



GUYANA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Guyana Fire and Ambulance Services

FOR THE YEAR

1970

(Printed by the Authority of the Government)

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA, GUYANA.

1971

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GUYANA FIRE
AND AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE
YEAR 1970

Fire Service Headquarters,
Water Street,
Georgetown.

11th October, 1971.

The Honourable,
The Minister of Home Affairs,
Lrickdam,
Georgetown.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for your information the Annual Report of the Guyana Fire and Ambulance Services for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

1. Establishment

The establishment of the Service at the end of the year was as follows:-

1 Chief Fire Officer
1 Deputy Chief Fire Officer
4 Station Officers
1 Motor Mechanic
9 Sub Officers
1 Quartermaster
24 Section Leaders
48 Leading Firemen
215 Firemen
2 Class II Clerks
4 Clerical Assistants
3 Barrack Labourers.

During the year under review, seventy-nine (79) men were recruited into the Service. However, there was still a shortage of staff due to retirements and resignations from the Service.

2. Stations

During the year two land Stations, and one Fire Boat Station were maintained in Georgetown. There were also one Land Station in New Amsterdam, and one Aerodrome Fire Station at Timehri Airport.

In/....

In keeping with the policy of decentralizing the Fire Services, a new Fire Station was built by self-help in South Georgetown and was opened on the 5th December, 1970, by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs. A station in Campbellville, which was also being built by self-help, should be completed early in 1971, and like the one in South Georgetown should be fully operational as soon as the recruits are ready to take their places as trained firemen. With the addition of these two stations the efficiency of the Service is expected to improve and residents in these areas would be provided with protection and assistance when required.

3. Central Fire Station (Georgetown)

This Station, which provided accommodation for over 90 persons is extremely congested, but the two new Stations should go a far way in remedying this situation.

The Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply has done quite a lot to improve living conditions at this Station, but further repairs are still to be done and there is need for improvement in the water supply.

4. Fire Boat Station

There are 30 men at this Station:-

- 1 Sub Officer
- 4 Section Leaders
- 4 Leading Firemen
- 21 Firemen

During the period under review, the Fire Boats, Lady Woolley and Stagshaw, turned out on the following occasions:-

Responding to Fires	.. 28
Special Services	40
Transporting the sick and injured from Vreed-en-Hoop to Georgetown	..903
Assistance rendered to the Police	.. 26
Miscellaneous calls	..516

Emergency Services

On four occasions Fire Boat Lady Woolley responded to cries for help by persons who were in danger of drowning in the Demerara River, and on 7 occasions it gave help to vessels drifting out to sea with crew members abroad. These vessels were towed safely back to port.

on 34 occasions salvage operations were carried out on vessels which were in danger of sinking or which had already sunk in the

Georgetown Harbour.

Miscellaneous Calls

These calls were made under various circumstances e.g. transporting Ministers of Government, Members of Parliament, Senior Government Officials, Doctors, Midwives, Magistrates and Members of the Police Force to and from Vreed-en-Hoop.

5. Timehri Aerodrome Unit

There were 58 men stationed at this Unit as shown hereunder:-

1 Station Officer
1 Sub Officer
4 Section Leaders
6 Leading Firemen
45 Firemen
1 Barrack Labourer

During 1970, members of this Unit responded to the following:-

Fire Calls - 10
Special Services - 30
Aircraft Emergencies- 8

Aircraft emergencies are categorised as follows:-

(a) Emergency Landings 7
(b) Engine on Fire 1

During the year, this Unit moved into the Old Airport Terminal Building, and its personnel were more comfortably accommodated. Accommodation was also reserved for the proposed Fire Service Training School, and this school may well be a reality in 1971.

6. New Amsterdam Unit

There were 49 men stationed in New Amsterdam as follows:-

1 Station Officer
1 Sub Officer
5 Section Leaders
6 Leading Firemen
34 Firemen
1 Clerical Assistant
1 Barrack Labourer

During the period under review, members of this Unit responded to the following:-

Fire Calls .. 61
Special Services .. 29
Ambulance Calls ..2423

7. Appliances

The appliances held by the Service at the end of the year were:-

Georgetown/...

Georgetown Unit

Five (5) Dennis Water Tenders of 600 gallons per minute capacity
One (1) Major Pump 900 gallons per minute
Two (2) Land Rover Fire Pumps 350 gallons per minute
One (1) Land Rover Utility Pick Up
One (1) Bedford Ambulance
Three (3) Volkswagen Ambulances
Two (2) Dodge Trucks with trays
One (1) Fire Boat (Lady Woolley) 900 g.p.m.
One (1) Fire Boat (Stagshaw) 500 g.p.m.
One (1) Morris Oxford Motor Car

New Amsterdam Unit

One (1) Dennis Water Tender 600 g.p.m.
Two (2) Land Rover Fire Pump 350 g.p.m. with portable pumps
One (1) Bedford Ambulance
One (1) Volkswagen Ambulance
One (1) Morris Ambulance
One (1) Emergency Tender (Land Rover)
One (1) Land Rover Utility Pick Up.

