

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
AND WIRE DIVISION  
OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1937



CITY OF BOSTON  
PRINTING DEPARTMENT  
1938

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CITY OF BOSTON  
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1938



OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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WILLIAM ARTHUR REILLY,  
*Fire Commissioner.*

WILLIAM D. SLATTERY,  
*Executive Secretary of the Department.*

SAMUEL J. POPE,  
*Chief of Department.*

GEORGE L. FICKETT,  
*Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division.*

FRANK L. KELLEY,  
*Provisional Superintendent of Wire Division.*

EDWARD E. WILLIAMSON,  
*Superintendent of Maintenance Division.*

THOMAS H. DOWNEY,  
*Deputy Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention Division.*

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

[DOCUMENT 12 — 1938.]



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Boston, January 4, 1938.

HON. MAURICE J. TOBIN,  
*Mayor of the City of Boston.*

DEAR SIR,— I have the honor to submit herewith a concise report of the activities of the Boston Fire Department and the Wire Division for the year ending December 31, 1937. An annual report is required under section 24, chapter 4, of the Revised Ordinances of 1925. The delay in publishing this report was occasioned by the fact that the amount of the fire loss for the year 1937 was not officially available until May, 1938.

During the period covered by this document the Hon. Edward F. McLaughlin was Fire Commissioner, completing his eighth year in office.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM ARTHUR REILLY,  
*Fire Commissioner.*



## SECTION I — THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

### FIRE LOSS.

The total fire loss for the City of Boston, estimated by the insurance companies, amounted to \$2,204,366.93, of which \$1,363,660.42 was on buildings and \$840,706.51 was on contents.

This loss is the lowest experienced in many years, and continues the downward trend begun in 1931. The per capita loss for the city thus has been steadily decreasing.

### FINANCES.

Expenditures of the department decreased slightly over 1936. I submit below a table showing how expenditures of 1937 compared with those of previous years.

Year ending December 31, 1937	.	.	.	\$4,084,327	54
" " " " 1936	.	.	.	4,123,856	68
" " " " 1935	.	.	.	4,161,328	20
" " " " 1934	.	.	.	3,677,085	02
" " " " 1933	.	.	.	3,804,226	83
" " " " 1932	.	.	.	4,377,844	00
" " " " 1931	.	.	.	4,620,818	60
" " " " 1930	.	.	.	4,642,216	53
" " " " 1929	.	.	.	4,552,265	18
" " " " 1928	.	.	.	4,357,568	28

### NEW BOOK OF RULES.

During the year 1937, the Rules and Regulations of the department were revised and a new book of Rules and Regulations was issued to the department. This new book was very much needed, inasmuch as the previous one was issued in 1917, and should be of great assistance to all officers and members of the department in carrying out their respective duties.

A new set of regulations governing the response and covering of apparatus on alarms of fire was issued to the department on January 2, 1937, the major change being the striking of the nearest street box following all



Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company and American District Telegraph Company alarms, thus giving a full complement of apparatus in response to such alarms. This complied with a recommendation of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, following their inspection and survey of the department in 1936. The wisdom of this practice justifies its continuance as severe losses have been avoided in many instances through the full response of apparatus. Incidentally, the first alarm received for the most serious fire to which the department responded during the year, namely, the Danish steamship "Laila," was an automatic alarm. This vessel, which was moored at Pier 45, Mystic Docks, was laden with nitrate and miscellaneous cargo, and the department met and controlled one of the most hazardous conditions it has ever encountered.

#### 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.....	238	252
Water discharged *.....	78,000 gallons	409,000 gallons

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

#### MARINE SERVICE.

All three fireboats regularly assigned to the marine service were taken out of service during the year for the annual inspection by the United States Steamboat Inspectors and necessary painting and repairs of boats, main engines, pumps, fire pumps, auxiliaries, etc., were made.

#### PERSONNEL.

The following changes in personnel of the fire force occurred during the year: twenty-five (25) retirements, twelve (12) deaths and three (3) resignations. The promotions were: one (1) district chief, eleven (11) captains and twenty-eight (28) lieutenants. One hundred and ten (110) new men were appointed, two (2) of whom later resigned. These promotions and appointments were greatly needed and aided considerably in the strengthening of the fire fighting force.

#### FIRE COLLEGE.

The sessions of the Fire College were conducted during the year (except during the vacation period). One hundred and fifty-eight (158) members of this department and one (1) officer from a neighboring city received instructions at the college during the year.

#### DRILL SCHOOL—COMPANY DRILLS.

Ninety-one (91) men on probation successfully completed the course of instructions at the Drill School. Regular weekly drills were held by all companies in the department. In addition, each company in the department was given a thorough drill by the department drillmaster.

