

PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report – 1940
(Missing)

1940 Statistics and Information

Still Alarms	972	2-Alarm Fires	7
Desk Box	79	3-Alarm Fires	1
Bell Alarms	289	4-Alarm (General)	4
A.D.T. Alarms	13	Special Calls	4
Emergency Calls	27	False Alarms	66
Out of City	2	Fire Deaths	
Total Alarms	1,271	\$ Loss	90,679

Alarms Answered by Fire Companies

Engine Co. # 1		Chemical # 1	491
“ # 2			
“ # 3		Ladder Co. # 1	330
“ # 4	283	“ # 3	236
“ # 5	336	“ # 4	
“ # 6	241	“ # 5	
“ # 7	53	“ # 6	139
“ # 8			
“ # 9			
“ # 11	131		
“ # 12			

January 6, 1940 - Fire Prevention Bureau established, Captain Frederick C. Larsen appointed Director.

New Apparatus **Fire Alarm car** - Plymouth sedan for Assistant City Electrician **In-Service** 5/1/40
Linemen truck - Chevrolet utility truck for Fire Alarm Crew “ 12/21/40

				<u>Appointed</u>
<u>Promotions</u>	Private George H. Foley	to	Lieutenant	1/3/40
	Private Joseph N. Fortier	to	Lieutenant	1/3/40
	Private Nelson H. Huff	to	Lieutenant	1/3/40
	Private John E. Mequaire	to	Lieutenant	1/3/40
	Private Chester L. McAlister	to	Lieutenant	1/3/40

			<u>Retired</u>
<u>Retirements</u>	Private Abram Sterling		4/27/40
	F.A. Lineman Chester A. Moreshead (resigned)		9/9/40

			<u>Retired</u>	<u>Died</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	Captain Joseph A. Cooper		April, 1937	12/12/40

Update: August 18, 2010

City's Fire Loss For 1940 Lowest In 40 Years

Sanborn Commends Portland Citizens For Prevention Work

Portland's fire loss in 1940 totalled only \$90,678.67, the lowest figure in more than 40 years, according to the annual report on the Portland Fire Department prepared by Chief Oliver T. Sanborn.

The loss included \$52,604.52 on buildings valued at \$4,990,549.50 and \$38,074.15 on contents valued at \$339,264.69. The total figure represented a decrease of 44.4 per cent from the 1939 loss and 61.3 per cent from the 1938 loss, Chief Sanborn reported.

The department answered 1,271 alarms, 44 calls less than in 1939, including 112 for actual building fires, 198 for chimney fires, 612 for other than building fires, 247 needless calls, 27 emergency calls, 66 false alarms, nine multiple alarms and two out of town calls.

There were 21 fires with losses over \$1,000, including 13 between \$1,000 and \$2,500, seven between \$2,500 and \$5,000 and only one over \$20,000. The balance of the building fires were extinguished with an average loss of \$254.07.

The loss amounted to only 1.7 per cent of the total value of property involved and the loss per capita was \$1.20, Chief Sanborn said.

Portland's fire apparatus traveled 4,819.3 miles in answering the alarms and 136,550 feet of the 148,000 feet of hose laid was wet in fighting the various blazes. The Booster equipment was in service 186 hours and 26 minutes, the engines pumped 122 hours and 18 minutes, and 146% gallons of chemical were used.

The previous low year for loss was 1935, when the department answered 1,235 alarms and held the loss to \$111,490.63.

Chief Sanborn noted that 1940 marked the establishment of a Fire Prevention Bureau with a captain assigned to give his full time to this work. Prior to Aug. 1, under the old system, 8,148 inspections were made and after that date 5,752 inspections were made with new forms and maintenance of a complete record of results. Great credit is due the citizens of Portland for their co-operation in preventing fires, Chief Sanborn said.

As a result of various fire prevention activities, including the inspection work and participation in Fire Prevention Week and Spring Clean-up-Week campaigns, Portland received recognition from the National Fire Protection Association and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, he reported.

Under his recommendations, Chief Sanborn stated that "in past years many of my recommendations have been adopted with the result that Portland is very nearly a Class A city. A comparatively reasonable additional expenditure would give the City a Class A rating with a substantial reduction in insurance rates, the two main items required being the construction of the Rosemont station and the adoption of the Fire Prevention and Explosive Ordinance, which, it is hoped, will be recommended for action this year."

"Under ordinary conditions a fire department is considered one of the important departments necessary for the protection of any city," Chief Sanborn said. "With present day uncertainties and the chaotic conditions now existing in the world, it is more essential than ever before that the fire department be made as efficient as possible.

"While we may be spared undergoing the horrors of modern warfare now existing in Europe, yet the additional demands that may be put upon the Fire Department, through sabotage and the possibility of earthquakes, should constitute sufficient reason for the adoption of recommendations submitted in a special report last October."

Chief Sanborn expressed gratitude "for the loyalty and respect" which the men under his command "have shown me at all times and for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have performed their duties."

In his report as City electrician, Chief Sanborn recommended the installation of a talk-alarm system to permit issuing orders and instructions to all fire stations simultaneously; installation of a radio system; addition of three air whistles to the outside alarm system to make it more efficient; addition of three fire alarm operators so two will be on duty at all times; and consideration in the near future to increasing the facilities of the fire alarm system. Most of the 12 box circuits now are carrying the full allowable load.

Fire Department

PORTLAND

Headquarters, Central Fire Station, 380 Congress

BOARD OF ENGINEERS

Oliver T. Sanborn, chief engineer; deputy chief, William R. Read; Charles F. Feeney, district chief; Frank P. Carr, unattached capt.

