

RESCUE SERVICE

8.1 **Object**—The primary object of the Rescue Service is to rescue living persons entrapped in debris. It is also responsible for the recovery of the dead from damaged buildings, and to take such immediate steps as may be necessary for the temporary support or demolition of buildings, the collapse of which is likely to endanger life or to obstruct traffic. The Rescue Service should not normally undertake extensive demolitions or demolitions involving the use of explosives. It may, however, undertake any work for which it is suited provided its ability to carry out its primary task is not affected. The work of rescue requires experience and care, since debris unskillfully moved may release other parts of the structure, and so cause it to crash upon both rescuers and those to be rescued. Personnel for the Rescue Parties should be recruited from the Home Guards and the building trades on account of their practical knowledge. As it is probable that some of the trapped will be injured, all members of Rescue Party should be trained in first aid.

8.2 **Control**—A responsible officer who possesses a sound technical knowledge of rescue operations should be placed in charge of the Rescue Service to be designated as Officer Commanding Rescue Service.

Where the Officer Commanding does not devote the whole of his time to the service he should be provided with Staff Officers at the scale of 1 Staff Officer per 15 Rescue Parties. He should have constructional qualifications and should be responsible under his direction for the organisation and administration of the service, the enrolment and training of the personnel and the maintenance of records. Necessary clerical staff should also be provided.

The Staff Officers or Rescue Group Leaders would, after receipt of the Preliminary Caution, be available to assume charge of the technical operation of rescue work at major incidents.

A Rescue Group Leader with constructional qualifications should be appointed to be in command of Rescue Parties at each Depot. The Group Leaders are extra to the authorised establishment. In each party one man should be appointed as its leader and another to act as his deputy.

8.3 **Composition of Parties**

Rescue Parties—These consist of Eight men, viz—

One leader

Six members

One driver for the party lorry

It is desirable that in each Rescue Party men should be available who are capable of turning off the gas, water and electricity.

8.4 **Number of Parties**—Rescue Parties should be provided on a scale of 1 per 50000 population. A reserve of 25 per cent should be enrolled and trained.

8.5 **Vehicles**—Lorries having sufficient capacity to carry both personnel and party equipment should be provided for all Rescue Parties of the authorised establishment. For rescue work open lorries are preferable to closed vans. They should have tarpaulins covering supported on angle iron frame. A reserve of 10 per cent of vehicles should be provided.

8.6 **Depots**—Rescue Parties should be located in Combined C.D. Depots where other service are also accommodated.