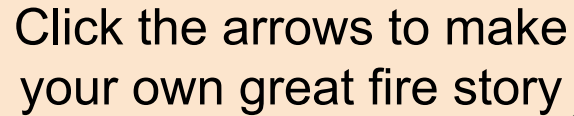


Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead

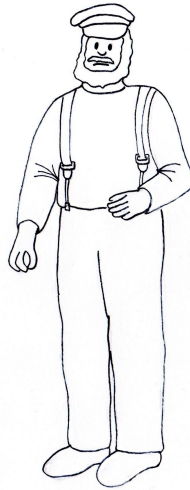
Click the arrows to make
your own great fire story



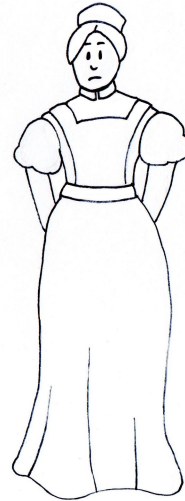
Choose your character



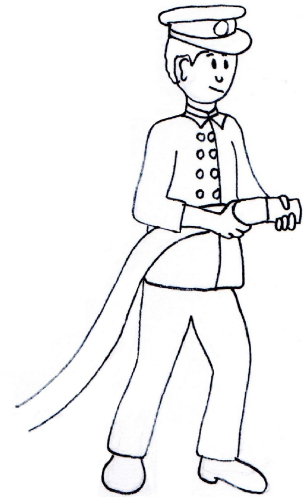
Sally +
Family



Sailor Jack



Nurse
Johnson



James Todd-
Firefighter

It is the 6th October 1854, just after midnight and you are fast asleep in bed. As you dream, P.C. Ewart has made a shocking discovery. A Worsted Wool factory belonging to Messrs. Wilson's and sons is on fire!

As your father snores next door P.C. Ewart races across the Tyne bridge to raise the alarm...



Continue Story

You are woken up by strange noises outside, you can hear people in the streets and a strange crackling noise. You sniff the air... Is that smoke you can smell?

Do you:

- A. Look out the window to see what is going on.
- B. Go back to sleep.
- C. Find your parents to see if they know what is happening.



You see flames and smoke from the direction of the River Tyne. The flames look like they are spreading very quickly!

Do you:

- A. Make sure your family is awake and then go and wake up all your neighbours.
- B. Get dressed and start packing your most precious belongings.



Just as you are falling back to sleep your parents rush into the room and make you get out of bed.

Do you:

- A. Decide to stay at home and see what happens. You might as well get some rest, you have a busy day planned.
- B. Get dressed and start packing your most precious belongings.



They have heard it as well and tell you that there is a big fire somewhere by the river!

Do you:

A. Flee from your house in your nightclothes!

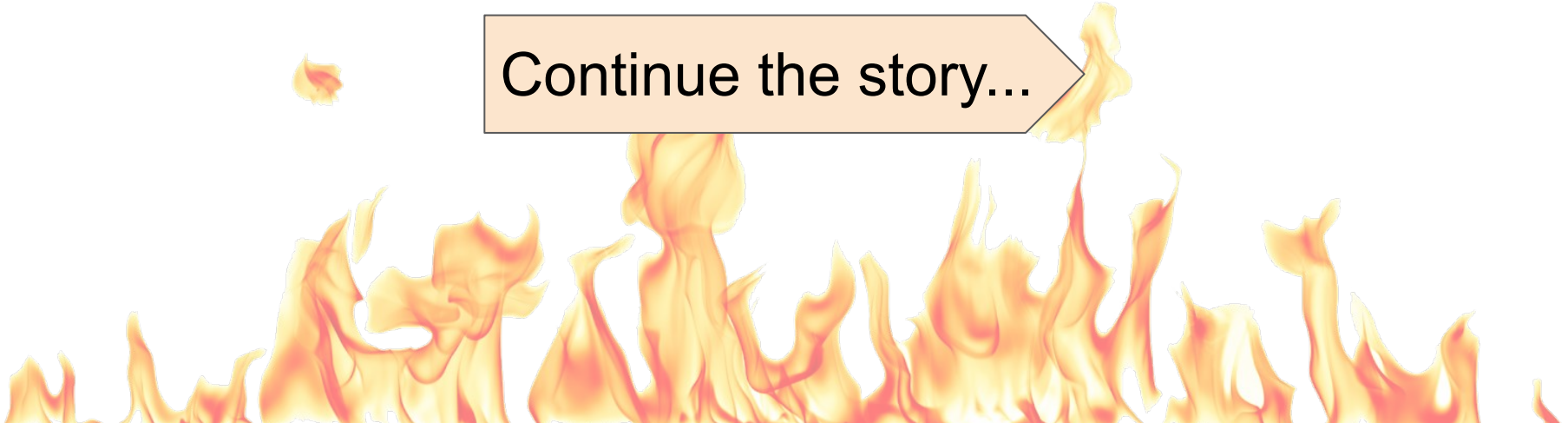
B. Get dressed and start packing your most precious belongings.



As you flee there is a mighty explosion that shakes the earth!

Your house is on fire but it's too late to go back in and get any of your belongings, you will have to make do with the night clothes you are wearing!

Watch your feet you don't want to stand on anything sharp.



Continue the story...

As you gather your belongings there is a mighty explosion that shakes the earth!

Your house is on fire but you are able to quickly leave with your favourite things packed up safely and some warm clothes and sturdy shoes.

Continue the story...



All of a sudden there is a mighty explosion that shakes the earth!

Your house is on Fire!

As you dash to the door you trip and bang your head. You better head to the hospital to get that seen to!



