

TNC/33/2



17th September, 1975.

1A

From:- Superintendent Fire Brigade.

To:- Chief Secretary.

Fire Hazard.

- (1) On the 15th September, a stove fire occurred at 44 Davis Street a government building occupied by Y.P.F. personnel, this fire was quickly extinguished by the prompt action of Mr Tim Dobbins, there was no damage to the property.
- (2) This is an oil fired stove installed by Y.P.F., on the east wall outside, approximately 4 ft. above the level of the stove a 44 gallon fuel drum is fitted to supply the stove, a plastic pipe leads from the drum through the wall to a control valve, which is operated as a drip feed to the stove, this is mounted directly above the stove, when excess fuel is supplied to the stove it pours down into the lower pan then to the floor, with the oil on fire you are unable to reach this control valve to switch it off, there is no valve on the oil drum.
- (3) This is the second fire to occur with this same stove and felt it should be brought to your notice, I am assured by Mr Malcom Binnie that Y.P.F. is waiting for confirmation for funds to purchase a reconversion unit here in Stanley for the rayburn stove.
- (4) I recommend that government consider passing a by-law to cover the installation of oil or gas or anyother fuel used in the home for cooking or heating for safety regulations against fire.

R. Stewart.

R. Stewart.
Superintendent Fire Brigade.

c.c. Superintendent Public Works.

Chief
XXXXXX

Our Ref: TNC/33/2

23rd September, 1975

Vice Comodore Bloomer Reeve,
L.A.D.E.,
Stanley.

FIRE AT 44 DAVIS STREET, STANLEY

I understand that there have been two recent fires at 44 Davis Street, the Government building occupied by Y.P.F. personnel.

I further understand that the fire was caused by an oil pipe line which leaks and is unsafe.

I should be most grateful if you will please liaise with the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade to obtain his advice on what remedial action is necessary to prevent a recurrence of this fire hazard.

I believe that had it not been for the prompt action of Mr. Tim Dobbys, there could have been extensive damage to the property as well as to nearby property.

A.J.P. Monk
CHIEF SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE

FALKLAND ISLANDS

SENT

WAP 15148—821 585268/704663 500 pads 9/69 Grp.782

Number	Office of Origin	Words	Handed in at	Date
				29.10.75

To CROWN AGENTS, 4 MILLBANK, LONDON S.W.1.

NO. 283

NO. 44 DAVIS STREET DESTROYED BY FIRE ON OCTOBER 28TH 1975 LONDON ASSURANCE POLICIES NO. 9504231 ITEM NO 83 AND 9504232 ITEM NO 46 REFERS. DETAILED REPORTS FOLLOW BY AIRMAIL. PLEASE ADVISE INSURANCE COMPANY AND PRESENT CLAIM ON OUR BEHALF.

SECRETARY



MEMORANDUM

FIRE

Reference

Date 28th October, 1975 (4)

From Supt. Public Works

To Chief Secretary

No.44, DAVIS STREET. - GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

I have the honour to report that dwelling house known as No.44, Davis Street, Stanley, was completely destroyed by fire today between 10.30 am and noon.

The dwelling house, together with peat-shed, washhouse, and garage was insured under The London Assurance, Policy No.9504231, Endorsement No.43, and No.83 of the Schedule, in the sum of £9,375.

Furniture, and suchlike therein (property of F.I. Government) was completely ~~destroyed~~ destroyed by the same fire, and was insured under The London Assurance, Policy No. 9504232, Endorsement No.14, and No.46 of the Schedule, in the sum of £460.

Please see telegram to Crown Agents, attached herewith, in which C.As are informed of the fire, and a claims form is requested from them.

This property was on loan to Y.P.F.

Your Obedient Servant,

B. Turner
Supt. Public Works.



No FIRE

MEMORANDUM

It is requested that in any reference to this memorandum the above number and date should be quoted.

28th October 1975

To Chief Secretary

From Supt. Public Works

Stanley, Falkland Islands.



SUBJECT :-

FIRE AT No.44, DAVIS STREET.

