



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

*Fire Statistics,
United Kingdom, 2004*



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Deputy Prime Minister

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United Kingdom, 2004*

February 2006

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Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2004

The statistics in this Bulletin are compiled from reports submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on fires and false alarms attended by the fire and rescue service (FRS) in the UK.

Detailed information is collected on all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures and any fires involving casualties or rescues (i.e. “*primary*” fires). The source of these data on primary fires is the fire data report form FDR1(94) introduced in January 1994. Less detailed aggregated information is collected on “*secondary*” and chimney fires (collected via fire data report form FDR3) so subsequent analysis of them is limited. Fuller definitions of the types of fire reported on can be found in the Notes section at the end of this publication (paragraph 24).

In addition to this publication, *Fire Statistics Monitors* are published four times a year. The Monitors concentrate on headline figures, whilst this annual publication contains more detailed analyses of fires and their causes.

Industrial action in November 2002 and January and February 2003 has meant that fifteen days’ data are missing from the returns made by the fire and rescue service. In some cases, this gap has been covered by estimates made by ODPM statisticians. However, for the more complex tables, the figures are as reported by the service and therefore exclude any estimates for strike days. All the tables are labelled accordingly.

KEY POINTS

Overview

- In 2004 local authority fire and rescue services attended nearly 900,000 fires or false alarms in the United Kingdom, 18% less than in 2003 (para 1.1).
- A total of 442,700 fires were attended, 29% less than in 2003. Around 75% of all the fires were outdoor fires (335,600), e.g. vehicles, refuse, grassland. A total of 59,700 (13%) were in dwellings (para 1.1, 1.2 & 5.1).
- The total number of *accidental* primary fires fell by 7% to 60,500 in 2004 – the lowest recorded in this last 11 year period (para 1.8). *Deliberate* fires decreased by 21% to 91,400, mainly due to a 25% reduction in deliberate vehicle fires (para 1.9).

Deaths from fires

- In 2004, there were 508 fire-related deaths in the UK, compared with 593 in 2003. The highest number recorded was 1,096 deaths in 1979. Through the 1980s and 1990s there was a general downward trend. The 2004 figure is the lowest in 45 years (para 1.11 & special feature).
- The majority of fire-related deaths occurred in dwelling fires (para 1.12). The highest fire fatality rates were for people aged 80+, for males, and in Scotland (para 1.14 & 1.27).

Non-fatal casualties

- There was a 6% fall in the number of non-fatal casualties to 14,600 in 2004 – the fifth consecutive annual fall and the lowest number in this last 11 year period (para 1.16). Non-fatal casualty rates were highest in the North West region (para 1.33).
- Firefighter casualties fell to 398 in 2004 from 521 in 2003 (para 1.20).

Dwelling Fires

- The number of dwelling fires in the UK totalled 59,700 in 2004 – a fall of 6% since 2003. The majority of dwelling fires were accidental (80%), 47,800 fires (para 2.1 & 2.2).

Accidental dwelling fires

- The main cause of accidental dwelling fires remained the misuse of equipment/appliances (17,200 fires), while the main source of ignition was cooking appliances (57% of all accidental dwelling fires) (para 2.3 & 2.5).

Deaths in dwelling fires

- Of the 375 deaths in dwellings in 2004, 327 (87%) were in accidental fires. The main cause was careless handling of fire or hot substances (e.g. careless disposal of cigarettes), amounting to 37% of the total (para 2.7 & 2.8). The highest fatality rate was for fires which started in the living or dining room (para 2.22).

Non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires

- The number of non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires decreased by 5% to 12,000. The largest cause of injury remained chip pan fires, accounting for 26% of the total. However, the 2,600 injuries recorded in 2004 was the lowest number since chip pans fires were recorded separately from 1994 (para 2.14 & 2.15)

Smoke alarms

- Research shows that smoke alarm ownership increased rapidly from 8% in 1988 to 70% in 1994, but has risen more slowly in recent years to around 80% (para 2.29).
- Smoke alarms were absent in the fire area in 30,300 dwelling fires (51%) (para 2.30).

Other Building Fires

- In 2004 there were 37,600 fires recorded in buildings other than dwellings, 10% less than in 2003. Of these, 57% were accidental compared to 80% of those in dwellings (para 3.1 & 3.3).
- The highest fire fatality rate in other buildings occurred in private sheds/garages, while the highest non-fatal casualty rates occurred in fires in elderly persons homes and public administration buildings (para 3.8 & 3.9).

Road Vehicle Fires

- Road vehicle fires totalled 72,800 in 2004 – a decrease of 22% from 2003. This is the third consecutive annual reduction following successive increases between 1997 and 2001 (para 4.1).
- There were 50 fatalities in road vehicle fires in 2004 and 528 non-fatal casualties (para 4.6 & 4.7).

False Alarms

- There were 448,800 false alarms attended in 2004, a decrease of 5% from 2003 and 11% lower than the peak level of 507,000 in 1995 (para 6.1).
- The most common type of false alarm was due to apparatus, representing 64% of all false alarms (para 6.2).

CHAPTER 1 – SUMMARY

Total number of fires and false alarms attended by the fire and rescue service (Tables 1a, 1b, 1c and 1.1, Figure 1.1)

- 1.1 In 2004, local authority fire and rescue services attended nearly 900,000 fires or false alarms in the United Kingdom, 18% less than in 2003. Within the total, fires decreased by 29% to 443,000, while false alarms fell by 5% to 449,000, between 2003 and 2004.

Table 1.1: Fires by location and false alarms, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom		Fires and false alarms (thousands) ²						
Year	Total fires & false alarms	Fires ³						False alarms
		Total fires ³	Building fires ³			Outdoor fires ^{3,5}	Chimney fires	
			Total	Dwellings ⁴	Other			
1994	968	479	113	67	47	337	29	488
1995	1,111	604	117	69	48	462	26	507
1996	1,022	532	119	72	47	385	29	490
1997	959	469	117	72	44	330	22	490
1998	866	410	113	71	42	278	19	457
1999	937	469	116	72	44	337	16	468
2000	937	477	113	71	42	348	15	461
2001	1,028	547	113	69	44	418	16	481
2002 ¹	997	519	106	65	41	401	12	477
2003 ¹	1,093	621	106	64	42	504	12	472
2004	892	443	97	60	38	336	10	449

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

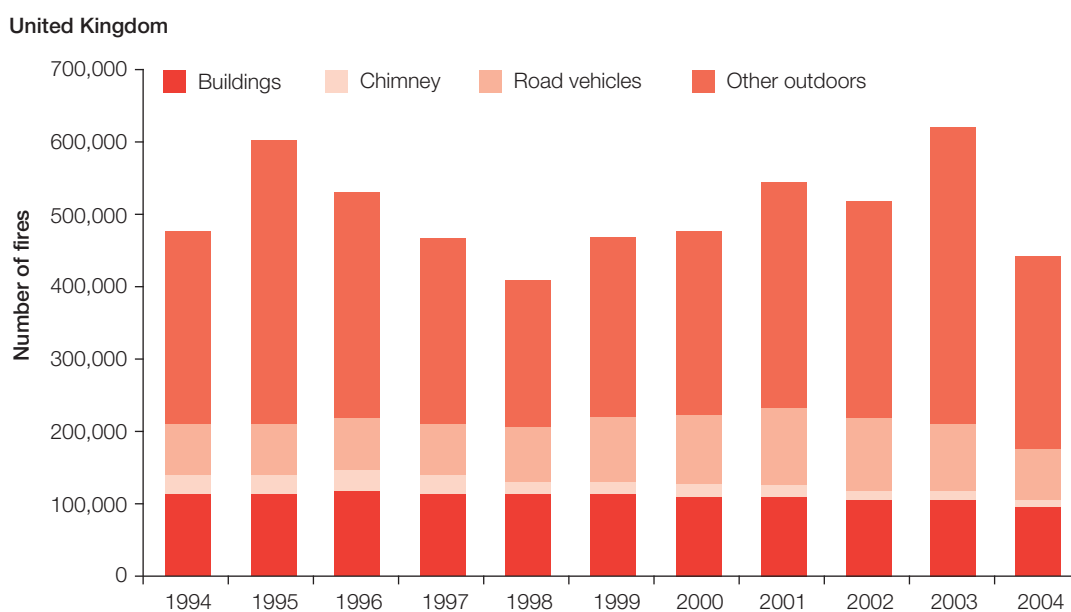
³ Primary fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

⁵ Primary and secondary fires.

- 1.2 A total of 442,700 fires were attended in 2004, of which 59,700 (13%) were in dwellings. Findings from the 2004/05 Survey of English Housing on all outbreaks of fire experienced by households in England suggested that the fire and rescue service attend approximately one fifth of all domestic fires. This is because many of the fires recorded in the survey are minor and able to be put out by someone in the home, and therefore the fire and rescue service were not called. See ODPM Statistical Bulletin – “*Fires in the home: Findings from the 2004/05 Survey of English Housing*”. (See explanatory note 10 for further details.)
- 1.3 More detailed information is collected on all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures and any fires involving casualties or rescues (“primary” fires) and is presented in this statistical bulletin. Less detailed aggregated information is collected on “secondary” and chimney fires, so subsequent analysis of them is limited. For fuller definitions, see explanatory note 24 at the end of this statistical bulletin.

Figure 1.1: Fires¹ by location group, 1994–2004²



¹ Primary and secondary fires. Primary fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

- 1.4 The number of building fires fell by 8% from 105,600 in 2003 to 97,300 in 2004. This follows only a slight decrease between 2002 and 2003, and compares with the high levels recorded in the mid-1990s (118,800 in 1996). Within this category, dwelling fires fell by 6% to 59,700. Fires in buildings other than dwellings also fell by 10% to 37,600.
- 1.5 Outdoor fires (primary and secondary) totalled 335,600 in 2004. Of these 157,900 (47%) were refuse fires (including bonfires, fires in derelict vehicles and refuse containers), 72,800 (22%) were road vehicle fires and 61,400 (18%) were grassland fires (including heathland and intentional straw and stubble burning). The remaining 34,000 (10%) were in other outdoor locations.
- 1.6 Chimney fires totalled 9,800 in 2004, 16% fewer than in 2003, and account for only 2% of all fires.

Causes of fires

Interpretation of trends in accidental and deliberate fires

- 1.7 Deliberate fires include those where deliberate ignition was merely suspected and recorded by the fire and rescue service as “doubtful”. Accidental fires include those where the cause was “not known” or “unspecified”.

