

#### ATOMIC HAZARDS STUDIED

The new Canadian Fire College at Gravenhurst, Ontario, recently completed a week's course on atomic fire hazards in industry. The students numbered high ranking firemen from throughout the Province of Ontario; also a fire chief from Detroit, Michigan; and the curriculum included instruction on structure of the atom, types of nuclear radiation, radioactive isotopes in industry, Cobalt-60 therapy units, nuclear power plants, phosphoric atomic fuels, half-life and shielding problems, measurement units of radiation, medical effects of radiation, types of nuclear accidents, fire fighting in contaminated areas, decontamination of fire equipment and personnel, and radiation safety.

For the first time in Canada the students participated in fire fighting activities in the presence of real (not simulated) nuclear radiation. Special measures for protecting the fire fighters from the radiation hazards were required. Tests were made with various types of fire hose using radioactively contaminated water. It was surprising to find that after such use, one type of hose retained 40 times as much radioactivity as did any other types tested. That particular hose would have been a distinct hazard to firemen handling it after it had been used with contaminated water.

At the close of the course it was the unanimous opinion of the instructors and students that a geiger counter should be included in the equipment of fire fighting apparatus. Its immediate availability is essential in order that a means will always be at hand to determine the extent of any radiation hazards that may be present during a fire, so that suitable measures can be taken to protect both fireman and citizen.

It is gratifying to find such attention being paid in a college for fire fighters to the training of firemen in the hazards of nuclear radiation and to protective measures against them. As we enter a new year, we believe this is a timely subject for our most sincere consideration, and we wonder why our firemen have not been afforded the opportunity of equal training. Few of us realize the frequency of shipments through our County of radioactive materials or have knowledge of the location of such materials in local hospitals, industries and laboratories. Its about time we learned if we want to live and do the job.

#### LOW INSURANCE RATE APPROVED

The New York State superintendent of insurance has upheld as adequate the rates on dwelling houses filed by the Insurance Company of North America. The rate schedule is estimated at 7 to 10 per cent under premiums charged by most other stock insurance companies operating in the State.

As a representative of those companies, the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization contested North American's right to base its rates on its own expense of doing business rather than on the industry-wide experience in that regard.

In ruling on the matter Superintendent Leffert Holtz said in part, "There is nothing in the law which says that the rating bureaus shall be paramount. To hold otherwise would not be in the public interest. As a matter of fact, competition in the public interest is encouraged."

It's sad for a girl to reach the age where men consider her charmless. But it's worse for a man to attain the age where the girls consider him harmless.



### COMPRESSED GAS SYSTEMS

For several years the use of compressed gas systems for heating and cooking has steadily increased, especially in rural and suburban districts where city gas is not available. These systems utilize mixtures of propane and butane which are derived from crude petroleum, and are similar to gasoline except that they are more volatile and are in the liquid state only when under pressure. For this reason they are termed liquefied petroleum gases. In order to comply with the regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission, they are shipped and stored in heavy cylinders or drums marked to indicate compliance.

Systems for domestic purposes are of two types, one of which introduces gas into the building, and the other, liquid. The latter is the more hazardous. For your information, the former system utilizes gas that is stored in the cylinders at a pressure of approximately 150 lbs. per square inch at 70 degrees Fahrenheit; in the house piping this pressure is reduced to a pressure somewhat higher than city gas. The liquid type system is contained under 20 lbs. per square inch pressure at 70°F.

Because of their inherent hazards the National Board of Fire Underwriters requires that the cylinders or drums and control equipment used in connection with both types of systems must be installed outside of buildings, well removed from all openings whereby escaping gas may enter or accumulate within a building.

In addition to the use of these gases for cooking and heating, their use in the commercial field is becoming general in connection with heat treating furnaces, small boilers in tailor shops, and other special uses. Every fire officer and fireman should thoroughly understand the danger of these compressed gases. If it is realized that they are in reality a form of gasoline, a better idea of their danger will be gained. Fire prevention codes should include the basic requirements of the N.B.F.U. regulations, and in addition should require license for the installation of such systems and the distribution of the cylinders and the transportation of the gas by truck or tank wagon. Under no circumstances should gas cylinders or drums be stored inside of buildings and fire officers who discover same should order their immediate removal.

### FALCONER SELECTS AMERICAN LAFRANCE

Upon recommendation of a fire apparatus committee, the Village of Falconer has signed a contract with the American LaFrance Corporation of Elmira, New York, for a new 1,000 g.p.m. pumping engine at a bid price of \$21,990.00. The rig will be powered by a 6 cylinder Continental engine rated at 300 horsepower, and among the many extra items will be a 1,000 gal. booster tank, five man semi-enclosed cab and a built-in foam proportioner. Delivery of this big job is anticipated in May.

### F.C.C. SPLITS LOW CHANNELS

The Federal Communications Commission has ordered that on and after November 1, 1958, all new radio transmitting systems in the 25-50 megacycle band shall meet the technical standards for 20 kilocycle channel separation. Present operating equipment may continue to meet 40 kc. standards until October 31, 1962. We hope our Radio Committee is aware of this new regulation and will prepare their specifications accordingly.

This change in the Commission's rules has been anticipated for some time due to the increased demand for frequencies by all types of service.



#### EDITORIAL IN "BUFFALO NEWS"

"A power failure in Southern Minnesota on Thursday, coming on the heels of a rush-hour collapse of power in New York City the other day, serves to emphasize the vulnerability of the modern community.

"Our own experience, a year or so ago, when the whole Niagara Frontier was plunged into darkness by a Canadian power failure is well remembered. But we wonder how much that lesson was taken to heart by the average Fire Department.

"In this modern dependence on the machine, it is important for self-preservation that temporary alternate measures be available. Among the necessities are hand lanterns in working condition and portable or fixed auxiliary generators. Another important emergency need is a battery powered radio, such as is recommended urgently by Civil Defense. It does little good to tune in on the C.D. channels with a dead radio.

"Dramatic as the blackouts in New York and the Niagara Frontier were, there was no panic and only superficial inconvenience. Minnesota had a more arresting experience for radio and television were silent, newspaper presses were stopped, traffic lights were off, and factories were idled for two hours.

"While many Frontier firms have their own emergency sources of power or light, the average fire station goes unequipped even with the simplest arrangements although a portable generator may be carried on the apparatus. In these uncertain days, it is wise to play it safe."

#### GEIGER COUNTERS ISSUED

Mobile geiger counters will soon be assigned to County Fire Departments that are advantageously located near main routes of rail and highway traffic. The counters are being furnished without cost to the Fire Service by the Director of Civil Defense, Mr. Robert Tanner. Training in the use of the instruments will be conducted locally, and it is hoped that more advanced training will be made available in the near future.

To develop our knowledge as protection against radioactivity, the County plans to send Instructor Walter Burr, and possibly one other fire officer, to a special training school to be held at Buffalo on July 15, 16 and 17 conducted by the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

#### NEW APPARATUS FOR FLUVANNA

The Fluvanna Fire District Commissioners have selected the Ward LaFrance Truck Corp. of Elmira, New York, to deliver a new 500 g.p.m. engine at the bid price of \$13,285.78. Known as a "Fireball Special", the apparatus will be constructed with a 500 gallon booster tank, three man enclosed cab, and it will be powered by a Chrysler Industrial motor that develops 204 horsepower. Delivery is scheduled for the first week of May, and the County Number will be Engine 49.

