

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
AND WIRE DIVISION  
OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1933



CITY OF BOSTON  
PRINTING DEPARTMENT  
1934

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ANNUAL REPORT  
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FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1933.

Boston, April 1, 1934.

HON. FREDERICK W. MANSFIELD,  
*Mayor of the City 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, 1933, as required by section 24, chapter 4, of the Revised Ordinances of 1925.

FIRE LOSS.

The total fire loss for the City of Boston, estimated by the insurance companies, amounted to \$2,359,806. This is \$1,890,362 less than the loss for 1932. This is the lowest fire loss paid in the City of Boston since the year 1912 and shows the effect of the constant and vigilant inspection work being performed by the Fire Department.

In addition, the constant and thorough drive on suspicious and incendiary fires undoubtedly accounts for a great saving in the fire loss of this city. It was not until 1931 that the Fire Commissioner was authorized by the Legislature to investigate the crime of arson and incendiarism in the City of Boston. When this authority was finally granted, an Arson Unit was created within the Fire Department, under the direction of a deputy chief. A force of investigators was

kept on duty twenty-four hours a day and police officers were detailed to assist in the investigations by the Police Commissioner. There are no delays in the investigation of suspicious fires in the City of Boston at the present time.

In connection with this tremendous reduction in the fire loss, it is worthy of mention here that large fires and a heavy fire loss generally accompany a depression in business conditions. While New England, as well as the nation as a whole, has been suffering from the effects of a business depression, it has been possible for the Fire Department of the City of Boston to effect a considerable reduction in the fire loss.

During the year the department responded to 9,093 alarms, of which 5,496 were box alarms and 3,597 were still and automatic alarms. There were 1,573 false alarms in Boston during the year 1933, an increase of 405 over the year 1932.

#### FIRE PREVENTION.

As I have already stated, the fire prevention work of the Fire Department has been very diligently performed by the inspection force of the Fire Prevention Division, as well as by district and company officers. The effect of this work has been reflected in the great reduction in the fire loss.

During the year all classes of buildings, with the exception of one and two family dwellings, were inspected at regular intervals.

Number of inspections . . . . .	299,141
Number of reinspections . . . . .	12,107
Number of complaints, reported . . . . .	8,217
Number of corrections . . . . .	24,221
Number of personal inspections by officers of Fire Prevention Division . . . . .	2,732
Oil burners inspector . . . . .	1,916
Total number of inspections and reinspections . . . . .	<u>348,334</u>

Reports of hazardous conditions were sent to other departments as follows:

Reports sent to Building Department . . . . .	1,211
Reports sent to Health Department . . . . .	3
Reports sent to School Buildings Department . . . . .	3
Personal services by Constable . . . . .	434

In addition to the inspections made by the Fire Prevention Division, the district and company officers made the following number of inspections:

Building inspections . . . . .	65,616
Theater inspections . . . . .	3,944
Schoolhouse inspections . . . . .	3,781
Public buildings . . . . .	833
Car House inspections . . . . .	72
Deer Island monthly inspections by District 1 . . . . .	12
Long Island monthly inspections by District 3 . . . . .	12
	<u>74,272</u>

Under authority granted the Fire Commissioner, chapter 383, Acts of 1931, to investigate suspicious fires in the City of Boston, every fire in the city which had any aspect of incendiarism was thoroughly investigated by the Fire Prevention Division. These investigations included 107 fires which were reported as of suspicious origin and 246 which were reported as of unknown or undetermined origin, making a total of 353 investigations by the Arson Unit. I submit below a table showing in brief the amount of work done by this unit during the past year:

Number of persons interviewed at Fire Prevention office, . . . . .	31
Number of hearings held at Fire Alarm Office, Fenway, . . . . .	35
Number of hearings held, that on account of insufficient evidence were not presented to District Attorney . . . . .	14
Number of hearings presented to District Attorney for consideration as to prosecution . . . . .	21
Number of cases arraigned in Municipal Court . . . . .	2
Cases held for Grand Jury . . . . .	2
Number of cases presented to Grand Jury by District Attorney . . . . .	15
(a) Number of cases where indictments were returned . . . . .	12
(b) Number of No Bills returned . . . . .	3
Number of cases awaiting action by District Attorney . . . . .	6
Number of trials . . . . .	28
Number of cases — conviction obtained . . . . .	15
Number of persons convicted . . . . .	20
Number of persons found not guilty . . . . .	26
Number of persons arrested . . . . .	25
Number of persons under indictment and awaiting trial . . . . .	15
Number of persons summoned at hearings . . . . .	357
(a) Department witnesses . . . . .	184
(b) Civilian witnesses . . . . .	172
(c) Interpreters . . . . .	1

At the present time six members of the Fire Department are assigned to the Arson Unit, assisted by four police officers from Police Headquarters.