Table 1.2: Primary fires by cause and location of fire, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom		Fires (thousands) ²			
Year	Total ³	Location			
		Dwellings	Other buildings	Road vehicles	Other outdoors
Deliberate fires⁴					
1994	84.6	13.7	22.4	40.3	8.2
1995	85.5	13.8	21.9	41.5	8.3
1996	88.4	14.3	21.4	44.4	8.3
1997	82.6	13.8	18.9	42.2	7.6
1998	86.2	13.4	17.1	48.8	7.0
1999	103.0	13.9	17.9	63.0	8.2
2000	111.2	14.2	18.0	70.8	8.1
2001	123.3	14.8	19.8	79.2	9.5
2002 ¹	121.8	14.2	18.2	80.2	9.2
2003 ¹	115.1	13.8	18.7	72.9	9.7
2004	91.2	11.9	16.1	55.0	8.2
Accidental fires⁴					
1994	110.0	52.9	24.1	27.7	5.1
1995	115.0	54.8	26.0	28.0	6.1
1996	117.3	57.5	25.7	28.8	5.2
1997	118.0	58.7	25.5	29.3	4.5
1998	113.7	57.7	24.7	27.2	4.0
1999	115.4	58.4	25.7	27.1	4.2
2000	108.5	56.7	23.8	24.1	3.9
2001	105.1	54.3	23.8	23.0	4.0
2002 ¹	98.6	50.8	22.7	21.0	4.1
2003 ¹	97.7	50.0	23.1	19.9	4.8
2004	90.5	47.8	21.5	17.8	3.5

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

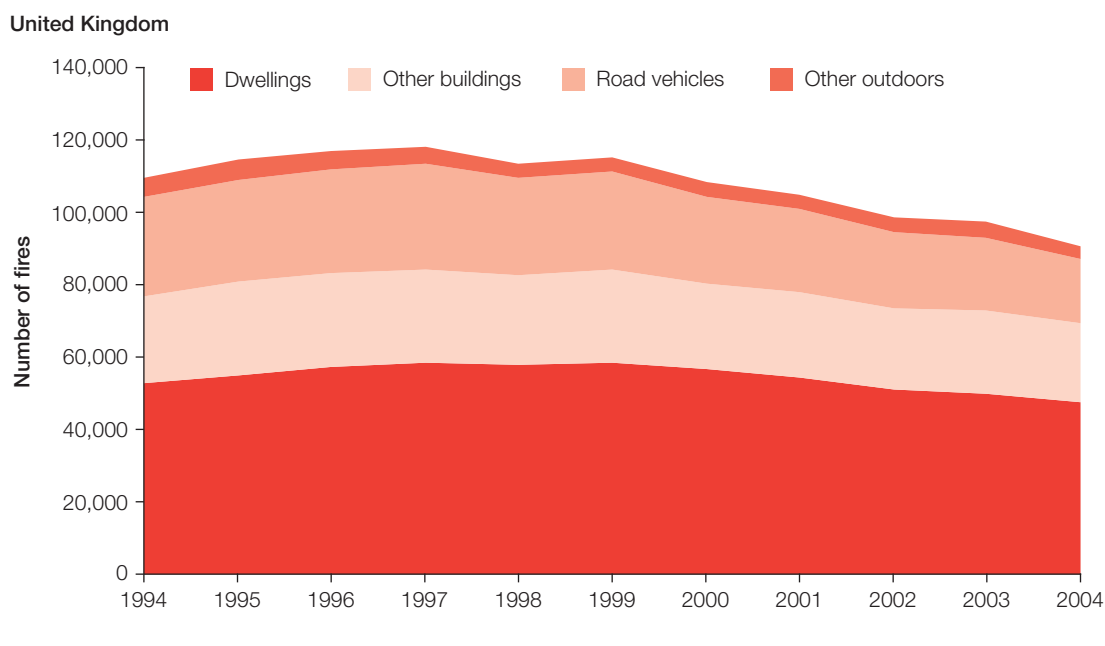
⁴ Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was merely suspected. Accidental fires include those where the cause was 'not known' or 'unspecified' (see explanatory note 11).

Accidental fires (Table 1.2, Figure 1.2)

1.8 The total number of accidental primary fires in 2004 decreased by 7% to 90,500. Of the total accidental fires, 47,800 fires (53%) were in dwellings, 21,500 (24%) in other buildings and 17,800 (20%) in road vehicles. Between 1994 and 1997 there were consecutive annual increases in the total number of accidental fires, peaking at 118,000. However, since 1999 the numbers of accidental fires have been falling and the latest figure is the lowest recorded in this last 11 year period. The key changes from 2003 were:

- Accidental fires in dwellings fell by 4% to 47,800;
- Accidental fires in other buildings fell by 7% to 21,500;
- Accidental fires in road vehicles also fell, down 11% to 17,800.

Figure 1.2: Accidental primary fires¹ by location group, 1994–2004²



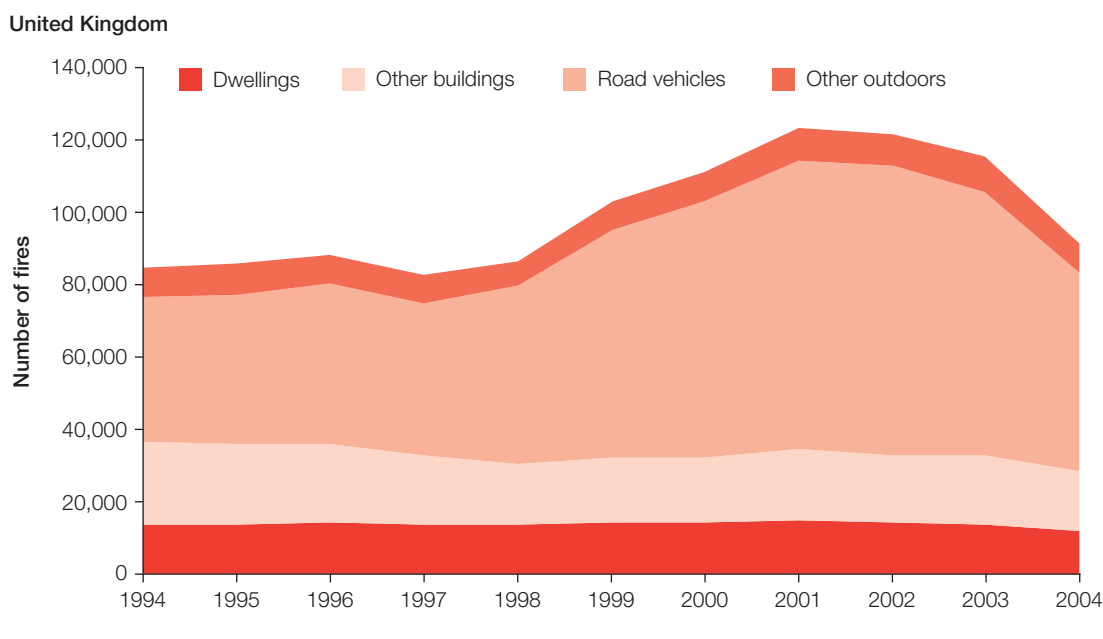
¹ Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Deliberate fires (Tables 1.2 and 14 and Figure 1.3)

- 1.9 The number of deliberate primary fires fell for the third consecutive year, by 21% from 115,100 in 2003 to 91,200 in 2004. The main reason for the fall in 2004 was a 25% reduction in deliberate fires in road vehicles, accounting for 60% of all deliberate primary fires. This fall is the second annual decline in deliberate road vehicle fires. The latest figure is still 36% higher than that recorded in 1994 (40,300). Deliberate fires in buildings (i.e. dwellings and other buildings) have decreased by 22% in the same 11 year period from a peak of 36,100 in 1994 to 28,000 in 2004.

Figure 1.3: Deliberate primary fires¹ by location group, 1994–2004²



¹ Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

1.10 Of the 28,000 deliberate fires in buildings recorded in 2004, more than half (57%) occurred in buildings other than dwellings. Of these 16,100 deliberate fires in other buildings, 34% were in private garages or sheds. Chapter 3 contains further details of deliberate fires in other buildings.

Deaths from fires

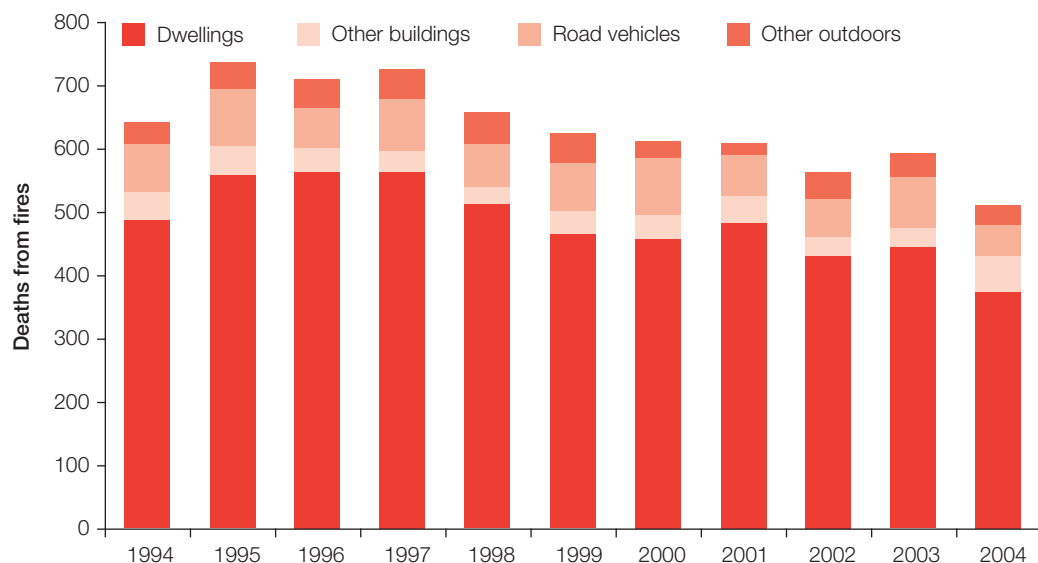
1.11 In 2004, there were 508 fire-related deaths in the UK, a decrease of 14% from the 2003 figure of 593. This included 3 firefighter fatalities in 2004 and 1 in 2003. The total number of deaths in the UK in 2004 is also considerably lower than the figures recorded prior to 2003 (562 in 2002, 606 in 2001, 613 in 2000 and 623 in 1999) and represents the lowest number of fatalities in the UK for 45 years. For further information on previous years see the special feature on long time series data and tables 26 and 28.

