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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1958.

BOSTON, February 1, 1959.

HON. JOHN B. HYNES,
Mayor of Boston.

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor to submit herewith a concise report of the activities of the Boston Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1958.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS X. COTTER,
Fire Commissioner.

HISTORY

FIRE COMMISSIONERS

*1874–1876. Alfred P. Rockwell.
1877–1879. David Chamberlain.
1879–1883. John E. Fitzgerald.
1883–1885. Henry W. Longley.
1885–1886. John E. Fitzgerald.
1886–1895. Robert G. Fitch.
1895–1905. Henry S. Russell.
1905. Patrick J. Kennedy. (Acting February 17—March 20.)
1905–1908. Benjamin W. Wells.
1908–1910. Samuel D. Parker.
1910. Francis M. Carroll. (Acting May 27—September 16.)
1910–1912. Charles C. Daly.
1912–1914. Charles H. Cole.
1914–1919. John Grady.
1919–1921. John R. Murphy.
1921–1922. Joseph P. Manning. (Acting Nov. 8, 1921—April 1, 1922.)
1922. William J. Casey. (Acting April 1—August 24.)
1922–1925. Theodore A. Glynn.
1926. Thomas F. Sullivan. (Acting January 26—July 6.)
1926–1930. Eugene C. Hultman.
1930–1933. Edward F. McLaughlin.
1933. Eugene M. McSweeney. (October 16, 1933—January 5, 1934.)
1934–1938. Edward F. McLaughlin.
1938–1945. William Arthur Reilly.
1945–1946. John I. Fitzgerald. (June 7, 1945—January 7, 1946.)
1946–1950. Russell S. Codman, Jr.
1950–1953. Michael T. Kelleher.
1953–1954. John F. Cotter.
1954– Francis X. Cotter.

CHIEFS OF DEPARTMENT

1826–1828. Samuel D. Harris.
1829–1835. Thomas C. Amory.
1836–1853. William Barnicoat.
1854–1855. Elisha Smith, Jr.
1856–1865. George W. Bird.
1866–1874. John S. Damrell.
1874–1884. William A. Green.
1884–1901. Louis P. Webber.
1901–1906. William T. Cheswell.
1906–1914. John A. Mullen.
1914. John Grady. (1 day.)
1914–1919. Peter F. McDonough.
1919–1922. Peter E. Walsh.
1922–1924. John O. Taber.
1925–1930. Daniel F. Sennott.
1930–1936. Henry A. Fox.
1936–1946. Samuel J. Pope.
1946–1948. Napeen Boutilier.
1948–1950. John F. McDonough.
1950–1956. John V. Stapleton.
1956. Edward N. Montgomery. (June 6—September 5.)
1956– Leo C. Driscoll.

*Previous to 1874, the Boston Fire Department was in charge of the Chief Engineer.

SPECIAL COMMENTS

Building fires have again decreased this year. There were 3,698 building fires in 1954 and, each year since, there has been a steady drop until this year there have been only 2,209 building fires — a drop of almost 1,500 in building fires since "*In-Service Inspection*" started.

Oil Burner Fires: In the year 1954, there were 329 fires attributed to space or range oil burners. In 1958, it has dropped to 128 (a drop of 200) fires attributable to space or range oil burners.

It is felt that the reduction in the number of building and oil burner fires, as mentioned above, can be attributed to the comprehensive fire prevention activities of the Department. Such programs as our fire company "*In-Service Inspections,*" our fire prevention indoctrination of sixth grade pupils in all schools both public and private, and our continued activity in the field of radio and television whereby we continuously expound on the means of preventing fires, comprised an important part of these activities.

We have made a studied attack on collecting all the money due the City of Boston on permits and licenses. All licenses were paid up and, out of the 101,000 permits sent out last year, all but 2,000 have been collected. This does not necessarily mean that there are 2,000 that haven't paid. It may be that some of these have moved or otherwise made a permit unnecessary and didn't bother to answer.

Port of Boston: This Committee has functioned efficiently during the past year, and it is satisfying to report that we have had no major fire at any pier or wharf facility during the past two years other than Pier 2 in South Boston. It was old, obsolete, and a fire breeder which was scheduled to be razed, but the fire intervened. Daily inspections are made by the Fire Department, and the United States Coast Guard of all facilities. The filling of import automobile gasoline tanks from other than approved tank trucks, port-

able filling tanks or underground storage tanks has been prohibited. It is felt by so doing we have eliminated a serious life hazard as well as a serious potential for a major pier fire. Fire Prevention and Fire Protection recommendations, which were made a condition of the State Warehousemen's License, were drawn up for the grain elevator at the Hoosac Docks in Charlestown, which has increased its import approximately 600 per cent during the past two years, and, as a result, increased its fire and explosion hazards.

Portable fire extinguishers on all pier facilities are now recharged only under the immediate supervision of the Fire Department Pier inspectors, arrangements being made beforehand in all cases.

The Training School at Moon Island has been completed insofar as the building is concerned, but it is necessary for the surrounding territory to be graded and the outside appliances to be installed. As soon as the weather opens, we expect to have this finished.

The firehouse at Neponset avenue and the one at Gallivan Boulevard have been completed making possible the deactivation of two (2) engine companies.

We have seen a reduction in accidents during my administration in the department, and I am calling attention to the number of accidents over that period of time:

1953	133	1956	104
1954	117	1957	90
1955	108	1958	90

We have continued the Fire College for officers in the department this year and have made it available to officers in other fire departments.

"Fire Prevention Week" was actively pursued in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, and we succeeded in obtaining third place in the *"Fire Prevention Week"* contest arranged by the National Fire Protection Association.

Public Relations: We have actively pursued the public relations angle in our work and have established complete liaison with newspapers, radio, and television stations. WBZ–TV and all radio stations carried our fire prevention messages as well as the daily report on fires and false alarms.

We have collaborated with the Red Cross, the Heart Fund, the Jimmy Fund, etc., and that has brought good public relations to this department.

Our Junior Fire Department is, of course, an active part of our public relations inasmuch as we reach the parents through teaching the children in the sixth grade good fire prevention. This is a well-established program and, as the years go by, more and more fire prevention knowledge will be gained by the children as they reach manhood and womanhood.

In addition to that, the Fire Prevention Division gives talks to hospitals, colleges, rest homes, and other public gatherings throughout the city.

Many points of our program are carried in special articles in the newspapers.

The cooperation on the part of all media of publicity with this department is very good.

During *"Fire Prevention Week,"* we had live broadcasts as well as many messages over and above the usual coverage by all stations.

The Boston Chamber of Commerce arranged a "Kick-Off Dinner" at which the Boston Fire officials were guests, and a gathering of about 300 were present at this dinner which started the activities off in fine fashion.

We had an essay contest in the Boston schools and many prizes were awarded, such as a trip for 2 boys (the top winners) with the Boston Celtics on their Western Road Trip. Many bicycles were awarded to boys and girls along with radios and Hi-Fi record players.

We feel that the children have been made aware of the necessity of fire prevention by making them eager

to participate in the fire prevention program in future years.

During *"Fire Prevention Week,"* all means of advertising were utilized. In addition to television and radio programs, newspapers, street banners, window displays in large department stores, taxi and truck signs were used. Parades, demonstrations by our Drill Team, and distribution of fire prevention literature through the Boston Public and Parochial School systems also added to this phase of our activities. As further evidence of our fire prevention activities, we had 55 large billboard signs placed in prominent places around the city.

Training: The importance of training Fire Fighters in all phases of their duties and the necessity of equipping them with knowledge which will enable them to overcome the hazards they continually face cannot be over-emphasized. The individual efficiency of a fire officer or fire fighter in his assigned task is the determining factor in the success of fireground operations. These operations require teamwork; and, if a member of the team is not familiar with his assignments, the entire operation will consequently be affected adversely.

Initial training is used to establish skills in individuals which are necessary to perform specific operations. To maintain these skills once they have been acquired requires periodic training in the form of review. This review can and does lead to a performance by the individual almost automatic in nature. This in itself is an extremely important goal for it allows the accomplishment of objectives despite diversionary factors which are often encountered during fire-fighting operations.

