

Box 52 Association



The Line Box



I.F.B.A. Member club since 1955!

Vol. 16 No. 1

Welcome Another Great Season and Our 107th Year!

The issue you are reading marks the 16th continuous year of publication. I had no idea that back in 2003, that it would be so well received and for so long. From our first issue which contained only four pages, each issue now averages 37.8 pages!

This newsletter could not have survived with the continued support of the Board of Directors, the members who contributed either photos, research information, or article suggestions. For those of you wondering if there will be a follow up to the Foam apparatus articles, let me say, that is over and done with!



Boston E4 2003 Pierce Enforcer 1250 gpm/500 gallons/CFAS, Photo by Member Michael Boynton

FIRE RAVAGES WAKEFIELD BUSINESS

By David Parr

Photos by late member L. Murray Young, collection of member David Parr

A spectacular general alarm fire destroyed one of Wakefield's oldest businesses on the evening of March 27, 1961.

The Lead Lined Iron Pipe Company was located at 39 Broadway, which was located at North Avenue and the Boston and Maine railroad Portland Division tracks, and consisted of 1 and 2 story wood frame buildings attached to a 1 story cement block office building. The company manufactured special lead lined piping used in the chemical and electronics industry, and had been located in Wakefield since 1892.

The first indication of a problem at the factory was a burglar alarm received at Police Headquarters, sending Police Patrolmen Richard Cheever and Robert Westcott to the scene. As they were pulling up, a passerby had noticed smoke billowing from the building and pulled box 121 at Broadway and North Avenue at 9:15 PM, bringing Engines 3 and 4 and Ladder 1 with Lieutenant William O'Neil in command.



Wakefield Fire Chief William P. Hurton was with Police Chief Merritt Wenzel at Minahan's Drug Store on North Ave at the Wakefield train station when the box tapped in. He arrived simultaneously with the first alarm companies, and took one look at the scene before him – heavy smoke pumping from all parts of the complex - and ordered a general alarm transmitted at 9:16 PM.



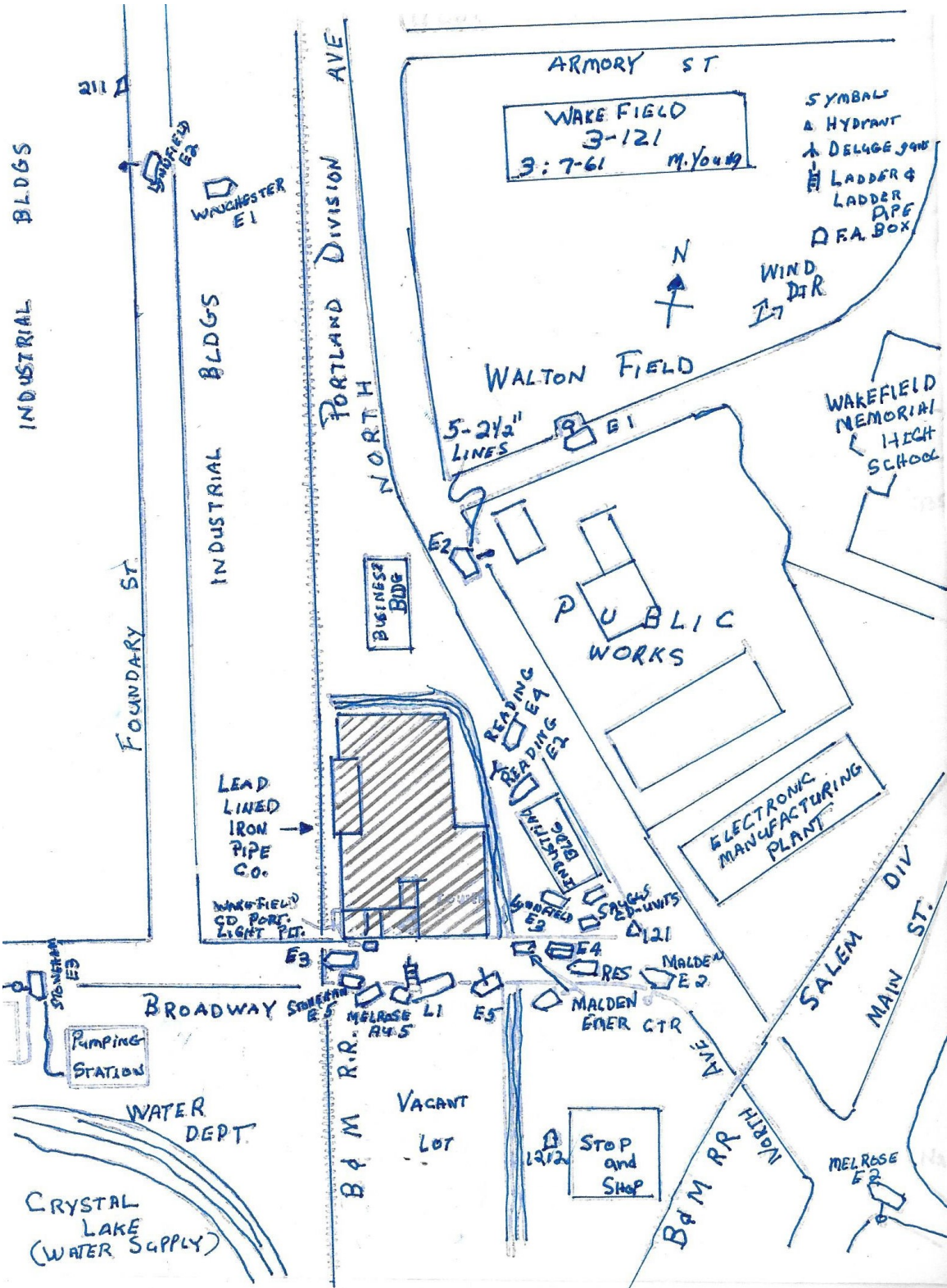
The General Alarm or third alarm brought Wakefield Engine 2 from Greenwood, Wakefield Engines 1 and 5 and the Auxiliary Rescue truck, as well as Melrose Engine 2, Reading Engine 2, Lynnfield Engines 2 and 3, and Stoneham Engine 3 to the fire scene. Later special calls brought Melrose Auxiliary Engine 5, Reading Engine 4, Stoneham Engine 5, Winchester Engine 1 and Malden Engine 2 to the fire. North Reading Engine 2 and Middleton Engine 1 covered Wakefield Headquarters during the blaze.