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

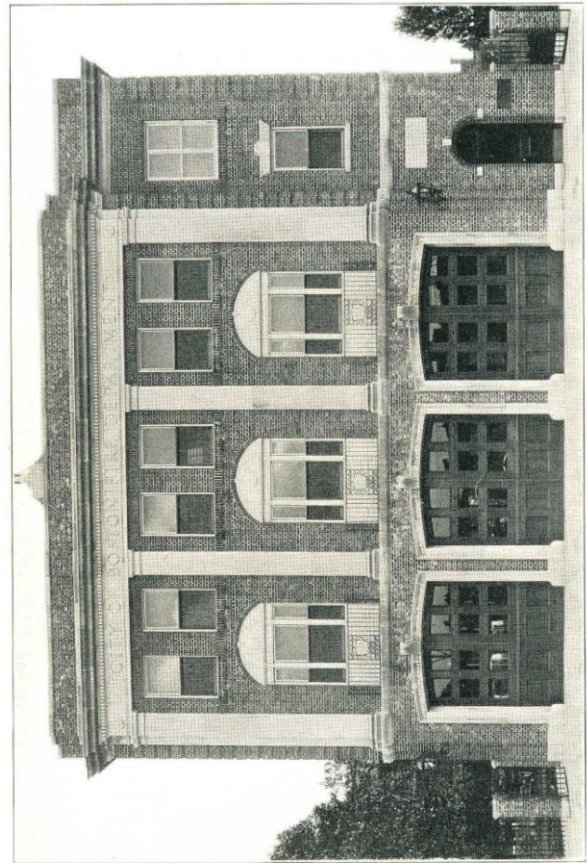
A new fire station at 560 Huntington avenue was completed and occupied on October 10, 1933. This building is of modified colonial design, three stories high, of limestone and brick. The building is occupied by Engine Company 37 and Ladder Company 26, formerly stationed at the corner of Brookline and Longwood avenues. The headquarters of the Chief of District No. 8 are also in this building. The Chief of District No. 8 was formerly stationed at Roxbury Crossing but this location brings him more in the center of the district.

A new station was needed in this section of the city for many years because of the hospitals, school buildings and apartment houses and dormitories in the Roxbury-Fenway district. The two companies now located in this building were formerly stationed at a building almost on the city line, which reduces their radius of operation practically fifty per cent. Exclusive of the land, this building was erected at a cost of \$114,979.41. The building formerly occupied by the Fire Department at Longwood and Brookline avenues was immediately transferred to the Public Buildings Department.

#### FIRE APPARATUS.

Because of the excellent condition of our present equipment, and in order to economize in expenditures during the year, no major apparatus was purchased in 1933. The motor equipment of the department at the present time consists of the following:

TYPE.	In Service.	In Reserve.
Pumping engines.....	52	9
Steam engines (tractors).....	—	3
Hose cars.....	48	8
Aerial ladder trucks.....	23	6
City service trucks.....	8	6
Water towers.....	3	1
Chief officers' cars.....	41	8
School car.....	—	1
Rescue cars.....	3	2
Fuel cars.....	1	2
Portable lighting plants.....	2	—
Wrecking car.....	1	—
Commercial trucks.....	12	—
Emergency cars (Ford).....	8	—
Ford coupes.....	3	—



ENGINE COMPANY 37 AND LADDER COMPANY 26, 560 HUNTINGTON AVENUE.

## HIGH PRESSURE SERVICE.

The records of the two high pressure service stations for the year are as follows:

	Station No. 1.	Station No. 2.
Total alarms to which pumps responded.....	255	181
Water discharged *.....	227,500 gallons	196,000 gallons

\* Owing to the construction of the Venturi meters they do not record flows under 600 gallons per minute.

At the present time the high pressure system has 501 hydrants in service and approximately 18.45 miles of 12-inch, 16-inch and 20-inch mains.

## HYDRANTS.

The following is a list of the hydrants in service for fire purposes on December 31, 1933:

	Public.	Private.
Ordinary post.....	3,482	131
Boston post.....	2,475	24
Lowry.....	640	33
Boston Lowry.....	330	5
Batchelder and Finneran post.....	4,042	5
Boston.....	109	111
High pressure.....	503	—
Chapman post.....	62	55
Ludlow post.....	4	13
Matthew post.....	—	4
Coffin post.....	1	—
Total.....	11,648	381

## FIRE COLLEGE.

The sessions of the fire college continued during the year, except during the vacation period, and at the conclusion of the third session, on April 11, 1933, all officers had completed the course of instructions and the college was then opened to the privates. Eighty privates received instructions at the fire college during the year.

## MUTUAL AID.

During the year the department responded to forty-three alarms outside the city limits, divided as follows:

Milton . . . . .	27
Somerville . . . . .	10
Quincy . . . . .	2
Brookline . . . . .	1
Newton . . . . .	2
Lowell . . . . .	1

## FIRE ALARM SERVICE.

During the year the Fire Alarm Service has been maintained at its usual high standard of efficiency. In order that the Fire Alarm Service might properly be equipped to take care of the extension of the system, commensurate with the growth of the city, a contract was made during the year for new battery switchboards, circuit protector boards, relay boards and other items. The total amount to be expended for this equipment is \$46,741. With the addition of this equipment, the fire alarm station will be able to take care of gradual extensions of its service for many years.

## OPERATING RECORDS.

First alarms . . . . .	5,520
Second alarms . . . . .	66
Third alarms . . . . .	14
Fourth alarms . . . . .	3
Total . . . . .	<u>5,603</u>

## BOX ALARMS RECEIVED BUT NOT TRANSMITTED.

Same box received two or more times for same fire . . . . .	453
Adjacent boxes received for same fire . . . . .	303
Received from boxes but treated as stills . . . . .	6
Total . . . . .	<u>762</u>

## STILL ALARMS RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED.

Received from Citizens by telephone . . . . .	2,420
Received from Police Department by telephone . . . . .	219
Received from Fire Department stations . . . . .	1,070
Received from boxes but treated as stills . . . . .	6
Mutual aid alarms (adjacent cities and towns) treated as stills . . . . .	43
Emergency service treated as stills . . . . .	175
Total . . . . .	<u>3,933</u>

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

7

Still alarms received by telephone for which box alarms were afterwards received and transmitted . . . . .	218
Still alarms received by telephone for which box alarms, not received, were transmitted (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.) . . . . .	320
Total . . . . .	<u>538</u>

