

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

Number 189

Official Publication of the
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

January 1, 1961

CHIEF OFFICERS IN THE NEWS

From Mayville comes word that Roy Hunt has been elected by the Department as Chief Officer for the coming year. Chief Hunt's new job is not entirely new to him as he has served in this office at a previous time. Our best wishes go to Roy for a fire safe year and lots of luck.

The Celoron Fire Department recently elected Chief Ira W. Cooper to serve for the next year. "Ike" has gained considerable knowledge of fire fighting in the office of Assistant Chief, and his new position is well deserved. Congratulations, Chief Cooper, keep up the good work.

Chief Bullock of Fredonia has unfortunately been suffering from a long period of illness and recently requested a leave of absence from the Fire Department on the advice of his doctor. We sincerely hope you will feel much better soon, Bob, and be able to resume your fire duties.

Your Advisory Board Chairman, Bill Wilson, is currently recovering at home from a serious illness that required hospitalization. We are happy to report that Bill is now feeling much better, but advise him to take it easy with all his important jobs, including that as Mayor of the Village of Westfield. We miss Bill's guidance at our Board meetings.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

The Dunkirk Police Department now has a Fire Radio base station in their headquarters. The call is KEK-262, and the reason for this set-up is because the Dunkirk Police receive all fire calls for the City and can now broadcast alarms or coordinate Fire Department activities when Engine No. 2 personnel are out on call or away from the Fire Department's own base station, KED-653.

Our County Fire Coordinator, Ray Hughes, just bought a "new" baby blue Pontiac convertible automobile. At this writing we are not quite sure why the convertible feature unless it is so he can put the top down in order to better smell the air for fires and smoke!

Sinclairville firemen, while out on a Sunday jaunt with their new truck, came across several Christmas trees in the middle of the road, picked them up and brought them back to headquarters. Said Chief Okerlund, "It's cheaper than buying them, and we needed some trees anyhow."

Findley Lake firemen have placed in service a new ambulance which is one of the best designed that we have seen. The unit is built on a Chevrolet "Apache" chassis and can accommodate up to three patients. We heartily recommend that you see this fine rig if you are contemplating purchase of a new ambulance or rescue vehicle.

TOWN ORDINANCE ADOPTED

The Town of North Harmony has adopted a Fire Prevention Ordinance as the result of several years of promotional work on the part of the Ashville Fire Department. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first such Ordinance to be put into effect in any town of Western New York State. Although some do not agree with us, we believe that this action represents a very progressive and valuable step toward the saving of property and lives in a rural area. Perhaps others will agree.

This is the beginning of a New Year. Looking back over the past twelve months, it would seem that we have much to be thankful for; socially, economically, politically. We are grateful to all members of the Chautauqua County Fire Service for making this past year the most outstanding in the long, busy life of our County. Many thanks to all.

HOW TO MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT FIRE SERVICE

Fire is an ever-present enemy, and an efficient Fire Service is our first line of protection against it. Fire, indeed, is a menace closer home to us than atomic bombs or guided missiles.

There are certain things to watch in connection with maintaining an efficient Fire Service. It is important to have a competent Chief, sufficient officers, good firemen, adequate funds for manning departments, and enough money to provide tip-top equipment.

An adequate water system is another important factor in municipal fire protection. And, a community education program in Fire Prevention including lectures by firemen in schools, is basic.

The cost of adequate fire protection is insignificant compared with the number of lives and property it can save. The efficiency of a Fire Service is the responsibility of the local government. As a guide for maintaining efficient Fire Service, herewith is presented a compendium of suggestions:

1. Appoint a Fire Chief who is experienced, capable and progressive, under tenure of office provisions.
2. Provide sufficient company officers so that all companies will have proper supervision at all times.
3. Provide adequate funds to maintain Fire Department manning at sufficient strength to cope with simultaneous fires or with fires which may be beyond the incipient stage upon the arrival of the first company.
4. Increase the membership of the Department to compensate for additional time off that may be granted.
5. Encourage the development of plans for recalling off-duty members in the event of large fires and other major emergencies.
6. Expand the Department when growth of the community warrants an increase in the number of engine and ladder companies.
7. Organize a sound mutual aid plan with adjoining Fire Departments.
8. Discuss with qualified fire protection engineers your plans, if any, for relocating existing companies and establishing new companies.
9. Provide adequate funds in the budget for replacement of obsolete apparatus, hose and appliances.
10. Recognize the benefits of progress by approving the purchase of modern appliances and tools that are needed.
11. Permit the Department to maintain some reserve apparatus and spare hose and tools.
12. Follow a definite program of preventive maintenance for apparatus and equipment so as to assure its operative condition at all times.
13. Establish a fair but firm disciplinary policy with rules and regulations that are clear and concise, and provide the Chief with adequate authority to enforce them.
14. Encourage the practice of modern fire methods, including salvage work, by which all members function together as an efficient team.
15. Install and maintain a good records system.
16. Acknowledge the fact that there is room for improvement in every Fire Department.

Although the foregoing suggestions relate primarily to paid Fire Departments, the volunteer service may well apply many of these points to achieve greater efficiency. It is our responsibility to keep the Fire Service foremost in efficiency and in the minds of our citizens.

ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS HELD

John Washington of Cassadaga was recently elected Chairman of the County Fire Advisory Board; a position held by Willis R. Wilson for the past nine consecutive years. With due respect to Mr. Washington, we know that he joins with us in expressing regrets that Bill Wilson's health prevented our long time Chairman from assuming the duty again this year. We do wish our new Chairman every success and congratulations in this important post.

Your Editor-Publisher was elected First Vice-Chairman and Chief Richard F. Lathrop of Falconer was given the Second Vice Chairmanship. Thomàs Bretz of Ripley will continue in office as Recording Secretary, and Rolland H. Taft of Jamestown will remain as Corresponding Secretary.

NINE YEARS OLD

With this issue of The Booster Line we begin our ninth year of publication. In keeping with policy, our color has been changed to blue which denotes and identifies the Fireman as he responds to every type of emergency, and the blue light has become our "badge" of never ending service to the community. Our blue lights show forward toward greater progress, new ideas and an ever better Fire Service.

We sincerely thank the Sheriff's Department, the local radio dispatchers, Fire Chiefs and firemen for their fine assistance and cooperation during the past year.

A WORD OF THANKS

Chief Richard F. Lathrop of the Falconer Fire Department has asked us to express his heartfelt appreciation to all officers and firemen who so valiantly assisted his Department at the half million dollar Main Street fire on December 23rd. The Chief particularly praises the attitude and determination of the many firemen who fought this serious fire in near zero temperature at great personal hardship and discomfort.

STATE LAW CONFLICTS AFFECT MUTUAL AID

Some Rensselaer County, New York, fire companies seeking to send apparatus out of New York State in answer to fire calls and to obtain repairs are finding it difficult to do so because of conflicts in the laws of neighboring states. Fire apparatus are not considered motor vehicles by New York laws and as a result do not require license plates to be displayed.

In one case, a Fire Department wished to send a pumper into Massachusetts for repairs. The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles ruled it could not be done without that State's repair plates.

