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FIRE RESEARCH NOTE

NO. 518

^{OF}
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS ~~FOR~~ FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1962

by

J. M. FIRTH

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Fire Research Station.
Boreham Wood.
Herts.
(phone ELStree 1341)

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM 1962

by

J. M. Firth

The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1962 the Fire Brigades attended 151 303 fires in England and Wales, 13 508 in Scotland and 2 374 in Northern Ireland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table I

Three members of the Fire Service in the United Kingdom were killed whilst attending fire incidents; two members of London Fire Brigade were knocked down and killed by an electric train whilst tackling a fire involving the timbers of a railway bridge and one member of the Angus Brigade was killed as a result of a fall from a roof at a fire in a dwelling. In England and Wales 257 members of the Fire Brigades were injured at incidents and the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were 44 and 4 respectively.

The Fire Services assisted in the rescue of 447 persons from dangerous situations in England and Wales, 130 in Scotland and 12 in Northern Ireland. Further details are given in tables 2 and 3.

The analysis has been made on those reports received up to 28th February, 1963 and the figures given are subject to slight revision when the outstanding reports have been received.

It should also be noted that two firemen, one each from the Lancashire and Liverpool Fire Brigades, were fatally injured as a result of the appliance on which they were riding becoming involved in a road accident on the way to the fire ground.

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1962

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to the 28th February, 1963; 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 | 83 | 23 | 106 |
| Bedfordshire | 786 | 251 | 1 037 |
| Berks. and Reading | 1 081 | 482 | 1 563 |
| Brecon Co. and Radnor | 145 | 65 | 210 |
| Buckinghamshire | 881 | 527 | 1 408 |
| Caernarvonshire | 226 | 137 | 363 |
| Cambridgeshire | 454 | 27 | 481 |
| Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire | 370 | 188 | 558 |
| Cheshire | 1 800 | 1 254 | 3 054 |
| Cornwall | 549 | 325 | 874 |
| Cumberland | 392 | 167 | 559 |
| Denbigh and Montgomery | 461 | 164 | 625 |
| Derbyshire | 1 233 | 649 | 1 882 |
| Devonshire | 947 | 301 | 1 248 |
| Dorsetshire(1) | 495 | 638 | 1 133 |
| Durham Co. | 1 855 | 1 098 | 2 953 |
| Ely, Isle of | 254 | 12 | 266 |
| Essex | 3 520 | 2 202 | 5 722 |
| Flintshire | 299 | 231 | 530 |
| Glamorganshire | 1 406 | 721 | 2 127 |
| Gloucestershire | 897 | 496 | 1 393 |
| Hampshire | 1 595 | 1 584 | 3 179 |
| Herefordshire | 310 | 41 | 351 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 697 | 930 | 2 627 |
| Huntingdonshire | 243 | 66 | 309 |
| Kent and Canterbury | 3 490 | 1 414 | 4 904 |
| Lancashire | 5 105 | 2 908 | 8 013 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 589 | 221 | 810 |
| Lincs. (Holland) | 203 | 19 | 222 |
| Lincs. (Kesteven) | 263 | 82 | 345 |
| Lincs. (Lindsey) | 600 | 243 | 843 |
| London C.C. | 12 442 | 864 | 13 306 |
| Merioneth | 77 | 23 | 100 |
| Middlesex | 4 931 | 1 491 | 6 422 |
| Monmouthshire | 506 | 278 | 784 |
| Norfolk | 676 | 168 | 844 |
| Northamptonshire | 609 | 206 | 815 |
| Northumberland | 864 | 499 | 1 363 |
| Nottinghamshire | 924 | 1 014 | 1 938 |
| Oxfordshire | 441 | 114 | 555 |
| Pembrokeshire | 141 | 74 | 215 |

(1)Dorset: number of reports dated up to 26.10.62 other than grassland.

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1962

| Fire Brigade | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| <u>County Fire Brigades (contd.)</u> | | | |
| Peterborough, Soke of | 175 | 25 | 200 |
| Salop | 705 | 255 | 960 |
| Somersetshire | 927 | 209 | 1 136 |
| Staffordshire | 1 675 | 1 481 | 3 156 |
| Suffolk, East Suffolk, West and Ipswich | 977 | 302 | 1 279 |
| Surrey | 2 606 | 1 648 | 4 254 |
| Sussex, East | 618 | 423 | 1 041 |
| Sussex, West | 793 | 317 | 1 110 |
| Warwickshire | 1 161 | 580 | 1 741 |
| Westmorland | 113 | 36 | 149 |
| Wight, Isle of | 160 | 89 | 249 |
| Wiltshire | 923 | 218 | 1 141 |
| Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B. | 1 090 | 610 | 1 700 |
| Yorks (East Riding) | 440 | 65 | 505 |
| Yorks (North Riding) | 881 | 227 | 1 108 |
| Yorks (West Riding) | 3 010 | 1 579 | 4 589 |
| Scilly, Isles of | - | - | - |
| <u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u> | | | |
| Barnsley | 117 | 96 | 213 |
| Barrow in Furness | 258 | 106 | 364 |
| Bath | 184 | 24 | 208 |
| Birkenhead | 680 | 223 | 903 |
| Birmingham | 2 903 | 811 | 3 714 |
| Blackburn | 354 | 112 | 466 |
| Blackpool | 479 | 144 | 623 |
| Bolton | 489 | 136 | 625 |
| Bootle | 397 | 141 | 538 |
| Bournemouth | 242 | 241 | 483 |
| Bradford | 851 | 205 | 1 056 |
| Brighton | 405 | 102 | 507 |
| Bristol | 1 133 | 660 | 1 793 |
| Burnley | 350 | 86 | 436 |
| Burton on Trent | 120 | 33 | 153 |
| Bury | 245 | 139 | 384 |
| Cardiff | 738 | 154 | 892 |
| Carlisle | 233 | 41 | 274 |
| Chester | 223 | 174 | 397 |
| Coventry | 624 | 335 | 959 |
| Croydon | 600 | 134 | 734 |
| Darlington | 277 | - | 277 |
| Derby | 688 | 109 | 797 |
| Dewsbury | 190 | 60 | 250 |
| Doncaster | 208 | 66 | 274 |
| Dudley | 148 | 127 | 275 |
| Eastbourne | 122 | 20 | 142 |

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1962.

| Fire Brigade | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|---------|--------|---------|
| <u>County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u> | | | |
| East Ham | 220 | 53 | 273 |
| Exeter | 252 | 23 | 275 |
| Gloucester | 221 | 45 | 266 |
| Great Yarmouth | 151 | 26 | 177 |
| Grimsby | 272 | 61 | 333 |
| Halifax | 254 | 86 | 340 |
| Hastings | 94 | 64 | 158 |
| Huddersfield | 260 | 129 | 389 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 1 082 | 178 | 1 260 |
| Leeds | 1 229 | 403 | 1 632 |
| Leicester | 853 | 192 | 1 045 |
| Lincoln | 247 | 133 | 380 |
| Liverpool | 3 706 | 524 | 4 230 |
| Manchester | 2 842 | 599 | 3 441 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 138 | 31 | 169 |
| Middlesbrough | 448 | 47 | 495 |
| Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead | 1 155 | 222 | 1 377 |
| Newport (Mon.) | 379 | 150 | 529 |
| Northampton | 204 | 43 | 247 |
| Norwich | 289 | 135 | 424 |
| Nottingham | 877 | 288 | 1 165 |
| Oldham | 414 | 77 | 491 |
| Oxford | 237 | 20 | 257 |
| Plymouth | 479 | 111 | 590 |
| Portsmouth | 531 | 132 | 663 |
| Preston | 431 | 86 | 517 |
| Rochdale | 273 | 95 | 368 |
| Rotherham | 158 | 101 | 259 |
| St. Helens | 269 | 130 | 399 |
| Salford | 569 | 51 | 620 |
| Sheffield | 957 | 221 | 1 178 |
| Smethwick and West Bromwich | 362 | 180 | 542 |
| Southampton | 467 | 282 | 749 |
| Southend | 321 | 42 | 363 |
| Southport | 195 | 49 | 244 |
| South Shields | 258 | 138 | 396 |
| Stockport | 410 | 148 | 558 |
| Stoke on Trent | 517 | 290 | 807 |
| Sunderland | 582 | 224 | 806 |
| Swansea | 361 | 254 | 615 |
| Tynemouth | 264 | 90 | 354 |
| Wakefield | 123 | 60 | 183 |
| Wallasey | 276 | 243 | 519 |
| Walsall | 327 | 173 | 500 |
| Warrington | 232 | 148 | 380 |
| West Ham | 682 | 125 | 807 |
| West Hartlepool | 279 | 58 | 337 |
| Wigan | 229 | 75 | 304 |
| Wolverhampton | 349 | 100 | 449 |
| York | 269 | 82 | 351 |
| Total number of fires attended in England and Wales | 109 346 | 41 957 | 151 303 |

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1962⁽¹⁾

| 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 | - | 414 | 414 | - | 46 | 46 | - | 7 | 7 |
| Overcome by gas or smoke | - | 118 | 118 | - | 29 | 29 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Other and undefined injuries | 2 | 31 | 33 | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 563 | 565 | 1 | 78 | 79 | - | 11 | 11 |
| <u>Non-Fatal Casualties</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Burns and scalds | 54 | 2 144 | 2 198 | 15 | 146 | 161 | 2 | 25 | 27 |
| Bruises, cuts, abrasions | 116 | 243 | 359 | 19 | 15 | 34 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Dislocations, sprains, fractures | 31 | 36 | 67 | 3 | 18 | 21 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Overcome by gas or smoke | 18 | 200 | 218 | - | 14 | 14 | - | 1 | 1 |
| More than one of above injuries | 6 | 75 | 81 | - | 18 | 18 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Shock only ⁽²⁾ | 1 | 349 | 350 | - | 13 | 13 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other and undefined injuries | 31 | 87 | 118 | 7 | 20 | 27 | - | - | - |
| Total | 257 | 3 134 | 3 391 | 44 | 244 | 288 | 4 | 33 | 37 |
| Total casualties | 259 | 3 697 | 3 956 | 45 | 322 | 367 | 4 | 44 | 48 |

(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, 1962

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to the 28th February, 1963; they are subject to slight revision as further information is received.

| Appliances or Methods Used | Number of Persons | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|------------------|----------------|
| | England and Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland | United Kingdom |
| Rescue with Fire Brigade assistance from | | | | |
| Buildings | | | | |
| Automatic escape lines | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Escape (hand operated) | 36 | 13 | - | 49 |
| Ladder: extension | 67 | 11 | - | 78 |
| first floor | 24 | 1 | - | 25 |
| hook | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| turntable (mechanical) | 13 | 10 | - | 23 |
| other or undefined | 48 | 5 | 2 | 55 |
| Ladder and line | 6 | - | - | 6 |
| Oxyacetylene cutting gear | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| Other apparatus | 10 | - | - | 10 |
| Without apparatus | 233 | 74 | 8 | 315 |
| Ships | 3 | 14 | - | 17 |
| Road vehicles | 4 | - | - | 4 |
| Grassland | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 447 | 130 | 12 | 589 |
| Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from | | | | |
| Buildings | | | | |
| Carried or assisted out | 586 | 91 | 20 | 697 |
| Jumping sheet | 12 | 1 | - | 13 |
| Ladder | 153 | 5 | 2 | 160 |
| Lowered from windows, roof etc. | 153 | 21 | 6 | 180 |
| Other or undefined methods | 22 | 2 | - | 24 |
| Ships | 11 | - | - | 11 |
| Road vehicles | 29 | 5 | - | 34 |
| Caravans | 9 | - | - | 9 |
| Total | 975 | 125 | 28 | 1 128 |
| Escape by emergency means from | | | | |
| Aircraft | | | | |
| Baled out | 10 | 1 | - | 11 |
| Through exits or from debris | 12 | - | - | 12 |
| Buildings | | | | |
| Climbing over roof | 36 | 3 | - | 39 |
| Fixed fire escape | 18 | - | - | 18 |
| Jumping from upstairs window | 235 | 5 | 3 | 243 |
| Ladder | 41 | - | - | 41 |
| Sliding down drainpipe, sheets etc. | 20 | 2 | - | 22 |
| Through ground floor windows | 47 | 1 | 10 | 58 |
| Other or undefined methods | 76 | 4 | 1 | 81 |
| Ships | 8 | - | - | 8 |
| Road vehicles | 32 | 1 | 1 | 34 |
| Caravans | 6 | - | - | 6 |
| Total | 541 | 17 | 15 | 573 |
| Total persons rescued or escaped | 1 963 | 272 | 55 | 2 290 |