

MID-HUDSON-HARLEM VALLEY
FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

CLINTON CORNERS, N.Y.

January 35, 1941.

To all Mayors of Villages and Cities, all Town Boards, Boards of Fire Commissioners of Fire Districts, and all other Boards in charge of firemanic service in the counties of Dutchess and Putnam,--

Gentlemen:--

In anticipation of what might happen here, we, as a Nation, are building up a solid National Defense-- but based on what has happened in other countries,-- we must realize that outside of the air force, the brunt of the job in bombed countries, falls on the fire service. Thus, we must do something to bring our own fire service up to the point where it can meet these new problems efficiently and well.

Part of the effort of the fire service must naturally fall into the sphere of helping bordering units of that service -- for no city, or village, or fire district can maintain apparatus, equipment, and men sufficient unto any eventuality. We must have help from outside now and then.

This Association has been asked to bring its Mutual Aid Plan up to date so that we can do a better job in case war- and bombing- comes. We are doing this at our own expense, and we can assure you that it is no small task of work or funds.

Your fire chief has received a questionnaire concerning the equipment and men he has available. He will return that questionnaire to us,-- and from those of all the fire chiefs, we shall try to make a better plan.

Your co-operation is needed to this extent,-- to back up your chief in his efforts to have sufficient equipment available at home, and to back up the new Mutual Aid Plan. Later, there will be an organization meeting of the Committee for Emergency Home Defense in Case of War and you will be asked to attend, for if war comes, your job and our job will no longer be in our own area, but all through our counties and may-be, our whole State. We do not know where this war business will take us,-- but WE MUST BE READY. Thus we must have your support.

Please co-operate with your chief in returning the questionnaire promptly,-- please co-operate with us in our Plan-- and please come to that meeting. You will get a notice later. Remember that this effort for a better Plan is for our homes and our country.

I enclose a copy of the letter that I have sent to your chief.

Respectfully,

H. F. Drake
H. F. Drake, Secretary
Clinton Corners N.Y.