

CHAPTER 103 FIRE BRIGADES ACT

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ACT

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CHAPTER 103 FIRE BRIGADES ACT

An Act relating to Fire Brigades.

[26th January, 1957.]

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Fire Brigades Act.

2. Interpretation

In this Act—

“Fire Brigades” means the Fire Brigade and the Volunteer Fire Brigade;

“fireman” means a member of the Fire Brigade;

“volunteer fireman” means a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade.

3. Establishment of fire fighting service

There shall be organised and established a fire fighting service under the supervision and control of the Chief of Police comprising the following—

- (a) the Fire Brigade consisting of such members of the Police Force as shall be posted for duty as firemen, such other members of the Police Force as may, from time to time, be called out for duty as firemen, and such other fit and

proper persons as may be appointed by the Chief of Police as members of the Fire Brigade;

- (b) the Volunteer Fire Brigade consisting of the members of the Royal Grenada Special Reserve Police Force and such other fit and proper persons as may be appointed by the Chief of Police as members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade.

4. Declaration on appointment as volunteer fireman

Every volunteer fireman shall on his or her appointment make and sign before the Chief of Police the following declaration in a book to be kept by the Chief of Police: "I, A.B., having been appointed a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, do hereby declare that I will abide by the rules and regulations which are or may be established under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act".

5. Remuneration of Chief of Police and firemen

(1) The Chief of Police and other firemen shall, for their services under this Act, receive such allowances as may be approved annually by the House of Representatives.

(2) Volunteer firemen undergoing training shall, for their services under this Act, receive drill pay and shall, when called out for service by the Chief of Police, be paid for their services from such moneys as may be approved annually by the House of Representatives at the same rate as firemen of equivalent rank.

6. Duties of firemen and volunteer firemen

It shall be the duty of every fireman and volunteer fireman and of every member of the Police Force when called out for the purpose—

- (a) to meet for instruction and drill at such times as may be required of them by the Chief of Police;
- (b) immediately on the alarm of fire, to turn out promptly with such equipment as is considered necessary by the Chief of Police or the fireman in charge who will take all steps necessary to bring the fire under control and to extinguish it as soon as possible;
- (c) when on duty, to wear such distinguishing dress or badge as the Minister may, from time to time, direct and as may be supplied to them by the Chief of Police;
- (d) to obey such rules as may be made in pursuance of this Act for the governance of the Fire Brigades and all lawful directions of the Chief of Police or the fireman in charge.

7. Penalties for neglect of duty

If any member of the Fire Brigades—

- (a) on any alarm of fire and without valid reason, shall fail to repair to the nearest fire station; or
- (b) having repaired to the station shall, before being discharged from duty by the Chief of Police or other person in charge, refuse or neglect to perform his or her duty, or shall desert his or her post or otherwise misconduct himself or herself; or
- (c) shall at any time damage, destroy or lose any article forming part of the fire extinguishing apparatus or any article of dress supplied to him or her; or
- (d) be guilty of any neglect of duty,

he or she may, if a volunteer fireman, be liable to such fine as may be prescribed by rules made under section 14 or to suspension or dismissal at the discretion of the Chief of Police and, if a fireman, shall be liable to be dealt with in manner provided by the Police Act, Chapter 244, for breach of discipline.

8. Powers of Chief of Police, etc., on occasion of fire

(1) On the occasion of a fire the Chief of Police or other person in charge of a Fire Brigade may in his or her discretion—

- (a) take command of other persons who may voluntarily place their services at his or her disposal;
- (b) remove, or order a member of the Fire Brigades to remove, any person who by his or her presence interferes with or obstructs the operations of a Brigade;
- (c) employ persons to aid in extinguishing fire or in removing furniture or goods from any building on fire or in danger of fire, or to guard and secure the same;
- (d) cause water to be shut off from the mains and pipes of any district in order to give a greater supply and pressure of water in the district in which the fire occurred or fire may break out;
- (e) direct the closing of any street in or near which the fire is burning;
- (f) generally, take any measures that may appear expedient for the protection of life and property, with power by himself or herself or his or her men to break into or through, or take possession of, or pull down, any premises for the purpose of putting an end to the fire, doing as little damage as possible.

