

### THE WELL DRESSED FIREMAN

Perhaps you never thought about it either, but an article by the newly appointed Director of the State Division of Safety makes it very clear what the well dressed fireman should wear. Director Proper says, "The problems facing the Fire Service today are increasing almost daily due to new building materials, new industrial processes and new manufactured products. Despite this evident obvious increase in hazards, many fire officials are not insisting that personal protective clothing and equipment be worn by firemen.

"Unfortunately, many fire officers set a poor example for the firemen they direct by scorning the use of helmets, 'fire' coats and boots which they themselves should be wearing.

"A review of accident reports concerning fire ground injuries, indicates too often that ordinary protective equipment was not worn. Many firemen are observed fighting a difficult fire dressed only in street clothes. In many fire departments, helmets, coats and boots are almost entirely lacking, and men entering the Fire Service are seldom taught the importance of personal protective clothing and equipment at the start of their career.

"In the interest of safety, your Division of Safety would like to discourage the thought that a properly attired fireman is something less than a man. We strongly urge that the importance of the helmet, coat, boots, gloves, etc., be taught to all firemen and continually emphasized. Many fire departments make mandatory the wearing of such equipment. Fire officers should be encouraged to see that no fireman entering a 'fire' building or area must do so unprotected.

"Firemen should realize that when the equipment has been provided, it is to be used. Too many fire coats, boots and helmets are seen on apparatus throughout the fire action.

"See that helmet, coat, boots and gloves are worn to all fires. This practice may save a life."

### BET WAILS DIDN'T END WITH SIREN

The Berlin, Wisconsin, Fire Department, wise in the ways of local fire chasers, conducted its annual fund drive with a minimum of effort this year.

Instead of beating a path from door to door in the community, the firemen just turned on the siren and let it wail. When a substantial proportion of the 5,000 population converged on the fire station to find out where the fire was, fireman passed the hat. Collected: \$600.

### N.B.F.U. ISSUES TWO FILMS

The National Board of Fire Underwriters has issued two new Fire Prevention films. One titled, "Penelope Changes Her Mind," is designed for showing before primary and elementary school children, while the other film, for adults, is entitled "The Challenge," and is a revised version of the National Board's popular film, "Crimes of Carelessness."

Both films are 16 mm. in color and run approximately ten minutes each. Prints are available free of cost from the Bureau of Communication Research, Inc., 267 West 25th Street, New York 1, New York.

### A WORD OF THANKS

As we leave the old year for the new, we wish to express our many thanks to the Sheriff's Department for their fine help and cooperation.

George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

THE  
B O O S T E R  
LINE

Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

Number 166

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January 15, 1960

#### HEAVEN FORBID IN THIS COUNTY

A judge in Mineola, New York, recently threw out a widow's suit against two Fire Departments accused of bickering over the right to put out the fire while her house burned down. With smoke and flames billowing from the house, members of both Departments, their equipment standing idle in the street, pored over maps while arguing over jurisdiction, it was charged.

Attorney Martin L. Baron said that the argument raged between the New Hyde Park and Garden City Park Volunteer Departments for 30 minutes before Garden City won out. By then, he said, the house, belonging to Mrs. Agnes Matlock, mother of three, was doomed. It burned to the ground.

In rejecting Mrs. Matlock's suit for \$12,000 against both Departments, State Supreme Court Justice Fred J. Munder ruled that there is no law requiring a municipality to provide fire protection, and none holding it responsible when fire protection fails. Both Fire Departments admitted there was "some conversation" over who should fight the fire, but they denied it lasted for 30 minutes or was responsible for the house being destroyed.

A spokesman for the New Hyde Park Department said there was "some kind of explosion" in the house that engulfed it in flames. The cause of the fire was not officially determined.

#### CASSADAGA ORDERS NEW PUMPER

The Village of Cassadaga has signed a contract with the Four Wheel Drive Co. of Clintonville, Wisconsin, for furnishing a new 1,000 g.p.m. pumping engine at a bid price of \$19,982.00. The engine will be powered by a 300 horsepower motor having 817 cubic inch displacement, and it will have a five man canopy type cab situated ahead of the motor.

Other features include a 500 gallon booster tank, a built-in foam system and a "no-spin" locking differential for the rear axle. Delivery is anticipated in July.

#### NEW CHIEFS ELECTED

Sherman firemen recently elected Earl Hamilton as Chief of Department. His telephone number is Sherman Porter 1-4833. Congratulations Chief Hamilton; may you have few alarms and little fires.

Frewsburg firemen have elected Berger Lind to head their Department for the coming year. We wish Chief Lind a successful and fire safe year. Chief Lind's telephone number is Frewsburg 3-881.

We again ask your cooperation in notifying your Battalion Coordinator whenever new Chiefs are elected to office.

#### REVISED RADIO EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization has announced that no project application for the procurement, leasing or maintenance of radio equipment through matching funds will be approved unless emergency power generators are provided for each base station location used by and licensed in the service for which matching funds are requested. Moreover, each generator must be provided with a fuel supply that will permit continuous operation for a minimum of fourteen days.

A fireman's organization, conducting their annual fund raising campaign used this slogan: "You come to our dance and we'll come to your fire!"

Raymond H. Hughes  
County Coordinator

THE  
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George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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FIREMEN HAVE BUSY YEAR

The annual Alarm Report prepared by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz indicates an increase in Fire Service activity during the year 1959. The figures are compiled from alarm records at the County Fire Control Center and include both cities. It will be noted that the trend of increase in Non-Fire Emergencies continues as in the past several years indicating even greater demand or need for rescue type service and ambulance or first aid 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	76	147	23
February	60	70	6
March	85	104	20
April	324	76	20
May	84	65	1
June	60	76	9
July	81	85	18
August	97	100	6
September	113	104	4
October	74	78	4
November	70	74	4
December	55	74	14
1959 Total	<u>1,179</u>	<u>1,053</u>	<u>129</u>
1958 Total	1,153	934	103
1957 Total	1,252	815	142
1956 Total	1,000	632	102
1955 Total	1,113	485	102
1954 Total	1,081	354	151

OUR EIGHTH YEAR

With this issue of The Booster Line we begin our eighth year of publication. It has been a pleasure to bring you bits of news and comment about our great County Fire Service, and we hope you will continue to read and enjoy our little paper.

MORE NEW CHIEFS ELECTED

The Cassadaga Fire Department have elected Chief Dewitt Chamberlain to office for the coming year. His phone number is Cassadaga LYndhurst 5-3130. Best of luck, Chief.

Ellery Center firemen recently selected Henry E. Seastrum for the Chief's office, and his phone number is Bemus Point 4-245. Chief Seastrum has previously served Ellery Center in this capacity, and we send him our very best wishes in the "old" job.

Maple Springs firemen have elected Chief William Ball to head the Department, and Chief Ball can be reached at Bemus Point 4-043. Lucky!

George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

THE  
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Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

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February 15, 1960

#### DEPARTMENT TRAINING DESIRABLE

The New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization has again emphasized that the quality and scope of training directly controls the fire insurance rates in a community.

The Organization maintains that "The items of fire department personnel, discipline and training are very important. In making a survey, it is reasonable to expect that records will be found which, in the case of volunteer departments, will show the actual manpower response to day and to night alarms; of attendance at drill and training schools, and at regular meetings. If such records are not kept, it is very difficult to grade a community properly. Unless there is sufficient manpower responding to all alarms for all pieces of apparatus, there is liable to be a penalty incurred in the grading for such deficient response.