## AUTOMATIC AND A. D. T. ALARMS.

Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company:	
Transmitted by company to this department . . . . .	150
Box alarms received and transmitted after automatic alarms had been struck . . . . .	4
Box alarms not received but transmitted, after automatic alarm had been struck (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.) . . . . .	16
Automatic alarms received at fire alarm office but not transmitted . . . . .	7
American District Telegraph Company:	
Transmitted by company to this department . . . . .	117
Box alarms received and transmitted after A. D. T. alarms had been struck . . . . .	6
Box alarms not received but transmitted after A. D. T. alarms had been struck (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.) . . . . .	32
A. D. T. alarms received at fire alarm office but not transmitted. . . . .	14

## SUMMARY OF ALARMS.

Alarms received:	
Box alarms received and struck . . . . .	5,152
Box alarms received but not struck . . . . .	756
Multiple alarms . . . . .	83
Still alarms — all classes . . . . .	3,933
Boston automatic alarms . . . . .	150
A. D. T. alarms . . . . .	117
Box alarms not received but transmitted . . . . .	368
	<u>10,559</u>
Exclude following:	
Multiples . . . . .	83
Box alarms received but not transmitted . . . . .	756
Still alarms for which other alarms were transmitted . . . . .	538
Automatic alarms for which other alarms were transmitted . . . . .	20
Automatic alarms received but not transmitted . . . . .	7
A. D. T. alarms for which other alarms were transmitted . . . . .	38
A. D. T. alarms received but not transmitted . . . . .	14
	<u>1,456</u>

## Total alarms, with eliminations, to which apparatus responded:

First alarms . . . . .	5,520
Still alarms . . . . .	3,395
Automatic alarms . . . . .	123
A. D. T. alarms . . . . .	65
	<u>9,103</u>

## MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES.

With two alarms . . . . .	53
With three alarms . . . . .	11
With four alarms . . . . .	3
	<u>67</u>

## FIRE ALARM BOX RECORDS.

Boxes from which no alarms were received . . . . .	406
Box tests and inspections . . . . .	11,233

NOTE.—All street box doors are tested weekly.

## FALSE ALARMS.

Box alarms received and struck . . . . .	1,541
Box alarms received but not struck . . . . .	21
Telephone . . . . .	28
A. D. T. . . . .	3
Automatic . . . . .	3
Box stills . . . . .	4
	<u>1,600</u>

## FIRE ALARM BOXES IN SERVICE.

Owned by Fire Department . . . . .	1,194
Owned by School Buildings Department . . . . .	258
Owned by Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company, . . . . .	47
Privately owned . . . . .	152
	<u>1,651</u>

## FIRE ALARM BOXES IN DISTRICTS.

District 1 . . . . .	96	District 9 . . . . .	113
District 2 . . . . .	73	District 10 . . . . .	136
District 3 . . . . .	45	District 11 . . . . .	150
District 4 . . . . .	86	District 12 . . . . .	107
District 5 . . . . .	75	District 13 . . . . .	167
District 6 . . . . .	102	District 14 . . . . .	143
District 7 . . . . .	105	District 15 . . . . .	122
District 8 . . . . .	130		
Division 1 . . . . .	375		
Division 2 . . . . .	487		
Division 3 . . . . .	788		

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN 1933.

	Feet
Line wire used in new work (approximately) . . . . .	15,150
Line wire used for replacements (approximately) . . . . .	16,000
Line wire removed from service (approximately) . . . . .	4,400
Aerial cable installed, new work . . . . .	2,120
Conductors in same . . . . .	7,180
Aerial cable removed from service . . . . .	600
Conductors in same . . . . .	3,600
Underground cable installed (new work) . . . . .	11,219
Conductors in same . . . . .	84,732
Underground cable replaced . . . . .	25,369
Conductors in same . . . . .	453,696
Conduits laid underground . . . . .	3,540
Ducts in same . . . . .	3,743
Ducts abandoned . . . . .	1,374
Manholes built . . . . .	2
Handholes built . . . . .	6
Fire alarm boxes installed by this department . . . . .	21
Fire alarm boxes installed on private property . . . . .	1
Fire alarm boxes relocated . . . . .	6
Fire alarm boxes removed from service . . . . .	3
Box posts installed . . . . .	19
Box posts relocated . . . . .	2
Box posts reset or replaced by new . . . . .	4
Cable posts relocated . . . . .	1
Underground cable boxes attached to poles . . . . .	5
Underground cable boxes removed from service . . . . .	2

## WIRE DIVISION.

Superintendent Walter J. Burke was retired on January 1, 1933, and Peter F. Dolan, chief inspector, was appointed superintendent on March 3, 1933.

The regular and periodical inspections of all permanent electrical installations in theaters, places of amusements and public halls were carried on during the year, together with inspections of new installations and changes in electrical work. Thorough investigations were made of all fires and accidents reported as due to electrical causes and the reports are on file in the Wire Division.

The following is a table showing a summary of the work of the interior division of the Wire Division for 1933:

Notices of new work received . . . . .	11,645
Number of permits issued to turn on current . . . . .	9,295
Number of incandescent lamps inspected . . . . .	2,153,807
Number of motors inspected . . . . .	15,774

Number of inspections made . . . . .	28,972
Number of inspections made of theatres, places of amusement and public halls . . . . .	1,393

During the year there were ninety-two fires in buildings, eleven manhole troubles, four fires on poles and twelve miscellaneous troubles investigated. There were seven accidents to persons due to electricity,—none of which proved fatal.

The income received from permits to perform electrical work is \$34,246.33.

#### EXTERIOR DIVISION.

The underground district for the year 1933, as prescribed under authority of chapter 101 of the Acts of 1931, comprised the following streets:

*Roxbury.*—Humboldt avenue, from Walnut avenue to Seaver street; Columbus avenue, from Centre street to Walnut avenue; Longwood avenue, from Parker street to St. Alphonsus street.