Timehri Unit

Two (2) Bedford Foam & Co2 Tenders 600 and 500 g.p.m.
One (1) Bedford Foam Tender 650 g.p.m.
One (1) Commer Ambulance
One (1) Austin Champ with 150 lbs. Dry Chemical
One (1) Land Rover Fire Pump 350 g.p.m.
One (1) Morris Van
One (1) Emergency Tender

In order to present a true picture the following break-down is given:-

- (a) Of the five Dennis Water Tenders in Georgetown, two have been off the run for well over a year due to major accidents. One is a complete write-off. Two need to be overhauled (engine transmission and chassis) in order to ensure their road worthiness. The remaining one is good and still reliable, but it should be borne in mind that this machine is over 10 years old.
- (b) The 900 g.p.m. major pump is now 23 years old, and by no stretch of imagination could she be relied upon.

(c)/...

- ... \vifnc OS
- (c) The Land Rover Utility Pick Up should be taken off the road in the interest of all road users.
 - (d) The Land Rover Fire Pumps are very unreliable and owing to the system of construction, very difficult to maintain.
 - (e) The Bedford Ambulance is a complete write-off as a result of a major accident. However, this vehicle gave admirable service, registering well over 120,000 miles before its last accident. The sister ambulance in New Amsterdam is still performing creditably, having done even greater mileage.
 - (f) The three Volkswagen Ambulances did no work for the year. They have all been recommended to be boarded, with an average mileage of 40,000 miles. They are not considered sturdy enough to be used effectively.
 - (g) The Morris Ambulances were not built as Ambulances, but are merely converted light vans. They cannot therefore stand up to the continuous grind of ambulance work, and are proving exceedingly expensive to maintain.
 - (h) The Lady Woolley is still afloat, but it is certainly not a firefighting force.
 - (i) The Stagshaw has been off the run for the greater part of the year.
 - (j) New Amsterdam is in a slightly happier position, except that the water Tender is also ready for a thorough overhaul. The Volkswagen Ambulances are exactly as those in Georgetown.
 - (k) At Timehri the situation is similar to that of Georgetown. The foam and CO2 Tenders are all old and have outlived their usefulness. One hundred and fifty pounds (150 lbs.) of Dry Chemical is totally inadequate, and the Austin Champ Appliance itself is quite unreliable, hence the Fire Protection available is far below what is acceptable for an Airport of the category under which Timehri falls.

8. Maintenance

The Maintenance staff, even though affected by shortages, continued to maintain all Fire Service equipment to a reasonably high standard.

The lack of accommodating tools and workshop facilities remained a bug-bear throughout the section, but nevertheless, during the year 1,874 repair jobs were carried out, including 46 overhauls and major repairs.

9. Hose

During the year under review, the Service held 37,060 feet of delivery hose as follows:-

Georgetown Unit	- 20,930
Timehri Unit	6,830
New Amsterdam Unit	9,300

10. Hydrants

Georgetown Unit

During the year eight new hydrants were installed in the following areas:-

T.U.C. Scheme, East of East Ruimveldt	- 3
C.D.C. Scheme, South Ruimveldt Gardens	- 5

About thirty (30) of the hydrants which were damaged by vandals were repaired and replaced, while another forty (40) are now being repaired.

There is now a total of 1,320 hydrants in Georgetown and its environs, but due to the acute shortage of manpower, very little inspection of hydrants was done. Regular hydrant inspections will be resumed early in the new year.

With the new method of affixing the flanges and nipples to the hydrant barrel, it is hoped that it would no longer be possible for vandals to damage hydrants, thereby negating the effectiveness of the Fire Service in an emergency.

Timehri Aerodrome Unit.

The number of hydrants is now 71 at Timehri, and Fire Service personnel carried out regular inspections. Defective hydrants were reported to the Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply, who carried out the necessary repairs.

New Amsterdam Unit

There are 124 hydrants in New Amsterdam, and these were inspected by Fire Service personnel during the year. Defects were reported to the New Amsterdam Water Conservancies, who effected the necessary repairs promptly.

