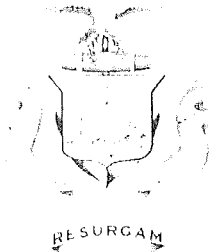


*Portland*  
*Municipal Activities*

1947



CITY MANAGER'S  
REPORT FOR  
1947  
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR UNDER  
COUNCIL MANAGER FORM  
OF GOVERNMENT

## Fire Protection

In October, 1947, Maine "made" the front page headlines across the Nation on account of the many disastrous fires.

Due to the exceptionally long drought, conditions were extremely dangerous. Forest fires in Fryeburg, Newfield, Biddeford, and Bar Harbor, causing but little concern at first, finally raged out of control and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property.

Though the fact was not publicized, conditions became so serious as to cause grave concern for the safety of the greater Portland Area, and plans were formulated for establishing fire lines outside of the area.

During this period the Fire Department responded to 24 calls for assistance from 9 cities and towns. The emergency tested the resources of the Fire Department which was able to add 7 pieces of auxiliary equipment and an auxiliary force of 100 men to its normal equipment and manpower strength within 48 hours.

Not to be outdone by our neighboring communities we had a very successful fire—from the spectators point of view—but with disastrous effect on our fire loss record and to an important property. That was the State Pier fire on October 23, which resulted in a loss of nearly \$400,000.00, the largest loss from a single fire in more than a quarter of a century.

Within a matter of a few hours a possible low record—less than \$50,000 for almost 10 months—was turned into an actual high record. Followed later by serious losses at the City Home barn, the coal pockets on Union Wharf, and the East Deering Cattle sheds, the year closed with an estimated fire loss of \$477,085.65, the second highest loss in 38 years of records, the highest being \$594,626 in 1929, 95% of this loss occurred in the four fires mentioned. Ten other building fires had losses between \$1,000 and \$5,000—against 23 in 1946—and the average loss for the 107 fires in buildings, other than the four large ones, was \$218 per fire. In 1946 the average loss in 110 building fires was \$292. There were 11 fires per 1,000 population about the same as in 1946, and the per capita loss was \$5.61 against \$1.50 in 1946. The ratio of loss to the value of property involved was 7.12%. A year ago it was 2.32%.

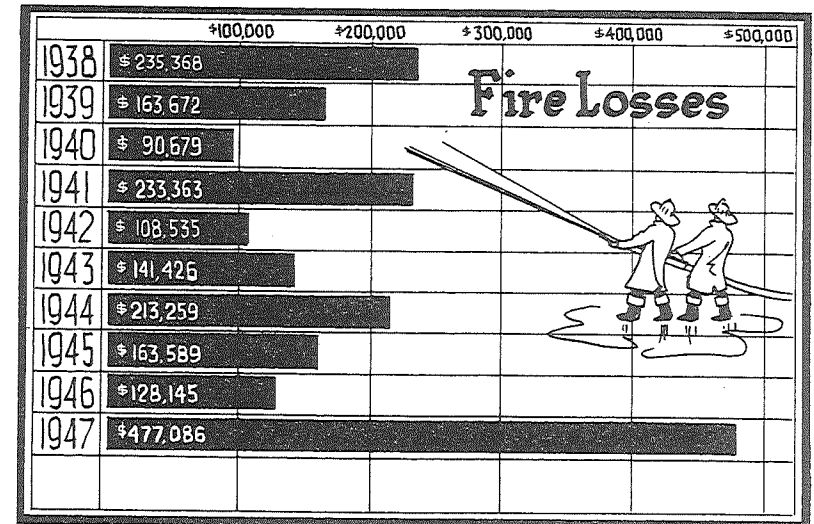
In spite of the excessively high fire loss some consolation is derived from the fact that there was no loss of life and the number of actual building fires was low. Passage of a fire safety ordinance to require more adequate exits in rooming houses, convalescent houses and