From the beginning this was a defensive firefight. Companies scrambled to protect exposures along Broadway, North Avenue and over the railroad tracks on Foundry Street. Reading and Lynnfield firefighters, led by Chief James Perry of Reading and Chief Carl Davis of Lynnfield were credited with teaming up to save the three story Wakefield Engineering building on North Avenue. At one point firefighters had to wet down reading engine 2's American LaFrance pumper to protect it from the radiating heat.



The spectacular fire completely destroyed the rambling complex, with damage estimated at \$ 150,000. Firefighters were on the scene wetting down all night, and the cause of the fire was determined to have been the careless disposal of smoking materials. It was the worst fire experienced in Wakefield in 30 years bringing 75 firefighters from 8 communities to control. The allout signal on box 121 was sounded at 2:35 AM on March 28th.





Time Line Wakefield Box 121

9:15 PM	121	3, 4	L1		
9:16 PM	3-121	1, 2, 5		Rescue 1	
9:16 PM	Box 7	Melrose E2			To the fire
9:17 PM	Box 81	Reading E2			To the fire
9:19 PM	Still	No. Reading E2			Cover Wakefield HQ
9:21 PM	Box 8	Lynnfield E2, E3			To the fire
9:23 PM	Box 81	Stoneham E3			To the fire
9:32 PM	Still	Melrose E5 (aux)			To the fire
9:38 PM	Box 6	Middleton E1			Cover Wakefield HQ
9:39 PM	Still	Stoneham E5			To the fire
9:40 PM	Box 82	Winchester E1			Cover Stoneham HQ
9:53 PM	Box 10	Malden E2			To the fire
9:58 PM	Still-Stoneham	Winchester E1			To the fire from Stoneham HQ
9:58 PM	Box 10-48	Woburn E4			Cover Stoneham HQ



**Natick 8-Alarm Inferno
7 South Main St. July 22, 2019
By Mark Roche
All photos by Adam Ferrari**



The original Wolcott Building on South Main St survived the 1874 fire which destroyed much of Downtown Natick. Throughout the years, the upper floors were removed and a 1-story addition was constructed to encompass the full block.
(Natick Historical Society photo)



The block was not architecturally attractive in comparison to the classic red brick buildings that grace much of Downtown Natick, however eight businesses operated successfully in this block for many years.

The following is a list of the businesses at the time of the fire;

- Natick Center Graphics, 1 South Main St.
- RobJects D'Art, 5 South Main St.
- King Wok Chinese Restaurant, 7 South Main St.
- Christian Science Reading Room, 1 Pond St.
- Iron Horse Gifts, 3 Pond St.
- Nancy Kelley Dance Studio, 7 Pond St.
- Metro Pets Grooming, 2 West Central St.
- Second Chances Gifts, 6 West Central St.



The initial call was received at 0122 for smoke in the area of 7 South Main St. The 1st Alarm response was: Engine 1 (Using Spare Engine 6), Engine 4, Ladder 1 (Using Engine 1's quint), Ambulance 1, Car 2 (D.C. Daniel Mathews).

Upon arrival, heavy smoke was showing from a large 1-story commercial building 100'x150'. The smoke appeared to be issuing from the King Wok. The initial attack was an offensive operation as Engine 1 advanced a line into the first floor of the restaurant. Members reported a heavy smoke and heat condition as they attempted their attack on the fire.

A 2nd Alarm was transmitted by D.C. Mathews. The response was Engine 2, Engine 3 and D.C. Daniel Dow (Acting Chief). As conditions rapidly deteriorated, the I.C. made the decision to back

the companies out and change to a defensive operation. A 3rd Alarm was transmitted bringing in Mutual Aid companies from Fire District 14.



Several master streams including ladder pipes, towers and blitz guns operated throughout the night as the fire gained full possession of the entire block.



At first light, brown acrid smoke continued to cover most of the Downtown area. As Natick residents awoke to news of the fire, many gathered at the common across the street and watched in sadness at the loss of this landmark.



Mutual aid to the fire included the following communities;

Ashland Engine 1
Concord Engine 3 & Ladder 1
Framingham Engine 5 & Ladder 3,
Hopkinton Engine 4
Hudson Tower 1
Marlborough Engine 3 & Tower 1
Maynard Engine 2
Sherborn Engine 4
Southborough Tower 21
Sudbury Engine 2
Wayland Engine 2
Wellesley Engine 1 & Tower 2
Weston Engine 4

The following support units responded to the fire;
Boston Sparks canteen (A-10)
Department of Fire Services Rehab Unit
Leicester Air Supply
Marlborough Air Supply
Milford Air Supply
Salvation Army canteen.

As of this writing, the fire was listed as undetermined as the investigation was hampered due to the severe damage and collapse of the heavy timber joists and membrane roof.
An estimated 1.3-million gallons of water was used during this fire.

More Natick photos courtesy of Robert Myers





The Bronx is Burning 2019 Style!

When FDNY Firefighter Dennis Smith wrote the highly acclaimed REPORT FROM ENGINE Co. 82, which was published in 1972 and a book that I am sure everyone in this Association has read. There was a couple of pages about a summer day when the Bronx was indeed burning. If I remember the passage it went something like this. "Get out 82 and 31, the Bronx is burning"!

On Monday August 5th 2019 the FDNY battled a 4th and 7th alarm with-in 97 minutes!

The first fire was at 806-808 Freeman Street between Union and Prospect Streets. The fire was reported on the second floor of a 3 story occupied attached 20 x 45 wood frame.

