

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
AND WIRE DIVISION
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1934



CITY OF BOSTON
PRINTING DEPARTMENT
1935

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
AND WIRE DIVISION
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1934



CITY OF BOSTON
PRINTING DEPARTMENT
1935

OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

EDWARD F. McLAUGHLIN,
Fire Commissioner.

HERBERT J. HICKEY,
Executive Secretary of the Department.

HENRY A. FOX,
Chief of Department.

GEORGE L. FICKETT,
Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division.

PETER F. DOLAN,
Superintendent of Wire Division.

EDWARD E. WILLIAMSON,
Superintendent of Maintenance Division.

SAMUEL J. POPE,
Deputy Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention Division.

MARTIN H. SPELLMAN, M. D.
Medical Examiner.

[DOCUMENT 12 — 1935.]



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1934.

Boston, January 31, 1935.

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, 1934, 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 \$2,332,280.09, of which \$1,607,397.90 was on buildings and \$724,882.19 was on contents. This total loss is \$27,526 less than in 1933 and is the lowest fire loss paid in the City of Boston since the year 1912.

The present high state of efficiency of the department, combined with the constant inspection work performed by the Fire Prevention Division are undoubtedly the most important contributing factors in this substantial reduction in the fire loss. The Arson Unit of the Fire Prevention Division by constantly and vigilantly investigating all fires of any suspicious origin whatsoever, has also been of valuable assistance in our efforts to stamp out the crime of arson and reduce the loss.

The fires showing the greatest loss during the year are as follows:

January 5, 1934, Fenway Park	\$224,875 22
January 19, 1934, 101 and 103 State street, Thomas Groom & Co. <i>et al.</i>	94,367 73
July 28, 1934, 333 Medford street, Revere Sugar Refinery	45,966 59
September 9, 1934, 508-520 Boylston street, Hotel Brunswick	50,823 68
November 12, 1934, 2321-2337 Washington street, Wellworth Market, Inc., <i>et al.</i>	63,702 59
December 10, 1934, 37 and 38 Lewis Wharf, Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corporation <i>et al.</i>	43,795 00
December 27, 1934, 17 Elm street, Jamaica Plain, Central Congregational Church <i>et al.</i>	79,575 00

FINANCES.

In our efforts to reduce the fire loss in the city the matter of economic operation of the Fire Department has not been overlooked. The expenditures of the department have been carefully watched, and while the efficiency of the department has been maintained at high standard and the equipment has been kept in first-class condition, it is gratifying to report a constant reduction in the operating expenditures of the department. As an illustration I submit below a table showing how the expenditures of 1934 compare with those of previous years.

Year ending December 31, 1934	\$3,677,085 02
" " " 31, 1933	3,804,226 83
" " " 31, 1932	4,377,844 00
" " " 31, 1931	4,620,818 60
" " " 31, 1930	4,642,216 53
" " " 31, 1929	4,552,265 18
" " " 31, 1928	4,357,568 28
" " " 31, 1927	4,183,945 99
" " " 31, 1926	4,290,314 84
" " " 31, 1925 (11 months)	3,724,006 57

FIRE PREVENTION.

The Fire Prevention Division of the department has continued its ceaseless and systematic inspection of buildings throughout the city for the purpose of removing conditions liable to cause fire. The inspectors have also, on many occasions, given advice to owners on proper protection for their property, to prevent the

spreading of fire. Fire prevention campaigns have been conducted by submitting articles to the daily press, by radio and by lectures in schools, lodges and other societies.

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

Number of inspections	103,865
Number of reinspections	10,474
Number of complaints	7,931
Number of corrections	10,474
Number of conditions found corrected on reinspection	7,767
Number of personal inspections	2,467
Oil burners inspected	1,354

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

Reports sent to Building Department	1,837
Reports sent to School Buildings Department	11
Reports sent to Health Department	3
Personal services by Constable	509

The following inspections were made by district officers and district inspectors:

Buildings inspected by district officers	87,790
Inspections by district privates	25,970
Theatre inspections	3,685
Schoolhouse inspections	3,780
Public buildings inspections	822
Car house inspections	71
Deer Island monthly inspections	12
Long Island monthly inspections	12

A brief account of the activities of the Arson Unit, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 383 of the Acts of 1931, is as follows:

