

BOSTON FIREMEN READY TO USE APPARATUS ON RUNNERS

Specially Built Pungs Will Carry Men and Equipment When Snow Is Too Deep For Motors

The question repeatedly asked by persons yesterday who watched the wheels of big motor trucks spin around without moving the trucks through the snow was, "What would the Fire Department do if an alarm was sounded?" This query was quickly answered by Fire Commissioner Glynn last night.

His answer was "When the motors cannot move through the snow the apparatus of the Boston Fire Department will be moved to fires on runners and wheels. All arrangements have been made for meeting an emergency of this kind and the worries of the chief officers of the department are now no greater than they were previous to the installing of motors in the department."

The commissioner said that the horse drawn hose wagons, taken out of commission when motors were installed, were all converted into pungs. This was done by taking the bodies, with all their equipment off the running gear and mounting them on specially built runners, making a much better piece of fire-fighting machinery for snowstorm service than the department ever had before.

In the old days when it was necessary to put the department on runners, common pungs were used. On the new pungs, all extinguisher carriers, brackets for axes, rakes and other equipment were left as they came from the wagons, over to the clothes baskets on the top and the big deck guns.

Up to yesterday afternoon 15 of these pungs had been completed and ready

for service. Arrangements were also made with the Jordan Marsh Company, S. S. Pierce and other big firms which have heavy pungs suitable for Fire Department work, for the loan of those vehicles if needed.

For the transporting of these pungs to fires, Commissioner Glynn and Chief John O. Taber will begin by recalling 111 horses turned over by the Fire Department to the Park Department, Department of Public Works and other municipal departments when their places were taken by motors. These horses are all trained fire horses and can be back in the fire stations at an hour's notice.

To supplement the horses from the city departments, the chiefs in the 15 districts have already arranged with contractors and business houses in their districts for the use of horses in case of an emergency. More than 200 horses are listed and can be readily obtained.

Many of the stations which have been equipped with motor apparatus have been stripped of stables and stalls, but if horse-drawn ladder trucks and hose pungs are put into these houses, picket lines will be set up back of the apparatus and the horses bedded down on the floors.

The putting of horse-drawn trucks and pungs in a station will not mean that the motors will be taken out of commission, as the horse-drawn machines will be used as auxiliary machines and will respond with the motors and get into places where the motors would become stalled.

According to chief officers of the department, the Boston Fire Department is better prepared to meet any weather troubles than ever before.