

# YOUR FD'S CARBON FOOTPRINT IMPROVEMENT AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FIRE PREVENTION

NIFSC, VANCOUVER 2024

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DAVE WATERHOUSE

National Indigenous  
Fire Safety Council



Conseil national  
autochtone de la sécurité-incendie



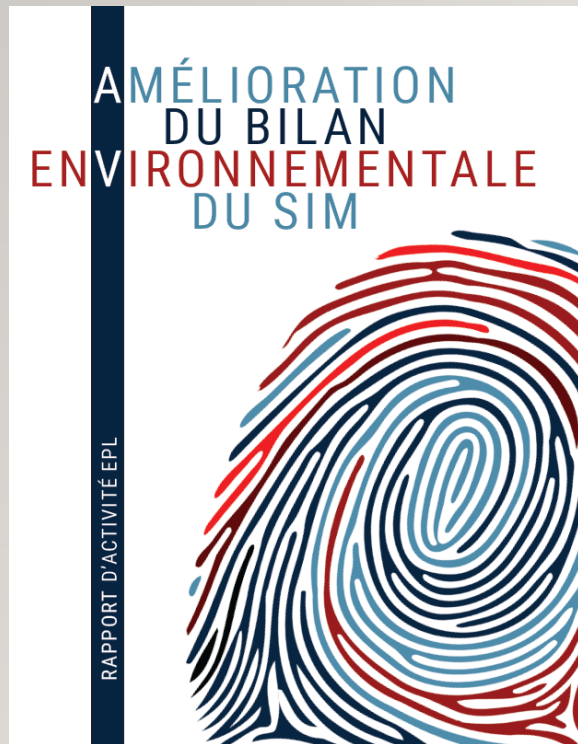


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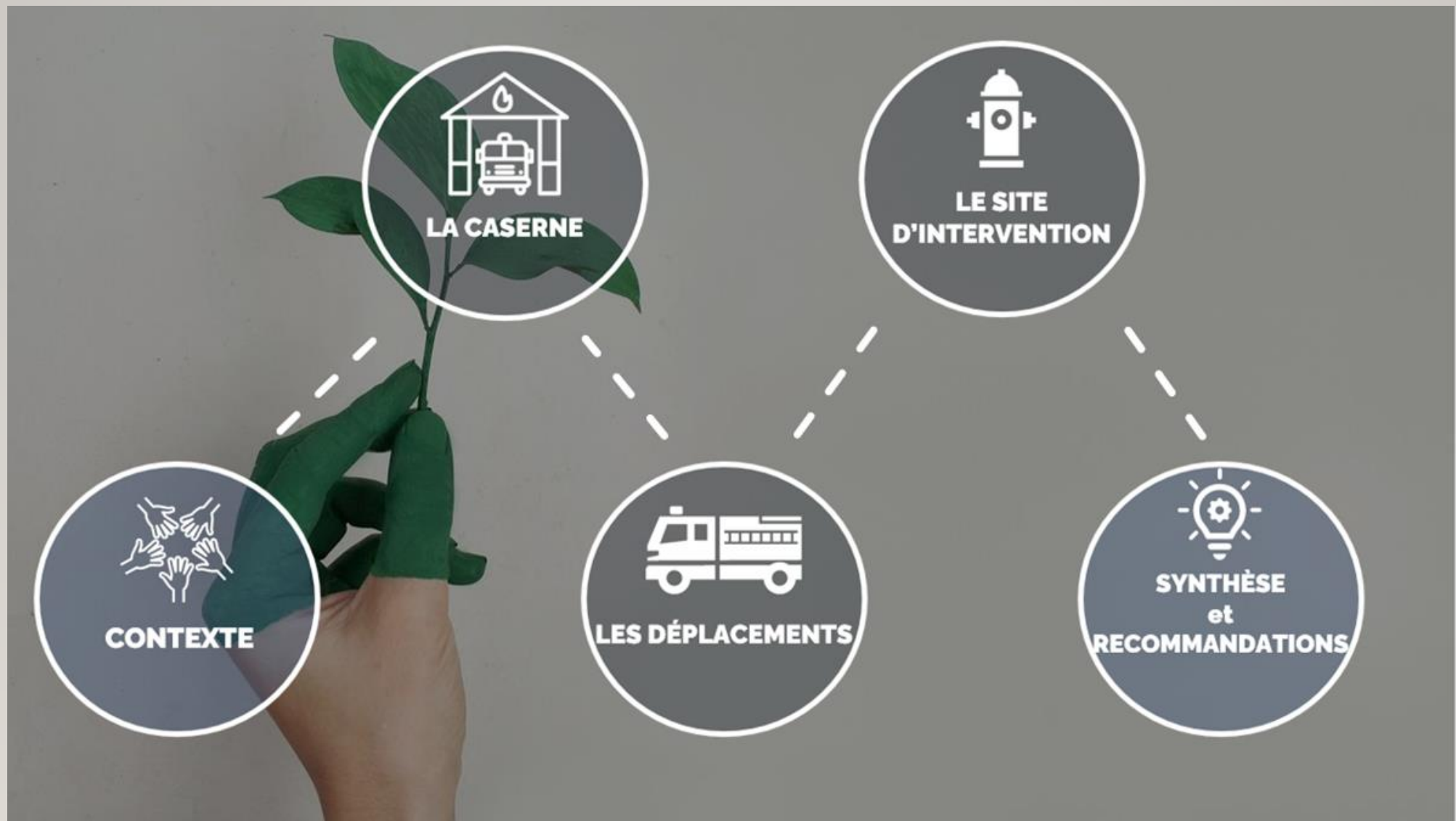
## **HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR FD'S CARBON FOOTPRINT**



# MASTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



ÉCOLE DE  
TECHNOLOGIE  
SUPÉRIEURE  
Université du Québec







# LA CASERNE



**BÂTIMENT**



**MATIÈRES  
RÉSIDUELLES**



**MATÉRIEL  
OPÉRATIONNEL**



**CONSOMMATION  
D'EAU**





# BÂTIMENT

Contexte

Méthodologie

Résultats

Caserne 16

1891

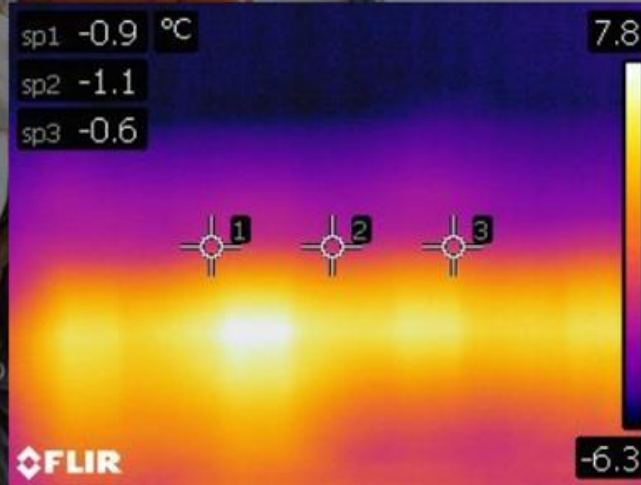


22 mars 2023

Température extérieure : 0°C

Caserne 38

1972



23 mars 2023

Température extérieure : -2°C





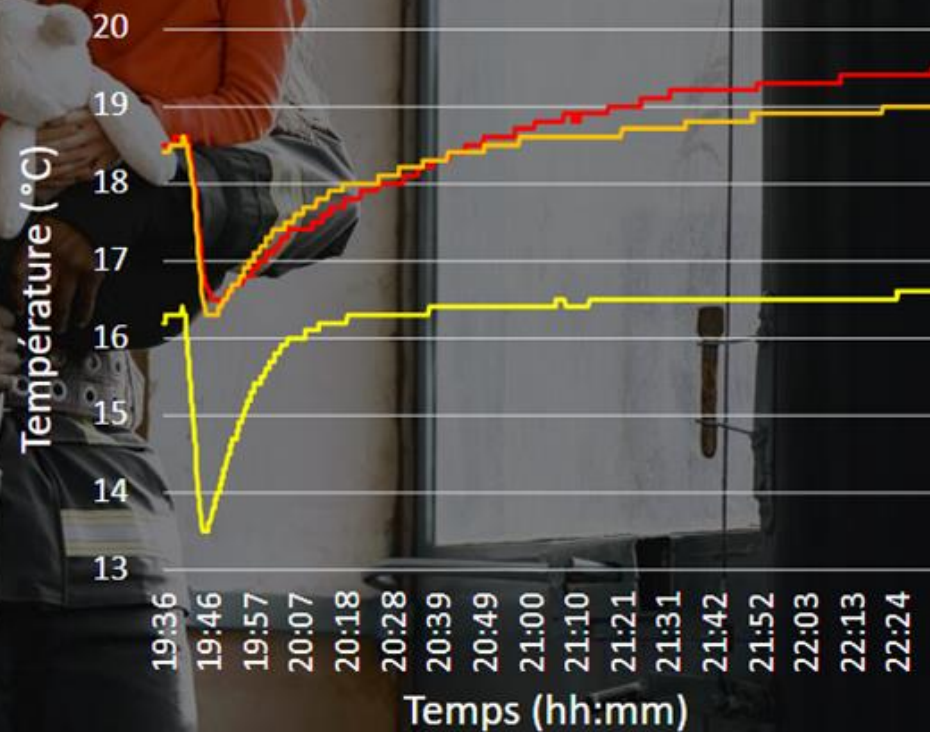
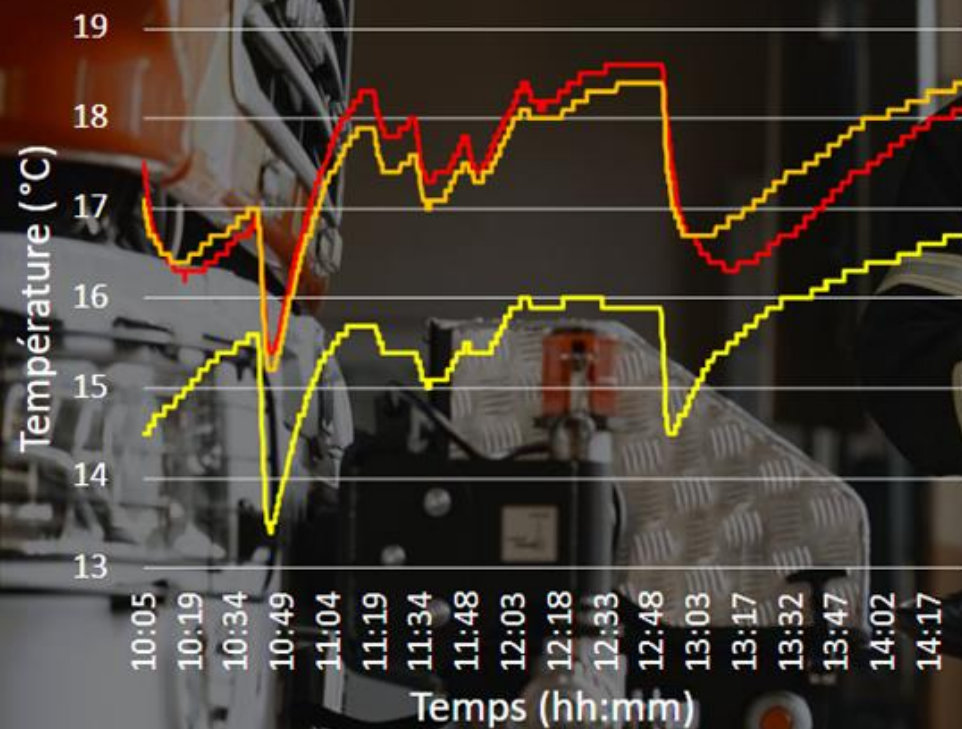
# BÂTIMENT

Contexte

Méthodologie

Résultats

Caserne 16 – 23/03/2023 – Température moyenne extérieure : 3°C







## Méthodologie

## Résultats





# Difference Between CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>e

## CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide)

**CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide)** is a colorless, odorless greenhouse gas released when fossil fuels (such as natural gas, oil, coal, and other fossil fuels) burn.

## CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent)

**CO<sub>2</sub>e, or carbon dioxide equivalent,** is more accurate, as it contains all the molecules that will absorb heat and will warm our atmosphere.



# The Importance of Knowing Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2e)



It is useful for measuring carbon footprints.



It is helpful in standardizing the climate effects of greenhouse gases.



It is useful in lowering the CO2e emissions on wasting resources.

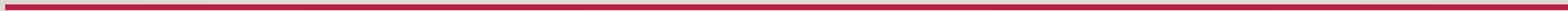


It can normalize all the greenhouse gases and other climate influences in standard units.



