City of Covington, Ky.
1938

First Annual
Fire Safety Educational
Manual

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FIRST ANNUAL

Fire Safety Educational Manual

City of Covington, Ky.

1938

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE
Hal M. Ricketts  Judge Jos. P. Goodenough  Frank A. Northcutt

Published by
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4th and Court Avenue
Covington, Ky.
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CITY MANAGER...

FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS Covington has had a highly favorable Fire Safety record.

With the full co-operation of the public in active work for the prevention of Fires throughout the year, I feel sure that we can hope in the near future to better the margin of fire records hereafter held, as compared with other cities of similar size throughout the United States.

Much can be accomplished by Citizens and Organizations in educational work for better fire prevention by participating to the fullest extent by circulating this fire prevention Manual.

THEODORE KLEEMPERER
City Manager, Covington, Ky.

HOW TO PREVENT FIRES IN THE HOME

SAFEGUARDING YOURSELF AND FAMILY FROM FIRE

CHILDREN TODAY live in a world educated in "safety," from the lighted lamp to the incinerator. Do not allow little children to carry lamps, and never set a candle on a table except when a child may pull it over.

Do not use paper or decorative shades of inflammable material on lamps or electric light bulbs.

Electricity is a hidden hazard, and extends throughout the wire systems of a building. Be sure it is safely installed, and have the system carefully inspected and passed upon by a recognized electrical inspector. Many fires are due to defective electric wiring.

Do not destroy the insulation on electric light, fan, or heater wires by hanging them on hooks or nails. Immediately repair or replace any defective switches, fuses, sockets, etc. A fuse is the "safety valve" of an electric system, and should never be replaced by one of larger size or any other material.

Before attacking electric iron, vacuum cleaners, cooking utensils or any other electrical device to your lighting circuits or sockets, consult an electrician as to the ability of your wiring to withstand this additional load. Electrical wiring systems are designed to carry only a certain current and are overloaded may cause fires. Numerous fires have been caused by leaving electric wires with the current on. Disconnect immediately when not in use.

Do not use or keep a flammable solvent near or in a fireplace.

HEATING HAZARDS.—Coal and kindling should preferably be kept within a brick or stone enclosure and not stored inside or outside framed partitions or directly against walls of boiler or furnace rooms.

Never put kindling into the oven.

Deposit all ashes in metal receptacles or upon non-combustible floors, removing same from building at least once a week. Barrels or boxes should not be used for storing or carrying ashes unless they are constructed entirely of metal.

Before starting fires in the autumn, thoroughly clean out furnace and flues thereto, also fireplaces. Carefully examine them and immediately repair or replace any defective parts.

Do not burn out chimneys and flues by making an especially hot fire with paper or wood. Main chimneys should be cleaned from roof to cellar, and all stovetops where there exist the possibility of metal arcing or wires being in contact with any part of the chimney.

Clean all flues and chimneys, and replace any tile, creosote flues and chimneys with substantial chimney lining. Piping lengths of metal stovetops are dangerous.

At least an eight-inch clearance is necessary between top and sides of furnace, broiler, and flues from partitions or other combustible materials. Keep at once any broken plaster in ceiling or partitions repaired.

Do not have steam pipes in contact with woodwork or near inflammable materials and do not permit rubbing to accumulate behind steam coils or radiators.

Gas stoves or other heaters should have a ventilating flue to carry off the burned gas flues which are poisonous. Do not use portable rubber or similar tubing, but connect all gas stoves rigidly and securely with gas pipe. Examine valves, joints and connections and do not leak and do not leak.

Never permit a stove of any kind to be set up without stove, brick, concrete or metal protection underfired, or near a partition without a metal shield and air space.

Never run stovetops through partitions, or paste paper over flue holes.

All types of open fires or stoves, wherever there are children, should be provided with substantial spark screen.

Do not throw waste paper or an open fire.

Every period of extreme cold results in numerous fires due to the heating apparatus. Keep in mind this next winter. Wrap your heater.

Examine the heating apparatus of your kitchen range from grease and lint by cleaning with hot water and lye.

Do not allow your family to jeopardize their lives by pouring kerosene onto the kitchen fire to hurry it along.

Extreme care should be used with kerosene or alcohol stoves, which should always be filled in the daytime and away from any open flame.

GASOLINE AND EXPLOSIVES. — Do not use gasoline or kerosene in the presence of open flames.

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THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN FIRE PREVENTION

Fires are of a general interest only to the average person. He reads of them in the daily papers, especially when they may be considered as catastrophes, and wonders as to the consequence. As a purely personal matter the average man or woman has little or no knowledge of fires or fire cognosce. This is a natural condition as the average person may live his allotted time of three score and ten with never an actual fire experience.

The outstanding factor is that of danger to life or to bodily injury. Hardly a day goes by but that the death in bed, and too frequently there is a story of a holocaust involving tens and hundreds of people. Fire prevention and the fire departments have a bearing on this and are worthwhile endeavors. This department wishing to aid the Fire Prevention Committee of the public invites you to read the fire hazard in this manual.

FRANK A. NORCUTT,
Chief, Covington Fire Department.

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It is a proven fact that the home which is kept CLEAN, No rubbish, No Waste Papers in house or garage, seldom burns.

No OILY WASTE, Oily Rags, Oily Mops, Except in METAL CONTAINERS with all ashes in METAL CONTAINERS.

No ELECTRICAL WIRES hung on nails. No store of furnaces pipes, roofs or wooden partitions.

Stoves, Stove Pipes, Furnaces and Furnac pipes protected from wooden partitions or ceilings by metal or asbestos wall.

