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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1969.

BOSTON, February 1, 1970.

Hon. KEVIN H. WHITE,
Mayor of Boston.

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the activities of the Boston Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1969. This report provides a rather concise record of the activities of the department for the year 1969.

During the year 1969 the administration of the department was called upon to face many complex problems which, if not acted upon in a proficient manner, might have had an adverse effect on the efficiency of the Boston Fire Department.

I am very pleased to report to you that most of these problems have been solved and the few remaining ones will be satisfactorily terminated in the shortest possible time. Included among the problems were organization of the 46-hour work week; reducing the number of false alarms; improving the quality of the equipment purchased by the department, the facilities of the department, and the effectiveness of the available manpower.

I am proud to report the morale of the members of the Fire Department is high, and they possess an outstanding devotion to duty. For this the citizens and businessmen of Boston can be grateful, as they are assured of protection without equal in the country.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. KELLY,
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 November 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
1933–1934	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
1954–1959	Francis X. Cotter
1959	Timothy J. O'Connor
(March 2–December 31)	
1960–1961	Henry A. Scagnoli
1961–1966	Thomas J. Griffin
1966	Henry A. Scagnoli
(Acting July 1–August 17)	
1966–1968	William J. Fitzgerald
1968–	James H. Kelly
(From November 27)	

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. Mullin
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
1956–1960	Leo C. Driscoll
1960–1963	John A. Martin
1963–1966	William A. Terrenzi
1966–1967	James J. Flanagan
1967–1969	John E. Clougherty
(To January 31, 1969)	
1969–	Joseph F. Kilduff
(From February 1, 1969)	

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

In Memoriam

Deaths of Active Members During 1969

February 14
EDWARD E. HALL
Fire Fighter, Engine 54

March 17
VINCENT M. FOUNTAINE
Fire Fighter, Ladder 24

May 2
FRANCIS R. FITZGERALD
Fire Lieutenant, Engine 50

May 26
EDWARD THOMAS
Batteryman, Fire Alarm Division

July 9
ROGER J. GETTENS
Fire Fighter, Engine 25

September 25
PAUL E. PORTER
Fire Fighter, Engine 50

October 18
PAUL C. CONNORS
Fire Fighter, Engine 3

October 26
JAMES H. CONWAY
Fire Fighter, Headquarters

November 6
FRANCIS H. CORWIN
Fire Fighter, Engine 36

November 28
WILLIAM C. BROWN
Fire Fighter, Ladder 13

December 27
JOHN P. O'MALLEY
Fire Lieutenant, Headquarters

PERSONNEL

MEDAL OF HONOR MEN

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT — 1968

John E. Fitzgerald Medal

Awarded to Fire Fighter Thomas W. Nee of Engine Company 17

Walter Scott Medal for Valor

Awarded to Fire Fighter Robert M. Shaw of Ladder Company 7

Patrick J. Kennedy Medal of Honor

Awarded to Fire Fighter Joseph F. Hoar of Ladder Company 4

ROLL OF MERIT — 1968

Fire Fighter Kevin Mochen of Ladder Company 4

Fire Fighter Joseph M. Martin of Engine Company 36

Fire Fighter William P. Carroll of Engine Company 3

Fire Fighter Charles J. Connolly of Ladder Company 20

Fire Fighter Anthony J. Rock of Engine Company 45

PROMOTIONS — 1969

Deputy Fire Chief Joseph F. Kilduff to Chief of Department
District Fire Chief John C. Kilroy to Deputy Fire Chief
Fire Lieutenant William P. Connell to Fire Captain
Fire Lieutenant Francis X. O'Brien to Fire Captain
Fire Fighter Henry D. Sacco to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter William E. Pero to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter William E. Foley to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter William J. Fleming to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter James R. Delaney to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter John E. Driscoll to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter George E. Bacigalupo to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Edward V. Kelly to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Ralph N. Dean to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Peter J. Anastasia to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter John J. McCloud to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter George H. Rushton to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Leonard C. Johnson to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter John F. McGuire to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Thomas D. Lennon, Jr. to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Daniel T. McInness to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter James M. Ryan to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter John R. Howard to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Joseph J. Downing to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Thomas R. Shea to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Edward F. McMillan to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter William J. O'Brien to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter John F. McGrath to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter Gerard P. Lynch to Fire Lieutenant
Fire Fighter John J. Force to Fire Lieutenant

APPOINTMENTS — 1969

(Fire-fighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
February 19	James J. McLaughlin	Ladder Company 30
February 19	James E. McNally	Engine Company 21
February 19	Joseph C. Clark, Jr.	Rescue-Pumper Unit
February 19	John C. O'Connell	Engine Company 24
February 19	David D. Cuddahy	Engine Company 2
February 19	Robert T. Kavanagh	Engine Company 8
February 19	Thomas J. Murphy	Engine Company 33
February 19	Paul R. Finn	Ladder Company 20
February 19	Patrick J. MacAuley	Ladder Company 20
February 19	Frederick J. Famolare	Engine Company 40
February 19	Paul H. Dewan, Jr.	Ladder Company 26
February 19	Michael F. Kotarba	Headquarters Division
February 19	James R. Wall	Engine Company 5
February 19	John F. Kelly	Engine Company 7
February 19	Edward D. Milchunes	Engine Company 50
February 19	Martin E. Pierce, Jr.	Ladder Company 13
February 19	James J. Famolare	Ladder Company 2
February 19	Robert E. Grenier	Engine Comapny 37
February 19	Mark W. Wall	Ladder Company 10
February 19	James J. McDonald	Ladder Company 29
February 19	Alfred C. Russo	Engine Company 12
February 19	Austin J. Dunn	Engine Company 42
February 19	Robert J. Zammito	Ladder Company 30
February 19	Walter W. Wyse	Ladder Company 3
February 19	Donald L. Damon	Ladder Company 30
February 19	Kevin P. Hession	Engine Company 17
February 19	Raymond J. Kilduff	Ladder Company 23
February 19	Peter J. Sampson	Ladder Company 7
February 19	Stephen F. Langone	Headquarters Division
February 19	Francis J. Mahoney, Jr.	Headquarters Division

