

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE
JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

This report has not been published and should be considered as confidential advance information. No reference should be made to it in any publication without the written consent of the Director, Fire Research Station, Boreham Wood, Herts. (Telephone: Elstree 1341 and 1797)

FIRES IN DWELLINGS 1950-54

by

Mrs. J.E.L. Hinton and J.F. Fry

An attempt has been made to analyse reports of fires in dwellings with a view to showing any differences between the fire risks associated with houses and flats. The data have been tabulated from samples of reports received from Fire Brigades in England and Wales and Scotland in the period 1950-54.

Table 1 shows the extent of fire in dwellings reported as being of pre-war construction. The frequencies were obtained by multiplying the figures found in the sample by the corresponding sampling fraction. (In the years 1950-52 a one-in-four sample of reports was used, in 1953 a one-in-five sample, and in 1954 a one-in-two sample).

The numbers of incidents where fire spread beyond the room of origin but was confined to the building of origin are probably on the high side because of the inclusion of many in which the damage caused by the spread was negligible. Between 80 and 90 per cent of the fires in both houses and flats were confined to the room of origin in the period considered.

A very small percentage of the incidents spread beyond the building of origin.

Table 2 shows the numbers of persons rescued and escaped, and the numbers of fatal and non-fatal casualties in some incidents in houses and flats reported as being of pre-war construction. The incidents considered were those which spread beyond the room of origin in samples of the reports for the years 1950 to 1954.

Table 3 shows the number of incidents and the extent of fire in post-war non-traditional dwellings, and Table 4 the numbers of fires in flats reported as of post-war construction in the years 1950-54.

It is probable that the numbers of incidents reported as occurring in flats of post-war construction include a large proportion which occurred in buildings of pre-war origin but post-war conversion, and also that a number of post-war traditionally built dwellings were returned as pre-war.

In 1953 a revised form for reporting fires was introduced, using a different device for stating whether buildings were constructed during the pre-war or the post-war period, and it is possible that although the figures for incidents in post-war flats may still include a number of post-war conversions, a more accurate estimate of the numbers of incidents that actually occurred in post-war flats has been obtained.

In Tables 5 and 6 the causes of fires in all dwellings are shown, together with the totals for each cause. The percentage of the total fires in houses and flats separately due to each cause are also given.

An analysis of all reports of fires in which fatal casualties occurred was made for the year 1953⁽¹⁾, and more detailed information has been extracted from those dealing with incidents in dwellings.

There were 121 fires in dwellings in 1953 in which there were fatal casualties other than those due solely to ignition of clothing. Of the 121 incidents 87 (72 per cent) were in houses and 34 (28 per cent) in flats.

The distribution of casualties according to the number of stories in the dwellings is given in Table 7. The bulk of the casualties occurred in 2-storey dwellings but this is clearly because of the preponderance of dwellings of this type.

In Table 8 the floor of origin of these fires which occurred in dwellings of 2 or more storeys is shown, together with details of those fires which spread beyond the room of origin.

More than half the fires causing fatalities in 2-storey dwellings started on the ground floor. About one-third of those in dwellings of 3 or more storeys originated on the second floor and about one-third on the ground and first floors.

Table 9 shows the numbers of persons who were rescued or escaped from fires in buildings of all types in 1953. Of those achieved with the assistance of the Fire Brigade about 64 per cent involved the use of escapes or ladders. About 42 per cent of those achieved without Fire Brigade assistance involved the use of ladders, lowering from windows, roof, etc. and jumping sheets. Among the escapes by emergency means, 88 per cent involved climbing over roofs, jumping from upstairs windows or roofs, sliding down drainpipes, sheets or ropes, and the use of fixed fire escapes and ladders.

In 1953, 85 per cent of the fatalities in fires in buildings occurred in houses and flats⁽¹⁾, and when those deaths due to the direct ignition of clothing have been excluded there is still a large proportion of the fatalities which occurred in houses and flats. Therefore it is probable that a large proportion of the rescues and escapes also occurred from houses and flats.

This note has been compiled from data that is readily available and cannot be assumed to give a complete picture of fires in houses and flats. It is hoped to make a comprehensive analysis of fires in all types of dwellings in the future.