Number of Police Inspectors assigned to the Fire Prevention Division from Police Headquarters	6
Number of Fire Prevention Inspectors on Arson Squad	6
Number of investigations by Arson Squad	304
(a) Reported as being suspicious	73
(b) Reported as being unknown or undetermined	198
(c) Miscellaneous	33
Number of persons interviewed at Fire Prevention Office	37
Number of hearings held at Fire Alarm Office (Fenway)	27

Number of hearings held, that on account of insufficient evidence were not presented to District Attorney . . .	11
Number of cases presented to District Attorney for consideration as to prosecution . . .	16
Number of cases arraigned in Municipal Court . . .	2
Cases held for Grand Jury . . .	2
Number of cases presented to Grand Jury by the District Attorney . . .	13
(a) Number of cases where indictments were returned . . .	10
(b) Number of No Bills returned . . .	3
Number of cases awaiting action by the District Attorney . . .	7
Number of trials . . .	16
Number of cases (conviction obtained) . . .	14
Number of persons convicted . . .	22
Number of persons found not guilty . . .	6
Number of persons arrested . . .	23
Number of persons, under indictment, awaiting trial . . .	9
Number of persons summoned at hearings . . .	307
(a) Department witnesses . . .	149
(b) Civilian witnesses . . .	158

FIRE APPARATUS.

No new apparatus was purchased for the department in 1934 in order to economize on expenditures during the year. 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.....	36	8
Training school car.....	—	1
Rescue cars.....	3	2
Fuel cars.....	1	1
Portable lighting plants.....	2	—
Wrecking car.....	1	—
Commercial trucks.....	13	—
Emergency cars (Ford).....	7	—
Ford coupes.....	5	—

CIVIL WORKS ADMINISTRATION.

In conjunction with the Federal Civil Works Administration this department established a project for the painting of the interiors of fire stations. Work under this project (No. 293) began in December, 1933, and sixty-four journeyman painters, eight foreman painters and four clerks were assigned to the Fire Department. Early in February, 1934, the number was reduced to a total of fifty-eight men. At the close of business, December 31, 1934, the interiors of thirty-nine buildings had been painted.

In April, 1934, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration was established, replacing the Civil Works Administration, at which time our projects were re-submitted and accepted, but the personnel on the projects was greatly reduced.

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 pump responded.....	241	207
Water discharged *.....	227,500 gallons	44,000 gallons

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

HYDRANTS.

The following is a list of the hydrants in service on December 31, 1934:

	Public.	Private.
Ordinary post.....	3,313	131
Boston post.....	2,535	24
Lowry.....	641	33
Boston Lowry.....	326	5
Batehelder and Finneran post.....	4,191	5
Boston.....	108	111
High pressure.....	503	—
Chapman post.....	60	55
Ludlow post.....	4	13
Matthew post.....	—	4
Coffin post.....	1	—
Total.....	11,682	381

FIRE COLLEGE.

The sessions of the fire college were conducted during the year (except during the vacation period). Approximately two hundred members of the department received instructions at the college during the year.

DRILL SCHOOL.

Thirty-nine members on probation successfully completed the course of instructions at the Department Drill School during the year.

PUMP SCHOOL.

Three classes of the motor pump school were held during the year, at which nineteen (19) members of the department received instructions in the care and operation of motor fire pumps.

CHAUFFEURS' SCHOOL.

Thirty-four (34) members of the department received instructions in the chauffeurs' school during the year and were certified as operators of department motor vehicles. In addition, all members rated as chauffeurs were given instructions in the care and operation of motor vehicles.

MUTUAL AID.

The department responded to fifty-eight (58) alarms of fire outside of the city limits, divided as follows:

Milton	27
Quincy	2
Newton	4
Brookline	1
Somerville	24

RADIO BROADCASTS.

On March 14, 1934, a series of weekly broadcasts was inaugurated from Radio Station WBZ, in which the Fire Commissioner, Chief of Department, various deputy and district chiefs, as well as heads of branch services participated. During the course of these talks, which continued for a period of approximately ten to twelve weeks, special emphasis was given to the exces-

sive cost of fire and the necessity of co-operation by the public to assist in reducing the number of fires and the fire loss, and general information given to the public as to how the department functions.

FIRE ALARM SERVICE.

During the year the Fire Alarm Service has been maintained at its usual high standard of efficiency. In so far as appropriations of the department would permit, additions and extensions were made to the service to keep it modern and up-to-date. The cable system was not extended as much as usual but several old underground cables were replaced by new; line construction was considerably improved, and much old wiring in department houses was replaced.

