

WASHINGTON OFFICE SENDS WARNING AGAINST FIRE

Recent fires in some of the centers where the cause was traced to heating appliances, mostly stoves which are too close to woodwork, and to the storage of combustibles under buildings was responsible for a special letter of warning from the Washington office.

Charles Roraback, fire protection officer, stated that the fact that all woodwork near stoves has been subjected to heating for two winters has lowered the ignition point so that only moderate heat is required to cause a fire. Since such conditions probably exist in many places here, he stated that fires will be avoided only by extreme vigilance on the part of residents.

The letter from E. J. Utz, chief of operations in Washington, states:

"Stoves or heating appliances were installed too close to walls or combustible materials. The locations in which the fires started were protected by ventilated shields of asbestos-board, but the shields were nailed directly to the studs at a point very near the heating appliance. Air-space had been provided at other points. Fires started at the point where the ventilated-shields were nailed to the studding.

"Wood, kindling and other combustible materials were stored under buildings in considerable quantity. This contributed to the spread of fire and hindered fire-fighting operations. In some cases materials were stored near defective chimneys that extended to the ground. Defective chimneys and accumulated soot resulted in fire under the buildings. Other fires of unknown origin have started in combustibles stored under buildings."