In other instances, difficulties have been reported when responding to fire calls for mutual aid purposes. The conflict is also reported for the States of Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey, all bordering on New York.

Acting director, George H. Proper, Jr. of the New York State Division of Safety, has reported that negotiations are presently under way between his office and the various motor vehicles offices of the states concerned in an effort to resolve the problem.

Fortunately we have not run into any serious problems with the State of Pennsylvania, although there is one incident on record of the Pennsylvania State Police stopping a New York fire apparatus for lack of registration near the Allegany-Potter county line several years ago.

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR

The annual Alarm Report prepared by Communications Coordinator John Gollnitz indicates that the County Fire Service experienced another busy year during 1960. The figures below are compiled from alarm records at the County Fire Control Center and include both cities. It will be noted that the number of Fire Alarms is exactly equal to the previous year's total; a most unusual circumstance yet indicative of the consistent fire experience in the County.

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, highway accidents, rescue calls, 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	61	82	13
February	68	102	13
March	63	89	7
April	181	99	11
May	88	99	2
June	86	110	2
July	103	94	3
August	90	91	8
September	96	103	7
October	151	115	5
November	107	84	9
December	85	85	16
1960 Total	<u>1,179</u>	<u>1,153</u>	<u>96</u>
1959 Total	1,179	1,053	129
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

THEY'RE USUALLY ALL WET ANYWAY

CHIPLEY, Fla. - Kibitzers can get themselves doused offering advice at a fire in this northwest Florida town. Mayor E. A. Tharp reports finding a 40-year old ordinance which says:

"Any unauthorized person making any suggestion as to the operation of the Fire Department at any fire, thereby causing confusion to the department, if he shall refuse to discontinue same after being requested to do so, it shall be the duty of the officer in charge to order the water hose turned on him."

TO HOLD SEMINAR

Plans are currently underway to hold the first semi-annual county-wide Fire Officers Seminar on April 16th. Several distinguished authorities have been engaged to speak and conduct training sessions at this important meeting. Further details will be published next issue.

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FIRE OFFICER'S SEMINAR

As was reported in the last issue of this publication, the first semi-annual Fire Officer's Seminar will be held on April 16th at the Fluvanna Fire Headquarters. The Seminar will be an all day affair beginning at 9:00 A.M. and ending at 5:00 P.M. with time out for lunch.

A very impressive program has been worked out with a variety of important subjects to be covered by distinguished authorities associated with the Public Safety field. Each talk or discussion will not only be presented by a particular person, but his complete presentation will be printed and distributed to each Officer in attendance for future reference. The speakers and their subjects are as follows:

John J. Danahy - Fire Training

Robert S. Webster - Public Relations

Chief Charles R. Dorman - Fire Department Administration

Sheriff Charles C. McCloskey - Police Agencies

Dr. William H. Hall, Jr. - First Aid and Rescue

Chief Donald Loeb - Ventilation

Asst. Chief Virgil L. Eggleston - Fire Department Inspections

We urge every Chief Officer and his Assistant Chiefs to attend the Seminar. A great deal of valuable information can be gained, and we are fortunate in being able to have this outstanding meeting in our County. Remember April 16th, and watch the newspapers for reminders!

DORMAN VISITS ADVISORY BOARD

We felt quite honored to have as our guest at the last meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, Chief Dorman of the State Division of Fire Safety. Although Charlie Dorman has an interest in the Board as a former member, his visit was most appreciated in view of his busy schedule as Chief of our State's Fire Service.

The Chief spoke on the work being accomplished by his office, and he stated that the Division of Fire Safety is definitely making progress with the State Training Program, the Mutual Aid Plan and many other projects for the benefit of our Fire Service. The Division has received a substantial appropriation of \$208,000.00 to carry on the job of helping the firemen of our State in every way possible.

Chief Dorman further pointed out that he is fortunate in having a staff of dedicated personnel in the organization; men who are always willing to help and who put in long hours of work to help us do a better job.

The State has set aside \$8,000.00 to initiate a study of a Fire Prevention Code which, when completed, could well serve the needs of every city, town and village, and be of tremendous value to all Fire Departments. This alone could mean much to our County which has already suffered the loss of three lives by fire since January 1st this year. Moreover, our fire losses are not diminishing as they should.

Chief Dorman ended his talk by stating that any questions of law pertaining to the Fire Service should be directed to him for study and reply by leading lawyers who are available to the Fire Safety Division.

FIREMAN'S COMPENSATION

Chief Officers are cautioned to give more attention to the proper procedures in filling out and filing fireman's compensation forms. The new forms have recently been explained, but if you have any questions or doubts, please contact your Battalion Coordinator for any assistance.

THE FIREBOAT RESPONDED

Late last year the national press told the story of the multimillion dollar fire that destroyed Canada's largest flour mill at Port Colborne. In fact, several firemen residing near the Lake Erie shore in our County remarked to your Editor that they witnessed the blaze which appeared as a distinct glow on the horizon. What was not reported in the press or on the radio and witnessed by only a handful of men was the fantastic cruise of the Buffalo Fire Department fireboat, the Edward M. Cotter. We hope you will like this story behind the story.

The fireboat, ill-equipped for such "deep-water" sailing, was guided across treacherous Lake Erie by a Coast Guard cutter and was at work at the fire within a few hours after the enormous Maple Leaf Milling Plant exploded into flaming fury.

Appropriately described by Columnist Bill Callahan of the Buffalo Courier-Express as "ambassadors in rubber boots and steel helmets," the crew of the Fireboat Cotter, augmented by the complement of the Buffalo Fire Department's Engine 8, crossed the watery international line and upon arrival found most of the mill a bellowing inferno.

The decision to respond to the Port Colborne disaster was one of the toughest ever to face Buffalo Fire Commissioner William M. Daly. This is the way it happened: Shortly after 8:30 on the night of October 7, Fire Chief Frank Diamond of the Port Colborne Fire Department called the Buffalo Fire Department and made an urgent request for the Fireboat Cotter. Commissioner Daly was contacted at his home by the alarm office personnel.

"I spent about five minutes in deep thought--weighing every angle and possible consequence of the request," recalls Commissioner Daly. "Finally, I made up my mind. I checked with the captain of the fireboat and then called the dispatcher and told him to tell Port Colborne 'We're on the way.'" Deputy Commissioner Jeremiah J. Doherty also responded to the scene, via department car, to supervise fire fighting.

This decision left the Commissioner open to severe criticism should the mission have failed, the boat foundered, or if a serious blaze broke out along Buffalo's own lengthy waterfront. In the end, however, it paid off in cementing even stronger bonds of friendship between Canada and the United States.

"I would like to point out that the International aspects of your fire fighting operation is also being widely discussed," wrote R. C. Hammond, Maple Leaf Milling manager, to Commissioner Daly. "The fact that your help was needed was your most important consideration. The fact that the help needed was in a foreign country was not important to you. I believe that your quick response shows more adequately than words the bond of brotherhood which exists between your country and ours."

SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME

Spring is an ideal time to inspect homes from cellar to attic, getting rid of all those things that lead to fire, particularly accumulated waste and litter. This is your opportunity to help your community and gain another good point of public relations for your Fire Department. Plan your Spring Clean-Up campaign now and give it publicity, so that every homeowner and citizen will cooperate with your F. D. program.

