

1978 REPORT



MADISON, WISCONSIN



ELDON E. MAGINNIS
CHIEF

MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT

325 W. JOHNSON STREET • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703

TELEPHONE NO.
266-4420

1978

This report, to the Mayor, Members of the Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission, and the citizens of Madison, briefly outlines the activities of the Madison Fire Department during calendar year 1978. It is intended to highlight accomplishment and problems confronted and to emphasize the increase in fire department services over the years.

Statistically we are proud of one important fact for 1978--there were no fire deaths, or permanent injuries, despite property damage being greater than any year of record. Fire loss exceeded \$3,200,000, which includes a single loss of over \$1 million when a 32-unit apartment building was consumed in an early morning blaze. Other major fires, plus the spiraling inflation contributed to the record loss.

An important step in combating the horrendous fire loss problem was undertaken by the Madison Fire Department in 1978. The National Fire Incident Reporting System was adopted and has progressed above expectations. This computerized reporting system permits data to be forwarded to both the State of Wisconsin (DILHR) and the National Fire Data Center. Close scrutiny of this information will provide a solid base of America's fire problem as well as our own and enable us to address these problems with corrective programs.

This annual report will be the last for Chief Eldon E. Maginnis. Chief Maginnis has notified the Police and Fire Commission of his intent to retire and will turn over the command to his successor in August 1979. Chief Maginnis will close out a career of over 32 years, spanning a rise through the ranks to his appointment to Chief in April of 1974. He has continued the progressive and innovative command that has kept the Madison Fire Department involved in a continued program of providing the citizens of Madison with the very best of fire protection and emergency medical care available.

Also closing out a career of service to the citizens of Madison, his Honor Mayor Paul R. Soglin is to be recognized for his concern of service to our citizens and his ever supportive stand in providing first class fire protection.

Both Mayor Soglin and Chief Maginnis will long be remembered for the part they have played in Madison's Fire Protection Services. We also recognize the officers and firefighters who have carried out these measures and our many citizens who have been most supportive. Future goals will always be to prevent death, injury and destruction by fire--we need everyone's help.

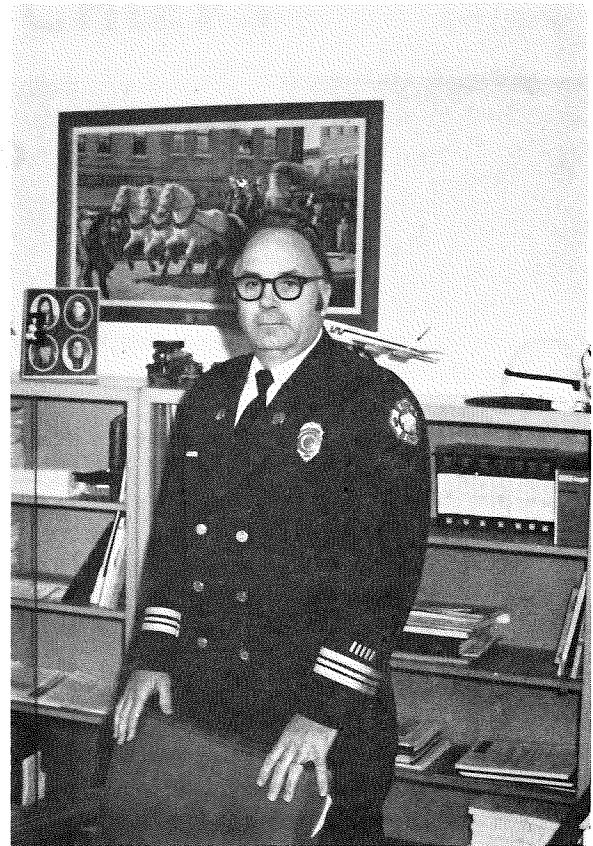


ELDON E. MAGINNIS

CHIEF, MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT



PAUL TOLTZIEN
CHIEF, FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION



GLENN A. WILCOX
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT



STANLEY TIEDEMAN
Administrative Clerk

PAT EINFELDT
Secretary to the Chief



JOHN HEREID
Administrative Assistant to the Chief

20 Years of Activity

In 1958, 9 Engines and 4 Aerials operated from Madison's 9 fire stations, responding to 957 alarms of fire. Today, 20 years later, an additional aerial company and 4 rescue ambulances have been added--still operating from 9 stations--but answering 3,095 alarms for fire and related emergencies.

