

[DOCUMENT 11 — 1958.]



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Boston, February 1, 1958.

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, 1957.

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 Boutilier.
 1948-1950. John F. McDonough.
 1950-1956. John V. Stapleton.
 1956. Edward N. Montgomery.
 (June 6—September 5.)
 1956- Leo C. Driscoll.

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

SPECIAL COMMENTS

In Memorandum No. 1 dated January 2, 1958, the Director of Administrative Services William Arthur Reilly requested a summary of the major accomplishments during the year 1957 and specification of the objectives for the current year of the department. He further stated that this preliminary report may be submitted for the published annual report containing whatever supplementary material is deemed necessary for departmental use and recommendation.

Therefore, I am presenting the report I made to the Director at that time:

For the first time in the history of the Boston Fire Department, a promotion study course was organized for those fire fighters seeking to be promoted to fire lieutenant.

Eight (8) pumpers were changed for single unit procedure.

A procedure was adopted for the use of single unit procedure with double unit companies.

Extensive instructions were given throughout the year in all phases of Fire Department procedure and the introduction of supplementary pumping in case of a large fire, which makes use of distant water mains.

Development of 68 First Aid Instructors, and completion of the standard First Aid Course for 1,046 members.

The inauguration of In-service Inspection in the mercantile and business district downtown.

The recharging of all fire extinguishers by our department in public buildings.

The placing of the Authority for the disposition of hose in the hands of the Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Fighting. This should give us a better control over hose.

Three 1,250 g.p.m. pumpers and two 100-foot steel aerial ladder trucks were delivered to this department in 1957.

Converted a 600 gallon oil tank truck which was in service at Long Island Hospital into a water tank truck with a delivery capacity of 200 g.p.m. This can be used at any location on the island with a much faster response and getting water on the fire quicker, without running long lines of hose.

Commenced construction on the Training School at Moon Island, the firehouse on Neponset avenue, and the firehouse on Gallivan Boulevard.

Engaged architects for the firehouses on Cummins Highway and Tremont street.

Installed IBM machines for use on permits.

Fire Prevention Week brought us to third place for the first time in cities of over 500,000.

Formation of a committee to prevent water-front fires, consisting of the Fire Department, Coast Guard, Harbor-master's Office, ship owners' representatives, clergy, and representatives of the Longshoremen's Union.

The installation of a record amount of underground cable and removal of a large amount of overhead wire and cable.

The last gaslight on the fire alarm boxes was removed this year, and practically all of our fire alarm boxes now have electric lights on them.

An atomic energy course was conducted in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission, the first in New England.

Our major objectives for 1958 are — the replacement of some of the old apparatus with new apparatus; continued extensive training at Training School and in the firehouses; the Prevention Maintenance Program to be continued in all its phases; the completion of the reflective material on fire coats and helmets.

We expect to have at least two thirds of the department changed over to single unit procedure by the end of 1958.

The completion of the First Aid Course with every member of the Boston Fire Department having a certificate for First Aid work.

We expect to have the firehouse at Neponset avenue and the one at Gallivan Boulevard completed in 1958, with a consequent reduction in the number of companies and men required.

The commencement of the building of the new firehouses at Cummins Highway and at Tremont street.

In 1958, with the cooperation of the Building Department we expect to have every license current and paid for.

An extensive drive is being made to make every vacant building in Boston secure against fire, and this program will be continued until this end is accomplished.

The first prize in the *Fire Prevention Week* contest, under the auspices of the N. F. P. A.

The completion of the Fire Code to be submitted to the City Council should be accomplished this year.

The obtaining of two motor launches for the fireboats, which were ordered last year.

Construction of manholes and installation of underground ducts on some of the prescribed streets this year. The amount of work done will, of course, depend upon the Budget appropriation for underground work as well as the streets selected for construction by the Public Works Department.

The installation of an emergency generator unit and voltage regulator at Fire Alarm Headquarters.

Installation of new radio transmitter at the courthouse with radio control and repeater system between Fire Alarm Headquarters and the courthouse transmitter, with operating console at Fire Alarm Headquarters.

To maintain all previous good practices installed.

I feel that we should comment on the fact that there has been a reduction in the accidents in the department during my administration, and I am noting here the number of accidents over that period of time. This does not indicate that the apparatus of the department

was always responsible but does indicate the times there was an accident:

1953 . . .	133	1956 . . .	104
1954 . . .	117	1957 . . .	90
1955 . . .	108		

During the past year, Assistant Fire Chief John F. Howard in charge of the Fire Fighting Force has completed a disaster inventory of all emergency equipment of Federal and State branches, with city equipment, and that of private industry. This includes the most expedient manner of opening drawbridges, location of large quantities of available sand and means of getting it on the scene, where large hoists, booms, derricks are stored, and telephone numbers of all officials who might need to be contacted.

The Mystic Pier, due to our efforts, is installing fire barriers in close proximity along the entire pier. If this had existed before the large fire last year, it would have prevented the rapid extension of the fire.

The Fire College for officers in the department was continued in 1957, and it was also made available to officers of other departments who have commented very highly on the value of it.

The filing system for licenses for inflammables has been brought up-to-date, and unused licenses have been recommended to the Licensing Commission for cancelling and have been cancelled. Other licenses which had not been paid over a period of years have now been brought up-to-date so that the work on this recording of license fees is current.