"Regardless of whether a fire department is volunteer, full paid or part paid, complete and modern training methods are desirable, and supervision should be in the hands of competent chief officers or officers who are schooled in modern methods of fire fighting."

We mention this requirement of the Rating Organization because several County communities are scheduled for a survey this Spring and Summer, and we hope that our current insurance rates will remain as now established or even possibly be lowered for a saving to our citizens.

#### FREDONIA TO GET NEW APPARATUS

The Village of Fredonia has signed a contract with the Four Wheel Drive Co. of Clintonville, Wisconsin, for delivery of a new 1,000 g.p.m. pumping engine at a bid price of \$28,670.00. The engine will be powered by a 300 horsepower motor having 817 cubic inch displacement, and it will have a five-man canopy type cab situated ahead of the motor.

Some of the features include full four wheel drive, a 500 gallon booster tank, and a separate power take-off high pressure pump for booster line operation. The new engine will replace the present Engine No. 11; a 1933 American LaFrance unit.

#### STAND OFF AND TAKE A LOOK

Confusion of the battle is one of the enemies of Chief Officers commanding on the fire ground. This is especially true in fire fighting because almost all Chiefs retain intense pride in their "smoke eating" ability, and they frequently press into the thick of the fray like warrior kings of the middle ages. The costly experience of the battlefield has finally taught the military that the front line turmoil is not a practical command post for generals having responsibilities.

Just so, a smoky basement is not the best command post location for a Chief Fire Officer who wishes to deploy his forces properly and make clear-headed, intelligent decisions. He may have a sense of physically participating in a fight and of proving to himself and his subordinates that "the old man can take it," but the surrounding roads may be filled with costly apparatus and equipment that is not being properly used because the commanding officer has merely the view of a punch-drunk fighter rather than a fight manager.

When directing operations, a Chief should establish a command post at an advantageous location. Stand off and take a look at the overall operation; you will get more done and efficiency will replace confusion.

### REVISED RADIO CALL CARDS

Within the next two weeks new radio call cards will be issued by your Coordinator to all Fire Departments in the County. Due to the great number of mobile and fixed stations, the new card will be of the folding type and of a size to conveniently fit a shirt or coat pocket. Portable "walkie-talkie" radios will be listed on a separate card because over forty such units are now in use by the County Fire Service.

It is planned to print the cards on reasonably heavy stock that is somewhat glossy so that the cards will withstand considerable use and be, to a degree, waterproof. As a suggestion, however, it would be practical to carry the cards in plastic covers or bags which can be purchased locally for a very reasonable price.

Any Chief Officer who has not received the new cards by April 1st should immediately contact Coordinator Hughes.

### SUGGESTED LINE OFFICERS STANDARDS

At the request of several of our readers, we are reprinting the following article that appeared in The Booster Line of April 1, 1955.

Since the end of World War II, marked improvements have been made in fire fighting equipment, and the methods and techniques of fire control have become highly specialized. Great strides have been taken in the field of fire education, and practically every Fire Department in our nation is engaged in some program of fireman education and training.

The State Bureau of Fire offers us excellent opportunity each year in the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced training courses. Now graduate training is available in new courses such as Single Company Operations. All this and more to come will be of little value to us unless we practice what we learn in our own headquarters as well as use the acquired skills in everyday fire fighting.

In spite of our opportunities and many improvements, one phase of the Fire Service has not kept pace. Some Departments still have untrained, poorly prepared and inexperienced line officers. Many men are elevated to officer rank in terms of popularity or personal appeal rather than on the basis of fitness.

We suggest that to be eligible for nomination, officer candidates should meet the following requirements:

#### CHIEF:

1. Must be a graduate of the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced courses of the New York State Fire Training Program.
2. Must be a resident taxpayer of the area served by the department and at least 30 years of age.
3. Must have a fire alarm record of answering 100 or more calls.
4. Must have been an active fireman for 5 or more years.
5. Must have served one year or more as a junior line officer.

#### ASSISTANT CHIEF:

1. Must be a graduate of the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced courses of the New York State Fire Training Program.
2. Must have a fire alarm record of answering 65 or more calls.
3. Must have been an active fireman for at least 4 years.
4. Must have served one year or more as a junior line officer.

#### CAPTAIN OR LIEUTENANT:

1. Must be a graduate of the three State Fire Training courses.
2. Must have a fire alarm record of answering 35 or more calls.
3. Must have been an active fireman for at least 3 years.

George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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#### MAIL TRUCKS EQUIPPED FOR AMBULANCES

Members of the United States Civil Defense Council, meeting in annual conference at Houston, Texas, were shown the first U.S. Mail truck to be equipped for rapid conversion into an ambulance for disaster use. Plans call for 40,000 vehicles of this type to be equipped in the same way by the Post Office Department.

According to postal authorities, there are about fifteen such Mail trucks in our County which will eventually be available for ambulance work. Some trucks will be able to accommodate six litter cases at one time, and first aid kits will be carried as part of the equipment.

#### TAKES POSITION WITH POWER COMPANY

Harold J. Day, for several years a member of your Fire Advisory Board and a former resident of Dunkirk, has accepted a position with the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. as Fire Instructor at the Corporation's training school in northern New York State. We sincerely regret that Harold had to leave us, but wish him every success in his new position.

#### HARTFIELD GETS NEW RESCUE TRUCK

Hartfield firemen are the proud possessors of a new emergency-rescue truck which they recently acquired from an Erie County Fire Department. The firemen have equipped the truck for ambulance duty, but its principal function will be response to resuscitator calls and general non-fire emergencies. Chief Raymond Lawson heads the Hartfield Dep't.

#### SCHEDULE OF FIRE TRAINING SCHOOLS

The schedule of annual Fire Training Schools has not been prepared to date because no course allocation has been received from the Bureau of Fire in Albany. Pending legislation which will dissolve the present Division of Safety and set up the Bureau of Fire under the Department of Local Government has not been approved by the Governor. Until some definite action is taken in Albany, we will not be able to plan the Fire Training Program for 1960-61.

In the meantime, however, local Fire Departments desiring to have a school must submit their request in writing to Donald A. Sales, Fire Training Coordinator, Lakewood, New York. School locations will be selected on a first come, first serve basis, so get your request in today.

#### DEPENDABLE COMMUNICATIONS?

We were quite surprised to read the other day about a complete telephone system breakdown in the nearby Village of Wellsville, New York. It seems that the local radio station announced something about children going to or coming from school, and apparently every anxious Mother placed a phone call resulting in total disruption of the service.

Upon investigation, we discovered that Wellsville is served by the most reliable New York Bell Telephone Co. which only recently installed modern dial equipment. Yet within a few seconds the entire area was without telephone communications because nearly all of the line fuses failed when the sudden load was imposed upon the system, and it took nearly three hours before normal service was restored!

We wonder what would happen here under the same conditions. Only last week the Jamestown Telephone Co. had to discontinue a "Dial-A-Prayer" because they couldn't handle the load of calls. It is frightening to think of what might happen to our telephone in a real emergency use.

### SPRING CLEAN-UP

Across the country, homeowners are in the midst of Spring House Cleaning, throwing out rubbish and waste that accumulated during the winter, and sprucing up their yards. Many householders are re-decorating inside and painting outside. The records show that making things spic and span in the Spring has become an American tradition.