#### OUR SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

With this issue of THE BOOSTER LINE begins our sixth year of publication. In keeping with policy, our color has been changed to green which, we emphasize, is not indicative of envy, but reflects our feeling that this year should be a "green light" period to keep us all headed toward greater progress, new ideas and an even better Fire Service. We thank Sheriff's Department, local radio dispatchers, Fire Chiefs and all firemen for their fine assistance and cooperation during the past year.



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

THE  
B O O S T E R  
LINE

Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

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### FIRE SERVICE ON THE JUMP

The annual alarm report recently released by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz reveals an increase in Fire Service activity during 1957. The figures are compiled from alarm records at the County Fire Control Center and includes both cities. As was the trend last year, a continued increase in Non-Fire Emergencies indicates greater public demand or need for rescue type services and ambulance work.

In the table below, Fire Alarms include all actual runs made to extinguish fires. Non-Fire Emergencies include all runs made to assist the public such as resuscitator calls, drowning or rescue calls, highway accidents, searching for missing persons, etc. Requests for Mutual Aid may be for Fire or Non-Fire Emergencies and indicates the number of times more than one Fire Department responded to a specific emergency.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FIRE ALARMS</u>	<u>NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES</u>	<u>REQUESTS FOR MUTUAL AID</u>
January	95	78	12
February	61	38	10
March	169	59	13
April	124	54	13
May	95	67	20
June	84	85	4
July	95	73	19
August	108	86	14
September	80	60	3
October	155	69	6
November	98	84	17
December	88	62	11
1957 Total	1,252	815	142
1956 Total	1,000	632	102
1955 Total	1,113	485	102
1954 Total	1,081	354	151

### PRIMING YOUR PUMPS

Priming failures during a drafting operation may be tracked down with the least effort if the pump operator quickly notes the pump compound gage. Little or no vacuum indication generally means an air leak whereas a high vacuum reading denotes a stoppage. Time and wasted effort may be saved by noting the symptoms before taking corrective action. It is good policy to frequently run a dry vacuum test on pumps.

### NEW CHIEF OFFICERS

The Dewittville Fire Department has elected Chief James Breneman, whose telephone number is Mayville 3-205, to head the organization this year. On January 1st, Chief Richard Centner took command of the large Dunkirk Fire Department for a two year period, and Chief Joseph Anderson was selected by the Mayville Fire Department after serving several months in this capacity last year after Chief Loveless resigned.

NOTICE - After February 23rd the telephone number at the Fire Control Center will be changed to PLasant 3-5131 on the Mayville exchange.



### RADIANT HEATING CABLES

Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. calls attention to an electrical hazard that might be dangerous for fire fighters. In many dwellings electric heating cables are imbedded in ceilings and used for heating rooms or entire homes. The cables may be installed in plaster ceilings or sandwiched between layers of wallboard.

Since the exterior appearances of the ceilings are similar to other ceilings, firemen may not be aware of the presence of these cables. If the cables are energized when the firemen pull down or break into a ceiling, a potential shock hazard exists. If the fireman is not well grounded and contacts the electrical conductor, he can suffer a severe electrical shock. In dwelling inspection programs, fire fighters can determine what dwellings feature electrically heated ceilings, and if a fire occurs in these buildings, the power can be cut off by turning the control thermostat to the "off" position or by disconnecting electrical service at the main switch or fuse box.

### SPRING CLEAN-UP

Spring is just around the corner, although some may question this fact, and for many years the National Board of Fire Underwriters has encouraged the Spring Clean-Up movement emphasizing the need for repairing and thoroughly cleaning homes and places of business. The reason is that accumulated litter and waste furnish readily burnable fuel for fires.

According to the N.B.F.U., fire strikes an average of 800 homes every day, and Spring Clean-Up time, therefore, is an ideal opportunity to inspect homes from cellar to attic, getting rid of all those things that lead to fire. The first Clean-Up campaigns were a day long and devoted to ridding homes and yards of rubbish and waste that had accumulated during the winter months. Later campaigns with the same objectives were spread over a period of a week or longer.

In recent years the movement has spread so rapidly that practically every community has a spring campaign sponsored by the local Fire Department, some repeating the effort in the fall, during Fire Prevention Week. Many others, according to the National Board, make a continuing year around campaign which also fosters good public relations. We suggest that you plan now to sponsor a Clean-Up drive in your community.

### SECOND FIRE STATIONS

We believe that the recent trend of County Fire Departments to establish second fire stations in the remote areas of their respective districts deserves special mention. This action has many merits notably the resulting reduction in fire insurance rates, faster response to alarms in the outlying areas, and the saving of effort and expense of organizing a whole new Fire Department to accomplish the same objective.

Ashville initially started the trend with their Stow station which has already proven its value on several occasions. Within a couple of months Kiantone, whose main station is in Stillwater, will move a piece of apparatus into their newly constructed second station near the center of Kiantone community. This summer, Fluvanna will activate a No. 2 station near the Jamestown Municipal Airport on city owned property. All this activity adds up to a much better job of fire protection, and we hope that other Departments will be encouraged to take similar action



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Editor - Publisher

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#### A WORD OF CAUTION

Members of the Fire Service have been particularly cautious in the use and aware of the regulations governing the County Radio Network. We have been fortunate as a result of this fine cooperation in enjoying a long period of radio communications without any criticism or citations from the Federal Communications Commission.

In spite of our good record, we must remain ever alert to the regulations which prohibit obscene, indecent or profane language on the air. We must also insist that our base station logs are kept in order. These and other rules promulgated by the F.C.C. will be under closer surveillance by the Buffalo Regional Office, and we anticipate several inspections in the near future to determine our operational procedures.

#### ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTED AND ELECTIONS HELD

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following to serve as members of the Fire Advisory Board during 1958-59:

Willis R. Wilson of Westfield, John Washington of Cassadaga, George V. Blackstone of Lakewood, Thomas Bretz of Ripley, Rolland H. Taft of Kiantone, Ivan I. Velzy of Silver Creek, Robert Tanner of Sinclairville, Samuel Lord of Fluvanna, Chief Irvin B. Bowen of Ashville, Edward Bulman of Celoron, Chief Charles R. Dorman of Jamestown, and Merle Ferguson of Brocton.

Chief Richard F. Lathrop of Falconer, John Sommers of Mayville, Chief Arthur Howles of Clymer, Chief Lloyd Johnson of Frewsburg, and Harold Day of Dunkirk.

At the February meeting of the Advisory Board the following officers were elected to the positions indicated: Willis R. Wilson, Chairman for the eighth consecutive year; John Washington, First Vice Chairman; George V. Blackstone, Second Vice Chairman; Thomas Bretz, Recording Secretary; and Rolland H. Taft, Corresponding Secretary.

Raymond H. Hughes has been reappointed County Fire Coordinator for the year by Supervisor's Chairman Clothier.

#### ANNUAL REPORTS CAN BE GOOD ADVERTISEMENTS

Although fire-fighting in general does not offer much in the way of honors or hand clapping, a Fire Department can do much to build good public opinion of the profession.

One way to accomplish this is by compiling accurate, neat pages about the year's accomplishments along with the statistics of fire losses, equipment inventory, and requests for more equipment for the coming year. Later on your Department may regret not having obtained sufficient equipment during these years that living standards are at the highest peak. Money spent in this direction does not mean lost funds, as it helps bolster the income of the Nation giving more jobs to places where the equipment is made. It takes many factories to produce a completely equipped piece of fire apparatus.

#### MORE APPLICATIONS DESIRED

The Fire Training Committee of the Advisory Board requests that more applications be submitted for the position of County Instructor so that selection of a candidate may be made before the annual State Fire Instructors Conference to be held at Albany beginning May 18th. Please pass the word along to those who may be interested teaching firemanics.



