

[DOCUMENT 11 — 1955.]



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

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Boston, February 1, 1955.

HON. JOHN B. HYNES,  
*Mayor of Boston.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor to submit herewith a concise report of the activities of the Boston Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1954.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS X. COTTER,  
*Fire Commissioner.*

## HISTORY

### FIRE COMMISSIONERS

*1874-1876.	Alfred P. Rockwell.
1877-1879.	David Chamberlain.
1879-1883.	John E. Fitzgerald.
1883-1885.	Henry W. Longley.
1885-1886.	John E. Fitzgerald.
1886-1895.	Robert G. Fitch.
1895-1905.	Henry S. Russell.
1905.	Patrick J. Kennedy.
	(Acting February 17—March 20.)
1905-1908.	Benjamin W. Wells.
1908-1910.	Samuel D. Parker.
1910.	Francis M. Carroll.
	(Acting May 27—September 16.)
1910-1912.	Charles C. Daly.
1912-1914.	Charles H. Cole.
1914-1919.	John Grady.
1919-1921.	John R. Murphy.
1921-1922.	Joseph P. Manning.
	(Acting Nov. 8, 1921—April 1, 1922.)
1922.	William J. Casey.
	(Acting April 1—August 24.)
1922-1925.	Theodore A. Glynn.
1926.	Thomas F. Sullivan.
	(Acting January 26—July 6.)
1926-1930.	Eugene C. Hultman.
1930-1933.	Edward F. McLaughlin.
1933.	Eugene M. McSweeney.
	(October 16, 1933—January 5, 1934.)
1934-1938.	Edward F. McLaughlin.
1938-1945.	William Arthur Reilly.
1945-1946.	John I. Fitzgerald.
	(June 7, 1945—January 7, 1946.)
1946-1950.	Russell S. Codman, Jr.
1950-1953.	Michael T. Kelleher.
1953-1954.	John F. Cotter.
1954-	Francis X. Cotter.

### CHIEFS OF DEPARTMENT

1826-1828.	Samuel D. Harris.
1829-1835.	Thomas C. Amory.
1836-1853.	William Barnicoat.
1854-1855.	Elisha Smith, Jr.
1856-1865.	George W. Bird.
1866-1874.	John S. Damrell.
1874-1884.	William A. Green.
1884-1901.	Louis P. Webber.
1901-1906.	William T. Cheswell.
1906-1914.	John A. Mullen.
1914.	John Grady. (1 day.)
1914-1919.	Peter F. McDonough.
1919-1922.	Peter E. Walsh.
1922-1924.	John O. Taber.
1925-1930.	Daniel F. Sennott.
1930-1936.	Henry A. Fox.
1936-1946.	Samuel J. Pope.
1946-1948.	Napeen Boutillier.
1948-1950.	John F. McDonough.
1950-	John V. Stapleton.

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

## SPECIAL COMMENTS

On March 17, 1954, a new grade was established of Assistant Fire Chief—one for Fire Fighting, one for Fire Prevention, and one for Training, whose individual duties are contained in their titles and who were to render such assistance and advice as required of them by the Fire Commissioner and the Chief of Department. They were also to act as a board on such matters as may be necessary.

The following changes in the organization of the Boston Fire Department have taken place:

The three fire fighting divisions have been reduced to two, and the fourteen districts have been reduced to eleven.

Ladder Companies 5, 31, 32, and 34 were deactivated. Engine Companies 6, 15, 23, and 44 were deactivated.

The rescue service was reorganized with the rescue work being done by combination fire and rescue companies to be known as Engine Squad Companies 11, 14, 18, 34, and 53. Rescue Companies 1 and 2 were deactivated. Rescue Company 3 was thereafter known as the Rescue Company.

Engine Squad Company 7 was fitted out in its wagon to answer rescue calls. This gave us seven units to do rescue work in place of the three formerly assigned to those duties.

The following companies were made single unit engine companies: 16, 19, 21, 24, 45, 49, 51, 52, and 56. In addition, Engine Squad Companies 11, 14, 18, 34, and 53 were operating as single units.

A program for company in-service inspection of dwellings was instituted and placed in charge of the Assistant Chief in Charge of Fire Fighting. This program provided that the engine and ladder companies remained on the street with their radios in service and the fire fighters entered the dwellings to make inspections to correct hazardous conditions.

This program was put into operation in all sections of the city, except in the downtown area, in June of 1954, and was continued until the middle of December when it was discontinued because of cold and inclement weather.

During the inspection periods almost 40,000 inspections were made of dwelling units. More than 3,000 re-inspections were made, and corrections were found in more than half of them. Most householders received the inspectors with courtesy and many of them had been looking forward to the opportunity of having their homes inspected. A great number of householders were cognizant of the purpose of the inspections and were willing and anxious to carry out the suggestions and recommendations made to them. There were only six instances of record where permission to enter and inspect was refused to the members of the department.

During the inspections a number of violations of laws and regulations were discovered. The outstanding violation was the use of fuel oil and fuel oil burners without the required permit. Thousands of householders were found to be using fuel in violation of the regulations, and steps are being taken to compel such householders to comply with the regulations.

After examination and tabulation, all report forms are being returned to the various companies and will serve as permanent records to be used for reference and company drills.

While companies were out of quarters performing inspections it was necessary for them to respond to alarms of fire in a number of instances; yet there was not one instance where there was any delay in responding or interference with operations because the companies were out of quarters at the time of the alarm.

The outstanding success of the in-service inspection warrants its being started at the earliest possible moment next year and its expansion to take in as much of the residential property as possible.

The fire fighting apparatus is now completely provided with radio. This gives greater mobility to the fire apparatus and has permitted apparatus reduction in alarm responses.

There were changes in equipment, which included 10,000 feet of 3-inch dacron hose and 15,000 feet of 1½-inch dacron hose, all of which was placed in service throughout the department and is rendering satisfactory service. New nozzles were furnished to the various companies, which included the Elkhart 1½-inch SOS, J200, JN200, and the Wornall.

Every effort was made to improve the training program. Seventeen new members were added to the

department and given the basic training, which included ladder, hose, life net, gas mask, etc., and a final week operating on all types of fires.

The single unit companies operated with preconnected 1½-inch lines, and this made necessary the establishment of new methods of training, and 31 companies were given a full week's training on the use of the methods required to handle a single piece unit satisfactorily. Every member of a company was instructed in every phase of the operations from pump procedure to the use of nozzles. Deck gun and cellar pipe operations were also included in the training courses at the Fire School.

District and Deputy Chiefs, averaging two a week, were attendant at the drill school on the single piece unit operation in order to permit them to be familiar with the training that the companies were receiving.

Ladder pipes were purchased, and training was given to various ladder companies in the use of this equipment. They have been placed on Ladder Companies 7, 9, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, and 30. Ladder companies were given training in operating water tower.

It was necessary to give training in rescue work to the men of Engine Companies 11, 14, 18, 34, and 53. In order to do this, the men from the rescue companies that were deactivated were first trained in single unit operation and were infiltrated through the engine companies with additional men detailed from other rescue companies to act as instructors, and, guided by the officers of the rescue companies, to train the fire fighters in the engine companies in rescue activity.

Supplementing this, an officer from the Training Division by daily drills, instructions, and demonstrations and participation in the use of every type of equipment by every member of these companies, at the company quarters, made possible their successful training for rescue work.

Company drilling and training under the company officers continued in all firehouses, and the basic fundamentals of the new procedures and new equipment were reviewed constantly.

Instructors from the Training Division attended company drills and checked on the demonstrations of their use and explained away any difficulties that may have arisen in regard to the new equipment.

On November 16, 1954 a Fire College was opened for officers in the grades of Captain and Lieutenant, which we have also made available to officers of surrounding cities and towns. The course embraced a nine-day period commencing Tuesday through Friday, first week, and Monday through Friday, second week. The hours were from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon and from 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The class consisted of twenty-two officers, two from each district. This Fire College will be continued into next year until all officers of the grade of Captain and Lieutenant in the department have had the opportunity to attend.