Are you encouraging Spring Clean-Up? Many community Fire Departments are so pleased with the Spring Clean-Up results of former years that they are again sponsoring civic neatness this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to promote good public relations and, at the same time, strike a blow against fire.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters reminds us that three out of every four fires is the result of human carelessness or forgetfulness. Be a good fireman: Don't forget to do your part in making your community fire safe. Start your Spring Clean-Up campaign now.

### EXPLOSIVE TRANSPORT RULES URGED

Stiffening of regulations governing the transportation of explosives is being urged by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The adoption of more complete safety codes with strict enforcement by state and local authorities may soon become a "must" in all political subdivisions if the present fire insurance ratings are to be maintained.

Citing the recent Rosenberg, Oregon, disaster in which thirteen persons were killed, 125 injured, and damage exceeding \$9,000,000, the National Board reminds us that a similiar catastrophe may happen right on our very doorsteps. No community is too large or too small to avoid a similiar incident, and we can do much to prevent explosions involving common carriers by advocating stiffer legislation and the enactment of Fire Prevention Codes in our own towns, villages and cities.

### ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTED

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has appointed the following to serve as members of the Fire Advisory Board during 1960-61:

Willis R. Wilson of Westfield, John Washington of Cassadaga, Ivan I. Velzy of Silver Creek, George V. Blackstone of Lakewood, Rolland H. Taft of Kiantone, Thomas Bretz of Ripley, Robert Tanner of Sinclairville, Samuel Lord of Fluvanna, Chief Irvin B. Bowen of Ashville, and Chief Donald Loeb of Dunkirk.

Also Edward Bulman of Celoron, Chief Charles R. Dorman of Jamestown, Chief Richard F. Lathrop of Falconer, John Sommers of Mayville, Donald Guest of Fredonia, Chief Arthur Howles of Clymer, Ward L. Smith of Kennedy, Merle Ferguson of Brocton, Lloyd Johnson of Frewsburg, and Walter J. Peterson of Gerry.

Meetings of the Board are held the third Thursday of each month and all Fire Officers, firemen and other interested persons are welcome to attend. Only by your suggestions, comments and ideas can we function.

### FEDERAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

The Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen is circulating a letter encouraging you to write your Congressman in protest of Federal Income Tax for Fire Departments. We find that there is already a provision in the tax laws exempting non-profit volunteer Fire Departments from tax providing such organizations file the required papers which may be obtained from the local office of the Internal Revenue Director.

George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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Willis R. Wilson  
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#### DAILY SIREN TESTS

The New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization has formally notified your County Fire Coordinator that each volunteer Fire Department must conduct a daily general alarm siren or air horn test. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a re-rating of the communities responsible, and present classifications and/or fire insurance rates will be adjusted to the detriment of the community protected.

It is common sense to realize the necessity for such tests, as our fire alarm systems are just as important as our apparatus and equipment. Without the ability of summoning manpower rapidly, we can do little to fight fires, and you might just as well not have a Fire Department. It is recommended that you test your alarm system in the same manner that you receive calls from the general public. This may mean dialing in a test alarm each day from a remote telephone or pulling a street box on open circuit systems. Whatever means used, be sure to test daily.

#### RESCUE BREATHING

A booklet on rescue breathing, the use of a person's breath to revive someone who is unable to breathe for himself, has just been published by the New York State Department of Health.

The publication describes the methods and illustrations are used to show each step in the procedure. The booklet discusses rescue breathing for infants and children, adults and drowning victims.

Copies of the booklet are available without cost to residents of New York State from the Office of Public Health Education, State Health Department, 84 Holland Avenue, Albany 8, New York. We suggest that you write for enough copies to give each member of your Fire Department at least one booklet.

#### NEW FIRE TRUCK ORDERED

The Sinclairville Fire Department has signed a contract with the Ward LaFrance Truck Corporation of Elmira, New York, for delivery of a new pumping apparatus at a cost of \$15,000.00. The new engine will feature a seven man enclosed canopy type cab, a 750 g.p.m. two-stage pump, a 500 gallon booster tank, and a 4½ inch front suction connection.

The new unit will be powered by a 205 horsepower Chrysler Industrial motor, and it will have a 150 inch wheelbase for ease of handling. County Number will be Engine 115 and delivery is expected in September.

#### CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING EXERCISE

The seventh annual National Civil Defense Training Exercise has been announced by the Federal Government for the period of May 3-5, beginning at 2:00 P.M. EDT, on May 3rd. The opening phase of the exercise will consist of a CONELRAD Alert Drill, to be followed with the initial tactical warning.

The operation will be directed to testing and exercising the capabilities of Government, Industry, and the Public to respond to the contingency of general war under simulated emergency conditions. The programs and activities to be tested are those which will be required to be executed in the immediate attack and post-attack periods.

Public participation will be required, and the role which the Fire Service is to undertake will be announced in a future issue of this publication. It is hoped that some active test incidents will be formulated for the Fire Service in order to gain some valuable experience.



### HURRY WITH CAUTION

We were hurrying to answer a fire alarm recently along with a number of volunteer firemen in their own cars. One of the drivers was hurrying too much, and in his haste to pass sent two of us off the road and narrowly missed a smash-up. This kind of driving is certainly not typical of volunteer fire fighters, but it is always a danger to us when we know that seconds on the fire ground count heavily. We are tempted to bear down a little harder on the gas.

The danger is that we put those seconds above our normal safe driving practices. It is a situation peculiar to volunteers who use their own private vehicle for transportation to the fire. As the volunteers converge on the fire scene the traffic hazard increases and caution must increase comparably. This requires our entire alert attention to driving. Time enough to think about the fire when we have arrived.

The public must not be allowed to think of volunteer firemen as speed demons who throw caution to the wind as they rush to the fire. We all know that one wild driver can give an otherwise fine Department a bad name. In addition to the safety aspects, this problem is one phase of public relations that cannot be overlooked.

An opportunity for individual effort toward automobile safety is in personal pre-fire planning. If you are not familiar with the roads that your Department covers, take time to learn the dangerous curves, the through streets, and the blind intersections. Give some thought to the best routes to use in reaching the various sections of town from your home and place of work.

Firemen keep their tankers and pumpers in perfect operating condition at all times. Treat your own automobile as a piece of Fire Department equipment - it is certainly necessary to get you to the fire. If that tire is too worn for safety, don't wait until tomorrow to replace it. The alarm may sound tonight.

If you can make arrangements with a neighbor to pool car rides you will eliminate one car on the road to the fire. Be particularly careful as you join the line of volunteers that you "keep your distance" from the man ahead. Traffic laws hold fast, too, so don't use the fire as an excuse to violate even one.

Last year newspapers carried the story of a little girl killed when the car driven by a volunteer fireman on his way to a fire hit her. This accident saddened all volunteers. But it also brought some thought about our driving rules. We are drivers in a position where seconds count. We must hurry with caution!

### FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULED

The annual Fire Training Program sponsored by the State of New York will get underway with a Basic course at Cherry Creek beginning on May 2nd at 8:00 P.M. A concurrent Basic course will be held in Lakewood starting on May 4th at 8:00 P.M., followed by a similiar session at Fredonia on May 5th, and at Mayville on May 6th. All Officers and firemen are urged to attend these important schools which run for a period of fifteen weeks.

We regret to inform you that this will be the last year that Instructor Harry Hickey will be with us as he has accepted a position with the faculty at the University of Maryland Fire Collage. We feel quite proud that our Instructor has been selected for this greater work.