#### ANNUAL FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULED

The annual New York State Fire Training Schools are scheduled to get underway at Sinclairville on April 2nd, at Lakewood on April 3rd, at Forestville on April 4th, and at Mayville on April 11th. All Chief Officers are requested to advise their men of the schools which have been set up at convenient locations throughout the County. We trust that your continued interest in training will again encourage many firemen to participate and maintain a high attendance record.

County Instructor Walter Burr of Fredonia and Deputy Chief William E. McGee of the Buffalo Fire Department will conduct the classes. We are fortunate in having Chief McGee to assist with the training since our selection of a new County Instructor is still pending. Chief McGee is in command of the Training Division of the Buffalo Fire Department and County Instructor for Erie County, New York. Should you desire any further information relative to the training program, please contact Donald A. Sales, Training Coordinator, at Lakewood 6-931.

#### SOMETHING IN YOUR EYE?

Have you ever had a cinder or eye lash get into your eye at a critical moment? It can be exasperating. Perhaps you have forgotten the old time cure for this, but it's worth a try. Forget about the involved eye, take your handkerchief and hold over the closed other eye which you rub in a circling motion toward the outside, and at the same time blow through the nostrils using the other end of the handkerchief. Most always the irritating object has disappeared. First aiders note.

#### EMERGENCY TRANSMISSIONS

Occasionally during an emergency the mobile radios on apparatus apparently fail to reach the Fire Control Center or a local base station, and the operator will continue to call a number of times to no avail. Frequently, however, the trouble is that the mobile radio receiver is not working, and the mobile operator is being heard by the base station. In view of this possible condition, mobile radio operators should be instructed to transmit their message even though they are in doubt as to its being received. When time permits a telephone call or second radio try should be made to be sure the message reached its destination. Often the condition may be overcome by using another mobile radio to initiate the call or relay from a different location.

#### NEW CHIEF OFFICERS LIST

We are sending you a new listing of Chief Officers which was up to date yesterday. The frequency of changes in telephone numbers has us slightly confused, and we ask that you notify your Battalion Coordinator if we still do not have your number correct. Also there have been several new Chiefs appointed or elected since our last listing. We are aware that additional changes will occur during April and May, but to untangle the changes to date, we felt you should be informed before it becomes more complicated. Please let us know of any future changes.

A careless young girl in Racine, Washed her tresses in crude kerosene;  
But one day, alas, She went too near the gas,  
Since that time she hasn't benzine.



### MUST WE HAVE BIG FIRES?

What are the factors involved in fire losses of \$100,000 or more? Why is the problem of the "big fire" of growing concern to industry and the public, especially in the small community?

The reasons some fires develop into "big" ones, according to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, are the following:

1. Structural deficiencies of the buildings
2. Delayed discovery of the fires
3. Flammable contents of the buildings

In a study made by the National Board of 662 fires last year resulting in losses of \$100,000 or more, structural deficiencies of the buildings and delayed discovery predominated as causes for large fires.

In commenting on the major factors in the development of fires into "big" ones, the National Board says that in instances of delayed discovery, the building is heavily involved before the fire is discovered, usually by a passerby. In addition, "there is a general lack of competent watch service and automatic alarm or sprinkler protection."

As regards big industrial fires in small communities, the N.B.F.U. says that businesses setting up large operations in small communities should expect to supply their own private fire protection in order to make up this deficiency in public protection. This situation can be expected to intensify as more and more businesses move away from the larger centers of population; a definite trend since World War II.

What can be done about these things? Is there a solution to this fire problem? The National Board urges every community to adopt and strictly enforce suitable building and fire prevention codes, which would do much eventually to eliminate the type of risk responsible for the large fire. Also provisions should be made for the installation of an automatic alarm system where watchmen are not on duty, and such a system should be connected to the municipal fire alarm or fire station.

### BASE STATION IN OPERATION

The Kennedy Fire Department recently completed installation of a new 60 watt base station in their headquarters with the call KEG-661. This facility will insure positive communications with Mayville which are nearly impossible with the regular mobile radios. We welcome Chief Cross and his men to our network and hope they will enjoy good service.

### KNOW YOUR EXTINGUISHER

Through the courtesy of the Insurance Company of North America, we are enclosing a rather unusual and comprehensive chart designed to familiarize the average citizen (and fireman) with the many different fire extinguishers on the market today. Should you desire to distribute the chart in your community, additional copies may be obtained from County Fire Coordinator, Raymond H. Hughes, free of charge.

### ADVISORY BOARD VISITS NEIGHBORS

A dozen members of your Fire Advisory Board were guests of the Cattaraugus County Advisory Board at the latter's regular monthly meeting on March 27th held in Little Valley. We sincerely thank our neighbors for their kind invitation and trust we may always keep our good friendships. The mutual understanding of problems and the exchange of ideas goes a long way toward the promotion of an improved Fire Service.



#### FARM FIRE RATES REDUCED

Following a survey and inventory made by the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization five weeks ago, nineteen out of a total of 38 Fire Departments in the County met the standards for approval and have won a fire insurance rate reduction for their respective rural district farm properties. The new ratings do not apply to the cities of Dunkirk and Jamestown and the Assembly of Lily Dale.

The newly established rates are known as Class E and Class F protection, and the reductions amount to 5% and 10% respectively which became effective on April 1st. Required standards for approved Fire Departments are outlined in detail on the enclosed information sheet put out by the Rating Organization; page 2 of which will be distributed with the next issue of this paper due to postal weight limitations. We ask that you study the requirements carefully and keep the Rating Plan on file for continued reference. Those Departments which do not meet the standards should notify the County Fire Coordinator as soon as you are able to make up the deficiencies so that your protection area may also enjoy the reduced farm rates.

#### SCHOOLS WELL ATTENDED

Our appeal for good attendance at the State Fire Training Schools has met with fine result at all four of the Basic Courses now in session. The Sinclairville school started off on April 2nd with 40 men enrolled. The next night at Lakewood a total of 40 also started Basic training, and on April 4th at Forestville 20 men signed up. Mayville registered 30 students on April 11th to complete the full schedule. It is interesting to note that an even number of firemen appeared for each class, and attendance is slightly better than last year.

We thank you for your interest in the training which has made, and will continue to make our Fire Service the very best in New York State.

#### RADIO TO ELIMINATE SIREN

Five Town of Tonawanda volunteer fire companies will be linked by shortwave radio that will eliminate night siren calls. The Federal Communications Commission assigned two frequencies last week to the Town, and the next step will be for the Town Board to advertise for bids for equipment for the Central Alarm Office.

When the equipment is installed, volunteers will be summoned by radio instead of by siren during the night hours. Fire officials say the new installation is required by the growth of the Town. Volunteer companies using the system will be Elmwood, Kenilworth, Brighton, Sheridan Park and River Road.

#### USE YOUR COMMUNITY NAME

Dispatchers at the Fire Control Center have requested that all radio operators give the name of their community along with the apparatus number when calling Mayville. For example, you should say, "Stockton Engine 111 calling KEB-909" or "Lakewood Rescue 31 calling KEB-909" in all transmissions. Moreover, we request that you use the full name of such as "Engine", "Tanker" or "Hose" because of the great number of radios in operation and possible confusion or misunderstandings. The letter "R" frequently sounds like "car", and "E" often sounds like "T".

Our Board of Supervisors have appropriated \$7,695.00 for County fire use.



### HAZARDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The following joint Department of Defense and Atomic Energy Commission statement is reprinted for the information of the Fire Service.