Firefighters worked 63 hours per week, back in 1958. This work week was reduced to 56 hours in 1966, and to 48 hours in 1975. In 1965 all emergency ambulance calls were assigned to the Fire Department and the rescue ambulances answered 1,342 calls. This year, 1978, the paramedic manned rescue ambulances answered 6,306 requests for emergency medical assistance. The emergency work-load, combining both fire and rescue ambulance responses, has escalated nearly 1000%, considering 957 alarms in 1958, compared to a total of 9,401 during 1978.

The additional work-load has been accomplished with the addition of only 46 firefighters and 13 civil service employees. Additional expanded services that have been implemented the past 20 years include fire prevention inspections by firefighting companies, building surveys, pre-fire planning, volunteer home inspections, public education and other internal programs designed to provide the finest of fire protection.

Accomplishment of today's status as a leader in fire protection circles also encompassed real determination on the part of all personnel. Management addressed the problems, training is continually updated, equipment is the best and maintained in readiness, efficient utilization of personnel is a fact and everyone has a goal--to provide our citizens with a fire safe atmosphere--to make Madison a safer place to live.

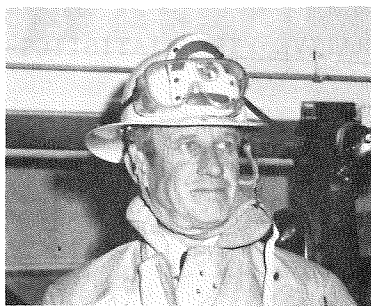
<u>Year</u>	<u>Fire Alarms</u>	<u>Per Capita Fire Loss</u>	<u>Ambulance Responses</u>	<u>Firefighter Personnel</u>	<u>Total Fire Loss</u>
1958	957	5.03		213	613,898
1959	836	2.22		213	279,931
1960	948	2.99		215	397,551
1961	1,097	3.31		216	450,790
1962	1,226	2.93		233	330,487
1963	1,677	2.36		233	353,343
1964	1,727	4.58		233	719,050
1965	1,570	4.02	1,342	238	667,156
1966	1,764	3.95	2,035	243	682,290
1967	1,727	2.74	3,027	243	466,048
1968	2,425	6.87	3,159	268	1,168,780
1969	2,345	2.56	3,561	268	435,026
1970	2,352	20.23	3,381	268	3,439,508**
1971	2,365	6.24	3,673	263	2,003,433
1972	2,528	5.29	3,911	268	932,558
1973	2,781	8.84	4,508	259	1,576,510
1974	2,728	5.34	4,933	257	898,921
1975	2,855	12.12	5,635	274	2,060,035
1976	3,483	15.69	6,134	259	2,699,482
1977	3,044	9.71	6,070	259	1,671,375
1978	3,095	18.63	6,306	259	3,204,722

** Includes Sterling Hall bombing loss

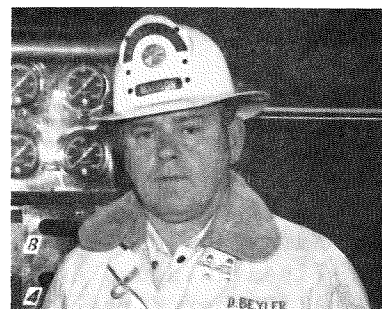
DISTRICT CHIEFS



HARRY KLINGER



WILLIAM CAROW



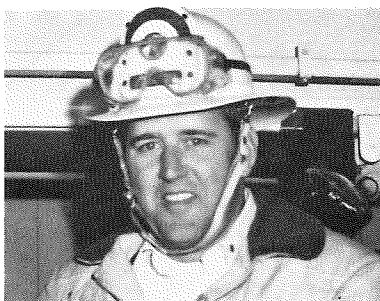
DEAN BEYLER



Photo by Ed Stein



ROBERT MUTCH



THOMAS MOORE



LLOYD BRIGGS

COMPARATIVE FIRE STATISTICS

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Fires in Buildings	351	341	383
Fires in Vehicles	197	205	252
Fires in Brush and Rubbish, Outside Buildings	513	283	265
All Other Fires	39	35	43
Malicious False Alarms	160	141	169
All Other Alarms, Public Service Calls, Accidental and Mistaken Alarms, Etc.	<u>2,223</u>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>1,983</u>
TOTAL	3,483	3,044	3,095

