

DOCUMENT 11 -- 1973



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1972.

BOSTON, February 1, 1973.

HON. KEVIN H. WHITE,
Mayor of Boston.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the activities of the Boston Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1972.

During the year 1972 the department continued its progress in all areas covered in this report. As a result, the Boston Fire Department continued to maintain its standing as the foremost Fire Department in the country.

The year was saddened because of the loss of eleven Fire Fighters who died in the line of duty. These unfortunate tragedies reflected a true sense of solidarity between the Fire Fighters and the citizens of this city whom they serve.

We are continuing to streamline the fire services of the city, offering improvements in fire safety with no reduction in quality or added

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expense to the taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. KELLY
Fire Commissioner.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1 9 7 2

Fire Commissioner, JAMES H. KELLY

Chief of Department, GEORGE H. PAUL

Executive Secretary, WILLIAM D. SLATTERY

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

Deputy Fire Chief in Charge of Training and
Research Division, JOHN J. SULLIVAN

Deputy Fire Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention
Division, JOSEPH L. DOLAN

Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division, JOHN M.
MURPHY

Superintendent of Maintenance Division, WALTER J.
KEARNEY

Chaplains, REV. MSGR. JAMES J. KEATING, Catholic
REV. JOHN E. BARCLAY, Protestant
RABBI SAMUEL I. KORFF, Jewish

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IN MEMORIAM
DEATHS OF ACTIVE MEMBERS DURING 1972

January 6
WILLIAM P. CONNELL
Fire Captain, Engine 24

February 4
JOSEPH P. FITZGERALD
Fire Fighter, Ladder 24

March 2
RAYMON S. JEWELL
Fire Fighter (Engineer in Charge, Motor Squad)
Maintenance Division

April 1
JOSEPH C. DOHERTY
Fire Lieutenant, Fire Prevention Division

April 4
FRANCIS M. KENNEDY
Fire Lieutenant, Training and Research Division

May 7
FRANCIS X. MCDONNELL
Fire Fighter, Ladder 19

May 11
JOHN A. HOPKINS
Fire Fighter, Engine 34

June 14
FRANK P. MEROSKI
Fire Fighter, Ladder 24

June 17
THOMAS W. BECKWITH
Fire Fighter, Engine 32

June 17
JOSEPH F. BOUCHER
Fire Fighter, Engine 22

FIRE DEPARTMENT
IN MEMORIAM

June 17
THOMAS J. CARROLL
Fire Lieutenant, Engine 32

June 17
CHARLES E. DOLAN
Fire Fighter, Ladder 13

June 17
JOHN E. HANBURY
Fire Lieutenant, Ladder 13

June 17
JOHN E. JAMESON
Fire Fighter, Engine 22

June 17
RICHARD B. MAGEE
Fire Fighter, Engine 33

June 17
PAUL J. MURPHY
Fire Fighter, Engine 32

June 17
JOSEPH P. SANIUK
Fire Fighter, Ladder 13

June 19
VINCENT DIMINO
Fire Fighter, Ladder 30

July 11
JOHN C. HOWLAND
Fire Fighter, Ladder 18

August 8
CHESTER S. FRANCE
Fire Fighter, Ladder 18

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MEDAL OF HONOR MEN

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT -- 1971

"John E. Fitzgerald Medal"

Awarded to Fire Fighter FRANCIS P. BYRNE of
Aerial Tower 2

"Walter Scott Medal for Valor"

Awarded to Fire Fighter THOMAS F. MYERS of
Engine Company 21

"Patrick J. Kennedy Medal of Honor"

Awarded to Fire Captain WARREN A. HARDY of
Ladder Company 7

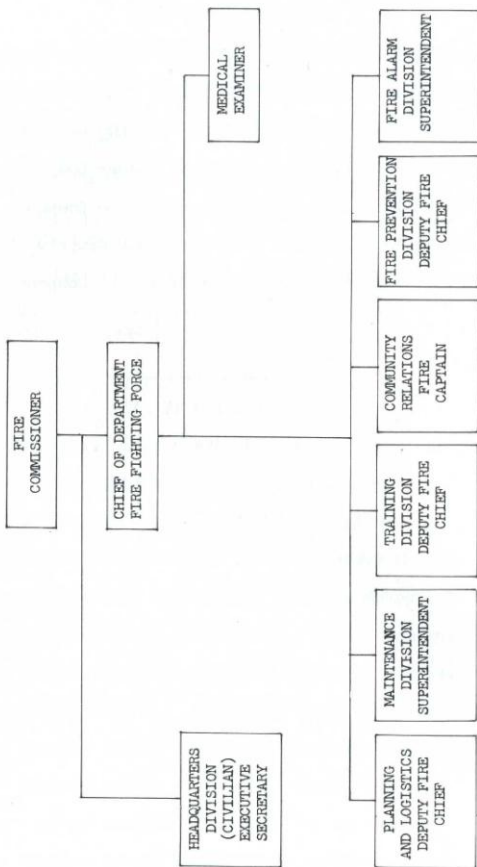
ROLL OF MERIT -- 1971

District Fire Chief CLARENCE X. FROST of District
11
Fire Captain JOSEPH L. TEHAN of Engine Company
29
Fire Lieutenant ROBERT A. DOYLE of Engine Company
14
Fire Lieutenant PAUL J. O'BRIEN of Ladder Company
4
Fire Fighter JOHN F. CAREY of Ladder Company
23
Fire Fighter PAUL A. CHRISTIAN of Ladder Company
20
Fire Fighter ROGER M. CORRIGAN of Ladder Company
4
Fire Fighter HENRY J. CULLEN of Ladder Company
30
Fire Fighter HAROLD R. DONOVAN of Engine Company
21
Fire Fighter THOMAS J. FOGEL of Engine Company
24
Fire Fighter JAMES E. FRANCE of Engine Company
39
Fire Fighter GEORGE W. GIRVAN of Ladder Company
23

