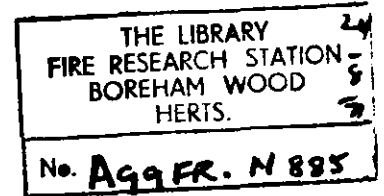


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FIRE DEATHS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1971

by

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August 1971

FIRE
RESEARCH
STATION

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SUMMARY

A preliminary analysis shows that 133 persons died in fires in the period April - June 1971. Of these 118 were in England and Wales and 15 in Scotland.

The most serious incident was at a London hotel when nine people died in a fire attributed to arson.

KEY WORDS: Fatalities, fire statistics.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND FIRE OFFICES' COMMITTEE
JOINT FIRE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

FIRE DEATHS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1971

by

S. E. Chandler

Introduction

A preliminary analysis of casualties in fires in the second quarter of 1971 shows that 133 persons died in fires attended by fire brigades. That is one fewer than the corresponding provisional figure in 1970. Of these, 118 were reported in England and Wales and 15 in Scotland. No reports have been received of any fatalities in Northern Ireland during the second quarter.

The most serious incident during the quarter was at a London hotel in which nine people died in a fire attributed to arson. Another incident in a house in Hampshire led to the deaths of five children. Four persons died in a fire in a terraced house in Bradford.

Tables 1 - 4 give details of hazard, time of call, source of ignition and dates of construction (where applicable) with respect to fatal fires. Table 5A gives the age and sex distribution of fatal casualties, and the causes of death are given in Table 5B. The numbers of fatal and non-fatal casualties on each brigade area are shown in Table 6.

This analysis is based on reports received up to 30 July 1971 and is subject to revision when outstanding reports and further information are received.

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	89	14	118	43
IN BUILDINGS Total	84	12	110	38
Industry	1	1	2	2
Distributive trades	4	-	4	-
Medical services	2	-	2	-
Clubs, hotels, restaurants and public houses	2	1	10	9
Houses - detached or semi-detached	9	3	14	8
- terraced	11	1	13	3
- not stated	30	5	39	14
Flats - in blocks	7	-	7	-
- converted	3	-	3	-
- other or not stated	11	1	12	2
Private sheds, garages, etc.	2	-	2	-
Other	2	-	2	-
NOT IN BUILDINGS Total	5	2	8	5
Road vehicles	3	2	6	5
Other means of transport	1	-	1	-
Caravans	1	-	1	-

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	89	14	118	43
Midnight - 02.59	14	5	29	20
03.00 - 05.59	11	1	13	3
06.00 - 08.59	11	1	12	2
09.00 - 11.59	11	-	11	-
12.00 - 14.59	11	3	14	6
15.00 - 17.59	11	1	13	3
18.00 - 20.59	8	2	13	7
21.00 - 23.59	12	1	13	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	14	1	15	2
IN BUILDINGS Total	13	-	13	-
Distributive trades	1	-	1	-
Clubs, hotels, restaurants and public houses.	1	-	1	-
Houses - terraced	1	-	1	-
- type not stated	8	-	8	-
Flats - in blocks	1	-	1	-
- other or not stated	1	-	1	-
NOT IN BUILDINGS Total	1	1	2	2
Road vehicles	1	1	2	2

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	1	15	2
Midnight - 02.59	2	1	3	2
03.00 - 05.59	2	-	2	-
06.00 - 08.59	4	-	4	-
12.00 - 14.59	3	-	3	-
15.00 - 17.59	1	-	1	-
21.00 - 23.59	2	-	2	-

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	89	14	118	43
Children with fire	3	1	4	2
Crash or collision	2	1	4	3
Malicious ignition, suicide	3	1	11	9
Matches, tapers, etc.	3	-	3	-
Smoking materials	16	1	17	2
Electric - space heating	7	1	9	3
- wire and cable	4	1	5	2
- blanket	2	-	2	-
- other	1	-	1	-
Gas - cooking	1	-	1	-
- space heating	1	-	1	-
Solid fuel - fire in grate	6	-	6	-
Oil - space heating	4	2	6	4
- other	1	-	1	-
Other	4	1	5	2
Unknown *	31	5	42	16

* Includes fires reported as "Unknown, pending inquest"

Table 4A. Date of construction of buildings (where applicable)
(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	89	14	118	43
Pre - 1900	17	2	22	7
1900 - 1909	21	4	35	18
1910 - 1919	3	-	3	-
1920 - 1929	6	2	8	4
1930 - 1939	9	1	11	3
1940 - 1949	7	3	10	6
1950 - 1959	4	-	4	-
1960 onwards	9	-	9	-
Not stated	8	-	8	-
Not applicable (outdoor hazard)	5	2	8	5

