

## **MGL Ch. 48** FIRES, FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND FIRE DISTRICTS

### **Section 45:** Engineers; appointments; removals; vacancies

Section 45. The selectmen, except as provided in the three preceding sections, may establish a fire department, and thereafter shall annually, in April, appoint a suitable number of engineers, not exceeding twelve, for one year from the following May first, and until others are appointed in their stead; may, for cause, remove an engineer, after seven days' notice to him and a hearing, and shall fill all vacancies.

### **Section 46:** Organization of engineers

Section 46. They shall, immediately after such appointment, notify each of said engineers to meet at a time and place designated. At such meeting the engineers shall choose a chief engineer, a clerk and other necessary officers.

### **Section 47:** Engineers; powers and duties

Section 47. The engineers, in the extinguishment of fires, shall exercise the powers of firewards and, in the nomination and appointment of such firefighters as necessary therefor, shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of selectmen. They may appoint such men to the engines, hose and hook and ladder carriages, and constitute such companies for securing property endangered by fire, as they deem expedient.

### **Section 48:** Organization of firefighters

Section 48. Firefighters may organize companies, elect officers and establish such regulations and by-laws as the board of engineers approve; and may annex penalties for the violation thereof, not exceeding ten dollars for each offence, which may be recovered by the clerk to the use of the company.

### **Section 49:** Engineers; duties; liabilities; privileges and exemptions

Section 49. The engineers and all persons appointed by them shall perform the duties, be subject to the liabilities and entitled to the privileges and exemptions of enginemen appointed by selectmen.

### **Section 51:** Penalty for failing to maintain proper fire fighting equipment

Section 51. A town or the engineers thereof violating any provision of the preceding section shall forfeit not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars.

### **Section 51A:** Breathing apparatus

Section 51A. Each city, town or district shall equip any fire apparatus operated by it with at least three self-contained breathing apparatus, so-called. Such breathing apparatus shall contain a

minimum of 30 minutes of air or oxygen and shall be equipped with an audible alarm to indicate to the wearer thereof and to any other person in the area that there is a specific designated minimum supply of air or oxygen still present and that such wearer should leave a contaminated area. Any such breathing apparatus shall, in addition to the above, meet the requirements of the standards set up by the National Fire Protection Association for self-contained breathing apparatus. The provisions of this section shall not apply to fire apparatus designed solely for extinguishing woods or brush fires.

## Section 52: Board of engineers; duties

Section 52. The board of engineers shall have the care and superintendence of fire apparatus and related equipment, buildings, fixtures, and equipment and all pumps, reservoirs for water and apparatus owned by the town and used for extinguishing fires and shall cause the same to be kept in repair or renewed and shall make necessary alterations therein and additions thereto at an expense not exceeding \$1,000 in any one year unless the town has authorized a larger appropriation.

## Section 53: Engineers; promulgation of rules and regulations for fire prevention

Section 53. They may make regulations as to the carrying of fire, firebrands, lighted matches or other ignited materials openly in the streets or thoroughfares of their town, or of such parts thereof as they may designate, or as to prohibiting owners or occupants of buildings within their town, or such part thereof as they may designate, from maintaining any defective chimney, hearth, oven, stove or stove pipe, fire frame or other fixture, deposit of ashes or whatever may give just cause of alarm or be the means of kindling or spreading fire. Whoever violates any such rule or regulation shall forfeit not more than \$200.

## Section 54: Engineers; promulgation of rules and regulations relating to conduct at fires; penalty for noncompliance

Section 54. They may make regulations, consistent with law, for their own government and for the conduct of citizens at fires, and annex penalties for violation thereof not exceeding \$200 for each offence, to be recovered by the chief engineer and appropriated to the improvement of the fire apparatus of the town; but such regulations shall be approved by the town and published as it may direct.

## Section 74: Board of engineers; rules and regulations; appointment of personnel

Section 74. The board of engineers may make and publish rules and regulations as provided in case of fire departments by sections fifty-three and fifty-four. It may appoint and remove enginemen, hosemen and hook and ladder men, and fill vacancies in the companies.

## Section 75: Engineers; extent of authority; liability of districts

Section 75. Engineers shall have and exercise within their district the powers and authority of firewards of towns relating to the extinguishment of fires and the demolition of buildings; and districts shall be liable in the same manner for acts done by such engineers, or by their orders, as towns for acts done by firewards.