### 'SPECTATOR PROBLEM' IN EMERGENCIES

One of the major problems facing Fire Departments in their control of emergencies are crowds of spectators. Often they hamper operations. In many instances confusion is compounded by automobiles driven to the scene and then left carelessly parked nearby.

In addition to making the job of the Chief and firemen much more difficult, the presence of large numbers of spectators greatly increases the responsibility of the Fire Department protecting the citizens. Many times spectators have been killed or seriously hurt at the fire when an unfortunate event occurred after they arrived. This might be an explosion or the collapse of a wall.

For instance, when fire broke out recently in a fuel truck parked in a garage, a crowd ignored orders to stand back. Only a few feet from the burning vehicle stood another fully-loaded truck carrying 5000 gallons of gasoline. The situation could have turned into a disaster.

Such conditions emphasize the importance of public education on this problem and suggest that an element of potential enforcement is involved. Fire-Police units should give careful thought and attention to the specific responsibility of controlling spectators at emergencies.

### WHY NOT?

An Arizona employment service director has suggested the use of Indian smoke signals should modern communications be knocked out by a nuclear attack.

"In Arizona we use smoke signals to reach Hopi Indian fire fighters in an emergency," James A. Rork said. "We burn old automobile tires to make good black smoke."

If we don't get our new Radio Call Cards soon, maybe we'll have to burn some old tires!

### FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

First aid and rescue operations daily are becoming a more important aspect of Fire Service activities. Almost hourly, in big cities, Fire Department personnel and equipment are involved in emergency runs that involve the use of resuscitator, inhalator or other first aid equipment. In small communities, reliance on volunteer first aid and rescue units is proportionately greater.

Sometimes the runs involve unusual predicaments: the pigeon caught in a string, the child caught in a milk shute, the baby whose head is stuck in a banister, the cat or dog caught in a narrow space between two buildings, the boy who almost chokes to death on a marble, and the family locked out of their house.

More often the runs are made in response to grave emergency: the heart attack, the flaming car crash, the explosion, the fire, the tornado or sudden windstorm's destruction, the suicide attempt, the choking spell, suffocation, convulsion, or fainting spell, or a hundred more other sudden pleas for action.

Knowing how to cope with these emergencies is part of Fire Service training - training in how to save your life and property, the lives of your loved ones and the citizens you protect.

For instance, would you know how to get out of a submerged car? How to rescue a drowning man trapped in one? Knowing how may save your life some day as well as the life of another. We must be well trained in the art of fire fighting as well as in rescue and first aid work to

Raymond H. Hughes  
County Coordinator

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#### FIRE SCHOOLS WELL ATTENDED

The Training Coordinator advises us that the enrollment in the current series of Fire Training Schools is most gratifying and indicates a continued interest in the State sponsored program.

The Cherry Creek school has an attendance of 20 men, and the same number are enrolled in the Fredonia class. Lakewood took top honors with a registration of 40 firemen signed up, and Mayville's school has 21 men attending. Thus, a total of 101 firemen are engaged in higher learning, and we congratulate each student fireman for his interest in Fire Service training.

Intermediate Courses will begin at Celoron on June 15th, followed by a similiar school at Fredonia on June 16th. On June 17th Mayville will have Intermediate training, and Cherry Creek takes up the same course on June 20th. We hope the good turn out for the Basic Course will continue right through the Intermediate and Advanced courses.

#### NEW FILM AVAILABLE

The Jamestown Mutual Insurance Company has purchased a new film titled "In Case of Fire" which is available to any Fire Department for showing to children or adults. The film was previewed by the Advisory Board at their May meeting and was considered by all to be excellent for showing to any group, particularly in the schools.

It is a 16mm., black and white, sound film with a running time of about 20 minutes, and it is designed to teach people how to help themselves in the event they are caught in a burning building. The narrative does not overburden the points of safety and most of the theme is acted out by live subjects as they properly evacuate different types of buildings. Actual fire fighting scenes are shown to enliven the film.

#### FIRE INSTRUCTOR WANTED

The Fire Training Committee of the Advisory Board has been asked to select a new County Fire Training Instructor. We urge you to bring this information before your Fire Department to encourage firemen who may be interested in applying for the position.

Each Instructor must meet certain basic State requirements, and the successful candidate will be granted Civil Service status since he is paid by the State for teaching. The present rate of pay is \$5.00 per hour.

Interested firemen should apply in writing to Chief Irvin B. Bowen Chairman, Fire Training Committee, Ashville, New York. Both paid and volunteer firemen will be considered for the job.

#### CHIEF OFFICERS LISTING

We recently completed a new Chief Fire Officers directory which is enclosed with this issue of our publication. Unfortunately, we discovered a mistake after the listing was completed, and our apologies go to Chief Robert Burchett of Sheridan for ommitting his name as the new Chief Officer of that Department. Compilation of this year's directory was made more complicated by the many changes in telephone numbers.

Undoubtedly there are other errors, and we ask that you please notify your Fire Coordinator if we have goofed. It is very important that this directory be accurate because it is used by the Control Center, the newspapers and several other public and private agencies in helping to locate Chief Officers during emergencies and at other times.

### SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS REVISED

Great tragedies can teach great lessons. On December 1, 1958, fire destroyed Our Lady of the Angels Parochial School in Chicago. Ninety-two children and three nuns died in the holocaust.

Numbed by horror and fully aware that a similar disaster could occur in any community, the nation began taking stock in the fire safety precautions in its schools. From this study, new concepts of fire safety have emerged which promise better protection for America's children.

One of the most radical decisions which safety authorities have reached is that so-called "fireproof construction" - actually, the use of fire-resistive materials in buildings - has been greatly overrated as a first line of defense against school fires. The National Fire Protection Association recently proposed a far reaching revision of its code which would virtually eliminate present requirements for fire resistive construction. Association officials feel that fire resistive construction, which adds enormously to school building costs, may do little good, and indeed may do positive harm by inducing a false sense of security.

"The spread of heat and smoke in a fire is so rapid that their effects are likely to be fatal if occupants have not already escaped long before the building structure itself becomes involved," explained Horatio Bond, the Association's Chief Engineer.

The new recommendations of the Association put primary emphasis on other safety measures, including an abundance of well located exits, the prohibition of certain wall-finish materials with high combustibility, and the installation of automatic sprinkler systems. Bond said that sprinklers are especially valuable because they tend to prevent a fire from extending beyond its point of origin, and they help to bring a fire under control before the entire building is filled with lethal gasses, smoke or flames.

All schools should train students in giving fire alarms and conduct "realistic" fire drills. Too many fire drills consist of the orderly marching of complacent groups of carefree children, always out the same door at the same time of day. To condition children against panic when a real emergency comes, inject realism into drills by such methods as the blocking of a familiar exit, by choosing an inconvenient time such as a lunch hour, a basketball game or a rainy day, and by setting off a small smoke bomb such as firemen use for training.

### SPECIAL WATER AID TO FIGHTING FIRES

Specially treated water that snuffs out fire ten times faster than ordinary water has been described as a new means of battling fires.

Dr. C. S. Grove, Director of Engineering Research at Syracuse University, recently told the N.F.P.A. that his institute has been concentrating for three years on chemicals which improve water, mainly thickeners. "Thickened water clings to a burning surface longer than ordinary water," Dr. Grove said. He suggested that improving water's fire fighting quality may be the best way of curbing the tremendous destruction of life and property by fire.