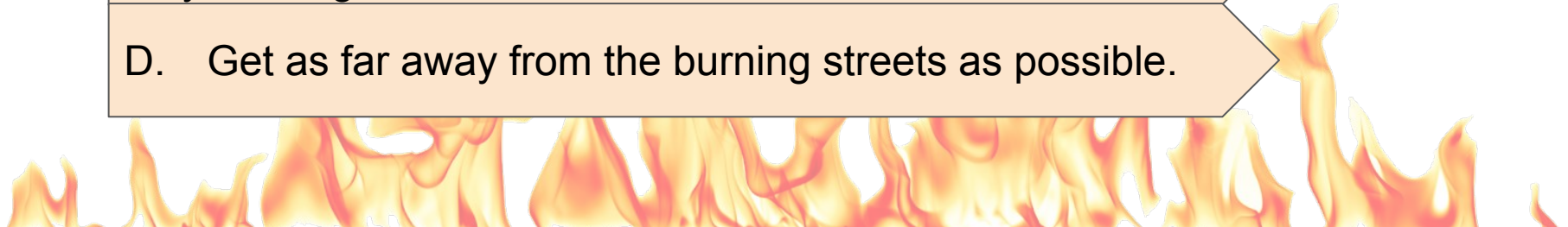
Go to the Infirmary



Now everyone is safely out on the street you are not sure what to do. Lots of your neighbours are standing around looking confused and scared as well. Lots of people are injured and everyone is covered in dust and grime.

Do you:

- A. Stay on your street and try to put the fires out before everything is destroyed.
- B. See if there is anything you can do to help stop the fire across the city.
- C. Go to the bridge to see what is happening. It sounds very exciting!
- D. Get as far away from the burning streets as possible.



Newcastle Infirmary

It's very busy at the infirmary and lots of the patients who were already here have given up their beds and are helping to nurse the new patients!



Your head is bandaged and ointment put on your burns but unfortunately you hear that your house has burned down.

Continue Story

The fire is slowly spreading along your street and it's getting harder and harder to try and put it out.

Do you:

- A. Keep trying to put the fire out with buckets of water with the few neighbours that stayed to help.
- B. Try and find some help to stop the fire before it completely destroys all the houses on your street.



The fire takes hold of the buildings and is spreading faster and faster.

Do you:

A. Flee to safety there is nothing you can do.

B. Keep trying to put the fire out. If your house is destroyed you don't know where you are going to live.



Finding help seemed like a good idea, you definitely couldn't stop the fire by yourself but which way should you go?

Do you:

- A. Run down to the River Tyne.
- B. Run to the next street over, maybe they will help so the fire doesn't reach their street.
- C. Run to the local church.



You manage to flee to safety but you hear that your street has been destroyed by the fire. At least your family is safe and hopefully your house will get rebuilt!

Continue Story



The house continues to burn very quickly and despite your efforts you know there is no hope of saving your house. All of a sudden the building collapses and you are hit by burning wood!
You better go to the infirmary for help.

Go to the Infirmary

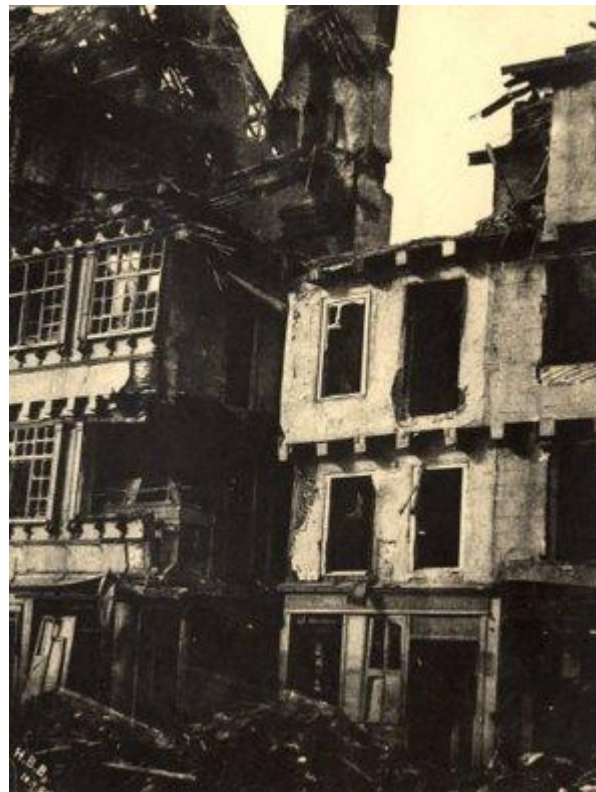


You run down to the river and see a floating fire engine from South Shields on the river. Although they can't help as they are trying to save the houses directly on the quayside they send a group of volunteers back to your street to help.

Continue story



Your run along to the next street and find that there are firefighters already on the street and they are pulling down the houses! They explain that there is nothing they can do for your street but hopefully pulling down the houses on this street will stop the fire spreading.



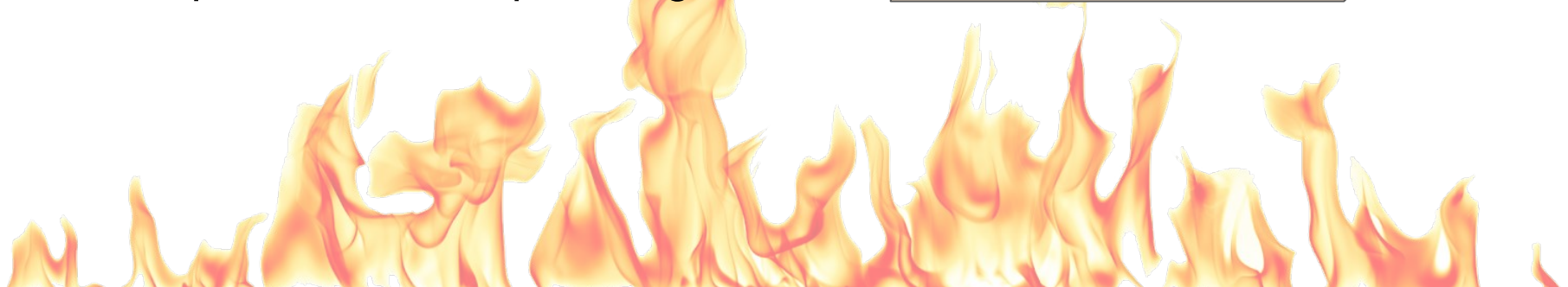
Continue Story

You run to the church and find a group of private firefighters. They agree to come and try to protect your street.

