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1946

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THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

State Fire Marshal

FOR THE YEAR

1945

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION

Published by
THE STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

State of Iowa
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Des Moines, Iowa, January 31, 1946

HON. ROBERT D. BLUE, *Governor of Iowa*
Des Moines, Iowa

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of law, I have the honor to submit the Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the affairs of this office covering the period beginning January 1, 1945, and ending December 31, 1945, both dates inclusive.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM,
State Fire Marshal.

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

PROCLAMATION

To the People of Iowa:

During the twelve month period ending June 30, 1945, the loss through fire was four hundred forty million dollars. This loss was ten per cent higher than the previous year and thirty-three percent larger than the loss two years previous.

Iowa's fire loss for 1943 was four million seven hundred sixty-two thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars and the fire loss for the state in 1944 was four million two hundred thirty-four thousand and eight hundred seventeen dollars, a reduction of more than five hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars.

Fire has oft-times been termed as man's best friend and his worst enemy. War has destroyed much property, delayed the production of other property. Our nation can ill afford the economic and social loss occasioned by careless conduct resulting in unnecessary fires.

Now, therefore, I, ROBERT D. BLUE, as Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7 to October 13, 1945, as:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Let each citizen make this the occasion for a careful check of fire hazards in our homes and in our places of business. I urge each one of you to remove the fire hazards for which you are individually responsible. The best fire insurance is fire prevention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed.

(SEAL)

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Des Moines, this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Forty-five.

ROBERT D. BLUE,
Governor of the State of Iowa.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

Appointed by the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Term, Four Years, Expires July 1, 1947

Office	Name	Legal Residence	County
Fire Marshal	John W. Strohm	Clinton	Clinton
Assistant	A. Lubberden	Pella	Marion
Assistant	C. W. Cornell	Bedford	Taylor
Assistant	Zack T. Cook	Des Moines	Polk
Assistant	*Paul E. Hodgson	Alden	Hardin
Secretary	Olive R. Sly	Boone	Boone
Stenographer	Pauline E. Evans	West Des Moines	Polk

*(On leave of absence—in military service)

IOWA FIRE FACTS

In 1944, our fire loss reached the high point in January with $530,761, October $661,295, and December, $663,494.

In 1945, the fire loss for the same period, amounted to $470,024 in January, $320,091 in October, and $679,726 in December.

This shows us that the winter months bring the greatest fire danger to IOWA life and property, and it is our DUTY to see that every possible fire hazard has been removed before winter comes each year.

When the cool weather starts in the fall, people begin operating heating plants without first checking them properly to see they are in safe condition, they need to be cleaned, properly checked and worn or damaged parts repaired, or replaced before fires are started for fall and winter heating.

Chimneys should be checked and repaired as well as the heating plant—a defective flue is not only a SERIOUS fire hazard, but decreases the efficiency of your heating plant and wastes fuel.

Defective flues caused a fire loss of $232,216 in 1945.

Remember, an "unfriendly fire" may strike your home or place of business any time. Fire gives no warning in advance!

FIRE PREVENTION NOTES

Fire Defense is *National Defense* in Peace or War!

Help your Fire Department protect your home—eliminate every fire hazard.

MATCHES

One Dollar will buy *Ten Thousand* matches—*One Match* will destroy *One Million Dollars* worth of property.

Children playing with matches caused 140 fires resulting in a fire loss of $35,453, and the careless handling of matches by "grown-ups" caused 36 fires and a loss of $11,291, during 1945, in Iowa.

SMOKING

Smoker's carelessness caused 354 fires and a loss of $82,287.

IOWA'S FIRE LOSS

For the twelve months of 1945, Iowa's fire loss was $4,938,063, an average of $411,505 each month.

There were 1,875 homes partially, or totally destroyed by fire, resulting in a loss of $1,389,318 in 1945.

You may have your home fully covered by insurance, but an insurance policy does not eliminate fire hazards—that job is up to you—clean up and remove all fire hazards and *prevent fires.*

SEASONABLE FIRES

Yes, we have Seasonable Fires, from January through December.

Through January, February and March, we have fires caused by defective flues, defective and overheated stoves and heating plants, brooder fires caused by overheated brooder stoves, or careless handling of brooder lamps and stoves.

Overheated water heaters in farm buildings cause many farm fires during winter months.

April, May and June fire losses are caused by bonfires, children playing with matches, defective electric wiring, gasoline carelessness, cleaning clothing, floors, rugs, etc.

July, August and September fires are commonly caused by grass fires, bonfires, children playing with matches, smokers' carelessness, electric irons left with current on, defective electric wiring and other common causes.

October, November and December losses are caused by bonfires, hot ashes, placed in wooden or paper containers, overheated stoves and heating plants, stoves too near the wall, floors unprotected from sparks from stoves, wood exposed to heat pipes, etc., defective flues, defective electric wiring, electrical appliances, worn or broken electric cords.

Most of these causes come under the classification of "Preventable Fires." Are you doing *your* part to prevent needless fire waste?

FARM FIRE CONTROL

Fire Prevention reports were submitted by 332 rural schools in 20 Iowa Counties.

2,486 pupils made 3,337 inspections and found 3,266 fire hazards, 1,501 of which were removed.

Cash awards were made by the Farmers' Mutual Reinsurance Association, Iowa Association of Mutual Insurance Associations, State Fire Prevention Association and Radio Station WHO.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation presented certificates and other awards to superintendents, local schools, and county extension directors.

This program is sponsored by the State Fire Prevention Committee, Iowa State College Extension Service, and Radio Station WHO, and we are counting on our Iowa boys and girls to continue their good work in Fire Prevention, and encourage your neighbors to join in the contest.

The winning schools in 1945 were in Hamilton County, Audubon, Humboldt, Howard, Benton, Keokuk, Buchanan, Mahaska, Jasper and Winneshiek.

INSPECTIONS

This Department made 334 fire hazard inspections in 1945, and 95 per cent of the Orders issued for the removal of fire hazards have been complied with.

HOME INSPECTIONS

Home inspections should be made every day, whether you own your home, or rent it; you, the occupant, are the loser when fire strikes, and it is up to you to remove every possible fire hazard to prevent an "unfriendly fire" in your home.

Such fire hazards as a defective electric toaster or other electric appliance can cause fire in your home.

The roof of your house should be checked—dried out, weather-worn shingles take fire easily, so it might be well to start your Home Inspection at the very top of your house, the roof, and enter on your "to be done" list—repair or replace roof with fire-retardant material.

Rubbish in the attic, old papers, boxes, clothing, or other flammable material piled against the chimney can easily start a fire.

Spontaneous combustion often occurs from such piles of rubbish and any fire starting from the roof would be fed by an accumulation of rubbish in the attic.

Those electric light cords in your attic, the basement or any other part of your house, especially those strung around over nails, pipes, etc., can cause trouble, and should be replaced with permanent electric wiring.

Better examine the lamp cords in your home—frayed lamp cords are a fire hazard.

If you use a portable electric heater, be sure it is in good working order, and place it a safe distance from woodwork, bed clothes, curtains, or other flammable material in your home.

Examine the lamp cords used in the living room. If you have electric cords under the carpet add them to your list of fire hazards. Constant walking over a rug will wear out the insulation of any cord underneath, then, if the wires become exposed, they may cause a short circuit and set fire to the rug.

If you have a fireplace in your home, the flue and chimney should be examined for loose masonry and other defects. In buying a fire screen, be sure it is large enough to extend over the top and sides of the fireplace opening.

If kerosene lamps or candles are used, they should have wide bases and be kept away from anything apt to blow against them.

Be sure your stoves or heating plants are not too close to the wall, or woodwork. Protect surfaces with metal or other fire-resistant material. The floor and other combustible surfaces within 18 inches of wood or coal burning ranges should be insulated.

Never start a fire with gasoline or kerosene.

Fasten back any curtains near the stove so they cannot blow into burners.

Are your matches in metal containers, not too close to the stove, and out of children's reach?

A fire extinguisher in the kitchen is an excellent idea, but it ought to be located where you would not have to "go through fire" to get it. If it is located close to the stove,

make a note to move it, preferably near a door leading into another room, or out of the house.

