

# FIREMEN ON SAVE-LIFE DRIVE

## ONE CALL AND THEY'RE ON THE WAY TO HELP

### Not Dinner, But Aid When Sirens Scream

Firemen and fire trucks for centuries have attracted the attention of wide-eyed youngsters—and even their dads—as they raced down the street, siren blasting and lights flashing.

But the skeptic, especially the lounge-lizard who lives near a fire station and moans: "Guess they're late for dinner" every time the truck rolls at full speed, would do well to look into the complicated fire plan devised for protection of life and property in the average city.

Even Torrance has a plan—all worked out before the fire occurs.

Underwriter's men, those wheels from the Los Angeles office of the Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific, devise fire-fighting schemes for protection—all aimed at lowering the number of fires, the loss per fire, and the insurance rates.

Each progressive fire department takes the word of these men as gospel. It pays—they can reduce the fire rates.

If you have a fire in a downtown area—a high value district—you must "roll everything." Send all the equipment available as soon as the call is received.

Why, you ask.

Because, the Underwriters say, this high value stuff is valuable.

or Pueblo, these fire experts from the Los Angeles office say that you must roll at least two pumps, day or night, on a house or other structural fire. Also, a truck company should go.

Truck companies carry ladders, salvage and clean-up equipment, and most of all trained manpower, so necessary at a blaze.

Then if the fire amounts to anything, additional equipment must be rolled and empty stations must be covered by other fire trucks, just in case of another blaze.

Here, and in many towns like Torrance, this is a real problem. Torrance has four pumps, and if three of them are called to one blaze, another truck, with only two or three men, is responsible for the entire Torrance population of 11,379 houses plus the factories and business places.

If there is a second fire requiring the assistance of more than the one reserve truck—brother, you're out of luck.

A county-wide mutual aid plan is in effect, but delays in getting fire equipment from other jurisdictions sometimes are costly.

So when the fire trucks roll you can bet your last Confederate buck that someone's in trouble, and not that the fire ladders are late for soup call.



DEALING WITH DYNAMITE . . . This is not the way to clean clothes—with gasoline, kerosene or other flammable cleaning solvents—if you want to stay alive. Pretty Rosalie Goldring should scrub the dishpan and fluid for modern fireproof cleaners—or better yet, send her wearing apparel to a commercial cleaning establishment.

## Home Hazard Check Next On FD Plans

Firemen in big shiny red fire engines this week are preparing to tour the neighborhood, calling on home owners to remind them that 12,000 people died in home fires in 1951—and to ask their cooperation in reducing the annual fire loss.

While Torrance firemen, are house visit some time later this month, blaze squelchers in county areas this week are knocking on doors and handing out helpful fire prevention tips.

## Prevention for Industry Vital In Record Years

Prepare Check Sheets

Torrance Fire Chief J. J. Benner said yesterday that his office is preparing household check sheets to be distributed soon to all homeowners in the hopes that citizens will take a few minutes to check their own safety.

"Electric appliances, misplaced burning cigarettes and matches, fires from flammable liquids and the ordinary unattended rubbish, fire to the list of dangerous potential hazards," the fire chief said.

"It seems incredible that 12,000 people must die each year because of carelessness with fire. That represents a third of the entire population of this city," Benner concluded.

Adopt Mascot

The County Fire Department has adopted a fire prevention week mascot—Sparky—a helmet-bedecked spotted dog who will sparke the county's "stop fires" campaign.

Fire engine crews from county stations in Carson and Lomita are placing a copy of a small, illustrated leaflet in the hands of each area resident. The pamphlet points up the main fire causes and gives helpful hints on fire safety.

Chief Benner joined with County Fire Chief Cecil Gehr in warning that burning in incinerators is limited to the hours of 6 and 10 a.m., and burning should be in approved type incinerators.

Most fires can be prevented by the simple process of correcting unsafe conditions.

Here are a few practical suggestions:

1. Prevent accumulation of unnecessary amounts of combustible material, such as waste, rags, or inflammable substances.
2. Check the premises—especially the heat and power plant, lighting systems, oil storage—for fire hazards.
3. Makes use of proper means of private "first-aid" fire protection, such as installation of extinguishers of an approved design, and keep them properly maintained.
4. Cooperate with Torrance and other fire officials.



COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARD . . . An electrical spider or octopus as the name firemen have given to a plug with a multitude of outlets. Fire Department engineer Virgil Newman explains to Rosalie Goldring that outlets are not made to handle more than one or two circuits and she should avoid overloading the wiring in any one room. Also, the firemen pointed out, never let wires run under rugs or carpeting.

## BUDGET BLUES Radio Lingo Readies PLAGUE FIRE TRUCKS FOR ACTION FIGHTERS, TOO

Here's why fire chiefs, making up their annual budgets, get gray hair.

The following is a hypothetical example of what it costs to put out a blaze.

A fire truck (costing about \$18,000) stops at a fire hydrant on the way to the fire. A fireman (value unknown) jumps off the back end with a 4-way valve (\$120) attached to the hose (\$1.80 per foot). The truck rolls to the fire, laying out 1200-feet of line (\$2160). More firemen jump off, dragging in short 200-foot hand hose lines (1.20 per foot), equipped with fog nozzles (\$60 each).

The truck driver drops the pump in gear and gives the firemen water (cost going up daily) through the small lines. He connects a shut-off (\$65) to the big line from the hydrant, and signals for water to supply the truck tank which is feeding the two smaller lines.

Canvas salvage covers (\$35 each) are spread over furniture and personal belongings in the home to prevent water damage. Smoke ejector (\$120) operated by portable generator (\$250) is set up to ventilate building.

Ladders (\$30-\$100) are set up so firemen can go to roof. On big fires, deluge set (\$300) is brought into operation for heavy streams of water.

Ever watch a fire truck race down the street with siren screaming—and then see it come to a halt, turn around, stop the siren and return from whence it came?

Here's the reason.

Fire trucks, just like police cars, all carry two-way radio.

When a fire rig is ordered to respond to a call, the fire captain snaps on the radio as the truck pulls out of the station doors.

If another truck arrives at the blaze, and the man-in-charge of that engine sees that he can handle it, he notifies his dispatcher over the radio.

At once all other trucks responding to the fire are ordered to return to their stations or maybe to "cover-up" an empty station while a truck is fighting the flames.

The lingo from the fire to the dispatcher over a County Fire Department radio sounds like this:

"Engine six-three (63) to LA—sofa fire—no help needed—15 minutes."

"The dispatcher acknowledges: 'Engine six-three, ten-four,' (which is code for OK). Then he orders:

"LA, to all companies responding with engine six-three, return to quarters."

In layman's language, Engine 63 has said that he has found a sofa ablaze, that he needs no assistance, and that the truck will be at the scene for another 15 minutes.

Radio has speeded up the dispatching of fire equipment many-fold, and has increased the efficiency of fire-fighting forces countless times over.

What the firemen are waiting for, however, is television. It'll let 'em see the fire that they missed when they receive the radio call.

"Return to quarters."

**INCINERATORS MUST MEET RIGID TEST**

Faulty incinerators are one of the main causes of fires, according to Torrance Fire Department records. For this reason, an ordinance requiring that all home incinerators must be of an approved type was adopted recently by the City Council.

The law says that the incinerators must be constructed of non-combustible material, must have a stack equipped with a spark arrester, and must have a door.



VISITING FIREMEN . . . Passing out fire prevention week literature can be nice work when you have a customer like shapely Eva Clemens who is shown here getting the printed word from Fire Captain Roy Swank of the County Fire Department's Engine Co. 6. Helping Eva aboard the big red truck is Engineer D. Graves, right, while Fireman Paul Schneider gentlemanly holds the door. Fire crews are touring residential and business sections throughout the county distributing helpful safety reminders.

## Boundary Line Mix-up Can Cause Delay In Emergency

Because of a hodge-podge of what political jurisdiction you city-limit boundary lines, it is doubly important that every person know in what area he lives and what fire department serves his area, Torrance firemen said yesterday.

Those who live in Hollywood, Riviera, Seaside and Waterford sometimes forget that they reside within the Torrance boundaries and receive fire protection from this city, it was indicated.

Take time now to check an old tax bill, or consult a map to be sure that you know in

TORRANCE FIRE DEPT.  
CLIP AND PLACE BY TELEPHONE

To Report a FIRE  
Call  
**TORRANCE 3126**

(In dial areas, dial 116 and ask the operator for Torrance 3126)

Do Not Delay In Reporting Any Fire

This page has been donated by the Torrance Herald in the interest of the community with hopes that home owners, business men and plant managers and employees will work toward a goal of "no fires for '52."