

# Western Fire Journal

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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



# Profile:

# LUNA

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Editorial Assistant

**Background Information**—Hypothetically located along the Southern California coast; a river bisects the city; population 150,000; 8 sq. mi.; warm climate with an ocean breeze, occasional fog and light rain in the winter.

**Target Hazards**—Luna Beach has a large commercial harbor, recreational boating facilities, a small airport and an industrial center. Most dwellings are single-story, though there are many apartment buildings throughout the city.

**Fire Chief**—Thomas J. Showers; 42 years in fire service; 10 years as fire chief; progenitor and creator of Luna Beach; Showers' major accomplishments during term in office have been



*Front of Station 1.*

*Luna Beach boat 1, 76' long, 9000 GPM.*



the total modernization of the department with new apparatus, planning of a radio system and construction of a training center, in addition to the meticulous and detailed building of the apparatus and fire stations.

**Personnel**—211 total; 1 chief, 6 battalion chiefs, 1 fire-prevention captain, 3 fire protection inspectors, 6 dispatchers, 36 captains, 36 engineers, 9 drivers, 3 boat pilot/engineers, 108 firefighters.

**Divisions**—1.

**Battalions**—2.

**Fire Stations**—5.

**First-line Companies**—13.

**Truck Companies**—2-100' aerial ladder trucks and 1-85' snorkel truck.

# BEACH

**Engine Companies**—6 pumpers, including 1 Squirt (50'); All have 500-gallon tanks; pumping capacities range from 1000 to 1250 GPM.

**Reserve Companies**—2 reserve pumpers and 1 reserve ambulance.

**Major Apparatus Manufacturers**—Seagrave, Crown, Pierce, Emergency One, Ward La-France, Mack.

**Apparatus Color**—Light yellow.



*Typical engine company.*



*Squad 1—heavy rescue, complete with equipment.*

**Rescue Companies**—3 paramedic units and 1 heavy rescue unit.

**Specialized Apparatus**—2 twin-agent (AFF) units; 1 chemical/pump; 1 fire-boat with 9000 GPM, 3 stang guns and one small gun on a 40' snorkel; 1 cabin-cruiser with 750 GPM, equipped for SCUBA teams; a special hose layer with 2000 feet of 5" hose.

**Regular Company Manning Levels**—Pumpers—4, trucks—4, Boat 6—8, Boat 6A—3, Foam 1—3, Hose 2—2, ambulances—2. All firefighters are EMTs.

**Alarm Assignments**—Assignments are worked out according to occupancy and building types, with dwellings assigned 2 engines, 1 truck and 1 squad;

high-value areas—3 engines, 1 truck and 1 squad. The dock area receives the same assignment, with the addition of a foam unit.

**Work Schedule For Firefighters**—The department is on a 3-platoon, 24-hour system with an average of 10 shifts per month for each firefighter.

**Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements**—No automatic agreements exist, but there are mutual aid agreements with surrounding cities.

**Communications**—Consists of VHF high-band radio, telephone type street boxes, with dispatching done by radio alert to stations.

