

Senate Seeks Attack on Fire Losses

The Senate Commerce Committee expressed the need to mobilize the nation's resources in an attack on the growing losses due to fire by updating our fire equipment, adequately training our fire fighters, combating false alarms and harassment of fire companies and revitalizing antiquated building fire codes.

Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, asked that particular attention be paid to the nation's volunteer firemen.

"Countless communities throughout the nation, particularly in my home state of Alaska, depend entirely on volunteer fire departments for protection against loss of life and property to fire," Stevens said.

"There are 200,000 paid professional firefighters," Stevens said, "and 1,500,000 volunteers. We are working on a program for the 93 Congress to find the best measures to equip and train these firefighters to do the most effective job possible."

Stevens said that figures presented to the committee showed that more than 30 Americans die in a single day in fires. In 1972, 12,000 lives will be lost and 330,000 persons will be crippled.

During 1971, 210 firemen died while combating blazes. The nation's annual loss to fire is approximately 110 billion.

"This is only 11 billion less than the annual cost of crime to the nation," Stevens said.



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