

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1932

The Department responded to 1,704 Alarms, classified as follows:

Bell alarms,	622	Actual fires,	1,300
Still alarms,	1,082	No fire or needless,	185
		Emergency calls,	15
	1,704	False alarms,	171
		Multiple alarms,	29
		Out of town calls,	4
			1,704

This increase of 134 alarms over the previous year was undoubtedly due to the dry weather conditions which prevailed in the spring. During the months of March, April, and May, a total of 711 alarms was received, which was 41% of the total received for the year. The majority of these were for grass fires.

The fire loss for the year amounted to \$227,784.05, which was slightly less than the loss for the previous year. It is interesting to note that 93% of this loss or \$211,882.86 resulted from 43 fires with losses over \$1,000.00.

There were 34 fires with losses from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Four fires with losses from \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Two fires with losses from \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00; and one fire with a loss of over \$30,000.00.

LOSS AND INSURANCE

Value of buildings involved	\$7,848,574.13
Value of contents involved	434,893.64
Total value of property involved	8,283,467.77
Insurance on property involved	3,415,964.75
Loss on buildings	136,285.72
Loss on contents	91,498.33
Loss on all property	227,784.05
Actual fires	1,300
Nothing used by the Department	362
Fires extinguished by the Department	938
	1,300

Number of fires confined to origin	863
Number of fires confined to floor of origin	27
Number of fires confined to building of origin	47
Number of fires extended to adjacent buildings	1
	938

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHMENT

With chemicals or booster lines	701 or 74.7%
With chemicals and hydrant streams	78 or 8.3%
With hydrant streams	119 or 12.6%
With hydrant and pump streams	40 or 4.2%
Amount of hose laid, 279,450 feet.	
Amount of hose wet, 255,600 feet.	
Gallons of chemical used, 15,108.	
Engines pumped, 117 hours.	
Ladders set, 16,899 feet.	
Salvage covers spread, 161.	
Number of miles the apparatus travelled, 7,647.7.	
Loss per capita, \$3.18.	
Number of fires per 1,000 population, 13.	
Per cent of fires confined to place of origin, 99.89%.	
Per cent of loss to total value of property involved, 2.74%.	

NUMBER OF FIRES WITH LOSS OVER \$1,000

1918	23	1926	43
1919	28	1927	27
1920	34	1928	34
1921	43	1929	37
1922	47	1930	34
1923	35	1931	34
1924	46	1932	43
1925	37		

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Fire inspections were made by the various companies as follows:

Engine Co. No. 1	2,027	Engine Co. No. 9	437
Engine Co. No. 2	590	Hose Co. No. 11	385
Engine Co. No. 3	544	Hose Co. No. 12	41
Engine Co. No. 4	1,416	Ladder Co. No. 3	1,501
Engine Co. No. 5	2,046	Ladder Co. No. 5	965
Engine Co. No. 6	468	Ladder Co. No. 6	74
Engine Co. No. 8	312		

During Fire Prevention Week, also the week preceding Christmas, men were assigned to the business sections daily.

More work was done during Fire Prevention Week than ever before. The manager of the radio show, which was in progress at the City Hall that week, kindly allowed us space for a booth. All of the service clubs were attended by a uniformed speaker; practically all of the schools were visited where short addresses were made to the scholars. Three speeches were made over the radio. Posters were placed upon all of the fire hydrants and the electric cars, and thousands of pieces of fire prevention literature were issued to the public.

As a result of this work we received a certificate of award, being one of the few cities in the United States to receive this honor.

TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION

An officers' school was held from February 23 to May 10. There were two classes each week, one conducted by District Chief Read, and the other by the Chief. All officers were required to attend one class each week.

From May 16 to May 20 an Instruction Training Conference for Fire Department officers was held under the supervision of Mr. Patrick, State Director of Vocational Education. Mr. C. F. Klinefelter, special agent of the Federal Board for vocational education, was the leader of this conference. This course was designed primarily for the benefit of Fire Department officers in the State of Maine, nevertheless, nine officers from the Portland Department were allowed to attend.

