

"Don't Give Fire a Place to Start" is 1960 Fire Prevention Slogan

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Second Section.

29 Trained Volunteer Firemen Ready To Face Danger, Fight Fires in Acton

List Names of Fire Fighters

Ready and capable of dealing with all types of fires and emergencies in the Acton area are 29 volunteer firemen who spend many hours training and studying modern techniques of fighting fires.

The Acton Fire Department, for efficiency and training purposes, is divided into three companies, with Chief Jack Newton relaying orders to the captains of each division.

Following is a list of brigade members.

Chief, J. Newton; Deputy chief, M. Holmes; 'A' captain, B. Van Fleet; 'B' captain, W. Williams; 'C' captain, W. McEachern; D. Mason, H. Bittoff, T. Allen, L. Symott, H. Dodds, D. McEachern, W. Duval, D. Van Fleet, N. Price, J. Krapek, A. Duby, H. Otterbein, J. Pink, W. Kelly, J. Price, H. Townsley, P. McCristall, S. Tennant, W. Spielvogel, J. Turkoz, D. Frizzell, G. Withers, B. Knight, K. Hodgson.

TOO LATE

If the 556 Canadians who last year died terribly by fire were 555 plus YOU, these fire prevention reminders wouldn't be very useful.

My Pledge For Fire Safety

- 1. I pledge to remove fire hazards from my home daily.
- 1. I will not kill by smoking in bed or being careless when I do smoke.
- 1. I will not clean clothes or start fires with gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- 1. I will not throw away matches without first being sure they are out.
- 1. I will check my heating appliances and chimneys at regular intervals.
- 1. I will not place but ashes and coals in anything but a metal container and will not leave these containers sitting on a wooden floor.
- 1. I will protect all woodwork close to smoke pipes with asbestos and metal, leaving an air space of at least two inches between this protection and the pipe.
- 1. I will not do electrical repairs unless I am a qualified electrician.
- 1. I will not use pennies, hairpins, foil and such as electric fuses.
- 1. I pledge to make Fire Prevention a year-round obligation by participating actively in the fight to reduce Canada's annual death toll by fire.

Man About House is Nice But Not With Blow Torch

Fire safety is no accident and this is particularly true for the "do-it-yourself" operator around the home. Here are practical hints from the experience of Canada's 55,000 fire fighters, pretty self-reliant fellows themselves in family chores and crafts.

Blow torches and welding equipment. No other equipment has greater "built-in" hazards. Fuel and light out-of-doors. You're asking for trouble when you light a torch in a crowded space to thaw out frozen water pipes.

Gasoline and other fuels. Never store in glass bottles, which may fall and break, igniting or vaporizing and exploding.

Clean up shavings, sawdust and other debris after each day's work. A tidy work area will make the next go at the job a happier and faster one.

Fire Call:

Your Fire Call Number is 300. Speak clearly and give precise directions.

The time you take may save your home.

FALLING LEAVES

Don't let dead leaves from tree or bush pile up under the porch or near the house where a careless match can set them afire. The smart gardener puts them to work as compost. If you must burn them, do it safely.

Baby Sitting Short Course

Here, for parents and for the sitter, are standard rules for the work.

1. The sitter selected should have a sense of responsibility and should like the children and preferably live in the neighborhood.

2. Instructions should be given in writing as well as orally. Where you are going and telephone number, or the name of someone to call in an emergency. Your telephone number and location of telephone.

Emergency telephone numbers for FIRE, POLICE, DOCTOR. How to call the fire department. Locations of exits.

How to control the furnace or stove. Leave a flashlight in case of power failure.

3. Guides to the sitter in emergencies.

Get the children safely out. Even if it's cold don't wait to dress them. Wrap them in a blanket. Even the smell of smoke or gas is enough warning to call the fire department or summon help. Be sure to say exactly where you are. If you can, turn on the front lights, to attract attention.

Don't ever re-enter the house. Smoke or gas from a very small fire may be fatal. If you are trapped inside, remember that the air near the floor is usually better in a smoke-filled room. Inside, don't turn on or off any electric switches. This may create a spark, ignite gas vapors and cause explosion.

Rural social note: you may be surprised at the number of nice people you'll meet at your own community trash dump. Do as the Joneses do! Clear out these fire hazards from the attic and cellar—papers, rubbish and such—and put the stuff where it belongs.

