

CONFIDENTIAL

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Lab. file A1/1(S)DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE  
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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, 1953

The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1953 the Fire Brigades attended approximately 77,700<sup>\*</sup> fires in England and Wales and approximately 8,100 in Scotland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

In England and Wales, three Fire Service personnel lost their lives and approximately 1,150 were injured: the Fire Service assisted in the rescue of approximately 200 persons from dangerous situations. In Scotland, no Fire Service personnel were killed but approximately 100 were injured: the Fire Service assisted in rescuing approximately 50 persons from dangerous situations. Further details are given in Tables 2 and 3.

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\* The totals of fires quoted on this page have been rounded off to the nearest hundred, and the totals of non-fatal casualties and of persons rescued to the nearest 50: exact figures will be given in the detailed returns which will be prepared later in the year.

Table 1

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, 1953

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 6th March, 1954: they are subject to slight revision as further information is received.

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigade</u>	
Anglesey	65
Bedfordshire	520
Berks. and Reading	725
Brecon Co. and Radnor	114
Buckinghamshire	651
Caernarvonshire	225
Cambridgeshire	329
Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire	356
Cheshire	1,565
Cornwall	485
Cumberland	300
Denbigh and Montgomery	390
Derbyshire	944
Devonshire	862
Dorsetshire	699
Durham Co.	1,126
Ely, Isle of	155
Essex	3,058
Flintshire	245
Glamorgan	1,147
Gloucestershire	666
Hampshire	1,912
Herefordshire	282
Hertfordshire	1,218
Huntingdonshire	170
Kent and Canterbury	3,168
Lancashire	3,031
Leicestershire and Rutland	414
Lincs. (Holland)	169
Lincs. (Kesteven)	193
Lincs. (Lindsey)	466
London C.C.	7,246
Merioneth	51
Middlesex	3,541
Monmouthshire	361
Norfolk	660
Northamptonshire	326
Northumberland	621
Nottinghamshire	1,029
Oxfordshire	346
Pembrokeshire	139
Peterborough, Soke of	108
Salop	491
Scilly, Isles of	1
Somersetshire	640
Staffordshire	1,157
Suffolk, East, Suffolk, West, and Ipswich	794
Surrey	2,730
Sussex, East	1,008
Sussex, West	639
Warwickshire	905
Westmorland	109
Wight, Isle of	131

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, 1953

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u>	
<u>(contd.)</u>	
Wiltshire	626
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	701
Yorks. (East Riding)	268
Yorks. (North Riding)	654
Yorks. (West Riding)	2,521
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>	
Ramsgate	105
Barrow in Furness	129
Bath	154
Birkenhead	383
Birmingham	2,097
Blackburn	188
Blackpool	334
Bolton	286
Bootle	213
Bournemouth	305
Bradford	581
Brighton	292
Bristol	870
Burnley	170
Burton on Trent	53
Bury	145
Cardiff	466
Carlisle	148
Chester	136
Coventry	494
Croydon	349
Darlington	150
Derby	179
Dewsbury	108
Doncaster	154
Dudley	126
Eastbourne	108
East Ham	176
Exeter	153
Gloucester	128
Great Yarmouth	100
Grimsby	166
Halifax	147
Hastings	108
Huddersfield	182
Kingston upon Hull	593
Leeds	745
Leicester	400
Lincoln	197
Liverpool	1,611
Manchester	1,519
Merthyr Tydfil	87
Middlesbrough	196
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	589
Newport (Mon.)	207
Northampton	121
Norwich	233
Nottingham	576

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, 1953

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>	
Oldham	254
Oxford	138
Plymouth	348
Portsmouth	368
Preston	242
Rochdale	212
Rotherham	194
St. Helens	146
Salford	339
Sheffield	735
Smethwick and West Bromwich	223
Southampton	425
Southend	269
Southport	153
South Shields	169
Stockport	265
Stoke on Trent	338
Sunderland	350
Swansea	266
Tynemouth	152
Wakefield	78
Wallasey	188
Walsall	195
Warrington	140
West Ham	387
West Hartlepool	115
Wigan	136
Wolverhampton	236
York	182
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	77,653
<u>Scotland</u>	
Glasgow	1,840
Inverclyde	754
Central	611
Western	694
South Western	586
South Eastern	1,318
Fife	408
Perth and Kinross	240
Angus	709
North Eastern	670
Northern	227
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	8,057

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1953

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 6th March, 1954: they are subject to slight revision as further information is received.

\* Casualties who suffered shock in addition to another injury have been classified according to the nature of the other injury.

Nature of injury	England and Wales			Scotland		
	Fire Brigades	Other casualties	Total	Fire Brigades	Other casualties	Total
Fatal casualties						
Burns and scalds	-	271	271	-	36	36
Overcome by gas or smoke	2	31	33	-	9	9
Other and undefined injuries	1	75	76	-	1	1
Total	3	377	380	-	46	46
Non-fatal casualties						
Burns and scalds	232	2,641	2,873	15	170	185
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	522	309	831	43	31	74
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	92	37	129	3	1	4
Overcome by gas or smoke	48	87	135	4	6	10
More than one of the above injuries	52	61	113	3	8	11
Shock *	5	288	293	-	26	26
Other and undefined injuries	175	159	334	10	6	16
Total	1,126	3,582	4,708	78	248	326
Total casualties	1,129	3,959	5,088	78	294	372

Table 3

PERSONS RESCUED OR ESCAPED BY EMERGENCY MEANS FROM FIRES ATTENDED BY  
FIRE BRIGADES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1953.

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to  
6th March, 1954: they are subject to slight revision as further  
information is received.

Appliances or methods used	Number of persons	
	England and Wales	Scotland
Rescue with Fire Brigade assistance from		
Buildings		
Escape (hand operated)	14	3
Ladder, extension	38	7
first floor	10	-
turntable (mechanical)	9	9
other or undefined	58	-
Ladder and line	3	-
Line	3	-
Other apparatus	5	8
Without apparatus	43	23
Total	183	50
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from		
Aircraft	1	-
Buildings		
Carried or assisted out	119	32
Jumping sheet	2	3
Ladder	58	5
Lowered from windows, roof, etc.	55	5
Other or undefined methods	23	1
Ships	4	-
Caravans	2	-
Road vehicles	6	3
Total	270	49
Escape by emergency means from		
Aircraft		
Baled out	8	-
Through exits or from debris	6	-
Buildings		
Climbing over roof	18	-
Fixed fire escape	1	-
Jumping from upstairs window, roof	131	8
Ladder	9	-
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets, rope, etc.	31	-
Through ground floor windows	8	4
Other or undefined methods	14	1
Caravans	1	-
Road vehicles	2	-
Ships	1	-
Total	230	13
<b>Total persons rescued or escaped</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>112</b>