11. Equipment Received

During the period under review, the following items of equipment and stores were received:-

2	only	Morris Ambulance	250	JU
2	"	Neil Robertson	Stretchers	
6	"	Standard type	stretchers	

20 only Lifebuoys covered with P.V.C. or Terylene covering
12 " Men's Sea Jackets (Orange Colour) Medium 40" - 42"
unlined.
50 " Fold-A-Bye Student Chairs (All Steel)
20 " Stock-A-Bye Chairs
56 " 75' lengths 2½" Synthetic delivery hose.
10 " 8' lengths 4" Heavy Duty 4 - Ply Suction Hose,
complete with 4" round thread gun metal couplings.
875 gallons Nicerol Foam Compound
1 only Merryweather hand operated siren
1 " Explosimeter with carrying frame and sampling lines
2 " C.D.T. 210 Pyrene CO2 Mobile Fire Units
1 " Dodge engine complete
16 " 700 X 13 Tyres
13 " 700 X 13 Tubes
4 " 750 X 16 Tyres
4 " 750 X 16 Tubes
2 " 8.22 - 5 Tyres
50 " George Angus 2-gallon No. 4 Dual Seal Type Foam
Fire Extinguishers, with fixed nozzles, wall
brackets and initial charge.
100 " Foam Charges for Angus No. 4, 2 gallon extinguishers.
20 " Nu-Swift Air Foam 2 - gallon Fire Extinguishers,
complete with initial charges.
75 " Nu-Swift Air Foam Charges for Nu-Swift 2-gallon
Fire Extinguishers.
12 " 1 Quart Auto (Uni-Flash) Controllable discharge
Fire Extinguishers, Model No. 4000 with wall
bracket, complete with pressure charge No. 35.
24 " Pressure charges No. 35 for Auto 4000 Uni-Flash Fire
Extinguisher.
50 " No. 2 Soda Acid charges for Angus Soda Acid Fire
Extinguishers.
2 " Chief Fire Officer Caps
2 " Deputy Chief Fire Officer Caps
27 " Station Officer Caps
300 " Firemen's Caps
772½ Yards Tetrex 5300 Teteron Viscose Suiting (Shirting)
Grey.
1068½ " Terylen Serge
1005 " Blue Denim
1012½ " Blue Drill Cotton Shirting

851 yards White Satin Drill
 108 1/2 " Calico Bleached (cotton)
 30 " Scarlet Cloth
 40 " Men's Hosiery
 100 " Chrome 1/2" straight rank bars
 100 Pairs Rubber Boots
 600 " Nylon Socks
 100 only Firemen's Helmets
 100 " Blankets
 426 yards Sheeting cotton (white)
 50 only Red Lanyards
 600 Pairs Shoes
 45 Pairs Yatching Shoes (white)
 100 Only Rain Coats
 120 " Berets
 75 " First Aid Badges
 12 " Whistle and Chain (Officers)
 60 " Whistle and Chain (Subordinate Officers)

12. Special Services

During 1970, the Fire Service carried out a total of 224 special services, in addition to responding to Fire Calls and other emergencies. Of these, 53 were classified as emergency calls, for which no charges were made as they were all of a humanitarian nature.

The other calls classified as ordinary special services were chargeable, and yeilded a net revenue of \$6,529.65.

13. Fire Calls

In 1970, the Service responded to 535 Fire Calls, a decrease of 99 calls when compared with the previous year as can be seen from the following table.

<u>Georgetown Unit</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Actual Fires	401	341
Late Fire Calls	21	19
False Alarms (Good Intent)	20	27
False Alarms (Malicious)	91	77
<u>Timehri Unit</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Actual Fires	20	8
Late Fire Calls	-	-
False Alarms (Good Intent)	-	2
False Alarms (Malicious)	1	-
<u>New Amsterdam Unit</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Actual Fires	48	40
Late Fire Calls	20	13
False Alarms (Good Intent)	1	6
False Alarms (Malicious)	11	2

Causes of Fire

Careless disposal of lighted cigarette ends or matches-	57
Electrical Faults	- 180
Electric, Gas and Oil Stoves	34
Malicious setting of fire	14
Unknown	10
Ignition of flammable vapours and liquids	20
Smoking in bed	5
Motor vehicles (crash and defects)	9
Overheating of electrical appliances	5
Children playing with matches	16
Boil over of fats, oil and tar	8
Oil lamps, candles, mosquito coils	4
welding	18
Careless use of coal pots	1
Spontaneous ignition	5
Chimneys, hearths and ovens	4
Deliberate setting of fire	30
Lightening	1
False alarms - malicious	79
False alarms - good intent	35

Methods of Extinguishing

Occupants of houses, employees at business places, members of the Public or of the Police Force used the following methods in extinguishing fires.

