



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Guyana Fire
and Ambulance Service

FOR THE YEAR

1972

(Printed by the Authority of the Government)

GUYANA FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

WATER STREET,
STABROEK,
GEORGETOWN.

October, 1973

The Honourable,
The Minister of Home Affairs,
6, Brickdam,
GEORGETOWN.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith
the "Annual Report" of the Guyana Fire and Ambulance
Service for the Year ending 31st December, 1972.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,



.....
Wm. A. McDowell, A.M.I. FIRE E.
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

GUYANA FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT 1972

PREAMBLE:

The year 1972 was a successful although difficult year for the Guyana Fire and Ambulance Service. Despite this, an increased number of fire calls, ambulance calls and requests for special services had to be dealt with. The Brigade was also faced with a few serious fire situations which could have had disastrous results if personnel had failed either to take resolute action or to produce the standard of efficiency expected of them.

1. ESTABLISHMENT

At the end of the year, the authorised strength of the Service was as follows:-

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

The Officer strength of the Service received a much needed boost on the 1st August, 1972, when provision was made on the Fixed Establishment for the creation of three posts of Divisional Officer. This increase should go a far way in easing the heavy work load which was carried by the few officers, and so assist in maintaining the all-round efficiency of the Service. Promotions to these new posts, however, were not made before the end of the year.

2. STATIONS:

There are four land stations in Georgetown, and one Fire Boat Station, the land stations comprising Fire Service Headquarters and three sub-stations. There is one sub-station at Belfield, and an Aerodrome Fire Station at Timehri International Airport both falling under the supervision of the Georgetown Division. One land station is maintained in New Amsterdam.

It is hoped that 1973 will see the completion of the station at Wismar on the Demerara River as this swiftly developing area of the country is exposed to an increasing fire danger that cannot be ignored.

3. CENTRAL FIRE STATION, GEORGETOWN:

Accommodation for personnel at this station still needs improvement which expansion over the years has made important. Some attention will have to be given as well to sanitary conveniences and water supply to the compound both of which have engaged the attention of the Ministry of Works and Communications during the year.

4. FIRE BOAT STATION:

There were thirty men at this station:

1 Sub Officer

3 Section Leaders

7 Leading Firemen

19 Firemen

The Ambulance launch 'Wren' has not proved very successful in use and was operable only for a short period during the year. However, this vessel and the Fire Boat Lady Woolley turned out on the following occasions:-

Responding to Fires	23
Special Services	45
Transporting the sick and Injured from Vreed-en-Hoop to Georgetown	= 1,265
Rendering Assistance to the Police	16
Miscellaneous Calls	-

EMERGENCY SPECIAL SERVICES:

On thirteen occasions vessels and their crews were rescued while drifting out to sea, by being towed safely back to port.

On seventeen occasions, salvage operations were carried out on vessels, which were in danger of sinking or which had already sunk in the Harbour.

MISCELLANEOUS CALLS:

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

5. TIMEHRI AERODROME DIVISION:

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

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

During the year, members of this Division responded to the following:-

Fire Calls	11
Special Services	17
Aircraft Emergencies	4

Aircraft Emergencies involving the following:-

(a) Feathered Engines	2
(b) Overheated Undercarriage	1
(c) Defective Braking System	1

This station has now occupied the entire Old Airport Terminal Building, and it is hoped to effect necessary internal improvements both for the comfort of regular staff as well as to accommodate facilities for recruit training. There is still much to be done to bring the Training School up to the standard proposed. At the moment, however, the basic needs are available.

6. NEW AMSTERDAM DIVISION:

There was a staff of 50 stationed in New Amsterdam as shown hereunder:-

1 Divisional Officer
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 Division responded to the following:-

Fire Calls	-	103
Special Services	-	49
Ambulance Calls	-	3,025

An analysis of the fire calls is given later in this report.

During the year it was not possible to have the fence around the compound repaired or to affix doors to the Workshop. These works were necessary in order to improve the security of the Workshop and it is hoped that they will be effected in the new year.

The establishment of Fire and Ambulance stations in the towns of Rose Hall and Corriverton is envisaged and it is hoped this will be implemented to meet the needs of the residents of these areas of the Corentyne.

7. APPLIANCES:

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

GEORGETOWN DIVISION

Three (3) Dennis Water Tenders of 600 g.p.m. capacity.

Seven (7) Major Pumps of 900 g.p.m. capacity.

Eight (8) Coventry Climax Portable pumps of 250 g.p.m. capacity.

One (1) Fire Boat (Lady Woolley) of 350 g.p.m. capacity.

One (1) Dodge Truck with open tray

Two (2) Land Rover Pick ups (converted)

Two (2) Austin Maxi Ambulances

One (1) Kaiser Jeep Ambulance

One (1) Ambulance Boat (Wren)

NEW AMSTERDAM DIVISION:

Two (2) Dennis Water Tenders of 600 g.p.m. capacity.

One (1) Major Pump of 900 g.p.m. capacity.

Two (2) Land Rover Fire Pumps of 350 g.p.m. capacity, with portable pumps.