New advances in the field of fire fighting, protection, and extinguishment call for new developments in techniques employed. These techniques must be tried, evaluated and proven on the training grounds prior to their being adopted. This represents a very important phase of fire department training activities, since it is the goal of a modern fire department to keep abreast of

progress in the fire-fighting profession as demanded by the rapid advances being made in all fields of industry today.

We have had an intensive training program all during the year. Every phase of the work was tried over and over again so as to indoctrinate the men into the tasks they have to perform.

Engine and Ladder Company Equipment Check: Instructors from the Training Division visited all companies checking equipment and appliances carried on the apparatus to determine their condition, to review company members in the proper use and operation of such appliances, and to note any deficiencies that exist in the equipment of various companies. This was done when it was impossible to do outdoor training.

Relay Pumping: The success of a fire department is — to a large extent — dependent on its ability to obtain and deliver water in sufficient quantities to control and extinguish fires wherever they are encountered.

We have reviewed the pumping operations along with the principles of moving water long distances under pressure (commonly referred to as *"Relay Pumping"*) and the supplementing of water supplies at fires. We gave preliminary instructions indoors in the early part of the year followed by actual demonstrations outdoors.

Water supplement review indicated the value of using water mains just outside the fire area to augment supplies to pumps in the immediate vicinity of the fire.

The indoor instructions served a twofold purpose:

1. They allowed a review of present operating practices so that efficient fireground operation would be continued.
2. They served as preliminary step towards a program dealing with relay pumping, which was contemplated at the Fire School (to be carried out during temperate weather).

We inaugurated a training program to teach all fire fighters from the Chief Officers down to the Privates the

radiation hazards in fire fighting, and all are equally well acquainted with what to do in case they are faced with fires where radiation hazards occur.

Surveys were made of the gas masks and instructions given in the use of them.

Training was given in the drafting of water, an operation which most fire departments are not often called upon to perform but which they must be able to do when necessary. This phase of pump operation was engaged in by our fire fighters in the course of their training.

Heavy Stream Appliances: Companies were assigned to the Fire School and were trained in the proper operation and use of heavy stream appliances including deck guns, portable deck guns, and ladder pipes.

During review training in the use of heavy stream appliances, different size nozzle tips were used. Members attending these training instructions were shown the flows normally associated with and obtainable from the various size tips with the number of hose lines needed to supply tips of these sizes adequately and satisfactorily.

Fireground Hydraulics and Calibrations of Nozzle Discharge: In the course of stream development, those attending the instructions were shown how flows were calibrated. They were also shown the pressures required to produce such flows. After preliminary instructions, they were able to calculate the pump pressures required for the various layouts and nozzle tips used by estimating the friction loss in the lines feeding the heavy stream appliance. All calculations — although hypothetic — were ideal for actual use on the fireground.

The above is, in fact, a form of simplified fireground hydraulics very useful to fire fighters. The results obtained are accurate. The method has been developed in the Training Division and appears to be superior to methods previously advanced by other sources. It involves placing a specific value on each size nozzle tip

under normal operating pressure. When this is known, a definite friction loss can be established.

The sum of the normal nozzle pressure and particular friction loss will indicate the required engine pressure. Knowledge of the above by members of a fire department will increase the overall fireground efficiency.

Chemical (Powder) Foam Operations: The development of foam for use on flammable-liquid fires is an operation that must also be reviewed from time to time to make sure that members are familiar with the operation and that the equipment used is in good operating condition. In the development of foam from foam powder, a foam generator must be employed. There are a number of steps which must be taken to place the unit in operation.

Training relative to this subject provided the opportunity of practicing these steps and of checking the equipment used.

Seven companies in the Department are equipped with a foam generator and quantities of foam powder.

Mechanical (Liquid) Foam Operations: Each company trained at the Fire School also received instructions regarding the development of mechanical foam using foam liquid and a "Foam-Aire" pipe. There are at present 34 of our fire companies provided with this equipment. In the course of training, the operation and the equipment were reviewed and any deficiencies were corrected.

Oil fires were started in the pits and tanks at the school, and the companies used their equipment to extinguish these fires. A simple emergency measure to develop foam in limited quantities was demonstrated to all those attending the school. Foam liquid is dumped into the booster tank and discharged through the 1½-inch attack line fitted with an S.O.S. nozzle. The quality of foam produced is excellent in both fog and straight-stream patterns. The best ratio found was one gallon of foam for each ten gallons of water.

Training on new 100-foot Ladder Truck: A new 100-foot steel aerial ladder was received in April 1958. It was immediately assigned to Ladder Company 13 in District 4. Before this ladder was placed in service, all company members were trained in its operation and in the maintenance of the ladder truck by instructors from this Division and by a representative of the manufacturer, the Seagrave Corporation.

Training included the following:

1. Operation of panel and cab
2. Location and use of all switches and gauges
3. Operation of air brakes, necessary air pressure air tank, warning signals
4. Hydraulic ladder-raising mechanism
5. Setting jacks
6. Ladder raising, lowering, extension and retraction
7. Proper angles of inclination
8. Turntable operations
9. Driving and tillering apparatus
10. Ladder pipe and deck gun operation
11. Handling aluminum ground ladders
12. Use and operation of special equipment carried on this apparatus — Onan generators, O'Brien cutter, smoke ejector, and floodlights

At the present time, we have in service five 100-foot Seagrave steel aerial ladders and two 100-foot American LaFrance steel aerials. These last two aerials are powered by Mack Tractors.

Special 3½-Inch Relay Procedure: Under certain conditions where water supplies are remote from the fire, relaying must be employed. This requires the use of two 2½-inch lines between the relaying pumps to make sure that adequate quantities of water will be available. As relays usually involve long lines, much hose must be used in the lay-out. Many times, the entire hose load carried on the apparatus may be depleted at the scene of operations.

To prevent this, a special unit was devised and placed in service for this type of fire. It is termed a 3½-inch portable main-laying unit and consists of a 750 g.p.m. pumper with a hose body capable of carrying in excess of 1,000 feet of 3½-inch hose. The water-carrying capacity of this single 3½-inch line of hose exceeds that of two siamesed 2½-inch lines of hose of the same length for any given quantity of water. Placing it in operation when the occasion arises, eliminates the necessity of using up the entire 2½-inch hose carried by certain engine companies.

All necessary fittings and appliances for this operation are carried on the unit. A pumper (which we designate as No. 1) will, to give an example, be positioned at the nearest hydrant. (We designate the pumper carrying the 3½-inch hose as No. 2). Lines will be run from the discharge gates of No. 1 pumper into the 3½-inch line of hose being laid to the fire area by pumper No. 2. When the entire 3½-inch hose has been laid, it will be connected into the suction side of pumper No. 2 and discharge lines will be run from this pumper to the fire. In an average situation of this type, there will be sufficient water available for a deck gun or two or more hand lines.

Ladder Pipe and Water Tower Operation: Review training in ladder pipe operations was held at the Fire School for a number of companies in the department, including those equipped with permanently mounted ladder pipes, and particularly for Ladder Companies 8, 13, 15, 17, and 26. These companies, equipped with 100-foot steel aerial ladders, also carry portable ladder pipes which can be used on the fly ladder of the truck.

The established ladder pipe procedure calls for definite operating pressures, angles of inclination and hose lay-outs. In order to keep these essential points in mind, company members must undergo periodic training con-

cerning this procedure so that fireground operations will have a high degree of efficiency.

In addition to this Fire School training on ladder pipes, every ladder company equipped with a ladder pipe and the engine companies quartered with them conducted evening drills at convenient locations in their subdistricts under the supervision of the District Fire Chief of the district. By conducting the drills during evenings, the Fire School was available for other necessary training during the day.

Probationers' Training: The Training Division, in keeping with the practices of recent years, has continued to exercise control over new members during their probationary period of six months. Candidates for appointment are interviewed by this Division to determine their previous experience and their impression of the fire department. The objectives of the Department relative to safeguarding lives and property in the event of fire are explained to them.