WILSON HONORED AT BOARD MEETING

At the last regular meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, Willis R. Wilson was honored with the presentation of a silver gift for his many years of devoted service as Chairman of the Board. Through its inception and down through the years of growth and maturity, Bill Wilson guided the Advisory Board with a skillful and understanding hand. No one has kept the Fire Service more at heart and accomplished more benefits for the fireman in striving to unify our Fire Service into its present day outstanding organization. In spite of Bill's step down as Chairman, we hope and pray that he will continue to work with us, help us and advise us on the road ahead. We say humbly to you Bill, 'Thank you for a job well done.'

FARM FIRE LOSSES RISE

Farm fire losses in the United States increased in 1960, according to the International Association of Fire Chiefs. In 1959, farm fires took 3,000 lives and destroyed \$174,000,000 in rural property. For 1960, losses are well over the \$200,000,000 mark and life loss is close to 3,500.

Combustible substances such as hay, straw and gasoline; lightning; sparks from machinery, and carelessly discarded lighted cigarettes and matches combine to increase the danger of fire on the farm. In addition, many farms are isolated, in areas not quickly reached by Fire Departments. Efforts of fire control are further hampered by limited water supplies.

Perhaps more consideration should be given to Fire Prevention on the farm; a program that might well be carried out by the majority of Fire Departments in Chautauqua County. Have you conducted drills on certain farms, surveyed available water supplies and pre-planned your attack? These are good things to do now with Spring and Summer coming.

FINAL PLANS MADE FOR SEMINAR

Plans for the Fire Officers Seminar to be held at Fluvanna on April 16th are rapidly taking shape. Each Fire Department may reserve enrollment for five men, and the registration fee of \$2.50 each is to cover the cost of lunch and general Seminar expenses.

To further implement the interesting schedule, a fire apparatus display is planned. Then there will be a question and answer period to cover any problems or suggestions you may have. The program will get underway promptly at 9:00 A.M. Plan now to attend this important meeting and bring four other officers with you. You can't afford to miss it.

NEW RESCUE TECHNIQUE

In Cincinnati, the Fire Division there has devised the first new "ladder rescue" technique developed in this country. Traditionally, firemen tie the victim's hands before rescue from a burning building. The victim thus hangs around the rescuer's neck like a millstone.

Today, in training at the Cincinnati Fire College, a fireman uses the new method. The victim is placed horizontally, face down, across the ladder and is held by the arms of the rescuer. His weight is distributed over the rescuer's arms and shoulders. Proving its value in several actual rescues, all Cincinnati firemen are being trained in its use. This new method will work equally well on both ground and aerial ladders, and it is recommended that you give it a try at your next drill.

MAINTENANCE OF APPARATUS

The practice of "in service" maintenance of fire apparatus has long been recognized as a sound and effective way to obtain a maximum of dependability and hours of effective operation without shutdown. Such maintenance practice not only decreases the hours of "out of service" per year, but actual repair and replacement costs over a period of years is substantially reduced. This has been proven many times by Fire Departments who have established such a program in our County.

"In service" maintenance means checking, adjusting and correcting such items as may be handled in the fire station, when this maintenance will not require taking the apparatus out of service, nor affect its ability to respond to an alarm.

There must be an assignment of certain responsibilities if the system is to work effectively. There must be cooperation between the drivers and the mechanic, or officer if no master mechanic is employed.

The driver(s) should be responsible for checking daily, weekly or after each run, the following items: radiator water level, motor oil level, oil in primer pump tank, batteries for charge condition and water level, tires for proper air pressure and for cuts or bruises, water or oil leaks observed while in operation, booster tank water level, and the amount of gasoline.

Firemen assigned as drivers, or pump operators, are fully capable and qualified to carry out the duties described here. It is a matter of departmental administration to have these duties clarified if the maintenance program is to be effective. This applies equally to paid and volunteer Departments. Posting such a list of maintenance duties in each fire station will serve as a reminder to those who operate the apparatus.

The glaring need for better maintenance was recently demonstrated in Cayuga County, New York, where all 34 pumpers owned by 20 Fire Departments in that County were tested by the State Division of Fire Safety. Fourteen of the 34 pumpers tested failed to perform satisfactorily! Could our County Fire Service produce a better record?

APPROVED BILL CHANGES LAW

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller has approved a bill which allows non-residents of towns and villages to serve as Chief or Assistant Chief of the volunteer Fire Departments in the communities. Under existing law non-residents of town fire districts and non-residents of villages are eligible for membership in the Fire Departments, but they were prohibited from running for election to the offices of Chief or Assistant Chief.

"The present residency requirement prevents many active and qualified firemen who are outstanding members of their Fire Departments from serving in the capacity of Chief or Assistant Chief," said the Governor in a memorandum.

"It seems reasonable to permit such officers to be selected from the entire membership of the Department on the basis of demonstrated ability rather than residency," he said.

Rockefeller noted that approval of the bill has been urged by the Division of Fire Safety, the Joint Legislative Committee on Fire Laws, the State Association of Fire Chiefs, and the State Firemans Association. It is interesting to note that this change in the law was first proposed by officers of the Lakewood Fire Department seven years ago.

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John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

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URGE SHELTERS FOR FIREMEN

The Civil Defense Committee of the County Board of Supervisors has issued an appeal to all towns, villages and the City of Dunkirk to provide funds for the construction of radioactive fall-out shelters in the respective communities. The City of Jamestown was not included in this request because the City has its own Civil Defense organization apart from the County.

In reviewing the letter sent out, we note that reference is made to an indication that the volunteer firemen will construct the shelters in order to save labor costs. This is, indeed, a noble thought and no doubt reflects the feeling of most of the firemen in the County. However, we have never heard this matter discussed in any detail at either the Fire Advisory Board or County Fire Chiefs Association meetings.

We are not opposed to fall-out shelters, and, in fact, fully support any plan for such construction in each community. Moreover, we believe that all firemen favor these projects and will assist in every way possible to accomplish the best shelter protection. What we object to is the not infrequent methods used by some officials in soliciting our support and cooperation.

Our job of fire protection and handling public emergencies is demanding more and more of our time today. As conscientious servants of the public, we are spending more and more time in training and on fire prevention. Right now in County Fire Training Schools, firemen are spending one night each week to accumulate a total of 3,384 man hours devoted to learning, and only a few weeks past, 6,200 hours of training were given to the art of reading radiological instruments and studying the effects of fall-out. All this and much more in addition to our every day duties keep most firemen on the jump.

In spite of our demands, we still feel that shelters should be built. We will "volunteer" our services to the best of our abilities, but please, Dear Sirs, ASK, don't TELL us that we have volunteered our services, and let's discuss these matters more thoroughly with our Fire Departments and county organizations.

BREVITIES FROM HERE AND THERE

We are pleased to note that Chief Robert Irons of Sunset Bay finally installed a telephone. Bob was the hardest Chief to get ahold of in the County.

