

Tel. Address:

"Enblaz, Sowest, London".

Tel.No.: VICTORIA 4433.

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

HOME OFFICE,

(Fire Brigades Division),

CLELAND HOUSE,

PAGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

The Under Secretary of State.  
and the following number  
quoted:- F.B.Gen.153/9. T.1.

1st August, 1940.

Sir,

Increased supply of Stirrup Hand Pumps for  
Fire Brigade use.

F.B. Circular No. 112/1940.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to say that, as a result of the experience so far obtained in dealing with enemy attacks by incendiary bombs, it has been decided to increase the supply of stirrup hand pumps for use in connection with air raid fire precautions schemes, and issues are now being made.

It is clear that the stirrup hand pump has proved to be a very effective appliance for dealing with the light incendiary bombs, which have been used in large numbers by the enemy; and it is important that as many of these appliances as possible should be quickly available at the scene of any attack in which large numbers of these bombs have fallen and produced fires. For this purpose it would be desirable to carry two hand-pumps on each first line unit.

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

Since the bombs may, however, fall very close together, and a considerable number of fires break out in a small area, it would also be desirable to have means of conveying a number of the hand pumps speedily to any part of a town where they might be required. These pumps would supplement any such appliances already on the scene (whether carried with the regular or emergency fire brigade units, or in the hands of police, wardens, supplementary fire parties or private persons) and could be made available for use by fire brigade or auxiliary fire service personnel, and by other persons who could make good use of them as circumstances might require.

Care should, of course, be taken to collect any hand-pumps which may have been handed over to others for use in this way, and in order to facilitate their return it would be advisable to see that all such pumps bear a distinctive label.

The number of additional stirrup hand pumps to be issued to the Council's brigade will be notified in due course. The stations (if more than one) at which they should be kept available for issue will be left for local arrangement, bearing in mind that the object should be to ensure, so far as possible, that an additional supply of hand-pumps can be despatched promptly to any area which may suffer a heavy incendiary attack.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*A. L. Dixon*

Copies sent for information to:-

Chief Officers of Fire Brigades.

Chief Constables in England and Wales.