For many years, permits were sent out and some 30 per cent of the permits were returned as being unknown as the Post Office Department was not able to deliver them to the person addressed. A drive was made to straighten out this situation with the result that 10,000 of these permits were paid and another 10,000 were cancelled as not being active. The remainder are being

pursued diligently for the purpose of determining whether or not they should be cancelled or the persons using them pay the proper fee.

The money collected because of the increase of fees and our diligence in pursuing the collection has been increased from \$119,554 to \$251,197.99.

The Assistant Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention advises that fires caused by oil burners have again been reduced to 135. This gradual reduction from 329 in 1954 is very encouraging. We feel a great deal of this improved condition is due to the In-service Inspections.

The number of building fires in relation to the high point 3,698 in 1954 has been reduced by a thousand in 1957.

Church Inspection. The program of Archbishop Cushing in relation to the inspection of churches and the installation of warning signals has proved eminently satisfactory because during the past year these devices have provided warning of fire on these properties in three different instances and caused early notification which made it possible for the Fire Department to extinguish these fires before they reached a seriously advanced stage.

Fire Prevention Week. A most satisfactory *Fire Prevention Week* was held during the year. The Honorable John B. Hynes, Mayor of Boston, provided a luncheon to religious, civic, and business leaders of the city wherein our program for fire prevention was laid before them, and their aid and cooperation most undoubtedly brought us to the point of receiving the award mentioned in the report made to the Director of Administrative Services. Fire Prevention announcements were made in all church pulpits, editorials were printed in all church publications, essay contests were conducted in all schools—both public and parochial—prizes being donated by the various individuals and groups who attended the mayor's luncheon. Newspapers, radio and TV stations cooperated wholeheartedly in placing the fire prevention message before the people. Plans were

made for year-round fire prevention on a month to month basis with a committee from the religious, civic, and business leaders who had participated at the mayor's luncheon. These plans were to be discussed in the early part of January 1958 with a Fire Prevention Committee from the Boston Chamber of Commerce, who were to give us assistance in this year-round program.

The possibility of Asian flu coming to the City of Boston and attacking the Fire Department was given consideration by the Mayor, and he ordered purchase of sufficient quantities of Asian flu serum for the Fire Department. Every fire fighter wishing to be inoculated was given the dosage by the Fire Department Medical Examiner, Dr. Edward H. Hommel, without any charge for the doctor's services. Further, all fire fighters under 40 years of age who wanted polio shots, first and second dosage, were inoculated by the Department Medical Examiner, Dr. Edward H. Hommel, without any charge for his services to them.

There were many fires in vacant buildings in 1957, totaling 98. Under the City of Boston demolition program, many of those buildings have been or shall be torn down by the end of 1958 which will eliminate almost entirely this problem.

Preventive maintenance has been an important part of our care of the apparatus, and no opportunity to put this principle into effect is passed up. After a recent snowstorm, the clutch in every piece of apparatus in the department was checked, and it was found necessary to adjust many of them. This will save a great deal of money in repairs and less time out of service to correct the worse conditions that could develop.

Training. All men appointed to the department are given an extensive drilling and instruction in the basic elements of Fire Department work. So much of the knowledge required for a competent fire fighter is not used on every occasion — every fire is different and all knowledge is not necessary on every occasion, but no fire that presents itself should find us wanting in the proper

approach. The skill required is constantly sharpened by drills in equipment and technique for all men in the department. Instructions and drills are carried on in the firehouses in the winter season and instructions and drills, under the competent and excellent instructors, outdoors in the remainder of the year. No part of the requirements for participation in fire-fighting activities are neglected.

Critiques are conducted on all multiple alarms, and we find them very valuable in an over-all approach in the extinguishment of fires.

Research is conducted continuously on new equipment and where new methods in other departments are being used, they are studied to see if they can be used advantageously in the Boston Fire Department.

In Memoriam

Deaths of Active Members During 1957

January 13

LOUIS COHEN

Arson Inspector, Fire Prevention Division

February 1

ARTHUR C. MCCALLAN

Garage Attendant, Maintenance Division

March 8

JOHN F. GREENE

Fire Fighter, Ladder Company 24

April 14

FREDERICK J. FORD

Fire Lieutenant, Rescue Company

August 23

FRANCIS P. O'NEIL

Engineer Motor Squad, Maintenance Division

September 26

THOMAS F. FORD

Assistant Engineer In Charge, High Pressure

PERSONNEL

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT 1957

Fire Commissioner, FRANCIS X. COTTER.

Chief of Department, LEO C. DRISCOLL.

Executive Secretary, WILLIAM D. SLATTERY.

Medical Examiner, EDWARD H. HOMMEL, M.D.

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, JOHN E. CLOUGHERTY.

Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Fighting Force, PATRICK E. COLLINS, to January 23, 1957; JOHN F. HOWARD, from February 6, 1957.

Assistant Fire Chief in Charge of Personnel and Training, WILLIAM A. TERRENZI.

Chaplains, RT. REV. MSGR. HENRY J. O'CONNELL (Catholic), to February 7, 1957; REV. JOHN J. McMANMON, from February 27, 1957; REV. JOHN E. BARCLAY (Protestant); RABBI SAMUEL I. KORFF (Jewish).

MEDAL OF HONOR MEN BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT — 1957

"Walter Scott Medal for Valor."

Awarded to Fire Fighter WALTER P. SULLIVAN, Ladder Company 9.

"Patrick J. Kennedy Medal of Honor."

Awarded to Fire Fighter FRANKLIN E. MACKEY, Ladder Company 9.

