

Tel. No. : WHJtehall 8100

FALFIELD 207
~~SECRETARY~~

Ext.

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

15th March, 1955.

Dear Mr. McConville,

This is to confirm the arrangement made by telephone today that facilities will be provided for Pathé to take pictures at the Home Office Civil Defence Technical Training School at Falfield, Glos. on Thursday, 17th March.

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A series of episodes will be staged showing how Civil Defence instructors are being trained in the use of the new man-packs referred to in the enclosed Press Notice.

Facilities will also be provided for pictures of the night exercise to be taken, on the understanding that the exercise will not be interrupted for this purpose.

You agreed to let me know whether you will be sending one or two men and their time of arrival. The Secretary of the School, Lt.-Col. D.B. Eliot, will be pleased to arrange accommodation there. *W*

Yours sincerely,

J. Hill *290*

Chief Press Officer

W. McConville, Esq.,
Pathe News,
Pathe House,
133, Oxford Street,
W.1.

TELEPHONE WHITEHALL 8100 PRESS OFFICE EXTNS. 346, 347

NEW ONE-MAN PACKS FOR H-BOMB RESCUE PARTIESRevised Civil Defence Rescue Methods

Rescue parties of the Civil Defence Corps will, in future, rely primarily upon the use of tools which can be carried on the back in man-packs. This was announced in a circular issued to local authorities by the Home Office today.

The specialised rescue vehicle will no longer be required and parties will go forward to the area of operations in personnel carrying vehicles, which will not be of a specialised type.

Heavier equipment will be brought forward in a load-carrying vehicle, manned only by a driver and possibly a mate, and will be drawn on by rescue parties when they cannot complete their tasks with man-pack equipment alone.

This method of working has been tested by experiments and is the most suitable for conditions of nuclear warfare where operations may have to take place far ahead of the point that vehicles can reach.

All members of the Rescue Section will be trained in the use of man-pack equipment, which is composed of tools with which most men are familiar. The more advanced techniques will only be learned by those who volunteer to go on to a second stage of training.

Apart from its advantages from the operational point of view, it is hoped that this change in organisation will make it easier for local authorities to recruit men who have no special knowledge of the civil engineering and building trades. This is of great importance since the Rescue Section is badly in need of more recruits.

Note to Editors. Official photographs illustrating the new packs (Nos. D76247 and D76248) are available from Topical Press Agency Ltd., 20 Red Lion Court, E.C.4. Four photographs on the subject are also available from The Times Photographic Library, Printing House Square, E.C.4.