Location (Tables 6 and 26, Figure 1.4)

1.12 The majority of fire-related deaths (around three-quarters) occur in dwelling fires. In 2004, 375 deaths were recorded in dwellings, a reduction of 16% on the previous year. This compares with 447 deaths in 2003, 430 in 2002, 483 in 2001, 455 in 2000 and 463 in 1999. As in previous years, dwellings also had more fire related deaths per 1,000 fires than any other location. In 2004, there were 6 deaths per 1,000 dwelling fires, compared with 1.5 deaths per 1,000 for other buildings and 0.7 deaths per 1,000 for road vehicles.

Figure 1.4: Deaths from fires by location group, 1994–2004¹

United Kingdom



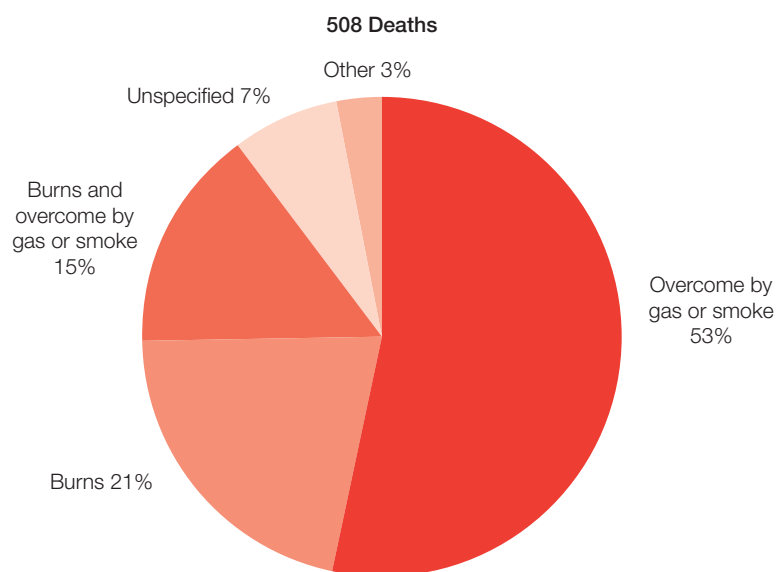
¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Cause of death (Table 7, Figure 1.5)

1.13 The most common identified cause of death from a fire incident is being overcome by gas or smoke. In 2004, fire and rescue services reported that 270 people died this way, accounting for 53% of all deaths. A further 78 (15%) deaths were attributed jointly to both burns and being overcome by gas or smoke, whilst 108 (21%) were due to burns alone.

Figure 1.5: Deaths by cause, 2004¹

United Kingdom



¹ Components of the chart do not sum to 100% due to rounding

Fatality rates by age and gender (Tables 5b, 17a, 17b and 1.3)

1.14 The fire fatality rate is defined as the number of deaths per million population, abbreviated henceforth to pmp. During the last decade the fatality rate peaked at 13 pmp in 1995. Since then there has been a general downward trend to 8 pmp in 2004.

Table 1.3: Fatal casualties from fires by age and gender, 2000-2004¹

United Kingdom										
Age	Number of fatalities					Per million population ²				
	2000	2001	2002 ¹	2003 ¹	2004	2000	2001	2002 ¹	2003 ¹	2004
Persons by age³										
Under 1	3	2	1	2	1	4	3	2	3	1
1 – 4	15	26	23	29	18	5	9	8	11	7
5 – 10	15	20	23	13	13	3	4	5	3	3
11 – 16	15	8	7	11	10	3	2	2	2	2
17 – 24	45	35	28	33	28	8	6	5	5	5
25 – 29	26	30	30	41	21	6	8	8	11	6
30 – 59	248	223	215	250	205	10	9	9	10	8
60 – 64	36	25	33	24	26	12	9	11	8	9
65 – 79	108	103	105	93	92	16	15	15	13	13
80 & over	91	103	75	82	83	38	42	30	32	32
Unspecified	11	31	22	15	11	..	..	..	..	..
All ages	613	606	562	593	508	10	10	9	10	8
Males, all ages	373	363	333	373	314	13	13	11	13	11
Females, all ages	239	236	220	212	193	8	8	7	7	6

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² The per million population rates for all years take into account the revised mid-year population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2004 (see explanatory note 15).

³ Including some fatal casualties, whose gender was not recorded.

1.15 Fatality rates are higher for males than females – in 2004 there were 11 male fatalities pmp compared to 6 female fatalities pmp. The highest fatality rates occur for those people aged 80 and over (32 pmp), remaining at the same rate for the second year running. The lowest rates occur for those aged 11 to 16 (they have remained relatively constant at about 2 to 3 pmp since 1994).

Non-fatal casualties

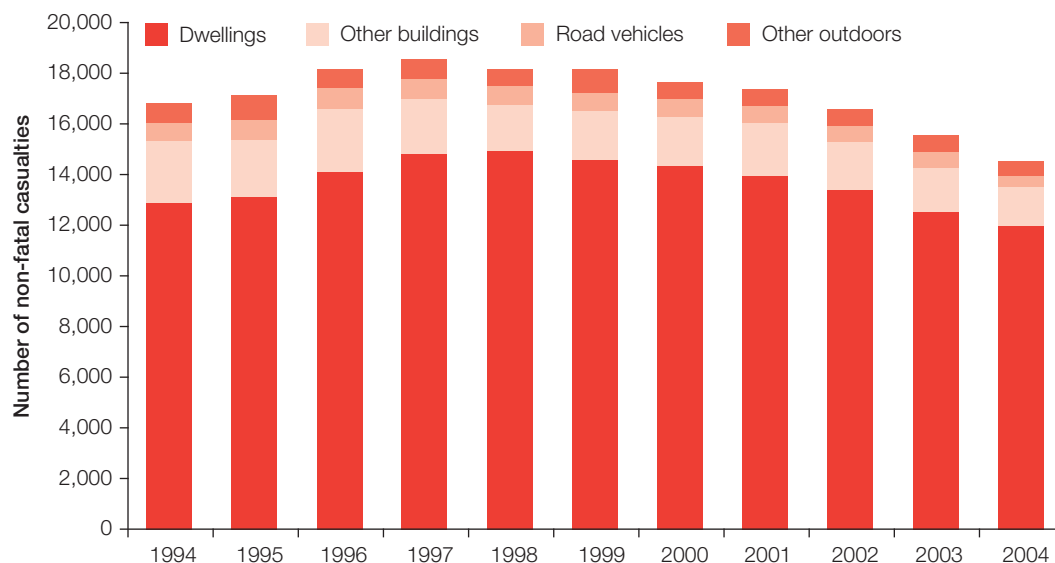
1.16 There was a 6% decrease in the number of non-fatal casualties (including firefighters) to 14,600 in 2004, representing the fifth consecutive annual fall and the lowest number in this last 11 year period.

Location (Table 6, Figure 1.6)

1.17 Just as for fatal casualties, dwelling fires were responsible for the majority of all non-fatal casualties (82% in 2004). In 2004, there were some 12,000 non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires. This is 5% fewer than the previous year, and represents the sixth consecutive annual fall.

Figure 1.6: Non-fatal casualties from fires by location group, 1994–2004¹

United Kingdom



¹ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

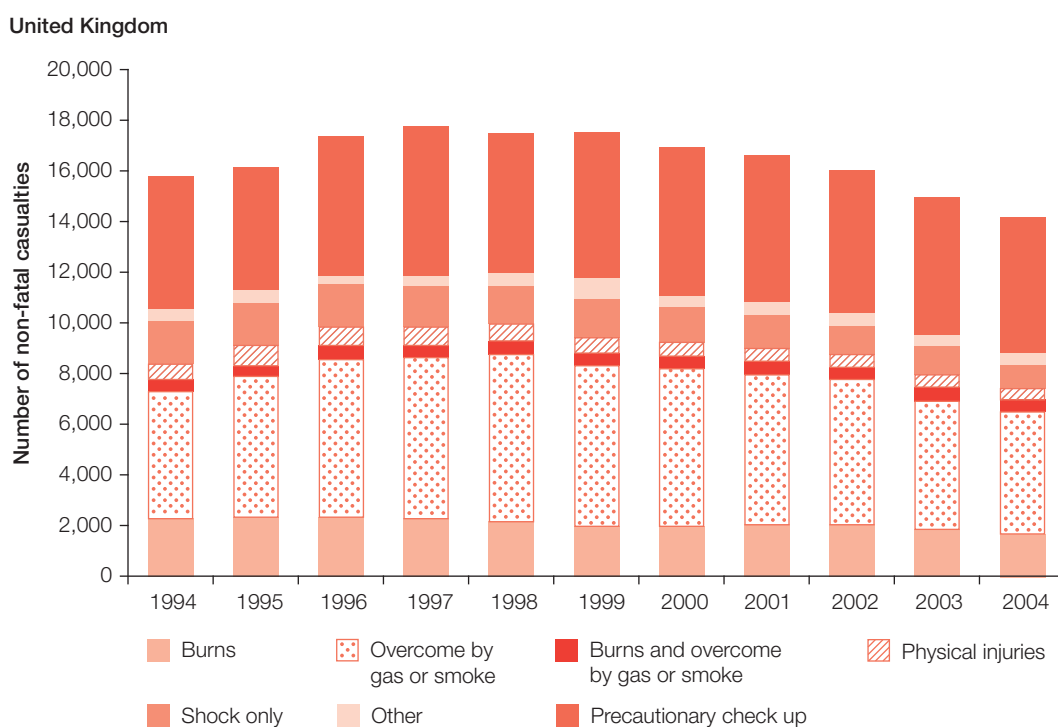
1.18 Similarly, dwelling fires had more non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires than any other location. In 2004, there were 200 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 dwelling fires, compared with 40 per 1,000 for other building fires and 7 per 1,000 for road vehicle fires.

Nature of injury (Table 8, Figure 1.7)

1.19 In 2004 the most frequently recorded cause of non-fatal casualties (excluding firefighters) was referral to hospital for a precautionary check-up, accounting for 38% of the total. This proportion of the total is the highest since 1994 (the average being 34%) due to an increased tendency over recent years to refer less serious injuries to hospital or a doctor as a precaution. Other types of injury sustained include:

- Suffering the effects of gas or smoke, accounting for 34% of all non-fatal casualties in 2004;
- Burns, including those suffering from both burns and overcome by gas or smoke, the number of which has fallen back to the lowest level seen in this last 11 year period, at 2,200 (16% of all non-fatal casualties in 2004).