Congratulations to Chief Frank Estep of Hartfield; he just joined the club of Fire Officers who have had a fire in their own home (and he wasn't there either). We are happy to relate that it was only a chimney fire and no damage resulted.

Have you seen the tan on Chief Norm Becker of Chautauqua? During Easter vacation, Norm went South to see if the sun really still shines.

The firemen of Jamestown's Engine No. 5 are presently building an elaborate fall-out shelter in their station. Chief Martyn tells us it will be open for public inspection in about three weeks.

Gerry firemen have just about completed a very attractive and well planned addition to their fire station. The new part will serve as a community hall as well as a spacious meeting room for company use.

We shook with envy the other day when the local newspaper printed a drawing of the proposed new Kiantone Fire Headquarters. Estimated to cost about \$55,000, it will certainly be one of the finest in the State.

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MUTUAL AID DRILLS REQUESTED

Your County Fire Coordinator has requested that each Battalion hold a Mutual Aid drill every week for the remainder of the Summer. It is not necessary that every Fire Department be involved in such drills each week, but planning should be arranged so that each Department will have participated in at least three drills during the season. It is also recommended that the drills be limited to from two to three Departments at any one time.

The Chief Fire Officer of the Department holding a drill will be in full command of the operation, and the Battalion Coordinator shall assist him in setting up the drill, arranging the calls, and helping in every way possible to make the drill a valuable training function for the benefit of the Departments involved.

The necessity of Mutual Aid drills has become evident due to the obvious lack of coordination noted at recent large fires and because there are a great number of new Chief Officers in the County who have not experienced the efficient handling of more than one Fire Department operating on a specific hazard or under coordinated conditions while working out a special problem. Preplanning and a workout on a particular community condition or building will pay off handsomely in the event a serious fire should occur.

FIRE FIGHTING RISKS

The subject of risk to life and limb is one of great personal interest to all fire fighters. It is very doubtful that there is much difference between risks that paid fire fighters should take versus volunteer men.

Where life is at stake, we are confident that both paid and volunteer personnel react in the same manner and will assume risks far beyond that normally expected in the line of duty. Human emotions are involved in such a case and, while individuals may differ, the reactions can be expected to be similar.

Where only property is involved, it is difficult to believe that any Fire Chief, paid or volunteer, would unnecessarily jeopardize the lives of his men. This involves command decision which rests solely on the responsible Fire Officer and requires the exercise of excellent judgment. Preventing needless risks is one reason why farsighted Fire Chiefs advocate sound training in fire fighting practices and tactics.

O.C.D.M. RELEASES NEW FILM

The menace of radioactive fallout is dramatically illustrated in a new film produced by the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization to show that fallout shelters are the best means to protect the greatest number of people in the event of nuclear attack.

Produced in color, the new 28 minute documentary describes the nature and effects of fallout, and shows how the nation's radiological defense program would operate at all levels of activity. The film will be distributed to Regions, States, Territories, selected major school film libraries, and television stations.

Prints may be purchased directly from: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Motion Picture Service, Washington 25, D.C. c/o Mrs. Alice Baldwin

Census takers have found that one tenth of all married couples aren't.

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Chairman, Advisory Board

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REPORT ON STATE FIRE CHIEFS CONVENTION

Your Editor recently attended the 55th Annual Conference of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs held at Lido Beach, Long Island, on June 4th through the 7th. Highlight of the Convention was the election of our own Chief Charles R. Dorman as President of the Association for 1961-62. We sincerely congratulate Charlie for having earned this very important position, and we wish him every success in office.

The Conference program provided several distinguished speakers and their presentations were both educational and interesting. So that you may benefit by some of the information and general subject matter of a few of the talks, we briefly comment from notes taken at the sessions.

Chief Jay W. Stevens, Director of Fire Prevention of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, spoke on Home Fire Inspections. He stressed the great need for such inspection work and pointed out that life loss in homes during the past year was the most severe in history. Chief Stevens was encouraged by the fact that nearly 50% of the Fire Departments in the United States are now conducting home fire inspections. The Chief emphasized the excellent public relations achieved by conducting inspections and stated that no Fire Department can afford to pass over this type of work. However, as a prelude to a sound inspection program, it is essential that both the public and the fireman be thoroughly educated in the reasons for and the manners in which home fire inspections are to be made. Publicity is most valuable, and the homeowner must be informed that you are not snooping into his affairs, but rather that you are offering a public service to assist him.

Mr. Milton Alpert, Counsel for the New York State Office of Local Government, reviewed the 1961 Legislative program as it pertains to the Fire Service. His first comments were directed to the matter of Labor Department inspections of places of public assembly and the charge made for such inspections on a semi-annual basis. Mr. Alpert said that the present law provides that a charge be made by the Labor Department and that the inspections are mandatory. However, in towns and villages having fire halls used for public assembly, such towns and villages may file a resolution with the Labor Department Commissioner not later than October 1, 1961 stating that the respective political subdivision will assume the responsibility of inspecting places of public assembly. If this action is taken, the Labor Department will not inspect the fire hall and, therefore, not make a semi-annual charge.

Mr. Alpert pointed out that a new law provides for the mandatory inspection, by the Labor Department, of all carnivals and carnival equipment such as is contracted for by many Fire Departments on gala days. It is anticipated that this enforcement will be strict, and the firemen were warned not to be surprised if certain "rides" are shut off by a Labor Department inspector.

Mr. Arnold Wise, Counsel for the New York State Motor Vehicle and Traffic Department spoke on the newly revised V & T Law. He stated that all fire apparatus drivers must have a standard operator's license and that a chauffers license is not required to operate fire trucks. In the new Law, an emergency is considered only when responding to and not when returning from a fire or public assistance call. In reference to the Blue Light Law, Mr. Wise said that only one blue light may be illuminated on a fireman's vehicle and that those who persist in having two blue lights wired to an alternating flasher are in direct violation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SKINDIVERS

Water rescue and recovery is becoming a necessary function of many Fire Departments as thousands of bathers and an increasing number of boating enthusiasts take to the waterways each summer. As Fire Department rescue squads respond to tragedies of this nature, some will contain firemen skindivers. In other instances, firemen will find themselves working in connection with volunteer skindivers in the grim underwater search.

Skindiving, like fire fighting, is not a subject to be taken lightly by its participants. Training of personnel cannot be conducted three or four times a year, nor is "pool work" sufficient if one expects a sound and safe recovery program. Actual existing conditions should be engaged in as often as practicable through the various weather and season conditions. Divers, through prior training, must master weather, water depth, bottom terrain and clarity of the water, before proceeding into suitable search patterns and practices.

There is very little doubt as to the effectiveness of trained skindivers in certain problems normally handled by grappling methods. But, is it extra hazardous duty? Not necessarily so, say many competent skindivers, leaders in this new field. However, all agree that certain precautions and proven tactics must be adhered to.

In all cases, topside personnel should be well informed of the diving work, and the small boats working in the area should be manned by Fire Department personnel. In the case of volunteered craft, the operator should be accompanied by a fireman-tender. Each tender should know exactly what is required of his diver to descend.