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	1	15	2
Crash or collision	1	1	2	2
Matches, tapers, etc.	1	-	1	-
Smoking materials	6	-	6	-
Gas - refrigerator	1	-	1	-
Unknown*	5	-	5	-

* Includes fires reported as "Unknown, pending inquest"

Table 4B. Date of construction of buildings (where applicable) (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	1	15	2
Pre - 1900	3	-	3	-
1900 - 1909	3	-	3	-
1920 - 1929	1	-	1	-
1950 - 1959	5	-	5	-
1960 onwards	1	-	1	-
Not applicable (outdoor hazard)	1	1	2	2

Table 5A. Sex and age of fatal casualties

Age (years)	England and Wales		Scotland	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
TOTAL	66	52	11	4
Under 1	3	3	-	-
1 - 4	9	7	-	-
5 - 14	4	5	-	1
15 - 44	15	10	4	-
45 - 64	12	3	2	1
65 - 74	12	10	-	1
75 and over	8	11	5	1
Not stated	3	3*	-	-

*1 specified as a child.

Table 5B. Cause of death

Cause of death	England and Wales	Scotland
TOTAL	118	15
Burns	37	3
Asphyxiation	47	6
Other and unknown	34	6

Table 6. Numbers of casualties in each brigade area

	Fatal	Non-fatal
UNITED KINGDOM	133	826
England & Wales	118	703
Scotland	15	117
Northern Ireland	-	6

(A) English and Welsh County Borough Fire Brigades

Brigade	Fatal	Non-fatal	Brigade	Fatal	Non-fatal
Barnsley	-	2	Manchester	3	9
Bath	-	1	Newcastle/Gateshead	1	3
Birkenhead	-	1	Newport (Mon.)	-	3
Birmingham	4	44	Northampton	-	4
Blackburn	1	-	Norwich	-	3
Blackpool	1	-	Nottingham	1	16
Bolton	-	6	Oldham	-	3
Bootle	-	2	Plymouth	-	9
Bournemouth	-	2	Preston	1	9
Bradford	4	4	Rochdale	-	2
Bristol	2	11	Rotherham	-	5
Burnley	-	2	St. Helens	-	4
Burton upon Trent	-	1	Salford	2	1
Bury	-	1	Sheffield	1	4
Gardiff	1	-	Solihull	-	1
Chester	-	1	Southampton	2	2
Coventry	-	5	Southport	-	4
Darlington	1	-	South Shields	-	2
Derby	-	3	Stockport	-	2
Dudley	1	6	Stoke-on-Trent	-	6
Exeter	-	2	Sunderland	2	2
Gloucester	1	1	Swansea	-	1
Great Yarmouth	1	1	Tynemouth	-	1
Grimsby	-	3	Wakefield	-	5
Halifax	-	2	Wallasey	1	7
Hastings	-	2	Walsall	1	13
Kingston upon Hull	2	8	Warrington	-	1
Leeds	4	6	Hartlepool	-	2
Leicester	1	2	Wolverhampton	-	3
Luton	-	3	Warley	3	2
			West Bromwich	3	9
			Tees-side	3	8

(B) English and Welsh County Fire Brigades

Brigade	Fatal	Non-fatal	Brigade	Fatal	Non-fatal
Anglesey	-	1	Lincolnshire (Holland)	-	2
Bedfordshire	1	2	Lincolnshire (Kesteven)	-	1
Brecon/Radnorshire	3	-	Lincolnshire (Lindsey)	1	7
Buckinghamshire	-	1	London (Greater)	30	231
Caernarvonshire	-	3	Monmouthshire	-	1
Cardigan/Carmarthen	-	1	Norfolk	2	6
Cheshire	1	3	Northamptonshire	-	3
Cornwall	3	5	Northumberland	2	7
Cumberland	-	7	Nottinghamshire	1	4
Denbigh/Montgomery	3	4	Pembrokeshire	-	1
Devon and Torbay	-	5	Shropshire	-	1
Dorset	-	3	Somerset	2	4
Durham (Co.)	6	5	Staffordshire	2	17
Essex	1	23	Suffolk and Ipswich	-	6
Flintshire	1	2	Sussex, East	1	5
Glamorgan	1	15	Warwickshire	1	7
Gloucestershire	-	11	Wight, Isle of	-	4
Hampshire	5	10	Worcester City/County	-	5
Huntingdon/Peterborough	-	9	Yorkshire (West Riding)	3	13

(C) Scottish Fire Brigades

Brigade	Fatal	Non-fatal
Glasgow	-	47
Lanarkshire	1	5
Central	1	7
Western	1	10
South Western	-	2
South Eastern	3	27
Fife	1	2
Perth and Kinross	2	2
Angus	1	6
North Eastern	3	7
Northern	2	2

(D) Northern Irish Fire Brigades

Brigade	Fatal	Non-fatal
Belfast	-	6