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
February 19	Thomas L. Kardoos	Engine Company 22
February 19	Martin T. Glynn	Ladder Company 3
February 19	Robert P. Savisky	Ladder Company 29
February 19	James V. Provenzano	Engine Company 52
February 19	Arthur E. Hitchman	Engine Company 50
February 19	Mark J. Labadie	Engine Company 18
February 19	Robert J. Culbert	Engine Company 42
February 19	Richard A. Gravallese	Engine Company 40
February 19	Charles D. Sudhalter	Engine Company 33
February 19	John M. Carroll	Engine Company 36
February 19	Frank G. LaCortiglia	Engine Company 9
March 19	William T. Murray	Engine Company 51
October 22	William M. Burns	Engine Company 16
October 22	Robert H. Lindsay	Ladder Company 15
October 22	Robert M. Winston	Ladder Company 16
October 22	John J. Evans, Jr.	Ladder Company 26
October 22	Alfred R. Sears, Jr.	Engine Company 34
October 22	Donald C. Kernan	Ladder Company 29
October 22	John J. DeGrandis	Engine Company 42
October 22	James F. Mahoney	Engine Company 9
October 22	William J. Horne	Ladder Company 24
October 22	Eugene B. Griffin	Engine Company 40
October 22	Allan M. Mullane	Engine Company 21
October 22	Thomas C. White	Engine Company 56
October 22	William T. Kelley	Ladder Company 3
October 22	Edward C. Wallace	Engine Company 40
October 22	John F. Connors	Engine Company 14
October 22	James D. Mullen	Ladder Company 26
October 22	Paul D. Hurley	Ladder Company 26
October 22	Thomas M. Crilley	Ladder Company 8
October 22	James B. Stack	Engine Company 20
October 22	Richard A. Powers	Engine Company 33
October 22	Edward C. Joyce	Ladder Company 29

APPOINTMENTS — 1969 — Continued

(Fire-fighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
October 22	Patrick F. Lee	Engine Company 51
October 22	Martin Fisher	Ladder Company 15
October 22	W. Michael Foley	Engine Company 42
October 22	Richard P. Freda	Engine Company 25
December 24	Robert E. Felton	Ladder Company 29
December 24	Matthew Delvental	Ladder Company 10
December 24	Robert Graham	Engine Company 24
December 24	Hector E. Medal	Engine Company 4
December 24	Richard E. Jones	Engine Company 3
December 24	Daniel F. Robishaw	Engine Company 40
December 24	Robert J. Rosemond	Engine Company 11
December 24	William D. Nelson	Engine Company 21
December 24	Charles I. Bennett	Ladder Company 1
December 24	John J. Simpson	Ladder Company 24
December 24	Brian M. McEachern	Engine Company 11
December 24	Edmond J. Daley	Ladder Company 10
December 24	Francis Shaughnessey, Jr.	Engine Company 17
December 24	John T. Orignoli	Engine Company 4
December 24	John J. Flaherty	Engine Company 5
December 24	Joseph I. Holland	Engine Company 18
December 24	William E. Mulloy	Engine Company 8
December 24	James H. Pyke	Engine Company 17
December 24	Robert J. Counihan	Engine Company 51
December 24	John F. Canavan	Engine Company 52
December 24	Thomas J. Sullivan	Engine Company 42
December 24	John J. Whooley	Engine Company 29
December 24	Joseph F. Keif	Ladder Company 11
December 24	Arthur J. Mellace	Engine Company 21
December 24	Thomas C. Gunn	Engine Company 45
December 24	Edward C. O'Brien	Engine Company 11
December 24	Edward C. Dowd	Ladder Company 29
December 24	Paul J. Spacco	Engine Company 17
December 24	John F. O'Keefe, Jr.	Ladder Company 27
December 24	Gerard J. Crowley	Engine Company 47
December 24	Vincent R. Scalli	Engine Company 50
December 24	Thomas J. Fogel	Engine Company 48
December 24	Patrick F. Keane	Engine Company 56

APPOINTMENTS — 1969 — Concluded

(Fire-fighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
December 24	Philip J. Jordan	Engine Company 34
December 24	Thomas F. McGovern	Engine Company 28
December 24	Robert A. McGonagle	Engine Company 4
December 24	Robert X. Dunkle	Ladder Company 27
December 24	Roger J. Dunn	Engine Company 51
December 24	Paul Gover	Engine Company 52
December 24	Cornelius J. Walsh	Engine Company 28
December 24	David Wadman	Engine Company 29
December 24	William J. Maturo	Engine Company 41
December 24	Charles J. Kelly	Engine Company 42
December 24	Robert T. Kilduff	Engine Company 28
December 24	John J. Farley	Engine Company 5
December 24	Lawrence C. Holt	Engine Company 25
December 24	James M. Solletti	Engine Company 5
December 24	Richard Connelly	Engine Company 29
December 24	Richard D. MacKinnon	Engine Company 10
December 24	Francis Higgins	Engine Company 52
December 24	Arthur Page	Engine Company 3
December 24	Glenn J. Gilberg	Engine Company 52
December 24	John P. Campbell	Ladder Company 21
December 24	Leo Marino	Ladder Company 30
December 24	Robert E. Habeeb	Engine Company 28
December 24	Allan B. Llewellyn	Ladder Company 11
December 24	Thomas F. Kennedy	Engine Company 16
December 24	Brian J. Purcell	Engine Company 45
December 24	Richard F. Berrio	Engine Company 51

