

MADISON



FIRE DEPT.

1976 REPORT



ELDON E. MAGINNIS
CHIEF

MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT

325 W. JOHNSON STREET •

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

TELEPHONE NO.
266-4420

Nineteen seventy-six marked the first time in seven years that the City of Madison did not have a fire-related death or a serious fire injury. The monetary fire loss, however, increased in excess of \$600,000 over that reported in 1975.

Arson-related fires accounted for approximately 30% of the charted fire loss, but two other conditions that normally do not present a problem confronted us in 1976---the ice storm in March and the unusually dry conditions throughout the summer which contributed to a record number of grass and brush fires.

In an attempt to curb the arson problem, a Joint Police-Fire Arson Squad was formed consisting of detectives and fire investigators working as a team. Each department provides expertise in their specialized field in an attempt to combat the arson problem--the most serious of all crimes.

The ice storm of early March caused many power failures throughout the City which necessitated the use of supplemental heating devices. The prolonged use of fireplaces, camp stoves, cooking stoves and other devices caused a number of building fires which ordinarily would not have occurred, and despite our constant warnings through the news media, some people did suffer carbon monoxide poisoning because of the improper use of the supplemental heating units.

This report briefly outlines some of the activities and services performed by the Fire Department in 1976.

Our goal in 1977 will be an attempt to cut down on this needless waste of our resources. We can't go it alone---we need the constant day-to-day effort from every member of the community.

YOUR FIRE PROTECTION STARTS HERE

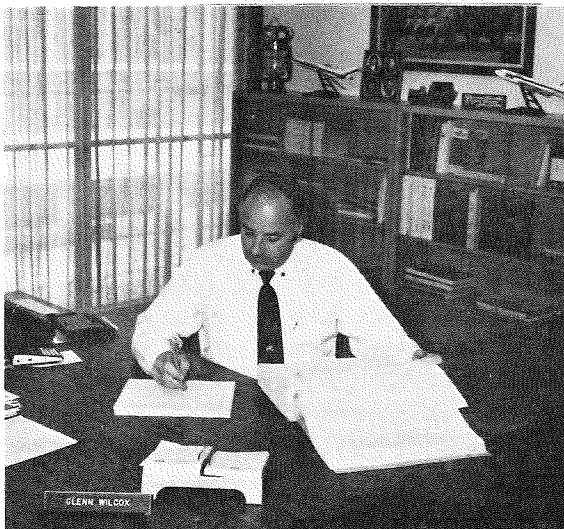


CHIEF ELDON E. MAGINNIS AND ASSISTANT CHIEF GLENN A. WILCOX ARE PRIMARILY ADMINISTRATORS AND RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF A \$7.8 MILLION BUDGET, PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICE TO 172,000 CITIZENS WITHIN 52 SQUARE MILES OF THE CITY. THIS SERVICE IS ALSO OFFERED TO THE ANNUAL INFLUX OF APPROXIMATELY 39,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, AND IS ACCOMPLISHED WITH 9 ENGINE COMPANIES, 5 TRUCK COMPANIES AND 5 RESCUE AMBULANCES RESPONDING FROM 9 STATIONS. 274 PERSONS IS THE AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT STRENGTH.



ELDON E. MAGINNIS
FIRE CHIEF

THE CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MUST BE A PERSON OF MANY HATS. NO LONGER DOES HE JUST DON THE FIRE HELMET AND RESPOND TO FIRES.



GLENN A. WILCOX
ASSISTANT CHIEF

BESIDES MEETING THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY, THEY MUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR OUR CONSTANTLY CHANGING CITY AND ENVIRONMENT.

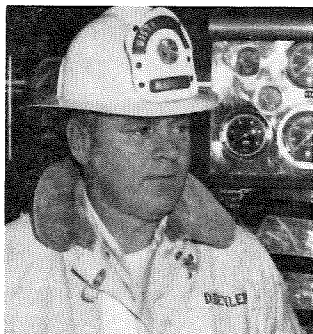
FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE OPERATIONS



WILLIAM CAROW



HARRY KLINGER



DEAN BEYLER

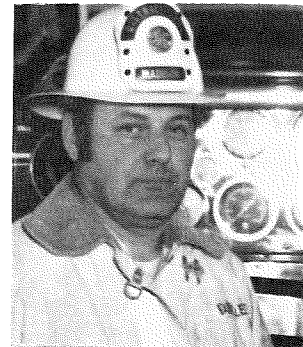


PAUL TOLTZIEN

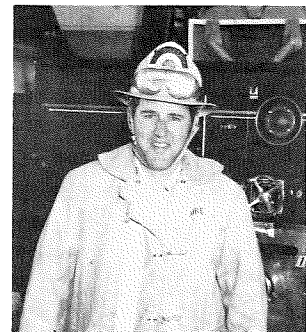
Photo by:
L. Roger Turner



LLOYD BRIGGS



ROBERT MUTCH



THOMAS MOORE

The city is divided into two (2) operational areas--East and West. A district chief is on duty in these districts at all times. They are under the direction of Division Chief Paul R. Toltzien and have the responsibility of directing all firefighting and emergency rescue operations, plus the daily supervision of all fire companies in their district.

The March ice storm left parts of our city without electrical power for three days. This act of nature accounted for over 300 additional fire alarms. Some were from wires down, while others were from people keeping the home fires burning.

The prolonged use of supplemental heating devices caused numerous house fires. Fortunately no serious injury occurred. Despite constant warning through the news media, nineteen people were treated for carbon monoxide poison.