Reference

1. FRY, J.F. and HINTON, J.E.L. Deaths due to fire in 1953. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Fire Offices' Committee Joint Fire Research Organization F.R.Note No.136/1954.

Statistical Unit,
19 Cornwall Terrace,
Regents Park,
London, N.W.1.
(Telephone: Museum 5030)



SAMPLE OF BASE-INJECTED FOAM LAYER SHOWING
PETROL GLOBULES



EXTINGUISHING AN AIRCRAFT FIRE WITH DRY POWDER

TABLE 1

FIRES IN DWELLINGS REPORTED AS PRE-WAR, 1950-54

England and Wales

| Type of dwelling | Year | Confined to room of origin | | Confined to building of origin | | Spread beyond building of origin | | Total fires | |
|----------------------|------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| | | | Percentage of total | | Percentage of total | | Percentage of total | | Percentage of total |
| Houses | 1950 | 12 306 | | 1 796 | | 164 | | 14 266 | |
| | 1951 | 11 884 | | 1 796 | | 132 | | 13 812 | |
| | 1952 | 13 612 | | 1 788 | | 128 | | 15 528 | |
| | 1953 | 12 775 | | 1 700 | | 100 | | 14 575 | |
| | 1954 | 13 536 | | 1 708 | | 156 | | 15 400 | |
| Total houses 1950-54 | | 64 113 | 87.1 | 8 788 | 11.9 | 680 | 0.9 | 73 581 | 100.0 |
| Flats | 1950 | 1 892 | | 408 | | - | | 2 300 | |
| | 1951 | 2 176 | | 368 | | 12 | | 2 556 | |
| | 1952 | 2 584 | | 464 | | - | | 3 048 | |
| | 1953 | 2 365 | | 475 | | 5 | | 2 845 | |
| | 1954 | 2 558 | | 568 | | 12 | | 3 138 | |
| Total flats 1950-54 | | 11 575 | 83.3 | 2 283 | 16.4 | 29 | 0.2 | 13 887 | 100.0 |
| <u>Scotland</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Houses | 1950 | 606 | | 136 | | 32 | | 774 | |
| | 1951 | 608 | | 144 | | 12 | | 764 | |
| | 1952 | 700 | | 136 | | 8 | | 844 | |
| | 1953 | 680 | | 125 | | 15 | | 820 | |
| | 1954 | 598 | | 128 | | 16 | | 742 | |
| Total houses 1950-54 | | 3 192 | 80.9 | 669 | 17.0 | 83 | 2.1 | 3 944 | 100.0 |
| Flats | 1950 | 1 798 | | 240 | | 4 | | 2 042 | |
| | 1951 | 1 512 | | 336 | | 8 | | 1 856 | |
| | 1952 | 1 580 | | 272 | | - | | 1 852 | |
| | 1953 | 1 510 | | 170 | | 10 | | 1 690 | |
| | 1954 | 1 553 | | 238 | | 5 | | 1 796 | |
| Total flats 1950-54 | | 7 953 | 86.1 | 1 256 | 13.6 | 27 | 0.3 | 9 236 | 100.0 |

TABLE 2

FIRES IN DWELLINGS REPORTED AS PRE-WAR, 1950-54

Details of persons rescued and escaped and of non-fatal and fatal casualties in fires that spread beyond the room of origin in pre-war houses and flats