**1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>  
is equal to...**

**A 500m<sup>3</sup> hot  
air balloon**





# SYNTHÈSE



Bâtiments

4198 t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/an

Déplacements

2354 t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/an

Fausses alarmes

288 t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/an

Matières résiduelles

136 t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/an

Matériel opérationnel

11,7 t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/an

Contamination  
des sols

Contamination  
de l'eau

Santé

Utilisation  
des  
ressources





# AFFICHAGE ENVIRONNEMENTAL

1

Catégorie d'affichage	SIM	Londres	New York
Engagement général			
Déchets bouteilles d'eau plastique			
Uniformes usagés			
Concepts des uniformes			
Emballages des commandes			
Sensibilisation des pompiers			
Toxicité des produits ménagers			
Recyclage			
Gaspillages produits d'entretien			
Masques et gants à usage unique			
Efficacité énergétique des bâtiments			
Efficacité énergétique des électroménagers et des systèmes informatiques			
Articles de bureau			
Consommation des véhicules			
Rédaction de guides pratiques/document de référence			
Végétalisation des toits et murs des casernes	(SIM, 2022)		
Borne de recharge de véhicule électrique			
Production d'énergie renouvelable sur site			
Parc de voiture électrique			
Protocole pour l'élimination de l'eau contaminée, des déchets associés lors de l'incendie			
Certification accréditée ISO 14 001			
Plantation d'une forêt			

## Notre mission

*Nous participons à rendre l'agglomération de Montréal toujours plus sécuritaire en étant prêts à faire face rapidement et efficacement à toute éventualité pour sauvegarder la vie, protéger les biens et préserver l'environnement*

(Rapport des activités 2021)





