TEL. ADDRESS: "Emblas west London"
TEL. No. VICtoria 4433.

HOME OFFICE (E BRIGADES DIVISION)
CLELAND HOUSE,
PAGE STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

1st June, 1940.

Sir,

Maintenance of Auxiliary Fire Service Personnel
in state of instant readiness
F.B. Circular No. 69/1940

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to refer to his broadcast message issued on the 30th May to Auxiliary Fire Service and Civil Defence personnel generally which was as follows:-

> "In view of the existing situation when there is every prospect of an early call upon the Civil Defence Services, the Minister of Home Security is most anxious that the Services should be fully maintained in a state of readiness and efficiency. Members of the Civil Defence Services, including the Auxiliary Fire Service and Police Auxiliaries, and the Casualty Services, are rendering essential national service, and the Minister asks that all members of these Services will remain in their present posts unless released for special reasons by the Officer in charge of their local Service".

The special object of this message was to urge all trained personnel to remain in the service for which they have been trained. Under present conditions every effort should be made to maintain at least all first line fire brigade units in a state of readiness. In some areas the maintenance of the first line units will depend on the possibility of increasing the number of whole-time auxiliary firemen and/or the availability of part-time personnel. The following further message, addressed more particularly to these classes of volunteers, will be issued tomorrow:-

> "In many areas the Auxiliary Fire Services are in need of more trained men to make up the pump crews which must be kept manned, and to man additional pumps in case of need. Trained auxiliary firemen who have left the A.F.S. during these months of waiting, and are able to rejoin for whole-time duty, are urged to do so.

/In

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

In all areas maintenance of the crews must depend largely on part-time volunteers, and all trained auxiliary firemen should be ready to give whatever time may be needed to maintain this vital service".

The Minister need hardly stress the importance of taking such measures as are practicable to secure additional volunteers, and it is suggested that, even where previous efforts have not achieved all the success desired, they might well be renewed under present conditions.

It is assumed that in most fire brigades the grant of extended leave to regular or auxiliary personnel will have been stopped.

This circular is not to be regarded as giving authority for additions to whole-time paid personnel beyond establishments already approved. Any increases in such establishments will continue to require specific approval.

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.