Dr. Grove said that of the viscosity additives, or thickeners, for which testing has been completed, ET-460-4, a synthetic water soluble compound developed by the Dow Chemical Co. of Midland, Michigan, is the most effective, and it may be added to fire streams by a proportioner.

#### TO HEAD FIRE SAFETY DIVISION

Chief Charles R. Dorman of Jamestown has accepted the position of Chief of the New York State Division of Fire Safety and will assume his new duties on July 11th in Albany. Chief Dorman earned this highest Fire Service honor through competitive Civil Service examinations which were held last Fall.

In his new job, Chief Dorman will administer the State Fire Training and Mutual Aid plans, and he will supervise the activities of at least six field representatives working with Fire Departments and local government agencies. The Division of Fire Safety was recently established in the Department of Local Government by act of the Legislature.

Chief Dorman goes to Albany with twenty years of active Fire Service experience from membership on the Jamestown Fire Department, while on duty with the United States Navy, and in close association with the Volunteer Fire Service of our County. The Chief was honored last month by election to the post of First Vice President of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and as a Director of the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

We are elated to know that Charlie Dorman has won this great and important position, yet we are sorrowed by his leaving us. Few men have ever been as devoted and sincere to the never ending job of Fire Protection and Prevention, and we know that the State's firemen will respect and admire him as we have here in Chautauqua County. We will always look up to him as our Chief. The very best of luck and success, Charlie; you can count on us to help you in every way possible.

#### FIREMEN MAY GET PLASTIC HOSE

"A super-duper version of the common garden plastic hose may replace conventional fire hose within a year," Ontario Fire Marshall W. J. Scott discloses.

"The new hose, currently being tested by Fire Departments in Ottawa, Hamilton, and Bracebridge, weighs about one-third the weight of present hose, requires no drying out, and is resistant to mildew, oil, and grease. Also, the plastic hose can be used in place of six inch iron pipe," Marshall Scott said.

The new hose is now in use by most Civil Defense units in England.

#### L.A. COUNTY TESTS COLOR

A new, light-absorbent, reddish-orange paint used heretofore only on aircraft, was recently applied to a Battalion Chief's car of the Los Angeles County Fire Department to see if the car would "stand out" in traffic, especially at dusk when the accident rate is highest.

County Chief Keith Klinger suggested the experiment after noticing how eye-catching the color is on the Department's helicopter. His decision was also sparked by the many "fire engine red" private cars and trucks on the public highways. The test will take about a year, and if there is a noticeable difference, all Department vehicles will be painted with the new color.

It is interesting to note that the State of Oklahoma has reserved by law the use of white only for all types of emergency vehicles. However, this law has been made difficult by the cream and off-white paint.

Said the nanny goat to the billy goat: "You can go as far as you want to, tall, dark, and stinky - just don't kid me."

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 DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS

Inspection of homes by Fire Departments for the purpose of eliminating fire hazards and awakening public interest in fire prevention is being carried out in thousands of communities throughout the country under the sponsorship of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which reports that thirty million homes were inspected by firemen in 1959. A 20 per cent increase in inspections is anticipated this year.

Reports received from State fire marshals and from Fire Chiefs indicate that the "Home Inspection" program is going forward in an efficient and effective manner. The reduction in the number of dwelling house fires in cities and towns where the Fire Department conducts an on-the-spot inspection of the premises is concrete evidence of the success achieved. A summary of reports received shows that where the program is carried on, there has been a reduction of from 10 per cent to 40 per cent in the number of dwelling house fires.

#### JAMESTOWN TO GET NEW PUMPER

The City of Jamestown has signed a contract with the Ward LaFrance Truck Corp. of Elmira, New York, for delivery of a new pumping apparatus at the cost of \$20,794.00. The new engine will feature a seven man enclosed canopy type cab, a 1,000 g.p.m. two-stage pump, a 350 gallon booster tank, and 1,200 watt power outlets for portable floodlights.

The apparatus will be powered by a 300 horsepower Waukesha motor having a displacement of 817 cubic inches. The chassis will have a 150 inch wheelbase for ease of handling in traffic. It is planned to house this new pumper at the City Hall fire headquarters where it will be known as Engine No. 1. Delivery is expected in December.

#### BOOKLET MEETS RUNAWAY DEMAND

The 12 page booklet "Rescue Breathing" prepared by the State Health Department received over 200,000 requests in the first five weeks since publication. The booklet has already set a department record for copies distributed in a year, and some health officials believe "Rescue Breathing" will exhaust its 500,000 initial printing order before the year ends.

So far, the largest single order has come from the New York City Fire Department, which asked for 12,000 copies. Other Fire Departments around the State have asked for enough copies for all their members. We highly recommend this booklet to you and suggest that you write for free copies soon.

#### NEW FIRE TRUCK ORDERED

Our neighbors, the Village of South Dayton, who maintain Fire Protection Districts in Chautauqua County, have ordered a new 750 g.p.m. pumping apparatus from the Ward LaFrance Truck Corp. of Elmira, New York. Bid price of the new truck was \$15,924.00, and it will have a seven man enclosed canopy type cab, a 500 gallon booster tank, and a 150 inch wheelbase to allow for a 27 foot outside turning radius.

The new truck will be powered by a 205 horsepower Chrysler Industrial motor and will be lettered as Engine No. 3. Delivery is planned for November.

Children and matches are as dangerous as dynamite and matches  
KEEP THEM SEPARATED

### PROPER STORAGE OF HAY

At this time of year rural Fire Departments are more than ever concerned with the possibility of barn fires caused by the spontaneous ignition of stored hay. Many a serious fire has been started, and many barns have burned to the ground because some farmer did not know, or did not follow, the rules for preventing spontaneous ignition in his hay mow.

The first rule, of course, is to be sure that hay is thoroughly dry before moving it into the barn. By "dry" we mean both "dry" in the sense that it is no longer green and "dry" meaning free from moisture. When the hay is in the barn, it should be spread evenly if loose or, if in bales, stacked with air spaces between bales on the ends or sides to avoid large masses which are closely packed.

The hay mow should be examined frequently, and if there is the slightest indication that the mow is heating, temperature readings must be taken frequently. If testing pipes are not available, plug the end of a regular iron pipe and drill several holes near the plugged end. Stand the pipe in the hay with the plugged end down. Now lower a thermometer on a string in the pipe to determine the critical area. If the readings reach 170 degrees Fahrenheit, stand by for danger. Once the temperature reaches 170 degrees, it can go up to the ignition point in a matter of minutes.

When this danger temperature is reached, get the hay out of the barn as fast as you can, removing that part in which the hottest temperatures have been found.

A word of caution - DON'T drench the hay with water. Water caused the trouble in the first place. When the hay is being removed from the barn, have a crew standing by with a charged hose line in the event spontaneous ignition occurs before all of the hay is removed.

### MUTUAL AID DRILLS

As a valuable training aid, we would suggest that more Mutual Aid drills be held in the four Battalions of our County. It would seem to us that one such drill should be held each month in each Battalion, with the First Battalion holding a Mutual Aid drill the first week of each month, the Second Battalion the second week, and so on. In this manner no elaborate schedules need to be devised, and the Battalion Coordinator would not have to be concerned that a similiar drill was being held elsewhere in the County at the same time.

We do not advocate drills in which every Fire Department participates on a given date, but rather a number of small drills in which no more than three or four companies take part. The drills must be worked out with and approved by a local Fire Chief, and wherever possible, the simulated incident should be planned around a particular fire hazard or problem in the local community sponsoring the Mutual Aid drill.