0353	2702	82, 50, 92, 73	31, 19, 44(fast)	R3, Sq-41 , RAC-3	Batt 26, 17 Div. 6
0404	10-75				B.O Batt. 26
0410	Spc. Call	94	48		
0413	2-2702	45, 60, 88, 72 w/Sat. 2	42, 58,	Tac-1, RM-1	B.O Batt 26 Batt. 3, 18, 14, Safety & Rescue Batts.
0431	3-2702	83, 96, 75, 78 35 (Comm)	55, 27,	Mask Service RAC-1, CTU (Comm. Tact. Unit)	B.O Div. 6 Batt 13, 43, 16
0449	Spc. Call		17, 38		B.O Div. 6
0454	Spc. Call		49, 54		B.O. Div. 6
0536	4-2702	46, 93, 43, 69	29, 33 (FAST)		Batt. 19

Bronx C.O. radioed Batt. 26 that they were receiving a couple of calls and also getting an address of 1343 Prospect. At 0401 hours Batt. 26 reported to the Bronx "We're investigating a heavy smoke odor, it maybe rubbish in the rear, just give us a minute". At 0404 hours Batt. 26 transmitted the 10-75 and reported that they had fire in the rear of 808 Freeman extending into exposure 4 and possibly the cockloft. A special call was requested for an extra engine and truck on the 10-75.

A second alarm was ordered by Batt. 26. With the arrival of Division 6 the third alarm was transmitted. A staging area was set up at Prospect Ave. and Jennings. St. upon transmitting the third alarm Division 6 reported he had five lines stretched and in operation and had fire in the cockloft of 806-802 Freeman St.

At 0449 Division 6 special called two additional trucks and two more trucks were special called at 0456 hours. Car 4F reported that truck companies were in the process of opening up and that the Cockloft Nozzle was in operation.

Car 4F ordered a fourth alarm at 0536 hours for relief purposes. The fire was placed under control by Division 6 at 0611 hours. Engine Company 43 and Ladder 26/Acting Ladder 38 stood by with the watch line. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries.

Many companies and special units operating at this fire would be dispatched to the 7th alarm fire.

**The Second Fire
225 McClellan Street
66-77-2566**

0530 hours the Bronx C.O. received a phone alarm reporting a fire in a 6 story group home with mercantile units on the first floor. The fourth alarm on Freeman Street would be transmitted at the same time as the 10-75 on this fire. Relocations had taken place and still working at the first fire were 17 engine companies, 14 truck companies along with special units.

The fire was in the confines of the 17th Battalion which was being covered by Battalion 11. Rescue 3 was cleared from the 4th alarm and responded on the box, along with RAC-3.

Upon arrival Batt. 11 special called and extra engine and truck after finding fire in one of the stores extending to the second floor. The 10-75 and second alarm were sounded five minutes apart and Division 7 requested two additional trucks. The report to the Bronx C.O. at 0553 hours were three lines stretched and operating and the fire was extending into the second floor.

The third alarm was transmitted and Division 7 special called two extra trucks above the third alarm



Photo courtesy of the F.D.N.Y

At 0606 hours Division 7 ordered the fourth alarm be transmitted and reported that he now had extension into the cockloft. And reported that he had put the FAST Truck to work and special call an additional FAST truck.

At 0635 hours a fifth alarm was ordered for relief purposes. This was followed with special calls for four additional truck companies with in eight minutes between 0647 and 0655 hours.

Car 4 reported at 0708 hours that he had 8 lines stretched and in operation with a 9th being stretched. A trench cut had been made, one Cockloft Nozzle in operation and a second being set up. And fire was now on all floors. The sixth alarm would be sounded, followed by the seventh alarm for engine companies only. Numerous special calls made before this fire was placed under control at 0834 hours.



Photo courtesy of the F.D.N.Y.

0530	2566	79/92, 68, 71, 42	46/44, 51/31, 13/17(FAST)	R3 RAC-4	Batt.11/17, 52/14 Div. 7
0534	Sp. Call	47/60	45		
0536	10-75-2566				
0541	2-2566	90/94, 84/45, 39/83, 324 w/Sat. 4	30/42	Squad 61 RAC-5, Tac.1 CTU	Batt. 45/18, 27, 12 Rescue Batt. Safety Batt.
0551	Sp. Call		59/19, 116/49		
0602	3-2566	80/93, 67/43, 37 263/48 (Comm)	130/38, 28	Field Comm	Batt. 20, 16, 43 Car-4
0603	Sp. Call		167/55, 125/33		
0606	4-2566	295/73, 95, 81, 58	44	RM-1	Batt 15, 19
0611	Sp. Call		35/23 (FAST)		
0642	5-2566	292/50, 89/82, 312/75, 16/69		Mask Service Unit	Batt. 6/11, 49
0647	Sp. Call		40/34, 34/56		
0655	Sp. Call		36, 163/54		

0724	6-2566	59, 28/35, 64,62			Batt. 32/14
0724	Sp. Call			R4	
0728	Sp. Call			Squad 1	
0756	Sp. Call		105/31, 23/17		
0802	7-2566	73, 75, 69			

Most Bronx Companies worked at one or the other fires, some making it to both. Five Bronx engines and eight Hook & Ladders located in the far north side of the Boro:

E-38, 52, 63, 70, 97

L-32, 37, 39, 47, 50, 52, 53, 61

Special thanks to NYC Fire Wire for response information.

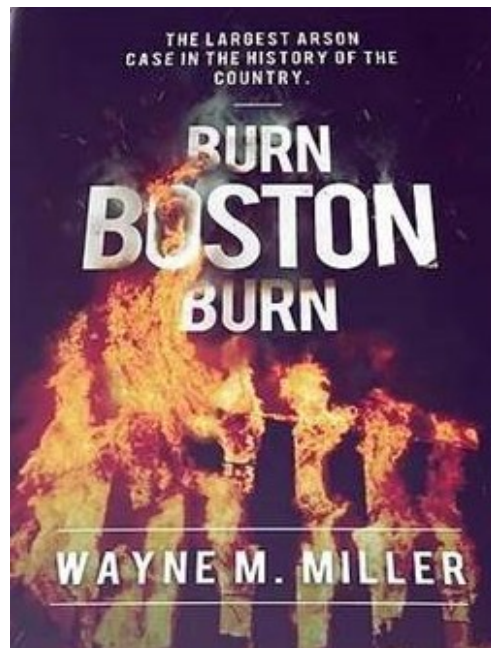
BURN BOSTON BURN

On Monday September 9th many of our members, along with the Boston Sparks Association gathered at Florian Hall to hear retired A.T.F. Agent Wayne Miller speak about the arson ring that terrorized Boston during the 1982-1984 period. He has written a book about the events and the people involved.