ROLL OF MERIT — 1957

Fire Fighter RAYMOND M. McDONOUGH, Engine Company 21.

Fire Fighters JOHN J. DEVINE, GEORGE W. GIRVAN, and GEORGE J. LOHNES, Ladder Company 4.

Fire Fighter JOSEPH V. MORGAN, Ladder Company 13.

APPOINTMENTS — 1957 (Firefighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
April 3	William P. Kenney	Engine Company 9
April 3	Paul P. Keeley	Engine Squad 11
April 3	Patrick J. Kelly	Engine Squad 11
April 3	John T. Kelley	Engine Squad 14
April 3	Ross W. Neikirk	Engine Squad 18
April 3	Ralph N. Dean	Engine Company 19
April 3	Angelo A. Attardo	Engine Company 20
April 3	Francis L. Murphy	Engine Company 24
April 3	Paul Callaghan	Engine Company 27
April 3	John J. Ellis	Engine Company 36
April 3	Edward P. Kenney	Engine Squad 45
April 3	Robert J. O'Donnell	Engine Company 53
April 3	Robert D. Beagle	Ladder Company 8
April 3	Lawrence F. Buckley, Jr.	Ladder Company 8
April 3	Joseph A. Desmond	Ladder Company 15
May 29	Raymond F. Brundage, Jr.	Engine Company 9
May 29	Francis J. Baker	Engine Company 13
May 29	Jeremiah J. Donovan	Engine Squad 14
May 29	Michael J. Bruno	Engine Company 19
May 29	Alfred Censullo	Engine Company 27
May 29	Joseph P. Walsh	Engine Company 28
May 29	Terrence F. Brown	Engine Squad 29
May 29	William F. Boulanger	Engine Company 34
May 29	Alexander A. Campbell, Jr.	Engine Company 41
May 29	Walter F. Hurley	Engine Company 41
May 29	Joseph B. Abban	Engine Company 51
May 29	Anthony A. Abban	Engine Company 56
May 29	Richard G. Erwin	Ladder Company 15
May 29	Vincent D. Kane	Ladder Company 15
Oct. 2	John F. Hart	Engine Company 1
Oct. 2	John C. O'Brien	Engine Company 2
Oct. 2	George H. Rushton	Engine Company 3
Oct. 2	Joseph I. Mahoney	Engine Company 4
Oct. 2	Bradley F. Rattigan	Engine Company 8
Oct. 2	William H. Chapman	Engine Company 10
Oct. 2	Charles M. Rozanski	Engine Company 12
Oct. 2	Leo T. Sullivan	Engine Squad 18
Oct. 2	Robert J. Cashman	Engine Company 20
Oct. 2	Walter S. Fields, Jr.	Engine Company 22
Oct. 2	Francis P. Canney	Engine Company 26
Oct. 2	John J. McFadden	Engine Squad 29

Oct. 2	John D. White	Engine Company 40
Oct. 2	Pasquale A. Venezia	Engine Company 41
Oct. 2	John J. McCloud, Jr.	Engine Company 42
Oct. 2	Paul C. Sullivan	Engine Company 46
Nov. 13	Peter J. Anastasia	Engine Company 5
Nov. 13	Vincent P. Rosata	Engine Company 8
Nov. 13	Patrick J. Collins	Engine Squad 11
Nov. 13	Joseph P. Abbis	Engine Company 17
Nov. 13	Donald R. Griffin	Engine Company 17
Nov. 13	John S. Varner, Jr.	Engine Squad 18
Nov. 13	Leonard C. Johnson	Engine Company 20
Nov. 13	James J. Galvin	Engine Squad 29
Nov. 13	James J. Freeman	Engine Company 33
Nov. 13	James B. McGinty	Engine Company 41
Nov. 13	Vincent A. Falcone	Engine Company 42
Nov. 13	Paul Flynn	Ladder Company 1
Nov. 13	Henry W. Young, Jr.	Ladder Company 9
Nov. 13	Paul F. O'Brien	Ladder Company 11
Nov. 13	Clifford F. Paschal	Ladder Company 15

REINSTATEMENT — 1957
(Firefighting Division)

DATE	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
Nov. 6	Charles Nichols	Ladder Company 6

STATISTICS

COMPARATIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES

	1956	1957
1. PERSONAL SERVICES		
Permanent employees	\$9,727,455 59	\$9,987,836 20
Overtime	300,218 13	184,089 75
Total Personal Services	\$10,027,673 72	\$10,171,925 95
2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
Communications	\$31,865 50	\$35,312 12
Light, heat and power	68,378 25	78,405 91
Repairs and maintenance of build- ings and structures	72,378 43	84,213 09
Repairs and servicing of equipment	44,891 38	57,287 32
Transportation of persons	1,462 14	1,999 65
Other contractual services	45,451 78	19,743 75
Total Contractual Services	\$268,427 48	\$276,961 84
3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		
Automotive Supplies and Materials	\$104,306 67	\$101,329 08
Food supplies	14 00	
Heating supplies and materials	86,161 11	89,395 70
Household supplies and materials	11,091 66	15,947 72
Medical, dental and hospital sup- plies and materials	3,055 86	1,600 51
Office supplies and materials	25,548 31	23,210 83
Other supplies and materials	230,872 16	241,385 63
Total Supplies and Materials	\$461,049 77	\$470,869 47
4. CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS		
Other current charges and obliga- tions	\$6,320 20	\$9,441 49
Total Current Charges and Obligations	\$6,320 20	\$9,441 49
5. EQUIPMENT		
Automotive equipment	—	\$20,656 00
Office furniture and equipment	\$200 32	2,702 54
Other equipment	144,561 99	101,117 50
Total Equipment	\$144,762 31	\$124,476 04
Department Total	\$10,908,266 48	\$11,053,674 79