REINSTATEMENTS — 1969

May 7	Joseph A. Reardon	Engine Company 34

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

1969

Fire Commissioner, JAMES H. KELLY

Chief of Department, JOHN E. CLOUGHERTY (to January 31, 1969)

Chief of Department, JOSEPH F. KILDUFF (from February 1, 1969)

Executive Secretary, WILLIAM D. SLATTERY

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

Deputy Fire Chief in Charge of Training Division, FREDERICK P. CLAUSS

Deputy Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention Division, JOSEPH L. DOLAN

Deputy Fire Chief in Charge of Community Relations, JOHN C. KILROY

Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division, JOHN M. MURPHY

Superintendent of Maintenance Division, WALTER J. KEARNEY

Chaplains, RT. REV. MSGR. JOHN J. MCMANMON, Catholic (to June 17, 1969); RT. REV. MSGR. JAMES J. KEATING, Catholic (from June 18, 1969); REV. JOHN E. BARCLAY, Protestant; RABBI SAMUEL I. KORFF, Jewish

STATISTICS

COMPARATIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

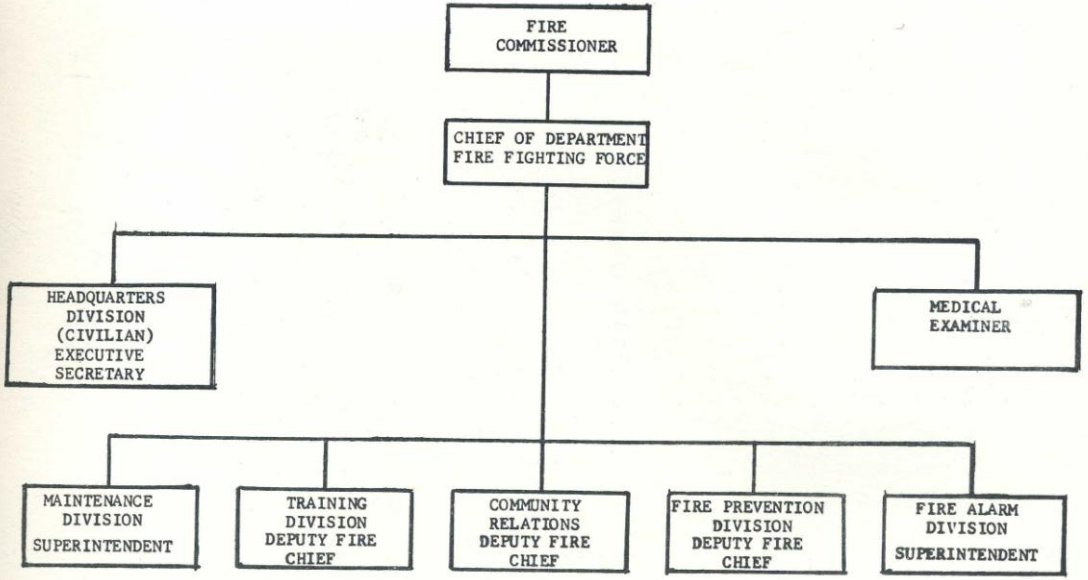
	1968	1969
1. Personal Services		
Permanent employees	$16,167,052 00	$18,453,040 87
Overtime	628,013 00	821,106 65
Total Personal Services	$16,795,065 00	$19,274,147 52
2. Contractual Services		
Communications	$39,381 00	$53,817 53
Light, heat, and power	89,417 00	107,186 80
Repairs and maintenance of buildings and structures	80,913 00	99,781 62
Repairs and servicing of equipment	359,451 00	212,250 29
Transportation of persons	4,215 00	3,596 60
Miscellaneous contractual services	15,944 00	30,086 91
Total Contractual Services	$589,321 00	$506,719 75
3. Supplies and Materials		
Automotive supplies and materials	$156,428 00	$150,438 95
Food supplies	—	10 50
Heating supplies and materials	74,597 00	78,963 34
Household supplies and materials	15,190 00	13,037 08
Medical, dental, and hospital supplies and materials	1,720 00	920 19
Office supplies and materials	25,256 00	23,772 18
Miscellaneous supplies and materials	297,706 00	493,845 11
Total Supplies and Materials	$570,897 00	$760,987 35
4. Current Charges and Obligations		
Other current charges and obligations	$100,082 00	$121,684 20
Total Current Charges and Obligations	$100,082 00	$121,684 20
5. Equipment		
Automotive equipment	—	$12,446 82
Office furniture and equipment	—	12,369 40
Miscellaneous equipment	$1,001,863 00	39,998 73
Total Equipment	$1,001,863 00	$64,814 95
Grand Total	$19,058,228 00	$20,728,353 77

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations Division was organized to effect closer communication with local community, municipal, and governmental agencies, so as to resolve problems of mutual interest and also to enhance the image of the Fire Department in the community.

Perhaps the most noteworthy accomplishment by the division was the 6.5 percent reduction in false alarms for the year 1969 as compared to the year 1968. This was accomplished at a time when practically every major city in the country was experiencing a rise in the number of false alarms.

Significant progress was also made in our Public Relations Section because of improved liaison with members of the press, radio, and television. Contacts have been reestablished with editors of the local papers which resulted in much better coverage of the day-to-day activities of the Boston Fire Department.


