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HOME OFFICE,
(Fire Brigades Division),
CLELAND HOUSE,
PAGE STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

F.B. Gen. 75/8.

21st September, 1940.

Sir,

Canteen vans for fire fighting personnel engaged
at serious fires.

F.B. Circular No. 126/1940.

The Minister of Home Security desires again to remind Fire Authorities, especially in the centres with the principal fire risks, of the importance of having in readiness means for providing food and hot drinks for fire fighting personnel engaged at serious fires, which has already been referred to in F.B. Circulars Nos. 8/1940 and 56/1940. In some cases mobile canteens have in fact been provided by voluntary effort but it is clear that in many areas the need cannot be met entirely by such means. In the larger centres the most satisfactory and economical mode of providing for this need will be the provision of one or more canteen vans specifically for Fire Brigade use. Reasonable expenditure may be incurred in the purchase and conversion of vehicles for this purpose and will rank for grant, subject to specific approval on the following conditions:-

(1) that the total number provided does not exceed one per 100,000 population (approval in respect of smaller areas may however be given in special circumstances)

(2) that the cost does not exceed £130.

(3) that provision will only be approved for grant where the possibilities of voluntary help have been examined and do not meet the case.

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

that the canteen will only be used in connection with major fire fighting operations or to assist other services operating under air raid conditions.

Where the circumstances would not justify the provision of a canteen van for the use of a single fire brigade, arrangements might be made to provide one for the joint use of a number of fire brigades serving neighbouring areas. In other areas where there are serious fire risks but no canteen van is available specifically for Fire Brigade use, measures should be organised with caterers or other firms or organisations in a position to afford facilities as occasion may require.

An additional copy of this Circular is enclosed for transmission to the Chief Financial Officer of the Council.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. L. Wilson

Issued to:

All Fire Authorities in England and Wales.

Copies sent for information to:

Chief Officer of Fire Brigades and

Chief Constables in England and Wales.