Figure 1.7: Non-fatal casualties by nature of injury (excluding firefighters), 1994–2004¹



¹ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties no recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Firefighter non-fatal casualties (Table 9)

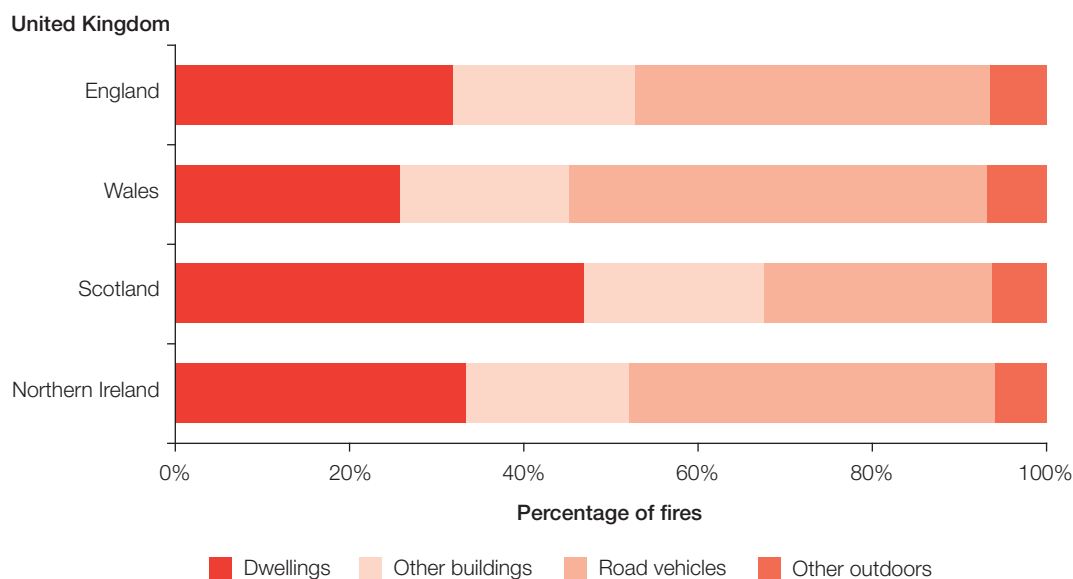
1.20 The number of firefighter casualties fell to 398 in 2004 from 521 in 2003. Physical injuries accounted for the majority of the injuries sustained (61%), while burns accounted for 18%.

Country and fire and rescue service area

Primary fires (Tables 5a and 23, Figure 1.8)

1.21 All countries in the UK experienced declines in the number of primary fires attended in 2004 (see explanatory note 24 for definition of a primary fire). In England numbers fell by 15% from 176,800 in 2003 to 150,900 in 2004, while Wales saw a 17% decline to 10,200 in 2004. The number of primary fires in Scotland fell by 12% to 15,800 – the fifth consecutive annual fall. In Northern Ireland numbers fell by 16% to 4,900.

Figure 1.8: Primary fires by country and location, 2004



1.22 The location profile of primary fires differs between countries. In Scotland, 47% of all primary fires were in dwellings, compared with smaller proportions in Northern Ireland (33%), England (32%) and in Wales (26%). Road vehicle fires exhibited a different pattern. Road vehicle fires constituted the largest proportion of primary fires in Wales (48%), Northern Ireland (42%) and England (41%), but only made up 26% of the total in Scotland.

1.23 The location profile broken down by fire and rescue service area also differs. All the Scottish areas recorded a high proportion of primary fires in dwellings (ranging from 38% to 56%). In England, metropolitan fire and rescue services tended to record large proportions of dwelling fires, with the highest percentage in Greater London (44%). Among the non-metropolitan areas, Lancashire once again recorded the highest proportion of dwelling fires (41%). The highest proportions of road vehicle fires attended were in South Wales (56%), Warwickshire (55%) and West Yorkshire (52%).

Secondary fires (Tables 5a and 23)

1.24 All countries in the UK experienced an annual decrease in the number of secondary fires attended in 2004 (see explanatory note 24 for definition of a secondary fire). In England numbers fell by 38% to 192,000, while in Wales a decrease of 37% to 17,100 was seen. Scotland recorded 29,500 secondary fires, a decrease of 35% on 2003 figures. Northern Ireland also recorded a substantial decrease, down 20% to 12,600. All these significant declines in 2004 follow significant increases in the previous year. However, large year-on-year fluctuations in secondary fires are not unusual, as certain categories of secondary fires are dependent upon weather conditions. In 2003 specifically, the rise can be attributed to a dramatic increase in grassland fires, 148,400 in the UK, an increase of 137% due to hot dry weather conditions. However, in 2004 a return to more seasonally average weather conditions saw a decline of 60% for grassland fires to 60,000.

1.25 In 2004 refuse fires accounted for two-thirds of all secondary fires in the UK. Grassland fires contributed a further 24% and derelict building fires accounted for 4%.

Chimney fires (Tables 5a and 23)

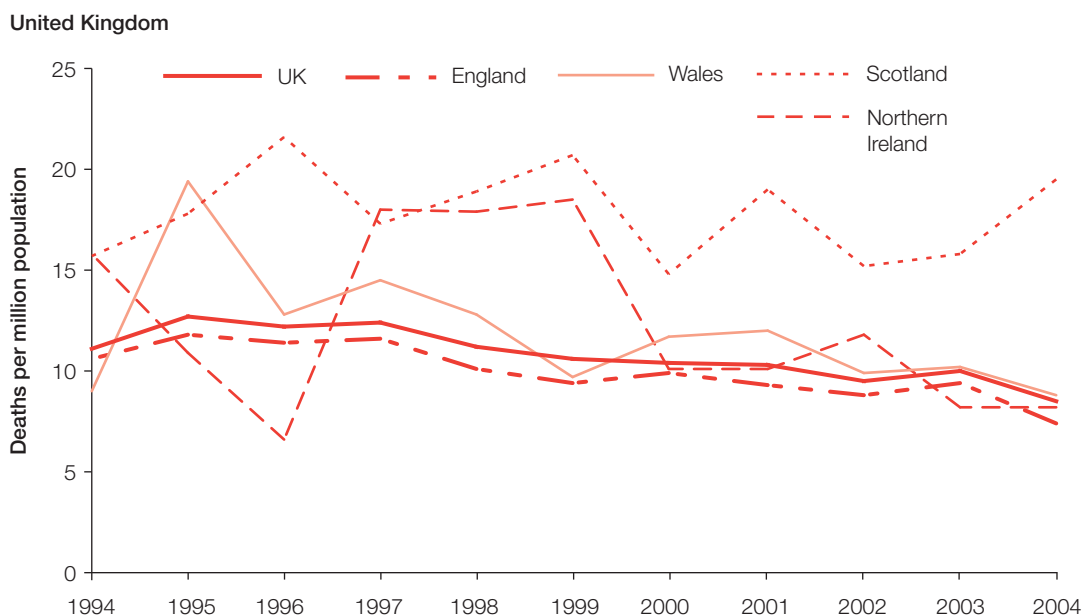
1.26 There were 9,800 chimney fires in the UK in 2004, a fall of 16% compared with 11,600 recorded in 2003.

Fatalities (Table 5b, Figure 1.9)

1.27 There were 508 fire-related deaths in the UK in 2004, of which 369 (73%) occurred in England. The fatality rate in fires in the UK in 2004 was 8.5 per million population (pmp). Fatality rates differ significantly between countries:

- Scotland has had a consistently higher fatality rate over the years compared to the UK average, currently at 19.5 pmp, an increase from 15.8 pmp in 2003, (mainly due to 14 deaths in one fire in January 2004);
- The rate in Wales fell from 10.2 pmp to 8.8 pmp in 2004;
- Northern Ireland's rate has remained at 8.2;
- In England the rate fell from 9.4 pmp to 7.4 pmp in 2004, the lowest of all the UK countries.

Figure 1.9: Fatality rates by country, 1994-2004¹

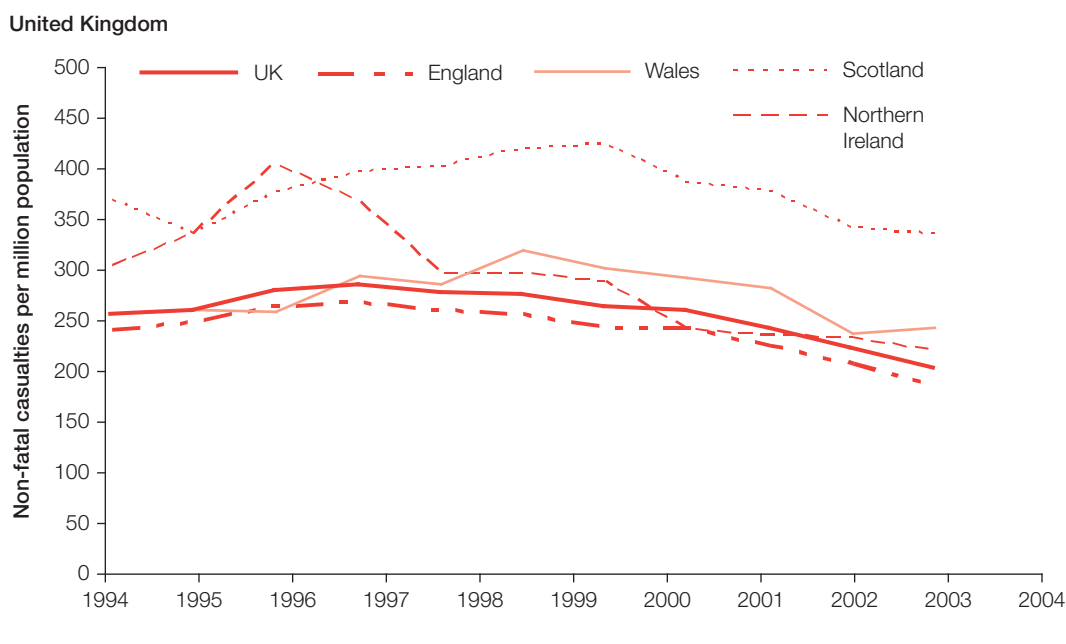


¹ Includes fire-related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Non-fatal casualties and rates by country (Table 5b, Figure 1.10)

1.28 The number of non-fatal casualties in England fell by 8% in 2004 to 11,400 from 12,400 in 2003. In Wales the number rose by 2% to 830 and in Northern Ireland it fell by 4% to 440. There was little change in the number of non-fatal casualties in Scotland, remaining at around 1,900.