Oily mops, dust rags and paint smeared rags should be placed in metal containers before putting them away.

Fire records show a large percentage of home fires start in the basement. Therefore, the basement needs a particularly thorough inspection—the furnace, hot water heater and other heating equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and examined for needed repairs every year. Check for any surfaces that show evidence of having been overheated.

Keep ashes in metal containers until they can be removed from the basement.

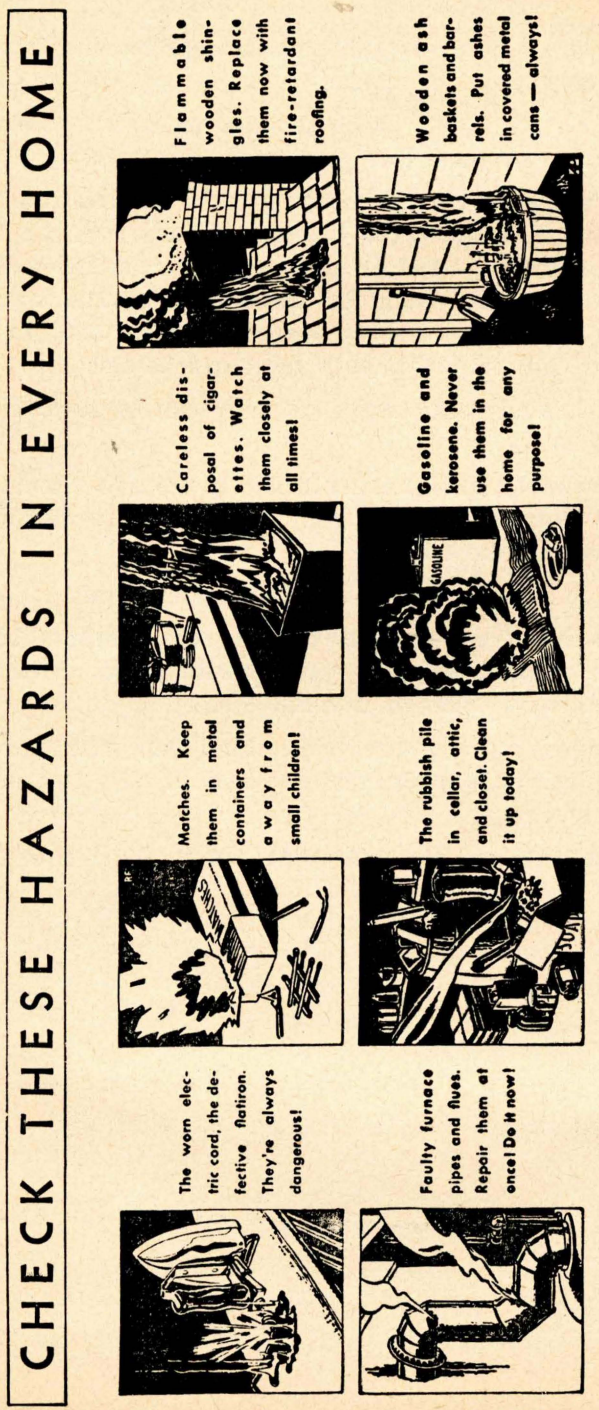
Paint cans should be tightly covered and if, for any reason, you must keep kerosene or gasoline, store them in safety containers *outside* of the house.

Any rubbish in your basement should be cleared out.

The door leading from the basement to the rest of the house should be of solid wood, or covered with metal. Doors with thin panels burn through rapidly.

If you would have a fire-safe home, then you must correct all of the hazardous conditions revealed in your inspection and checkup.

Now is the time to correct the fire hazards you have found.



FIRE ESCAPE INSPECTIONS

Three hundred ninety-seven fire escape inspections were made by the Department during 1945.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

Frequent and thorough inspections will prevent fires before they start.

In order to prevent fires, we must look for and recognize fire hazards.

In making inspections in Mercantile Stores we look for

Housekeeping
- Wastepaper, dust, kindling rags
- Stairs, aisles and windows unobstructed
- Placement of combustible material
- Packing materials
- Outside of building, incinerator
- Matches, careless smoking
- Oily material ,litter, painting material
- Hoist sumps, elevator sumps

Heating
- Stoves, furnaces, oil burners
- Registers, radiators
- Pipes, chimneys
- Fuel, kindling, boxes
- Ashes
- Stokers, care of

Electrical
- Defective Wiring
  - Short circuits
  - Overload
  - Amateur wiring
  - Open connections
- Appliances
  - Extension Cords — cotton, knots through floor and walls
  - Watch clearance from combustibles large bulbs, clear
  - Proper size
  - Plugging, reloading

Flammable Liquids
- Kerosene, turpentine, spray and dip
- Gasoline—Melting pots, blow torches
  - Cleaning, grease
  - Keep in approved safety can
- Paint solvent, thinner, varnish, enamel, lacquer, paint, wax, polish, cleaning solvent, etc.

SCHOOLS

- **Electrical**
  - Wiring
    - Insulation from age
    - Defective
    - Amateur wiring
    - Stages and spotlights, switch panels
  - Fuses
    - Not proper size
    - Bridging, plugging
    - Lock fuse panel boxes
  - Appliances
    - Motors, belts, machinery
    - Dust in manual training rooms
    - Clocks, alarms, fans
    - Extension cords
    - Boiler rooms
- **Exits**
  - Not enough doors, too narrow
  - Doors open inward, all shold open with line of travel
  - Insufficient stairs to opper floors
  - Poorly placed, obstructions
  - Areas too large
    - Assembly rooms
    - Attics
  - Fire Drills
    - Serious
    - Not hurried, crowding
    - Check rooms, building, class rolls
    - Obstructed
    - Safe distance outside
    - Hydrants
  - Stair
    - Steps, rails, supports
    - Doors, sticking, jamming
    - Passing windows
    - Locations marked
- **Fire Escapes**
  - Type
    - Entry doors—Weights, springs keep open location, marking accessibility
  - Condition—pitch, bends, landing
  - Joints smooth
  - Supports
- **Housekeeping**
  - Accumulation of rubbish basement, supply rooms, other locations
  - Burning rubbish, no incinerator
  - Home economics, domestic science rooms
  - Manual training, dust, shavings, heaters
- **Heating**
  - Oil heaters not fireproofed
  - Stokers, sticking motors, hoppers
  - Defective chimneys, flues, smokepipes
  - Ashes
- **Flammables and Explosives**
  - Paint solvent and thinner
  - Varnish, paint, floor oil
  - Kerosene, others

- **Labs**
  - Chlorates, nitrates
  - sodium, potassium
  - acids, phosphorus
- **General Hazards**
  - Inside basement doors not fireproofed
  - Attic doors and openings, keep closed
  - Openings under buildings, close, children
  - Wooden shingle roofs
  - Combustibles near ventilating ducts
  - Benches, etc., stored on boilers
  - Painters materials
  - Repairing, refinishing, polishing
  - Sweeping compounds
  - Storage under stairways and seats

FACTORIES

- **HOUSE-KEEPING**
  - Raw Material
    - Fibres, metal, liquid
  - Packing Material
    - Sacks—Paper, cloth, burlap
    - Boxes—Paper, cardboard, wooden
    - Excelsior—Shredded paper
  - DUST
    - Shavings—Wood, metal
    - Collectors, cleaning, sweepings
  - FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS
    - Paint, varnish, etc.
    - Gasoline, kerosene, etc.
    - Gases—acetylene, hydrogen
  - RAGS
    - Wiping
    - Polishing
    - Containers
- **SMOKING**
  - Provide room
    - Fire resistive
    - Clean
    - Cuspidors, ash trays
    - Inspect, check
- **Signs**
  - Hazardous location
  - Fire Marshal
- **SPECIAL**
  - Hazardous processes
    - Safeguard, inspect
    - Educate employees
  - Hazardous materials
    - Precautions
    - Education
  - Hazardous machinery
    - Heat appliances
    - Oil and dip tanks
  - Fire drills
    - Good practice
    - Fire conscious
    - Promotes security
  - Encourage employees to report unsafe conditions
- **HEATING AND LIGHTING**
  - Follow fire safe standards National Electrical Code
  - Inspect regularly
    - Individual responsibility
    - Check often

OTHER BUILDINGS

BOWLING ALLEYS
- Pyroxylin lacquers
- Pin refinishing
- Alley resurfacing
- Pin boys—Smoking, matches
- Lockers

AIRPLANE HANGARS
- Gasoline
- Lacquers, "dope"
- Fast burning — Planes, Buildings
- Washing — Motors, Planes

BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Salamanders
Riveting
Cutting and welding
Scaffoldingg

Inspectors, in a friendly conference with the owner or occupant, can explain how easily an accumulation of oily rags can start fires, or other similar fire hazards found during the inspection—make good common sense recommendations for eliminating fire hazards, and don't overlook the little things—they usually cause the big fires.

