

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 ^{the} ~~his~~ 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

TRAINING con't.

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.

FIRE DUTY

The Fire and Rescue Service automatically responds to all extra alarm fires in the city. In the past year the Service has ~~responded~~ 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 ~~fx~~ 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} ~~fx~~ the gasoline powered chainsaw. ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~during the summer and fall~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~to remove fallen trees~~. The saw was ~~also~~ 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.

SPECIAL DUTY

The special duty responses for 1959 totaled 201. Special Duty alarms consist of any call for assistance other than fire. The first special duty response of 1959 was tagged with the name "Operation ~~Water~~ Tank Car". This incident took place in January, when a large water main on the far South side of the city had broken leaving this section of the city without water. To remedy the situation ^{Fire} Commissioner Robert J. Quinn and Chief Johnson of Civil Defense worked out a plan whereby an auxiliary water supply would be available in event of Fire. The Milk Daries were asked to dispatch their tank cars filled with water to the area stricken without water. The fire and rescue service responded with four rescue units and manpower to the scene. These CD units were stationed at various fire houses with a tank truck filled with water and were to escort these tank trucks to any fire in the area. The balance of the plan called for the Rescue Units to deliver fresh water to the sick in the homes and also to the hospitals in the area who were in need of water. Before the plan was put into full operation it was called off because a feeder main was located and the area supplied with water. It was evident that a plan of this type is operational.

In March, A Units of the Fire and Rescue Service was put on display at the Home and Garden Show at Navy Pier. Here thousands of people stopped by to view the equipment and to ask questions about the performance of this Service.

Throughout the year CD Units conducted 85 demonstrations at various shopping centers and fire stations, explaining the function and importance of Civil Defense and displaying the some 390 different rescue tools carried on the trucks.

During the Summer months the men of the Service unselfishly gave up their holiday weekends so that all Rescue trucks could be on the streets patrolling the beach area and city to announce safety messages, Civil Defense instructions and clean-up messages.

A Another Special Duty ~~response~~ response was that of acting as first-aid stations for events as the Queens' arrival, Boy Scout Jamboree and the Pan American Games.

SPECIAL DUTY, Con't.

train
In the months of May and November the Service responded to two elevated wrecks. In both instances the equipment used from the heavy-duty rescue trucks played an important part in swiftly freeing some of the victims.

When the storms would lash the great Windy City the Service in cooperation with the Fire Department would tackle the task of clearing the streets and assisting in the removal of dangerous trees.

In December ~~four~~ three Units responded with the Fire Department to locate discarded storage batteries which were being used as fuel by people in the area. The result of burning these battery cases were poisonous fumes which were causing illness among the people burning them. A house to house search was conducted which resulted in the locating of many more cases which could have resulted in more victims of the poisoning.

EQUIPMENT

The equipment of the Chicago Civil Defense Fire and Rescue Service consists of six heavy-duty rescue trucks which are equipped in accordance with Civil Defense specifications. These trucks are operated and maintained on a twenty-four a day basis. The specifications are broad in the ~~new~~ sense that the trucks carry some 390 different tools. Many tools compliment other tools so that problems of rescue can be handled in many ways.

~~All equipment~~ In 1959 many new tools ~~were added~~ not listed in Civil basic Defense Specifications were added to the rescue trucks. All tools that were purchased were done so under a program known as the Federal Contribution program. Under this program certain approved equipment can be bought and the Government will contribute a certain share of the purchase price. This affords the City to obtain equipment that will benefit all at a price much less than full cost.

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EQUIPMENT Con't

All new tools that were added in 1959 were first ^{Trial} trail tested under actual emergencies to determine the quality and usefulness of each.

Some of the equipment added in the last year includes the Reviv-A-Life resuscitators. These units were bought under certain specifications which include portable handling either in the case or strapped on the back, extra long hose connections so that victims can be worked on in places inaccessible to the machine, and lastly special connections to fit large commercial supplies of oxygen. This Resuscitator and its simplicity of operation have proven its worth on many occasions.

Early in 1959 ten-twenty ton portapower units were added to the trucks to qualify ~~the trucks~~ ^{them} for heavy lifting work. This equipment was used on a few instances to free trapped victims of wrecks.

Metal cutting saws were also added to compliment the cutting torch. Soon after the metal cutting saw was put into service it was used to free a victim of an elevated wreck

The problem of making holes in brick and concrete were always of deep concern so the Service purchased an electric power Roto-Hammer to solve the problem of breaching holes in walls. This ~~unit~~ ^{Hammer} has already proved its value at various fires where holes were required to get to the seat of the fire. ~~It~~ Because this hammer is light and portable it can be used with ease from the basket of the Fire Department "Snorkel"

Another valuable piece of equipment added to the trucks in the last year was the gasoline powered chain Saws. These saws were in heavy demand during the times when heavy winds would fall countless trees. The chain saw was also found to be valuable in cutting ~~through~~ thru floors of fire buildings.

