 ON HYDRO’S LIST <http://tinyurl.com/m5bpzpw>)



Hydro did not investigate a meter blowing off the wall of a home. Does this allow them to say it didn’t happen?

- 3) **Langley**, Nov. 2011. “Broken socket jaw made contact with meter socket cover during meter exchange. Arcing led to fire at meter location, continued to burn through neutral conductor and onto coax. TV cable.” (#4 ON HYDRO’S LIST <http://tinyurl.com/m5bpzpw>)



Installers were hired with no prior experience, given 10 days training. They did not follow standard protocol (e.g. exchanged meter under full load).

***NOTE: all emails referenced this way are to be found in this document, starting on page 9**

C. From Fire Commissioner Reports obtained via FOI

- 1) To date there have been **38 FOI requests made to the Fire Commissioner**. That office didn't have reports on 16 of those fires and so more information was requested from other sources. Initial requests were made in March, 2014 for incidents dating back to early-mid 2012. Fourteen of those reports have yet to be received. Of the reports that the Fire Commissioner did have, most were only partial, some included only the title page, and thus, necessitated further FOI requests. When more complete reports were received some of them indicated that there was no record of a fire or meter failure -- no record, despite that the Fire Services Act requires all fires to be reported to the Fire Commissioner's Office within 3 days of the fire. Section 9 <http://tinyurl.com/mlapu5p>
This is despite the fact that in some of those specific events (according to media reports) the buildings burned to the ground, and in one case, a woman died in the fire. (SEE EMAILS #14, #2-5)*

- 2) The Fire Commissioner's Office is an agency of the government which could explain a reluctance to find fault with the government's pet initiative. Could this be the reason that the reports focus not on the meters themselves but rather on things such as:
 - "socket failures"
 - "electrical arcing"
 - damage done at the time of installation
 - electrical/mechanical failure
 - undetermined, as the damage is so severe that there was nothing left to inspect.

This last category represents the largest number of reports. It is no wonder since the meter is largely plastic and, therefore, combustible. With the meters destroyed in the fire, the only items that survive and, thus, to blame in electrical fires are the electrical components in the buildings. But if these meters were safe and installed according to the electrical code it is unlikely that many of these fires would have occurred. Sample Fire Commissioner reports at <http://tinyurl.com/m2ckq4k>



Could this be why the Fire Commissioner's Office doesn't have a code for smart meter fires – because until the arrival of smart meters, meter fires were practically non-existent?

"We (the OFC) have more generic codes.... as our codes were developed long before smart meters came along." (EMAIL #1)*

There are NO codes for Smart Meter fires. Why not?

***NOTE: all emails referenced this way are to be found in this document, starting on page 9**

D. Media reports via the links below

www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/fires/unusual-number-of-fires-smart-meters-linked/

www.stopsmartmetersbc.com/fires/smart-meter-fires/

These are the fires that Mr. Bennett and BC Hydro say didn't happen: fires that have occurred in every community; fires in which entire homes have burned to the ground.

Then how can Bill Bennett and Hydro think they can get away with saying there haven't been any? Because they believe there is no way for us to find out the truth. And they do have a point. Just witness the byzantine administrative detail we have had to navigate in order to uncover even a smidgen of the facts.

And the dissembling didn't just start with Bennett. NDP Kathy Corrigan quoted a 2009 report charging that there was no tracking, no accountability for failure to follow procedure, no central body looking at the fire hazards that were being put on our homes. That was in 2012. Well, here it is 2014 and, if anything, it's gotten worse.



The Fire Commissioner's Office and the BCSA are agencies whose job it is to gather reports on the cause fires and other incidents. But they don't get reports on all fires and incidents. They don't even want reports on all fires and incidents. And if they don't get the reports they do want, there are no repercussions. Unless the fires are reported in some pesky newspaper, who is to know that they ever occurred?

If they get the reports and the fires are in the area of smart meters, they often are unable to list the cause of the fire because the igniter is consumed in the blaze. And since both of these agencies are semi-autonomous, they feel there is no need to share their reports with each other.

The few points that follow should give an indication of the byzantine complexity that shapes fire reporting in BC. If you can't follow them, don't be dismayed. Neither can we.

The Fire Commissioner's Office and the BC Safety Authority feel there is no need to share reports with each other!

II. Tracking of Smart Meter Fires or Failures



How do Mr. Bennett and BC Hydro know that no fires have occurred when no agency is responsible for tracking them?

1. The Fire Commissioner has no code for smart meters. All are coded as "electrical". (EMAIL #1)*
2. The Fire Commissioner does not get reports on all fires. (EMAILS # 2-6)*
3. The Fire Commissioner believes BC Safety Authority is tracking smart meters so they don't have to. (EMAIL #1)*
4. BC Safety Authority can only investigate incidents that have been reported to it, and not all have been. (EMAIL #9)*
5. BC Safety Authority does not report incidents to the Fire Commissioner because it believes, erroneously, that the Fire Commissioner gets them from other sources. (EMAILS #8 - 10)*
6. BC Safety Authority has no jurisdiction over smart meters so does not report fires or failures to anyone. BC SA assumes BC Utilities Commission is getting reports. (EMAIL #11)*
7. BC Utilities Commission is not getting reports. (EMAIL#12)*

III. Unreliable sources

Bill Bennett has referred to a commissioned report, written by former head of the Fire Chiefs Association Len Garis, as proof that the meters do not pose a fire risk. Mr. Garis was paid \$15,000 by BC Hydro, and reported that, based on the Fire Commissioner's data, there had been no smart meter fires.

<http://tinyurl.com/m3x7b5q>

It is instructive that the only official report attesting to the safety of smart meters was written by a consultant at the behest of BC Hydro, paid to do so by BC Hydro, and who acquired his data exclusively from an agency that is unable to track smart meter fires and failures.