TOP PERFORMANCE is of utmost importance when fighting fires and Acton Fire Department are continually testing equipment to make sure everything is ship shape. Pictured above spraying water from one of the up-to-date pumps are captains Bern Van Fleet and Bill Williams while fire chief Jack Newton works the controls.

Voluntary Home Check Wise for Safety

Your home is your castle! This tradition is sacred to the program of voluntary home inspection by the fire service. That is why the inspection of any home is subject to the friendly wish of the owner or tenant, without involvement of any kind.

If a fire fighter knocks at your door, let him in. His aim is to help you uncover fire hazards and bring them to attention.

He will ask to see kitchen, basement and yard.

You can refuse if you wish. If you're wise, you will accept his suggestions, as have hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

What he has to say concerns the safety of your home, perhaps your life. There's no expense to you and it doesn't add to your taxes.

He wears a fire fighter's uniform and bears credentials. His shoes are clean. He doesn't call in bad weather so that he won't dirty the floor.

He's a person of pleasant personality, carefully selected for the job. If his call is inconvenient, he will leave courteously.

He is at your door either under a planned municipal program—or at your own invitation.

While public and commercial buildings in Canada must submit

to a rigid fire inspection, the home and the owner's privacy are respected. Nevertheless, it is in the home that three-quarters of all fires occur so often with tragic loss of family life.

Effective Approach More and more across the nation, voluntary or courtesy home inspection has been established as an effective approach to the problem. While the program is highlighted during Fire Prevention Week, it can apply throughout the year.

Usually inspectors work in teams down the street, from a fire department vehicle which is always in radio touch with headquarters in the event of emergency. Unless specifically asked they confine their attention to basement and yard. Besides trash, they are alert to storage of flammable liquids and stove ashes, smoke pipes and chimneys, and faulty or frayed wiring. They look for obviously unsafe or doubtful conditions. They will give you a private and personal written report on their findings, without use of your name and without gossip about the neighbors. And they will not advise on repairmen or equipment suppliers.

Rest Up to You It's been a completely friendly

Never, Never

Leave Children Alone in Home

For a compassionate community, there can be no sadder news than the death by fire of children in the home. The shadow deepens when the headlines read: "We left them alone for a few minutes..." For the stricken family, the shadow lasts a lifetime.

No child (and for that matter, no very old or dependent person) should ever be left alone. This is a vital message from Canada's fire services, not just for Fire Prevention Week but throughout the year.

There are various provincial penalties for careless neglect of children. And section 189 of the Criminal Code of Canada reads: "Everyone who unlawfully abandons or exposes a child who is under the age of 10 years, so that its life is or is likely to be endangered or its health is or is likely to be permanently injured, is guilty of an offence and is liable to imprisonment for two years."

There is a tragic monotony to the files of the last year in which 233 children died: "Alone in house, six children die..."

Mother next door, stove explodes, baby dies... Three children playing with matches perish in flames... Cigarette lighter burns fatal to boy, five... Two children, one four, the other four months, burn to death when wood stove starts fire while mother visits neighbors... Mother in tavern, child dies in flames.

Parents who go out have a duty to their children, to the community and to themselves to see that the youngsters are properly looked after.

The heartening acceptance of this obligation in homes across the land is reflected by the fact that baby-sitting has become more than a casual occupation for many people. It has even developed into a regular profession.

The fire chief has information on child protection. If you do a fair amount of baby sitting, call him. He'll be delighted to hear that you mean business and that, like him, you are deeply concerned with the welfare of your charges.



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS prepare literature for Fire Prevention Week from Sunday, October 9-15 and last week a special committee spent most of the evening getting things ready for distribution. Shown front to back are fire chief J. Newton, D. Frizzell, A. Duby, deputy chief M. Holmes, captain B. Van Fleet and Captain Bill Williams. Pamphlets on fire prevention will be spread to schools, homes and district farmers.

In spite of continuous public urging citizens to practice fire prevention methods, at all times, every community must maintain a Fire Department. "Why?" is a question that might well be asked. The answer is that someone is always careless and only a well trained and properly equipped fire department can cope successfully with the scourge of fire once it starts.

The true story behind the Acton Fire Department is not one of a new fire hall, shiny bright machines, hundreds of feet of hose and various other pieces of equipment. It is the story of 29 men, all volunteers, who man the trucks and equipment and spend many hours training to be firefighters.