The moral hazard is sure to increase, due to excess stocks of wartime substitutes. Many of these items will be obsolete when better raw materials are available.

Incendiary warning signs consist of excessive amounts of combustible rubbish, paper, excelsior, flammable liquids, obsolete stocks, etc. When these are noted, check the shelves. Many of the containers may be empty to put up a "false front." Do not discuss these indications, but immediately notify the State Fire Marshal's office.

Selling the fire department to the citizens of your community can easily be accomplished through good inspections. The thinking person will realize that service over and above ordinary duty is being rendered and they will reciprocate when the department needs help.

The information gathered through inspections will provide material for discussion at fire meetings, and advance plans for rescue and fire fighting procedure can be agreed upon.

The value of the knowledge of existing "man-traps" alone is well worth the time and effort given in making the inspections.

Make your Fire Inspections complete fire fighting and Fire Prevention surveys.

HAZARDS THAT COULD MAKES ASHES OF YOUR PROPERTY:

1. Careless use of matches and smoking materials.
2. Defective chimneys.
3. Overheated stoves and furnaces.
4. Spontaneous ignition.
5. Misuse of electricity.
6. Cleaning with gasoline.
7. Papers and rubbish.

DEFEAT THESE HAZARDS THIS WAY:

1. Keep ash trays handy; be sure your match is out.
2. Inspect chimneys for cracks and loose mortar annually; clean out soot.
3. Check heating plants annually; make necessary repairs.
4. Dispose of paint or oil rags, or keep them in tightly closed metal can.
5. Have an electrician do all wiring and extensions; use appliance approved by Underwriters' Laboratories.
6. Use non-inflammable cleaning fluid.
7. Clean out paper and rubbish; prevent accumulations.

FIRE CHIEFS, MAYORS AND TOWNSHIP CLERKS:

For the benefit of those of you who have taken office as Fire Chief, Mayor or Township Clerk in the past year, we call your attention to Chapter 80, Sections 1624, 1625, 1626 and 1627, Code, Iowa, 1939, which requires that all fires occurring within the corporate limits of any city or town shall be reported by the Chief of the Fire Department, or if there is no organized fire department, the Mayor of the town is required to make the report, and the Township Clerk of each township is required to make a report of all fires that occur within the township, outside of the corporate limits of any city or town in the township.

All fires should be reported to the State Fire Marshal's office within one week of the occurrence of the fire, and all reports must be complete, showing the amount of damage to building and contents as well as complete information as to the value of the building and contents, insurance carried and cause of the fire.

If you will send your reports in promptly all through the year, it will help this office in keeping the fire loss records up to date. When the reports are held up until the end of the year, it doubles the work in this office and causes unnecessary delay in closing the fire records at the end of the year.

If you have any problems with which this office can help you, do not hesitate to call us.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Iowa State Fire Prevention Association reports

34 addresses made to schools during Fire Prevention Week.

6,221 school children addressed.

4 addresses made to 252 adults.

Radio talks on the subject of Fire Prevention were made over 16 Iowa radio stations by means of transcription. "Spot" announcements on Fire Prevention were also broadcast over all radio stations throughout Fire Prevention Week.

The Iowa State Fire Prevention Association is a non-profit organization working with other Fire Prevention organiza-

tions, civic and service clubs and the State Fire Marshal's office in an effort to reduce Iowa's fire loss.

A general inspection will be made in your city or town for the purpose of eliminating existing fire hazards from business establishments and public buildings, upon request. Send your request to this office if you wish, and we will gladly refer it to the Secretary of the Iowa State Fire Prevention Association for you.

The Speaker's Bureau of the Iowa Fire Prevention Association will endeavor to furnish a speaker for your Fire Prevention meetings upon request.

ANNUAL FIRE SCHOOL

We urge all Iowa firemen to prepare now to attend the Twenty-second Annual Iowa Fire College at the Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, May 21, 22, 23 and 24, 1946.

Plans are being made for an interesting and educational program—you cannot afford to miss it.

Attendance at the Fire College will give you an opportunity to meet and become acquainted with the new Fire Protection Engineer, Mr. Robert C. Byrus.

Mr. Byrus is a newcomer in Iowa, came highly recommended in his profession, and having had actual experience as a fireman, he is qualified to speak a fireman's language, and is proving himself a real friend and helper to Iowa firemen, and to all others interested in Fire Prevention and Fire Protection.

Plan now to attend the Fire College and get your reservations in early. Address your letters to "Mr. Robert C. Byrus, Fire Protection Engineer, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa," and do it NOW!

ARE YOUR CHILDREN SAFE AT SCHOOL?

Five schools, somewhere in the United States, have fires every day, statistics show. The first essential, in a school fire, is that the children leave the building in an orderly manner and reach safety without injury.

Before the war, school authorities, fire departments, and parent-teachers' groups were alive to their responsibilities

and real progress was made in perfecting school fire drill and fire safety techniques. But present-day manpower and teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms and other factors, have impaired efficiency of fire drills to some extent. Also, an overworked janitorial and maintenance staff, with resulting slackness in housekeeping, together with the gradual deterioration of lighting and heating systems, have increased the fire hazards in many schools.

The majority of schools haven't reduced vigilance—but here and there is bound to be a dangerous neglect.

No newspaper, civic group, women's club or parent-teachers' association will be justly accused of prying, if time is taken to look into the fire drill and fire safety practices in its local school system. School authorities and fire chiefs who work hand in hand for fire safety appreciate that interest, because the safety of today's children is in their hands, and they, too, have manpower shortages to contend with.

FIRE DRILLS

Section 1651, Code, Iowa, 1939, provides:

> "It shall be the duty of the state fire marshal and his designated subordinate to require teachers of public and private schools, in all buildings of more than one story, to have at least one fire drill each month, and to require all teachers of such schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during school hours."

Fire drills are very important in schools, business establishments, factories, and in your home.

Everyone should know what to do in an emergency, where and how to reach the nearest exit and safest way out of the building without loss of time and without confusion. Confusion leads to panic.

Know your way out of the building so that in an emergency you can take care of yourself and help the other person who is less familiar with the fire exits than you are.

Training received through properly conducted fire drills has proven of vital importance in many instances.

ARSON INVESTIGATIONS

There were 38 investigations made in 31 Iowa Counties during 1945:

CHICKASAW COUNTY: This office, assisted by the Sheriff of Chickasaw County, made an investigation of two fires that occurred in a dwelling house about five miles east and one mile north of New Hampton, Iowa on Highway 24. A confession was obtained in this case.

DECATUR COUNTY: Assisted by the Sheriff and County Attorney of Decatur County, this office investigated a dwelling house fire that occurred in the town of Decatur in Decatur County, and as a result of the investigation, the owner, who was also the occupant of the dwelling at the time of the fire, together with her fiancee, entered written pleas of guilty to the crime of Arson. The occupant was sentenced to the Women's Reformatory at Rockwell City for an indeterminate period not to exceed twenty years. This sentence was suspended during good behavior and the defendant paroled to the Sheriff of Decatur County.

The fiancee, or other defendant, was sentenced to the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison for an indeterminate period not to exceed twenty years.

GUTHRIE COUNTY: This office assisted by the Guthrie County Sheriff's office, investigated a farm dwelling house fire that occurred in Guthrie County.

As a result of the investigation, the occupant of the dwelling was tried and convicted in the Guthrie County District Court and was sentenced to serve five years in the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa.

HOWARD COUNTY: Assisted by the Sheriff of Howard County, we made an investigation of a fire in Riceville, Iowa. This case is pending.