***NOTE: all emails referenced this way are to be found in this document, starting on page 9**

IV. Violations of procedure

A. Not All Fires Reported:

- Not only are there no codes for meter fires, but not all fires are being reported to the Fire Commissioner, in violation of Section 9 of the Fire Services Act.
<http://tinyurl.com/mxxkxjd>
- Only fires causing “substantial” damage are required by the Fire Commissioner to be reported. Fires that have resulted in little damage, or events that if left unattended would have resulted in a major fire are not being reported. (EMAIL #4)* One example is the fire at the Sparwood Post Office. (EMAIL #14)* Other examples are in EMAIL #6*.
- Documentation required by the Act often is missing many months after the event. When asked why this is lacking, the response was:
“Local authorities are required to file a report on all fires with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) however in the event that they fail to do so, there is no information available to the OFC to release in response to a request. In such situations, the local authority would be the only source of the information being sought.” (EMAIL #2)*

B. Not All Incidents Reported:

- The Fire Commissioner advised that the Canadian Safety Authority would be tracking smart meter fires and failures, but it appears that no such agency exists. Attempts to locate this entity are redirected to the BC Safety Authority. When asked about tracking of smart meter incidents, BCSA's initial response was one of dismissal, saying that there had been no smart meters directly linked to fires. (EMAIL #7)* And therefore, the implication appears to be that BCSA feels there is no need to track smart meter fires and failures.
- The BCSA's 2012 Incident Summary disproves the statement that there have been no smart meters directly linked to fires. In fact this report implicates smart meters in 10 incidents. (*<http://tinyurl.com/oor2w7m>*)

CONFLICT:
BCSA claims that there have been NO Smart Meter fires ... yet their own summary states that there were 10 smart meter fire incidents.

***NOTE: all emails referenced this way are to be found in this document, starting on page 9**

SMART METERS

BACKGROUND

- The BC Safety Standards Act Sec. 36 (<http://tinyurl.com/q39xcrt>) requires persons in charge to report an "incident" to BCSA as soon as reasonably possible. Yet incidents of melting, overheating, or causing "minor" fires are not being reported on a consistent basis. (EMAIL #9)*
- A prime example occurred in Jan. 2013 in Prince George where a smart meter on a pole outside a summer residence was seen to catch fire. The pole was burned and Hydro was called. Photos were taken by a witness. The meter was taken, and the resident was sent a bill for the new pole.. Reports were requested of Hydro, the Fire Commissioner and BCSA. None were available. (EMAILS 8 & 8A)* It's as if it didn't happen.

C. No Sharing of Information:

- When the BC Safety Authority does receive reports about a failed smart meter, no information is shared with the Fire Commissioner because BCSA assumes the Fire Commissioner's Office gets its own report on the incidents. (EMAILS #8-10)*
- Neither is BCSA able to take any action because it has been precluded from doing so with regard to the Smart Meter Program. They have been told only BCUC has jurisdiction. (EMAIL #11)*

D. Precluded From Taking Action:

- BCUC does have jurisdiction over BC Hydro but it confirmed that it does not get reports on fires and failures associated with smart meters. (EMAIL #12)* And even if they did, according to BCUC, under the Clean Energy Act and Directive 4, they would be precluded from taking action.

E. Violates Regulations:

1. According to the Safety Standards Act, Sec. 36, nothing must be taken from the scene of the fire until the fire inspector has given his approval. BC Hydro has removed smart meters before the inspector has been able to do his job, and without approval. (EMAIL #14)*
2. Hydro does not provide reports to BCSA on failures, such as melted or overheated meters, or small fires in which smart meters were involved, as evidenced by the incident accounted in EMAIL #8A*. This is required under the Safety Standards Act, General Regulations. <http://tinyurl.com/qchysbb>

***NOTE: all emails referenced this way are to be found in this document, starting on page 9**

F. BC Hydro Shifts Damage Cost to Homeowners:

- BC Hydro is the agency with most access to information about fires but it has denied any problems have occurred, putting the onus of responsibility on the homeowners. The policy has been consistent: blame the homeowner's base or home wiring. In many instances homeowners or their insurance companies have had to pay for damage done by incompetent installation or faulty meters.

G. Deceptive Information:

- Despite BC Hydro's denials to the contrary, when an FOI was submitted asking for information related to any fire or other significant incident relating to smart meters either during installation or after, a report with 26 events occurring from Aug. 2011 to Nov. 2013 was provided. It is at <http://tinyurl.com/m5bpzpw>
- Though Hydro declared that its FOI response was complete. (EMAIL #13)*, many of the incidents which had been reported to either the BCSA or BC Fire Commissioner, or in newspapers were not included. Examples:
 - Port Alberni fire, Fire Commission report JAG-2014
<http://tinyurl.com/m2ckq4k>
 - Nanaimo meter failure, Nov. 24. 2011 <http://tinyurl.com/q9maw34>
 - Cloverdale, meter melted, Oct. 2012 <http://tinyurl.com/kmjuct6>

Conclusion:

So, to the question as to whether Energy Minister Bill Bennett and BC Hydro, the man and the agency, are deceitful or just incompetent when they state that there have been no fires or failures involving ITRON smart meters installed in British Columbia, the facts would appear to speak for themselves.

They knew, or should have known, about the fire risk as early as 2011. Yet they did nothing. Rather, they dissembled, denied, and obfuscated. Their negligence has allowed more fires to occur, endangering both lives and property.



The evidence is clear that, despite denials by Energy Minister Bill Bennett and BC Hydro, fires HAVE occurred.

Watch for our next installment explaining WHY they have occurred.... and will continue to occur.



Names of individuals have been removed to respect their privacy. If any MLA wishes to have details, please email director@stopsmartmetersbc.ca.