Whilst in the PWD Yard at 10.30 am today, in the company of Mr.A.Carey (Supplies Officer) someone shouted to us from M.V.Forrest that No.44,Davis Street was on fire. I askedmR.Carey to raise the 'Alarm', and I immediately went to 44 Davis Street. When I arrived there I saw the occupants of the house standing in the roadway outside.Facing the house it was obvious that the downstairs left-hand room, and the front doorway was on fire. The fire then had too much of a hold for anyone to have entered the house.The Fire Brigade arrived within a few minuted, but unfortunately the house was completely destroyed. Two of the occupants of the house had received burns - one of whom I took to the K.E.M.Hospital. I have invited reports regarding the fire from Y.P.F (via V/C Bloomer-Reeve), Supt.Fire Brigade, and Supt.Police. These reports will be forwarded in due course.

B. Y. Jones

Supt.Public Works.

No TNC/33/2

MEMORANDUM

It is requested that, in any reference to this memorandum the above number and date should be quoted.

28th October 19 75

To Chief Secretary

From. Supt. Public Works

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

SUBJECT :-

FIRE AT NO.44, DAVIS STREET.

The Supt. Fire Brigade stated in his memorandum, para 3, of 17th, September, 1975 that Mr. Malcom Binnie of YPF assured him that YPF were waiting for confirmation for funds to purchase a conversion unit here in Stanley for the Rayburn Stove.

Mr. Binnie informed me today that arrangements had been made for Mr. Adrian Newman of Stanley to begin operations on the Rayburn this afternoon, unfortunately the premises were destroyed by fire between 10.30 am and noon.

B. Turner.

Supt. Public Works.



FIRE AT 44, DAVIS STREET - DE-BRIEFING.

At 11 am on 30th October, 1975 a de-briefing was held in the Chief Secretary's Office. Those present were the Chief Secretary, Supt. Fire Brigade, and Supt. Public Works.

The various points raised ~~was~~ to increase fire-fighting efficiency were:-

1. A permanent pump should be installed near the Public Jetty ~~and~~ a permanent supply line to the top of Philomel Hill, with ~~a~~ branch connections at road intersections on the way.
2. One member of Fire Brigade did not understand the operation of the Firefly, and is to be taught.
3. Coloured helmets should be provided for the Supt. Fire Brigade, and the four Captains. The colour of S.F.B.'s to differ in colour from the Captains'.
4. Helpers should be properly marshalled by members of the Brigade, - to move debris, and assist generally where needed. The object is not to discourage helpers, but to use them efficiently under the direction of Supt. Fire Brigade.
5. An electrified portable megaphone should be provided to increase communications at site of fire.

6. 'Walkie-Talkie' radios for distant communications should be supplemented by ~~the~~ four more from the War Room, subject to availability under the ~~the~~ Defence programme.

7. PWD should make a tractor, ^{and} chain with grapple hook immediately available on sites of major fires.

8. Supt. Fire Brigade to ensure that all ~~members~~ ~~of Govt~~ people who occupy Government Buildings should properly understand how to use ~~a~~ portable fire-fighting appliances.

9. The Supt. Police to cordon off roads properly, and quickly when needed, by placing officers, 'No ENTRY' signs, etc. ^{in strategic positions}

10. Police to control spectators, so as not to impede operations.

11. ^{Employees who are} ~~Members~~ of Government ~~not~~ members of the Fire Brigade, or directly involved with the fire, should remain at their posts.

B. Lerner.
SPW
3.11.75.

(4)

Port Stanley-October 31st, 1975

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. B. TURNER

Dear Sir:

Regarding your letter dated on the 28th of October 1975, I inform you sir that the fire started because of a failure of the feed system of a Gas Oil stove. An excess of fuel saturated the burners and fuel fell to the floor of the kitchen where fire spread almost immediately.

Initially it was controlled by the use of extinguishers.

The house was abandoned when the fire went out of control. Previously Mr. GRIECO O/C of ANTARES plant called by telephone advising of the emergency. He cannot recall the exact words used since his knowledge of English is rather poor.

Present in the house was the O.I.C. and the following:

Mrs. OSCAR ROSALES

Mr. ALBERTO MIQUEZ

Mr. CARLOS LOPEZ

Mrs. LOPEZ

Miss THERESA BINNIE

2 sons of the LOPEZ family

Articles completely lost were the furniture, fittings, Typewriter, adding machine, technical instruments, safe case, spare parts, documents, private property of the said plus of Mr. FELJO O.I.C. of works at ANTARES and of Mr. MUSQUI, on leave.

Money was burned according to:

£ 519.00 Y.P.F.

\$ 1018.00 Y.P.F.