# SYNTHÈSE

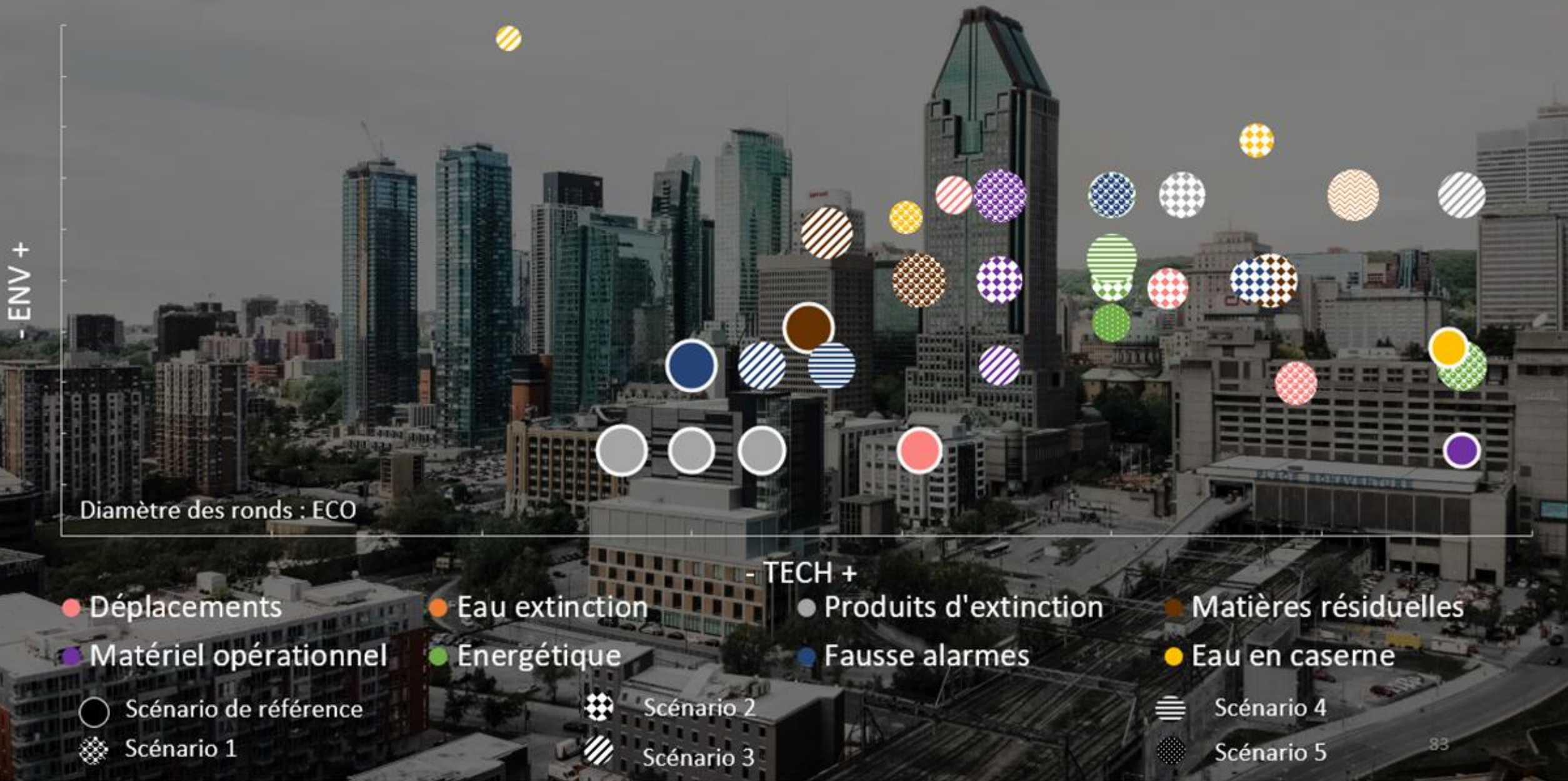
Actions  
internes

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Plantation d'une forêt			





# SYNTHÈSE







# SYNTHÈSE

1

Utiliser un produit alternatif d'extinction (sans fluor, sans phosphate d'ammonium)



2

Réduire la consommation d'eau des équipements sanitaires des casernes



5

Utiliser du biodiesel comme carburant pour les véhicules

0

6

Mettre en place un projet pilote pour l'installation d'éclairage LED avec capteurs de mouvement dans les casernes

0

8

Utiliser l'analyse vidéo des caméras grâce à de l'IA pour mieux détecter les fausses alarmes



9

Isoler les casernes avec des matériaux écologiques et choisir des portes et fenêtres isolantes



10

Offrir et installer des détecteurs d'incendie intelligents



7

Généraliser la collecte sélective des matières résiduelles



4

Installer un système de GPA sur les véhicules



3

Développer et tester un protocole pour rediriger les eaux d'extinction dans le cas de réseaux séparatifs







# SYNTHÈSE





# The Socio-Economic Impact of Fire Prevention










# Previous studies were made to demonstrate the economic benefits (impact) of a fire department's operational activities, EMS calls and operations on highways.

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## Summary Table

						
Commercial building fire	Number of interventions	42	44	271	16	20
