

Several Changes In Fire Department, Water Supply System Are Suggested

National Board Of Fire Underwriters Makes Recommendations Designed To Boost Service

A report of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, just released, makes 42 recommendations for changes and improvements in the city's Fire Department and water supply system.

The 19-page report was prepared by J. H. Arnold and Thomas Beeson, engineers of the national board, at the request of the city. The report was based on conditions found here in July and August of last year, when the survey was made.

The recommendations include the transfer of Pumper Companies 2 and 3 to stations in the vicinity of Eighth and B Street, and Alston Avenue and Glenn Street, respectively, and the establishment of pumper companies in the vicinity of Mangum Street and Markham Avenue, Liberty Street and Hyde Park Avenue, and Chapel Hill Road and Morehead Avenue, each equipped with a pumper of at least 750 gallons capacity and carrying a water tank.

Also high in the list of recommendations is the setting up of a fire alarm system of the manual type, operated in accordance with the standards for the installation and maintenance of municipal fire alarm system for class A systems, as published by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Headquarters equipment, the report said, should preferably be located in a separate isolated building of fireproof construction and should contain the fire department telephone switchboard.

Other recommendations call for the appointment of an additional assistant chief of the fire department, and for sufficient men to be added to the present department so that the least number on duty will be seven in present Pumper Companies 1, 2 and 3 and Ladder Company 1 when provided with an aerial ladder truck, five men in all other pumper companies and six men in recommended ladder companies.

At the present time, Durham has a class No. 1 fire rating, along with six other leading cities in North Carolina, namely, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Wilmington and Asheville. It is possible that the rating could be raised with certain extra credits, if many of the recommendations are carried out, it is understood.

On the other hand, if no improvements or changes are made, it is possible that Durham's rating might be reduced to class No. 1 less certain penalties, one local fire insurance agent pointed out today. Durham has been growing steadily during the past few years, both from a residential and industrial standpoint, but thus far few, if any, improvements have been made for more fire protection, it was stated.

The complete list of 42 recommendations follows:

WATER SUPPLY

Organization

1. That sufficient assistants be provided to adequately operate the department.

Records

2. That plans and records be brought up to date, including complete sectional plans of the distribution system, and records of all valves, hydrants and services.

Supply

3. The city station reservoir and the force mains be cleaned.

4. That distribution from Huckleberry reservoir be improved by installing a pump on the supply line.

Pumping Station

5. That chemical extinguishers be provided in the pump and boiler rooms, hose be provided for the standpipes and hydrants, and all be properly maintained and that the storage of materials be discontinued in the steam pump and boiler rooms.

6. That the purification works be arranged so that no single break or the repair of a valve will seriously affect the supply to the city.

Mains

7. That all main and secondary arteries be cleaned.

8. That a survey of smaller mains be made, especially along Watts and Fayetteville Streets and elsewhere where restricted flows were found.

9. That the distribution system be strengthened by the early installation of the mains given in the table below and that the following be adopted as the standard minimum sizes of mains used for hydrant supply for all future construction.

a. In residential districts, eight-inch; six-inch to be used only where it completes a good gridiron and, in no case, in blocks 600 feet or more in length.

b. In mercantile and manufacturing districts, eight-and 12-inch; the former to be used only in sections where it completes a good gridiron and the latter for long lines not cross-connected.

Gate Valves

10. That all valves be inspected yearly and large valves more frequently and that records be kept of inspections, operations and condition.

11. That the distribution system be equipped with sufficient number of gate valves so located that no case of accident, breakage or repair to the system, in important districts, will necessitate shutting from service a length of main greater than the side of a single block, or a maximum of 500 feet, or in other districts, greater than two sides of a single block, or a maximum of 800 feet.

Hydrants

12. That additional hydrants be installed in those sections not prop-

erly protected. For good hydrant distribution there should be at least one hydrant to every 80,000 square feet in high value districts and 100,000 square feet in residential districts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organization

13. That an additional assistant chief be appointed.

14. That sufficient company officers be appointed to provide one on duty at all times with each pumper and ladder company.

15. That sufficient men be added so that the least number on duty will be seven in present pumper companies 1, 2, and 3, and Ladder Company 1 when provided with an aerial ladder truck; five men in all other pumper companies, and six men in recommended ladder companies.

Companies And Apparatus

16. That the department be improved as follows:

a. Transfer Pumper Companies 2 and 3 to stations in the vicinity of 8th and B Streets and Alston Avenue and Glenn Street respectively.

b. Establish pumper companies in the vicinity of Mangum Street and Markham Avenue, Liberty Street and Hyde Park Avenue, and Chapel Hill Road and Morehead Avenue, each equipped with a pumper of at least 750 gallons capacity and carrying a water tank.

c. Provide Ladder Company 1 with a modern 75-foot aerial ladder truck and provide another ladder company equipped with the service truck now with Ladder 1 and locate it with Pumper Company 2 at the recommended changed location.

d. Eventually establish a ladder company, equipped with a 65-foot aerial ladder truck, with Pumper 3 at its new location.

