

# FIRE SERVICES EXAMINATIONS BOARD

## STUDY NOTE

EXAMINATION	LEADING FIREFIGHTERS EXAMINATION
PAPER	OPERATIONS
SUBJECT	OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES & INCIDENT COMMAND
ITEM	POWERS TO EXTINGUISH FIRES
STUDY NOTE No.	1102

### ***INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY NOTE***

***This study note has been prepared as the basis of study in connection with the qualifying examinations for promotion.***

***Candidates will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the information contained in the study note and understand how it should be applied:***

***The 'References' made at the end of the Study Note are included for information only and candidates will not be expected to study these as part of the bibliography.***

## POWERS TO EXTINGUISH FIRES

### FIRE SERVICES ACT 1947 (AS AMENDED)

#### Section 30 - Powers of firefighters and police in extinguishing fires

- (1) Any member of a fire brigade maintained in pursuance of this Act who is on duty, any member of any other fire brigade who is acting in pursuance of any arrangements made under this Act, or any constable, may enter and if necessary break into any premises or place in which a fire has or is reasonably believed to have broken out, or any premises or place which it is necessary to enter for the purposes of extinguishing a fire or of protecting the premises or place from acts done for firefighting purposes, without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof, and may do all such things as he may deem necessary for extinguishing the fire or for protecting from fire, or from acts done as aforesaid, any such premises or place or for rescuing any person or property therein.
- (2) Any person who willfully obstructs or interferes with any member of a fire brigade maintained in pursuance of this Act who is engaged in operations for fire-fighting purposes shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (3) At any fire the senior fire brigade officer present shall have the sole charge and control of all operations for the extinction of the fire, including the fixing of the positions of fire engines and apparatus, the attaching of hose to any water pipes or the use of any water supply, and the selection of the parts of the premises, object or place where the fire is, or of adjoining premises, objects or places, against which the water is to be directed.
- (4) Any water undertakers shall, on being required by any such senior officer as is mentioned in the last preceding subsection to provide a greater supply and pressure of water for extinguishing a fire, take all necessary steps to enable them to comply with such requirement and may for that purpose shut off the water from the mains and pipes in any area. No authority or person shall be liable to any penalty or claim by reason of the interruption of the supply of water occasioned only by compliance of the water undertakers\* with such a requirement.
- (5) The senior officer of police present at any fire, or in the absence of any officer of police the senior fire brigade officer present, may close to traffic any street or may stop or regulate the traffic in any street whenever in the opinion of that officer it is necessary or desirable to do so for firefighting purposes.
- (6) In this section the expression "senior fire brigade officer present", in relation to any fire, means the senior officer present of the fire brigade maintained in pursuance of this Act in the area in which the fire originates, or, if any arrangements or reinforcement scheme made under this Act provide that any other person shall have charge of the operations for the extinction of the fire, that other person.

NOTE: *\*In Scotland it is a local water authority within the meaning of the Water (Scotland) Act 1980.*

#### References

The Fire Services Act 1947 (As Amended)