BREAKDOWN OF FIRES

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Public Assembly	39	26	21
Schools and Colleges	28	19	12
Institutions	50	28	39
Private Dwellings	165	153	173
Apartments	107	128	136
Hotels and Motels	16	13	10
Mobile Homes	7	3	5
All Other Residential	11	10	9
Total Residential	306	252	314
Stores and Offices	38	24	50
Industry, Utility and Defense	33	42	16
Storage	26	26	29
Special or Unclassified	580	401	432

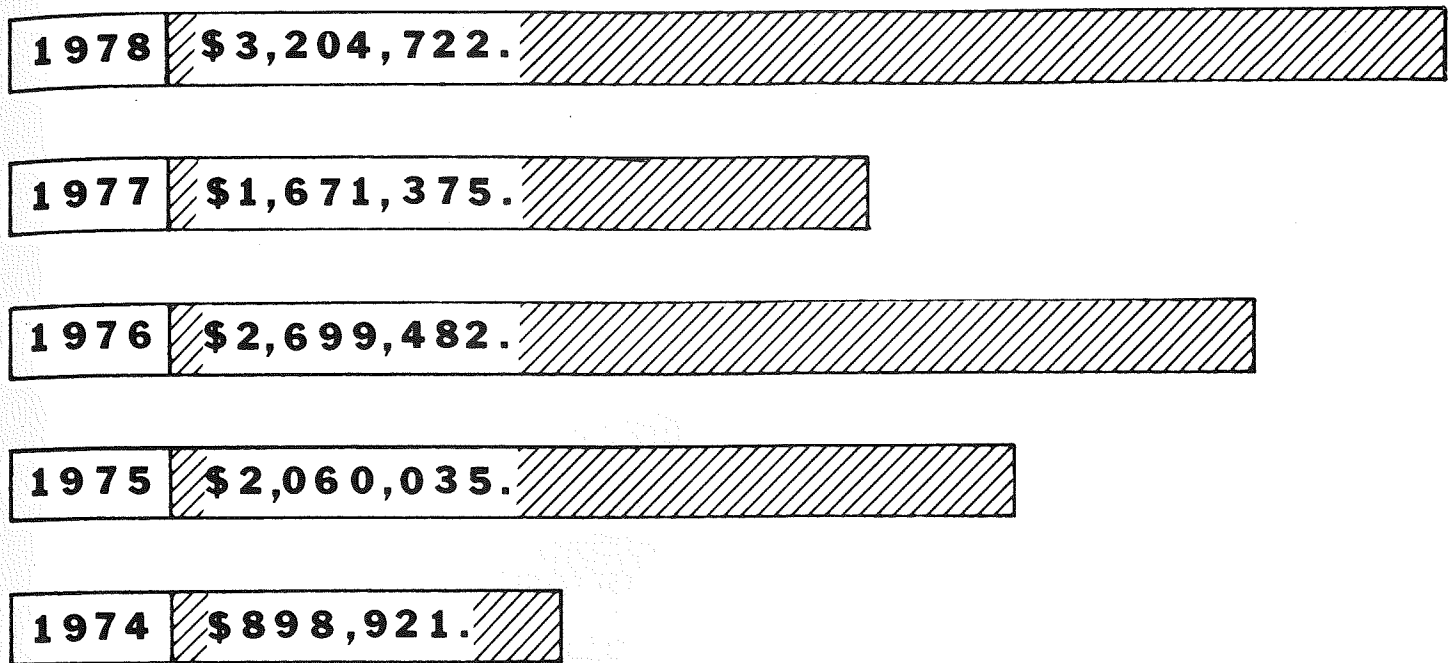
EMERGENCY RESCUE RESPONSES

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Ambulance Conveyance	4,202	4,070	4,221
No Conveyance--Emergency Care at the Scene	1,883	1,959	2,011
False Alarms	<u>49</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>74</u>
TOTAL	6,134	6,070	6,306
TOTAL EMERGENCIES	9,617	9,114	9,395