England and Wales

| Type of dwelling | Year | Total fires in sample | Persons rescued | Persons escaped | Non-fatal casualties | Fatal casualties | Non-fatal casualties per 10 fires | Fatal casualties per 10 fires |
|------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Houses | 1950 | 490 | 33 (13) | 19 (10) | 68 (42) | 10 (9) | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| | 1951 | 482 | 42 (21) | 25 (12) | 99 (62) | 20 (10) | 2.0 | 0.4 |
| | 1952 | 479 | 33 (15) | 8 (4) | 68 (43) | 16 (10) | 1.4 | 0.3 |
| | 1953 | 365 | 35 (18) | 21 (11) | 76 (45) | 5 (4) | 2.1 | 0.1 |
| | 1954 | 932 | 79 (34) | 45 (22) | 175 (109) | 27 (21) | 1.9 | 0.3 |
| Flats | 1950 | 102 | 10 (4) | 2 (1) | 23 (16) | 1 (1) | 2.3 | 0.1 |
| | 1951 | 95 | 15 (15) | 7 (3) | 17 (10) | 6 (3) | 1.8 | 0.6 |
| | 1952 | 116 | 6 (4) | 1 | 24 (13) | 2 (2) | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| | 1953 | 96 | 6 (4) | 2 (1) | 14 (10) | 4 (4) | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| | 1954 | 290 | 13 (6) | 6 (1) | 39 (23) | 9 (5) | 1.3 | 0.3 |
| <u>Scotland</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Houses | 1950 | 42 | 1 (1) | 2 (1) | 3 (3) | 1 (1) | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| | 1951 | 39 | - | - | 5 (3) | - | 1.3 | - |
| | 1952 | 41 | 6 (2) | 3 (1) | 8 (5) | 7 (2) | 1.9 | 1.7 |
| | 1953 | 28 | 1 (1) | - | 3 (2) | 1 (1) | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| | 1954 | 72 | 5 (3) | 9 (2) | 8 (7) | 3 (3) | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| Flats | 1950 | 61 | 4 (3) | - | 2 (2) | - | 0.3 | - |
| | 1951 | 86 | 2 (2) | - | 10 (8) | 2 (2) | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| | 1952 | 68 | 8 (3) | - | 12 (9) | 1 (1) | 1.8 | 0.1 |
| | 1953 | 36 | 2 (1) | - | 1 (1) | - | 0.3 | - |
| | 1954 | 122 | - | 1 (1) | 6 (3) | 1 (1) | 0.5 | 0.1 |

Note. The figures in brackets are the numbers of fires where rescues and escapes were necessary and where casualties occurred.

TABLE 3

FIRES IN POST-WAR NON-TRADITIONAL DWELLINGS, 1950-54

| Year | No. of incidents | Number of damaged dwellings | | | | Number of damaged dwellings per 10 000 at risk | | | |
|------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Total | Confined to room of origin | Spread beyond room of origin damaging | | Total | Confined to room of origin | Spread beyond room of origin damaging | |
| | | | | Less than half dwelling | More than half dwelling | | | Less than half dwelling | More than half dwelling |
| 1947 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 9.1 | 7.3 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| 1948 | 67 | 71 | 54 | 9 | 8 | 12.6 | 9.5 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| 1949 | 118 | 130 | 89 | 23 | 18 | 11.0 | 7.5 | 1.9 | 1.5 |
| 1950 | 144 | 165 | 124 | 26 | 15 | 10.6 | 8.0 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| 1951 | 186 | 192 | 161 | 24 | 7 | 10.3 | 8.7 | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| 1952 | 234 | 248 | 215 | 27 | 6 | 11.3 | 9.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| 1953 | 213 | 218 | 194 | 11 | 13 | 8.1 | 7.2 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| 1954 | 286 | 296 | 253 | 17 | 26 | 8.8 | 7.5 | 0.5 | 0.8 |

TABLE 4

FIRES IN FLATS REPORTED AS POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION, 1950-54

| Year | Number of damaged dwellings | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Total damaged dwellings | Confined to room of origin | Confined to building of origin | Spread to other hazard | Confined to room of origin | Confined to building of origin | Spread to other hazard |
| <u>England and Wales</u> | | | | | % | % | % |
| 1950 | 32 | 27 | 5 | - | 84.4 | 16.6 | - |
| 1951 | 25 | 24 | 1 | - | 96.0 | 4.0 | - |
| 1952 | 27 | 20 | 7 | - | 74.1 | 25.9 | - |
| 1953 | 50 | 49 | 1 | - | 98.0 | 2.0 | - |
| 1954 | 153 | 149 | 4 | - | 97.4 | 2.6 | - |
| Total | 287 | 269 | 18 | - | 93.7 | 6.3 | - |
| <u>Scotland</u> | | | | | | | |
| 1950 | 10 | 8 | 2 | - | 80.0 | 20.0 | - |
| 1951 | 14 | 11 | 3 | - | 78.6 | 21.4 | - |
| 1952 | 14 | 12 | 2 | - | 85.7 | 14.3 | - |
| 1953 | 15 | 12 | 3 | - | 80.0 | 20.0 | - |
| 1954 | 86 | 70 | 15 | 1 | 81.4 | 17.5 | 1.1 |
| Total | 139 | 113 | 25 | 1 | 81.3 | 18.0 | 0.7 |