The firefighters look at your street and decide that actually it would be better to pull the houses on your street down. Hopefully this will stop the fire from spreading!



Continue story...



The firefighters pull down the houses on your street. Its very hard to see a pile of rubble instead of your house but you know that pulling your house down stopped the fire from spreading to the next street so at least something good came of it.



Continue Story



You watch in despair from a safe distance as the fire destroys your house. Where are you going to live now?

At least your family is all safe and well.



Continue Story



Because your family lost their home and everything in it they are given £50 from the relief fund. Churches held collections, the Theatre Royal in Newcastle held a charity performance and Queen Victoria herself donated £100! You and your family are very grateful for the money as it means you can start again.

Try another story

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
G R E A T F I R E
AND
E X P L O S I O N

WHICH OCCURRED IN
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE & GATESHEAD,

ON THE 6TH OF OCTOBER, 1854,

With a **PLAN** of that part of the Town Destroyed;
and a Lithographic

VIEW OF THE FIRE
FROM THE HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE.

THE PROFITS

Of this Edition will be given to the **FUND** for the
Relief of the Sufferers.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE :

**M. & M. W. LAMBERT, GREY STREET ; [HUNTER & Co.,
GRAINGER STREET.**

LONDON :

ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, & Co. ;

With the extra volunteers helping to put the fire out you finally succeed in stopping it! Although the fire has damaged your house and several others on the street they are not destroyed completely. You are very thankful for the volunteers help as you don't know what you would have done if your entire house had burnt down!



Try another story

You grab some buckets and head out towards the quayside to see if there is anything you can do to help stop this blaze. You are told to help out the private firefighters that have come from Durham. You work for hours filling buckets with water and carrying messages but 1½ days after the fire started it is finally out!

Cautiously you make your way to your street to see the damage...



Continue story...

You make your way to the Tyne Bridge.

It's already very crowded but you manage to find a spot with a good view of the fire. You have never seen a fire so big, it looks like a wild beast! There is also a massive crater where you know Mr Bertram's warehouse stood. It's the most exciting thing you have ever seen!

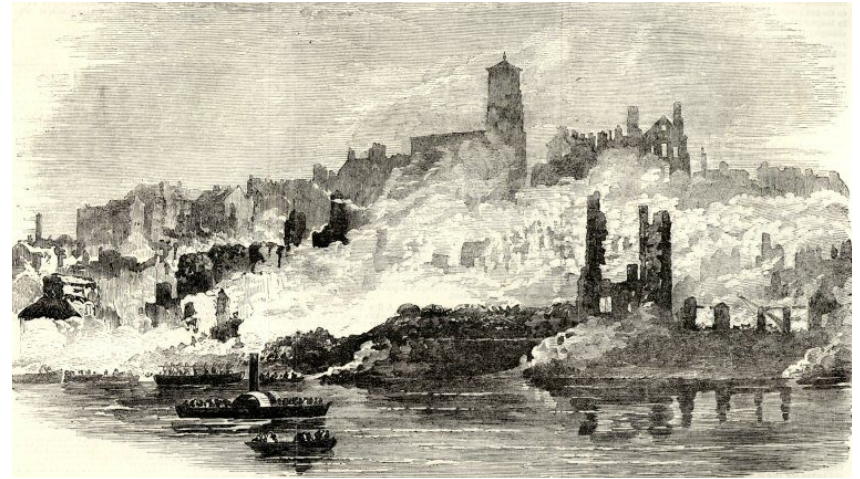
Suddenly you are hit with burning wood falling from the sky. You had better make your way to the Infirmary!



Go to the Infirmary

With the fire out the full extent of the damage can be seen. You make your way to where your house was and can see that it is no longer there...

You are thankful however, that your family is safe as you hear that 53 people have died in the fire and hundreds of people have been injured.



Continue Story

After making sure your parents and brothers and sisters are all safely out of bed you head outside and knock on all your neighbours doors to raise the alarm.

All of a sudden there is a ginormous explosion and you can feeling the floor shaking.

Continue the story...



It is the 6th October 1854, just after midnight and you are fast asleep in your ship. As you dream P.C. Ewart has made a shocking discovery. A Worsted wool factory belonging to Messrs. Wilson's and sons is on fire!

P.C. Ewart races across the Tyne Bridge to raise the alarm...

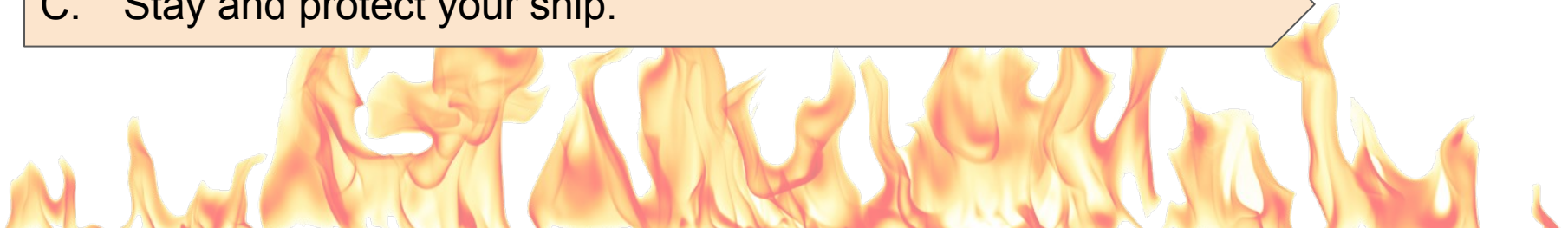


Continue Story

You are woken up by strange noises outside, you can hear people running on the quayside and the sound of horse drawn wagons. There's a strange crackling noise. You sniff the air... Is that smoke you can smell? You go up onto the deck and see that Gateshead is on fire!