This original interview serves the purpose of orienting these candidates regarding the Fire Department. It calls their attention to the general requirements they must comply with and to the type of work they are expected to do in the probationary school and in the fire company to which they have been assigned.

Upon their appointment to the Department, they are assigned to the Training Division for their basic training and indoctrinated in the fundamentals of fire fighting. The curriculum set up for this indoctrination includes the following:

(a) Fire ladder construction and use
(b) Raising, lowering, dogging, and climbing fire ladders
(c) Method of operating from ladders, including the use of leg lock to insure the safety of personnel
(d) Rope and its use in the fire service
(e) Knots employed in our Department

(f) Chemistry of fire — Classes of fire and extinguishing agents
(g) Ventilation practices
(h) Fire extinguishers
(i) Handling hose and running lines over ladders
(j) Rope slides and life belts
(k) Use and operation of fire hydrants
(l) Single-unit operations
(m) Fire company operations
(n) Use of gas masks
(o) Operation of nozzles and heavy stream appliances
(p) Pump operations
(q) Extinguishment of fires
(r) Aerial ladder operation
(s) Pompier ladder — single and chain
(t) Rescue equipment
(u) First Aid and artificial respiration
(v) Radiation hazards in fire fighting

An evaluation is made of each member as he progresses through this initial training period, and this information becomes part of his permanent record in the Department.

Forms developed for this purpose are known as "*Drill School Efficiency Rating*" and are compiled by the Drillmaster. Each month, for a period of six months, the company officer must file a special report with the Training Division indicating the progress of probationary members under his direct control.

At various intervals during the probationary period, members are detailed from their assigned companies to the Training Division for instruction and examination. The results of these examinations are included in a composite report to the Fire Commissioner designated as a "Final Probationers' Report." Recommendations are made as to whether or not a member should be considered for permanent appointment to the Department.

Ladder Truck Inspection and Preventive Maintenance: During the past year, each ladder truck in the Depart-

ment was dispatched to the Maintenance Division for inspection and preventive maintenance. Apparatus and equipment were examined and necessary corrections made. Ladders were checked, axes sharpened, equipment more efficiently located, and available items of equipment were added wherever they served the best purpose.

Items covered in the preventive maintenance check included the ignition system, fuel system, steering assembly, running gear, tires, braking system, springs, lights, warning devices, clutch, paint and body condition, etc. Forms listing such items, their condition, and any adjustments or repairs made, were filled out by maintenance personnel and forwarded to the Training Division where they are on file. Each ladder truck was thoroughly lubricated and greased, and the crankcase oil was changed.

Pump Test and Preventive Maintenance: The annual test of department pumpers was conducted at the pump test pit at Headquarters. Motor Squad personnel, assisted by engine company personnel, conducted this test. Pumps were subjected to the standard service tests to determine their condition and efficiency. Each pumper tested must discharge its rated capacity in gallons per minute at 150 pounds pressure and half its rated capacity at 250 pounds pressure.

Pumps failing to meet these requirements are checked and necessary repairs made by the Maintenance Division. Thereafter, they are again tested at the pit to determine whether they can successfully pass the service test.

The overall condition of the pumper, the discharge gates, pump gauges, relief valves, and pump shift levers are also checked. Motor speeds were carefully watched to make sure that they remained in the safe operating range. Motor defects were attended to by the Maintenance Division when the pumper was subjected to preventive maintenance work.

During the testing period, company personnel were reviewed as to their knowledge of drafting water from

the test pit. When the test was completed, and the apparatus was undergoing preventive maintenance work, the company members were taken to Memorial Hall where they participated in instructions concerning the model display pumps at that location.

Also, when conditions permitted, members were taken to the Fire School to participate in the training that was taking place at that location, while their apparatus was undergoing preventive maintenance work.

Forms covering the pump test and preventive maintenance work are on file in the Training Division. Preventive maintenance work performed covered the same points listed in the ladder truck preventive maintenance previously mentioned in this report.

Hose Wagon Preventive Maintenance: Companies operating as double units are assigned hose wagons. When they were assigned to have a pump test and preventive maintenance, arrangements were made to have the necessary maintenance work attended to on both pieces of apparatus. Records of this work are on file in the Training Division.

Training in M.T.A. Rescue Procedure: Review training was held for all companies in the East Boston area on the proper procedure to be followed in rescue problems associated with the M.T.A. transit system servicing that location.

The type of trains used on this line has been changed during recent years, and it was felt that additional training covering the methods of handling emergencies would be of value. The M.T.A. extended its fullest cooperation by furnishing men and equipment as required. Companies responded to the Orient Heights Yard and each member was required to participate in the various steps involved in the rescue procedure.

The following companies participated in this training:

Engine Companies 5, 9, 11, 40, 56
Ladder Companies 2, 21
Rescue Company

Company Drill Items: The Training Division has continued, for the third successive year, the issuance of weekly drill items to all companies. These items, in the form of outlines, allow a uniformity of the drills being conducted throughout the Department. Many pertinent points are covered in the drill items, and they appear to be accomplishing their objective of getting the fire fighter better acquainted with additional aspects of the fire service.

In conformance with my directive, the format of drills was altered during the year to include promotional questions from recent Civil Service examinations. These questions pertaining to fire fighting, fire protection and fire prevention serve as an excellent means of arousing interest of members seeking to advance in their profession and, at the same time, furnish all members with knowledge of considerable value in their profession as a fire fighter.

During the past year, a total of 52 company drills were issued to the Department, covering the following:

ITEM	REFERENCE
"Precautions Relative to Roof Operations"	Fire Manual
"Nozzles Used in the Department"	Drill Item
"Fire Department Knots"	Drill School Curricular
"Radiation Hazards in Fire-Fighting"	Atomic Energy Bulletin
"Hydrants — Design and Operation"	General Orders
"Fire Department Inspections"	N. B. F. U. Bulletins
"Home Fire Protection"	N. B. F. U. Bulletins
"Inspection of Super-Markets"	N. B. F. U. Bulletins
"Pump Operations"	Department Rules and Company Library
"Portable Water Mains"	Training Pamphlet
"Use of Gas Masks"	Department Rules and Drill Practice
"Assignment of Companies at Fires"	General Orders
"Single Unit Review at Fires"	Training Pamphlet
"High Pressure Water System"	Training Pamphlet
"Foam and Foam Generators"	Department Rules
"Fuel Oil Regulations"	State Laws
"Promotional Questions"	

Exhibition Drill Team: The exhibition drill team, which is the responsibility of the Training Division, participated in a number of *"Fire Prevention Week"* activities during the past year. The drill team, composed of twenty-two members of the Department, is selected and trained by our personnel. Once again, this team did an outstanding job before large audiences. They demonstrated the raising and climbing of ladders, the running of lines, rope-sliding, pompier ladder work, and jumping into the life net. A presentation of this type acquaints the layman with some of the skills the fire fighter must employ in fire-fighting operations and rescue work. The opportunity is then afforded to convey to those watching many timely and important fire prevention messages.

Good public relations are gained by such exhibitions for the public can realize some of the difficulties fire fighters experience in their effort to control and extinguish fires, and they are grateful for any advice which can be passed on to them which would help them to prevent fires in their homes and business establishments.

This past year, in an effort to reach more residents of Boston, the exhibition drills were held at night at locations throughout the city. This meant that the sites selected had to be lighted and provisions were made to have this done. Electric generators in service in the Department were used for this purpose as were generators maintained by the Civil Defence Department. This joint operation, which provided excellent illumination at each drill location, was a good example of the cooperative effort that can be expected between city departments during emergencies.

Listed below are the locations at which these exhibition drills were held:

Day Square, East Boston
Fens Stadium, Back Bay
Columbus Park, South Boston
Town Field, Dorchester
Fallon Field, Roslindale

Ladder Pipe and Smoke Ejector Installations: During the past year, additional ladder pipes and smoke ejectors were placed in service in the Department. The addition of this new equipment supplementing that already in service with the Department increases the overall efficiency of the fire-fighting force by placing at its disposal devices conducive to more efficient and safer operation.