One (1) Emergency Tender (land Rover)

One (1) Land Rover pick up (converted)
One (1) Coventry Climax Portable pump
of 250 g.p.m. capacity.
One (1) Bedford Ambulance
One (1) Morris Ambulance
One (1) Volkswagen Ambulance

TIMEHRI DIVISION:

Three (3) Bedford Foam and Carbon
Dioxide type Tenders of 650, 600 and
500 g.p.m. capacity.
One (1) Bedford Foam Tender, 800 g.p.m.
capacity.

One (1) Commer Ambulance
One (1) Austin Champ appliance with
150 lbs. Dry Chemical.

One (1) large Foam Tender
One (1) Emergency Tender (Dodge
Waggon)
One (1) Morris Van.

With respect to the pieces of apparatus
mentioned above, I wish to point out the following:-

(a) Of the five Dennis Water Tenders listed,
one was acquired during the year, and
is in excellent condition. Two of the
remaining four are in working order
although 19 and 12 years old respec-
tively. However, these machines
need to be stripped down to the chassis
and completely over-hauled.

It is hoped that there will be enough serviceable parts between the other two, to successfully make one second rate Water Tender, which would not be a Fire Fighting appliance, but could be used for carrying water for special services etc. and for driver training. These appliances have given excellent service over the years, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain spare parts to maintain their mechanical and hydraulic efficiency, as well as their standard of road worthiness, at a satisfactory level.

(b) Of the eight (8) Major Pumps listed, one is 25 years old. It is no longer used as a Fire appliance, but functions principally for Training drivers and pump operators. The other seven (7) major pumps have been recently acquired, and are functioning well. These appliances, although built over 15 years ago, were practically unused at the time of purchase. It is envisaged, therefore, that a graduated amount of spare parts will be necessary in order to keep them in good shape.

(c) The Fire Boat Lady Woolley is no longer a Fire Fighting force, since her one remaining pump is incapable of charging her Fire Fighting system.

The propelling engines lack power, so much so, that she can make little or no head-way, against the swiftly ebbing tide of the Demerara river.

It is hoped that the new Fire Boat now under construction, will come into service early in the new year.

(d) The new Austin Maxi Ambulances have proved to be unsuited to Ambulance work which requires that they function for 24 hours a day on all types of roads

(e) Some of the vehicles and appliances received from outside Agencies were also found to be not completely suitable and would have to be replaced.

8. MAINTENANCE:

The maintenance staff continued their good work throughout the year, and performed in a most satisfactory manner, in keeping the appliances, Ambulances and other equipment in good working order.

Adequate repair facilities and an appropriate range of tools are still needed. Despite this, 1,504 repair jobs were carried out, including 52 overhauls and major repairs to vehicles.

9. HOSE:

During the year under review, the service held 32,470 feet of Delivery hose as follows:-

Georgetown Division	19,175 feet
New Amsterdam Division -	8,375 "
Timehri Division	4,920 "

It is not possible to maintain a reserve of

10. HYDRANTS:

During 1972 twenty one (21) new hydrants were installed in Georgetown, in the following areas:-

South Ruimveldt Park, Phase II - 11

North Ruimveldt Block (2) 6

North Ruimveldt Block (3) = 2

North Liliendaal East Coast

Demerara 2

A number of hydrants which had been damaged by vandals, have been repaired, and it is hoped that those hydrants which are still unserviceable will soon receive attention.

Fortunately, the incidence of vandalism with respect to hydrants continues to decline, and it is fervently hoped that this is due to an improved civic-mindedness on the part of citizens.

There are now a total of 1,354 hydrants in Georgetown. Most of these were inspected during the year and defects which were found were reported to the Georgetown Water Authority, who effected repairs promptly.

TIMEHRI DIVISION - There are now 71 hydrants at Timehri. These hydrants were regularly inspected by Fire Service Personnel and the Ministry of Works and Communication carried out repairs to those which were found to be defective.

NEW AMSTERDAM DIVISION - There are 110 hydrants in New Amsterdam, and during the year, they were regularly inspected by members of the Fire Service. Defects were remedied promptly by the New Amsterdam Water Authority.

The installation of hydrants in new housing areas on the outskirts of the town invited much discussion by the authorities, but nothing positive was done before the end of the year in this direction.

11. EQUIPMENT RECEIVED:

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

- 1 Dennis Water Tender
- 1 Crash Tender (Bedford)
- 1 Crash Tender (gift from U.S.A.I.D.)
- 6 Bedford Major Pumps
- 2 Maxi Austin Ambulances
- 1 Kaiser Jeep Ambulance (gift from U.S.A.I.D.).
- 6 Noble Branches
- 26 Noble Ground Monitors
- 20 Fire Extinguishers (Water type)
- 10 B.C.F. Fire Extinguisher Charges
- 80 Carbon Dioxide gas cartridges for Water type fire extinguishers.
- 12 Air Foam Fire Extinguisher nozzles
- 30 Nu-Swift Air Foam Fire Extinguisher Charges.