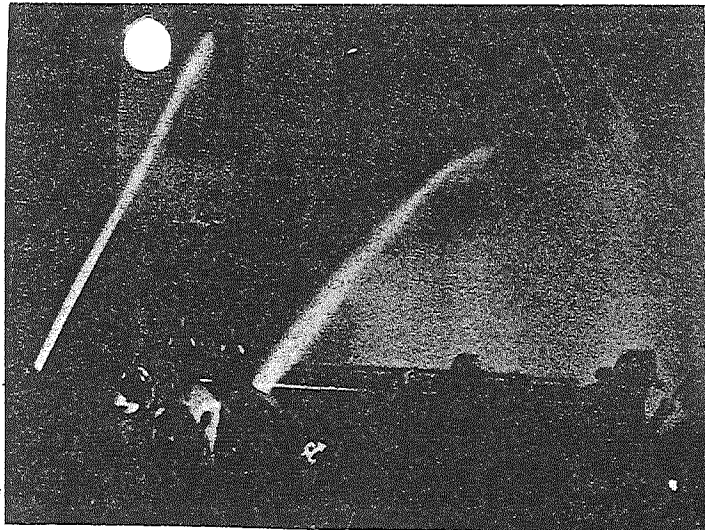
other multiple-use buildings gave the Fire Department responsibility for inspection and regulation. This work was well under way at the year's end.

Our fire defenses were strengthened by the addition of one 1,250 gallon triple combination pumper, one 750 gallon "Quad" at a cost of \$26,000 and 3,000 feet of 2½-inch hose at \$2,776.

The fire station on Brackett Street, which housed Engine Co. No. 3, was closed on December 1. This company has been temporarily assigned to Central Station, pending the construction of a new station in the Northwest section of the City.

In the Electrical Department, additions and alterations to the fire alarm system, costing nearly \$16,000 were completed during 1947. The additional 4 box circuits, making a total of 16 now in operation, should be ample to provide for all required new fire alarm boxes for many years to come. Two new fire alarm boxes were purchased, one of which has been installed.

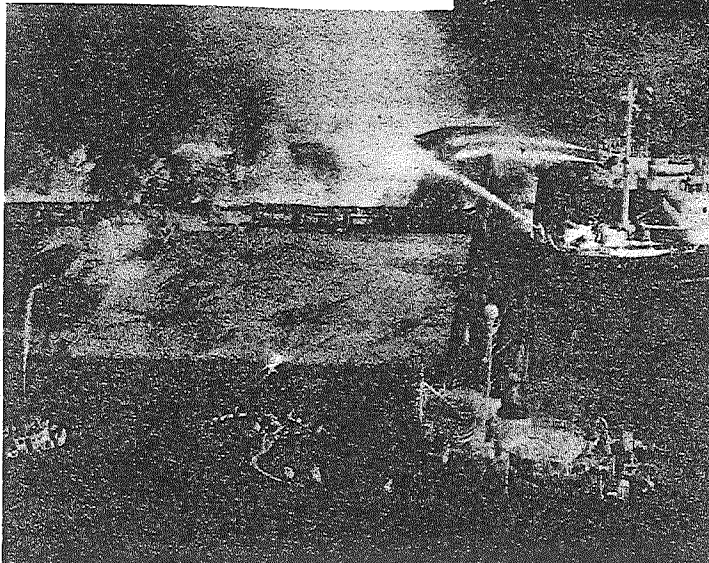




Fire, H. H. Hay's Store  
(above, right)



State Pier Fire



Sixteen hundred and ten electrical inspections were made and approval given for 163 new services, 210 additional services and 33 temporary services.

For a while, during the first of the year, the department was troubled by repairing or replacing stolen parking meters. As the "newness" wore off, and the would be financiers realized the few nickels they obtained hardly paid for their time and trouble, to say nothing of the risk of "legal difficulties," the practice declined.

## *Protection of Life and Property*

Protection, regulation, and service—all three are Police Department responsibilities.

