

## OP FRESCO

### GREEN GODDESSES



The Bedford Self-Propelled Pump, better known as the Green Goddess (those in Northern Ireland are actually painted yellow), is an austere but powerful pumping appliance built on the Bedford S chassis between 1953-6; the vehicles were never designed to take on the full range of fire-fighting capabilities. Despite common misconceptions, the vehicle is capable of speeds up to 50mph, and, unlike civilian fire appliances, has 4x4 drive, giving some cross-country capability. It weighs 8.4 tonnes.

- 827 Green Goddesses, manned by 10,000 personnel from all three of the Armed Forces, are available. The vehicles are owned and maintained by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, not the MOD.
- Each crew comprises an officer or NCO in command, plus five.
- Two crews are provided for each vehicle to ensure 24 hour cover, each crew working a 12 hour shift.
- Equipment includes:
  - A powerful water pump capable of feeding four hose-lines with 900 gallons per minute. The system is capable of foam use when necessary.
  - A second, portable pump, for use where vehicle access is difficult.
  - A first-aid tank of up to 300 gallons of water as an alternative to supply from a hydrant.
  - 1600 feet of hose.
  - A basic ladder.
- As with all Op *Fresco* vehicles, the police will provide an escort to any vehicle responding to an emergency.
- Drivers have undergone a dedicated course to master the handling of the vehicle.
- Since the vehicle is a pump rather than a general-purpose fire appliance, crew training has concentrated on fighting and containing fires. Specialist rescue teams would deploy alongside the Green Goddesses to any incident where human life might be threatened and rescue work undertaken.