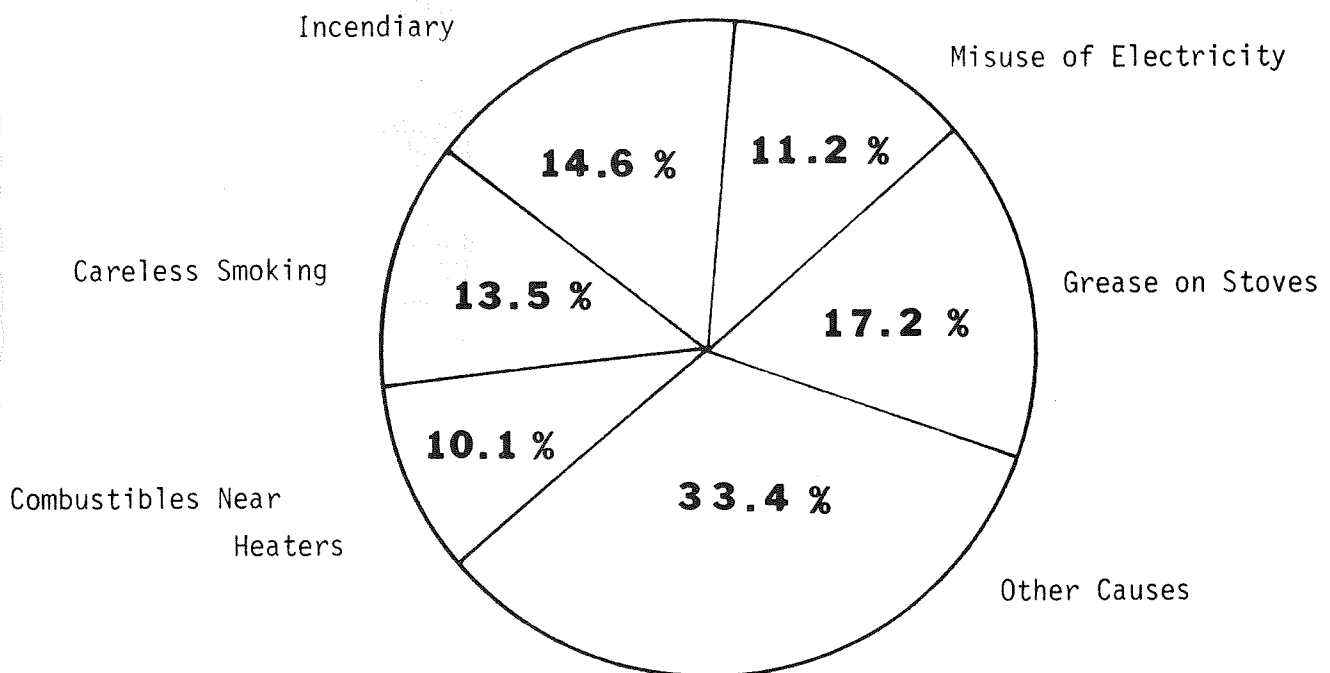
INJURIES - FATALITIES

Injuries - Firefighter	101	85	106
Injuries - Civilian	33	10	19
Fatalities - Firefighter	0	0	0
Fatalities - Civilian	0	4	0