What crime problems did Portland create in 1947 for its Police Department to handle? The occurrence of major crimes—class one offenses—was lower in every category than in 1946 and in almost every category was the lowest since before the war. Burglary fell off 45 per cent from 1946; robbery, 60 per cent; larceny, 13 per cent; and auto theft, 39 per cent. No murder was committed in Portland in 1947, but two negligent automobile drivers were charged with manslaughter.

How many of these crimes were solved by arrest? One case of negligent manslaughter and one rape case went unsolved at the end of the year; 36 per cent of the robberies, 80 per cent of the assaults, 35 per cent of the burglaries, 24 per cent of the larcenies, and 22 per cent of the auto thefts were cleared by arrest.

The Police Department bettered its 1946 record for clearing assaults and robberies by arrest but fell off somewhat as to burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts. But Portland exceeded the national average in all categories except robbery, where the record was about the same, and auto thefts.

What was the traffic problem in 1947? Accidents hit an all-time high for the record system. Six traffic deaths was the fewest since 1941, but 264 injury accidents and 1,880 property damage accidents raised a red flag for Portland motorists and for the Police Department.

Drivers of moving vehicles were arrested for 267 violations, but this was far below the recommended level of enforcement in the ratio of ten arrests for every injury accident.

CITY EXPENDITURES FROM REVENUE FUNDS

	Revised Appropriation	Total Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
City Council	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,508.80	\$ 91.20
City Clerk's	19,830.74	19,830.74	-
Executive	13,330.00	13,330.00	-
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
Personal Director	10,936.00	10,894.03	41.97
Civil Service Comm.	225.00	222.53	2.47
Total Personnel	11,161.00	11,116.56	44.44
<b>FINANCIAL</b>			
Independent Audit	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Assessors	33,367.00	32,595.51	771.49
Auditor	18,187.75	18,187.75	-
Purchasing	10,431.01	10,431.01	-
Treasurer's	42,508.00	41,997.84	510.16
General Interest	11,594.00	11,538.32	45.68
Total Financial	118,077.76	116,750.43	1,327.33
<b>LAW</b>			
Corporation Counsel	10,154.00	10,063.56	90.44
City Planning Board	4,167.00	3,911.10	255.90
<b>ELECTION</b>			
Board of Registration	8,776.00	8,735.16	40.84
Elections	5,310.42	5,310.42	-
Total Elections	14,086.42	14,045.58	40.84
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>			
	\$195,406.92	\$193,556.77	\$ 1,850.15
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
Building Inspector	\$ 23,343.00	\$ 22,523.57	\$ 819.43
Electrical Dept.	31,709.07	31,709.07	-
Fire Department	405,367.54	405,367.54	-
Harbor Master	1,200.00	1,140.00	60.00
Police Department	326,260.00	322,334.55	3,925.45
Sealer of Weights & Measures	5,479.00	5,472.12	6.88
Parking Meters	40,200.00	40,189.19	10.81
Total Public Safety	833,558.61	828,736.04	4,822.57
<b>PUBLIC BUILDING</b>			
	55,853.00	55,355.59	497.41
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>			
Health Department	72,424.00	71,100.24	1,323.76
Dental Clinic	6,500.00	6,500.00	-
Dispensary	12,476.00	12,237.17	238.83
Collection of Garbage	14,950.00	14,906.93	43.07
Total Public Health	106,350.00	104,744.34	1,605.66
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>			
Administration	59,001.00	50,811.90	8,189.10
Streets and Highways	519,811.05	518,254.58	1,556.47
Snow & Ice Removal	150,567.47	160,313.04	9,745.57 *
Drains and Sewers	38,423.00	36,091.43	2,331.57
Airport Operation	18,115.00	14,347.66	3,767.34
Street Lighting	108,823.99	108,823.99	-
Total Public Works	894,741.51	888,642.60	6,098.91
<b>PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>			
	\$ 42,136.00	\$ 32,973.50	\$ 9,162.50