12. SPECIAL SERVICES:

During 1972 the service performed a total of 319 Special Services. Of these 58 were classified as Emergency Special Services, a few of which were humanitarian in nature, for which there was no charge.

The other calls, classified as Ordinary Special Services, were chargeable, and yielded a net revenue, of \$7,531,63. The majority of these services resulted from the need for firemen to stand by at vaudeville shows at cinemas and stage shows at Queen's College or at Indian weddings while cooking was in progress.

13. FIRE CALLS:

During the year, the service responded to 795 Fire Calls, This is an increase of 212 calls as compared with the previous year.

<u>GEORGETOWN DIVISION</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Actual Fires	379	526
Late Fire Calls	16	15
False Alarm (Good Intent)	26	29
False Alarm (Malicious)	81	111
<u>TIMEHRI DIVISION</u>		
Actual Fires	17	10
Late Fire Calls		-
False Alarm (Good Intent)	1	
False Alarm (Malicious)		1
<u>NEW AMSTERDAM DIVISION</u>		
Actual Fires	43	76
Late Fire Calls	16	19
False Alarm (Good Intent)	3	2
False Alarm (Malicious)	1	6

14. CAUSES OF FIRES:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Electrical Faults	299
Careless disposal of lighted cigarette ends or matches.	114
Electric, Gas and Oil Stoves	44
Malicious or deliberate setting of Fire	47
Ignition of Flammable Vapours and Liquids	
Motor Vehicle (Crash and Defects)	4
Over-heating of Electrical appliances	3
Children playing with matches	38
Boil over of Fats, Oils and Tar	15
Oil Lamps, Candles and Mosquito Coils	7
Welding and Cutting equipment	19
Chimney, Hearths and Ovens	5
Unknown	22
Flying Brands	4
Spontaneous Ignition	2
False Alarm Good Intent	31
False Alarm Malicious	118

As can be seen, only a small number of calls were of unknown origin and this was due to an improvement in the methods of fire investigation.

15. METHODS OF EXTINGUISHING:

Occupants of Homes, Employees of business places, members of the Police Force or the General Public,

used the following means to extinguish fires:-

(a) Buckets of Water	62
(b) Wet Bags and sand	29
(c) Portable Fire Extinguishers	18
(d) Switching off current	9
(e) Turning off stoves	6
(f) By Electricity Corporation's Workmen	262
(g) Allowed to Burn out	3
(h) By using garden hose	6

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

(a) Hand Appliances	12
(b) Hose Reel	29
(c) Beating out with Spades, Fire Bats etc.	9
(d) Buckets of Water	6
(e) Removal of Fuse	4
(f) Switching off current	4
(g) One jet of water from pump	157
(h) Two jets from pump	21
(i) Three jets from pump	2
(j) Four jets from pump	3
(k) Five jets from pump	1
(l) Eleven jets from pump	1

16. METHODS OF CALLING (General)

Central Exchange (Emergency line 000)	603
Central Exchange (Ambulance Line)	102

Running Calls	83
Private Fire Alarm	6
Radio Telephone	1

GEORGETOWN DIVISION

Central Exchange (Emergency Line 000)	513
Central Exchange (Ambulance Line)	87
Running Calls	75
Private Fire Alarm	6

TIMEHRI DIVISION

Emergency line	8
Ambulance line	2
Radio Telephone	1

NEW AMSTERDAM DIVISION

Central Exchange (Emergency line)	82
Running Call	8
Administrative line	13

17. TYPES OF PROPERTY INVOLVED

Dwelling Houses	145
Hospitals and Convalescent Homes	2
Office Buildings	5
Factories	7
Mechanical Workshops	8
Restaurants and Parlours	3
Storage Bonds, Wharves and Stellings	9
Motor Vehicles	32
Rubbish Boxes	8
Bridge	1
Fire Appliance	1
Municipal Market	1
Electrical Wiring and Transformers	236

Groceries and Dry Goods Stores	7
Schools	1
Open Land	142
Ships in Harbour or Dry Dock	4
Incinerator	1
Service Station	2
Saw mills and Lumber Yards	6
Tar Boilers	3
Fishing Trawlers	5
Cinema	2
Hotels and Hostels	3
Construction Site	2
Foundry and Dry Dock	1
Churches, Mosques and Temples	2
Sewage Station	2
Prison	1
Club	1
Farm	1
Police Station	1
Radio Station	1

18. HOURS BETWEEN WHICH CALLS WERE RECEIVED

	<u>Georgetown</u> <u>Division</u>	<u>Timohri</u> <u>Division</u>	<u>New Amsterdam</u> <u>Division</u>
12 Midnight to 6.00 a.m.	59		7
6.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon	173	2	30
12.00 noon to 6.00p.m.	212	4	34
6.00 p.m. to 12 Mid- night.	237	5	32

19. BUILDINGS AND OTHER PROPERTY SEVERELY DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY FIRE

1. On 12th January 1972, the Stock Room of a two-flat steel and concrete building, approximately 300' x 250' owned by Mr. M.B. Yassin of 21 Lamaha Street, and situated at the Industrial Site, was severely damaged by Fire.
2. On the 14th January 1972, the Bell Tower of the Moravian Church at No. 9 Village West Coast Berbice, owned by the Moravian Church of Guyana, New Garden and Anira Streets, Georgetown, was severely damaged by Fire.
3. On the 4th February 1972, a two-flat wooden building, approximately 30' x 30', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. Nazam Deon of 233 Irving Street, Georgetown was severely damaged by Fire.
4. On the 13th February 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 15' x 10', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. G. DeFlorimonte, of 16 Prince William Street, Plaisance, East Coast Demerara, was completely destroyed by Fire.
5. On the 13th February 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 15' x 15', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. Matthew Graham, of San Souci, Wakenaam, was completely destroyed by Fire.