TABLE 5

FIRES IN ALL TYPES OF DWELLINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950-54

| Cause of fire | 1950 | | 1951 | | 1952 | | 1953 | | 1954 | | Total 1950-54 | | Percentage of total | |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats |
| Ashes, soot | 620 | 110 | 474 | 55 | 181 | 95 | 180 | 70 | 118 | 64 | 1 576 | 396 | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| Candle | 225 | 35 | 202 | 35 | 204 | 35 | 205 | 25 | 210 | 26 | 1 047 | 151 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Chimney fire (not confined to chimney) | 302 | 24 | 574 | 65 | 1 615 | 124 | 1 690 | 160 | 2 078 | 215 | 6 350 | 592 | 8.2 | 4.0 |
| Chimney, spark from outside building | 268 | 14 | 152 | 10 | 288 | 20 | 325 | 10 | 178 | 20 | 1 181 | 74 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| Electric cooker | 502 | 118 | 534 | 125 | 555 | 155 | 545 | 150 | 552 | 138 | 2 901 | 678 | 3.8 | 4.5 |
| fire | 532 | 110 | 622 | 119 | 548 | 140 | 470 | 150 | 508 | 184 | 2 780 | 702 | 3.6 | 4.7 |
| wire and cable | 704 | 105 | 936 | 148 | 1 052 | 152 | 975 | 195 | 952 | 182 | 4 599 | 783 | 5.0 | 5.2 |
| other apparatus | 854 | 198 | 934 | 222 | 1 052 | 192 | 945 | 215 | 1 098 | 220 | 4 873 | 1 047 | 6.3 | 7.0 |
| Fire in grate igniting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bedding, clothing, linen | 914 | 145 | 842 | 114 | 844 | 112 | 810 | 130 | 915 | 124 | 4 326 | 626 | 5.6 | 4.2 |
| timber under hearth | 1 616 | 594 | 1 022 | 308 | 1 392 | 504 | 390 | 140 | 1 540 | 534 | 5 960 | 2 140 | 7.7 | 14.3 |
| other materials | 3 156 | 485 | 2 808 | 338 | 3 154 | 524 | 3 240 | 585 | 2 580 | 380 | 14 958 | 2 313 | 19.4 | 15.5 |
| Flue | 238 | 25 | 254 | 22 | 248 | 15 | 485 | 25 | 342 | 35 | 1 557 | 125 | 2.0 | 0.8 |
| Gas cooker | 492 | 155 | 520 | 155 | 575 | 208 | 630 | 205 | 660 | 208 | 2 878 | 943 | 3.7 | 6.3 |
| fire | 100 | 30 | 98 | 48 | 92 | 28 | 70 | 35 | 98 | 34 | 458 | 175 | 0.6 | 1.2 |
| other apparatus | 276 | 105 | 314 | 124 | 244 | 104 | 355 | 70 | 312 | 100 | 1 481 | 504 | 1.9 | 3.4 |
| Matches | 214 | 42 | 220 | 45 | 235 | 50 | 230 | 35 | 200 | 58 | 1 240 | 301 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| Matches, children playing with | 255 | 45 | 265 | 55 | 225 | 55 | 245 | 70 | 275 | 72 | 1 281 | 310 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| Oil blowlamp | 464 | 58 | 470 | 28 | 535 | 44 | 420 | 70 | 524 | 68 | 2 265 | 268 | 2.9 | 1.8 |
| lamp or stove | 332 | 42 | 360 | 45 | 304 | 60 | 250 | 45 | 332 | 80 | 1 633 | 275 | 2.1 | 1.8 |
| other | 44 | 2 | 38 | 4 | 55 | - | 40 | - | 26 | - | 204 | 5 | 0.3 | - |
| Slow combustion stove igniting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| structural woodwork | 54 | 10 | 36 | 10 | 60 | 12 | 30 | 10 | 48 | 8 | 228 | 50 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| other materials | 162 | 15 | 142 | 24 | 224 | 8 | 155 | 25 | 150 | 20 | 843 | 93 | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| Smoking materials | 790 | 192 | 834 | 215 | 904 | 188 | 855 | 185 | 884 | 225 | 4 247 | 1 007 | 5.5 | 6.8 |
| Taper, lighted paper or sticks | 120 | 18 | 94 | 15 | 148 | 12 | 150 | 15 | 124 | 26 | 636 | 87 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Taper, lighted paper or sticks, children playing with | 40 | 4 | 42 | 12 | 15 | 4 | 45 | 5 | 54 | 16 | 197 | 41 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Other causes | 870 | 82 | 846 | 70 | 892 | 112 | 740 | 95 | 668 | 84 | 4 016 | 443 | 5.3 | 3.0 |
| Unknown cause | 592 | 170 | 532 | 142 | 728 | 164 | 750 | 155 | 652 | 142 | 3 354 | 773 | 4.4 | 5.2 |
| Total all causes | 14 768 | 3 002 | 14 376 | 2 584 | 15 236 | 3 112 | 15 295 | 2 945 | 16 420 | 3 268 | 77 095 | 14 911 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