(continued)

	Revised Appropriation	Total Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
<b>PUBLIC WELFARE</b>			
Administration	\$ 19,639.00	\$ 19,420.97	\$ 218.03
Relief	254,570.00	235,878.12	18,691.88
City Hospital	194,488.80	194,010.21	478.59
Total Public Welfare	468,697.80	449,309.30	19,388.50
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>			
Parks and Forestry	109,164.11	109,017.79	146.32
Municipal Organ	2,035.19	2,035.19	-
Observances & Celebrations	1,503.00	1,485.61	17.39
Recreation	32,082.00	30,473.74	1,608.26
Municipal Golf Course	16,609.00	16,556.97	52.03
Total Parks & Recreation	161,393.30	159,569.30	1,824.00
<b>CEMETERIES</b>			
Forest City Cemetery	21,765.98	21,765.98	-
Evergreen Cemetery	58,261.36	58,261.36	-
Total Cemeteries	\$80,027.34	\$80,027.34	-
<b>PENSIONS</b>			
Public Safety	66,234.24	65,261.01	973.23
Employees' Retirement	40,500.00	40,500.00	-
Total Pensions	106,734.24	105,761.01	973.23
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Workman's Compensation	15,700.00	12,908.18	2,791.82
Insurance	9,000.00	7,707.25	1,292.75
Contingent	1,477.00	1,040.77	436.23
Memberships & Contributions	4,250.00	3,276.68	973.32
Total Miscellaneous	30,427.00	24,932.88	5,494.12
<b>TOTAL CITY EXPENSE</b>			
	\$2,975,325.72	\$2,923,608.67	\$51,717.05
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>			
	439,324.10	439,324.10	-
<b>COLLECTION FOR OTHER CIVIL DIVISIONS</b>			
	727,241.00	727,217.41	23.59
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>			
	1,542,324.21	1,542,324.21	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			
	\$5,684,215.03	\$5,632,474.39	\$51,740.64

\* overdraft

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

SINKING FUND - 1947

Balance, January 1, 1947		\$275,066.50	
Receipts:			
Permanent Improvement Bonds, 1947	\$160,000.00		
Appropriation: 1947, for State Aid			
Highway Improvement	24,000.00		
For Grading Lawn, Deering High School	2,100.00		
Reserve Fund: 1947, for Street			
Improvement	18,000.00		
State of Maine State Aid Highway Fund	62,529.97		
U. S. Government Grant Improvement			
Terminal Bldg: Airport	55,000.00		
Central Maine Power Co. Settlement			
Rails in Streets	35,000.00		
Miscellaneous Sales	317.65		
		356,947.62	
Total Funds Available for Capital Improvements		<u>632,014.12</u>	
Disbursements:			
Road Improvements:			
Bay View Drive	258.95	171,940.94	
Pennell Avenue	410.81		
Preble Street	9,266.13		
St. John Street	29,199.56		
Veranda Street	38,631.39		
Washington Avenue	63,254.38		
Woodfords Corner	30,919.72		
Sewers:		21,317.38	
Baxter Boulevard Overflow	13,490.44		
Fall Brook Regulator	3,943.15		
Warwick Street	3,883.79		
Stadium Rebuilding		94,856.14	
Airport:		109,476.18	
Terminal Building	94,617.75		
Runways, Etc.	14,858.43		
Department of Public Works Garage		10,660.66	
Public Safety:		42,770.45	
Fire Alarm System	15,912.00		
Fire Apparatus	26,858.45		
Land Purchases		4,387.86	
Deering High School Grading		3,577.44	
Total Disbursements for Capital Improvements		<u>458,987.05</u>	
Balance, December 31, 1947		\$173,027.07	