6. On the 24th March 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 20' x 15', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. Bertie DeWeaver of Beterverwagting, East Coast Demerara, was completely destroyed by Fire.
7. On the 15th May 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 20' x 20', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. Fazil Ahmed Amin, of Adventure, Essequibo, was completely destroyed by Fire.
8. On the 17th May 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 16' x 16', with a thatched roof, owned by Mrs. Agatha Lyte, of Warapana Creek, Pomeroon River, was completely destroyed by Fire.
9. On the 27th May, 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 20' x 12', standing on 6' columns, with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by the Guyana Government, and situated at Onverwagt, Right Bank Abary Creek, Berbice, was completely destroyed by Fire.
10. On the 5th June, 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 35' x 24', standing on 10' concrete columns, with corrugated aluminium roof, owned by the Guyana Government, and situated at New Garden Street, Georgetown, was severely damaged by Fire.

11. On 19th June, 1972, a two-flat building, with ground floor of concrete and top floor of wood, approximately 26' x 16', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mrs. Phillis Grant, of 11 Princes Street, Lodge, was severely damaged by Fire.
12. On the 12th June 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 20' x 18', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. Harold Adams of Lochaber, West Canje, Berbice, was completely destroyed by Fire.
13. On the 1st August 1972, a two-flat wooden building, approximately 40' x 30', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. J.D. Foster, of 288 and 289 Middle Street South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
14. On the 1st August 1972, a three-flat wooden and concrete building, approximately 60' x 45', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Dr. A. Rahaman of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
15. On the 1st August 1972, a two-flat wooden building, approximately 40' x 35', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. R. Gomes of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.

16. On the 1st August 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 25' x 13', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mrs. Lena Pollard of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
17. On the 1st August 1972, a wooden and concrete building, approximately 30' x 18', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. E.H. Lancaster of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
18. On the 1st August 1972, a one-flat wooden building approximately 20' x 12', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mrs Sybil Johnson, of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
19. On the 1st August 1972, a two-flat wooden and concrete building, approximately 30' x 18', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mrs. W. L. Braithwaite of 288 - 289 Middle and Thomas Streets, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
20. On the 1st August 1972, a two-flat wooden and concrete building, approximately 45' x 18', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. Edward Jones, of 288 - 289 Middle and Thomas Streets, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.

21. On the 1st August 1972, a two-flat wooden building, approximately 25' x 12', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mrs. Lydia Jones of 288 - 289 Middle and Thomas Streets, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was severely damaged by Fire.
22. On the 1st August 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 50' x 25', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. B.F. Garie of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
23. On the 1st August 1972, the top flat of a two-flat wooden building, approximately 45' x 25', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, situated at 290 Thomas Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown and owned by Dr. A.M. Cunningham of Section 'K' Campbellville, was completely destroyed by Fire.
24. On the 1st August 1972, the top flat of a two-flat wooden building, approximately 45' x 25', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, situated at 290 Thomas Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, and owned by Dr. A.M. Cunningham, of Section 'K' Campbellville, was completely destroyed by Fire.
25. On the 1st August 1972, a two-flat building, approximately 40' x 25', with corrugated

- galvanised iron roof, owned by Mr. Balgobin of 288 - 289 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
26. On the 1st August 1972, a wooden building of three floors, approximately 80' x 60', with corrugated galvanised iron roof, owned by Mrs. H.M. Gonsalves of 255 - 256 Thomas Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, was severely damaged by Fire.
27. On the 2nd September 1972, a two-flat wooden building, approximately 35' x 22', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. George Cameron, and situated at 240 South Road, Bourda, Georgetown, was severely damaged by Fire.
28. On the 30th July 1972, a two flat wooden building, approximately 45' x 35', with corrugated galvanised roof, owned by Mr. Mentore of 138 King Edward Street, Albouystown, Georgetown, was completely destroyed by Fire.
29. On the 21st August 1972, a one-flat wooden building approximately 18' x 14', with corrugated galvanised iron roofing, owned by Mr. Vincent DeLbrey, and situated at Plantation Profitt, West Coast Berbice, was completely destroyed by Fire.
30. On the 30th December 1972, a two flat wooden building, approximately 35' x 25', with corrugated galvanised iron roofing, owned by Mr. Joda Maraj, and situated at 5 Dowding Street, Kitty, was severely damaged by Fire.

