

VANCOUVER

THE GREAT FIRE OF VANCOUVER

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ARCH 4374 WORLD CITIES
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URBAN DISASTERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

April 6
1886

City Incorporated

June 13
1886

Great Fire of
Vancouver

1914

Komagata Maw
Incident

1918

General Strike

1935

Battle of Ballontyne
Pier

1938

Bloody Sunday

1946

Vancouver Island
Earthquake

1971

Gastown Riots

1994

First Stanley Cup
Riot

BEFORE



The Brush Fire in present time Main and Cambie Streets (Mackie 2015)

"A few score men had been on guard with water and **BUCKETS** between this dwelling and the cabin, but when the wind became a gale they were forced to **FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES...**" (Mackie 2015).

PROBLEMS...

The City used a brush fire to try to clear out some land from a forest area in the east

There were some workers watching and containing the fire but were poorly equipped

A sudden blast of wind strikes the fire from the west and towards the city carrying out the fire out of control and with flying debris

The entire city was constructed out of wood



DURING



Map of Vancouver during the fire, created by the Major (Mackie 2015)

"Vancouver didn't burn...it **EXPLODED**" (Vancouver n.d.)

DURING...

1000 Wooden buildings were burned down along with the whole city

The fire kept burning until there was nothing left of the city to burn except for 3 buildings that were made from stones

Vancouver disappeared in under 40 minutes with 28 Deaths

There was \$1.3 million lost in destroyed property



The Great Vancouver Fire (Mackie 2015)

AFTER



The first City Hall of Vancouver (Mackie 2015)

"In 20 minutes, Vancouver had been wiped off the earth. In **12 HOURS, IT WAS RISING AGAIN**" (Laniwurm 2009)

AFTER...

The City reacted quickly after the fire and started rebuilding after 12 hours after the fire

The Major appointed firefighters and police in the city

"The Great Fire" was viewed as a positive, as an origin story to the great city, and also a "redo" to a city plan

Buildings were now built out of stones, streets were created, modern water, and better electricity



Present day Vancouver (https://www.tourismvancouver.com/)