Buckets of water	44
Wet bags	20
Sand	4
Portable fire extinguishers	30
Switching off current or removal of fuse	18
Turning off stoves	2
Workmen of Electricity Corporation	- 135

By members of the Fire Service, using the following means:-

(a) Hand appliances	15
(b) Hose reel	22
(c) Leaping out with fire bats, spades etc.	6
(d) Buckets of water or sand	12
(e) One jet of water from pump	76
(f) Two jets of water from pump	11
(g) Three jets of water from pump	

(h) Four jets of water from pump	- 2
(i) Ten jets of water from pump	- 1
(j) Switching off current or removing fuse	-13

Methods of Calling

Central Exchange (Emergency line 999)	-395
Central Exchange (Administration line)	-108
Running Calls	- 26
V.H.F. Radio	1
Private Fire Alarm	5

Georgetown Unit

Central Exchange (Emergency line 999)	-392
Central Exchange (Administration line)	- 53
Running Calls	- 16
Private Fire Alarm	2
V.H.F. Radio	1

Timehri Unit

Emergency Line	3
Administrative Line	4
Running Calls	

New Amsterdam Unit

Central Exchange (Emergency line)	- 51
Private Fire Alarm	3
Running Call	7

Types of Property Involved

Dwelling Houses	-114
Overhead electrical wiring and transformers	-111
Open land, saw dust, rubbish heaps	- 75
Restaurant and Parlours	4
Market	1
Motor vehicles of all descriptions	- 37
Ships in Harbour	6
Schools	2
Office buildings	- 13
Hospitals	6
Factories	6
Bitumen plant and tar boilers	6
Mechanical workshops	9
wharves and warehouses	5
Church	1
Filling Stations	2

Hotels/...

Hotels and Boarding Houses	3
Stables and Chicken Runs	2
Clothing and Hardware Stores	7
Saw Mills	1
Fishing Trawler	1
Airport Terminal Building	1
Bulk Storage Plant	1
Laboratories	3
Foundries	3
Suicide - Human Torch	1

Hours between which calls were received

	Georgetown	Timehri	New Amsterdam
	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unit</u>
12 midnight to 6.00 a.m.	45		3
6.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon	122	4	19
12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m.	145	4	15
6.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight	152	2	24

Buildings and other property severely damaged or destroyed by fire

Georgetown Unit

1. On 24th January, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 20' x 10', owned by Mrs. Hannah Braithwaite, of Zeskendren, Mahaicony, was completely destroyed by fire.
2. On 17th February, 1970, a two-flat wooden building approximately 25' x 18', owned by Mr. Seenarine of Grant Hermanstein, West Bank, Demerara, was completely destroyed by fire.
- 3(a) On 24th March, 1970, the Victoria Hotel, Avenue of the Republic and America Street, measuring approximately 100' x 45' was completely destroyed by fire.
- (b) On 24th March, 1970, a wooden building of two floors, situated in Croal Street, and measuring approximately 60' x 35', and owned by Mr. Chitto Mangar, was completely destroyed by fire.
- (c) On 24th March, 1970, a wooden building of two floors approximately 60' x 30', situated at 15- 16 Croal Street, and owned by DeSouza and Company Limited was completely destroyed by fire.
- (d) On 24th March, 1970, a wooden building of two floors, approximately 60' x 35' situated at 15-16 Croal Street, and owned by DeSouza and Company was completely destroyed by fire.
- (e) On 24th March, 1970, a wooden building of two floors approximately 60' x 35' situated at 15-16 Croal Street, and owned by Mr. Michael, was completely destroyed by fire.

- (f) On 24th March, 1970, a wooden building of two floors, approximately 60' x 35', situated at 15 Croal Street, and owned by Mrs. L. Fernandes was completely destroyed by fire.
- (g) On 24th March, 1970, a wooden building of two floors approximately 35' x 30', situated at 17 America Street, and owned by Mr. DeSouza and Company Limited, was completely destroyed by fire.
4. On 2nd April, 1970 a two-flat wooden building, approximately 60' x 50', situated at Diamond, East Bank Demerara, and owned by the Demerara Company Limited, was completely destroyed by fire.
5. On 5th April, 1970, a two-flat building approximately 100' x 40' situated at 6A Water Street, and owned by Mr. M.D. Whitehead of 134 Church Street, Cummingsburg, was severely damaged by fire.
6. On 22nd May, 1970, a two flat building, approximately 35' x 25', bottom of concrete blocks and top of wood, situated at 38 Liliendaal, East Coast Demerara, was completely destroyed by fire.
7. On 7th June, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 25' x 20' situated at Broomsland, Mahaicony, and owned by Mr. Abdool Karim, was completely destroyed by fire.
8. On 10th June, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 60' x 40', situated at 7-9 Lombard Street, owned by Mr. George Hanoman of 217 Lamaha Street, and housing the Hanoman's Dry Goods Store and Mattress factory was severely damaged by fire.
9. On 25th June, 1970, a one-flat wooden building approximately 50' x 35', situated at Jagotsville, West Bank Demerara, and owned by Mr. Norman Devonish was completely destroyed by fire.
10. On 3rd July, 1970, a one-flat wooden building approximately 20' x 15', situated at Aliko, Essequibo River, and owned by Mrs. Marion Fernandes was completely destroyed by fire.
11. On 22nd July, 1970, a one-flat wooden building approximately 18' x 18', situated at 143 DaSilva Street, Kitty, and owned by Mr. Alfred DeFranca was severely damaged by fire.
12. On 15th August, 1970, a two-flat building, approximately 40' x 22', bottom of concrete blocks and top of wood,

situated/...

situated at 10 Pouderoyen, West Bank Demerara, and owned by Mr. Abdul Whob, was severely damaged by fire.