Twenty-five fire alarm boxes were installed in new locations and one hundred old sector boxes were replaced by boxes of the latest type. Fifteen new posts were installed, two were relocated and 2,440 feet of ducts were laid underground. A new circuit was run to connect Boston fire alarm headquarters with the central fire station in Everett. Eight adjoining cities and towns are now connected to Boston for mutual aid purposes.

Additional equipment for 40 box circuits, including relay boards, storage battery boards, registers, time stamps and protectors were installed in the operating room at fire alarm headquarters. All the old style electro-mechanical protectors were removed and new approved protectors installed.

OPERATING RECORDS.

First alarms	5,952
Second alarms	75
Third alarms	19
Fourth alarms	7
Fifth alarms	1

BOX ALARMS RECEIVED BUT NOT TRANSMITTED.

Same box received two or more times for same fire	495
Adjacent boxes received for same fire	314
Received from boxes but treated as stills	21
	<hr/>
	830

STILL ALARMS RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED.

Received from citizens by telephone	2,700
Received from Police Department by telephone	263
Received from Fire Department stations	1,113
Received from boxes but treated as stills	21
Mutual aid alarms (adjacent cities and towns) treated as stills	58
Emergency service treated as stills	220
	<u>4,375</u>

Still alarms received by telephone for which box alarms were afterwards received and transmitted	206
Still alarms received by telephone from which box alarms, not received, were transmitted (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.)	345

AUTOMATIC AND A. D. T. ALARMS.

Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company:	
Transmitted by company to this department	145
Box alarms received and transmitted after automatic alarms had been struck	8
Box alarms not received but transmitted after automatic alarm had been struck (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.)	37
Automatic alarms received at fire alarm office but not transmitted	6
American District Telegraph Company:	
Transmitted by company to this department	152
Box alarms received and transmitted after A. D. T. alarms had been struck	7
Box alarms not received but transmitted after A. D. T. alarms had been struck (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.)	29
A. D. T. alarms received at fire alarm office but not transmitted	18

SUMMARY OF ALARMS.

Alarms received:	
Box alarms received and struck	5,541
Box alarms received but not struck	830
Multiple alarms	102
Still alarms — all classes	4,375
Boston automatic alarms	145
A. D. T. alarms	152
	<u>11,145</u>
Box alarms not received but transmitted (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.)	411
	<u>11,556</u>

Exclude following:

Multiples	102
Box alarms received but not transmitted	830
Still alarms for which other alarms were transmitted	551
Automatic alarms for which other alarms were transmitted	45
Automatic alarms received but not transmitted	6
A. D. T. alarms for which other alarms were transmitted	36
A. D. T. alarms received but not transmitted	18
	<u>1,588</u>

Total alarms, with eliminations, to which apparatus responded:

First alarms	5,952
Still alarms	3,824
Automatic alarms	94
A. D. T. alarms	98
	<u>9,968</u>

MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES.

With two alarms	56
With three alarms	12
With four alarms	6
With five alarms	1

MUTUAL AID RESPONSE.

To Milton	27
To Quincy	2
To Newton	4
To Brookline	1
To Somerville	24

FIRE ALARM BOX RECORDS.

Boxes from which no alarms were received	439
Box tests and inspections	10,457

NOTE.— All street box doors are tested weekly.

FALSE ALARMS.

Box alarms received and struck	1,816
Box alarms received but not struck	26
Box alarms treated as stills	20
Telephone	38
A. D. T.	4
Automatic	3
	<u>1,907</u>

ALARM SERVICE.

Of the 5,541 box alarms received and transmitted to the department 1,816 were false, about 33 per cent. This compares with 5,152 received in 1933 with 1,541 false, about 30 per cent. The Police Department made 56 arrests of persons sounding false alarms and obtained 41 convictions in court. The system functioned in a satisfactory manner.

FIRE ALARM BOXES IN SERVICE.

Total number	1,670
Owned by Fire Department	1,214
Owned by School Buildings Department	259
Owned by Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company	47
Privately owned	150
Total boxes on posts	836
Total boxes on poles	470
Total boxes on buildings	182
Total boxes in buildings	182

FIRE DEPARTMENT BOXES.

