TEL.NO.: VICtoria 4433.
Telegrams: "Emblaz, Sowest London".

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:
The Under Secretary of State.
and the following number quoted:-

F.B.Gen.277/19/2.

HOME OFFICE,
(Fire Brigades Division),
Cleland House,
Page Street,
London, S.W.1.

13th June, 1940.

Sir,

Damage to tyres of fire brigade vehicles and appliances, caused by driving over glass-strewn roads.
F.B. Circular No.75/1940.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to say that tests have recently been carried out to verify the available information as to the effect that large quantities of broken glass on roads might be expected to have on the tyres of fire brigade vehicles, and to indicate to fire authorities the precautions which should be taken to minimise the risk of damage. The tests indicate that the risk of serious damage is not great, provided a few simple precautions are taken.

In the first place, driving over splintered glass naturally tends to reduce the life of tyres and should be avoided if it is reasonably possible to do so. If speed is not essential, and the broken glass lies only in isolated patches in the roads, it may be possible to avoid driving over it by clearing tracks, e.g. with a stiff broom and shovel.

The tests indicate that a speed of approximately 15 miles an hour is the safest, when driving over broken glass. At lower speeds more glass splinters are picked up in the treads of the tyres, while at higher speeds there is a somewhat greater risk of damage if it should be necessary to apply the brakes suddenly.

The tests also show that, although small pieces of glass may be picked up in the grooves of the treads of the tyres, and the rubber may be cut to a small extent, this is not likely to result in a puncture or burst if the tyres are in good condition and inflated to the correct pressure and any pieces of glass are removed from the tyres as soon as possible.

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

If, therefore, it is necessary to drive over broken glass the following precautions should be taken:-

(a) Care should be taken to see that all tyres are, so far as possible, kept inflated to the correct pressure:

(b) A speed of about 15 miles per hour should be maintained when driving over the glass:

(c) After traversing the glass, the earliest opportunity should be taken to remove any glass splinters which may have been picked up in the grooves of the treads of the tyres or become slightly embedded in the rubber itself: brushing with a wire brush is recommended for this purpose.

(d) Later, as soon as an opportunity occurs, the tyres should be very thoroughly examined at a fire station (or the place where the vehicle or appliance is ordinarily housed) and any small pieces of glass found still to be embedded in the rubber should be carefully removed, e.g. with a screw driver. This is important, since even small particles remaining in the rubber may eventually work into the tyres and cause a puncture.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. L. Dixon

Issued to:-
All Fire Authorities
in England and Wales.

Copies sent for information to:-
Chief Officers of Fire Brigades and
Chief Constables in England and Wales.