Tough Job Fire fighting is a tough job—not just dangerous, but dirty, hard and laboring—a race against time. Even practice sessions can be strenuous and all this is done by men who have already put in a hard day's work for their own livelihood.

Tips for Farmers For Fire Prevention

Eternal vigilance, as every smart and prudent farmer in Canada knows, is the price of fire prevention. Otherwise, the fruits of toil and the profits of years may vanish.

For every Canadian, and particularly for the thousands more enjoying suburban or country living without the "round the corner" protection of a civic or full-time fire department, what the fire-wise farmer does to avoid giving fire a place to start is worth a hard look.

1. Lightning. See that the rods are well and truly grounded. If their use has an insurance benefit, it is imperative that the installation complies with provincial regulation.

2. Gasoline. The smart operator never refuels a hot motor. Spilled gas can go "boom" in his face. The same goes for a power lawn mower; if the "little woman" or the kids like to trim the grass while you doze in a hammock, see that they know the hazards.

3. Matches and smoking. Not to be tolerated in any circumstances around a barn or dry fields. Warning signs on the subject are available free for the asking from a variety of sources. The owner who puts them up and sees that they are heeded, saves a bow from the volunteer fire brigade. There's nothing more frightening (and harder on the neighbor's nerves) than a grass fire out of control.

4. Electricity. The "do-it-yourself" amateur is asking for trouble when he works in this department. Be an expert or get one for the job. And play the game with the power commission by insisting, too, on a final inspection.

It takes a dedicated group of men to offer hard work on a volunteer basis. Men who often leave their warm beds in the early hours of the morning to pass a hot meal or rush from little household chores to answer the call of the siren.

Consideration must be given also to those who leave their jobs in industry and other places of business and to their employers who, with consideration

for the community and safety of lives, allow the men to depart from work without severance of pay.

Equipment, Hall Fire fighting equipment must be serviced and ready for use at all times and after the trucks have returned to the fire hall, it means the men have to remove all the wet hose and replace it with dry, check and clean all equipment in readiness for the next alarm.

Multi-Purpose To the average person, this sounds like the back room in the fire hall is nothing but a place of recreation. On the contrary, the back room is a meeting place for firemen to sit quietly and pursue their studies on fire fighting techniques.

Many a fire call has been answered promptly by firemen enjoying the recreational facilities in the fire hall when the alarm was sounded.

Fire fighting today is a profession and Acton rates among the top in having a well trained group of volunteer firemen, ready and willing at the sound of the siren to drop whatever they are doing and race to the fire hall to don coats, boots and fire hats and speed away on a modern piece of equipment to fight a fire.

Only 20 per cent of a firefighter's time is spent fighting fires. The remaining 80 per cent, is spent in training, mutual aid activities and studying to raise general proficiency.