#### MUTUAL AID.

The department responded to seventy-one (71) alarms of fire outside of the city limits, divided as follows:

Milton . . . . .	38
Brookline . . . . .	4
Somerville . . . . .	24
Newton . . . . .	4
Everett . . . . .	1

#### FIRE ALARM DIVISION.

Fire alarms were received and transmitted with no delays or failures. Of the 4,948 box alarms received and transmitted to the department, 1,400 were false, about 28 per cent. This compares with 4,860 received in 1936, with 1,328 false, about 27 per cent. The Police Department made thirty-five (35) arrests of persons sounding false alarms and thirty-five (35) convictions were obtained in court, as compared with forty-one (41) arrests in 1936 and thirty-six (36) convictions.

Because of the small appropriations, only the most essential construction work was performed. The streets prescribed for the removal of poles and overhead wires affected this division but little. In the regular work eight (8) box posts were installed, one (1) was relocated and eight (8) were reset or replaced; one thousand six hundred and fifty-four (1,654) feet of ducts were laid underground and two (2) handholes were built.



Approximately four thousand eight hundred and fourteen (4,814) feet of cable was used to extend the underground system and seven thousand seventy-seven (7,077) feet was used for replacements.

In order to give the new housing project at Old Harbor Village proper fire alarm service, an agreement was made with the Works Progress Administration to share the expense of installing four (4) fire alarm boxes with connections thereto. In this work four (4) posts were set; two thousand four hundred and sixty-two (2,462) feet of ducts were laid underground; four (4) manholes and three (3) handholes were built and three thousand seventy-five (3,075) feet of cable was installed.

Eleven (11) public fire alarm boxes, two (2) school-house boxes and three (3) private boxes were connected into service. Six (6) boxes were removed from service and fifteen (15) old obsolete type boxes were replaced. The numbers of forty-seven (47) boxes were changed. One (1) new box and one (1) new tapper circuit were made. Considerable old line wire was replaced and many improvements were made in the electrical systems of department houses.

All chiefs' cars are now equipped with radio receivers, sixteen (16) sets being installed during the year. Amplifiers were placed on some cars to improve telephone service between fire alarm boxes and fire alarm headquarters.

#### FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION.

(A.) *Inspection Force.*— All classes of buildings were inspected, including many one and two family houses, with the permission of the occupants, as under the law this department has no authority to inspect such types of buildings without their consent.

(B.) *License and Permit Division.*— The fees received for permits, permit and license renewals for the year 1937 amounted to \$27,754.75, as compared with \$24,430.25 for 1936.

(C.) *Arson Squad.*— Under authority of chapter 383 of the Acts of 1931, two hundred and forty-one (241) fires were investigated by the arson squad during the year.

#### MAINTENANCE DIVISION.

Thorough inspections and tests of apparatus, equipment and hose were conducted at various times during

the year, and where defects were found, replacements or repairs were made immediately so that the efficiency of the department might be maintained at a high standard at all times.

During the year, only one (1) motor vehicle was purchased, namely, a Studebaker de luxe cruising sedan, and a Hupmobile sedan was turned in as part payment on this car.

#### PUMP SCHOOL.

One class of the motor pump school was held during the year, at which six (6) members of the department were instructed in the care and operation of motor fire pumps.

#### CHAUFFEURS' SCHOOL.

Seventy-nine (79) members of the department received instructions in the chauffeurs' school during the year and were certified as operators of department motor vehicles. All members rated as chauffeurs were given instructions in the care and operation of motor vehicles.

#### W. P. A. PROJECTS.

(A.) W. P. A. Project No. 5578 started during 1936 and was completed on June 25, 1937. The work consisted of painting interiors of fire stations, bricklaying, carpentry, roofing, steamfitting, concrete work and general building repairs. During this time work was done in twenty-eight department buildings.

(B.) Project No. 13160 consisted of painting interiors of fire stations, bricklaying, carpentry, roofing, steamfitting, concrete work, general building repairs, and the making of fifty-seven (57) safes at W. P. A. work shop at Fire Department garage. It was begun and completed in 1937 and work was done in four department buildings.

(C.) Project No. 13886 consisted of painting interiors of fire stations, bricklaying, carpentry, roofing, concrete work and general building repairs. This project was started September 25, 1937, and was still going on December 31, 1937. During this time work was done in nineteen department buildings.



# **BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS — 1937.**

## **RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES, 1937.**

Fire Department . . . . .	\$4,084,327 54
Wire Division . . . . .	97,622 53
	<u>\$4,181,950 07</u>

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF REVENUE, BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, YEAR OF 1937.**

Permits for fires in open spaces; fireworks; blasting; transportation and storage of explosives; garage and gasoline storage; oil burners; etc. . . . .	\$29,824 65
Sale of old material (condemned hose) . . . . .	444 65
Sale of old material (junk) . . . . .	409 97
Miscellaneous sales . . . . .	103 24
Sale of badges . . . . .	372 00
Property damage:	
Fire alarm boxes and posts . . . . .	552 93
Fire apparatus . . . . .	512 43
	<u>\$32,219 87</u>

## **BUILDING STATISTICS.**

Number of brick, etc., buildings . . . . .	44,425
Number of wooden buildings . . . . .	93,911
Fires in brick, etc., buildings . . . . .	2,024
Fires in wooden buildings . . . . .	1,577
Fires out of city . . . . .	90
Not in buildings, false and needless . . . . .	5,996
	<u>9,687</u>

Population, January 1, 1938, 825,537; area, square miles, 47.81.