*South Boston.*—West Second street, from Dorchester avenue to Dorchester street; East Second street, from Dorchester street to K street.

*East Boston.*—Lexington street, from Meridian street to Shelby street; Shelby street, from Saratoga street to Lexington street.

*Brighton.*—Chiswick road, from Chestnut Hill avenue westerly to end of street at 205 Chiswick road; Market street, from Lincoln street to Western avenue, making a total distance of four miles as prescribed by law.

In these prescribed streets, from which poles and overhead wires were to be removed, there was standing on January 1, 1934, a total of one hundred and seventy (170) poles (not including the trolley poles of the Boston Elevated Railway Company which are exempt) owned by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company and New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, supporting one million one hundred thousand nine hundred and ninety (1,100,990) feet of overhead wires, owned by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Boston Fire Department (Fire Alarm Branch), Boston Police Department (Police Signal Service), and Boston Elevated Railway.

During the past year the inspectors of this division have reported one hundred and sixteen (116) poles

decayed at base and eight (8) poles leaning, or a total of one hundred and twenty-four (124) poles, which were replaced or reset by the various companies at the request of this department.

The following table shows the overhead work for the year from January 1, 1933, to December 31, 1933, inclusive:

Number of new poles set in new locations . . . . .	15
Number of poles replaced, reset or straightened . . . . .	124
Number of poles removed . . . . .	7
Number of poles now standing in the public streets . . . . .	17,770
Number of defects reported . . . . .	977
Number of defects corrected . . . . .	718
(Other defects in process of correction.) . . . . .	
Number of notices of overhead construction . . . . .	1,598
Number of overhead inspections . . . . .	24,031
Number of overhead reports . . . . .	19,593
Amount of overhead wires removed by owners (in feet) . . . . .	566,240

#### UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION.

The ducts used for underground conduits of the drawing-in systems are of the following type:

1. Vitrified clay (laid in concrete).
2. Fiber (laid in concrete).
3. Iron.
4. Wood.

In side or residential streets, special underground construction for electric light and power purposes (110 and 220 volts), of the type known as the "Split Fiber Solid Main System", has also been installed.

The electrical approvals for underground electrical construction numbered . . . . .	1,070
Number of inspections of underground electrical construction . . . . .	7,905
Number of reports of underground electrical construction . . . . .	1,625

Table Showing Underground Work for the Year 1933.

COMPANY.	Feet of Conduit.	Feet of Duct.	Feet of Cable.	Number of Manholes.	Number of Services.
Boston Elevated Railway.....	1,400	5,560	37,735	5	
Boston Consolidated Gas Company.....	1,059	1,059	16,756	.....	25
Edison Electric Illuminating Company.....	92,620	555,055	480,132	163	954
Boston Fire Department (Fire Alarm Branch).....	2,320	2,259	11,219	5	16
Boston Police Department (Police Signal Service).....	1,250	1,250	.....	.....	49
New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.....	4,404	6,654	33,545	2	29
Western Union Telegraph Company.....	1,000	1,915	1,921	1	3
Totals.....	104,053	573,752	581,308	176	1,076

NOTE: — "Split Fiber Solid Main System" of Edison Electric Illuminating Company is included in the above figures, comprising 1,183 feet of conduit and 2,315 feet of duct.

Table Showing the Amount and Distribution of Boston's Electrical Power, December 31, 1933.

COMPANY.	Total Rated Horse Power of Boilers.	Total Rated Horse Power of Engines.	Capacity of Incandescent Lamps in Kilowatts.	Capacity of Arc Lamps in Kilowatts.	Kilowatts of Motors.	Kilowatts of Mixed Load.	Number of Stations.
Boston Elevated Railway.....	24,360	241,287	4,355	15	353,454	68,800	2†
Boston Consolidated Gas Company.....	.....	.....	3,000	300	6,000	2,000	2
Edison Electric Illuminating Company.....	54,424	292,816	*	*	*	*	72
Hanover Street Trust.....	500	360	140	.....	75	215	1
Quaker Building Company.....	620	400	125	.....	106	*	2
Totals.....	79,904	534,863	7,620	315	359,635	71,015	99

\* Unknown. (Meter capacity connected to lines of Edison system, 1,110,000 kilowatts.)

† Main.

‡ Substation.

I resigned as Fire Commissioner on October 16, 1933, after having served in that position since March 5, 1930. I accepted a reappointment to this position on January 5, 1934. From October 16, 1933, to January 5, 1934, Eugene M. McSweeney was Fire Commissioner.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the important work that is being done along fire prevention lines in the Fire Department during the past three or four years.

I have given the matter of fire prevention considerable attention and study. A school has been established for the inspectors so that they will be entirely familiar with all the common hazards they may encounter during their inspection work, as well as the proper method of having them corrected. Additional officers were assigned to the Fire Prevention Division when the force was increased, so that there would be a constant check-up at all times of the men who were out doing inspection work. I have also arranged to have men assigned from the various fire houses to go out each day for a few hours to inspect buildings within the company districts, supplementing the work of the fire prevention inspectors.

When the Massachusetts Legislature authorized the Fire Commissioner to investigate suspicious fires in the City of Boston, I organized within the Fire Prevention Division an Arson Unit. Members of this unit were trained under a deputy chief to investigate causes of fires and gather evidence when any suspicious fires were reported. Police officers have been assigned to the Fire Prevention Division to assist in the prosecution of cases when the evidence warrants it. There is no doubt that the Fire Prevention Division, with the assistance of the Arson Squad, has been of great assistance to the fire fighting force in the city in reducing the fire loss.

I recommend that the work which has already been started be continued in order that the fire loss of the City of Boston may show a constant reduction annually.