Balance January 1, 1947		\$ 2,048.04
Receipts:		
Appropriation from Taxes		
for Serial Bonds	\$ 184,000.00	
Appropriation from Taxes		
for Reduction of Old Debt	150,000.00	
Net Premium Permanent		
Improvement Bonds of 1947	1,243.30	
Sale of Real Estate	5,290.97	
		<u>340,534.27</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		340,534.27
Total Funds Available for Reduction of City Debt		<u>\$342,582.31</u>
Payment on City Debt		\$335,000.00
Cash Balance December 31, 1947		<u>7,582.31</u>
		\$342,582.31
Bond Indebtedness January 1, 1947	\$ 3,721,000.00	
Permanent Improvement Bonds of 1947	160,000.00	
(Issued September 1947)		
		<u>3,881,000.00</u>
Bonds Retired during 1947		335,000.00
Bond Indebtedness December 31, 1947	\$ 3,546,000.00	
Assessed Valuation City 1947	\$85,920,200.00	
City's Borrowing Capacity		
(5% of last Valuation)	4,296,010.00	
City Debt		3,546,000.00
Below Debt Limit		
Borrowing Capacity	750,010.00	

## Portland Public Library PORTLAND

621 Congress and Branch 14 Pleasant Avenue

Incorporated 1867. Moved into present building, given by Hon. James P. Baxter, Feb. 21, 1880. Previously located in the City Building.

Stanley W. Fogg, treasurer; Grace Trappan, librarian. Vol. 131,315.

Hours: 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. daily except July and August.  
July and August:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.  
Wednesday and Saturday: 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.  
Sunday, November thru April—2 P. M. to 6 P. M. only.

## Fire Department PORTLAND

Headquarters, Central Fire Station, 380 Congress

### BOARD OF ENGINEERS

Oliver T. Sanborn, chief engineer; Charles P. Feeney, deputy chief; Fred C. Larson, dist chief; Thomas S. Murdock, dist chief.

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

ENGINE 1—380 Congress. Frank J. Mullins, capt.

ENGINE 2—134 Congress. James L. Beecher, capt.

ENGINE 3—176 Brackett, Lawrence H. Murray, capt.

ENGINE 4—157 Spring. John C. Murray, capt.

ENGINE 5—380 Congress. Harry W. Marr, capt.

ENGINE 6—295 Park av. Kenneth P. Coolidge, supt.

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

ENGINE 8—533 Deering av. Carl P. Johnson, capt.

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

RESCUE CAR 1—380 Congress. Arthur Murdock, capt.

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

LADDER 3—143 Brackett. Joseph N. Fortler, capt.

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

LADDER 5—380 Congress. Carl A. Elfstrom, capt.

LADDER 6—295 Park av. Elmer E. Freeman, capt.

ENGINE 11—579 Ocean av. Michael J. Carlson, capt.

ENGINE 12—Peaks Island. James L. MacVane, Heut. Clinton R. Sampson, Heut.