FIVE YEAR FIRE LOSS



Leading Building Fire Causes



Fire Alarms by Aldermanic District

and their

Elected Representative

DISTRICT 1

Natalie Gingell Smith
Fire Alarms - 63

DISTRICT 2

Donald R. Murdoch
Fire Alarms - 157

DISTRICT 3

Frederick M. Arnold
Fire Alarms - 103

DISTRICT 4

John C. Mattes
Fire Alarms - 300

DISTRICT 5

Roney L. Sorenson
Fire Alarms - 124

DISTRICT 6

Michael Christopher
Fire Alarms - 195

DISTRICT 7

Jay M. Wexler
Fire Alarms - 113

DISTRICT 8

James D. Yeadon
Fire Alarms - 154

DISTRICT 9

Mark Koppelkam
Fire Alarms - 229

DISTRICT 10

Shiela M. Chaffee
Fire Alarms - 132

DISTRICT 11

Michael J. Briggs
Fire Alarms - 72

DISTRICT 12

Loren M. Thorson
Fire Alarms - 157

DISTRICT 13

Bonnie Gruber
Fire Alarms - 158

DISTRICT 14

Betty A. Sperstad
Fire Alarms - 230

DISTRICT 15

Warren E. Onken
Fire Alarms - 78

DISTRICT 16

Leonard L. Knutson
Fire Alarms - 115

DISTRICT 17

S. Michael Shivers
Fire Alarms - 210

DISTRICT 18

Douglas M. Onsager
Fire Alarms - 129

DISTRICT 19

Betty W. Smith
Fire Alarms - 76

DISTRICT 20

Jean P. Stewart
Fire Alarms - 106

DISTRICT 21

Judith A. Bowser
Fire Alarms - 88

DISTRICT 22

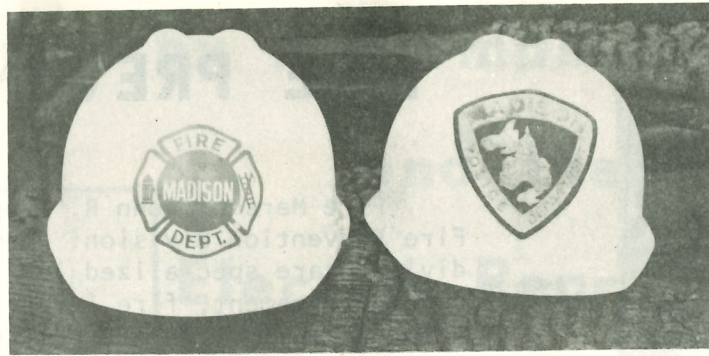
Richard E. Disch
Fire Alarms - 84

FIRE PREVENTION



Fire Marshal John R. Tappen--Director--Fire Prevention Division. Members of this division are specialized in Fire Prevention code enforcement, fire investigation, arson investigation and public education. Their expertise enables them to recognize and understand potential fires--preventing the horror accompanying many fires.



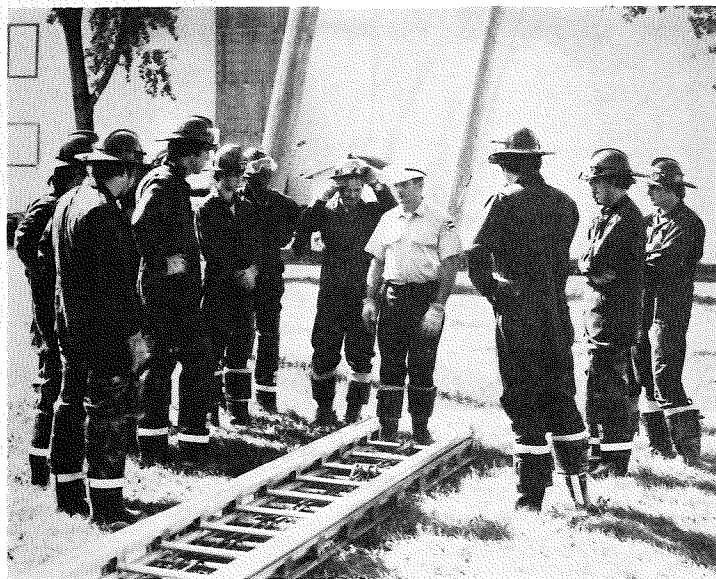


The combined talents of the Police--Fire arson squad classified 62 fires as acts of arson, resulting in \$835,052.00 in charted fire loss.