Do you:

- A. Prepare to sail your ship away from the quayside you don't want it to be damaged!
- B. Abandon your ship and see what you do to help.
- C. Stay and protect your ship.

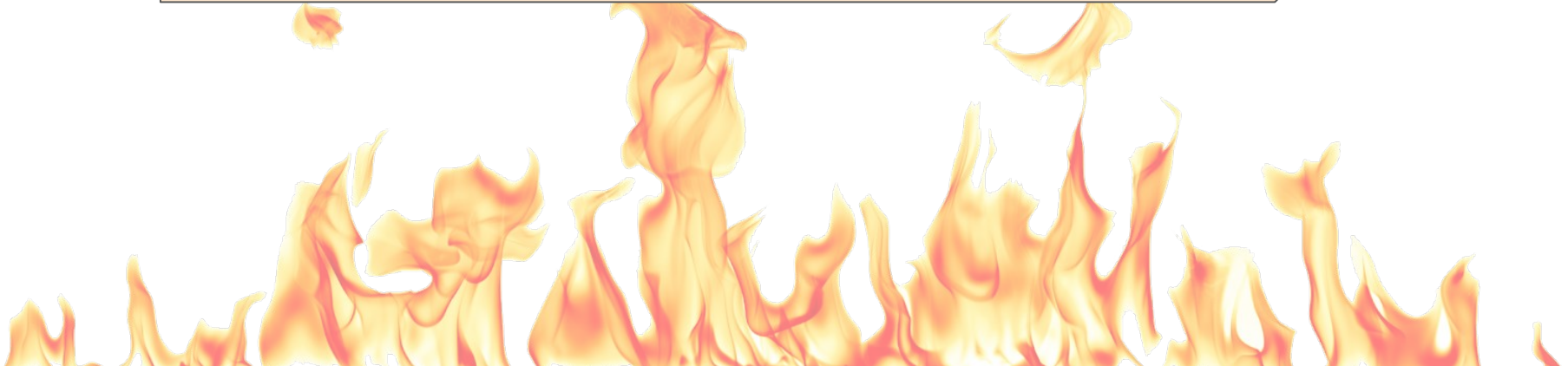


Just as you are ready to sail away to safety you are approached by a man and his family. He is willing to pay you to take his family to safety.

Do you:

A. Let the family on the ship.

B. Refuse. There are plenty of other safe places for them to go.



You make it to the Tyne Bridge and are starting to cross over when there is a massive explosion. The bridge shakes and the noise is deafening! You notice Newcastle is on fire now as well and turn back to see what you can do to help.

Continue



You decide to protect your ship. You wouldn't be able to make any money if it was destroyed or damaged!

Do you:

A. Keep watch from the quayside- it's easier to escape!

B. Keep watch from the ship. You will be closer to any fires that need putting out.

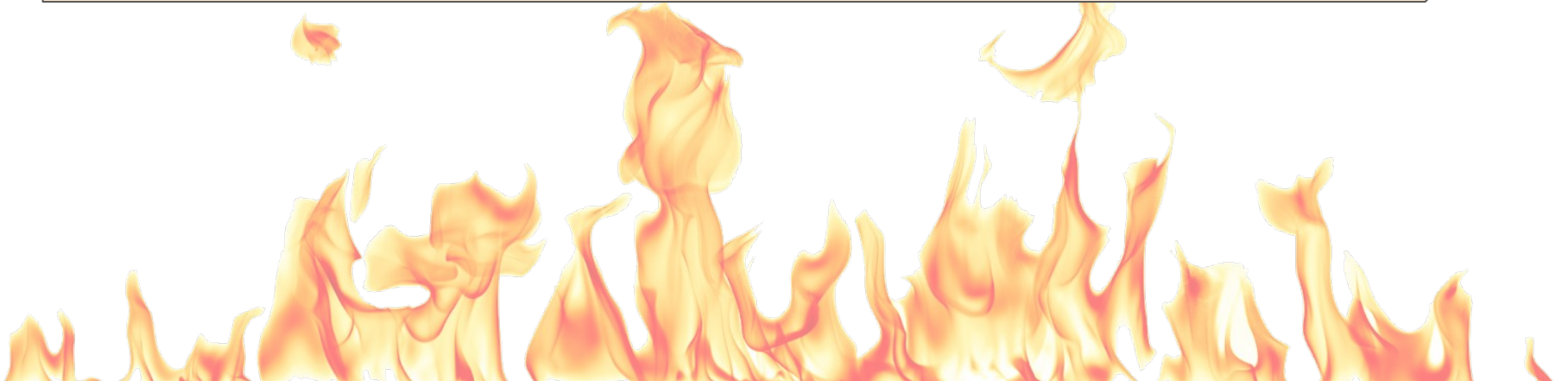


You grab a bucket and start working with other volunteers to try and put out the fire at a row of shops on the quayside, but the fire is spreading very quickly...

Do you:

A. Stay and keep trying to put the fire out.

B. Move on to a row of houses that has only just caught fire.



The fire keeps spreading throughout the row of shops and all of a sudden the building gives way and collapses. You are hit by falling debris and need to go to the infirmary for medical care.