## FALSE ALARMS.

During the year there were 1,573 false alarms sent out over the fire alarm system. This evil seems to be growing greater and greater each year, regardless of the attention that has been called to it quite frequently in the newspapers. This department is now making a study of some way to correct this disgraceful practice and it is hoped that by bringing the matter forcibly to the attention of school children that some of the alarms

may be eliminated. The greater percentage of these alarms are not sounded by children but by some character of fanatics who do not seem to realize the danger that their acts may cause. Prompt police prosecution and severe sentences would undoubtedly be very effective in eliminating the number of false alarms sounded in the city.

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

The subject of new building construction is one which is under consideration at all times. There are several fire houses in the City of Boston which are old and antiquated and were never built with a view to accommodating the modern Fire Department equipped with motor apparatus. They have been remodeled from time to time to serve the city temporarily. When the finances of the city will permit, it would be advisable to begin a program of rebuilding and relocating some fire stations, so that not only will the houses of the department be up-to-date, but the efficiency of the department will be increased.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD F. McLAUGHLIN,  
*Fire Commissioner.*

#### RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES, 1933.

Fire Department . . . . .	\$3,804,226 83
Wire Division . . . . .	83,611 42
New Fire Stations and Additions to and Improve- ments of Existing Fire Stations . . . . .	177,345 51
	<hr/>
	<u>\$4,065,183 76</u>

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF REVENUE BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT. YEAR OF 1933.

Permits for fires in open spaces, fireworks, blast- ing, transportation and storage of explosives, garage and gasoline storage, oil burners, etc. . . . .	\$24,607 28
Sale of old material (condemned hose) . . . . .	200 00
Sale of old material (junk) . . . . .	250 79
Sale of badges . . . . .	350 05
Damage to property . . . . .	50 19
Damage to fire alarm boxes and posts . . . . .	383 15
Damage to fire apparatus . . . . .	138 69
	<hr/>
	<u>\$25,980 15</u>

## CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT.

HENRY A. FOX.

The chief is in charge of the fire protection of the city, which is divided into three divisions, each commanded by a deputy chief, which are subdivided into fifteen districts, each commanded by a district chief.

## DIVISION 1.

*Deputy Chiefs*, JOHN J. KELLEY and LOUIS C. STICKEL.

Headquarters, Ladder House 8, Fort Hill Square.  
This division comprises Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

## District 1.

*District Chiefs*, NAPEEN BOUTILIER and WILLIAM F. DONOVAN.

Headquarters, Ladder House 2, Paris Street,  
East Boston.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 5, 9, 11, 40, 47 (fireboat), Ladders 2, 21, 31.

## District 2.

*District Chief*, PHILIP A. TAGUE.

Headquarters, Engine House 50, Winthrop Street,  
Charlestown.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 27, 32, 36, 50, Ladders 9, 22, Rescue 3.

## District 3.

*District Chiefs*, JOHN J. KENNEY and WILLIAM A. DONOVAN.

Headquarters, Ladder House 18, Pittsburgh Street.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 25, 38, 39, 44 (fireboat), Ladders 8, 18, Water Towers 1 and 3.

## District 4.

*District Chief*, JOHN F. McDONOUGH.

Headquarters, Engine House 4, Bulfinch Street.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 4, 6, 8, 31 (fireboat), Ladders 1, 24.

## District 5.

*District Chiefs*, JOHN F. WATSON and DENNIS J. COUGHLIN.

Headquarters, Engine House 26-35, Broadway.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 7, 10, 26, 35, Ladder 17, Rescue 1, Water Tower 2.

## DIVISION 2.

*Deputy Chiefs*, THOMAS H. DOWNEY and WILLIAM F. QUIGLEY.

Headquarters, Engine House 22, Warren Avenue.

This division comprises Districts 6, 7, 8, 11.

## District 6.

*District Chiefs*, JAMES J. KANE and EDWARD G. CHAMBERLAIN.

Headquarters, Engine House 1, Dorchester Street,  
South Boston.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 1, 2, 15, 43, Ladders 5, 19, 20.

## District 7.

*District Chiefs*, MICHAEL F. MINEHAN and SAMUEL J. POPE.

Headquarters, Engine House 22, Warren Avenue.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 3, 22, 33, Ladders 3, 13, 15.

## District 8.

*District Chiefs*, DANIEL MARTELL and CHARLES H. McDONNELL.

Headquarters, Ladder House 12, Tremont Street.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 13, 14, 37, Ladders 12, 26.

## District 11.

*District Chiefs*, THOMAS H. ANDREOLI and JOSEPH W. SHEA.

Headquarters, Engine House 41, Harvard Avenue,  
Brighton.

*Apparatus Located in the District*.—Engines 29, 34, 41, 51, Ladders 11, 14.

## DIVISION 3.

Deputy Chiefs, WALTER M. McLEAN and FRANK A. SWEENEY.

Headquarters, Ladder House 23, Washington Street,  
Grove Hall.

This division comprises Districts 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15.

## District 9.

District Chiefs, WILLIAM H. McCORKLE and EDWARD J. LOCKE.

Headquarters, Engine House 12, Dudley Street.

Apparatus Located in the District.—Engines 12, 23, 24,  
Ladders 4, 23, Rescue 2.

## District 10.

Districts Chiefs, DANIEL J. HURLEY and EDWARD N. MONTGOMERY.

Headquarters, Engine House 17, Parish Street,  
Meeting House Hill.

Apparatus Located in the District.—Engines 17, 18, 21,  
Ladder 7.

## District 12.

District Chiefs, TIMOTHY F. DONOVAN and THOMAS F. WARD.

Headquarters, Engine House 28, Centre Street,  
Jamaica Plain.