FIRE DEPARTMENT REVENUE — 1957

Permits for storage of inflammable fluids, certificates of registration, etc.	\$283,310 20
Sale of badges	215 60
Use of fire apparatus by contractor	375 00
Miscellaneous receipts	595 69
Damage to apparatus and motor vehicles	6,803 20
Damage to fire alarm boxes and ducts	6,584 30
Commissions from New England Telephone and Tele- graph Co.	3,349 68
Total	\$301,242 67

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

1957

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

GENERAL SUMMARY OF ALARMS

TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS TRANSMITTED
(To Which Apparatus Responded)

	1955	1956	1957
First alarms (boxes).....	9,983	10,163	11,693
Still alarms — NET TOTAL.....	7,441	7,196	8,556
Total alarms — Boston only.....	17,424	17,359	20,249
Mutual Aid.....	101	103	114
TOTAL ALARMS.....	17,525	17,462	20,363

TELEPHONE ALARMS

	1955	1956	1957
Alarms received from citizens by telephone (for fire)...	6,684	6,272	7,537
Per cent of total alarms.....	38.1	35.9	37.0

FALSE ALARMS

	1955	1956	1957
Total false alarms.....	2,451	3,058	3,342
Per cent of total alarms.....	14.0	17.5	16.4

NOTE

The first electric telegraph system for fire alarms 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 of Boston at noon, April 28, 1852, and the first alarm was received from Station 7, District 1 (now Box 1212) at 3:25 P.M., April 29, 1852.

Total box alarms transmitted since April 28, 1852, through December 31, 1957, 426,393

ANALYSIS OF STILL ALARMS

	1955	1956	1957
Received from citizens by telephone.....	6,684	6,272	7,537
Received from Police Department.....	894	830	914
Received from Fire Department.....	1,423	1,294	1,622
Boxes received — treated as STILLS.....	22	81	119
Emergency calls — treated as STILLS.....	2,113	2,192	2,374
Received from Boston Automatic Co.*.....	139	106	126
Received from A. D. T. Co.*.....	188	233	256
Received from C. P. S. Co.*.....	—	—	4
Received from G. A. C. Co.*.....	48	—	—
GROSS TOTALS.....	11,511	11,008	12,952
DEDUCT			
Still alarms received for which BOX ALARMS were pulled after STILL and BOX ALARMS were transmitted.....	107	87	176
Still alarms received for which BOX ALARMS were transmitted.....	3,963	3,725	4,220
NET TOTAL STILL ALARMS (Boston).....	7,441	7,196	8,556
MUTUAL AID ALARMS.....	101	103	114

* 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.

SUMMARY OF ALARMS—BY MONTHS—1957

	Boxes	Stills	Totals
January.....	1,032	512	1,544
February.....	867	557	1,424
March.....	913	528	1,441
April.....	1,135	851	1,986
May.....	912	697	1,609
June.....	770	654	1,424
July.....	948	991	1,939
August.....	949	861	1,810
September.....	1,170	869	2,039
October.....	1,072	896	1,968
November.....	916	633	1,549
December.....	1,009	621	1,630
TOTALS.....	11,693	8,670	20,363

NOTE.—Alarms received from Boston Automatic, A. D. T., C. P. S. or where Private Company Box only was transmitted, without CITY Box, have been included under STILL ALARMS.

All alarms for MUTUAL AID have been included under STILL ALARMS.

ORIGIN OF ALARMS

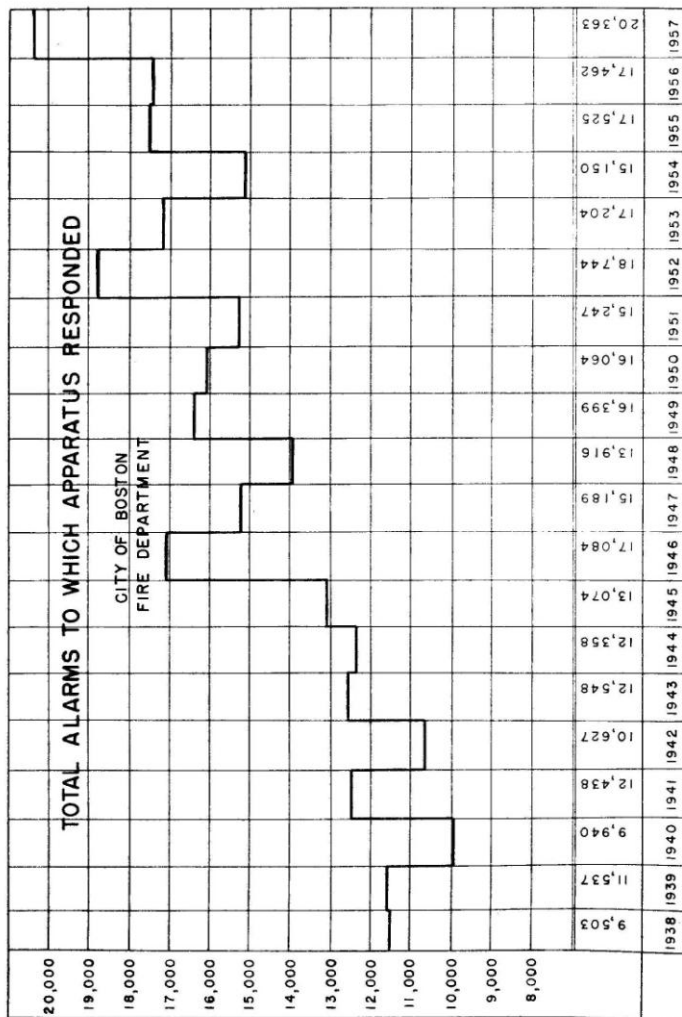
	1955		1956		1957	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
1. Box Alarms.....	5,935	33.8	6,432	36.8	7,416	36.41
2. Citizens by Telephone.....	6,684	38.1	6,272	35.9	7,537	37.01
Boxes received after telephone call.....	107	0.6	87	0.5	176	0.86
3. Police Department.....	894	5.1	830	4.8	914	4.49
4. Fire Department.....	1,423	8.1	1,294	7.4	1,622	7.97
5. Boston Automatic.....	139	0.8	106	0.6	126	0.62
6. A. D. T.....	188	1.1	233	1.3	256	1.26
7. G. A. C.....	48	0.3	—	—	—	—
8. C. P. S.....	—	—	—	—	4	0.02
9. Mutual Aid.....	101	0.6	103	0.6	114	0.56
10. Emergency Calls.....	2,113	12.1	2,192	12.6	2,374	11.66
TOTALS.....	17,525	100%	17,462	100%	20,363	100%