## Portland Fire Alarm Boxes

- |                                   |                               |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 131 Wash av and Veranda           | 201 Cong and Mountfort        | 512 Cong and Pine                    |
| 132 Presumpscot near True         | 31 Mayo and Oxford            | 513 Cumb av and State                |
| 133 Olympia and Veranda           | 32 Wilnot and Cumb av         | 514 Cong and Walker                  |
| 134 Wash and Ocean avs            | 33 No School                  | 515 Mellen and Sherman               |
| 135 Wash av and Ray               | 34 Lancaster and Pearl        | 518 Park av and State                |
| 136 Wash av near Riverside school | 35 Oxford and Chestnut        | 519 Deering av and Grant             |
| 137 Wash and Allen avs            | 36 Preble and Oxford          | 521 Cumb av and Casco                |
| 138 Allen av near Col. Moore's    | 37 Elm and Cumb av            | 522 Hanover and Lancaster            |
| 139 Auburn near Lambert           | 312 Lancaster and Franklin    | 531 Cong and Brown                   |
| 141 Veranda near GTR bridge       | 313 Anderson and Lancaster    |                                      |
| 142 Wash av and Presumpscot       | 314 Cumb av and Myrtle        | 6 South and Spring                   |
| 145 Ocean av and Codman           | 315 Anderson and Cumb av      | 61 York and Maple                    |
| 146 Ocean av and Rosedale         | 316 Cumb av and Sheridan      | 62 High and Danforth                 |
| 147 Codman and Clifton            | 317 Wash av and Eastern prom  | 63 Engine 4 House, Spring near State |
| 151 Ocean av and Walton           | 318 Emerson and Melbourne     | 64 Coml and Park                     |
| 152 Ocean av and Sawyer           | 321 Howard and Turner         | 65 Park and Pleasant                 |
| 153 Wash av and Inverness         | 322 Merrill and Quebec        | 67 York and Tyng                     |
| 151 Portland Rendering Co         | 323 North and Montreal        | 68 State and Danforth                |
| 155 Ocean av and Rend             | 324 Wash av and Oxford        | 621 High and Congress                |
| 156 Ocean av near True            | 325 Fox and Hammond           | 622 Congress and Park                |
| 157 Edgewood and Wash av          | 326 Franklin and Fox          | 631 Spring and Oak                   |
| 158 Wash av and Fall Brook        |                               | 632 Spring and Winter                |
| 159 Presumpscot and St Charles    | 4 Middle and Franklin         | 641 Freight shed foot State          |
| 161 Windsor and Kensington        | 11 Fore and Custom House      | 642 MERR Coal Pocket, foot State     |
| 162 Huntington av and Van Vechten | 12 Pearl opp Milk             |                                      |
| 163 Ray and Idaho                 | 43 Market and Coml            | 7 Deering av and Falmouth            |
| 164 Maine av and Ray              | 44 Middle and Plum            | 71 Park av and Weymouth              |
| 165 Allen av and Ray              | 45 Middle and Exchange        | 72 St John and Washburn av           |
| 166 Jackson and Summit            | 46 Central Fire Station, Cong | 73 Cong and Lowell                   |
| 167 235 Auburn                    | 47 Federal and Temple         | 74 St John and A                     |
| 168 Wash and Highland avs         | 48 Franklin and Cong          | 75 Cong and Gilman                   |
| 171 Florida av at Perry School    | 412 Union and Fore            | 76 Payson and Granite                |
| 172 Summit near Allen av          | 413 Middle and Free           | 77 Washburn and Deering avs          |
|                                   | 414 Coml and Center           | 78 Park av and St James              |
| 21 Vesper and Eastern prom        | 415 Fore and Center           | 712 Douglass and Cong                |
| 23 Wilson and Munjoy              | 421 Church and Newbury        | 713 Brighton and Stevens avs         |
| 24 Fore and Waterville            | 423 Market and Newbury        | 714 Thompson's Pl. M C shops         |
| 25 Engine house head North        | 424 Elec App Bldg. Federal    | 715 Capisle and Frost                |
| 26 Adams and Mountfort            | 425 Federal and Pearl         | 716 Cong opp Powsland                |
| 27 India and Coml                 | 441 Falmouth Hotel            | 717 Cong and Stevens av              |
| 28 Cong and India                 | 443 Coml and Plum             | 718 Bradley and Dirigo               |
| 29 Franklin and Coml              | 451 Fore and Dana             | 721 Brighton av and Noyes            |
| 211 Moody and Eastern prom        |                               | 722 Brighton av and William          |
| 212 Cong and Vesper               | 5 Cong opp Preble             | 723 Congress and Brewer              |
| 213 Sheridan and Monument         | 51 Kennebec and Preble        | 724 Congress, Stroudwater            |
| 214 Newbury and India             | 52 Portland and Parris        | 725 Capisle and Riverview            |
| 221 St Lawrence and Gilbert lane  | 53 Cong near Oak              | 726 Capisle and Cobb                 |
| 222 Monument and Atlantic         | 51 Cumb and Forest avs        | 731 Deering av & Dartmouth           |
| 241 Fore and Mountfort            | 55 Forest and Park avs        | 732 Brighton av and Orland           |
| 242 Portland Co (private)         | 56 Forest av and Kennebec     | 733 Hollis and Prospect              |
|                                   | 57 High and Grant             |                                      |
|                                   | 58 Deering and Henry          |                                      |
|                                   | 59 Brown and Free             |                                      |

PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Annual Report – 1947**

(Missing)

**1947 Statistics and Information**

Still Alarms	1,523	2-Alarm Fires	5
Desk Box	67	3-Alarm Fires	2
Bell Alarms	380	4-Alarm (General)	1
A.D.T. Alarms	20	Special Calls	7
Emergency Calls	33	False Alarms	82
Out of City	24	Fire Deaths	
<b>Total Alarms</b>	<b>1,941</b>	\$ Loss	477,086

**Alarms Answered by Fire Companies**

Engine Co. # 1		Rescue Co # 1	412
" # 2	153	Ladder Co. # 1	389
" # 3		" # 3	262
" # 4	385	" # 4	
" # 5	458	" # 5	
" # 6	342	" # 6	173
" # 7	53		
" # 8			
" # 9			
" # 11	231		
" # 12			

**Forest Fires**

During 1947, Maine experienced severe forest fires. The Portland Fire Department responded to 24 calls for assistance to 9 cities and towns, and was able to send 7 pieces of auxiliary equipment and an auxiliary force of 100 men from Civilian Defense Units.

<b>10/21</b>	Kennebunkport	Engine 4, Engine 5	
<b>10/22</b>	Waterboro	E-11, Truck 8 w/Auxiliary men	(2) Biddeford; Engine 1
<b>10/23</b>	Kezar Falls	Engine 1	(2) Kennebunkport; Engine 4
	(3) Kezar Falls	Tr. 10 w/Trailer Pump 1 (Aux)	(4) Hollis Center; Truck 8 (Aux)
<b>10/24</b>	Kennebunkport	High Pressure 4	(2) Hollis Center; Truck 8 (Aux)
	(3) Kennebunk	Hose 4	(4) Kezar Falls; Tr.10 w/Trailer 1
	(5) Cape Elizabeth	Truck 5, Dodge service truck (Auxiliary)	
<b>10/25</b>	Biddeford	High Pressure 4 and Auxiliary	
	(2) Clark's Mills	Dodge w/skid pump (Aux)	(3) Biddeford; Engine 5
	(4) Clark's Mills	High Pressure 2 and Dodge w/Skid pump	
	(5) Clark's Mills	Truck 6 and Truck 2 (Auxiliary)	
<b>10/26</b>	Kezar Falls	Engine 3	(2) Biddeford; High Pressure 4
<b>10/27</b>	Clark's Mills	Truck 8 tank truck, Auxiliary)	(2) South Windham; Engine 11

<b><u>New Apparatus</u></b>	<b>Engine 4</b> - Seagrave 1,250gpm pumper, w/100-gallon tank	<b><u>In-Service</u></b> 9/3/47
	<b>Engine 3</b> - Mack 750gpm Quad, 100-gallon tank, 233' of ladders	9/22/47

(Old 1929 E-4 reassigned to E-2, 9/23/47, and old 1920 E-3 in-reserve)

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<b><u>Appointed</u></b>	John F. Powell	1/8/47
	Alfred H. Schwabenhausen	1/8/47
	Vernon R. Tucker	1/8/47
	Bertrand A. Walker	1/8/47
	Raymond S. Herrick	10/14/47

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<b><u>Promotions</u></b>	Lieutenant Nelson H. Huff	to	Captain	6/16/47
	Private Malcolm M. Murray	to	Lieutenant	6/16/47
	Captain Harry W. Marr	to	District Chief	8/28/47
	Lieutenant Charles E. Ross	to	Captain	9/26/47
	Lieutenant Thomas H. Markley	to	Captain	9/26/47
	Private Samuel Gerber	to	Lieutenant	9/26/47
	Private John F. Rafferty	to	Lieutenant	9/26/47