At this time, ladder pipes are in service as follows:

Ladder Companies 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Ladder Companies 8, 13, 15, 17, 26 are equipped with a permanent mounted ladder pipe and a portable ladder pipe.

Electric Smoke Ejectors are in service with:

Ladder Companies 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 20, 26, 29, Rescue and Motor Squad, Light Plant

Generator and Lighting Equipment Survey: A survey was conducted to determine the condition of these generators and of the cables and floodlights used in conjunction with them. At the same time, company members were reviewed relative to the proper operation, use, and maintenance of this equipment. These generators were found to be in excellent condition as was the equipment used with them.

Following is a list of the companies equipped with generators, indicating the capacities of these generators:

PORTABLE 2500 Watt	SEMI-PORTABLE 3500 Watt	FIXED 5000 Watt
Ladder 2	Ladder 8 (2)	Rescue Company
Ladder 4	Ladder 13 (2)	Motor Squad — Lighting Plant
Ladder 7	Ladder 15 (2)	Reserve Lighting Plant 2
Ladder 9	Ladder 17 (2)	Reserve Lighting Plant 3
Ladder 10	Ladder 26 (2)	
Ladder 19	Engine Squad 11	
Ladder 20	Engine Squad 14	
Ladder 29	Engine Squad 18	
	Engine Squad 29	
	Engine Squad 45	

Single Unit Conversions: The conversion of pumpers to enable them to operate as single units was continued during 1958 and is still in progress. All conversion work was attended to by Maintenance Division personnel. This work included changes in pump piping to allow auxiliary suction connections for preconnected 1½-inch attack lines, and redesign, to some degree, of hose bodies to accommodate adequate loads of 3-inch, 2½-inch, and 1½-inch hose. In those instances where booster tanks of the pieces being converted were found defective, instead of replacing these with tanks of 150 gallons (their original capacity), 400-gallon tanks were installed. This measure provided an excellent primary water supply for initial attack and, in may cases, this will prove of considerable value for holding a fire in check until hydrant supplies are available.

At the close of 1958, the following companies were operating as single units:

Engines 2, 9, 13, 16, 21, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 37, 43, 49, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56

Engine Squads 11, 14, 18, 29, 45

Double Unit Conversions: Some engine companies were designated to remain double unit companies. To take advantage of the preconnected attack features of single units, the pumps of these companies were converted in a manner similar to the pumps of single-unit companies. The conversion work allowed additional amounts of hose to be carried by these companies.

The following companies are now operating as double units:

Engines 3, 7, 12, 17, 20, 25, 26, 39, 42, 48, 50

Training in Site Preparation and the Laying of Portable Water Mains: The State Civil Defense Department stock-piles eight-inch portable steel water mains for emergency use in locations where water supplies may be

disrupted by natural or man-made disasters. These water mains and the fittings used in connection with them, if necessarily used, are more capably handled by groups who have had special instructions relative to them.

Arrangements were made to obtain quantities of this portable main and the necessary fittings through our local Civil Defense Department. A site was selected to provide the location for a theoretical problem. To assist in the site preparation, personnel from the Public Works Department, Park Department, and Civil Defense Department, were enlisted to operate miscellaneous power equipment inventoried by them. In this manner, the location was prepared for the laying of the main by personnel from this Department.

Members of companies in the area participated in laying the main and they all were instructed in its use and operation and the quantities of water that could be flowed through it.

This operation indicated how the cooperative efforts of the various city departments can be utilized in the solution of problems stemming from disasters.

Ladder Company Operations and Evolutions: A program of drill evolutions for the members of ladder and engine companies at locations in their assigned districts was carried out during the months of May and June in 1958. Company members were drilled both inside and outside quarters on the raising of straight and extension ladders, dogging of ladders, use of hose lines, knots, and general ladder practices. Discussions were held on the use of the various pieces of equipment carried by the ladder companies and methods of estimating the length of ladders necessary to reach a particular point.

The initiation of extensive and comprehensive company drills at the Fire School led to the postponement of this program which will be resumed at a later date.

Development of Tank Unit for Brush Fires: During sustained periods of dry weather, fire departments are

plagued with numerous brush fires. Many of these fires are at locations remote from water supplies. Therefore, it becomes a problem to obtain sufficient water to extinguish the fire.

The Metropolitan District Commission has under its jurisdiction a water tank truck which is ideal for situations of this type and which is, at times, called upon by this Department. However, it usually happens that when conditions are such that we might require its use, it is already being used by the M. D. C., who are experiencing similar brush fires in areas under their control.

For this reason, one of our emergency pumpers was fitted with a 400-gallon water tank which was interconnected with the 150-gallon tank already on the pump. This provided a unit having a total capacity of 550 gallons of water which, in many instances, will be sufficient for the purpose of handling these fires in remote areas.

Due to the fact that we had exceedingly wet weather last year, we experienced a minimum of brush fires, and we were not called upon to place this unit in service in its capacity as a water tank. As a pump, it has been used for other purposes; but, when its services are required as a water tank unit, it will be equipped with 1½-inch lines and placed in service in the particular area where we may be experiencing difficulty.

Engine Squad Training on Rescue Equipment: Review instructions were held for all members assigned to engine squad companies on the special equipment carried by these companies. The intermittent use of some items of rescue equipment carried by the engine squads requires that review training be frequently carried out so that members will continue to maintain a high degree of efficiency in their use.

Equipment, such as the Porter-Ferguson hydraulic power kit, the Pak-Kut acetylene cutting outfit, the Skil chain saw and circular saw, the Onan generator, floodlights, jacks, etc., are items of equipment that may be called upon for use at any fire or emergency. The

efficient use of these tools and appliances is most essential and review training at periodic intervals is of importance in maintaining this efficiency. During the course of this training, all company members were provided with the opportunity of using the acetylene torch to cut pieces of scrap metal and thus improve their skill in this respect.

Members assigned to the Rescue Company also received these instructions.

During 1958, contracts were awarded for the construction of the Cummins Highway firehouse and the Tremont Street firehouse.

In Memoriam

Deaths of Active Members During 1958

February 4
JOHN T. MCINNESS
Fire Fighter, Ladder Company 20

May 2
PHILIP E. SULLIVAN
Painter, Maintenance Division

May 18
JOHN A. CONNERTY
Fire Fighter, Headquarters

June 16
ROCCO J. COZZA
Fire Apparatus Repairman, Maintenance Division

August 24
WILLIAM F. SWEENEY
Fire Fighter, Maintenance Division

PERSONNEL

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

1958

Fire Commissioner, FRANCIS X. COTTER.

Chief of Department, LEO C. DRISCOLL.

Executive Secretary, WILLIAM D. SLATTERY.

Medical Examiner, EDWARD H. HOMMEL, M.D.

Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division, ALBERT L. O'BANION.

Superintendent of Maintenance Division, JOHN A. MARTIN.

Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention Division, JOHN E. CLOUGHERTY.

Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Fighting Force, JOHN F. HOWARD.

Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Personnel and Training, WILLIAM A. TERRENZI.

Chaplains, REV. JOHN J. MCMANMON (Catholic); REV. JOHN E. BARCLAY (Protestant); RABBI SAMUEL I. KORFF (Jewish).

