

PATROL AND AMBULANCE CALLS.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Wagon to Police Calls.....	4	4	11	10	9	11	..	8	14	17	9	9	106
Wagon to Fire Calls.....	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	9
Ambulance Calls.....	11	11	8	11	4	7	..	16	9	8	8	11	104
TOTAL.....	16	16	19	21	14	18	..	24	23	27	19	22	219

Dated Stamford, December 31, 1903.

Respectfully submitted,
 WM. H. BRENNAN,
 Acting Chief of Police.

Report of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department.

TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD:

I herewith submit the annual report of the Stamford Fire Department for the year ending November 30, 1903.

The membership of the Department is 46, as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Chief | Call men. |
| 2 Assistant Chiefs | " " |
| 3 Captains | " " |
| 1 Engineman | " " |
| 2 Assistant Enginemen | " " |
| 21 Hosemen | " " |
| 10 Laddermen | " " |
| 1 Electrician | Permanent men. |
| 5 Drivers | " " |

The apparatus and equipment in service in the Department are as follows:

- 2 Steam fire engines, third size.
- 2 hose carriages, third size.
- 1 Seventy-foot aerial truck.
- 4 Three-gallon chemical extinguishers.
- 8 Horses.
- 2 Supply wagons.
- 3,400 Feet of hose in good condition.
- 1,000 Feet of hose in poor condition.

During the year ending November 30, 1903 the Department responded to 28 calls, of which 26 were bell alarms, and 2 were still alarms. The causes were ascertained to be as follows:

Chimneys	4
Oil lamp	3
Oil stove	1
Mice gnawing matches	1
Overheated stove	2
Sparks from chimney	2
Spontaneous combustion	1
Sparks from bonfires	3
Lightning	1
Defective hearth	1
Upsetting of lantern	1
Overheated furnace	1
Defective flue	1
Plumbers' gasoline stove	1
Rubbish	1
Forge	1
Cleaning of hose	3

The following table shows, from the information obtainable, the total loss on buildings and their contents, and the amount of insurance on said buildings and contents:

Loss on buildings	\$36,477 00
Loss on contents	22,899 97
Total loss on buildings and contents	\$59,376 97
Insurance on buildings	24,402 00
Insurance on contents	12,729 97
Total insurance	\$37,131 97
Loss over insurance on buildings	12,075 00
Loss over insurance on contents	10,170 70

Total loss over insurance

NOTE.—It should be stated that in the losses included in the above is that from a fire on the Leroy place, which is outside the district supplied by hydrants, the loss on building being \$30,000 and on contents \$18,000, while the insurance on building was \$18,500 and on contents \$6,000.

I would earnestly recommend that provision be made for an increase of \$25 per year in the compensation of the call men, with the exception of the Chief and two Assistant Chiefs. This recommendation is submitted in the belief that a grant of this advance would tend to increase the efficiency of the Department. It is evident from an examination of salaries paid in departments similarly organized, in cities the size of Stamford, that the pay of Stamford call firemen is now much below the average, and that, if the increase proposed is granted, the compensation would still be reasonable.

The time seems to have come when it would be advisable to provide for the appointment of an additional man to serve as substitute driver and tillerman. It is necessary at present to pay about \$350 per year for substitute

drivers. This, of course, might be applied to the salary of a man on the permanent force, who, when not required as a driver, would be of valuable service as a tillerman. The advantage of having a steady man in the position can be readily appreciated, familiarity with the horses and with the use of the apparatus being desirable.

The aerial truck has been in service for fifteen years, and in that time has had practically no repair. Its condition at present is such as to call for a general overhauling at a factory. In its present condition, it is liable to break down at any time, thereby entailing damage, danger and inconvenience.

The supply wagon in No. 1 house should receive slight repairs, and should be repainted.

There is need in the Department for 10 rubber coats, 12 fire helmets, and 6 pairs of rubber boots. No helmets have been purchased for the Department since 1885, and no coats have been purchased for at least eight years.

Slight addition to the heating pipes in No. 1 engine house would not only ensure better heating for the building, but would result in a sufficient saving of coal to more than justify the slight outlay required.

I would recommend the purchase of a relief valve and shut-off nozzles for one of the fire engines. By the use of this apparatus, the efforts of the Department to extinguish fires would be materially helped, and it would be possible to avoid damage to property by water to a much greater degree than without such equipment.

I would respectfully call your attention to the fact that there is, at the headquarters of the Department, no desk for the proper keeping of the books and papers of the Chief, which, during the term of my predecessor, were kept at Police Headquarters.

I take the opportunity in this, my first report for the Department, to give expression to the regret of all the officers and members of the Fire Department at the death of George Bowman, who joined the Department as Assistant Chief May 1, 1885, and was its Chief from May 1, 1887, until his death, Sept. 14, 1903. The Mayor and Common Council, by resolution, have expressed their appreciation of his faithful services as Chief of the Fire Department, and the firemen of the city feel that he has left an example of efficiency and loyalty worthy of emulation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HARRY W. PARKER, Chief.

Dated at Stamford, Dec. 19, 1903.

Report of Health Officer.

TO THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL:

I herewith submit my annual report as Health Officer of the City of Stamford.

This city has had about its usual number of contagious diseases, but the severe types of these diseases have, I think, increased over last year. The milder diseases, such as whooping cough, measles, etc., have diminished from last

year. I do not believe that the increase of the severer diseases is due to local conditions, as the city has been kept exceptionally clean during the past year, and I believe that reports from other sections of the State will, by comparison with last year's reports, show an increase in the severer diseases and a decrease in the milder ones.

The total number of contagious diseases reported to this office is, for the year ending December 15, 1903, 201.

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-nine cases of scarlet fever have occurred in this city, and about one-half of this number has been of a fairly severe type, with several resulting in death; the other half has been of a very mild type, and great difficulty has been experienced by the Health Officer in keeping these cases properly isolated. In one instance of gross breach of the quarantine laws, I reported same to prosecuting attorney. This case occurred in the family of one of our merchants where you would least expect to find such carelessness.

Many physicians are negligent, in cases of scarlet fever, in regard to inspecting said cases immediately before ordering the residence fumigated. I can cite many cases where physicians have ordered me to fumigate residences in cases where they had reported the existence of the disease only a week or ten days before; in several of these cases I have found the patient desquamating profusely, and, of course, have had to refuse to fumigate the house until desquamation had been completed.

Diphtheria—40 cases of this disease have been reported.

Membraneous Croup—8 cases of this disease have been reported. In most of these the diphtheria placard was used. (It is now generally conceded by a large majority of physicians that so-called membraneous croup is laryngeal diphtheria.)

Typhoid Fever—26 cases reported. The type has been mild, but several severe cases have occurred. Nine of these cases have occurred in localities where well water is used for drinking purposes. Considering how few wells there are within the city limits, this number (9) of cases should certainly cause us to look upon well water, especially in thickly settled portions of the city, with well-founded suspicion.

I would recommend that the Common Council order all wells within the city limits to be filled up, except in localities where city water is not to be had, as they are a constant source of danger, and in many instances epidemics are directly traceable to their contaminated water.

In cases where wells are maintained on account of being unable to connect with the city supply, I would say that the water should be examined, at least, once every three months, by the property owner, said owner to supply Health Department with a copy of the analysis.

Whooping Cough—14 cases reported.

Varicella—31 cases reported.

Measles—30 cases reported.

Tuberculosis—2 cases reported.

Smallpox—1 case reported, and so well reported that any further statement concerning it would be superfluous.

Privy vaults cleaned	213
Cesspools cleaned	75
Grease traps cleaned	5