SUMMARY OF ALARMS
ACCORDING TO FIRE DISTRICTS—1957

No.		Boxes	Stills	Total
1	East Boston	683	584	1,267
2	Charlestown	451	264	715
3	North and West Ends and Business District	789	447	1,236
4	Business District, South End and Back Bay	1,227	686	1,913
5	Back Bay and Roxbury	1,945	853	2,798
6	South Boston	999	618	1,617
7	Roxbury and Dorchester North	1,427	858	2,285
8	Dorchester	1,035	1,203	2,238
9	Jamaica Plain and Roxbury	1,230	782	2,012
10	Roslindale, West Roxbury and Hyde Park	1,136	1,576	2,712
11	Brighton	771	685	1,456
Totals in Boston		11,693	8,556	20,249
Mutual Aid to Adjacent Cities and Towns		—	114	114
Totals		11,693	8,670	20,363

MUTUAL AID ALARMS

	Response of BOSTON to Outside Cities and Towns					Response of Adjacent Cities and Towns to BOSTON				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Brookline.....	23	24	27	23	18	91	108	120	113	138
Cambridge.....	10	3	14	9	8	7	1	6	11	9
Chelsea.....	12	8	5	18	12	4	9	13	9	9
Dedham.....	6	11	3	7	9	21	26	20	11	52
Everett.....	0	2	1	2	4	1	1	4	3	3
Malden.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medford.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Milton.....	6	8	4	4	13	1	1	4	2	3
Newton.....	8	5	8	14	11	16	17	22	31	31
Quincy.....	5	1	4	1	6	9	7	19	14	18
Revere.....	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Somerville.....	32	28	34	34	32	38	22	42	29	42
Winthrop.....	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	4
Worcester.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	105	92	101	103	114	189	193	257	224	310

**MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES**

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Two Alarms.....	44	46	71	70	65
Three Alarms.....	13	17	20	33	26
Four Alarms.....	6	2	5	8	8
Five Alarms.....	1	1	4	2	2
Totals.....	64	66	100	119	101

**SUMMARY OF MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES
ACCORDING TO MONTHS OF THE YEAR — 1957**

MONTH	Two Alarms	Three Alarms	Four Alarms	Five Alarms	Total
January.....	7	0	1	1	9
February.....	7	3	0	0	10
March.....	8	4	1	0	13
April.....	6	3	3	0	12
May.....	5	4	1	0	10
June.....	6	1	1	0	8
July.....	5	1	0	1	7
August.....	3	3	0	0	6
September.....	7	2	0	0	9
October.....	8	3	0	0	11
November.....	0	1	0	0	1
December.....	3	1	1	0	5
Totals.....	65	26	8	2	101

SUMMARY OF FIRE ALARM BOXES

Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1956	1,965
Fire alarm boxes installed January 1, 1957, to December 31, 1957	32
Fire alarm boxes discontinued January 1, 1957, to December 31, 1957	3
NET INCREASE in number of fire alarm boxes	29
Total number of fire alarm boxes in service as of December 31, 1957	1,994

DISTRIBUTION OF FIRE ALARM BOXES
DISTRICTS

District 1	117	District 7	172
District 2	129	District 8	228
District 3	149	District 9	180
District 4	139	District 10	330
District 5	190	District 11	171
District 6	189		

DIVISIONS

Division 1	723
Division 2	1,271
Total	1,994

FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1957

DATE	BOX	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Jan. 9	12-1871	7	Edward Everett School, 71 Pleasant Street.
Feb. 7	12-3355	7	Stop & Shop Market, Columbia Road and Washington Street.
Feb. 7	7353	6	Castle Island Terminal, Reserved Channel Wharf, West End, Shed No. 1.
Feb. 25	12-341	7	Patrick O'Hearn School, 1609 Dorchester Avenue.
April 15	12-2458	9	Rogerson House, 434 Jamaica Way.
May 14	12-7137	6	Archbishop Cushing Central High School for Girls, 50 West Broadway.
May 16	4146	2	Bunker Hill and Lexington Streets.
May 16	4167	2	Bunker Hill and Sullivan Streets.
May 28	12-1561	4	Boston Public Library, Blagden Street Entrance.
June 4	14-2357	5	Judge Baker Guidance Center, Blackfan Street.
July 16	177	7	Columbia Road and Bird Street.
July 23	13-3272	8	Hill Top Hospital, 30 Hill Top Street.
July 23	3462	8	Gallivan Boulevard and Wessex Street.
Sept. 6	7512	6	South Boston Naval Annex, Ninth and A Streets, Gate No. 2.

