

When the Wind Blew The Sheffield and How the Brigade Worked

BRIEF reference was made in last month's Notes of the Month to the great gale at Sheffield that gave the local Fire Brigade more work than it had ever had before in peacetime. The gale, that hit Sheffield and district, on February 16, did damage, costing in the region of £2m., to homes, factories and buildings. In Sheffield gusts reached 96 mph. On a high spot in the Shetlands, a gust of 177 mph was recorded.

Reporting on the effects of this unusual UK hurricane, CFO B. Jones, O.B.E., of the Sheffield Fire Brigade, says: The first call for assistance was received by the Brigade at 0505 hrs, on February 16. It soon became obvious that the situation in the city was serious, and predetermined emergency measures were immediately put into operation in the control room.

These worked most satisfactorily and calls, which amounted to 1,260 by midday, were received without delay.

All Hands Called

'All available appliances were used; and "off-duty" personnel started to report for duty as early as 0700 hrs. Many men who should have gone off duty at 0900 hrs, continued to work late into Friday afternoon.

On Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18, a considerable number of the AFS reported.

Calls Received by City of Sheffield Fire Brigade to Release Trapped Persons

16th February 1962

| Time | Address | Details |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 0505 | 75 Primrose Avenue | Mother and four children trapped in bedroom. Extricated by Fire Brigade. |
| 0557 | 45 Firth Park Crescent | Woman trapped. Extricated and conveyed to hospital in Emergency Tender. There found to be dead. "Minuteman" used. |
| 0603 | 3 Alfred Road | Elderly man trapped in bedroom by fallen masonry. Released and taken to hospital by ambulance. |
| 0604 | 72 Townhead Street | Stack collapsed and trapped man (invalid) in bed. Removed to hospital by Brigade. |
| 0625 | 112 Crookes | Man and wife trapped in bed. Extricated and removed to hospital in Fire Brigade appliance. "Minuteman" used on woman during transit and Doctor's examination. Later found to be dead. |
| 0630 | 43 Colwall Street | Young man 17 years old trapped in first-floor bedroom, buried beneath debris. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation carried out and conveyed to hospital in Fire Brigade appliance. Dead on arrival. |
| 0635 | 22 Oakland Road | Elderly lady extricated on arrival. First aid applied by Fire Brigade. Van commandeered to remove to hospital. |
| 0718 | 10 Finchwell Road | Chimney stack collapsed and trapped a man. No serious injury. |
| 0744 | 221 Foxhill Road | Call to people trapped in four houses. Complete roof of maisonettes (10 tons) carried 300 yards into four houses at bedroom level. Door ways cleared to let occupants out. No casualties. |
| 0920 | 43-45 Carlisle Road | Children had been released by parents on arrival. |
| 1005 | Davy-United, Prince of Wales Road | Employee on 35 ft. high staging trapped by 4-ton casting. Body extricated by lifting casting by crane. |
| 1205 | 19 Cecil Road | 1 woman. 3 children sent to hospital. |
| 1410 | Grosvenor House, Nursery Street | Man struck by falling masonry. Removed by ambulance before arrival of Fire Brigade. |