

TEL ADDRESS: "Emblaz, Sowest, London",
TEL NO: VICTORIA 4433.

HOME OFFICE,
CLELAND HOUSE,
PAGE STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Any communication on the subject of
this letter should be addressed to:-
The Under Secretary of State,
Home Office (Fire Brigades Division),
Cleland House,
Page Street,
London, S.W.1.

24th May, 1940.

and the following number quoted:-
F.B.115/15.

Sir,

Petrol, Oil Fires.
Issue of Air Foam Branchpipes and Compound.
F.B. Circular No. 53A/1940.

1. I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to say he has had under review the measures necessary for dealing with fires at highly inflammable risks (e.g. petrol, fats, oils and waxes, alcohols and certain organic solvents, naphtha, paints and varnishes and the products of coal and tar distillation).
2. A memorandum on the subject of precautions to be taken for protecting bulk stores of petrol was issued by the Home Office to all local authorities on June 1st 1939. (Reference No. 845,051/1). The Minister has no doubt that occupiers of industrial establishments have themselves also taken steps to guard against contingencies by providing special equipment such as various chemical and foam extinguishers together with, in many cases, fixed installations capable of directing a smothering liquid or gas on to the seat of any incipient fire.
3. The special circumstances of the present emergency, however, make it necessary to ensure that Fire Brigades should be equipped with additional appliances of a suitable nature, and that personnel shall be trained in their use, as well as in measures necessary for co-operation with the staffs of the premises concerned in time of need.
4. I am accordingly to say that:-
 - (1) Arrangements have been made for the early issue on loan to certain local authorities of a number of Air Foam Branchpipes, each equipped with knapsack container, for the generation of foam in conjunction with Home Office power driven pumps.

The Town Clerk,
The Clerk to the Council.

Foam branchpipes will be issued to your Brigade under the conditions set forth in the Air Raid Precautions (Loan of Fire Appliances) Provisional Regulations 1938. The branchpipes should be located at stations in proximity to the special risks of your area. An advance issue of these special appliances has already been made to many areas where there are flammable liquid and kindred risks and an instruction card on the method of using foam branchpipes under different circumstances is provided with each appliance.

(2) There will be issued with each branchpipe 10 gallons of foam solution (in sealed 2 gallon cans) for emergency fire brigade purposes. It is a condition of this issue that any of the foam used shall be replaced. Reasonable expenditure incurred by a Local Authority on replacement of foam compound used for emergency fire fighting purposes may be included in its grant claim. The cost of replacement of foam compound used in dealing with fires not caused by enemy action will fall to be met by the Local Authority.

5. The foam compound to which this Circular relates is costly and should not be used for practice purposes. Arrangements for the purchase of practice foam were contained in F.B. Circular No. 33A/1940 addressed to certain local authorities and such arrangements are now extended on the same conditions to other fire authorities which have not already had this opportunity and for whom a copy of F.B. Circular No. 33A/1940 and Order Form is appended. Expenditure so incurred in the purchase of practice foam for emergency fire brigade purposes may be included in the claim for grant under the Air Raid Precautions Act, 1937, to be submitted by the local authority.

6. Additional Stocks of Foam Compound.

In order that stocks in bulk may be distributed to the best advantage and to enable brigades to draw supplies at short notice, it has been arranged that additional stocks will be held ready at 22 Centres (including 4 in Scotland). These stocks and two spare foam branchpipes will be under the care of the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade of each centre. The list of centres and further arrangements will be notified to fire authorities concerned at an early date.

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

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. Mac Iver

Issued to certain fire authorities in England and Wales.

Copies for information to certain Chief Constables and Chief Officers of Fire Brigades in England and Wales.