TABLE 6

FIRES IN ALL TYPES OF DWELLINGS IN SCOTLAND, 1950-54

| Cause of fire | 1950 | | 1951 | | 1952 | | 1953 | | 1954 | | Total 1950-54 | | Percentage of total | |
|--|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats | Houses | Flats |
| Ashes, soot | 18 | 134 | 16 | 56 | 8 | 32 | 20 | 40 | 8 | 36 | 70 | 308 | 1.5 | 3.3 |
| Candle | 6 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 8 | - | - | 20 | - | 22 | 24 | 72 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Chimney fire (not confined to chimney) | 82 | 176 | 112 | 200 | 168 | 368 | 135 | 380 | 176 | 404 | 673 | 1 528 | 14.9 | 16.1 |
| Chimney, spark from outside building . | 28 | 20 | 12 | 10 | 24 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 3 | 85 | 47 | 1.9 | 0.5 |
| Electric cooker | 24 | 25 | 20 | 26 | 32 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 34 | 32 | 130 | 134 | 2.9 | 1.4 |
| fire | 32 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 36 | 8 | 25 | 30 | 12 | 12 | 133 | 106 | 2.9 | 1.1 |
| wire and cable | 72 | 64 | 64 | 83 | 72 | 76 | 110 | 80 | 84 | 82 | 402 | 390 | 8.9 | 4.1 |
| other apparatus | 44 | 62 | 30 | 50 | 56 | 72 | 65 | 85 | 36 | 74 | 231 | 343 | 5.1 | 3.6 |
| Fire in grate igniting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bedding, clothing, linen | 40 | 52 | 42 | 42 | 20 | 32 | 40 | 40 | 34 | 50 | 176 | 216 | 3.9 | 2.3 |
| timber under hearth | 88 | 440 | 70 | 270 | 84 | 292 | 30 | 95 | 82 | 248 | 354 | 1 345 | 7.8 | 14.2 |
| other materials | 172 | 448 | 164 | 528 | 192 | 406 | 200 | 365 | 124 | 268 | 852 | 2 015 | 18.8 | 21.3 |
| Flue | 14 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 18 | 2 | 70 | 37 | 1.5 | 0.4 |
| Gas cooker | 38 | 116 | 26 | 86 | 48 | 112 | 20 | 120 | 28 | 118 | 160 | 552 | 3.5 | 5.8 |
| fire | - | 6 | 6 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 10 | 10 | 18 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| other apparatus | 10 | 56 | 8 | 38 | 4 | 24 | - | 20 | 10 | 36 | 32 | 174 | 0.7 | 1.8 |
| Matches | 8 | 36 | 6 | 38 | 16 | 44 | 5 | 30 | 16 | 38 | 51 | 186 | 1.1 | 2.0 |
| Matches, children playing with | 8 | 36 | 18 | 32 | 8 | 28 | - | 15 | 14 | 50 | 48 | 161 | 1.1 | 1.7 |
| Oil blowlamp | 32 | 18 | 36 | 16 | 28 | 16 | 65 | 20 | 22 | 6 | 183 | 76 | 4.0 | 0.8 |
| lamp or stove | 26 | 12 | 26 | 6 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 16 | 100 | 65 | 2.2 | 0.7 |
| other apparatus | 4 | 4 | 6 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 14 | 6 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Slow combustion stove igniting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| structural woodwork | 2 | - | 6 | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| other materials | 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 8 | - | - | 6 | 2 | 20 | 18 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Smoking materials | 42 | 104 | 45 | 136 | 32 | 108 | 50 | 135 | 50 | 144 | 220 | 627 | 4.9 | 6.6 |
| Taper, lighted paper or sticks | 2 | 14 | 6 | 28 | 8 | 24 | 5 | 25 | - | 36 | 21 | 127 | 0.5 | 1.3 |
| Taper, lighted paper or sticks, children playing with | 4 | 16 | 2 | 20 | - | 24 | - | 10 | - | 20 | 6 | 90 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| Other causes | 40 | 94 | 45 | 78 | 44 | 78 | 75 | 105 | 54 | 90 | 259 | 445 | 5.7 | 4.7 |
| Unknown cause | 32 | 58 | 34 | 60 | 40 | 84 | 45 | 100 | 36 | 64 | 187 | 366 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| Total all causes | 872 | 2 050 | 858 | 1 878 | 976 | 1 880 | 935 | 1 760 | 884 | 1 870 | 4 525 | 9 458 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 7

