

2. EXISTING CAPITAL PLANT

(a) *Number of Facilities*

(1) *Buildings*.—The fire service operates 110,000 vehicles of all types with the major apparatus consisting of 60,000 pumper trucks and 8,000 aerial ladder trucks. Housing these motor vehicles is the primary reason for fire department buildings.

In those cities maintaining paid departments or part-paid departments the fire stations also serve as living quarters for the on-duty men.

In the volunteer service the buildings are equipped as meeting rooms for the members and may also serve as community social centers.

The paid fire service building facilities are generally more complex than those found in volunteer departments. For example, a large city commonly has a headquarters station, which may or may not house apparatus, a number of company stations strategically located within the community, a large maintenance shop, training center, communications or fire alarm center, and so forth. A modern trend in the larger cities is to combine administrative, maintenance, training, and communications functions in a complex of buildings within the community limits.

(2) *Fire stations*.—A survey conducted in mid-1965 disclosed that the fire service maintains 2,760 headquarters buildings. Many of these serve as central stations where apparatus and manpower are housed in addition to the administrative and specialist offices.

The same survey disclosed that 25,600 fire stations were in existence at the time. It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of the 17,000 departments serving communities of less than 2,500 population maintain only a single station housing 1 to 3 motor vehicles.

(3) *Shops*.—A total of 1,200 maintenance shops is provided. Most small departments, paid and volunteer, have no special shop facilities. In a few cases, in larger departments, the fire department maintenance work is carried on in central garages in conjunction with other city departments, such as street, police, parks, etc.

(4) *Training centers*.—Most paid fire departments provide some type of training facilities, and a total of 1,560 centers is maintained. Some of these are multibuilding facilities but are not further identified.

A number of counties now provide a central training facility for joint use by all volunteer departments within the county limits. In addition, some States provide fire training centers at colleges or universities as a part of their adult education extension service. The totals of the above are not large and have been included in the above figures.

(5) *Fire alarm centers*.—A total of 450 separate communications centers is operated. These include facilities for reception of public alarms by means of telephone or telegraph. Dispatching services all include the use of radio for communicating with mobile vehicles.

In all other departments similar forms of alarm reception and dispatching equipment are maintained but the center is located within a building which provides for other functions as well.

(b) *Distribution by States*

Fire departments are distributed as shown in table 1 below: (Fire stations may be estimated in a given State by reckoning the number