

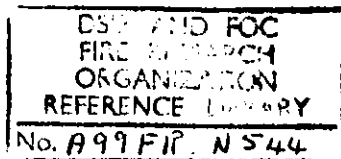
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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

AND

FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE

JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION



## FIRE RESEARCH NOTE

NO. 544

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM 1963

by

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This report has not been published and should be considered as confidential advance information. No reference should be made to it in any publication without the written consent of the Director of Fire Research.

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM 1963

by

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The results of a preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1963 the Fire Brigades attended 140 804 fires in England and Wales, 13 263 in Scotland and 2 159 in Northern Ireland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

Four members of the Fire Service in the United Kingdom were killed whilst attending fire incidents, two in England and Wales and two in Scotland. In England and Wales 342 members of the Fire Brigades were injured at incidents and the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were 58 and 2 respectively.\*

The Fire Services assisted in the rescue of 574 persons from dangerous situations in England and Wales, 109 in Scotland and 13 in Northern Ireland.

Further details of casualties, rescues and escapes are given in Tables 2 and 3.

The analysis is based on reports received up to the 28th February, 1964, and the figures given are subject to slight revision when outstanding reports have been received.

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\*In addition a member of the South Western Fire Brigade in Scotland collapsed and died from natural causes on the fire ground.

A member of a works fire brigade killed whilst assisting the Lancashire Fire Brigade, has been included with "other casualties".

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1963

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to the 28th February, 1964; 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	110	139	249
Bedfordshire	801	103	904
Berks. and Reading	959	199	1 158
Brecon Co. and Radnor	118	30	148
Buckinghamshire	950	204	1 154
Caernarvanshire	347	328	675
Cambridgeshire	468	21	489
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	382	265	647
Cheshire	2 035	1 610	3 645
Cornwall	527	251	778
Cumberland	443	347	790
Denbigh and Montgomery	515	122	637
Derbyshire	1 241	413	1 654
Devonshire	995	232	1 227
Dorsetshire	584	441	1 025
Durham Co.	1 621	368	1 989
Ely, Isle of	283	3	286
Essex	3 710	1 020	4 730
Flintshire	333	197	530
Glamorganshire	1 429	746	2 175
Gloucestershire	944	124	1 068
Hampshire	1 447	745	2 192
Herefordshire	271	16	287
Hertfordshire	1 683	438	2 121
Huntingdonshire	222	26	248
Kent and Canterbury	3 295	998	4 293
Lancashire	5 763	3 279	9 042
Leicestershire and Rutland	560	204	764
Lincs. (Holland)	212	12	224
Lincs. (Kesteven)	241	37	278
Lincs. (Lindsey)	624	118	742
London C.C.	12 539	456	12 995
Merioneth	94	67	161
Middlesex	5 099	998	6 097
Monmouthshire	514	62	576
Norfolk	694	144	838
Northamptonshire	612	65	677
Northumberland	848	246	1 094
Nottinghamshire	972	559	1 531
Oxfordshire	382	55	437
Pembrokeshire	159	89	248

Table 1 (Contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1963

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>			
Peterborough, Soke of	179	21	200
Salop	687	234	921
Somersetshire	875	76	951
Staffordshire	1 701	885	2 586
Suffolk, East Suffolk, West and Ipswich	925	232	1 157
Surrey	2 764	913	3 677
Sussex, East	650	223	873
Sussex, West	753	160	913
Warwickshire	1 189	425	1 614
Westmorland	127	47	174
Wight, Isle of	156	62	218
Wiltshire	888	39	927
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	995	272	1 267
Yorks (East Riding)	420	33	453
Yorks (North Riding)	830	90	920
Yorks (West Riding)	3 084	855	3 939
Scilly, Isles of	-	-	-
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>			
Barnsley	127	39	166
Barrow in Furness	232	97	329
Bath	201	4	205
Birkenhead	671	224	895
Birmingham	3 170	477	3 647
Blackburn	357	93	450
Blackpool	519	124	643
Bolton	596	135	731
Bootle	477	126	603
Bournemouth	250	142	392
Bradford	842	65	907
Brighton	454	70	524
Bristol	1 054	159	1 213
Burnley	361	33	394
Burton on Trent	102	15	117
Bury	258	137	395
Cardiff	720	76	796
Carlisle	276	67	343
Chester	241	112	353
Coventry	635	254	889
Croydon	606	68	674
Darlington	245	1	246
Derby	613	57	670
Dewsbury	178	33	211
Doncaster	189	62	251
Dudley	120	42	162
Eastbourne	145	11	156