NUMBER OF STOREYS IN DWELLINGS IN WHICH FATAL CASUALTIES OCCURRED IN 1953

| No. of storeys in dwelling | No. of dwellings | No. of flats | No. of fatal casualties |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 12 | - | 14 |
| 1 and attic | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 1 and basement | - | - | - |
| 1 and 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 77 | 8 | 88 |
| 2 and basement | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 3 | 11 | 8 | 11 |
| 3 and basement | 3 | - | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 4 and basement | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Table 8

FLOOR OF ORIGIN OF FIRES IN WHICH FATAL CASUALTIES OCCURRED IN DWELLINGS
(OTHER THAN SINGLE STOREY)

| Floor on which fire originated | Two storey dwellings | | | Dwellings of 3 or more storeys | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | No. of fires | No. spreading beyond room of origin | No. of fatal casualties | No. of fires | No. spreading beyond room of origin | No. of fatal casualties |
| Basement | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Ground | 49 | 12 | 57 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| First | 25 | 6 | 27 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Second | - | - | - | 9 | 7 | 12 |
| Third | - | - | - | 4 | - | 4 |
| Fourth | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Fifth | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Sixth | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other and unknown | 5 | - | 6 | - | - | - |

Table 9

RESCUES AND ESCAPES FROM FIRES IN BUILDINGS

All incidents reported by Fire Brigades in 1953

| | England and Wales | Scotland | United Kingdom |
|--|----------------------|----------|-------------------|
| <u>With Fire Brigade assistance</u> | | | |
| Escape (hand operated) | 14 | 3 | 17 |
| Ladder, extension | 38 | 7 | 45 |
| 1st Floor | 10 | - | 10 |
| turntable | 9 | 9 | 18 |
| other | 58 | - | 58 |
| Ladder and line | 3 | - | 3 |
| Line | 3 | - | 3 |
| Other apparatus | 5 | 8 | 15 |
| Without apparatus | 43 | 23 | 68 |
| | 183 | 50 | 237 |
| <u>Without Fire Brigade assistance</u> | | | |
| Carried or assisted | 119 | 32 | 153 |
| Jumping sheet | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Ladder | 58 | 5 | 63 |
| Lowered from windows, roofs, etc. | 55 | 5 | 62 |
| Other and undefined | 23 | 1 | 24 |
| | 257 | 46 | 307 |
| <u>Escape by emergency means</u> | | | |
| Climbing over roof | 18 | - | 18 |
| Fixed fire escape | 1 | - | 1 |
| Jumping from upstairs window, roof, etc. | 131 | 8 | 140 |
| Ladder | 9 | - | 9 |
| Drainpipe, sheets, rope | 31 | - | 31 |
| Through ground floor windows | 8 | 4 | 13 |
| Other and undefined | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| | 212 | 13 | 227 |
| Grand total | 652 | 109 | 771 |