

THE SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHICAGO CIVIL DEFENSE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FOR 1959

DEDICATION

To Mayor Richard J. Daley for his inspiring leadership and progressive mind in the ideals of making Chicago the great City it is today.

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To Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn for ~~his~~ ^{the} guidance and cooperation his department has furnished this organization to insure its success.

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To Governor Leo A. Hoegh, National Director of Civil and Defense Mobilization, for his inspiring words of encouragement and his assistance in making this organization one of outstanding recognition.

P R E F A C E

The month of January 1960 marks the second year anniversary of the Chicago Civile Defense Fire and Rescue Service. It was on this date that the Fire and Rescue Service officially went into service under the direction of Fire Commissioner, Robert J. Quinn. Although the begining dates back to October 1957, when Commissioner Quinn realized that six heavy duty Civil Defense trucks were laying idle in various city garages. After a meeting with Mayor Daley and Charles Johnson, a devoted fire buff in the city, the idea was conceived to have volunteer citizens operate this equipment. The purpose of this organization was to have an auxilary trained force to assist at disasters and to augment the Fire Department in event they became overtaxed in the performance of their duties.

It took the first handful of volunteers from October 1957 to January 1958 to put these six trucks into operating condition. All tools and equipment were renovated to peak effeciecy.

On the firstb day of officially being recognized as an organization this service responded to an extra alarm fire at 54 E. Hubbard. It was at this first alarm that the true value of this organization became apparent. Since this first day of Service, the Chicago Civil Defense Fire and Rescue Service has proven to Chicago and the nation that an organization of this type can work with proper cooperation.

T R A I N I N G

The training program in the Fire and Rescue Service is continuous throughout the year. The Program can be broken down into three parts, Class room work, practical exercixe and on the scene training.

All of the men of the service are taught the Civil Defense basic rescue techniques course, fire department evolutions and first aid. These three subjects are taught in the classroom, on a weekly basis. During the winter months the classes are confined to indoor drills, which include movies and demonstrations

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by representatives of various manufactures. During the warm months of the year the training reverts to the outdoors. All ~~the~~ of the techniques of rescue that were taught in the classroom are put into practice. The site of this phase of training are abandoned buildings. The men are divided into squads and a squad leader is appointed. Next a dummy is put into some section of the building and a wall is pulled ~~in~~ down around the dummy. The problem for the squad is to make the rescue using any or all available rescue tools. This entire procedure is supervised by instructors and discussions are held after each squad completes their task.

The last phase of training is at the scenes of actual disasters, In the City of Chicago an extra alarm fire provides a good training ground for experience. While working at these fires the men are taught how to conduct themselves under actual conditions of an emergency. The men are constantly supervised and are always on the alert for the safety of of all participants.

F I R E D U T Y

The Fire and Rescue Service automatically responds to all extra alarm fires in the city. In the past year the Service has ~~xxxxxx~~ made 270 responses to fires. This total includes still and box alarm fires at hospitals, schools and airports.

The various duties performed at fires include the task of assisting companies to "lead out", "pick up", set up ladders and to assist in any necessary duty to facilitate the extinguishment of the fire. Besides helping with these tasks the Fire and Rescue Service augments the Fire Department with trained men who can operate some 390 different tools carried on the rescue trucks. Throughout the year these tools are used by Civil Defense members or made available to the Fire Department.

FIRE DUTY , Con't.

Some of the tools used in the past year to graet advantage include the bolt cutters, to open fences to provide emergency exists for men working in close quarters near fire buildings. The powerful 7-ton winch, used constantly to pull down dangerous walls, steel bars off windows, remove cars ~~fx~~ and trucks from burning buildings and used ~~ix~~ on two occasions to pull heavy airplane motors and parts from scenes of airplane wrecks. A piece of equipment also used frequently this past year ^{was} ~~ix~~ the gasoline powered chainsaw. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~during the summer and fall~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~to remove fallen trees~~. The saw was ~~xxxx~~ used at many fires to cut open holes in floors. Other equipment used at scenes of fires included the Inhalator, metal cuttingsaws and the power Roto-Hammer for use on brick and concrete walls.

Besides making available and operating these tools the men perform other duties such as assisting the injured, spreading salt during the sub-zero days of winter and the carring of gasoline for the pumpers.

Some of the ~~xxxxxx~~ outstanding work done by the Fire and Rescue Service during the apst year was at an explosion, where the house was completely demolished, Here the winch was employed to pull the large pieces of the building from the house site so that the premis~~s~~s could be searched for victims.