Many new firemen and several new Fire Chiefs have taken office since we held regular drills at the beginning of our Mutual Aid Program, and we owe it to these men, as well as the older men, to practice and develop efficiency, and devise new techniques. Moreover, we must all be well informed of the procedures required to combat a large fire, particularly in situations where we would normally assist on Mutual Aid.

We have the best Fire Service. Let's not let it slip to the point where we have to take a back seat and be faced with large loss fires and lack of efficiency. It's harder to climb than to fall down stairs.

George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

THE  
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#### POWER CUT ON COUNTY RADIO NETWORK

The voice power output, technically known as modulation, has been reduced to approximately one-third of the normal output at the County Fire Control Center Base Station. This adjustment was required because of a Federal Communications Commission ruling which mandates that all F.M. transmitters operating within the 40 to 50 megacycle band must be equipped for narrow band operation by August 1, 1960, or if this requirement is not met by the above date, modulation must be reduced to one-third normal level.

To date, we have not been able to convert the Base Station to the required narrow band operation, but it appears now that this work will be accomplished within the next thirty days, and the Station will then be restored to normal power.

At the beginning of this year your County Board of Supervisors appropriated over \$9,000.00 which represents one-half the total cost of modifying our County Radio Network for narrow band operation. The remaining monies were applied for under the Matching Fund Program of the Federal Civil Defense Commission. Although the application to the Federal office was made early this Spring in apparent good form, our request was not approved, and it was necessary to resubmit the proposition several months later. Thus our approval was confirmed only about a month ago allowing us to order the necessary radio parts.

As a result of this problem in which we have literally been caught between two Federal agencies, namely the Federal Communications Commission and the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, we have had to delay modifying our radio equipment that was initially scheduled to be converted prior to August 1st. Just as soon as the various manufacturers make delivery of the nearly two hundred conversion kits for all base stations and mobile units, we will begin modifying equipment for the narrow band operation. It is hoped that we can handle the mobile radio conversions on somewhat of an assembly line basis so that fire and emergency apparatus will not have to be without communications for an unreasonable length of time.

Should you have any questions regarding the conversion program, we suggest that you immediately contact your County Fire Coordinator or Mr. Allen Barris, the Radio Technician who will be responsible for modifying all of the mobile radios.

#### FIRE SERVICE URGED TO STRENGTHEN COMMAND

B. Richter Townsend, Executive Director of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, has called upon the nation's Fire Service to strengthen its line of command and to develop inventory of equipment and personnel in order to meet "national disaster or enemy attack."

Mr. Townsend urges that Fire Chiefs consider their responsibilities as leaders in the one organization that will be called upon to render the greatest degree of service during widespread emergencies caused either by natural or enemy action. He points out last year's explosion and fire in Roseberg, Oregon, as an example where the newest member of the Fire Department took over the command of the Department after the Assistant Chief had been killed fighting the blaze. This disaster which leveled four city blocks, killed 13 persons and injured 150 others.

"Such a disaster as this," says Mr. Townsend, "places an obligation on you to train and educate all the members serving with you. To fail to do so is to fail to recognize the importance of the Fire Department."



### MUTUAL AID PRACTICED

Since our plea for more frequent Mutual Aid Drills, two very fine practices have been held in the County. The first drill was conducted by Cherry Creek in the First Battalion, and the second exercise was in Lakewood with Third Battalion companies participating. Results of both drills indicate that these efforts were greatly productive with ideas and valuable instruction, and new interest has been created in mutual problems and understanding.

Cherry Creek staged, perhaps, the most spectacular drill by the arrangement of actually burning an old barn which, we understand, was purchased by the Fire Department for the sum of \$1.00. The purchase of the building was made to be sure that no possible legal actions or fire insurance recoveries could be placed against the firemen.

At Lakewood six Fire Departments set up a double line pumper relay for a distance of about 3,000 feet. One of the important lessons to come out of this drill was the solving of hook-ups of different hose threads which has always been a matter of concern in the metropolitan Jamestown area.

We hope that these Mutual Aid Drills will encourage other communities to hold practices for the good of all local Departments. See your Battalion Coordinator now; he will be pleased to help you make your plans and contact the fire companies for you.

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

This year, Fire Prevention Week will be observed the week of October 9-15, and the spotlight of public opinion will focus on the Fire Service. More than at any other time of year, Fire Officers are called upon to render a public service, to speak their piece, and to take over the leadership and direction of a vital program. For seven days your community looks to you for encouragement in an activity that never ceases. Fire Prevention is your program!

The enclosed pamphlet is typical of many different types that you can get free of charge for distribution to every citizen. Displays, radio and press releases, fire drills, and parades or demonstrations are only a few of the activities you may want to sponsor in your community. Plan your program now and alert your community to the dangers of fire. A good Fire Prevention Program will return many benefits to you.

### WHO IS A FIREMAN?

- A fireman . . .
- is the most important person who enters our lives when needed.
  - is not dependent on us, we are depending on him.
  - is not an interruption to our work and lives, we are an interruption to his work and life.
  - is doing us a favor by serving us, we are not doing him any favors by calling him night or day.
  - is not an outsider to us, he is loyal to us.
  - is a flesh and blood human being with biases, prejudices, feelings and emotions like ours.
  - is a man who gives of his time and money for schooling and training to protect his community.
  - is a man who will risk life and limb to save another and ask nothing in return but a little consideration.
  - is a man who brings us his help without thought of harm to himself.

### THE SIGHT MADE US NUMB

The following report by Chief Earl Warne of the Middlefield, Ohio, Fire Department appeared in the Niles, Ohio TIMES:

"We were at the scene of the fire about five minutes after receiving the call but I could see the house was going to be a total loss.

"The sky was all lit up with sparks spraying out all over. The sight made us numb...just numb.

"When we got there, the husband and wife had run up to a gas station about 500 feet north of the house and we didn't know if there was anyone inside or not.

"I sent my assistant chief running to the gas station to get some information from the family and when he came back he told me of the three kids trapped inside.

"When we heard that, we felt sick for a minute, but the first thought in everyone's mind was to get in there and try to get those kids out.

"By this time, the roof of the house had collapsed right through to the basement. Those three children were sleeping on the first floor, but we knew they must have fallen through to the basement.

"We got men into the basement right away and within 30 minutes we found the first body. It was so pathetic. The infant was charred beyond recognition. We found the child's tiny body absorbed right into the mattress it was sleeping on.

"It took a little longer to find the second body. We finally decided that two of the children must have been sleeping in that same bed.

"The stench of burning flesh nauseated you constantly and we'd have to get outside to get a breath of air. But as soon as the men got their second wind, they went right back in and worked.

"It really hit home with the men fighting the fire. Most of them are young and have children of their own the same age and you could see that this thought was making them fight with all they had.

"When we got back to the station house it was sort of quiet for a while and when the conversation did start, it was about our own families.

"Each fireman said the first thing he was going to do when he got home was to sit down with his kids and explain again, in detail, each step that should be taken when a fire starts.

"Although it's hard to tell what a human being will do in a situation like that, especially children.

"I really can't describe how pathetic and nauseating the whole thing was."

The answer to this tragic situation is to carry out home fire drills: To teach our children that sometime they may find the exit to their room blocked by fire and will have to get out another way.