"In reply to inquiries about hazards which may be involved in the movement of nuclear weapons, it can be stated with assurance that the possibility of an accidental nuclear explosion while transporting or storing nuclear weapons is so remote as to be negligible.

"For the past 12 years nuclear weapons have been moved from places of manufacture in the United States to places of storage and readiness for use. They have been moved by many types of conveyance. In addition, they have been carried on aircraft, ships and trucks in maneuvers, exercises and practice alerts.

"Although as in the case of any toxic, inflammable or explosive material, accidents may occur in the manufacture, transportation and storage of nuclear materials and weapons, there have been few accidents in the handling and transportation of the latter. It is significant that not one of these accidents caused a nuclear explosion.

"By a nuclear explosion is meant a fission or fusion reaction creating a large explosive effect. Many nuclear weapons, however, contain some amount of conventional explosives, that is, chemical explosives similar to TNT. An accident such as the crash of an aircraft or severe wreck of a train carrying a nuclear weapon may cause this conventional explosive to detonate by impact or fire. In most cases, the detonation of a conventional explosive represents the maximum damage that can happen and, of course, its effect is limited to the vicinity of the accident. This kind of accident has occurred on a few occasions without damage appreciably greater than caused by the crash itself, or any injury to persons due to the presence of the nuclear material.

"An accidental detonation of conventional explosives might possibly cause local scattering of nuclear materials in the form of dust. This would not be a fallout of fissionable materials, but unfissioned nuclear material could be spread locally, by wind or explosion. Such materials could be hazardous only if taken internally, as by breathing. Even then, under strict safety measures adopted by Defense and AEC restricting the quantities that may be carried, it is unlikely any person inadvertently exposed would inhale dangerous amounts of the unfissioned materials.

"To minimize all unnecessary exposure, key U.S. military commands and AEC establishments have teams especially trained and equipped to decontaminate the area in the immediate scene of the accident if the nuclear materials have been scattered by the fire or conventional explosion. Such teams are prepared to go immediately to the scene. Past experience has shown that clean-up procedures are highly effective.

"The public, to the extent practical, should avoid the area of the accident until it has been reported as cleared for general re-entry. It should be remembered that the likelihood that a particular accident would involve a nuclear weapon is extremely limited. Further, in the majority of aircraft accidents involving a nuclear weapon, the nuclear materials would not be burned or scattered and no radiological problem would exist."

### FARM RATING PLAN

Page 2 of the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization's new Farm Rating Plan is enclosed. We hope this Rating Plan will benefit you.



#### FIRE AND EMERGENCY REPORTS

The new fire and public emergency reports which were distributed to all volunteer Fire Departments in book form last month contain important information that will be used by the New York State Bureau of Fire and the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization as well as a number of local Fire Officers and Insurance Agents. The data gathered will be tabulated each month and checked against the Control Center Radio Log. It is your responsibility to see that these reports are filed immediately after each fire or public emergency in your community or in a neighboring community when you respond on Mutual Aid call.

If you so desire, the white card may be enclosed in an envelope and mailed to the Chautauqua County Bureau of Fire, Mayville, New York. This action may be desirable when, in your opinion, confidential information is noted on the card. You are not expected to estimate damage to buildings or contents unless you are positive of your figures having discussed same with the insurance carrier or estimator responsible. Do not forget to send in your reports which became effective May 1, 1958.

#### HOME RECEIVERS IN USE

The Lakewood Fire Department has installed two home radio receivers and has six more on order from the Motorola Co. as part of a plan to furnish each fireman with this newest form of alerting device. The ultimate goal is 80 receivers, and they will be purchased as funds allow over the next few years. The alerting system uses 46.18 megacycles to avoid interference with the County Fire Radio Network.

When an alarm is received by telephone or selective call from Mayville, a high pitched beep signal will automatically be transmitted to each home receiver. As soon as the location of the alarm is determined the beep signal is shut off and voice communication informs the firemen of the nature of the call, etc.

It is hoped that this system will eliminate much of the current traffic congestion and hasten response to alarms, especially at night. Eventually only the apparatus drivers will report to fire headquarters.

#### GOOD FRIEND FROM FINLAND

We have been honored on several occasions to have been host to Chief Ruben Ahllund from the City of Jakobstad, Finland. Chief Ahllund recently returned to his home after spending six weeks in the United States, mostly in Jamestown, to study American methods of fire fighting and fire prevention. In spite of language difficulties, we believe we learned a great deal from the Chief as we hope he learned from us. He made a lasting favorable impression on all of us who met him, and we are sorry to have him leave us. Our very best wishes to Chief Ahllund.

#### FACTS FOR FIREMEN

Chief Clarence Penharlow of Fredonia has resigned as First Battalion Fire Coordinator, and John McCraith has been appointed to fill the vacancy. John will assist Norm Bell on an equal basis in the large First Battalion which has the most Fire Departments in the County with forty-six pieces of apparatus in service.

A new Chief Fire Officers listing is enclosed; there are twenty odd changes in names and telephone numbers since the April listing. We hope this directory will remain current for the remainder of this year.



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

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#### FIRE INSTRUCTORS SELECTED

Following the recommendation of the Fire Training Committee, the Advisory Board has approved selection of Captain Russell F. Horn of the Jamestown Fire Department and Lieutenant Harry E. Hickey of the Fredonia Fire Department as County Fire Training Instructors. Immediate steps have been taken to have these men appointed and duly certified by the New York State Civil Service Commission. Both candidates recently attended the Annual Fire Instructors Conference held in the City of Albany.

Walter R. Burr will continue as our Instructor along with these new men, and it is hoped that the three Instructors will enable us to offer more convenient training as well as expanded programs. We sincerely welcome Captain Horn and Lieutenant Hickey to our training staff and wish them the best of fortune in this new position of training firemen.

#### FIRE-POLICE ISSUE BOOKLET

The Chautauqua County Volunteer Fire Police Association has issued a very comprehensive handbook covering two topics of great importance to the Fire-Policeman, namely: The Duty of a Fire Policeman, and A Few Pointers on Traffic Control. These handbooks are available free of charge to all Fire Police units, and we highly recommend that you read this booklet, carry it with you and refer to it from time to time. We note that the Fire Police consider themselves "The Eyes and Ears of the Fire Service", and agree that this is a very good slogan of their duties.

The Fire Police Association is to be congratulated on the preparation of this fine handbook. It is well written, timely and instructive.

#### NEW STATE LAW SAYS 500 FEET

Governor Harriman has signed into law a bill passed by the Legislature which increases to 500 feet the distance a motorist must allow outside of city limits when following fire apparatus responding to an alarm. The limit of 200 feet remains in force inside of city limits.

#### PROMOTING CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

The enclosed pamphlet produced by the Chautauqua Vacationland Association has nothing to do directly with the Fire Service but is of interest to all of us living in this Summer resort area. We understand that over one hundred thousand of these pamphlets have been distributed to people in every state and Canada. The point is that we should get behind our County and promote its assets wherever we can. Perhaps a Fire Department is not a thing of beauty to all, but we should never stop telling people that we have one of the best public services in New York State, and we will always welcome inspection of our Fire Service.

Indications are that this will be a banner Summer season with many thousands of tourists visiting our fair County. It is our duty and obligation to care for these visiting friends whether it be under normal contact or under emergency conditions. We must be prepared to render a service that is efficient, courteous and thoughtful of the individual.

FLUVANNA - Station No. 2 of the Fluvanna Fire Department has been opened near the Jamestown Municipal Airport, and the firemen are completing the installation of a 7½ horsepower general alarm siren at this new location. Engine 48 is now stationed in the new quarters next to Excel Metal Co.