13. On 5th September, 1970, a one-flat wooden building approximately 20' x 20', situated at Huntley, Mahaicony, and owned by Mrs. Shirley Singh, was completely destroyed by fire.
14. On 17th October, 1970, a three-flat wooden building, approximately 45' x 25', situated at Camp and New Market Streets, and owned by Mrs. Braithwaite of Duncan Street, Newtown, was severely damaged by fire.

Timehri Unit

15. On 1st January, 1970, a two-flat wooden building approximately 75' x 40', situated at Timehri, and owned by Biesen Development Company, was severely destroyed by fire.
16. On 28th February, 1970, an electrical Transformer situated on the McKenzie highway was severely damaged by fire.
17. On 15th March, 1970, one U2 Racing Motor Car, owned by Mr. Carroll Emkay was destroyed by fire while in action on the Dakota Racing Circuit.

New Amsterdam

18. On 14th January, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 20' x 14', situated at Cotton Tree, and owned by the Cotton Tree Local Authority, was completely destroyed by fire.
19. On 16th February, 1970, a two-flat wooden building, approximately 60' x 30', owned by Mr. Lall Mohamed of No. 70 Village, Corentyne, was completely destroyed by fire. One half-propelled Rice Combine was severely damaged.
20. On 20th February, 1970, one calculating machine, owned by the Guyana Government, and situated in the Supreme Court Building, New Amsterdam, was completely destroyed by fire.
21. On 10th May, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 26' x 22', situated at Yakasari, Black Bush Polder, and owned by the Guyana Presbyterian Church, was completely destroyed by fire.
22. On 17th June, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 16' x 9', situated at No. 19 Village, Corentyne, and owned by Mahadeo Mangal, was completely destroyed by fire.

23. On 23rd June, 1970, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 16' x 10', situated at Julianasburg, East Bank Berbice, and owned by Jagmohan, was completely destroyed by fire.
24. On 8th November, 1970, a one-flat wooden building approximately 14' x 10', situated at No. 79 Village, Corentyne, and owned by Maharani, was completely destroyed by fire.

14. Deaths by Fire

There were seven (7) deaths by fire during 1970, which occurred as follows:-

1. On 24th March, 1970, Miguel 30, of Pomeroun died after he was trapped in a bedroom of the Victoria Hotel.
2. On Sunday 17th May, 1970, Leslie Gibin 22, of Williamsburg, Corentyne, and Roopnarine Seepersaud 20, of Rose Hall, Corentyne, died aback of No. 7 Village, Corentyne, when a nearby petrol tank exploded while they were cooking in their boat.
3. On 28th May, 1970, Veronica Jaiharry 25, of New Street, Cumberland, East Canje Berbice, died when an oil stove on which she was cooking flared up and ignited her clothing.
4. On 6th June, 1970, Shakeer Haniff, 13, of Breda Street, werk-en-Rust, died after setting herself on fire.
5. On 17th June, 1970, Lloyd Oxley 32, of Hunter Street, Albouystown, died after setting himself on fire.
6. On 7th July, 1970, Henry Fields aged 4 years of Craig Village, East Bank Demerara, died after being trapped in a blazing kitchen of his parents' home.

15. Ambulance Calls

This branch of the Service performed creditably throughout the year. Unfortunately, the vehicles now used as Ambulances have proved to be incapable of performing the job reliably, and furthermore they are exceedingly expensive to maintain.

Nevertheless during the year, 14,072 calls were answered, an average of 38.5 calls per day, which is an increase on the 35.4 calls per day for last year.

Of the total number of calls, 12,050 were emergency, while the remaining 2,022 were private calls.

Private calls were mainly for the transportation of indigent persons from one place to another, e.g. to the Amerindian Hostel, Palms, Dharam Sala, the Georgetown Hospital, as well as from the

hospital to various other institutions, and from one ward of the hospital to another.

Requests for this kind of service were received from the Social Service Department of the Georgetown Hospital, Police Stations, Georgetown Prisons and institutions catering for old and indigent persons.

The Ambulances covered a distance of 83,365 miles while responding to both emergency and private calls, but like last year, this is not a true picture of the mileage covered, since on numerous occasions, other vehicles of the department had to be used to convey patients when the Ambulances were engaged or otherwise unavailable.

16. Mental Cases

During the year 84 mental cases were transported from Georgetown Railway Station, thence from the New Amsterdam Ferry Stelling to the Mental Hospital, Canje.