The curriculum is varied to meet where possible the working schedule of the lecturer. However, when this was not possible, the scheduled lecturer has graciously donated his own time. The curriculum embraces the following:

- a. Motion Picture—"Using Water Wisely" and "Ventilation."
- b. Rescue Squad Equipment—covering all phases of equipment carried on engine squad units.
- c. In-Service Inspections—pointing out the activity and responsibility of the department in this field.
- d. Use of Water—covering efficient application of water.
- e. Safety—stressing safe driving habits and laws regarding.
- f. Pump Procedure—with regard to new methods of operation.
- g. Residual Pressures—covering the "reading" of supplies.
- h. Oil Burners—installation requirements and legal aspects.
- i. Water Supply—from the reservoir to the hydrant.
- j. Arson—legal aspects, case histories, department's responsibilities.
- k. Forcible Entry—access by "Force," problems involved, legal aspects, situations and methods.
- l. Ventilation—value, purpose, precautions.
- m. Fire Fighting in High Value Districts—problems involved.
- n. Radio Procedure—new procedure explained, equipment, methods, precautions.
- o. Fire Fighting in Dwellings—problems involved.

- p. Arson—Police Department and legal aspects, case histories.
- q. Demonstrations at Fire School, South Boston,—actual fire extinguishment with new nozzles, class A, B fires.
- r. Examinations—written examination of students.

Each student officer is provided with a complete set of current publications being issued by the Training Division to further supplement the lecture course. Visual aids, motion pictures, photographs, material, and specimens are shown and used to better drive home the subjects being discussed. An opaque projector was purchased for the use of the Training Division, and this, with tape recordings and movie projector, permits the handling of various subjects in a manner which makes it clear to all.

Upon completion of the course, officers are awarded a certificate marking their attendance and their records marked to show attendance.

The following publications were formulated for the information and guidance of the department:

- a. "Arson Laws and Pertinent General Laws of this Commonwealth."
- b. "Pak-Cut Dry-Acetylene Cutting Outfit."
- c. "General Precautions and Safe Handling of Oxy-Acetylene Equipment."
- d. "Skil-Chain Saw Instructions."
- e. "Robbins Tourniquet."
- f. "Residual Pressure."
- g. "Single Unit Operations."
- h. "Procedure for Single Unit Training."
- i. "Ladder Pipe Procedure."
- j. "Radio Procedure" (in conjunction with Fire Alarm Division).

Mutual aid agreements were re-examined and greater mutual aid was provided by the following cities and towns:

Revere	Chelsea
Cambridge	Somerville
Newton	Brookline
Dedham	Milton
Quincy	

There were no changes in the present methods of mutual aid operations in Winthrop, Watertown, and Everett.

Various publications on all facets of fire fighting have been purchased or obtained from publishing houses, various cities, and educational institutions throughout the country in order to establish an authoritative source of information which would be necessary in a Training Division to cope with multiplicity of information sought. Additionally, a library was placed in every firehouse.

A public relations officer was appointed, and the publicity of the activities of the department from every standpoint were greatly improved. Coverage of all Boston Fire Department activities by the radio, press, and television was complete and exceptional. The diligence of the Fire Prevention Bureau, which is outstanding, was rewarded in the finding of highly inflammable cellulose nitrate toys being sold in various parts of the city. The life hazard involved in the use of these articles was brought to the attention of the City Council, and an ordinance was passed forbidding their sale in Boston. The activities of the public relations officer in publicizing the hazardous nature of these toys was the subject of nation-wide broadcasting on television.

The Electrical Inspection Division of the Fire Department was abolished in accordance with section 30, chapter 2, of the Ordinances of 1954, and the powers, duties, and appropriations of said division and the Fire Commissioner as successor to the Wire Commissioner were transferred to the Building Department. All officials and employees of the Electrical Inspection Division were transferred to the Building Department on May 1, 1954.

## PERSONNEL

**BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
1954**

*Fire Commissioner*

JOHN F. COTTER, to January 23, 1954.  
FRANCIS X. COTTER, from February 1, 1954.

*Chief of Department*, JOHN V. STAPLETON.

*Executive Secretary*, WILLIAM D. SLATTERY.

*Medical Examiner*

MARTIN H. SPELLMAN, M.D., to December 15, 1954.

EDWARD H. HOMMEL, M.D., from December 22, 1954.

*Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division*, ALBERT L. O'BANION.

*Superintendent of Maintenance Division*, JOHN A. MARTIN.

*Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention Division*, EDWARD N. MONTGOMERY.

*Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Fighting Force*, PATRICK E. COLLINS.

*Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Personnel and Training*, WALTER E. CROUCH.

*Chaplains*, RT. REV. MSGR. HENRY J. O'CONNELL (Catholic), REV. HOWARD E. POMEROY (Protestant), to May 18, 1954, REV. JOHN E. BARCLAY (Protestant), from December 15, 1954, RABBI SAMUEL I. KORFF (Jewish).

**NAMES ADDED TO "ROLL OF MERIT" — 1954**

Assistant Fire Chief WALTER E. CROUCH, Headquarters.

Lieutenant JAMES G. BOLES, Ladder Company 6,  
Hoseman JOHN E. KELLEY, Engine Company 16.

## In Memoriam

Deaths of Active Members During 1954

DATE	Name	Rank	Company
January 16....	William J. Rooney.....	District Chief.....	District 15
January 16....	Dennis J. Coughlin.....	Deputy Chief.....	Headquarters
January 23....	John F. Cotter.....	Fire Commissioner.	Headquarters
January 29....	James J. Devaney.....	Hoseman.....	Engine Company 41
February 19....	John B. Carr.....	Hoseman.....	Headquarters
February 24....	William C. Wesson.....	Hoseman.....	Tower Company 1
March 1.....	Augustus L. Lyons.....	Hoseman.....	Engine Company 28
March 20....	Herbert W. Sullivan.....	Hoseman.....	Engine Company 1
May 21.....	Peter A. McCauley.....	Hoseman.....	Tower Company 2
June 19.....	John J. Callahan.....	Plumber.....	Maintenance Division
August 31....	Jacobus W. J. Weydt....	Hoseman.....	Engine Company 20
October 14....	Raymond T. Loneragan...	General Foreman Fire Department Maintenance.....	Maintenance Division
December 28...	Russell A. Amaral.....	Hoseman.....	Engine Company 21

## STATISTICS

### APPOINTMENTS — 1954 (Firefighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
Jan. 6	Charles L. Stokinger	Engine Company 39
Jan. 6	William P. Doyle, Jr.	Engine Company 7
Jan. 6	Thomas F. Gorham, Jr.	Engine Company 56
Jan. 6	Thomas Whalen	Engine Company 34
Jan. 6	Francis L. M. Ritchie	Ladder Company 31
Jan. 6	John V. Nee	Ladder Company 2
Jan. 6	Melzer T. Pietroski	Engine Company 44
Jan. 6	William D. McHugh	Engine Company 49
Jan. 6	Edward F. McCarthy	Ladder Company 18
Jan. 6	Gerald P. Hart	Engine Company 50
Jan. 6	Richard J. McGinn	Ladder Company 17
Jan. 6	*Thomas J. Callaghan	Ladder Company 14
Jan. 6	Calvin W. Sweeney	Engine Company 11
Jan. 6	William E. Loughane	Ladder Company 10
Jan. 6	Hugh F. J. Duffy	Engine Company 31
Jan. 6	Joseph L. Nania	Engine Company 9
Jan. 6	Frank P. Barresi	Engine Company 27
Jan. 6	Joseph L. Corbett	Engine Company 27
Jan. 6	Robert F. Hawkins	Ladder Company 17

\* In Military Service. Reported for Duty October 20, 1954.

### APPOINTMENTS — 1954 (Civilian Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
Jan. 26	Harry J. Keefe	Acting Fire Commissioner
Feb. 1	Francis X. Cotter	Fire Commissioner
Feb. 17	Bridget T. Riordan	Headquarters
Mar. 3	Philomene K. Sheehan	Fire Prevention Division
April 5	Elizabeth Larato	Headquarters
May 19	Carl P. DeVasto	Fire Alarm Division
May 26	Joan M. Cash	Fire Prevention Division
June 2	Angelo J. DeAngelis	Maintenance Division
June 2	James DeBello	Maintenance Division
June 9	William J. Zuzevich	Fire Alarm Division
June 16	Ellen R. Aherne	Fire Prevention Division
June 18	Susan M. McNulty	Fire Prevention Division
June 30	Felix Faiello	Maintenance Division
Aug. 3	Elsie M. Reardon	Fire Prevention Division
Aug. 3	Mary E. White	Fire Prevention Division
Aug. 4	Joseph G. Wirth, Jr.	Maintenance Division
Sept. 1	Antone M. Almeida	Maintenance Division
Sept. 1	Richard M. Mackey	Maintenance Division
Sept. 1	Joseph Monaco	Maintenance Division
Sept. 15	Dorothy Brooks	Fire Prevention Division
Sept. 15	Marie D. Connolly	Fire Prevention Division
Sept. 22	Emily A. Randall	Fire Prevention Division
Oct. 6	Mary E. Hourihan	Fire Prevention Division
Oct. 6	Carl P. DeVasto	Fire Alarm Division
Oct. 6	William P. Hanley	Maintenance Division
Oct. 8	Joan M. Cash	Fire Prevention Division
Oct. 13	Anne M. Grafton	Fire Prevention Division
Oct. 27	John G. LeBlanc	Maintenance Division
Oct. 27	Thomas J. O'Donnell	Maintenance Division
Nov. 10	Joseph F. Garrity	Maintenance Division
Nov. 17	Francis X. Riley	Maintenance Division
Dec. 15	John E. Barclay	Protestant Chaplain
Dec. 22	Edward H. Hommel	Medical Examiner

