

TRAINING DIVISION



With the development and implementation of the Company and Staff Officers Training Program in 1969, the final link was forged in the five-year effort to provide a comprehensive, department-wide training plan.

In addition to company in-service daily training sessions covering the broad spectrum of a firefighter's routine activities, a considerable number of special training programs are conducted annually in every fire company by Training Division specialists. These include Multiple Company Fire Operations, Annual First Aid Renewals, Mask Instruction, Special Equipment Training, Engine-Ladder Company Combination Drills, Oil Firefighting and Radiological Monitoring.

For the firefighter seeking promotion, the Seattle Community College has worked closely with the Department to provide the opportunity for advanced education leading to a Fire Command and Administration Associate Degree. The Seattle program, which offers complete "Courses of Study", was developed in cooperation with the State Division of Vocational Education and has been enthusiastically accepted as a model program by other fire service schools in the area. The curriculum is also being used state-wide by other Community Colleges.

Recruit Fireman Training is another important function of the Training Division. During the year three Recruit Training Schools were conducted and a total of 53 Recruit Firemen each received six weeks intensive instruction preliminary to their assignment to fire companies. The Training Division continues the supervision and evaluation of the Recruits' training during the remainder of their six months probationary period.

The net result of our five-year training development effort is that we now have what we believe to be one of the most complete, comprehensive and progressive programs in the nation's fire service.



T. C. McNerney
Chief of Training

FIREMAN TRAINEE PROGRAM



The Fireman Trainee Program, now in its eighteenth month has met with outstanding success since its inception and is the most successful of the City's Trainee Programs.

The objective of this program is to provide an opportunity for the Trainee to overcome his educational deficiencies, develop consistent and meaningful work involvement through rigid on-the-job training and working requirements and eventually obtain regular City employment as a Firefighter through competitive examination. A total of sixteen of the thirty-eight Trainees who have entered the program in the past eighteen months have achieved this objective.

Three Fireman Trainees reached this goal in 1968, eight more were successful in 1969, and five more placed high enough on the competitive examinations in the fall of 1969 to be hired as Recruit Firefighters in 1970.

Upon entry into the program, the Trainee receives intensive training in the basic manipulative skills he will need to be able to assist a Firefighter. At the completion of this basic training he begins the continuing on-the-job educational training and working experience phases of the program.

Each Trainee is given educational achievement tests and these tests, coupled with other considerations, are used to enroll him in the school situation best fitted to overcome his deficiencies. During the year the educational phase of the program evolves into two levels--one a basic educational development--the second being classes at the Seattle Community College.

Both the basic education and Seattle Community College classes are so arranged that the Trainee attends classes in the morning, returning to his company or division assignment following these classes for the continuing on-the-job training working experience phase of the program.

