

new stations are under consideration, proposals should not be advanced beyond the sketch-plan stage before submission to the Council. If the building is to be financed from loan, proposals should also be submitted to the Local Government Loans Board at the sketch-plan stage.

#### PART IX—COMMUNICATIONS

28. Suitable arrangements for calling the brigade as quickly as possible when a fire occurs will require to be made in each district. Agreement has been reached with the Post and Telegraph Department with a view to improving the existing arrangements for initiating fire calls on the telephone system, by the introduction of a simple method having priority on both the automatic and manually operated exchanges. This envisages the abolition of prescribed telephone numbers on the manual system, and the subscriber would merely call the operator, who, on being requested for the fire brigade, would connect the caller direct to the fire brigade or the receiving point for calls. On the automatic telephone system it is proposed that the caller would dial a pre-determined number 111 which will connect the caller to the appropriate fire station or receiving point. These improvements will have the effect of speeding up the receipt of telephoned fire calls to the brigade and of reinforcement calls to brigades in other districts.

#### PART X—WATER SUPPLIES

29. Under section 32 (2) Fire Authorities are required through their officers to advise as to the adequacy or otherwise of water supplies for fire fighting purposes and must ensure that necessary steps are taken to make the fullest use of available supplies. For the present, the Fire Service Council, through its officers, concerns itself with the examination of new water-supply and reticulation schemes requiring loan sanction and steps are taken to ensure that adequate provision is made for fire fighting requirements in all new schemes. So far the Council has been unable to advise Fire Authorities and their officers on the implications of such new schemes, or how they in turn should ensure that proper advice is given to the Water Authority on the situation and number of hydrants that should be installed. It is also essential that fire officers should have guidance as to the steps to be taken in cases of failure or temporary disruption of mains reticulation as, for example, the use of static water supplies, the steps necessary to make them available, and the use to which they can be put. It is also desirable that existing water-reticulation schemes should be surveyed to ensure that they are being utilized to the fullest extent consistent with any increased fire hazards. Fire brigades should keep proper records and become familiar with the location and condition of all fire hydrants. The utmost co-operation is also required by Brigade Officers with Water Authorities and other water undertakings to ensure that hydrants are suitably indicated and kept in good working order.

This is a vital part of fire service operation which requires to be put on a nationally organized basis.

#### PART XI—STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT

30. The Council is required under section 8 (f) to standardize fire service plant and equipment, and the following specifications have been adopted by the Council and are available upon application:

Specification	
Code Numbers	
FSC 1/51	Unlined delivery hose.
" 2/51	Rubber lined or rubber impregnated hose.
" 3/51	35 ft. extension ladder.
" 4/51	Hook ladder.
" 5/51	Firemen's helmets.
" 6/51	400-500 G.P.M. pump fire appliance.
" 7/51	Heavy duty pump escape appliance.
" 8/51	Wheeled escape.
" 9/51	Hose reel tubing.
" 10/51	Water tender appliance.
" 11A/51	Rural fire appliance (main pump).
" 11B/51	Rural fire appliance.
" 11C/52	Light rural fire appliance.
" 12/51	Turntable ladder.
" 13/51	400 G.P.M. pump.
" 14/52	Service uniforms.
" 15/52	Fire service radio.
" 16/52	Rural fire party appliance.
" 17/52	Light trailer pump.
" 18/52 Types A & B	Standard hose drying towers.
" 18/52 Type C	Standard drill and hose tower.
" 19/53	Breathing apparatus.
" 20/53	Suction hose.
" 23/53	Salvage sheets.