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ROLL OF MERIT -- 1971

Fire Fighter DENNIS P. GREENWOOD of Engine Company
24
Fire Fighter DONALD J. LAPORTE of Engine Company
12
Fire Fighter VINCENT G. MAHONEY of Engine Company
14
Fire Fighter ROBERT J. MCCUE of Ladder Company
23
Fire Fighter JOHN J. MCKENNA of Engine Company
39
Fire Fighter JAMES J. OCHS of Ladder Company
23
Fire Fighter PAUL RICHARDSON of Engine Company
24



S T A T I S T I C S

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COMPARATIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT
EXPENDITURES

1. PERSONAL SERVICES	
Permanent employees	
Overtime	
Total Personal Services	
2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
Communications	
Light, heat, and power	
Repairs and maintenance of buildings and structures	
Repairs and servicing of equipment	
Transportation of persons	
Miscellaneous contractual services	
Total Contractual Services	
3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	
Automotive supplies and materials	
Food supplies	
Heating supplies and materials	
Household supplies and materials	
Medical, dental, and hospital supplies and materials	
Office supplies and materials	
Miscellaneous supplies and materials	
Total Supplies and Materials	
4. CURRENT CHARGES AND OBLIGATIONS	
Other current charges and obligations	
Total Current Charges and Obligations	
5. EQUIPMENT	
Automotive equipment	
Office furniture and equipment	
Miscellaneous equipment	
Total Equipment	
Grand Total	

FIRE DEPARTMENT
COMPARATIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT
EXPENDITURES

	1971	1972
.....	\$23,079,120.00	\$27,189,480.75
.....	<u>1,065,201.00</u>	<u>1,113,821.27</u>
.....	\$24,144,321.00	\$28,303,302.02
.....		
.....	69,079.00	81,532.29
.....	150,630.00	167,882.77
.....		
.....	136,406.00	167,427.05
.....	183,354.00	204,193.95
.....	2,999.00	3,210.88
.....	<u>35,042.00</u>	<u>56,777.25</u>
.....	\$ 577,502.00	\$ 681,024.19
.....		
.....	172,361.00	200,941.90
.....	76.00	77.00
.....	111,416.00	96,257.70
.....	14,750.00	18,774.81
.....		
.....	1,610.00	2,618.99
.....	16,345.00	25,570.36
.....	<u>540,015.00</u>	<u>667,961.72</u>
.....	\$ 856,572.00	\$ 1,012,202.48
.....		
.....	\$ 132,992.00	\$ 177,266.26
.....	\$ 132,992.00	\$ 177,266.26
.....		
.....	\$ -----	\$ 92,982.58
.....	1,866.00	4,435.17
.....	<u>448,733.00</u>	<u>176,042.84</u>
.....	\$ 450,599.00	\$ 273,460.59
.....		
.....	\$26,161,936.00	\$30,447,255.54

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During the year 1972, considerable progress was made in the field of Community and Public Relations. It was during this year that this division reached its maturity and performed notable service in all the areas of Community and Public Relations in which the Boston Fire Department is concerned.

During the year 1972, 4017 persons were scheduled by this division to visit and be briefed at the various Fire Department installations. This was a giant step forward in getting the citizens of the City of Boston to know and understand their Fire Department.

In the fall of the year, a recruitment program was in operation in conjunction with the Office of Human Rights, and a school was conducted to prepare individuals for the fire entrance examination.

One of the major programs of the division produced very gratifying results. In the area of false alarms the total was reduced from 13,900 in 1971 to 11,577 in 1972.

In addition to the above, the Community and Public Relations Division accomplished the following:

- Issued 1836 press releases
- Handled all harassment reports
- Attended meetings with governmental and civic groups
- Conducted research for Law Department on legal matters involving Fire Department
- Handled inquiries and requests for information relative to Boston Fire Department
- Responded to all noteworthy incidents and multiple alarm fires
- Worked with School Department in hopes of setting up a Spanish Class for Fire Fighters
- Processed new applicants to the Fire Department
- Supervised the operations of false alarm and incident prevention cars

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The foregoing is a brief summary of the accomplishments of this division, and it is the fervent hope of the department that the contributions this division makes will continue and engender greater and better relations with the community.

PLANNING AND LOGISTICS DIVISION

The Planning and Logistics Division was established in General Orders No. 14 in 1972. This division is new and its ambitions are worthy of a big City Fire Department. We are endeavoring to demonstrate to the citizens of our city that the Fire Department is not a complacent outfit that sits around and waits for a fire to occur. We are aware of our obligation to protect the many people who live, work or socialize in our city.

This division is attempting to search out our city, explore unusual features, and make recommendations for procedures to follow in case of an emergency. There are a great many conditions in our city that are not fully understood by our personnel. It is the responsibility of a Fire Department to be fully informed and aware of these features, and accordingly plan their course of action at the time of an emergency.

This division strives to work in close harmony with our Fire Prevention, Training and Research and Fire Alarm Divisions. The Fire Prevention Division is involved when we conduct our on site inspections of new high-rise structures.

The Training and Research Division is involved in the development of operating procedures for new construction and existing features of our city that have not been fully publicized to our personnel. We are striving to keep abreast of the changing features in our city and to recommend the necessary changes in our operations to cope with these changes.