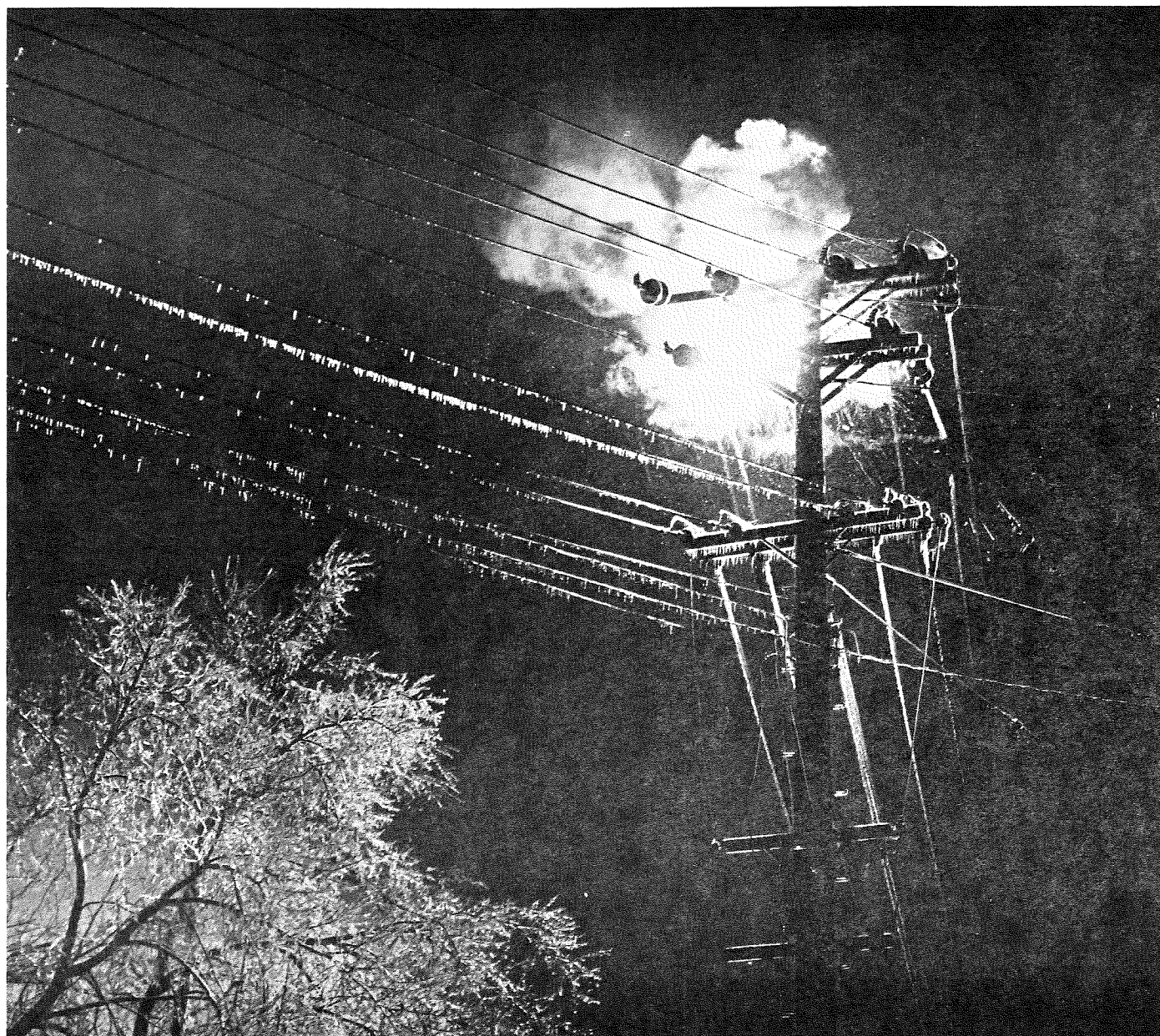


Photo by: Bruce Fritz

COMPARATIVE FIRE STATISTICS

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
Fires in Buildings	386	428	351
Fires in Vehicles	208	193	197
Fires in Brush and Rubbish, Outside Buildings	525	283	513
All Other Fires	7		39
Malicious False Alarms	224	161	160
All Other Alarms, Public Service Calls, Accidental and Mistaken Alarms, Etc.	<u>1,593</u>	<u>1,790</u>	<u>2,223</u>
TOTAL	2,943	2,855	3,483

BREAKDOWN OF FIRES

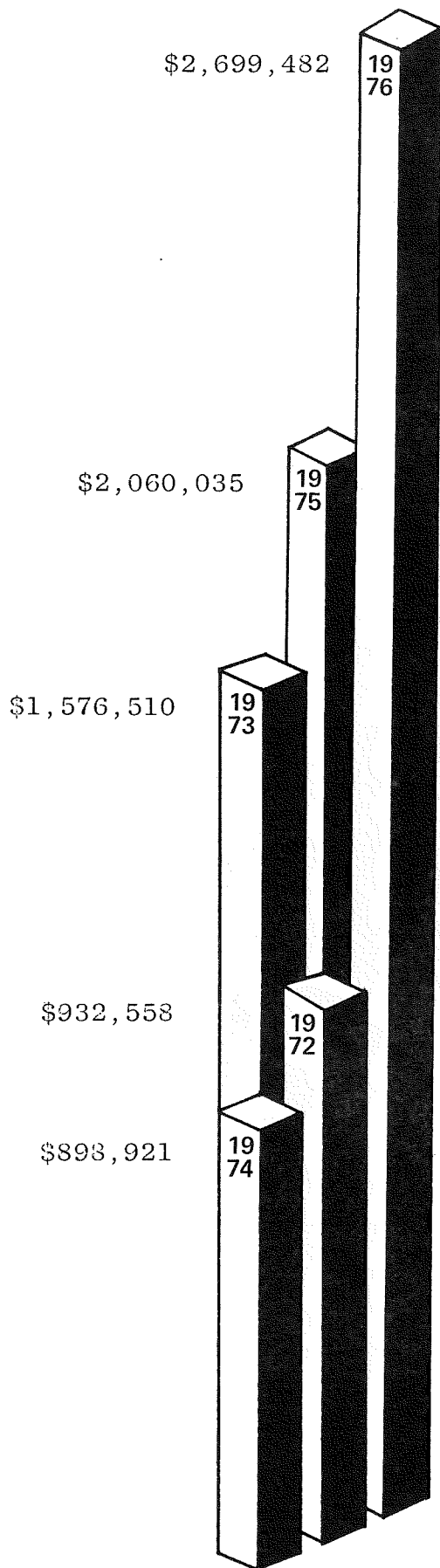
	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
Public Assembly	16	25	39
Schools and Colleges	7	11	28
Institutions	40	40	50
Private Dwellings	142	135	165
Apartments	107	121	107
Hotels and Motels	4	11	16
Mobile Homes	3	7	7
All Other Residential	N/A	10	11
Total Residential	267	284	306
Stores and Offices	22	22	38
Industry, Utility and Defense	12	10	33
Storage	14	27	26
Special or Unclassified	8	6	580