On box posts	765
On poles	427
On buildings	17
In buildings	5
Equipped with keyless doors	533
Equipped with quick-action doors	681
Equipped with auxiliary attachments	3
Succession type	970
Designated by red lights	882

SCHOOLHOUSE BOXES.

On box posts	68
On poles	28
On buildings	105
In buildings	58
Equipped with keyless doors	171
Equipped with quick-action doors	41
Equipped with key doors	47
Equipped with auxiliary attachments	255
Succession type	161
Designated by red lights	62

BOSTON AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM BOXES.

On poles	3
On buildings	16
In buildings	28

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

11

Equipped with keyless doors	23
Equipped with quick-action doors	4
Equipped with key doors	20
Equipped with auxiliary attachments	47
Succession type	7

PRIVATE BOXES.

On posts	3
On poles	12
On buildings	44
In buildings	91
Equipped with keyless doors	54
Equipped with quick-action doors	49
Equipped with key doors	47
Equipped with auxiliary attachments	23
Succession type	105
Designated by red lights	1

FIRE ALARM BOXES IN DISTRICTS.

District 1	97	District 9	114
District 2	73	District 10	139
District 3	46	District 11	150
District 4	88	District 12	107
District 5	75	District 13	170
District 6	102	District 14	148
District 7	105	District 15	123
District 8	132		

Division 1	379
Division 2	489
Division 3	801

Also one box in Chelsea.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

	Feet.
Line wire used in new work (approximately)	12,000
Line wire used for replacements (approximately)	73,315
Aerial cable installed new work	3,475
Conductors in same	14,050
Aerial cable replaced	2,355
Conductors in same	4,710
Underground cable installed, new work	11,106
Conductors in same	50,394
Underground cable replaced	11,083
Conductors in same	208,935
Underground cable removed from service	2,944
Conductors in same	82,773
Submarine cable replaced	675
Conductors in same	10,800
Conduits laid underground	2,367
Ducts in same	2,440

	Feet.
Ducts abandoned. Owned by department	518
Ducts abandoned—New England Telephone and Telegraph Company	1,557
Manholes built	1
Handholes built	2
Fire alarm boxes installed by Fire Department	20
Fire alarm boxes installed by School Buildings De- partment	2
Fire alarm boxes installed on private property	1
Fire alarm boxes relocated	2
Fire alarm boxes removed from service	5
Box posts installed	15
Box posts relocated	2
Box posts reset or replaced by new	7
Cable posts installed, large size	3
Cable posts removed, small size	2
Cable post replaced with new	1
Underground cable boxes (attached to poles) in- stalled	2
Underground cable boxes removed from service	1

WIRE DIVISION.

The regular and periodical inspections of all permanent electrical installations in theaters, places of amusement and public halls were carried on during the year, together with inspections of new installations and changes in electrical work. Particular attention was given to the inspection of old electrical installations throughout the city as a fire prevention measure. Thorough investigations were made of all fires, accidents and troubles reported due to electricity and reports are on file in the Wire Division.

Following is a table showing a summary of the work of the interior division of the Wire Division for 1934:

Notices of new work received	14,059
Number of permits issued to turn on current	10,781
Number of incandescent lamps inspected	2,161,918
Number of motors inspected	15,791
Number of inspections made	29,740
Number of inspections made of theaters, places of amusement and public halls	1,462

During the year there were ninety-five fires in buildings, twenty manhole troubles, sixteen fires on poles and seven miscellaneous troubles investigated.

EXTERIOR DIVISION.

The underground district for the year 1934, as prescribed under the authority of chapter 101 of the Acts of 1931, comprised the following streets:

Jamaica Plain.—South Huntington avenue, from Centre street to Floydell street.

Dorchester.—Fessenden street, from Blue Hill avenue to Norfolk street; Woodrow avenue, from Blue Hill avenue to Norfolk street; Geneva avenue, from Vinson street to Park street.

Charlestown.—Devens street, from Main street to Rutherford avenue.

West Roxbury.—Hyde Park avenue, from Forest Hills square to Metropolitan avenue.

East Boston.—Cottage street, from Marginal street to Porter street.

Making a total distance of four miles as prescribed by law.

In these prescribed streets from which poles and wires were to be removed there was standing on January 1, 1935, two hundred and eight (208) poles and two hundred ninety-three thousand, nine hundred and twenty six (293,926) feet of wire, not including trolley wires and poles which are exempt by law.