## **FIRES IN BUILDINGS.**

### **Construction of Buildings.**

Fire resistive . . . . .	155
Second class . . . . .	1,869
Frame . . . . .	1,563
Other types . . . . .	14
Total . . . . .	<u>3,601</u>

## **Point of Origin.**

Basement . . . . .	1,120
First floor . . . . .	1,028
Second floor . . . . .	443
Third floor . . . . .	335
Above third floor . . . . .	137
Roof . . . . .	110
Outside . . . . .	428
Total . . . . .	<u>3,601</u>

## **Extent of Fire.**

Confined to point of origin . . . . .	2,940
Confined to buildings . . . . .	594
Spread to other buildings . . . . .	67
Total . . . . .	<u>3,601</u>

## **Causes of Fires in Buildings.**

Chimneys, soot burning . . . . .	415
Defective chimney . . . . .	48
Sparks from chimney . . . . .	52
Defectively installed heater . . . . .	98
Rubbish near heater . . . . .	50
Hot ashes . . . . .	78
Fuel oil burners . . . . .	307
Starting fires, kerosene or gasoline . . . . .	30
Careless smoking . . . . .	1,087
Children and matches . . . . .	249
Other careless use of matches . . . . .	119
Defective wiring . . . . .	75
Electric appliances and motors . . . . .	192
Home dry cleaning . . . . .	2
Flammable liquids near flame . . . . .	35
Kerosene lamps, stoves . . . . .	12
Grease, food on stove . . . . .	85
Clothes, furniture too near fire . . . . .	48
Spontaneous ignition . . . . .	133
Fireworks . . . . .	45
Thawing water pipes . . . . .	2
Sparks from machines . . . . .	19
City gas and appliances . . . . .	20
Miscellaneous known causes . . . . .	191
Incendiary or suspicious . . . . .	52
Unknown . . . . .	157
Total . . . . .	<u>3,601</u>



## CAUSES OF OUTDOOR FIRES.

Automobile	827
Rubbish (vacant lot)	413
Rubbish (near building)	150
Dump	126
Brush	916
Marine	20
Other outdoor fires	808
Total	3,260
Rescues (emergency calls)	464
Out of city calls	90

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Monthly Summary of Alarms, Fire Losses and Insurance.  
(Indicating Source, Character and Damage.)

1917. Months.	ALARMS.			ALARMS RECEIVED FROM.										NO FIRE.					RUBBISH — GRASS.					
	Box.	Telephone.	Other Stills.	Members of Fire Department.	Police.	Watchman.	Outsider.	Automatic.	Unknown.	Total.	False.	Accidental.	Rescue.	Needless Bell.	Needless Still.	Automobiles.	Rubbish, Vacant Lot.	Rubbish Near Building.	Dump.	Brush or Grass.	Other Outdoor.			
January	400	241	72	1	4	13	597	24	104	803	164	27	36	21	24	44	42	12	6	24	72			
February	448	324	59	5	9	9	700	8	100	831	100	12	26	11	33	66	22	10	7	144	35			
March	505	388	98	4	13	19	833	25	97	991	97	22	48	11	40	65	41	9	6	182	37			
April	459	311	66	4	11	15	678	17	111	836	111	16	34	16	28	64	36	22	11	135	31			
May	407	232	48	9	4	8	537	15	124	687	125	15	28	11	26	65	25	10	15	55	56			
June	401	210	67	4	6	10	549	19	90	678	90	21	40	18	23	75	50	12	16	24	90			
July	486	286	110	8	19	11	706	28	110	882	110	27	47	16	26	78	69	18	15	46	130			
August	386	219	59	3	6	5	521	23	106	664	106	22	46	18	22	71	18	10	11	45	57			
September	354	190	40	3	7	9	437	20	108	584	108	22	43	24	25	65	13	12	8	7	38			
October	524	295	78	6	9	9	671	28	174	807	174	23	47	16	43	64	35	6	13	87	92			
November	539	316	105	4	9	17	792	11	127	960	127	9	40	19	45	77	45	19	14	125	123			
December	503	299	72	5	15	15	679	30	130	874	130	31	29	23	44	93	17	10	4	42	47			
Totals	5,502	3,311	874	56	112	140	7,690	248	1,441	9,657	1,442	247	464	204	379	827	413	150	126	916	808			