Emergency Rescue Responses

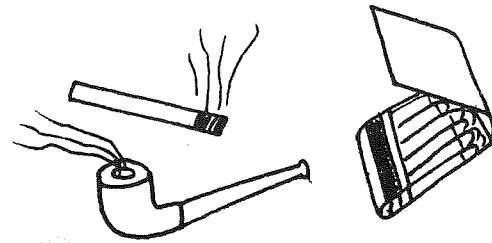
	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>
Ambulance Conveyance	3,637	4,125	4,202
No Conveyance	1,251	1,466	1,883
False Alarms	<u>45</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>49</u>
TOTAL	4,933	5,635	6,134
TOTAL EMERGENCIES	7,661	8,568	9,617

Injuries - Fatalities

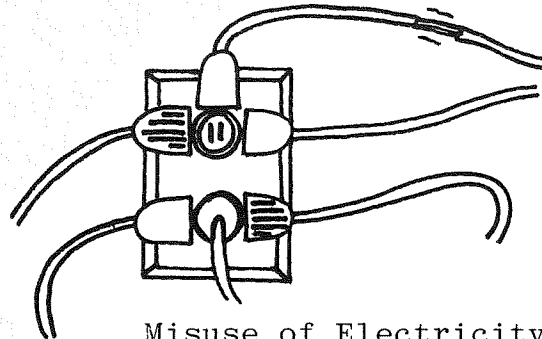
Injuries - Firefighter	53	85	101
Injuries - Civilian	8	20	33
Fatalities - Firefighter	0	0	0
Fatalities - Civilian	4	5	0



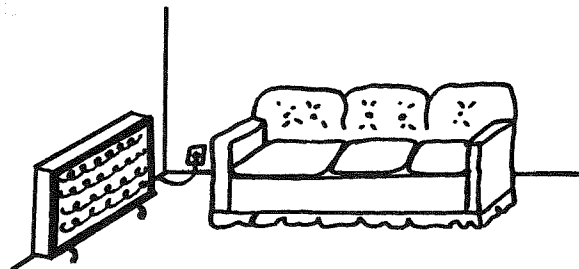
FIRE LOSS



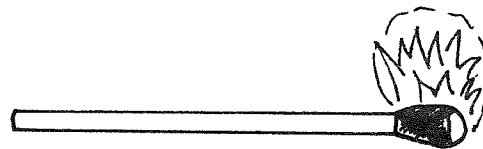
Careless Smoking - 15%



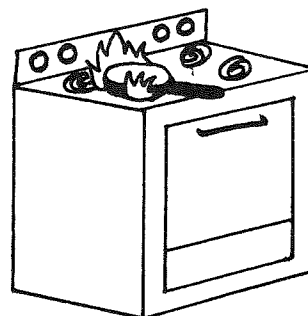
Misuse of Electricity - 12%



Combustibles Near Heaters - 10%

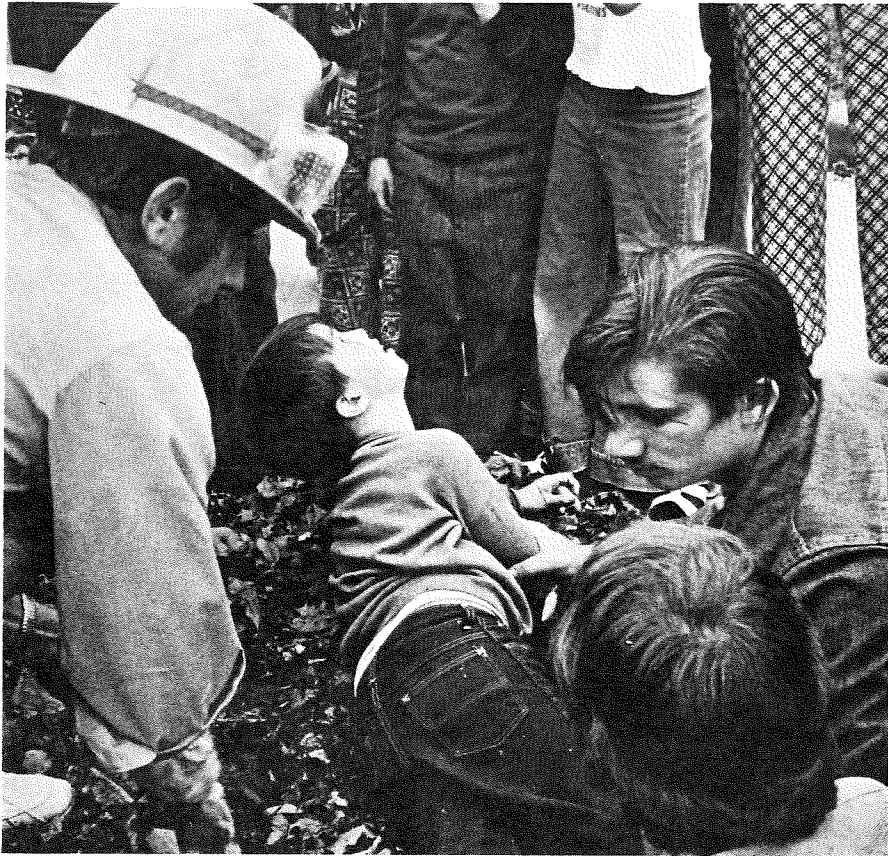


Incendiary - 17%



Grease on Stoves - 12%

LEADING FIRE CAUSES



Ambulance and rescue work go hand in hand with firefighting--helping a young person that was struck by a car while riding a bicycle, or making sure that everyone is out of the building that is on fire.