### RETIREMENTS — 1954

DATE	NAME	RANK	COMPANY
Jan. 1	George L. Heuser	Hoseman	Engine Company 55
Jan. 13	Charles N. Moberg	Apparatus Operator	Engine Company 16
Jan. 13	Joseph L. Dowd	Apparatus Operator	Engine Company 20
Jan. 13	James H. Curran	Hoseman	Lighting Plant 1
Feb. 1	Herbert I. McLane	Hoseman	Engine Company 44
Feb. 1	Eleanor H. Ansbro	Clerk-Typist	Fire Prevention Division
Feb. 17	John J. Kelley	Hoseman	Headquarters
Feb. 17	Howard L. Landers	Working Foreman Machinist	Fire Alarm Division
Feb. 24	*George F. Ware	Hoseman	Engine Company 8
Mar. 3	Ralph A. MacKinnon	Hoseman	Engine Company 10
Mar. 24	William R. Walker	Hoseman	Engine Company 43
Mar. 24	Frederick J. Kavanagh	Hoseman	Tower Company 1
Mar. 24	Alexander W. Wilson	Aide	Headquarters
Mar. 31	William P. McMorrow	Hoseman	Engine Company 5
Mar. 31	Carl H. Foss	Lieutenant-Master	Engine Company 1
April 1	Edmund J. Newman	Hoseman	Engine Company 1
April 7	Dennis McGowan	Fire Apparatus Repairman	Maintenance Division
April 14	Frank A. Doyle	Ladderman	Ladder Company 25
April 14	Anthony Lopardi	Working Foreman Sign Painter	Maintenance Division
April 21	Edward F. Doyle	District Chief	District 10
April 21	Francis B. Hanron	District Chief	District 10
April 21	Paul B. Bangs	Lieutenant	Ladder Company 32
April 28	James J. Kane	Deputy Chief	Division 2
April 28	Henry S. Franz	Deputy Chief	Headquarters
April 28	Walter D. Holden	Captain	Engine Company 48
April 28	Francis J. McFague	Captain	Ladder Company 16
April 28	James J. Cox	Lieutenant	Engine Company 7
April 28	Frederick L. Muir	Lieutenant	Engine Company 45
April 28	Francis J. Newell	Lieutenant	Ladder Company 20
April 28	James W. Plunkett	Assistant Engineer of Motor Apparatus	Maintenance Division
April 28	John R. Keefe	Engineer	High Pressure
April 28	Timothy D. Donahue	Apparatus Operator	Engine Company 43
April 28	Thomas J. Glennon	Hoseman	Engine Company 42
April 28	Stephen F. Gallivan	Hoseman	Maintenance Division
April 28	William J. Flynn	Hoseman	Engine Company 54
April 28	John T. Angel	Ladderman	Ladder Company 33
April 28	Charles Hohman	Ladderman	Ladder Company 25
April 30	Timothy J. Ahern	Working Foreman Fire Apparatus Repairman	Maintenance Division
April 30	Theodore S. Oakhem	Motor Equipment Repairman	Maintenance Division
May 1	Charles L. LaPlante	Hoseman	Engine Company 54
May 5	John R. Concannon	Hoseman	Engine Company 30
May 5	Daniel J. Crowley	Hoseman	Engine Company 39
May 5	Frederick F. Dolaher	Hoseman	Engine Company 54
May 5	Archie Beaupre	Aide	Fire Alarm Division
May 12	Harold P. McLean	Hoseman	Engine Company 47
May 19	Frank J. Jacobs	Ladderman	Ladder Company 10
May 19	Herbert L. O'Neil	Lieutenant	Ladder Company 25
May 19	Herbert F. Ryan	Ladderman	Ladder Company 28
May 19	Patrick J. Burke	Captain	Ladder Company 30
May 19	John J. Lowney	Lieutenant	Rescue Company 1
May 19	Timothy F. Galvin	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
May 26	Thomas F. Kilduff	Lieutenant	Headquarters
May 26	John J. Leary	Hoseman	Maintenance Division

\* Retirement date retroactive to Sept. 10, 1953.

## RETIREMENTS — 1954, Continued.

DATE	NAME	RANK	COMPANY
June 1	Frederic H. Marley	District Chief	District 1
June 1	Joseph L. O'Donnell	Hoseman	Engine Company 29
June 1	John F. Donovan	Hoseman	Maintenance Division
June 2	Coleman G. Clougherty	Deputy Chief	Headquarters
June 2	Leo F. Murphy	Hoseman	Headquarters
June 16	John J. McHugh	District Chief	District 4
July 1	John B. Parkes	Captain	Engine Company 7
July 1	John F. Beecher	Lieutenant	Engine Company 49
July 1	Matthew J. Shanahan	Hoseman	Engine Company 53
July 21	Peter F. Cotter	Hoseman	Engine Company 34
July 21	Joseph M. McCarthy	Hoseman	Engine Company 47
July 21	Eugene J. Doherty	Captain	Ladder Company 20
July 21	Joseph H. Downing	Lieutenant	Ladder Company 23
July 21	Frank H. Daly	Ladderman	Ladder Company 23
July 21	Francis J. Connors	Hoseman	Rescue Company 2
July 21	Thomas J. Hynes	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
July 21	James J. McDonald	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
July 21	Kerin L. Shaughnessy	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
July 21	Melville G. Moore	Hoseman	Headquarters
July 28	Albert R. Ford	Hoseman	Tower Company 1
Aug. 1	William T. McHugh	Hoseman	Engine Company 34
Aug. 1	Frederick V. McCoy	Ladderman	Ladder Company 6
Aug. 1	John P. Henry	Ladderman	Ladder Company 16
Aug. 1	Charles A. Newell	Ladderman	Ladder Company 20
Aug. 1	Michael F. Maguire	Hoseman	Rescue Company 1
Aug. 4	Jeremiah J. Cronin	Hoseman	Headquarters
Aug. 11	Richard J. Mahoney	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
Aug. 11	Jacob Spitz	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
Aug. 18	Charles J. Heirly	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
Aug. 18	James J. Fitzpatrick	Machinist	Maintenance Division
Aug. 24	Joseph L. Cuddy	Spray Painter	Maintenance Division
Aug. 25	Thomas L. Corliss	Lieutenant	Engine Company 3
Aug. 25	Patrick J. Joyce	Engineer	High Pressure
Aug. 25	Arthur J. Landry	Lieutenant-Supervisor of	Fireboats
Aug. 31	Francis J. Cooley	Welder	Maintenance Division
Sept. 1	John C. Panzone	Hoseman	Engine Company 8
Sept. 1	Felix Mirabito	Hoseman	Engine Company 17
Sept. 1	Robert L. Higgins	Hoseman	Engine Company 24
Sept. 1	George P. Carrigan	Hoseman	Engine Company 34
Sept. 1	Nicholas Freda	Hoseman	Engine Company 39
Sept. 1	Stanley J. Caulfield	Hoseman	Engine Company 42
Sept. 1	Joseph L. Madden	Lieutenant	Engine Company 51
Sept. 1	John E. Pomeroy	Ladderman	Ladder Company 18
Sept. 1	James F. Sullivan	Ladderman	Ladder Company 26
Sept. 1	Francis J. Sheehan	Hoseman	Lighting Plant 1
Sept. 1	James H. Mandeville	Hoseman	High Pressure
Sept. 1	Alfred Minehan	Engineer-Motor Squad	Maintenance Division
Sept. 7	Charles McCluskey	Ladderman	Ladder Company 26
Sept. 7	Joseph L. Griffin	Hoseman	Tower Company 1
Sept. 7	Albert F. Kelley	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
Sept. 7	Augustus J. Beaupre	Captain-Drillmaster	Headquarters
Sept. 7	Joseph F. O'Brien	Senior Fire Alarm	Operator
Sept. 29	Joseph W. O'Brien	Hoseman	Fire Alarm Division
Sept. 29	Maurice J. Reardon	Hoseman	Engine Sq. Company 18
Sept. 29	Coleman B. Norton	Master	Engine Company 21
Sept. 29	Charles M. Culhane	Engineer	Engine Company 47
Oct. 1	Robert T. Asquith	Hoseman	High Pressure
Oct. 1	Vincent L. McCauley	Hoseman	Tower Company 2
			Tower Company 1

