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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, 1954

The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1954 the Fire Brigades attended approximately 75,900* fires in England and Wales and approximately 7,700 in Scotland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

In England and Wales, four Fire Service personnel lost their lives and approximately 610 were injured: The Fire Service assisted in the rescue of approximately 170 persons from dangerous situations. In Scotland, one member of the Fire Services was killed and approximately 40 were injured: the Fire Service assisted in rescuing approximately 30 persons from dangerous situations. Further details are given in Tables 2 and 3.

* 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 10: 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, 1954

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 16th February, 1955: they are subject to slight revision as further information is received.

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u>	
Anglesey	73
Bedfordshire	569
Berks. and Reading	757
Brecon Co. and Radnor	116
Buckinghamshire	663
Caernarvonshire	205
Cambridgeshire	292
Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire	302
Cheshire	1 410
Cornwall	496
Cumberland	278
Denbigh and Montgomery	320
Derbyshire	801
Devonshire	833
Dorsetshire	674
Durham Co.	1 163
Ely, Isle of	127
Essex	3 082
Flintshire	197
Glamorgan	1 070
Gloucestershire	583
Hampshire	1 600
Herefordshire	212
Hertfordshire	1 317
Huntingdonshire	135
Kent and Canterbury	3 114
Lancashire	3 318
Leicestershire and Rutland	382
Lincs. (Holland)	141
Lincs. (Kesteven)	174
Lincs. (Lindsey)	370
London C.C.	7 480
Merioneth	55
Middlesex	3 598
Monmouthshire	316
Norfolk	594
Northamptonshire	337
Northumberland	671
Nottinghamshire	885
Oxfordshire	323
Pembrokeshire	133
Peterborough, Soke of	129
Salop	466
Scilly, Isles of	-
Somersetshire	612
Staffordshire	1 147
Suffolk, East, Suffolk, West and Ipswich	804
Surrey	2 507
Sussex, East	686
Sussex, West	564
Warwickshire	849
Westmorland	92
Wight, Isle of	130

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN
GREAT BRITAIN, 1954

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u>	
<u>(contd.)</u>	
Wiltshire	556
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	719
Yorks. (East Riding)	249
Yorks. (North Riding)	612
Yorks. (West Riding)	2 333
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>	
Barnsley	112
Barrow in Furness	122
Bath	131
Birkenhead	403
Birmingham	2 211
Blackburn	249
Blackpool	324
Bolton	291
Bootle	212
Bournemouth	302
Bradford	536
Brighton	297
Bristol	783
Burnley	201
Burton on Trent	74
Bury	148
Cardiff	451
Carlisle	123
Chester	149
Coventry	443
Croydon	337
Darlington	190
Derby	180
Dewsbury	128
Doncaster	147
Dudley	117
Eastbourne	70
East Ham	155
Exeter	156
Gloucester	116
Great Yarmouth	101
Grimsby	126
Halifax	175
Hastings	111
Huddersfield	200
Kingston upon Hull	567
Leeds	788
Leicester	418
Lincoln	177
Liverpool	1 562
Manchester	1 526
Merthyr Tydfil	71
Middlesbrough	199
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	660
Newport (Mon.)	203
Northampton	152
Norwich	246
Nottingham	548

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN
GREAT BRITAIN, 1954

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>	
Oldham	223
Oxford	145
Plymouth	376
Portsmouth	351
Preston	244
Rochdale	225
Rotherham	157
St. Helens	148
Salford	313
Sheffield	649
Smethwick and West Bromwich	267
Southampton	353
Southend	230
Southport	118
South Shields	196
Stockport	243
Stoke on Trent	368
Sunderland	382
Swansea	297
Tynemouth	149
Wakefield	85
Wallasey	182
Walsall	182
Warrington	149
West Ham	458
West Hartlepool	154
Wigan	166
Wolverhampton	268
York	183
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	75 870
<u>Scotland</u>	
Glasgow	1 857
Lanark	707
Central	573
Western	704
South Western	509
South Eastern	1 243
Fife	351
Perth and Kinross	169
Angus	646
North Eastern	659
Northern	232
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	7 650

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1954

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 16th February, 1955: 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	1	300	301	-	61	61
Overcome by gas or smoke ...	-	28	28	-	5	5
Other and undefined injuries	3	89	92	1	3	4
Total	4	417	421	1	69	70
Non-fatal casualties						
Burns and scalds	160	2 571	2 731	4	130	134
Bruises, cuts, abrasions ...	249	217	466	14	19	33
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	37	36	73	2	4	6
Overcome by gas or smoke ...	15	110	125	2	19	21
More than one of the above injuries	18	93	111	3	2	5
Shock [†]	6	272	278	-	30	30
Other and undefined injuries	128	136	264	11	6	17
Total	613	3 435	4 048	36	210	246
Total casualties	617	3 852	4 469	37	279	316

Table 3

PERSONS RESCUED OR ESCAPED BY EMERGENCY MEANS FROM FIRES ATTENDED BY
FIRE BRIGADES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1954

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 16th February, 1955: 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		
Automatic escape line	18	-
Escape (hand operated)	5	-
Ladder, extension	36	7
first floor	14	1
turntable (mechanical)	8	-
other or undefined	24	6
Ladder and line	-	-
Line	1	-
Other apparatus	4	-
Without apparatus	60	11
Ships	1	-
Road vehicles	2	-
Total	173	25
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from		
Aircraft	2	1
Buildings		
Automatic escape line	1	-
Carried or assisted out	227	30
Jumping sheet	-	-
Ladder	48	1
Lowered from windows, roof, etc.	52	11
Other or undefined methods	13	2
Ships	1	-
Road Vehicles	13	-
Total	357	45
Escape by emergency means from		
Aircraft		
Baled out	13	4
Through exits or from debris	7	17
Thrown clear	14	1
Buildings		
Automatic escape line	4	-
Climbing over roof	16	-
Fixed fire escape	1	-
Jumping from upstairs window, roof ..	184	19
Ladder	34	-
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets, rope, etc.	17	2
Through ground floor windows	25	2
Other or undefined methods	13	2
Road vehicles	11	-
Ships	14	-
Total	353	47
Total persons rescued or escaped	883	117