31. On the 31st December 1972, a one-flat wooden building, approximately 12' x 12', with corrugated galvanised iron roofing, owned by Mr. Bhim Singh, and situated at Herstelling, Back Road, East Bank Demerara, was completely destroyed by Fire.

20. DEATHS BY FIRE:

During the year, there were thirteen (13) deaths as a result of Fire, as compared with eleven (11) during the previous year.

1. On 25th March, 1972, Miss Thelma Henry, aged 29 years, of Lancaster, East Coast Demerara, died when her oil stove flared up setting her clothing on Fire.
2. On the 30th March, 1972, Mr. Ramoutar, aged 64 years, of No. 19 Village, Corentyne, died when his bed clothes were set alight when he fell asleep while smoking in bed.
3. On the 18th April, 1972, Mr. Abdool Azees, aged 36 years, of Goed Fortuin, West Bank Demerara, died when his oil stove flared up, setting his clothing on Fire.
4. On the 25th April, 1972, Mr. Bifam Boodhoo, aged 22 years, of Palmyra, East Canje, Berbice, died when his clothing caught fire, while lighting a kerosene lamp.

5. On the 19th June, 1972, infant Debbie Bishop, aged 17 months, died when her parents' home was involved in a Fire.
6. On the 30th July, 1972, the following children died when their parents' home was involved in a Fire, at 138 King Edward Street, Albouystown:-

Allison Van Genderen	-	-	9 years
Minerva Braithwaite	-	10	"
Joy Duncan		8	"
Donna Duncan	-	6	"
Troy Duncan		5	"
Claire Ann Duncan		3	"
Trevour Charles		5	"

7. On the 7th October, 1972, Miss Ena Castello aged 49, of Barr Street, Kitty, died when her oil stove flared up, setting her clothing on Fire,

21. AMBULANCE CALLS

The Ambulance Service was not up to the standard desirable due to a lack of ambulances. For a period of time, as a result, whatever Fire Service Vehicles were available responded to calls for help from the scene of various accidents, maternity cases etc.

During the year 13,269 calls were answered by ambulances in all divisions making an average of 36 calls per day.

Of the total number of calls dealt with, 11,360 were classified as Emergency, and 1,909 as private calls.

Under the latter heading are listed the transportation of indigent persons from one place to another, e.g. to the Amerindian Hostel, Palms, Dharm Shala and the Georgetown Hospital. Ambulances also responded to the Georgetown Hospital to transport cases from Wards to the operating theatre and back.

Requests for the abovementioned Services were received from the Social Service Department of the Georgetown Hospital, Police Stations, the Georgetown Prison, and other institutions catering for old and indigent persons.

Due to the fact that vehicles other than ambulances were often used on Emergency Calls, it is not possible to give the exact mileage covered while responding to Emergency and Private Ambulance calls. The regular Ambulances however covered a total of 73,482 miles during the year.

22. MENTAL CASES

Ambulances attached to the New Amsterdam Division, continued to transport Mental Cases from the Rosignol Ferry stelling to the Fort Canje Hospital. During the year, 608 such cases were conveyed.

23. TRAINING - LOCAL

Training at station level continued throughout the year. With the arrival of new appliances, this training was intensified, insomuch that the results were quite apparent at the scene of Fires.

Eight members of the Service attended two six (6) weeks training courses for Senior Non-Commissioned Officers at the Guyana Defence Force, where they received

instructions in conducting Drills. These men have started to impart their new knowledge to other Subordinate Officers and Firemen, and it is hoped that the smartness and bearing of all Fire Service Personnel will soon show marked improvement.

Members of the Service continued to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Government Technical Institute and the Guyana Industrial Training Centre, and during the year, the following received training in the fields of study shown against their names;

Fireman M. Cunje	Electrical Engineering
Fireman M. Persaud	Welding Crafts
Fireman H. DeJonge	Motor Mechanic
Fireman Bickram Singh	Welding Craft
Fireman D. Moore	Motor Vehicle Work
Fireman L. Cappell	Electrical Installation
Fireman L. Cort	Radio, Television and Electronics

23.(a) EXTERNAL

During 1972, three Subordinate Fire Officers proceeded to the United Kingdom, where they received training in several aspects of Fire Service Work.

These courses included:

- (a) Fire Prevention Inspecting Officer's course,
- (b) General Instructor's course,
- (c) Salvage Course,
- (d) Merchant Navy Fire Fighting Course.

24. DISCIPLINE

The discipline of the Service was maintained at its usual high standard, during the year. There were only 86 breaches of discipline which were disposed of in the following manner:-

Found not guilty	8
Case Dismissed	1
Admonished	2
Reprimanded	8
Severely Reprimanded	10
Fined \$1.00	5
Fined \$2.00	15
Fined \$3.00	4
Fined \$5.00	11
Fined \$10.00	2
Fined 1 day's pay	11
Fined 2 day's pay	4
Fined 3 day's pay	4
Fined 10 day's pay	1

In addition to being fined, two members were served with Warning Notices.