Go to the infirmary

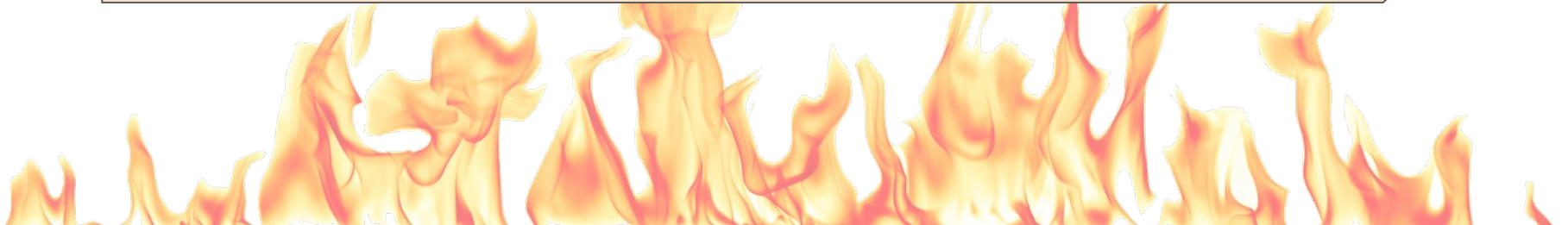


You move on to the row of houses that have just caught fire and help the gratefully families living on that street. You manage to put the fire out and help them to rescue some of their belongings before directing them to safety.

It feels good to help other people out!

Do you:

- A. Find somewhere safe to go now you have done something helpful.
- B. Carry on helping people there is so much still to do!



Newcastle Infirmary

It's very busy at the infirmary and lots of the patients who were already here have given up their beds and are helping to nurse the new patients!



Your head is bandaged and ointment put on your burns but your injuries are minor

Try another story

You find a safe place to wait out the disaster. You're glad that you helped out but feel it's better to leave things to the experts now, you don't want to get injured.



Once the all clear is given you go back to the quayside to find that your ship has only got minor damage. That can definitely be fixed!

Try another story

It's hard work battling the fire when you don't have any proper equipment. You do what you can to help but unfortunately you are too close when a building collapses and you are showered with burning timbers. Head to the infirmary for treatment

Go to the infirmary



You watch from the quayside for any flames. All of a sudden a spark is blown on to your ship and you are able to put it out quickly before any damage occurs.

Do you:

- A. Keep watching it might happen again!
- B. Leave and help to put out fires elsewhere.



Just as you are sure nothing is going to happen to your ship all of a sudden there is big explosion and your ship is directly hit by large pieces of falling timber. You are injured and barely escape with your life!

Go to the infirmary



You let the family onto the ship and sail out onto the Tyne. Just then there is a massive explosion and your ship is hit by burning wood falling from the sky. The family frantically help to put the fire out and you are able to sail to safety. You all watch as Newcastle and Gateshead burn from a safe distance.

Try another story



You pull away from the quayside leaving the family behind. Just as you reach the middle of the river there's a massive explosion and your boat is hit by burning wood! You are thrown into the river and the man you just turned away helps to rescue you from the water. You had better head to the infirmary to get your wounds seen to. The river isn't very clean!

Go to the infirmary



It is the 6th October 1854, just after midnight and you are on night shift at Newcastle Infirmary. As you monitor patients, P.C. Ewart has made a shocking discovery. A Worsted wool factory belonging to Messrs. Wilson's and sons is on fire!

P.C. Ewart races across the Tyne bridge to raise the alarm...



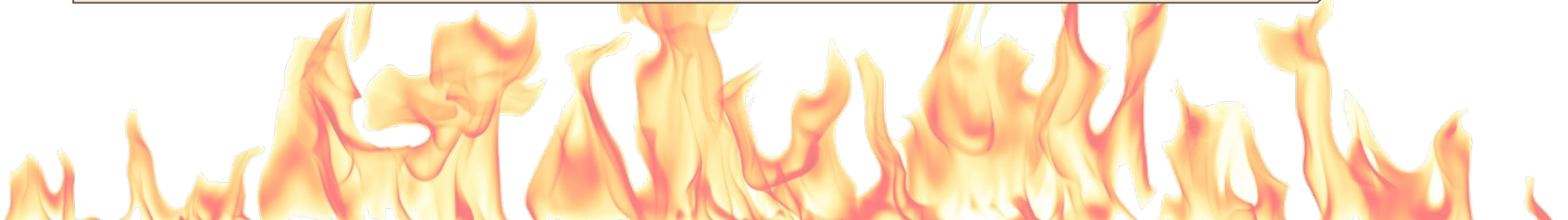
Continue Story

It has been a very quiet night at the infirmary. The patients are all asleep in bed and your checks are done.

All of a sudden you hear an enormous explosion noise and the ground shakes! What was that?

Do you:

- A. Comfort the patients that have woken up with a shock.
- B. Go and see what has happened.
- C. That sounds like trouble! Start preparing medical supplies and move patients to create bed space.



It's a fire! Spread the word to make sure all the staff are prepared for incoming casualties!

Continue Story



News of the fire spreads quickly through the infirmary. You feel a bit nervous, this could mean lots of incoming patients and what about your family? Are they safe?

Do you:

A. Abandon job and look for family.

B. Stay at the hospital to help the injured that will surely come flooding in soon.



You make your way to the street your family lives on. The closer you get the more chaotic the streets become. By the time you make it to Butcher Bank the smoke is thick in the air and there are panicked people running everywhere.

Do you:

A. Keep going, you still need to find your family!

B. Go back to the hospital, you know you're unlikely to find your family in this chaos. You will be more help there.



The infirmary very quickly begins to fill up with casualties from the fire. There are people with burns and injuries from falling buildings everywhere and the smell of smoke fills the room. More and more people arrive... how are you going to manage! There are only about 9 nurses on duty!

Do you:

- A. Keep on working as quickly as you can... surely there can't be that many more patients!
- B. Ask the patients who are well enough to help out. There's no way you can care for all of these patients!