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<b><u>Deaths</u></b>	Captain Thomas A. Mulhern	1/1/47	<b>(died active)</b>	Engine 6
	District Chief Thomas S. Murdock	5/1/47	<b>(died active)</b>	District 1
	Captain Carl A. Elfstrom	6/25/47	<b>(died active)</b>	Ladder 5

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**Updated:** August 19, 2010



# Working Fires and Multiple Alarms

1947

<i>bldegs</i>	1/21	W/F-54	9 FOREST AV	2/4 28	161 Cony	
	1/30	W/F-742	48 Whitney Av	2/21	State Pier	
	3/23	<del>W/F</del> -935	1600 Forest Av	2/21	2-443	225 Commercial
	4/14	2-917	42-4 Norwood St	4/27	Margway	(Beet)
	4/21	W/F-4	75 Middle St			
	4/27	W/F-139	336 Auburn St			
	5/3	W/F-4	94-6 Middle St			
	5/7	W/F-443	390 Fore St			
	5/7	W/F-35	69 Chestnut St			
	6/17	W/F-78	75 St James St			
	6/30	W/F-35	214-6 Oxford St	22 Cedar St		
	7/3	2-917	42-4 Norwood St			
	7/22	W/F-821	223 Vaughn St	7/14	412	442 Fore St
	8/5	W/F-4	59-61 Middle St	7/31	316	79 Church
	8/10	W/F-78	442 St John St			
	9/16	W/F-41	340 Fore St			
	9/21	W/F-955	32 Lawn Av			
	9/25	W/F-514	6 Walker St			
	10/16	W/F-75	34 Gilman St			
	10/18	W/F-76	40 Roberts St			
	10/23	3-29	Maine State Pier			
	10/24	W/F-55	29 Mechanic St			
	11/2	W/F-59	84 Free St			
	11/29	2-814	776-8 Congress St			
	12/3	W/F-74	974-6 Congress St			
	12/12	W/F-25	22 North St			
	12/13	W/F-742	94 Whitney Av			
	12/15	W/F-34	12-4 Kennebec St			
	12/17	W/F-82	20 Briggs St			
	12/20	W/F-25	117 Congress St			
	12/20	2-753	City Home Barn			
	12/21	W/F-78	398 Park Av			
	12/27	4-443	Randall & McAllister Wharf			
	12/27	W/F-132	G.T.R.R. Sheds			

DEC. 31, 1947

# \$600,000 Fire Loss City's 1947 Record

Recent Series Of Blazes

Hikes Total To Triple '46 Mark

12/31/47

Property damage from fires in Portland during 1947 was estimated today by Fire Chief Oliver T. Sanborn at approximately \$600,000 or triple the amount sustained in the previous year.

Most of the damage, however, occurred in the last quarter of the year, Chief Sanborn said. Up to Oct. 1, losses for the year totaled \$45,615.65, far under the 1946 nine-month figure of \$109,655.15.

However, starting in October, wind and weather conditions combined in a series of spectacular fires to send the property damage figure to the \$600,000 mark.

The State Pier fire, which represented the biggest fire loss in the past 25 years, claimed the major share of the record-breaking total. Original estimates placed this loss alone at \$800,000, but this has since been scaled down considerably.

In recent weeks the City has been visited with major fires at the City Farm, the Randall-McAllister coal pocket, and the Presumpscot Street stockyards of the Canadian National Railways.

In almost every case, tinder-dry structures caught fire, the flames being whipped into dangerous proportions by brisk winds.

The \$600,000 figure cited by Chief Sanborn far exceeded the average ten per cent increase in Nation-wide property damage recorded by a National magazine.

The publication said that up to Dec. 1, fire damage in the Country amounted to \$624,000,000. Worst previous years were 1940 and 1926, with \$561,000,000 damage in both years.