Photo by: Bruce Fritz



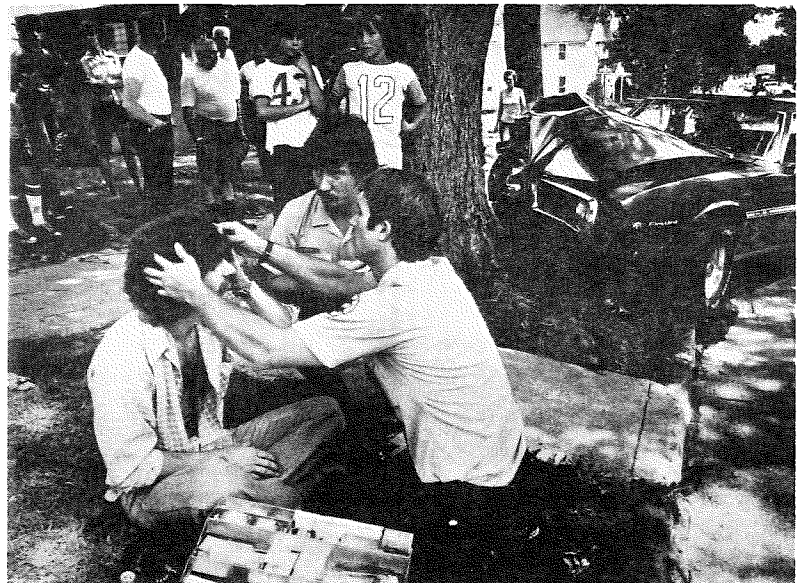
Photo by: Bruce Fritz

AUTOMOBILES AND GASOLINE
GO TOGETHER-----AT A SER-
VICE STATION OR IN AN
AUTO GAS TANK. SOMETIMES
THE MIXTURE IS MISUSED.
THE RESULTS BECOME STA-
TISTICS.



AUTOMOBILE FIRES AC-
COUNTED FOR 197 EMERGEN-
CIES IN 1976.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S PARA-
MEDICS ARE TRAINED TO TREAT
THE ACCIDENT VICTIMS AT THE
SCENE, BEFORE TRANSPORTING
TO A HOSPITAL.