APPOINTMENTS — 1958

(Firefighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
June 4	John J. McGrath	Engine Company 21
June 4	Robert F. Cullity	Engine Company 34
June 4	Thomas F. Packard	Engine Company 40
June 4	John J. Gillespie	Engine Company 4
June 4	Victor R. Leazott	Engine Company 33
June 4	Joseph V. Mason	Engine Company 37
June 4	Thomas N. Tobin	Engine Company 39
June 4	Robert P. Leon	Engine Squad 29
June 4	Robert R. Dean	Engine Company 4
June 4	Ronald J. O'Brien	Engine Company 36
June 4	Francis J. Sheehan	Engine Company 22
June 4	Charles R. Messina	Engine Company 50
June 4	John A. Boyle	Engine Company 24
June 4	John A. Reilly	Engine Company 40
July 16	Edward C. Donovan	Engine Company 12
July 16	Frank J. Enrici	Engine Company 9
July 16	James B. Sheedy	Ladder Company 4
July 16	James J. Mahon	Ladder Company 11
July 16	John Nicholas	Engine Company 33
July 16	Arthur W. Dillon	Ladder Company 1
July 16	Daniel W. Grant	Engine Company 50
July 16	James J. McCabe	Engine Company 48
July 16	William Dougherty	Engine Company 42
July 16	Howard K. Lomas	Engine Company 26
July 16	Matthew McDonagh	Engine Company 53
July 16	John A. Griffin	Ladder Company 10
July 16	John B. Matthews	Ladder Company 28
July 16	Thomas J. Wall	Ladder Company 4
Nov. 12	David J. Griffiths	Engine Company 40
Nov. 12	Edward Carpenter	Engine Company 40
Nov. 12	Bartholomew F. Clements	Engine Company 28
Nov. 12	Vincent P. Hurley	Engine Company 41
Nov. 12	Elliot J. Miller	Engine Company 41
Nov. 12	James J. Anderson, Jr.	Ladder Company 13
Nov. 12	Carmen F. Fama	Ladder Company 2
Nov. 12	Paul J. Bacci	Ladder Company 21
Nov. 12	John E. Clougherty	Ladder Company 22
Nov. 12	Peter Mastrangelo	Ladder Company 12
Nov. 12	Paul D. Crimmins	Ladder Company 31
Nov. 12	Richard T. O'Donnell	Engine Company 55
Nov. 12	Arthur L. Glover, Jr.	Engine Company 55
Dec. 3	Donald D. Crocker	Ladder Company 13

STATISTICS

COMPARATIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

	1957	1958
1. PERSONAL SERVICES		
Permanent employees	$9,987,836 20	$10,377,301 59
Overtime	184,089 75	224,619 57
Total Personal Services	$10,171,925 95	$10,601,921 16
2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
Communications	$35,312 12	$37,224 35
Light, heat and power	78,405 91	79,148 64
Repairs and maintenance of buildings and structures	84,213 09	113,257 41
Repairs and servicing of equipment	57,287 32	61,927 31
Transportation of persons	1,999 65	1,730 83
Other contractual services	19,743 75	20,405 84
Total Contractual Services	$276,961 84	$313,694 38
3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		
Automotive supplies and materials	$101,329 08	$93,187 75
Heating supplies and materials	89,395 70	84,627 23
Household supplies and materials	13,947 72	11,430 41
Medical, dental and hospital supplies and materials	1,600 51	1,074 78
Office supplies and materials	23,210 83	19,258 94
Other supplies and materials	241,385 63	233,690 77
Total Supplies and Materials	$470,869 47	$443,269 88
4. CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS		
Other current charges and obligations	$9,441 49	$8,679 95
Total Current Charges and Obligations	$9,441 49	$8,679 95
5. EQUIPMENT		
Automotive equipment	$20,656 00	$14,451 00
Office furniture and equipment	2,702 54	1,679 64
Other equipment	101,117 50	141,112 53
Total Equipment	$124,476 04	$157,243 17
7. STRUCTURES AND IMPROVEMENTS		
Buildings and improvements	—	$71,601 81
Total Structures and Improvements	—	$71,601 81
Department Total	$11,053,674 79	$11,596,410 35

FIRE DEPARTMENT REVENUE — 1958

Permits for storage of inflammable fluids, certificates of registration, etc.	$250,819 21
Sales of badges	79 95
Use of fire apparatus by contractor	150 00
Miscellaneous receipts	325 47
Damage to apparatus and motor vehicles	80 00
Damage to fire alarm boxes and conduit	4,871 70
Damage to fire station	2,000 00
Reimbursement from Commonwealth of Massachusetts for expenditures for fire alarm construction work on John F. Fitzgerald Expressway	8,430 85
Commissions and refunds from New England Telephone and Telegraph Company	5,654 56
Total	$272,409 74

FIRE ALARM DIVISION
1958

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

GENERAL SUMMARY OF ALARMS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS TRANSMITTED
(To Which Apparatus Responded)

	1956	1957	1958
First alarms (boxes)	10,163	11,693	10,468
Still alarms — NET TOTAL	7,196	8,556	6,889
Total alarms — Boston only	17,359	20,249	17,357
Mutual Aid	103	114	102
TOTAL ALARMS	17,462	20,363	17,459

TELEPHONE ALARMS

	1956	1957	1958
Alarms received from citizens by telephone (for fire)	6,272	7,537	5,973
Per cent of total alarms	35.9	37.0	34.2

FALSE ALARMS

	1956	1957	1958
Total false alarms	3,058	3,342	3,714
Per cent of total alarms	17.5	16.4	21.3

NOTE

The first electric telegraph system for fire alarms in the world (in Boston) cost $16,000 and consisted of 40 miles of wire, 45 signal boxes or stations, and 16 alarm bells.

The system was officially accepted by the City of Boston at noon, April 28, 1852, and the first alarm was received from Station 7, District 1 (now Box 1212) at 8.25 P.M., April 29, 1852.

Total box alarms transmitted since April 28, 1852, through December 31, 1957, 436,861.

ANALYSIS OF STILL ALARMS

	1956	1957	1958
Received from citizens by telephone	6,272	7,537	5,973
Received from Police Department	830	914	707
Received from Fire Department	1,294	1,622	1,219
Boxes received — treated as STILLS	81	119	148
Emergency calls — treated as STILLS	2,192	2,374	2,563
Received from Boston Automatic Co.*	106	126	154
Received from A. D. T. Co.*	233	256	234
Received from C. P. S. Co.*	—	4	2
GROSS TOTALS	11,008	12,952	11,000
DEDUCT			
STILL ALARMS received for which BOX ALARMS were pulled after STILL and BOX ALARMS were transmitted	87	176	65
STILL ALARMS received for which BOX ALARMS were transmitted	3,725	4,220	4,046
NET TOTAL STILL ALARMS (Boston)	7,196	8,556	6,889
MUTUAL AID ALARMS	103	114	102

* DOES NOT include alarms received after still alarm or after City Box Alarm, in which case no action was taken.

NOTE.—NET TOTAL STILL ALARMS indicates number of alarms for which apparatus was dispatched by telephone without BOX ALARM, and alarms for which Private Company Box only was transmitted without City Box Alarm.

SUMMARY OF ALARMS — BY MONTHS — 1958

	Boxes	Stills	Totals
January	886	519	1,405
February	773	441	1,214
March	919	534	1,453
April	866	607	1,473
May	820	566	1,386
June	898	662	1,560
July	735	612	1,347
August	713	498	1,211
September	786	467	1,253
October	1,026	706	1,732
November	1,000	692	1,692
December	1,046	687	1,733
TOTALS	10,468	6,991	17,459

NOTE.—Alarms received from Boston Automatic, A. D. T., C. P. S. or where Private Company Box only was transmitted, without CITY BOX, have been included under STILL ALARMS.

All alarms for MUTUAL AID have been included under STILL ALARMS.

