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

F.B.Gen.153/5/13

30th May, 1940.

Sir,

Auxiliary Fire Service
Extension of Supplementary Fire Parties Scheme.

F.B. Circular 62/1940.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to refer to F.B. Circulars No.33/1940 and No.33b/1940 concerning the organisation and training of supplementary fire parties, and to inform you that additional supplies of Stirrup Hand Pumps are being purchased and it will be possible to increase the allocations originally notified in the proportion of 5 : 2, that is to say to allocate up to 250 pumps where the original allocation was 100, and in proportion. I am, therefore, to enquire whether your Council is prepared to organise and train the appropriate number of additional parties as soon as possible.

In order that local authorities may be able to accelerate the formation of the fire parties, arrangements are being made to issue as soon as possible the balance of the pumps allocated under F.B. Circular No.33/1940 to local authorities who have intimated their acceptance of the scheme. The additional supplies which are now to be made available will be issued, as supplies become available, on applications stating that the appropriate numbers of fire parties have been or are being organised. The Minister hopes that all local authorities will press forward with the organisation and training of the parties. The completion of the scheme is a matter of urgency, and authorities are relied upon to take all the necessary measures to secure the active co-operation of the public. In this connection it is desirable that the existence and location of these parties should be made known as far as possible to all persons resident in their immediate neighbourhood who may find it necessary to ask for their services.

In view of the extension of the scheme and the desirability of training parties with the utmost speed a preliminary course of training may be substituted for the course outlined in F.B. Circular 33b/1940. It is proposed that this preliminary course should occupy about 2 hours, and that it should be confined to the following parts of the full course:-

The Town Clerk,
The Clerk to the Urban District Council.

- (a) Lecture - $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
- (b) Demonstration and drill with stirrup hand pump - $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
- (c) Practice in extinguishing fires - 1 hour.

Pumps may be issued to the parties when the members have received this preliminary training, but it should be the aim of authorities to complete the full course ultimately if possible.

With reference to the training of the parties the following points should be noted:-

- (1) It is assumed that the instruction of the parties will normally be carried out by members of the regular fire brigades or of the Auxiliary Fire Service, and it should be borne in mind that no payment of fees to instructors is contemplated.
- (2) The use of practice incendiary bombs in the training of the parties is not regarded as indispensable, the first consideration being to instruct the parties in the use of the pump in attacking a fire, whether with or without a practice bomb, but one such bomb may be used, if desired, for each demonstration. Expenditure on practice incendiary bombs for this purpose will rank for grant.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. Dixon

Issued to:-

Town Clerks and Clerks to Urban District Councils in England and Wales.

Copies sent for information to:-

Chief Officers of Fire Brigades and Chief Constables in England and Wales.