JEFFERSON COUNTY: Assisted by the Jefferson County Sheriff's office, we made an investigation of a farm dwelling house fire that occurred in Jefferson County.

While this investigation was being conducted, the occupant of the house shot himself and died. Because of the circumstances, this investigation was discontinued.

LINN COUNTY: An investigation was made by this office covering a dwelling house fire that occurred in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The owner of the dwelling was suspected of Arson, and as a result of the investigation he made a written and signed statement wherein he admitted burning the dwelling. However, before the defendant could be taken before the Court, he committed suicide by hanging.

MARION COUNTY: Assisted by the Marion County Sheriff we made an investigation of a dwelling house, barn and chicken house fire that occurred near Bauer, Iowa.

A confession was obtained and the suspect committed to the Women's Reformatory, Rockwell City, Iowa, for a period of 10 years.

MONONA COUNTY: Assisted by the Deputy Sheriff of Monona County, we made an investigation of a farm fire that occurred in Monona County, a confession was obtained and defendant given a sentence of 20 years in Fort Madison State Penitentiary.

O'BRIEN COUNTY: This office, assisted by the Sheriff of O'Brien County, made an investigation of a dwelling house fire that occurred in Sanborn, O'Brien County.

The owner, who was also the occupant of this dwelling house at the time of the fire, made a written and signed statement wherein he admitted burning this dwelling.

He entered a plea of guilty to the crime of arson and was sentenced to the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison for an indeterminate period not to exceed twenty years and was paroled to the Sheriff of O'Brien County.

O'BRIEN COUNTY: Assisted by the Sheriff of O'Brien County, this office investigated a series of fires which were occurring in the town of Sheldon.

These fires were occurring in a dwelling house, out buildings, a ready-to-wear store and in the Grade School building which was attached to the High School building.

Two juveniles admitted starting these fires and they, together with their parents, were requested to appear before the District Court Judge in O'Brien County.

PAGE COUNTY: Assisted by the Sheriff's office, we made an investigation of a fire that occurred in Clarinda, Iowa. This case is pending.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY: Assisted by Deputy Sheriff and County Attorney of Pocahontas County, we made an investigation of a fire that occurred in a dwelling house in Gilmore City, Iowa.

The Grand Jury heard the evidence in the case and returned an indictment for Arson. Case is pending.

POLK COUNTY: An investigation was made in Polk County with reference to a series of fires. This case is pending.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY: Assisted by the Sheriff of Pottawattamie County and Chief of the Council Bluffs Fire Department, we made an investigation of an automobile fire.

This case was referred to the District Court where a directed verdict was given and the defendant released.

WAYNE COUNTY: Assisted by the Deputy Sheriff of Wayne County, we made an investigation of a farm dwelling fire. This case is pending.

WRIGHT COUNTY: Assisted by the Fire Chief of Eagle Grove and Wright County Sheriff, we made an investigation of a dwelling house fire. Confession was obtained. Defendant died in jail.

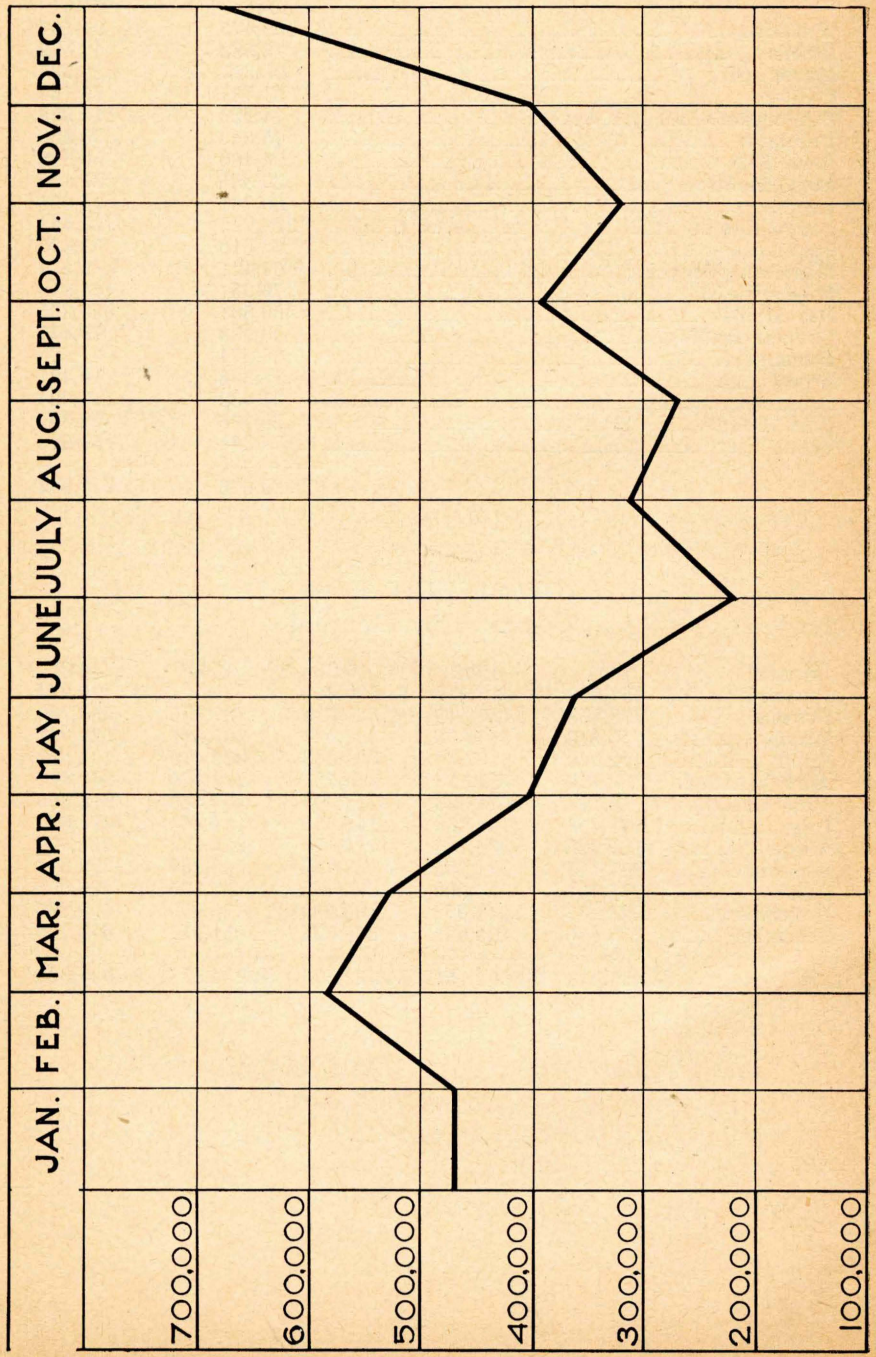
FIRE LOSS IN LARGER CITIES

	1944	1945
Waterloo	$ 109,475	$ 91,107
Boone	13,582	47,579
Mason City	23,251	20,837
Clinton	51,737	85,153
Burlington	74,136	113,998
Dubuque	75,048	33,550
Iowa City	24,480	50,588
Fort Madison	20,381	85,155
Keokuk	63,767	15,821
Cedar Rapids	322,725	50,593
Oskaloosa	52,610	33,625
Marshalltown	67,421	9,274
Muscatine	76,951	136,918
Des Moines	650,501	650,855
Council Bluffs	90,933	79,477
Davenport	68,274	61,070
Ames	15,505	10,421
Ottumwa	31,432	110,024
Fort Dodge	28,106	98,309
Sioux City	179,361	159,628
	$2,039,676	$1,943,982

IOWA'S FIRE LOSS
(Compiled by Months)

Month	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
January	$ 357,690	$ 517,426	$ 799,327	$ 530,761	$ 470,024
February	398,858	189,349	336,615	297,555	583,763
March	615,546	206,338	426,540	335,592	529,001
April	442,068	613,246	363,333	329,476	403,527
May	211,965	155,516	265,531	232,149	360,844
June	73,782	644,386	774,499	254,445	218,600
July	158,757	142,450	156,570	244,264	311,850
August	165,720	286,134	214,120	274,173	268,059
September	217,146	131,235	133,455	266,287	392,313
October	265,704	234,999	289,065	661,295	320,091
November	228,137	242,072	336,989	156,909	400,265
December	319,670	239,000	666,531	651,911	679,726
	$3,455,043	$3,602,151	$4,762,575	$4,234,817	$4,938,063

The accompanying graph shows the trend of fire loss by months in 1945.