Practice Fire Prevention and Enjoy Living



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF STATE CHIEFS

Your editor recently attended the 52nd Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs which broke all previous attendance records with over 600 Fire Officers registered. The program opened on Sunday, June 8th, at which time a very impressive memorial service was held in honor of our departed Chief Officers throughout the State. On Monday the official welcome was given by Chief Kenneth C. Palmer, Warren County Fire Coordinator, followed by interesting papers presented by Michael H. Prendergast, Director of the State Division of Safety, and by Fire Marshall Martin Scott, Chief Arson Investigator of the New York City Fire Department. The remainder of the day's program was devoted to a panel discussion of current topics and questions.

Director Prendergast stated that a larger appropriation has been granted this year for the State Fire Training Program and additional courses may be allocated upon request of the various counties. He also pointed out that the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Courses would be revised within the next year. Marshall Scott covered the subject of arson and continually emphasized the fact that all fires are deliberately set unless proven otherwise; inciting us to aroused suspicion and thoroughly investigate fire causes in every instance.

On Tuesday Chief Charles M. Fales of the New York State Bureau of Fire spoke on the Fire Training Program and the statewide Mutual Aid planning. The Chief flattered us by quoting an article before the Conference taken from the October 15, 1957 issue of The Booster Line. After Chief Fales' enlightening speech, the Ethyl Corporation presented a demonstration on the safeguarding against and the control of petroleum fires. Mr. Robert Byrus, Director of the Fire Service Extension, University of Maryland, than talked on "Volunteer Relations", and his words were directed toward a closer understanding between paid and volunteer firemen. Chief Henry G. Thomas of the Hartford, Connecticut, Fire Department concluded the Conference with an illustrated talk on "How We Must Approach the Church Fire Problem"; a very instructive presentation augmented by a movie showing Hartford firemen fighting a church fire.

This summary of the program is by no means complete as there were many discussions held and problems presented by the Association membership. However, since only four Officers from our County attended, the above resume may be of interest to our readers. We hope you will be able to go to the Conference next year to meet other Chiefs, gain a lot of knowledge, and enjoy the fun and entertainments after hours.

### WOMEN MAY BE FIREMEN

It has come to our attention that women may be firemen under the provisions of New York State Law, and they may fully enjoy all of the benefits and prerogatives of duly elected or appointed firemen now serving on active duty. In view of this, we would be the last to advocate segregation in the Fire Service. But in all seriousness the enlistment of women in the Fire Service may be the answer to manpower in our rapidly growing suburbs where daytime fires and emergencies are becoming more and more of a problem with little or no help available during normal working hours. We know of one local Fire Department that trained a very efficient and active group of women fire fighters during the last War, so it can be done. May we offer consolation to those who thought they still belonged to the one and only profession excluded to women.



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

THE  
B O O S T E R  
LINE

Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

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### ARE HOME INSPECTIONS WORTHWHILE?

One way of answering the title question would be to ask another: Would it be worthwhile to cut the residential calls in your community by at least one-half? Home inspection programs have been carried on by some Fire Departments for as long as 30 years. Without doubt the program is one of the best means of saving the lives of some of the 4,000 children killed annually in fires.

During the past five years the idea of home inspections by firemen has been widely accepted and carried out. This has been due to the efforts of many individuals, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and other Fire Service organizations.

In many Fire Departments in this nation, an annual home inspection program is now an established part of the Fire Department's job. Enough work has been done in this field to prove that the answer to the title question can be a definite YES. Cold, hard statistics definitely prove that a good home inspection program will cut residential fire calls by at least 50 per cent. Some larger communities claim as much as an 80 per cent reduction in fire calls, with well kept records to back their claims.

When residential fire calls are cut 50 per cent, fire losses must be cut. The number of children alive today because some fireman inspected their home can only be estimated, but again statistics will prove a substantial number of lives have been saved.

The question is not "Do home inspections pay?" Rather it is, "Do you want to do the job in your community?" "If so, when are you going to start?" If a Department wishes to start a home inspection program a definite plan should be followed to get maximum results.

Plans for a home inspection program should be divided into three main phases: (1) Preparation of the public, (2) Training of the firemen who will do the inspecting, and (3) Actual mechanics of the program.

Preparation of the public should be started at least six weeks before inspections begin. News releases should be prepared for the newspapers and radio stations explaining when the program will start, how it will be carried out, and what the purposes are. Further preparation can be accomplished by talks to civic clubs and church organizations.

The acceptance of the program after it has been started will depend largely on the conduct of the firemen making the inspections. The fireman must ask to be allowed to inspect in a courteous and friendly manner. He must avoid any hint of authority or impatience. Two man teams are desirable as they are not nearly as apt to be lead off on a tangent or get into lengthy discussions with individuals. The inspectors must have a good understanding of what constitutes a fire hazard in the home and be able to give practical suggestions for its removal. Above all, the fireman must understand the overall aims of the program and be eager to do his part in carrying it out.

The actual mechanics, the who, when, where and what of the program will vary depending on the size of the community. Paid departments usually make on-duty inspections during the day, while volunteer departments will probably make evening or weekend inspections. Some of the items to be considered are; proper dress, advise citizens when to expect a call, teams should work in a quiet, business-like manner, and complete records should be kept so that the number and types of hazards can be determined and the information used to prepare news releases during the program and following the completion of the inspection program.



### TELEVISION FIRES

Fires originating in television receivers usually involve the burning out of condensers, coils and transformers resulting in considerable acrid smoke but usually little flame. They may be the result of improper repairs by persons with little or no knowledge of or training in the subject, improper installation of television antennas or inadequate ventilation of the set. Some fires have been reported to have occurred after the sets had been shut off for a period of one to two hours.

A fire in a television receiver is considered to be a Class C fire because of the presence of electricity while a set is in operation and the possibility of components being energized when a set is rendered defective by fire. The high voltage currents which may be present in the video section of the set introduce a severe life hazard which must be taken into account whenever a set is damaged by fire or accident or is handled in other than a normal way.

The second major hazard of a television set is the picture tube itself. A picture tube is constructed with a high internal vacuum and the atmospheric pressure, present at all times whether the tube is in use or not, may exert a total crushing force of nearly eight tons which is opposed by the mechanical strength of the glass tube. The tube must be designed with an irregular shape, short radius corners, and large surfaces with relatively thin sections, resulting in a product which has a factor of safety adequate for normal use but is liable to damage from fire or accident. Failure of a tube results in an implosion with violent dispersion of glass fragments or parts in random directions. However, the picture tubes are protected by a window in the front and by the back cover on the receiver.

When a fire occurs in a television set, the set should be disconnected from the electrical supply by pulling the plug from the receptacle in the wall or baseboard. The set should still be considered as hazardous because condensers may not be fully discharged; therefore care should be taken so that neither the fireman's body nor any metal part of an extinguisher is brought into contact with metal parts of the set. It is important that only extinguishers for Class C fires be used.

The set should be completely covered as soon as possible by a salvage cover, rug or heavy blanket. This will not only help smother the fire but will contain the glass if an implosion occurs. The covered set should be carried outside for final extinguishment, overhaul and cooling. Only a few men should be assigned to this operation as few are needed and they can work from the sides of the set.

When a television set is not involved in a fire but is in a room where a fire occurs, the set should be covered as soon as possible to protect the set from damage and the firemen from injury if the tube subsequently implodes. In all cases, it is the part of discretion for firemen to avoid standing directly in front of or behind a set involved in fire. The application of an extinguishing agent will very likely cause the picture tube to implode, and the firemen must be alert to the possible dangers involved. There are an estimated seventeen thousand television receivers in Chautauqua County for your consideration.

