

1. Fire in the galley, fire in the house  
Fire in the beef kid, scorching the scouse.

**Fire! Fire! Fire down below!  
Fetch a bucket of water girls,  
there's fire down below!**

2. Fire in the fore-top, fire in the main  
Fire in the wilderness and fire in the chain.

3. Fire in the fore-peak, fire down below  
Fire in the fore chains the bo'sun didn't know

4. Fire in the lifeboat, fire in the gig  
Fire in the pig-sty, a-roasting the pig!

5. Fire in the lower hold, fire down below  
Fire in the main well the old man didn't know.

6. Fire up aloft me boys, fire all aglow  
Fire in the galley the cook he didn't know

7. Fire on the royal yards, fire on the main,  
Fetch a bucket of water girls and put it out again.

8. Fire in the orlop, fire in the hold,  
Fire in the strong-room, melting the gold.

9. Fire in the cabin and in the galley too  
No fire in the fo'c'sle and it's cold all through.

10. Fire at the capstan, fire at the mast  
Fire at the main deck a burning fast.

11. Fire in the store-room burning the food  
Fire at the night-head burning the wood.

12. Fire up the pump, fire down below  
Douse it quick with water boys let's roll and go!

**Fire! Fire! Fire down below!  
Fetch a bucket of water girls,  
there's fire down below!**

As sung by the **Shanty Crew** on CD *Sea shanties and sailor songs Classics ... 1840-1890*.

Try too the **Harris Siblings'** version at [youtu.be/pIHW8MSTNdQ](https://youtu.be/pIHW8MSTNdQ) (starts 3mins in!)

### Notes

A **pumping** shanty.  
As with all pump shanties, it can easily be extended to suit long hours of pumping.

**Other names:** Fire down below, Fire! Fire!, Fire in the Galley.  
One of many songs about Fire Down Below.



**Horse drawn fire engine - Printer's stock illustration of a horse-drawn fire engine,**  
Published in a type specimen book - *Specimen book of Farmer, Little & Company*, 1867  
via [wikimedia.org](https://www.wikimedia.org)

### About the words:

**Beef kid** - small wooden tub, for serving beef?  
**Scouse** - lobscouse, a kind of stew

**Fore-top** - a small platform at the top of the (lower) foremast, typically a quarter to a third of the way up the mast.

**Main (top)** - same on the main mast.

**Chain** - small platform built into the side of a ship to spread the shrouds to a more advantageous angle.

**Fore-peak** - section of the hold within the angle made by the bow, used for trimming or to store cargo.

**Main well** - section of the hold - for the pumps?

**Old man** - captain

**Orlop** - one of the lower decks.

**Fo'c'sle** - forecastle, an upper deck at the front

**Night-head** - a store room?  
but a **fly by night** is a large sail used only for sailing downwind; it needs little attention!