FIRE ALARM BOXES INSTALLED IN 1957. — (Concluded)

DATE	BOX	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Sept. 12	12-3786	10	Public School, Needham Road and Washington Street.
Sept. 18	12-2926	10	Randall G. Morris School, 60 Wren Street.
Sept. 20	12-2979	10	Beethoven School, 5125 Washington Street.
Oct. 1	4121	2	Water and Gray Streets.
Oct. 1	13-411	2	John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, Northbound, near Water Street.
Oct. 23	12-2638	10	St. Clare's High School, 190 Cummins Highway.
Oct. 23	2978	10	Washington Street and Kershaw Road.
Oct. 24	12-3724	10	Elihu Greenwood School, Metropolitan Avenue, Safford and Lockwood Streets.
Oct. 24	12-5195	11	St. Gabriel's Parish School, 149 Washington Street.
Oct. 28	12-5131	11	Washington Allston School, 396 Cambridge Street.
Oct. 28	12-3692	8	Lowell Mason School, 610 Cummins Highway.
Oct. 28	13-7223	6	Norcross School, 200 D Street.
Oct. 29	12-1348	3	Mayhew School, 2 Poplar Street.
Nov. 14	12-6182	1	East Boston High School, 86 White Street.
Nov. 15	298	10	Washington and Grove Streets.
Nov. 15	2994	10	Washington and Rockland Streets.
Dec. 17	3671	8	Cummins Highway and Favre Street.
Dec. 23	1818	7	William T. Morrissey Boulevard, Opposite No. 75.

FIRE ALARM BOXES DISCONTINUED IN 1957

DATE	BOX	DISTRICT	LOCATION
Feb. 19	12-5364	11	Commonwealth Post No. 1016, V. F. W., 29 Chestnut Hill Avenue.
Aug. 7	5465	11	Brighton Abattoir.
Aug. 7	5466	11	Warren Soap Mfg. Co., Inc., 143 Abattoir Avenue.

FIRE ALARM BOXES RELOCATED IN 1957

Fire alarm boxes 1624 and 1626 were relocated and designation changed as given in General Orders No. 25.

Fire alarm box 3672 was relocated and designation changed as given in General Orders No. 56.

CHANGE IN DESIGNATION OF FIRE ALARM BOXES IN 1957

GENERAL ORDERS No.	Box No.	GENERAL ORDERS No.	Box No.
2	3251	40	2926
2	3257	41	2979
2	7127	47	12-288
6	1871	48	1314
6	3218	48	1348
6	3487	48	3692
21	5326	48	5131
35	2584	48	7223
35	2841	51	6182
38	15-511	55	12-177
38	12-2171		
38	12-2357		
38	12-3244		

FIRE ALARM CONSTRUCTION FORCE
UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION — 1957

NUMBER OF CON- DUCTORS	TYPE OF CABLE	INSTALLED		REMOVED	
		Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors	Feet of Cable	Feet of Conductors
4	Polyethylene P. V. C.	8,710	34,840	—	—
4	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	1,335	5,340
4	Non-Metallic.	—	—	500	2,000
4	Anhydrex Jacketed.	—	—	1,050	4,200
6	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	295	1,770
7	Polyethylene P. V. C.	9,835	68,845	—	—
7	Anhydrex Jacketed.	—	—	600	4,200
10	Polyethylene P. V. C.	13,167	131,670	—	—
10	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	2,975	29,750
10	Anhydrex Jacketed.	—	—	100	1,000
15	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	1,825	27,375
19	Polyethylene P. V. C.	13,897	264,043	2,335	44,365
19	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	6,195	117,705
19	Anhydrex Jacketed.	—	—	75	1,425
20	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	775	15,500
37	Polyethylene P. V. C.	3,260	120,620	1,815	67,155
37	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	705	28,305
61	Polyethylene P. V. C.	390	23,790	—	—
61	Rubber-Lead.	—	—	1,000	61,000
Totals.		49,259	643,808	21,640	411,090

OVERHEAD CONSTRUCTION — 1957

	Installed, Feet	Removed, Feet
No. 10 copperweld T.B.W.P., "Duraline"	3,225	—
No. 9 T.B.W.P. galvanized	—	40,330
No. 14 twisted pair	—	520
4 conductors, polyethylene P.V.C.	3,815	—
4 conductors, non-metallic	—	450
6 conductors, non-metallic	—	500
7 conductors, polyethylene P.V.C.	550	1,300
Totals	7,590	43,100
Knock-downs attended to		134
Line construction installations, removals, transfers, slack hauled, etc.		220 poles
Fire alarm boxes installed		30
Multiple alarms responded to		97

**MAINTENANCE DIVISION
1957**

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

RECORD OF HOSE

PURCHASED	CONDEMNED	REPAIRED	IN STOCK
30,041 ft.	36,530 ft.	36,240 ft.	14,971 ft.