Twelve officers attended the First Aid class held by the Red Cross from April 27 to May 6.

The Department Drill School was in operation from May 25 to October 5. The period from May 25 to July 20 was devoted to class work, the morning classes being composed of men who were off duty, and the afternoon classes were attended by men who were on duty.

From July 25 to October 5, company drills were held.

The following evolutions formed the basis for the company drills:

1. Set 45-foot ladder in the 4th story window.
2. Stretch line from hydrant over 45-foot ladder, and up stairway to 5th floor.
3. Stretch line from hydrant to base of drill tower; hoist to roof and operate.
4. Change broken length between 4th floor and street.
5. Change broken length between 4th floor and roof.
6. Stretch line from hydrant and hook up to stand pipe, operating from 4th floor outlet.
7. Stretch two lines to a Siamese connection and operate.
8. Stretch two lines to deluge set and operate.

The shortest time required to perform each one of the evolutions was as follows:

Evolution No. 1: Ladder 6—10 sec.; Evolution No. 2: Engine 3—58 sec.; Evolution No. 3: Ladder 3—3 min., 2 sec.; Evolution No. 4: Ladder 1—1 min., 6 sec.; Evolution No. 5: Ladder 3—1 min., 16 sec.; Evolution No. 6: Engine 4—1 min., 7½ sec.; Evolution No. 7: Engine 6—1 min., 9½ sec.; Evolution No. 8: Ladder 6—41 sec.

The time required by each company to perform all of the evolutions was as follows:

Ladder 3—11 min., 4½ sec.; Ladder 6—11 min., 32½ sec.; Ladder 1—11 min., 37½ sec.; Engine 4—11 min., 44 sec.; Engine 6—12 min., 11½ sec.; Engine 5—12 min., 9½ sec.; Engine 2—12 min., 48 sec.; Ladder 4—14 min., 16½ sec.; Engine 3—14 min., 45 sec.; Engine 9—15 min., 31 sec.; Ladder 5—15 min., 59 sec.; Engine 8—16 min., 8 sec.; Hose 11—16 min., 39 sec.; Chemical 1—17 min., 30 sec.; Engine 1—7 min., 50½ sec.

A special evolution was performed by the Engine Companies which consisted of stretching two lines from the hydrant to a deluge set and placing in operation. The lines were then shut down, transferred to the Engines, and the

Engines hooked up to the hydrant and placed in operation.

The time was taken during the period when the water was shut off. Following is the time required for this evolution.

Engine 3—34 sec.; Engine 5—37 sec.; Engine 9—45 sec.; Engine 6—46½ sec.; Engine 4—50 sec.; Engine 8—1 min., 31½ sec.; Engine 2—1 min., 28 sec.; Engine 1—2 min., 21½ sec.

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING FIRES

	Chemicals		Hydrant and Engine		Nothing Used
	Chemicals	Hydrant	Hydrant	and Engine	
Jan.	45	6	6	2	11
Feb.	53	7	4	2	12
Mar.	92	13	7		69
Apr.	112	6	14	5	126
May	66	11	35	9	26
June	39	10	12	5	9
July	47	3	9	4	20
Aug.	30	5	11	5	10
Sept.	36	2	6	1	9
Oct.	51	4	7		14
Nov.	57	3	3	3	20
Dec.	73	8	5	4	36