The Fire Alarm Division is involved by our interest in response assignments and our recommendations for assignment of apparatus and establishment of district lines. We are involved in the adjustment of our response assignments and hope to make the necessary changes to compensate with the changing features of the city.

We endeavor to work in close harmony with other City Departments and Public Authorities, such as

FIRE DEPARTMENT

the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and the Massachusetts Port Authority.

We are proud of our accomplishments of establishing relations with many agencies of government.

Our involvement in the development of F.P.O. 72 - 1, establishing Regulations and Procedures for Building Evacuation, was productive of an evacuation plan that has been a credit to the Boston Fire Department.

The establishment of the Special Service Car response pattern was the work of this division, and it has proved to be a tremendous success.

This division is responsible for the changes made in our fire detail assignments. This was an endeavor to provide a more equitable distribution of the work load of the department.

In the future we expect to show some remarkable improvements in our involvement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and the Massachusetts Port Authority. The ground work for many improvements in our operations with these agencies has been established and should be forthcoming during 1973.

The Pre-Planning Program for the Fire Department began May 1, 1972. This was a new program and it was received in a splendid manner by our personnel. This was an example of the Fire Fighting Forces accepting a program that they could see was for their interest in knowing the unusual places they might be called to in case of a fire. It is not a program to acquire a total number for record purposes, but an effort to bring knowledge to our operating forces that can benefit their safety, their mode of operation, and protect the safety of the citizens.

The personnel assigned to this division are trying to perform a service to the department and to the citizens of the City of Boston. We welcome suggestions for improvements in our operations and any information about existing features in

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our city that could pose a problem at a time of
an emergency.

TRAINING AND RESEARCH
DIVISION

TRAINING AND RESEARCH DIVISION

The primary function of the Training and Research Division is two-fold:

1. To initiate and supervise the job development of the Fire Fighter, commencing with the probationary period and continuing throughout his career. This, of course, entails the keeping of comprehensive records regarding the actual training of the various groups involved.

2. To become involved in research programs designed to improve fire fighting techniques, fire fighting apparatus and equipment, and protection of Fire Fighters; to prepare specifications for new fire apparatus; to test and evaluate newly acquired fire apparatus; to test and evaluate new tools and appliances before recommending their use in the department.

Secondary functions of this division are enumerated in the summary which follows:

To properly fulfill its mission, this division must be constantly aware of advances made in engineering, science, and industry as they affect the techniques of fire fighting, fire protection, and fire extinguishment. This requires a program comprehensive enough to cover all phases of modern day fire fighting and the imparting of acquired information to and the training of approximately two thousand men.

The number of business and industrial employees trained by this division in fire protection and extinguishment has increased considerably over the past few years.

In a department such as ours, close cooperation among the various divisions is essential in order for us to fulfill our obligations to the city. This division acknowledges and appreciates the assistance and cooperation of the Headquarters, Fire Fighting, Fire Prevention, Community Relations, Fire Alarm, Maintenance, and Planning and Logistics Divisions in helping us meet our obligations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The following summary covers in general the activities of this division during the past year:

A. Available Facilities

1. Training and Research Division Office, Headquarters Building
2. Fire Fighting Equipment Stockroom and Repair Facility, Headquarters Building
3. Memorial Hall, Headquarters Building
4. Pump Test Pit, Maintenance Division Yard
5. John A. Martin Fire Academy, Moon Island
6. Compressed Air Tank and Fire Extinguisher Recharging Station, Moon Island
7. Drill Tower, Engine 2, South Boston
8. Drill Tower, Engine 29, Brighton

B. Department Drilling and Training Programs

This division develops, formulates, and conducts drilling and training procedures covering the wide range of subjects, both basic and newly developed, that must be taught and reviewed to insure efficient operation at fires and other incidents requiring the response of the Fire Department. It is absolutely essential that personnel of our department be taught, trained, and continuously reviewed on the necessary tasks facing them in the fire service. Forty-four engine, twenty-seven ladder, two rescue, two aerial tower, two fireboat, and two lighting plant companies (making a total of seventy-nine fire companies) were instructed during the past year.

1. Equipment Familiarization
2. Apparatus Familiarization
3. First Aid
4. Probationers
 - a. Drill School
 - b. Evaluation Program
 - c. On-The-Job Training Program
5. Officer Training Courses
6. Radiological
7. Safety Driving Program
8. Boston Fire Department Exhibition Drill Team

9. Fire Science Course
10. Fire Alarm Training
11. High Rise Buildings
12. Buildings Under Construction
13. Boston Gas Company
14. Aircraft
15. State College Cooperative Plan
16. Chlorine

C. Training Available to Outside Groups

1. Fire Service Applicants Training Program
2. Basic Fire Fighting
3. Radiological

D. Surveys

1. Inspections and Tests

Annual surveys, inspections, and tests are carried out throughout the department to determine the condition of the various tools and appliances that are used in the fire service. It is of extreme importance that periodic tests and checks of equipment be carried out to also insure the safety of personnel who may be called upon to use this equipment.

2. Servicing and Repair Programs

In order to properly maintain and guarantee safe and continuous operation of fire fighting equipment, tools, and appliances, a year round servicing and repairing program is conducted by this division at our repair facilities at Headquarters and at the Fire Academy. These facilities avoid delay and reduce the cost to the city of servicing and repairing this equipment.

3. Inventory - Fire Fighting Equipment

In order to carry on our servicing and repair programs and to insure the efficient operation of companies at fires, it is necessary for this division to maintain an inventory of fire fighting tools, equipment, and parts for same. This requires extensive record keeping and constant review.

