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February 7, 1945

PUBLICLY RELEASABLE
LANL Classification Group

For ~~_____~~ 4/11/54
(Person authorizing change in classification) (Date)

Mark J. Jura
5-4-98

By Pat McAndrew
Minutes of Meeting held February 6, 1945, in Mr. Dow's Office.
12/9/54 (Date)

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5/16/85
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A meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon, February 6th for the purpose of discussing fire prevention and fire fighting in the Technical Area. The following persons were present: Comdr. Bradbury, E. Brooks, D. Dow, Lt. Heeney, Major Stevens, L. Thompson, J. W. Williams. I stated to the committee that it was called for the purpose of making recommendations along two lines: (1) Specific suggestions for fire prevention, and (2) specific suggestions for coordinating fire prevention and fire fighting in the Technical Area between Technical Area personnel and the Fire Department.

After lengthy consideration the following recommendations were made specifically:

1. That there be established constant routine testing of the sprinkler system, both trip testing of the system and routine valve testing. Such testing should take place at least twice as often as recommended by the sprinkler company, and regular, systematic records be kept. This testing should be under the direct supervision of the Fire Chief.
2. That the sprinkler system in the Technical Area be tied in directly with the fire station so that when a circuit is activated, either because of fire or for any other reason, this is recorded immediately at the Fire Department, and the building identified there; or that an independent fire alarm system be established in lieu of the present magneto operated phones.
3. That more pressure be supplied for the sprinkler system.
4. That a statement should be prepared by the Fire Chief explaining the workings of the sprinkler system and the alarm and that these be posted in strategic places throughout the area so that everyone will be familiar with just how the system operates and what should be done in the event of a fire, beyond relying on the sprinkler system.
5. That reasonably detailed plans of all Technical Area buildings be kept on file in the fire station for constant study by the firemen and that these plans be kept up to date.
6. That the present emergency alert system be used as a basis for establishing a fire alert system. The principles should be the placing of at least one man in every building in the event of a fire; the placing of one man familiar with the building on fire, in a position where he can constantly consult with the Fire Chief as to hazards within the building, building construction and so forth; and establishing a fire fighting crew for each building which can be called when that building is on fire. Such a crew's

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primary responsibility would be to have, if possible, technical apparatus within the building. This fire alert system requires an increase in the number and volume of sirens, and using the community radio to make routine announcements and to call specific individuals. This would be supplemented by a group of messengers composed of Provisional Engineers who are now being organized into an auxiliary fire fighting unit. It was also recommended in this connection that the regular fire siren be blown only once a week, say Saturday noon for a test, that it be blown for a short period in the case of a fire in one of the houses and for a period of two minutes in conjunction with the other emergency sirens for a Technical Area fire. It was agreed that the fire alert system be further discussed by this committee with a view to establishing specific details.

6. That subject to security limitations, all information with respect to such special buildings as D, Sigma, H and M be made available to the Fire Chief and perhaps certain other key personnel in the Fire Department.

7. That the outlying sites be organized on a similar basis to the Technical Area fire alert system, but that no general alert be used for a fire at any particular site. Individuals responsible for the site in question would be summoned directly from the fire station by messenger.

The Committee agreed to meet again on Monday, February 12, 1945, at 1:15 P.M.

David Dow

Distribution:

Comdr. Birch
Comdr. Bradbury
E. Brooks
D. Dow
Lt. Heeney
Maj. Stevens
D. Pl Mitchell
L. Thompson
J. W. Williams

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