FIRE COMMISSIONER
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT FIRE FIGHTING FORCE
HEADQUARTERS DIVISION (CIVILIAN) EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MEDICAL EXAMINER
MAINTENANCE DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
TRAINING DIVISION DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
FIRE ALARM DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

TRAINING DIVISION

TRAINING DIVISION

The primary function of the Personnel and Training Division is to initiate and supervise the job development of the fire fighter, commencing with the probationary period and continuing throughout his career. This, of course, entails the keeping of comprehensive records regarding the actual training of the various groups involved.

To properly fulfill its mission, this division must be constantly aware of advances made in engineering, science, and industry as they affect the techniques of fire fighting, fire prevention, and fire extinguishment. In a department such as ours, this entails a program comprehensive enough to cover all phases of modern day fire fighting and the applying of this information and training to approximately two thousand men.

A. *Available Facilities*

1. Fire Academy, Moon Island
2. Drill Tower, Engine Squad 29, Brighton
3. Drill Tower, Engine 2, South Boston
4. Pump Test Pit, Headquarters
5. Memorial Hall, Headquarters
6. Personnel and Training Division Office, Headquarters

B. *Department Drilling and Training Programs*

This division develops, formulates, and conducts drilling and training procedures covering the wide range of subjects, both basic and newly developed, that must be taught and reviewed to insure efficient operation at fires and other incidents requiring the response of the Fire Department.

1. *Probationers*

This division exercises control over new members during their probationary period of six months. New appointees are interviewed by this division and oriented regarding the objectives of the Fire Department relative to the safeguarding of lives and property in the event of fire, the general requirements he must comply with, and the type of work expected of him in drill school and in the fire company to which he has been assigned.

When the six-month probationary period is completed, a final report is submitted by this division to the Fire Commissioner, stating that the probationers have become permanent members of the department.

During the past year one hundred twenty-one men were appointed and thirty-seven became permanent members of this department.

2. *Fire College for New Lieutenants*

During the past year a course of instruction was conducted at the fire academy for twenty-five officers of this department promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

3. *Radiological*

This training program is carried on in cooperation with civil defense. In addition to instructing members of this department in radiation hazards and detection, instruction is also given to other fire departments, police departments, and other state and federal agencies.

4. *Boston Fire Department Exhibition Drill Team*

The above drill team was reactivated during the past year to publicize fire prevention within the city. The members (twenty) were instructed by personnel from this division and have participated in several exhibitions and demonstrations.

5. *Aircraft School*

This course of instruction to familiarize members of this department with commercial and military aircraft currently in use and the rescue and fire fighting operations connected therewith was conducted for approximately two hundred members of this department by a member of the Logan Airport Fire Department. This course was sponsored by the Massachusetts Port Authority.

6. *Fire Science Courses*

Courses in fire science have been made available to members of Massachusetts fire departments under chapter 811, Acts of 1967, of the Massachusetts General Laws. During 1969 approximately sixty members of this department, including officers, were enrolled and processed, and approximately eighty-five members participated in these specialized fire-science technology courses in the local community colleges. These courses are conducted evenings. There is no tuition cost to the student, with expenses subsidized by the state and the City of Boston. The specific recommendation of the Chief of Department is required. Massachusetts has the second largest fire science program in the United States.

7. *Safety Driving Program*

An intensive defensive driver training program commenced in June resulted in the effective reduction of the number of accidents caused by drivers of Fire Department vehicles. All accidents were analyzed and reviewed, and members involved in accidents were interviewed and reexamined. The decrease in involvements during the period June to December, 1969, as compared to the period June to December, 1968, was 50 percent as follows:

June	7	4
July	15	8
August	11	7
September	15	1
October	18	9
November	13	7
December	11	12
	90	48

C. *Training Available to Outside Groups*

1. *Fire Service Applicants*

This course of instruction in preparation for the civil service fire entrance examination to be held in 1970 was made available to interested persons in the City of Boston. This course was conducted during the past year at Fire Headquarters by instructors under the supervision of this division in conjunction with the Community Relations Program sponsored by the City of Boston Mayor's Office. Approximately one hundred persons attended this course. Enrollment, instruction, examination, etc., were furnished by this division.

2. *Basic Fire Fighting*

This department cooperates with groups in the city and within the surrounding areas in the drilling and training of personnel in the fundamentals of fire fighting. The facilities of the Fire Academy as well as the classrooms are used. These groups include other fire departments, the military services, industrial establishments, security agencies, municipal organizations, hospitals, retail stores, etc. In addition, members from the various surrounding fire departments have attended our Fire College and Probationers' Drill School.

D. *Surveys*

1. *Inspections and Tests*

Annual surveys, inspections, and tests are carried out throughout the department to determine the condition of the various tools and appliances that are used in the fire service. It is of extreme importance that periodic tests and checks of equipment be carried out to also insure the safety of personnel who may be called upon to use this equipment.

E. *Research*

A very important function of this division is to conduct tests and thoroughly evaluate the merits of new equipment, materials, and appliances developed for the fire service. We are always alert to take advantage of progress made by manufacturers when the purchase of equipment becomes necessary, and manufacturers are encouraged to submit samples of their products for test and evaluation.

F. *Specifications — New Apparatus and Equipment*

During the past year specifications were formulated and made up by this division in cooperation with the Maintenance Division for new apparatus equipped with diesel motors, automatic transmissions, enclosed cabs, etc., as follows: fourteen new pumpers, three ladder trucks, one light plant, and one rescue truck. Hose specifications were also included.