Apparatus Located in the District.—Engines 28, 42,  
53, Ladders 10, 30.

## District 13.

District Chief, CHARLES A. DONOHUE.

Headquarters, Engine House 45, Corner Washington  
and Poplar Streets, Roslindale.

Apparatus Located in the District.—Engines 30, 45,  
Ladders 16, 25.

## District 14.

District Chiefs, JAMES MAHONEY and WALTER C. GLYNN.

Headquarters, Engine House 46, Peabody Square,  
Dorchester.

Apparatus Located in the District.—Engines 16, 20,  
46, 52, Ladders 6, 27, 29.

## District 15.

District Chief, WILLIAM HART.

Headquarters, Engine House 48, Corner Harvard  
Avenue and Winthrop Street, Hyde Park.

Apparatus Located in the District.—Engines 19, 48,  
49, Ladder 28.

## ALARMS.

Building fires . . . . .	3,726
Automobile fires . . . . .	959
Rubbish, vacant lot . . . . .	283
Rubbish near building . . . . .	127
Dump . . . . .	62
Brush or grass . . . . .	573
Other outdoor fires . . . . .	525
False . . . . .	1,573
Accidental . . . . .	245
Needless . . . . .	689
Rescue . . . . .	273
Marine . . . . .	15
Out of city calls . . . . .	43
Total alarms . . . . .	<u>9,093</u>

## FIRES IN BUILDINGS.

## Construction of Buildings.

Fire resistive . . . . .	192
Second class . . . . .	1,817
Frame . . . . .	1,711
Other types . . . . .	6
Total . . . . .	<u>3,726</u>

## Point of Origin.

Basement . . . . .	1,202
First floor . . . . .	1,077
Second floor . . . . .	473
Third floor . . . . .	331
Above third floor . . . . .	164
Roof . . . . .	121
Outside . . . . .	358
Total . . . . .	<u>3,726</u>

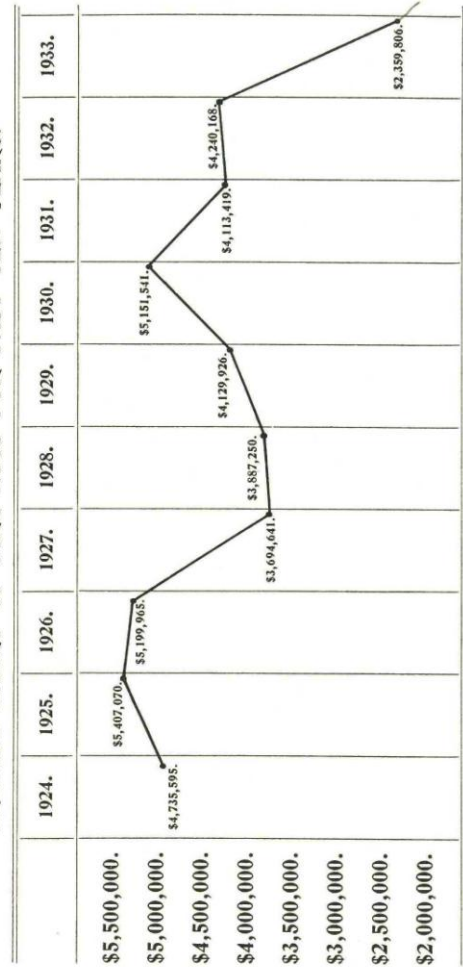
## Extent of Fire.

Confined to point of origin . . . . .	3,055
Confined to buildings . . . . .	589
Spread to other buildings . . . . .	82
Total . . . . .	<u>3,726</u>

## CAUSES OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS.

Chimneys, soot burning . . . . .	473	490
Defective chimney . . . . .	55	61
Sparks from chimney . . . . .	66	60
Defectively installed heater . . . . .	108	125
Rubbish near heater . . . . .	45	74
Hot ashes . . . . .	83	80
Fuel oil burners . . . . .	178	225
Careless smoking . . . . .	920	725
Children and matches . . . . .	197	206
Other careless use of matches . . . . .	200	175
Defective wiring . . . . .	88	55
Electric appliances and motors . . . . .	178	200
Home dry cleaning . . . . .	9	5
Flammable liquids near flame . . . . .	44	110
Kerosene lamps, stoves . . . . .	16	70
Grease, food on stove . . . . .	112	110
Clothes, furniture too near fire . . . . .	54	70
Spontaneous ignition . . . . .	153	140
Fireworks . . . . .	65	50
Thawing water pipes . . . . .	59	81
Sparks from machines . . . . .	36	15
City gas and appliances . . . . .	17	40
Miscellaneous known causes . . . . .	237	120
Incendiary or suspicious . . . . .	87	125
Unknown . . . . .	246	125
Total . . . . .	3,726	3,761