E. Research

A very important function of this division is to conduct tests and experiments and thoroughly evaluate the merits of new equipment, materials, and appliances developed for the fire service. We are always alert to take advantage of progress made by manufacturers when the purchase of equipment becomes necessary, and manufacturers are encouraged to submit samples of their products for test and evaluation.

1. Protective Breathing Equipment

a. The research and evaluation program on protective breathing equipment was continued. Much time and effort have been expended and will continue to be expended to bring about a better and more suitable gas mask for firefighting. Cooperation has been received from many sources, including the Harvard University School of Public Health, M.I.T., Northeastern University, the NFPA, IAFF, several mask manufacturing companies, and U. S. Government Agencies, including NASA, the National Bureau of Standards, the Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Mines.

b. With the approval of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, the Mine Safety Appliances Company has produced a new, improved type Chemox Mask, two prototypes of which are being tested and evaluated by this department.

c. The second phase of the continuing respiratory study and gas mask research program conducted by the School of Public Health of Harvard University was continued, in which uniformed members of the Boston Fire Department were interviewed and each one given a breathing test in quarters with air sampling devices furnished by Harvard University. A medical research grant received by the Harvard School of Public Health was utilized to continue

the foregoing work and to provide the portable sampling devices to measure concentrations of carbon monoxide encountered by Fire Fighters under actual working conditions. This information will be used to devise specifications for breathing equipment which will result in improved respiratory protection.

- d. Respiratory face leakage tests which were conducted in 1971 were continued in an effort to determine whether such factors as facial contours, whether shaven or unshaven, beards, etc., had any effects. During the past year more exhaustive studies were conducted commencing with probationers at drill school and other volunteer members of the department.
- e. Legislation was passed during the past year by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Chapter 48), amended, to equip fire apparatus with at least three self-contained gas masks.

2. Protective Clothing

a. Fire Coats

- 1. Various types of fire coats and linings, including vinyl, vinyl naugehyde, neoprene, nomex, hypalon, and zepel and neoprene backed were field tested and evaluated in service in the department. Various manufacturers, including DuPont Company, have cooperated by submitting and donating fire coats, linings, and various types of materials. Department Chemist Edward V. Clougherty is still cooperating with this division in an effort to design and produce a coat suitable for fire fighting purposes which would be an improvement over the present type. Tests were conducted by District Chief Buchanan of this division and Dr. Clougherty in conjunction with the

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bureau of Standards at their test center in Washington, D. C. These efforts have proved to be successful as much progress has been made.

- 2. Bids on vinyl coats, as per our specifications were approved.
- 3. A survey was conducted by this division to determine the conditions of fire coats in service and their ability to withstand fire service.

b. Fire Helmets

Field tests were continued and will continue to be conducted on various type materials.

c. Gloves

Various types gloves for use in fire fighting were field tested and evaluated within the various companies.

d. Fire Boots

Various types boots and related equipment were field tested and evaluated.

e. Uniforms

Various types of materials, including Nomex flameproof, have been tested in this regard.

3. Miscellaneous

Test and evaluation was continued on various items, including nozzles, hose, ladders, "rapid water", etc.

F. Specifications - New Apparatus and Equipment

During the past year, specifications for new apparatus and equipment were formulated and prepared in this division in cooperation with the Maintenance Division.

The Training and Research Division of this department compares favorably with the outstanding training setups throughout the country. We have every reason to believe that this Fire

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Department will continue to be trained and maintained at its present high caliber and that progress through teaching and training will be the forerunner of greater efficiency.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Large Loss Fires

During the year 1972, the City of Boston experienced several spectacular fires involving various types of occupancies and particularly one large fire which attracted the attention of the Nation and brought commendations and favorable comments from all sections of the country, i.e., The National Fire Protection Association, The American Insurance Association and other recognized fire insurance and rating bureaus concerned with the underwriting of the business interest of the Nation.

One of these fires was located in the Back Bay section of Boston. The Hotel Vendome, one of the oldest landmarks in the city, attracted the attention of the Nation because at the very end of this fire it suddenly turned into a holocaust. A partial collapse of this building took the lives of nine Fire Fighters.

Another tragic fire occurred in the Portuguese Roxbury section of our city in a 2½ story complex which took the lives of eight civilians. The work of the Fire Fighters at the scene of this two alarm fire was acclaimed throughout the country because of the number of rescues that were made under the most trying conditions.

There were several other large fires that taxed the capabilities of the Boston Fire Department during the year. In view of these large loss fires, both in material things and human life, the Fire Prevention Division has "beefed-up" their inspection program and their community relations and educational program partly aimed at the minority groups located within our city and also those who do not speak our tongue. These educational programs and community relation programs have been aimed at the Spanish, Italian and Chinese speaking people and the black communities. This is being brought about by presentations and civic meetings of neighborhood committees and through educational programs in the schools. False alarms have been

FIRE DEPARTMENT

drastically reduced through adult educational programs and school educational programs.

The Fire Prevention Code has been rewritten and is now in the hands of the Traffic, Police, Building and Law Departments.

At the present time the new Housing Court, under the direction of Judge Garrity, has been extremely helpful, and we look forward to a most fruitful future.

Licenses

In the year 1972, receipts from licenses issued totaled \$79,455.15. These receipts have remained on the same level as the year 1971.

Permits

Permit revenue for the year 1972 amounted to \$143,311.47, including miscellaneous permits. This total is considerably larger than the year 1971, as most of our fuel oil permits are issued on a two year basis. Total revenue from all sources for the year 1972 was \$222,766.62.