Consideration was also given to new types of fire equipment utilized by other cities or communities throughout the country, and careful study and tests were made where possible to obtain firsthand knowledge of such equipment. An aerial platform on order by this department from a previous year was also included in the above.

The Personnel and Training Division of this department compares favorably with the outstanding training setups throughout the country. We have every reason to believe that this Fire Department will continue to be trained and maintained at its present high caliber and that progress through teaching and training will be the forerunner of greater efficiency.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Large Loss Fires

During the year 1969 the City of Boston experienced several major fires and particularly one large fire which attracted the attention of the nation and brought commendations and favorable comments from all sections of the country, i.e., the National Fire Protection Association, the American Insurance Association and other recognized fire insurance and rating bureaus concerned with the underwriting of the business interests of the nation.

The most spectacular of these fires was the Stop and Shop Warehouse located in the Readville section of this city and extending over the city line into the town of Dedham. This warehouse contained all of the necessary commodities found in large supermarkets. This fire taxed the capabilities of the Boston Fire Department, and once again, through education, training, and esprit de corps, the Boston Fire Department with the combined efforts of the Dedham Fire Department contained this fire to the building of origin.

Another fire worthy of mention was a fire in the Clarendon Hotel in the South End section of the city. The efficient and effective fire-fighting and ladder work of this department resulted in a minimum of injuries and no loss of life in this fire.

Licenses

In the year 1969 receipts from licenses issued totaled $85,861. These receipts have remained on the same level as in the year 1968.

Permits

Permit revenue for the year 1969 amounted to $76,607.79, including miscellaneous permits. This total is considerably smaller than the year 1968, as most of our fuel oil permits are issued on a two-year cycle. Total revenue from all sources for the year 1969 was $162,468.79.

Personnel

The table of organization of this division has been decreased due to a reorganization within the division of the processing of complaints and the instituting of a new type

of inspection program. The inspection program is now based on a saturation of problem areas of the city by a team of Inspectors under the command of a lieutenant. This type of program also allows for the better supervision of vacant buildings and properties that have been allowed to become dilapidated. These inspection teams provide constant coverage of critical areas where, because of federal highways, redevelopment, model cities, etc., large numbers of vacant buildings are found. These men can by this type of inspection work keep the buildings secured against trespass and the elements, which allows for both the prevention of blight in the neighborhood and increases the fire safety of these neighborhoods.

Inspection Forces

The inspection forces of this division have established a program of inspection designed so that the occupants of the premises to be inspected can make no advanced preparations to circumvent the honest viewing of any location. The number of inspections made by the inspection forces of this division totaled 28,296 for the year 1969. Places of assembly were also inspected by these forces — a total of 5,292. Additional inspections were made by the officers in the subdistricts where the places of assembly are located. In locations requiring a specialized knowledge the inspectors of this division specially trained in that field were assigned to make these inspections to ascertain that no fire hazard existed or continued due to a lack of knowledge. All matters concerning other city departments were reported by the inspectors of this division on the necessary forms to the department charged with this responsibility. These totaled 815.

Inspection Squad

The inspection squad of this division is charged with the responsibility of investigating the cause and circumstances of every fire and explosion occurring within the city limits. The results of these investigations are to help determine whether such fire was caused by carelessness, design, or is a violation of law. These investigations are carried on for the use of the Boston Fire Department in removing causes of fires and explosions, apprehending of

culprits responsible for fires, and the turning over of all the facts and evidence to the office of the State Fire Marshal. Many hours of investigation were spent in the course of their duties. Undetermined, suspicious, and incendiary fires totaled five hundred two. Injuries reported and investigated totaled thirty-seven, with deaths attributed to fires totaling twenty-nine. This loss of life reflects a drastic reduction from the year 1968, in which fire deaths totaled fifty-three. Twenty-three arrests were made in the course of a year and 181 Municipal and District Court appearances. Of these one hundred forty-two appearances were made before the Superior Court; two appearances before the U. S. Court; and twenty-three appearances before the Grand Jury. As a result of these appearances and arrests we were able to get forty-three convictions. This work by the inspection squad in obtaining forty-three convictions deserves a "well done" because by arson investigation and detection they have succeeded in obtaining these convictions in one of the most difficult crimes there is to prosecute.

In-Service Inspections

This department continues with its routine In-Service inspections by company units of the department. Information and inspections recorded are appraised in this division, and in those instances where further action is required the inspection report is brought to the attention of fire prevention inspectors for closer study of the problem. His findings are made known to the District Fire Chief and the fire company involved with recommendations and corrective action necessary. These inspections are in excess of 7,000 in the course of a year.

Schools

Every school in the city is inspected with frequency and regularity by a company officer within whose subdistrict the school building is located. A total of 6,800 fire exit drills were held. The Fire Prevention Division maintained a program called the "Boston Junior Fireman" based on the Fire Marshal Plan which has claimed national recognition since its inception in Boston in 1948. This plan is supported by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation

and is aimed at the sixth-grade pupil of public, parochial, and private schools for fire prevention education. The approximate number of pupils lectured on fire prevention during the school year was 72,440. A Junior Fire Department Seminar was held at the Charter House Hotel, Cambridge, with representatives from the various fire departments throughout the New England area attending.

Fire Prevention Activity

The Fire Prevention Division again this year continued its efforts with an around-the-clock program of fire prevention 365 days. Financial assistance is obtained through funds donated by the Fire Prevention Council, which is a citizen-sustained group that aids in the purchase of educational material in our fire prevention program. This includes various news media, prizes, pamphlets, and posters. Their assistance in our effort is extremely valuable.