GRAPHIC CHART OF FIRE LOSS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



## ALARMS, FIRE LOSSES AND INSURANCE.

MONTHS.	ALARMS.			ALARMS RECEIVED FROM							NO FIRE.						RUBBISH — GRASS.				
	Box.	Telephone.	Other Sills.	Members.	Police.	Watchman.	Outsider.	Automatic.	Unknown.	Total.	False.	Accidental.	Itseque.	Needless Bell.	Needless Sill.	Automobiles.	Rubbish, Vacant Lot.	Rubbish near Building.	Dump.	Brush or Grass.	Other outdoor.
January.....	481	242	72	8	9	10	615	17	136	705	136	10	15	25	36	67	34	7	9	72	50
February.....	369	205	50	2	9	3	501	34	75	624	75	32	10	14	38	74	6	6	.....	21	11
March.....	448	232	56	4	13	3	573	22	121	736	121	12	21	21	37	59	7	6	4	65	18
April.....	360	192	50	3	13	10	471	8	106	611	106	7	15	12	22	55	23	11	6	53	19
May.....	439	267	79	11	13	6	648	22	105	805	105	15	25	13	27	84	50	22	15	92	54
June.....	464	216	108	11	11	9	622	22	113	788	113	16	25	16	34	80	39	17	11	14	98
July.....	486	213	85	4	10	3	605	17	145	784	145	12	21	18	30	85	42	20	2	43	89
August.....	358	119	55	2	7	9	371	27	116	532	116	23	18	18	21	68	14	11	1	20	31
September.....	332	114	61	3	6	2	368	19	109	507	109	16	20	16	25	77	9	5	1	2	30
October.....	467	185	108	3	11	5	538	17	186	760	186	20	34	21	34	97	17	8	4	18	47
November.....	611	268	132	8	9	4	754	26	210	1,011	210	20	29	24	60	95	25	5	4	119	47
December.....	632	335	153	5	9	15	910	51	150	1,140	151	62	40	37	90	118	17	9	5	54	31
Totals.....	5,496	2,588	1,009	64	120	70	6,576	282	1,572	9,063	1,573	245	273	235	454	959	283	127	62	573	325

## ALARMS, FIRE LOSSES AND INSURANCE.— Concluded.

MONTHS.	ALARMS.										FIRE LOSSES AND INSURANCE.						
	Marine.	Out of City Calls.	Confined to Room.	Confined to Building.	Extended to Others.	Damage None.	Damage Slight.	Damage Considerable.	Totally Destroyed.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.
January.....	5	275	48	6	132	174	3	.....	\$134,783	42	\$99,313	12	\$6,789,655	00	\$64,435	00	
February.....	4	279	51	3	142	186	5	.....	226,702	61	68,766	59	5,562	571	00	472,605	00
March.....	1	286	71	7	153	207	2	2	156,584	44	195,036	88	14,032	813	00	2,020,922	00
April.....	1	227	42	10	117	161	1	.....	87,114	85	45,244	88	3,191	171	00	709,090	00
May.....	5	243	46	9	122	172	4	.....	76,335	53	42,193	90	3,027	976	00	542,396	00
June.....	3	262	48	6	122	194	.....	.....	87,482	89	73,840	32	11,236	672	41	1,247,776	00
July.....	1	223	48	5	105	168	3	.....	70,685	93	27,762	72	2,641	234	62	1,462,334	00
August.....	2	149	36	3	64	121	1	2	72,279	83	19,755	29	8,021	016	85	539,840	00
September.....	3	155	31	5	64	127	.....	.....	67,976	91	38,153	98	3,199	183	23	1,675,672	00
October.....	3	220	39	5	126	137	.....	.....	80,196	85	39,821	12	3,512	882	00	420,812	00
November.....	8	318	39	8	188	176	.....	.....	206,322	11	132,556	35	4,886	480	50	3,511,816	50
December.....	3	418	90	15	229	283	10	1	190,317	72	100,576	71	6,784	820	00	2,132,869	00
Totals.....	15	43	3,055	589	82	1,584	2,106	29	7	\$1,456,783	69	\$603,023	86	\$76,806,475	61	\$15,380,567	50

CAUSES OF FIRES AND ALARMS, FROM JANUARY 1,  
1933, TO JANUARY 1, 1934.

Automobile.....	959	Other careless use of	200	178
Rubbish, vacant lot.....	283	matches.....	88	55
Rubbish near building.....	127	Defective wiring.....	178	700
Dump.....	62	Electric appliances and	9	
Brush or grass.....	573	motors.....	44	20
Other outdoor fires.....	525	Home dry cleaning.....	16	38
False.....	1,573	Flammable liquids near	112	119
Accidental.....	245	flame.....	54	51
Needless bell and still.....	689	Kerosene lamps, stoves.....	153	141
Rescue.....	273	Grease, food, on stove.....	65	50
Marine.....	15	Clothes, furniture, too	59	87
Out of city calls.....	43	near fire.....	36	10
Chimneys, soot burnings.....	473	Spontaneous ignition.....	17	40
Defective chimney.....	61	Fireworks.....	237	100
Sparks from chimney.....	66	Thawing water pipes.....	87	55
Defectively installed		Sparks from machines.....	246	168
heater.....	108	City gas and appliances.....		5
Rubbish near heater.....	45	Miscellaneous known		
Hot ashes.....	83	causes.....	9,093	1263
Fuel oil burners.....	178	Inconspicuous or suspicious..		
Careless smoking.....	920	Unknown.....		
Children and matches.....	197	Total.....		

1933.	FIRES EXTINGUISHED BY						
	Extinguishers.	Buckets or Cans.	Chemical or Booster.	Hydrant Streams.	Pumper Streams.	Miscellaneous.	Citizens.
January.....	46	21	141	7	59	39	16
February.....	37	26	161	4	53	35	17
March.....	41	24	164	8	66	45	16
April.....	23	26	124	9	50	38	9
May.....	31	20	119	16	60	37	15
June.....	36	30	132	12	51	42	13
July.....	33	20	117	7	47	34	18
August.....	18	15	70	3	33	31	18
September.....	26	20	87	1	27	15	15
October.....	40	19	106	3	39	34	23
November.....	44	21	174	3	43	54	26
December.....	81	33	224	9	94	54	28
Totals.....	456	275	1,619	82	622	458	214

