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

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1956

The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1956 the Fire Brigades attended approximately 111 200* fires in England and Wales and approximately 10 500 in Scotland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

In England and Wales, one fireman lost his life and approximately 340 firemen were injured: The Fire Service assisted in the rescue of approximately 300 persons from dangerous situations. In Scotland, no member of the Fire Service was killed and approximately 30 were injured: The Fire Service assisted in rescuing approximately 50 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, 1956

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 19th February, 1957: 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 | 145 |
| Bedfordshire | 763 |
| Berks. and Reading | 1 173 |
| Brecon Co. and Radnor | 126 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1 154 |
| Caernarvonshire | 365 |
| Cambridgeshire | 353 |
| Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire | 567 |
| Cheshire | 2 363 |
| Cornwall | 750 |
| Cumberland | 480 |
| Denbigh and Montgomery | 610 |
| Derbyshire | 1 258 |
| Devonshire | 1 211 |
| Dorsetshire | 1 306 |
| Durham Co. | 1 668 |
| Ely, Isle of | 186 |
| Essex | 4 488 |
| Flintshire | 402 |
| Glamorganshire | 1 630 |
| Gloucestershire | 895 |
| Hampshire | 3 191 |
| Herefordshire | 259 |
| Hertfordshire | 2 126 |
| Huntingdonshire | 196 |
| Kent and Canterbury | 4 419 |
| Lancashire | 5 053 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 526 |
| Lincs. (Holland) | 185 |
| Lincs. (Kesteven) | 230 |
| Lincs. (Lindsey) | 570 |
| London C.C. | 9 515 |
| Merioneth | 99 |
| Middlesex | 5 129 |
| Monmouthshire | 598 |
| Norfolk | 980 |
| Northamptonshire | 484 |
| Northumberland | 833 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 391 |
| Oxfordshire | 441 |
| Pembrokeshire | 162 |
| Peterborough, Soke of | 138 |
| Salop | 760 |
| Scilly, Isle of | - |
| Somersetshire | 1 008 |
| Staffordshire | 1 884 |
| Suffolk, East, Suffolk, West and Ipswich | 1 101 |
| Surrey | 5 125 |
| Sussex, East | 1 226 |
| Sussex, West | 962 |
| Warwickshire | 1 326 |
| Westmorland | 106 |
| Wight, Isle of | 248 |

Table 1 (cont.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN
GREAT BRITAIN, 1956

| Fire Brigade | Number of fires |
|---|-----------------------|
| <u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u> (contd.) | |
| Wiltshire | 845 |
| Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B. | 1 095 |
| Yorks. (East Riding) | 267 |
| Yorks. (North Riding) | 825 |
| Yorks. (West Riding) | 2 998 |
| <u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u> | |
| Barnsley | 120 |
| Barrow in Furness | 270 |
| Bath | 204 |
| Birkenhead | 530 |
| Birmingham | 2 762 |
| Blackburn | 282 |
| Blackpool | 403 |
| Bolton | 385 |
| Bootle | 340 |
| Bournemouth | 519 |
| Bradford | 629 |
| Brighton | 429 |
| Bristol | 1 244 |
| Burnley | 263 |
| Burton on Trent | 88 |
| Bury | 196 |
| Cardiff | 606 |
| Carlisle | 179 |
| Chester | 217 |
| Coventry | 769 |
| Croydon | 517 |
| Darlington | 199 |
| Derby | 316 |
| Dewsbury | 160 |
| Doncaster | 203 |
| Dudley | 200 |
| Eastbourne | 170 |
| East Ham | 245 |
| Exeter | 234 |
| Gloucester | 160 |
| Great Yarmouth | 129 |
| Grimsby | 205 |
| Halifax | 209 |
| Hastings | 149 |
| Huddersfield | 237 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 619 |
| Leeds | 934 |
| Leicester | 654 |
| Lincoln | 219 |
| Liverpool | 2 101 |
| Manchester | 2 067 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 91 |
| Middlesbrough | 355 |
| Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead | 753 |
| Newport (Mon.) | 339 |
| Northampton | 177 |
| Norwich | 322 |
| Nottingham | 741 |