He was seated in the parlor, and he said unto the light,

"Either you or I, old fellow, will be turned down tonight."



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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#### YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

We have frequently appealed to Chief Fire Officers and their firemen who operate radios on the County Fire Service Network to please give the Control Center as much pertinent information as possible in relation to the location of a fire or emergency, its nature, and the name of the Fire Department calling.

By furnishing the Dispatcher at Mayville with the exact location of a call, he is then better able to direct companies responding, if necessary, on Mutual Aid, and he may be able to dispatch a Sheriff's car to the scene to assist with traffic control, injury or death report or fire investigation as the Chief Fire Officer may request or direct. The Sheriff has no intention of assuming any responsibilities or duties at a Fire Department's emergency call unless the Fire Officer in command requests him or his deputies to do so. We have always enjoyed the finest cooperation with the Sheriff's Department, but they are helpless to assist us if we do not give the Control Center our call locations. Also the location of all fires or emergencies should be entered in the radio log book at the Control Center.

The nature of a call must be given, and although we may not know the exact particulars when we leave our respective fire stations, the mobile radio operator should give Mayville a brief description upon arrival at the scene. In this respect, the mobile operator might say, "We have a house fire, but it appears minor" or "We are at the scene of an automobile accident; there is a personal injury." If you have a major fire and report it as such, the Dispatcher will be forewarned and he will make preparations to call help for you as requested.

The name of the Fire Department calling is, perhaps, the most important information required of the mobile radio operator. With the very large number of base, mobile and portable radios now operating on the Network, it is virtually impossible for the several Control Center Dispatchers to remember or know the location of each radio unit in the County. When we give our unit designation only, the Dispatcher frequently has to hunt out our community or Department name from among one hundred and forty odd listings on the radio call cards. This requires precious time and certainly does not provide efficiency of communications. We ask, therefore, that all radio operators give their name in addition to their regular call letters or numbers. For example, we must say, "Engine 119 Cherry Creek calling KEB-909" or "KED-818 Lakewood calling KEB-909". Also we must discontinue the use of unit abbreviations such as "E", "TA" or "R" and say instead "Engine", "Tanker" or "Rescue". If we follow these simple yet important rules, we will not only greatly assist the Dispatchers at Mayville, but we will also enjoy much better and more positive fire communications. We ask your support.

#### FIRE PREVENTION PLANNING

With Fire Prevention Week only two months away, we should start planning our programs now. Perhaps you are planning a door-to-door campaign in your community, and in view of this, we are enclosing a sample pamphlet which may be obtained in quantity for free from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York 38, New York. There is also a new popular Fire Prevention booklet titled "Fire! The First Crucial Minutes" which may be purchased for a very small fee from Birk and Company, Inc., 22 East 60th Street, New York 22, New York. Let's make Fire Prevention Week long remembered in our County this year.



## WATER SYSTEM DESIGN STANDARDS

The New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization has established design standards for new construction and for long range improvement of present water distribution systems for communities having a municipal water supply. The following standards are set forth for your guidance.

### MINIMUM PIPE SIZE

**Residential Areas:** Six inch and smaller mains should not be installed as dead ends. The gridiron of minor distributors supplying residential districts should consist of mains at least 6 inch in size arranged so that the lengths on the long sides of blocks between intersecting mains do not exceed 600 feet. Where longer lengths are necessary, 8 inch or larger mains should be used.

In new construction, 8 inch pipe should be used where dead ends and poor gridironing are likely to exist for a considerable period or where the layout of the streets and the topography are not well adapted to the above arrangement.

**High Value Districts:** The minimum size should be 8 inch where there are intersecting mains in each street. Twelve inch or larger mains should be used on the principal streets and for all long lines that are not connected to other mains at intervals close enough for proper mutual support.

### SPACING OF VALVES

The distribution system should be equipped with a sufficient number of valves so located that no single case of accident, breakage or repair to the pipe system, exclusive of arteries, will necessitate the shut-down of an artery or a length of pipe greater than 500 feet in High Value Districts or greater than 800 feet in other sections.

### HYDRANT DISTRIBUTION

Hydrants should be placed near service limits and in sparsely settled areas, hydrants should be installed to provide at least one within 600 feet of all buildings. Required fire flow should determine placing in all other areas.

### SIZE AND INSTALLATION OF HYDRANTS

Hydrants should be able to deliver 600 gallons per minute with a friction loss of not more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per square inch in the hydrant and a total loss of not more than 5 pounds per square inch between the street main and the outlet.

Each hydrant should have at least two  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch outlets, and also a large pumper outlet (steamer connection) where pumper service is necessary; usually where less than 75 pounds flow pressure is encountered.

Hydrants should be of such design that when the barrel is broken off the hydrant will remain closed.

Connection to the street main should not be less than 6 inches in diameter.

A gate valve should be provided on all connections between hydrants and street mains, and first attention should be given to providing valves in street main connections on all hydrants installed on supply lines, arteries and main feeders.

Operating nuts and direction of operation should be standard on all hydrants.

Hydrants should be set so that they are easily accessible to fire department pumps; they should not be set in depressions, cut-outs or on embankments high above the street; pumper outlets should face directly toward the street; and there should be clearance for hose connection.



### THIRD BATTALION HAS DRILL

Last month nine Engine and Tanker units from seven Departments in the Third Battalion staged a Mutual Aid drill in which water was transported over considerable distance to supply 1½ inch hose lines set up at a simulated fire. Scene of the drill was in the Town of Busti where an old barn was selected for the incident being approximately 2,500 ft. from the nearest source of water. Objects of the drill were to determine how many 1½ inch hose lines could be operated successfully by utilizing large capacity booster tanks and Tanker companies and to provide training in the coordination of water shuttle procedure.

Kiantone Tanker 32, having a capacity of 2,000 gallons, was placed at the incident and next to Lakewood Engine 38. A single portable pump was used to transfer water from Tanker to Engine through a 2½ inch hose line. All other units were engaged in supplying the Kiantone Tanker which acted as a reservoir for the Engine. Three 1½ inch hose lines were laid out from the Engine using 3/8" tips for a combined flow of 90 gallons per minute. The shuttle companies used portable pumps to draw water from a pond and creek respectively, and their movements were fully controlled by radio under the direction of Instructor Knowlton of the Lakewood Fire Department who was assisted by the Third Battalion Fire Coordinator. Chief Richard J. Lattimore was in overall command.

Results of the drill proved most gratifying, and it was learned that a fire flow of up to 100 gallons per minute can be maintained without interruption by the water shuttle method. This was done in spite of the fact that some companies had to travel from eight to ten miles to reach the scene initially. The principal fault discovered during the drill was in the lack of thread adapters, as two distinct hose threads of different size are used by the participating companies. It is hoped that provisions will be made henceforth by all Departments to carry sufficient adapters to overcome this thread difference.

### REDUCING LARGE FIRE LOSSES

Of immediate national concern is the mounting large fire losses which account for over one-half of our total fire loss figures in the United States. Too many lumber yard fires are trying the skills of our fire fighters, and too many refinery and storage tank farms are taking-off without means of conquering until terrific losses are sustained. These and other major fires in small communities are costing us too much money in property loss, unemployment and loss of natural resources.

After a fire is under way it is the teamwork between Chiefs and their men that spells out the figures on the amount of loss for a fire, and the speed with which it is extinguished. We have suffered in our own County from several large loss fires during the past few years, and part of the fault is ours and ours alone.