£ 459.00 Private

\$ 55,000.00 Private

Yours faithfully


CARLOS P. BLOOMER REEVE

2nd November, 1975.

From:- Suptd. Fire Brigade.

To:- Chief Secretary.

Report on the fire at 44 Davis Street.Tuesday 28th October 1975.

At approximately 16.40 on Tuesday 28th October, I was informed by the telephone operator that ~~there~~ was a fire at 44 Davis Street, the alarms had already been sounded, I proceeded from the Filter Plant at all possible speed.

On arriving at 44 Davis Street, I found that the fire had a good hold and that the blaze was already sweeping through the building to such an extent that it was obvious with the supply of water on hand, we were not going to save the house. Both firefly's were already in action supplying water from the service hoses. The other units went into action from the public jetty and the men were running hoses up philomel hill, central station pump was put at the junction of fitzroy road and philomel hill to boost the water to the height of davis street. When pressure was brought to bear on the pumps and water was supplied to the hoses, after some delay I inquired by radio why no water was arriving to the fire and the reply received "that a number of hoses were bursting".

I then returned my attention back to the fire and decided that the only thing left was to stop the fire from spreading to the other house in the close vicinity of the fire. I called for volunteers to evacuate the two dwellings to the east and west of the fire. It was some 40 to 50 minutes before water was received from the pumps at the public jetty, I was then informed that 7 hoses had burst, East Station was put out of action due to one of the hoses bursting close to the pump.

The foam branch manned by a crew of nonmembers was kept in readiness for any outbreak of fire due to the oil storage tank still attached to the building, at approximately 1.45 pm, the whole building collapsed, fortunately the roof and chimneys pulled all burning debris into the heart of the fire which eliminated further spread to the adjoining property's, the rear peat shed partially dismantled to stop the spread of fire.

The town water mains would not supply sufficient pressure to ensure a continuous supply to the firefly, two or three occasions this vehicle had to leave to replenish his supply of water.

When it was apparent that the fire was under control, I sent half the fire brigade members home for food and dry clothing requesting them to return to relieve other members.

At three o'clock I gave the public jetty pump crews orders to close down pressure, I held the firefly tender in attendance, at this period large volumes of steam was given off the stone and concrete foundation. I requested that a lorry be brought to clear away the accumulation of loose iron.

contd/....

contd/.... 44 Davis Street Fire.

Information received from all captains at a meeting on Saturday 1st November, that in general all members worked well considering the problem of so many burst hoses, East Station pump was put out of action and was quickly replaced by one of the ex-army 1940 trailer pumps, this pump had recently undergone an overhaul in which the Workshop Supervisor and his staff are to be congratulated, it is also understood that Mr Ron Clarke had to make parts for this pump in the smithy, this pump continued to supply pressure until told to close down, a number of hoses were taken from the town fire boxes, it was*on inspection that most of the bad hoses were from these boxes.

*found. I do not know the exact cause of the fire but a statement given by Miss Theresa Binnie is when she arrived for work Mr Lopez was removing a pan of oil from the lower part of the stove, she said it appeared that a lot of heat was on the stove although the fire was not lit at the time, on removing the pan Mr Lopez slipped on some oil on the floor consequently losing control of the pan of oil, Mr Lopez's trouser legs immediately caught fire and rushing outside, Miss Binnie was told by another member of Y.P.F. who was in the house at the time to get the two children out and immediately done so, she also states that the fire appeared to spread very rapidly across the kitchen. I am told also that earlier the windows and doors were opened to disperse smoke earlier because of a problem on the stove.

A vote of thanks to Johnstons and the Royal Marines for the loan of equipment.

R. Stewart

R Stewart.
Suptd. Fire Brigade.

TE/33/4

11th November, 1975

Chief Secretary

Superintendent, Fire Brigade

c.c. S.P.W.

FIRE AT 44 DAVIES STREET

Thank you for your Report on the fire at the above address on 28th October.

As you know, I am particularly concerned about the lack of a sufficient water reserve from which to draw for fires at the top end of the town. Will you please let me have, in collaboration with S.P.W., a proposal, with costings if possible, and a route for a static pump sited on the jetty or harbour wall with a permanent pipe out into the harbour below the low water mark, coupled to a rising main terminating at Davies Street. To me this seems to overcome the major problem and would remove the need for static tanks at or near Davies Street.