Figure 1.10: Non-fatal casualty rates by country, 1994–2004¹



¹ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

1.29 Reflecting the decrease in the number of non-fatal casualties in the UK, the non-fatal casualty rate per million population (pmp) also fell, from 261 in 2003 to 244 in 2004. This represents the seventh consecutive annual fall, and the lowest rate in this last 11 year period. By country, the non-fatal casualty rates were:

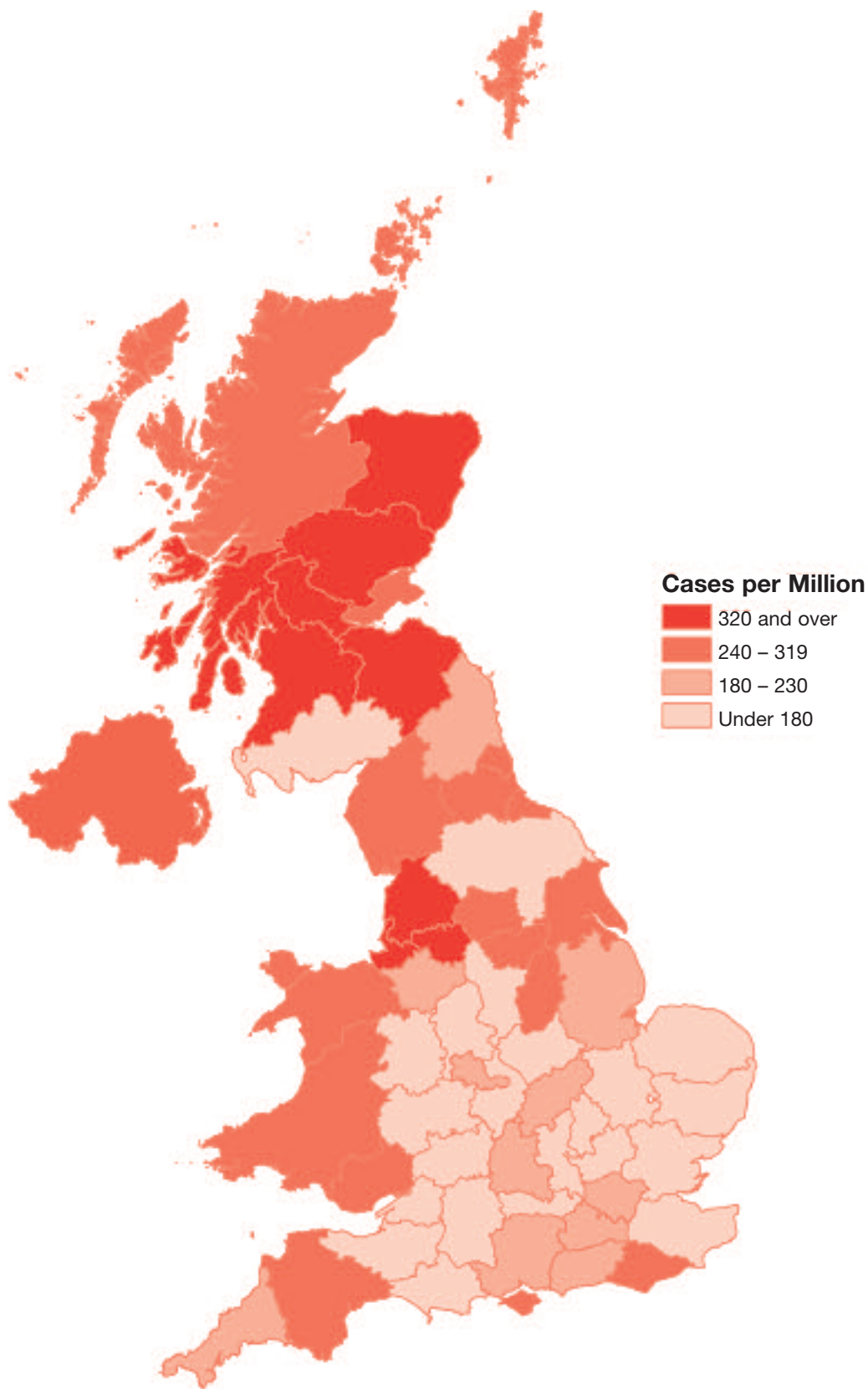
- England, down to 229 non-fatal casualties pmp from 248 in 2003;
- Wales, slightly up to 281 non-fatal casualties pmp from 276 in 2003;
- Scotland, down to 366 non-fatal casualties pmp from 372 in 2003;
- Northern Ireland, down to 260 non-fatal casualties pmp from 272 in 2003.

Non-fatal casualty rates by fire and rescue service area (Figure 1.11)

1.30 As in previous years, two of the highest non-fatal casualty rates in England were in the metropolitan fire and rescue service areas – Greater Manchester (684 pmp) and Merseyside (410 pmp). In Scotland, Central had the highest rate (500 pmp) followed by Grampian (387 pmp). The highest casualty rate in Wales was in Mid and West Wales (314 pmp). Once again, the highest rate recorded by an English non-metropolitan fire and rescue service was in Lancashire (397 pmp). The lowest rate recorded was in Shropshire (94 pmp).

Figure 1.11: Non-fatal casualty rates by fire and rescue service area, 2004

United Kingdom



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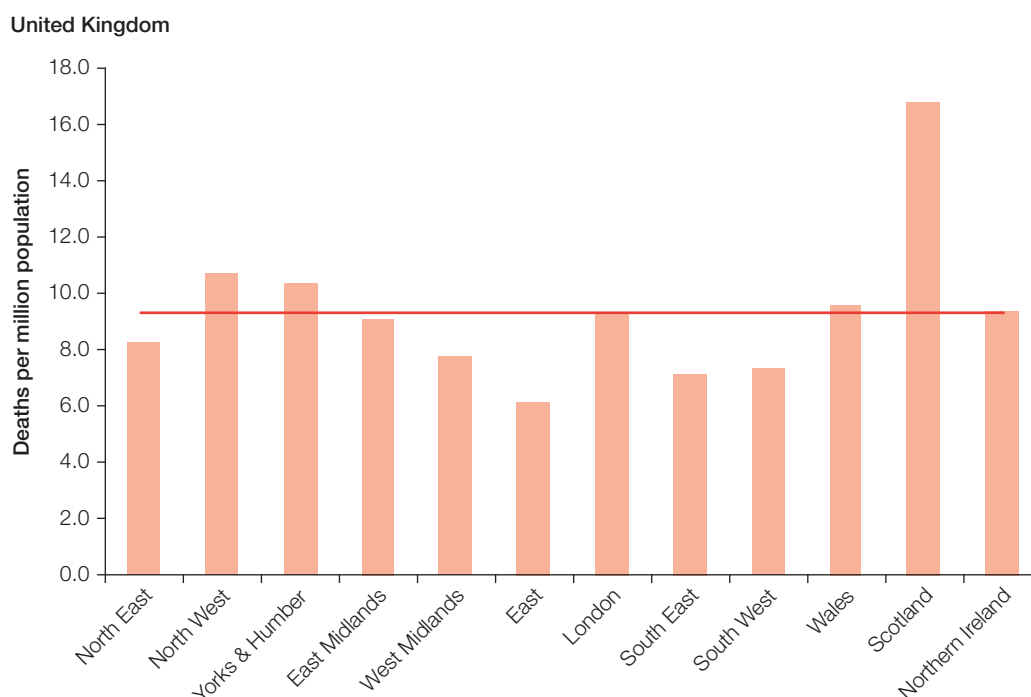
Regional data

- 1.31 Data for the last 3 years for primary fires, deaths and injuries have been aggregated to regional level totals and are shown in table 29. Breakdowns by cause, whether accidental or deliberate, are shown in tables 30 and 31.
- 1.32 Based on the average number of fires between 2002 and 2004, the 5 fire and rescue services in the North West region attended the most fires (31,900). The Eastern region (6 fire and rescue services) attended the fewest fires out of all the English regions (14,700). Northern Ireland had the least number of fires in the UK (5,700). However, when the number of fires per region is converted to a rate per million population (pmp), the North East had the highest rate (4,800 fires pmp). London had the lowest rate of fire with 2,600 pmp. The UK average was 3,400 pmp.

Casualties and rates by region (Table 29 and Figures 1.12 and 1.13)

- 1.33 Figure 1.12 shows the average fatality rate for each region. Scotland had by far the highest rate at 16.8 deaths pmp. The next highest is in the North West of England with 10.7 deaths pmp. As well as having one of the lowest numbers of recorded fires the Eastern region had the lowest fatality rate at 6.1 pmp. The UK average was 9.3 pmp.

Figure 1.12: Fatality rates, by region, 2002–2004 average¹

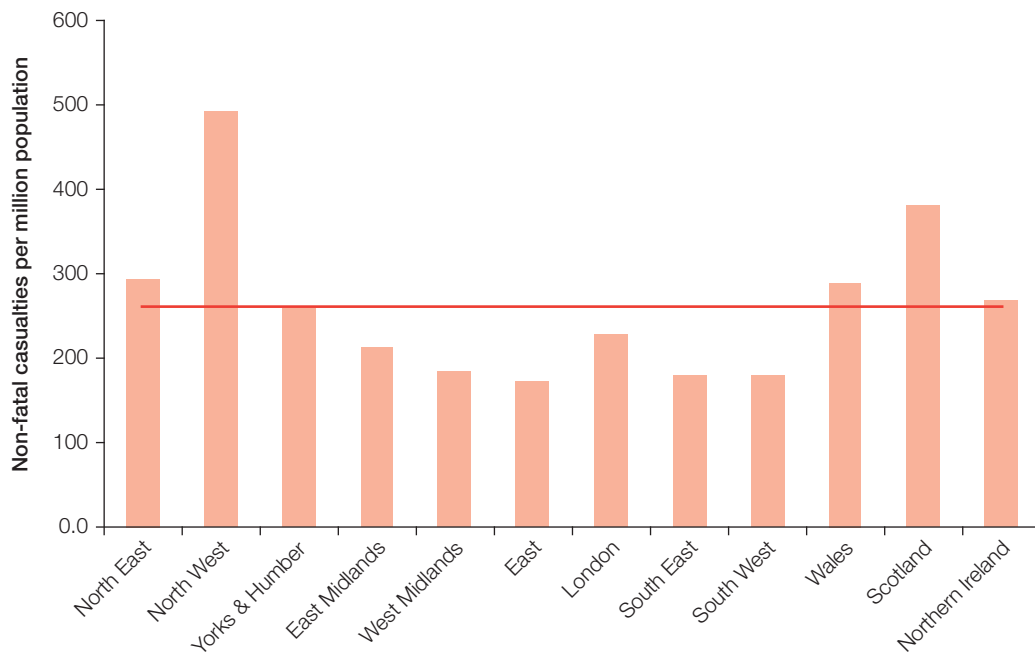


¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

- 1.34 Figure 1.13 shows the average non-fatal casualty rates by region. The North West had the highest rate at 493 pmp. This is due to the high rates in Greater Manchester and Merseyside. The lowest rates were in the East (173 pmp), South East (180 pmp) and South West (181 pmp). These compare to a UK average of 260 pmp.