Personnel

The Night Division of Inspection concentrates its efforts in the areas of high population wherein our citizenry may be assembled for shopping, amusement or entertainment. These Inspectors cover all types of occupancies where this assemblage might be encountered, and are under the control of a Lieutenant Inspector who is supervised periodically by a District Chief for an appraisal of the effectiveness and the efficiency of the work being performed by this division.

Personnel has been assigned to new construction sites for the purpose of ensuring the available water supplies and the fire protection equipment as well as seeing that good housekeeping is being maintained at these sites.

Also, the vacant building program of inspection

is still being maintained at a high level, particularly in the critical areas where, because of Federal highways, redevelopment, rehabilitation and model cities, etc., large numbers of vacant buildings are found. These inspections permit us to have these buildings secured against trespass and the elements and thereby allowing for both the prevention of blight in the neighborhood and increasing the fire safety of the neighborhoods.

Inspection Forces

The Inspection Forces of this division has established a program of inspection designed so that the occupants of the premises to be inspected can make no advanced preparations to circumvent the honest viewing of any location. The total number of inspections made by the Inspection Force of this division totaled 20,844 for the year 1972. Places of Assembly were also inspected by this force for a total of 7605. Additional inspections were made by the officers in the subdistricts where the places of assembly are located. In locations requiring a specialized knowledge, the Inspectors of this division specially trained in that field were assigned to make these inspections to ascertain that no fire hazard existed or continued due to a lack of knowledge. All matters concerning other city departments were reported by the Inspectors of this division on the necessary forms to the department charged with this responsibility. These totaled 796.

Inspection Squad

The Inspection Squad of this division is charged with the responsibility of investigating the cause and circumstances of every fire and explosion occurring within the city limits. These results of the investigations are to help determine whether such fire was caused by carelessness, design or is a violation of law. These investigations are carried on for the use of the Boston Fire Department in removing causes of fires and explosions, apprehending of culprits responsible for fires and turning over of all the facts and evidence to the office of the State Fire Marshal. Many hours of

investigation were spent in the course of their duties. Undetermined, suspicious and incendiary fires totaled 678. Injuries reported and investigated totaled 118 with deaths attributed to fires totaling 36. 55 arrests were made in the course of a year and 104 Municipal and District Court appearances. 64 appearances were made before the Superior Court; and 13 appearances before the United States Court and Grand Jury. As a result of these appearances and arrests, we were able to get 33 convictions. This work by the Inspection Squad in obtaining these convictions deserves a "well done" because in arson investigation and detection, they have succeeded in obtaining these convictions in one of the most difficult crimes there is to prosecute.

In-Service Inspections

This department continues with its routine in-service inspections by company units of this department. Information and inspections recorded are appraised in this division and in those instances, where further action is required, the inspection report is brought to the attention of Fire Prevention Inspectors for closer study of the problem. His findings are made known to the District Fire Chief and the fire company involved with recommendations and corrective action necessary. These inspections are in excess of 7,000 in the course of a year.

Schools

Every school in the city is inspected with frequency and regularity by a company officer within whose subdistrict the school building is located. A total of 6,900 fire exit drills were held. The Fire Prevention Division maintained a program called the "Boston Junior Fireman" based on the Fire Marshal Plan which claimed national recognition since its inception in Boston in 1948. This plan is supported by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation and is aimed at the sixth grade pupil of public, parochial and private schools for fire prevention education. The approximate number of pupils lectured on fire prevention during the school year was 45,380.

Photographic Activity

This unit responds to all multiple alarms, accidents involving Fire Department vehicles or property, special calls for specific photographic records, fire prevention code violations and fire hazard conditions for correction or prosecution, provides I.D. card photographs, data assembly and lamination of I.D. cards for issuance to all members appointed or promoted. A total of 10,306 prints were made in the course of the year.

Chemist's Activity

During the past year, approximately 2,000 samples of various materials were submitted for testing and/or evaluation of manufacturer's test data. Among other things, these samples included vinyl and cloth upholstery, synthetic drapery materials, inherently flameproofed synthetic and treated natural fabrics, wall coverings, floor coverings, ceiling tiles and miscellaneous decorations. Approximately 100 samples of the samples submitted were rejected for not meeting the strict requirements of the Boston Fire Prevention Code.

The department Chemist participated with other Fire Prevention personnel and a retained consultant in the preparation of a new and expanded Fire Prevention Code.

In addition to responsibilities to the Fire Prevention Division, the department Chemist continued to provide technical support to the Training and Research Division and to other City Departments, including the Purchasing Department, School Department, Hospitals Department and Public Facilities Department.

Procedures for regulating disposable linens in hospital surgical rooms were initiated at the Boston City Hospital.

Technical support was furnished to the Training and Research Division with the continued investigation of several aspects of firefighter turnout coats. The firefighter turnout coats were altered

to increase the wear and tear characteristics while maintaining the presently achieved fire protection properties and other proven advantages.

Fire Prevention Activity

The Fire Prevention Division again this year continued its efforts with an around-the-clock program of fire prevention 365 days. Financial assistance is obtained through funds donated by the Fire Prevention Council, which is a citizen sustained group that aids in the purchase of educational material in our fire prevention program. This includes various news media, prizes, pamphlets and posters. Their assistance in our effort is extremely valuable.

General

The Fire Prevention Division maintains a constant In-Service Training of all members assigned to the division. A weekly seminar is held for all members assigned to the Fire Prevention Division to keep them abreast of current changes in inspection techniques, changes in rules and regulations and any changes in statute law. These seminars also are extended to members of the Fire Fighting Force by holding instructional periods on the Fire Prevention Code with its enforcement and also instructional courses for officers of the department relative to their responsibilities in inspections and corrections, and the issuance of all necessary notices ordering the correction or the appearance of delinquents into the various district courts.