9. Protection to persons acting under this Act

No liability shall attach to the Chief of Police, or to the firemen, or to the volunteer firemen, or to persons volunteering or employed as aforesaid, for any damage or for any act caused or done *bona fide* in the exercise of the powers conferred by this Act.

10. Special provision as to damage for insurance purposes

Any damage occasioned by any member of the Fire Brigades or any person acting under the instructions of a Fire Brigades Officer in the execution of his or her duty at the scene of a fire, or of an apprehended fire, shall be deemed to be damage by fire within the meaning of any policy of insurance against fire.

11. Control of fire fighting until Fire Brigades arrive

Until the Fire Brigades arrive at the scene of a fire—

- (a) the Senior Police Officer present may, in his or her discretion, take command of all police officers and of any persons who may voluntarily place themselves at his or her disposal, and may remove, or order a police officer to remove, any person who interferes by his or her presence with the operations of those under his or her command, and generally he or she may take any measures that seem to him or her expedient for the protection of life and property, with power to himself or herself, or those commanded so to do by him or her, to break into or through or take possession of or pull down any premises for the purpose of putting an end to the fire, doing as little damage as possible;
- (b) all such police officers and other persons are hereby authorised to act under the command and in the manner aforesaid;

- (c) any damage occasioned by a person acting under command and in the manner aforesaid, or acting under the instructions of a Fire Brigades Officer in the execution of his or her duty, at the scene of a fire, or of an apprehended fire, shall be deemed to be damage by fire within the meaning of any policy of insurance against fire.

12. Special duties of Chief of Police

It shall be the special duty of the Chief of Police—

- (a) to maintain the discipline of the Fire Brigades;
- (b) to see that the engines and all other fire apparatus are kept in good order and thorough repair;
- (c) to inquire for and to examine into all shops and other places where shavings or other combustible or dangerous materials may be collected and deposited or to authorise any other member of the Police Force so to do and at all times to be vigilant in the removal of the same when in his or her opinion the same may be a source of danger by fire, and to direct the tenant or occupier of such shops or other places to remove the same, and, in the case of such tenant or occupier's neglect or refusal to do so, to cause the same to be removed at the expense of the occupants or tenants who shall in addition be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars and to imprisonment for one month for such neglect or refusal;
- (d) to take cognisance of and to cause prosecutions to be instituted either in his or her own name or in the name of a person authorised in writing by him or her in all cases of infraction of the laws, for the prevention of fire within the limits of any town or district;
- (e) at the close of every financial year, or more often if so required by the Minister, to report to him or her in writing on the condition of the stations, hydrants, hose, carriages, hosepipes, and other fire apparatus and property under his or her charge; the income and expenditure of the fire fighting service in detail for the previous year; the number and location of fire alarm stations; the number of fires and the causes thereof, or as near as can be ascertained; the number and description of buildings destroyed or injured, together with the names of the owners or occupants; the amount of insurances, if any; all accidents by fire which may happen within any city, borough, town, or district; and to give, to the Minister, such other information or suggestions as may in his or her opinion be desirable.

13. Offences

Every person who—

- (a) assaults or impedes or obstructs any member of the Fire Brigades in the execution of his or her duty; or
- (b) aids or abets any other person in assaulting or obstructing any member of the Fire Brigades in the execution of his or her duty; or
- (c) wilfully removes, or assists or is concerned in removing any chain, rope, or other barrier placed in or upon or across any street under the authority of this Act; or
- (d) not being a member of the Fire Brigades wears the uniform of a Brigade at any fire; or
- (e) obstructs any fire-plug or hydrant by placing or causing to be placed thereon or thereby any matter or thing whatsoever; or

- (f) wilfully damages or injures any vehicle, engine, hose, fire-plug, hydrant, or other apparatus of a Brigade; or
- (g) unless authorised by a member of a Brigade or without other lawful authority removes or is concerned in removing the furniture or goods from any building on fire or in danger of fire,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of five hundred dollars and to imprisonment for two months.

14. Rules

The Chief of Police may, from time to time, subject to the approval of the Minister, appoint fire stations and make such rules as he or she may deem proper for the good government of the Fire Brigades and for securing their efficiency.

15. Saving

A Fire Brigade existing at the date of the coming into operation of this Act shall be deemed to have been duly constituted thereunder.

CHAPTER 103 FIRE BRIGADES ACT

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

No Subsidiary Legislation