Besides all of the equipment purchased on the Federal Contribution Program, thousands of dollars worth of equipment were received from Federal Surplus stores, this equipment includes generators, compressors, thawing devices, pumps, heating units and various small tools. All of this equipment is ^{placed} ~~passed~~ on stand-by service.

M U T U A L A I D

The policy of Civil Defense Director, Robert J. Quinn is to offer the assistance of the Fire and Rescue Service to any troubled spot anywhere. During the past year The City of Rockford was called and offered help when a flood invaded the city. The Cities of Skokie, Illinois and Houston, Texas were also called when emergencies had overtaxed the present departments.

The Fire and Rescue Service did respond to a general alarm fire in the City of Cicero, Illinois, Here the two Units and men that responded assisted the Cicero Fire Department with the usual duties.

In September a storm of tornado velocity hit the North Shore area. The City of Evanston was hit the hardest by the storm, hundreds of trees were down in some area power and communications were curtailed. Under the direction of Commissioner Quinn, Chief Supervisor Johnson called the city of Evanston and they accepted the help of the Fire and Rescue Service. Within minutes three Units of Civil Defense Rescue Service were heading for the stricken city. Upon arrival at the Evanston fire station a fireman was assigned to each truck to direct the Units to the locations of the most urgent need. The men put the chain saws to work removing trees from the road ways and in some cases trees had to be removed from cars and houses. Also ~~put~~ ^{used} to great advantage was the winch, many tree were pulled along the streets so that traffic could pass. The men of the Rescue Service are always eager to respond to assist other Cities outside of Chicago, ~~knowing~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~are~~ ~~being~~ ~~always~~ ~~mindful~~ ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~are~~ ~~representing~~ ~~not~~ ~~only~~ ~~the~~ ~~Chicago~~ ~~Fire~~ ~~Department~~ ~~But~~ ~~also~~ ~~the~~ ~~great~~ ~~City~~ ~~of~~ ~~Chicago~~.

C I V I L D E F E N S E P A R T I C I P A T I O N

Throughout the year of 1959 the six units of the Fire and Rescue Service participates in all of the various combined Civil Defense Alerts. During the Summer months the units make visits to various shopping centers explaining the importance of civil defense preparedness and distributing literature.

During 1959, some 218,020 pieces of civil defense literature was distributed.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The past two years have proven that an organization as the Civil Defense Fire and Rescue Service can work to the advantage of all citizens everywhere. The slogan which was adopted for the road to progress is "We Never Go Backwards". With this slogan in mind, 1960 will bring on the intensification of the present training program to develop men who can think and ~~not~~ perform more rapidly.

Equipment is be^{ing} worked on which will compliment the six rescue trucks and be of great value to the Fire Department. This includes a compact power wagon which will be equiped with a 5KW generator to supply a battery of lights or to supply power to some building where electricity is a necessity. This power wagon will go into service early in 1960. Also planned for completion will be a heavy duty air compressor which can be used where the need arises for breaking thru concrete. Also in the planning stages but near reality are compact trailer to carry an assortment of items such as a generator 5 KW., portable heating unit with capacity to heat and average size building, Pumping equipment for emergency water flows and lastly a 16 foot Aluminum boat for use in lagoons and rivers. All equipment mentioned above has been made available through the Federal Surplus Program ~~and is made~~ and only to Civil Defense Organizations

Fire Commissioner Quinn has also made plans to turn over to the Fire and Rescue Service a fire house for use of this additional equipment and for a general headquarters.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to express deep appreciation to the truck dealers who graciously donated the truck chassis for the power wagon and the air compressor. ~~through~~ ^{press} publicized the work and activities To the ~~radio~~ and television people, who ~~put the volunteer work done by this organization~~ done by this volunteer organization. To the fire and police department, with whom most of our work is done shoulder to shoulder, and to all City Department and agencies who offered assistance making our second year of service ~~more~~ fruitful then
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RESPONSE AND ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 1959

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RESPONSES :

Fire	271
Special Duty	<u>201</u>
Total	472

WORKING TIME HOURS AND MINUTES:

Fire	723 Hrs. 09 Min.
Special Duty	<u>745 Hrs. 50 Min.</u>
Total	1468 Hrs. 59 Min.

MEMBERS REPORTING:

Fire	2108
Special Duty	<u>733</u>
Total	2841

AVERAGE WORKING TIME PER ALARM:

Fire	3 Hrs. 15 Min.
Special Duty	4 Hrs. 6 Min.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEN REPORTING PER ALARM:

Fire	9.5 Men
Special Duty	4.0 Men

Total number of miles traveled by all six trucks = 12,428 miles.

Total number of Civil Defense literature distributed in 1959 = 218,020 pieces.

This report respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Benker,
Administrative Assistant.

Approved:

Charles M. Johnson,
Chief Supervisor.