

2-02590

DUKE VISITS FIREMEN

PATHE NEWS: 60/56

At their Lambeth headquarters, men and women of London's Fire Brigade line-up for inspection by the Duke of Edinburgh. It's a service that's growing in importance and size; it has 400 more picked-men than three years ago - but it still needs 350 new recruits. They have splendid equipment to work with; all their first-line appliances are post war, and even training appliances are quickly being brought up-to-date. And they prove to their Royal visitor that they know everything there is to know about how to use it.

Both the men and the equipment are of vital importance to the 4½ million people they serve. Fire in London last year were 50 per cent more frequent than the year before - partly of course because of the very dry summer.

These men are demonstrating the various ways of rescuing people from the upper floors of a burning building.

London Fire Brigade costs about 2½ million pounds a year to run. But when you consider that they watch over a million properties valued at some six thousand million pounds - and run a fire-prevention service - and have important civil defence duties - well, they're worth the money.