
 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

No. 35—1930.

I ASSENT,

[L.S.]

 A. C. HOLLIS,
Governor.

20th December, 1930.

 AN ORDINANCE to make provision for the control
 of fires on oilfields.

[20th December, 1930.]

BE it enacted by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Oilfield Fires Short title.
 Control Ordinance, 1930.

2. In this Ordinance—

“The Authority” means the Fire Control Authority Definitions.
 appointed under this Ordinance;

“Manager” used in relation to an oilfield means the person nominated as manager of borings on the oilfield under the Mines Borings and Quarries Ordinance;

“ Oil ” means mineral oil ;

“ Oilfield ” means any land drilled, or in course of being drilled for oil, or whereon any operation for winning oil, is conducted ;

“ Oil Operator ” means an owner of oil mining rights, or a licensee under an oil prospecting licence, or a lessee under an oil mining lease, or an assignee of any such person, who by virtue of his ownership, licence, lease or assignment, drills for or wins oil, or employs others to drill for or to win oil ;

“ Well ” means a well or boring yielding oil or gas.

Appointment
of Authority.

3.—(1) The Governor may appoint some fit and proper person, or any number of fit and proper persons, to be the Fire Control Authority under this Ordinance.

(2) Every person so appointed shall hold office until his appointment is terminated by the Governor.

(3) Where several persons are appointed to be the Authority, the Governor shall nominate one of its members to be the Executive Officer thereof, who may perform all such duties and shall have such powers authorities and immunities, as are imposed or conferred upon the Authority by or under this Ordinance.

Entry in cases
of emergency.

4. Whenever in the opinion of the Governor an emergency arises by reason of an uncontrolled fire on an oilfield, or by reason of an uncontrolled well, or of an uncontrolled flow of oil or gas from a well, becoming a danger to life or property, the Governor may direct the Authority with or without assistants, to enter on the oilfield, or any other land, for the purpose of controlling and extinguishing any such fire or for controlling the well or the flow of oil or gas from any such well.

Powers of
Authority on
entry on
oilfield.

5. On entering on an oilfield or other land under the provisions of this Ordinance the Authority

(1) shall have sole direction of all fire or well control operations and may take such measures as may be necessary for the proper and effective control and extinction of any fire or for the

proper and effective control of any well and of the flow of oil or gas from any well, including in such measures the total destruction if necessary of any structure material or thing on any such oilfield or other land.

- (2) may call upon and require every adult male person present at such fire to aid and assist in the control and extinction of such fire, and any person, who after being so required, shall refuse or fail to aid or assist in such manner as the Authority may direct, shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction thereof by a magistrate shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10, unless he shall prove to the satisfaction of the magistrate that at the time of the fire he was 60 years of age, or was prevented by bodily infirmity from so aiding and assisting.

6.—(1) The Governor may employ and authorise any person (in this Ordinance referred to as the "Salvor") with or without assistants to enter on any oilfield or other land for the purpose of taking such measures, subject to the directions of the Authority, as may be necessary for the proper and effective control and extinction of any oilfield fire or for the proper and effective control of any well or of the flow of oil or gas therefrom.

Employment of Salvor.

(2) The Salvor shall have the powers authorities and immunities of the Authority.

(3) For the purposes of this section the Authority may enter on any oilfield or other land.

7. Every person who assaults, impedes or obstructs, or who aids or abets any other person in assaulting, impeding or obstructing, the Authority or the Salvor in the exercise of his powers under this Ordinance or any person employed by, or acting under the directions of, the Authority or the Salvor, shall be guilty of an offence, and on summary conviction thereof by a magistrate shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £100.

Penalty to obstructing Authority.

8.—(1) All costs and expenses incurred by the Authority, or by the Salvor (if any), in carrying into effect the provisions of this Ordinance shall be paid by the Oil

Costs and expenses to be paid by Oil Operator.

Operator, or his personal representatives or assigns, and in default of payment thereof shall be recovered from him, or his personal representatives or assigns by action in the Supreme Court at the suit of the Attorney-General.

(2) Such costs and expenses, together with costs of suit (if any), shall be a charge on the property, of whatsoever nature or kind, of the Oil Operator and shall rank in priority to any other charge, mortgage or encumbrance affecting the same.

The Authority
or Salvor not
to be deemed
a trespasser.

9. The Authority, or the Salvor, or any person employed by, or acting under the directions of, either of them, shall not be deemed a trespasser by reason of any entry or destruction or action taken or thing done under this Ordinance, or be liable for any damage occasioned by carrying out any of the provisions of this Ordinance, unless the same were occasioned by acts done solely from malicious motives.

Liability of
Oil Operator.

10. Nothing in this Ordinance contained shall take away or diminish the liability of any Oil Operator for damage to property of another occasioned by an outbreak of fire on, or by an uncontrolled flow of oil or gas from, his oilfield, or by measures taken by him his manager, agents or servants, to control or extinguish such fire, or to control any well or such flow of oil or gas, and he shall be liable to the person injured for all damage caused by measures taken by the Authority, or the Salvor, under the provisions of this Ordinance or by any person employed by, or acting under the directions of, either of them, unless the same were occasioned by acts done solely from malicious motives.

Passed in Council this twelfth day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty.

J. W. DAY,
Acting Clerk of the Council.