You continue pushing your way through the crowds to make your way to your families house. As you get closer to the quayside more and more houses are already burning. Maybe this wasn't a good idea. Just as you are about to turn on to your parents street the roof of a house nearby collapses and you are trapped under the rubble! Passersby quickly pull you from the rubble and you are rushed to the infirmary...but this time as a patient!

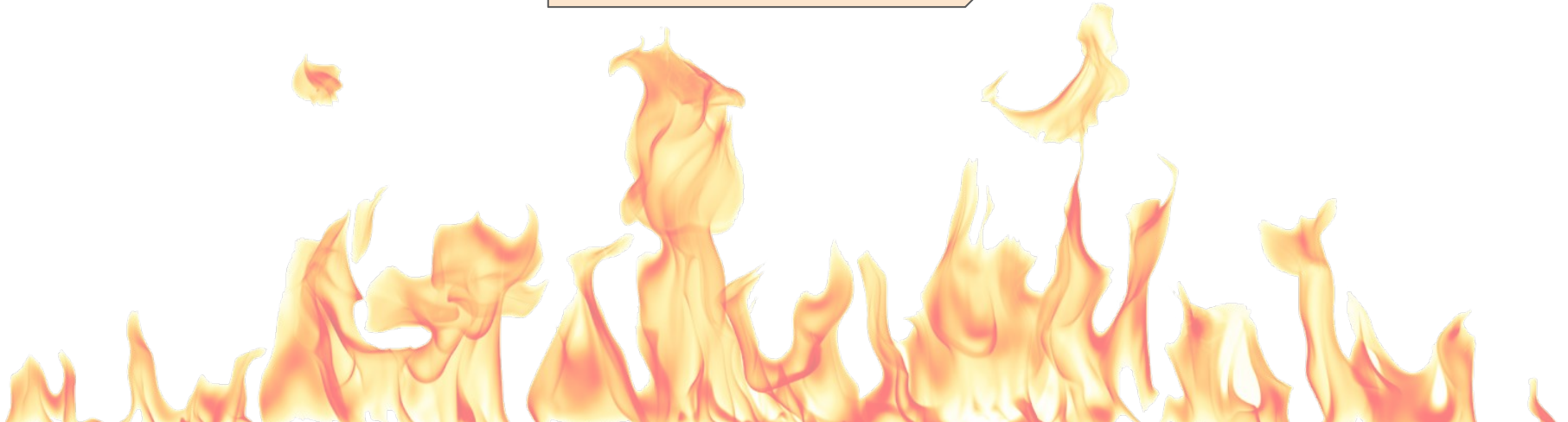


Go to the infirmary



More and more patients arrive and some of them are very unwell and require a lot of attention. The patients who are well enough, see that you are struggling and step into help with easier tasks like cleaning up the patients. With this extra help you are able to focus on the patients that really need your help!

Continue Story



You divide up tasks allocating easy jobs to the patients that are helping you out. With the extra hands you are able to make sure new patients receive the help that they need.

Continue Story



The fire rages for 1 ½ days before it is finally extinguished. Hundreds of people have passed through the infirmary including fire fighters, residents and brave volunteers. Sadly 10 people have died at the infirmary although you hear that overall 54 people have died!

As the rush of new patients slows a message arrives from your family. Your house has been destroyed in the fire but everyone is safe and well!



Try another story



It is the 6th October 1854, just after midnight and you are fast asleep. As you sleep P.C. Ewart has made a shocking discovery. A Worsted Wool factory belonging to Messrs. Wilson's and sons is on fire!

P.C. Ewart races across the Tyne bridge to raise the alarm...



Continue Story

You are woken up by a banging on your door. It's a messenger who tells you that there is a fire in Gateshead.

Do you:

- A. Quickly dress and head to the fire engine so that you are ready to head straight off as soon as the rest of your team arrive.
- B. Go back to bed. You had a long day and are still tired. If its urgent someone will knock again.



Once the team is assembled and the horses harnessed you head to Gateshead as fast as you can.

There are other private fire engines already at the scene and your team take up a rear position ready to fill in any gaps as the fire spreads, which it is doing very quickly! Already Mr Bertrams warehouse, which is full of dangerous chemicals is burning!



Continue story...

Just as you are drifting off to sleep again there's another knock at the door. This time it's a message from your superior. He orders you to get ready and head straight to the engine or there will be trouble!

Head to the fire station



You hear three small popping noises. What was that noise? All of a sudden there is an enormous explosion! You are thrown backwards by the explosion along with rocks and wood and metal. With a crash you hit the earth. Your ears are ringing and everything aches but apart from a cut on your head you seem to have survived. Your fire engine however, has been destroyed and you see several firefighters have been badly injured.

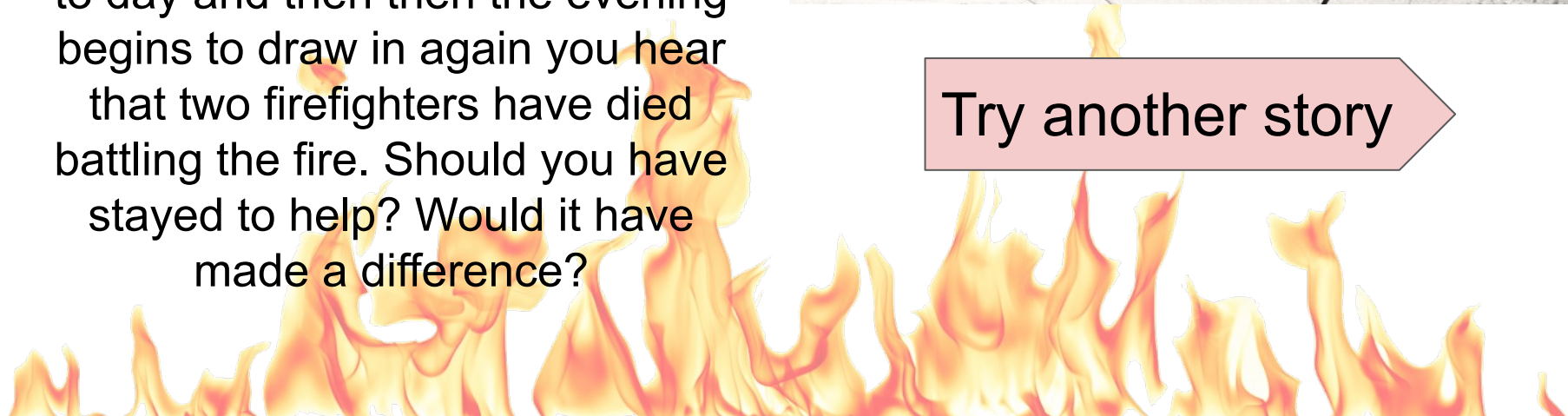
Do you:

- A. Stay and keep fighting the fire. It's just a little cut.
- B. Head to the infirmary with the other firefighters that have been injured.

You head to the infirmary to get your head patched up. They are lots of casualties already waiting to be seen and it looks like you will be here a while. You help out where you can, you are definitely not the most badly injured! As night turns to day and then then the evening begins to draw in again you hear that two firefighters have died battling the fire. Should you have stayed to help? Would it have made a difference?



Try another story



You stay to fight the fire. It's spreading quickly and both sides of the river are on fire! Most of the engines have been destroyed. You need to send for help to local towns + cities. You need more fire engines.

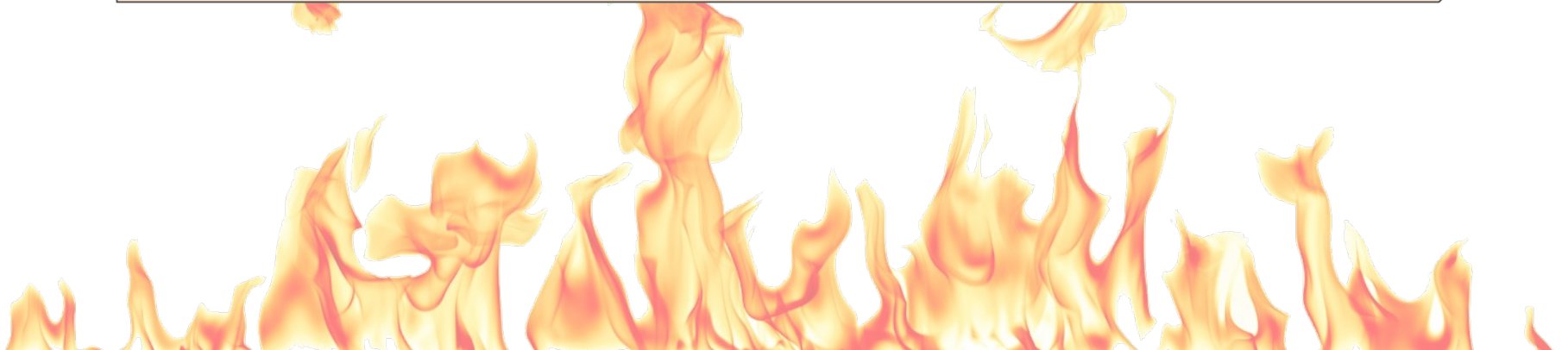
Continue story...



You continue to battle the fire as help starts to arrive from South Shields, Sunderland, Hexham, Durham, Morpeth and Berwick. Its spreading quicker by the minute and you are helpless as it devours houses, shops and factories.

Do you:

- A. Keep fighting the fire with water.
- B. Try and come up with another plan... this isnt working.



You keep battling on but you are losing the fight. The fire keeps on spreading faster than ever.

Do you:

A. Try and come up with another plan.

B. Keep trying... what else can you do?



You quickly talk with your fellow firefighters and come up with two ideas:

Do you:

A. Recruit volunteers to help put out the fire.

B. Pull down houses in the path of the fire.



The fire is just too powerful. It unexpectedly jumps to the house behind you and takes hold quickly. The building collapses and you are hit by burning wood and your arm is badly burnt. You had better head to the infirmary for medical care.

Head to the infirmary



You find local men who are willing to help you stop the fire. Together you continue to battle the fire and seem to be making a little progress...

Continue story...

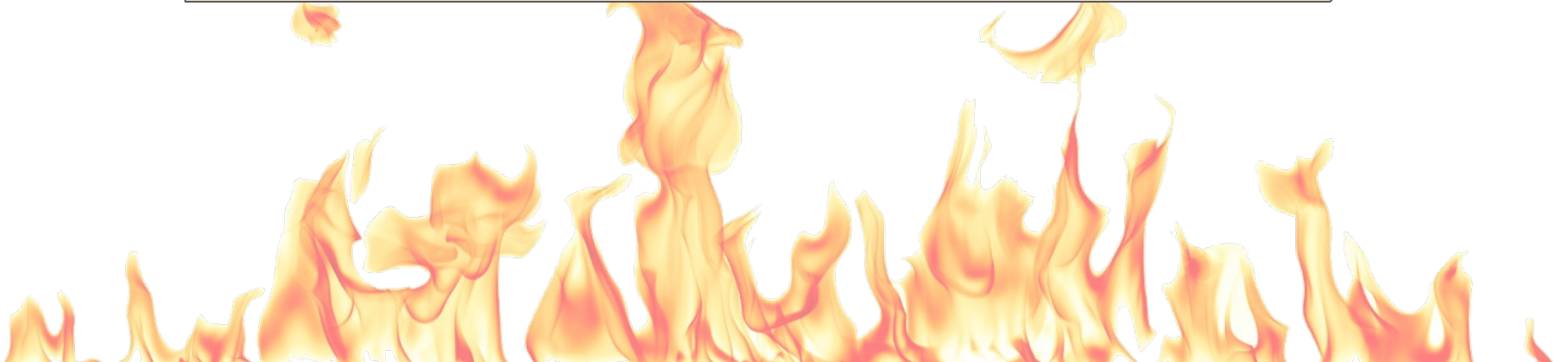


You decide that pulling the buildings down is going to be the best option. If you pull down a street it will create a fire break and hopefully stop the fire from spreading!

