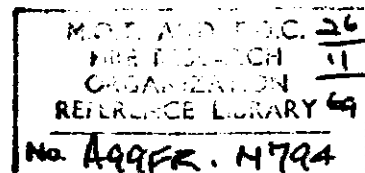


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Fire Research Note

No 794

FIRE DEATHS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1969

by

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November 1969

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FIRE DEATHS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1969

by

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SUMMARY

A preliminary survey shows that 92 persons died in fires in the third quarter of 1969. Sixty-nine were in England and Wales, 20 in Scotland and three in Northern Ireland. This figure is lower than in either of the first and second quarters of the year.

Five firemen were killed as a result of an explosion in London.

KEY WORDS: Fatalities, fire statistics.

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by

S. E. Chandler

Introduction

This report is the seventh of a series of quarterly reports giving preliminary information on deaths in fires attended by fire brigades. The information is based on reports of fires during the third quarter of 1969 received by 3rd November 1969 and is subject to revision.

During the third quarter of 1969, 69 persons died in 59 fires in England and Wales. There were 20 deaths in 14 fires in Scotland and three deaths in one fire in Northern Ireland.

Five firemen were killed at a fire in London when a tank which was being demolished exploded. A fire at a workmen's hostel in Scotland accounted for six deaths.

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. Table 6 gives the numbers of fatal and non-fatal casualties in each brigade area.

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	59	6	69	16
IN BUILDINGS - Total	52	6	62	16
Industry	2	1	7	6
Distributive trades	1	-	1	-
Financial, professional and miscel-services : administration	-	-	-	-
Medical services	1	-	1	-
Houses - detached or semi-det.	3	-	3	-
- terraced	14	1	15	2
- not stated	16	2	18	4
Flats - in blocks	1	-	1	-
- converted	6	1	7	2
- other or not stated	2	1	3	2
Non-institutional dwellings as part of other occupancies	2	-	2	-
Other	4	-	4	-
NOT IN BUILDINGS - Total	7	-	7	-
Road vehicles	1	-	1	-
Other means of transport	2	-	2	-
Caravans	1	-	1	-
Other	3	-	3	-

Table 1B Hazard in which fires 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	14	2	20	8
IN BUILDINGS - Total	12	2	18	8
Industry	1	-	1	-
Clubs, hotels, etc.	1	1	6	6
Houses - detached	2	1	3	2
- not stated	3	-	3	-
Flats - in blocks	1	-	1	-
- converted	1	-	1	-
- not stated	3	-	3	-
NOT IN BUILDINGS - Total	2	-	2	-
Road vehicles	1	-	1	-
Other means of transport	1	-	1	-

Table 1C Hazard in which fire started (Northern Ireland)

There was 1 fire accounting for 3 deaths in a house.

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	59	6	69	16
Midnight - 02.59	3	-	3	-
03.00 - 05.59	4	-	4	-
06.00 - 08.59	7	1	8	2
09.00 - 11.59	8	3	15	10
12.00 - 14.59	9	-	9	-
15.00 - 17.59	10	1	11	2
18.00 - 20.59	3	-	3	-
21.00 - 23.59	5	1	6	2
Late call	10	-	10	-

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	20	8
Midnight - 02.59	2	-	2	-
03.00 - 05.59	1	-	1	-
06.00 - 08.59	4	1	9	6
09.00 - 11.59	1	-	1	-
12.00 - 14.59	3	-	3	-
15.00 - 20.59	-	-	-	-
21.00 - 23.59	1	-	1	-
Late call	2	1	3	2

Table 2C Time of call to fires (Northern Ireland)

There was 1 fire accounting for 3 deaths to which the brigade was called at 05.38.

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

Source of ignition of fires	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	59	6	69	16
Children with fire	3	1	4	2
Matches, tapers, etc.	2	-	2	-
Smoking materials	11	-	11	-
Electric - space heating	1	-	1	-
- wire and cable	-	-	-	-
- blanket	-	-	-	-
- other	1	-	1	-
Gas - cooking	5	-	5	-
- other	1	-	1	-
Solid fuel - fire in grate	3	1	4	2
Oil appliances	-	-	-	-
Other	8	1	9	2
Unknown*	24	3	31	10

* Including "unknown, pending inquest"

Table 3B Source of ignition of fires (Scotland)

Source of ignition of fires	No. of fatal fires	No. of multiple death fires	No. of deaths	No. of deaths in multiple death fires
TOTAL	14	2	20	8
Children with fire	1	-	1	-
Smoking materials	5	-	5	-
Electric - blanket	1	1	2	2
Other	1	-	1	-
Unknown	6	1	11	6

Table 3C Source of ignition of fires (Northern Ireland)

The cause of the 1 fatal fire (3 deaths) is unknown.