Now that the Georgetown Hospital has acquired an Ambulance of their own, it is felt that it would be more convenient to all concerned but particularly to the patients, to have that ambulance convey all mental cases from Georgetown Hospital to Fort Canje Hospital.

17. Training - Local

There was very little normal day to day training at Station level due to the tremendous shortage of personnel during the year.

One member of the Service attended one course sponsored by the In-Service Training Centre -

Miss B. Tiwari - Induction Course - 5 days

The following members of the Service attended the Government Technical Institute on the undermentioned trade courses:-

- (a) Leading Fireman Haywood - Motor Mechanic work
- (b) Fireman Cappell - Electrical Installation

External Training

During the period under review, 1 Station Officer and 7 Section Leaders received external training as follows:-

- (a) 1 Station Officer - Course in Methodology in Turin, Italy.

(b)/...

(b) 7 Section Leaders - various courses in advanced Fire Fighting in the United Kingdom

(c) 1 Station Officer was awarded a Scholarship by the Institution of Fire Engineers, and carried out research on Fire Prevention in the Caribbean Commonwealth Countries.

18. Leave - Annual

Two thousand seven hundred and thirty two (2,732) days were granted to members of the Service, an average of just under nine days per man, as compared with 11.4 days per man in 1969.

Sick

The health of members of the Fire Service has been very bad during 1970, since with a shortage of almost 33% of the authorised strength, a total of four thousand, two hundred and eighteen (4,218) days' sick leave was granted to members of the service, at an average of 13.4 days per man, as compared with 14.9 days per man in 1969.

Vacation

Sixty-four (64) members of the Service enjoyed a total of five thousand, one hundred and sixty two (5,162) days vacation leave during the year, at an average of 80.6 days per man, as compared with 51.8 days per man for the previous year.

Special

Eight (8) members of the Service were granted a total of two hundred and fifty five (255) days' special leave during 1970, at an average of 31.8 days per man, as compared with 7.5 days per man during 1969.

19. Discipline

The discipline of the Service was maintained at its usual high standard. During the period under review, 35 cases for breaches of discipline were dealt with as follows:-

Reprimanded	4
Severely Reprimanded	2
Fined 2 days' pay	2
Fined \$1.00	3
Fined \$2.00	- 10
Fined \$2.50	2
Fined \$3.00	3
Fined \$5.00	3
Fined \$10.00	1
Admonished	3
Found Not Guilty	2

In addition to the above, one member of the Service was served with a Final warning Notice.

20. Resignations

During 1970, the following persons resigned from the Service:-

Fireman C. Nestor with effect from	21.2.70
Fireman M. Jacobs " " "	22.5.70
Leading Fireman O. DeCruiz " " "	30.5.70
Fireman R. Jaundoo " " "	6.6.70
Class II Clerk V.L.C. Robertson " " "	1.7.70
Fireman w. Medas " " "	26.8.70
Fireman L. Henry " " "	1.12.70
Fireman S. Lias " " "	28.12.70

Summary

- 1. Leading Fireman
- 6 Firemen
- 1 Class II Clerk

Retirements

During the year 1970, the following persons retired from the Service:-

Motor Mechanic R. Harper with effect from	1.2.70
Leading Fireman C.S. Prashad " " "	1.2.70
Fireman M. Mendonca " " "	1.2.70
Section Leader F. Thomas " " "	1.4.70
Leading Fireman A. DeAbreu " " "	17.4.70
Leading Fireman J. Roach " " "	1.5.70
Fireman G. Accra " " "	1.5.70
Sub Officer I. Fraser " " "	1.6.70
Leading Fireman K. Hazel " " "	1.6.70
Fireman S. Jones " " "	1.9.70
Fireman R. Sukhu " " "	1.9.70
Fireman J. Fontanelle " " "	22.9.70
Leading Fireman V. Nobrega " " "	24.11.70
Leading Fireman G. Grant " " "	1.12.70

Summary

- 1 Motor Mechanic
- 1 Sub Officer
- 1 Section Leader
- 6 Leading Firemen
- 5 Firemen

Dismissals/..

Dismissals

The following members of the Service, who absented themselves from duty without permission at the expiration of their vacation leave were dismissed from the Service during 1970 as follows:-

Fireman	R. Phillips	with effect from	30.5.70
Fireman	C. Pitt	" "	1.6.70

23. Secondment

During the period under review, the following members of the Service were seconded to various Ministries/Corporations.

- (1) Leading Fireman H.C. Fraser, to the Rice Development Corporation, with effect from 15th April, 1970.
- (2) Section Leader Drijlall and Fireman S. Jones to the Ministry of Home Affairs with effect from 19th March, 1970, to 1st July, 1970.