Chief Secretary

F

Ref: TNC/33/4

(14)

11 December 1975

Supt. Public Works
Stanley.

44 Davis Street

I have had it reported to me that the destroyed house and garden have been left in a dangerous condition, particularly as loose sheets of tin are lying around which present considerable danger to children who play in the area.

2. Will you accordingly approach YPF to see what they can do to tidy up the area and remove any debris.

A J P Monk
Chief Secretary

12th April, 1976.

Dear Sirs,

Claim for Insurance

Please refer to telegram No 283 dated 29th October, 1975 from the Chief Secretary advising that No 44 Davis Street was destroyed by fire on 28th October, 1975.

I enclose a claim from the Superintendent of Works together with reports from the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade and Vice Comodoro F. Bloomer Reeve who was the Argentine Representative in the Falkland Islands at the time of the fire and who represented the occupants of the house namely employees of the Argentine state owned oil company, Y.P.F.

I should be grateful if you would claim the sum of £9,835 as the building and contents were completely destroyed by fire.

For ease of reference the relevant policies are Nos 9504231 Item No 83 and 9504232 Item No 46.

The delay in submission of the report is regretted.

Yours faithfully,



Financial Secretary

The Crown Agents for Oversea
Governments and Administrations,
4 Millbank,
London, SW1,
England.

The London Assurance

Overseas Fire Department

Claim Form

Name of Insured Falkland Islands Government

Policy numbers 9504231 and 9504232

Date of loss Tuesday 28th October, 1975.

Cause of loss—Give brief details of the circumstances Believed to have been caused by fire spreading from cooking stove, and destroying house completely and damage to Peat Shed.

Situation of property affected 44 Davis Street, Stanley.

Particulars of claim

In the first column below is to be stated the item number if any of the policy (and sub-section if any) under which the claim is made. In the second column is to be stated the total value immediately before the loss of all property to which the description given in the said item (or sub-section) applies, whether damaged or not, and in the third column the sum insured thereon. Claims in respect of damage to buildings should be accompanied by a builder's estimate.

Item affected			List of property destroyed or damaged			
Number	Value at time of loss	Sum insured	Details	Value at time of loss	Value after loss	Amount claimed
9504231) Endorsement No 43 - No 83 of Schedule)	£ 9,375	£ 9,375	see under House (and contents) completely destroyed by fire	£ 9,375	£ NIL site to be cleared)	£ 9,375
9504232) Endorsement No 14 - No 46 of Schedule)	£ 460	£ 460	All furniture, and suchlike therein - as listed in policy	£ 460	NIL completely lost by fire	£ 460
To be continued on a blank sheet if necessary						

~~XX~~We do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1 The claim is made by ~~me~~ us as
(State interest such as Owner, Mortgagee, etc.) Owner

2 No persons are interested in the said property except
(Insert Myself, Ourselves, and names of Mortgagors, etc., if any.)

Ourselves

3 No other Insurances are in force on the property destroyed or damaged except
(Name of Company, Policy number, Sum insured.)

No other insurances are in force on the property

4 To the best of ~~my~~ our knowledge the particulars given above are correct. Yes

Supt. Public Works

5 ~~We~~ We have in no manner caused the said Loss, or by any fraud or wilful misrepresentation sought unjustly to benefit thereby.

Dated this day of December, 19 75

Signature of claimant Supt. of Public Works

Address P.O. Box 187, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, South Atlantic

Note. It is important to complete all sections of this form

5-10-75

CROWN AGENTS

St. Nicholas House, SUTTON, SURREY.

Telephone: 01-643 3311 extn.

Telex: 267103

Crown Agents' Reference

S5A/270/2/45.

Date 7.7.1976.

The Chief Secretary
Public Works.
Stanley
Falkland Islands

Indent No. TNC/33/3.

Reqn. No. /

Dear Sir,

The claim detailed below has been admitted by the underwriters, and the amount shewn will be credited in the Falkland Islands account for June 1976.

The computation of the figure is shewn below/on reverse/ ~~in the attached statement.~~

Open Cover No.

Policy No. 9504231

Claim No. /

Related correspondence TELEGRAPH No 283 29/10/75.

Goods Fire at 44 Davis Street

Vessel /

Amount of claim paid £ 9835. 00

Yours faithfully,

E. Boulton

E. M. BOULTON (MRS.)
for the Crown Agents.