

Do Anything, Go-Anywhere Fire Truck

By a staff reporter



The latest addition to Sheffield Fire Brigades motor pool looks like an armoured bullion van, but is strictly for rescue work.

The long wheelbase Land-rover is the brigade's first sole-purpose rescue truck.

It carries the latest in rescue equipment, from a winch that can pull a double-decker bus to a chain saw which will cut through the stoutest of trees.

It is equipped to tackle any emergency where someone might be trapped, and it will be the brigade's rescue vehicle for motorway work.

At present the vehicle is at Darnall fire station, but it will be "passed round" the other stations in the city so that all firemen will have knowledge of how to work the complex equipment.

The Landrover will then be permanently based at Darnall and will come into official use at the end of next month.

Although a tender at Division Street headquarters is also equipped to carry rescue equipment, the brigade has always thought that a specialized rescue was needed.

The "Safari" type Land-rover was bought and has been equipped with the rescue gear to specifications made by the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Stanley Lambert.

Unlike its counterpart at Division Street which has cutting gear powered by an electric generator. Darnall's machine has cutting tools powered by compressed air, which cancels out the risk of a fire being started by sparks from tools.

The equipment is concealed behind sliding stainless-steel shutters on the back of the vehicle and includes a powered saw, chain-saw, two portable searchlights, fire extinguishers, a winch, spanners, hydraulic jack, an axe and wire cutters.

The winch can be used at either end of the vehicle, and besides ordinary rescue work could pull the vehicle itself clear if it became stuck.

It will be garaged at Darnall because it is the nearest station to the M1 and it will attend all emergencies on the motorway near Sheffield.

Its four-wheel drive and high ground clearance enable it to cross the most difficult ground.

The "Safari" truck will accompany all appliances on all fire calls just in case it is needed.