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	59	6	69	16
Pre 1900	10	1	11	2
1900 - 1909	12	2	14	4
1910 - 1919	5	-	5	-
1920 - 1929	2	-	2	-
1930 - 1939	10	2	12	4
1940 - 1949	1	-	1	-
1950 - 1959	5	-	5	-
1960 - 1969	6	-	6	-
Not stated, not applicable	8	1	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	20	8
Pre 1900	6	1	11	6
1900 - 1909	2	1	3	2
1910 - 1929	-	-	-	-
1930 - 1939	2	-	2	-
1940 - 1949	1	-	1	-
1950 - 1959	-	-	-	-
1960 - 1969	1	-	1	-
Not stated, not applicable	2	-	2	-

Table 4C Date of construction of buildings (Northern Ireland)

There was 1 fatal fire (3 deaths) in a building of which date of construction was not known.

Table 5 Age and Sex of Fatal Casualties

Age (years)	England and Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
TOTAL	39	30	15	5	-	3
Under 1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1 - 4	3	6	-	1	-	-
5 - 14	1	1	1	-	-	-
15 - 44	21	3	3	-	-	-
45 - 64	8	4	1	3	-	-
65 - 74	2	3	1	-	-	2
Over 75	2	12	2	1	-	1
Not stated	1	1	6	-	-	-

Table 5A Cause of death

Cause of death	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
TOTAL	69	20	3
Burns	23	3	-
Asphyxiation	26	6	-
Other, unknown or not stated*	20	11	3

* 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	92	996
England and Wales	69	839
Scotland	20	107
Northern Ireland	3	50

(A) English and Welsh County Borough Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties		Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Barrow-in-Furness	-	2	Derby	-	3
Bath	-	2	Doncaster	-	3
Birkenhead	1	7	Dudley	-	4
Birmingham	1	56	Eastbourne	-	2
Blackburn	-	2	Exeter	-	2
Blackpool	-	1	Grimsby	-	2
Bolton	-	9	Halifax	-	3
Bootle	1	4	Hastings	-	1
Bournemouth	-	1	Kingston-upon-Hull	-	8
Bradford	-	11	Leeds	-	14
Brighton	-	13	Leicester	-	2
Bristol	1	11	Liverpool	-	16
Burnley	1	-	Luton	-	11
Burton-upon-Trent	-	2	Manchester	2	23
Cardiff	-	2	Merthyr Tydfil	-	1
Carlisle	-	2	Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead	1	10
Coventry	-	7			
Darlington	-	2			

English and Welsh County Borough Fire Brigades (cont'd)

Brigade	No. of casualties		Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Newport (Mon)	-	2	Stoke-on-Trent	-	4
Northampton	-	6	Sunderland	-	6
Norwich	-	1	Swansea	-	2
Nottingham	-	10	Tynemouth	-	1
Oldham	3	3	Warrington	-	4
Preston	-	4	Hartlepool	-	9
Rochdale	-	1	Wigan	-	5
Rotherham	-	5	Wolverhampton	-	3
St. Helens	1	1	York	1	2
Salford	3	3	Warley	-	2
Sheffield	1	8	West Bromwich	-	3
Southampton	-	5	Teesside	1	10
Southend	-	3			
South Shields	-	2			

(B) English and Welsh County Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties		Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Bedfordshire	-	6	Cornwall	1	4
Berkshire and Reading	-	1	Cumberland	-	4
Brecon and Radnor	-	1	Denbigh and Montgomery	-	4
Buckinghamshire	1	12	Derbyshire	2	7
Caernarvonshire	1	9	Devonshire	-	9
Cambridgeshire and Ely	1	-	Durham (Co)	1	14
Cardigan and Carmarthenshire	-	3	Essex	3	18
Cheshire	4	2	Flintshire	-	2
			Glamorgan	-	8
			Gloucestershire	-	1

English and Welsh County Fire Brigades (cont'd)

Brigade	No. of casualties		Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Hampshire	-	10	Nottinghamshire	1	8
Herefordshire	1	2	Shropshire	1	1
Hertfordshire	1	28	Somerset	-	2
Huntingdon and Peterborough	-	9	Staffordshire	3	9
Kent	1	17	Suffolk and Ipswich	-	2
Lancashire	4	35	Surrey	-	13
Leicestershire and Rutland	1	1	Sussex, East	-	10
Lincs (Holland)	-	2	Sussex, West	-	1
Lincs (Lindsey)	-	4	Warwickshire	2	24
London (Greater)	22	152	Westmorland	-	3
Monmouthshire	-	5	Wight, Isle of	-	1
Norfolk	-	4	Wiltshire	-	1
Northamptonshire	-	2	Worcs., City and County	-	20
Northumberland	-	5	Yorkshire (E. Riding)	-	2
			Yorkshire (N. Riding)	-	2
			Yorkshire (W. Riding)	-	15

(C) Scottish Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal
Glasgow	3	37
Lanarkshire	-	13
Central	2	4
Western	-	15
South Western	6	14
South Eastern	2	14
Fife	1	2
Perth and Kinross	1	-
Angus	2	1
North Eastern	2	6
Northern	1	1

(D) Northern Irish Fire Brigades

Brigade	No. of casualties	
	Fatal	Non-fatal
North	-	3
South	3	7
West	-	1
Belfast	-	39