IOWA'S PER CAPITA FIRE LOSS

Year	Fire Loss	Per Capita
1939	$ 4,745,909	$ 1.87
1940	4,449,921	1.75
1941	3,455,043	1.43
1942	3,602,151	1.43
1943	4,762,575	1.87
1944	4,234,817	1.68
1945	4,938,063	1.95

NATIONAL FIRE LOSS
(5 year period)

1941		$303,895,000
1942		314,295,000
1943		373,000,000
1944		437,273,000
1945	(Estimated)	455,329,000

TABLE NO. I

Showing the total number of fires reported by counties. Cities of more than 10,000 population are set out separately. Damage to building and contents is combined.

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adair	5	$ 6,820
Adams	6	10,655
Allamakee	8	14,106
Appanoose	43	77,926
Audubon	9	8,333
Benton	21	27,893
Black Hawk—Waterloo	150	91,107
Balance—Black Hawk County	22	149,599
Boone—Boone	53	47,579
Balance—Boone County	12	41,665
Bremer	3	5,900
Buchanan	52	305,693
Buena Vista	18	24,680
Butler	13	37,525
Calhoun	7	10,275
Carroll	35	29,042
Cass	25	29,166
Cedar	9	13,515
Cerro Gordo—Mason City	98	20,837
Balance—Cerro Gordo County	4	12,050
Cherokee	10	17,695
Chickasaw	10	16,356
Clarke	6	10,852
Clay	16	18,092
Clayton	37	60,685
Clinton—Clinton	80	85,153
Balance—Clinton County	13	45,995
Crawford	7	18,940
Dallas	32	167,253
Davis	11	23,915

TABLE NO. I—Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Decatur	11	11,993
Delaware	13	32,817
Des Moines—Burlington	79	113,998
Balance—Des Moines County	15	22,128
Dickinson	6	1,885
Dubuque—Dubuque	140	33,550
Balance—Dubuque County	18	23,335
Emmet	11	17,345
Fayette	25	30,507
Floyd	14	14,598
Franklin	18	27,724
Fremont	7	5,088
Greene	20	33,932
Grundy	14	18,890
Guthrie	6	6,935
Hamilton	14	40,091
Hancock	11	16,465
Hardin	21	39,579
Harrison	22	22,845
Henry	2	6,450
Howard	6	7,099
Humboldt	8	8,445
Ida	14	4,416
Iowa	7	3,295
Jackson	15	38,720
Jasper	36	36,456
Jefferson	32	120,505
Johnson—Iowa City	52	50,588
Balance—Johnson County	7	10,605
Jones	10	23,299
Keokuk	17	27,285
Kossuth	29	27,700
Lee—Fort Madison	54	85,155
Keokuk	48	15,821
Balance—Lee County	4	4,850
Linn—Cedar Rapids	159	50,593
Balance—Linn County	36	59,734
Louisa	3	11,700
Lucas	4	7,400
Lyon	15	8,946
Madison	25	40,225
Mahaska—Oskaloosa	32	33,625
Balance—Mahaska County	10	18,343
Marion	36	63,851
Marshall—Marshalltown	39	9,274
Balance—Marshall County	2	9,100
Mills	8	29,216
Mitchell	7	9,250
Monona	10	22,432
Monroe	18	15,923
Montgomery	25	62,614
Muscatine—Muscatine	78	136,918
Balance—Muscatine County	8	13,043
O'Brien	17	23,939
Osceola	7	21,830
Page	33	32,755
Palo Alto	14	7,815
Plymouth	21	15,627

TABLE NO. I—Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Pocahontas	18	23,120
Polk—Des Moines	820	650,855
Balance—Polk County	10	9,700
Pottawattamie—Council Bluffs	144	79,477
Balance—Pottawattamie County	15	17,092
Poweshiek	22	18,210
Ringgold	8	8,657
Sac	12	54,503
Scott—Davenport	195	61,070
Balance—Scott County	15	34,170
Shelby	11	4,229
Sioux	18	19,502
Story—Ames	33	10,421
Balance—Story County	31	20,589
Tama	24	49,327
Taylor	17	7,085
Union	11	105,950
Van Buren	4	3,900
Wapello—Ottumwa	39	110,024
Balance—Wapello County	17	55,682
Warren	10	42,440
Washington	17	35,833
Wayne	17	15,702
Webster—Fort Dodge	63	98,309
Balance—Webster County	11	13,508
Winnebago	6	13,065
Winneshiek	11	13,507
Woodbury—Sioux City	331	159,628
Balance—Woodbury County	14	22,569
Worth	8	17,815
Wright	13	38,545
	4,193	$4,938,063

TABLE NO. II

Showing the kind of property destroyed. Damage to buildings and contents set out separately.

Kind of Property	No. Fires	Damage Buildings	Damage Contents
Automobiles	365	$ 30,135	$ 83
Trucks	97	13,358	3,634
Auto accessories—auto repair shops and tire shops	13	25,848	42,244
Awnings	64	3,409	0
Bakeries	8	2,820	1,817
Banks	2	1,093	0
Barns—FARM	132	305,375	124,024
TOWN	47	37,255	8,257
Beer taverns	35	16,457	16,304
Bridges	1	15	0
Cars—Box cars and coal cars	12	9,071	1,794
Passenger and street cars and buses	25	3,275	0
Car repair shops and round-houses	1	50	0
Chicken brooders and hatcheries	94	14,131	22,008
Poultry houses	39	7,193	5,791

possibility for escape of vapors or spilling of gasoline. Pumps however, should be located well away from buildings, as there is always some fire danger when filling a gasoline tank.

Small quantities of gasoline may be handled in safety cans. A 50-gallon drum may be used for gasoline if it is kept as far away as possible from all buildings.

NEVER STORE GASOLINE IN BUILDINGS, but if desired a small, well ventilated structure used for no other purpose can be used to protect a gasoline drum against heat of sun and against theft.

ABOVEGROUND TANKS of several hundred gallons capacity, sometimes used on farms, are dangerous, particularly where they are elevated on a wood or light steel framework. They are readily subject to injury and in case of any accident or leak are likely to lead to a disastrous fire. They are also wasteful owing to loss of gasoline by evaporation in the heat of the summer.

A dangerous feature of gasoline storage in elevated tanks is their use to fill vehicle tanks by gravity flow through a hose.

Handling gasoline by a pump is much safer. If there should be any spill, leak or fire, you can instantly stop the pump, but you cannot stop gravity and gasoline may continue to flow to feed the fire.

Small hand pumps are available for withdrawing gasoline from drums. These are far safer than a faucet which may leak and cannot always be shut quickly in case of trouble while withdrawing gasoline.

NEVER SMOKE while handling gasoline, even where a standard pump and hose are used, as there is always some escape of vapors which may be ignited. An oil lantern is dangerous for the same reason.

With electric light the danger is minimized, but the light should be high up away from gasoline vapors which can readily be ignited by an electric spark or by the breaking of a light bulb.

PERPETUAL PRECAUTION PRESERVES PREMISES!

THE SMOKING HAZARD

An analysis of fire losses, by cause, throughout the United States by the National Fire Protection Association has shown consistently that matches and smoking have held first place for a number of years. Particularly since 1941, there has been a major increase in the amount of loss caused by matches and smoking, as shown by the following figures:

YEAR	LOSS CAUSED BY SMOKING
1941	$16,750,000
1942	20,000,000
1943	25,000,000
1944	43,000,000
1945	38,000,000

Over a ten-year period (1936-1945), records of the National Board of Fire Underwriters show that smoking and the careless use of matches were responsible for 30 per cent of all fires.

During the war period, under the stress of heavy production demands on workers, smoking increased sharply and the effect is clearly shown by the increase in fire losses.

With nearly a third of our national fire losses attributed to matches and smoking, both employer and employee should realize the joint threat of interrupted production with attendant unemployment and the loss of profit and wages.

