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IN CONFIDENCE

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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, 1958

The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1958 the Fire Brigades attended approximately 90 400[‡] fires in England and Wales and approximately 10 400 in Scotland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

In England and Wales, two firemen lost their lives and approximately 280 firemen were injured: The Fire Service assisted in the rescue of approximately 280 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 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, 1958

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 20th February, 1959: they are subject to slight revision as further information is received.

Column 1 shows the number of attendances at fires other than those confined to heathland or grassland.

Column 2 shows the number of attendances at fires confined to heathland or grassland.

Column 3 shows the total number of attendances.

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u>			
Anglesey	67	20	87
Bedfordshire	468	120	588
Berks. and Reading	598	144	742
Brecon Co. and Radnor	79	17	96
Buckinghamshire	602	152	754
Caernarvonshire	174	67	241
Cambridgeshire	284	11	295
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	291	75	366
Cheshire	1,161	582	1,743
Cornwall	342	87	429
Cumberland	293	106	399
Denbigh and Montgomery	349	63	412
Derbyshire	799	220	1,019
Devonshire	651	110	761
Dorsetshire	385	387	772
Durham Co.	1,148	418	1,566
Ely, Isle of	155	1	156
Essex	2,560	763	3,323
Flintshire	181	54	235
Glamorganshire	1,015	310	1,325
Gloucestershire	542	169	711
Hampshire	1,010	758	1,768
Herefordshire	187	15	202
Hertfordshire	1,131	387	1,518
Huntingdonshire	179	7	186
Kent and Canterbury	2,489	764	3,253
Lancashire	3,066	1,364	4,430
Leicestershire and Rutland	344	62	406
Lincs. (Holland)	146	3	149
Lincs. (Kesteven)	149	13	162
Lincs. (Lindsey)	369	61	430
London C.C.	8,673	466	9,139
Merioneth	52	5	57
Middlesex	3,337	645	3,982
Monmouthshire	319	102	421
Norfolk	519	73	592
Northamptonshire	338	52	390
Northumberland	584	221	805
Nottinghamshire	686	315	1,001
Oxfordshire	270	49	319
Pembrokeshire	131	7	138

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN
GREAT BRITAIN, 1958

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>			
Peterborough, Soke of	176	20	196
Salop	464	55	519
Scilly, Isles of	-	-	-
Somersetshire	630	84	714
Staffordshire	947	483	1,430
Suffolk, East, Suffolk, West, and Ipswich	609	148	757
Surrey	1,756	1,068	2,824
Sussex, East	433	210	643
Sussex, West	453	102	555
Warwickshire	755	202	957
Westmorland	86	23	109
Wight, Isle of	106	48	154
Wiltshire	650	110	760
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	708	221	929
Yorks. (East Riding)	229	22	251
Yorks. (North Riding)	580	68	648
Yorks. (West Riding)	1,973	530	2,503
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>			
Barnsley	109	30	139
Barrow in Furness	130	54	184
Bath	176	4	180
Birkenhead	495	106	601
Birmingham	2,118	513	2,631
Blackburn	213	61	274
Blackpool	322	118	440
Bolton	323	64	387
Bootle	244	117	361
Bournemouth	172	152	324
Bradford	497	101	598
Brighton	339	34	373
Bristol	812	227	1,039
Burnley	199	69	268
Burton on Trent	55	5	60
Bury	160	54	214
Cardiff	480	55	535
Carlisle	158	33	191
Chester	131	48	179
Coventry	451	215	666
Croydon	391	68	459
Darlington	160	17	177
Derby	365	41	406
Dewsbury	105	31	136
Doncaster	149	29	178
Dudley	112	69	181
Eastbourne	88	13	101
East Ham	155	16	171
Exeter	163	9	172
Gloucester	143	20	163
Great Yarmouth	104	15	119
Grimsby	184	16	200
Halifax	174	49	223