I picked up a paperback copy and couldn't put it down. It is well written and describes the investigation and building the court case. The most interesting part of the book was the details of the lives of those involved in the conspiracy, this was fascinating for me.

For ordering the book you can visit Wayne's website at: <https://www.burnbostonburn.com/>

The cover photo was taken by one of the arsonists!





**Beggs and Cobb Tannery Main & Swanton Streets
Thursday September 17th, 1959 General Alarm Box 42**

Woburn and Winchester had long been known as Towns that were heavily involved with the leather and hides trades. In the early days the Middlesex Canal brought their manufactured goods to Boston via the Canal to the Mystic River and into the Port. With the coming of the Boston and Maine Railroad, first known as the Boston and Lowell Railroad. Numerous mills and tanneries established their business in this two towns.

In 1876 the Beggs and Cobb Company erected a large five story wooden mill and tannery at the corner of Main and Swanton Street near the Center of Winchester. The Company flourished until 1957 when the owners decided to move their operations to Maine. The property sat vacant for two years and finally in the late summer of 1959 a contract was awarded to Duane Demolition to tear down the vacant eye sore.

Over the previous weeks the Winchester Fire Department had responded to the site and handle many small fires. They had no idea when box 42 came in followed by numerous phone calls that they would be facing the largest blaze in Winchester history!

At 11:03 AM box 42 came in eight rounds due to the wires becoming fused from the heat. A telephone call was also received reporting the fire, or more correctly the inferno!



Companies headed out the door with five engine companies, the Rescue and Ladder 1. The air horn atop the fire house was blowing out the box summoning the call men and surrounding towns had also received the box via the Mutual Aid circuits.

First arriving companies found the five story mill fully involved due to the dry and oil soaked wooden floors of the mill. A second alarm was skipped and the third or General Alarm was sounded at 11:08 AM, which summoned 9 engine companies, and one Ladder Company.



Firefighters faced heavy fire conditions with radiant heat that made approaching the fire impossible. Several exposure fires were started by both heat and flying brands at:

- 43 Spruce Street, a wood frame dwelling. This fire was handled by Melrose Engine 1 and Hanscom AFB Engine 3.
- Symmes Grain Mill on Main Street, brush fire handled by Malden Engine 3
- 13 Tremont Street a wood frame dwelling. Arlington Engine 1 and Hanscom AFB Engine 3 knocked it down quickly.
- 6, 9, 12 Winter Street small roof fires started by flying brands and handled quickly by Medford Engine 2.
- 250 Washington St. awning and porch fire on a wood frame dwelling. This fire saw Arlington Engine 1 and Hanscom AFB Engine 3 teaming up again.
- 63 Nelson Street, brush fire extinguished by Stoneham Engine 5.



By 1:00 PM the entire structure had collapsed from the fast moving flames and companies shifted operations to wetting down the ruins.

The fire by the numbers for those interested:

Total water used over two days 1, 599,932 gallons

Total number of 2 ½ line used 15,100 feet

Total number of 1 ½ line used 3,250 feet

Booster line used was 3,700 feet

Hours pumped 106.5 hours.

The allout on the fire was sounded at 6:00 PM on Friday September 18th, with all mutual aid returned and all Winchester Companies in quarters and in service.

Duane made short work of cleaning the debris from the area and today 60 years later both apartment buildings and Condo's stand at the site.

Time Line

1103	42		1, 2, 3, 4, 6	Lad. 1	Winc R1
1108	3-42				
1108	Still	Arlington	Eng. 4	Lad. 2	
1108	10-5	Woburn	Eng. 1		
1109	Box 8	Stoneham	Eng. 3		
1120	Box 8 Still	Reading Medford	Eng. 2 Eng. 2		Cover Win. HQ
1121	Still	Hansom AFB	Eng. 3		Cover Win. HQ
1124	Still	Woburn	E-4 Eng. 1 (Aux)		Cover Wob. HQ To the fire
1128	Box 10	Burlington	Eng. 1		
1129	Still	Stoneham	Eng. 3		
1132	Box 8 Box 9	North Reading Wakefield	Eng. 2 Eng. 1		
1135	Box 10	Malden	Eng. 3		Cover Win. HQ
1141	Still	Arlington	Eng. 1		Cover Win. HQ
1144	Still	Medford	Eng. 1		
1145	Box 10	Melrose	Eng. 1		Cover Win. HQ
1148	Still	Somerville	Eng. 6		Cover Arl. HQ
1320		Arlington	Eng. 1		
1332		Somerville	Eng. 6		
1430		Medford	Eng. 2		
1447		Arlington		Lad. 2	
1517	A/O 10	Burlington	Eng. 1		
1619	A/O 8	Stoneham North Reading	Eng. 3 Eng. 2		
1641		Medford	Eng. 2		
1738	A/O 8	Stoneham	Eng. 5		
1800	A/O 8	Reading	Eng. 2		
1809		Arlington	Eng. 4		
1823		Woburn	Eng. 1 (Aux)		
1903	A/O 9	Wakefield	Eng. 1		
1930	A/O 10-5	Woburn	Engs. 1, 4		
1947	A/O 10	Melrose	Eng. 1		
1955		Hansom	Eng. 3		
2006	A/O 10	Malden	Eng. 3		
2006	Still	Woburn	Eng. 1 (Aux)		To fire with lights

Friday September 18th

0045		Woburn	Eng. 1(Aux)		
1800	Allout 42	Winchester			

Tanners Degreasing Company Explosion 325 Montvale Ave. Woburn Friday September 18th, 1959 Box 48 & 481

As the day shift reported for duty in the towns around Winchester, they were greeted with the stench of smoke in the firehouse and piles of wet hose to be washed, hung and dried. Each piece had to be checked for broken or missing equipment. It would be a very busy day. The talk was of the General Alarm fire the day before in Winchester. No one had any idea that many of the

companies that fought the Beggs & Cobb fire on Thursday would be in another fire fight at a tannery in eight hours and 11 minutes. This fire would prove more difficult to fight and today would be considered a haz-mat fire due to the products used in the degreasing process.