LOSSES AND INSURANCE FOR THE YEAR 1932

Month	Boxes	Stills	Losses		Insurance	
			Buildings	Contents	Buildings	Contents
Jan.	43	62	\$ 23,412.30	\$20,265.38	\$ 104,925.97	\$ 80,074.00
Feb.	41	63	27,769.40	18,104.29	126,347.00	55,700.00
Mar.	75	145	14,876.88	6,980.69	1,352,210.00	31,500.00
Apr.	84	231	4,721.54	3,412.27	31,200.00	13,850.00
May	70	106	10,166.74	4,463.33	699,249.37	20,100.00
June	49	55	8,261.92	6,557.12	94,900.00	33,500.00
July	51	69	5,872.07	1,603.68	102,116.00	9,877.00
Aug.	39	44	5,728.04	4,621.82	45,700.00	33,550.00
Sept.	38	41	10,834.80	1,607.17	37,481.35	3,200.00
Oct.	33	73	3,630.67	528.51	91,800.00	14,800.00
Nov.	48	78	4,480.73	503.96	208,859.06	6,000.00
Dec.	51	115	16,530.63	22,850.11	159,750.00	54,275.00
	622	1,082	\$136,285.72	\$91,498.33	\$3,054,538.75	\$361,426.00

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF LOSS

Year	Alarms	Loss
1912	512	\$251,038.94
1913	524	117,584.07
1914	601	388,387.24
1915	717	313,840.40
1916	554	370,403.63
1917	576	260,137.43
1918	627	233,151.06
1919	586	285,895.17
1920	573	247,511.82
1921	644	440,360.33
1922	738	662,755.54
1923	789	222,463.38
1924	1,000	325,920.60
1925	991	447,692.02
1926	1,124	375,165.95
1927	946	345,038.02
1928	1,052	152,987.26
1929	1,261	594,626.02
1930	1,630	226,218.44
1931	1,570	229,340.57
1932	1,704	227,784.05

MANUAL FORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Manual Force of the Department consists of 119 Permanent Members, classified as follows:

Chief,	1	Lieutenants,	17
Deputy Chief,	1	Enginemen,	3
District Chief,	1	Mechanic,	1
Captains,	19	Privates,	76

In addition to the permanent members there are seven callmen in the City proper, 10 paid volunteers at Peaks Island, and one man at Great Diamond Island, Long Island, and Cliff Island.

APPARATUS

No apparatus was purchased during the year. Ladder 4 was overhauled and painted. Repairs were made to other apparatus when necessary.

A Diamond T supply truck was bought to replace the old Larrabee truck.

APPARATUS IN SERVICE

- 3 automobiles for chief officers.
- 1 motor pumper and hose combination (1,000 gallons).
- 2 motor pumpers and hose combinations (750 gallons).
- 4 motor pumpers and hose combinations equipped with booster tanks (1,000 gallons).
- 1 motor pumper and hose combination equipped with 35-gallon chemical tank (350 gallons).
- 1 Ford Barton pump with 270-gallon water tank (75 gallons).
- 4 motor hose and chemical combinations.
- 1 motor chemical and squad combination.
- 3 motor chemical and ladder combinations.
- 1 85-foot aerial ladder truck, tractor drawn.
- 1 75-foot aerial ladder truck, tractor drawn; equipped with booster tank and pump.
- 1 fire boat (6,000 gallons).
- 2 chemical jumpers, hand drawn (60 gallons each).
- 1 hose wagon, hand drawn.
- 1 motor hose wagon, equipped with two turret pipes.
- 1 motor supply truck.
- 1 motor repair truck.
- 1 Ford roadster, hydrant work in Deering District.

APPARATUS IN RESERVE

- 1 self-propelled steamer.
- 1 tractor-drawn steamer.
- 1 single hose wagon.
- 2 double hose wagons.
- 6 double exercise and coal sleds.
- 1 single exercise and coal sled.
- 1 single hose pung.
- 6 double hose pungs.
- 1 double ladder truck.

HOUSES

The water pipes in the Park Avenue and Deering Avenue stations were renewed by the shop crew. Minor repair and paint jobs were done at the various stations as required.

HOSE

2,500 feet of 2½-inch hose and 500 feet of 1½-inch hose was purchased during the year.

The supply of hose in service is as follows:

First class, 2½-inch,	6,500 feet
Second class, 2½-inch,	27,000 feet
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	33,500 feet
First class, 3-inch,	None
Second class, 3-inch,	5,900 feet

PENSIONS

The following member of the Department was retired during the year:

Captain John M. Wallace.