Email #1

From BC Fire Commissioner's Office,
in response to Email 1a, CSSMBC request for fire reports

From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 1:18 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Cc: JAG:EX
Subject: RE: Fire information / 481877



Thanks for your email. I have been asked this question before about house fires and smart meters. **Unfortunately our fire codes used does not drill down enough to see that a fire was caused by smart meter only.** We have more generic codes like power from the road to the house as our codes were developed long before smart meters came along. When we looked into the few fires mentioning electrical distribution equipment (transformers, panel board) as the igniting object the fires were actually not related to smart meters at all.

Not sure who would be tracking anything smart meter related other than possibly other provinces? The Canadian Safety Authority would be tracking if there are problems with the smart meters and fires.

Sorry I couldn't be more help.
 Fire Reporting Systems Officer, Emergency Management British Columbia
 PO Box 9201 Stn Prov Gov, Victoria BC CANADA V8W 9J1
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/> • Ph 250-952-4846 Fax 250-952-5831

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 10:39 AM
To: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Subject: Fire information



I have been receiving reports of fires that possibly are related to smart meters in some way. These reports are based on initial information or perception, and follow up has not provided any further clarification on the actual cause.

Do you have any information about smart-meter related fires or explosions that you could share with me? If you do not, can you please tell me where I might be able to find this information?

Thank you
 Sincerely,
 CSSMBC

Email #2

From BC Fire Commissioner's Office,
in response to Email 2a, From CSSMBC

From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: March 24, 2014 1:59 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Request for fire reports

EMAIL
2

Good afternoon,

In response to your questions regarding the request for copies of fire reports, the process has not changed. The information that you received is that which can be released without review. If you desire further information then a request under the appropriate Freedom of Information process is necessary and this ensures no inappropriate material is released as defined under the Act.

If you wish to submit such a request the link is provided here for your use:
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/citz/iao/foi/>

Local authorities are required to file a report on all fires with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) however in the event that they fail to do so, there is no information available to the OFC to release in response to a request. In such situations, the local authority would be the only source of the information being sought.

Thank you,

*Fire Reporting Systems Officer
Emergency Management British Columbia
Block A - Suite 200 • 2261 Keating Cross Road • Saanichton BC V8M 2A5 Canada
www.embc.gov.bc.ca • Ph 250-952-4846 Fax 250-952-4888*

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 17:15 PM
To: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Subject: RE: Request for fire reports

EMAIL
2a

Dear (Fire Commissioner),

I very much appreciate your providing these reports.

As I understand it from reading the various regulations, speaking with fire chiefs, and with the BC Safety Standards, reports on all fire must be filed with your office. If you don't have them, where might I find the others ones?

According to the Fire Act, Section 20, the fire reports are available to the general public to read, and there is no reference to having to make a special application to the Government's Information Access Operations. Has the Act changed, or is there something about which I am not aware? Your assistance is much appreciated.

Sincerely,
CSSMBC



“SMART” METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Email #3

From BC Fire Commissioner’s Office, in response to
CCSMBC’s Email 3a requesting specific fire reports

From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: March 20, 2014 3:19 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Request for fire reports



Good afternoon,

I have gone through and emailed you the fire reports that we have in our system. **The fire reports you did not receive we do not have in our system.**

*Fire Reporting Systems Officer
Emergency Management British Columbia
Block A - Suite 200 • 2261 Keating Cross Road • Saanichton BC V8M 2A5 Canada
www.embc.gov.bc.ca • Ph 250-952-4846 Fax 250-952-4888*

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 17:15 PM
To: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Subject: RE: Request for fire reports



Dear Sir or Madam,

According to Section 20 of the Fire Service Act, fire reports are available to the public. I would like to receive copies of or access to the reports for the following. Can you please provide them or tell me how I might obtain them?

- 1) Aug 23, 2013 (*date of fire*) • Surrey, V3W 2C9 • Owner: xxxxx
- 2) Oct., 2012 • Restaurant • Cloverdale, V3S 4C8 • Owner: xxxxx
- 3) Jan. 13, 2013 • Restaurant • Vernon V1T 5S5 • Owner: xxxxx
- 4) Aug. 17, 2013 • Victoria/Colwood, V9B 1X8 • Owner: xxxxx
- 5) Nov. 17, 2013 • Abbotsford V2S 4X6 • Owner: xxxxx
- 6) Nov. 20, 2013 • Vernon, V1T 7Z3 • Owner: xxxxx
- 7) June 15, 2012 • Mission, V2V 4Y1 • Owner: xxxxx
- 8) Jan, 2013 • Prince George Rural East (Zone 80), Willow River, V0J 3C0
• Owner: xxxxxx

Your assistance is appreciated, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,
CSSMBC

Email #4

From BC Fire Commissioner's Office, in response to CSSMBC's Email 4a requesting further specific fire reports

From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: April 9, 2014 12:00 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Fire Report



Good afternoon,

The event on August 1st, 2012 at **126 Aspen, Sparwood BC** did not require a fire report to be made and submitted to the fire commissioners office. This incident had no flames, no damage, and the fire department was there on standby as a precaution. **If there is no flame, and little or no damage at an incident, no fire report is required.**

Thank you,

*Fire Reporting Systems Officer
 Emergency Management British Columbia
 Block A - Suite 200 - 2261 Keating Cross Road - Saanichton BC V8M 2A5 Canada
 www.embc.gov.bc.ca • Ph 250-952-4846 Fax 250-952-4888*

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: April 7, 2014 12:30 PM
To: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Subject: Fire Reports #2



Dear Sir or Madam,

I would appreciate receiving the reports on the following fires.

Thank you for your help and time.

