

WATERBURY RECORD
SEPTEMBER 21, 1944

104 Chimneys Damaged by Quake Major Fire Hazard

Indication that the recent earthquake may have more severely shaken Vermont towns than has been so far estimated, is contained in the report of the Fire Wardens who have just completed a thorough inspection of all chimneys in the Village of Waterbury.

The work of inspecting Waterbury chimneys has been more thoroughly done than for several years, the job occupying afternoon and early evening time throughout last week; and as a result of this inspection, there have been reported to the Waterbury Village authorities no less than 104 chimneys in this small area, which are in need of immediate attention.

This number exceeds at least twice the highest estimate made when Fire Wardens began this inspection, and while not every chimney shows severe damage and while not everyone can have its faults attributed to the earthquake, a very great majority of them appear to have been recently damaged.

With National Fire Prevention Week scheduled for October 8th to October 14th, and with the heating season only about a month away, the Waterbury inspection is timely. Already many Waterbury property owners have repaired quake-damaged chimneys thereby reducing the fire hazard to Village and personal property.

A second inspection to report on the progress that property holders are making in affecting these essential repairs will be made of all these properties beginning October 2, the Village Trustees feeling it is a most urgent matter that these defective chimneys be repaired before the heating season begins. In this connection, the Village Trustees request a report from any property holder who is unable to find a workman to make the necessary repairs to insure safety during the next four weeks. Steps will be taken to provide such a service in all such instances.