During the past year the inspectors of this Division have reported one hundred and fifty (150) poles decayed at base and seventeen (17) poles badly leaning, 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, 1934, to December 31, 1934, inclusive.

Number of poles set in new locations	4
Number of poles replaced, reset or straightened	750
Number of poles removed	149
Number of poles now standing	17,594
Number of defects reported	2,340
Number of defects corrected	1,206
(Other defects in process of correction.)	
Number of notices of overhead construction	2,903
Number of overhead inspections	20,539
Number of overhead reports	24,017
Amount of wires in feet removed by owners	606,656

UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION.

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

1. Vitrified clay (laid in concrete).
2. Fiber (laid in concrete).
3. Iron pipe.
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 System" has also been installed.

The electrical approvals for underground electrical construction numbered 2,299.

Number of inspections of underground electrical construction 2,869
 Number of reports of underground electrical construction 6,124

Table Showing Underground Work for the Year 1934.

COMPANY.	Feet of Conduit.	Feet of Duct.	Feet of Cable.	Number of Manholes.	Number of Services.
Boston Elevated Railway Company.	7,066	27,669	36,962	27	
Boston Consolidated Gas Company.	2,573	4,423	25,255	.....	101
Edison Electric Illuminating Company.	28,088	185,188	549,893	114	1,436
Fire Alarm Branch (B. F. D.)	1,716	1,716	11,106	.....	25
New England Telephone & Telegraph Company.	7,451	37,176	89,549	9	26
Police Signal Service (B. P. D.)	131	131	.....	.....	14
Western Union Telegraph Company.	.....	.....	5,289	.....	.....
Totals	47,025	256,303	718,054	150	1,602

NOTE.—"Split Fiber Solid Main System" of Edison Electric Illuminating Company is included in the above figures, comprising 30 feet of conduit and 58 feet of duct.

Table Showing the Amount and Distribution of Boston's Electrical Power

COMPANY.	Total Rated Horse Power of Boilers.	Total Rated Horse Power of Engines.	Capacity of Independent Lamps in Kilowatts.	Capacity of Are Lamps in Kilowatts.	Kilowatts of Motors.	Kilowatts of Mixed Load.	Number of Stations.
Boston Elevated Railway Company....	24,360	241,287	3,522	15	222,344	48,930	14
Boston Consolidated Gas Company.....	.....	.....	3,000	300	6,000	2,000	2
Edison Electric Illuminating Company.	45,984	292,816	*	*	*	*	6
Hanover Street Trust.....	400	359	125	.....	75	200	1
Quaker Building Company.....	620	400	106	.....	106	*	2
Totals.....	71,364	534,862	6,753	315	228,525	51,130	25

* Unknown. (Meter capacity connected to lines of Edison system 1,130,559.)

FALSE ALARMS.

It will be noted elsewhere in this report that of 5,541 box alarms received and transmitted during the year, 1,816 were false. We have made a thorough study of this evil which has spread throughout the city during the past few years, and while in the past the false sounding of alarms of fire could be attributed to small children it has now grown to be a pernicious sport indulged in by adults. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in checking a further spread of this epidemic and I have given the matter my personal attention and study. Through the generous cooperation of the Superintendent of Schools it was possible for me to send a fire department representative to every school in the city during Fire Prevention Weeks in October. In their talks to the children these representatives devoted considerable time to impressing on the minds of the pupils the seriousness of sounding false alarms. The press and radio gladly gave space and time in our campaign to combat this evil and every opportunity was taken advantage of to send a message through the daily papers and over the air in order to reach every home in the city. Many addresses were made over the radio during the year on the fire department and fire prevention, and on every occasion an appeal was made to our listeners to cooperate with us in fighting this crime.

I took the matter up personally with the Police Commissioner and every justice of the municipal court,

giving certain facts and figures based on the result of my study so that they would be well informed on the subject. I received expressions of hearty cooperation from both these law enforcement agencies.

I propose to continue this campaign to reduce the number of false alarms and will use all the facilities at my disposal to bring about the desired result.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Considerable thought and study have been given to certain necessary improvements which if adopted will greatly increase the efficiency of the department. Being aware of the present financial condition of the city, I believe that it is unnecessary here to go into a detailed outline of these improvements as most of them require large expenditures of money. In accordance with instructions from your Honor a program has been arranged and submitted to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for consideration. This program includes recommendations for the rebuilding and consolidation of some of our fire stations and for the purchase of new fireboats for waterfront protection. The recommendations submitted to the Relief Administration are all for much needed improvements and it is hoped that they will all receive favorable consideration.

