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# Fire Research Note No. 617

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE  
BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1965

by

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# FIRE RESEARCH STATION

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MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE  
JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

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Introduction

The preliminary analysis of reports show that during 1965 the Fire Brigades attended 160 063 fires in England and Wales, 15 642 in Scotland and 2 242 in Northern Ireland. The number of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade is given in Table 1.

For the second consecutive year, no fatalities occurred in the United Kingdom amongst the members of the Fire Service whilst attending fires - two instances are known of firemen being fatally injured when involved in road accidents on duty. In England and Wales 323 members of the Fire Brigades were injured at fires; the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were 30 and 9 respectively.

The Fire Brigades assisted in the rescue of 556 persons from hazardous situations at fires in England and Wales, 156 in Scotland and 6 in Northern Ireland.

Further details of casualties, rescues and escapes are given in Tables 2 and 3. There were two aircraft crashes, involving 41 and 36 fatalities, where there was an ensuing fire. These are not shown on Table 2, since it is impossible to determine whether or not these fatalities occurred as a result of crash or fire injuries.

It was deemed advisable to evacuate 128 persons (not directly affected by fire) in two incidents in England and Wales. In another two incidents an unknown number was evacuated. None of these is shown in Table 3.

The analysis is based on reports received up to 28th February 1966 and the figures given are subject to revision when reports still outstanding have been received.

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1965

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	46	159
Bedfordshire	533	90	623
Berks. and Reading	1 063	347	1 410
Brecon Co. and Radnor	96	22	118
Buckinghamshire	969	425	1 394
Caernarvonshire	273	170	443
Cambridgeshire and Ely, Isle of <sup>(1)</sup>	579	42	621
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	397	237	634
Cheshire	2 187	1 582	3 769
Cornwall	526	320	846
Cumberland	455	227	682
Denbigh and Montgomery	476	130	606
Derbyshire	1 251	685	1 936
Devonshire	968	426	1 394
Dorsetshire	579	720	1 299
Durham Co.	2 147	705	2 852
Ely, Isle of <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	63	4	67
Essex <sup>(3)</sup>	2 717	1 236	3 953
Flintshire	345	141	486
Glamorganshire	1 579	1 153	2 732
Gloucestershire	991	329	1 320
Hampshire	1 718	1 348	3 066
Herefordshire	297	33	330
Hertfordshire <sup>(3)</sup>	1 905	555	2 460
Huntingdonshire and Peterborough, Soke of <sup>(4)</sup>	375	21 <sup>(6)</sup>	396
Kent and Canterbury <sup>(3)</sup>	2 978	966	3 944
Lancashire	6 091 <sup>(5)</sup>	3 767	9 858
Leicestershire and Rutland	663	215	878
Lincs. (Holland)	181	5	186
Lincs. (Kesteven)	292	36	328
Lincs. (Lindsey)	746	165	911
London <sup>(3)</sup>	20 320	1 299 <sup>(6)</sup>	21 619
Merioneth	71	27	98
Middlesex <sup>(2)</sup>	1 354	503	1 857
Monmouthshire	621	375	996
Norfolk	723	120	843
Northamptonshire	705	112	817
Northumberland	970	370	1 340
Nottinghamshire	1 005	651	1 656
Oxfordshire	432	69	501
Pembrokeshire	156	103	259

Table 1 (Cont'd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1965

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Fire Brigades (cont'd.)</u>			
Peterborough, Soke of <sup>(2)(4)</sup>	36	6	42
Shropshire	727	158	885
Somersetshire	940	168	1 108
Staffordshire	1 941	1 283	3 224
Suffolk (East) Suffolk, (West) and Ipswich	1 031	185	1 216
Surrey <sup>(3)</sup>	2 104	1 113	3 217
Sussex, East	693	285	978
Sussex, West	759	199	958
Warwickshire	1 156	358	1 514
Westmorland	150	36	186
Wight, Isle of	181	119	300
Wiltshire	944	102	1 046
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B.	1 108	326	1 434
Yorks (East Riding)	413	36	449
Yorks (North Riding)	1 027	170	1 197
Yorks (West Riding)	3 330	1 731	5 061
<u>England and Wales. - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>			
Barnsley	149	83	232
Barrow in Furness	281	106	387
Bath	214	13	227
Birkenhead	797	142	939
Birmingham	3 576	664	4 240
Blackburn	501	121	622
Blackpool	455	53	508
Bolton	659	210	869
Bootle	749	196	945
Bournemouth	282	280	562
Bradford	928	225	1 153
Brighton	403	66	469
Bristol	1 190	428	1 618
Burnley	438	158	596
Burton on Trent	111	30 <sup>(6)</sup>	141
Bury	282	161	443
Cardiff	904	154	1 058
Carlisle	289	46	335
Chester	241	72	313
Coventry	948	367	1 315
Croydon <sup>(2)</sup>	187	44	231
Darlington	281	-	281
Derby	496	80	576
Dewsbury	172	71	243
Doncaster	205	68	273
Dudley	197	118	315
Eastbourne	134	13	147