## Alarms, Fire Losses and Insurance.—Concluded.

1937. Months.	CHARACTER OF FIRE AND DAMAGE.										FIRE LOSSES AND INSURANCE.			
	PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL.					RESIDENTIAL.					MERCANTILE.		MANUFACTURING.	
	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.
1937. Months.	Out of City Calls.	Marine.	Confined to Room.	Extended to Other Buildings.	No Damage.	Damage Slight.	Damage Considerable.	Totally Destroyed.	Loss.		Insurance Carried.		Contents.	
	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.
January.....	6	3	275	44	3	137	182	2	1	\$125,678 30	\$95,436 18	\$3,542,050 00	\$829,800 00	
February.....	5	2	292	61	5	183	171	3	1	151,465 09	54,785 44	11,800,930 00	1,748,395 00	
March.....	12	2	338	70	11	201	214	4	.....	269,007 23	131,464 10	9,056,213 00	2,943,993 00	
April.....	8	.....	266	53	5	165	150	7	2	123,017 30	89,913 23	3,141,303 00	1,130,375 00	
May.....	3	1	193	52	7	108	141	3	.....	83,799 31	28,190 21	3,425,386 56	597,740 50	
June.....	7	.....	182	25	5	96	115	1	.....	62,838 36	27,585 84	1,634,356 00	345,075 00	
July.....	12	2	229	54	3	119	164	3	.....	74,065 58	44,776 52	2,987,737 00	227,731 00	
August.....	5	4	180	46	3	99	126	2	2	110,779 61	39,485 81	2,127,147 00	1,170,091 76	
September.....	1	3	184	28	3	96	118	1	.....	55,546 95	35,499 87	4,244,180 00	7,154,050 87	
October.....	9	2	232	51	3	133	152	1	.....	96,260 79	158,020 69	2,708,885 92	738,730 00	
November.....	14	1	244	51	7	134	167	1	.....	98,133 49	33,626 48	10,570,661 00	1,922,650 00	
December.....	8	.....	325	59	12	199	193	4	.....	164,048 41	101,922 14	4,603,361 00	581,630 00	
Totals.....	90	20	2,940	594	67	1,670	1,893	32	6	\$1,363,660 42	\$840,706 51	\$39,932,219 48	\$19,390,362 13	

## 1937 Losses From Fire.

1937.	PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL.		RESIDENTIAL.		MERCANTILE.		MANUFACTURING.		MISCELLANEOUS.		Total.
	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	
	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	
January.....	\$53 00	.....	\$55,900 29	\$15,823 09	\$61,341 91	\$71,562 06	\$7,389 10	\$6,832 94	\$1,094 00	.....	\$219,916 39
February.....	2,598 23	\$292 00	86,607 34	21,609 55	57,074 35	30,559 68	3,481 92	1,961 44	1,703 25	.....	205,887 76
March.....	14,660 60	5,696 07	99,651 46	43,711 37	86,335 69	64,375 07	7,971 48	15,769 72	188 00	\$287 87	338,847 33
April.....	2,533 30	1,424 00	64,239 47	15,388 15	43,139 23	43,732 80	538 10	8,092 37	12,577 20	20,912 04	212,566 66
May.....	9,665 36	787 32	47,629 89	9,717 60	20,971 57	9,279 24	2,370 80	3,217 42	3,161 69	3,709 58	110,810 47
June.....	.....	.....	36,303 95	14,826 47	12,648 41	6,108 88	966 00	6,346 49	12,940 00	.....	90,140 20
July.....	8,440 00	2,545 00	34,638 69	12,266 48	11,393 15	7,099 37	18,816 26	22,869 13	768 48	.....	118,545 56
August.....	3,111 29	1,175 65	95,178 72	11,565 51	3,778 90	4,958 37	15,010 70	18,719 37	2,700 00	2,704 16	158,902 67
September.....	226 80	.....	35,080 93	4,731 21	16,111 06	25,610 50	132 26	91 75	3,995 90	4,783 41	90,763 82
October.....	229 40	.....	35,324 29	9,388 86	46,984 19	136,640 72	13,635 76	10,983 08	87 15	.....	253,473 45
November.....	700 00	.....	76,748 09	20,337 06	12,599 11	10,454 21	7,888 29	1,492 16	198 00	725 00	131,141 92
December.....	17,950 00	.....	107,450 29	26,347 97	24,828 37	64,459 69	13,809 75	10,086 50	10 00	700 00	265,642 57
Totals.....	\$60,176 98	\$11,920 04	\$774,753 41	\$205,913 32	\$397,303 94	\$475,140 59	\$92,000 42	\$106,182 37	\$39,423 67	\$33,822 06	\$2,196,638 80
Building loss.....											\$1,363,660 42
Contents loss.....											\$840,706 51
Total loss.....											\$2,204,366 93