A good example of tender mishandling occurred recently when two SCUBA (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) divers descended through a small hole in an ice-covered pond on a body recovery. Lines attached to each man by their tenders assured their safe return to this one exit in the surface. Upon reaching the scope limit, one diver hauled taut on his line to begin his circular pattern only to find a loose end. A second error was committed when the two divers went their separate ways instead of following the "buddy" system. Fortunately, the second diver was hauled in and, when informed of the situation, located the "lost" diver before his air supply became exhausted.

Such common-sense safety precautions must be thoroughly understood by all before sending a man under ice, into murky water, or where obstructions clutter the bottom. Partnership under these conditions is imperative, not only between divers, but between tenders and divers.

Volunteer divers are on the increase and very often a local skin-diving club will send divers upon request and sometimes without being asked. This presents some problems in itself for the man in charge of operations. Mainly the problems consist of: (1) Are the divers qualified for this work; (2) will they employ a standard set of search patterns and procedure; and (3) will they observe a sane safety code?

Prior inquiries as to the qualifications of local divers might prove worth while for future events. An inexperienced diver is not only a safety risk but an underwater nuisance to other divers. Such blunders as inadequate search, or departure from assigned area; unnecessary agitation of bottom sediment impeding the search of others; and needless tie-up of top side personnel, make his services more of a hindrance than an asset. Trained divers can speed underwater recoveries.

PUBLIC ASSEMBLAGE INSPECTION LAW

A few weeks ago we mentioned the fact that the law relating to the inspection of places of public assembly had been changed. The matter was brought to our attention by two County Fire Officers who had been handed bills from the State Labor Department for charges incurred while making inspections of their respective fire stations. We now have further information and quote from an Office of Local Government release.

"City, town and village officials throughout the State are reminded that a change in enforcement of State Laws regulating places of public assembly will take effect October 1st.

"Milton Alpert, Counsel to the State Office for Local Government, said that the State Labor Department on that date will take over responsibility for enforcement of State Laws and Regulations regarding places of public assembly in many cities, towns and villages. The change in enforcement is authorized in an amendment to the State's Labor Law enacted during the 1961 session of the State Legislature and approved by Governor Rockefeller (Chapter 234 of the Laws of 1961).

"The amendment relieves many municipalities of the responsibility for enforcing State regulations designed to safeguard the lives of those assembled or employed in theaters and other places of public assembly, Mr. Alpert said. "However, municipalities may continue to enforce the regulations themselves, if they wish, by adopting a local resolution assuming full responsibility for local enforcement.

"The amendment will not affect 17 cities which were previously exempted from the law. These cities are: Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Elmira, Long Beach, Mt. Vernon, Newburgh, New Rochelle, New York, Niagara Falls, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Troy, Utica, White Plains and Yonkers.

"The amendment will affect the remaining 45 cities in the State, as well as those towns and villages where there is a department, board or officer charged with the enforcement of building laws or ordinances. The present law requires such local agencies, where they exist, to enforce the State regulations regarding places of public assembly.

"On October 1, however, the State Industrial Commissioner will take over responsibility for enforcement of the State regulations regarding places of public assembly in the 45 cities covered by the Law, as well as any of the towns and villages having a department, board or officer charged with enforcement of building laws or ordinances, unless the local legislative body adopts and files with the State Industrial Commissioner on or before October 1, 1961, a certified copy of a resolution assuming full responsibility for enforcing the provisions of State regulations regarding places of public assembly."

LONG DISTANCE DIALING

We note from recent inquiries sent out by the Jamestown Telephone Corporation that approximately one-half of our County now served by this organization will convert to direct long distance dialing in 1962. This is not a new feature in other areas of the County because the New York Bell Telephone Company and other independents have offered this service for several years.

However, like every new advancement, long distance dialing presents some problems for the Fire Service. Already we have been receiving reports of false and confusing alarms due to long distance dialing.

MUST WE CREATE A POOR IMPRESSION?

The Fire Service has not always enjoyed the good reputation and respectful understanding expressed by the public today. Like most public servants, the fireman is frequently criticised, and it takes a lot of effort to counteract unfavorable impressions. Moreover, it is unfortunate that the Fire Service must usually meet the public under the stress of emergency conditions.

Our citizens expect us to perform all sorts of tasks under all sorts of conditions with the greatest efficiency. One small human mistake, error in judgement or failure creates a bad impression with John Q. Public. What we have accomplished through good public relations can easily be destroyed by one incident. We are not prone to perfection, but we need not create a poor impression either.

Three recent incidents related to fire fighting cause us to wonder if a good reputation is desired. At a large fire we noted that several volunteer firemen were openly drinking beer in full view of the public. At another fire, we witnessed a junior fire officer carrying around a partly consumed bottle of beer from which he frequently drank. There was considerable comment among the bystanders (and some firemen themselves) as to the propriety of these acts.

The third incident is even worse. Five paid firemen are now under arrest and serving jail sentences for stealing wrist watches at a jewelry store fire. Considerable public news was made of this incident and the local Fire Department's reputation is all at its lowest regard.

We are not critical toward the drinking of alcoholic beverages, but we do think that there is a time and place other than when on duty at a public emergency. We are, however, very concerned about stealing or removing any property for personal use at any time.

All of these impressions were made within our own State, and we have always liked to think that our Fire Service was just a little bit better. How long will it take the public to forget these incidents? Are we building a better fire service? We hope that in Chautauqua County, at least, that you will realize the constant need for good judgement and better public relations. We cannot afford to create a poor impression.

WET WATER CAN BE STRONG

One of our local Fire Departments was called to extinguish a barn fire that involved considerable stored hay. Being most efficient, our firemen employed wet water to completely saturate the smouldering hay.

Inadvertently some of the wet water drained to the barn floor and out onto an adjacent vegetable garden. Within a very few hours the vegetables began to die, and the owner, hoping to salvage some good from his labors, uprooted a part of his garden as feed for his chickens. The next morning the chickens were dead. So wet water can be strong.

PUMPERS SHOULD BE TESTED

All Fire Departments in the County are urged to test your pumpers in accordance with recommendations of the Underwriters. This should be an annual function to determine the condition of pumps and motors. Should you desire test gauges or assistance in conducting such tests, please contact your County Fire Coordinator. During a recent Underwriters survey, it was found that a pumper did not meet the standards.

ARE PAINT COATINGS A FIRE HAZARD?

Fire prevention engineers and other interested parties have been concerned by the possible contribution which thick layers of ordinary oil base wall and ceiling paint makes to the spread of fire. A study of fires which apparently spread by means of burning wall and ceiling paint usually indicates that the primary cause of fire spread was not burning paint but rather the involvement of combustible trim.

A recent hotel fire renewed speculation that thick layers of paint significantly contribute to the spread of flames. This fire started in mattresses standing in a corridor, then spread to other corridors and up a stairway. The spread of fire seemed to have taken place along the painted surfaces of the plaster walls and ceiling. The average thickness of the wall and ceiling paint was 1/40 inch.

Because of the thickness of paint involved in this fire, and because of its apparent contribution to the fire spread, the National Board of Fire Underwriters sponsored tests to establish flame spread ratings for representative samples of thick layers of paint on plaster walls. In preparation for this test, paint coatings of 1/40 inch and 1/20 inch were built up on asbestos-cement board, a material selected to simulate plaster. The test paint was a commercially available semi-gloss alkyd enamel.