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN
GREAT BRITAIN, 1956

| Fire Brigade | Number of fires |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u> | |
| Oldham | 299 |
| Oxford | 181 |
| Flymouth | 379 |
| Portsmouth | 455 |
| Preston | 293 |
| Rochdale | 276 |
| Rotherham | 173 |
| St. Helens | 244 |
| Salford | 402 |
| Sheffield | 742 |
| Smethwick and West Bromwich | 370 |
| Southampton | 767 |
| Southend | 280 |
| Southport | 220 |
| South Shields | 250 |
| Stockport | 372 |
| Stoke-or-Trent | 489 |
| Sunderland | 439 |
| Swansea | 425 |
| Tynemouth | 185 |
| Wakefield | 140 |
| Wallasey | 290 |
| Walsall | 329 |
| Warrington | 203 |
| West Ham | 643 |
| West Hartlepool | 221 |
| Wigan | 205 |
| Wolverhampton | 354 |
| York | 195 |
| Total number of fires attended in England and Wales | 111 155 |
| <u>Scotland</u> | |
| Glasgow | 2 555 |
| Lanark | 1 190 |
| Central | 703 |
| Western | 997 |
| South Western | 739 |
| South Eastern | 1 719 |
| Fife | 481 |
| Perth and Kinross | 253 |
| Angus | 711 |
| North Eastern | 891 |
| Northern | 269 |
| Total number of fires attended in Scotland | 10 508 |

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1956

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 19th February, 1957: 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 | - | 333 | 333 | - | 41 | 41 |
| Overcome by gas or smoke ... | 1 | 97 | 98 | - | 14 | 14 |
| Other and undefined injuries | - | 31 | 31 | - | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 1 | 461 | 462 | - | 60 | 60 |
| Non-fatal casualties | | | | | | |
| Burns and scalds | 71 | 2 365 | 2 436 | 2 | 128 | 130 |
| Bruises, cuts, abrasions ... | 103 | 140 | 243 | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| Dislocations, sprains, fractures | 30 | 22 | 52 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Overcome by gas or smoke ... | 22 | 97 | 119 | 2 | 17 | 19 |
| More than one of the above injuries | 8 | 41 | 49 | - | 5 | 6 |
| Shock* | 2 | 190 | 192 | - | 21 | 21 |
| Other and undefined injuries | 106 | 74 | 180 | 5 | 11 | 16 |
| Total | 342 | 2 929 | 3 271 | 25 | 195 | 220 |
| Total casualties | 343 | 3 390 | 3 733 | 25 | 255 | 280 |

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, 1956

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 19th February, 1957: 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) | 35 | 2 |
| Ladder, extension | 56 | 7 |
| first floor | 32 | - |
| turntable (hand) | - | - |
| turntable (mechanical) | 6 | 5 |
| other or undefined | 75 | 3 |
| Ladder and line | 5 | - |
| Line | - | - |
| Other apparatus | 5 | - |
| Without apparatus | 88 | 29 |
| Ships | 1 | - |
| Road vehicles | 1 | - |
| Total | 304 | 46 |
| Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from | | |
| Aircraft | - | 1 |
| Buildings | | |
| Automatic escape line | 2 | - |
| Carried or assisted out | 177 | 63 |
| Jumping sheet | 7 | - |
| Ladder | 97 | 7 |
| Lowered from windows, roof, etc. | 80 | 13 |
| Other or undefined methods | 9 | - |
| Ships | 7 | - |
| Road vehicles | 8 | - |
| Total | 387 | 84 |
| Escape by emergency means from | | |
| Aircraft | | |
| Baled out | 3 | 2 |
| Through exits or from debris | - | - |
| Thrown clear | - | 1 |
| Other or undefined methods | - | - |
| Buildings | | |
| Automatic escape line | - | - |
| Climbing over roof | 42 | 2 |
| Fixed fire escape | 6 | - |
| Jumping from upstairs window, roof | 76 | 8 |
| Ladder | 26 | - |
| Sliding down drainpipe, sheets, rope, etc. | 22 | 5 |
| Through ground floor windows | 17 | 9 |
| Other or undefined methods | 10 | 3 |
| Ships | 9 | - |
| Road vehicles | 3 | - |
| Trains | - | 1 |
| Total | 214 | 31 |
| Total persons rescued or escaped | 905 | 161 |

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Corrigenda No.1
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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES
IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1956

The following corrections should be made to the Preliminary Analysis of fire reports from Fire Brigades in Great Britain, 1956:-

1. Paragraph 2, 1st line: delete "In England and Wales, one fireman lost his life .."; replace by "In England and Wales, two firemen lost their lives .."
2. Table 2. Against item "Fatal casualties, Burns and scalds" insert 1 in column 1 (i.e. in Fire Brigades in England and Wales). The total fatal casualties in Fire Brigades in England and Wales should be 2 and the grand total of casualties in Fire Brigades in England and Wales should be 344.