Table 1 (Contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1963

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Borough Fire Brigades (contd.)</u>			
East Ham	206	32	238
Exeter	262	24	286
Gloucester	218	22	240
Great Yarmouth	183	21	204
Grimsby	300	52	352
Halifax	289	40	329
Hastings	147	41	188
Huddersfield	276	49	325
Kingston upon Hull	1 084	95	1 179
Leeds	1 300	181	1 481
Leicester	836	128	964
Lincoln	232	67	299
Liverpool	3 886	506	4 392
Manchester	3 240	905	4 145
Merthyr Tydfil	127	13	140
Middlesbrough	405	29	434
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	1 246	111	1 357
Newport (Mon.)	308	32	340
Northampton	197	18	215
Norwich	336	94	430
Nottingham	973	190	1 163
Oldham	451	64	515
Oxford	238	9	247
Plymouth	392	110	502
Portsmouth	517	88	605
Preston	379	132	511
Rochdale	316	43	359
Rotherham	261	32	293
St. Helens	309	125	434
Salford	746	68	814
Sheffield	983	97	1 080
Smethwick and West Bromwich	404	117	521
Southampton	430	185	615
Southend	328	17	345
Southport	193	81	274
South Shields	247	89	336
Stockport	468	199	667
Stoke on Trent	555	195	750
Sunderland	516	134	650
Swansea	386	311	697
Tynemouth	197	37	234
Wakefield	136	39	175
Wallasey	351	244	595
Walsall	302	80	382
Warrington	240	155	395
West Ham	713	32	745
West Hartlepool	248	36	284
Wigan	266	126	392
Wolverhampton	416	53	469
York	236	26	262
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	112 163	28 641	140 804

Table 1 (contd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1963

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Scotland</u>			
Glasgow	2 774	305	3 079
Lanark	1 270	291	1 561
Central	920	120	1 040
Western	1 043	285	1 328
South Western	751	254	1 005
South Eastern	1 934	131	2 065
Fife	525	64	589
Perth and Kinross	316	16	332
Angus	782	49	831
North Eastern	882	98	980
Northern	301	152	453
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	11 498	1 765	13 263

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Northern Ireland</u>			
North	280	46	326
South	644	72	716
West	339	84	423
Belfast	667	27	694
Total number of fires attended in Northern Ireland	1 930	229	2 159

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1963<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	1	450	451	2	48	50	-	8	8
Overcome by gas or smoke	-	185	185	-	44	44	-	4	4
Other and undefined injuries	1	53	54	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total	2	688	690	2	93	95	-	12	12
<u>Non-Fatal Casualties</u>									
Burns and scalds	69	2 409	2 478	5	157	162	-	33	33
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	149	219	368	22	22	44	2	2	4
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	29	47	76	7	6	13	-	2	2
Overcome by gas or smoke	31	276	307	16	29	45	-	5	5
More than one of above injuries	3	96	99	-	3	3	-	2	2
Shock only <sup>(2)</sup>	2	394	396	-	25	25	-	4	4
Other and undefined injuries	57	82	139	6	6	12	-	1	1
Total	340	3 523	3 863	56	248	304	2	49	51
Total casualties	342	4 211	4 553	58	341	399	2	61	63

(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, 1963

Note: The figures in this table are based on reports received up to the 28th February, 1964; 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				
Aircraft	1	-	-	1
Buildings				
Automatic escape lines	1	-	-	1
Escape (hand operated)	101	15	-	116
Ladder: extension	80	7	-	87
first floor	33	-	4	37
hook	2	-	-	2
turntable (mechanical)	21	18	-	39
other or undefined	64	15	-	79
Ladder and line	2	-	-	2
Line	2	-	-	2
Other apparatus	7	-	-	7
Without apparatus	253	53	9	315
Road vehicles	7	1	-	8
Total	574	109	13	696
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from				
Buildings				
Carried or assisted out	607	97	33	737
Jumping sheet	2	-	-	2
Ladder	165	4	5	174
Lowered from windows, roof etc.	172	18	7	197
Other or undefined methods	19	4	-	23
Railway train (diesel multiple unit)	70	-	-	70
Road vehicles	41	3	-	44
Caravans	18	-	-	18
Ships	5	-	-	5
Other specified hazards	6	-	-	6
Total	1 105	126	45	1 276
Escape by emergency means from				
Aircraft				
Baled out	6	-	-	6
Through exits or from debris	2	-	-	2
Buildings				
Climbing over roof	35	1	-	36
Fixed fire escape	2	-	-	2
Jumping from upstairs window	227	11	4	242
Ladder	34	12	-	46
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets etc.	57	6	-	63
Through ground floor windows	48	12	4	64
Other or undefined methods	26	13	-	39
Road vehicles	17	3	-	20
Caravans	10	-	-	10
Ships	10	-	-	10
Total	474	58	8	540
Total persons rescued or escaped	2 153	293	66	2 512