**Training**—The drill center has a 5-story building and tower comprising

*Continued on next page*

*1972 Crown aerial*





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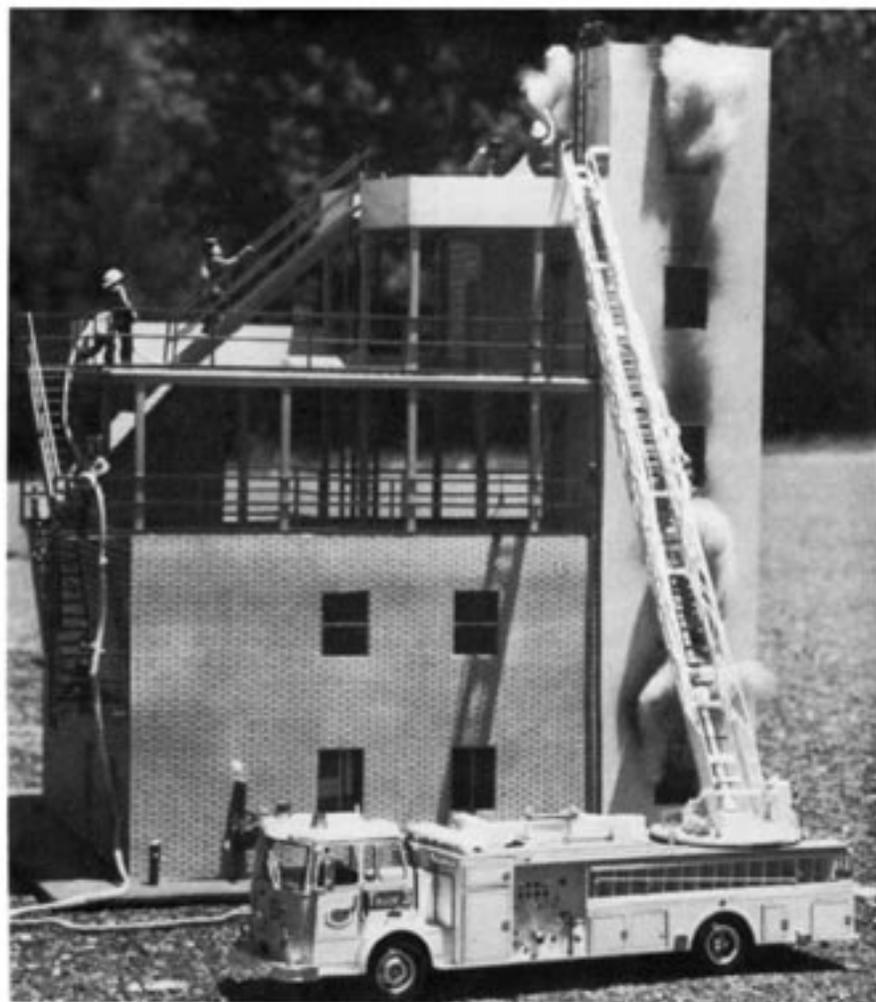
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*Drill tower during a training session.*

## PROFILE . . .

all types of construction, roofing,  
stairs, ladders, ramps and sprinklers.  
Personnel train daily in their base sta-  
tion and monthly at the drill center.

In this season of good cheer, ending  
what has become the worst year in our  
nation's economic history since the  
Great Depression, we want to give our  
readers an idea what a perfect fire de-

partment in a perfect (but not fire-free)  
world would be like. We set out to find  
a jovial fire department free of such  
mundane problems as budgeting,  
political maneuvering and cut-backs.  
We found the ideal in the Luna Beach  
Fire Department, but it may be a  
statement upon the state of the world  
when we reveal that this ideal depart-  
ment exists only in 1:32 scale. Luna  
Beach is located in the den of re-  
nowned fire apparatus model builder

### *Station 3.*



Tom Showers.

What the department lacks in size it makes up for in inspiration. Showers started building the model department in 1941 and developed a miniature prototypical fire department. Showers planned and laid out the department with a precision and devotion to detail that had made the Luna Beach Fire Department an exact and authentic replica of its full-scale counterpart.

The mythical city of Luna Beach is located on the coast of Southern California and covers eight square miles—on paper, anyway. It is designed to resemble a typical city, with industrial areas, storage tanks filled with volatile liquids, and commercial and residential areas. The city has a small airport and a large commercial harbor. Two crash/fire/rescue (CFR) units are deployed to protect the airport, and two boat companies, one equipped for SCUBA teams, protect the harbor.

The department operates an automated high-pressure hydrant system with two 1500 GPM underground pumps. The piping is arranged so that water may be pumped from either the city's river or the harbor, and provides protection for the industrial and city centers.

All of the stations and apparatus are scratch built in 1:32 ( $\frac{3}{8}'' = 1'$ ) scale. Including the Luna Beach Fire Department, Tom Showers has built over 300 scale fire apparatus models.

Showers is now the chief of the Shelter Cove (California) Fire Department, after retiring as a captain from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. ★



Typical engine company hose load.



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