A cooperating In-Service Training Program is also held with the other various departments of city government involved in code enforcements, i.e., Building Department, Housing Inspection Service and Health and Sanitation. Members selected to be Fire Inspectors assigned to the Fire Prevention Division start with a basic knowledge of fire fighting because of their service in the various fire companies of the department throughout the city. These men usually have a background knowledge of building construction, electricity, plumbing and a knowledge of the various occupancies

and their related fire hazards. As this division deals constantly with the public, these men must be able to portray a good example of the fire service to the citizenry of Boston. They must acquire a knack of explaining to the public how they should safely live, work and play to prevent fire from taking their lives, cause painful injuries and destroy property. In order to get this message across to the general public, a man must be adept in public relations so that the message we have to give is received in a proper manner.

It must always be kept in mind that fire prevention is an intangible. Therefore, it is never known how many lives are saved or how much property is protected from destruction by the inspections made and the corrections obtained during these inspections by members of this division. The work of the Arson Squad in the investigation of these serious fires and other fires occurring within the city, which were incendiary, suspicious or undetermined, and those fires which were a violation of law, resulted in the apprehension and convictions of 33 persons. This work by the Arson Squad will prove to be a deterrent to others who may for any reason hope to avoid punishment for the crime of arson or the violation of law which jeopardizes public safety in this city.

The constant supervision by the Night Club Inspectors and Theatre Inspectors of this division results in the continuing correction of any violations or deficiencies or overcrowding in places of assembly. The thoroughness with which the Fire Prevention Inspectors follow through on the flameproofing of decorative materials used in the various occupancies within this city, i.e., places of assembly, institutions, theatres, etc., maintains a high level of safety to life from fire in these occupancies. Therefore, it is with great pride that I point out that the work performed by the members of this department and particularly the Inspectors assigned to the Fire Prevention Division whether they be Field Inspectors, Night Club Inspectors or Arson Investigators, through their efforts have made the City of Boston a safer place in which to work, live and play.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Maintenance Division is responsible for all testing, repair, maintenance and preventive maintenance of apparatus and automotive equipment, and for repair and maintenance of all buildings and grounds. The foregoing includes two hundred twenty-three pieces of rolling stock, consisting of one hundred thirty pieces of apparatus, thirty-five trucks of varied description, fifty-eight cars, two fireboats and forty-five buildings. In addition to meeting this heavy schedule, the division is also responsible for the compilation of specifications and procurement of new fire apparatus and all other vehicles, purchase and upkeep of firefighters' uniforms and fire clothing, supplies and materials necessary for efficient operations, and care of over 300,000 feet of fire hose.

The department Maintenance Division consists of the main apparatus repair shop, small vehicle shop, machine shop, welding and metal shop, carpenter shop, hose and canvas shop, paint shop, plumbing shop, battery and ignition rooms, uniform and clothing division, and main stockroom.

Personnel is comprised of sixty-one civilian employees, proficient in various skills and crafts, twenty-four firefighters, sixteen of which are assigned to the Emergency Motor Squad, which responded to over 6,000 calls of varying exigencies throughout the city.

The program of rehabilitation and reassignment of apparatus continued in 1972 with the cooperation of the Training and Research Division with the acquisition of new equipment. Preventive maintenance was improved and made more comprehensive. Repowering of older apparatus continued with the installation of Detroit 671N model diesel engines into Engines 34, 53 and 48. A completed study of an electronic skid control device, installed on one aerial truck, has proved to be of such positive value that such device will ultimately be installed on all apparatus. Modern oil dispensing equipment was installed in the main shop vehicle servicing area.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A comprehensive survey of all department buildings was made with the Public Facilities Commission to continue a program of maintenance, major renovations, and/or replacement.

The fire stations at 44 Monument Street, Charlestown, and 30 Winthrop Street, Hyde Park, were closed. Engine Company 36 was relocated to Engine Company 32's quarters at 525 Main Street, Charlestown. Ladder Company 22 was relocated to Engine Company 51's quarters at 425 Faneuil Street, Brighton. Engine Company 48 and Ladder Company 28 were relocated to new quarters at 64 Fairmount Avenue, Hyde Park. Construction of Engine Company 52's new quarters is nearly completed with an expected opening date of Spring 1973.

During the year 1972, the following equipment was placed into service by the department:

- 3 - Maxim 100' Aerial Ladder Trucks
- 1 - International Rescue Truck (Replacing Engine Company 13)
- 1 - Hose Wagon with Snorkel Articulating Boom (Engine Company 17)
- 1 - 3300 Gallon Water Tank Truck (Engine Company 48's Quarters)
- 13 - Station Wagons
- 6 - Sedans
- 1 - Emergency Road Service Vehicle
- 4 - Pick-up Trucks
- 1 - 300 Amp. Hobart Welding Machine

Purchase Orders were issued in 1972 for the following:

- 5 - Maxim 1500 G.P.M. Pumps
- 3 - Maxim 100' Aerial Ladder Trucks
- 1 - Radio Service Van
- 1 - 300 Gallon Per Hour Steam Generating Machine

37,750 feet of hose was purchased during the year - 32,450 feet of hose was repaired - 18,300 feet of hose was condemned.

CITY DOCUMENT NO. 11

FIRE ALARM DIVISION

During the year 1972, the Boston Fire Department responded to a total of 38,317 alarms, of which 11,577 were false, for a total of 30.2% false.