	Excluded	N/A	16	97	3	8
	Eligible	42	28	174	13	12
	Response rate	N/A	N/A	63%	84.6%	83.3%
	Final sample	42	28	110	11	10
	Economic value preserved	\$650M (US, 2012)	\$831M (US, 2014)	\$1.55B (CAN, 2015)	\$63.3M (CAN, 2017)	\$368.8M (CAN, 2017)
	Number of jobs saved	7,446	10,082	20,903	695	1,917
FR-CRA	No. of persons in CRA	N/A	N/A	735	29	97
	CRA survivors	N/A	N/A	43	4	8
	CRA economic value	-	-	\$348M (2015)	\$32.4M (2017)	\$64.8M (2017)
Conclusion	Total economic impact	\$650M (US, 2012)	\$831M (US, 2014)	\$1.89B (2015)	\$95.7M (2017)	\$433.6M (2017)
	Annual budget	\$297M (US, 2013)	\$469M (US, 2014)	\$360.5M (2015)	\$20.6M (2017)	\$20M (2017)
	Return on investment	219%	177%	527.5%	464.6%	2,168%
Analysis	Total economic impact per intervention	\$15.5M (US, 2013)	\$29.7M (US, 2014)	\$17.2M (2015)	\$8.7M (2017)	\$43.4M (2017)
	Jobs saved per intervention	177	360	190	66	191



REPORT

## Comprehensive Study on the Economic and Social Benefits of Fire Prevention



François Delorme  
Dave Waterhouse



Sécurité publique  
Québec

## Study on the Economic and Social Benefits of Fire Prevention for the Thetford Mines Fire Service

Prepared by  
**François Delorme Consultation (FDC) Inc.**

In collaboration with  
**Dave Waterhouse**



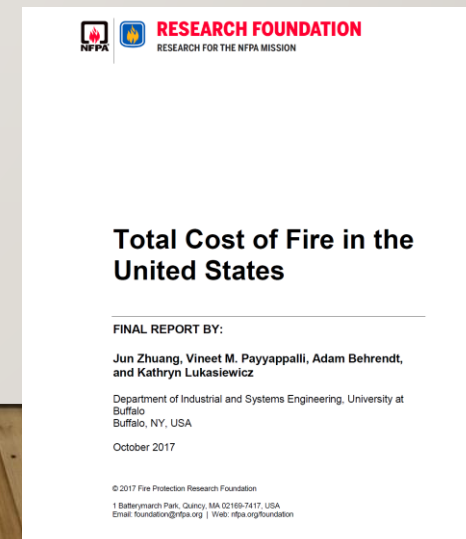
March 2022



Sécurité publique  
Québec

Total Cost Of Fire report (NFPA, 2017) was the starting baseline to determine a credible methodology.