PERSONNEL.

During the past few years the personnel of the department has been reduced to a great extent by not filling vacancies and not making promotions. Such a policy cannot continue much longer as it will be necessary in the near future to fill some of these vacancies by the appointment of new men to the department in order that the fire-fighting force of the department may be maintained at an efficient operating strength.

FIRE APPARATUS.

In order to cooperate with your Honor's policy for economic administration of all departments the Fire Department purchased no major apparatus in 1933 and 1934. Very little was purchased in 1932. The life of motor fire apparatus may be compared with the life of any automobile with consideration being given to the

amount of service demanded of each piece of apparatus. The average life of fire apparatus is from ten to thirteen years and it has been the policy of the department to replace a certain percentage of apparatus each year in order to keep our rolling stock in first-class condition. Under the capable and intelligent management of our Maintenance Division it has been possible to keep our equipment in proper working condition. However, we have many pieces that have now gone far beyond the average age and are rapidly reaching a condition that will not permit of further repairs. I recommend therefore in the consideration of the 1935 budget, and budgets for succeeding years, that consideration be given to a continuance of the policy of making a certain percentage of our replacements in major apparatus.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD F. McLAUGHLIN,
Fire Commissioner.

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES, 1934.

Fire Department	\$3,677,085 02
Wire Division	84,454 34
Extension of Fire Alarm Signal Station	46,741 00
	<u>\$3,808,280 36</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF REVENUE, BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT. YEAR OF 1934.

Permits for fires in open spaces; fireworks; blasting; transportation and storage of explosives; garage and gasoline storage; oil burners, etc.	\$20,393 25
Sale of old material (condemned hose)	163 34
Sale of old material (junk)	1,192 76
Sale of badges	372 30
Damage to property	63 58
Damage to fire alarm boxes and posts	1,099 13
Damage to fire apparatus	163 10
Miscellaneous sales	85 75
	<u>\$23,533 21</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. KENNEY 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 BOUTILLIER 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 Chiefs, PHILIP A. TAGUE and MICHAEL J. AYLWARD.

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 Chief, 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 Chiefs, JOHN F. McDONOUGH and JAMES F. SHEEHAN.

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 Chief, MICHAEL F. MINEHAN.

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.

District 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 Chiefs, CHARLES A. DONOHUE and EDWARD F. MCCARTHY.

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 Chiefs, WILLIAM HART and ALLEN J. JARVIS.
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	3,761	3657
Automobile fires	908	889
Rubbish, vacant lot	304	377
Rubbish near building	147	143
Dump	159	198
Brush or grass	733	971
Other outdoor fires	646	683
False	1,879	1631
Accidental	293	203
Needless	747	683
Rescue	296	319
Marine	28	19
Out of city calls	74	79
Total alarms	<u>9,975</u>	9854

FIRES IN BUILDINGS.

Construction of Buildings.

Fire resistive	215	198
Second class	1,888	1857
Frame	1,647	1594
Other types	11	10
Total	<u>3,761</u>	3657

Point of Origin.

Basement	1,251	1190
First floor	1,121	1051
Second floor	506	430
Third floor	272	302
Above third floor	131	130
Roof	131	156
Outside	349	398
Total	<u>3,761</u>	3657

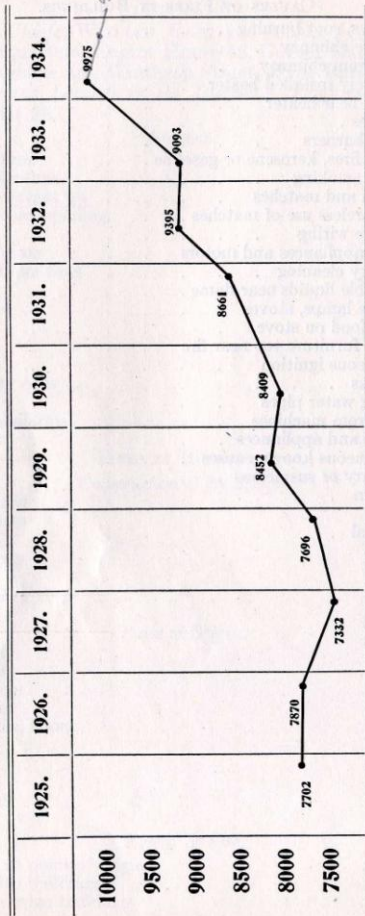
Extent of Fire.