DATE	NAME	RANK	COMPANY
Oct. 1	Arthur C. Morton	Hoseman	Engine Company 16
Oct. 1	Francis J. Begley	Ladderman	Ladder Company 30
Oct. 1	Joseph R. Hurley	Hoseman	Rescue Company 3
Oct. 13	William F. Clancy	Hoseman	Engine Company 45
Oct. 20	John A. Allen	Lieutenant	Engine Company 1
Oct. 20	William A. Henneberry	Captain	Engine Sq. Company 34
Oct. 20	Frank I. Benford	Hoseman	Engine Company 50
Oct. 20	James J. Harrington	Deputy Chief	Division 2
Nov. 1	Richard H. Burchell	Hoseman	Engine Company 29
Nov. 1	Frank J. Borelli	Hoseman	Engine Company 40
Nov. 1	Russell J. Kingston	Ladderman	Ladder Company 20
Nov. 3	James J. Grady	Lieutenant	Engine Company 28
Nov. 3	James D. Driscoll	Hoseman	Engine Company 42
Nov. 3	Thomas J. Banks	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
Nov. 3	William E. Coughlin	Aide	Maintenance Division
Nov. 10	Bartholomew F. Clements	Captain	Engine Company 25
Nov. 10	Adolphe L. Billotte	Hoseman	Engine Company 30
Nov. 10	Thomas F. McGowan	Aide	Ladder Company 30
Nov. 17	Henry J. Byrnes	Aide	Ladder Company 30
Dec. 1	George F. Long	Hoseman	Engine Company 30
Dec. 1	Thomas J. Horn	Hoseman	Engine Company 51
Dec. 1	Alexander Oram	Hoseman	Fire Prevention Division
Dec. 15	James G. Boles	Lieutenant	Ladder Company 6

## RESIGNATIONS — 1954

DATE	NAME	RANK	COMPANY
Feb. 17	John V. Nee	Man on Probation	Ladder Company 2
Mar. 24	Ralph R. Camerlengo	Hoseman	Engine Company 7
April 6	James S. Walker	Engineer-Motor Squad	Maintenance Division
May 18	Howard E. Pomeroy	Protestant Chaplain	Headquarters
May 29	Ernest W. Clark	Hoseman	Engine Company 21
July 1	Robert L. Devlin	Senior Electrical	Engineering Draftsman
July 22	Lionel K. Berig	Hoseman	Fire Alarm Division
Aug. 11	Edward C. O'Malley	3rd Stationary Engineer	Engine Company 52
Aug. 25	Luciano Cantillo	Motor Equipment	Maintenance Division
		Repairman	
Sept. 8	Alvin F. Fortune	Hoseman	Engine Company 14
Oct. 20	James H. Kelley	Fire Apparatus Tester	Maintenance Division
Nov. 24	John A. O'Brien	Hoseman	Engine Company 51
Dec. 1	Dorothy M. Brooks	Clerk and Typist	Fire Prevention Division
Dec. 14	Martin H. Spellman	Medical Examiner	Headquarters

### COMPARATIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

	1953	1954
1. PERSONAL SERVICES		
Permanent employees . . . . .	\$9,886,425 97	\$9,597,517 65
Overtime . . . . .	182,211 70	178,284 61
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$10,068,637 67	\$9,775,802 26
2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
Communications . . . . .	\$34,190 26	\$33,847 24
Light, heat and power . . . . .	62,464 85	70,106 37
Professional and technical services . . . . .	1,496 98	3,213 65
Repairs and maintenance of buildings and structures . . . . .	50,530 09	40,206 87
Repairs and servicing of equipment . . . . .	48,451 04	32,479 35
Transportation of persons . . . . .	482 30	740 80
Other contractual services . . . . .	26,301 17	19,757 12
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$223,916 69	\$200,351 40
3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		
Automotive supplies and materials . . . . .	\$96,367 06	\$82,132 68
Building supplies and materials . . . . .	24,789 23	25,423 15
Food supplies . . . . .	13 00	—
Heating supplies and materials . . . . .	77,912 99	78,808 84
Household supplies and materials . . . . .	11,684 83	8,180 13
Medical, dental and hospital supplies and materials . . . . .	824 90	664 69
Office supplies and materials . . . . .	20,373 45	18,267 47
Police, traffic control and firefighting supplies and materials . . . . .	65,679 06	58,067 05
Public works supplies and materials . . . . .	—	47 78
Other supplies and materials . . . . .	80,111 99	80,069 72
TOTAL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$377,756 51	\$351,661 51
4. CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS		
Dues and subscriptions . . . . .	\$370 90	\$1,003 35
Bond and insurance premiums . . . . .	19 20	1,880 90
Rents . . . . .	5,313 51	5,954 97
Other current charges and obligations . . . . .	12 00	10 00
TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS	\$5,715 61	\$8,867 22
5. EQUIPMENT		
Automotive equipment . . . . .	\$3,767 10	\$7,697 80
Electrical and mechanical machinery and equipment . . . . .	3,104 47	6,037 72
Engineering and scientific equipment . . . . .	585 50	1,965 86
Fire fighting equipment . . . . .	75,356 82	79,905 61
Household furniture and equipment . . . . .	3,695 15	77 68
Medical, dental and hospital equipment . . . . .	1,244 60	3,381 61

### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

	1953	1954
Office furniture and equipment . . . . .	\$4,318 96	\$1,565 31
Public works equipment . . . . .	2,700 00	—
Signal equipment . . . . .	18,773 16	48,618 39
Agriculture, park and recreation equipment . . . . .	45 44	33 05
Library books . . . . .	310 00	1,576 95
Motorless vehicles . . . . .	—	12 12
Other equipment . . . . .	732 29	680 89
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$114,633 49	\$151,552 99
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$10,790,659 97	\$10,488,235 38

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REVENUE — 1954

Permits for storage of inflammable fluids, certificates of registration, etc. . . . .	\$119,323 00
Sale of badges . . . . .	18 70
Sale of old condemned hose . . . . .	27 50
Sale of junk . . . . .	276 77
Miscellaneous sales . . . . .	18,495 35
Damage to apparatus and motor vehicles . . . . .	522 39
Damage to fire alarm boxes . . . . .	5,181 25
Total . . . . .	\$143,844 96



## FIRE ALARM DIVISION

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF ALARMS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS TRANSMITTED  
(To Which Apparatus Responded)

	1952	1953	1954
First alarms (boxes).....	10,366	9,690	8,748
Still alarms — Net Total.....	8,293	7,409	6,310
Total alarms — Boston only.....	18,659	17,099	15,058
Mutual aid.....	85	105	92
TOTAL ALARMS.....	18,744	17,204	15,150

## TELEPHONE ALARMS

	1952	1953	1954
Alarms received from citizens by telephone (for fire)...	6,608	6,058	5,554
Per cent of total alarms.....	35.2	35.3	36.7

## FALSE ALARMS

	1952	1953	1954
Total false alarms.....	2,722	2,474	2,154
Per cent of total alarms.....	14.5	14.4	14.2

## NOTE:

The first electric telegraph fire alarm system in the world (in Boston) cost \$16,000 and consisted of 40 miles of wire, 45 signal boxes or stations, and 16 alarm bells.  
The system was officially accepted by the city at noon, April 28, 1852, and the first alarm was received from Station 7, District 1 (now Box 1212), at 8.25 p.m., April 29, 1852.  
Total box alarms transmitted since April 28, 1852, through December 31, 1954, 394,554.

