

RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
ENGINE, HOSE, HYDRANT, HOOK AND LADDER,
AND OTHER
COMPANIES,
ATTACHED TO THE BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.
ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS, JULY 1ST, 1851,
AND
APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, JULY 14TH, 1851.

ART. 1. All the companies of the department shall be furnished with a copy of the fire ordinance, and the rules and regulations, which shall be framed and placed in their respective houses, and it shall be the duty of the officers and members of the department to conform to all the requisitions and perform all the duties therein required.

ART. 2. The hose, hydrant, and hook and ladder companies are not allowed to leave the city under any consideration whatever, unless permitted by the board.

ART. 3. If any engine or fire apparatus be so damaged that immediate repairs are necessary, it may be taken forthwith to a suitable person to be repaired; but no repairs shall be made until information of such damage and place is given to the chief engineer, that he may order or superintend such repairs. Provided, that in case such information cannot be readily given to the chief engineer, it may be given to the assistant engineer living in the ward in which the engine or apparatus is located, who will report to the chief engineer as soon as may be. All bills for work done of any kind are to be presented for approbation immediately after the work is completed and delivered.

ART. 4. The utmost order, silence and decorum will be preserved in going to, working at, and returning from a fire, and the use of rattles, horns and all unnecessary noises, and the smoking of pipes and cigars are strictly prohibited; on no occasion will the engines and other apparatus be conveyed on the side-walk without the special permission of an engineer, nor will any company be permitted to run their engines or other carriage in returning from a fire or alarm, or by each other.

ART. 5. The foreman or commanding officer of each company will remain by his company or apparatus, of which he has charge, to preserve order and direct their operations, and all members of the several companies, except when otherwise engaged on special duty, will remain at or about the apparatus to which they are attached.

ART. 6. Members of each company are to have the control of the apparatus committed to their care, which is not to be handled, used, or in any way meddled with by the members of other companies, unless by permission of the officers of the company having charge of said apparatus, or special order of an engineer.

ART. 7. It is required of the members of the department to avoid setting open the doors or windows of a building where fire may be, until a supply of water can be procured; and when water is obtained, to apply it judiciously and directly to the part on fire, and carefully avoid damaging furniture or goods by water.

ART. 8. On arrival at a fire, the first engine or hydrant company will immediately proceed to the nearest reservoir or hydrant from which a supply of water can be obtained.

All engines in the line, except the one playing on the fire, will have the whole of their hose extended, which shall always consist of no less than two hundred and fifty feet, and hose from the hydrant companies, which shall not consist of less than five hundred feet on each carriage, will not be called for until their own is all in use.

Engine companies will not call on each other for hose, but upon any engineer, who will order the necessary quantity from a hydrant or engine company.

ART. 9. The hook and ladder companies will take position when practicable within lines, and as near the fire, as under all circumstances, may be found convenient.

The commanding officers of these companies will, immediately on their arrival, report themselves to any engineer.

ART. 10. No company shall be allowed to draw water from the reservoirs, or to use the hydrants except in case of fire.

ART. 11. To prevent serious trouble and inconvenience to the department by walking their engines and apparatus abreast of each other in returning from fires and alarms, it is ordered, that the members of the department have the apparatus under their charge conveyed in a direct line on the right of the street, while returning from a fire or alarm.

ART. 12. FINES.—All members of the several companies neglecting to attend to a fire or an alarm, shall be subject to a fine of twenty-five cents, and the clerk shall make a return of the same to the Engineer's office on the first day of every month.

AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A FIRE DEPARTMENT,
AND PROVIDING FOR
PREVENTING AND EXTINGUISHING FIRES.

*Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council,
of the City of Boston, in City Council assembled:—*

SECT. 1. The fire department shall consist of a chief engineer, nine other engineers, and of as many enginemen, hydrant-men, and hook and ladder men, to be divided into companies, as the number of engines and the number and quantity of other fire apparatus belonging to the City shall from time to time require.

SECT. 2. There shall be chosen annually, by the city council, in the months of January or February, a chief engineer and nine other engineers, who shall hold their offices one year and until others are chosen in their places; provided, however, that no assistant engineer shall hold over in case five of the new board are elected; and in all cases of holding over, preference shall be given to seniority of age.

SECT. 3. The city council may, by a concurrent vote at any time, remove from office the chief engineer, or any of the other engineers; and the mayor and aldermen may at any time discharge any or all of the officers or members of either of said companies.

SECT. 4. Each engineer shall, upon his appointment, receive a written or printed certificate or warrant, in the words following, viz:

“This certifies that A. B. is appointed an engineer (or chief engineer) of the fire department of the city of Boston, and is entitled to all the immunities belonging to said office.