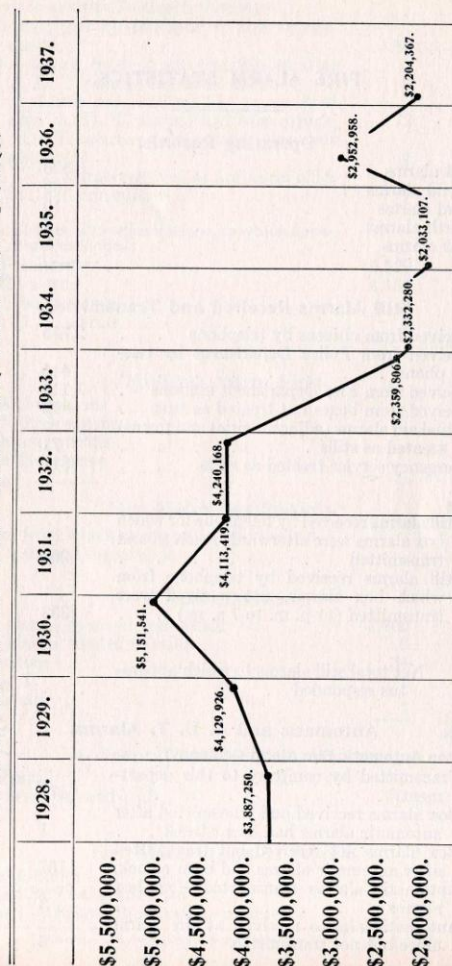
\* Including \$7,728.13, automobiles.



## Fires Where Losses Exceeded \$15,000.

DATE.	Location and Owner.	Loss.
<b>1937.</b>		
Jan. 6.....	519-523 Atlantic avenue, Osborne Office Furniture Company <i>et al.</i> .....	\$101,758 15
Feb. 5.....	100-102 Seaver street, Ruth Finkelstein <i>et al.</i> .....	23,479 90
Feb. 5.....	235-237 Congress street, Donovan and Sullivan Engraving Company <i>et al.</i> .....	47,031 59
Feb. 13.....	308-312 Congress street, Guy Gulino <i>et al.</i> .....	19,555 40
March 2.....	39-41 High street, Rice estate <i>et al.</i> .....	28,355 50
March 20.....	148-156 Brighton avenue, Harvard Garden, Inc., <i>et al.</i> ..	62,511 21
March 23.....	40-44 Warren street, George Melhado & Co.....	24,700 87
March 28.....	8 B street, T. M. Buckley Company.....	21,966 21
April 5.....	875 Massachusetts avenue, Harvey Tire and Rubber Company <i>et al.</i> .....	31,534 49
April 21.....	180-186 Purchase street, Office Furniture Exchange Company <i>et al.</i> .....	26,192 57
April 21.....	49-51 South street, Besse, Osborn & Odell, Inc., <i>et al.</i> ..	33,909 31
June 20.....	1863 Commonwealth avenue, F. G. Deban.....	18,787 21
July 4.....	975 Massachusetts avenue, Troy Brothers & Co., Inc....	28,014 18
Aug. 27.....	28 India Wharf, Savogran Company <i>et al.</i> .....	33,730 07
Aug. 28.....	644-646 Washington street, Hotel Brigham Company..	48,360 29
Sept. 5.....	162-164 Lincoln street, H. Simons Shoe Company <i>et al.</i> ..	19,346 27
Sept. 21.....	12 Marble street, Maurice Gordon.....	16,043 01
Oct. 13.....	91 Braintree street, Thompson Norris Company <i>et al.</i> ..	105,302 62
Oct. 30.....	55 Union street, Brighton Laundry Company.....	43,290 15
Nov. 6.....	68-74 Warrenton street, La Salle Hotel, Inc., <i>et al.</i> ....	16,018 00
Dec. 10.....	91-97 Causeway street, Sharaf's, Inc., <i>et al.</i> .....	15,570 30
Dec. 22.....	Somerset street (Court House), George A. Fuller Co.	17,000 00
Dec. 29.....	197-199 Friend street, Royal Textile Company <i>et al.</i> ....	22,375 00

GRAPHIC CHART OF FIRE LOSS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



## FIRE ALARM STATISTICS.

## Operating Records.

First alarms . . . . .	5,520	
Second alarms . . . . .	69	
Third alarms . . . . .	19	
Fourth alarms . . . . .	6	
Fifth alarms . . . . .	1	
		<u>5,615</u>

## Still Alarms Received and Transmitted.

Received from citizens by telephone . . . . .	2,756	
Received from Police Department by telephone . . . . .	415	
Received from Fire Department stations . . . . .	1,119	
Received from boxes but treated as stills . . . . .	12	
Mutual aid alarms (adjacent cities and towns) treated as stills . . . . .	71	
Emergency service treated as stills . . . . .	317	
		<u>4,690</u>

## Less

Still alarms received by telephone for which box alarms were afterwards received and transmitted . . . . .	203	
Still alarms received by telephone from which box alarms, not received were transmitted (11 p. m. to 7 a. m.) . . . . .	333	
		<u>536</u>
Net total still alarms to which apparatus responded . . . . .		<u>4,154</u>