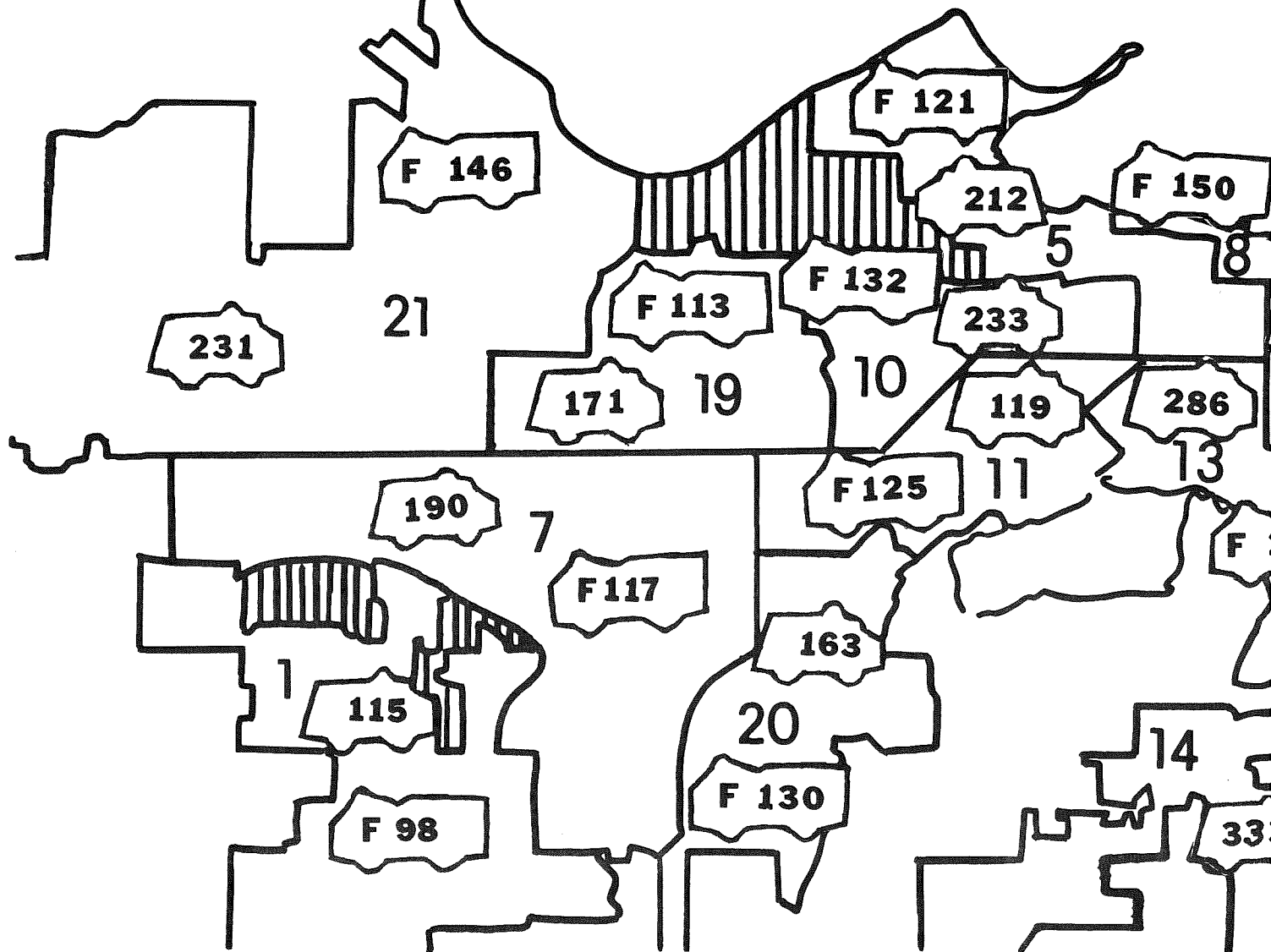
EMERGENCY RUNS BY DISTRICTS

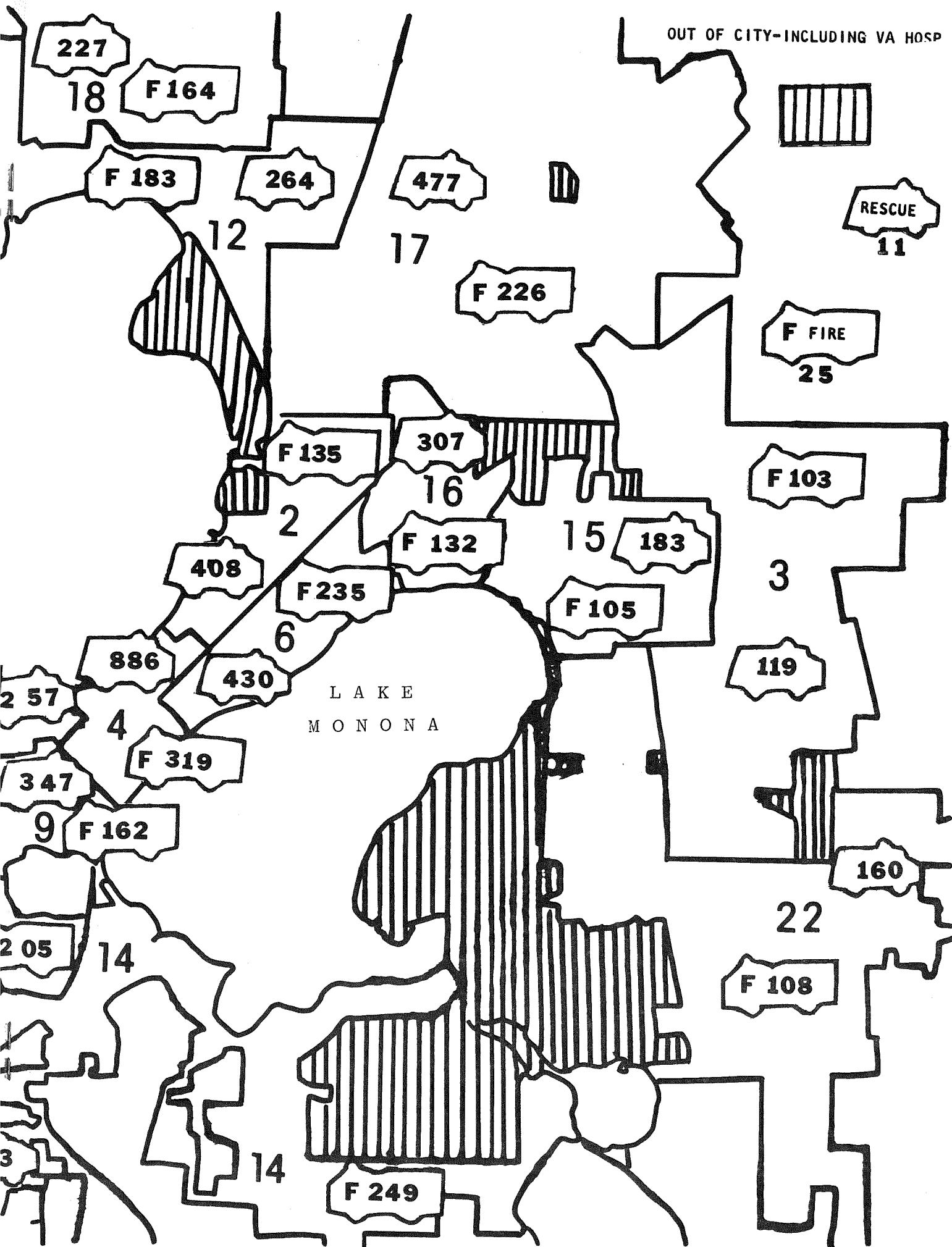
Fire officials claim that most fires are caused by carelessness--people are careless--people cause fires.

Madison's Aldermanic Districts are established by population. All 22 districts are within 2% of each other.

The accompanying map indicates the number of emergency fire and rescue ambulance calls for each district.

L A K E M E N D O T A





TRAINING DIVISION



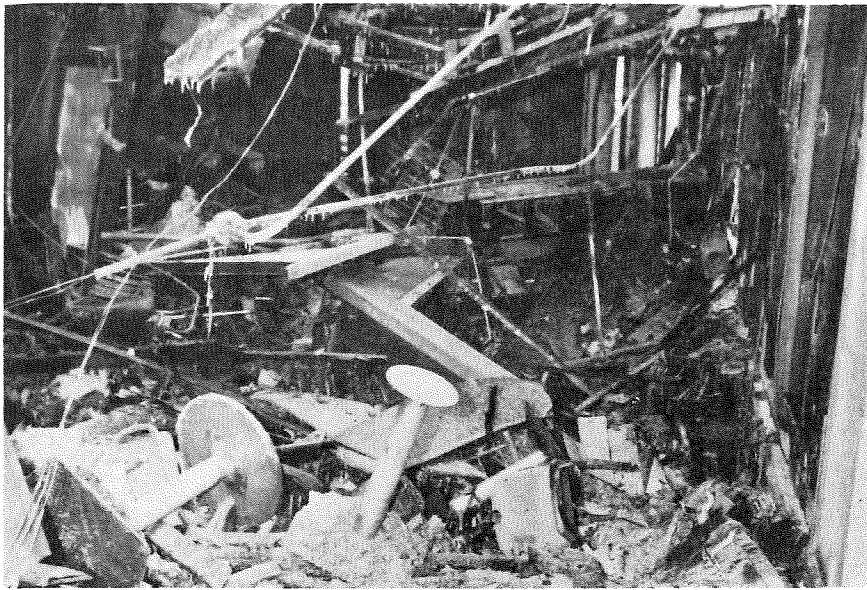
The key to any successful fire department operation is the ability to perform in emergencies. The department's training program is designed to teach and test the skills and knowledge essential for performing the duties of a firefighter. Donald A. Huggins, Chief of Training, directing firefighters in the proper technique in controlling and extinguishing a flammable liquid fire.