Tanners Degreasing was located in a one story brick building in the East Woburn section of the City. Tanner's main business was turning leather hides into patent leather for the shoe and furniture industry. The process used Naptha on the hides. (*Naptha a colorless, volatile petroleum distillate, usually an intermediate product between gasoline and benzene, used as a solvent, fuel, etc. Editor*).

Naptha is highly volatile and flammable and this material releases vapors at or below ambient temperatures. When mixed with air in certain proportions and exposed to an ignition source, these vapors can burn in the open or explode in confined spaces. Vapors are heavier than air, and can travel long distance along the ground before reaching a point of ignition and flashing back. Explosive in the presence of open flames, sparks, heat and static discharge. Vapors may create vapor/air explosion hazard indoors. To fight a Naptha based fire the use of CO2 or foam is recommended.

The production day was in the process of being shut down for the weekend. Across the narrow Aberjona River from the plant an unknown person(s) had started a bonfire. A spark ignited the Naptha soaked water and the fire followed the trail into the building. At the time of the fire Tanners had a storage tank with 30,000 gallons of Naptha and a 5,000 gallon tank used to soak the hides to rid them of oil and foreign matter. The fire had ignited the hides and was starting to extend towards the piles of hides near the tank. The workers ran from the building and pulled two fire alarm boxes at the same time.

At 1611 hours, exactly 29 hours and 8 minutes since the first alarm for the Beggs & Cobb fire, Woburn Fire Alarm Office received box 48 and 481. This put the entire Woburn Fire Department on the way! First due engine 4's crew pushed a line into the front door and just they made a few feet into the building the 5,000 gallon tank exploded. It blew the four firefighters about 100 feet from the door. The building was now a wreck and a mass of fire sending up a large loom up of heavy thick black, oily smoke showed responding companies the way. This loom up was could be seen for miles around.

The four injured firefighters along with the plant manager were rushed by police cruisers and the Woburn Police ambulance to the Choate Hospital.

Fire Chief Edward Callahan wasted not a moment in sounding a General Alarm. The Woburn Companies started to try and control the fire with fog streams until the foam generating apparatus was ready and started to flow protein foam.

The fire proved more difficult to extinguish than fire thought. The foam had trouble reaching down into the vast piles of patent leather because of the Naptha on it. Special calls were made for foam and a request to Hanscom Air Force Base to have a Crash Truck respond. Winchester dispatched Engine 3, but they were quickly recalled and told to respond with Rescue 1's rig instead.

The fire was finally extinguished by 2000 hours and Chief Callahan ordered the allout on box 48 and 481 at 2225 hours. Lexington Special Service was the last mutual aid unit to return from the scene at 2300 hours.



Injured firefighters are assisted from the scene. Photo courtesy of Boston Globe Archives

Time Line Box 48 & 481

1611	48 & 481		Engs, 1, 2, 3, 4	Lad. 1		
1615	10-334	Winchester	E-3 Recalled to take R1		R-1	
1618	8	Stoneham	E-3			
1622	10	Burlington	E-3			Cover Woburn H.Q.
1629	9 84	Wakefield Reading	E1 E-2			
1635	10	Billerica	E-1			Cover Woburn H.Q.
1636	Still	Arlington	E-4			Cover Winchester H.Q.
1650	339	Lexington	E-1			
1716	Still	Hanscom AFB	E-1, pickup truck w/foam			
1733		Arlington	E-4			Returned from Winchester
1840	Still	Lexington			Special Service	
2043	Still	Wakefield			R-1	
2045		Hanscom	E-1			Returned

2122		Wakefield			R-1	Returned
2132	A/O 84	Reading	E-2			
2138	A/O 8	Stoneham	E-3			
2147	A/O 339	Lexington	E-1			
2150	A/O 9	Wakefield	E-1			
2159	A/O 10	Billerica	E-1			
2225	A/O 48 & 481	Woburn				
2229	A/O 10	Burlington	E-1			
2300		Lexington			Special Service	Returned

This and That, From Here and There



On July 1st, the city of Portland, Maine de-commissioned Engine Company 1 on Munjoy Hill. The City is now running with 4 engine companies, 2 ladder companies, 2 Quints, the Air Rescue Station, Marine Unit and 5 MEDCU ambulances. Engine Company 1 was the oldest company in the City. Engine 1 can trace its roots back to the first fire company in Portland, The Neptune in 1787. Engine Company No. 1 served the City and the Citizens for 232 years! At the time Engine 1 was operating with a 2001 Pierce 1250.500 pump.



**Baltimore City Fire Department
Operations Memo
No. 28-19
Date: August 21, 2019**

From: Mr. Joe S. Wade, Acting Assistant Chief of Operations
To: Operations, EMS
Subject: Local Alarm Dispatch

Beginning September 1st 2019, the Baltimore City Fire Department will initiate a test of Local Alarm changing the initial dispatch of our suppression units.

Local Alarm will reduce the number of units dispatched to: 3 Engines, 1 Truck and 1 Battalion Chief

- 1st Engine front
- 2nd Engine rear
- 3rd Engine RIT
- 1st Truck front
- BC = Incident Command

Arriving unit reporting a fire would fill out the response to a full box alarm. Example: E24 on scene of a two story MOG with heavy fire... strike out the remainder of the box.

When the remainder of the full box assignment is dispatched, the responding company's assignments will be:

- 4th Engine cover the hydrant of the 1st Engine
- 5th Engine cover the hydrant of the 2nd Engine
- 2nd Truck rear
- 2nd BC = Safety

Multiple 911 calls to Fire Communications would warrant the full Box Alarm Assignment: 5 Engines, 2 Trucks, 2 Battalion Chiefs and 1 Medic.

Assignments for the full Box Alarm will be:

- 1st Engine front
- 2nd Engine rear
- 3rd Engine RIT
- 4th Engine cover the hydrant of the 1st Engine
- 5th Engine cover the hydrant of the 2nd Engine
- 1st Truck front
- 2nd Truck rear
- 1st BC = Incident Command
- 2nd BC = Safety

New Baltimore response plan for fires, as we go to press two civilians have been injured in fires. According to Baltimore FD sources, this was implemented to keep more Companies available for EMS responses.