FIRE ALARM—118 Federal, Frederick W. Barnes, supt.

ENGINE 1—380 Congress, Laurence H. Murray, capt.

ENGINE 2—124 Congress, Harry W. Marr, capt.

ENGINE 3—176 Brackett, Carl A. Ekstrom, capt.

ENGINE 4—157 Spring, Thomas S. Murdoch, capt.

ENGINE 5—380 Congress, Frank J. Mullins, capt.

ENGINE 6—205 Park av., Thomas A. Mulhern, capt.

ENGINE 7 (Fire Boat)—60 Portland Pier, Thomas A. Burgess, capt.

ENGINE 8—535 Deering av., Robert H. Faherty, capt.

ENGINE 9—9-11 Arbor, George W. I. Stevens, Stephen A. Dow, capt.

CITIZENICAL 1—380 Congress, Arthur J. Murdoch, capt.

LADDER 1—380 Congress, Edward M. Hopkins, capt.

LADDER 3—163 Brackett, John H. Mullins, capt.

LADDER 4—9-11 Arbor, Leslie R. MacVane, capt.

LADDER 5—380 Congress, Dwight F. Tinkham, capt.

LADDER 6—205 Park av., Elmer E. Freeman, capt.

ENGINE 11—570 Ocean av., Michael J. Carlson, capt.

ENGINE 12—Peaks Island, Williams S. Berry, capt.

Portland Fire Alarm Boxes

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 181 Wash. av. and Veranda | 24 Fore and Waterville | 44 Middle and Plum |
| 192 Presumpscot, near True | 25 Engine house, head North | 45 Middle and Exchange |
| 193 Olympia and Veranda | 26 Adams and Mountfort | 46 Central Fire Sta., Cong. |
| 194 Wash. and Ocean avs. | 27 India and Commercial | 47 Federal and Temple |
| 195 Wash. av. and Ray | 28 Congress and India | 48 Franklin and Congress |
| 196 Wash. av. near Riverside school | 29 Franklin and Coml. | 49 Union and Fore |
| 197 Wash. and Allen avs. | 30 Moody and East, prom. | 50 Middle and Free |
| 198 Allen av. n. Col. Moore's | 31 Congress and Vesper | 51 Commercial and Center |
| 199 Auburn, near Lambert | 32 Sheridan and Monument | 52 Fore and Center |
| 200 Veranda, near G. T. R. bridge | 33 Newbury and India | 53 Church and Newbury |
| 201 Wash. av. and Presumpscot | 34 St. Lawrence & Gilbert lane | 54 Market and Newbury |
| 202 Ocean av. and Codman | 35 Monument and Atlantic | 55 Elec. App. Bldg., Federal |
| 203 Ocean av. and Rosedale | 36 Fore and Mountfort | 56 Federal and Pearl |
| 204 Codman & Clifton | 37 Portland Co. (private) | 57 Falmouth Hotel |
| 205 Ocean av. and Walton | 38 Congress and Mountfort | 58 Commercial and Plum |
| 206 Ocean av. and Sawyer | 39 Mayo and Oxford | 59 Fore and Dana |
| 207 Wash. av. and Inverness | 40 Wilmot and Cumb. av. | 60 Congress, opp. Preble |
| 208 Portland Rendering Co. | 41 No School | 61 Kennebec and Preble |
| 209 Ocean av. and Read | 42 Lancaster and Pearl | 62 Portland and Parris |
| 210 Ocean av. near True | 43 Oxford and Chestnut | 63 Congress near Oak |
| 211 Edgewood and Washington av. | 44 Preble and Oxford | 64 Cumb. and Forest avs. |
| 212 Wash. av. and Fall Brook | 45 Elm and Cumb. av. | 65 Forest av. and Park av. |
| 213 Presumpscot and St. Charles | 46 Lancaster and Franklin | 66 Forest av. and Kennebec |
| 214 Windsor and Kensington | 47 Anderson and Lancaster | 67 High and Grant |
| 215 Huntington av. and Van Vetchen | 48 Cumb. av. and Myrtle | 68 Deering and Henry |
| 216 Ray and Idaho | 49 Anderson and Cumb. av. | 69 Brown and Free |
| 217 Maine av. and Ray | 50 Cumb. av. and Sheridan | 70 Congress and Pine |
| 218 Allen av. and Ray | 51 Wash. av. and Eastern prom. | 71 Cumb. av. and State |
| 219 Jackson and Summit | 52 Emerson and Melbourne | 72 Congress and Walker |
| 220 235 Auburn | 53 Howard and Turner | 73 Mellen and Sherman |
| 221 Wash. and Highland avs. | 54 Merrill and Quebec | 74 Park av. and State |
| 222 Florida av. at Peary School | 55 North and Montreal | 75 Deering av. and Grant |
| 223 Summit nr. Allen av. | 56 Wash. av. and Oxford | 76 Cumb. av. and Casco |
| 224 Vesper and East'n prom | 57 Fox and Hammond | 77 Hanover and Lancaster |
| 225 Wilson and Munjoy | 58 Franklin and Fox | 78 Congress and Brown |
| | 59 Middle and Franklin | 79 South and Spring |
| | 60 Fore and Custom House | 80 York and Maple |
| | 61 Pearl, opp. Milk | 81 High and Danforth |
| | 62 Market and Commercial | 82 Engine 4 House, Spring near State |
| | | 83 Commercial and Park |