U3A Shanties

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 (starts 3mins in!)

Fire In The Galley

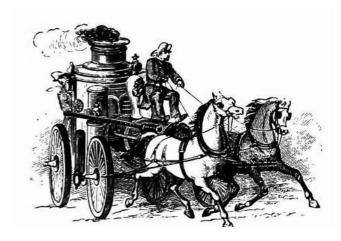
Notes

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

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!