Confined to point of origin	3,085	3059
Confined to buildings	612	519
Spread to other buildings	64	79
Total	<u>3,761</u>	3657

CAUSES OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS.

Chimneys, soot burning	490	454
Defective chimney	61	59
Sparks from chimney	60	88
Defectively installed heater	145	135
Rubbish near heater	74	66
Hot ashes	89	91
Fuel oil burners	238	260
Starting fires, kerosene or gasoline	1	1
Careless smoking	935	951
Children and matches	206	188
Other careless use of matches	178	140
Defective wiring	85	83
Electric appliances and motors	209	244
Home dry cleaning	5	4
Flammable liquids near flame	44	38
Kerosene lamps, stoves	38	18
Grease, food on stove	119	105
Clothes, furniture too near fire	51	51
Spontaneous ignition	141	148
Fireworks	59	52
Thawing water pipes	81	39
Sparks from machines	15	73
City gas and appliances	40	32
Miscellaneous known causes	144	165
Incendiary or suspicious	85	70
Unknown	168	156
Total	<u>3,761</u>	3657

GRAPHIC CHART OF ALARMS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ALARMS, FIRE LOSSES AND INSURANCE.

1934. Months.	ALARMS.			ALARMS RECEIVED FROM								NO FIRE.					RUBBISH — GRASS.				
	Box	Telephone.	Other Silla.	Members.	Police.	Watchman.	Outsider.	Automatic.	Unknown.	Total.	False.	Accidental.	Rescue.	Needless Bell.	Needless Sill.	Automobiles.	Rubbish, Vacant Lot.	Rubbish near Building.	Dump.	Brush or Grass.	Other Outdoor.
January.....	585	287	151	3	10	9	795	38	168	1,023	168	44	29	38	94	84	29	6	6	30	54
February.....	493	306	85	1	16	15	703	57	92	884	92	65	28	45	66	66	4	5	3	5	18
March.....	443	254	47	2	10	20	546	35	131	744	131	30	21	22	39	65	12	4	6	44	20
April.....	540	360	51	9	11	6	720	15	190	951	190	14	9	21	28	67	41	9	28	211	51
May.....	472	305	57	5	18	11	650	12	138	834	138	12	17	14	31	79	55	14	26	106	61
June.....	403	186	73	14	7	9	515	8	109	662	109	8	22	10	26	57	28	15	23	21	98
July.....	576	246	100	13	10	14	701	18	166	922	166	18	27	9	22	64	54	21	22	73	135
August.....	449	194	85	3	10	5	548	20	142	728	142	21	25	12	28	83	22	17	13	70	70
September.....	415	118	69	5	2	2	382	12	109	602	199	15	20	17	19	69	10	17	4	16	29
October.....	530	223	51	2	8	16	533	18	227	804	227	18	25	21	39	86	15	15	8	27	54
November.....	483	217	79	2	9	10	562	16	180	779	180	14	17	28	34	70	15	12	12	50	32
December.....	563	347	132	6	11	15	842	31	137	1,042	137	34	56	23	61	118	19	12	8	80	24
Totals.....	5,952	3,043	980	65	122	132	7,467	280	1,879	9,875	1,879	293	296	260	487	908	364	147	159	733	646

ALARMS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

YEAR.	Bell.	Still and Automatic.	Totals.
1934.....	5,952	4,023	9,975
1933.....	5,496	3,597	9,093
1932.....	5,587	3,808	9,395
1931.....	4,727	3,934	8,661
1930.....	4,601	3,808	8,409
1929.....	4,473	3,979	8,452
1928.....	3,867	3,829	7,696
1927.....	3,492	3,840	7,332
1926.....	3,762	4,108	7,870
1925.....	3,798	3,004	7,702

Each fire is treated as having only one alarm.

FIRES WHERE LOSSES EXCEEDED \$15,000.