DEATHS

The following deaths occurred during the year:

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Lieutenant Walter M. Jackson, May 13, 1932.
- Callman John H. Mitchell, May 27, 1932.
- Lieutenant Frank H. Joseph, June 13, 1932.
- Private Walter P. Webster, August 22, 1932.

RETIRED MEMBERS

- Engineman Waldo H. Perry, February 4, 1932.

CHIEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- That Ladder 3 be replaced as soon as possible.
- That a Fire Prevention Bureau be established and one man assigned to the supervision of all the inspection work in the city.
- That an emergency and lighting truck be equipped and placed in service.
- That a 750-gallon pumper be purchased for Engine 9, and the pump now assigned to that company be transferred to Peaks Island.

That a new station be erected in the Rosemont section, to accommodate a ladder and engine company.

That the permanent force be increased by the addition of three members; that callmen respond only on multiple alarm fires; and that the outside fire alarm signal be discontinued on all first alarms.

ROSTER OF THE DEPARTMENT

OLIVER T. SANBORN, *Chief*
ALBION H. MOULTON, *Deputy Chief*
WILLIAM R. READ, *District Chief*

ENGINE COMPANY No. 1

Station No. 396-398 Congress St.

Seagraves Combination Pumper (1,000 gallons capacity), carrying 1,300 feet of 2½-inch hose, 200 feet of 3-inch hose, and 38 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Melville G. Frank, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, five privates, three callmen.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 2

Station No. 134 Congress St.

McCann triple combination gasoline pumper (1,000 gallons capacity), carrying 1,400 feet of 2½-inch hose, 200 feet of 3-inch hose, one 100-gallon booster tank with 200 feet of 1-inch hose and 36 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Charles F. Feeney, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, three privates, three callmen, one substitute.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 3 Station No. 176 Brackett St.

Seagraves combination pumper (750 gallons capacity), carrying 1,400 feet of 2½-inch hose and 200 feet of 3-inch hose, and 40 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Joseph L. Blake, *Captain*

One lieutenant, four privates.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 4 Station No. 155-157 Spring St.

Seagraves triple combination pumper (1,000 gallons capacity), carrying 1,300 feet of 2½-inch hose and 200 feet of 3-inch hose, 60-gallon booster tank with 250 feet of 1-inch hose and 38 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Thomas S. Murdock, *Captain*

One lieutenant, seven privates.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 5 Station No. 395-396 Congress St.

American LaFrance combination pumper (750 gallons capacity), carrying 1,250 feet of 2½-inch hose and 200 feet of 3-inch hose, 25 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Frank J. Mullins, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, five privates.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 6 Station No. 295 Park Ave.

Mack triple combination pumper (1,000 gallons capacity), carrying 1,400 feet of 2½-inch hose and 200 feet of 3-inch hose, one 80-gallon booster tank with 250 feet of 1-inch hose, 36 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

William F. Moulton, *Captain*

One lieutenant, five privates.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 7

Station East Side of Portland Pier

Diesel fire boat, "City of Portland," equipped with four 1,500-gallon Dean Hill centrifugal pumps, one 3,000-gallon turret pipe on top of mast, one 1,500-gallon turret pipe on top of pilot house, two 1,500-gallon turret pipes on deck fore and aft, capacity for 6,000 feet of 2½-inch hose.

PERMANENT MEN

James L. MacVane, *Lieutenant*
One engineman, four privates.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 8

Station No. 536 Deering Ave.

American LaFrance triple combination pumper (1,000 gallons capacity), carrying 1,400 feet of 2½-inch hose and 200 feet of 3-inch hose, one 60-gallon booster tank with 250 feet of 1-inch hose, 32 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Amos S. Knight, *Captain*
One lieutenant, seven privates.

ENGINE COMPANY No. 9

Station No. 9-11 Arbor St.