25. RESIGNATION

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

Fireman F. Fraser	1. 1.72
Fireman D. Narine	1.11.72
Leading Fireman J. Ahwah -	19.11.72
Fireman M. Williams	27.11.72

SUMMARY

1 Leading Fireman

26. RETIREMENTS

The following persons retired from the Service during the year:

Section Leader H. Holder - Hercules	21. 2. 72
Fireman A. Jones	7. 4. 72
Fireman P. Bacchus	1. 7. 72

SUMMARY

1 Section Leader
2 Firemen

27. DISMISSALS

One member of the Service was dismissed from the Service during the year, for his failure to resume duty after Vacation Leave.

28. DEATHS

There were no deaths in the Service during 1972.

29. SECONDMENTS

There were no secondments from the Service during the year under review.

30. PROMOTIONS

During the period under review, the following promotions were made:

1 Leading Fireman to Section Leader
1 Fireman to Leading Fireman

31. RECRUITMENT

There was no recruitment of personnel into the Service during 1972, as all vacancies had been filled by the recruitment of 40 Firemen in December 1971.

32. COMMUNICATION

Telephone

A new and larger Telephone Switchboard is vitally necessary for Fire Service Headquarters. The present Switchboard does not have the capacity to meet the needs of the Service and, due to its age, is no longer reliable. Urgent consideration should be given to the securing of a larger and more modern Switchboard as more than 75% of all fires and emergency calls reach the service by telephone.

Radio

Most of the Fire Appliances in Georgetown are now fitted with Very High Frequency Radios, and this has contributed to the efficiency of the Service. Installation and minor repairs were handled by a member of the Service, and it is hoped that another member of the Service will be trained in this field.

33. AUXILIARY SECTION

With the arrival of new Appliances, one appliance was allocated for use by Auxiliaries in the Georgetown Division. Every effort is being made to bring the strength of the section up to the level authorised. In this respect, a number of persons were recruited in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, but their training was deferred until sometime in the new year when it would have been possible to issue them with basic uniforms. The hard-core and dedicated members of the Auxiliary should be complimented for their continued enthusiasm, and the unstinted service they have rendered the Nation.

34. VISITS

The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs paid a visit to Fire Service Headquarters on Wednesday 20th December 1972.

The Minister inspected a Guard of Honour, and during his address called on all personnel to take stock of themselves, so that members of the general public would continue to have that feeling of confidence in the Guyana Fire Service, which they have enjoyed over the years.

35. ORGANISED TOURS

Stations in all Divisions were visited by School Children, Police recruits, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and members of Youth Clubs.

Their visits were used as an opportunity to give brief instructions in Fire Safety and Fire Prevention, and considerable interest was evinced in the operations of the Fire Service.

36. WELFARE

The Sports Club in New Amsterdam and Tinchri continued to function during the year.

A Sports Club Steering Committee was nominated in December in an effort to resuscitate activities of the Club in the Georgetown Division.

37. FIRE PREVENTION BRANCH

The Fire Prevention Section continued to carry out inspections throughout the year, and to give technical advice to the Public with regards to fire safety problems. A total of 2,747 inspections were carried out as compared with 2,027 for the previous year.

The majority of inspections were done in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Linden and in certain rural districts. These inspections may be classified as original, follow-up and good-will involving Government and Private Buildings such as - the Alumina and Bauxite Plants, Mines, Warehouses, Wharves, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Hotels, Boarding & Lodging Houses, Gasolene Filling Stations, Bulk Petroleum Installations, and other commercial and industrial premises.

Special inspections to premises involved in fires were also carried out at the request of the Police Department to assist in determining the cause of certain fires. The Chief Works and Communications Officer also made requests for advice on safety conditions on Petroleum Filling Stations and Bulk Petroleum Installations for the issuing of the Annual Petroleum Licences, and the Post Master General made requests for fire safety advice in Rural Post Offices.

The purpose of each inspection was to evaluate any existing hazard to life or property on such premises and to make recommendations to minimise or to eliminate the danger. One Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty-Six (1,286) letters and memos. were sent to owners or occupiers conveying more than Five Thousand (5,000) recommendations which were invariably implemented immediately or within reasonable time. As a result, it was only necessary to serve eight (8) Legal Notices under the terms of the Fire Prevention Ordinance No. 19 of 1954, on firms

Seventy Two (72) Building Applications with Plans for erection of new buildings, or extensions to existing buildings were examined with a view to giving advice on Fire safety to the Secretary Central Housing and Planning Authority and in some cases to the Secretary, Central Board of Health. Special consideration was given to smoke and fire travel, and means of escape in case of fire in each case.

Other problems attracted attention during the year, such as - overcrowding of Cinenas and other breaches of the Cinematograph Regulations; the use of loose and unbattened chairs in the Queen's College Auditorium; setting off of squibs (a contraband article) in places of Public Entertainment; Petroleum tank waggons conveying petroleum products without fire equipment etc. installed on them.