The Boston Fire Department furnished Mutual Aid to adjacent cities and towns a total of 260 times during the year, while adjacent cities and towns furnished Mutual Aid to the Boston Fire Department a total of 549 times.

During the year, there were a total of 78 second alarms, 24 third alarms, 6 fourth alarms, and 0 fifth alarms, for a total of 108 multiple alarms of fire. There were 154 working fires which required additional apparatus being dispatched to the fire and not considered as multiple alarms.

On January 1, 1972, there were a total of 2,355 Fire Alarm Boxes in service in the City of Boston. During the year, 40 new Fire Alarm Boxes were installed and 9 Fire Alarms Boxes were discontinued, for a net increase in boxes of 31. As of December 31, 1972, there were 2,386 Fire Alarm Boxes in service in the City of Boston Fire Department.

During the year 1972, the Fire Alarm Division Construction Force installed a total of 43,045 feet of underground cable for a total of 709,310 feet of conductors. A total of 23,755 feet of overhead wire and cable were installed for a total of 59,260 feet of conductors. A total of 4,450 feet of underground cable were removed and a total of 30,455 feet of overhead wire and cable were removed. Cable removed was defective or damaged cable and in most instances was replaced with new cable.

The tone paging system, owned and operated by the Boston Fire Department, was initiated in October 1972.



BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



(Globe Photo by Dan Sheehan)

1972 ANNUAL STATISTICS

Although fire costs more than \$2.96 billion in losses last year, its most terrible cost is counted, not in dollars, but in human misery.

Fire claimed 11,900 lives in this country last year. Of these, about one-fourth were children. Many hundreds of fire victims are still recovering from serious, often disfiguring, injuries.

Countless thousands of Americans had payless paydays when fire interrupted their jobs, and other thousands saw jobs permanently gone when fire wiped out their employers' businesses. Still others will never recover fully from the financial disaster of a home or business fire.

These are heavy costs to pay for an act of negligence or ignorance. Through knowledge and care, destructive fires can be virtually eliminated.

A man's measure of intelligence is his learning through experience. The above statistics do not reflect a very good example of our intelligence, so why not work together and do our best to reduce these outrageous figures on property damage and loss of life. This can be accomplished by practicing good fire prevention in our homes, where we work and wherever our quest for pleasure may take us.

PLAN TODAY FOR A FIRE-SAFE TOMORROW

To help protect your family from the hazards of fire, pre-plan escape routes from every room in the house.

Plan ahead specifically for fire during the night, when most of the family is asleep. National Fire Protection Association records indicate that the majority of lives taken by home fires might have been saved if people had planned and rehearsed ways to escape. So plan and practice today — for a safer tomorrow.

Here are pointers to help you plan:

1. Carefully figure out at least two routes to the outside from each room in the house, especially bedrooms.
2. Rehearse exit plans with every member of the family. Make sure each person knows what to do, and arrange for assistance in escaping for your children and elderly members of the household.
3. Always keep exit routes clear. Don't place stoves or heaters near doors, or tall, heavy furniture in front of windows which might be needed for escape. Make sure bedroom windows are large enough and low enough to serve as emergency exits.
4. Be sure everyone, especially the children, understands the rule "Once out, Stay out!" Re-entering a house where there is fire is extremely dangerous.
5. Know how to notify the fire department quickly and correctly, from a neighbor's home or a street alarm box.

Don't wait for fire to strike before you check your home for fire hazards.

Are attic, basement, closets and garage free of rubbish? Are furnaces and stoves in good working order and placed well away from combustible walls and ceilings? Are worn electric cords and defective appliances repaired promptly? Are flammable liquids safely stored?

If you need help in checking your home for these fire hazards, call your fire department today and ask them to help you inspect your home for fire safety.

☆☆

While not actually a part of the Boston Fire Department, the Fire Prevention Council, nevertheless, plays an important role in the function of the Boston Fire Department.

Founded eleven years ago, the Council is a membership organization of business and professional men and women whose purpose is to assist the Boston Fire Department in its program of fire prevention activities. The two organizations work closely together, with the Boston Fire Department supplying the Council with Headquarters office space while the Council supplies volunteer personnel services and financial support for programs. For the past eleven years the Council has provided financial support which amounts to several thousands of dollars per year. Council activities include such annual programs as Christmas and Halloween Safety, Spring Clean-Up and Fire Prevention Week activities. The Council also sponsors or supports fire-related legislation. The Council was responsible for a successful campaign to eliminate dangerous space heaters in Boston and was active in supporting the passage of legislation sponsored by Fire Commissioner James H. Kelly to require sprinklers in high-rise buildings.

FIRE PREVENTION COUNCIL, INC.

COMPARISON OF ALARMS FOR THE YEARS 1970, 1971 & 1972

	1970	1971	1972	INCREASED OR DECREASED
TOTAL ALARMS	39,484	41,984	38,317	- 3,667
STILL ALARMS	26,302	28,008	25,089	- 2,919
BOX ALARMS	13, 182	13,976	13,228	- 748
*FALSE ALARMS	12,751	13,900	11,577	- 2,323
WORKING FIRES	140	162	154	- 8
SECOND ALARMS	89	99	78	- 21
THIRD ALARMS	19	38	24	- 14
FOURTH ALARMS	6	3	6	+ 3
FIFTH ALARMS	2	4	0	- 4