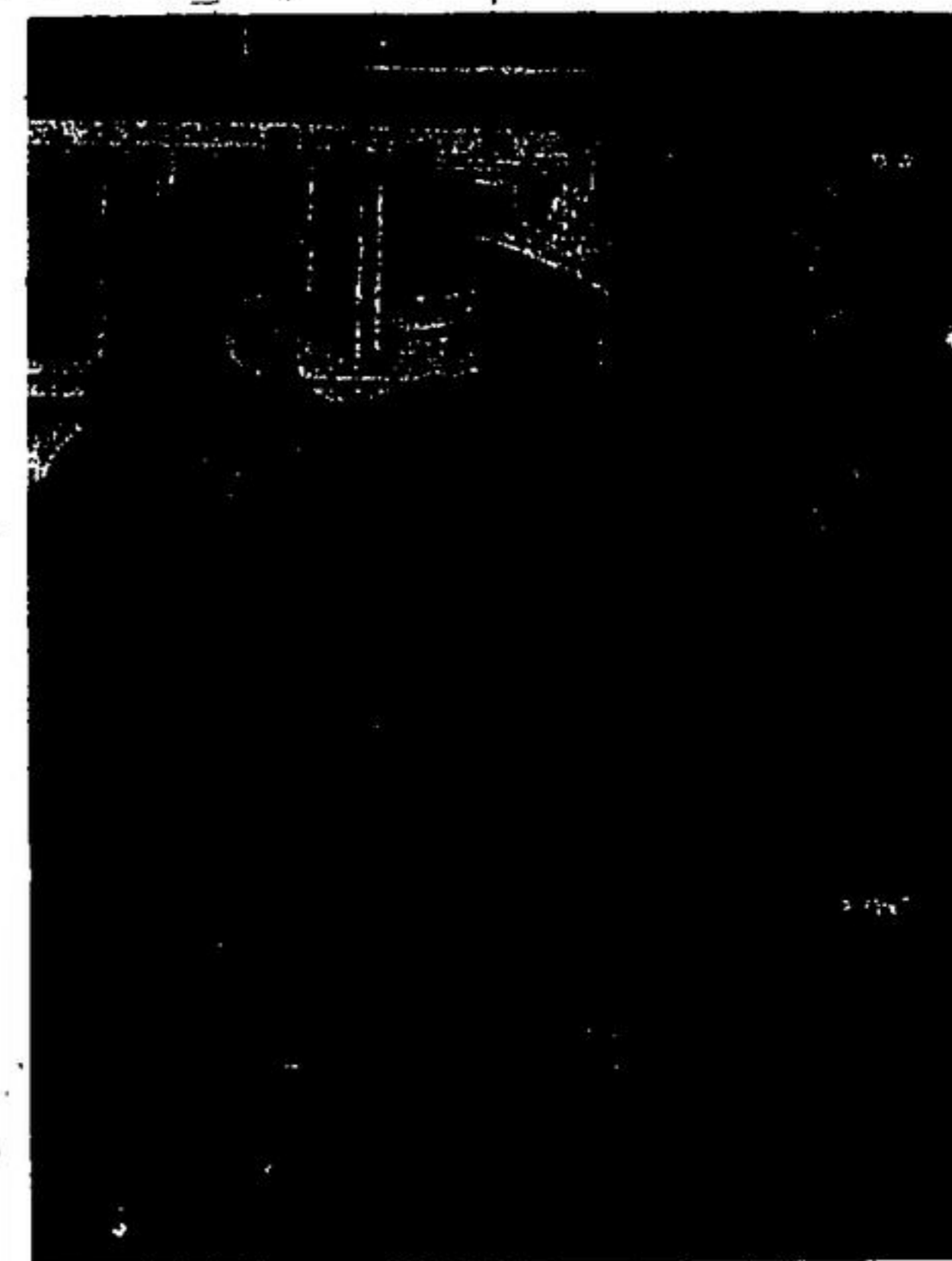
Crew Fully Capable The development of the community over the past few years, the increase in size of the fire area protected, the advance in toxic and high volatile chemicals and plastics, add to the headaches of a modern firefighter, but the 29 man crew whose responsibility it is to protect this area are fully capable in their choice of fire fighting.

The days of the "bucket brigade" and the "smoke eater" are over. The list of things to learn is endless and as each is learned, science brings along something new to be mastered.

Pre-planning is necessary to combat that unexpected event that may place Acton in a dangerous situation. Acton firefighters are endeavoring to prevent any catastrophe by steady practice sessions each week.

Intensive Training Training, training and still more training is required. This is the secret behind the success of the men who guard life, property and jobs against the first of man's natural fears—fire.

Protecting life, limb and property must not be left entirely to the firefighters. It is the duty of each and every citizen to help prevent fires—not just one week each year but every week.



SAFETY begins at home and pictured above fire chief Jack Newton tests the Scott air packs demonstrated by two of his firefighters. Shown on the left is Dorson Frizzell and on the right captain Bill Williams. The firefighters of today cannot take chances on toxic fumes during firefighting.

The Scorching Breath of Life

Three-quarters of homes, fire heat overhead, from which they victims the upstairs, untouched, had sought escape.

Five years later, in the Mathes, oxygen vital to life has been replaced by the sophisticated killer gases, including carbon monoxide. Such is the "chemistry" of fire and death by fire.