PAINTING ACTIVITIES

TYPE OF WORK	Number of Jobs	Labor Costs	Material Costs	Total Costs
Complete jobs.....	3	\$1,403 33	\$362 67	\$1,766 00
Partial jobs.....	149	2,691 83	806 31	3,498 34
Miscellaneous jobs.....	104	1,740 02	302 52	2,042 54
Total.....	256	\$5,835 18	\$1,471 70	\$7,306 88

REPAIRS TO APPARATUS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	7,577	540	8,117
Cost of labor and materials.....	\$138,344 91	\$37,962 74	\$176,307 65

REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	1,341	210	1,551
Cost of labor.....	\$43,018 61	\$22,713 43	
Cost of material.....	10,755 93		
Total.....	\$53,774 54	\$22,713 43	\$76,487 97

REPAIRS TO HIGH PRESSURE STATIONS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	10	5	15
Cost of labor.....	\$178 18	\$261 80	
Cost of material.....	43 15		
Total.....	\$221 33	\$261 80	\$483 13

REPAIRS TO FIREBOATS

PERFORMED By →	B. F. D. Maint. Div.	Outside Concerns	Total
Number of jobs.....	123	30	153
Cost of labor.....	\$3,756 63	\$2,332 99	
Cost of material.....	1,678 58		
Total.....	\$5,435 21	\$2,332 99	\$7,768 20

MOTOR EQUIPMENT INVENTORY — 1957

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	In Service	In Reserve	Total
Pumps.....	43	12	55
Engine squads.....	5	0	5
Hose wagons.....	23	11	34
Aerial ladders.....	22	6	28
Junior aerials.....	7	3	10
City service truck.....	1	0	1
Water towers.....	0	3	3
Rescue wagons.....	1	1	2
Wrecking units.....	2	0	2
Fuel wagons.....	2	0	2
Lighting plants.....	1	2	3
Auxiliary pumps.....	0	5	5
Chiefs' and officers' cars.....	29	19	48
Commercial trucks.....	27	0	27
Caterpillar tractor.....	1	0	1
Tractors.....	0	3	3
Fork lift truck.....	1	0	1
Steam fire engines.....	0	2	2
Civil defense pumps.....	0	17	17
Total.....	165	84	249

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
1957

REPORT OF DAILY RECEIPTS — FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION — YEAR 1957

Month	Permits Inflammable Fluids	License Renewals	Open Air Fire	Blasting Permits	Gas Tank Removals	Burner Installation	Decorative Material Samples	Sprinkler Permits	Flash Point Deter- mination	Refunds	Totals
January.....	\$711 00	\$873 00	\$651 00	\$10 00	\$33 00	\$490 00	\$21 00	\$5 00	—	\$8 00	\$2,786 00
February.....	532 50	818 00	371 00	35 00	21 00	830 00	30 00	—	—	—	2,646 50
March.....	1,628 50	2,439 00	443 50	35 00	30 00	538 00	25 00	—	—	—	5,139 00
April.....	59,329 50	3,609 00	226 00	60 00	66 00	562 00	10 00	—	—	37 00	63,825 50
May.....	36,071 00	5,016 50	455 00	50 00	48 00	950 00	28 00	—	—	1 00	42,617 50
June.....	8,553 50	15,728 50	530 50	50 00	33 00	831 00	22 00	—	—	—	25,742 50
July.....	6,161 50	42,649 00	530 00	85 00	33 00	896 00	20 00	—	—	4 00	50,370 50
August.....	3,089 04	7,234 40	447 50	45 00	21 00	947 00	13 00	—	—	—	11,796 94
September.....	3,309 00	15,590 50	668 50	55 00	24 00	1,983 00	26 00	—	—	—	10,656 00
October.....	3,247 50	4,468 00	582 50	45 00	24 00	1,094 00	23 00	\$10 00	—	—	10,094 00
November.....	3,073 05	1,202 00	443 00	30 00	15 00	2,185 00	46 00	—	—	—	7,023 05
December.....	5,097 00	3,217 00	354 50	45 00	9 00	728 00	42 00	10 00	—	2 00	9,500 50
Total.....	\$130,803 09	\$100,844 90	\$5,703 00	\$545 00	\$537 00	\$12,643 00	\$306 00	\$55 00	\$3 00	\$62 00	\$251,197 90
Refunds.....	17 00	—	45 00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	\$130,786 09	—	\$5,658 00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS — 1957

INSPECTION FORCE 1957 — FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Number of complaints received	2,811
Number of inspections made	12,545
Number of Abatement Orders issued	1,606
Number of corrections made	2,087
Number of reinspections made	5,816

Daily inspection made of piers in East Boston, South Boston and Charlestown 24,865

NIGHT CLUB INSPECTIONS

Places of assembly inspected	2,751
Number of abatement orders issued	9
Number of corrections made	406
Certificates of analysis approved	178
Certificates of flameproofing approved	150

3,494

INSPECTIONS BY FIRE COMPANY OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

Building inspections	69,613
Reinspections	2,126
Theatres	14,584
Schoolhouses	6,456
Public buildings	6,224
Oil farms	55
Carhouses	50
New installations — oil burner inspections	4,605
Inflammable fluids, storage facilities, etc.	3,319
Open air fires	649
Tank removals	63
License renewals, inflammables, garages, etc.	2,815
Parking lots	504
License petitions (location approvals)	234
Blasting	109
Boarding homes for children, day nurseries, boarding homes for aged, convalescent homes, etc., hospitals, institutions, etc.	832

