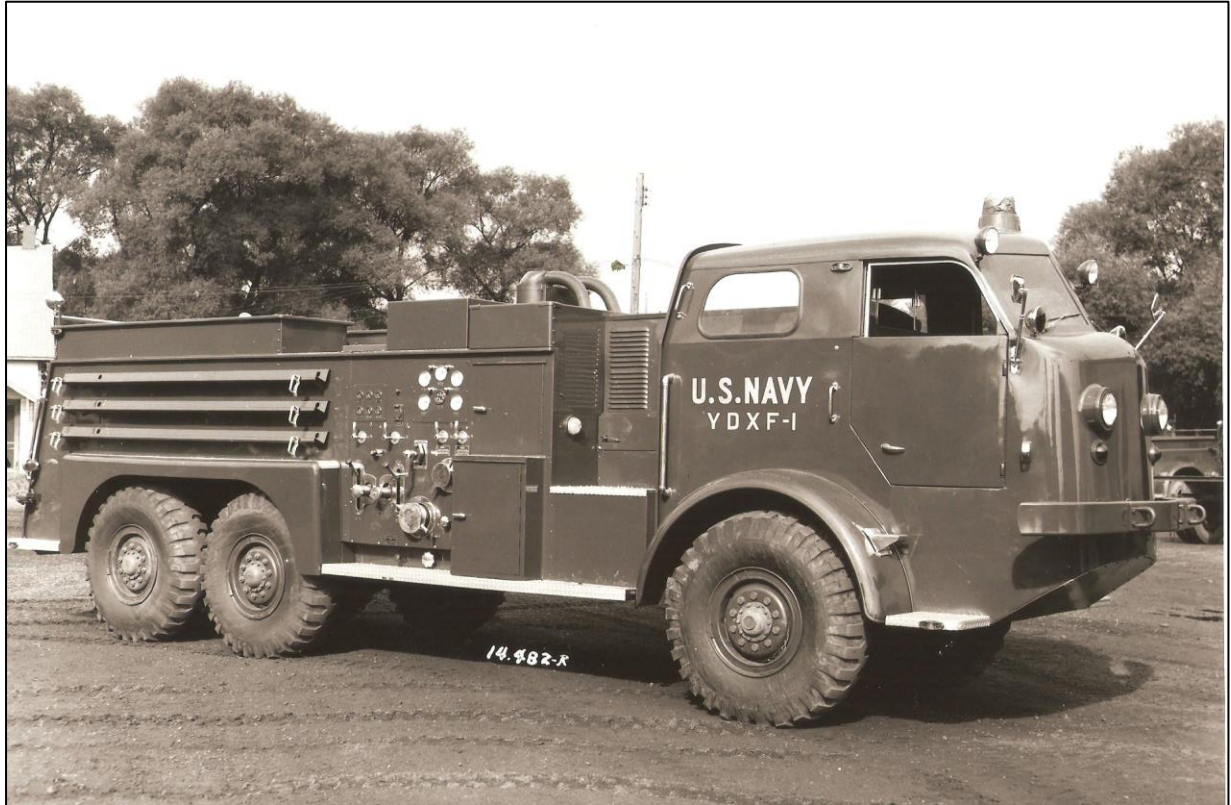


U.S. Navy Experimental Fire Truck YDXF-1

1954 American LaFrance, registration N-29, delivered 27 June 1957.

Stock number C4210-202-5765.



New Pumper for Navy. Recently developed by the American LaFrance Foamite Corp. is this new high pressure air foam pumper especially designed to combat gasoline and oil tank fires. The

Navy Text

“A truck mounted pumper unit with a pumping system having three rotary, power take-off driven pumps; unit has capacity of delivering 2,000 gallons per minute of air foam extinguishing agent. Mounted on a 5-ton, 6x6, closed cab ahead of engine, power steered chassis with a 6-cylinder gasoline engine with multiple speed transmission with overdrive. Equipped with a 700 gallon foam tank, foam generator, searchlights, floodlights, hose couplings, pump strainers, suction strainer and other firefighting equipment.”

American LaFrance Press Release November 1954

LaFrance Foamite Develops New Air Foam Pumper

Development by the American LaFrance Foamite Corp. of a new high pressure air foam pumper designed to extinguish gasoline and oil fires was announced today. The pumper produced for the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, is the first piece of equipment developed capable of pumping pre-formed air foam at pressures as high as 150 pounds per square inch.

The pumper and the Elmira engineer who is in charge of its development will be in California next week for a symposium of fire extinguishing research and engineering.

Speaks at Conference

A.G. Sheppard, director of engineering for the corporation, will deliver a paper at the symposium next Wednesday at Fort Hueneme, Calif.

In discussing "High Pressure Foam," Mr. Sheppard will discuss development of the pumper and a new method of combating gasoline and oil tank fires.

Also attending the West Coast meeting will be Wilfred M. Price, executive vice president and C.H. Lindsay, chief engineer of the fire protection equipment division, of the local company. Company officials said to day they consider it "a great honor" for Mr. Sheppard to be invited to address a worldwide group of extinguishment scientist and research engineers attending the meeting sponsored by the Navy. Mr. Sheppard explained today that the new pumper was developed for the Navy.

First Pumper Ready

The first pumper has been completed and is now enroute to California to be exhibition at next week's meeting. The development for the first time employs sub-surface methods of fighting fires in gasoline and oil tanks .The unit produces 150 pound pressure to pump foam through underground pipes leading to the base of the pump. The foam then works through the body of gasoline in the tank and after reaching the fire at the surface if the tank cools and blankets the fire. This is in comparison to present day methods of extinguishing gasoline and oil fires with a foam blanket from above instead of below the fire surface.

Mr. Sheppard said no pumper has before been perfected which is capable of developing fully forced foam at pressure as high as 150 pounds a square inch. This is approximately twice any pressure previously attained. The vehicle is intended for off highway operation and is a six-wheel drive machine. The gross weight is 38,000 pounds and the machine carries 700 gallons of air foam liquid. Powered by a 325 horsepower engine, the pumper will operate at speeds up to 70 miles per hour. The machine will negotiate a 60 per cent grade and has successfully passed acceptance tests including runs in deep mud, sand and rough terrain at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. It has successfully completed the Bureau of Yards and Docks pump test requirements.

