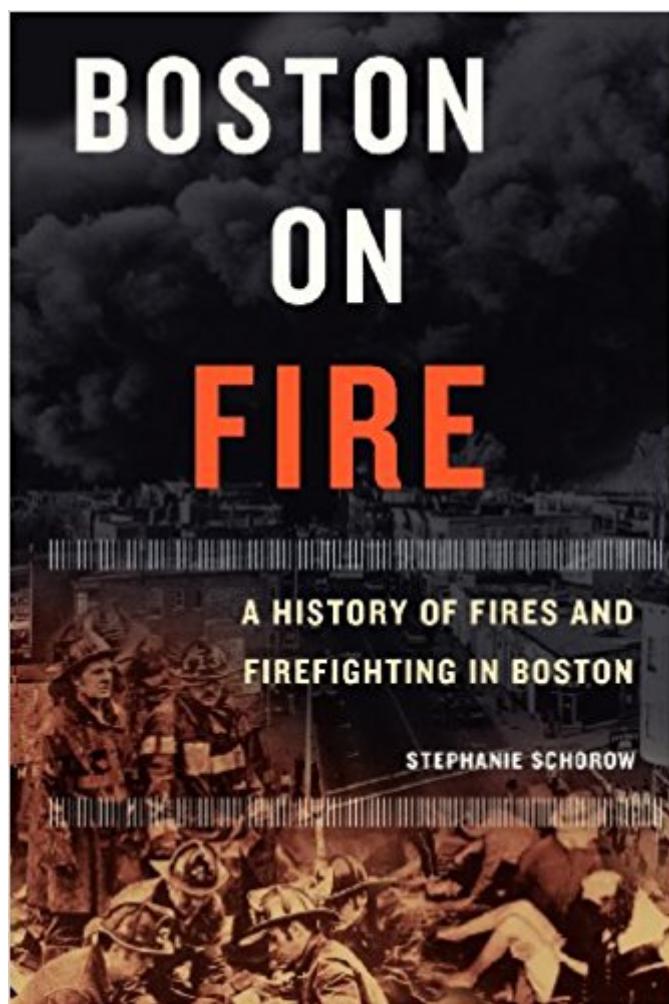


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# Boston On Fire: A History Of Fires And Firefighting In Boston



## **Synopsis**

Fires and firefighting in Boston from the seventeenth century to the present. Includes the Great Fire of 1872, the Cocoanut Grove fire, the Vendome fire, and others.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

FIRESHAPED BOSTON SINCE its founding on a narrow peninsula in 1630. Innovations by Bostonians have led to improvements in firefighting and fire prevention across the land. In the first comprehensive history of Boston's major fires, Stephanie Schorow tells the dramatic tales of seventeenth-century fires (which were viewed as signs of God's wrath), the 1834 Ursuline convent fire, the Great Fire of 1872, the Chelsea conflagrations of 1908 and 1973, the tragic Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire of 1942, the Vendome Hotel collapse that killed nine firefighters in 1972, and an arson ring that terrorized the city in the early 1980s. Chapters are also devoted to two key Boston innovations: the Hunneman fire engine and the citywide fire alarm system (first in the nation) developed by William Francis Channing and Moses Farmer. You've heard of the Freedom Trail. Discover Boston's Fire Trail! --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Stephanie Schorow is a former reporter for the Boston Herald and a freelance writer focusing on topics of regional and national interest. She is the author of *Boston on Fire: A History of Fires and Firefighting in Boston* and *The Cocoanut Grove Fire*. She lives in Medford, Massachusetts.

Really great research. Very well written, not at all dry. Ms Schorow draws you right into each event, often heartbreakingly. I remember the Vendome fire, and Chelsea burning. She has an excellent grasp on the particular character of Boston.

A person would not expect to find a history of fire fighting in Boston to be a difficult book to put down. I bought this volume mostly because I had enjoyed the author's earlier story of the Cocoanut Grove Fire and I'm delighted I did. I had no idea of all the innovations in fire fighting that were first invented or applied in Boston. I happened to start reading the book at the back when I was thumbing through it and came across a description of the fire at the Vendome Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue. I'd witnessed that fire while passing by on my way to work. I then read the book from that point to the end before starting to re-read it from the beginning. It was amazingly accurate because I'd been alive and read about many of those recent fires at the time. The great fires from the past were even more fascinating. The author did a wonderful job of making what could have been boring, boring, boring, into a history that was riveting, riveting, riveting. It's a great read even for non-sparks and fire fighters.

This is a great book on the history of the Boston Fire Dept. Making a fire alarm system that functioned in colonial times to present day. A great way to travel through time in fire science . A must read

I'm in love with this book. It doesn't just tell you the famous fire but the lesser known fires like the Chelsea fire of 1973 in which I had family respond on engine 5 in Weymouth Mass. Great book you should totally grab one while you can

great book, great stories

Great book, well written, many black and white old pictures. Every firefighter should read it for the history. Would make a good gift

This was an excellent book!

I loved this book. This is a carefully crafted and well researched collection of tales about fires out of

control and what are very scary risks, even up to the present day. It starts from times when there were no machines to fight fires, dirt roads downtown, little or no water available, and nobody on the payroll. Stories cover fires in and around Boston that wiped out entire neighborhoods and changed hundreds of lives. The story of the famous Cocoanut Grove fire of late 1942 is right from the front line and for me, brought the recent Station Nightclub fire to mind. As a bridge to further study, it has detailed references to source material drawn upon, but I have to think that none of it can be more captivating than this compendium.....

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