IOWA'S LOSS

The above figures show the fire loss throughout the United States caused by matches and smoking—what has Iowa done in the same period, 1941-1945?

1941	$179,922
1942	90,897
1943	202,902
1944	155,774
1945	93,578

Remember, these are preventable fires!

FIRE PREVENTION — ACTION

YOU can help stop fire waste—what counts most is the action of EVERY CITIZEN!

Every minute, day and night, a fire breaks out.

Every hour a life is lost—one-third are children under 15 years of age.

The cost of preventable fire is high in human lives—more than 10,000 a year.

Between World Wars I and II, (1918-1941) fire tragedies in America took 230,000 lives—an average of 27 lives every day —more than one life every hour! One child under 15 years of age every three hours!

Yet, authorities say most fires and most fire deaths are preventable.

YOU can do your part to stop preventable fires and fire deaths.

HOMES HAVE DOUBLE VALUE NOW
DON'T LET FIRE DESTROY THEM!

AMERICA is suffering the most acute housing shortage in the nation's history. We are short 3,000,000 homes.

Persons who are desparately looking for shelter will tell you that a house as a home was never more precious.

Yet fire—preventable fire—is destroying more homes every year. Half of all our fires are in homes. One out of every 100 homes is damaged or burned down each year. Learn how to protect your home and teach others too.

You can help stop this preventable waste!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP FIRES:

1. Find and eliminate all fire hazards in your home.

2. Offer your services to fire prevention headquarters in your town—fire chief, Chamber of Commerce, or any organization active in fire prevention. If no one is doing the job, consult your insurance agent, fire chief, local newspaper, or radio station about organizing and informing your community.

3. Promote fire safety—help check carelessness and recklessness where you work. Save materials, save lives, save WHAT YOU HAVE from destruction.

4. Tell your neighbors about the need of fire safety. Get them to clear out all their fire dangers.

5. Tell everyone about the threat of our growing fire losses

—about the need of substituting caution for carelessness and recklessness. This is HOW YOU CAN HELP!

HOW ORGANIZATIONS CAN HELP?

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE—Appoint Fire Prevention Committee and enlist cooperation of individual members and all who will help in spreading facts and information about checking the terrible waste of fire in your community. Write for information to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Insurance Department, Washington, 6, D. C.; The National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York, 7, New York, or see your local insurance agent.

BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS—Distribute leaflets, aid clean-up and inspection campaigns, promote the Firemanship Merit Badge. Consult your school principal and neighborhood fire chief.

WOMEN'S CLUBS—Conduct educational campaigns for the instruction of housewives in home precautions. One-half of all fires are in homes; one-third the toll of dead is among children.

STATE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION — Iowa's State Fire Prevention Association is ready to help in your Fire Prevention program, Fire Prevention speakers are available. Requests can be mailed to this office, or direct to the Iowa State Fire Prevention Association, 1005 Paramount Building, Des Moines, Iowa.

HOW PUBLIC OFFICIALS CAN HELP:

MAYORS, CITY MANAGERS AND FIRE MARSHALS—Issue proclamations and take leadership in fire prevention programs. Inspect possible danger spots for removal of fire hazards.

FIRE CHIEFS AND DEPARTMENTS—Make inspections of buildings, conduct clean-up campaigns, supply speakers for schools and meetings, start year-round fire prevention bureaus, distribute information leaflets supplied by National Board of Fire Underwriters and other prevention organizations.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS, PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS — (Seven schools catch fire every day during the school year!) Authorize and participate in campaigns for schools, inspect buildings, establish courses of study in fire prevention. Write to the National Board of Fire Underwriters for information and literature.

HOW BUSINESS CAN HELP:

IN RETAIL STORES—(110 retail stores burn every day in the United States!) Inspect your premises, eliminate hazards, set up safety rules, display posters, include fire prevention in advertising, distribute leaflets. Learn to protect what you have.

IN FACTORIES—(Fire strikes in 29,900 factories each year!) Establish committee of foremen to inspect buildings, study and eliminate hazards of manufacturing processes with fire chiefs, call meetings of employees, set up safety rules, display posters, suggest fire prevention messages in house organs, and bulletins, distribute leaflets.

TRANSIT OPERATORS—Display posters on street cars, busses and stations.

THEATRES, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS—(78 fires are reported daily throughout the United States). Display posters, print messages on programs, checks, menus. Make announcements, display messages on screens, distribute leaflets.

INSURANCE AGENTS — Initiate campaigns, make speeches, suggest fire prevention courses in schools, offer prizes for essay or poster contests, display posters, make up window displays, include theme in newspaper advertising, distribute leaflets.

Write to the National Association of Insurance Agents for special assistance and for agents' fire prevention manual entitled: "It Is Your Business."

HOW SCHOOLS CAN HELP:

Mass meetings of pupils for talks by informed firemen, reading of fire prevention essays, playlets given by pupils, fire drills, fire prevention study, pupils take home leaflets and inspection blanks, display posters.

HOW CHURCHES CAN HELP:

Do you know there are 42 church fires every week in the United States?

Churches are difficult to replace, especially today. Clergymen can warn their congregations by giving safety messages and announcements of special activities at regular Sunday services. They can bring up safety questions at trustee meetings and have committees or sextons inspect premises to locate and eliminate hazards. Nearly all these fires are preventable. More than one-third are caused by faulty heating apparatus or flues.

MAKE EVERY WEEK *A FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!*

DRY CLEANING

Section 732.6, Code, Iowa, 1946, provides

"USE OF DANGEROUS FLUIDS FORBIDDEN. It shall be unlawful for any person to establish or operate any dye works, pantorium, or cleaning works, in which gasoline, benzine, naphtha, or other explosive or dangerous fluids are used for the purpose of cleaning or renovating wearing apparel or other fabrics, in any building any part of which is used as a residence or lodging house.

INSPECTIONS

The State Fire Marshal's office has made 423 inspections in 1946, covering fire hazards, compressed gas installations and fire escapes.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

The Annual Report for 1945 included an item on "Fire Prevention Inspections" and in view of numerous requests for a reprint of the suggestions set out on the subject of inspections, we are reprinting the article for you.

"Frequent and thorough inspections will prevent fires before they start."

In order to prevent fires, we must look for and recognize fire hazards.

In making inspections in Mercantile Stores we look for:

- **Housekeeping**
  - Wastepaper, dust, kindling rags
  - Stairs, aisles and windows unobstructed
  - Placement of combustible material
  - Packing materials
  - Outside of building, incinerator
  - Matches, careless smoking
  - Oily material, litter, painting material
  - Hoist sumps, elevator sumps
- **Heating**
  - Stoves, furnaces, oil burners
  - Registers, radiators
  - Pipes, chimneys
  - Fuel, kindling, boxes
  - Ashes
  - Stokers, care of
- **Electrical**
  - Defective Wiring
    - Short circuits
    - Overload
    - Amateur wiring
    - Open connections
  - Appliances
    - Extension Cords — cotton, knots through floor and walls
    - Watch clearance from combustibles large bulbs, clear
    - Proper size
    - Plugging, reloading
- **Flammable Liquids**
  - Kerosene, turpentine, spray and dip
  - Gasoline—Melting pots, blow torches
  - Cleaning, grease
  - Keep in approved safety can
  - Paint solvent, thinner, varnish, enamel, Laquer, paint, wax, polish, cleaning solvent, etc.