Poor historical data has pushed us to elaborate a customized methodology with **local data**, instead of nation wide data





Researchers from Harvard Medical School have led the development of a prototype “*return on investment calculator*” that can measure the value of prevention services.

Using a Boston-based mobile health program called the “*Family Van*” to test the tool, the team found that for the services provided in 2008, this program, in the long run, will return **\$36 for every dollar invested.**



**Variables** considered to determine the total amount invested in Fire Prevention:

1. Investments made in Discretionary Fire Prevention initiatives:
  - ✓ Cost of Fire Prevention Program
  - ✓ Cost of Public Education and Awareness Program
2. Active/Passive Fire Prevention investments (2.5% of building value)



3. Number of residential building fires for the territory served.
4. The aggregated value of all the buildings in the territory served.
5. The total annual value of building construction permits.



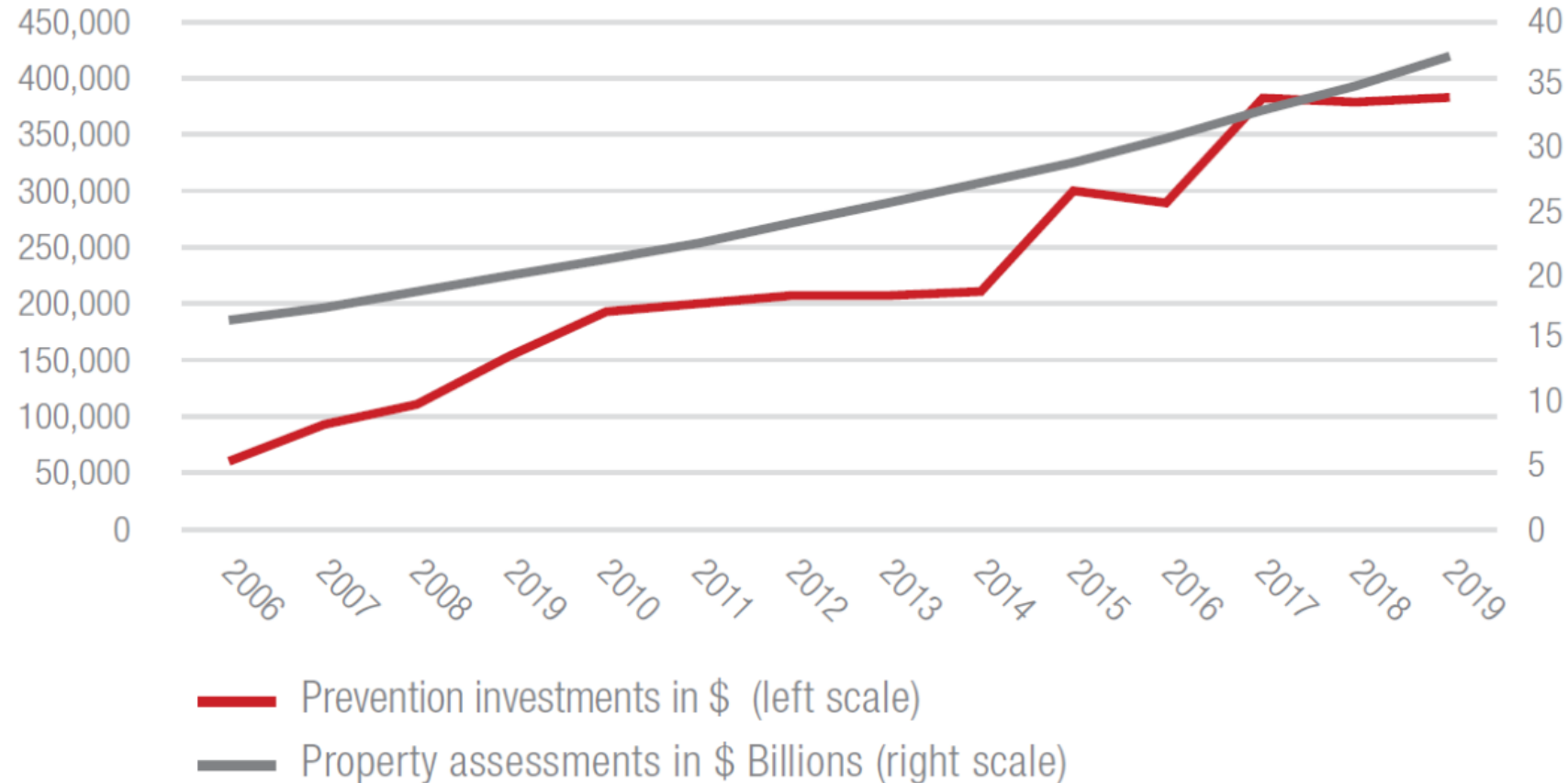
Over the sample period, there was a **significant statistical relationship** between investments made in Fire Prevention and the overall increase in building value, while observing a decrease in the total number of fires.





