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

(Cunard Building, 15 Regent Street, London, S.W.1. Tel: Whitehall 9788)

FIRES IN POST-WAR DWELLINGS XXXVI. STATISTICAL DIGEST OF FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1st JANUARY - 31st MARCH, 1952

bу

D. W. Millar

This note is the fourteenth²⁷ of the short quarterly statistical digests of fires in post-war dwellings, and covers the period 1st January to Jiru March 1952. During this period the Fire Brigades attended 260° incidents involving 264 dwellings occupied by families.

Supposed causes of fire

The supposed causes of the outbreaks are analysed in Table 1. The frequencies of fires due to the five prominent causes, faults in electrical apparatus, short circuits in fixed electric wire and cable, heat and sparks from fires in grates, heat from flue pipes, and smoking materials, may be summarised as follows:-

	Temporary	Traditional			
	Per cent of total incidence	Non-traditional Per cent of total incidence	Per cent of total incidence		
Outbreaks caused by		·			
Electrical apparatus	11 }	11 }	16 }		
Short circuits etc. in fixed electric wire and cable	19 30	5) 16	2 } 18		
Fires in grates	21	30	53		
Flue-pipes	5	17	6		
Smoking materials	11	6	6		

Constructional materials are known to have been ignited first in 32 per cent of the fires which occurred in temporary dwellings, in 40 per cent of those in permanent non-traditional dwellings and in 22 per cent of those in permanent traditional dwellings. The nature of the materials ignited is shown in Table 2.

Extent of fire and casualties

Information on the extent of fire and casualties, for each type of

[#] This digest differs in minor respects from its predecessors and information on fires in unoccupied dwellings is not included.

[₹] Constructional materials are defined as materials used in those parts of a dwelling that an occupant would normally leave on vacating the premises.

temporary and permanent non-traditional house is given in Table 3, together with the number of houses at risk during the quarter. Nine (11 per cent) of the temporary houses and 2 (3 per cent) of the permanent non-traditional houses involved in fire during the quarter were seriously damaged. No permanent traditional house was reported as having been seriously damaged by fire.

Three fatal casualties, 2 children and 1 adult, occurred in permanent traditional houses during the quarter. There were also 13 non-fatal casualties in temporary houses, 5 in permanent non-traditional houses and 16 in permanent traditional houses.

Table 1.

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SUPPOSED CAUSES OF FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN OCCUPIED POST-WAR DWELLINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1st January - 31st March, 1952.

		TEMPORARY			PERMALENT						
	Type of dwelling					Non- traditional			Traditional		
			Fires			Fires		Fires		!	
		igniting			iarivina				igniting		
Sup	posed source of ignition	Constructional materials	Contents	Total	Constructional materials	Contang	Total	Constructaciel mutecials	Contents	Total	
	<i></i>										
Llowl	, hot	_	_	[_ [1	-	1	-	3	3	
	ric cooker	_	1	1	2	4	6	-	6	6	
	fire	-	4	4	-	1	1	-	10	10	
Elect	ric iron	_	1	1 1	-	_	_	1	_	1	
	wireless or television	-	3	3	-	<u> </u>	-	-	-	-	
	lamp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Elect	ric wire and cable	15	-	15	3	-	3	1	1	2	
	other apparatus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	in grate	3	14	17	2	17	19	17	47	64	
Flue	a ele ou	4	-	4	11		11	4	3	7	
Gas c	OOK EE.	1	- 5	6	·	1	1	_	4	4	
Gas f	_	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	
0.	ther apparatus	-	-	-	- :	1	1	_	-	-	
	liarism	_	1	1	• •	_	_	-	-	-	
Matche	es, children playing with	<u> </u> -	2	2	-	-	-	_	1	1	
		-	ر ا	ادا	- · .	-	-	-	-	-	
	combustion stove	2	1	3	-	-	- 1	-	1	1	
	ng materials s, candles	_	9	9 3 3	- 1	4	4		7	.	
Mi.sce]	laneous and undefined	1	2	3	2	1	3	2	6	8	
Spread	of fire from house or flat	-	-	-	3	_	3	1	-	1	
Spark	from chimney	-		-		2	2 !	-	-		
J.	Total fires with known source	i .									
7	of ignition	26	49	75	25	33	58	26	91	117	
	Unknown source of ignition	ļ		6	ļ		5			3	
F	Total damaged dwellings			81			63			120	

