

and the work of the State Board of Forestry, and they may pay all costs and expenses thus incurred out of any surplus moneys standing to the credit of the Forest Reserve Fund, not otherwise appropriated; *nothing herein contained shall apply to the City of Baltimore.*

As to condemnation, see art. 33A.

Fire Hazards, Abatement of.

1924, ch. 573, sec. 23.

34. Every person, firm or corporation, operating a steam railroad within this State, using wood, coke or coal as fuel shall, between the first day of October of each year and the fifteenth day of April of the succeeding year, after the notice hereinafter provided shall have been given establish means for the prevention of forest fires along those parts of its tracks adjacent to which the State Department of Forestry shall have found that a fire hazard exists or will probably be caused by failure to take precautions. Where the State Department of Forestry deems other means insufficient there shall be cleared a safety strip of a width not to exceed one hundred (100) feet, as determined by the State Department of Forestry, measured horizontally from the outer rail. Notice of the necessity for a safety strip shall be sent by the State Department of Forestry to such person, firm or corporation not later than the first day of September of each year following the date upon which this act takes effect, such safety strip to be cleared by removing all dead wood, fallen leaves, withered grass and other inflammable material except fences and buildings, and manufactured products from the ground embraced within the width above prescribed. Provided that nothing in this section shall prevent such person, firm or corporation from piling and storing along its right of way any materials necessary for the construction, maintenance or operation of its railroad.

1924, ch. 573, sec. 24.

35. Every such person, firm or corporation shall have the power, subject to the provisions of Section 36 hereof, to clear such safety strips of inflammable material without liability for trespass, but shall not remove or damage, without compensation to the owner, any fence, building, or merchantable timber or such living trees as the owner may designate.

1924, ch. 573, sec. 25.

36. It shall be the duty of the State Department of Forestry to secure from the actual owner of each property involved, either by registered letter deposited in the United States mail directed to the last known address of such owner or by personal service, written permission for the annual clearing of such safety strips as prescribed in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of this Article. In the event such owner cannot be so found it shall be the duty of the State Department of Forestry to publish a notice not later than the first day of September of each year at least once in two papers of general circulation in the county wherein such property or the major portion thereof lies, such notice to quote the provisions of this section.