Figure 1.13: Non-fatal casualty rates, by region, 2002–2004 average¹

United Kingdom



¹ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Cause of fire by region (Tables 30 and 31)

- 1.35 There were an average of 95,600 (47%) accidental fires and 109,400 (53%) deliberate fires per year recorded. The North West had the highest numbers of both causes of fire (13,700 accidental and 18,200 deliberate). The South East had the next highest number of accidental fires with an average of 12,100 per year, while Yorkshire and the Humber region had the second most deliberate fires recorded with 14,500.
- 1.36 Most regions had more deliberate fires than accidental; however four out of the 12 areas had fewer. These were London, South East, South West and Scotland.

Special Feature

Special Feature

Time Series data for fires and fatalities in the UK and England

Long time series for recorded fires and deaths in England have been published for the first time in tables 27 and 28. Data for some categories of fire are available from the mid 1950s, while consistent data for fatal casualties is only available from 1981. Long time series from 1950 is available for the UK as a whole, in tables 25 and 26.

The data presented in these time series tables provides useful information on the trends in the number of fires and related fire deaths over a long period of time. However, when interpreting the data it should be noted that limitations exist due to changing recording practices over time. Much work has been carried out to identify revised data definitions to ensure the figures presented are accurate. Dotted lines are presented on the tables to denote where these changes occurred.

Limitations of the data

Time series data for England does not go back as far as that for the UK due to the unavailability of information pre-1981. These older data are only available in hard copy publications, and presented in tables for England and Wales together, not England only.

Recording practices have also had an impact on the ability to create long time series tables since classifications have changed over time. For example, in 1994 a new data collection form (FDR1) was introduced and some definitions were revised. Information on 'late' fire calls and heat and smoke damage only incidents were collected for the first time from 1994. Thus, when making interpretations of trends before and after 1994 these changes should be considered. (See note 24 for more details).

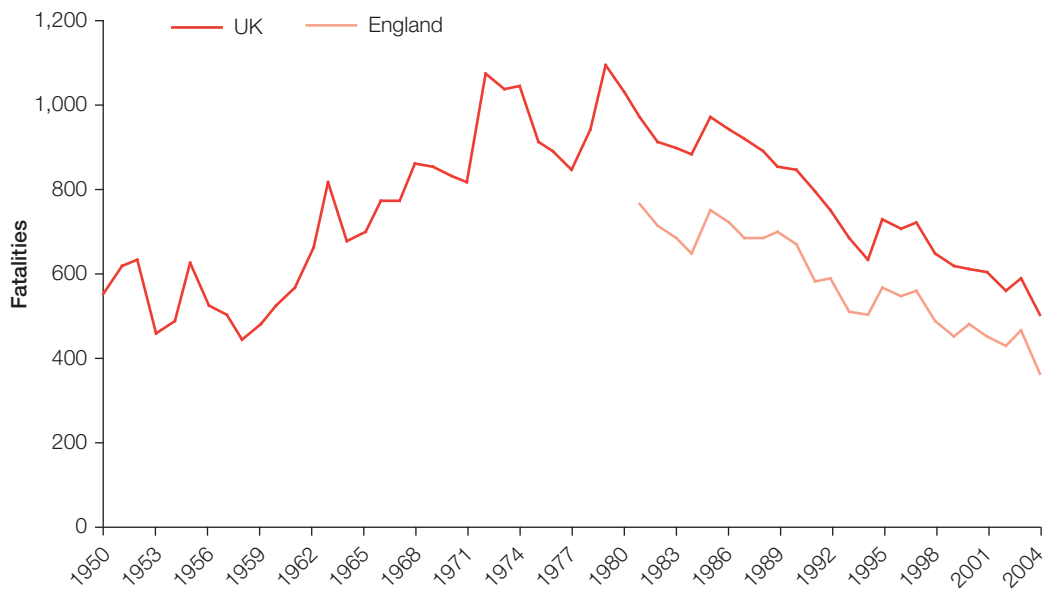
Time series of fatal casualties

Fatalities attributed to fires since 1950 are presented in figure 1.14. Although data on fatalities for England only go back to 1981 the levels mirror the UK trend closely. For the UK the lowest number of fatalities (451) was recorded in 1958, after which the numbers increased through the 1960s, peaking in 1972 with over 1,000 fatalities. The highest number recorded was in 1979 (1,096 deaths). Through the 1980s and 1990s there was a general downward trend, to the latest total of 508 fatalities in the UK in 2004 (369 in England), the lowest in 45 years.

Time series on dwelling fires

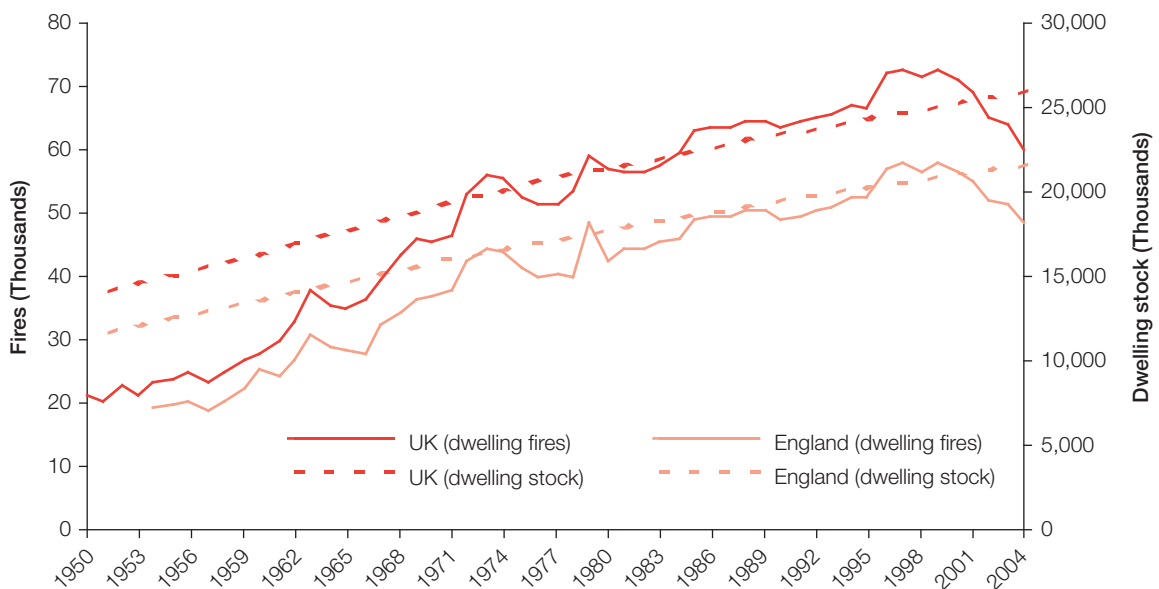
For fires in England, the most complete information available is for dwelling fires, for which the data are available from 1954. Figure 1.15 shows that the trend for England mirrors the UK's pattern very closely. It can be seen that dwellings fires were on a strong upward trend until the peak in 1997. This increase was partly related to an increase in dwelling stock, however, while the number of dwellings nearly doubled the number of fires increased by 3.5 times over the same period between 1950 and 1997.

Figure 1.14: Fire fatalities in the UK and England, 1950–2004



During the 1950s and 1960s the number of dwelling fires doubled. In the 1970s the levels continued to increase with noticeable peaks in 1973 and 1979 of 55,500 and 58,600 fires respectively in the UK (44,300 and 48,400 in England). The 1980s and 1990s saw a continued rise with a peak of 72,500 dwelling fires in 1997 (57,600 England). Since 1999 the number of dwelling fires has been declining, even though the dwelling stock has continued to increase. The 2004 total of 59,700 dwelling fires in the UK (48,100 in England) was the lowest since 1984.

Figure 1.15: Dwelling fires and stock¹ in the UK and England, 1950–2004



¹ Source: Dwelling stock, ODPM Housing Statistics.

CHAPTER 2 – DWELLINGS

Introduction (Tables 2 and 6)

2.1 Dwelling fires account for a third of all property fires (i.e. primary fires) however, around 80% of all casualties occur in fires in the home. (See explanatory note 24 for further information on the definitions of primary and dwelling fires.) Overall, the number of dwelling fires fell by 6% to 59,700 in 2004, following a 2% fall in the previous year. The number of deaths in dwelling fires was 375. This compares to the 447 recorded in 2003 and 430 in 2002. It is the lowest number recorded since these records began in 1960 (see table 26). There was a 5% fall in the number of non-fatal casualties in fires in dwellings to 12,000. This is the sixth consecutive annual fall in the number of non-fatal casualties, and the lowest number recorded in this last 11 year period.

Accidental fires (Table 2)

2.2 The majority of fires in dwellings are accidental (80% in 2004). The number of accidental fires in dwellings fell by 4% from 50,000 in 2003 to 47,800 in 2004. The 2004 figure represents the lowest number of such fires recorded in more than a decade.

Cause of fire (Table 2)

2.3 The main cause of accidental fires remains the misuse of equipment or appliances, with 17,200 cases recorded in 2004, about the same as in the previous year (representing over a third of all accidental fires in dwellings). This latest figure represents a 14% decrease from a recent high of 20,100 fires in 2000. Other key changes in the causes of accidental dwelling fires from 2002 were:

- Chip/fat pan fires fell by 12% to 7,400 fires;
- Careless handling of fire or hot substances decreased by 10% to 4,500 fires.

Source of ignition (Table 3)

2.4 This section looks in more detail at the source of the flame, spark or heat that first ignited the fire. This is related to the cause of the fire, and for many sources of ignition there was only one major cause responsible for the fire. For example, for most fires in which the source of ignition was smokers' materials the cause was most likely to be careless handling of fire or hot substances.

2.5 Cooking appliances are the main source of ignition in accidental dwelling fires (57% in 2004). These fell by 4% to 27,200, the fourth consecutive annual fall and a total fall of 20% from the peak of 33,900 in 2000.

2.6 Other key changes from 2003 were:

- Fires caused by smokers' materials (i.e. cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco) fell by 17% to 3,500;
- Fires started by electrical distribution (such as leads to appliances and wire and cable) rose by 4% to 2,900.

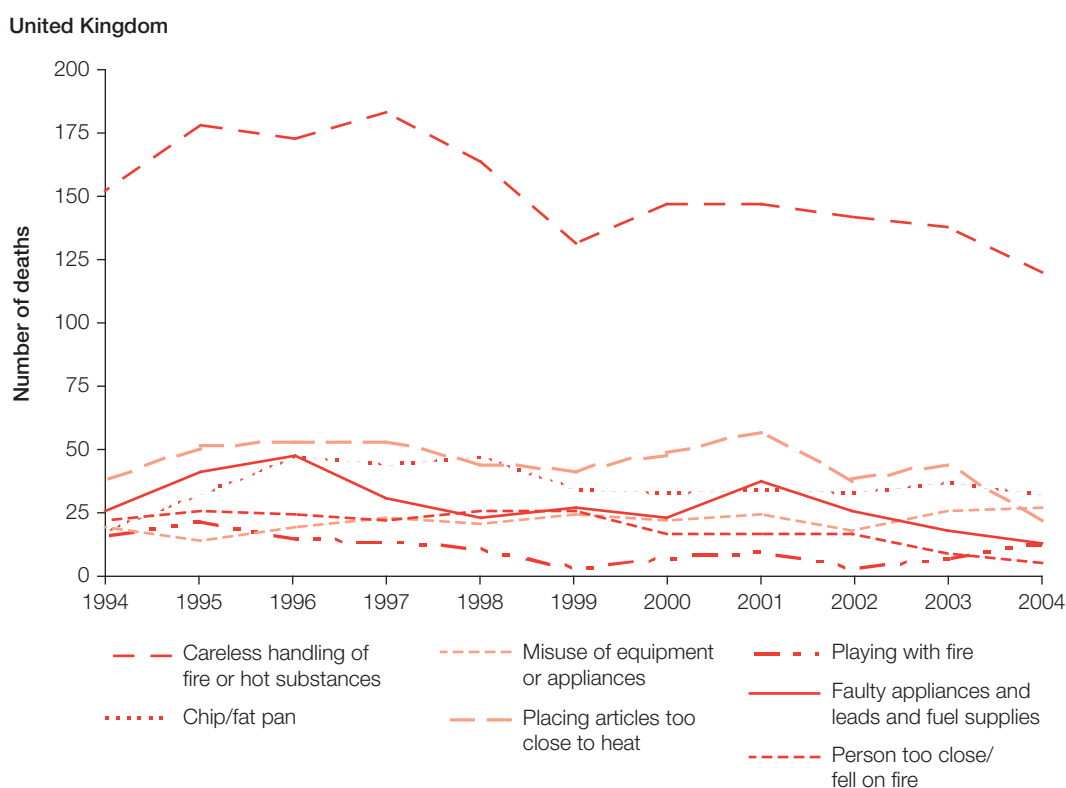
Casualties from accidental (Tables 10 and 11)

2.7 The majority of the deaths in dwellings result from fires caused accidentally. Of the 375 deaths in dwellings in 2004, 327 (87%) were accidental. This represents a 17% fall from the 2003 figure of 395 and compares with 355 in 2002 and 428 in 2001.

Deaths by cause of fire (Figure 2.1 and Table 10)

2.8 Once again, the leading cause of fatal accidental dwelling fires was careless handling of fire or hot substances (such as the careless disposal of cigarettes), amounting to 37% of the total. However, the number of deaths in this category fell slightly, from 138 in 2003 to 120 in 2004. This continues the general downward trend – in 1994 the figure stood at 152. In 2004, 51 deaths occurred in fires where the cause was unspecified.

Figure 2.1: Deaths from accidental dwelling fires by cause, 1994–2004¹



¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by cause of death in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

2.9 Other key changes in the number of fatal casualties by cause of fire between 2003 and 2004 were:

- Placing articles too close to heat – deaths decreased by over half to 21 in 2004 from 43 in 2003, while persons too close/falling onto fire fell to 5 deaths;
- Chip/fat pan fires – deaths fell by 5 to 32;
- Faulty appliances and leads – deaths fell for the third consecutive year, to 8 in 2004 from 16 in 2003, while faulty fuel supply deaths doubled to 4.

Deaths by source of ignition of fire (Tables 2.1 and 11)

2.10 Smokers' materials (i.e. cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco) were the most frequent source of ignition causing accidental dwelling fire deaths, accounting for just over a third of all accidental dwelling fire deaths in 2004. While deaths associated with fires started by smokers' materials fell from 125 in 2003 to 114 in 2004, the death rate per 1,000 fires rose (from 30 in 2003 to 33 in 2004). In addition, there were 13 deaths in fires started by cigarette lighters and 18 deaths where matches were the source of ignition.

2.11 Fires started by cooking appliances were responsible for 16% of all accidental dwelling fire deaths. There were 52 such deaths in 2004, down from 66 in 2003. This source of ignition accounted for only 2 deaths per 1,000 fires, the same rate as the previous year. This possibly reflects the relatively minor nature of many cooking-related fires and the fact that many cooking fires occur when the victims are alert at the time of the fire.

2.12 Accidental dwelling fire deaths started by space heating appliances fell by over half in 2004 (down to 13 compared to 29 in 2003). This equates to 8 deaths per 1,000 fires in 2004 compared to 18 in 2003. In addition, electrical appliances were responsible for 13 deaths in 2004 (down from 18 in 2003), accounting for only 2 deaths per 1,000 fires.

2.13 In 2004, the number of deaths in candle fires fell by half to 11, compared to 22 in 2003. As a consequence, the death rate decreased from 12 per 1,000 fires in 2003, to 6 per 1,000 fires in 2004.

Non-fatal casualties by cause of fire (Figure 2.2 and Table 10)

2.14 In 2004, the number of non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires fell by 5% to 12,000. The vast majority of these casualties occurred in fires caused accidentally (83%). The number of non-fatal casualties in *accidental* dwelling fires fell by 4% from 10,400 in 2003 to 10,000 in 2004. This continues the downward trend seen in recent years and represents the lowest recorded figure in this last 11 year period.

2.15 Once again, chip/fat pan fires were the biggest cause of accidental non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires, accounting for 26% of the total. However, there was a 10% fall in chip/fat pan fire injuries, from 2,900 in 2003 to 2,600 in 2004 – this represents the lowest figure since such fires were recorded separately from the 'misuse of appliances' category in 1994.

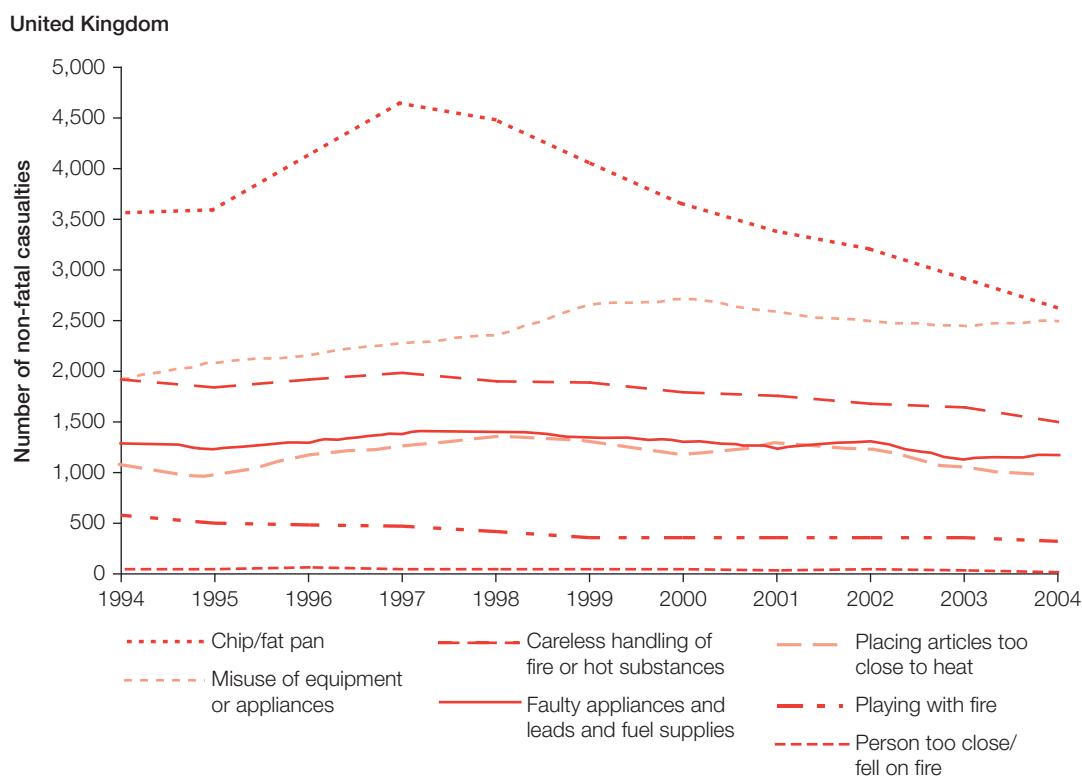
2.16 Other key changes between 2003 and 2004 in the number of non-fatal casualties by cause of fire were:

- Placing articles too close to heat – non-fatal casualties were down 8% to 943, while persons too close/falling onto fire fell by over half to 18;

- Playing with fire – non-fatal casualties fell by 12% to 316;
- Careless handling of fire or hot substances – non-fatal casualties were up 9% to 1,492.

2.17 Figure 2.2 shows that from 1994 to 1997 there were annual increases in the number of non-fatal casualties from fires caused by chip/fat pan fires. However, since 1997 the trend has been downward and the latest figure (2,614) is 44% lower than the 1997 peak of 4,473 non-fatal casualties. Those caused by the misuse of equipment or appliances steadily increased until the year 2000 when there were 2,704 non-fatal casualties, and over the last few years the number has been around 2,500.