DATE.	Location and Owner.	Loss.
1934.		
Jan. 2.....	50 Washington street, L. K. Liggett Company <i>et al.</i> ...	\$21,168 98
Jan. 5.....	Fenway Park, Boston American League Baseball Club <i>et al.</i>	224,875 22
Jan. 16.....	53 and 55 Portland street, Diemont Levy Company <i>et al.</i>	16,157 49
Jan. 18.....	2214-2224 Washington street, Blair's Market <i>et al.</i>	26,294 40
Jan. 19.....	101 and 103 State street, Thomas Groom & Co. <i>et al.</i> ...	94,367 73
Jan. 20.....	54-64 Chardon street, Keystone Furniture Company <i>et al.</i>	32,187 28
Feb. 9.....	232 Bay State road, Boston University <i>et al.</i>	17,136 47
Feb. 26.....	155-165 Hanover street, Crafts <i>et al.</i>	31,915 50
March 20.....	5-15 Hanover street, Hanover Cafeteria <i>et al.</i>	16,314 69
March 25.....	5 and 7 Poplar street, F. Sikora <i>et al.</i>	17,924 88
May 5.....	104-114 Lincoln street, Old Mill Paper Products Corporation <i>et al.</i>	28,234 63
June 15.....	37 Simmons street, E. Goldman <i>et al.</i>	15,355 29
July 28.....	333 Medford street, Revere Sugar Refinery.....	45,966 59
Sept. 9.....	508-520 Boylston street, Hotel Brunswick, Inc.....	50,823 68
Oct. 18.....	5 and 6 Fulton place, F. W. Baldau & Co. <i>et al.</i>	19,861 90
Nov. 12.....	2321-2337 Washington street, Wellworth Market, Inc. <i>et al.</i>	63,702 59
Dec. 10.....	37 and 39 Lewis Wharf, Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corporation <i>et al.</i>	43,795 00
Dec. 17.....	104-114 Lincoln street, Katz-Reisman Shoe Company, Inc. <i>et al.</i>	21,795 22
Dec. 27.....	17 Elm street, Central Congregational Church <i>et al.</i> ...	79,575 00

STATISTICS.

Population, January 1, 1935 (estimated)	795,256
Area, square miles	47.81
Number brick, etc., buildings	44,062
Number of wooden buildings	93,726
Fires in brick, etc., buildings	2,103
Fires in wooden buildings	1,658
Fires out of city	74
Not in buildings, false and needless	6,140
	9,975

FIRE LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1934.

Buildings, loss insured	\$1,607,397 90
Contents, loss insured	724,882 19

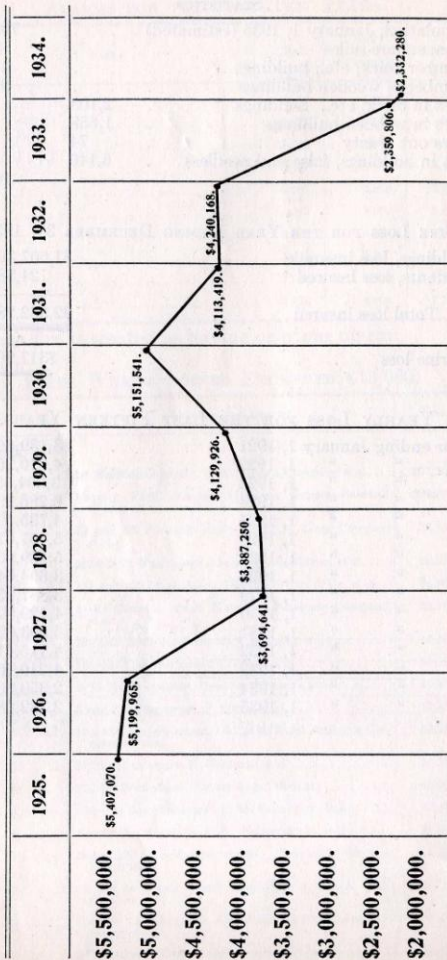
Total loss insured \$2,332,280 09

Marine loss \$317,960 00

YEARLY LOSS FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

Year ending January 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
1930 " " " 1, 1931	4,593,622 00
1931 " " " 1, 1932	4,115,419 00
1932 " " " 1, 1933	4,240,168 00
1933 " " " 1, 1934	2,359,806 00
1934 " " " 1, 1935	2,332,280 00
1935 " " " 1, 1936	2,033,107.00

GRAPHIC CHART OF FIRE LOSS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



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.	John A. O'Connor.
Timothy J. Heffron.	Michael J. Teehan.
Gilbert W. Jones.	William C. Jeffers.