Table 1 (Cont'd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1965

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Borough Fire Brigades (cont'd.)</u>			
East Ham <sup>(2)</sup>	78	26	104
Exeter	239	17	256
Gloucester	222	11(6)	233
Great Yarmouth	175	9	184
Grimsby	402	42	444
Halifax	351	91	442
Hastings	142	43	185
Huddersfield	289	104	393
Kingston upon Hull	1 377	120	1 497
Leeds	1 420	421	1 841
Leicester	920	164(6)	1 084
Lincoln	217	56	273
Liverpool	4 412	445	4 857
Luton	350	86	436
Manchester	3 764	903	4 667
Merthyr Tydfil	146	54	200
Middlesbrough	494	23	517
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	1 395	170	1 565
Newport (Mon.)	389	139	528
Northampton	250	11	261
Norwich	281	82	363
Nottingham	1 070	218	1 288
Oldham	506	82	588
Oxford	250	20	270
Plymouth	529	143	672
Portsmouth	725	180	905
Preston	489	111	600
Rochdale	341	112(6)	453
Rotherham	359	101	460
St. Helens	373	255	628
Salford	904	100	1 004
Sheffield	1 165	317	1 482
Smethwick and West Bromwich	475	187	662
Solihull	161	59(6)	220
Southampton	517	268	785
Southend	359	41	400
Southport	257	43	300
South Shields	330	73	403
Stockport	551	223	774
Stoke on Trent	641	323	964
Sunderland	708	182	890
Swansea	441	238	679
Tynemouth	209	50	259
Wakefield	136	47	183
Wallasey	405	194	599
Walsall	319	158	477
Warrington	286	199	485
West Ham <sup>(2)</sup>	224	37	261
West Hartlepool	259	44(6)	303
Wigan	278	149	427
Wolverhampton	391	81	472
York	253	47	300
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	122 743	37 320	160 063

Table 1 (cont'd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1965

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Scotland</u>			
Glasgow	3 960	290	4 250
Lanark	1 569	327	1 896
Central	1 108	226	1 334
Western	1 153	231	1 384
South Western	781	147	928
South Eastern	2 199	192	2 391
Fife	525	154	679
Perth and Kinross	291	46	337
Angus	915	159	1 074
North Eastern	922	106	1 028
Northern	297	44	341
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	13 720	1 922	15 642

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Northern Ireland</u>			
North	357 (5)	81 (6)	438
South	451 (7)	56	507
West	407 (8)	83 (6)	490
Belfast	782	25 (6)	807
Total number of fires attended in Northern Ireland	1 997	245	2 242

- (1) Isle of Ely combined with Cambridgeshire from 1. 4. 65.
- (2) Brigade ceased to exist from 1. 4. 65.
- (3) Boundaries altered under G.L.C. Act from 1. 4. 65.
- (4) Soke of Peterborough combined with Huntingdonshire from 1. 4. 65.
- (5) Date of last report 30. 11. 65.
- (6) Date of last report 30. 9. 65.
- (7) Date of last report 16. 11. 65.
- (8) Date of last report 9. 12. 65.

Table 2

## NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1965

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	-	331	331	-	41	41	-	4	4
Overcome by gas or smoke (1)	-	215	215	-	38	38	-	3	3
Other and undefined injuries	-	36	36	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	-	582	582	-	79	79	-	8	8
<u>Non-Fatal Casualties</u>									
Burns and scalds	56	2 406	2 462	2	163	165	1	37	38
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	168	251	419	13	11	24	2	8	10
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	27	43	70	7	8	15	4	2	6
Overcome by gas or smoke	17	345	362	3	52	55	1	2	3
More than one of above injuries	8	118	126	2	5	7	-	3	3
Shock only (2)	1	422	423	-	44	44	-	11	11
Other and undefined	46	94	140	3	19	22	1	2	3
Total	323	3 679	4 002	30	302	332	9	65	74
Total casualties	323	4 261	4 584	30	381	411	9	73	82

(1) Fatal casualties who are certified as having died from "burns and asphyxiation" are classified under "overcome by gas or smoke".

(2) Casualties who suffered shock in addition to other injuries are classified according to the nature of the other injury.



PERSONS RESCUED OR ESCAPED BY EMERGENCY MEANS FROM FIRES ATTENDED BY  
FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1965

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	1	-	-	1
Escape (hand operated)	50	15	-	65
Ladder: extension	117	23	-	140
first floor	50	-	1	51
hook	4	-	-	4
turntable (hand operated)	2	-	-	2
turntable (mechanical)	15	40	-	55
other or undefined	15	2	-	17
Ladder and line	2	-	-	2
Other apparatus	8	1	-	9
Oxy-acetylene cutting gear	-	-	-	-
Without apparatus	288	75	5	368
Road vehicles	2	-	-	2
Ships	2	-	-	2
Total	556	156	6	718
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from				
Aircraft	4	1	-	5
Buildings				
Automatic escape lines	1	-	2	3
Carried or assisted out	786	100	44	930
Jumping sheet	9	1	-	10
Ladder	181	7	7	195
Lowered from windows, roof etc.	181	15	5	201
Other or undefined methods	28	2	-	30
Road vehicles	33	2	3	38
Caravans	17	-	-	17
Ships	6	4	-	10
Other specified hazards	2	1	-	3
Total	1 248	133	61	1 442
Escape by emergency means from				
Aircraft				
Baled out	5	-	-	5
Thrown clear	1	-	-	1
Buildings				
Automatic escape lines	2	-	-	2
Climbing over roof	32	-	-	32
Fixed fire escape	12	-	-	12
Jumping from upstairs window, roof etc	224	29	11	264
Ladder	28	-	2	30
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets etc.	39	3	-	42
Through ground floor windows	29	9	2	40
Other or undefined methods	24	8	-	32
Railway train (diesel multiple unit)	40 <sup>(1)</sup>	-	-	40
Road vehicles	11	2	2	15
Caravans	3	1	-	4
Ships	14	-	-	14
Other specified hazards	6	1	-	7
Total	470	53	17	540
Total persons rescued or escaped	2 274	342	84	2 700

(1) There was other incident in which an unknown number of persons escaped.