### VICTIMS OF FIRE ENGINE CRASH GET AWARD

A recent California court decision awarded a total of \$186,500.00 in damages for the death of one woman and injuries to four other persons caused by the collision of two Los Angeles City Fire Department apparatus while answering a false alarm in 1958. The accident occurred when the truck was struck broadside by a second truck at a street intersection. The first vehicle then careened into and crushed one automobile and damaged another stopped behind.

This was one of the largest awards ever made in which the Fire Service has ever been involved, and may we suggest that you, TAKE IT EASY!

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The week of October 9-15 marks the 89th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire and the 38th anniversary of the special week which memorializes the terrible destruction by fire of one of the world's great cities. Fire Prevention Week is set aside to emphasize the year-around need for greater attention to fire safety, to stress again that very nearly all fires are preventable, that human carelessness and ignorance is the guilty party in almost every fire case.

Each day fire destroys or damages 1,525 homes, 105 industrial plants, 149 stores, 11 churches, 11 schools, and 4 hospitals. Far more tragic is the annual toll of more than 11,000 lives lost to fire. This record is the measure of our apathy about fire hazards.

Your community can make the week meaningful if all of us decide that Fire Prevention is our job too, and that individually and together we can do our part to correct the present shameful record of fire loss.

### THE FIRE SERVICE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Donald M. O'Brien, Editor of FIRE ENGINEERING, recently wrote an excellent thought provoking editorial which we quote, in part, below:

"Current tensions among the countries of this world have forced governing officials to reassess their over-all defensive systems in the cold light of reality. As international storm clouds gather, it is evident that we should examine our present civil defense structure and the function of the fire service in it. In the past, CD has proven a sore point in many areas due to personality conflicts on a more or less local level.

"There has been a tendency on the part of some fire and CD officials to ignore their important responsibilities and instead, concentrate more on the question of who has the authority to issue orders in the event of an emergency. Fortunately this shortsighted attitude is limited, but it is of sufficient intensity to create a festering sore in critical areas at a time when complete understanding and cooperation is a necessity. Perhaps some of the difficulty may be traced to a lack of enthusiasm for civil defense preparations, but with the collapse of the recent Summit Conference this is hardly the time for complacency.

"The place of the fire service in the civil defense structure has been debated for many years. Regardless of what some individuals may think and say concerning its relative importance in the event of attack, the Director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, plainly stated his official view that fire chiefs are responsible for protecting lives and property during war-caused fires exactly as in peacetime.

"Other countries have also recognized the need of the fire service and have taken steps to insure that it has an important voice in any plans for defense in the event of attack.

"All the foregoing indicates the trend of progress in civil defense matters, with full account of the part each agency of government has to play in safeguarding the people. The emphasis has been placed on the continuation of government on every level in order that quick recovery may be accomplished without chaos following any catastrophe."

### CHILDREN AND FIRE

Each month almost 100 children die alone and helpless in fires, because their parents left them unattended or in the care of baby sitters too young or not competent to cope with an emergency in the home.

#### NEW INSTRUCTORS SELECTED

The Training Committee of the County Fire Advisory Board has recommended the appointment of two new Fire Training Instructors. The recommendations will be forwarded to the New York State Civil Service Commission who, in turn, will make the official appointments. This procedure is necessary since the Instructors are paid by the State and are considered as State employees.

The two men selected are Chief Joseph Bolivard of Forestville and Chief Frank A. Estep, III of Hartfield. Chief Bolivard has been active in the Fire Service for a number of years and has held the position of Chief of the Forestville Fire Department. His interest is further demonstrated by the fact that he completed the State Fire Training Basic, Intermediate and Advanced courses on three different occasions, and took the Single Company Operations training. For several months, Chief Bolivard was Chief of Police in Forestville, but he resigned this post to devote more time to the Fire Service. He also held officers posts in the Chautauqua County Volunteer Fireman's Association.

Chief Estep has for many years been devoted to the Fire Service, and he has repeatedly attended the State Fire Schools. He received a comprehensive course in instructor training while a member of the U. S. Army, thereafter teaching radio communications to service personnel. Frank Estep is currently Chief of the Hartfield Fire Department and has been an active member of this organization for the past ten years. He is also a qualified Red Cross First Aid Instructor.

Both men plan to attend the New York State Fire Instructor's Conference to be held in Elmira, New York, this month. Their duties will begin next April when the new State course, Essentials of Firemanship, starts along with the State fiscal year.

We wish to express our sincere confidence in these men, and we offer them our wholehearted support and very best wishes in the new work.

#### PLASTIC WASTE BASKETS

The Mutual Insurance Bulletin is responsible for the following information about the plastic waste and trash baskets in such common use today.

Following a series of tests, the University of Minnesota health service has warned that plastic waste paper baskets are a serious fire hazard. The health service placed a quantity of light wrapping paper and six paper cups in a plastic basket and ignited the paper. In less than 20 seconds the basket started to collapse and within 60 seconds the plastic was burning and melting. As the basket burned, a pool of liquid formed resembling melted wax. After 30 minutes the fire still burned with sufficient intensity to ignite any combustible material placed within two feet of the basket.

Based on these tests, the health service concludes and recommends the following: Plastic waste baskets are not satisfactory for the disposal of any material that burns with intense heat or for any flammable liquid. Dry chemical should be used to extinguish a fire where plastic is in a liquid state. Water should be used only as a last resort.

#### FALLING OBJECTS

Wear protective clothing, including helmet, at all times at fire operations or emergencies. The fire helmet was designed to protect you against falling objects. The helmet is also a means of identification.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS

The public has come to know its Fire Department, both paid and volunteer, as an organization that is not content to just wait for fires to happen. Between emergency calls, the progressive Fire Department is planning and training to provide better fire protection service to the community.

In every community, large and small, home fires are of major concern chiefly because of the danger to life. It has been estimated that these fires are responsible for about 60% of all lives lost annually by fire. About one-half of the home fire deaths happen to children under 10 years of age.

This is indeed a challenge to the local Fire Department and the modern Fire Chief is doing something about it. He is offering to the members of the community the services of his Department to help make their homes fire safe. Many Fire Departments have extended their fire prevention activities to a year-round program of inspections with special emphasis on the inspection of homes as a proven method of decreasing the number of dwelling house fires.

To be successful, the initiation of a program of dwelling inspections requires careful preparation because the cooperation of the residents is essential. It must be emphasized and repeatedly stated that there is no desire to intrude on the privacy of a person's home. The fireman requests permission to inspect and the householder may refuse entrance without incurring any penalty or official action of any kind.

This inspection service must be "sold" to the people. They must be fully informed, well in advance, of its purpose. Newspapers, radio and television should be utilized to inform the public as to the purpose and availability of this service which will add nothing to local taxes. Cooperation of the local service clubs can be used to good advantage. The interest of the school children in this work is of great value. Even the churches and their organizations can aid you.

After the residents have become accustomed to having firemen inspect their houses, much of the explanation and publicity needed at first can be dispensed with, but initially considerable attention to this phase of the program is essential.

In the actual work of inspection, the fireman should always appear in uniform neatly pressed and with shoes shined as always when appearing in public or on parade. Inspectors working in pairs are generally considered to be preferable to each man working alone. Every effort should be made not to inconvenience the householder, and it is generally best to confine the inspections to week days although many volunteer Departments have sold their people on the acceptance of Saturday and early evening calls.

### RADIO PROCEDURE SCHOOLS

We strongly advocate the resumption of radio procedure schools that were taught with such great success in past years. Now more than ever we need training in the proper use of our radio network which has grown to be the largest in New York State.