The teamwork of fire control must be enlarged upon by our efforts to solicit the cooperation of plant management and supervisory personnel in all of our factories and industry. Have you and your Department ever conducted an inspection of your local industries? Have you ever tried to meet with management and persuade those responsible to institute a program of Fire Prevention, organize a plant fire brigade or install a fire control or detection system? We must take action if we are to do our duty and at least try to protect our communities from large losses.

We must not sit back and glory in our fine and efficient Fire Departments which are totally helpless without cooperation from industry.



FIRE STREAMS ON HIGH VOLTAGE LINES

The question of directing fire streams on high tension electric lines and transformers was recently discussed at a meeting of the Fire Chiefs Association in Celoron. We offer the following information as a matter of general interest to all members of the Fire Service.

In this day of high voltage lines and equipment it is pertinent for every fireman to have some knowledge of the danger involved when a fire occurs in electrical equipment or near electrical lines. Numerous tests have been conducted on this question, and from these tests certain facts have been deduced. These are as follows:

"A stream of water will carry current back to the nozzle, and this current may be sufficient to injure or kill a person.

"The amount of current will depend upon certain conditions such as:

- a. The voltage of the wire or device.
- b. The distance from the nozzle to the electrically charged line.
- c. The size of the stream.
- d. Whether the stream is solid or broken.
- e. The purity of the water.

"For voltage up to 600, which is classed by the National Electrical Code as the limit of low potential, there is no danger unless the nozzle is brought within close distance to the line or device. This is particularly true where the fireman is wearing boots. For ordinary lighting wires of 120 volts to ground, the nozzle can be within a few inches of the charged line. For 550 volts the nozzle can be handled without discomfort at a point 3 to 4 feet from the wire. However, it is well for firemen to consider every wire as a hot wire, because of the possibility, at fires, of crosses with high voltage wiring.

"For higher voltages than 600 the distance which a nozzle should be kept from the electrical line or device would be as follows:

Voltage	Safe Distance	Safe Distance
	1-1/8 inch Nozzle	1-1/2 inch Nozzle
1,100	6 ft.	9 ft.
2,200	11 ft.	16 ft.
3,300	15 ft.	22 ft.
5,500	18 ft.	27 ft.
6,600	19 ft.	29 ft.
11,000	20 ft.	30 ft.

"This table applies to fresh water; sea or salty water or the discharge from a soda-acid extinguisher may have such high conductivity that no rule can be applied as to the safe distance for a solid stream.

"The spraying of a stream may be an important factor in electrical fires especially those involving transformers, oil cooled switches, burning insulation and wood or other combustible material near electrical equipment. Available data indicates that fog or spray nozzles will not conduct electricity as much as solid streams as is shown below:

Voltages	Safe Distance	Voltages	Safe Distance
7,500	6 in.	73,000	44 in.
15,000	12 in.	88,000	49 in.
25,000	17 in.	110,000	64 in.
37,000	24 in.	132,000	77 in.
50,000	32 in.	154,000	89 in.



George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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#### NIAGARA MOHAWK MAKES PLEA

Your Coordinator has received the following letter from the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation which is self explanatory:-

Dear Coordinator Hughes:

As you know, it has been the practice for some contractors at the close of a day's work to indicate the area of construction by means of oil torches commonly known as kerosene bombs. On occasions these lights have been blown or knocked over causing the kerosene content to spill.

In some cases the oil-saturated area becomes ignited resulting in damage by fire to some of our facilities such as wooden utility poles, etc. I would appreciate it if you would bring this condition to the attention of the firemen in your area. In this way we may be able to prevent an interruption to our facilities.

With assurances of our appreciation for your cooperation in the past.

Very truly yours

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

Signed: Thomas W. Ryan  
System Security Officer

#### STARTS HOME INSPECTIONS

The Ashville Fire Department has inaugurated a home and farm fire inspection program as a part of their Fire Prevention campaign. Each Saturday afternoon a group of firemen with one piece of apparatus visit homeowners in the area to inspect for fire hazards and distribute Fire Prevention literature. Chief Bowen reports that they have received fine cooperation and the good public relations gained is benefiting the Fire Department. Have you tried home fire inspections? Don't delay!

#### DAILY SIREN TESTS

We wish to point out that the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization requires that each volunteer Fire Department conduct a daily general alarm siren or air horn test. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the loss of point credits toward good ratings.

It is common sense to realize the need for such tests, as our fire alarm systems are just as important as our apparatus, and without the ability of summoning manpower rapidly, we can do little to fight fires. Moreover, it is good practice to test our alarm systems in the same way that we normally receive calls from the public. This may mean dialing in a test alarm each day from a remote telephone or pulling a street box on the open circuit system. Whatever means, be sure you test daily.

During the coming Winter months we suggest you train with films such as Fog Techniques in 16mm color from the Texas Industrial Film Company, 2528 North Boulevard, Houston, Texas. The film is for purchase or loan.



#### DORMAN GETS RECOGNITION

The News Bulletin published by the National Automatic Sprinkler and Fire Control Association paid tribute in the September issue to Chief Charles R. Dorman, a member of our Fire Advisory Board, in a leading article which we are proud to present in part as follows:

"Jamestown, New York - This is one of the principal manufacturing cities in southwestern New York. Most of its 44,000 inhabitants earn their livelihood in its furniture, wood working, textile and metal plants.

"Back in 1954, Captain Charles R. Dorman was appointed Fire Chief here. A young man in his early forties, he has had 18 years of fire fighting experience in the Jamestown Department, and served with distinction as a fire fighting instructor in the U.S. Navy.

"Under his leadership, his department received a First Place Award for New York State from the National Fire Protection Association in 1956; another First Place spot in the New York State Insurance Agents Contest in 1958.

"He told us that automatic sprinklers had long before 'sold themselves' to manufacturers here. Over 90 per cent of its industries are sprinkler protected.

"But Charlie Dorman was not satisfied. He strongly urged master box installation of all sprinkler systems which would result in immediate notification of the Fire Department when a system operates. He told us that, 'We now have 18 such installations which are checked by our department electrician bi-monthly and by insurance men periodically.

"Acting under New York's Multiple Residence Law, he worked toward getting every nursing home in the city sprinklered. Describing the 'how' of his efforts, he had this to say:

"'While there are other means of conforming with the law, through many meetings with the owners of these homes, we were able to convince them that the best solution was to completely sprinkler their property. I am happy to say that every nursing home in the City of Jamestown is now 100 per cent sprinklered.' (There are 7 nursing homes in the City.)

"Then he turned to the problem of making the downtown flats and rooming houses fire safe. Once again, he experienced success through what he termed a 'selling job.' The large majority of these occupancies are sprinklered in the basements, stairways, first floor and halls."

"Since October, 1957, 27 of these buildings have been sprinklered."

#### OFFICER TRAINING PROPOSED

The Fire Training Committee of the Advisory Board has been instructed to prepare plans for a "short course" in Fire Officers Training to be held early next year. Several proposed subjects have been suggested such as; Mutual Aid Planning, Ventilation, Water Supply Survey, and Fire Department Administration.

It is hoped to be able to get nationally known persons well versed on the subjects to assist with instructing. The Training Committee will work closely with local Fire Officers in developing the course.

#### FACING THE MUSIC

Faced with the urgent need of funds for new equipment, the Fire Brigade of Franken, Germany, passed circulars among villagers: "If not enough money for the new hose can be collected, we may find ourselves forced to stage a concert." They got their money. (Reader's Digest)



### HANDLING HIGHWAY EMERGENCIES

Response to highway accidents and subsequent rescue work often prove to be dangerous assignments for Fire Department rescue squads and ambulance crews. In poorly lighted rural areas especially, the men and the accident victims frequently are exposed to speeding automobiles whose drivers either do not see the accident scene or else do not react properly to the situation. Result---screeching brakes and possibly more injuries or death.