American LaFrance triple combination pumper (350 gallons capacity), carrying 1,500 feet of 2½-inch hose and 200 feet of 3-inch hose, one 35-gallon chemical tank with 250 feet of 1-inch hose, 36 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

George W. I. Stevens, *Captain*
One lieutenant, five privates.

LADDER COMPANY No. 1

Station No. 395-398 Congress St.

American LaFrance combination ladder and chemical truck, carrying 325 feet of ladders, one 35-gallon chemical tank with 250 feet of 1-inch hose.

PERMANENT MEN

Leslie R. MacVane, *Captain*
One lieutenant, four privates.

LADDER COMPANY No. 3

Station No. 163 Brackett St.

Indiana combination ladder truck and chemical, carrying 320 feet of ladders, two 35-gallon chemical tanks with 500 feet of chemical hose.

PERMANENT MEN

John H. Mullins, *Captain*
One lieutenant, four privates.

LADDER COMPANY No. 4

Station No. 9-11 Arbor St.

American LaFrance combination ladder truck and chemical, carrying 325 feet of ladders, one 35-gallon chemical tank with 250 feet of 1-inch chemical hose.

PERMANENT MEN

Frederick C. Larsen, *Captain*
One lieutenant, four privates.

LADDER COMPANY No. 5

Station No. 396-398 Congress St.

Seagraves 85-foot aerial truck (tractor drawn), equipped with ladder pipe, carrying 465 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Dwight F. Tinkham, *Captain*
One lieutenant, four privates.

LADDER COMPANY No. 6
Station No. 295 Park Ave.

Seagraves 75-foot combination aerial ladder truck, equipped with ladder pipe, carrying 332 feet of ladders, one 80-gallon booster tank with 250 feet of chemical hose.

PERMANENT MEN

William S. Berry, *Captain*
One lieutenant, three privates.

CHEMICAL COMPANY No. 1
Station No. 396-398 Congress St.

Mack combination chemical and squad machine, three 40-gallon chemical tanks with 450 feet of chemical hose, 45 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Stephen A. Dow, *Captain*
Four privates.

HOSE COMPANY No. 11
Station No. 579 Ocean Ave.

Reo combination hose and chemical truck, carrying 1,000 feet of 2½-inch hose, one 35-gallon chemical tank with 250 feet of chemical hose, 52 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Joseph A. Cooper, *Captain*
One lieutenant, three privates, one callman.

HOSE COMPANY No. 12
Located at Peaks Island

Reo combination chemical and hose truck, carrying 1,100 feet of 2½-inch hose, one 35-gallon chemical tank with 250 feet of chemical hose, 32 feet of ladders.

PERMANENT MEN

Melville E. Griffin, *Captain*
One lieutenant, two privates, ten volunteer callmen.

UNATTACHED PERMANENT MEN

Frank P. Carr, *Captain*
Henry G. Rowe, *Captain*
Arthur J. Murdock, *Lieutenant*
Charles E. Skillin
Charles E. Griffin
Chester R. MacAllister
Thomas A. Markley, *Substitute*

Fire Department

PORTLAND

Telephone F-6710

Hdqrs., Central Fire Station, 389 Congress

BOARD OF ENGINEERS

Oliver T. Sanborn, chief engineer; Albion H. Moulton, deputy chief; Wm. E. Read, district chief.

FIRE ALARM—118 Federal. Alfred C. Stults, Daniel E. Ward, Carl W. Reynolds, Martin F. Dugan, operators; Frank E. Sargent, supt.; Fred W. Barnes, James A. Whidden, John R. Fraser, electricians; Harry J. Howarth, inspr.

ENGINE 1—380 Congress. Melville G. Frank, capt.; Walter M. Jackson, lieutenant;

Harry H. Abbott, engineman; William E. Blake, Joseph L. Woodill, Daniel J. Doyle, Guy A. Young, firemen.