Again this year, as in the past, the Fire Prevention Division submitted an entry in the National Fire Protection Association Contest, which is a measuring device for the overall fire prevention program. This department placed first in the Commonwealth and fourth in cities of 500,000 population.

Officers and men of the Fire Prevention Division appeared on many and varied live television shows during the week. Film clips and slides were also utilized in the television industry, and spot announcements and talk shows were carried on all local radio stations. Evacuation drills and safety lectures were held at many large public buildings. Local merchants sponsored ads in local newspapers. It is felt that through the use of the various news media, the message of fire safety reached most every citizen of Greater Boston.

Photographic Activity

This unit responds to all multiple alarms, accidents involving Fire Department vehicles or property, special calls for specific photographic records, fire prevention code violations, and fire hazard conditions for correction or prosecution, provides I.D. card photographs, data

assembly and lamination of I.D. cards for issuance to all members appointed or promoted. A total of 12,605 prints were made in the course of the year.

Night Club Inspectors

The constant supervision by the night club inspectors and theater inspectors of this division results in the continuing correction of any violations or deficiencies or overcrowding in places of assembly. The thoroughness with which the fire prevention inspectors follow through on the flameproofing of decorative materials used in the various occupancies within this city, i.e., places of assembly, institutions, theaters, maintains a high level of safety to life from fire in these occupancies.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Maintenance Division is responsible for all testing, repair, maintenance, and preventive maintenance of apparatus and automotive equipment and for repair and maintenance of all buildings and grounds. The foregoing includes approximately two hundred forty pieces of rolling stock, two fireboats, and forty-five buildings. In addition to meeting this heavy schedule, the division is also responsible for compilation of specifications and procurement of new fire apparatus and all other vehicles, purchase and upkeep of fire fighters uniforms and fire clothing, supplies and materials necessary for proper operation, and care of over 304,000 feet of fire hose.

The department's Maintenance Division consists of the main apparatus repair shop, small vehicle shop, machine shop, welding and metal shop, carpenter shop, hose and canvas shop, paint shop, plumbing shop, battery and ignition rooms, uniform and clothing division, and stockroom.

Personnel is comprised of fifty-seven civilian employees, proficient in various skills and crafts, and twenty-two fire fighters assigned to the emergency motor squad.

Probably the most important accomplishment in 1969 was the formulation of new specifications for fire apparatus, which will result in obtaining equipment of superior

quality and design. This was made possible through the combined efforts of the Maintenance and Training Divisions, the professional services of two automotive engineers, and the assistance of a committee comprised of leaders of the trucking industry in this area.

Purchase orders were issued this year under these specifications for:

One 85-foot aerial tower; fourteen 1,250-gallon-per-minute diesel-powered pumping engines; three 100-foot aerial ladder trucks; one rescue truck; one lighting plant; twelve special duty chiefs cars.

Another important program was the completion of the plexiglass protection of the older open-style apparatus. This type of protection, which was designed and fabricated in our shops, is considered throughout the fire service as one of the finest.

Through the cooperation of the Boston School Department and the Detroit Diesel and Allison Divisions of General Motors Corporation, a course of instruction in the operation and maintenance of diesel engines and automatic transmissions was instituted and made available to members of the department.

A comprehensive survey of all department buildings was made with the Public Facilities Commission for the purpose of determining the physical plant condition, with the ultimate goal of renovation or replacement. Construction has begun on two new fire stations in Charlestown and the South End. Land sites have been acquired for two more fire stations in the Hyde Park and Dorchester sections of the city.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

The emergency motor squad, which is manned twenty-four hours a day, responded to over 6,400 calls of varying exigencies throughout the city.

Three new Diamond Reo truck tractors were installed on existing 100-foot aerial ladder trailers. All are equipped with Detroit diesel engines and Allison automatic transmissions, bringing the total amount of units powered with diesel engines to twenty-nine.

Through the generous and able assistance of the Boston Department of Civil Defense, full advantage was taken of the federal Surplus Property program, resulting in the acquisition of the following equipment:

One 3-ton wrecker; one 2½-ton rack body truck; one station wagon; one steam generating unit; one fork lift truck; one electric welding machine; one 1½-ton trailer.

Various and numerous quantities of hardware, metals, tools and supplies were also acquired. These extremely necessary items were purchased at a fraction of their original cost, representing an enormous saving to the department.

New modern-style uniform overcoats and the most advanced protective fire clothing available was issued to members of the department.

The two fireboats were relocated from their berths at Battery Wharf to more suitable facilities at Lincoln Wharf.

High Pressure Pumping Station No. 2 was placed on inactive status; however, it retains the capability of being activated immediately at any time.

Total fire hose tested was 304,250 feet. Brought into shop for repairs, 56,100 feet. Condemned hose for the year, 18,350 feet. New hose received, 36,600 feet.

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

FIRE ALARM OFFICE

A new eight-track magnetic tape recorder has been installed in the office, enabling the simultaneous recording of seven different channels, with identifying time signals recorded in the eighth channel. With this modern equipment it is possible to make recordings of a high degree of intelligibility and to play the recordings back immediately to check any conversation, should the need arise.

A new radio console is now under construction. The installation of this console will permit better and more efficient handling of radio messages. New file equipment is also on order, to replace a filing system which is more than forty years old. This new equipment along with equipment to be ordered this year will allow a more efficient use of manpower assigned to the Fire Alarm Office.

Control lines have been installed between the office and standby transmitters for Channels 1 and 2 which are located at Fire Headquarters in order to insure against the loss of radio communications in the event of another power blackout. These units have been equipped with an emergency generator which automatically supplies them with power in the event of Edison failure at Headquarters. This installation provides the Fire Department with an alternate transmitting site in the event of failure of the main transmitters at the Suffolk County Court House.