# Laval Fire Services

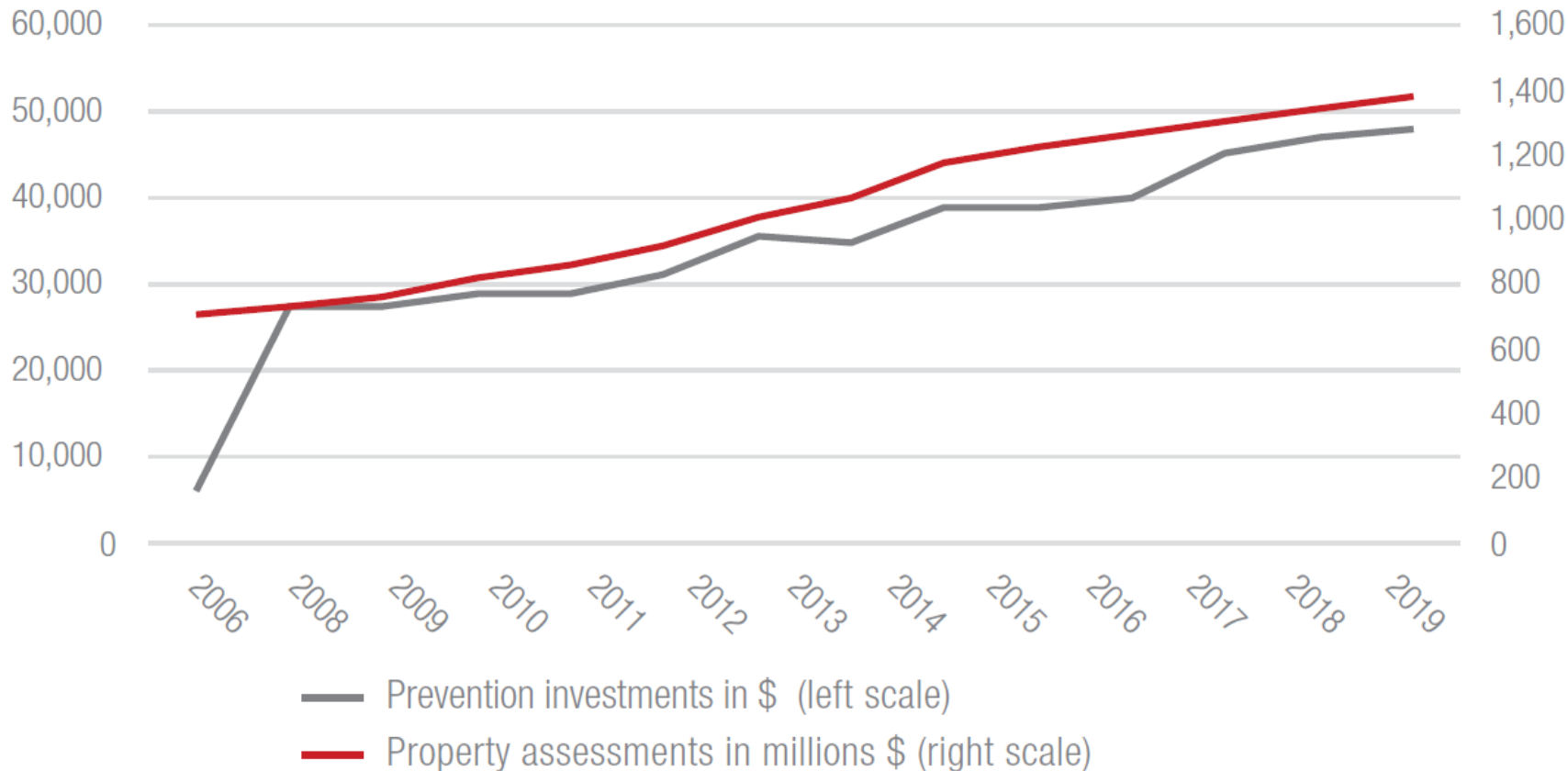
The evolution of investments in fire prevention VS property assessments between 2006 and 2019



On average, a **1% increase in prevention investments** (approximately \$2,270) contributed to a **rise in net property value of 0.5%**, representing **\$130 million**.