Given under my hand this day of A. D. 18
 Mayor.

City Clerk.”

And the respective rank of the engineers shall be determined by the mayor and aldermen.

SECT. 5. The engineers, so chosen, shall meet and organize themselves into a board of engineers, a majority of whom shall form a quorum, and of which, in the absence of the chief engineer, the senior engineer present shall be presiding officer; and they may appoint such secretary or other officers, and make such rules and regulations for their own government, as they may see fit, and such secretary shall receive such compensation as the city council may deem expedient. They shall be responsible for the discipline, good order and proper conduct of the whole department, both officers and men, and for the care of all houses, engines, hose carriages, and other furniture and apparatus thereto belonging. They shall have the superintendence and control of all the engine and other houses used for the purposes of the fire department, and of all furniture and apparatus thereto belonging, and of the engines and all other fire apparatus belonging to the city, and over the officers and members of the several companies attached to the fire department, and over all persons present at fires, and they may make such rules and regulations for the better government, discipline, and good order of the department, and for the extinguishment of fires, as they may from time to time, think expedient, the same not being repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth, or to any ordinance of the city, and being subject to the approbation of the mayor and aldermen. The assistant engineers shall report their absences from fires to the chief engineer, with the reasons therefor, who shall keep a record of the same, and make report thereof, stating all the facts to the city council, every year prior to the election of engineers. In the absence of the chief engineer, the clerk shall make said record and report.

SECT. 6. It shall be the duty of said engineers, whenever a fire shall break out in the city, immediately to repair to the place of such fire, and to carry with them a suitable staff or badge of their office; to take proper measures that the several engines and other apparatus be arranged in the most advantageous situations, and duly worked for the effectual extinguishment of the fire; to require and compel assistance from all persons, as well members of the fire department as others, in extinguishing the fire, removing furniture, goods, or other merchandize from any building on fire, or in danger thereof, and to appoint guards to secure the same; and also in pulling down and demolishing any house or building if occasion require, or further to suppress all tumults and disorders. It shall also be their duty to cause order to be preserved in going to, working at, or return-

ing from fires, and at all other times when companies attached to the department are on duty.

SECT. 7. Whenever any fire occurs in either of the adjoining towns, it shall be the duty of only such and so many of said engineers to repair to such towns, as shall have been previously designated for such purpose by the board of engineers.

SECT. 8. The chief engineer shall have the sole command at fires over all the other engineers, all members of the fire department, and all other persons who may be present at fires, and shall direct all proper measures for the extinguishment of fires, protection of property, preservation of order, and observance of the laws, ordinances and regulations respecting fires; and it shall be the duty of said chief engineer to examine into the condition of the engines and all other fire apparatus, and of the engine and other houses belonging to the city and used for the purposes of the fire department and of the companies attached to the said department, as often as circumstances may render it expedient, or whenever directed so to do by the mayor and aldermen, or by the committee of the board of aldermen, on the fire department, and annually to report the same to the mayor and aldermen, and oftener if thereunto requested; also, to cause a full description of the same together with the names of the officers and members of the fire department, to be published annually in such manner as the mayor and aldermen shall direct; and whenever the engines or other fire apparatus, engine or other houses used by the fire department, require alterations, additions, or repairs, the chief engineer, under the direction of the board of aldermen or of the committee on the fire department, shall cause the same to be made; and it shall be moreover the duty of the chief engineer to receive and transmit to the board of aldermen all returns of officers, members and fire apparatus, made by the respective companies as hereinafter prescribed, and all other communications, relating to the affairs of the fire department; to keep fair and exact rolls of the respective companies, specifying the time of admission and discharge, and the age of each member; to report in writing to the city clerk, who shall keep a record of the same, once in each year, or oftener if directed so to do by the mayor and aldermen, all accidents by fire which may happen within the city, with the causes thereof, as well as can be ascertained, and the number and description of the buildings destroyed or injured, together with the names of the owners or occupants.

SECT. 9. In case of the absence of the chief engineer, the engineer next in rank who may be present, shall execute the duties of his office, with full powers.

SECT. 10. As many engine, hydrant, and hook and ladder companies shall from time to time be formed by the mayor and aldermen, as they shall deem expedient, and each of said companies shall consist of as many men as said mayor and aldermen may determine, who shall be appointed exclusively by them.

SECT. 11. No person under twenty-one years of age shall be employed as a member of the fire department; nor shall any person be so employed, who is not a citizen of the United States, and a legal voter in the city of Boston.