- 1) Dec. 20, 2013 • 1360 block Glenbrook St., Coquitlam, BC • Owner: xxxxx
- 2) June 8, 2012 • 1011 Tobermory Way, Garibaldi Highlands, Squamish, BC V8B 0G1 • Owner: xxxxx
- 3) Jan. 22, 2013 • 3371 Cazakoff Rd, Nelson, BC V1L 6X7 • Owners: xxxxx
- 4) August 1, 2012 • 126 Aspen, Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0 • Owners: Canadian Postal Service
- 5) Jan, 2, 2014 • 8860 146A St., Surrey, BC • Owner: xxxxx
- 6) Sept. 20, 2013 • 1705 Mill Road, Prince George, BC V2M 7C4 • Owners: xxxxx
- 7) July 31, 2012 • 4683 Margaret St., Port Alberni, BC • Owner: Beaver Creek Building Supplies

Your assistance is appreciated, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,
 CSSMBC

Email #5

From BC Fire Commissioner's Office, in response to CSSMBC's Email 5a requesting further specific fire reports

From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: July 11, 2014 1:54 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Request for fire reports. #4



Hello,

I have attached a one page printout of the Fire Incident Report, of the following of your requests, which outlines the circumstances surrounding the fire incident. This material provides you with a summary of the above noted incident and is in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

4.2) DWK 2014 04 13 11 01

4.3) CKE 2013 12 09 11 01

4.4) NCA 2014 03 17 03 01

The following reports are not available on the Fire Reporting System at this time. We are following up with the fire departments to confirm attendance and investigation. Your request is on file and we will issue out the report to you as soon as it is submitted to our office.

4.1) note. This fire occurred on Aug. 8 2013 (see email July 2/14)

4.5) note: This fire occurred on Dec. 28, 2013, (see email July 2/14)

Have a wonderful day,

Information Systems Officer/Desktop Publisher

Office of the Fire Commissioner • Emergency Management BC

Mailing Address: PO Box 9201 Stn. Prov. Gov't. Victoria BC V8W 9J1

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2014 17:22 PM
To: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Subject: Fire Reports #2



Dear (Fire Commissioner)

Would you please provide me with the official reports on the following fires?

Thank you, CSSMBC

(Note: The names and specific addresses have been removed for privacy's sake. If any MLA wishes the details, please contact director@stopsmartmetersbc.ca)

4.1) Date : Aug. 8, 2013 • Address: 2868 X St. • Owner: XXXXX

4.2) Date: April 9, 2014 • Address: #11 1525 X St. • Owner: XXXXX

4.3) Date: Dec. 9, 2013 • Address: 960 X St. • Owner: XXXXX

4.4) Date: March 17, 2014 • Address: 2259 X St. • Owner: XXXXX

4.5) Date: Dec. 28, 2013 • Address: 1370 X St. • Owner: XXXXX

Email #6

Exchange between BC Fire Commissioner's Office, (Emails 6 & 6b) and CCSMBC (Email 6a)

From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: April 2, 2014 1:53 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Fire Report Request



In following up on your request I can advise you of the following information; (note: numbering inserted to your email thread for clarity in response)

1. Your original question asked where information could be found if a report had not been filed with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC). You were advised that the local authority would be the only source in that circumstance. Where the OFC is made aware that a fire report has not been filed, the issue will be followed up as resources and work priorities permit.
2. "What other fires have occurred about which your office knows nothing? – The Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (LAFC) in an area where a fire occurs is responsible to investigate and report fires where property is destroyed or damaged (or a death has occurred), providing the LAFC is made aware of the fire occurrence. **It is always possible that a fire is not reported and therefore the OFC would not be aware of it.**
3. For the 5 incidents listed;
 - (1) Oct. 2012 at XXX Cloverdale.. The fire department did not attend this incident and has no records related to it. No report exists. (see: "Our smart meter was melted:" <http://tinyurl.com/comzlwz>)
 - (2) Nov 20, 2013 Vernon. This occurred on First Nations land (Okanagan Indian Band Fire Department). Fires on First Nations lands are not required to be reported to the OFC, they are handled through Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and request for documentation would be directed through that organization.
 - (3) Aug 23 2013 at Surrey. The fire department has no record of a call for this incident and no investigation or report exists. (see: "BC Meter Fire sparks suspicion of grow-op" <http://tinyurl.com/jw2xelz>)
 - (4) Jan 2013 at XXX Prince George (rural east). Information received indicates that this area may have been served by a very small volunteer department that is no longer in existence. There is no record of any attendance at this incident and no known report available.
 (A witness reported a smart meter on a pole outside a home burning. Pole burned as did wires. Hydro was called Next day took meter. Sent bill for \$3000 to owner of home for cost of pole.)
 - (5) Nov 17, 2013 ____ St, Abbotsford. Where no fire has occurred there would be no fire report submitted. The fire department has confirmed they did not attend this incident and no report was done. The information collected by yourself would not be something that is tracked by the OFC. You may wish to consult with the local government authority with respect to a referral to the proper office to deal with the electrical issues alluded to in the information.

(Many appliances damaged, meter hot, malfunctioning, electrician and Hydro attended)

Fire Reporting Systems Officer
 Emergency Management British Columbia
 Block A - Suite 200 • 2261 Keating Cross Road • Saanichton BC V8M 2A5 Canada
 www.embc.gov.bc.ca • Ph 250-952-4846 Fax 250-952-4888

“SMART” METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
 Sent: March 26, 2014 17:21 PM
 To: OFC, OFC
 Cc: JAG:EX; Minister, JAG JAG:EX
 Subject: To the attention of the Fire Commissioner: Request for fire reports



Dear Commissioner:

As per the Fire Services Act, Section 20 (2) fire reports are to be made available to the public. As an interested member of the public, I submitted a list of fires about which I wanted to learn more to the Commissioner's Office. _____ was kind enough to provide reports on 3 fires, but advised me that she had no information on the others.

According to the Fire Services Act, Section 9, a fire must be investigated within 3 days and a report must be submitted "immediately" to your office. When I asked where the reports for these fires would be, I was told that: "Local authorities are required to file a report on all fires with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) however in the event that they fail to do so, there is no information available to the OFC to release in response to a request. In such situations, the local authority would be the only source of the information being sought."