ORIGIN OF ALARMS

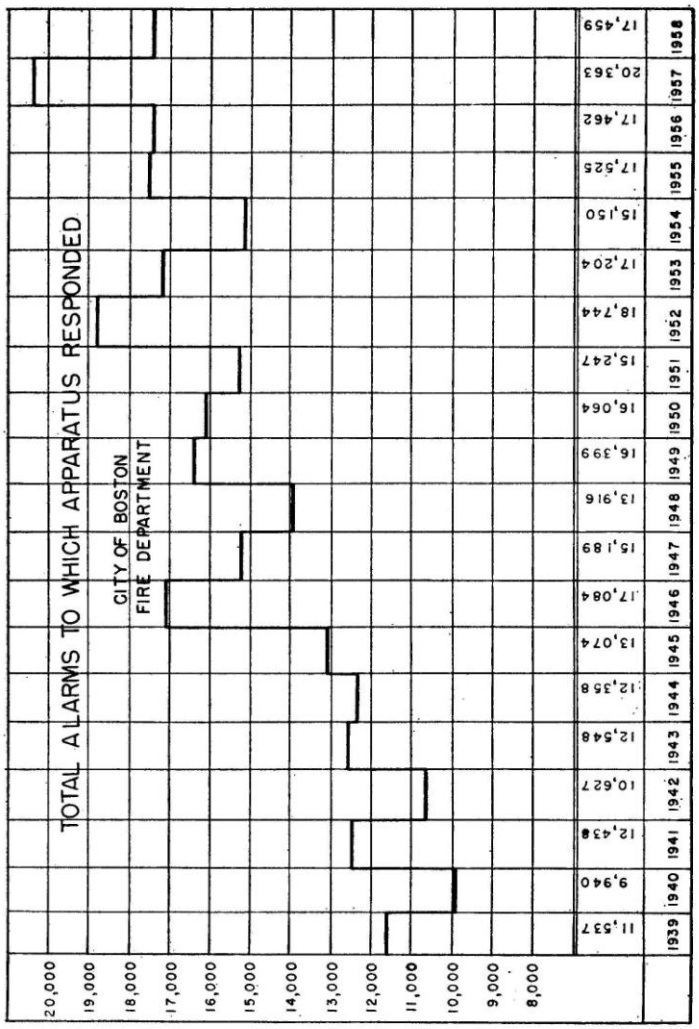
	1956		1957		1958	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
1. Box Alarms	6,432	36.8	7,416	36.41	6,505	37.26
2. Citizens by Telephone	6,272	35.9	7,537	37.01	5,973	34.21
Boxes Received after Telephone Call	87	0.5	176	0.86	65	0.37
3. Police Department	830	4.8	914	4.49	707	4.05
4. Fire Department	1,294	7.4	1,622	7.97	1,219	6.98
5. Boston Automatic	106	0.6	126	0.62	154	0.88
6. A. D. T.	233	1.3	256	1.26	234	1.34
7. C. P. S.	—	—	4	0.02	2	0.01
8. Mutual Aid	103	0.6	114	0.56	102	0.59
9. Emergency Calls	2,192	12.6	2,374	11.66	2,563	14.68
TOTALS	17,462	100%	20,363	100%	17,459	100%

SUMMARY OF ALARMS ACCORDING TO FIRE DISTRICTS — 1958

No.		Boxes	Stills	Total
1	East Boston	567	408	975
2	Charlestown	416	235	651
3	North and West Ends and Business District	832	539	1,371
4	Business District, South End and Back Bay	1,204	666	1,870
5	Back Bay and Roxbury	1,645	786	2,431
6	South Boston	1,129	557	1,686
7	Roxbury and Dorchester North	1,260	751	2,011
8	Dorchester	921	854	1,775
9	Jamaica Plain and Roxbury	1,075	720	1,795
10	Roslindale, West Roxbury and Hyde Park	765	806	1,571
11	Brighton	654	567	1,221
	Totals in Boston	10,468	6,889	17,357
	Mutual Aid to Adjacent Cities and Towns	—	102	102
	Totals	10,468	6,991	17,459

MUTUAL AID ALARMS

	Response of *BOSTON* to Outside Cities and Towns					Response of Adjacent Cities and Towns to *BOSTON*				
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Brookline	24	27	23	18	17	108	120	113	138	125
Cambridge	3	14	9	8	10	1	6	11	9	4
Chelsea	8	5	18	12	7	9	13	9	9	2
Dedham	11	3	7	9	6	26	20	11	52	19
Everett	0	2	1	2	4	1	4	3	3	1
Hull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lynn	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Malden	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medford	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milton	8	4	4	13	5	1	4	2	3	2
Newton	5	8	14	11	16	17	22	31	31	16
Quincy	1	4	1	6	3	7	19	14	18	10
Revere	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Somerville	28	34	34	32	33	22	42	29	42	42
Winthrop	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	4	4
Totals	92	101	103	114	102	193	257	224	310	225



MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Two Alarms	46	71	76	65	47
Three Alarms	17	20	33	26	23
Four Alarms	2	5	8	8	1
Five Alarms	1	4	2	2	2
Totals	66	100	119	101	73

SUMMARY OF MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES ACCORDING TO MONTHS OF THE YEAR — 1958

Month	Two Alarms	Three Alarms	Four Alarms	Five Alarms	Total
January	2	5	0	0	7
February	2	2	0	0	4
March	7	2	0	1	10
April	5	3	0	0	8
May	4	2	0	0	6
June	3	1	0	0	4
July	3	1	0	1	5
August	1	0	0	0	1
September	3	1	0	0	4
October	3	0	0	0	3
November	2	2	0	0	4
December	12	4	1	0	17
Totals	47	23	1	2	73

SUMMARY OF FIRE ALARM BOXES

Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1957		1,994
Fire alarm boxes installed January 1, 1958, to December 31, 1958	70	
Fire alarm boxes discontinued January 1, 1958, to December 31, 1958	3	
NET INCREASE in number of fire alarm boxes		67
Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1958		2,061

DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE ALARM BOXES

DISTRICTS

District 1	122	District 7	175
District 2	129	District 8	238
District 3	166	District 9	181
District 4	142	District 10	351
District 5	191	District 11	175
District 6	191		

DIVISIONS

Division 1	750
Division 2	1,311
Total	2,061

FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1958

DATE	BOX	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Jan. 3	12–177	7	St. Kevin Church, 516 Columbia Road.
Jan. 22	12–6166	1	Sacred Heart Church, 35 Brooks Street.
Feb. 1	13–2926	10	Johnson Nursing Home, 46 Wren Street.
Feb. 27	294	10	Washington Street, opposite La Grange.
April 1	12–1344	3	Museum of Science, Science Park.
May 12	3755	10	Hyde Park Avenue, near Margin Street.
May 12	3758	10	Hyde Park Avenue and Reservation Road.
May 12	3759	10	Hyde Park Avenue, opposite No. 1600.
May 12	3852	10	Hyde Park Avenue, opposite Milton Street.
May 13	7311	6	East Broadway, near H Street.
May 27	3476	8	Dorchester Avenue and Richmond Street.
May 27	733	6	East Broadway and O Street.
May 27	3649	8	Blue Hill Avenue and Wellington Hill Street.
May 27	3638	8	Blue Hill Avenue and Goodale Road.
May 27	3625	8	Blue Hill Avenue and Baird Street.
June 19	3623	8	Blue Hill Avenue and Fabyan Street.
June 20	3654	8	Blue Hill Avenue and Tennis Road.
June 26	5143	11	Commonwealth Avenue and Gorham Street.
July 2	12–2447	9	Parkview Manor Nursing Home, 489 Walnut Avenue.
July 11	3871	10	Turtle Pond Parkway and Alwin Street.
July 16	3872	10	Alwin Street and Leighton Road.
July 16	3873	10	Stonehill Road and Cheryl Lane.
Aug. 1	3874	10	Dietz and Dodge Roads.
Aug. 1	3875	10	Dodge Road and Joan Court.
Aug. 1	3876	10	Leighton and Eastmont Roads.

FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1958. — (Continued)

DATE	BOX	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Aug. 1	3877	10	Leighton and Belnap Roads.
Aug. 14	1627	4	Washington and Asylum Streets.
Aug. 14	1628	4	Harrison Avenue and Motte Street.
Aug. 14	1629	4	Harrison Avenue and Troy Street.
Aug. 19	612	1	Logan Airport, Fire Station, Bulkhead Road.
Aug. 22	132	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, near Traverse Street.
Aug. 22	12–132	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, near Traverse Street.
Aug. 26	125	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, at Commercial Street.
Aug. 26	12–125	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, at Commercial Street.
Aug. 29	128	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, at India Street.
Aug. 29	12–128	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, at India Street.
Sept. 3	131	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Lower Level, Southbound, near Warren Bridge.
Sept. 3	12–131	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Upper Level, Northbound, near Warren Bridge.
Sept. 4	12–129	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, near Oliver Street.
Sept. 5	1297	3	Oliver and Purchase Streets.
Sept. 8	129	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, near Oliver Street.
Sept. 9	12–6238	1	Public School, Beachview Road.
Sept. 12	122	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, near Haymarket Square.
Sept. 12	12–122	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, near Haymarket Square.
Sept. 19	3279	8	Granite Avenue, opposite No. 52.
Sept. 22	1727	7	Norfolk Avenue and Shirley Street.
Sept. 23	3273	8	Hill Top Street and Rockne Avenue.
Sept. 25	12–1783	7	Phillips Brooks School, 5 Perth Street.
Sept. 25	12–6116	1	Samuel Adams School, 165 Webster Street.
Sept. 25	12–6214	1	John Cheverus School, 10 Moore Street.
Oct. 3	2825	10	Corey Street and Garth Road.
Oct. 3	2843	10	Montview and Hastings Streets.
Oct. 3	2844	10	Montview and Mt. Vernon Streets.
Oct. 31	12–3816	10	Public School, Gordon Avenue.
Nov. 13	12–141	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, Station No. 1, Tunnel, near Congress Street.
Nov. 13	13–141	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, Station No. 3, Tunnel, Summer Street Under.

FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1958. — (Concluded)

Date	Box	District	Location
Nov. 13	14-141	4	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Southbound, Station No. 5, Tunnel, Lincoln Street Under.
Nov. 13	16-143	3	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, Station No. 2, Tunnel, near Congress Street.
Nov. 14	12-2875	10	Brook Farm Home, 670 Baker Street.
Nov. 26	354	8	Morton and Evans Streets.
Nov. 26	12-1541	4	Public School, 90 Warren Avenue.
Nov. 28	2953	10	Centre Street and Bogandale Road.
Dec. 1	296	10	Centre Street and Woodbrier Road.
Dec. 2	12-2392	5	Charles Bulfinch School, 841 Parker Street.
Dec. 2	12-3536	8	William Bradford School, 55 Willowwood Street.
Dec. 3	2829	10	Weld Street and Manthorne Road.
Dec. 10	12-231	5	Boston Medical Laboratory, 19 Bay State Road.
Dec. 18	5291	11	North Beacon Street, Opposite Arthur Street.
Dec. 18	5293	11	North Beacon and Etna Streets.
Dec. 19	13-5374	11	St. John's Seminary, Bishop Peterson Hall, Lake Street.

FIRE ALARM BOXES DISCONTINUED IN 1958

Date	Box	District	Location
Jan. 14	12-2332	5	Boston Opera House, 345 Huntington Avenue.
Oct. 23	12-1332	4	Wayfarer's Lodge, 30 Hawkins Street.
Dec. 24	13-1677	4	Home for Aged Men, 133 West Springfield Street.

FIRE ALARM BOXES RELOCATED IN 1958

Fire alarm box 3754 was relocated and designation changed, as given in General Order No. 35, dated August 5, 1958, viz: 3754 Dana Avenue and Walnut Street.

FIRE ALARM BOX RENUMBERED IN 1958

In General Order No. 25, dated May 27, 1958, the following fire alarm box was renumbered, effective 12:00 noon, June 3, 1958. (Old number 3479) 12-3476 Gilbert Stuart School, Richmond Street.

CHANGE IN DESIGNATION OF FIRE ALARM BOXES IN 1958

General Orders No.	Box No.	General Orders No.	Box No.
14	13-3272	43	3295
14	3756	47	1783
14	3757	47	6116
14	3851	47	6214
29	7276	51	12-5374
39	1628	54	3274
41	1622	55	2392
42	12-1224	55	3536
42	2144	55	12-3447
		55	12-6238

FIRE ALARM CONSTRUCTION FORCE
UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION — 1958

Number of Conductors	Type of Cable	Installed		Removed	
		Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors	Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors
2	Rubber-Lead	—	—	500	1,000
4	Rubber-Lead	—	—	1,035	4,140
4	Polyethylene P. V. C.	15,650	62,600	—	—
6	Rubber-Lead	—	—	7,748	46,488
7	Polyethylene P. V. C.	21,665	151,655	—	—
7	Anhydrex Jacketed	—	—	1,550	10,850
10	Polyethylene P. V. C.	19,905	199,050	850	8,500
10	Rubber-Lead	—	—	1,535	15,350
19	Polyethylene P. V. C.	15,745	299,135	250	4,750
19	Rubber-Lead	—	—	550	10,450
20	Rubber-Lead	—	—	925	18,500
30	Rubber-Lead	—	—	1,400	42,000
37	Polyethylene P. V. C.	2,700	99,900	—	—
61	Polyethylene P. V. C.	1,425	86,925	—	—
61	Rubber-Lead	—	—	1,120	68,320
	Totals	77,090	899,265	17,463	230,340

OVERHEAD CONSTRUCTION — 1958

	Installed, Feet	Removed, Feet
No. 10 copperweld T.B.W.P., "Duraline"	5,200	—
No. 9 T.B.W.P. galvanized	—	34,660
No. 14 twisted pair	825	730
2 conductors, non-metallic	—	500
2 conductors, anhydrex jacketed	—	1,000
4 conductors, polyethylene P.V.C.	8,545	1,000
4 conductors, non-metallic	—	1,125
6 conductors, non-metallic	—	1,100
7 conductors, polyethylene P.V.C.	1,085	300
10 conductors, non-metallic	—	7,300
Totals	15,675	47,715

Knock-downs attended to	104
Line construction, installations, removals, transfers, slack hauled, etc	304 poles
Fire alarm boxes installed	72
Multiple alarms responded to	71

MAINTENANCE DIVISION
1958

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

RECORD OF HOSE

Purchased	Condemned	Repaired	In Stock
30,400 feet	23,941 feet	21,909 feet	21,400 feet

PAINTING ACTIVITIES

Type of Work	Number of Jobs	Labor Costs	Material Costs	Total Costs
Complete jobs	3	$850 60	$314 25	$1,164 85
Partial jobs	258	2,782 19	1,219 65	4,001 84
Miscellaneous jobs	166	1,854 90	366 24	2,221 14
Total	427	$5,487 69	$1,900 14	$7,387 83

REPAIRS TO APPARATUS

Performed By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs	7,091	582	7,673
Cost of labor and materials	$155,684 31	$45,481 85	$201,166 16

REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS

Performed By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs	1,407	253	1,660
Cost of labor	$45,398 02	$33,677 89	
Cost of material	9,866 19		
Total	$55,284 21	$33,677 89	$88,962 10

REPAIRS TO HIGH PRESSURE STATIONS

Performed By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs	2	3	5
Cost of labor	$35 74	$152 15	
Cost of material	2 08		
Total	$37 82	$152 15	$189 97

REPAIRS TO FIREBOATS

Performed By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs	114	32	146
Cost of labor	$4,568 37	$11,016 30	
Cost of material	2,111 35		
Total	$6,679 72	$11,016 30	$17,696 02

MOTOR EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Type of Equipment	In Service	In Reserve	Total
Pumps	41	15	56
Engine Squads	5	0	5
Steam Fire Engines (Christie)	0	2	2
Civil Defense Pumps	0	17	17
Hose Wagons	22	11	33
Aerial Ladders	22	6	28
Junior Aerials	7	3	10
City Service Trucks	1	0	1
Water Towers	2	1	3
Rescue Wagons	1	1	2
Wrecking Units	2	0	2
Fuel Wagons	2	0	2
Tank Truck	1	0	1
Lighting Plants	1	2	3
Auxiliary Pumps	0	5	5
Chiefs' and Officers' Cars	30	17	47
Commercial Trucks	28	0	28
Caterpillar Tractor	1	0	1
Tractors (only)	0	3	3
Fork Lift Truck	1	0	1
Snow Plow	1	0	1
Air Compressors	1	0	1
Totals	169	83	252

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
1958

REPORT OF DAILY RECEIPTS — FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION — YEAR 1958