Note: Cupboards are considered as constructional materials in temporary dwellings and permanent non-traditional dwellings; but as contents in permanent traditional dwellings. Cookers are considered as contents.

Table 2.

FIRES IN WHICH CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS WERE TENLED FIRST

INCIDENTS IN OCCUPIED FOST-WAR DWELLINGS ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGARDS IN GROSS DREPAIN, 1st January - 31st Merch, 1952.

Constructional materials first ignited	Fempirically		le resenent
Roof Ceiling Partitions, walls, linings to walls Flue casings	- 3 4 - 1	8 2 5 2 1	3 4 3 - 8
Timber under hearth Timber set in chimney Built-in cabinets, cupboards	- - 2	1 - 1	? 1 3
Other internal wooden fittings Lagging of waterpipes	1 -	1	-
Insulation of electric wiring (a) No fire spread (b) Fire spreading to -	1	- -	
(i) floorboards, rafters, walls, ceiling	2	.,	
 (ii) fusebox panel, distribution board, etc. only (iii) fusebox panel, distribution board, etc. spreading to floors, rafters, walls, 	7	2	-
ceiling (iv) other	3 -	-	- 1
Miscellaneous and undefined	2	2	1
Total number of damaged dwellings in which constructional materials were ignited first	26	25	26

Table 3

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE HRIGADES IN OCCUPIED POST-WAR DWELLINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1st JANUARY - 31st MARCH, 1952: THE EXTENT OF FIRE AND NUMBER OF CASUALTIES.

<u></u>	g						
	Extent of fire				Casual	Nt and an and	
Type of dwelling	Fire confined to room of origin (1)	Fire spread origin Less than 50% dwelling	d beyond room of damaging more than 50% dwelling	Total damaged dwellings	Number	Injury	Number of houses at risk
TEMPORARY Aluminium Arcon Tarran Universal Unisaco	25 23 7 2 7 4	1 2 1	2 3 - 1 3	28 28 7 2 8	2 children 2 children 1 adult 1 child: 2 adults 2 children: 3 adults	Non-fatal Non-fatal Non-fatal Non-fatal	54,456 38,859 19,014 2,000 28,999 8,462
	. 68	4	9	81	7 children: 6 adults	-	156,623 (4)
PERMANENT NON- TRADITIONAL Airey Atholl Steel B.I.S.F. Easiform Howard Orlit Stuart Swedish Unity Wates Weir Wimpey Newland Spooner Aluminium Blackburn	5	1 - 2 5	1	7292321391221144	3 children 2 adults	Non-fatal Non-fatal	22, 268 4, 176 36, 306 21, 236 1, 404 11, 869 3, 727 5, 952 3, 792 6, 979 7, 303 12, 614 2, 392 1, 462 19, 342 5, 768
	53	8	· 2	63 (2)	3 children: 2 adults	•	205,542 (5)
PERMANENT TRADITIONAL	113	7	-	₁₂₀ (3)	6 children: 10 adults 2 children: 1 adult	Non-fatal Fatal	837,611

Roof space is taken as one room Includes 1 flat

Includes 10 flats
Total number of all types of temporary houses at risk
Total number of all types of permanent non-traditional houses at

LH. 28BT



Your reference:

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:
THE DIRECTOR and the following reference quoted:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE
JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

FIRE RESEARCH STATION

Melrose Avenue, BOREHAM WOOD, Herts.

Goods Entrance: Station Road Only *Telephone*: 01-953 6177