

Arson continues in Boston

United Press International
BOSTON — The 18th rash of suspicious fires to hit the city this summer erupted in Boston early Tuesday with five blazes — three coming within minutes of one another in less than a mile area.

A floor of a building collapsed at one fire, raining debris on 16 firefighters and trapping two for several harrowing minutes in a "very close" call. One was stuck so tight in the rubble

he had to be stripped out of his fire gear before he could be pulled out.

None of the firefighters was seriously injured and only two required hospital treatment in the five blazes — four of them suspicious — which caused more than \$120,000 in damages.

"It's been a busy night," fire department spokesman Ken Bruynell said. "We're fortunate that there weren't any bad injuries and that no one has been

killed."

Altogether, the city was hit by five major fires overnight — three of them, in the Roxbury and Jamaica Plain areas coming within 17 minutes of one another and within a onemile area.

One of the suspicious fires began in a pile of rubbish heaped alongside an unused schoolhouse and another jumped from a garbage barrel to an occupied dwelling. The cause of

the other blaze was undetermined.

So far, the summer's record wave of suspicious fires, including six groups of fires during the past 11 Fridays, has caused more than \$4.7 million in damages in mostly vacant buildings and raised fears that firebugs were on the loose, intent on running the fire department ragged.

Fire Commissioner George H. Paul, calling the wave "the

most serious problem we've faced in the 36 years I've been with the department," has launched a massive investigation with the help of agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"If the situation develops further we would have a real catastrophe on our hands," he said after a rash of fires last week. No serious injuries have been reported in any of the blazes.

Reagan may veto spending bill

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — The White House is sending strong signals that President Reagan will veto a \$14.2 billion supplemental spending bill even at the risk of creating a new confrontation with Congress.

Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes told reporters traveling with the president in California that Reagan

will receive recommendations from his advisers in the next few days and added, "I would judge there would be recommendations for a veto."

The bill, passed by the House and Senate last week, would provide less total money than Reagan requested for a variety of federal agencies, but more for domestic programs than he has indicated he will accept.

The bill is needed to finance several federal agencies through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30. The \$14.2 billion measure contains Reagan's controversial \$355 million Caribbean basin initiative, which includes \$75 million for El Salvador.

Reagan objects to other parts of the bill, however, including \$211 million for older Americans that was included in an ear-

lier supplemental appropriations bill that Reagan vetoed twice, \$217 million for student financial assistance and \$148 million for the disadvantaged.

Assistant Senate Republican leader Ted Stevens warned the White House last week that the supplemental bill would be the wrong issue for Reagan to use to take on Congress, and make

good on his commitment to eliminate excess government spending.

Stevens warned the president could lose the confrontation over a veto and find his action overridden not only by the

Democratic-controlled House but by the Republican-dominated Senate as well.

Judge disallows 'God' defense

United Press International
FORT COLLINS, Colo. — A religious fundamentalist whose 5-week-old daughter died of pneumonia says God is his doctor, but a judge ruled he cannot use religion as a defense against charges he refused to seek medical help for the infant.

Larimer County District Judge William Dressel declared unconstitutional Monday a 10-year-old state law that it is not criminal conduct for a parent to rely solely on spiritual means to try to cure a child of an illness.

Jon Lybarger, 40, of Estes Park, Colo., leader of the fundamentalist sect JJJ Ministry, is charged with felony child abuse and was to go on trial Tuesday.

Lybarger's daughter, Jessica Ann, died of pneumonia last March 15 in a home across the street from an Estes Park hospital. Prosecutors say Lybarger refused to take his daughter to the hospital even though she was too weak to be breast-fed.

Defense attorney Duane Wymore immediately appealed Dressel's ruling but the court said it would halt the trial to rule on the merits of the appeal. The court, however, did not rule on the possibility of an appeal when the trial concludes.

Wymore said Lybarger who moved to Estes Park in 1979 to set up his own fundamentalist sect, loved his child and never mistreated her. He said his client was lying on his faith to cure his infant.

"The child was loved and cared for and there was no indication of any abusive behavior," Wymore said. "Judge Dressel's ruling eliminated the defense from asserting faith in the Lord as a defense."

The defense attorney said Lybarger had no idea his daughter was in such serious condition.

"When a kid has pneumonia, it looks like it has a cold," said Wymore.

Man receives belated medal

United Press International
LEONIDAS, Mich. — Edward J. Wagner, 87, admits he's "getting up there in years" and that's one reason he's glad he finally got his Purple Heart — even if it was 64 years late.

Wagner was gassed on Aug. 9, 1918, while serving with the American expeditionary forces in France during World War I. His Army discharge papers show he was gassed, but he says his company kept poor records.

Harold Freeland, St. Joseph County veterans' counselor investigated a search that produced his belated Purple Heart.

"We learned in 1980 it would be awarded, but I heard nothing more until it arrived in the mail," he said.

Wagner put the Purple Heart in a frame next to the Silver Star he received for his gallantry in action.

The years haven't dimmed Wagner's vivid memories of his days in the trenches. He fought in the Meuse-Argonne locale,

and at Forges during the drive from the North Sea to Me Germany.

"It was pretty bad," he said in a recent interview with the Saginaw Journal. "Sometimes the distance that separated Americans and the Germans across the No Man's Land was a trench and a step across an embankment — and there the enemy. Most times, we were about a half-mile away."

"In the trenches, a soldier couldn't sleep at night because he was knee-deep in water and our bodies were infested with cooties — lice," Wagner said. "They sure kept us awake. In daytime, it was shelling. The were always shells coming blowing bodies apart."

He isn't the least bitter about waiting so long for his Purple Heart and says he's "really pleased about receiving it because the family keeps reminding me on everything. And, I'm glad up there in years, you know

Tequila, fish don't mix, officials say

United Press International
WAPAKONETA, Ohio — A truck loaded with 5,000 gallons of tequila has crashed into a bridge guardrail, spilling about half of its load into the Auglaize River and worrying officials about the possibility of an explosion and fish kill.

Firefighters, worried that the 110-proof tequila remaining in the truck might explode, closed the busy roadway for seven hours while they pumped the liquid into another truck and cleared away the wreckage.

State Environmental Protection Agency officials also were concerned about a possible fish kill in the northwestern Ohio

river resulting from the spilled tequila.

The driver of the truck, Ronald W. Hurley, 31, of St. Antonio, was injured in the accident. He was in fair condition Tuesday at Joint Township Hospital in nearby St. Marys.

Hurley, who told authorities he fell asleep shortly before the mishap, was cited for impaired alertness, said a spokeswoman for the Ohio Highway Patrol.

Patrol troopers said a northbound semi tore up 20 feet of guardrail before it rolled onto its left side and came to a stop with its trailer dangling over the side of the bridge.



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