

THE CHICAGO CIVIL DEFENSE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IS ALWAYS ON THE SPOT

When a Fireman Needs a Friend

BY SAM BLAIR

ON A BELOW freezing morning on the first day of 1958 Chicago firemen, battling an extra alarm fire in an ice plant at 54 E. Hubbard st., suddenly found helpful hands tugging on hose lines with them and spreading salt on the dangerously iced grounds and roof of the building.

The hands belonged to members of the Chicago Civil Defense Fire and Rescue service which had become officially operational only minutes before that January 1st alarm.

Since that first call to duty those hands have worked at more than 450 fires and almost 400 special duty tasks ranging from explosions to tornadoes, from plane wrecks to floods, and from razing buildings to plucking stray kittens out of trees.

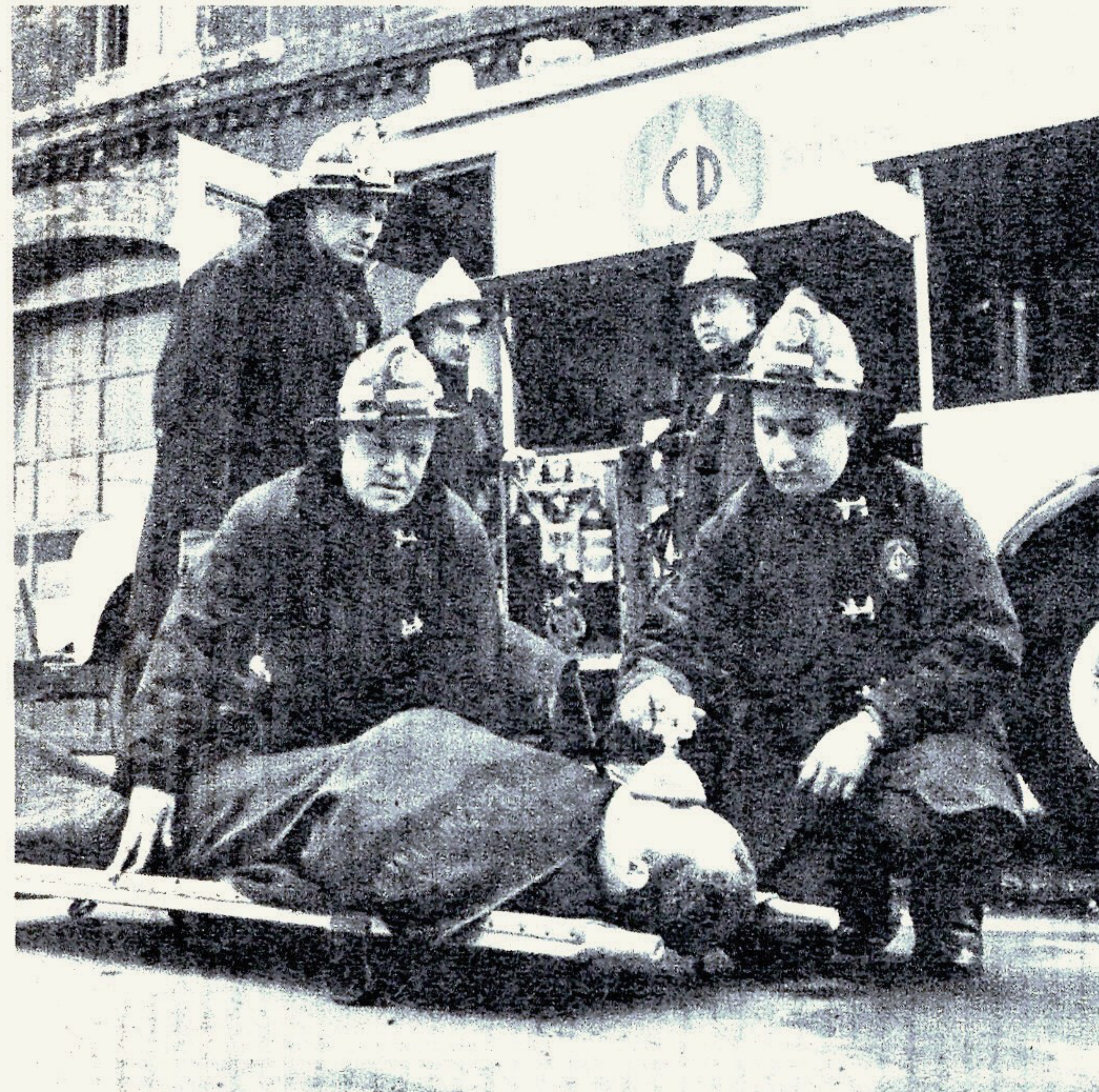
The organization came into being shortly after Robert Quinn was named Chicago's fire commissioner and head of the city's civil defense program. Quinn, taking inventory of available equipment, noted that six multithousand dollar civil defense trucks were rusting away from disuse.

A few days later Quinn was discussing the situation with his friend, Charles M. Johnson, president

Photography by **ARNOLD TOLCHIN**



TRICKY chore of lowering fire victim over the side of a tall building is rehearsed by rescue workers. Members engage in regularly scheduled drills.



NONPAID rescue service workers are often called upon to administer oxygen to smoke victims. All members are adept at first aid and use of inhalator gear.