SCHOOLS

- **Electrical**
  - Wiring
    - Insulation from age
    - Defective
    - Amateur wiring
    - Stages and spotlights, switch panels
  - Fuses
    - Not proper size
    - Bridging, plugging
    - Lock fuse panel boxes
  - Appliances
    - Motors, belts, machinery
    - Dust in manual training rooms
    - Clocks, alarms, fans
    - Extension cords
    - Boiler rooms
- **Exits**
  - Not enough doors, too narrow
  - Doors open inward, all should open with line of travel
  - Insufficient stairs to upper floors
  - Poorly placed, obstructions
  - Areas too large
    - Assembly rooms
    - Attics
  - Fire Drills
    - Serious
    - Not hurried, crowding
    - Check rooms, building, class rolls
    - Obstructed
    - Safe distance outside
    - Hydrants
  - Stair
    - Steps, rails, supports
    - Doors, sticking, jamming
    - Passing windows
    - Locations marked
- **Fire Escapes**
  - Type
    - Entry doors—Weights, springs keep open location, marking accessibility
  - Condition—pitch, bends, landing
  - Joints smooth
  - Supports
- **Housekeeping**
  - Accumulation of rubbish basement, supply rooms, other locations
  - Burning rubbish, no incinerator
  - Home economics, domestic science rooms
  - Manual training, dust, shavings, heaters
- **Heating**
  - Oil heaters not fireproofed
  - Stokers, sticking motors, hoppers
  - Defective chimneys, flues, smokepipes
  - Ashes
- **Flammables and Explosives**
  - Paint solvent and thinner
  - Varnish, paint, floor oil
  - Kerosene, others

- **Labs**
  - Chlorates, nitrates
  - sodium, potassium
  - acids, phosphorus
- **General Hazards**
  - Inside basement doors not fireproofed
  - Attic doors and opening, keep closed
  - Openings under buildings, close, children
  - Wooden shingle roofs
  - Combustibles near ventilating ducts
  - Benches, etc., stored on boilers
  - Painters' Materials
  - Repairing, refinishing, polishing
  - Sweeping compounds
  - Storage under stairways and seats

FACTORIES

- **HOUSE-KEEPING**
  - Raw Material
    - Fibres, metal, liquid
  - Packing Material
    - Sacks—Paper, cloth, burlap
    - Boxes—Paper, cardboard, wooden
    - Excelsior—Shredded paper
  - DUST
    - Shavings—Wood, metal
    - Collectors, cleaning, sweepings
  - FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS
    - Paint, varnish, etc.
    - Gasoline, kerosene, etc.
    - Gases—acetylene, hydrogen
  - RAGS
    - Wiping
    - Polishing
    - Containers
- **SMOKING**
  - Provide room
    - Fire resistive
    - Clean
    - Cuspidors, ash trays
    - Inspect, check
- **Signs**
  - Hazardous location
  - Fire Marshal
- **SPECIAL**
  - Hazardous processes
    - Safeguard, inspect
    - Educate employees
  - Hazardous materials
    - Precautions
    - Education
  - Hazardous machinery
    - Heat appliances
    - Oil and dip tanks
  - Fire drills
    - Good practice
    - Fire Conscious
    - Promotes security
  - Encourage employees to report unsafe conditions
- **HEATING AND LIGHTING**
  - Follow fire safe standards National Electrical Code
  - Inspect regularly
    - Individual responsibility
    - Check often

OTHER BUILDINGS

- **BOWLING ALLEYS**
  - Pyroxylin Lacquers
  - Pin refinishing
  - Alley resurfacing
  - Pin boys—Smoking, matches
  - Lockers
- **AIRPLANE HANGERS**
  - Gasoline
  - Lacquers, "dope"
  - Fast burning
    - Planes
    - Buildings
  - Washing
    - Motors
    - Planes

BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Salamanders
- Riveting
- Cutting and welding
- Scaffolding

Inspectors, in a friendly conference with the owner or occupant, can explain how easily an accumulation of oily rags can start fires, or other similar fire hazards found during the inspections—make good common sense recommendations for eliminating fire hazards, and don't overlook the little things—they usually cause the big fires.

The moral hazard is sure to increase, due to excess stocks of wartime substitutes. Many of these items will be obsolete when better raw materials are available.

Incendiary warning signs consist of excessive amounts of combustible rubbish, paper, excelsior, flammable liquids, obsolete stocks, etc. When these are noted, check the shelves. Many of the containers may be empty to put up a "false front." Do not discuss these indications, but immediately notify the State Fire Marshal's office.

Selling the fire department to the citizens of your community can easily be accomplished through good inspections. The thinking person will realize that service over and above ordinary duty is being rendered and they will reciprocate when the department needs help.

The information gathered through inspections will provide material for discussion at fire meetings, and advance plans for rescue and fire fighting procedure can be agreed upon.

The value of the knowledge of existing "man-traps" alone is well worth the time and effort given in making the inspections.

Make your Fire Inspections complete fire fighting and Fire Prevention surveys.

TABLE NO. 1

Showing the total number of fires reported by counties. Cities of more than 10,000 population are set out separately. Damage to building and contents is combined.

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adair	4	$ 2,575
Adams	1	2,500
Allamakee	14	45,402
Appanoose	15	26,935
Audubon	8	4,075
Benton	32	30,222
Black Hawk—Waterloo	184	317,311
Balance—Black Hawk County	33	35,806
Boone—Boone	28	32,954
Balance—Boone County	8	47,887
Bremer	4	55,400
Buchanan	26	63,770
Buena Vista	17	32,215
Butler	10	20,896
Calhoun	7	98,431
Carroll	26	19,454
Cass	33	133,635
Cedar	12	22,855
Cerro Gordo—Mason City	122	52,448
Balance—Cerro Gordo County	2	360
Cherokee	8	12,225
Chickasaw	6	14,750
Clarke	7	26,800
Clay	15	27,375
Clayton	21	224,779
Clinton—Clinton	99	80,341
Balance—Clinton County	9	11,490
Crawford	11	44,750
Dallas	14	27,835
Davis	5	3,265
Decatur	9	117,535
Delaware	11	7,466
Des Moines—Burlington	89	123,108
Balance—Des Moines County	3	10,100
Dickinson	8	5,725
Dubuque—Dubuque	92	217,861
Balance—Dubuque County	13	49,009
Emmet	15	37,304
Fayette	27	35,004
Floyd	39	85,819

TABLE NO. I—Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Franklin	18	60,950
Fremont	5	212,100
Greene	31	42,133
Grundy	5	12,230
Guthrie	15	21,893
Hamilton	18	46,140
Hancock	9	9,630
Hardin	14	89,883
Harrison	13	15,810
Henry	2	6,700
Howard	16	37,005
Humboldt	6	12,310
Ida	11	7,015
Iowa	3	4,650
Jackson	5	19,830
Jasper	41	320,523
Jefferson	24	22,148
Johnson—Iowa City	54	59,476
Balance—Johnson County	2	13,500
Jones	5	50,300
Keokuk	14	23,805
Kossuth	27	18,471
Lee—Fort Madison	40	49,231
Keokuk	42	19,903
Balance—Lee County	4	6,600
Linn—Cedar Rapids	161	69,922
Balance—Linn County	41	145,129
Louisa	7	50,345
Lucas	1	3,000
Lyon	18	20,677
Madison	26	46,380
Mahaska—Oskaloosa	12	25,790
Balance—Mahaska Count	6	17,795
Marion	30	12,573
Marshall—Marshalltown	72	181,941
Balance—Marshall County	0	0
Mills	1	225
Mitchell	6	19,785
Monona	13	38,396
Monroe	8	8,060
Montgomery	34	31,720
Muscatine—Muscatine	83	72,085
Balance—Muscatine County	3	15,700
O'Brien	18	52,120
Osceola	3	7,250
Page	25	24,384
Palo Alto	8	5,857
Plymouth	13	27,956
Pocahontas	7	323,425
Polk—Des Moines	865	438,219
Balance—Polk County	32	418,456
Pottawattamie—Council Bluffs	140	39,931
Balance—Pottawattamie County	20	39,116
Poweshiek	20	22,931
Ringgold	4	645
Sac	12	19,262
Scott—Davenport	196	135,362
Balance—Scott County	15	26,854

TABLE NO. I—Continued

Counties and Cities	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Shelby	17	33,185
Sioux	13	26,695
Story—Ames	28	14,313
Balance—Story County	37	42,882
Tama	15	26,042
Taylor	18	14,270
Union	4	3,100
Van Buren	7	13,065
Wapello—Ottumwa	18	58,802
Balance—Ottumwa County	6	12,950
Warren	23	114,098
Washington	7	14,570
Wayne	11	10,387
Webster—Fort Dodge	51	27,190
Balance—Webster County	8	19,887
Winnebago	1	500
Winneshiek	9	8,065
Woodbury—Sioux City	268	131,115
Balance—Woodbury County	9	11,335
Worth	7	17,333
Wright	5	18,957
	3,973	$6,349,980

TABLE NO. II

Showing the kind of property destroyed. Damage to building and contents set out separately.

