

Tel. Address :
"Emblaz, Sowest, London."

Tel. No. : VICTORIA 4433.

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.

HOME OFFICE,

CLELAND HOUSE,

PAGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.



and the following number
quoted:—

31st May, 1940.

F.B.GEN.33/15.

Sir,

Fire Services at Explosive Works and Oil Depots.
F.B. Circular No.63/1940.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to transmit, for your information and guidance, so far as may be applicable in your District, the accompanying copy of a circular which has been issued by the Home Office, in consultation with the Chief Inspector of Explosives, to firms responsible for explosive or ammunition factories and large oil depots. As you will observe, the circular deals with the question of the concerting of arrangements between factory managements and the Chief Officers of local fire brigades as to the procedure to be adopted in case of fires which are beyond the scope of the factories' own apparatus or personnel. In this connection I am to refer you to paragraph 56 of the Home Office Circular on the Fire Brigades Act, 1938, dated 20th September, 1938.
(751003/1).

Chief Officers of Fire Brigades who have

The Clerk of the London County Council,
The Town Clerk,
The Clerk of the District Council,
The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

already received a copy of F.B. Circular No.61A/1940 covering a copy of the Home Office circular of 29th May should, on receipt of this circular, destroy their copy of circular 61A.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J.C. Mac Luer

Copy sent for information to Chief
Constables in England and Wales.



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

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
HOME OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

and the following number quoted:—



HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL.

29th May, 1940.

845194/1

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that he has had under consideration the question of the arrangements to be made for local fire brigades to afford assistance in the event of a fire occurring at an explosive or ammunition factory or large oil depot.

It is recognised that in dealing with any such fire it would be necessary for any fire brigade attending to work in close co-operation with the management. Factory or depot managements are therefore advised to concert forthwith with the Chief Officer of the local fire brigade definite arrangements as to the procedure to be adopted in the event of fire breaking out which is beyond the scope of the factory's or depot's own apparatus or personnel.

In devising a scheme of co-operation with local fire brigades, it is most important that the factory or depot management should appoint a person on duty at the factory or depot who would be responsible for calling in the local fire brigade if a fire occurs which cannot be dealt with effectively by the factory or depot. If, because of the special risks at the factory or depot, it is undesirable that local brigades should enter the premises as they arrive, arrangements should be made with the Chief Officers concerned for a brigades or brigades attending to proceed to a pre-arranged rallying point until it can be definitely settled where they should get to work.

Rough plans of the premises should be supplied to the Chief Officer of the local fire brigade and also to other brigades which might be called in by him as reinforcements under the Fire Brigades Regional Orders. The plans should show the location of all points of water supply and the approaches to the factory or depot.

I am also to draw your attention to section 14(3) of the Fire Brigades Act, 1938, which deals with the control of fire brigade operations at fires. That Section provides that the Senior Officer present of the fire brigade maintained for the Borough or District in which the fire originates shall have full charge of the operations for the extinction of the fire, unless under any scheme or arrangement made in pursuance of the Fire Brigades Act there is some different provision, in which case the other person so designated shall have the charge. The object of this latter exception is to provide for special cases, e.g. where, in the case of

fire at an explosive works or oil depot which constitutes a fire risk of a special character, it may be preferable for the operations at the fire to be in the control of the Chief Officer of the factory or depot brigade or one of the staff with the requisite technical knowledge of the plant and the manufacturing processes carried on. The desirability of taking advantage of these statutory powers is a matter which might well be discussed by the factory or depot management with the local fire authority, in special cases, as part of the concerted arrangements referred to above.

It should be borne in mind that if reinforcements at a fire are to be called for under the Fire Brigades Regional Orders, the channel through which such additional assistance is to be obtained is the Chief Officer of the local fire brigade, who is in possession of full particulars of the regional reinforcement Scheme.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Chief Officer of the local fire brigade for your district.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Wm. Goode