Nine coats of paint were required to build up a paint thickness of 1/40 inch on the test panel while seventeen coats of paint were required for the 1/20 inch sample. The 1/40 inch sample was allowed to dry for forty-three days before testing, and the 1/20 inch sample dried for twenty-five days before testing.

The prepared panels were subjected to testing in the Underwriters' Laboratories "tunnel", a twenty-five foot tunnel used in determining fire hazard classification of materials. The painted panels were rated for flame spread, fuel contribution and smoke development.

These tests indicated no significant fire hazard from ordinary oil base paint coatings. In the hotel fire mentioned above, the paint coatings on plaster may have been of less importance as a factor in flame spread than the other combustible material involved in the fire.

Conclusions drawn from the tests indicate that while a single paint coat is only about 0.001 inch thick, successive applications such as on ships may build up a coating of considerable thickness. It was found that the hazard increases with thickness of coating because of the greater amount of fuel and more ready spread of fire. Paint coatings after normal aging, involving evaporation of solvents and oxidation of the film forming oils, will burn with difficulty on metal or wood unless the coating is heavy. This because the high ignition temperatures of the paint film and the retarding effect of an incombustible base on the burning of any thin veneer attached thereto.

The explosion hazard from burning and heating of paint on hot plates was found to be minor on account of the small volume of combustible gases given off, mainly carbon-monoxide, in comparison with the amounts of carbon dioxide and water vapor.

It is apparent, then, that after normal aging paint coatings burn with difficulty unless the coating is heavy; 1/20 inch or more which represents some 17 to 50 coats depending upon the thickness of individual coats applied. Thinner paint coats may contribute to the spread of fire, but to a more limited extent than has been considered by firemen.

OCTOBER 8 TO 14

This marks the date of Fire Prevention Week; a time to act, educate, enlighten, demonstrate. It is an ideal time to reach all of the people in your community - an ideal time to forcefully and effectively instill within them the spirit of fire prevention.

To accomplish this, take over the leadership of your local campaign. Avail yourself of the many other leadership groups in your community. They can contribute successfully to your projects.

First, organize a Fire Prevention Week Committee. Delegate specific responsibilities to each member. Start the program planning well in advance of Fire Prevention Week. See that your committee secures all printed material early. Submit suggested press releases and speech material to recognized media, namely local radio stations and newspapers. Utilize all the tools of publicity to the fullest.

PUBLICITY - Advise your committee to make full use of radio and newspapers; to furnish them with speeches, panels and interviews. Feature the campaign in display advertising, menus, door-knob tags, bumper signs, dry cleaner's bags, and window displays. Stencil "Prevent Fire" slogans on sidewalks, and have theaters arrange to show short fire prevention films. Suggest the display of a large clock or table tabulating fires of the week and compare them with last year's record. Have your committee arrange a parade and a "Miss Flame" contest. Feature a "Sparky" character. Suggest the telephone response of "Good morning, this is Fire Prevention Week" to commercial offices. Arrange a baby-sitters' school. Distribute gadgets with fire prevention messages to children visiting the fire station(s). Encourage the use in streets of portable sound equipment advertising fire prevention. Have your committee organize a parade of fire equipment, trucks and apparatus.

INSPECTIONS - A most worth-while fire prevention activity; familiarizing your community with the operations of the Fire Department, and at the same time serving the public in a practical way. Inspect homes, commercial and industrial buildings, public buildings, schools and hospitals. School children and Scouts can often assist in these inspections.

SCHOOLS - The schools in your community would heartily welcome demonstrations and morning assembly talks by firemen. The children can take part in an essay and poster contest. Ask your committee to set up exhibits of fire prevention work done in the schools. Inspect all schools and conduct test fire drills.

SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS - Have your committee emphasize forest fire prevention during the campaign. Expose litterbugs to be the hazards they are. Promote rural fire prevention with your committee working through 4-H and Future Farmer Clubs. Encourage inspection of farms and introduce special fire prevention projects into Scouting programs. Conduct demonstrations of the proper use of the fire alarm and fire extinguishers.

Effectuate your own good ideas through the workings of your committee. By placing before the public an active and practical fire prevention campaign, relating it to them as individuals, you will be encouraging the perpetuation of Fire Prevention Week throughout the entire year - not just for seven days. This is the week to promote good public relations and prove to our citizens that we are "on the ball", vitally interested in their welfare and safety. Plan now for Oct. 8-14.

MISSING PERSONS

At the last meeting of the County Fire Chiefs Association, Sheriff Charles C. McCloskey, Jr. presented a very enlightening talk on the subject of missing persons. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was suggested that the Sheriff prepare a resume of the subject so that all of our readers might have a permanent copy for posting in the respective Fire Stations. We are pleased to quote the memo as follows:

"Very often, volunteer fire companies receive requests directly from the public to conduct searches for missing persons under many and varied circumstances. Sometimes an immediate search is necessary. Sometimes it is not, and the only way of determining this difference is to have immediate, professional investigation conducted. The purpose of this investigation is first to verify the fact that the person actually is missing, and that being verified, to narrow the area of search and to decide intelligently upon the method of search so that a minimum amount of manpower can be effectively directed to find the missing person as soon as possible.

"In all instances then, it would be wise to immediately refer a missing person complaint to a law enforcement agency for investigation to verify and evaluate the complaint for further action.

"Fortunately, only a few missing person complaints demand a foot search or a concentration of a lot of manpower. However, when the facts indicate that a foot search and a lot of manpower are necessary, we in law enforcement welcome the assistance of volunteer fire companies in this operation. Here again, the direction of your law enforcement agency should be followed so that the pattern of the search may be performed with an economy of manpower, a lack of danger to the searchers, all pointed toward the speedy location of the missing person.

"In the past, the cooperation of volunteer fire companies with law enforcement has been excellent, and we know that it will continue, and we are most appreciative of your constant willingness to serve."

LEGISLATION FOR FALLOUT SHELTERS

Amendment to the Real Property Tax Law - Chapter #652, Laws of 1961, reproduced below, has been passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rockefeller:

Section 1. The real property tax law is hereby amended inserting therein a new section, to be section four hundred seventy-nine, to read as follows:

Section 479. Fallout shelter facilities. 1. Any real property constructed or improved as/or to include a fallout shelter facility complying with the provisions of the New York State defense emergency act and the plan, regulations and orders of the state civil defense commission promulgated thereunder shall be exempt from taxation and from special ad valorem levies and special assessments to the extent that the increase in the value of the real property is attributable to the fallout shelter facility within the limits provided by subdivision two hereof.

2. No exemption from taxation, special or ad valorem or special assessments shall be allowed in an amount greater than one hundred dollars multiplied by the number of occupants which such fallout shelter facility is designed to accommodate in accordance with such plan, regulations and orders of the state civil defense commission.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1961.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

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October 1, 1961

FIREMANSHIP TRAINING REPORTED

From the County Training Coordinator comes the information that 80 firemen completed the course "Essentials of Firemanship" which was taught by Instructor Walter R. Burr during the Spring and early Summer months. This number of graduates indicates that a keen interest and fine attendance was maintained, since 94 men initially enrolled in the schools held at four different locations.