Madison received national recognition for being the first fire department authorized to issue journeyman firefighter certificates. This certificate is awarded to firefighters upon successful completion of the apprenticeship program. Bud Yocum, right, Director, Joint Apprenticeship Program, presenting certificates of accreditation to Fire Chief Eldon Maginnis, left, Mayor Paul Soglin, and Local 311 President Charles Merkle.



A firefighter must be prepared to enter an unfamiliar environment under adverse conditions--provide emergency assistance to the sick and injured--be able to escape the building if the need arises--control--extinguish a multitude of fires, and handle many other emergencies, both natural and man-made.



Members of the department are trained and ready to meet any type of emergency under all kinds of conditions.

The aftermath of a major fire during extremely cold weather where water spray immediately turns to ice, creating additional hazards for the firefighter. A roof fire ignited during repairs. Smoke environment inside a building can be lethal.



Photo by: L. Roger Turner



Photo by: Bruce Fritz

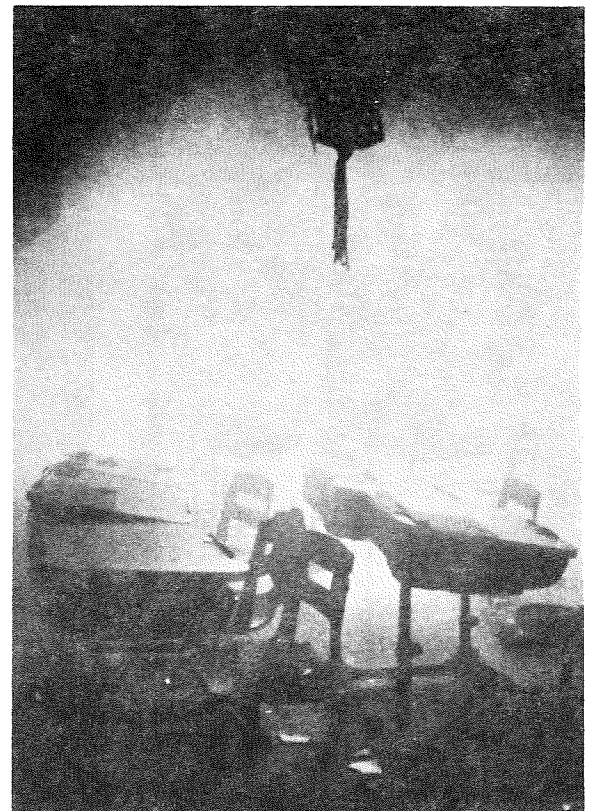
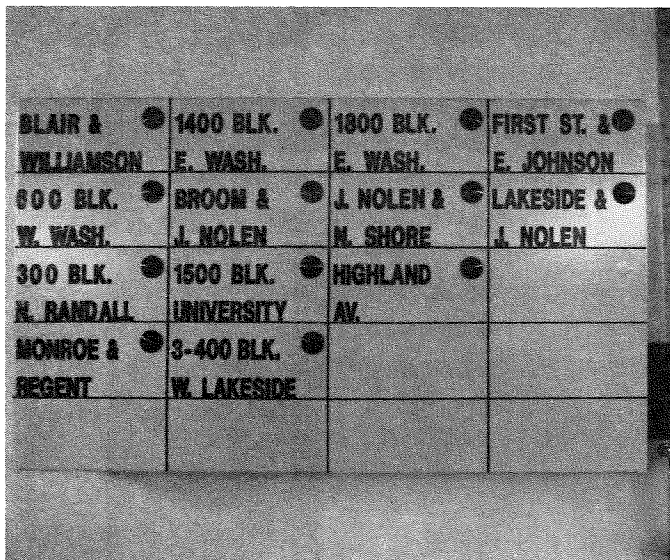


Photo by: Tom Kelly



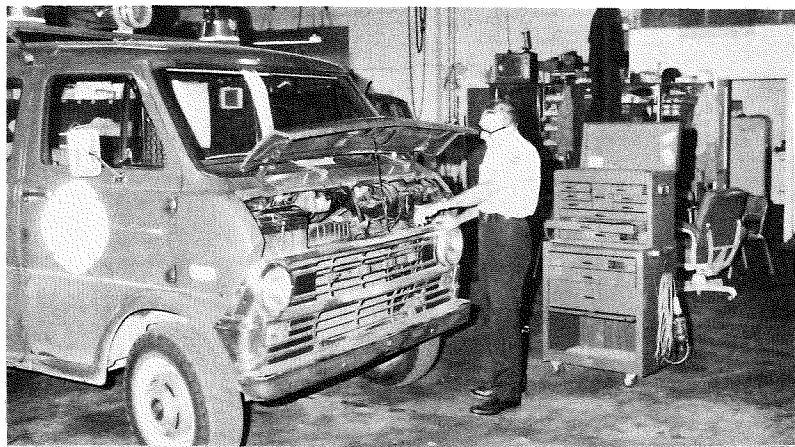
DONALD OLSON, CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IS THE VITAL LINK BETWEEN THE PERSON WITH AN EMERGENCY AND THE FIRE SERVICE. THEY HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RECEIVING THE CALL AND DISPATCHING THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM. IN 1976 THERE WERE 6,134 CALLS FOR PARAMEDIC AMBULANCES AND 3,483 FIRE AND RELATED EMERGENCIES.

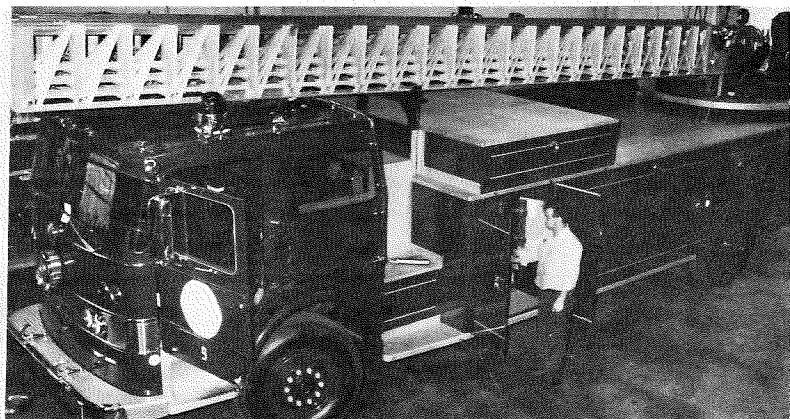


IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE, A PANEL OF LIGHTS AND STREET LOCATIONS WAS INSTALLED TO INDICATE WHEN MAJOR THOROUGHFARES ARE BLOCKED BY A PASSING TRAIN. THIS ENABLES THE DISPATCHER TO NOTIFY THE RESPONDING UNIT OF AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE, BECAUSE EVEN SECONDS MAY BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE OR DEATH.

