

11. APR. 1956

IN CONFIDENCE

F.R. Note No.238  
March, 1956  
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, 1955

The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1955 the Fire Brigades attended approximately 107 100\* fires in England and Wales and approximately 13 200 in Scotland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

In England and Wales, two Fire Service personnel lost their lives and approximately 350 were injured: the Fire Service assisted in the rescue of approximately 270 persons from dangerous situations. In Scotland, no member of the Fire Service was killed and 60 were injured: The Fire Service assisted in rescuing 60 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 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, 1955

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 16th February, 1956: 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	134
Bedfordshire	799
Berks. and Reading	1 183
Brecon Co. and Radnor	103
Buckinghamshire	1 092
Caernarvonshire	391
Cambridgeshire	478
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	462
Cheshire	2 015
Cornwall	943
Cumberland	407
Denbigh and Montgomery	588
Derbyshire	1 288
Devonshire	1 081
Dorsetshire	961
Durham Co.	1 756
Ely, Isle of	240
Essex	4 634
Flintshire	337
Glamorganshire	1 197
Gloucestershire	896
Hampshire	2 503
Herefordshire	276
Hertfordshire	1 805
Huntingdonshire	222
Kent and Canterbury	3 994
Lancashire	4 476
Leicestershire and Rutland	542
Lincs. (Holland)	188
Lincs. (Kesteven)	264
Lincs. (Lindsey)	667
London C.C.	8 950
Merioneth	112
Middlesex	4 785
Monmouthshire	491
Norfolk	1 024
Northamptonshire	513
Northumberland	1 008
Nottinghamshire	1 524
Oxfordshire	452
Pembrokeshire	246
Peterborough, Soke of	158
Salop	639
Scilly, Isle of	-
Somersetshire	827
Staffordshire	1 866
Suffolk, East, Suffolk, West and Ipswich	1 340
Surrey	3 389
Sussex, East	800
Sussex, West	720
Warwickshire	1 349
Westmorland	159
Wight, Isle of	167

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, 1955

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u> (contd.)	
Wiltshire	893
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	1 117
Yorks (East Riding)	364
Yorks (North Riding)	838
Yorks (West Riding)	3 914
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>	
Barnsley	210
Barrow in Furness	198
Bath	185
Birkenhead	570
Birmingham	2 903
Blackburn	273
Blackpool	446
Bolton	330
Bootle	311
Bournemouth	568
Bradford	760
Brighton	332
Bristol	1 457
Burnley	251
Burton on Trent	94
Bury	182
Cardiff	643
Carlisle	212
Chester	184
Coventry	665
Croydon	445
Darlington	235
Derby	273
Dewsbury	235
Doncaster	265
Dudley	204
Eastbourne	98
East Ham	217
Exeter	180
Gloucester	160
Great Yarmouth	182
Grimsby	227
Halifax	273
Hastings	147
Huddersfield	312
Kingston upon Hull	723
Leeds	1 181
Leicester	637
Lincoln	239
Liverpool	2 105
Manchester	1 863
Merthyr Tydfil	107
Middlesbrough	287
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	849
Newport (Mon.)	324
Northampton	230
Norwich	400
Nottingham	718

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN  
GREAT BRITAIN, 1955

Fire Brigade	Number of fires
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>	
Oldham	295
Oxford	185
Plymouth	446
Portsmouth	468
Preston	266
Rochdale	248
Rotherham	177
St. Helens	206
Salford	382
Sheffield	877
Smethwick and West Bromwich	433
Southampton	598
Southend	288
Southport	175
South Shields	231
Stockport	320
Stoke on Trent	455
Sunderland	531
Swansea	337
Tynemouth	260
Wakefield	145
Wallasey	278
Walsall	278
Warrington	231
West Ham	537
West Hartlepool	227
Wigan	167
Wolverhampton	341
York	243
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	107 082
<u>Scotland</u>	
Glasgow	2 914
Lanark	1 422
Central	958
Western	1 241
South Western	802
South Eastern	2 060
Fife	659
Perth and Kinross	362
Angus	1 103
North Eastern	1 198
Northern	488
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	13 207

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1955

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 16th February, 1956: 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
<b>Fatal casualties</b>						
Burns and scalds .....	-	389	389	-	35	35
Overcome by gas or smoke ...	1	71	72	-	4	4
Other and undefined injuries	1	113	114	-	11	11
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Non-fatal casualties</b>						
Burns and scalds .....	71	2 321	2 392	4	114	118
Bruises, cuts, abrasions ...	135	200	335	33	19	52
Dislocations, sprains, fractures .....	28	36	64	4	4	8
Overcome by gas or smoke ...	19	97	116	2	22	24
More than one of the above injuries .....	5	71	76	1	11	12
Shock* .....	1	229	230	-	37	37
Other and undefined injuries	88	111	199	16	11	27
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>3 065</b>	<b>3 412</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Total casualties .....</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>3 638</b>	<b>3 987</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>328</b>

Note: A change in procedure in the reporting of casualties was introduced in 1954, affecting mainly those occurring to Fire Brigade personnel.

Table 3

PERSONS RESCUED OR ESCAPED BY EMERGENCY MEANS FROM FIRES ATTENDED BY  
FIRE BRIGADES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1955

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 16th February, 1956: 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 .....	-	-
Escape (hand operated) .....	7	-
Ladder, extension .....	47	1
first floor .....	4	-
turntable (hand) .....	-	3
turntable (mechanical) .....	6	13
other or undefined .....	83	8
Ladder and line .....	1	3
Line .....	-	-
Other apparatus .....	-	1
Without apparatus .....	121	31
Ships .....	2	-
Road vehicles .....	-	-
Total .....	271	60
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from		
Aircraft .....	1	-
Buildings		
Automatic escape line .....	-	-
Carried or assisted out .....	280	76
Jumping sheet .....	1	-
Ladder .....	73	11
Lowered from windows, roof, etc. ....	49	4
Other or undefined methods .....	50	12
Ships .....	2	-
Road Vehicles .....	22	-
Total .....	478	103
Escape by emergency means from		
Aircraft		
Baled out .....	18	-
Through exits or from debris .....	2	-
Thrown clear .....	-	-
Other or undefined methods .....	3	-
Buildings		
Automatic escape line .....	-	-
Climbing over roof .....	19	2
Fixed fire escape .....	4	-
Jumping from upstairs window, roof .....	121	16
Ladder .....	25	-
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets, rope, etc. ....	28	3
Through ground floor windows .....	48	4
Other or undefined methods .....	32	1
Road vehicles .....	8	-
Ships .....	5	-
Total .....	313	26
Total persons rescued or escaped .....	1 062	139