SECT. 12. The terms of service for the members of the fire department shall commence on the first day of the month, and shall continue for periods of six months each. And every officer or member who shall not serve the whole of said period of six months, and in the same company in which he enters, except in cases of sickness, death, or removal from the city, or who shall be removed therefrom for cause, shall forfeit any and all compensation that would otherwise have been due to him at the time when such service ceased, or such removal took place.

SECT. 13. Every company shall have a foreman, an assistant foreman, a clerk, and a steward, who shall be nominated by the members to the board of engineers; and being by them approved, their names shall be sent to the board of mayor and aldermen for approval or rejection, and in case of rejection, another person shall be nominated as aforesaid, before the next meeting of the mayor and aldermen; and these officers when elected shall receive certificates of appointment signed by the mayor, and shall hold their places until removed or until others are appointed in their stead.

SECT. 14. Whenever any person shall have received his certificate of appointment to any office under this ordinance, he shall thereby be immediately invested with all the authority conferred, and subject to all the duties imposed by the laws, the city ordinances, and the rules and regulations of the fire department, until discharged therefrom, either by death or resignation, or by order of the mayor and aldermen, or the board of engineers, as hereinafter provided for, and the vacancy occasioned by his discharge shall be filled, as soon as may be, in the manner herein prescribed.

SECT. 15. It shall be the duty of the foremen to see that the several engines and apparatus committed to their care, and the several buildings in which the same are deposited, and all things in or belonging to the same, are kept neat, clean, and in order for immediate use; it shall also be their duty to preserve order and discipline at all times in their respective companies, and require and enforce a

strict compliance with the city ordinances, the rules and regulations of the department and the orders of the engineers. They shall also keep, or cause to be kept by the clerk of their respective companies, fair and exact rolls, specifying the time of admission, discharge and age of each member, and accounts of all city property entrusted to the care of the several members, and of all absences and tardiness among the same, in a book provided for that purpose by the city, which rolls or record books are always to be subject to the order of the board of engineers and the mayor and aldermen. They shall also make or cause to be made to the chief engineer, true and accurate returns of all the members, with their ages, and the apparatus entrusted to their care, whenever called upon so to do.

SECT. 16. It shall be the duty of the officers and members of the several engine, hydrant, and hook and ladder companies, whenever a fire shall break out in the city, to repair forthwith to their respective engines, hose, hook and ladder carriages, and other apparatus, and to convey them, in as orderly manner as may be, to or near the place where the fire may be, in conformity with the directions of the chief or other engineers; to exert themselves in the most orderly manner possible, in working and managing the said engines, hose, hook and ladders, and other apparatus; and in performing any duty that they may be called upon to do, by any engineer; and upon permission of the chief or other engineer, shall in an orderly and quiet manner return said engines, hose, hook and ladder carriages, and other apparatus, to their respective places of deposit. *Provided*, that in the absence of all the engineers such direction and permission may be given by their respective foremen.

SECT. 17. Any officer or other member may be removed or dismissed from the fire department by a vote of the chief engineer and two thirds of the assistant engineers: and said vote shall be final, unless in the case of officers, the same shall be reversed by the mayor and aldermen within fourteen days after it shall have been passed.

SECT. 18. In all cases of removal from office by the engineers, the name of the party removed, with a statement of the reasons therefor, shall be entered on their records, and a copy of the same shall be transmitted to the board of mayor and aldermen, before their next regular meeting.

SECT. 19. No officer, who may have been dismissed or removed from the fire department, shall be reinstated therein, unless by a vote of the chief engineer and two thirds of the assistant engineers, and, in such case, said vote shall not take effect until confirmed by the board

of mayor and aldermen, and no member shall be reinstated except by a vote of three fourths of the mayor and aldermen.

SECT. 20. Every company shall have two or more suction hose men and three or more leading hose men, to be appointed by the foremen of such company, subject to the approval of the board of engineers, and they shall hold their places for six months, unless sooner removed by the said board. For the purposes of discharge and removal, suction and leading hose men shall be regarded as members and not as officers.

SECT. 21. The steward shall hold his office in like manner for not less than six months. It shall be his duty to keep clean the house, the engine, hose, or other apparatus which may belong to the company, to clear the snow in winter from the sidewalk connected with the house, and generally to see that the engine and apparatus are ready for immediate use.

SECT. 22. The engineers and members of the several companies regularly appointed, shall wear such caps, badges, or insignia, as the mayor and aldermen shall from time to time direct, to be furnished at the expense of the city, and no other person or persons shall be permitted to wear the same, except under such restrictions and regulations as the mayor and aldermen may direct.

SECT. 23. No uniform, unless such caps, badges, or insignia as are prescribed from time to time by the mayor and aldermen, shall be allowed to be worn on any occasion, as firemen, by either officers or men belonging to the department.