I interpreted this to mean that it was left to me to contact local authorities to obtain information about these fires and incidents. Is it not the duty of the OFC, when provided with information that indicates that the local authorities are failing to do their jobs according to the law, that fires that occurred months ago have yet to be reported, to find out why and to obtain those reports?

What other fires have occurred about which your office knows nothing?

If fires are not being reported to the OFC, how can your office do its job of determining if lives and property are at risk from a practice or device? Section 3 states that:

(4) The fire commissioner must help to enforce all enactments on combustibles, explosives and other flammable matter.

Below are details on 5 fires and incidents which I believe fall under the jurisdiction of the OFC. I am providing them to your office and would appreciate your obtaining the appropriate reports and forwarding them to me at your earliest convenience.

Please let me know if you are unable to get this information because I will contact local authorities, be it through the media with whom I am in regular contact.

Respectfully,
 CSSMBC

1) Oct., 2012 • XX Restaurant • Cloverdale, V3S 4C8 • Owner: xxxxx

Documentation: Our smart meter was 'melted' by Jennifer Lang - Cloverdale Reporter - October 31, 2012:
<http://tinyurl.com/kmjuct6>

No actual fire occurred, although an electrical device melted and posed a possible risk. Is this type of incident required, the Fire Service Act, to be reported to you? If not, is your officer concerned about such practices/devices that could be considered a fire risk? Where would this incident be reported?

2) Nov. 20, 2013 • Vernon, V1T 7Z3 • Owner: xxxxxxxx

Documentation: Community steps up to assist fire victims by Jennifer Smith - Vernon Morning Star - November 24, 2013: - <http://tinyurl.com/m2bnv5c>



SMART METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE



3) Aug 23, 2012 (I gave 2013 initially) • Surrey, V3W 2C9 • Owner: XXXXX

Documentation: BC Hydro meter fire sparks suspicion of grow-op in Surrey by Christopher Reynolds - Vancouver, BC - August 25, 2012:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Hydro+meter+fire+sparks+suspicion+grow+Surrey/7143042/story.html#ixzz24XpjlmoY>

4) Jan, 2013 • Prince George Rural East (Zone 80), Willow River, V0J 3C0 • Owner: XXXXX

Documentation: (my notes): Spoke with _____ on Sept. 09/13. Phone)

(Prince George area) Jan./13 - Neighbour's pole on which the meter was installed caught fire. Neighbour wasn't there. Burned the pole off. Hydro came first day and removed smart meter and left the jacks in the base, even the melted plastic. Week later returned and took the base. Hydro told the owner that he will have to pay to replace \$3000.

XX got his first smeter Aug. 2011. **Hydro replaced it 2 times, so in total he had 3 meters.** In Jan, after his neighbour's smeter caught fire, XX went to look at his meter and found it had been smoking. **Face was smokey. The base was smoking.** Daughter will take photos of the base. **Very sick from smeter, went off grid and is now well.** Willing to help in any way.

5) Nov. 17, 2013 • Abbotsford V2S 4X6 • Owner: xxxxx

This is another situation where the meter was determined to be a fire risk, but the situation never developed into a fire. Here is the report I received from the owner. If you wish I can send photos of the damages. Could you please tell me if this is the sort of information that the Fire Commissioner's Office should be gathering? If not, who would?

"3 weeks ago we were having several electrical problems with our house. The lights constantly flickered and the house started surging. I had my electrician come asap. We ended up changing all of our breakers. Once this was completed, my dryer would work but there was no heat. So we took the heater coil out to get it replaced. But this piece was over \$100.00 so we decided just to buy a new dryer. This Saturday our new dryer came, we hooked it up and there was no heat again.....So now I am mad as my dryer was fine, and I just wasted \$500.00 on a new dryer.

My electrician came back on Sunday morning, and we found out that there was not enough power going to the dryer outlet. So we decided since all the other breakers were new, we had a feeling that the main breaker was only half working. So we ran to Home Depot got a new main breaker and went to install. Once we did this there was NO power to the house at all. We then put the old breaker back in thinking we may have a default breaker. But then the old one would not work either. We then tested the power coming in from the hydro and it was not what it should be. I then immediately called Hydro. They came out replaced the line and moved it. The technician told me to go flip the breaker to on. So I did this and still no power :(I was very upset by now. The technician then went to test my 'Smart Meter'. **He pulled the meter off and it was melted on the back. The one lug was very wide, and it had burnt the whole inside of the base and open wires. The Hydro technician stated that we were VERY lucky that we still had a house left.**

"The Hydro technician stated that we were VERY lucky that we still had a house left."

Our power was off from 10:30-18:10 on Sunday, which was very inconvenient to us all. I have never said no to these meters, but now I will make EVERYONE I know aware of them. This is not acceptable."



From: JAG:EX - BC Fire Commissioner
Sent: March 24, 2014 1:59 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: RE: Request for fire reports



Good afternoon,

In response to your questions regarding the request for copies of fire reports, the process has not changed. The information that you received is that which can be released without review. If you desire further information then a request under the appropriate Freedom of Information process is necessary and this ensures no inappropriate material is released as defined under the Act. If you wish to submit such a request the link is provided here for your use: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/citz/iao/foi/>

Local authorities are required to file a report on all fires with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) however in the event that they fail to do so, there is no information available to the OFC to release in response to a request. In such situations, the local authority would be the only source of the information being sought.

*Fire Reporting Systems Officer
Emergency Management British Columbia
Block A - Suite 200 • 2261 Keating Cross Road • Saanichton BC V8M 2A5 Canada
www.embc.gov.bc.ca • Ph 250-952-4846 Fax 250-952-4888*

Email #7

From BC Safety Authority, in response to
CCSMBC's inquiry RE: Reporting by Electricians (Email 7a)

From: XX@safetyauthority.ca
Sent: February 7, 2014 3:59 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: How to obtain information re. fire hazards, Smart Meters



Thank you for your inquiry.