## ANALYSIS OF STILL ALARMS

	1952	1953	1954
Received from citizens by telephone.....	6,608	6,058	5,554
Received from Police Department.....	1,087	928	781
Received from Fire Department.....	1,778	1,430	1,249
Boxes received — treated as STILLS.....	29	23	11
Emergency calls — treated as STILLS.....	1,918	2,091	1,942
Received from Boston Automatic *.....	156	177	162
Received from A. D. T. *.....	129	138	140
Received from G. A. C. *.....	46	54	66
GROSS TOTAL.....	11,751	10,899	9,905
DEDUCT			
Still alarms received for which Box ALARMS were pulled after and Box ALARMS were transmitted....	150	122	84
Still alarms received for which Box ALARMS were transmitted.....	3,308	3,368	3,511
NET TOTAL STILL ALARMS (Boston).....	8,293	7,409	6,310
MUTUAL AID ALARMS.....	85	105	92

\* Does Not include alarms received after still alarm or after City Box Alarm, in which case no action was taken.

NOTE—NET TOTAL STILL ALARMS indicates number of alarms for which apparatus was dispatched by telephone without Box ALARM, and alarms for which Private Company box only was transmitted without City Box Alarm.

## MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Two Alarms.....	54	44	44	44	46
Three Alarms.....	5	7	21	13	17
Four Alarms.....	0	1	2	6	2
Five Alarms.....	2	0	2	1	1
Totals.....	61	52	69	64	66

### ANALYSIS OF ALARMS BY MONTHS

[illegible]

Fires.....	171	105	161	178	144	172	191	171	174	266	212	147	2,152
Accidental.....	64	41	22	25	24	25	28	28	35	20	28	36	376
Rescue.....	220	182	162	169	181	207	176	253	239	209	161	232	2,391
Needless bell.....	114	88	72	52	77	80	49	58	69	86	103	115	963
Needless still.....	56	35	39	35	46	42	35	51	50	43	64	89	588
Automobile fires.....	46	54	61	79	55	80	78	80	61	60	69	66	789
Rubbish, vacant lot.....	52	33	85	83	55	80	126	81	54	69	53	29	800
Rubbish, near building.....	23	42	55	68	37	46	50	36	31	54	59	30	531
Dump.....	1	5	6	7	4	2	7	8	8	9	3	3	63
Brush or grass.....	18	141	411	286	65	63	105	84	70	150	122	50	1,545
Other outdoor.....	129	47	75	84	67	69	107	107	94	105	72	76	1,032
Marine.....	3	4	2	2	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	18
Out of city calls.....	10	12	8	11	4	14	7	11	4	4	10	107	
Confined to rooms.....	315	241	267	218	217	169	177	187	228	233	232	315	2,819
Confined to building.....	99	86	102	91	58	55	69	68	50	80	79	77	914
Extended to others.....	5	5	10	5	2	1	2	4	7	3	2	8	54

**SUMMARY OF ALARMS  
ACCORDING TO FIRE DISTRICTS—1954**

No.	DISTRICT	Boxes	Stills	Total
1	East Boston . . . . .	444	376	820
2	Charlestown . . . . .	367	243	610
3	West and North Ends and Business District . . . . .	696	424	1,120
4	Business District, South End and Back Bay . . . . .	1,134	683	1,817
5	Back Bay and Roxbury . . . . .	1,583	743	2,326
6	South Boston . . . . .	750	468	1,218
7	Roxbury and Dorchester North . . . . .	927	700	1,627
8	Dorchester . . . . .	919	832	1,751
9	Jamaica Plain and Roxbury . . . . .	700	512	1,212
10	Roslindale, West Roxbury, and Hyde Park . . . . .	698	824	1,522
11	Brighton . . . . .	530	505	1,035
Total in Boston . . . . .		8,748	6,310	15,058
Mutual Aid to Adjacent Cities and Towns . . . . .		—	—	92
Totals . . . . .		8,748	6,310	15,150

NOTE.—Effective May 4, 1954, number of districts cut from 14 to 11. Alarms received during period January 1, 1954, to May 4, 1954, have been allocated to 11 districts, so that above statistics are given as though 11 districts were in effect for entire year.

**SUMMARY OF MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES  
ACCORDING TO MONTHS OF THE YEAR—1954**

MONTH	Two Alarms	Three Alarms	Four Alarms	Five Alarms	Totals
January . . . . .	3	1	0	0	4
February . . . . .	3	0	0	1	4
March . . . . .	9	3	0	0	12
April . . . . .	5	2	0	0	7
May . . . . .	2	1	0	0	3
June . . . . .	1	0	0	0	1
July . . . . .	3	1	0	0	4
August . . . . .	4	3	0	0	7
September . . . . .	0	0	1	0	1
October . . . . .	4	2	0	0	6
November . . . . .	4	2	1	0	7
December . . . . .	8	2	0	0	10
Totals . . . . .	46	17	2	1	66

**MUTUAL AID ALARMS**

	Response of BOSTON to Outside Cities and Towns					Response of Adjacent Cities and Towns to BOSTON				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Brookline . . . . .	9	12	10	23	24	71	92	108	91	108
Cambridge . . . . .	1	8	10	10	3	2	0	2	7	1
Chelsea . . . . .	13	11	11	12	8	7	4	4	4	9
Dedham . . . . .	2	0	5	6	11	29	20	21	21	26
Everett . . . . .	4	2	2	0	2	3	0	2	1	1
Malden . . . . .	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Milton . . . . .	9	8	8	6	8	2	0	3	1	1
Newton . . . . .	6	1	4	8	5	19	16	19	16	17
Norwood . . . . .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quincy . . . . .	1	4	2	5	1	2	0	3	9	7
Revere . . . . .	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Saugus . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerville . . . . .	52	34	32	32	28	27	38	30	38	22
Winthrop . . . . .	0	0	1	0	0	2	5	1	1	1
Worcester . . . . .	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals . . . . .	99	81	85	105	92	164	175	203	189	193

## SUMMARY OF FIRE ALARM BOXES

Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1953	1,917
Fire alarm boxes installed January 1 to December 31, 1954	34
Fire alarm boxes removed January 1 to December 31, 1954	19
Net Increase in number of fire alarm boxes	15
Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1954	<u>1,932</u>

DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE ALARM BOXES  
DISTRICTS

District 1	115	District 7	157
District 2	126	District 8	220
District 3	146	District 9	173
District 4	136	District 10	317
District 5	187	District 11	171
District 6	184		

## DIVISIONS

Division 1	707
Division 2	1,225
Total:	<u>1,932</u>

	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	14,000	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	9,000	8,000	
1935	9,837											
1936	9,493											
1937	9,678											
1938	9,503											
1939	11,537											
1940	9,940											
1941	12,438											
1942	10,627											
1943	12,548											
1944	12,358											
1945	13,074											
1946	17,084											
1947	15,189											
1948	13,916											
1949	16,399											
1950	16,064											
1951	15,247											
1952	18,744											
1953	17,204											
1954	15,150											

TOTAL ALARMS TO WHICH APPARATUS RESPONDED

CITY OF BOSTON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1954

DATE	BOX NUMBER	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Jan. 8	14-3274	10	St. Ambrose School, 25 Leonard Street
Jan. 29	12-3432	14	St. Mark's Grammar School, 197 Centre Street
April 8	5371	11	Commonwealth Avenue and Lake Street
April 14	12-1233	4	Christ Church, 193 Salem Street
May 18	15-3228	7	Boston College High School, 150 William Morrissey Boulevard
May 28	14-2275	9	Ackroyd Nursing Home, Columbus Avenue and Dimock Street
June 16	6254	1	Faywood Avenue, opposite No. 174
June 16	6255	1	Faywood Avenue, opposite No. 214
June 16	6256	1	Vallar Road, opposite No. 29
June 16	6257	1	Vallar Road, opposite No. 61
June 16	6258	1	Waldemar Avenue, opposite No. 170
June 16	6259	1	Waldemar Avenue, opposite No. 230
July 20	12-2121	5	George T. Angell School, Harrison Avenue and Hunne-man Street
Aug. 10	14-245	9	Massachusetts Osteopathic Hospital, 43 Evergreen Street
Aug. 10	12-6247	1	Don Orione Rest Home, 111 Orient Avenue
Sept. 14	13-2331	5	Northeastern University, Physical Education Center, 400 Huntington Avenue
Sept. 14	6271	1	Bennington Street and Suffolk Downs Station
Sept. 22	13-2557	9	Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, 170 Morton Street (Administra-tion Building)
Sept. 22	14-2557	9	Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, 170 Morton Street (Nurses' Home)
Sept. 22	15-2557	9	Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, 170 Morton Street (Service Building)
Sept. 28	12-5186	11	Brighton High School, 25 Warren Street
Oct. 5	13-4141	2	Spencer Memorial School, Cross Street
Oct. 29	12-3136	7	Little Sisters of the Poor, 424 Dudley Street
Nov. 16	12-134	3	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Lower Level South
Nov. 16	13-134	3	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Upper Level North
Nov. 16	12-4112	2	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Lower Level South
Nov. 16	13-4112	2	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Upper Level North
Nov. 16	12-4113	2	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, South
Nov. 16	13-4113	2	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, North
Nov. 16	16-4125	2	J. F. Fitzgerald Expressway, South
Nov. 16	13-2361	5	Ira Allen School, 540 Parker Street
Nov. 16	13-2136	5	High School of Practical Arts, Winthrop and Greenville Streets
Nov. 24	7447	6	East Fifth and P Streets
Dec. 21	12-3624	8	Ellen H. Richards School, 80 Beaumont Street