Kind of Property	No. Fires	Damage Building	Damage Contents
Automobiles	507	$ 42,115	$ 500
Trucks	87	20,133	6,075
Auto accessories—auto repair shops, and tire shops	18	10,484	11,139
Awnings	47	2,161	0
Bakeries	7	36,600	50,372
Banks	0	0	0
Barns—FARM	125	331,661	180,287
TOWN	48	69,916	23,723
Beer taverns	39	39,766	17,903
Bridges	3	1,031	0
Cars—Box cars and coal cars	23	24,460	26,128
Passenger and street cars and busses	17	750	0
Car repair shops and roundhouses	1	1,000	100
Chicken brooders and hatcheries	56	17,285	35,581
Poultry houses	18	6,185	2,913
Churches	15	106,381	11,780
Cleaning and dyeing	7	701	1,900
Coal mines	1	20,000	10,000
Corn cribs and granaries	17	20,527	20,249
Creameries—Cream stations and dairies	13	51,978	41,212
Dance halls	1	10,000	0
Depots—freight and passenger	3	3,510	3,225
Elevators—seed houses—stores	9	175,021	263,730
Engine and boiler rooms	2	350	100

TABLE NO II—Continued

Kind of Property	No. Fires	Damage Building	Damage Contents
Factories	69	324,482	535,837
Filling stations—oil storage	33	21,567	16,497
Foundries	6	1,784	716
Funeral homes	0	0	0
Garages—private	166	31,105	27,806
Public	43	38,731	35,404
Hay, Grain and straw stacks, grain fields and meadows	14	2,301	0
Hog houses	13	16,235	9,890
Homes for Aged—Orphans Homes	4	995	326
Hospitals and Nurses' Homes	3	80	20
Hotels	40	169,629	56,097
Houses—Apartments	147	65,506	31,017
Fraternity and sorority	6	1,327	733
FARM	183	394,409	143,995
TOWN	1,410	447,987	205,641
Rooming houses	22	11,475	3,042
Summer kitchen—wash houses	11	1,937	2,529
Ice houses	3	18,650	20,000
Laundries	17	13,040	23,903
Lodge halls	8	48,267	16,325
Lumber yards	4	4,688	23,177
Meat markets	3	0	7,200
Mills—Feed mills and feed stores	6	2,532	8,440
Flour	2	5,400	200
Office and office buildings	50	33,629	37,934
Packing plants and stock yards	5	2,600	105
Pool halls—bowling alleys	11	20,461	13,030
Printing plants	9	745	16,317
Produce houses	15	92,082	148,334
Pump and engine houses—power plants	11	3,790	770
Restaurants and cafes—lunch rooms	64	32,590	20,341
Schools	18	124,213	19,378
Sheds—coal and wood	50	3,415	1,413
Machine and tool sheds	28	29,690	38,276
Shops—Barber	11	2,716	1,276
Blacksmith	19	21,681	24,481
Carpenter and work shops	9	2,250	2,904
Hair dressing shops	3	0	2,024
Plumbing and heating	3	592	263
Shoe repair shops	7	5,775	4,666
Smoke houses	5	1,700	3,040
Stores	150	190,065	313,011
Theatres	9	43,591	16,213
Trailer houses	16	2,990	2,691
Warehouses and storage	88	163,048	174,955
Miscellaneous	115	175,347	65,734
	3,973	$3,567,112	$2,782,868
			3,567,112
			$6,349,980

TABLE NO. III

Cause of Fire	No. Fires	Fire Loss
Adjoining	179	$ 330,976
Ashes and coal against wood	51	30,790
Auto backfire	65	4,908
Auto wreck	15	4,331
Broken gas line—alcohol on motor	124	10,820
Blow and oil torches	55	119,088
Bonfires—grass fires	146	64,717
Brooder lamps and stoves	46	10,234
Candle, lamp and lantern carelessness	11	4,883
Children with matches	109	38,744
Cleaning clothing, rugs and floors with gasoline	5	4,958
Clothing too near stove and stovepipes	15	2,089
Compressed gas	2	5,045
Curtains blowing into flames	16	1,215
Defective auto wiring	246	39 411
Defective electric wiring	213	696,570
Defective electric cords, lamps, appliances and Neon signs	39	5,540
Defective electric appliances	21	8,944
Defective fireplace	11	7,026
Defective flues	201	195,458
Defective and overheated stoves and heating plants	147	173,682
Defective oil burners	30	42,684
Defective oil and gasoline stoves	163	108,870
Defective and overheated pipes to stoves and furnaces	87	25,587
Dust in hot air registers	13	3,838
Electric iron—current left on	11	3,041
Films	3	1,731
Fireworks	1	75
Friction	11	3,522
Fumigation	1	728
Gas leak	7	21,168
Gasoline and kerosene carelessness	65	118,552
Gasoline and volatile oil explosion	10	7,254
Grease, paint, tar, wax and food boiling over	47	28,658
Incendiary	36	222,439
Lightning—rodded	10	37,925
Not rodded	107	375,147
Lightning running in on radio wires	2	250
Match carelessness	25	10,167
Rubbish piled against furnace and flues	18	4,309
Short circuit—electric motors, refrigerators, etc	115	38,550
Smoker's carelessness	415	321,044
Smoking meat	9	10,756
Sparks from engines and locomotives	23	29,064
Sparks from chimney	369	193,068
Sparks from stoves and furnaces	9	1,841
Spontaneous combustion—coal, dust	8	909
Hay, straw, grain, feed	27	106,558
Rags and rubbish	54	61,088
Static electricity	1	605
Thawing water pipes	6	520
Unknown	481	2,410,151
Using gasoline and kerosene to start fires	7	15,663
Miscellaneous	85	384,788
	3,973	$6,349,980

CONCLUSION

Iowa has 675 Paid and Volunteer Fire Departments, representing approximately 17,000 firemen, every one of whom is interested in preventing fires and protecting your property, and your life from loss by fire.

Fire Chiefs throughout the State are required to report to our office all fires that occur within the corporate limits of the cities and towns, and rural or country fires are required to be reported by the 1,609 Township Clerks in Iowa.

A record is made of all fires reported by these officers, and in the event of fires of suspicious or unknown origin, an investigation is made by this office upon request of the Sheriff, his Deputy, County Attorney, Chief of Fire Department or other local officials.

Inspections of fire hazards, fire escape inspections, inspections of compressed gas installations (commonly referred to as "bottled gas") are made by the State Fire Marshal's office upon request of local officials.

A continuous fire prevention educational program is carried on through the State Fire Marshal's office in cooperation with Fire Prevention organizations, Iowa State College and schools in Iowa.

There is a real need for corrections in our present fire laws, and additional fire prevention and fire protection laws should be enacted by our State Legislature.

There is an increasing demand for laws and authority to make rules and regulations covering the use of new materials and equipment in all lines, and with no state building code in effect at the present time, there is need for changes in our fire escape law covering buildings of various types.

There is no state law regulating the handling and storage of gasoline and other fuel oils—this is governed by city ordinance in cities and towns, but how about the smaller towns where they have no ordinance?

This is also true with reference to electrical wiring—cities and towns have ordinances regulating installations of electri-

cal wiring, but unfortunately there is no state law to protect those outside of such cities and towns, or in the rural areas.

Think these things over, get behind your Fire Prevention program, work for more effective legislation to reduce our fire loss in Iowa.

Every fire loss in Iowa affects you in one way or another—make FIRE PREVENTION YOUR BUSINESS!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all City, County and State officials, Civic and Social Clubs, Fire Prevention organizations, Fire Chiefs and Firemen, insurance groups, 4-H Clubs, leaders and members alike, teachers, students in all schools, newspapers and radio stations and all others in Iowa who have had a part in our Fire Prevention program for their fine support and cooperation throughout the year.

Regardless of the fact that our fire loss is higher this year than it has been for several years past, we still feel that Fire Prevention interest increases from year to year. The increase in the fire loss is due, in part, to the higher valuations of property.

Remember, "An ounce of FIRE PREVENTION is still worth a pound of cure."

PREVENT FIRES, AND REDUCE IOWA'S FIRE LOSS!

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STROHM, *State Fire Marshal*

DIVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND INVESTIGATION

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY