

IN CONFIDENCE

F.R. Note No.495.  
March, 1962.  
Lab. File 1/1DEPARTMENT 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  
THE UNITED KINGDOM 1961

by

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The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1961 the Fire Brigades attended approximately 146 000\* fires in England and Wales, approximately 11 600 in Scotland and approximately 1 800 in Northern Ireland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

No members of the Fire Service in the United Kingdom were killed whilst attending any fire incident but one member of Glamorgan Fire Brigade was fatally injured in an accident during making up operations. In England and Wales approximately 270 members of the Fire Brigades were injured at incidents and the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were approximately 70 and 10 respectively.

The Fire Services assisted in the rescue of approximately 380 persons from dangerous situations in England and Wales, approximately 110 in Scotland and approximately 10 in Northern Ireland. 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 ten: exact figures will be given in the detailed returns which will be prepared later in the year.

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CORRIGENDA

TABLE 1

For entry for "Kingston upon Hull" substitute the following:-

	1	2	3
Kingston upon Hull	942	90	1 032

for total fires in England and Wales substitute:-

	1	2	3
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	105 302	39 957	145 259

Table 1

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1961.

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to the 28th February, 1962; 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 grassland or heathland.

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

Column 3 shows the total number of attendances.

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u>			
Anglesey	82	15	97
Bedfordshire	813	361	1 174
Berks and Reading	1 070	519	1 589
Brecon Co. and Radnor	106	55	161
Buckinghamshire	944	733	1 677
Caernarvonshire	218	129	347
Cambridgeshire	485	53	538
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	318	130	448
Cheshire	1 704	817	2 521
Cornwall	494	460	954
Cumberland	312	51	363
Denbigh and Montgomery	484	179	663
Derbyshire	1 224	516	1 740
Devonshire	969	511	1 480
Dorsetshire	630	889	1 519
Durham Co.	1 812	694	2 506
Ely, Isle of	281	21	302
Essex	3 606	2 817	6 423
Flintshire	318	149	467
Glamorganshire	1 240	425	1 665
Gloucestershire	868	270	1 138
Hampshire	1 718	2 020	3 738
Herefordshire	309	47	356
Hertfordshire	1 615	1 207	2 822
Huntingdonshire	239	93	332
Kent and Canterbury	3 250	2 026	5 276
Lancashire	4 638	1 407	6 045
Leicestershire and Rutland	596	256	852
Lincs. (Holland)	211	20	231
Lincs. (Kesteven)	280	92	372
Lincs. (Lindsey)	574	101	675
London C.C.	12 215	1 281	13 496
Merioneth	76	28	104
Middlesex	4 843	2 127	6 970
Monmouthshire	470	224	694
Norfolk	751	269	1 020
Northamptonshire	735	204	939
Northumberland	871	363	1 234
Nottinghamshire	960	706	1 666

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1961.

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>			
Oxfordshire	404	114	518
Pembrokeshire	124	66	190
Peterborough, Soke of	188	36	224
Salop	680	284	964
Somersetshire	903	242	1 145
Staffordshire	1 723	1 287	3 010
Suffolk, East Suffolk, West and Ipswich	934	326	1 260
Surrey	2 174 <sup>(1)</sup>	2 038	4 212 <sup>(1)</sup>
Sussex, East	645	467	1 112
Sussex, West	786	360	1 146
Warwickshire	1 135	895	2 030
Westmorland	116	15	131
Wight, Isle of	204	132	336
Wiltshire	936	244	1 180
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	1 065	504	1 569
Yorks (East Riding)	404	38	442
Yorks (North Riding)	894	146	1 040
Yorks (West Riding)	2 707	865	3 572
Scilly, Isles of	-	-	-
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>			
Barnsley	128	67	195
Barrow in Furness	188	32	220
Bath	210	41	251
Birkenhead	539	124	663
Birmingham	3 071	986	4 057
Blackburn	354	56	410
Blackpool	431	76	507
Bolton	442	49	491
Bootle	384	115	499
Bournemouth	263	449	712
Bradford	831	72	903
Brighton	478	96	574
Bristol	1 141	435	1 576
Burnley	270	24	294
Burton on Trent	116	30	146
Bury	188	36	224
Cardiff	696	127	823
Carlisle	244	15	259
Chester	200	120	320
Coventry	729	400	1 129
Croydon	552	207	759
Darlington	237 <sup>(2)</sup>	13	250 <sup>(2)</sup>
Derby	637	129	766
Dewsbury	179	20	199
Doncaster	171	25	196
Dudley	150	85	235
Eastbourne	141	21	162

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1961.

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>			
East Ham	203	106	309
Exeter	248	57	305
Gloucester	224	25	249
Great Yarmouth	146	75	221
Grimsby	279	34	313
Halifax	226	23	249
Hastings	113	73	186
Huddersfield	226	45	271
Kingston upon Hull	942	435	1 377
Leeds	1 176	202	1 378
Leicester	820	221	1 041
Lincoln	227	72	299
Liverpool	3 119	392	3 511
Manchester	2 470	327	2 797
Merthyr Tydfil	120	6	126
Middlesbrough	498	27	525
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	1 103	185	1 288
Newport (Mon.)	325	145	470
Northampton	188	48	236
Norwich	300	92	392
Nottingham	841	219	1 060
Oldham	373	21	394
Oxford	235	21	256
Plymouth	397	222	619
Portsmouth	567	212	779
Preston	341	37	378
Rochdale	257	41	298
Rotherham	151	61	212
St. Helens	243	70	313
Salford	576	31	607
Sheffield	897	138	1 035
Smethwick and West Bromwich	376	238	614
Southampton	459	535	994
Southend	294	172	466
Southport	170	44	214
South Shields	252	79	331
Stockport	378	66	444
Stoke on Trent	444	111	555
Sunderland	558	121	679
Swansea	319	119	438
Tynemouth	266	64	330
Wakefield	100	45	145
Wallasey	268	180	448
Walsall	304	150	454
Warrington	234	56	290
West Ham	713	183	896
West Hartlepool	261	60	321
Wigan	185	62	247
Wolverhampton	318	136	454
York	251	44	295
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	105 302	40 302	145 604

(1) Surrey: number of reports dated up to 30.9.61 other than grassland.

(2) Darlington: number of reports dated up to 30.11.61 other than grassland.

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1961.

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Scotland</u>			
Glasgow	2 754	145	2 899
Lanark	1 102	108	1 210
Central	698	89	787
Western	862	92	954
South Western	721	69	790
South Eastern	1 689	271	1 960
Fife	544	112	656
Perth and Kinross	258	50	308
Angus	715	87	802
North Eastern	871	90	961
Northern	274	38	312
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	10 488	1 151	11 639

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Northern Ireland</u>			
North	286	20	306
South	542	92	634
West	263	23	286
Belfast	564	13	577
Total number of fires attended in Northern Ireland	1 655	148	1 803

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1961<sup>(1)</sup>

Nature of injury	England and Wales			Scotland			Northern Ireland		
	Fire Brigade	Other Casualties	Total	Fire Brigade	Other Casualties	Total	Fire Brigade	Other Casualties	Total
<u>Fatal Casualties</u>									
Burns and scalds	-	324	324	-	20	20	-	6	6
Overcome by gas or smoke	-	149	149	-	28	28	-	3	3
Other and undefined injuries	-	35	35	-	3	3	-	1	1
Total	-	508	508	-	51	51	-	10	10
<u>Non-Fatal Casualties</u>									
Burns and scalds	69	1 991	2 060	1	112	113	1	21	22
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	103	176	279	10	26	36	3	9	12
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	28	48	76	1	8	9	4	3	7
Overcome by gas or smoke	20	206	226	-	19	19	-	3	3
More than one of above injuries	3	53	56	-	20	20	-	4	4
Shock only <sup>(2)</sup>	1	273	274	-	36	36	-	4	4
Other and undefined injuries	44	114	158	5	16	21	1	5	6
Total	268	2 861	3 129	17	237	254	9	49	58
Total casualties	268	3 369	3 637	17	288	305	9	59	68

(1) Provisional figures subject to possible slight revision as further information is received

(2) Casualties who suffered shock in addition to other injuries are 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 THE UNITED KINGDOM 1961

Note: Figures in this table based on reports received up to 28th February, 1962;  
and subject to slight revision as further information is received.

Appliances or methods used		England and Wales	Scot- land	Northern Ireland
<u>Rescue with Fire Brigade assistance from:</u>				
<u>Buildings</u>	Escape (hand operated)	38	11	1
<u>Ladder:</u>	Extension	77	8	-
	First floor	38	-	-
	Hook	4	-	-
	Turntable (mechanical)	3	19	-
	Other or undefined	25	8	1
	Ladder and line	2	1	-
	Other apparatus	9	2	-
	Without apparatus	185	58	6
<u>Ships</u>		-	5	-
<u>Road vehicles</u>		1	-	1
<u>Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from:</u>				
<u>Buildings</u>	Carried or assisted out	506	56	7
	Jumping sheet	3	-	-
	Ladder	113	4	6
	Lowered from windows, roof etc.	110	4	8
	Other or undefined methods	8	-	-
<u>Ships</u>		44(1)	-	-
<u>Road vehicles</u>		30	1	-
<u>Caravans</u>		3	-	-
<u>Railway electrified rails</u>		1	-	-
<u>Escape by emergency means from:</u>				
<u>Aircraft</u>	Baled out	19	-	-
	Through exits or from debris	-	1	-
<u>Buildings</u>	Climbing over roof	28	-	-
	Fixed fire escape	63	-	-
	Jumping from upstairs window, roof etc.	148	13	6
	Ladder	18	8	-
	Sliding down drain-pipe, sheets etc.	57	5	2
	Through ground floor windows	36	10	1
	Other or undefined methods	44	1	-
<u>Ships</u>		3	-	-
<u>Road vehicles</u>		15	-	-
<u>Caravans</u>		1	9	-
<u>Haystack</u>		4	-	-
<b>Total persons rescued or escaped</b>		<b>1636</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>39</b>

(1) Includes 30 persons rescued in an incident off Lowestoft.