

STATEMENT BY CHIEF C. H. HILDEBRAND  
ATLANTA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
Friday, September 16, 1966  
For Release 11:00 A. M.

The City of Atlanta has in operation this morning 25 fully  
manned Fire Stations.

The total personnel in the department has now risen to  
357 -- 313 of these employees performing actual firefighting  
duties.

Sixty-seven new recruits have been assigned to stations  
for in-service training and duty under the leadership of  
experienced Firemen and Fire Officers.

We are able to maintain an on-duty shift strength average  
of 175 firefighting personnel because of extended work hours  
of those Firemen who have remained on the job.

Our attempts to recruit new men to rebuild the Fire  
Department have been extremely successful. Since Labor  
Day the City Personnel Department has examined 327 applicants.

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140 of these have passed the written examination and are being processed for in-service training and firefighting duties immediately.

The Personnel Department is making plans to conduct a recruiting campaign throughout the Southeast and through the employment of new personnel and the extended work hours of our experienced personnel, we should be able to place the remaining unmanned stations in operation within a <sup>reasonable</sup> ~~very short~~ period of time.

The Personnel Office at 260 Central Avenue, S. W. is remaining open until 7:30 p. m. Monday through Friday and until noon on Saturdays to receive and process firefighters applications.

I am requesting all the citizens of Atlanta to practice good fire prevention measures in their homes, businesses, churches and schools. A check-off list is being released to the news media for self-inspection of your premises which, if conscientiously adhered to, can prevent fires and preserve property.