



HOME OFFICE
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4 November 1993

The Chief Executive:

County Councils in England and Wales
District Councils in England and Wales
Council of the Isles of Scilly
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London Boroughs
Common Council of the City of London

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The Chief Fire Officer

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The Chief Constable

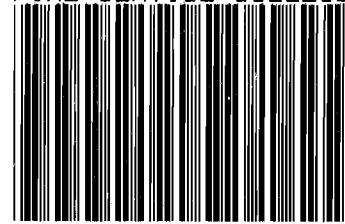
Dear Sir or Madam

HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR NO 35/1993

FIRE SERVICE CIRCULAR NO 5/1993

GUIDE TO HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE AT POP CONCERTS AND SIMILAR EVENTS

FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE



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Pop concerts are increasing in size and complexity and are now a major part of the leisure industry. There have been several recent events worldwide which show how serious the consequences can be if accidents occur in large crowds. Although most pop concerts take place without incident, the organisation and nature of events are becoming more complex and the risks involved are increasing. A number of fatalities have occurred at concerts abroad, and in this country two people died at the "Monsters of Rock" festival at Castle Donington in 1988. Following this tragedy, the Health and Safety Commission and Home Office Ministers authorised the preparation of new guidance on safety at pop concerts.

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2. The new guide - "Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Pop Concerts and Similar Events" - a copy of which is attached, has now been produced by the Health and Safety Executive, the Home Office and The Scottish Office after an extensive public consultation exercise. The Guide is designed to give advice to organisers of concerts on the safe running of such events and to assist local authority inspectors, licensing officers and fire officers. It should also help to improve consistency of enforcement at these events.

3. The Guide is in four parts and begins with a section for event organisers which indicates the key points to be considered in planning and managing a pop concert. Detailed, often technical, advice is then given in sections which deal with health and safety matters, fire and emergency planning and venue facilities. The Guide seeks to make a clear distinction between statutory requirements and advice or recommendations which generally reflect good practice within the industry.

4. The Guide will help all those involved in organising pop concerts and other similar events such as "raves". It deals with the many types of venue in which pop concerts can take place, such as purpose-built halls, buildings not designed for public entertainment, open-air sports stadia and green field sites. It may also be appropriate, in part, to other events such as classical music concerts, particularly if they are held outdoors.

5. This Guide builds on the former GLC Code of Practice for Pop Concerts and supplements the Home Office Guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Places of Entertainment and Like Premises. As it is a consolidation and up-date of previous guidance, there should be no significant additional cost or manpower implications arising from its use.

6. Additional copies of the Guide may be purchased from HMSO ISBN 0 11 341072 7, price £10.00.

Yours faithfully



MRS V V R HARRIS
(Head of Fire Safety Division)

Enc.

Copies sent for information to:	The Association of County Councils
	The Association of District Councils
	The Association of Metropolitan Authorities

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