

Quinn Invites City's Fire Fans to Join Civil Defense

HERE'S a chance for "armchair firemen" to follow up their hobby and perform a real service to the City of Chicago.

Volunteers for the Civil Defense Fire and Rescue service, organized by Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn, are urgently needed.

Among the fire fans, or "buffs," organized into the service by Quinn, who also acts as Chicago's civil defense director, is Joe Sabol of 4930 Van Buren, publicity chairman.

Group leader of one outfit is Charles (Jimmy) Johnson. Organized last October, the group gathers twice weekly for indoor drills and operations practice.

They must complete sessions in first aid, fire-fighting techniques and driving emergency vehicles. This summer, the squad plans training at Great Lakes in fighting oil fires.

About 65 men now comprise the squad, which works with the fire department in answering 2-11 fires and other emergency calls.

When a gas station mistakenly sold gasoline as fuel oil, police, fire department and the fire rescue squad alerted the community. Gathering residents on the streets by using sirens and lights, the squad then warned them.

Through the cooperation of the three agencies, a possible tragedy was averted and no one was injured. If the gasoline had been used, an explosion would have resulted.

With their five radio-equipped trucks and one station wagon, the service can assist in emergencies anywhere in the city or neighboring communities.

Members have two-way radio receiving sets in their homes and can meet at the trouble spot within minutes of the time the Fire Department alarm is received.

At the scene, the service checks with the division marshal in charge and follows his orders—helping with hoses, communicating with their walkie-talkies, clearing icy streets or any other job necessary.

By the time the fire and rescue squad's training is completed, however, they will be equipped to cope with any emergencies—floods, tornadoes or even an enemy attack.

Sabol and Johnson stress the need for volunteers in all phases of civil defense, not only the fire and rescue

service. Those interested in the service are urged to contact Fire Commissioner Quinn, Room 105, City Hall.

Community residents interested in any other phase of civil defense may get further information at Chicago Civil Defense headquarters, 140 S. Dearborn.

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