38. PUBLICITY.

This section stepped up its publicity programme during the year and participated in the Agricultural Exhibitions, 1972, at the National Park; The Mission Chapel Fair and the Exhibition at Burnham's Park, New Amsterdam, and the one day exhibition at Craig Village, East Bank, Demerara. Fire Prevention Booths were mounted at those fairs and exhibitions. Also several posters were displayed depicting numerous fire safety measures on farms and rural areas, commercial and industrial premises, Fire Prevention in Homes and Hotels and how to summon the Fire Brigade in case of emergencies.

Handouts were distributed to the thousands of persons who visited these booths. The handouts contained useful hints on fire-prevention and procedures to be adopted in case of fire. The safety films were also shown at the exhibitions.

39. TRAINING

Members of Guybau Constabulary received extensive training in Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting Techniques. Security Guards at Guyana Electricity Corporation and the General Post Office received similar training. Batches of scouts were trained at Fire Brigade Headquarters enabling them to qualify for the award of the Fireman's Badge.

Students at the Guyana Industrial Training Centre, the Government Technical Institute and the Apprentice Training Centre, Port Mourant, were trained in elementary fire prevention and fire fighting.

Trainee Nurses were also trained in Hospital Fire Prevention and Protection, during their initial training courses, and Films on procedures to be adopted in case of fire in Hospitals, were also shown to them.

One member of the Fire Prevention Staff received training at the Fire Service Technical College and Brigades in the United Kingdom.

40. RURAL INSPECTIONS

Inspections were carried out at Mabaruma, North West District and Sections of East and West Demerara. Lack of suitable transportation to convey equipment and men to other areas continued to hinder this programme.

Nevertheless, though small in number, the staff did their utmost with whatever means were at their disposal, to fulfill the requirements of the amended Fire Prevention Ordinance, which now covers the entire territory of Guyana. It is hoped that the transportation problems will be solved early, when the Rural Districts will be inspected on a full scale with a view to improving Fire Safety standards in those areas.

41. GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Inspections were carried out at Government Buildings in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Linden and certain rural districts. Where necessary, fire equipment were provided for the protection of the premises. Lectures and drills were also conducted on the use and operation of the fire equipment on the premises with particular emphasis on procedures to be adopted in case of fire.

Recommendations were also submitted for works to be carried out and in some cases important works such as providing suitable fire resisting bonds for storage of flammable substances, repairing of the Fire Alarm Systems, and providing external staircases (fire escapes) remained unattended to.

42. HOSPITALS

Weekly visits continued at the Georgetown, Mental, and New Amsterdam Hospitals for the purpose of conducting Fire Drills and Lectures, whereas fortnightly visits were carried out at the Palms, and monthly inspections at the Mahaica, Best, Skeldon and Port Mourant Hospitals. During each visit, routine inspections were carried out and, where

However, the fire pump and hydrants at the Mental Hospital were still out of order at the end of this year although this was drawn to the attention of the proper authorities since 1960. The recommendation to resite the laboratory and the provision store from under the wards at the New Amsterdam Hospital is outstanding. It is hoped these will be given priority during 1974.

43. PRISONS

Monthly visits continued at the Georgetown and New Amsterdam Prisons, and Fire Prevention Lectures and Drills were given to Prison Officers with regards to the hazards associated with these institutions.

The recommendation to provide alternative means of escape from the Male Infirmary at the New Amsterdam Prison remained unattended to. It was also recommended that the Meselens fuel tank at the Georgetown Prison should be resited during the renovation of the kitchen.

44. SCHOOLS

Inspections were carried out at a number of schools in Georgetown, New Amsterdam and certain rural districts. In some cases it was necessary to install fire equipment in the buildings.

The Queen's College auditorium was frequently used for staging concerts and other live performances, hence it was necessary to inspect the premises before each occasion. During these events, Fire Prevention Personnel stood by as a safety measure.

The use of loose and unbattened chairs in this auditorium during such performances is causing this Department some concern, since the number of persons permitted in the auditorium is one thousand (1,000). The normal safety requirements are that where the audience exceeds two hundred (200) persons all seats in the auditorium should be securely fixed to the floor, or battened together in lengths of no less than four (4) or not more than twelve (12) in a row. It is hoped that the battened chairs which were provided for use in the auditorium will be repaired and put back into use and the loose chairs battened accordingly.

45 UMANA YANA (BEN/B)

It was considered necessary for special fire precautionary measures to be taken during its construction and use. Frequent inspections were carried out by Fire Prevention Personnel during the Non-Aligned Conference; in addition a Fireman was on standby-duty round-the-clock. These arrangements were also implemented during the Carifesta Celebrations. Two (2) 100' hosereels were installed as added protection.

46. FIRE EQUIPMENT

The following equipment was allocated to Government Buildings during the year under review. It was necessary to site fire extinguishers in new buildings or to replace fire extinguishers which had deteriorated through age or lack of proper maintenance. Recharging of fire extinguishers was also necessary where the equipment was used at actual fires, discharged accidentally, or suffered weakening of the charge through age:-

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Air Foam	2 gln. -	12
Water Type	2 gln. -	47
Carbon Dioxide	5 lbs. -	6
Uniflash		1

FIRE EXTINGUISHER CHARGES

Air Foam	-	48
Chemical Foam	-	70
Conquest Water CO2	-	29
Nu-Swift Water CO2	-	12
Soda Acid	-	43
Uniflash	-	13
B.C.F.	-	1
C.T.C.		1

EXTINGUISHERS RECHARGED BY DEMERARA OXYGEN CO.