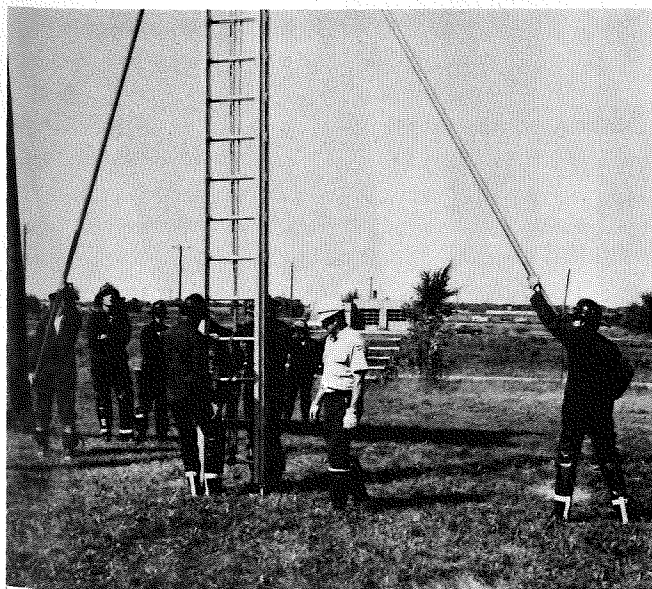
As soon as possible investigators start going over the scene searching for the place of origin of the fire. The burned remains must be moved by hand in looking for the cause of the fire--in the process all evidence is closely examined because in making the determination, it is necessary to eliminate other probable causes.

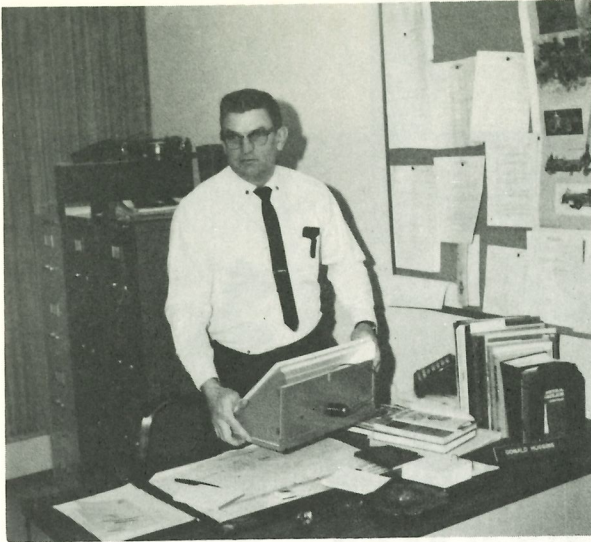


TRAINING



The first rule the Training Officer conveys to the recruit firefighter is safety. They are entering into the most hazardous profession in this country today. They must have a thorough knowledge of the protective equipment that permits them to enter and work in hostile environments. During their initial nine weeks of intensified training, Chief of Training Donald Huggins and his staff teach them about their equipment, the basic skills needed to perform the duty of a firefighter--such as explaining the proper method of raising a ladder, and working as a team. The recruit firefighter must also have the confidence and ability to handle a hose line to extinguish the blaze and at the same time using the stream of water to protect themselves from the heat that radiates from a fire.

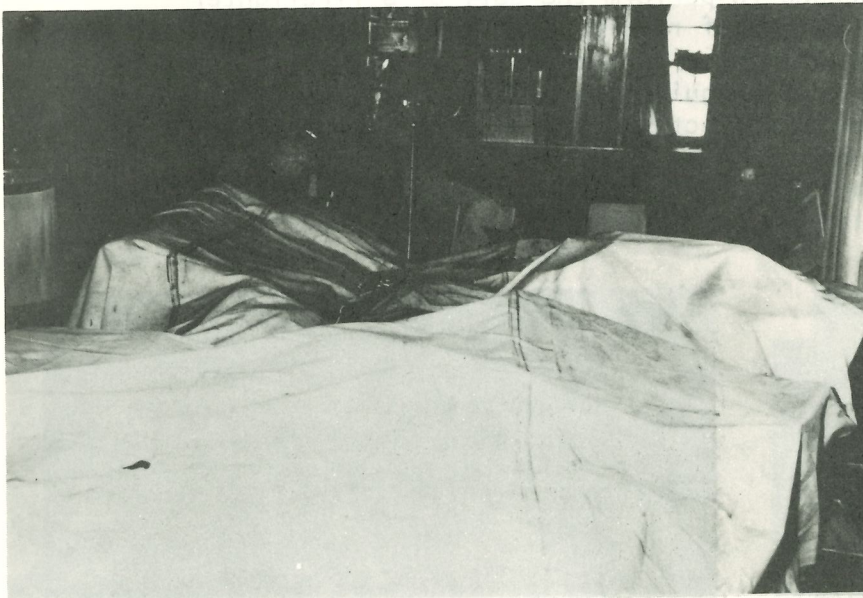




Chief of Training, Donald Huggins



Contrary to public opinion the fire service does everything possible to minimize the fire damage. When time and personnel permit, furniture and possessions are covered to prevent unnecessary water damage. After the fire is out excess water and debris is removed in an attempt to make the building habitable and keep the damage to the minimum.