24. Promotions

During 1970, three members of the service were promoted as set out hereunder:-

1	Sub Officer	to	Motor Mechanic
1	Section Leader	to	Sub Officer
1	Leading Fireman	to	Section Leader

25. Filling of Vacancies

- (a) During the period under review, the following vacancies in the service were filled:-

2	Clerical Assistants
1	Barrack Labourer

- (b) On 1st December, 1970, 79 applicants were recruited for training to fill existing vacancies for Firemen.

26. Communication

The efficiency of any Fire Service depends to a large extent on quick and reliable means of communication.

Unfortunately, the switchboard at Fire Service Headquarters leaves much to be desired. This instrument has long outlived its usefulness, and the fact that it is still in working order is due entirely to the patience and technical knowledge of the technicians of the Guyana Telecommunication Corporation. If the Guyana Fire Service is to maintain its efficiency and keep pace with the development of our country, then a larger and modern switchboard should be provided without further delay.

Radio

It is again unfortunate that I have to report that the V.H.F. Radio System is not functioning as efficiently as it should, with the consequent drop in the efficiency of the entire service. It is absolutely essential that all Fire-Fighting appliances and Ambulances be equipped with V.H.F. radios, but at present this is not the case in the Guyana Fire Service.

To facilitate installation and quick minor repairs, serious thought must be given to having one or more suitably qualified members of the Service trained in radio work.

27. Auxiliary Unit

A dedicated group of men continue to form the nucleus of this Unit. However, due to the serious shortage of appliances over the past two years enthusiasm has waned, and the turn out for drills and exercises has fallen off considerably.

This Unit is a great asset to the Service and every effort should be made to bring it back to the authorised strength, particularly in Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

28. Visits

There was no visit to the Department during the year by any high ranking Government Official, but it is hoped that during 1971 the Minister of Home Affairs would visit Fire Brigade Headquarters and its branches.

29. Organised Tours

School children, Police recruits, members of youth clubs, scouts, guides and cubs, visited all stations of the service and evinced considerable interest in our operations.

Senior Subordinate Officers gave short lectures on Fire Safety and Fire Prevention and, in some instances, laid on practical demonstrations for our visitors.

Fire Prevention

During the year under review 1706 inspections were carried out as compared with 2,997 in 1969. The majority of these inspections were done in Georgetown and New Amsterdam while a small number was done in the rural districts. These inspections involved Government and private buildings including factories, cinemas, gasoline filling stations, and industrial premises, and are categorised as original follow-up and good will inspections.

The purpose of each inspection was to observe conditions on premises which would endanger life or property and to recommend ways and means of minimising any danger especially where there was a

risk/...

risk of loss of life or personal injury. In some cases the condition or construction of some premises warranted several visits while in other cases visits were made to ensure that staff received proper instructions as to working methods of fire equipment and safety precautions on the premises.

On many fire safety problems, expert advice and guidance were given to members of the general public. Forty-nine plans for new buildings and alterations to existing buildings were examined, and the requirements of the Fire Brigade, with particular regard to means of escape and access to fire fighting facilities, were specified before approval was given.

Publicity Proposals

A Fire Prevention booth showing the various causes of fires and their prevention in homes, hospitals, factories etc. was displayed at the annual National Exhibition of Local Products held at the Guyana Sports Club Ground, Thomas Lands.

First Aid Fire Equipment was also displayed and Fire Prevention Lectures were given to numerous groups of persons who visited the booth.

Opportunity was also taken to advise them in many general terms on the use and methods of operation of the various types of fire equipment which are appropriate for risks and involved methods of calling the Fire Service in event of an emergency.

Fire Prevention pamphlets on "HINTS ON FIRE PREVENTION" were also distributed.

A booth was also provided at the Mission Chapel Fair, New Amsterdam, Berbice, and similar exercises were carried out.

Hospitals

Weekly visits continued at the Georgetown and New Amsterdam hospitals, whereas fortnightly visits were made to the Mental Hospital. Visits were also made once monthly to the Mahaica and Best Hospitals for the purpose of conducting drills and lectures. On these occasions routine inspections were carried out and, when necessary, recommendations were made in the interest of safety on the premises.

The hose reels in certain sections of the Georgetown Hospital were not in use, as they were not connected to the water supply mains. These hose reels when in operation will cover a wider floor area and in addition will supply a continuous flow of water for fire fighting purposes and are therefore considered more effective and efficient than the conventional two-gallon water type fire extinguishers.

Having regard to the extremely high life risk connected with this institution, it is necessary for every effective means to be employed thus preventing a small fire from becoming a holocaust.

The/...

The fire alarm systems at the New Amsterdam and Mental Hospitals which were reported to be defective, remained out of commission at the end of 1970 despite several efforts by this Department to have the faults affecting the system rectified.