Incidents or suspected unsafe electrical wiring and equipment may be reported by anyone but the Safety Standards Act and Safety Standards General Regulation specify specific requirements for persons who must report incidents (see references below). Directive No. D-E3 070115 1 provides further clarification on the definition of incidents and reporting requirements: <http://tinyurl.com/pmh4sll>

Part of BC Safety Authority (BCSA)'s mandate is to investigate incidents that are reported to us, including fires that may be suspected of having an electrical cause. We are aware there have been a number of reports of fires involving smart meter replacements. To date, our investigations have not directly linked smart meters as the cause of these fires. We will continue to investigate these and other incidents that are reported to us. Please note that not all incidents are reported to us; and some municipalities administer the Electrical Safety Regulation within their own municipal boundaries. Incidents that occur within the boundaries of a municipal authority would be reported to, and investigated by, those jurisdictions.

As a safety regulator, we believe that the meter replacement program has had some positive impacts for safety in BC. Specifically, we have been working closely with BC Hydro in obtaining reports of unsafe conditions that have been identified through the program, within our jurisdiction. To date, BC Hydro has reported to us over a thousand pre-existing potential hazards that were discovered in the course of meter replacement.

Many of these reported hazards require relatively minor repairs; however, these hazards represent potential electrical fire or shock risks. Together with BC Hydro, we have been able to identify and alert home owners about these hazards before they resulted in an incident.

Although BCSA presently has no mandate to regulate BC Hydro's power system or equipment (this is the responsibility of the BC Utilities Commission), we are always interested in better understanding the risks associated with electrical safety hazards. We will continue to monitor the safety of the meter bases.

References: Safety Standards Act

36 (1) As soon as practicable after an incident occurs, the person in charge of the regulated product or regulated work, the owner of the regulated product and any other person specified by regulation are responsible for reporting the incident, in accordance with the regulations, to the appropriate safety manager.

(2) A person must not remove, disturb or interfere with anything in, on or about the place where the incident occurred except for the following:

- (a) as is necessary to rescue a person, to prevent personal injury or death or to protect property;
- (b) in accordance with the regulations;
- (c) in accordance with the directions of a safety officer or safety manager.

Safety Standards General Regulation: Duty to report incidents to the appropriate safety manager

34 (1) If any of the following persons attend an incident the person has a duty to report it to the appropriate safety manager:

- (a) a holder of a permit to perform regulated work;
- (b) a person who is authorized to perform or performs regulated work;
- (c) a person who is authorized to operate or operates a regulated product or system;
- (d) an officer or employee of a utility.

(2) The owner of a plant must report an incident to the appropriate safety manager.



“SMART” METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

↑
.....

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: February-04-14 12:01 PM
To: INFO BCSA
Subject: How to obtain information re. fire hazards



Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been told by the IBEW that electricians are required to report to you any observed fire hazards. As well, if the electrician notes any electrical problem with a smart meter that could be considered a fire hazard he is required to report this to both your office and Hydro.

Can you please tell me what happens with such reports? What would your office do with reports that smart meters are overheating, melting, or in some way are considered a risk? Is BC Hydro required to report to your agency incidents where they discover that a smart meter has caused electrical damage or has overheated, etc? Are local fire depts. required to report incidents where they are called to a home or business because of a problem caused by or with a smart meter?

I understand that in some cases reports are made with the local BCSA offices. Do these offices report dangerous products, devices, etc. to your office?

Your time is appreciated and I look forward to receiving a response at your earliest convenience.

Regards,
CSSMBC

Email #8

From BC Safety Authority, in response to
CCSMBC's inquiry RE: Prince George Incident (Email 8a)

From: XX@bcsafetyauthority.ca
Sent: August 1, 2014 12:07 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request



Thank you for your patience in receiving a response to your questions. I apologize for the delay in responding to you but my schedule often does not allow for immediate responses to questions from the public. I would like to suggest that you send your questions directly to our communications officer. She will be able to respond to your questions in a more timely manner. Her contact information is:

BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY • 200 - 505 6th Street, New Westminster BC V3L 0E1
 tel: 778.396.2098 | fax: 778.396.2064 | email: Julie.Hewlett@safetyauthority.ca

I believe that I had included references to sections of the Safety Standards Act and Regulations related to incident reporting. However, in answer to your questions about incident reporting requirements, I have included links to relevant sections below. **It is my understanding that, in BC, fires are typically investigated by local fire departments. Their investigation results are reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.** However, fires may also be investigated by other agencies, such as the Coroner's Service, or local police departments. Furthermore, other agencies, such as BCSCA or WorksafeBC may investigate fires within their own authority and jurisdiction, or participate in fire investigations being conducted by other agencies if requested.

As mentioned in previous messages, BCSCA conducts investigations of reported incidents related to regulated products or work. **Our investigations are intended to identify potential equipment failures or contributing factors related to incidents suspected of having been caused by regulated products or work. However, our investigations are not generally intended to identify fire causes.**

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_03039_01#section36 (<http://tinyurl.com/q39xcr>)
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/18_105_2004#section34 (<http://tinyurl.com/qchysbb>)

I hope that helps.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY • 104 - 34143 Marshall Rd, Abbotsford BC V2S 1L8
 tel: 604.851.7018 | cell: 604.308.3559 | toll free: 1.866.566.7233 • www.safetyauthority.ca | Safe technical systems. Everywhere.

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 9:26 PM
To: BCSA
Subject: Freedom of Information request



Please find attached () a response to my request for information about an incident that occurred in Prince George. I have the details of this event, and it was one in which the meter caught fire, burned a pole on which it was attached, and BC Hydro attended. Fortunately the meter was not attached to the home and only the pole was destroyed. Is this not, according to your regulations, supposed to have been reported to the BC Safety Authority?