Applying this acquired knowledge and skills at the fire scene requires constant training and retraining. Ongoing training programs continue until the day of retirement. This is necessary because industry is creating new hazards almost daily for our technological society. All firefighters must keep abreast of these changes in order to cope with the hazards they create, keeping in mind the safety of the occupants, safety of the firefighter, and the safety of the building.

OTHER ASPECTS OF TRAINING



Dr. Marvin Birnbaum and his staff conduct retraining for paramedics to insure the latest information for the best possible ambulance service for our residents.



Classes on the proper use of fire extinguishers are available to the general public.



Understanding and ability to operate a pumper to deliver the proper amount of water to extinguish a fire.



Applying this training at the time of a fire.



Photo by Ed

Through training and experience the firefighter learns to adjust to the hostile environment created by fire. But, fire knows no season. Often the firefighter must endure the bitter cold for prolonged periods of time in combating the enemy--an unwanted fire.

AMBULANCE SERVICE



All Fire Department personnel are trained to administer medical aid and to assist the paramedics. Team work is essential, especially when the victim must be removed from a wrecked vehicle. The victim will receive treatment even prior to the removal, and it will continue until they are in the hands of emergency room personnel.



COMMUNICATIONS



7041



1698

Other - 173

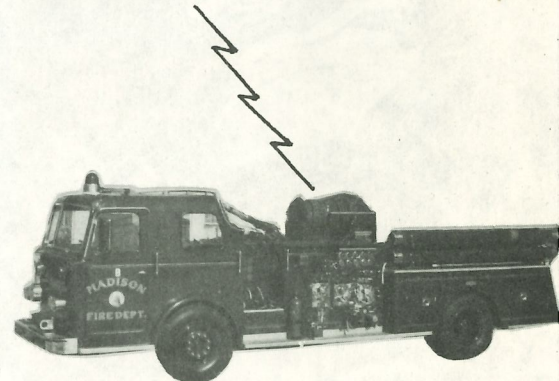


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ALARM SOURCES

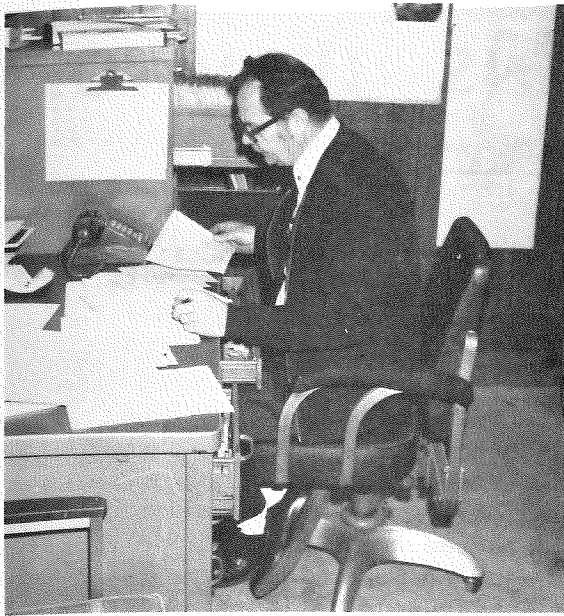


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Chief of Communications Don Olson and his eight dispatchers have the primary responsibility of accepting calls from the public and dispatching the necessary equipment and personnel to cope with each emergency. Though in 1978 we responded to 9395 alarms, it required 12,780 emergency vehicle responses.