17. That an automobile be provided for the use of the assistant chief on duty.

Stations

18. That headquarters be remodeled to provide adequate housing and operating facilities.

Equipment

19. That the following equipment be furnished, where not already provided.

a. To each pumper: Nozzle holder, rubber gloves, two gas masks, 1½-inch wye, lanterns, and two waterproof covers.

b. To each ladder truck: Oxygen helmet, rubber gloves, portable turret pipe, hatchets, picks, saws, ram and wall cutter, wire cutters, squeegees, sawdust, tarpaper nails and other salvage equipment.

Hose

20. That sufficient 2½-inch hose be obtained to provide 2,000 feet for each pumper company and 1,000 feet on the reserve pumper.

21. That each pumper in low value areas carry two 100-foot lines of 1½-inch hose for lead lines from 2½-inch nozzles, and that a spare shift be provided in quarters.

Operation

22. That the drill and instruction program be extended to include fire ground operations under minimum company strength conditions, the study and effective use of nozzle streams inside buildings, the utilization of pumps to capacity, and the use of salvage equipment.

23. That complete tests be made of pumps annually and records maintained.

24. That company officers and men be required to inspect all buildings in their respective districts, making sketches showing entrance facilities, vertical and horizontal openings and the location of all hazards; and that the data obtained be used as a basis for discussion in company and officer schools.

25. That records be improved to include complete information on equipment, tests, apparatus, and company and department activities.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

26. That a fire alarm system of the manual type be installed and operated in accordance with the standards for the installation and maintenance of municipal fire alarm systems for Class A systems, published by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Headquarters equipment should preferably be located in a separate isolated building of fireproof construction, and should contain the fire department telephone switchboard.

27. That properly trained fire alarm operators be kept on duty at all times in the recommended headquarters.

Circuits

28. That circuit reliability be improved by:

a. Providing supervision of A. C. and D. C. current supply and high-low current relays for each circuit.

b. Replacing circuit wiring wherever in poor condition.

c. Remedying the conditions causing excessive grounds.

d. Protecting circuits by stand-

Alumni Of High School To Hold Session Tonight

Officers For Year To Be Selected At Court House Meet

A large crowd is expected to attend tonight's meeting of the Durham High School Alumni Association to be held in the Superior court room of the courthouse at 8 o'clock with the election of officers highlighting the program.

Tonight's meeting will be the third held since the idea for the organization was originated. The first two meetings were concerned with organizing work. A slate of nominees for officers and directors of the association will be presented tonight and will be voted on.

In a statement made yesterday, Frank Fuller Jr., acting head of the organization, strongly urged all Durham High School alumni to be present at the meeting. Fuller said "it is necessary that we have an adequate number of people present, if the true will of the association is to be expressed."

The idea for the newly organized association sprang at a reunion meeting of the class of 1906 held about a year ago. The purpose of the association is to promote the interests of Durham High School, according to Fuller.

ard lighting arresters and suitable fuses.

e. Removing box circuits from private dwellings.

f. Continuing the policy of installing circuits underground wherever ducts of low tension signaling systems are available.

Boxes

29. That boxes be installed so that a box shall be visible from and within 500 feet of every building in the principal mercantile and other high value districts, and elsewhere within 800 feet of each important group of buildings.

30. That all boxes be tested monthly, including the succession feature.

31. That all boxes and bands on supporting poles be painted annually.

Operation

32. That batteries be tested weekly and replaced when found defective.

33. That records be improved by providing maps showing location of circuits and boxes and that complete records of inspections and trouble be maintained.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

34. That the building code be amended to conform to requirements for construction and fire prevention as given in the "Building Code Recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters" and that it be rigidly enforced.

35. That the fire limits be extended to properly safeguard the business and manufacturing districts.

36. That the building inspector be appointed for an indefinite term with removal only for cause.

FIRE PREVENTION

37. That the ordinances be amended to form a complete fire prevention code, covering all hazardous materials and processes. It is recommended that the "Suggested Fire Prevention Ordinance" promulgated by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, be used as a guide in framing these regulations.

38. That members of the fire department make regular and frequent inspections of all buildings and premises in their respective districts, making sketches and filing complete records of each inspection at fire department headquarters.

ELECTRICITY

39. That a complete inspection of old wiring be made, defects corrected, and that all wiring be re-inspected at regular intervals.

40. That all overhead wires in the streets, alleys and block interiors of closely built sections, be placed underground.

CONFLAGRATION HAZARD

41. That owners of existing defectively constructed buildings which are so located as to form conflagration areas, be required to suitably protect floor, window and party wall openings.

42. That standard automatic sprinkler equipment be required in all basements used for storage or mercantile purposes and in all buildings which by reason of their size, construction or occupancy, singly or combined, might act as conflagration breeders.

Mayor's Committee Passes Racial Relations Resolution

Appraising the place of the Negro in interracial cooperation, a resolution was passed at the meeting of the Mayor's Committee Tuesday, and released yesterday by the chairman, James O. Cobb.

The resolution, written by a committee of members of both races, emphasizes the particular part that the Negroes themselves may contribute. It points out the fact that in the history of the committee practically all of its efforts have

ters we have considered have been designed to improve the living and working conditions of the Negroes. The committee feels that the Negroes themselves will want to recognize their mutual obligation, and it is with that feeling that we give expression to the following emphasis:

"This committee expresses the unanimous opinion that Negroes should be punctual, thorough, and efficient; reliable and dependable.