111,406

Total inspections and reinspections 139,765

Conditions referred to other departments (written) 745

FIRE DRILLS

Schools	2,442
Theatres	420
Hospitals, institutions, etc.	530
Industrial and mercantile establishments	1,112

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Number of school visits made	442
Number of pupils spoken to (all visits)	33,796

ARSON SQUAD ACTIVITIES — 1957

Undetermined fires	231
Suspicious fires	4
Incendiary fires	7
Causes given but investigated	168
Multiple alarms	101
Deaths	19
Injuries	69
Arrests	15
Grand Jury indictments	7
Municipal Court cases	11
Municipal Court convictions	8
Superior Court cases	9
Superior Court convictions	8
Gas odors investigated	77
Fire Prevention inspections	85

CASUALTY CAUSES

	DEATHS	INJURIES
Burning torch on gas tank	—	2
Careless smoking	6	13
Careless use of matches	1	5
Clothing ignited by gas stove	1	4
Defective dip tank	—	1
Defective gas stove	—	2
Defective oil burner	—	13
Excavation signal bomb	—	1
Flooded oil burner	—	1
Oil on gas stove	—	1
Overturned space heater	—	1
Preheating of tar	1	1
Sewer fire	—	2
Smoking in chair	—	1
Smoking in bed	2	5
Sparks from stove	—	1
Spontaneous ignition	—	1
Sulphur candles	—	1
Tar on stove	—	1
Unknown causes	8	12
Total deaths and injuries	19	69

**CHEMICAL LABORATORY
Summary of Analyses and Tests — 1957**

Tests of flammable fluids	8
Tests of Arson Squad	8
Court appearances	1
Storage chemicals, etc.	18
Tests of decorative materials	261
Tests of decorative materials inspections field	29

**PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY
Summary of Activities — 1957**

	JOBS	NEGA-TIVES	PRINTS
Arson	225	1,550	1,600
Accident	56	336	672
Department activities	157	1,142	3,402
Public relations	33	598	1,196
Multiple alarms	39	534	1,068
Fire prevention	42	308	616
I. D. photograph	71	71	71
	623	4,539	8,625

ORDERS AND CONDITIONS REFERRED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS — 1957

Month	1st Orders	Service Orders	Building	Health	Public Safety	Public Works	Miscellaneous	Total
January.....	150	20	28	7	1	—	—	206
February.....	183	19	22	3	—	1	—	229
March.....	172	18	66	12	—	2	—	270
April.....	143	5	40	9	1	—	—	200
May.....	231	4	32	9	—	—	—	276
June.....	158	17	41	6	1	1	—	225
July.....	189	63	64	15	2	—	1	334
August.....	267	13	101	19	—	3	—	403
September.....	190	56	93	11	—	—	—	350
October.....	231	12	37	8	—	1	2	311
November.....	156	17	37	5	—	—	—	215
December.....	149	19	33	6	—	1	—	208
Totals.....	2,219	283	614	110	5	9	7	3,227

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AT FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION — 1957

Month	Telephone	Counter	Letter				Total
			Public	Health	Building	Miscellaneous	
January.....	71	1	3	—	—	2	77
February.....	57	2	6	3	—	4	72
March.....	56	—	6	—	—	10	72
April.....	73	7	9	1	1	8	90
May.....	85	1	8	3	—	28	125
June.....	52	—	11	4	—	8	75
July.....	61	3	10	2	1	13	90
August.....	59	2	10	3	—	6	80
September.....	56	3	6	2	—	1	68
October.....	79	—	5	—	—	3	87
November.....	50	2	—	—	—	—	52
December.....	66	1	1	—	—	1	69
Totals.....	765	22	75	18	2	84	966

ANALYSIS OF FIRES
IN BUILDINGS
AND CAUSES OF FIRES

ANALYSIS OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS — 1957

Construction of Buildings

Fire-resistive	316
Second-class	1,220
Third-class	1,102
Other type	44
Total	2,682

Point of Origin

Basement	458
First floor	847
Second floor	404
Third floor	309
Above third	170
Roof	66
Outside	428
Total	2,682

Extent of Fire

Confined to point of origin	1,264
Confined to buildings	1,227
Extended to other buildings	191
Total	2,682

Causes of Fires in Buildings — 1957

Chimney, soot burning	6
Defective chimney	33
Sparks from chimney at roof	25
Rubbish near heater	9
Defectively installed heater	64
Hot ashes	8
Fuel oil burner	159
Careless smoking	1,204
Children with matches	161
Other careless use of matches	31
Defective wiring	193
Electric appliances and motors	140
Flammable liquids near fire	22
Kerosene lamps and stoves	3
Grease, food on stove	22
Clothes, furniture near fire	15
Spontaneous ignition	50
Fireworks	3
Thawing water pipes	16
Sparks from machine	26
City gas and appliances	14
Miscellaneous known causes	127
Malicious mischief	111
Incendiary or suspicious	27
Unknown	213
1957 total	2,682

Causes of Outdoor Fires — 1957

Rubbish	2,640
Dump	146
Brush or grass	3,680
Other outdoor	889
Marine	31
Automobile	835
1957 total	8,221
Rescues (emergency calls)	3,423
Out-of-city calls	146