The D.C Fire and EMS Twitter page on Tuesday Sept 24 published some interesting run data for Monday the 23rd the Department responded to 623 incidents. This is not a huge number for a large urban city. What is interesting is the break down in runs. 89 calls were for fire related incidents, 194 for critical EMS calls and 340 non-critical EMS calls. That is a 6 to 1 ratio of medicals to fire incidents.

DC Fire and EMS Department has placed a new Air Unit in service as Air Unit 2. The rig is built on a 2019 KME Severe Service Walk-Around, The unit is equipped with an on board air cascade system, it will carry 84 spare bottles, submersible pumps and two hydraulically operated light towers.



Photo by Nate Olanday, via DC Fire & EMS



Boston Doin's

With the rehabbing of the Tobin Bridge, the increase in traffic has caused the BFD to reactivate Ladder Company 22. It is in service from Monday-Friday in Charlestown. The apparatus is housed in a temporary building near the foot of the bridge in City Square. The Company has been issued a 2008 Emergency-One rear mount aerial. The rig was the former Ladder 28. Manning is by firefighters and officers on an overtime basis.

Ladder 22 was also reactivated from July 26, 2004 at 0800 till July 30th 2004 and was quartered with Engine 32 and Ladder 9. This was due to the Democratic National Convention being held at the T.D. Garden.

Ladder 22 was officially placed in-service on April 21, 1905 and Combination-Ladder 5 was deactivated. On November 13th, 1972 the Company was transferred to the quarters of Engine Company 51 in Oak Square Brighton where it remained until deactivated on April 10, 1981. Ladder 22 was in service for 76 years.



Photo by Member Peter Aloisi

A FEMA grant of \$ 704,510 has been awarded to the BFD for wellness and fitness activities as well Firefighter cancer screenings



Boston Fire Department
Firehouse Groundbreaking Ceremony

By Mark Roche
All Photos by the author

On September 16, 2019, the Boston Fire Department held a formal groundbreaking ceremony for the first new fire station in the City of Boston in over 30-years. The new station will replace the quarters of Engine 42, Rescue 2 & District 9 located on the same site at 1870 Columbus Ave., corner of Bragdon St.



The current station opened on December 19, 1952. The following units have been assigned to these quarters throughout the years;

Engine Co.42 (1952-2019)
Ladder Co.30 (1952-1981)
Division 2 (1954-1984)
Rescue Co.2 (1981-1982) & (1986-2019)
District 9 (1984-2019)



During construction, Engine 42 and District 9 are being housed in temporary quarters located at 95 Atherton St. between Amery & La Martine Sts.

Rescue 2 will relocate to the quarters of Engine 52 at 975 Blue Hill Ave.
(Rescue 2 once shared these quarters from 1973-1981)

Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn has ensured that improving the station living conditions for the health and safety of the men and women of the Boston Fire Department would be a top priority of his administration.



Burlington: The new Terrace Hall station opened in July and Engine Company 2 is running with a brand new 2019 Pierce Quantum pump rate at 1500 gpm with a 500 gallon tank and foam.

Cambridge: Engine 8 and Ladder 4 quarters in Sherman Square are undergoing renovations. The companies have relocated to temporary quarters on Smith Street near the Belmont Line.

Everett: Headquarters is getting a facelift.

Lexington: Work on the new Headquarters is progressing at a steady pace and the station is slated to be operational sometime in the spring of 2020.

Quincy: Stations are receiving updates to shower and cleaning area as part of cancer prevention.

In other Metro News.....

Arlington: Deputy Kevin M. Kelley has been named Chief of Department

Brookline: has received a grant of \$146,327 for Fire Instructor Training

Quincy: has received a grant of \$ 545,528 for a new pump

Stoneham: has purchased a used Cambridge 2002 Pierce Saber for use as a spare. It has been designated Engine 5. Stoneham's 1988 E-One has been disposed of.

Waltham: has received a grant for the purchase of 74 SCBA sets

Winchester: Chief John Nash is set to retire this month.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants known as **SAFER** Grants have been awarded to the following communities:

Everett: 8 firefighters

Quincy: 16 firefighters

Four new firefighters to these following departments: **Randolph, Revere, Saugus, Weymouth, and Winthrop.**



After reviewing older editions of the Newsletter where they used to report on all fires in the area. I thought I would bring it back for the Metro District and start at the 3rd alarm level. Some with have the full response and other just the box and the time of the alarms. All Members help will be needed to gather info from their departments on the companies that responded. I hope you will enjoy this statistical page. Please note that it is in alphabetical order and not by date.

Below are listed the community abbreviations used on the Metro Fire 10 alarm running cards

Arlington	ARL	Newton	NEW
Belmont	BEL	Quincy	QUI
Boston	BOS	Randolph	RAND
Braintree	BRAIN	Reading	REA
Burlington	BURL	Revere	REV
Cambridge	CAMB	Saugus	SAU
Chelsea	CHE	Somerville	SOM
Dedham	DED	Stoneham	STONE
Everett	EVE	Wakefield	WAKE
Lexington	LEX	Waltham	WAL
Lynn	LYN	Watertown	WATN
Malden	MAL	Wellesley	WEL
MassPort	MASSPT	Weston	WEST
Medford	MED	Weymouth	WEY
Melrose	MEL	Winchester	WINC
Milton	MIL	Winthrop	WINT
Needham	NEED	Woburn	WOB

Thank you to all who contributed the information listed below.

METRO FIRE REPORT

BOSTON Saturday July 5th Box 1772 Columbia Rd & Quincy Street struck for 39 & 41 Mt. Everett Street fire in 2 three story wood frames. Fire Alarm report receiving calls. Car 7 on arrival reported fire showing in two three deckers.

0137	1772	21, 17, 24	7, 23	R2, D7
0141	2-1772	14, 42, 52, 18	4, 21, TL10	C7, D9 (RIT), D12
0149	3-1772	3, 53	19	C2

BOSTON Friday August 2nd Box 3358 Columbia Road and Blue Hill Ave struck for 600 Blue Hill Avenue, three story taxpayer. Mercantile first floor, apartments above. Fire Alarm reported receiving calls. Engine 52 arriving first due reported fire showing on first floor.

0524	3358	24, 52, 42, 17(RIT)	23, 29	R2, D7
0527	2-3358 Orders E-24	21, 14, 18	7, 4, TL10	C7, D8(RIT), D12, H1,H2
0537	3-3358	53, 3	19	

EVERETT Monday September 2nd Box 66 87 Madison Street three story wood frame. Double fatalities located on the 3rd floor.

