

Accident to the Fire Brigade Tender Overturned Superintendent and Three Men Injured

An alarming accident occurred to the Sheffield fire Brigade this afternoon, unfortunately resulting in injury to Superintendent Frost and three of his men. About half-past two a call was received at the principal fire station in Rockingham Street for the brigade to proceed to Woodthorpe. The call was responded to with the usual celerity, and Superintendent Frost and Engineer Hadwick, Firemen Smith, Gunstone, Matthews, Needham, and A. J. Smith, rode to the scene of the fire. With a pair of good horses a fast pace was obtained. The Superintendent, with Hadwick, Smith and Gunstone, rode on the near side of the tender, and Matthews, Needham and A. J. Smith were on the offside. On reaching the bottom of Matilda Street, the horses were about to turn into St Mary's Road when for a moment their course was barred by a horse and cart. The driver pulled his pair to one side, and as the cart had been pulled up the course was clear, and the journey down St Mary's Road would have continued. But the momentary checking of the horses caused the tender to swerve, and the wheels dashed with such violence against the kerbstone that the tender was overturned. Matthews, Needham, and A. J. Smith realising the danger of the position, made a jump, and succeeded in reaching the road in safety. The men on the nearside, however, had not the same chance of escape. Almost before they saw the danger they were thrown from the tender with great violence onto the footpath. The driver was thrown from his seat, but luckily, save for a shaking, he was not hurt and, sticking to the reins, he succeeded in preventing his horses taking flight. Supt. Frost, Engineer Hadwick, and Firemen Smith and Gunstone were not so fortunate. Help was soon at hand, and it was at once seen that all three men were injured, the Superintendent somewhat seriously. News of the accident was conveyed to the Central Fire Station, and the ambulance was at once despatched to the scene of the mishap, a second tender and another lot of firemen being despatched under Sergeant Waller to the fire at Woodthorpe. Supt. Frost and his comrades were conveyed to the Royal Hospital, where they were at once examined. Mr Frost has not only received a violent shock to the system, but he has sustained injury to the breast bone and fractured ribs. Hadwick's shoulder is badly sprained, and he has a nasty cut just over the eye; Smith has a sprained shoulder, injury to the ribs, and a cut on the nose; and Matthews has a severe sprain of the knee, besides several small cuts and bruises. Supt. Frost's injuries were so bad that the doctor in charge at once ordered his detention in hospital, and it is not unlikely that he may remain there for some time. The other men had their injuries attended to, and were taken to the Fire Station. They will, no doubt, be off duty for several days.

The accident was no doubt due to the slippery condition of the streets following the slight fall of rain and sleet. Considering the pace that the horses were travelling at the time the tender was overturned, the great wonder is that the injuries of the men were not more serious.