Do you:

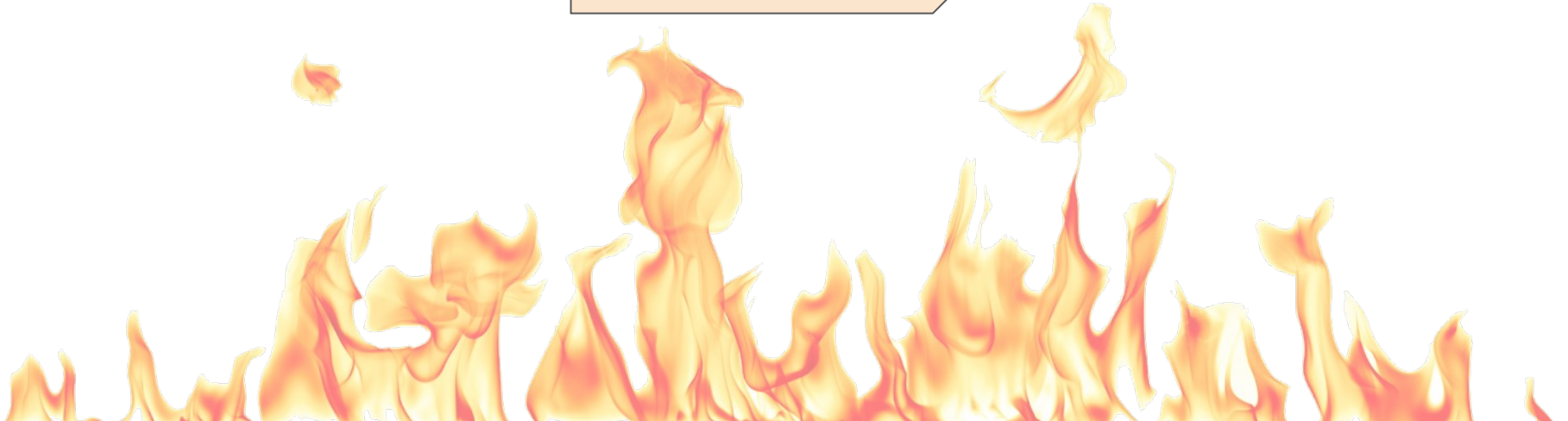
A. Pull down the row that has just started to burn.

B. Pull down the next row of houses that isn't yet on fire.



You pull down the row of houses that has just caught fire. You use explosives and fire hooks to pull them down. As the buildings fall they begin to make a gap that hopefully the fire can't travel over... as the last house falls it hits the next row of houses and they catch fire! Maybe you should have pulled down a row that wasn't on fire...

Try again...

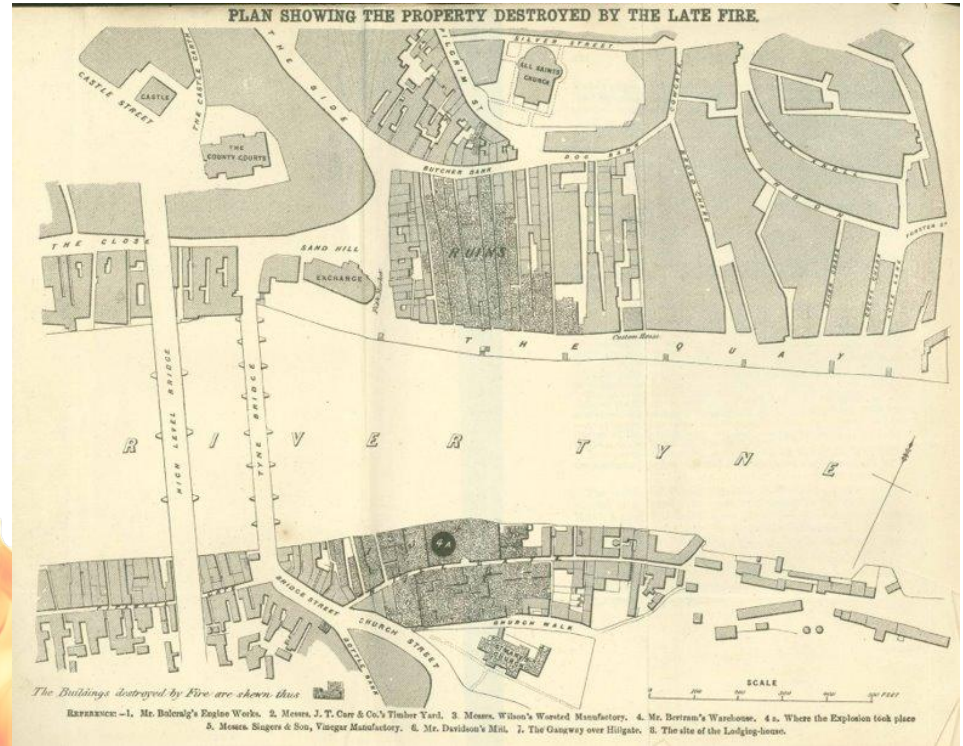


You pull down a row that has not yet caught fire and create a fire break. You stay and watch until the fire reaches the edge of the fire break. Will it manage to get across the gap?

Continue Story



It worked! The fire has been halted in its tracks! Across the city firefighters are doing the same and slowly but surely the fire is extinguished! It has taken 1 ½ days but the fire is eventually out in Newcastle and Gateshead. Everyone is exhausted and hungry and very very dirty. There are lots of injuries as well. The infirmary is going to be very busy!



Try another story