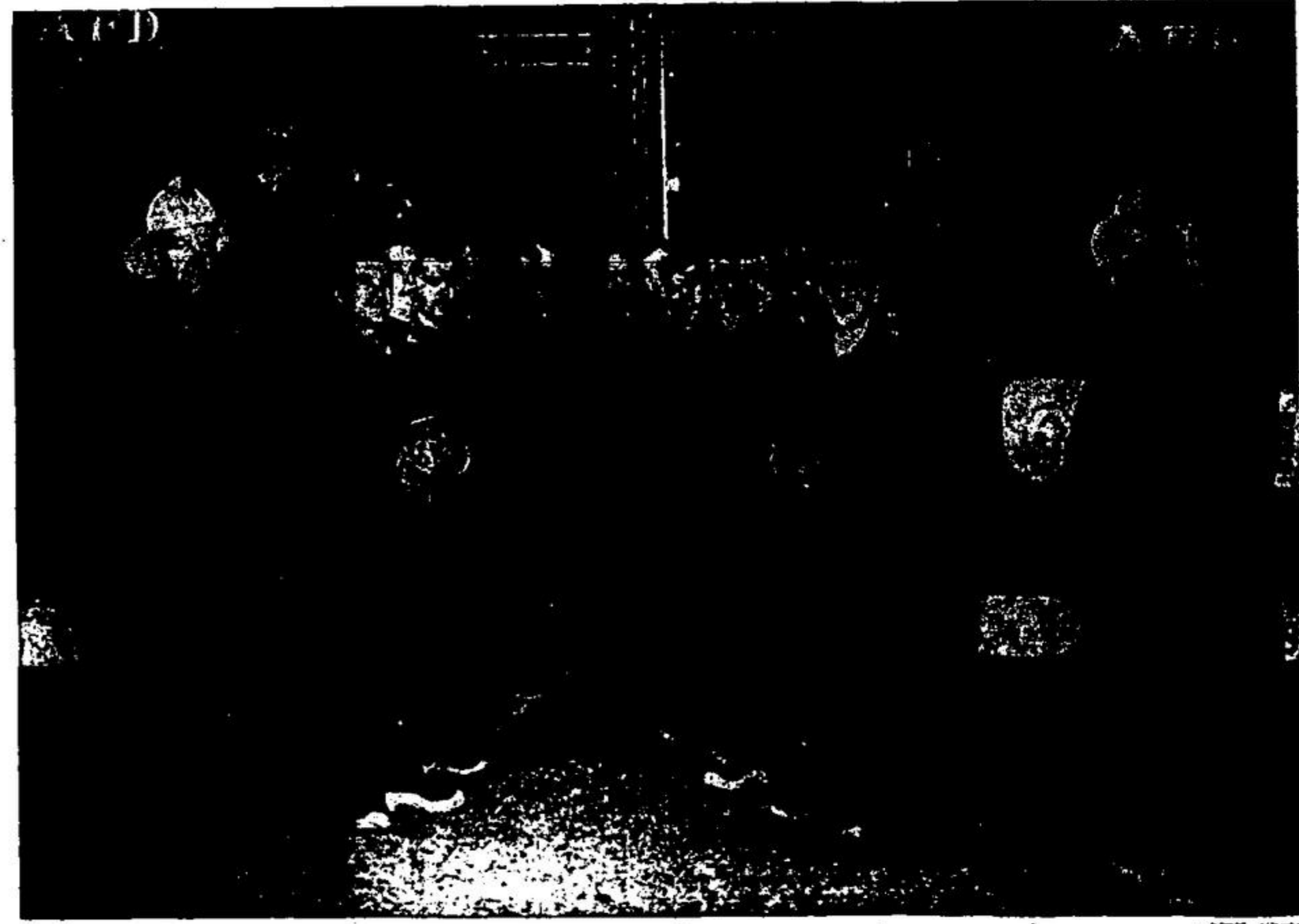
The story is tragically familiar to our fire fighters who, almost daily, report it under the heading: Suffocation by fire.

The Coconut Grove night club fire of 1942 in Boston is a well-known example. But even more striking were those of two fires in northern Canada within the year.

Without oxygen in your lungs you are dead, probably in the time it takes to read this sentence.

Now you know why the fire fighter heads for the roof of a house to chop open a hole.

It is to let out the superheated persons were found—life (and gases, the scorching breath of oxygen) devoured by the searing fire.



ALWAYS READY Acton firefighters spend considerable time at Price, Grant Withers, Bill Knight, Sam Tennant, Captain Bern the fire hall practicing the latest methods of fighting fires and Van Fleet and Will Duval. Right side, front to back are Chief saving lives. Some of the 28 firemen are pictured above during Jack Newton, Dorson Frizzell, Ken Hodgson, Jack Pink, Phil their practice session Monday evening. Starting at the left from McCristall, captain Bill Williams and Harry Otterbein. front to back are deputy chief M. Holmes, John Krapek, Norm.