Recently Chief Loeb of Dunkirk played a tape recording of radio communications at a large fire in New York City. We noted a considerable amount of confusion and similarity to our own communications whenever there is a large fire in the County. Training might help everyone.

We are wondering what happened to those long promised Call Cards!

George V. Blackstone  
Editor - Publisher

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#### REQUESTS FOR TRAINING SCHOOLS

County Fire Departments desiring to have the new State Fire Training course titled "Essentials of Firemanship" taught at their respective stations must request the school in writing now. The 1961-62 Fire Training schedule will be prepared next month and requests for schools will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. All requests are to be addressed to Donald A. Sales, Training Coordinator, Lakewood, New York, or to Chief Irvin B. Bowen, Chairman Training Committee, Ashville, New York.

It should be noted that the same procedure must be followed by those Departments wishing to have the graduate training course titled "Single Company Operations".

The State has ruled that County Fire Coordinators may authorize firemen who did not attend all of the old Basic, Intermediate and Advanced training classes to complete their work by attending the new "Essentials of Firemanship" class or classes which cover the material missed. A period of 24 months, from the date of registration for Unit 1, is allowed to complete these classes.

#### MARTYN APPOINTED TO BOARD

Chief John F. Martyn has been appointed a member of the Fire Advisory Board to represent the Jamestown Fire Department. We are very fortunate to have Chief Martyn serve with us as his experience from forty-three years on the City Department is unequalled. Congratulations Jack!

#### REDUCTION IN FIRE RATES

Reductions amounting to more than \$1 million a year in fire insurance rates for certain office and institutional properties such as hospitals, churches and schools in New York State were announced recently by the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization. The rating organization also announced a number of changes in rules and forms which have been approved by the New York State Insurance Department. The reduction in rates was made possible by the favorable experience for the affected classes in the years 1954-1958.

#### HOME FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

In the October issue of "Fire Engineering", we note with great interest an editorial by Editor Donald M. O'Brien which advocates greater use of home fire alarm systems. The article points out that many alarm systems have appeared on the market meeting the approval of fire officials, but such systems were either too costly for the homeowner or "the methods of selling these systems employed by some vendors have left much to be desired."

Mr. O'Brien states that "fire chiefs are not ~~at~~rayed "against" home fire alarms but are solidly "for" sound products, scrupulous salesmanship and vigorous maintenance. The business concern which comes up with a responsible program which meets certain criteria within the financial means of the average homeowner will quickly receive the merited support of fire fighters in general."

It certainly would be desirable if our homes could be protected by some type of alarm, and it would be even more desirable if such alarms could be tied into our Fire Department general alarm systems. This may seem like wishful thinking yet 9 years ago we did not have 2-way radios.

#### AN OUTSTANDING POEM

During Fire Prevention Week, students in the Dunkirk elementary schools took part in various projects and activities to promote fire safety. An outstanding example of the fine student participation is a poem written by Barbara Harris, a member of the Fifth Grade at School No. 3. We are proud to reproduce Barbara's excellent poem titled Fires.

Fires are so awful,  
They hurt - they burn - and scare  
If you should start a fire  
To the rest of us it isn't fair.

If you are in your room,  
And the door is very hot -  
Do not open it!  
Just try to find a safer spot!

Should you see someone smoking in his bed,  
Tell him to stop - and use his head  
Then if they don't obey you  
Just take that smoke - and crush it dead.

Then explain that it's wrong to smoke in bed,  
'Cause the smoker starts to nod his head -  
And drops the smoke from out his hand,  
And soon be on his way to the Promised Land.

#### FLUVANNA ORDERS NEW FIRE TRUCK

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fluvanna Fire District have signed a contract with the American Fire Apparatus Company of Battle Creek, Michigan, for delivery of a new 750 g.p.m. front mounted pumping engine at a bid price of \$13,297.00. The engine will be constructed on a Ford F-850 chassis, and it will have a 1,000 gallon booster tank.

The new apparatus is to be stationed at Fluvanna's No. 2 Station near the Jamestown Municipal Airport, and it will replace the present Engine No. 48; a 1945 Federal 500 g.p.m. pumper.

#### FIRST AID ON THE SPOT

The New York State Health Department is offering for loan a new film titled, "First Aid On The Spot," which is 16mm sound with a running time of 10 minutes. The film demonstrates six common types of injuries or disabilities and the American Red Cross technique for handling each.

Caring for wounds, burns, and shock, controlling bleeding, splinting a fracture and administering artificial respiration are the procedures demonstrated.

Produced by Encyclopaedia Britannica Films, Inc., the film has been added to the Health Department's Lay Film Library. It is available to New York State residents without charge except for return postage. Application for loan of the film should be addressed to the Film Library Supervisor, Office of Public Health Education, State Health Department, 84 Holland Avenue, Albany 8, New York.

MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS A MERRY ONE - USE CARE WITH FIRE

### USE CARE WITH FIRE

With the Yule Season rapidly approaching, Americans across the nation are being urged to use care with fire, and make Christmas this year a happy one. The National Board of Fire Underwriters points out that Christmas fire safety is a job for all the family.

A week or so before Christmas, the family should be called together and some fire safety task assigned to every one.

Father, as a rule, buys the Christmas tree, and the National Board says he should be sure and select a tree that is fresh. He should run his hand over one of the branches. If the needles fall off, the tree is dry. He should select another one with firmly-attached needles. Next, when father gets the tree home, he should set it in a pail of water in the garage until the day it is to be brought in and decorated. Trees get thirsty just like people. As long as they have a drink of water they will stay fresh, with the needles firm.

It is the job of Mom and the children, as a rule, to choose decorations for the tree. It is smart to buy only ornaments made of metal, glass, or a fire-resistant material.

Father and mother usually do the setting up of the Christmas tree. It should be placed in a holder, equipped with a container of water in which the trunk may rest. The tree should be placed in a spot in the room where it will not block an exit. In decorating the tree, all strings of lights should be checked to make sure the cords are not frayed.

If an electric train is to be displayed, it should be put in operation in some place other than under the tree. Sparks from an electric train could cause a fire if they came in contact with dry Christmas tree branches.

Let the children be assigned to the job of taking care of gift wrappings. When Christmas arrives and presents are opened, gift wrappings to be saved should be folded neatly and put away. The rest of the wrappings should be gathered up and discarded promptly.

Throughout the Christmas-New Year period always turn off the Christmas tree lights when everyone is away from home.

Keep an eagle eye on the tree at all times for signs of dryness. If needles start falling fast, take the tree down immediately and put it outside the house.

Christmas fire safety efforts should not be confined to the Christmas tree. Before preparing the holiday turkey, take a peak at the oven. If there is an accumulation of grease in the oven, scour it out immediately. A clean oven will prevent a possible grease fire and burned turkey. It is a good plan, too, to keep any grease containers away from the stove.

And, throughout the Christmas season, one member of the family should be assigned to provide plenty of ash trays in all rooms if there are smokers in the house. Empty the ash trays often and always make sure before emptying them that all cigarettes, cigars and other smoking material have gone out.

As an added safeguard, make sure that all members of the family and house guests know what to do if fire should occur in your home. But above all, follow this procedure if fire should break out: First, get everyone out of the house. Then, call the Fire Department. Have you the telephone number of the Fire Department posted by your telephone?

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very, very happy Holiday Season