

A New 100 ft. Fire Escape

Ladder Fitted with Loudspeaker Telephones

HERE is a fine new turntable fire escape, which has a ladder that can be extended to a length of 100 ft. in 18 or 20 seconds. One man can operate the ladder, as the controls are grouped together, and he can then talk to a fireman at the head of the ladder by means of loudspeaker telephone equipment. The fireman on the ladder in turn can give directions for placing him in the best position for rescue work, or for pouring water from a height on to a fire.

This splendid escape is now being produced by John Morris and Sons Limited, of Salford, on a Leyland Beaver chassis. It is fitted with every type of safety appliance that ingenuity and experience can suggest. For instance, there is one device that stops the extension or movement of the ladder immediately it encounters any obstruction. Another is a system of four jacks, at the rear of the vehicle, which gives stability and support when the ladder is extended. It is impossible to move the ladder at all until the jacks have been lowered to the ground and the escape is perfectly steady.

One of the most remarkable of these safety devices prevents the ladder from being extended beyond the safety limit at its various angles of elevation. This is an electrical installation that is governed by what is called the "field of operations indicator," which can be seen in the centre



The operating controls of the Morris turntable fire escape ladder. In the centre is the special indicator that automatically stops operation when the ladder has been extended to its safety limit.

of our upper illustration. In it there is a small pivoted and extensible arm that reproduces all ladder movements in miniature, so that the angle of the ladder and its extension can be seen at a glance.

The arm of this indicator moves within the limits of a space that is bounded by a curved metal border graduated in degrees. Contact of the end of the arm with this border shows that the ladder has reached its safety limit of extension at the particular angle of elevation indicated, and the operating gear is automatically cut out as soon as it touches.

Behind the driver's cab is a compartment to seat a crew of four, and at the sides and rear of the platform are lockers in which hose, unions, tools and other equipment are stored. A self-contained Coventry Climax pump with a capacity of 350-500 gallons a minute is mounted amidships on the platform.



The new Morris fire escape on a Leyland Beaver chassis. Photographs by courtesy of Leyland Motors Limited.