## FIRE ALARM BOXES DISCONTINUED IN 1954

DATE	BOX NUMBER	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Mar. 2	12-2547	9	Forest Hills Street, opposite No. 167
Mar. 8	7414	6	Carney Hospital, Old Harbor Street
May 11	14-1653	4	Home for Catholic Children, Harrison Avenue
May 24	12-1242	3	Battery Wharf and Commercial Street
June 10	13-337	8	Franklin Field Veterans' Housing, rear building 34, Nauset Road
June 10	14-337	8	Franklin Field Veterans' Housing, Manomet and Megansett Roads
June 10	15-337	8	Franklin Field Veterans' Housing, Megansett Road
June 10	16-337	8	Franklin Field Veterans' Housing, Wianno Road, opposite No. 59
June 10	17-337	8	Franklin Field Veterans' Housing, Wianno Road, opposite No. 11
Aug. 17	1672	4	Girls' High School, West Newton Street
Aug. 17	12-1541	4	English High School, Warren Avenue
Aug. 17	12-3224	7	Cora Ethridge School, Dorchester Avenue and Harbor View Street
Aug. 17	12-3516	8	Robert Swan School, Thetford Avenue
Aug. 17	12-4185	2	B. F. Tweed School, Cambridge Street
Sept. 14	12-1515	4	Brandeis Vocational High School, Warrenton Street
Sept. 22	12-345	7	Alsen Village, Victory and Alsen Roads
Sept. 22	13-345	7	Alsen Village, Alsen Road, opposite Saco Street
Sept. 22	14-345	7	Alsen Village, Alsen Road, opposite Gibson Street
Nov. 24	13-3274	7	Fields Corner Theatre, 213 Adams Street

## FIRE ALARM BOXES RENUMBERED IN 1954

DATE	OLD BOX NUMBER	NEW BOX NUMBER	DISTRICT	LOCATION
May	7500		6	South Boston Naval Annex (See GO 9 and 23)
June 16	12-1471	12-1461	3	RKO Theatre, Washington and Essex Streets
June 16	13-1471	13-1461	3	Trans-Lux Theatre, 617 Washington Street
June 16	12-1411	15-1412	4	South Station Power House, Dorchester Avenue
June 16	12-1564	13-1563	4	Strand Theatre, 175 Huntington Avenue
June 16	12-2326	14-1563	4	Uptown Theatre, 239 Huntington Avenue
June 16	12-3346	12-3296	7	Lucy Stone School, Regina Road
June 16	12-2151	12-2153	9	Julia Ward Howe School, Dale and Sherman Streets
June 16	12-2164	12-2165	9	Roxbury Memorial High School, 205 Townsend Street
Sept. 9	3387	3391	8	Harvard Street and Courtland Road
Sept. 9	3388	3392	8	Harvard and Errol Streets

**FIRE ALARM CONSTRUCTION FORCE  
UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION — 1954**

NUMBER CON- DUCTORS	TYPE OF CABLE	INSTALLED		REMOVED	
		Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors	Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors
4	Polyethylene-P.V.C....	24,186	96,744	—	—
4	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	2,592	10,368
4	Non-Metallic.....	—	—	950	3,800
6	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	2,330	13,980
7	Polyethylene-P.V.C....	14,325	100,275	600	4,200
10	Polyethylene-P.V.C....	7,215	72,150	990	9,900
10	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	6,461	64,610
15	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	1,050	15,750
19	Polyethylene-P.V.C....	6,235	118,465	300	5,700
19	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	1,620	30,780
37	Polyethylene-P.V.C....	777	28,749	—	—
37	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	2,062	76,294
80	Polyethylene-P.V.C....	275	22,000	—	—
80	Rubber-Lead.....	—	—	275	22,000
Totals..		53,013	438,383	19,230	257,382

**OVERHEAD CONSTRUCTION — 1954**

	Installed, Feet	Removed, Feet
No. 10 Copperweld T.B.W.P., "Duraline" . . . . .	11,620	—
No. 9 A.W.G. Galvanized T.B.W.P. . . . .	—	8,910
No. 14 W.P. Twisted Pair, Hurricane Emergency . . . . .	15,000	15,000
2 Conductors, Polyethylene-P.V.C. Poledrops . . . . .	3,000	3,000
2 Conductors, Non-Metallic . . . . .	—	2,000
4 Conductors, Polyethylene-P.V.C. . . . .	9,060	—
4 Conductors, Non-Metallic . . . . .	—	950
7 Conductors, Polyethylene-P.V.C. . . . .	1,600	600
Totals . . . . .	40,280	30,460
Line Construction installation—removals—slack hauled— transfers, etc. . . . . 113 Poles		

**MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

**1954**

## MAINTENANCE DIVISION

## RECORD OF HOSE

PURCHASED	Condemned	Repaired	In Service	In Stock
31,542 ft.	24,803 ft.	17,165.6 ft.	242,535 ft.	12,213 ft.

## PAINTING ACTIVITIES

TYPE OF WORK	Number of Jobs	Labor Costs	Material Costs	Total Costs
Complete apparatus.....	5	\$1,456 54	\$278 02	\$1,734 56
Partial apparatus.....	257	2,698 22	715 28	3,413 50
Miscellaneous.....	243	2,291 83	287 56	2,579 39
Total.....	505	\$6,446 59	\$1,280 86	\$7,727 45

## REPAIRS TO APPARATUS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	8,292	472	8,764
Cost of labor and material.....	\$133,923 83	\$18,519 91	\$152,443 74

## REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	1,211	232	1,443
Cost of labor.....	\$28,914 31	\$27,543 29	—
Cost of material.....	7,371 77		
Total cost.....	\$36,286 08	\$27,543 29	\$63,829 37

## REPAIRS TO HIGH PRESSURE STATIONS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	35	3	38
Cost of labor.....	\$1,563 56	\$386 45	
Cost of materials.....	454 42		
Total.....	\$2,017 98	\$386 45	\$2,404 43

## REPAIRS TO FIREBOATS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	130	28	158
Cost of labor.....	\$7,262 00	\$4,755 39	
Cost of materials.....	1,964 62		
Total.....	\$9,226 62	\$4,755 39	\$13,982 01

## MOTOR EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	In Service	In Reserve	Civil Defense
Pumping Engines.....	48	7	17
Hose Wagons.....	32	18	
Aerial Ladders.....	22	9	
Junior Aerials.....	7	0	
City Service Trucks.....	1	0	
Water Towers.....	2	2	
Rescue Wagons.....	1	0	
Wrecking Unit.....	1	0	
Fuel Wagon.....	2	0	
Lighting Plant.....	3	0	
Auxiliary Pumps.....	1	5	
Chief Officers' Cars.....	42	10	
Commercial Cars (Trucks).....	21	5	
Fork Lift Truck.....	1	0	
Caterpillar Tractor.....	1	0	
Totals.....	183	56	17

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

1954

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

### NO LARGE LOSS FIRES.

From the viewpoint of fire prevention, the year 1954 shows a considerable improvement over 1953. There have been fewer fires and a decrease in fire losses. Another year has passed without a large loss fire. In this respect, Boston occupies a unique position among large cities. In the past six years, there have been three serious fires.

### REVISION OF LICENSE RECORDS.

During the past year, the division has been occupied in revising license files. This project entailed a complete changeover in record keeping. A new Kardex file system was placed in operation — providing a closer check on licenses. A practice of combining licenses has been discontinued; in cases where they were combined, separation has been made. A substantial increase in fees will result. The full impact of the change will be felt in 1955 when new fees based upon the gallonage of each license will be realized. This work was a monumental task since some of the records were very complicated and old and required much checking.

### PERSONNEL.

Disabled uniformed men have been replaced by civilian personnel with good results. The division has greatly benefited by the decision of the Commissioner to elevate it from a haven for the disabled to an active organization.

