

Street Fire Alarms Present Danger of Delay Sheffield Instances

The recent serious fire, at which a shop at Darnall, Sheffield, was burned out, has again brought the question of street fire alarms in the city to the front.

Acting on instructions of the Watch Committee the Chief Constable has prepared a special report on this particular blaze, in which he says inter alia:

The fire broke out at 9 p.m. the call at the Fire Station was received at 9. 17 p.m. and the person sending the call says he was "some minutes" in getting through, and his informant had apparently been running about from telephone to telephone.

The West Bar Fire Brigade arrived in 12 minutes and the Rockingham Street Brigade two minutes later. The distance for the latter brigade to cover was three miles, two furlongs. The fire was "blacked out" at 9.40 p.m. It is apparent from this that if the brigade had had earlier information much of the loss (£2,000) would have been saved.

The Post Office offer is to supply and maintain a single wire fire alarm system connecting 36 points with the Sheffield for a sum of £510 per annum at the end of ten years, this contract to be re-considered in favour of Sheffield.

One of the 36 points was within 100 yards of the fire above-mentioned.

A very narrow escape also occurred at 2.40 a.m. on the 21st April, in Duke Street, Park, when lives were at risk, and again difficulty was experienced in obtaining the use of the telephone.