



HOME OFFICE  
Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, LONDON S.W.1

Telex: 24986

Telephone: 01-834 6655, ext. 341

Our reference: FIR/63 100/1/6  
Your reference:

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

5 December 1973

Dear Sir

81206

FIRE SERVICE CIRCULAR NO 53/1973  
FIRE-FIGHTING AT SEA (OFF-SHORE INSTALLATIONS)

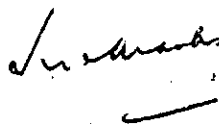
1. In Fire Service Circular No 17/1967 of 1 May 1967 the attention of fire authorities was drawn to the report of a joint committee of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils on fire-fighting at sea.
2. The Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils for England and Wales and for Scotland has recently considered the application of the report's recommendations to incidents at sea involving off-shore installations, such as oil rigs, and has recommended that the following advice, which has been agreed by the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council for England and Wales, should be given to fire authorities:
  - (a) The recommendations contained in the report of the committee on fire-fighting at sea should be regarded as applying only to ships at sea and particular attention should be given to the recommendation (21v) of the report that:
 

"Arrangements for informing the fire service of fires at sea should be left to individual brigades in drawing up their contingency plans with the coast guard; before attending a fire at sea a brigade should confirm that fire service assistance had been requested and the officer in charge of the first attendance should confirm that fire service assistance was still required."
  - (b) Fires on off-shore installations should not be included in the agreed "Ship Fire Alert" procedure, but should be handled under a separate procedure designed to ensure that fire brigades do not turn out to such fires except in response to a specific request for assistance from the shore-base manager of the installation concerned, who should give sufficient details of the incident to enable the Chief Fire Officer (or his Deputy) to make an informed decision about the value of the attendance.
3. The Advisory Council endorsed the view of the Joint Committee on Fire Brigade Operations that the implementation of these recommendations should ensure that brigades were not called out to deal with incidents on off-shore installations except where the circumstances genuinely warranted some fire service contribution on humanitarian grounds.

4. The Secretary of State recommends that the advice set out in this circular should be adopted by those fire authorities who have authorised their brigade to attend fires at sea.

5. An additional copy of this circular is enclosed for the information of the Chief Fire Officer.

Yours faithfully



H V H MARKS



Issued to: The Greater London Council, County Councils, County Borough Councils and Combined Fire Authorities in England and Wales.

Copies sent for information to: The new County and Metropolitan County Councils, the County Councils' Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations.

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