2345	66	Engs. 3, 2,	L2	C2
2348	W.F. 66	Eng. 1	L1	
2350	2-66	BOS. E32, CHE. E1, MEL E3(RIT)	CHE. L1	Bos. D1
0006	Sp. Call	MAL. E1		
0043	3-66	SOM. E-2, REV. E4	REV. L1	
0102	Sp. Call	MassPT E1		

REVERE Monday July 29th Box 362 207 Shirley Street, the Bagel Bin a one story taxpayer.

2339	362	Engs. 1, 5, 4	L1	C7
2343	W.F. 362	Eng. 3	L2, CHE. L2 (RIT)	
2346	2-362	CHE. E-3, MAL. E-4 MassPT E-1(RIT),		C1, C2, K7
0022	3-262	BOS. E-56, LYN. E-9		BOS. D1
0044	4-262	MED. E-4, SAU. E-1, SOM. E-2, CAMB. E-5	MAL. L1	SOM. C3 CAMB. Sq. 2, Div. 2

STONEHAMSaturday July 27th Box 25 Emory Court 2.5 story wood frame single

2126	271	Eng. 2, E3(manned by callback members)	L1	
2134	2-271 On arrival	MEL. E-2, REA. E-3, WAKE E-2 Winc. E-3(RIT),	WOB. Twr	C1
2221	3-271	BURL. E-1, MED. E-6, SAU. E-1	MAL. L3	
2324	Sp. Call	NEW E-4		NEW ASU (Air Supply)

WALTHAMWednesday July 3rd Box 282 151 South Street 3 story wood frame.

1155	282	Engs. 4, 1, 2(RIT)	L2	R1, C2
1158	W.F. 282			C4 (Safety), C3
1205	2-282	Eng. 3	Twr. 1	Sq. 5*
1229	3-282	Engs. 8, 7, WEST. E4	NEW. L1	

*Squad 5 operating with spare Engine 10

WESTONSaturday August 3rd 512 Glen Road Large 2.5 story wood frame single family dwelling

2346	371	Engine 1, 3, 4	WEL. Ladder 1*	C3
2352	2-371	Wayland Eng. WEL. E2		C1, C2
2357	3-371	Natick E3, Wayland Eng.	WAL. Ladder 1	

*Weston Ladder 1 was OOS and they were running three engine companies.

WOBBURNFriday August 16th 13 Sturgis Street three story occupied wood frame dwelling

0519	13	E5, E4, E2	Twr.1	R1, C3
0527	W.F. 13	WINC. (RIT)		
0528	Sp. Call			WIN P5, Armstrong ALS & BLS
0535	2-13	BURL, READ	STONE	C1, C2
0553	3-13	ARL, WAKE, WILMINGTON	MED	WILM. R1
0558	Sp. Call			Haz-Mat 1



U.S FIRE ADMINISTRATION 2018 STATISTICS FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

During 2018 the USFA reports that 82 firefighters were killed in the line of duty.

Breakdowns by type and events:

44 were Volunteer Firefighters

33 were Career Firefighters

5 were Wildland Firefighters

Two incidents resulted in multiple fatalities, which were 4.

33 suffered from cardiac events

42 were related to activities at an emergency incident

30 occurred during firefighting operations

9 during training

10 from either returning or responding to emergency incidents.

As this issue goes to press there have been 38 firefighter fatalities in 2019.

BOSTON'S ENGINE SQUADS CREATED

On September 17th, 1954 General Order No. 60 was issued. The BFD on September 21st at 0800 hours deactivate Rescue Company 2 and place in-service five Engine-Squad Companies.

GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 60

HEADQUARTERS, FIRE DEPARTMENT
BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 17, 1954

I. ENGINE SQUAD COMPANIES

1. Effective at 8 a. m., Tuesday, September 21, 1954, the Engine Squad method of operation will be put into effect in the Boston Fire Department. Engine Squad Companies will substitute for the following and cover the districts indicated:

Engine Squad Company 11 for District 1
Engine Squad Company 34 for District 11
Engine Squad Company 14 for Districts 5 & 9
Engine Squad Company 18 for Districts 7 & 8
Engine Squad Company 53 for District 10
2. These engine squad companies will answer the first alarms now assigned to the engine companies for which they are substituting--the multiple alarm assignments outside of the district will be assigned to some other engine companies--and will answer all calls formerly answered by the rescue companies in the districts for which they are assigned.
3. Starting at 8 a. m., Tuesday, September 28, 1954, in those districts where the engine squad companies will operate, it will not be necessary for ladder companies to be dispatched on emergency calls, unless the Fire Alarm Office has prior knowledge that the services of a truck will be necessary, or unless the officer in charge requests the services of a truck. In the event an engine squad company is not immediately available, a ladder company shall be dispatched by the Fire Alarm Office. If there is an indication from information at hand that additional help is needed, the Fire Alarm Office shall dispatch the necessary apparatus. If an engine squad company is answering an emergency call, and an alarm is received to which the company is assigned to respond, Fire Alarm Office shall assign a replacement engine company.
4. Rescue Company 2 shall be deactivated at 8:00 a. m., Tuesday, September 21, 1954. All members, except officers, will be assigned to training in single-piece unit operations for the week beginning September 21st. The officers of the company will report for the day tours of duty during that week to the engine squad companies in order to acquire the basic information relative to rescue work.
5. Rescue Company 1 and Rescue Company 3 will continue on their present first alarm assignments and respond to multiple alarms as ordered. In this way the remaining districts 2 & 3, and 4 & 6 are covered by Rescue Companies 3 and 1.

On July 31st 1969 General Order 32 was issued and stated that Engine Squads 11, 14, 18, 29 and 45 are deactivated and Engine Companies 11, 14, 18, 29 and 45 are placed in service. All rescue equipment was transferred to the following Ladder Companies 2, 26, 27, 11 and 16.

We will be covering the Engine Squads history in upcoming issues of the LINE BOX.