If you do not require a report on such an incident, could you please explain the rationale? I would like to understand what agency is responsible for ensuring that the fire risks are properly identified and that appropriate measures are taken to protect the public.

Sincerely, CSSMBC

SMART METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Email #9

From BC Safety Authority, in response to
CCSMBC's request for clarification (Email 9a)

From: XX@bcsafetyauthority.ca
Sent: July 10, 2014 12:04 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Information regarding BCSA and Smart Meters



As per my previous email, BC Safety Authority (BCSA) does not forward copies of our investigation reports to the fire commissioner unless requested, as they receive their own reports on fire investigations from fire departments. I would suggest you contact the office of the fire commissioner directly with any questions about their policies and practices.

BCSA only investigates fires and drafts investigation reports on incidents that are reported to us; not all fires are reported to BCSA.

With regard to your request for additional incident details for 2011, enquiries about and requests for non-published information should be directed to our Records Information and Privacy Analyst, R.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY • 200 - 505 6th Street, New Westminster BC V3L 0E1
tel: 778.396.2098 | fax: 778.396.2064 | toll free: 1.866.566.7233 • www.safetyauthority.ca | Safe technical systems. Everywhere.

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: July-09-14 5:24 PM
To: BCSA
Subject: Information regarding BCSA and Smart Meters



Thank you for this very quick response, and for the links to the information.

May I please ask for a clarification. As I understand it from the provincial fire commissioner, a report is filed to him only if there is significant damage. So in the event that there is an electrical fire or potentially dangerous situation that is handled by the fire department, Hydro, an electrician or the individual, and the damage was insignificant (I do not know the determining amount) no report is filed with the commissioner, but the report is filed with BCSA.

As I understand it, for example if there were an overheated smart meter that smoked and melted, Hydro would replace it and is supposed to report it to you but would not report it to the fire commissioner. Would this sort of information be provided to the fire commissioner, whose job it is to identify fire hazards and warn the public?

A prime example is that of the fire at Sparwood Post Office on Aug. 1, 2012. The fire department attended and prevented the fire from spreading. No report was submitted to the fire commissioner so I was referred to the BCSA, where I was able to obtain a report.

Clarification would be much appreciated.

The 2011 report does not contain incidents summaries like those provided in Appendix A of both 2012 and 2013 reports. Were the incident summaries in another document? If so, could you please send it to me?

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely, CSSMBC

“SMART” METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Email #10

From BC Safety Authority, in response to CCSMBC's inquiry
RE: incident Report forwarding (Email 10a)

From: XX@bcsafetyauthority.ca
Sent: July 9, 2014 2:58 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Information regarding BCSA and Smart Meters



Your request for information was forwarded to me for response by S.

In response to your question about forwarding documents to the fire commissioner, BC Safety Authority does not forward copies of our investigation reports to the fire commissioner unless requested, as they receive their own reports on fire investigations from fire departments.

BC Safety Authority publishes summarized incident data annually in our State of Safety Report. Copies of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 reports can be found on our website at the following links:

<http://www.safetyauthority.ca/publications/state-safety-report-2013> (<http://tinyurl.com/ockptvt>)
<http://safetyauthority.ca/publications/state-safety-report-2012> (<http://tinyurl.com/oor2w7m>)
<http://www.safetyauthority.ca/publications/state-safety-report-2011> (<http://tinyurl.com/qe5r2n9>)

Thank you for your interest in safe technical systems.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SAFETY AUTHORITY • 200 - 505 6th Street, New Westminster BC V3L 0E1
tel: 778.396.2098 | fax: 778.396.2064 | toll free: 1.866.566.7233 • www.safetyauthority.ca | Safe technical systems. Everywhere.

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 5:04 PM
To: BCSA
Cc: commission.secretary@bcuc.com; John Horgan. Leader NDP;
mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca;
Subject: Information regarding BCSA and Smart Meters



Dear (BCSA),

I have reviewed the information available on - <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/safety-information/incident-data> which pertains to incidents occurring since Jan. 2014. Thank you for providing the link.

Can you please tell me if the reports on fires or risks identified are forwarded to the provincial fire commissioner for his records? Is there any more information about individual incidents that I could obtain that would allow me to obtain reports from the fire commissioner?

In response to my request for similar summaries for the years 2011- 2013, you provided the following link to the data for 2013: www.safetyauthority.ca/sites/default/files/incidents_to_12-31-2013.xlsx.

Unfortunately it does not work. Can you please provide the information for the 3 years, as above?

I appreciate your help in obtaining this information.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely, CSSMBC

Email #11

From BC Safety Authority, in response to CCSMBC's request for structure clarification (Email 11a)

From: XX@safetyauthority.ca]
Sent: June 13, 2014 5:18 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Information regarding BCSA and smart meters



I have provided responses to your additional questions below (in blue).

CCSMBC Original Question/Comment: The summaries of incidents at <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/safety-information/incident-data> (<http://tinyurl.com/pzxusv6>) pertain only to incidents occurring between January 1–April 30, 2014. Could you please tell me how I might access the summaries for incidents occurring from January 2011–Dec. 31, 2013?

BCSA RESPONSE: Incident report summaries for 2013 are available in Appendix A BCSA's State of Safety Report for the corresponding year. State of Safety Reports are publicly available on our website. The 2013 State of Safety Report is available at: <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/publications/state-safety-report-2013>. Archived State of Safety Reports can be found at: <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/publicationarchive>.

CCSMBC Original Question/Comment: I would like to confirm my understanding with regard to BC Hydro's smart meter program: **1.** The BC Safety Authority has no responsibility other than to gather information as provided by BC Hydro and local authorities regarding incidents and hazards because BC Hydro is exempted under the Safety Standards Act in every regard.

BCSA RESPONSE: BC Safety Authority does have limited authority over BC Hydro but not in respect of the smart meter program. I have provided applicable excerpts below.