COMPARED TO 1971 - TOTAL ALARMS WERE DOWN 3,667

COMPARED TO 1971 - TOTAL FALSE ALARMS WERE DOWN 2,323

*FALSE ALARMS (BREAKDOWN FOR 1972) - BOXES: 10,440: TEL. 1,137

FIRE DEATHS IN 1970 - 32

FIRE DEATHS IN 1971 - 55

FIRE DEATHS IN 1972 - 46

FIRE INJURIES IN 1970 - 91

FIRE INJURIES IN 1971 - 151

FIRE INJURIES IN 1972 - 117

NATIONAL FIRE DEATHS IN THE YEAR 1971 - 11,850

NATIONAL FIRE PROPERTY LOSS IN 1971 - 2.7 BILLION DOLLARS

ENGINE COMPANIES	. . .	44
LADDER COMPANIES	. . .	27
AERIAL TOWERS	. . .	2
RESCUE COMPANIES	. . .	2
LIGHTING PLANTS	. . .	2
FIRE BOATS	. . .	2

TOTAL LINE COMPANIES . . . 77

TIMES MUTUAL AID FURNISHED 1972

1. Engine 32	85	13. Ladder 15	8	25. Engine 2	2
2. Engine 49	31	14. Engine 37	8	26. Ladder 2	2
3. Engine 33	23	15. Engine 56	7	27. Engine 16	2
4. Engine 8	23	16. Ladder 30	6	28. Engine 55	2
5. Engine 20	20	17. Engine 21	6	29. Ladder 28	1
6. Ladder 22	19	18. Engine 10	5	30. Ladder 17	1
7. Engine 11	18	19. Engine 52	4	31. Ladder 9	1
8. Engine 34	17	20. Engine 41	4	32. Ladder 20	1
9. Engine 30	16	21. Ladder 27	4	33. Engine 43	1
10. Ladder 13	15	22. Ladder 16	3	34. Engine 51	1
11. Engine 29	14	23. Ladder 21	3	35. Ladder 18	1
12. Engine 50	13	24. Ladder 6	3	TOTAL 370 TIMES.	

TOTAL COMPANY RUNS FOR THE YEAR 1972

1. Lad. 23	4137	27. Eng. 7	1821	53. Lad. 22	931
2. Res. 2	3655	28. Lad. 19	1770	54. Lad. 18	924
3. Lad. 7	3585	29. Eng. 33	1756	55. L.P. 2	903
4. Lad. 29	3361	30. Lad. 10	1746	56. Eng. 39	890
5. Eng. 52	3003	31. Lad. 16	1728	57. Eng. 50	870
6. Lad. 4	3000	32. A.T. No. 1	1724	58. Lad. 1	863
7. Lad. 30	2997	33. Eng. 28	1558	59. Eng. 40	846
8. Lad. 20	2915	34. Lad. 17	1537	60. Lad. 8	845
9. Eng. 24	2727	35. Res. No. 1	1449	61. Eng. 36	825
10. Eng. 12	2689	36. Eng. 53	1334	62. Eng. 20	778
11. Eng. 14	2545	37. Lad. 14	1328	63. Eng. 25	720
12. Eng. 42	2496	38. Lad. 11	1274	64. Lad. 9	711
13. A.T. No. 2	2446	39. Lad. 21	1215	65. Eng. 34	703
14. Eng. 17	2410	40. Eng. 41	1187	66. Eng. 48	682
15. Eng. 43	2376	41. Eng. 45	1176	67. Eng. 8	626
16. Eng. 18	2277	42. Eng. 2	1154	68. Eng. 32	619
17. Eng. 21	2260	43. Eng. 26	1144	69. Eng. 55	615
18. Eng. 37	2227	44. Eng. 9	1053	70. Eng. 11	613
19. Eng. 22	2149	45. Lad. 27	1032	71. Eng. 56	610
20. Lad. 6	2120	46. Eng. 10	1011	72. Eng. 51	564
21. Lad. 13	2061	47. Eng. 29	1000	73. Eng. 30	546
22. Eng. 16	2032	48. Lad. 25	987	74. Eng. 49	504
23. Eng. 3	1933	49. Eng. 4	971	75. Eng. 47	395
24. Eng. 1	1920	50. Eng. 5	953	76. L.P. No. 1	298
25. Lad. 15	1858	51. Lad. 24	944	77. Eng. 31	179
26. Lad. 2	1832	52. Lad. 28	937		

Engine 54 & Ladder 31 — 42 each.

NUMBER OF PERSONS RESCUED FOR THE YEAR 1972

1. Lad. 20	93	15. Eng. 26	29	29. Eng. 42	11
2. Lad. 23	90	16. Lad. 30	26	30. Lad. 6	10
3. Lad. 27	75	17. Eng. 2	24	31. Eng. 43	8
4. Lad. 29	66	18. Lad. 24	24	32. Eng. 34	5
5. Lad. 7	57	19. Lad. 14	22	33. Lad. 22	5
6. Lad. 13	57	20. Lad. 11	22	34. Eng. 53	4
7. Lad. 4	53	21. Lad. 8	21	35. Lad. 10	4
8. A.T. No. 2	46	22. Lad. 21	20	36. Lad. 2	4
9. Res. No. 1	41	23. Lad. 28	20	37. Eng. 1	2
10. A.T. No. 1	32	24. Lad. 1	20	38. Eng. 32	2
11. Lad. 18	30	25. Lad. 15	18	39. Eng. 41	2
12. Lad. 19	30	26. Lad. 17	18	40. Eng. 47	1
13. Lad. 16	30	27. Lad. 25	17	41. Eng. 55	1
14. Lad. 9	30	28. Res. No. 2	11	TOTAL 1,081 PERSONS	