The number of alarms handled by the Fire Alarm Office for 1969 are listed under separate headings attached to this report.

Fire Alarm Construction

For quite some time the motor vehicles assigned to the Fire Alarm Division were in very poor condition. A great deal of time of the members of the construction force was spent in waiting for equipment to be repaired either at the shop or out on the road following numerous breakdowns. Due to your efforts and those of Superintendent Walter Kearney the Fire Alarm Division received four new trucks. These trucks arrived just in time for the snowstorms of February. In fact, one of them was sent out to relieve one of the old trucks which had broken

down in Readville. The arrival of these trucks gave the division more dependable transportation, with the added benefit of being able to spend more time in actual work rather than waiting for transportation.

The electricians installed automatic door openers at Engines 12, 14, 24, and 52 and Ladder 23. Engines 31 and 47 were moved from Battery Wharf to Lincoln Wharf, and the members of the cable crew and the electricians installed some 500 feet of new cable for fire alarm, Edison, and telephone service to the new location. The wharf was completely equipped with floodlighting and the necessary protective equipment for the safety of the fireboats using this equipment.

The electricians installed an emergency generator at Fire Headquarters which will automatically supply the standby radio transmitters and the Radio Shop with power in the event of loss of Edison service.

Due to excessive vandalism in certain parts of the city it is impossible to keep the traditional red globe on fire alarm boxes in these areas. Tests have been conducted with a new type of light in order to determine their resistance to vandalism. Talks are now under way with the Edison Company about the future of these lights.

Consolidation and relocation of certain fire alarm boxes has been carried on this year and will be carried on in the future. Because of this and the efforts of the false alarm squad, false alarms have decreased this year by almost 1,000.

Reports covering the installation of new boxes and relocation of old boxes, the amount of cable work done, and other activities of the construction force are listed under separate headings attached to this report.

Radio Shop

During the year the Radio Shop installed a radio tower at the quarters of Engine 55. This was done in order to improve radio communications in the West Roxbury-Hyde Park area. At the same time a transmitter-receiver on Channel 1 and a receiver on Channel 2 were installed at this location. The use of this site was more than justified during the Stop and Shop Warehouse fire.

The installation of a house paging and alarm system and a radio system were set up at Engine 5.

The installation of the new electronic sirens on some of the older pieces of apparatus not now equipped was begun.

The radio shop received two new vans which have aided materially in their work of maintaining the radio system. Both have been equipped to act as both command posts and public address facilities. They present a more representative appearance for the Fire Department than did the two worn-out trucks which they replaced.

The radio shop has been conducting experiments into the use of a vocal alarm system. This system will use the present gong system wires. Tests indicate that this system is practical, and the first units should be in operation by September 1. The Fire Department should have complete vocal alarm service by May of 1971.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF ALARMS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS TRANSMITTED
(To Which Apparatus Responded)

	1967	1968	1969
First alarms (boxes)	15,199	14,374	13,603
Still alarms — NET TOTAL	16,943	27,388	25,426
Total Alarms — Boston only	32,142	41,762	39,029
Mutual Aid	169	254	212
TOTAL ALARMS	32,311	42,016	39,241

TELEPHONE ALARMS

	1967	1968	1969
Alarms received from citizens	9,424	12,393	11,823
Percent of total alarms	29.2	29.5	30.1

FALSE ALARMS

	1967	1968	1969
Total false alarms	10,882	14,366	13,429
Percent of total alarms	33.7	34.2	34.2

NOTE: The first electric telegraph system for fire alarm in the world was installed in Boston and cost $16,000. It consisted of forty miles of wire, forty-five signal boxes, or stations, and sixteen 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, 1969, 607,268.

ANALYSIS OF STILL ALARMS

	1967	1968	1969
Received from citizens by telephone	9,424	12,393	11,823
Received from Police Department	1,397	2,078	1,873
Received from Fire Department	1,619	1,877	1,934
Boxes received — treated as stills	6,731	14,238	12,837
Emergency calls — treated as stills	3,097	3,504	3,443
† Received from Boston Automatic F. A. Division	363	470	384
* Received from A. D. T.	98	94	63
* Received from C. P. S.	52	85	58
* Received from Hyde Park Alarm System	7	17	21
* Received from I. S. A.	0	0	2
GROSS TOTALS	22,788	34,756	32,438
DEDUCT			
Still alarms received for which box alarms were pulled after still and box alarms were transmitted	328	655	688
Still alarms received for which box alarms were transmitted	5,517	6,710	6,324
NET TOTAL STILL ALARMS (Boston)	16,943	27,391	254,26
MUTUAL AID ALARMS	169	254	212

* Does not include alarms received after alarms 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.

† Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company changed to AFA Protective Systems, Inc., as per General Order No. 42/1969 dated October 21, 1969.