Carbon Dioxide	5 lbs. -	2
COLARM	5 lbs. -	2

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Suction Hose	-	4 lengths
Delivery Hose	-	12 "
Branches	-	4
Basket Strainer		1
Metal Strainer	-	1
Suction Wrenches		2
250 G.P.M. Portable Pump	-	1
(Set) Tool - Kit	-	1
COLARM (10 lbs.)		1
COLARM (5 lbs.)		1
Hose-reels 100'	-	

Fire Buckets	5
Fire Blankets	3
'0' Ring Rubber Washers	7
Morris " "	10
CO2 extinguisher discharge horn	1

Because of the fact that the general public is becoming more and more aware of the importance of Fire Protection, numerous requests were made from the Private Sector for staff to be trained in Fire Prevention and safety measures, also for technical advice and inspections to be carried out in various premises.

47. PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Private Hospitals were inspected in accordance with the Private Hospitals Regulations No. 23 of 1972. Every private hospital was inspected.

48. CINEMAS

The overcrowding, obstruction of passageways and emergency Exits, and other breaches of the Cinematograph Regulations continued to attract attention. This Section in its endeavour to control the situation carried out 193 surprise inspections in Georgetown. In some instances the Police were invited to investigate situations which appeared unsatisfactory, with a view to taking Legal proceedings against defaulting managements.

The Fire Prevention staff continued to standby during live performances at cinemas and visited several children's matinee shows in the interest of safety.

49. GASOLINE FILLING STATIONS

Applications with plans for erection of new stations and for increased storage of petroleum products, were examined, and special advice given to the Secretary, Central Housing and Planning Authority and the Chief Works and Communications Officer, with regards to Fire Safety on such premises and neighbouring buildings, before final approval was granted in each case.

50. MISCELLANEOUS

Cooking in places other than kitchens. Six persons who failed to heed fire safety advice and other fire prevention recommendations were prosecuted by the City Constabulary for contravening the City By-Laws;

51. CARIFESTA

The various sites and buildings which were to be used during the celebrations were inspected and provided with fire equipment. Several visits were made by members of the Fire Prevention Staff at these premises during the celebrations and advice given on procedures to be adopted in case of emergencies.

As anticipated, capacity crowds attended the several functions and performances at Queen's College, St. Rose's High School, the Cultural Centre and the National Park, and on each occasion members of the staff stood by as a precautionary measure.

There were three incidents during these celebrations:

1. At Queen's College compound two live electrical wires short circuited and began to arc.

2. At the Cultural Centre live electrical wires came in contact with a section of the improvised roof and began to arc.
3. An electrical iron was carelessly left on in the Cultural Centre and began to burn the combustible material it was resting on.

The incidents were quickly brought under control by Fire Prevention Personnel who were on stand by duty.

An analysis of the inspections, etc., carried out during the year (1972) is as follows:-

TYPE OF PREMISES	Number of Inspections	TRAINING & PUBLICITY		
		Drills & Lectures	Film Shows	Number of Persons Attended
<u>GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS</u>				
Public Hospital	54	44	8	711
Palms	20	18	3	294
Other Government Buildings	838	95	21	7,249
<u>PRIVATE BUILDINGS</u>				
Fire Hydrants	48			
Cooking Appliances	30			
Petroleum Installations	52			
Hospitals	7			
Investigation of Fires	16			
Cinemas	193			
Miscellaneous	<u>1,489</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5,246</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2,747</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>13,500</u>

EXPENDITURE - GUYANA FIRE SERVICE

- 1972 -

HEAD 22 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

No. FO HEAD	TITLE OF SUB-HEAD	EXPENDITURE
1	Personal Emoluments	759,234.14
2	Transport & Travelling	29,575.61
3	Miscellaneous	3,013.17
4.	Uniform & Bedding	32,888.44
5.	Expenses - Training Courses	1,100.00
6.	Funeral Expenses	Nil
7.	Maintenance & Operations of Land & Water Transport.	48,821.82
8.	Ambulance & First Aid Equipment	1,000.00
9.	Auxiliary Unit	4,364.36
10.	Maintenance & Pipe Lines in Commercial areas	139.48
11.	Purchase of Fire Equipment	12,000.00
12.	N. I. S.	32,921.10

CONCLUSION:

All members of the Service continued to display the high sense of devotion to duty and loyalty expected of them. The public whom they serve did not fail to show implicit confidence in their ability to deal efficiently with emergencies by day or night. A high standard of Fire Prevention and Fire Protection were therefore in evidence throughout the year and this, without doubt, had its impact on fire wastage which could so seriously affect a country's economy. All ranks of the Service must be commended for the fighting spirit shown throughout the year in the performance of their duties.

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