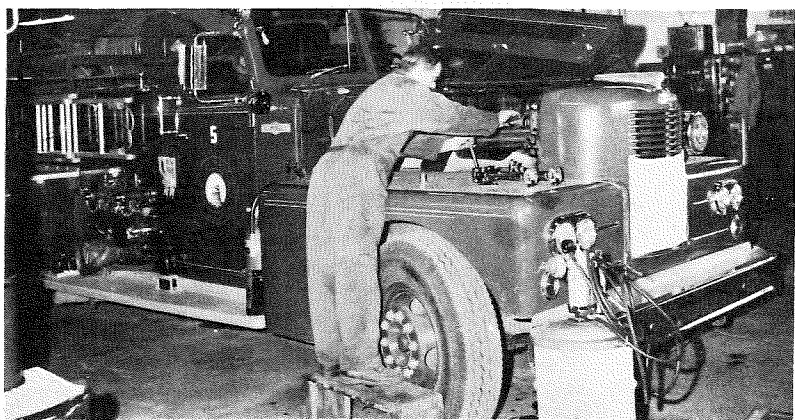
MAINTENANCE CHIEF JAMES OLSON AND HIS STAFF MAINTAIN A MOTORIZED FLEET OF 41 VEHICLES. IN 1976 THE 9,617 EMERGENCY CALLS REQUIRED OVER 12,000 VEHICLE RESPONSES UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS. THREE NEW 100 FT. AERIAL TRUCKS WERE DELIVERED, REQUIRING EQUIPMENT TO BE MOUNTED TO DEPARTMENT STANDARDS.



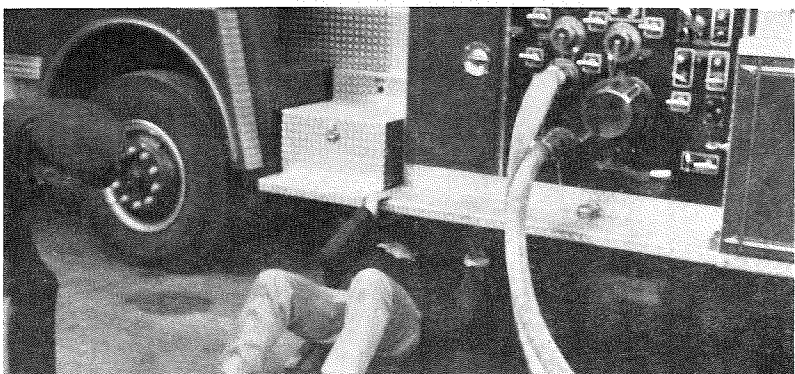
AMBULANCES, STATION WAG-
ONS, AND SHOP VEHICLES
REQUIRE THE SAME PREVEN-
TATIVE MAINTENANCE AS DO
FIRE TRUCKS.



THE LOCATION OF EQUIPMENT
MUST BE UNIFORM, SO EVERY
FIREFIGHTER KNOWS EXACTLY
WHERE TO FIND A NEEDED
TOOL.



REGULARLY SCHEDULED MAIN-
TENANCE IS PERFORMED IN
THE SHOP TO PREVENT A
BREAKDOWN DURING FIRE-
FIGHTING OPERATIONS.

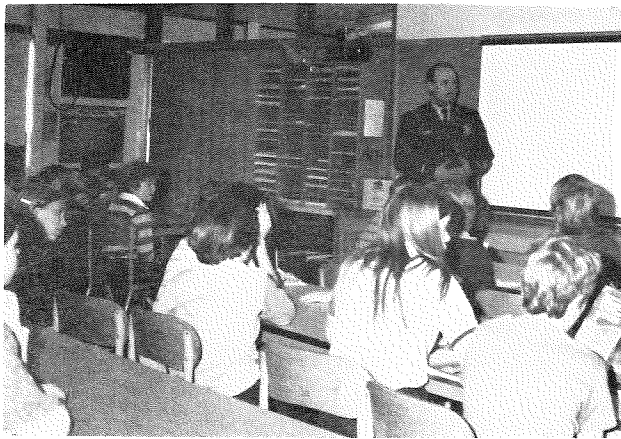


IF A PROBLEM ARISES, THE
MECHANIC IS PREPARED TO
MAKE MINOR REPAIRS ANY-
WHERE UNDER ANY CONDI-
TIONS.

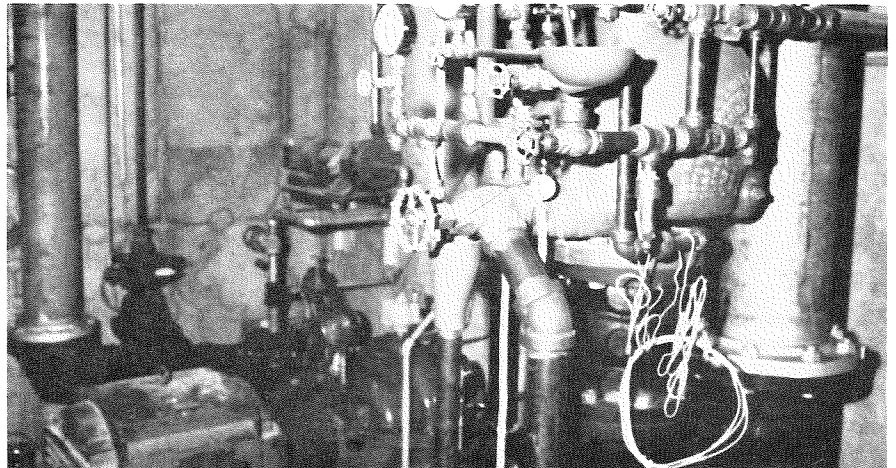
FIRE PREVENTION



This Division, under Fire Marshal John R. Tappen, has the responsibility of coordinating the inspection practices, investigating fires, reviewing plans of new construction, educating the public on fire safety, and handling numerous complaints.