CCSMBC Original Question/Comment: 2. The BC Utilities Commission, which normally would ensure that regulations are followed, has no authority over any aspect of BC Hydro's smart meter program as per the Clean Energy Act.

BCSA RESPONSE: I am unable to answer this question, as BC Safety Authority does not have authority or expertise in the legislation or operations of other agencies. Please contact the BC Utilities Commission for an explanation about the extent of their authority.

CCSMBC Original Question/Comment: 3. Accordingly, there is no agency or authority that has the authority to ensure that BC Hydro follows safety or reporting regulations. Also, BC Hydro is the only agency that can provide information with regard to safety testing of its equipment.

BCSA RESPONSE: BC Safety Authority does not have authority or expertise in the legislation or operations of other agencies. The BC Utilities Commission should be able to provide you with some guidance in that regard.

Application to utilities

3 (1) This regulation, except for section 3.1, does not apply to a public utility as defined in the Utilities Commission Act in the exercise of its function as a utility with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy.

(2) Despite subsection (1), this regulation applies to the electrical equipment owned or in the possession or control of a public utility if the electrical equipment is not used directly in the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy.

Hydro and Power Authority Act:

Application of other statutes

32 (1) Despite any specific provision in any Act to the contrary, except as otherwise provided under this Act, the authority is not bound by any statute or statutory provision of British Columbia.

(7) The following Acts and provisions apply to the authority:

(w.1) the Safety Standards Act in respect of electrical equipment and regulated work respecting electrical equipment as those terms are defined under that Act;

(w.2) section 19.2 of the Safety Standards Act



“SMART” METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2014 10:12:29 AM
To: BCSA
Cc: commission.secretary@bcuc.com; John Horgan. Leader NDP;
mike.farnworth.mla@leg.bc.ca;
Subject: Information regarding BCSA and Smart Meters



Dear (BCSA)

Thank you very much for your response.

The summaries of incidents at <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/safety-information/incident-data> (<http://tinyurl.com/pzxusv6>) pertain only to incidents occurring between January 1 –April 30, 2014. Could you please tell me how I might access the summaries for incidents occurring from January 2011- Dec. 31, 2013?

I would like to confirm my understanding with regard to BC Hydro's smart meter program:

1. The BC Safety Authority has no responsibility other than to gather information as provided by BC Hydro and local authorities regarding incidents and hazards because BC Hydro is exempted under the Safety Standards Act in every regard.
2. The BC Utilities Commission, which normally would ensure that regulations are followed, has no authority over any aspect of BC Hydro's smart meter program as per the Clean Energy Act.
3. Accordingly, there is no agency or authority that has the authority to ensure that BC Hydro follows safety or reporting regulations. Also, BC Hydro is the only agency that can provide information with regard to safety testing of its equipment.

I would appreciate it very much if you would kindly advise me if anything I've said above is inaccurate.

Thank you for your time and assistance,

Sincerely, CSSMBC

Email #12

From BC Utilities Commission, in response to CSSMBC's inquiry RE: incident Report forwarding (Email 12a)

From: BCUC:EX
Sent: July 23, 2014 2:56 PM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Information re. smart meter incidents



Thank you for your follow-up email to the BC Utilities Commission.

Unfortunately, the information you are requesting is not available as no such reports are provided to the Commission.

Thank you again for contacting the Commission.

Regards,

British Columbia Utilities Commission

6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3

Website: www.bcuc.com • Phone: 604.660.4700 | Fax: 604.660.1102 | Toll Free: 1.800.663.1385

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 11:05 AM
To: BCUC:EX;
Subject: Information re. smart meter incidents



Dear (BCUC),

I have been told about several incidents involving smart meters which have or could have resulted in damaged property or worse.

BC Safety Authority told me that when incidents are reported to BCSA that involve any BC Hydro equipment,, they have some limited authority to take action, except for smart meters – where they have none.

I was lead to believe that BCUC has this authority. Could you please tell me if the Commission does require reports on any fire or other incident involving smart meters or other components of the grid where a risk or potential risk to safety has occurred? If so, could you please tell me how I might access this information?

Thank you.

Sincerely, CSSMBC

Email #13

From BC Hydro, in response to CSSMBC's inquiry
RE: status report (Email 13a)

From: XX@bchydro.com
Sent: June 23, 2014 8:30 AM
To: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information and Privacy Request No. 201.20.2015-004

EMAIL
13

The summary is complete. Thank you.

Regards,

British Columbia Utilities Commission

6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2N3

Website: www.bcuc.com • Phone: 604.660.4700 | Fax: 604.660.1102 | Toll Free: 1.800.663.1385

From: CSSMBC@stopsmartmetersbc.ca
Sent: 2014, June 22 12:49 PM
To: BCHydro
Subject: Freedom of Information and Privacy Request No. 201.20.2015-004

EMAIL
13a

Dear (BC Hydro)

The response to my request dated June 17 was received on Friday, June 20. Thank you.

May I please ask if the summary of electrical events that was included is complete, or is there more information forthcoming?

Thank you.

Sincerely, CSSMBC



“SMART” METERS

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Email #14

FOIPPA BC Safety Authority, 2014-65 (<http://tinyurl.com/oxyaqsh>)

Safety Authority Incident Report - Investigation Date: 2012/08/07

**Executive Summary:**

A fire in a meter base on August 3 2012, at the Canada Post building 126 Aspen Drive, Sparwood B.C. The fire was contained to the meter base. There was no reported injuries. **This incident was not reported to the B.C. Safety Authority until August 7 2012.** The cause was not determined.

Cause Summary:

Cause is undetermined. Due to the fact that the **B.C. Safety Authority, was not given a opportunity to inspect the damaged meter base, cause can not be determined.** As the fire occurred in the meter base that was connected and had a new smart meter installed, **there is no way to know if the cause was from a damaged meter base or from the smart meter.**

(highlighting and emphasis is mine).