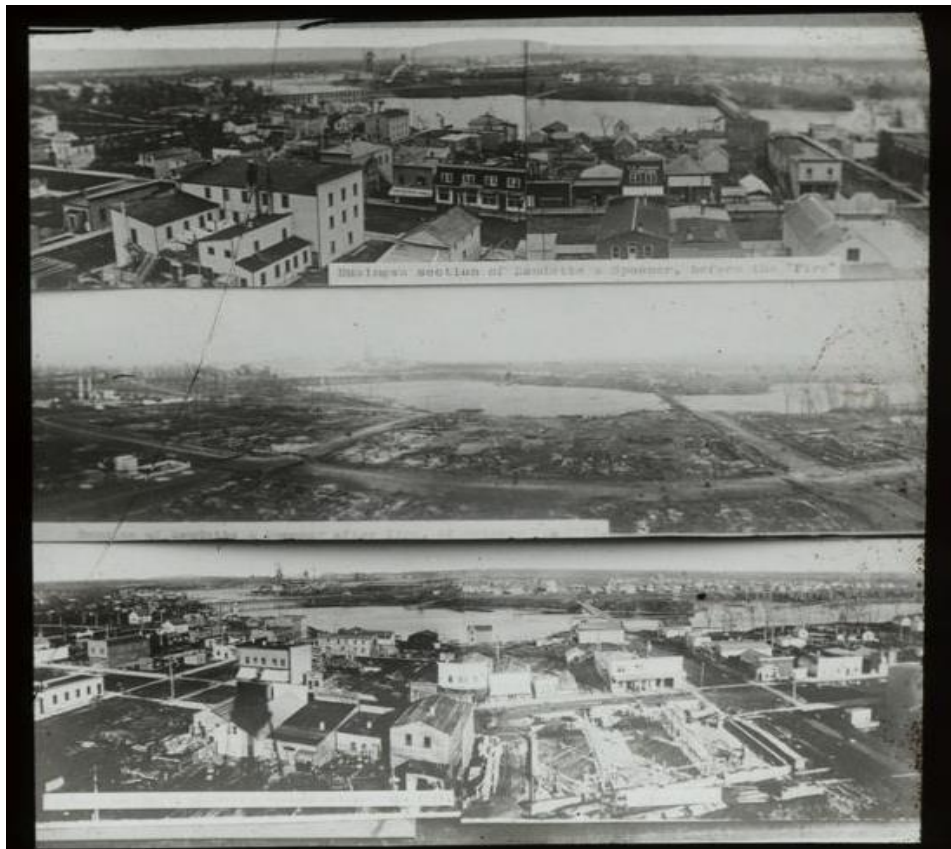


Incident Summary Page for the 100 Fires Project

Incident Name: Baudette Fire	Incident Date & Time: 10/07/1910
Incident Location: Baudette, Minnesota	Incident Size 350,000 acres (estimated)
Type of resources involved: Civilians	# of Fatalities/injuries: 42 fatalities / Many unknown injuries
Reasons this fire was selected for the 100 Fires list:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fire is historically significant ➤ Civilian mass casualty event 	
Conditions leading up to the event:	
<p>Winter snowfall melted early and spring and summer rainfall never came. The area was a checkerboard of dense timber stands and harvested slash that were feeding the local mills. By mid-summer, northern Minnesota was primed for a large fire. The two missing ingredients; dry cold-front passage producing winds and an ignition source arrived together on October 7, 1910.</p>	
Brief description of the event:	
<p>There is debate as to the actual cause of the Baudette Fire. Burning of slash on recently harvested land, coal-powered locomotives, and arson were all common to the time. It is believed that four small fires combined and intensified catching the residents of Cedar Spur, Graceton, Pitt, Spooner, and Baudette by surprise. In two short hours, these communities were destroyed by the fire. Several towns on the Canadian side of the border including Rainy River, were also damaged. The Baudette Fire took the lives of 43 civilians that fateful day.</p>	
Fire behavior factors that were present during the event:	
<p>The three main fire behavior factors that contributed to the Baudette Fire were early snowmelt followed by months of drought, continuous stands of timber mixed with pockets of slash, and a dry cold-front passage producing strong winds.</p>	
Operational lessons available for learning from this incident:	
<p>Not applicable</p>	
Notable impact or historical significance for the wildland fire service from this incident:	
<p>In 1910 nearly one million acres of land burned in the state of Minnesota. Due to the devastation from the Baudette Fire and a previous conflagration, the Hinckley Fire in 1894, state Forestry Commissioner C.C. Andrews petitioned the state legislature that active forest management was needed to prevent future fires. This led to the development of the Minnesota Forestry Service, which became today's Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The Minnesota Forestry Service that Andrews envisioned was a system of forest rangers and split up the state into forestry districts. The forest rangers were responsible for monitoring the timber industry and responding to fires.</p> <p>It should also be noted that this event occurred in 1910, just two months after the Big Burn in the northern Rocky Mountains, and thus added to the ongoing national debate about the forest fire problem.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
<p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baudette_fire_of_1910 https://collection.mndigital.org/catalog/lfw:6#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-991%2C-200%2C6379%2C3977 http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/history/documents/forestFireProtection-1954.pdf</p>	
This summary page was proudly provided by: Breckenridge Fire Crew ~ Corey Correa	September 2023

Incident Summary Page for the 100 Fires Project



Before and after pictures of Baudette, Minnesota