ENGINE 2—134 Congress. Chas. F. Fee-ney, capt.; Michael J. Carlson, lieutenant; James H. Markley, engineman; Charles S. Stokes, Ernest A. Fogg, Matthew J. Cadz, firemen.

ENGINE 3—176 Brackett. Joseph L. Blake, capt.; Edward A. Hodgdon, lieutenant; Floyd A. Chase, Loring S. Towle, Earl D. Foye, Clarence S. Cressey, firemen.

ENGINE 4—157 Spring. Dwight F. Tinkham, capt.; Ralph Moses, lieutenant; Jas. W. McCarrison, Herman R. Burgess, Geo. J. Foley, Patrick J. Bowen, jr., Carl A. Elfstrom, firemen.

ENGINE 5—380 Congress. Leslie R. MacVane, capt.; Guy R. Purlinton, lieutenant; Fred W. Walton, engineer; Charles E. Griffin, John H. Weimert, Robert H. Flaherty, Frank Thomas, John B. Martin, firemen.

ENGINE 6—205 Park av. William F. Moulton, capt.; Arthur E. Libby, lieutenant; Herbert J. Noyes, John F. Fogg, Elmer E. Freeman, Maurice W. Skillin, Edward M. Hopkins, firemen.

ENGINE 7 (Fire Boat)—60 Portland pier. John M. Wallace, capt.; Charles H. Miller, lieutenant; Rodney E. Bucklin, Thos. W. Gould, Edw. W. Bucknam, engineers; Thomas A. Burgess, fireman.

ENGINE 8—536 Deering av. Amos S. Knight, capt.; Frank J. Mullins, lieutenant; Frank E. Banks, George C. Partridge, William W. Sanborn, Frank W. Boothby, John W. McNeil, Charles J. Meissner, James T. Rollinson, jr., firemen.

ENGINE 9—17 Arbor. George W. I. Stevens, capt.; George H. Hagen, lieutenant; Edward T. Cronin, Clinton R. Sampson, Francis J. Gill, James W. B. Goodall, Daniel J. Carter, firemen.

CHEMICAL 1—380 Congress. Stephen A. Dow, capt.; Wm. E. Sawyer, Joseph P. Martel, Robert J. Walsh, Clifford H. Keating, firemen.

LADDER 1—380 Congress. Joseph A. Cooper, capt.; James L. MacVane, lieutenant; Freeman H. Blake, Andrew J. Phillips, John J. McGowan, Lawrence H. Murray, firemen.

LADDER 3—163 Brackett. John E. Mullins, capt.; Alanson DeMott, lieutenant; Timothy J. Powell, jr., Jos. E. Smith, Harry W. Marr, John H. Gallagher, firemen.

LADDER 4—17 Arbor. Frederick C. Larsen, capt.; Clarence S. Lockhart, lieutenant; Fred L. Smith, Oscar F. Dodd, Walter E. Horr, Fred A. Alexander, firemen.

LADDER 5—380 Congress. Charles H. Mayberry, capt.; Hans H. Brockman, lieutenant; Walter P. Webster, Grover C. Rottman, John F. Sullivan, John C. Murray, firemen.

LADDER 6—205 Park av. Thomas S. Murdock, capt.; Thomas A. Mulhern, lieutenant; George R. Stevens, Joseph N. Fortler, George E. Ward, firemen.

HOSE 11—579 Ocean av. William S. Berry, capt.; James H. Vickery, lieutenant; Fred A. McDaniels, John O. Russell, Harry A. Lucas, firemen.

HOSE 12—Peaks Island. Melville E. Griffin, capt.; Frank H. Josephs, lieutenant; Henry F. Green, Abraham H. Sterling, firemen.

UNATTACHED MEN—Frank P. Carr, Henry G. Rowe, capt.; Arthur J. Murdock, lieutenant; Elwin H. Gaddis, mech.; Charles E. Skillin, George W. Lowe, Thomas F. Moran, John W. Mitchell, Carl P. Johnson, William J. Lucas, jr., firemen.