

POLICE ORDER No. 35

Assistance
by Police to
Fire Service
in controlling
fires.

1. In the event of an outbreak of fire it is essential that there should be close co-operation between the Police and local fire stations where they exist.

2. On receipt of information regarding an outbreak of fire, the police-station or out-post at which the information is received must inform the nearest fire station without delay. In order to do so, the police must be fully acquainted with the location of fire stations and their telephone numbers. The addresses and telephone numbers should be entered on a 'Takhti' which should be displayed in a prominent position.

3. Where possible, information regarding an outbreak of fire should be communicated to the fire station by telephone; if there is no telephone in the police-station or out-post, the nearest private telephone should be used.

4. If no telephones are available the information must be sent through a messenger by quickest means possible.

5. The message, whether communicated over the telephone or sent by messenger should be in the following simple form:—

"Fire at

(State where the fire is simply but unmistakably).

6. Messages sent by telephone should be confirmed immediately in writing.

7. All police telephones must have a card attached stating—"In case of fire brigade at (Address)

Telephone number....."

8. The following will be duties of the Police in case of an outbreak of fire:—

(1) The fire station will inform the police-station of the exact location of the outbreak of fire.

(2) The Officer-in-charge of the police-station will immediately depute at least one Sub-Inspector of Police with as large a force of Police Havildars and Constables as can be spared, to the scene.

(3) On arrival at the scene, the police officer-in-charge should report to the senior Fire Officer present and ascertain exactly what assistance is required.

(4) On receiving directions from the Fire Officer, the Police Officer will comply with those directions as fully as possible.

(5) The Police will generally be employed in the following duties:—

(i) The roads along which Fire Service vehicles will pass and along which hose will be laid for bringing water to the scene of the fire, must be kept clear.

(ii) No vehicles should be allowed to pass over the hose, otherwise it is likely to be damaged.

(iii) The surrounding of the houses on fire should be kept clear to allow the Fire Service freedom of work.

(iv) Traffic should be diverted at suitable points so as to avoid the fire area and its immediate surroundings.

(v) Police should provide a guard over Fire Service trucks kept at the road side

(vi) If the Officer-in-charge of the Fire Service desires to post his signalmen on the roofs of neighbouring houses, the Police should obtain the consent of the owners.

(vii) Injured persons handed over to the Police should be taken care of and rendered first-aid preparatory to despatch to hospital.

(viii) Properties handed over to the Police should be taken charge of

(ix) The Police should assist the Fire Service in sending requests to the Fire station for reinforcement or to A. R. P. Headquarters for despatch of other services.

(x) The Police must take steps to prevent looting or theft in the affected area.

9. If the Officer-in-charge of the Police party considers that the force at his disposal is insufficient to carry out the duties required of him, he should take steps to obtain reinforcements immediately; but he must not enter into any arguments with the Officer-in-charge of the Fire Service.

10. It must be definitely understood that the Senior Fire Officer present will be the Officer Controlling Operations at the spot, and the Officer-in-charge of the Police Force, whatever his rank, should obtain whatever directions are necessary from him. There must be no hesitation in carrying out the directions of the Fire Officer who is an expert at the job and knows exactly what steps should be taken to combat the fire and prevent it from spreading.

11. The Senior Fire Officer present will announce when the fire has been completely extinguished and Fire Service Operations have concluded. The Police should then take charge of the fire area and take such steps as may be necessary for the guarding of damaged houses, storing of properties recovered, etc.

12. All Superintendents of Police, in whose towns the Fire Service has been posted, should issue detailed orders making the necessary deputations and should ensure that the Police comply with them. Reinforcements may, if required, be sent from the Reserve.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 1 of 1945)