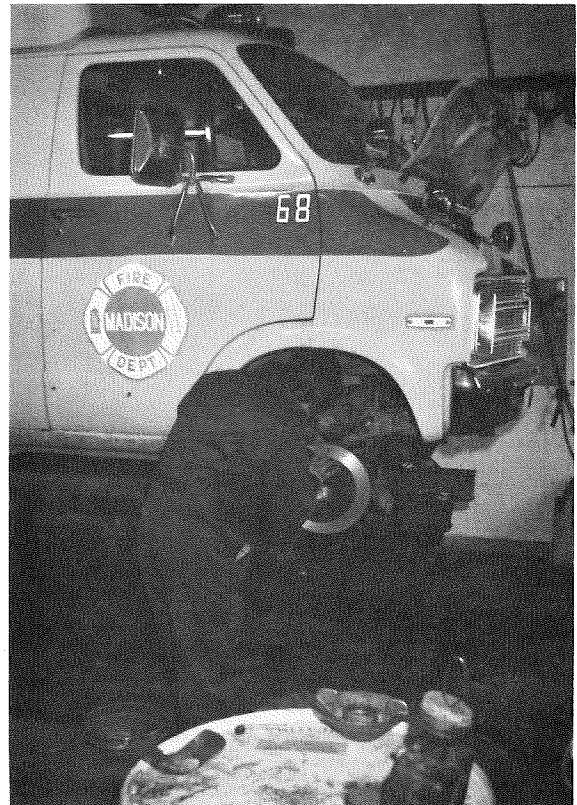
They also handle business telephone calls, test fire alarm boxes, maintain current maps, fire response cards, business locator cards plus many other duties.



Neil Rossmassler
Chief of Maintenance

MAINTENANCE

This division has the responsibility of maintaining buildings, grounds, equipment, and fire apparatus, with fire apparatus receiving top priority.



Talent and skill is required to maintain a fleet of 42 vehicles--though routine checks are performed daily by firefighters in the stations, the maintenance division adheres to a preventive maintenance schedule.

By making both minor and major repairs in the shop, the heavy equipment will last their life expectancy of twenty years.

FIREFIGHTING MEANS TEAMWORK

Teamwork is the key word in the operation of the Fire Department. This team effort was tested on April 1, 1978 when fire consumed 32 units of an apartment building, resulting in a fire loss in excess of one million dollars--but there were no deaths or injuries.

Because of the magnitude of this fire it took total commitment from every division of this department. During its height seventy-five firefighters battled the blaze. At the same time other divisions were carrying out their duties. Investigators from Fire Prevention were photographing firefighting operations and the fire scene, as well as interviewing occupants for information as to where and how the fire started. The maintenance division was on hand to supply fuel for the equipment, and to make minor repairs in the event of a breakdown. Training personnel observed firefighting tactics for critique purposes at a later date. Communications played a vital role in not only dispatching equipment to the fire scene, but relocating equipment to assure continued fire protection to our city. Minor problems arose when some of the new portable radios got wet, jamming the frequencies.

After an extensive investigation it was determined the cause of the fire to be a sauna heater. The color slides of the fire are being used as training aids, all damaged equipment was restored to normal, and the problem of wet radios was corrected to prevent the occurrence. We learned from this fire as we do from most fires. Let's hope we can prevent this from happening in the fire.



With appreciation, the Fire Department wishes to acknowledge the following organizations and businesses for their generosity and assistance during the past year: Dane County Chapter, American National Red Cross -- Madison Area Safety Council -- Madison Area Technical College -- the Independent Insurance Agents of Dane County, Don Chandler of Image West Photography, and Madison newspapers: The Wisconsin State Journal and the Capital Times. Radio and television stations: WIBA -- WISM -- WLUV -- WTSO -- WWQM -- WHA -- WHA-TV -- WISC-TV -- WKOW-TV -- WMTV.

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

LEARN TO PREVENT FIRES

A Prevented Fire is no fire at all. We can't go it alone-- we need your help.

- Dispose of smoking materials properly
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use
- Don't leave unattended food cooking on the stove
- Store gasoline in approved metal containers--
never in the basement.
- Install and maintain a smoke detector
- Hold fire drills in your home

An unwanted fire means we lose and you lose--it means

- Vacant business
- Vacant homes
- Loss of jobs
- Loss of possessions
- Loss of tax base

In case of fire, don't wait--the number to call is:

255-7272

1978 Annual Report - Compiled and edited by James Gschwend, Lieutenant - and Niki Russos, Dispatcher.

Printed in Madison, Wisconsin.