In towns and cities, most Fire Departments can perform fire fighting or rescue work in relative safety from motorists, since the flow of traffic is much slower than on the open highway and lighting conditions are generally much better. However, there is danger for the volunteer Fire Department or independent rescue squad that has to render rescue or first-aid work on a road or highway in the black of night.

Naturally, at the emergency scene the firemen are concentrating on the job at hand, generally trusting that drivers will have enough common sense to slow down and look for the rescuing crew and the injured. The fact remains, however, that fire officers in command should realize the limited capabilities of the average motorist particularly during after dark hours, and every precaution should be taken to illuminate the accident scene and to give some identification to members of the Fire Department working on the highway or near the accident.

It is good practice to use reflective marking on helmets, clothing and equipment for at least the minimum protection for the men. Some control of traffic can be achieved merely by strategic placing of apparatus if a number of pieces respond. However, additional signs and lighting are needed for some distance on both sides of the emergency scene.

Signs, lights and barriers serve to warn and instruct the driver and guide him at the proper speed around and past the emergency. On clear nights with a straight thoroughfare a driver should be able to spot a well identified accident scene quickly. Rain, fog and snow will impair vision; so will a sharp bend or curve in the road, trees and other traffic ahead of him. Then there is always the dozing or inattentive driver to consider.

In rural areas warning lights and signs should be placed at least 1500 feet on both sides of the accident if the highway is straight. If the road is curved then the warning markers should begin somewhere on or beyond the curve at least 1800 feet away from the scene. Blinking lights, flares, highway cones, flags and bright colored barriers, like those used by the local street or highway department, can be placed strategically for traffic control.

In addition to lighting, marking and warning equipment, a Fire Department rescue squad also needs a special operational plan for these highways worked out in advance with their own Fire Police and the regular police agency. Flashlights or other hand lights can be waved at traffic until more adequate lighting is available. Portable generators can be set up to provide floodlighting of the scene, and in some instances, power megaphones are useful. Railroad type flares of the 20 or 30 minute size are, perhaps, the most effective warning lights. It is imperative that full protection be given to the rescue squad and to the injured because the element of risk is high at highway accidents.

A smoke pipe that is rusted is not to be trusted. Be safe from fire!



Raymond H. Hughes  
County Coordinator

THE  
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### FIRE POLICE SCHOOLS

Once again the Fire Advisory Board in cooperation with Sheriff Charles C. McCloskey will offer Fire Police training to all interested Fire Officers and firemen in the County. The schools will be held for one evening only and identical training is planned for your convenience at two locations as follows: Celoron Fire Headquarters on Tuesday, December 2nd and West Dunkirk Fire Headquarters on Wednesday, December 3rd. Both classes are scheduled to begin at 8:00 P.M.

The subjects of Traffic Control, Organization, Emergency Operational Planning and Laws are to be discussed at both sessions, and there will be ample opportunity for questions and answers on related subjects. Let's have a good turnout at both schools.

### A MATTER OF NECESSITY

It has come to our attention that during multiple response fires or Mutual Aid calls no provisions are made by the Fire Officer in command to insure that at least one mobile radio is constantly in service so that communications can be maintained between the Fire Control Center and the emergency scene. During some recent large fires, the Control Center has experienced difficulty in communicating with units at the scene to obtain vital information, etc.

It is imperative that at least one mobile radio be manned at all times, and it may be necessary to detail one company as fire ground communication center, especially in areas where radio signals are weak. If necessary, an additional company may be called for this purpose only and ordered to establish a positive communication link even though they might have to take position on a nearby hill some distance from the scene. Please be sure your communications are set up at all fires.

### NEW PUMPER ORDERED

The Village of Silver Creek recently ordered a new 750 g.p.m. pumping engine from the Young Fire Equipment Company of Buffalo, New York. Major specifications call for Ford C-800 chassis, a 500 gallon booster tank and fully enclosed body. Bid price of the new unit was \$19,577.00 and delivery is expected in March. This pumper will replace Engine 15.

### HERE AND THERE

The New York State Bureau of Fire reports that as of the year ending June 30, 1958 a total of 11,300 firemen received training sponsored by the State and that 65 County Instructors attended the annual state-wide conference held in Albany. New York State leads all other states in the number of firemen trained in the 45 hours of fire instruction.

Fire or public emergency report cards are not being filled out and mailed to the Control Center by all Departments. Please remember this.

Panama firemen are rapidly completing work on their renovated fire station which was financed by the Village following a public vote. A new concrete floor has been poured in the truck room and extensive alterations have been accomplished in the meeting room and kitchen.

The Sunset Bay firemen are in the market for a suitable used truck preferably having a 500 g.p.m. pump. Anyone acquainted with a good deal should contact Chief Donald Burghardt as soon as possible.

Christmas is coming and Fire Departments should emphasize the hazards of non-fireproof decorations, including indoor trees. Many tragedies have occurred as the result of fires started by faulty lighting.



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Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

December 15, 1958

#### CHIEFS TO CONVENE HERE

We are happy to relate that, upon invitation of Chief Dorman, the Eastern Association of Fire Chiefs have elected to hold their Annual Convention in Jamestown on May 21, 22 and 23, 1959. The Association embraces the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. While in Jamestown the Convention headquarters will be at the Hotel Jamestown, and meetings, manufacturers exhibits and entertainments will take place in the ballroom.

Chief Dorman has expressed the desire to make this Convention a joint City and County project in order to promote a gathering that will not only be mutually beneficial but long remembered by our guests as an outstanding Convention. The County Fire Chiefs Association together with members of the local Fire Service have been and will be asked to organize and serve on committees for the purpose of handling the many details required by so large a Convention. We will appreciate your suggestions and full support of the program in every way possible.

#### A PAT ON THE BACK

Donald O'Brien, Editor of Fire Engineering, has this to say in a recent editorial about rural New York fire departments:

"A few months ago the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization announced a new set of regulations for determining farm building insurance rates. The new classifications give to the rural policy holder a special rate credit if the farm is located within five miles of an approved fire department legally protecting the area. Further credits are granted if the buildings are located within 1,000 feet of an approved water supply.

"In making this change in its schedules the Rating Board publicly recognized the progress made by the rural New York fire service. Speaking before a group of insurance agents the Rating Organization's general manager, Kenneth O. Smith, said in part, "A new rating approach to farm fire protection has been prompted by improvements in rural fire fighting equipment and techniques, often augmented by well-designed farm ponds or other sources of water." He further stated, "...many rural departments are now equipped with fire apparatus carrying large water tanks and pumps with ratings of at least 500 gpm capacity, supported by tanker trucks, essentially water carrying vehicles. Portable pumps and large quantities of hose are carried to support the tanker-pumper technique. This modern approach to fire fighting in rural areas is recognized in the revised schedule....!"

"In past years barn fires were generally expected to be total losses, with the rural fire department concentrating all efforts on protecting exposed outbuildings and residences. Now the complete loss of such structures seems to be more and more the exception rather than the rule.

"This is a remarkable fire service achievement from the underwriters' point of view. Farm barns have always carried a high premium cost when insurable. The decision to grant the new credit also came at a time when many insurance interests were pressing for increased rates to offset the effect of ever-mounting fire losses."

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our readers and friends. We thank you for your untiring devotion to our great Fire Service and for the many uncompensated hours of hard and honest work the past year.