

CHAPTER 68.

FREETOWN FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

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CHAPTER 68.

FREETOWN FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES.

9 of 1948.
6 of 1952.
20 of 1959.

An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the protection of the City of Freetown from fire.

[18TH MAY, 1948.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Freetown Fire Prevention Measures Ordinance.

Interpreta-
tion.

Cap. 65.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—
“City” means the City of Freetown as defined in the Freetown Municipality Ordinance, or any Ordinance substituted therefor.

“Fire Authority” means the City Council of Freetown as constituted by the same Ordinances.

“Fire Brigade” includes all such persons as are from time to time employed by the Fire Authority as officers of the Fire Brigade or firemen and all such apparatus, equipment and

implements as the Fire Authority shall or may provide for the efficient protection of life and property in case of fire in the City.

“Fire Brigade Headquarters” means the place for the time being notified in the *Gazette* by the Fire Authority as the Headquarters of the Fire Brigade.

3. The Fire Authority shall employ such number of firemen and shall provide such equipment as to meet efficiently all normal requirements. Firemen and equipment.
20 of 1959.

4. The Fire Authority shall appoint such officers to train, manage and control the Fire Brigade as they think necessary, being not less than two, and the Fire Authority shall nominate one of such officers to be the Fire Brigade Commander and another to be the Assistant Fire Force Commander. Officers.

5. On an alarm of fire being communicated to them, the Chief Fire Officer or Assistant Chief Fire Officer together with the firemen then on duty, shall proceed as quickly as possible to the locality of the fire with all such fire-fighting apparatus, safety equipment and other implements, as are requisite and available. Duties of Fire Brigade on alarm being given.

6. (1) Notwithstanding any law or custom to the contrary, all vehicular traffic in the City shall give way to the Fire Brigade when proceeding to the locality of a fire. Right of way of Fire Brigade when proceeding to a fire.

(2) Any person in charge or control of any vehicle who neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

7. (1) Any Police Officer on learning of an outbreak of fire in the City shall promptly inform Fire Brigade Headquarters and Police Headquarters and shall within the vicinity of the outbreak give the alarm by blowing his whistle and crying “Fire.” Duties of Police Force in case of fire.

(2) The Senior Police Officer at the scene of the fire shall take such steps as may be laid down by the Commissioner of Police for ensuring the maintenance of order, and shall have power to authorise, for the purpose of extinguishing the fire or protecting life and property, any Police Officer to prevent the entry of persons or vehicles into any place whether public or privately-owned, and to enter into any land or building without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof, and to do such acts

therein, whether causing damage or not, as are reasonably required for the purposes aforesaid.

(3) Any act which may be done by a Police Officer when duly authorised under sub-section (2) hereof, may also be done by any fireman acting under the direct orders of an officer of the Fire Brigade.

(4) No action for damages in respect of anything done under the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3) shall be maintained against the Fire Authority or any Police Officer or any officer of the Fire Brigade or any fireman.

(5) Any person who wilfully obstructs or hinders any Police Officer or any officer of the Fire Brigade or any fireman in the execution of the powers conferred upon him by this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

Senior Fire
Officer to
have control
of fire-
fighting
operations.

8. At any fire, the senior officer of the Fire Brigade present shall have full charge and control of all operations for the extinction of the fire including the fixing of the position of fire engine and apparatus, the attaching of hose to any water supply, and the selection of the parts of the building on fire or of adjoining buildings against which water is to be directed, and may cause the water to be shut off from the mains and pipes in any area in order to give a greater supply and pressure of water for extinguishing the fire and the Fire Authority shall not be liable to any claim by reason of the interruption of the supply of water occasioned only by compliance with such a requirement.

Fire alarms.

9. The Fire Authority may erect or fix and maintain fire alarms, in such positions in any street or public place in the City as they think fit, after consultation with the Commissioner of Police.

False alarms
of fire.

10. Any person who by any means gives an alarm of fire knowing it to be false, shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds and in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, and for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

Fire hydrants
and water
supplies.

11. (1) The Fire Authority shall provide and maintain, or cause to be provided and maintained such fire hydrants and other water installations as are necessary for securing the best

practical use of the available water supply in case of fire, and the situation of every such hydrant shall be plainly indicated by a notice or distinguishing mark which may be placed on any wall or fence adjoining a street or public place.

(2) Any person who uses a fire hydrant or other water installation as mentioned in sub-section (1) for any purpose not authorised by the Fire Authority shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

(3) The Fire Authority may use for the purpose of extinguishing fires any convenient or suitable supply of water.

12. The Chief Fire Officer may, on the receipt of information which he believes to be true, enter at any time any dwelling house, store house, or premises of any nature, with a view to ascertaining if inflammable matter is being stored to the danger of life and property and shall be empowered to order the immediate removal of such inflammable matter. Any person refusing to obey or comply with such instructions shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

Power to search for and order removal of inflammable materials.

13. (1) The Fire Authority shall secure efficient arrangements—

Fire Authority to make arrangements for obtaining information for fire-fighting and for fire prevention. 20 of 1959.

(a) for obtaining by inspection or otherwise information required for fire-fighting purposes with respect to the character of buildings and other property in the area of the Fire Authority, the available water supplies and the means of access thereto, the limited use or prohibition of the use of Dutch stoves in old buildings except on concrete pavements outside such buildings or in regular kitchens and with respect to other material local circumstances;

(b) for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to prevent or mitigate damage to property resulting from measures taken in dealing with fires in the area of the Fire Authority;

(c) for the giving, when requested, of advice in respect of buildings and other property in the area of the Fire Authority as to fire prevention, restricting the spread of fire and means of escape in case of fire.

(2) For the purposes of such arrangements, a member of the Freetown Fire Brigade, if authorised in writing by the Fire Authority, may between the hours of six o'clock in the forenoon

and six o'clock in the afternoon on any weekday not being a public holiday enter any dwelling house, store house, or premises of any nature, and any person obstructing or refusing admission to an authorised member of the said Fire Brigade to enter any premises shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

Fire Brigade
may operate
outside the
City
boundaries.

14. The Fire Authority may permit the Fire Brigade to be utilised for the purposes of extinguishing fires which occur outside the boundaries of the City.

Payment of
expenses.

15. All salaries, wages, pensions and gratuities payable, and all charges, expenses and liabilities incurred, under the provisions of this Ordinance or of any rules made in pursuance thereof, shall be paid out of the City Fund.

Fire
Authority
may sue and
be sued.
Rules.

16. The Fire Authority may sue and be sued in the name of the Fire Authority.

17. For the better carrying into effect of this Ordinance, the Fire Authority may make rules to be approved by the Governor in Council—

(a) to ensure the maximum efficiency of the Fire Brigade;

(b) to provide for the training and duties of the officers of the Fire Brigade and the firemen;

(c) to provide the conditions of service of officers of the Fire Brigade and firemen including rates of pay and other emoluments, payment for overtime, awards for gallantry, compensation, pensions, gratuities, medical examination, superannuation and the provision of uniform and equipment; and

(d) to provide for the discipline of the Fire Brigade, offences against discipline, the trial of such offences and the punishments therefor which may include—

(i) confinement to station when off duty for a period not exceeding two days;

(ii) stoppage of pay for a period not exceeding fourteen days;

(iii) dismissal;

(iv) reduction in rank;

(v) loss of increment; and

(vi) any lesser punishment.