Lectures and demonstrations are given to school children to make them aware of fire hazards---it may be a slide program and talk on exit drills in the home, how to control a grease fire, or a demonstration on the chemistry of fire.



The inspector may have a simple task of ordering the removal of rubbish so fire does not have a place to start, or testing and inspecting fire pumps that are required in large buildings.

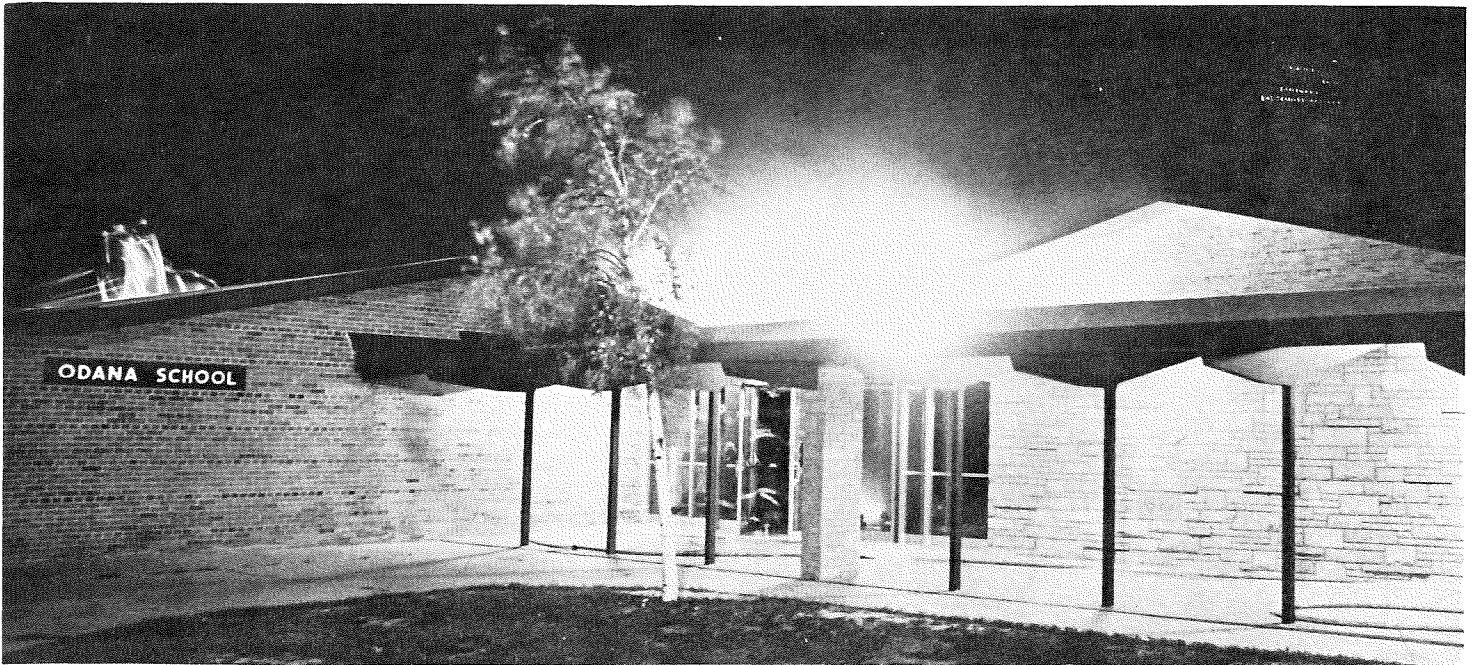


Photo by: Tom Kelly

A 45% increase in arson fires prompted the Fire Administration to move positively in this area. A combined Police-Fire Arson Squad was formed. It combines the criminal investigation experience of three police detectives and the fire investigation talents of three Fire Lieutenants. Working as a team and through combined training joint expertise is developing.

The success has been gratifying. Of 39 fires classified as acts of arson in 1976, 29 were solved by arrests and convictions or signed statements by persons admitting their involvement. Nationally, the conviction rate of identified arson fires is less than 3 per cent.

The arson squad is cognizant that the success it has experienced would not have been possible without the cooperation of the news media and the citizens of Madison.



When investigating any fire, the investigator must find out: Where did the fire start? How did the fire start? How and why did the fire spread?



During December, the City Council's resolution encouraging smoke detection devices in the home was inaugurated. Madison area dealers boosted the program with advertising and special pricing. The news media played a very important role in the program that has been termed a success. This was only the beginning. Fire prevention experts will not accept satisfaction until a smoke detector is a sentinel in every home.

"Because a fire death is a horrible statistic."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Throughout the year the Fire Department is called to assist many people. During this same period generous help is received from many citizens and organizations - - - we acknowledge their generosity:

THE WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL and THE CAPITAL TIMES -
for supplying us with photographs to help
make this report possible.

NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS for conveying our message of fire safety to the public in order to make Madison a safer place to live.

The INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF DANE COUNTY
for purchasing films on fire safety.

The CHAMBER OF COMMERCE for honoring firefighters
at the Firefighters' Recognition Banquet.

The cooperation of the MADISON AREA SAFETY COUNCIL
for their help and interest in fire prevention.

The DANE COUNTY CHAPTER, AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, for
disaster relief and assistance at fire scenes.

To Don Chandler of IMAGE WEST PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
for consultation and assistance in photography work.

And, a special thanks to all unnamed citizens and
organizations that have contributed to the
prevention of fires.

1976 ANNUAL REPORT - Compiled and edited by Lt. James Gschwend
and University of Wisconsin student Sue Weber

Art work by Dispatcher Niki Olson.

Photos not credited: Madison Fire Department

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