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Fire Research Note

No. 655

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM
FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1966

by

S. E. CHANDLER

FIRE RESEARCH STATION

March 1967

F.R. Note No. 655
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S. K. Chandler

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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FIRE REPORTS FROM FIRE
BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1966

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Introduction

A preliminary analysis of reports shows that during 1966 local authority fire brigades attended 142 764 fires in England and Wales, 17 646 in Scotland and 2 827 in Northern Ireland. The number of incidents attended by each brigade is given in Table 1.

Three firemen were killed on duty at the scene of one fire. In England and Wales 349 members of the fire brigades were injured at fires; the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were 51 and 3 respectively.

Fire brigades assisted in the rescue of 610 persons from hazardous situations at fires in England and Wales, 184 in Scotland and 10 in Northern Ireland. A further 1 151 persons were rescued by other persons in England and Wales; the corresponding figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were 148 and 49 respectively.

Four hundred and twenty-six people in England and Wales escaped by emergency means from fires; there were also 75 such escapers in Scotland and 7 in Northern Ireland. Further details of casualties, rescues and escapes are given in Tables 2 and 3.

There were four incidents in which large numbers of people were evacuated. One of these was a railway train (diesel multiple unit) in which also an unknown number jumped from a coach affected by fire. The other incidents occurred in a shop, a hospital and a primary school. These incidents involved approximately 1 000 persons.

The analysis is based on reports received up to 2nd March 1967 and the figures are subject to revision when reports still outstanding have been received.

**FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1966**

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 Brigades	1	2	3
<u>England and Wales - County Fire Brigades</u>			
Anglesey	135	34	169
Bedfordshire	571	50	621
Berks. and Reading	1 078(4)	200	1 278
Brecon Co. and Radnor	112	7	119
Buckinghamshire	1 027(4)	245	1 272
Caernarvonshire	228	73	301
Cambridgeshire and Ely, Isle of	591	19	610
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	410	51	461
Cheshire	2 223	682	2 905
Cornwall	593	165	758
Cumberland	449	133	582
Denbigh and Montgomery	458	92	550
Derbyshire	1 180	212	1 392
Devonshire	998	160	1 158
Dorsetshire	552(5)	426	978
Durham Co.	2 156	474	2 630
Essex	2 210	778	2 988
Flintshire	350	79	429
Glamorganshire	1 348(4)	280	1 628
Gloucestershire	942	105	1 047
Hampshire	1 613	804	2 417
Herefordshire	275	14	289
Hertfordshire	1 933	340	2 273
Huntingdonshire and Peterborough	416	21	437
Kent and Canterbury	2 802	616	3 418
Lancashire	5 504(5)	1 506	7 010
Leicestershire and Rutland	558	85(6)	643
Lincs. (Holland)	184	9	193
Lincs. (Kesteven)	284	15	299
Lincs. (Lindsey)	677	59	736
London	23 745	2 261	26 006
Merioneth	63	23(6)	86
Monmouthshire	521	91	612
Norfolk	660	123	783
Northamptonshire	656	55	711
Northumberland	984	354	1 338
Nottinghamshire	1 034	258	1 292
Oxfordshire	438	25	463
Pembrokeshire	182	22	204

Table 1 (Cont'd.)

**FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1966**

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Fire Brigades (cont'd.)</u>			
Shropshire	638	83	721
Somersetshire	905	57	962
Staffordshire ⁽¹⁾	1 390	320	1 710
Suffolk (East) Suffolk (West) and Ipswich	1 015	164	1 179
Surrey	1 854	782	2 636
Sussex, East	646	130	776
Sussex, West ⁽¹⁾	903	83	986
Warwickshire	1 093	143	1 236
Westmorland	145	22	167
Wight, Isle of	173	44	217
Wiltshire	893	41	934
Worcester Co. and Worcs. C.B. ⁽¹⁾	948	147	1 095
Yorks (East Riding)	388	10	398
Yorks (North Riding)	1 136	54	1 190
Yorks (West Riding)	3 571	599	4 170
<u>England and Wales - County Borough Fire Brigades</u>			
Barnsley	145	32	177
Barrow in Furness	216	44	260
Bath	180	4	184
Birkenhead	976	102	1 078
Birmingham	3 678	292	3 970
Blackburn	537	32	569
Blackpool	515	48	563
Bolton	707	57	764
Bootle	660	65	725
Bournemouth	304	189	493
Bradford	987	93 ⁽⁶⁾	1 080
Brighton	402	53 ⁽⁶⁾	455
Bristol	1 183	131	1 314
Burnley	535	69	604
Burton on Trent	89	6	95
Bury	289	41	330
Cardiff	848	51	899
Carlisle	251	41 ⁽⁶⁾	292
Chester	228	60 ⁽⁶⁾	288
Coventry	870	153	1 023
Darlington	269	-	269
Derby	491	37	528
Dewsbury	199 ⁽⁷⁾	32	231
Doncaster	188	32 ⁽⁶⁾	220
Dudley ⁽¹⁾	315	76 ⁽⁶⁾	391
Eastbourne	133	10	143

Table 1 (Cont'd.)

**FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1966**

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>County Borough Fire Brigades (cont'd.)</u>			
Exeter	248	17	265
Gloucester	219	3	222
Great Yarmouth	185	14	199
Grimsby	411	20	431
Halifax	359	35	394
Hastings	127	32	159
Huddersfield	291	29	320
Kingston upon Hull	1 265	73	1 338
Leeds	1 532	143	1 675
Leicester	893	62	955
Lincoln	188	22	210
Liverpool	5 008	354	5 362
Luton	337	46	383
Manchester	3 860	337	4 197
Merthyr Tydfil	106	9	115
Middlesbrough	520	14	534
Newcastle on Tyne and Gateshead	1 416	173	1 589
Newport (Mon.)	357	25	382
Northampton	252	8	260
Norwich	371	96	467
Nottingham	1 243	144	1 387
Oldham	517	23	540
Oxford	261(6)	8	269
Plymouth	398	105	503
Portsmouth	853	128	981
Preston	533	45(6)	578
Rochdale	331	25	356
Rotherham	318	67	385
St. Helens	356	104	460
Salford	929	30	959
Sheffield	1 147	124	1 271
Smethwick and West Bromwich(2)	103	22	125
Solihull	131	12	143
Southampton	579	179	758
Southend	340	44	384
Southport	197	21	218
South Shields	233	57	290
Stockport	578	62	640
Stoke on Trent	628	121	749
Sunderland	652	152	804
Swansea	379	82	461
Tynemouth	259	59	318
Wakefield	138	13	151
Wallasey	500	116	616
Walsall(1)	486	85	571
Warley(3)	315	54	369
Warrington	285	61	346
West Hartlepool	416	27	443
West Bromwich	372	67	439
Wigan	329	37	366
Wolverhampton(1)	670	55	725
York	274	20	294
Total number of fires attended in England and Wales	123 728	19 036	142 764

Table 1 (cont'd.)

FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1966

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Scotland</u>			
Glasgow	4 572	245	4 817
Lanark	1 801	315	2 116
Central	1 181	182	1 363
Western	1 393	219	1 612
South Western	875	154	1 029
South Eastern	2 449	302	2 751
Fife	638	128	766
Perth and Kinross	325	33	358
Angus	991	196	1 187
North Eastern	1 029	208	1 237
Northern	320	90	410
Total number of fires attended in Scotland	15 574	2 072	17 646

Fire Brigade	1	2	3
<u>Northern Ireland</u>			
North	480	51	531
South	628	67	695
West	457	46	503
Belfast	1 063	35	1 098
Total number of fires attended in Northern Ireland	2 628	199	2 827

- (1) Boundaries altered from 1.4.66.
- (2) Brigade ceased to exist from 1.4.66.
- (3) New fire authority from 1.4.66.
- (4) Date of last report 30.11.66.
- (5) Date of last report 31.10.66.
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Southampton	579	179	758
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Tynemouth	259	59	318
Wakefield	138	13	151
Wallasey	500	116	616
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Warley (3)	315	54	369
Warrington	285	61	346
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Table 2

NATURE OF INJURIES OF CASUALTIES IN FIRES ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 1966

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	-	301	301	-	46	46	-	5	5
Overcome by gas or smoke (1)	3	278	281	-	45	45	-	6	6
Other and undefined injuries	-	31	31	-	3	3	-	2	2
Total	3	610	613	-	94	94	-	13	13
<u>Non-Fatal Casualties</u>									
Burns and scalds	68	2 306	2 374	10	204	214	-	33	33
Bruises, cuts, abrasions	162	226	388	21	28	49	1	5	6
Dislocations, sprains, fractures	27	40	67	2	2	4	1	1	2
Overcome by gas or smoke	38	327	365	7	64	71	-	4	4
More than one of above injuries	13	89	102	5	18	23	-	1	1
Shock only(2)	5	430	435	1	92	93	-	7	7
Other and undefined	36	119	155	5	44	49	1	3	4
Total	349	3 537	3 886	51	452	503	3	54	57
Total casualties	352	4 147	4 499	51	546	597	3	67	70

(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.

Table 3

**PERSONS RESCUED OR ESCAPED BY EMERGENCY MEANS FROM FIRES
ATTENDED BY FIRE BRIGADES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1966**

Appliances or Methods Used	Number of Persons			
	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
Rescue with Fire Brigade assistance from				
Buildings				
Escape (hand operated)	57	1	-	58
Ladder: extension	145	51	2	198
first floor	42	2	3	47
hook	8	-	-	8
turntable (mechanical)	8	30	-	38
other or undefined	44	16	-	60
Other apparatus	30	6	-	36
Oxy-acetylene cutting gear				
Without apparatus	264	78	5	347
Road vehicles	10	-	-	10
Caravans	1	-	-	1
Ships	1	-	-	1
Total	610	184	10	804
Rescue without Fire Brigade assistance from				
Aircraft	1	-	-	1
Buildings				
Automatic escape lines	1	-	-	1
Carried or assisted out	727	116	41	884
Jumping sheet	1	-	-	1
Ladder	155	12	-	167
Lowered from windows, roof etc.	204	13	6	223
Other or undefined methods	22	-	-	22
Road vehicles	15	4	2	21
Caravans	10	-	-	10
Ships	12	-	-	12
Other specified hazards	3	3	-	6
Total	1 151	148	49	1 348
Escape by emergency means from				
Aircraft				
Baled out	3	-	-	3
Through exits or from debris	1	-	-	1
Thrown clear	1	-	-	1
Method not stated	1	1	-	2
Buildings				
Climbing over roof	36	1	-	37
Fixed fire escape	21	-	-	21
Jumping from upstairs window, roof etc.	193	10	5	208
Ladder	22	-	-	22
Sliding down drainpipe, sheets etc.	40	2	2	44
Through ground floor windows	32	1	-	33
Other or undefined methods	25	57	-	82
Railway train (diesel multiple unit)	*	-	-	-
Road vehicles	25	2	-	27
Caravans	15	1	-	16
Ships	11	-	-	11
	426	75	7	508
Total persons rescued or escaped	2 187	407	66	2 660

*One incident occurred in which people were rescued or jumped from a blazing coach. The remaining coaches of this rush hour train were evacuated (see introduction).

