

FIRE PROTECTION AT CAMP DIX J. W. GODBOLD, Fire Chief, Irwin & Leighton.



1917 American LaFrance type 75 Triple Combination

Thoughts of war on foreign fields of battle, due to the presence of a constantly increasing number of soldiers at Camp Dix, must not make us lose sight of the fact that we have a common enemy right at our door.

That common enemy is *fire*.

In preparing for warfare against fire, every possibility must be considered and every possible precaution must be taken in advance.

When fire breaks out there is little or no time to stop and think what should best be done. One has to know.

This necessity for instant action is liable to occur at any moment.

To meet this contingency, Messrs. Irwin & Leighton have organized a fire department. The force for fire fighting comprises a fire chief and eleven firemen. At present there is one fire station, located in Section No. 4. Here is stationed an American La France automobile pumping engine and hose wagon and two members of the Motor Truck Division No. 66 are detailed to operate it. Two additional engines of this type are at present kept in reserve in the garage of the Motor Truck Division.

Each of these engines has a pump that can deliver 750 gallons of water per minute at 120 pounds net water pressure. Each also carries a 45gallon water tank, the contents of which can be forced through 200 feet of small rubber hose by the main pump, without connecting the engine to a hydrant, and used in place of a stream of chemical solution. Each engine has carrying capacity for 1,000 feet of 2%-inch fire hose and eight me n. Each weighs about six tons, when loaded. Ladders, chemical extinguishers and such miscellaneous minor equipment are also carried.

These fire engines are the property of the Government and will be used for the permanent protection of the Camp.

A system of water mains and hydrants, designed to supply an adequate amount of water for fire fighting, in addition to that required for domestic consumption, is being rushed to completion as fast as possible.

Barrels filled with water are placed near buildings and lumber piles. Many chemical extinguishers and thousands of water-filled buckets are distributed throughout the buildings. To these will be added portable water tanks, equipped with hand pumps and fire hose on handcarts distributed along the water mains.

Watch is maintained at the fire station day and night. Fire alarms are received by telephone from the operator at the Camp central telephone switchboard. At the center of each section of the cantonment construction work is a sentry box containing a telephone. This box is painted red and marked "Fire Alarm Telephone." Alarms of fire can readily be sent from any section in this manner.

Instructions for sending in a fire alarm are as follows:—

"In case of fire, run to the nearest telephone, call the operator and tell where the fire is. The operator will sound the alarm. Give the location by Section number and tell what kind of building. Always send in the fire alarm *first*; then try to put out the fire."

A system of inspection by the firemen has been inaugurated, with a view of reducing the fire risk as much as possible. Any accumulations of rubbish in and around buildings are noted and the proper authorities are notified to remove them. Fire appliances are inspected daily, water barrels and fire pails are placed and refilled by a special force of men and teams. Special teams and men are also continuously engaged in removing rubbish and waste material. This is taken to a safe place or burned.

Arrangements also have been made to call upon the fire departments of cities near Camp Dix for help in case, of necessity, and, while we earnestly hope that this need will never occur, we know they will do all they can for us in case we need them.

Any fire, no matter how small, may get beyond control. When conditions are right, any fire beyond control may easily develop into a sweeping conflagration.

Do not forget this!

And while you are remembering it, remember also how important it is that you send in a fire alarm for every fire, no matter how small a fire it may seem to be. We can't bring our fire fighting apparatus and our men to a fire if we are not informed about it.

Give us a chance.

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