## Automatic and A. D. T. Alarms.

<b>Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company:</b>		
Transmitted by company to this department . . . . .	177	9769
Box alarms received and transmitted after automatic alarms had been struck . . . . .	1	
Box alarms not received but transmitted after automatic alarms had been struck, automatic alarms transmitted—no box alarms . . . . .	167	
Automatic alarms transmitted—no box alarms . . . . .	3	
Automatic alarms received at fire alarm office but not transmitted . . . . .	6	

## American District Telegraph Company:

Transmitted by company to this department . . . . .	80
Box alarms received and transmitted after A. D. T. alarms had been struck . . . . .	0
Box alarms not received but transmitted after A. D. T. alarms had been struck, A. D. T. alarms transmitted—no box alarm . . . . .	72
A. D. T. alarms transmitted—no box alarm . . . . .	1
A. D. T. alarms received at fire alarm office but not transmitted . . . . .	7

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

First alarms . . . . .	5,520
Still alarms . . . . .	4,154
Automatic alarms . . . . .	3
A. D. T. alarms . . . . .	1
	<u>9,678</u>

## Multiple Alarm Fires.

With two alarms . . . . .	54
With three alarms . . . . .	16
With four alarms . . . . .	5
With five alarms . . . . .	1

## Fire Alarm Box Records.\*

Boxes from which no alarms were received . . . . .	439
Box tests and inspections . . . . .	11,923

## False Alarms.

Box alarms received and struck . . . . .	1,400
Box alarms treated as stills . . . . .	6
Telephone . . . . .	34
A. D. T. . . . .	1
Automatic . . . . .	1
	<u>1,442</u>

## Accidental and Needless Alarms.

Accidental . . . . .	247
Needless (bell and still) . . . . .	583
	<u>830</u>

## Fire Alarm Boxes in Service.

Total number . . . . .	1,708
Owned by Fire Department . . . . .	1,256
Owned by School Buildings Department . . . . .	255

\* NOTE.—All street box doors are tested weekly.

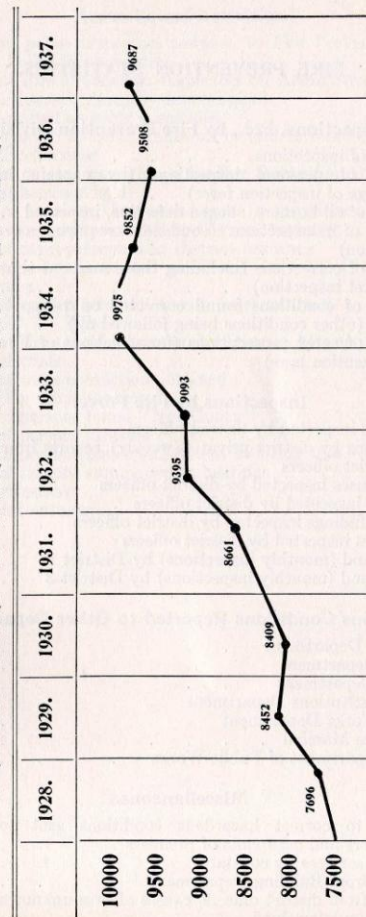


Owned by Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company . . . . .	46
Privately owned . . . . .	151
Total boxes on posts . . . . .	887
Total boxes on poles . . . . .	467
Total boxes on buildings . . . . .	175
Total boxes in buildings . . . . .	179

#### Summary of Work Done. — Fire Alarm Repair Shop.

	Feet.
Line wire used in new work (approximately) . . . . .	4,200
Line wire used for replacements (approximately) . . . . .	55,800
Aerial cable installed, new work . . . . .	1,200
Conductors in same . . . . .	6,800
Aerial cable replaced . . . . .	2,600
Conductors in same . . . . .	5,200
Underground cable installed, new work . . . . .	7,890
Conductors in same . . . . .	47,492
Underground cable replaced . . . . .	7,077
Conductors in same . . . . .	116,550
Submarine cable replaced . . . . .	250
Conductors in same . . . . .	4,750
Ducts laid underground . . . . .	4,116
Ducts abandoned . . . . .	796
Manholes built . . . . .	4
Handholes built . . . . .	5
Fire alarm boxes installed by Fire Department . . . . .	11
Fire alarm boxes installed by School Buildings Department . . . . .	2
Fire alarm boxes installed, private . . . . .	3
Fire alarm boxes relocated . . . . .	1
Fire alarm boxes removed from service . . . . .	6
Box posts installed . . . . .	12
Box posts relocated . . . . .	1
Box posts reset or replaced by new . . . . .	8
Underground cable box (attached to pole) installed . . . . .	1
Underground cable boxes removed from service . . . . .	2

GRAPHIC CHART OF ALARMS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



## FIRE PREVENTION STATISTICS.

## Inspections, Etc., by Fire Prevention Division.

Number of inspections	100,413
Number of personal inspections (by captain in charge of inspection force)	2,551
Number of oil burners, alleged defective, inspected	1,517
Number of reinspections (conditions requiring correction)	12,762
Number of corrections (including those made at time of first inspection)	13,695
Number of conditions found corrected on reinspection (other conditions being followed up)	10,771
Number of court prosecutions (for violations of Fire Prevention laws)	2

## Inspections by Fire Force.

Buildings inspected by district officers	19,002
Inspections by district privates (weekly), reports from district officers	54,082
Schoolhouses inspected by district officers	3,791
Theatres inspected by district officers	3,980
Public buildings inspected by district officers	861
Carhouses inspected by district officers	72
Deer Island (monthly inspections) by District 1	12
Long Island (monthly inspections) by District 3	12

## Hazardous Conditions Reported to Other Departments.

Building Department	835
School Department	3
Health Department	9
Penal Institutions Department	2
Public Works Department	7
State Fire Marshal	52
State Department of Public Works	6

## Miscellaneous.

Notices to correct hazardous conditions sent to owners and occupants of premises	494
Personal services by constable	427
Reports from Building Department	319
Reports from district officers, causes of fires unknown and undetermined	157
Reports from district officers, suspicious fires	52

## Arson Squad Activities.

Number of police inspectors assigned to Fire Prevention from Police Headquarters	2
Number of Fire Prevention Inspectors on Arson Squad	6
Number of investigations by Arson Squad	241
(a) Reported as being suspicious	44
(b) Reported as being unknown or undetermined	103
(c) Miscellaneous	94
Number of persons interviewed by Fire Prevention Office	24
Number of hearings held	13
Number of hearings that on account of insufficient evidence were not presented to District Attorney	6
Number of cases presented to District Attorney	7
Number of cases presented to Grand Jury by District Attorney	3
Number of cases where indictments were returned	3
Number of "No Bills"	0
Number of cases awaiting action by District Attorney	4
Number of trials	4
Number of cases conviction obtained	2
Number of persons convicted	2
Number of persons found "Not Guilty"	5
Number of persons arrested	8
Number of persons under indictment awaiting trial	4
Number of persons summoned at hearings	82
Civilian witnesses	82
Department witnesses	55



## MAINTENANCE DIVISION STATISTICS.

## Motor Equipment Inventory.

TYPE.	In Service.	In Reserve.
Pumping engines.....	52	11
Hose cars.....	48	10
Aerial ladder trucks.....	22	7
City service ladder trucks.....	9	4
Water towers.....	3	1
Mack wrecker.....	1	—
Rescue cars.....	3	1
Fuel cars.....	1	1
School car.....	—	1
Foamite wagons.....	—	1
Lighting plants.....	2	—
Chief officers' cars.....	40	13
Ford coupes.....	5	—
Emergency Ford cars.....	12	—
Commercial trucks.....	6	—

## Hose Inventory.

## Hose Purchased.

	Feet.
2½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	8,000
3-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	2,000
3½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	500
4½-inch hard rubber suction . . . . .	63
¾-inch chemical hose . . . . .	4,500
1-inch deck hose . . . . .	50
Total . . . . .	<u>15,113</u>

## Hose Condemned.

	Feet.
2½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	8,100
3-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	3,700
3½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	422
4½-inch hard rubber suction . . . . .	53
¾-inch chemical hose . . . . .	2,350
1-inch deck hose . . . . .	50
Total . . . . .	<u>14,675</u>

## Hose Repaired.

	Feet.
2½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	18,750
3-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	4,550
3½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	700
4½-inch hard rubber suction . . . . .	10½
1-inch deck hose . . . . .	150
¾-inch chemical hose . . . . .	5,450
Total . . . . .	<u>29,610½</u>

## Hose in Service.

	Feet.
2½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	121,200
3-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	33,200
3½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	7,567
3-inch flexible suction hose . . . . .	825
3½-inch deluge hose . . . . .	613
4½-inch hard rubber suction . . . . .	1,239
1-inch deck hose . . . . .	1,000
¾-inch chemical hose . . . . .	23,050
¾-inch Foamite hose . . . . .	900
Total . . . . .	<u>189,594</u>

## Hose in Stock.

	Feet.
2½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	11,550
3-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	2,350
3-inch leading cotton hose (reissue) . . . . .	1,400
3½-inch leading cotton hose . . . . .	775
3-inch flexible suction hose . . . . .	66
3½-inch deluge hose . . . . .	12½
4½-inch hard rubber suction . . . . .	55
1-inch deck hose . . . . .	100
¾-inch chemical hose . . . . .	2,200
Total . . . . .	<u>18,508½</u>

## HYDRANTS.

(In service, December 31, 1937.)

TYPE.	Public.	Private.
Ordinary post.....	3,100	127
Boston post.....	2,317	28
Lowry.....	578	33
Boston Lowry.....	292	5
Batchelder & Finneran post.....	4,895	8
Boston.....	98	111
High Pressure.....	505	—
Chapman post.....	22	55
Ludlow post.....	1	13
Matthew post.....	—	4
Coffin post.....	1	—
Total.....	11,809	384

## SECTION II — THE WIRE DIVISION.

## WIRE DIVISION.

## Personnel.

Superintendent Peter F. Dolan of the Wire Division died January 25, 1937.

Inspector Frank L. Kelley was appointed as Acting Superintendent of the Wire Division January 29, 1937, and was made Provisional Superintendent, with the approval of the Civil Service Commission, July 22, 1937.

The following is a summary of the personnel of the Wire Division as of December 31, 1937:

QUOTA.	Rating.	Number Working.	Number of Vacancies.
1	Superintendent.....	1*	0
1	Chief Inspector.....	1	0
22	Interior Inspector.....	22	0
10	Exterior Inspector.....	7	3
1	Chauffeur-Stenciller.....	1	0
1	Chief Clerk.....	1	0
7	Clerk.....	7	0

\* Provisional.

Regular and periodical inspections were made of all theatres, places of amusement and public halls, together with inspections of new installations and changes in electrical work throughout the city.

Thorough investigations were made of all fires and accidents reported as due to electrical causes and reports of same are on file in this division.

During the year there were eighty-seven (87) fires in buildings reported as due to electrical causes, seventy-three (73) of which were found to be due to such causes and fourteen (14) found not due to electricity. There were six (6) manhole troubles, three (3) fires on poles, eight (8) accidents to persons, ten (10) miscellaneous troubles and one (1) fatal accident (auto ran into pole, killing driver) reported.



### Permits.

The income received from permits to perform electrical work was \$46,677.94.

### Underground Cables.

The underground district for the year 1937, as prescribed under authority of chapter 101 of the Acts of 1931, comprised the following streets:

*East Boston.*—Putnam street, from Condor street to Bennington street; Havre street, from Sumner street to Bennington street.

*South Boston.*—East Fifth street, from G street to P street.

*Dorchester.*—Park street, from Dorchester avenue to Washington street.

*Brighton.*—Braintree street, from Franklin street to Everett street; Everett street, from North Beacon street to Braintree street.

*South Boston and Roxbury.*—Southampton street, from Andrew square to Hampden street.

*Hyde Park.*—Hyde Park avenue, from River street to Dana avenue.

making a total distance of four (4) miles as prescribed by law.

In these prescribed streets from which poles and overhead wires were to be removed there were standing on January 1, 1938, one hundred and one (101) poles and nine hundred sixty-three thousand, eight hundred and forty-three (963,843) linear feet of wire.

During the past year the inspectors of this division have reported one hundred and ninety (190) poles decayed at base and ten (10) poles leaning, or a total of two hundred (200) poles which were replaced or reset by the various companies at the request of this department.

The ducts used for the underground conduits of the drawing-in system are of the following types:

1. Vitrified clay (laid in concrete).
2. Fiber (laid in concrete).
3. Creosote wood.
4. Iron pipe.

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

### WIRE DIVISION STATISTICS.

#### Interior Division.

Notices of new work received . . . . .	14,864
Number of permits issued to turn on current . . . . .	12,662
Number of incandescent lamps inspected . . . . .	2,251,721
Number of motors inspected . . . . .	18,745
Number of arcs inspected . . . . .	2,634
Number of inspections made of installations for light, heat and power . . . . .	39,287
Number of inspections made of theatres, places of amusement and public halls . . . . .	1,563

#### Exterior Division.

Number of poles set in new locations . . . . .	14
Number of poles replaced, reset or straightened, . . . . .	1,027
Number of poles removed . . . . .	198
Number of poles standing in public streets . . . . .	17,136
Number of defects reported . . . . .	1,381
Number of defects corrected . . . . .	1,126
(Other defects in process of correction.) . . . . .	
Number of notices of overhead construction . . . . .	2,232
Number of overhead inspections . . . . .	19,295
Number of overhead reports . . . . .	22,716
Number of feet of overhead wires removed by owners . . . . .	424,157
Number of underground electrical approvals . . . . .	1,759
Number of inspections of underground electrical construction . . . . .	2,294
Number of reports of underground electrical construction . . . . .	6,645

Table Showing Underground Work for the Year 1937.

COMPANY.	Feet of Conduit.	Feet of Duct.	Feet of Cable.	Number of Manholes.	Number of Services.
Boston Consolidated Gas Company.	639	1,444	20,316	2	12
Boston Elevated Railway Company.	6,103	37,085	2,569	15	
Boston Edison Company.....	79,649	140,932	506,152	112	1,252
Boston Fire Department (Fire Alarm Division).	903	903	7,890	.....	10
Boston Police Department (Police Signal Service).	2,331	2,329	19,142	2	12
New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.	6,941	7,780	24,052	12	80
Western Union Telegraph Company.	.....	.....	2,330		
Totals.....	96,566	190,473	582,451	143	1,366

NOTE.—3,508 feet of "solid main," installed by the Boston Edison Company, is included in the above figures.

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