ORIGIN OF ALARMS

	1967		1968		1969	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Box alarms	16,085	49.8	21,244	50.5	19,428	49.5
Citizens by telephone	9,424	29.2	12,393	29.5	11,823	30.1
Boxes received after telephone call	328	1.0	655	1.5	688	1.7
Police Department	1,397	4.3	2,078	5.0	1,873	4.8
Fire Department	1,619	5.0	1,877	4.5	1,934	4.9
A. F. A.	363	1.1	470	1.1	384	1.0
A. D. T.	98	0.3	94	0.2	63	0.2
C. P. S.	52	0.2	85	0.2	58	0.1
H. P. A. S.	7	0.0	17	0.1	21	0.0
I. S. A.	—	0.0	—	0.0	2	0.0
Mutual Aid	169	0.5	254	0.6	212	0.6
Emergency calls	3,097	9.6	3,504	8.3	3,443	8.8
TOTALS	32,311	100.0	42,016	100.0	39,241	100.0

MUTUAL AID ALARMS—1969

	Response of Boston to Outside Cities and Towns	Response of Adjacent Cities and Towns to Boston
Brookline	59	249
Cambridge	18	19
Chelsea	19	14
Dedham	19	12
Everett	2	5
Milton	5	10
Newton	13	39
Quincy	18	26
Revere	0	2
Somerville	42	49
Watertown	0	1
Winthrop	16	25
TOTALS	211	451

MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Two Alarms	103	139	129	138	120
Three Alarms	43	40	37	40	32
Four Alarms	11	16	14	13	6
Five Alarms	9	7	4	10	3
TOTALS	166	202	184	201	161

SUMMARY OF MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES—1969 ACCORDING TO MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Month	Two Alarm	Three Alarm	Four Alarm	Five Alarm	Total
January	10	5	3	0	18
February	9	3	0	1	13
March	17	0	0	0	17
April	12	6	1	0	19
May	14	3	1	0	18
June	10	3	0	1	14
July	9	1	0	0	10
August	15	3	1	1	20
September	5	1	0	0	6
October	5	3	0	0	8
November	10	3	0	0	13
December	4	1	0	0	5
Totals	120	32	6	3	161

SUMMARY OF FIRE ALARM BOXES

Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1968		2,316
Fire alarm boxes installed during period January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1969	15	
Fire alarm boxes removed during period January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1969	13	
Net Increase in Number of Fire Alarm Boxes		2
Total Number of Fire Alarm Boxes in Service as of December 31, 1969		2,318

DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE ALARM BOXES

DISTRICTS

District 1	124	District 7	192
District 2	131	District 8	273
District 3	159	District 9	213
District 4	185	District 10	412
District 5	221	District 11	206
District 6	202		

DIVISIONS

Division 1	801
Division 2	1,517

FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1969

Date	Box	District	Location
Jan. 9	13-136	3	Boston Public Library, West End Branch, 151 Cambridge Street
Mar. 11	13-5195	11	St. Gabriel's Convent, 139 Washington Street
April 15	13-2353	5	Beth Israel Hospital, Female Residence, 100 Riverway
May 23	12-3594	8	Riverview Apartments, 430 River Street
June 13	6256	1	Vallar Road, near No. 41
July 6	12-319	7	Public Library, 1520 Dorchester Avenue
Aug. 28	12-2178	9	William Monroe Trotter School, 135 Humboldt Avenue
Sept. 3	15-3432	8	Dorchester High School Annex No. 2, rear Dorchester High School
Sept. 3	12-259	9	Charles Sumner District Extension, 515 to 525 Hyde Park Avenue
Oct. 1	7117	6	Northern Avenue at Pier 4
Oct. 7	15-2484	9	Novitiate, Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul Avenue
Oct. 10	13-5184	11	Mother House, Sisters of St. Joseph, 625 Cambridge Street
Nov. 6	13-1367	3	Massachusetts Teachers Association Building, 20 Ashburton Place
Nov. 13	13-2547	9	Jamaica Towers Nursing Home, 174 Forest Hills Street
Nov. 28	15-2332	5	Northeastern University, Bipartite Building, 40 Forsyth Street

FIRE ALARM BOXES REMOVED IN 1969

Date	Box	District	Location
Jan. 9	1357	3	Cambridge Street, opposite Joy
Jan. 24	1324	3	Scollay Square, opposite Hanover Street
Mar. 26	1813	6	Montpelier Road, opposite No. 20
Mar. 26	5196	11	Fidelis Way, opposite No. 35
Mar. 28	5198	11	Fidelis Way, opposite No. 18
May 5	1668	5	City Hospital, South Department, 745 Massachusetts Avenue
May 29	6226	1	Bennington and Trident Streets
May 29	6254	1	Faywood Avenue, opposite No. 174
May 29	6256	1	Vallar Road, opposite No. 29
May 29	6259	1	Waldemar Avenue, opposite No. 230
May 30	6233	1	Beachview and Drumlin Roads
June 13	6257	1	Vallar Road, opposite No. 41
Oct. 10	4157	2	Boston & Maine Railroad Yard, off Rutherford Avenue, near Shed No. 25

FIRE ALARM CONSTRUCTION FORCE

UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION — 1969

		Installed		Removed	
Number of Conductors	Type of Cable	Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors	Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors
4	Polyethylene P.V.C.	2,150	8,600	—	—
7	Polyethylene P.V.C.	3,935	26,545	—	—
10	Polyethylene P.V.C.	4,062	40,620	—	—
10	Rubber-lead	—	—	1,185	11,850
19	Polethylene P.V.C.	8,015	152,285	—	—
19	Rubber-lead	—	—	875	16,625
	Polyethylene P.V.C.	1,220	45,140	—	—
	Totals	19,382	273,190	2,060	28,475

OVERHEAD CONSTRUCTION — 1969

Number of Conductors	Type of Cable	Installed Feet	Removed Feet
	Polyethylene P.V.C.	7,195	—
	Polyethylene P.V.C.	3,050	—
9	T.B.W.P., P.V.C.		11,825
	Totals	10,245	11,825

Knockdowns attended to	277
Multiple alarms responded to	0
Fire alarm boxes installed to replace defective and obsolete movements	65
Fire alarm boxes installed into Fire Alarm System	24
Aerial construction on poles, transfers, removals, installations, etc.	196

CITY OF BOSTON '71 31 PRINTING SECTION