The inspection service will require additional personnel to replace those who have been retired. It is recommended that a departmental examination be held and that all vacancies be filled from an eligible list. It would probably be necessary to arrange for some financial benefit, as members of the inspection force have few opportunities to earn extra money. The National Fire Protection Association would draw questions, mark and grade applicants for inspectors.

## FIRE PREVENTION CODE.

We are no further ahead in the adoption of a Fire Code than we were three years ago. There is the same difference of opinion between the senior senator, Clappitt, and the Corporation Counsel's office. One claims legislation is unnecessary; the other states that it is. Meanwhile, Boston remains the only large city in the country without a Fire Code and probably no city needs one more.

### ARSON SQUAD.

The Arson Squad has had a successful year in the field of investigation and prosecution. Following a fire at Isabella Street in which three persons lost their lives, an immediate investigation was started under the auspices of the Boston Fire and Police Departments. After intensive investigation, the suspected persons were brought to trial before Judge Edward Voke. They were found guilty on all counts by a jury and sentenced to life in prison on a finding of murder in the second degree. This was the first time in the history of jurisprudence in the country that convictions of murder resulted from a fire set to defraud an insurance company. It is more remarkable since the prosecution witnesses were 98 per cent members of the Boston Fire and Police Departments. I do not believe that those uniformed and civilian members whose work brought this case to a successful conclusion ever received the credit due them.

### SAFETY DEVICE FOR RANGE/SPACE OIL BURNERS.

Following years of negotiation with representatives of the manufacturers of small oil burning appliances, all of which seemed to get nowhere, it was decided to bring about a "showdown" by demanding certain safety devices under penalty of refusing permits. This was made necessary by a tremendous increase in oil fire fatalities all over the nation. We are now in the process of making ready to enforce our order — effective June 1, 1955. It appears that the manufacturers have at last come to the realization that delays, negotiations, stalling, and talking are no longer effective so they will go along for their own benefit. After tests of

valves that will shut off the flow of oil before a fire, a Glidden valve, or equivalent, was specified. However, we will accept any type that will accomplish our purpose. It is up to the appliance industry to find one.

#### IN-SERVICE INSPECTIONS.

Figures submitted in a previous report show that there has been a sizable decrease in the number of fires subsequent to inspection. It is our opinion that a great saving will be accomplished by reducing the number of fires and fire losses. This should bring about lower fire insurance rates.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Since separate sections of this report have been devoted to these subjects, it is unnecessary to comment on them at this time.

#### CHRISTMAS SEASON HAZARDS AND STORE DETAIL.

During the Christmas season, highly flammable cellulose nitrate toys were found on sale in various parts of the city. Because of the life hazard involved in the use of these articles, it was deemed advisable to request the City Council to pass legislation forbidding their sale in Boston. Accordingly, on November 22, 1954, an ordinance "regulating the sale of certain highly inflammable articles" was passed and approved by the Mayor on November 24, 1954. (See Public Relations report for further details.)

An officer and twelve men were assigned to the downtown shopping area during the Christmas season.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS — 1954

In May, 1954, a member of this division was assigned as public relations officer. Following is a report of the activities of the public relations officer.

Definite and specific steps have been taken to keep the public informed as to the workings of Boston fire fighters. During the reorganization movement within the department, our public relations officer has kept the citizens informed of certain changes which have taken place and of others that will occur from time to time.

Much can be done to keep Boston's Fire Department in the public eye and let its citizens know that we have the finest group of fire fighters — second to none.

Arrangements were made to present a television review on WBZ-TV (Channel 4) at 7.55 A.M. daily. Jack Chase of WBZ-TV gives a summary of happenings of the Boston Fire Department for the 24-hour period preceding. In addition, plans are being considered for a weekly fifteen-minute show over the same station, reviewing the high lights of this department's activities.

Governor Christian A. Herter proclaimed the week of October 3-9, 1954, as "Emergencies Don't Wait Week." It is planned to make this an annual occurrence. One of the features of interest to this department is the establishment of an annual award to Boston fire fighters for outstanding performance of duty. Lieut. Andrew Canning and Ladderman Joseph Murphy were cited and presented this award for the year 1954 by Robert Bradford, chairman of the event.

For the second successive year, this office has worked with the staff of WBZ-TV in preparing and producing a picture in the public interest which depicts the Boston Fire Department in action. Last year's picture, "Fire," was awarded first prize by the National Board of Fire Underwriters in their annual Fire Prevention Contest. Critics are of the opinion that this year's picture, "Cry in the Night," is superior to anything previously undertaken. Mention should be made of the excellent cooperation received from the Chiefs of District 5, officers and members of the Fire Alarm Office, personnel of Engine Companies 37 and 13, and personnel of Ladder Companies 26 and 12. All worked hard and diligently to assure the success of the picture.

During the year, the Boston Fire Department received national recognition in an article entitled "Fire Fighting — A Modern Science," published in the June-July issue of the *Armstrong Tire News*. Many fine pictures of Boston's fire fighters in action were included in this article.

On June 10 the Junior Fire Fighters of Boston and surrounding cities were given a reception at the Hatch Shell by the Boston Fire Department. This "jamboree" terminates the annual year-round fire prevention program conducted in the Boston school system. Festivities got under way at 7 P.M., with the Boston Fire Department band supplying the music. Presentation of

awards to the Junior Fire Fighters was made by Fire Commissioner Cotter and Chief of Department Stapleton. Moving pictures of fires were supplied by this office.

Relative to the Mayor's "Clean-Up, Fix-Up, Paint-Up Week," our public relations officer distributed posters, had spot radio and television announcements made, issued news releases to local papers, cooperated with dissemination of news to local school systems, and supplemented the information given to hospital and rest homes with motion pictures.

On June 4, 1954, the Fire Commissioner instituted a program of "company in-service inspections." These inspections are made under the supervision of the company officers on weekdays, Mondays through Fridays. Newsmen and television cameramen were on hand at the inauguration of this program. Releases were prepared for the radio, television, and newspapers to acquaint the citizens with this new undertaking and to urge their wholehearted cooperation in carrying out the plan.

The 61st Annual Firemen's Sunday was held at Forest Hills Cemetery on Sunday morning, June 13. Television cameramen were present along with members of the press to cover the high lights of the event.

Fire Prevention Week was observed this year from October 3 to 9, 1954. Again it became the task of this office to set up a series of events to keep the public mindful of the observance. A parade on Sunday, October 3, commenced the week's activities. C.Y.O. bands from the Holy Name Church and St. Theresa's Church in West Roxbury, joining with the Fire Department band and personnel of this department and fire departments of surrounding towns and cities, as well as various auxiliary groups, participated. The climax of the day's program was a demonstration by our Fire Department drill team. A résumé of the week's activities follows:

1. Radio and television spot announcements — calling attention of public to Fire Prevention Week.
2. Demonstration by Engine Squad 34 televised by WBZ-TV.
3. Presentation of awards to the two Boston fire fighters cited for acts of heroism at a fire in Brighton.
4. Interview of Chief Montgomery by Fred Lang of Station WNAC.

5. Interview of Commissioner Cotter by Louise Morgan of WNAC-TV.
6. Premiere of fire prevention film, "A Cry in the Night," over WBZ-TV. This film shows the Boston Fire Department in action.
7. Short movie on "Slim Pickins" program — WBZ-TV.
8. Presentation of movies and distribution of literature to school children of Hull, Mass. (at request of Chief Dowd of the Hull Fire Department).
9. Showing of movies at Charlestown Boys' Club.
10. Showing of movies at St. Anne's Church, Neponset (Cub Scout and Parents' Night).

During the Christmas season, regulations concerning the use of certain inflammable decorations were published and distributed. At this time a number of small toys — made of nitro-cellulose and imported from Japan — appeared on the market. These toys were considered so dangerous that the City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting their sale in Boston. Other cities followed suit. This was brought to their attention because of the widespread publicity given them by this office with the complete co-operation of all phases of the press.

Press coverage was furnished at the National Fire Protection's ceremony, where an award for excellence in fire protection practice was made to Col. Walter C. Heinel, Deputy Post Commander at the Boston Army Base. This award was made by Fire Commissioner Francis X. Cotter.

Among the duties of the public relations officer has been the showing of moving pictures of recent Boston fires to over 125 various religious, professional, civic, veteran, and fraternal groups throughout the Commonwealth. Usually a discussion is held after the showing — followed by a question and answer period.

Other activities included taking a group of girl and boy scouts from out of town aboard our fireboats for a visit, arranging a sail to Provincetown for a group of nuns, participation in activities of the South End Garden Club and the Roxbury Neighborhood Rehabilitation Committee, etc.