Engine Squad 11 1947 Mack circa 1962. Photo by member William Cahill, collection of Member Frank San Severino

FIRE DUTY

Farmington, Maine Monday Sept. 16th. Propane explosion leveled a two story newly constructed building at 313 Farmington Falls Road. The blast also destroyed 11 mobile homes. Firefighters were on scene investigating an odor of propane when the blast occurred. One firefighter was killed, 6 others injured and one civilian was airlifted to Mass. General's Burn Unit.



Drone footage showing the devastation. Photo courtesy of Sun-Journal Newspaper



Photo courtesy of the Bangor Daily News

Lexington, MA. Sept. 18th House under construction in a new subdivision off Grove Street was fully involved upon the arrival of the LFD. Only one home on Jefferson Driver was occupied at the time of the fire.



Photo by FF Adam McCellan LFD. Photo courtesy of Lexington Fire.

Surf City, NC. Sunday Sept 29th 7 buildings on the beach were destroyed in a fast moving wind driven fire. First alarm was sounded just after 1800 hrs. Photo courtesy of Surf City Police



Waldorf, Charles County, MD. Friday October 4th. This house fire in the 10000 block of Chamberlain Court injured 9 firefighters when the roof collapsed. Two others were also injured from other causes on the fire ground.



Photo courtesy of Stater 911.com website

FDNY Bronx, Friday October 4th 1555 Grand Concourse. The original call was for an electrical fire in apartment 6W of this expansive 6 story OMD with multiple wings. Batt. 17 ordered the 10-75 enroute when the second source reported fire through the roof.

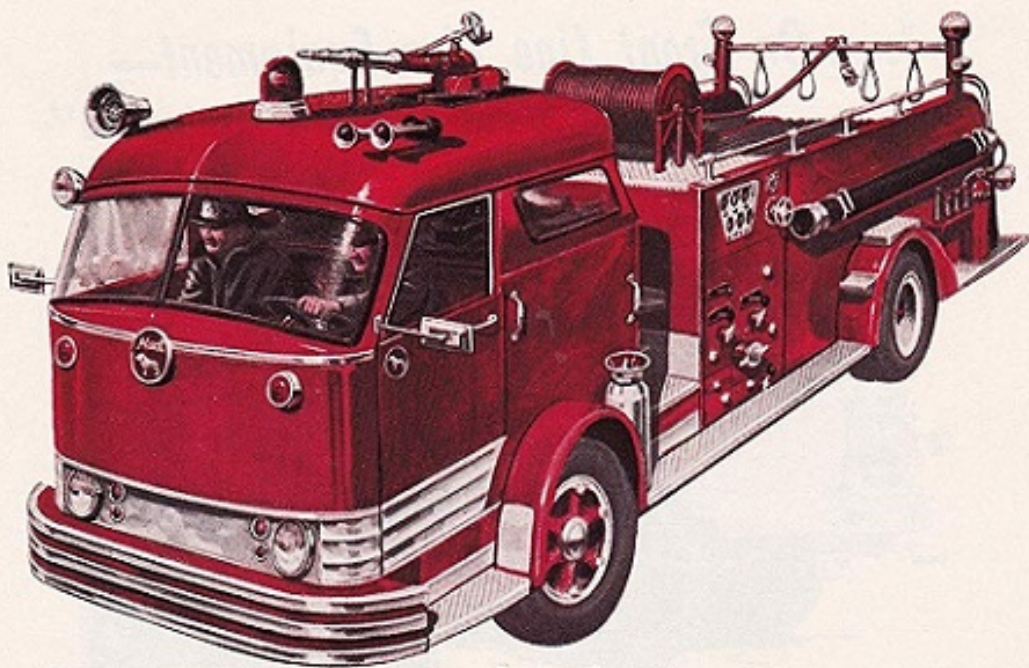


Bronx Box 2796 1555 Grand Concourse

2016	2796	42, 92, 46, 68	44, 27 49(Fast)	R3, Sq-41, RAC-3	Batt. 17, Div. 9
2022	10-75 Sp. Call	50	19		
2033	2-2796	93, 90/48, 75 72 w/Sat. 2	33	Field Comm Tac-1, RM-1	Batt 26, 13, 18, RB, SB
2049	Sp. Call		28/27		
2052	3-2796	71, 43, 88, 59/68 35(Comm)	45, 17, 33(Sp. Call above 3rd)	RAC-1, Mask Service	Batt. 14, 27 Car 6, 22C
2114	4-2796	48, 60, 84, 82	59, 56, 31(Sp. Call above 4th)		Batt. 16, Cars 23D, 4, 2H, 24B, 16D, 3
2147	5-2796	45, 73, 94, 67/75	58, 38, 34(Fast) 42, 48(Sp. Call above 5th)		Batt. 12
2150	Sp. Call		14 (95 ft Tower)		
2223	Sp. Call		30, 29, 54		



Photo courtesy of WCBS News Radio 880 AM



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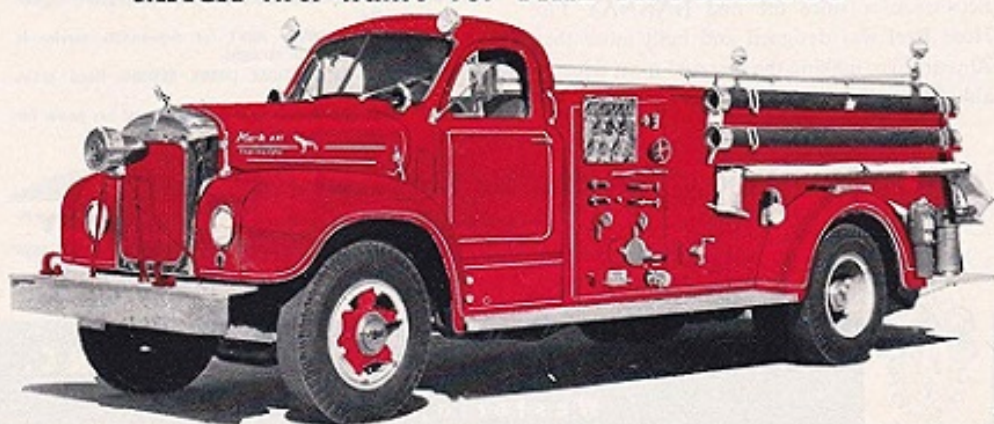
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