# La Matapédia Fire Services

The evolution of investments in fire prevention VS property assessments between 2006 and 2019



On average a **1% increase in prevention investments** (approximately \$341) led to a **rise in net property value of 0.3%**, representing **\$37 millions**.



For all jurisdictions studied, **strong direct cause-to-effect** relation have been uncovered such that investments in Fire Prevention has a demonstrated social and economic value.



## 1% investment increase in fire prevention.

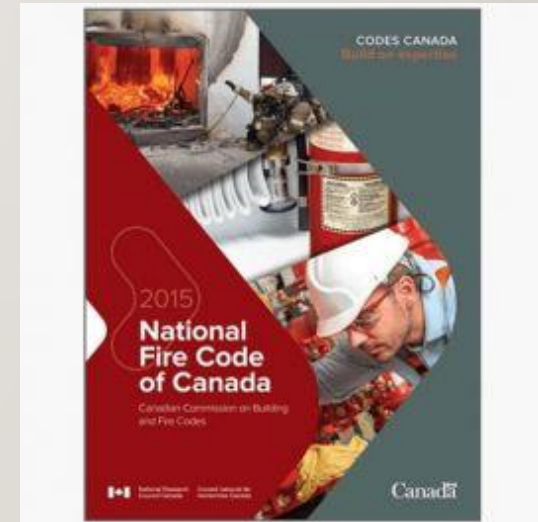
	Average budget value equivalent to 1 %	Part 1 Economic benefits: preservation of average property value	Part 2 Social benefits
<b>Laval Fire Services (2006-2019)</b>	<b>\$2 267</b>	<b>↑ 0,5% = \$130M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of evacuees type 1 (- 24 h) ↑ 3,3 %</li> <li>•Number of evacuees - type 2 (+ 24 h) ↑ 2,9 %</li> <li>•Number of injured civilians ↑ 0,3 %</li> <li>•Number of deaths ↓ 0,8 %</li> <li>•Number of injured firefighters ↓ 0,9 %</li> </ul>
<b>La Matapedia Fire Services (2006-2019)</b>	<b>\$341</b>	<b>↑ 0,3 % = \$37M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of evacuees ↑ 0,2 %</li> <li>•Number of injured firefighters ↓ 0,1%</li> <li>•Regional labour market ↑ 10 %</li> <li>•Median income for the region ↑ 3 %</li> </ul>
<b>Thetford Mines Fire Services (2006-2019)</b>	<b>\$240</b>	<b>↑ 0,15 % = \$24M</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Number of evacuees ↑ 0,4 %</li> <li>•Regional labour market ↑ 6 %</li> </ul>



# Fire Codes and Fire Safety Regulations:

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Fire prevention regulations, **are largely underestimated in relation to the positive economic benefits demonstrated**, spread over the lifetime of a building or an infrastructure.



# Discretionary Fire Prevention Efforts:



Human behavior is the source of a large part (+ 60%) of fires in residential buildings. **Therefore, it is essential that discretionary prevention efforts should be:**

- **Ongoing** – Meaningful change will take time and saturation of the message is a risk to consider.
- **Focused** – The right message for the right population aimed at.
- **Persistent** – Populations change, the lessons and sometimes the smoke alarm goes with them!





# Useful reminders from a CRR perspective



When completing a CRA give extra consideration and weight to the economic contributors in Primary / Secondary Economic Sector



Consider engaging local academic economists to help in conducting this sort of analysis



Research about Value of Statistical Life (VSL) to understand how economists calculate the value of protecting lives



Increasingly states and local jurisdictions are requiring Cost Benefit Analyses for any new code change or new regulation, so these studies may become mandatory









*Montreal, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 - 6 rescues, 7 fatalities, 20 injured*







## **2 TAKEAWAYS**

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- I. Clean and robust data**  
is the cornerstone of any  
economic and social  
benefit analysis for Fire  
Services



## 2 TAKEAWAYS

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2. Fire Prevention initiatives have an **economic and social benefit (impact)** in their communities by:

- Lowering down the number of fires
- Preserve the increase in the overall net property value
- Reducing civilian and firefighter fatalities and injuries





# IS FIRE PREVENTION WORTH IT? \$

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National Indigenous  
Fire Safety Council

Conseil national  
autochtone de la sécurité-incendie



**Fire Engineering**

:Articles in **March 2021, July 2022** issues

**IFSJ** INTERNATIONAL  
FIRE & SAFETY JOURNAL

:Article in **December 2023** issue

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