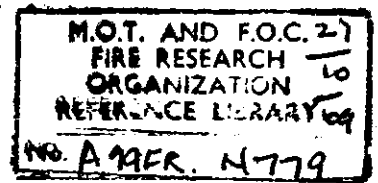


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Fire Research Note No. 779

FIRE DEATHS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1969

by

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FIRE DEATHS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1969

by

S. E. Chandler.

SUMMARY

A preliminary survey shows that 151 persons died in fires in the second quarter of 1969. One hundred and thirty-five of these were in England and Wales and 16 in Scotland. There were no fatal casualties in Northern Ireland. This is lower than the total for the first quarter of the year.

Two fires involving oil heaters each led to the deaths of four children in Birmingham. A fire in Durham, caused by children playing, gave rise to five deaths.

KEY WORDS: Fatalities, fire statistics.

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FIRE DEATHS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1969

by

S. E. Chandler

INTRODUCTION

This report is the sixth of a series of quarterly reports giving preliminary information on deaths in fires attended by fire brigades. The information it contains is based on reports of fires during the second quarter of 1969 received by 1st August 1969 and the figures are subject to revision.

The format of these notes has been altered slightly to provide separate figures for each quarter and not for first six months, etc. as was done in 1969. Consequently the figures in this report are not comparable with the second report in 1968¹.

During the second quarter of 1969, 135 persons died in 110 fires in England and Wales. Sixteen multiple death incidents gave rise to 41 deaths. In Scotland there were 16 deaths in 14 fires. No deaths were reported in Fire in Northern Ireland.

The black spot this quarter appears to have been Birmingham, where two fires involving oil heaters each accounted for the deaths of four children; in one of these fires the children had been left alone. A fire in Durham which accounted for five deaths occurred early in the morning as the result of children playing with fire and leaving doors open.

Tables 1-4 give details of hazards, times of call, sources of ignition and ages of buildings. Table 5 gives details of the age and sex of fatal casualties and Table 5A shows causes of death (a new table). Table 6 gives the numbers of fatal and non-fatal casualties in each brigade area.

Reference

- (1) CHANDLER, S.E. Fire deaths in the first six months of 1968. Ministry of Technology and Fire Offices' Committee Joint Fire Research Organization F. R. Note No. 720/1968

Table 1A
Hazard in which fire started (England and Wales)

Hazard in which fire started	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	110	16	135	41
IN BUILDINGS Total	100	13	122	35
Industry	-	-	-	-
Distributive trades	2	-	2	-
Financial, professional and miscellaneous services	2	-	2	-
Medical services	1	-	1	-
Houses - detached or semi-detached	19	1	20	2
- terraced	24	7	34	17
- not stated	27	2	32	7
Flats - in blocks	7	-	7	-
- converted	11	2	15	6
- other or not stated	2	1	4	3
Non-institutional dwellings as part of other occupancies	1	-	1	-
Other	4	-	4	-
NOT IN BUILDINGS Total	10	3	13	6
Road vehicles	5	2	7	4
Other	5	1	6	2

Table 1B
Hazard in which fire started (Scotland)

Hazard in which fire started	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL (all in buildings)	14	2	16	4
Clubs, hotels, restaurants, and public houses	4	-	4	-
Houses - detached	1	-	1	-
- not stated	4	1	5	2
Flats - in blocks	1	1	2	2
- converted	2	-	2	-
- not stated	2	-	2	-

No fatalities in Northern Ireland

Table 2A

Time of call to fires (England and Wales)

Time of call to fires	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	110	16	135	41
Midnight - 02.59	6	1	7	2
03.00 - 05.59	10	2	12	4
06.00 - 08.59	15	3	21	9
09.00 - 11.59	14	1	15	2
12.00 - 14.59	9	2	13	6
15.00 - 17.59	17	3	20	6
18.00 - 20.59	10	1	12	3
21.00 - 23.59	15	3	21	9
Late call	14	-	14	-

Table 2B

Time of call to fires (Scotland)

Time of call to fires	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	14	2	16	4
Midnight - 02.59	2	-	2	-
03.00 - 05.59	3	-	3	-
06.00 - 08.59	2	-	2	-
09.00 - 11.59	2	1	3	2
12.00 - 14.59	1	-	1	-
15.00 - 17.59	1	1	2	2
18.00 - 20.59	2	-	2	-
21.00 - 23.59	1	-	1	-

Table 3A
Source of ignition of fires (England and Wales)

Source of ignition of fire	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	110	16	135	41
Children with fire	3	2	8	7
Matches, tapers, etc	4	-	4	-
Smoking materials	18	2	20	4
Electric-space heating	8	1	10	3
-wire and cable	1	-	1	-
-blanket	6	-	6	-
-other	3	-	3	-
Gas - cooking	7	1	8	2
- space heating	1	-	1	-
Solid fuel-fire in grate	9	-	9	-
Oil - space heating	8	4	17	13
Other	10	1	11	2
Unknown	32	5	37	10

Table 3B
Source of ignition of fires (Scotland)

Source of ignition of fire	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	14	2	16	4
Smoking materials	4	-	4	-
Electric-space heating	11	-	1	-
-wire and cable	1	1	2	2
-blanket	1	-	1	-
Solid fuel-fire in grate	1	-	1	-
Oil - space heating	1	-	1	-
Unknown	5	1	6	2