## FIRES WHERE LOSSES EXCEEDED \$15,000.

DATE.	Location and Owner.	Loss.
1933.		
Jan. 21.....	48-54 Canal street, Imperial Furniture Company <i>et al.</i>	\$18,057 81
Jan. 23.....	61-63 Shawmut avenue, M. S. Rosenbaum <i>et al.</i>	29,789 15
Feb. 2.....	84-100 Peterborough street, A. Demajian <i>et al.</i>	17,126 50
Feb. 7.....	56 Brighton avenue, Fordham Realty Company <i>et al.</i>	26,693 96
Feb. 10.....	868 Broadway, Roman Catholic Archdiocese.....	86,287 26
March 19.....	25-43 Kneeland street, Haymarket Clothing Company <i>et al.</i>	36,242 84
March 20.....	197-201 Congress street, Sager Electrical Supply Company <i>et al.</i>	93,114 34
March 20.....	Rear 458 Blue Hill avenue, Grove Hall Chevrolet Company <i>et al.</i>	18,197 00
June 9.....	137 and 139 Stuart street, E. F. Cloran Company.....	18,350 00
Nov. 2.....	33-35 Bedford street, Laboratory Kitchen <i>et al.</i>	95,821 21
Nov. 7.....	Central Wharf, Eastern Steamship Company <i>et al.</i>	149,840 53
Nov. 18.....	127 and 133 Oliver street, Portland Elevator Company <i>et al.</i>	26,408 47
Dec. 22.....	120 Business street, Baylite Lamp & Shade Company..	24,000 00

## STATISTICS.

Population, January 1, 1934 (estimated)	805,400	795
Area, square miles	47.81	60
Number brick, etc., buildings	43,975	60
Number of wooden buildings	93,830	93
Fires in brick, etc., buildings	2,009	7103
Fires in wooden buildings	1,717	1658
Fires out of city	43	72
Not in buildings, false and needless	5,324	6140
	9,093	

## FIRE LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1933.

Buildings, loss insured	\$1,456,783 09	160
Contents, loss insured	903,023 86	77
Total loss insured	\$2,359,806 95	733
Marine loss	\$917 26	31

## YEARLY LOSS FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

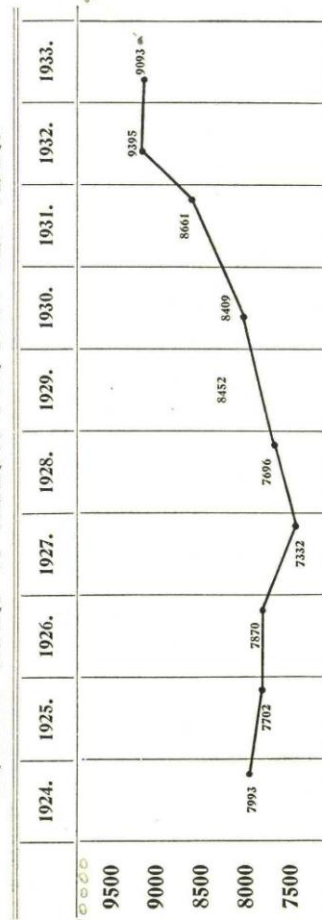
*Marine Loss not Included.*

Year ending January 1, 1920 . . . . .	\$2,577,584 00
" " " 1, 1921 . . . . .	3,139,566 00
" " " 1, 1922 . . . . .	4,010,201 00
" " " 1, 1923 . . . . .	3,304,595 00
" " " 1, 1924 . . . . .	6,286,299 00
" " " 1, 1925 . . . . .	4,735,595 00
" " " 1, 1926 . . . . .	5,407,070 00
" " " 1, 1927 . . . . .	5,199,965 00
" " " 1, 1928 . . . . .	3,694,642 00
" " " 1, 1929 . . . . .	3,887,250 00
" " " 1, 1930 . . . . .	4,129,926 00
" " " 1, 1931 . . . . .	4,593,622 00
" " " 1, 1932 . . . . .	4,115,419 00
" " " 1, 1933 . . . . .	4,240,168 00
" " " 1, 1934 . . . . .	2,359,806 00

1934

2,359,806

GRAPHIC CHART OF ALARMS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



## ALARMS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

YEAR.	Bell.	Still and Automatic.	Totals.
1924	5,857	4,473	10,330
1923	5,496	3,597	9,093
1922	5,587	3,808	9,395
1921	4,727	3,934	8,661
1920	4,601	3,808	8,409
1919	4,473	3,979	8,452
1918	3,867	3,829	7,696
1917	3,492	3,840	7,332
1916	3,762	4,108	7,870
1915	3,798	3,904	7,702
1914	3,640	4,353	7,993

Each fire is treated as having only one alarm.

## JOHN E. FITZGERALD MEDAL.

John J. Leary, for 1922.  
 Daniel J. O'Brien, for 1923.  
 Thomas F. Kilduff, for 1924.  
 Dennis M. Condon, for 1927.  
 Joseph P. Hanton, for 1929.

## WALTER SCOTT MEDAL.

Dennis M. Condon, for 1922.  
 James H. Curran, for 1923.  
 Edward J. Crowley, for 1924.  
 Gilbert W. Jones, for 1927.  
 John J. Boyle, for 1929.

## ROLL OF MERIT.

Carl V. Anderson.	Henry J. Kelly.
Carl S. Bowers.	Martin A. Kenealy.
James J. Buchanan.	John J. Kennedy.
William O. Cheswell.	Frederick F. Leary.
Dennis M. Condon.	John J. Martin.
Walter P. Corbett.	Edward McDonough.
Michael J. Dacy.	James F. McMahon.
James E. Downey.	Thomas J. Muldoon.
Thomas H. Downey.	Edward J. Murphy.
Dennis Driscoll.	Arthur A. Ryan.
Joseph P. Hanton.	Michael J. Teehan.
Timothy J. Heffron.	John A. O'Connor.
Gilbert W. Jones.	