SECT. 24. No company shall have power to appoint or discharge any officer or member.

SECT. 25. No company shall leave the city, in case of fire in the neighboring towns, excepting by the express order of the chief engineer, or one of the assistant engineers; and no company shall leave the city on an excursion, or appear in the streets, as firemen, except in case of an alarm of fire, unless by the express direction and permission of the city council.

SECT. 26. The lower story only of the engine, hydrant, and hook and ladder houses, shall be appropriated to the use of the department; and no furniture or decoration shall be allowed, except such as is furnished by the city.

SECT. 27. No associations, or organized societies, or clubs of firemen, as such, shall be allowed, except by the express permission of the city council.

SECT. 28. No company shall be allowed to impose fines upon its members; but it shall be the duty of the clerk of each company to

enter in the roll book provided by the city, all absences and tardiness of each officer and member of said company; and to make a monthly return of the same to the board of engineers. And for every absence or tardiness, except in the case of sickness, there shall be deducted from the pay of each officer or member, such sum not exceeding fifty cents, as the said board may order and determine. And if any officer or member shall have been absent or tardy at more than one third of the fires, or alarms of fires, except in case of sickness, during the month, such absence or tardiness shall be considered good cause for his discharge from the department, if more than five.

SECT. 29. Any officer or member of the fire department who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform his duty, or shall be guilty of disorderly conduct or disobedience to his superiors in office, shall for such offence be dismissed from the department; and if any officer or member, who shall offend against any ordinance of the city relating to the fire department, shall, in addition to the liability of dismissal, be liable to a penalty of not less than five, nor more than twenty dollars for each offence.

SECT. 30. Every member and every officer of the fire department shall sign the following statement, to be deposited with the board of engineers. "I, A. B., having been appointed a member of "the Boston Fire Department, hereby signify my agreement to abide "by all the ordinances of the City Council, and the rules and regulations of the mayor and aldermen, and the board of engineers relating thereto." And any officer or member, who shall neglect or refuse to sign the same, shall not be entitled to any compensation whatsoever.

SECT. 31. It shall be the duty of the chief engineer, or other engineers, to report to the mayor and aldermen, the name of every person not a member of either of said companies, who shall, contrary to law, refuse or neglect to obey any orders of any engineer, given at any fire.

SECT. 32. It shall be the duty of such of the constables or police officers of the city, as may be selected by the engineers for that service, to repair with their staves or such other badges of office as the mayor and aldermen shall direct, on the alarm of fire, immediately to the place where the fire may be, and there to use their best skill and power under the direction of the chief engineer, for the preservation of the public peace, the prevention of theft, and destruction of property, and the removal of all suspected persons; for which service the constables or police officers shall receive such compensation as shall be in each case ordered by the mayor and aldermen.

SECT. 33. Immediately on the alarm of fire, during the night, it shall be the duty of the respective watchmen to give notice thereof within their respective districts, by springing their rattles, crying "fire," or ringing a bell, and mentioning the street or direction where it may be; and if any watchman shall neglect so to do, he shall forfeit and pay two dollars, and if it shall happen that a chimney only shall be on fire, either by night or day, the bell shall not be rung, but only when a building is proclaimed to be on fire.

SECT. 34. Whenever it shall be adjudged, at any fire, by any three or more of the engineers, of whom the chief engineer, if present, shall be one, to be necessary, in order to prevent the further spreading of the fire, to pull down or otherwise demolish any building, the same may be done by their joint order.

SECT. 35. It shall be the duty of the chief and other engineers to inquire for and examine into all shops and other places, where shavings or other such combustible materials may be collected and deposited, and at all times to be vigilant in taking care of the removal of the same, whenever in the opinion of any two of them the same may be dangerous to the security of the city from fires, and to direct the tenant or occupant of said shops or other places to remove the same; and, in case of such tenant's or occupant's neglect or refusal so to do, to cause the same to be removed at the expense of such tenant or occupant, who shall in addition be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty dollars for such neglect or refusal; and any person, who shall obstruct the engineers or any of them in carrying out the provisions of this section, shall also be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty dollars. It shall also be the duty of said engineers to take cognizance of, and to cause prosecutions to be instituted in all cases of infraction of the laws relative to the erection of wooden buildings, or of any other laws or ordinances for the prevention of fire within the limits of the city.