Table 4A
Date of construction of buildings
(England and Wales)

Date of construction	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	110	16	135	41
Pre - 1900	22	6	30	14
1900 - 1909	21	3	26	8
1910 - 1919	8	1	12	5
1920 - 1929	7	-	7	-
1930 - 1939	19	1	20	2
1940 - 1949	5	-	5	-
1950 - 1959	7	1	8	2
1960 - 1969	12	2	14	4
Not stated, unknown or not applicable	9	2	13	6

Table 4B
Date of construction of buildings (Scotland)

Date of construction	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	14	2	16	4
Pre 1900	4	-	4	-
1900 - 1909	5	-	5	-
1910 - 1949	-	-	-	-
1950 - 1959	3	1	4	2
1960 - 1969	1	1	2	2
Not stated, unknown or not applicable	1	-	1	-

Table 5
Age and Sex of Casualties

Age (years)	England and Wales			Scotland	
	Male	Female	Not stated	Male	Female
TOTAL	56	78	1	13	3
Under 1	3	-	-	1	-
1 - 4	6	10	1	3	-
5 - 14	2	8	-	-	1
15 - 44	118	9	-	4	-
45 - 64	10	16	-	2	1
65 - 74	9	16	-	2	1
Over 75	8	18	-	1	-
Not stated	-	1	-	-	-

Table 5A
Cause of death

Cause of death	England and Wales	Scotland
Burns	46	1
Asphyxiation	67	10
Other, unknown or not stated*	22	5
	135	16

* Includes causes of death that are 'Unknown, pending inquest'

Table 6
Number of casualties in each brigade area

	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal
TOTAL	151	1193
England and Wales	135	1078
Scotland	16	99
Northern Ireland	-	16

(A) English and Welsh County Borough Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties		Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Barnsley	-	6	Newport (Mon.)	-	4
Bath	1	6	Northampton	-	2
Birkenhead	-	2	Norwich	-	7
Birmingham	14	94	Nottingham	2	15
Blackburn	-	2	Oldham	2	3
Blackpool	-	3	Oxford	-	2
Bolton	1	4	Plymouth	-	2
Bootle	-	1	Portsmouth	-	4
Bournemouth	-	5	Preston	1	5
Bradford	-	7	Rochdale	1	1
Brighton	1	5	Rotherham	1	1
Bristol	-	4	St. Helens	-	3
Burton upon Trent	-	2	Salford	2	10
Bury	1	1	Sheffield	3	10
Coventry	1	7	Solihull	-	4
Darlington	-	3	Southampton	-	2
Derby	1	4	Southend	-	6
Dewsbury	-	1	Southport	-	1
Doncaster	-	1	South Shields	-	4
Dudley	-	1	Stockport	-	2
Eastbourne	-	2	Stock on Trent	-	5
Exeter	-	2	Sunderland	-	2
Grimsby	-	2	Swansea	-	2
Halifax	-	3	Wakefield	-	1
Hastings	-	1	Wallasey	1	4
Huddersfield	-	3	Walsall	1	2
Kingston upon Hull	-	4	Warrington	-	1
Leeds	2	3	Hartlepool	-	1
Leicester	1	15	Wigan	-	4
Lincoln	-	2	Wolverhampton	2	12
Liverpool	-	22	York	-	2
Luton	-	5	Warley	2	7
Manchester	4	26	West Bromwich	1	2
Merthyr Tydfil	-	2	Tees-side	3	4
Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead	1	7			

(B) English and Welsh County Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties		Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Anglesey	-	1	Lincolnshire (Holland)	-	1
Bedfordshire	-	5	Lincolnshire (Kesteven)	-	3
Berkshire and Reading	-	16	Lincolnshire (Lindsey)	-	1
Brecon and Radnor	-	3	London (Greater)	30	320
Buckinghamshire	1	7	Norfolk	-	15
Caernarvonshire	-	3	Northamptonshire	-	1
Cambridgeshire and Ely	1	1	Northumberland	4	6
Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire	-	2	Nottinghamshire	2	7
Cheshire	6	7	Shropshire	-	5
Cornwall	1	3	Somerset	-	2
Cumberland	1	2	Staffordshire	4	11
Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire	-	8	Suffolk and Ipswich	1	2
Derbyshire	2	5	Surrey	-	13
Devonshire	-	1	Sussex, East	2	5
Durham (Co.)	5	9	Sussex, West	-	9
Essex	1	15	Warwickshire	1	16
Flintshire	-	5	Wight, Isle of	-	1
Glamorgan	3	9	Wiltshire	-	1
Gloucestershire	2	1	Yorkshire (East Riding)	-	1
Hampshire	1	10	Yorkshire (North Riding)	-	2
Herefordshire	-	1	Yorkshire (West Riding)	8	18
Hertfordshire	-	40			
Huntingdon and Peterborough	-	17			
Kent	7	26			
Lancashire	-	45			
Leicestershire and Rutland	2	1			

(C) Scottish Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal
Glasgow	3	26
Lanark	-	13
Central	3	10
Western	1	12
South Western	1	4
South Eastern	3	14
Fife	-	3
Angus	1	2
North Eastern	4	12
Northern	-	3

(D) Northern Irish Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal
North	-	7
West	-	7
Belfast	-	2