Many letters of acknowledgment and appreciation have been received from various organizations and are on file.

### SCHOOL PROGRAM — FIRE MARSHAL PLAN

Our year-round program entails an average of four visits to each sixth-grade class in the Boston schools — public, private, and parochial. Broken down into statistics, this represents 125 public schools, 54 parochial schools, and 12 private schools. Also included is the Horace Mann School. This is the school which is attended by those who are handicapped in hearing and speech.

The total number of classes visited by the two lieutenants, John Frongillo and Walter T. Kelley, assigned to this program is 341. The total number of pupils covered exceeds 14,000. This means that, in the year 1954, fire prevention instruction was conducted in individual classrooms for a total number of visits that exceeds well over 1,000.

Each fire prevention visit covers a fire prevention talk of approximately one-half hour based upon the type of fire hazards that are most important with respect to the season and the particular neighborhood in which the instructors are talking at the time. In addition to fire prevention instruction, these firemen have incorporated safety and antivandalism information with so much success that they have been especially commended by school authorities.

Moreover, the school authorities are now convinced that because of the interest stimulated by the firemen in these visits, the school work of the pupils is enhanced. This is particularly noticeable in the compositions and fire prevention posters which are submitted by the children under the program and for which they receive prizes. The best of these drawings and compositions are placed on exhibition throughout the year in neighborhood stores and insurance offices. They are featured in the Boston Public Library at Copley Square for the entire month of October.

It has been possible to evaluate the actual benefit of this instruction wherever the men have stressed a particular subject — such as the dangers of disposing of Christmas trees. There has been a great decrease in the number of alarms because of fires resulting from children lighting discarded trees.

The work that these boys and girls do under this Fire Marshal Plan appears frequently in the Boston papers and in the suburban locals. Because of their success in this work, the two lieutenants assigned are frequently asked to visit other cities and describe the program. They are also asked to appear before Parent-Teacher Associations, church groups, and civic organizations.

The benefit of their work is especially apparent in the dwellings. However, it has been well established that these boys and girls, after receiving instruction and material from our lieutenants, eagerly bring the information home and secure the co-operation of their parents in a manner that could not otherwise be achieved.



**NEW FUEL OIL PERMITS  
COMPARISON CHART**

	1953		1954	
	PERMITS	GALLONS	PERMITS	GALLONS
January.....	789	171,320	579	162,755
February.....	632	148,010	528	157,320
March.....	608	137,385	379	132,105
April.....	266	65,035	303	108,480
May.....	548	137,400	313	113,115
June.....	412	98,630	444	139,405
July.....	597	160,985	499	149,375
August.....	595	161,905	586	163,730
September.....	686	178,800	682	174,301
October.....	1,045	280,630	1,095	265,330
November.....	1,212	301,270	881	230,195
December.....	1,118	292,295	1,143	273,129
Totals.....	8,508	2,133,665	7,432	2,069,240

The year 1954, compared with the year 1953, showed a decrease of 1,076 new permits issued for the storage of fuel oil and a decrease (compared with 1953) of 64,425 gallons of fuel oil.

**INFLAMMABLE FLUID PERMIT FEES\***  
(Initial and Renewal)

January 1 — December 31, 1954.....	77,150 at \$0.50	\$38,575.00
January 1 — December 31, 1953.....	74,936 at \$0.50	37,468.00
GAIN.....	2,214	\$1,107.00

\* Includes fees for fuel oil and other inflammable fluid permits

**ARSON SQUAD ACTIVITIES — 1954**

Undetermined fires . . . . .	137
Suspicious fires . . . . .	23
Incendiary fires . . . . .	4
Tavern fires . . . . .	11
Causes given but investigated . . . . .	145
Multiple alarms . . . . .	66
Deaths . . . . .	18*
Injuries . . . . .	41*
Arrests . . . . .	18
Grand Jury indictments . . . . .	3
Municipal Court cases . . . . .	11
Municipal Court convictions . . . . .	8
Superior Court cases . . . . .	5
Superior Court convictions . . . . .	5
Gas odors investigated . . . . .	53
Fire prevention inspections . . . . .	128

**CASUALTY CAUSES**

	Deaths	Injuries
Arson, incendiary . . . . .	1	1
Airplane crash . . . . .	1	—
Carbon monoxide fumes (no fire) . . . . .	3	3
Careless smoking . . . . .	8	14
Child playing with matches . . . . .	—	1
Defective wiring . . . . .	1	1
Extension cord ignited pail of gasoline . . . . .	—	2
Gas explosions . . . . .	—	5
Oil burners — space/portable types . . . . .	1	8
Overheated stovepipe . . . . .	—	1
Robe ignited by stove . . . . .	1	1
Scalded — hot water . . . . .	—	1
Unknown . . . . .	1	2
Total deaths and injuries . . . . .	18	41

\* Of the 18 deaths, 4 were children under sixteen years of age; 5 of the 41 injuries were children under sixteen years of age.

**CHEMICAL LABORATORY  
Summary of Analyses and Tests — 1954**

Tests of flammable liquids . . . . .	72
Tests of decorative materials . . . . .	766
Analyses of material for Arson Squad . . . . .	21

**PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY  
Summary of Activities — 1954**

	Negatives	Prints
Accidents . . . . .	374	122
Administration and department activities . . . . .	639	430
Personnel . . . . .	46	68
Fires — suspicious and undetermined . . . . .	792	580
Fires — other than suspicious and undetermined . . . . .	306	350
Fire prevention (hazards, etc.) . . . . .	221	488

## ORDERS AND CONDITIONS REFERRED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS — 1954

Month	1st Orders	Service Orders	Building	Health	Electrical	Public Safety	Miscellaneous	Totals
January.....	163	4	45	7	10	—	2	231
February.....	171	12	36	11	10	2	1	243
March.....	176	8	45	12	13	—	3	257
April.....	157	12	38	6	9	1	2	225
May.....	168	6	35	13	7	1	1	231
June.....	138	11	34	10	10	—	1	204
July.....	184	9	36	12	9	—	3	253
August.....	177	12	42	9	7	—	2	249
September.....	152	11	40	8	6	—	4	221
October.....	238	18	37	14	10	2	3	322
November.....	197	13	38	10	12	—	1	271
December.....	185	6	52	10	11	—	1	265
Totals.....	2,106	122	478	122	114	6	24	2,972

## COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AT FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION — 1954

Month	Telephone	Counter	Levera			Totals
			Public	Health	Miscellaneous	
January.....	66	1	5	7	1	82
February.....	56	7	8	5	1	85
March.....	74	9	9	8	2	107
April.....	58	2	10	4	1	80
May.....	61	3	11	4	—	82
June.....	65	2	16	10	—	96
July.....	59	8	4	3	4	80
August.....	45	4	2	2	6	61
September.....	60	8	12	12	2	94
October.....	74	4	7	7	5	97
November.....	85	1	5	5	4	101
December.....	80	4	2	—	4	90
Totals.....	783	53	91	67	31	1,055

**ANALYSIS OF FIRES  
IN BUILDINGS  
AND CAUSES OF FIRES**

## ANALYSIS OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS — 1954

## Construction of Buildings

Fire-resistive	341
Second class	1,864
Frame	1,569
Other types	13
Total	3,787

## Point of Origin

Basement	1,043
First floor	1,128
Second floor	602
Third floor	434
Above third floor	192
Roof	71
Outside	317
Total	3,787

## Extent of Fire

Confined to point of origin	2,819
Confined to buildings	914
Spread to other buildings	54
Total	3,787

## Causes of Fires in Buildings — 1954

Fireworks	2
Careless smoking	1,217
Chimneys: defective, soot, sparks	247
Fuel oil burners	730
Electrical appliances and motors	324
Children and matches	173
Unknown	147
Miscellaneous known causes	107
Spontaneous ignition	57
Defective heaters and rubbish near heater	129
Grease and food on stove	116
Other careless use of matches	21
Hot ashes	22
Defective wiring	236
Incendiary or suspicious	57
Clothes too near fire	19
Flammable liquids	16
City gas and appliances	12
Sparks from machines	34
Thawing water pipes	10
Malicious mischief	109
Kerosene lamps, stoves	2
Home dry cleaning	0
1954 Total	3,787

## Causes of Outdoor Fires — 1954

Brush	1,545
Automobiles	789
Other fires outdoors	1,032
Rubbish (vacant lot)	800
Rubbish (near building)	531
Dump	63
Marine	18
1954 Total	4,778