Month	Permits Inflammable Fluids	License Renewals	Open Air Fires	Blasting Permits	Gas Tank Removals	Burner Installation	Decorative Material Samples	Sprinkler Permits	Refunds	Totals
January	$3,368 50	$2,775 50	$691 00	$20 00	$21 00	$896 00	$44 00	$10 00	—	$7,826 00
February	961 75	1,892 00	585 50	20 00	6 00	541 00	38 00	—	—	4,044 25
March	3,401 17	5,865 50	511 50	45 00	30 00	401 00	55 00	—	2 00	10,307 17
April	95,880 50	41,928 00	293 50	25 00	18 00	438 00	53 00	40 00	2 00	138,674 00
May	13,264 50	20,140 00	399 50	20 00	33 00	441 00	90 00	5 00	—	34,393 00
June	4,455 75	15,730 50	480 00	70 00	27 00	724 00	46 00	—	15 00	21,518 25
July	1,893 05	3,114 50	630 00	60 00	48 00	713 00	22 00	10 00	15 00	6,475 55
August	1,474 00	479 00	228 00	30 00	15 00	939 00	45 00	5 00	4 00	3,211 00
September	3,822 39	1,428 00	553 00	50 00	9 00	977 00	44 00	—	13 00	6,870 39
October	5,185 90	696 00	765 00	45 00	15 00	1,964 00	51 00	20 00	44 00	8,697 90
November	2,779 35	589 50	445 00	20 00	6 00	1,310 00	24 00	5 00	27 00	5,151 85
December	1,456 18	913 00	437 00	30 00	36 00	881 00	45 00	60 00	25 00	3,833 18
Total	$137,943 04	$95,514 50	$6,056 00	$435 00	$264 00	$10,225 00	$557 00	$155 00	$147 00	$251,002 54
Refunds	11 00		136 00							
	$137,932 04		$5,920 00							

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS — 1958

INSPECTION FORCE 1958 — FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Number of complaints received	2,295
Number of inspections made	15,793
Number of abatement orders issued	1,275
Number of corrections made	1,906
Number of reinspections made	3,172
Daily inspection made of piers in East Boston, South Boston and Charlestown	24,441

NIGHT CLUB INSPECTIONS

Places of assembly inspected	3,194
Number of abatement orders issued	64
Number of corrections made	739
Certificates of analysis approved	171
Certificates of flameproofing approved	230
	4,398

INSPECTIONS BY FIRE COMPANY OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

Building inspections	52,358
Reinspections	2,626
Theatres	13,420
Schoolhouses	7,110
Public buildings	6,132
Oil farms	53
Carhouses	42
New Installations — oil burner inspections	3,617
Inflammable fluids, storage facilities, etc.	3,285
Open air fires	664
Tank removals	59
License renewals, inflammables, garages, etc.	2,641
Parking lots	355
License petitions (location approvals)	136
Blasting	87
Boarding homes for children, day nurseries, boarding homes for aged, convalescent homes, etc., hospital, institutions, etc.	860
	93,445
Total inspections and reinspections	122,284
Conditions referred to other departments (written)	745

FIRE DRILLS

Schools	2,850
Theatres	387
Hospitals, institutions, etc.	625
Industrial and mercantile establishments	929

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Number of school visits made	410
Number of pupils spoken to (all visits)	32,661

ARSON SQUAD ACTIVITIES — 1958.

Undetermined fires	162
Suspicious fires	15
Incendiary fires	3
Causes given but investigated	183
Multiple alarms	73
Deaths	27
Injuries	68
Arrests	37
Grand Jury indictments	5
Municipal Court cases	21
Municipal Court convictions	16
Superior Court cases	2
Superior Court convictions	1
Gas odors investigated	35
Fire prevention inspections	182

CASUALTY REPORT AND REASON

	Injuries	Deaths
Candle ignited Christmas tree	2	—
Careless disposal of smokers article	4	4
Careless smoking	16	4
Chemical explosion	1	—
Defective chimney	2	3
Defective wiring	—	1
Flooded range oil burner	4	—
Flooded space heater	7	5
Foreign material in incinerator	2	—
Gas leak explosion	4	—
Gas stove flareback	3	1
Ignition of illuminating gas	3	—
Ignition of flammable fluid vapors	1	1
Leaking gas stack	4	1
Playing with matches	2	—
Portable space heater (Perfection)	1	—
Smoking in bed	4	2
Sparks from coal stove	2	—
Suicide attempt	1	—
Unknown	4	5
Wallpaper machine explosion	1	—
Total	68	27

CHEMICAL LABORATORY
Summary of Analyses and Tests — 1958

	Samples Reported
Decorations	538
Building Department	18
Fluids	4
Arson Squad	22
Inspections	18
Total fees collected	$552

PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY
Summary of Activities — 1958

	Jobs	Negatives	Prints
Arson	226	—	—
Accidents	67	—	—
Department activities	95	—	—
Public relations	11	—	—
Multiple alarms	73	—	—
Fire prevention	88	—	—
I. D. photographs	210	—	—
Number negatives	4,149	—	—
Number prints	5,868	—	—

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AT FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION — 1958

Month	Telephone	Counter	Letter				Total
			Public	Health	Building	Miscellaneous	
January	51	—	4	6	—	6	67
February	57	—	2	2	—	—	61
March	64	1	4	3	—	6	78
April	72	2	1	8	—	—	83
May	53	4	3	9	—	—	69
June	55	—	—	—	—	—	55
July	61	1	—	—	—	—	62
August	67	1	—	—	—	—	68
September	56	1	—	—	—	—	57
October	65	3	1	—	—	—	69
November	54	5	—	—	—	—	59
December	121	1	5	—	—	1	128
Totals	776	19	20	28	—	13	856

ORDERS AND CONDITIONS REFERRED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS — 1958

Month	1st Orders	Service Orders	Building	Health	Public Safety	Public Works	Miscellaneous	Total
January	189	18	36	8	—	2	1	254
February	220	21	40	5	1	—	—	287
March	250	14	125	12	—	3	2	406
April	160	7	41	11	1	—	—	220
May	153	11	51	8	—	—	—	223
June	215	20	57	2	—	1	—	295
July	154	35	45	5	—	—	2	241
August	135	12	45	5	—	—	—	197
September	163	43	49	12	1	—	—	268
October	220	19	38	2	—	—	1	280
November	152	12	42	14	1	—	2	223
December	197	15	62	10	—	—	2	286
Totals	2,208	227	631	94	4	6	10	3,180

ANALYSIS OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS AND CAUSES OF FIRES

ANALYSIS OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS FOR YEAR 1958

Construction of Buildings

Fire-resistive	241
Second-class	1,049
Third-class	843
Other type	71
Total	2,204

Point of Origin

Basement	374
First floor	700
Second floor	387
Third floor	278
Above third	127
Roof	39
Outside	299
Total	2,204

Extent of Fire

Confined to point of origin	1,206
Confined to buildings	893
Extended to other buildings	105
Total	2,204

Causes of Fires in Buildings — 1958

Chimney, soot burning	8
Defective chimney	34
Sparks from chimney at roof	17
Rubbish near heater	10
Defectively installed heater	44
Hot ashes	20
Fuel oil burner	134
Careless smoking	964
Children with matches	137
Other careless use of matches	22
Defective wiring	148
Electric appliances and motors	112
Flammable liquids near fire	13

Kerosene lamps and stoves	8
Grease, food on stove	19
Clothes, furniture near fire	19
Spontaneous ignition	30
Fireworks	1
Thawing water pipes	13
Sparks from machine	19
City gas and appliances	28
Miscellaneous known causes	100
Malicious mischief	77
Incendiary or suspicious	30
Unknown	164
Home dry cleaning	7
Starting fires — kerosene or gasoline	26
1958 total	2,204

Causes of Outdoor Fires — 1958

Rubbish	2,401
Dump	164
Brush or grass	1,233
Other outdoor	635
Marine	13
Automobile	868
1958 total	5,314

Rescues (emergency calls)	3,476
Out-of-city calls	113

CITY OF BOSTON
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PRINTING SECTION