The need for efficient fire alarm systems in institutions of this kind cannot be over emphasised when the high life risk involved is considered. Nothing was done to put into effect recommendations submitted in respect of the New Amsterdam Hospital to improve the water pressure in the wet riser, and the removal of the laboratory and provision store from under the wards.

At the Mental Hospital the fire pump and hydrants have been in a bad condition and have made it difficult for the standard of fire protection requirements to be maintained at a high level.

Government Buildings

Inspections were carried out in various Government buildings and where necessary fire equipment was provided for the protection of the premises. Lectures and drills on the use and operation of the fire equipment were carried out with particular emphasis on procedures to be adopted in case of emergency.

Schools

Inspections were made at a number of schools in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and other rural areas.

In some instances it was necessary to instal fire equipment on the premises.

At the apprentice Training Centre at Fort Mourant, a course in elementary fire protection was given to the students in an endeavour to promote a sense of fire consciousness with a view to maintaining good fire protection measures in the various establishments to which they would be posted.

Fire Equipment

The following fire equipment was allocated to Government buildings during the year. In the case of fire extinguishers, replacements were necessary because of deterioration due to lack of proper maintenance. Recharging of extinguishers was also necessary when they were either used on actual fires, discharged accidentally or because of a weakening of the charges through age.

Fire Extinguishers

Air Foam (2 gallons)	- 10
Chemical Foam (2 gallons)	- 10
Water Air Pressure (2 gallons)	- 12
Water CO2 (2 gallons)	- 26
Uni Flash (quarter size)	- 10
Carbon Dioxide (5 lbs.)	17

Extinguisher Charges

Air Foam	- 70
Chemical Foam	- 39
Soda Acid	- 21
Conquest CO2	- 51
Nu Swift CO2	- .2
Uni Flash	- 15

Other Equipment

Fire Blankets (Asbestos)	- 3
Morris Rubber Washers	- 12

Private Buildings

From the numerous requests received during the year for Fire Prevention inspections to be done on private premises it can be assumed that the General Public is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of fire prevention.

Requests were also made by private firms and other concerns for personnel to be given special training in Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting methods.

Opportunity was taken during inspections to deliver lectures to the staffs of various firms and, whenever possible, demonstrations and evacuation exercises were conducted. Many visits were made to cinemas, and proprietors and managers were asked for their fullest co-operation in connection with overcrowding during cinematograph shows, and in many cases during vaudeville shows. Attention was also drawn on several occasions to the provisions of the cinematograph Ordinance and Regulations with regard to encumbering passageways and the permissible width of such passageways.

There were reminded of their obligations to ensure the minimum safety of patrons at all times and advised to refrain from using loose chairs in the cinemas. Admittance of excessive numbers of persons to shows was also discouraged, as this could unduly hamper safe and speedy evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency and also lead to serious injury or loss of life.

Gasolene Filling Stations

The number of applications to this Department for permission to erect gasolene filling stations and bulk storage plants throughout the country continued to increase.

Inspections of proposed sites were carried out and special attention given to fire precautionary and safety measures for such occupancies.

Numerous/...

Numerous follow-up inspections were carried out to existing filling stations and bulk storage plants at the request of the Chief Works and Hydraulics Officer with a view to granting annual petroleum licences to various applicants.

During the year, legal action was taken against the owners of a tenement building in New Amsterdam for non-compliance with recommendations which were submitted in the interest of safety on the premises. The case was, however, dismissed.

Conclusion


The year under review was one of the most eventful in the history of the Fire Service for those whose responsibility it was to carry the administration of this Service. This situation was brought about as a result of the shortage of both staff and equipment which are so necessary if the efficiency of the Fire Protection Services is to be maintained. It is, however, gratifying to mention that positive steps have already been taken to improve this situation. I am happy to record another year of excellent work done by all members of the Service who undoubtedly had to carry a tremendous physical and mental burden during this period.

It could not be too strongly stressed that everything possible should be done within the country's financial resources to ensure that the Fire Service is kept at a very high standard of efficiency.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Chief Fire Officer.

EXPENDITURE - GUYANA FIRE SERVICE

1970

HEAD 22 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

<u>NO. OF HEAD</u>	<u>TITLE OF SUB-HEAD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
1	Personal Emoluments	\$ 604,090.07
	<u>OTHER CHARGES</u>	
2	Transport & Travelling	23,637.03
3	Miscellaneous	1,925.85
4	Uniforms & Bedding	38,310.94
5	Expenses, Training Courses	2,725.10
6	Funeral Expenses	-
7	Maintenance & Operation of Land & Water Transport	69,015.27
8	Ambulance & First Aid Equipment	1,597.27
9	Auxiliary Unit	5,672.32
10	Maintenance of Pipelines in Commercial Areas	1,117.50
11	Purchase of Fire Equipment for Government Buildings	13,102.19
	TOTAL	<u>\$761,193.94</u>