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN
GREAT BRITAIN, 1958

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>			
Hastings	99	23	122
Huddersfield	176	50	226
Kingston upon Hull	647	54	701
Leeds	709	208	917
Leicester	477	87	564
Lincoln	104	29	133
Liverpool	1,844	292	2,136
Manchester	1,742	394	2,136
Merthyr Tydfil	102	13	115
Middlesbrough	303	16	319
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	706	121	827
Newport (Mon.)	227	57	284
Northampton	155	17	172
Norwich	249	43	292
Nottingham	520	153	673
Oldham	270	25	295
Oxford	148	13	161
Plymouth	322	31	353
Portsmouth	372	79	451
Preston	242	58	300
Rochdale	190	61	251
Rotherham	101	46	147
St. Helens	152	69	221
Salford	390	33	423
Sheffield	644	109	753
Smethwick and West Bromwich	246	101	347
Southampton	373	302	675
Southend	222	34	256
Southport	156	31	187
South Shields	175	80	255
Stockport	272	75	347
Stoke-on-Trent	305	91	396
Sunderland	373	89	462
Swansea	219	111	330
Tynemouth	178	38	216
Wakefield	100	24	124
Wallasey	187	123	310
Walsall	146	101	247
Warrington	140	38	178
West Ham	428	47	475
West Hartlepool	175	35	210
Wigan	147	43	190
Wolverhampton	265	55	320
York	200	14	214
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	71,753	18,605	90,358
<u>Scotland</u>			
Glasgow	2,229	313	2,542
Lanark	929	285	1,214
Central	575	170	745
Western	744	339	1,083

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN.
GREAT BRITAIN, 1958

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Scotland (contd.)</u>			
South Western	592	115	707
South Eastern	1,371	140	1,511
Fife	447	96	543
Perth and Kinross	233	48	281
Angus	586	104	690
North Eastern	715	63	778
Northern	219	37	256
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	8,640	1,710	10,350

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1958

Nature of injury	England and Wales			Scotland		
	Fire Brigades	Other casualties	Total	Fire Brigades	Other casualties	Total
Fatal casualties						
Burns and scalds	-	298	298	-	35	35
Overcome by gas or smoke	2	77	79	-	13	13
Other and undefined injuries	-	13	13	-	3	3
Total	2	388	390	-	51	51
Non-fatal casualties						
Burns and scalds	56	2,000	2,056	5	98	103
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	114	121	235	8	12	20
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	22	26	48	3	5	8
Overcome by gas or smoke	29	186	215	3	28	31
More than one of above injuries	6	58	64	2	6	8
*Shock	2	230	232	1	14	15
Other and undefined injuries	54	53	107	4	5	9
Total	283	2,674	2,957	26	168	194
Total casualties	285	3,062	3,347	26	219	245

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to 20th February, 1959: 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.

Table 3

PERSONS RESCUED OR ESCAPED BY EMERGENCY MEANS FROM FIRES ATTENDED BY
FIRE BRIGADES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1958

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to
20th February, 1959: 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		
Aircraft	3	-
Buildings		
Automatic escape line	1	-
Escape (hand operated)	16	1
Ladder, extension	77	3
first floor	8	1
hook	2	-
scaling	2	-
turntable (mechanical)	1	3
other or undefined	24	3
Ladder and line	2	-
Oxacetylene cutting gear	4	-
Without apparatus	131	20
Ships	2	-
Caravans	3	-
Total	276	31
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from		
Aircraft	1	-
Buildings		
Carried or assisted out	256	56
Jumping sheet	2	-
Ladder	60	8
Lowered from windows, roof, etc.	62	13
Other or undefined methods	17	-
Ships	7	1
Road vehicles	10	1
Caravans	2	1
Total	417	80
Escape by emergency means from		
Aircraft		
Baled out	9	-
Through exits or from debris	-	7
Buildings		
Climbing over roof	45	-
Fixed fire escape	18	-
Jumping from upstairs window, roof	113	14
Ladder	20	3
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets, rope, etc.	44	-
Through ground floor windows	22	3
Other or undefined methods	15	1
Ships	1	-
Road vehicles	27	3
Caravans	2	1
Total	316	32
Total persons rescued or escaped	1,009	143

In addition, one man was rescued, without F.B. assistance, from a lime kiln
and two men escaped from a temporary farm building.