

Tel. Address: "Marp, Sowest, London."

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MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY,

HORSEFERRY HOUSE,

THORNEY STREET,

Any communication on the  
subject of this letter  
should be addressed to:-

LONDON, S.W.1.

The Secretary,  
and the following number quoted:-

25th October, 1940.

H. S. C. 268/40

J.2.

F. B. 136/40.

Sir,

Home Security Circular No. 268/1940

F. B. Circular No. 136/1940

Scottish Home Dept. F. B. D. Circular L175/40

The Fire Precautions (Access to Premises) Order, 1940.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1940, No. 1573.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security, after consultation with the Secretary of State for Scotland, to state that, having regard to the dangers of the spreading of fire caused by incendiary bombs in unoccupied premises, power has been conferred by Regulation 28 of the Defence (General) Regulations to enable further provision to be made for access to premises for the purpose of extinguishing fires. Accordingly, an Order (the Fire Precautions (Access to Premises) Order, 1940) has been made by the Minister, conferring on air raid wardens and certain other persons power of entering premises for this purpose. A copy of the order is enclosed.

The powers of entry are conferred by the Order upon air raid wardens; and their cards of appointment and identity cards will be a sufficient authority when acting within the scope of their duties. If the cards of appointment issued to wardens in your locality state that the holders do not possess powers of entry, the words "except under the Fire Precautions (Access to Premises) Order, 1940" should be added.

The Clerk of the County Council,  
The County Clerk,  
The Town Clerk,  
The Clerk of the District Council.

The Order confers the same powers on members of voluntary fire-fighting parties which are recognized by the responsible local authority. Generally speaking, such parties will be --

- (a) supplementary fire parties organised under F.B. Circulars 33/1940 and 62/1940, and Scottish Home Department F.B.D. Circulars L 62/40 and L 86/40.
- (b) additional parties organised by local authorities and equipped with stirrup hand pumps purchased by the authorities under A.R.P. Department Circulars 85/1939 and 168/1939, or with stirrup hand pumps purchased by the local authorities for issue on free loan to the parties, or with stirrup hand pumps which the members of the party have purchased privately. Most, if not all, members of these parties will be persons eligible to wear the supplementary fire party armband issued under F.B. Circular 113/1940 or Scottish Home Department F.B.D. Circular L 148/40.

The names of members of these voluntary fire-fighting parties will have been, or should be, inscribed on a nominal roll for the purpose of their identification; and to each member upon whom the powers of entry are conferred by the Order a certificate should be issued in the following form by an officer duly appointed for that purpose by the local authority:

"This is to certify that ..... is a member of a voluntary fire-fighting party which is recognised by the..... Council and possesses the powers of entry and of taking steps for extinguishing fire or for protecting property, or rescuing persons or property, from fire, which are conferred by the Fire Precautions (Access to Premises) Order, 1940."

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Oswald Allen*

Issued to all local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland. Copies sent for information to all Chief Officers of Police in England, Wales and Scotland, to Chief Officers of Fire Brigades in England and Wales, and to Firemasters in Scotland.  
GEN. 325.