No GAS connections by rubber hose. Iron pipes only.

NO GASOLINE, NAPHTHA, BENZINE, BENZOL, ETHYL CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, or any inflammable liquid near the gasoline.

No liquid Stove Polish near open light.

No Furniture polish or wr rings or metal on METAL CONTAINERS.

No tin or paste used for thawing freezing pipes.

No MATCHES within reach of children, but KEPT IN METAL BOXES.

All CHEMISTS and FLUSS well mortared and without side holes.

No GASOLINE in GARAGE except small metal SAFETY casks.

No lighting of matches or OPEN FLAMES ever used in closets.

No OPEN BON FIRES.

Cautions in use of ELECTRIC IRON.

No OPEN FIRE PLACE without metal screen protection.

Discarded CIGARS or CIGARETTE butts must be burned in furnace or stove.

ALWAYS REMEMBER that you must take no chances with GASOLINE; it is one of the most DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES in contact with your environment.

Gasoline must be kept in tightly fastened SAFETY METAL CANS; NEVER in WOODEN bottles.

GASOLINE should NEVER be uncovered within the house, nor at any point where its FUMES or VAPOUR can travel to an open flame, a live electric spark, or a gas jet.

DO NOT USE GASOLINE FOR CLEANING. GASOLINE in quantity should be kept in underground tanks.

NO ONE should be permitted to SMOKE in a garage.

NO ONE should be permitted to smoke in an automobile while its GASOLINE tank is being filled.

NEVER use water upon a GASOLINE or KEROSENE FIRE. Use a CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER, or throw earth or sand upon it—TEN to SMOOTHER IT.

Take, for example, the matter of CLEANING. It may seem a great convenience that we can keep our clothes and clothes with GASOLINE, or SOME RETAIL CLEANER but it is a DANGEROUS practice.

Fumes of GASOLINE will spread in all directions, GASOLINE FUMES are not dissipated in the atmosphere but sink slowly, sometimes they settle to the floor of a room and flood along like the waters of a stream, filling every hole and crevice that it can find, and remaining there perhaps for days. A burning CIGAR, a burning GAS jet, a glowing coal in the fireplace, the space, sparks, will instantly cause explosion with a flash of flame which sets fire to any inflammable material within its reach.

In one case these fumes were carried outside a building to a lighted lamp thirty feet away, where they took fire and flashed back to the building, which was entirely destroyed. In another the mere opening of a door between the room where GASOLINE was being used to clean gloves and a room where there was a lighted lamp caused a destructive explosion.

A woman and one child lost their lives as well as complete destruction of a home.

Sticks of DYNAMITE will tear solid rocks to pieces. Who would be foolish enough to leave DYNAMITE lying around?

Yet it would take eighty-three pounds of DYNAMITE to do as much DAMAGE as the vapor from one gallon of GASOLINE.
SOME FACTS FROM AN EXPERIENCED MAN TRAME

KENTUCKY ACTUARIAL BUREAU

To The Editor of the Fire Educational Manual, Covington, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:-

I have read with profound interest the various appealing items in your Manual on Fire Prevention Education, which should be given serious consideration by the heads of all Municipalities and Boards of Education.

I believe it would be in order to preface this topic with a fire accident slogan, to that old slogan, "An Apple a day will keep the Doctor away", with "A thought a day might keep a Fire away" and novel "Put out until tomorrow what you can do today", when it refers to a bit of attention that might be the means of saving life and property from destruction by fire.

I have spent the best part of my life as an Inspector for the Fire Insurance Companies in Northern Kentucky, and the Ocean of little fire producers that I contacted that a most skeptical.

Next to the lighting and heating units, the real menace in the ordinary home is the accumulation of cast off furniture and wearing apparels, stored away in dark attics and concealed spaces, a real friend to the fire demon.

One of the most valuable and outstanding assets that the Fire Insurance Companies have in Northern Kentucky, is the hearty and real co-operation of the members of the Fire Department. Fire Insurance rate making organizations can penalize property owners for fire producing hazards, but they cannot order them eliminated, and here is where the Companies, friend, the Fire Department step in and get to work with their Inspection Department. If the hazard complained of is not removed or safeguarded within a reasonable time, the culprit in question is served with a notice to appear in Court. I am pleased however, to say that in most cases that good judgment has proven the better part of valor in case of the nature.

I sincerely hope for the mutual benefit of all concerned that this Manual on Fire Prevention will be given the hearty reception that a treatise of this nature so richly deserves.

Cordially yours,

CHAR H. TRAME.

Branch Manager,
Kentucky Actuarial Bureau.

A WORD ABOUT ARSONISTS

HENRY A. BERNDT, Sheriff, Kenton County

The County Sheriff is very much interested in Fire Prevention in all its phases, but, besides the overuse and misuse of fire caused by accident or carelessness, he is vitally interested in arson fires. I.e., fires set by criminal minded persons with an insane fire complex.

These arsonists, sly, cunning and dangerous, they have absolutely no regard for lives of persons, they operate in the blackness of night and are gone before any evidence shows or can incendiarize. However, he be a always caught in the fallacy, as the years live on, in cases of life lost he is executed.

The promise for gain are those who fire their premises for the insurance money they hope to collect have not a chance, with our new scientific method of investigation the type is always apprehended.

Our County has been free of any type of arson during my administration and hope this condition will prevail for the balance of my tenure of the sheriff's office.

All good citizens are invited to report to me at any time, any suspicions they may have after any suspicious looking fire, for that is the duty of every citizen.

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