Many of the student firemen have indicated their praise of this revised course which was offered this year for the first time by the New York State Division of Fire Safety. Favorable comments from firemen who previously completed the old Basic, Intermediate and Advanced training have been especially encouraging since these "old timers" are in the best position to evaluate and compare the training material.

Unfortunately the scheduled "Pump Operators Course" and "Single Company Operations" had to be postponed for lack of attendance. The Advisory Board, however, has directed that these schools be rescheduled immediately after the first of next year with the hope that this will be a more convenient and appropriate time for the majority of graduate firemen. You will be advised of the time and location of these schools within the next few weeks.

NEW STATION UNDERWAY

After a prolonged battle with the State Department of Labor and two public referendums, the Village of Cherry Creek has started construction of a new fire headquarters. The facility will be located on land immediately adjacent to the old structure and will be designed to accommodate three pieces of apparatus. Estimated cost is about \$42,000, and it is planned to complete the exterior work of the building before Winter. We congratulate Cherry Creek on this fine new project and take particular note of Mayor Patsy Monico's determination to see it through.

We assume many of you have seen the new paint job on the Cherry Creek hydrants; we are not sure whether the color is shocking pink or jolting red. At any rate, the hydrants can be seen, if not heard, from great distances, and the color should keep the snow melted around them.

SUPPORT CIVIL DEFENSE NOW

Recently the President of the United States exercised his prerogative to place certain phases of civil defense under the direction of the Department of Defense. In a message to the Congress announcing this move, he indicated his intention to develop an accelerated program and to support it by a larger commitment of Federal participation than in the past. In his message he also stated the Secretary of Defense will be in charge of Federal programs for the protection of the civilian population including that of fire fighting and control.

President Kennedy stated in part, "I am assigning responsibility for this program to the top civilian authority already responsible for continental defense, the Secretary of Defense. It is important that this function remain civilian, in nature and leadership, and this feature will not be changed."

The Fire Service can do much through positive action and leadership to prepare itself and community for civil defense. Now is the time to prepare for protection of immediate need and the long period of rehabilitation after the emergency. Have you made any positive plans?

George V. Blackstone
Editor - Publisher

THE
B O O S T E R
LINE

John M. Washington
Chairman, Advisory Board

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RECORD FIRE LOSS IN 1960

A new United States record in destructive fires was set last year costing \$1,544 billion in property in addition to 11,350 lives, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The survey showed that American fire losses passed the \$1.5 billion mark for the first time.

Along with the heavy death toll, with more than half the victims perishing in their own homes, the year added up to the worst on record. The unprecedented destruction of life and property was caused by a total of 2,124,000 separate fires; 1,179 of which occurred within our own County.

The N.F.P.A. listed the principal causes of these fires as care- less smoking, defective heating and cooking equipment, electrical de- fects, and mishandling of flammable liquids. Fire destroyed or damaged 563,000 American homes in 1960---the largest number in history.

The average daily cost of home fires was 17 lives, 1,540 houses destroyed or damaged, and almost a million dollars in loss. This is, indeed, a shameful record and one that should promote greater effort by Fire Departments to carry out a year around Fire Prevention campaign.

RADIOLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

Several fire officers and firemen have inquired of your Editor for information on portable radiological instruments that could be pur- chased and used by Fire Departments and individuals to detect fallout. The manufacturers listed below offer geiger counters and other instrum- ents which are approved by the Office of Civil Defense and are designed for direct readings without complicated figuring or use of involved tables.

The Bendix Corporation
3130 Wasson Road
Cincinnati 8, Ohio

Universal Atomics Division
Universal Transistor Products Corp.
Westbury, L.I., New York

Anton Electronic Laboratories
1226 Flushing Avenue
Brooklyn, New York

The Victoreen Instrument Company
5806 Hough Avenue
Cleveland 3, Ohio

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Cassadaga and Maple Springs firemen recently purchased Ford "Econ- oline" Busses for use as ambulance units. By careful interior planning, it is possible to transport up to three persons per trip in these units.

Walter R. Burr and Frank A. Estep, III, our County Fire Instructors report that the State Conference at Poughkeepsie, New York, was a big success and a great deal was learned at the many training sessions. We note that Asst. Chief Ted Hubbard of the Jamestown Fire Department also attended the Conference.

William Skakal is the new Chief of the Sunset Bay Fire Department, and Chief Fred Luce of Kiantone has changed his phone number to 52-081.

The Lakewood Fire Department will sell their Rescue Boat this Fall and discontinue service on Chautauqua Lake as of October 15th. It is unfortunate that after nearly twenty years of lake rescue service the boat must be sold; a decision prompted by lack of finances and interest.

PLANE CRASH RESCUE

Although the rescue technique is simple, the necessity for teamwork is so important that training becomes an absolutely indispensable element in crash fire fighting.

Equipment: A conventional fireman's turnout coat will provide sufficient protection where water fog is used. A heavy woolen liner or jacket underneath the coat, plus boots, gloves, and helmet, placed on the head in reverse position, will permit a reasonably close approach to the fire. The plain unlined rubber coat is of little or no value against heat radiation. The claw or similar tool, and axe will be handy for applying leverage to stuck door handles or release mechanisms and also useful in prying seats loose to free trapped passengers. A good knife will be invaluable for cutting safety belts, clothing and the like. Short ladders are very often of great help to rescuers.

At the risk of oversimplification, the rescue procedure reduces down to the following three basic steps which will apply to most airplane crash rescue attempts.

Step 1. Locate and try to gain access at the normal entrance doors. Normal loading doors are the largest escape avenues available to those inside. They will afford the quickest way out for the most people. Fire fighters have learned from hard experience that in times of emergency people will try first to leave by the same route they entered.

Step 2. Locate and try to operate Emergency Exits. Emergency exits will be found over the wing area (for passenger compartment) and near the cockpit (for crew). They can be recognized by the markings of the release mechanisms and by the presence of a bead or seam around a window.

Step 3. Force entry, but only as a last resort. For aircraft without pressurized cabin spaces, forcible entry with the usual fire department hand tools is difficult, but possible. When forcible entry becomes necessary first try forcing the normal entry and emergency exits. When necessary to cut, do it at or between the windows above the seat arm level, and below the hat rack. Rivets will show the location of support members--cut between them.

However, due to the heavier construction of the new turbine powered (jet and turbo-prop) aircraft, it is now almost impossible to use hand tools to force entry into the fuselage during a rescue operation. The only practical method of entry, other than normal emergency exits, is through the use of portable power tools.

RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING SCHOOL

A New York State sponsored Radiological Monitoring School will begin on November 7th at the Bemus Point High School. The course will run for ten weeks each Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M., and is open to everyone interested in learning the basic principles of radioactivity and detecting same. Roger L. Phillips and LaVerne Heglund of the Fluvanna Fire Department will be the instructors. Every Fire Department in the County is asked to send at least one fireman to this school to be trained in the use of detecting meters and protective fire fighting.

"Anyone who is relaxed these days is probably quite nervous about it."

FIRE HOSE--ITS PURCHASE, TEST AND CARE

Hose is important to Fire Department operations. In order that fire hose can perform its intended function, that is delivering water to a fire, it must be able to handle comparatively high pressures and to transport water with a minimum loss in pressure. Further, to withstand the hard usage imposed by the Fire Service, fire hose must be of rugged construction and yet be sufficiently flexible to permit efficient handling under fire conditions by as few men as possible. Multiple jacketed hose is recommended for public Fire Department use; hose with a single jacket is not considered satisfactory for this purpose.

Most fire hose manufacturers provide a number of grades of hose, including hose which will meet the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. "Standard for Cotton, Rubber-lined Fire Hose for Public and Private Fire Department Use." This standard contains requirements for elongation, twist, warp and rise, and requires burst and kink tests on hose sections and physical tests on parts made of rubber or other material from each lot of hose submitted for inspection and labeling. Each length purchased under this standard bears the UL label, indicating that the length has been subjected to inspection and tests at the factory. The Label Service of the UL, Inc. has been expanded to include a higher proof-pressure test when required and requested by the municipality.

Copies of the standard can be obtained from Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. 207 East Ohio Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. While the title of the standard specifically mentions "cotton," other materials, such as polyester fibers, may be used provided that hose made of such materials will meet the requirements of the standard. The standard does not cover hose couplings nor their method of attachment. It is suggested that new couplings be specified for each length of hose purchased.

Fire hose requires special care since it is made of materials which are susceptible to deterioration and wear. The following procedures are suggested in order to keep hose in good condition for its expected life.

1. Cleaning. After use, hose should be cleaned of all foreign matter. Clean water and brushing is all that will be needed in most instances, but when the jacket has been in contact with oil, tar, chemicals, etc., use of a mild soap or detergent may be necessary.

2. Drying. Hose having an all cotton or part cotton and polyester fiber jacket should not be reloaded on apparatus when it is wet, or mildew may set in and cause weakening of the fibres. Hose should be dried in towers, in cabinets, or on inclined racks, with adequate ventilation in all cases; the use of sidewalks, driveways or the apparatus floor is not considered satisfactory as water may not drain completely.

3. Storage. After drying, hose should be rolled and stored on suitable racks in a dry place away from heat. The male coupling should be inside the roll to protect the threads.

4. Couplings. Couplings should be checked to make sure that they are tight on the hose and not "out of round", that the threads are in good condition, and that the swivel on the female coupling is free.

5. Reloading. If not used at fires, hose should be removed and reloaded on apparatus about monthly in order to change the location of the bends so that the possibility of permanent set in the lining at these points will be reduced. In order to maintain the useful life of rubber lining, it is good practice to run water through the hose at least every six months. Reloading will also give you a chance to inspect your hose.

Raymond H. Hughes
County Coordinator

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NOTES ON OUR RADIO NETWORK

At the November meeting of the Fire Advisory Board, bids were read and accepted for various radio equipment to be purchased during the coming year. In the portable, walkie-talkie, category, Motorola was low bidder for the unit having the handset type combination microphone and speaker at \$324.00 each. For portables having a built-in speaker with separate microphone, General Electric was low bidder at \$360.00 each.

Motorola was low bidder for both 60 watt and 100 watt base stations with the quotations of \$571.00 and \$656.00 respectively. The Advisory Board accepted and approved all of the above bids.

No decision was made on the matter of accepting mobile radio bids because the low bidder meeting specifications failed to comply with the provision that prices be guaranteed for the entire year of 1962. To clarify this point, the Radio Committee of the Board has written the manufacturer and results of this inquiry will be brought before the next regular meeting of the Advisory Board.

At the request of the Fire Service, the County Board of Supervisors has appropriated funds for and set-up the position of Radio Supervisor to become effective January 1962. Your Radio Committee, in turn, has recommended the appointment of Mr. Peter Lascell to this position. We all know Pete from the good work he has been doing on the Radio Network during the past several months and offer our sincere congratulations to him in this new job. It is, indeed, a much needed and desired appointment of having a full time Radio Technician devoted entirely to the growing needs of the Fire Service Radio Network, and we thank the Board of Supervisors for making this possible for us.

While discussing radio, we would be remiss not to call to your attention some of the recent carelessness and obviously poor radio procedure heard on the network. Perhaps the most serious matter has to do with persons "butting" into radio communications when there is an emergency. One of our Fire Departments had a difficult time a few weeks ago in trying to direct fire ground operations when a base station within obvious range broke in to transmit a non-essential message. On another occasion, a mobile radio operator yelled so loudly into the microphone that the Control Center could not possibly understand the nature of the message; let alone identify who was calling.

We ask again that you always give your call number and the name of your community when talking with the Control Center. Remember that the system is now so big that the dispatcher on duty is at a loss to remember all of the apparatus numbers in relation to their Fire Departments.

FREDONIA ORDERS NEW APPARATUS

The Village of Fredonia has signed a contract with the Ward LaFrance Truck Corp. of Elmira Heights, New York, for delivery of a new tanker apparatus at the bid price of \$12,492.25. The tanker will be constructed on a Ford F-950 chassis having a 266 horsepower motor with 534 cubic inch displacement. The power-take-off pump is a two-stage centrifugal having a capacity of 300 g.p.m., and the tanker will hold 1,500 gallons of water. Delivery is expected in April of next year.

A NOVEL IDEA

The Ashville Fire Department is having large signs made for both stations that will show the number of days without a fire, fires to date last year, and fires to date this year. A very progressive idea.

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



'T was the day after Christmas,
and all through the house
Not a creature was happy, not
even a mouse.
The stockings were mixed in
childish despair.
Red leg and blue leg, each wore
a queer pair.
The toys were all broken, unseen
in the dark
The baby had swallowed one-half
the Noah's ark.
The doctor had come, his horse on
the jump
To extract the green bear, with
his great stomach pump.
The daughter, fair Emily, shud-
dered with woe;
'T was another girl's name, on
the gift from her beau.
The father had said, the long and
the short,
If Christmas should come again
---Bankruptcy Court.
Mother smiled on all kindly, and
said full of cheer,
"It's lucky for us Christmas
comes once a year."
And remarked to her husband,
"Oh, be not distressed,
You've twelve months still left
you, in which you may rest."
All hushed was the house, save
in the front porch,
Where for seven long hours Tom
wound up his watch.
His money all spent, no presents
to fear,
The father wished all of them
Happy New Year.



CHIEF OFFICERS ON THE MOVE

Chief Donald Loeb, who has served two years in command of the Dun-
kirk Fire Department, has accepted a position with the Pratt and Whit-
ney Corporation at East Hartford, Connecticut. Don will join the Fire
Department at this large industrial complex within the next three weeks
to promote industrial fire safety. We know that our loss is their gain
and we wish Don every success in this new venture.

Chief James Lictus was recently elected to command the Clymer Fire
Department, and we wish you a fire safe year, Jim, in this new job. In
the event you may want to reach Chief Lictus, telephone Elmwood 5-2253.