SECT. 36. The power of making and establishing rules and regulations for the transportation and keeping of gunpowder within the city of Boston, and of granting licenses for the keeping and sale thereof in the city, according to the provisions of an act entitled "an act further regulating the storage, safe keeping, and transportation of gunpowder in the city of Boston," and of any other act or acts on the same subject, shall be exercised and performed by the chief and other engineers, and the power and duty of seizing any gunpowder kept or being within the city or harbor thereof contrary to the provisions of the said act or acts, shall be exercised and performed by the said engineers or any of them; and in case of any seizure being

made by any engineer other than the chief, he shall forthwith report to the chief engineer, who shall cause the said gunpowder to be libelled and prosecuted in the manner prescribed in the said acts, and all the other powers and duties granted or enjoined in and by the said act or acts, shall be performed by the said chief or one of the other engineers.

SECT. 37. All moneys received for fines, forfeitures and penalties, arising under this ordinance and the laws of this commonwealth, regulating the storage and transportation of gunpowder, the erection of buildings within the city of Boston, and the prevention and extinguishment of fire, unless by such laws otherwise specially provided, shall be paid into the treasury of the city, to be applied in such way as is provided in the acts of this commonwealth.

SECT. 38. Every person, who shall have served according to law in the fire department for seven successive years, shall be entitled to receive a certificate thereof, signed by the mayor of said city, and all persons who shall receive said certificate as aforesaid, shall be entitled to wear the badge of the department, and to do duty therein, when desired so to do by the mayor and aldermen under such organization and management as they may determine.

SECT. 39. There shall be paid annually to each member of the department such sum as the city council may from time to time determine; and in case of the temporary absence from the city of any member, for forty-eight hours or more, he shall provide a substitute, to be approved by the foreman of his company, whose name he shall return to the clerk of the same, failing in which he shall forfeit one month's compensation, provided the same may be due to him up to the time of such absence.

SECT. 40. The members of the several companies shall not assemble in the houses entrusted to their care, except for the purpose of nominating officers, taking the engine or apparatus on an alarm of fire, and of returning the same to the house, and taking the necessary care of said apparatus after its return.

SECT. 41. This ordinance shall take effect on and after the first day of July next; and an ordinance "establishing a fire department and providing for preventing and extinguishing fires," passed June 4th, 1850, shall on said day expire, and be thereafter of no effect and void: with the exception of the section thereof, relating to the burning of chimneys, stove pipes or flues. And all officers or members of the Fire Department appointed under said ordinance shall on that day be removed therefrom, and shall be entitled to pay *pro rata* to that time.

In Common Council, May 26, 1851.

Passed. Sent up for concurrence.

FRANCIS BRINLEY, *President.*

In Board of Mayor and Aldermen, June 2, 1851.

Passed in concurrence.

JOHN P. BIGELOW, *Mayor.*

AN ORDINANCE

In addition to an Ordinance in relation to the Fire Department,
passed June 2d, 1851.

*Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of
the City of Boston, in City Council assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. The term of service for the members of the Fire Department shall commence on the first day of the month, and shall continue for periods of six months each. And every officer or member who shall not serve the whole of said period of six months, except in cases of sickness, death, or removal from the City, or who shall be removed therefrom for cause, shall forfeit any and all compensation that would otherwise have been due to him at the time when such service ceased, or such removal took place.

SECT. 2. Every company shall have a foreman, an assistant foreman, a clerk, and a steward, who shall be nominated annually in the month of January by the members to the Board of Engineers; and being by them approved, their names shall be sent to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for approval or rejection, and in case of rejection, another person shall be nominated as aforesaid before the next meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen; and these officers, when elected, shall receive certificates of appointment, signed by the Mayor, and shall hold their places until removed, or others are appointed in their stead.

SECT. 3. No company shall be allowed to impose fines upon its members; but it shall be the duty of the clerk of each company to enter in the roll book provided by the City, all absence and tardiness of each officer and member of said company; and to make a monthly return of the same to the Board of Engineers. And for every absence or tardiness, except in case of sickness, there shall be deducted from the pay of such officer or member the sum of twenty-five cents, which amount so deducted shall be paid over at the end of each month to the treasurer of the company to which the member so fined shall belong, to meet the incidental expenses of the company. And

if any officer or member shall have been absent or tardy at more than one third of the fires, or alarms of fires, except in case of sickness, during the month, such absence or tardiness shall be considered good cause for his discharge from the Department, if more than five.

SECT. 5. The 12th, 13th and 28th sections of the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance establishing a Fire Department, and providing for preventing and extinguishing fires, passed on the second day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, are hereby repealed.

In Common Council, December 30, 1852.

Passed, and ordered to be printed.

Sent up for concurrence.

HENRY J. GARDNER, *President.*

In Board of Mayor and Aldermen,

December 31, 1852.

Passed in concurrence.

BENJAMIN SEAVER, *Mayor.*