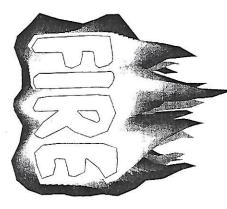
A historic English disaster.

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- Fighting fires high up.
- Fire is not always destructive.
- U Human mastery of fire.
- Developments in firefighting methods.
- Saving trees if they can-
- 9 Natural disaster leads to total destruction
- H Do-it-yourself destruction.
- Drowning fires with water.



When Fire Escapes

We have now got fire under control - or just about

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can be. control that we realise what a destructive element it only on the rare occasion that it slips out of our that it has almost vanished from everyday life. It is These days, we have learned to control fire so well

other official buildings like the Royal Exchange and to the ground, along with 86 churches and many streets and 13,200 houses. St Paul's church was burnt the city. The fire began in a baker's shop in Pudding the Custom House Lane and burned for three days. It destroyed 400 Great Fire of London destroyed three quarters of Fires were very common in the past. In 1666 the

cables and cooking pots, which rapidly burnt the earthquake and this set off local fires from power burning by strong winds. This was the greatest peacetime fire of modern times. It was started by an firestorm is a large uncontrollable fire which is kept In 1923, a firestorm devastated all of Tokyo. A houses made of wood and paper

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many specialist vehicles to fight fires in all sorts of circumstances operated by hand by up to 30 men. In 1829 the steam fire engine was invented. Modern fire brigades have The first official fire brigade was set up in London in 1684 by Nicholas Barbon. The first fire engines were

that can carry several thousand litres of water and The basic vehicle is the fire engine, which has a tank

> strong that many fires are "knocked out". Fireboats, 300 metres of hose-pipe. These can deliver up to however, can pump up to 100,000 litres per minute 7,500 litres of water per minute and the pressure is so

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with its ability to cool, can put out most fires, but fires involving some easily burnt metals need to be put out forms that rotate at the top of the ladders. Water, high places in multi-storey buildings, most modern fire brigades have trucks with long ladders and plat-In order to put out fires which have broken out in

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with a powder like graphite or salt.

trol, there is little anyone can do. For example, a Sometimes, though, once a forest fire is out of conchemicals on the fire in attempts to stop it spreading and bushes to try and create a firebreak. They also ous. To try and stop them, fire fighters remove trees kilometres of forest. burned until July 1983, destroying 36,000 square forest fire began in Borneo in September 1982, and use helicopters and aeroplanes to drop bombs of Forest fires can be the most damaging and danger-

people who want to make large insurance claims cause of fires are people who start them deliberately causes of fires in buildings are cooking equipment, accidents, people throwing away burning matches Fire fighters say the three main causes of fires are that ten per cent of fires are deliberately started by arsonists. Figures from the United States suggest machines that overheat and open fires. Another and cigarettes, and electrical faults. Other leading