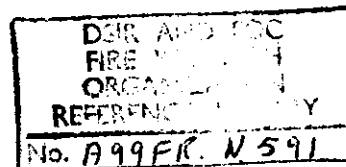


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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

AND

FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE

JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

FIRE RESEARCH NOTE

NO. 591

**PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE
BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1964**

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.

March, 1965.

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

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1964

by

J. M. Firth and S. E. Chandler

The preliminary analysis of reports shows that during 1964 the Fire Brigades attended 182 434 fires in England and Wales, 14 125 in Scotland and 2 319 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 fires. In England and Wales 385 members of Fire Brigades were injured at fires; the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were 26 and 5 respectively.

The Fire Services assisted in the rescue of 495 persons from fire in England and Wales, 116 in Scotland and 13 in Northern Ireland.

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

It was deemed advisable to evacuate a further 1 815 persons (not directly affected by fire) in 8 incidents in England and Wales, 739 of them in one incident. None of these is shown in Table 3.

The analysis is based on reports received up to the 28th February 1965 and the figures given are subject to revision when outstanding reports have been received.

**FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1964**

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	113	26 ⁽¹⁾	139
Bedfordshire	796	222	1 018
Berks. and Reading	1 326	630	1 956
Brecon Co. and Radnor	123	45	168
Buckinghamshire	1 290	659	1 949
Caernarvonshire	293	178	471
Cambridgeshire	658	53	711
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	416	149	565
Cheshire	2 097	1 374	3 471
Cornwall	562	388	950
Cumberland	449	187	636
Denbigh and Montgomery	586	206	792
Derbyshire	1 288	581	1 869
Devonshire	1 039	344	1 383
Dorsetshire	732 ⁽²⁾	1 154	1 886
Durham Co.	2 318	1 144	3 462
Ely, Isle of	397	15	412
Essex	4 769	3 121	7 890
Flintshire	419	223	642
Glamorganshire	1 511	598	2 109
Gloucestershire	1 113	353	1 466
Hampshire	2 017	1 909	3 926
Herefordshire	367	49	416
Hertfordshire	2 375	1 238	3 613
Huntingdonshire	428	36 ⁽³⁾	464
Kent and Canterbury	3 891	2 033	5 924
Lancashire	6 274	2 919	9 193
Leicestershire and Rutland	741	230	971
Lincs. (Holland)	300	41	341
Lincs. (Kesteven)	459	88	547
Lincs. (Lindsey)	986	248	1 234
London C.C.	14 408	982	15 390
Merioneth	82	27	109
Middlesex	5 606	2 053	7 659
Monmouthshire	549	202	751
Norfolk	1 186	372	1 558
Northamptonshire	974	192	1 166
Northumberland	1 080	586	1 666
Nottinghamshire	1 169	1 080	2 249
Oxfordshire	583 ⁽⁴⁾	135 ⁽⁵⁾	718
Pembrokeshire	174	85	259

- (1) Date of last report received 30/9/64
 (2) " " " " " 28/12/64
 (3) " " " " " 30/9/64
 (4) " " " " " 30/11/64
 (5) " " " " " 30/9/64

Table 1 (Cont'd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1964

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Fire Brigades (cont'd.)</u>			
Peterborough, Soke of	243	38	281
Salop	896	386	1,282
Somersetshire	1,048	223	1,271
Staffordshire	2,031	1,478	3,509
Suffolk, East Suffolk, West and Ipswich	1,586	570	2,156
Surrey	3,135	1,667	4,802
Sussex, East	694	292	986
Sussex, West	882	172	1,054
Warwickshire	1,403	614	2,017
Westmorland	143	23	166
Wight, Isle of	174	133	307
Wiltshire	1,045 ⁽⁶⁾	225	1,270
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	1,259	614	1,873
Yorks (East Riding)	614	58	672
Yorks (North Riding)	1,067	282	1,349
Yorks (West Riding)	3,616	1,319	4,935
Scilly, Isles of	-	-	-
<u>England and Wales - County Borough</u> <u>Fire Brigades</u>			
Barnsley	131	60	191
Barrow in Furness	273	81	354
Bath	252	35	287
Birkenhead	843	257	1,100
Birmingham	3,966	1,038	5,004
Blackburn	410	64	474
Blackpool	543	131	674
Bolton	631	158	789
Bootle	607	193	800
Bournemouth	327	370	697
Bradford	955	147	1,102
Brighton	466	109	575
Bristol	1,222	510	1,732
Burnley	410	108	518
Burton on Trent	89	22 ⁽⁷⁾	111
Bury	249	147	396
Cardiff	789	141	930
Carlisle	274	44	318
Chester	251	111	362
Coventry	871	534	1,405
Croydon	732	163	895
Darlington	343	-	343
Derby	545	111	656
Dewsbury	203	55	258
Doncaster	204	101	305
Dudley	140	110	250
Eastbourne	132	11	143

(6) Date of last report received 30/11/64

(7) " " " " " " 30/9/64

Table 1 (Cont'd.)

**FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1964**

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Borough Fire Brigades (cont'd.)</u>			
East Ham	222	83	305
Exeter	289	26	315
Gloucester	266	57	323
Great Yarmouth	176	34	210
Grimsby	417	89	506
Halifax	309	62	371
Hastings	115	55	170
Huddersfield	331	55	386
Kingston upon Hull	1,404	225	1,629
Leeds	1,564	404	1,968
Leicester	930	170	1,100
Lincoln	258	143	401
Liverpool	4,947	792 ⁽⁸⁾	5,739
Luton	317	106	423
Manchester	3,592	712	4,304
Merthyr Tydfil	140	24	164
Middlesbrough	660	72	732
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	1,533	306	1,839
Newport (Mon.)	363	124	487
Northampton	232	50	282
Norwich	373	169	542
Nottingham	1,140	315	1,455
Oldham	502	68	570
Oxford	303	89	392
Plymouth	487	276	763
Portsmouth	649	118	767
Preston	394	126	520
Rochdale	322	80	402
Rotherham	277	93	370
St. Helens	355	174 ⁽⁹⁾	529
Salford	961	87	1,048
Sheffield	1,067	247	1,314
Smethwick and West Bromwich	459	214	673
Solihull	116	90	206
Southampton	577	473	1,050
Southend	362	77	439
Southport	224	61	285
South Shields	292	159	451
Stockport	539	188	727
Stoke on Trent	636	296	932
Sunderland	707	320	1,027
Swansea	410	209	619
Tynemouth	258	92	350
Wakefield	122	43	165
Wallasey	477	322	799
Walsall	373	193	566
Warrington	253	186	439
West Ham	861	160	1,021
West Hartlepool	326	98	424
Wigan	261	108	369
Wolverhampton	406	88	494
York	291	83	374
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	134,483	47,951	182,434

(8) Date of last report received 30/9/64

(9) " " " " " 30/9/64

Table 1 (cont'd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1964

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Scotland</u>			
Glasgow	2,702	253	2,955
Lanark	1,314	278	1,592
Central	906	185	1,091
Western	1,033	274	1,307
South Western	679	168	847
South Eastern	2,183	431	2,614
Fife	560	154	714
Perth and Kinross	306	45	351
Angus	967	146	1,113
North Eastern	956	177	1,133
Northern	319	89	408
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	14,925	2,200	17,125

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Northern Ireland</u>			
North	304	42	346
South	681	99	780
West	335	42 ⁽¹⁰⁾	377
Belfast	778	38	816
Total number of fires attended in Northern Ireland	2,098	221	2,319

(10) Date of last report received 30/6/64

Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1964.

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	-	356	356	-	45	45	-	5	5
Overcome by gas or smoke	-	182	182	-	23	23	-	7	7
Other and undefined injuries	-	41	41	-	9	9	-	4	4
Total	-	579	579	-	77	77	-	16	16
<u>Non-Fatal Casualties</u>									
Burns and scalds	59	2 538	2 597	3	186	189	3	35	38
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	173	196	369	8	18	26	1	4	5
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	45	48	93	3	1	4	1	2	3
Overcome by gas or smoke	37	201	238	7	29	36	-	3	3
More than one of above injuries	11	99	110	-	9	9	-	2	2
Shock only ⁽¹⁾	4	389	393	-	41	41	-	7	7
Other and undefined	56	77	133	5	25	30	-	4	4
Total	385	3 548	3 933	26	309	335	5	57	62
Total casualties	385	4 127	4 512	26	386	412	5	73	78

(1) 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, 1964

Appliances or Methods Used	Number of Persons			
	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
Rescue with Fire Brigade assistance from				
Aircraft	4	-	-	4
Buildings				
Automatic escape lines	-	-	-	-
Escape (hand operated)	73	4	2	79
Ladder: extension	73	7	1	81
first floor	24	1	-	25
hook	5	-	-	5
scaling	3	-	-	3
turntable (mechanical)	12	8	-	20
other or undefined	36	3	-	39
Ladder and line	2	-	-	2
Line	3	-	-	3
Other apparatus	2	-	-	2
Oxy-acetylene cutting gear	8	2	-	10
Without apparatus	243	89	10	342
Road vehicles	5	1	-	6
Caravans	1	-	-	1
Ships	1	1	-	2
Total	495	116	13	624
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from				
Aircraft	1	-	-	1
Buildings				
Carried or assisted out	655	123	27	805
Jumping sheet	9	-	8	17
Ladder	171	6	9	186
Lowered from windows, roof etc.	157	18	10	185
Other or undefined methods	24	-	6	30
Road vehicles	33	1	2	36
Caravans	21	-	-	21
Ships	3	-	-	3
Other specified hazards	5	-	-	5
Total	1 079	148	62	1 289
Escape by emergency means from				
Aircraft				
Baled out	14	6	-	20
Through exits or from debris	1	1	-	2
Thrown clear	1	-	4	5
Buildings				
Climbing over roof	58	-	1	59
Fixed fire escape	7	2	1	10
Jumping from upstairs window, roof etc	238	11	12	261
Ladder	24	-	5	29
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets etc.	49	5	-	54
Through ground floor windows	41	11	-	52
Other or undefined methods	36	1	-	37
Railway train (diesel multiple unit)	5	-	-	5
Road vehicles	13	18	4	35
Caravans	9	-	-	9
Ships	23	1	-	24
Other specified hazards	4	-	-	4
Total	523	56	27	606
Total persons rescued or escaped	2 097	320	102	2 519

There were 2 incidents in which an unknown number of persons was rescued

