

*Supt. Frost's
Annual Report 1896*

*City of Sheffield
Fire Brigade Superintendent's Annual Report*

Fire Station

Rockingham Street

January 1897

*J. Jackson Esq
Chief Constable*

Sir,

I beg to report for your information that during the year ended 3rd Dec 1896 the number of calls received and fires or supposed fires was 116, a decrease of 1 on the previous year.

Of these six related related to Chimneys on Fire, 2 were False Alarms, and two were beyond the City boundary.

The total loss from fire was estimated at £18,749, 13, 0; The information was obtained either from the owners of the property endangered or from the assessors who adjusted the settlements. As compared with last year there has been an increased of £9,134, 14, 0., in the amount of property destroyed.

The calls received were distributed as follows

<i>269</i>	<i>days</i>	<i>none</i>
<i>80</i>	<i>days</i>	<i>one</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>two</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>three</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>four</i>

The causes of fire were:- Sparks from Flues and hot ashes 22. Heat from furnace 13. Defective flues 10. Dropping lighted matches, candles and cigarettes 8. Foul chimneys 6. Children with matches 5. Gas 4. Friction 4. Candles left burning 4. Paraffin lamps 3. Curtains in contact with lighted gas lamps 3. Explosion of benzoline 2. Incendiarism 1. Other causes 6. Unascertained 27.

The fires in Workshops and Manu-factories numbered 47, in dwelling houses 31, Sale Shops 20, breweries and public houses 5, Stables and outhouses 5, Farms 4, timber yards 2, hay and straw stores 1, Food Station 1, Theatre 1, and Building in course of erection 1.

One fire occurred in the City at which life was lost viz., at the dwelling house No. 86 Broad Lane, on the 9th May. Hannah Gasgoine was found by the Brigade in the Kitchen burnt to a cinder. The origin of the fire was the exploding or dropping of a paraffin lamp.

The Firemen and Engine were engaged at fire 105 hours and 48 minutes, an average of 55.68 minutes at each fire – the time being taken from receiving notice to men and Engine returning to the Fire Station.

The Steam fire engines have been turned out to 17 fires and worked at 7 with good results.

The boilers of the Steam Engines have been several times inspected during the year by an officer of the National Insurance Company with whom they are insured and they are in good condition.

The six horses belonging to the Department are healthy and in good working condition. Two horses have been purchased during the year, and one was sold having become unfit for the work.

During the year a new combined tender escape, 1,000 yards of hose, 34 pairs of couplings, 8 standpipes and 6 branches have been added to the equipment of the Brigade. The hose boxes attached to the Escapes at Millhouses and Neepsend Police Stations are now fitted with the necessary appliances. A 45 foot Escape has been stationed at Moorhead instead of at Fire Station as formerly.

The horse ambulance Carriage which is kept at this Station has been turned out 55 times, occupying 59 hours and 36 minutes or an average of one hour and five minutes per journey.

I have during the year regularly drilled the members of the Brigade, and the officers and Constables at the different Police Stations to the use of fire appliances and escapes and the methods of rescuing persons from buildings.

I have also frequently visited the municipal and public buildings, hospitals, large places of business during the year.

The Steam Fire Engine and all other appliances, except the two tenders are in good condition and are distributed as shown in table No.1

Table No.2 Shews the number of fires attended by the Brigade during the year and description of property at risk.

Table No.3 Shews the worth performed by the Fire Brigade horses. In addition to the worth shewn they have exercised 252 hours and fifty minutes and have also been regularly drilled and turned out every morning (Except Sundays) Since the adoption of the swinging harnesses in October last.

I have the honour to be ,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

William Frost - Superintendent

Table No. 1

Showing the number of Engines, Tenders, Fire Escapes, Ladders, Hose and apparatus kept at different Stations in the City

Name of Stations	Steam Engines	Manual Engines	Combined Tender & Fire Escape	Hose Tenders	Fire Escapes	Telescopic Fire Ladders	Lengths of Ladders	Lengths of Canvas Hose in Feet	Lengths of Leather Hose in Feet	Plug Standpipes	Hydrant Standpipes	Hydrant Keys	Branches	Jets	Pairs of Connectors	Handpumps	Axes	Breechings	Buckets	Jumping Sheets	Smoke Jackets	Respirators
Central	3	1	1	2	1		10	8114	1280	6	13	10	26	45	3	4	27	6	23	1	1	1
Attercliffe					1		4	600		1	1	1	1	3		1	1		6	1		
Brightside					1		4	600		1	1	1	1	3		1	1		6	1		
Broomhill					1		4	600		1	1	1	1	3		1	1		6	1		
Duke Street - Weighhouse						1																
Ecclesall					1		4	600		1	1	1	1	3		1	1		6	1		
Moorhead					1																	
Millhouses					1			600			1	1	1	3		1			6			
Neepsend					1			600		1	1	1	1	3		1			6			
Tenter Street					1											1						
Walkley					1		4	600		1	1	1	1	3		1	1		6	1		
Totals	3	1	1	2	10	1	30	1,2314	1280	12	20	17	33	66	3	12	32	6	65	6	1	1

Table No. 3
Showing the work done by Fire Brigade Horses for the year ending 3rd December 1896

<i>Description of work</i>	<i>Hours Employed</i>		<i>No. of Journeys</i>	<i>Attercliffe</i>	<i>Broomhill</i>	<i>Brightside</i>	<i>Ecclesall</i>	<i>Walkley</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Fire Station</i>	<i>Old Town Hall</i>	<i>Tenter Street</i>	<i>Lamp Shop</i>	<i>Mortuary</i>	<i>Institute</i>	<i>Boston House</i>	<i>Millhouses</i>	<i>Rockingham Station</i>	<i>Hospitals</i>	<i>Fires</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Loads of Coal	387	20	244	15	9	8	17	14	69	28	14	26	10	6	6	13	9				244
Number of Prisoners	409	20	517	89	30	12	60	91				1				5		1255			1543
Lamps	487	50	115										115								115
Dead bodies	58	43	46											46							46
Ambulance	59	36	55																47		47
Fires	105	48	101																	101	101
Ashes	69	25	50							48	2										50
Miscellaneous	150	31	75																		
Totals	712	117	1195	104	39	20	77	105	69	76	16	27	125	52	6	18	9	1255	47	101	2146