Figure 2.2: Non-fatal casualties from accidental dwelling fires by cause, 1994–2004¹



¹ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Non-fatal casualties by source of ignition of fire (Tables 2.1 and 11)

- 2.18 In 2004, there were 5,400 injuries in fires started by cooking appliances. This accounted for over half (54%) of non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires and equates to 197 injuries per 1,000 fires. Although cooking appliance fires caused the largest *number* of injuries, they did not have the highest injury *rate*, again possibly reflecting the relatively minor nature of many cooking-related fires.
- 2.19 The injury rate was highest for fires caused by cigarette lighters – 605 per 1,000 fires, a total of 251 injuries in 2004. This is higher than the rate of 565 injuries per 1,000 fires recorded in the previous year.
- 2.20 The injury rate for fires caused by matches decreased from 474 per 1,000 fires in 2003 to 334 per 1,000 fires in 2004. The actual number of non-fatal casualties fell from 213 in 2003 to 155 in 2004. The number of casualties from candle fires rose slightly from 664 in 2003 to 691 in 2004, resulting in the injury rate rising from 371 per 1,000 fires in 2003 to 390 per 1,000 fires in 2004.

2.21 Fires caused by electrical appliances resulted in 885 non-fatal casualties in 2004, however the injury rate was relatively low, at 160 injuries per 1,000 fires. Fires started by lighting/lamps were responsible for more of these injuries than any other appliance in the category (18%), followed by televisions (17%). Television fires had a relatively high injury rate of 275 injuries per 1,000 fires. Fires started by electric blankets were responsible for 4 deaths and 98 injuries in 2004 – the injury rate is the highest (392 per 1,000 fires) of all types of electrical appliance fires.

Table 2.1: Sources of ignition for accidental dwelling¹ fires, with casualties, 2003 and 2004

United Kingdom										
	Fires ²		Fatal casualties ³				Non-fatal casualties ⁴			
	2004	2003	Total	Per	Total	Per	Total	Per	Total	Per
				1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000
				fires		fires		fires		fires
	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2003	2004	2004	2003	2003
Total accidental	47,769	49,998	327	7	395	8	9,993	209	10,426	209
Smokers' materials	3,457	4,159	114	33	125	30	1,260	364	1,416	340
Cigarette lighters	415	531	13	31	15	28	251	605	300	565
Matches	464	449	18	39	8	18	155	334	213	474
Cooking appliances	27,248	28,353	52	2	66	2	5,377	197	5,642	199
Space heating appliances	1,667	1,621	13	8	29	18	363	216	418	258
Central and water heating appliances	1,148	1,312	1	1	1	1	124	108	120	91
Blowlamps, welding and cutting equipment	629	620	–	..	–	..	44	70	53	85
Electrical distribution	2,850	2,746	9	3	5	2	315	111	304	111
Other electrical appliances	5,525	5,591	13	2	18	3	885	160	803	144
Candles	1,771	1,791	11	6	22	12	691	390	664	371
Other	1,905	2,088	19	10	13	6	302	159	283	136
Unspecified	681	737	64	94	93	126	226	332	209	284

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals

³ Includes fire-related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by source of ignition in January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁴ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Casualties by room of origin of fire (Tables 2.2, 12a and 12b)

2.22 In 2004, 133 (41%) accidental dwelling fire fatalities occurred in fires starting in the living or dining room. This equates to a fatality rate of 28 deaths per 1,000 fires, and makes fires starting in the living or dining room the most likely to result in a fatality. By contrast, 81 (25%) fatalities occurred in kitchen fires equating to a fatality rate of only 3 deaths per 1,000 fires, which would again suggest that many cooking-related fires are relatively minor in nature.

2.23 The majority of all non-fatal casualties occurred in kitchen fires (59%), although there was a 4% fall in 2004, down to 5,900 from 6,100 in 2003. As with fatalities, the non-fatal casualty rate in kitchen fires was relatively low at 190 per 1,000 fires compared to the highest rate of 363 per 1,000 fires starting in the bedroom and 325 per 1,000 fires starting in the living or dining room.

2.24 In 2004, half of all fatalities occurred in the room where the fire started (51%), a similar pattern to previous years. However, this proportion varies depending on the room in which the fire started. For example, 61% of fatalities from fires starting in the bedroom occurred in the room of origin, while 37% of deaths in fires starting in the kitchen occurred in the room of origin.

2.25 The pattern for non-fatal casualties is different to that of fatalities, with only 36% occurring in the room of origin in 2004 (again, similar to previous years). Once again, variations occur according to the room in which the fire started. For example, 45% of non-fatal casualties from fires starting in a bedroom occurred in the room of origin, compared to 34% for fires starting in the kitchen.

Table 2.2: Casualties in accidental dwelling¹ fires by use of room where fire started, 2003 and 2004

United Kingdom											
	<i>Fires²</i>		<i>Fatal casualties³</i>				<i>Non-fatal casualties⁴</i>				
	2004	2003	Total	<i>Per 1,000 fires</i>		Total	<i>Per 1,000 fires</i>		Total	<i>Per 1,000 fires</i>	
				2004	2003		2004	2003		2004	2003
Total accidental	47,769	49,998	327	7	395	8	9,993	209	10,426	209	
Bedroom or bedsitting room	4,513	5,314	92	20	129	24	1,636	363	1,804	339	
Living room, dining room or lounge	4,681	4,853	133	28	148	30	1,520	325	1,603	330	
Kitchen	31,116	32,057	81	3	86	3	5,908	190	6,132	191	
Bathroom or lavatory	1,148	1,053	5	4	7	7	198	172	166	158	
Corridor, hall or stairs	919	910	6	7	8	9	169	184	178	196	
Laundry or airing cupboard	833	969	2	2	–	..	106	127	114	118	
Store room or loft	950	1,106	1	1	3	3	109	115	89	80	
Other	1,447	1,352	–	..	–	..	150	136	147	109	
Unspecified	2,163	2,384	7	3	14	6	197	91	193	81	

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Includes fire-related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by room in January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁴ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties in January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

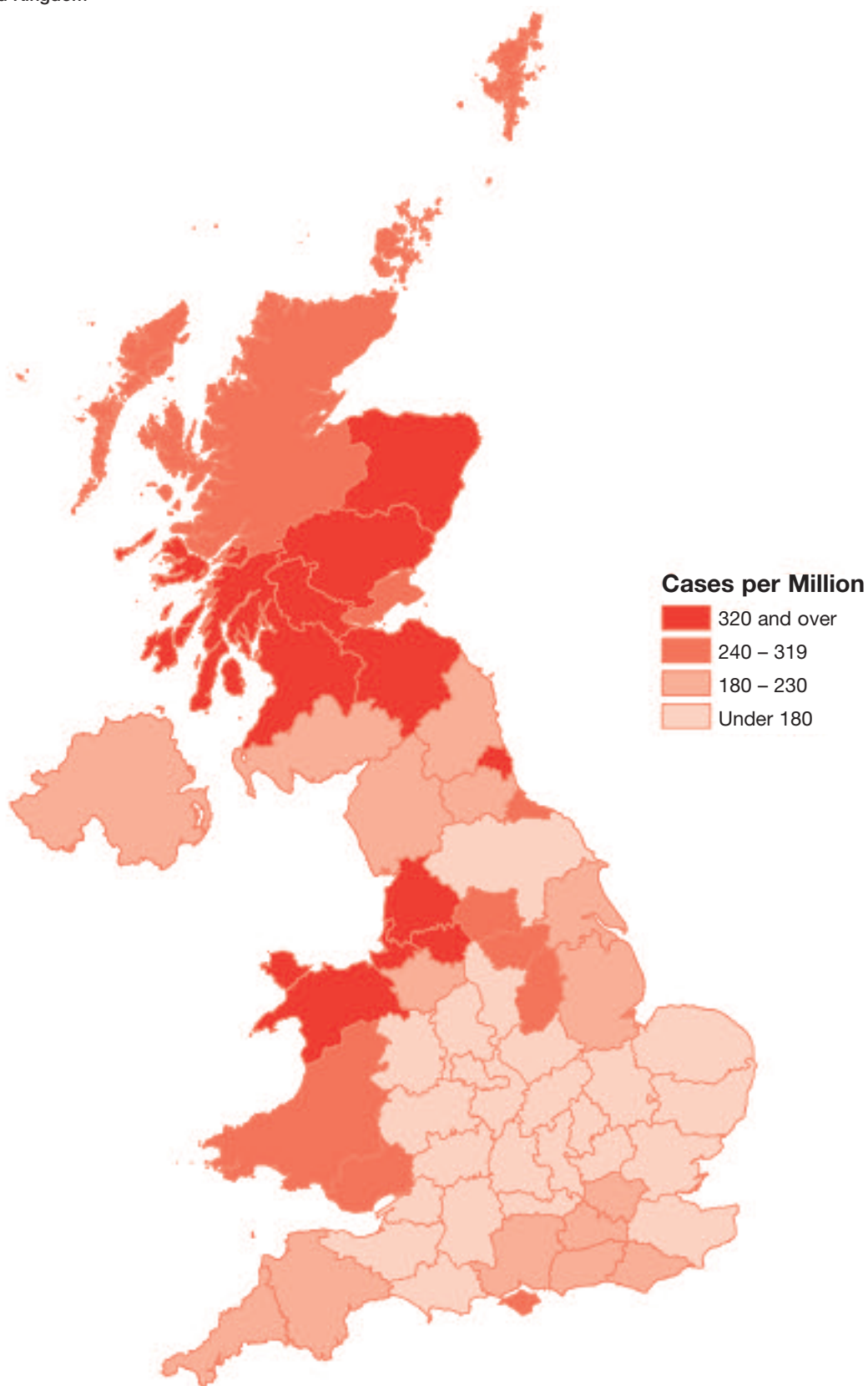
Non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires by fire and rescue service area (Figure 2.3)

2.26 As with total non-fatal casualties (see chapter 1), injury rates in accidental dwelling fires show variation by fire and rescue service area.

2.27 Following the pattern for non-fatal casualty rates in all fires, analysis of non-fatal casualty rates per million population (pmp) for accidental dwelling fires by fire and rescue service area shows that the highest rates were in Greater Manchester (484 non-fatal casualties pmp) and Tayside (362 pmp). In total 20 fire and rescue services recorded casualty rates higher than the UK average of 167 non-fatal casualties pmp. On average, rates were higher for Scottish and English metropolitan fire and rescue services. The highest rates recorded in English non-metropolitan fire and rescue service areas were in Lancashire (281 pmp) and Nottinghamshire (197 pmp). The highest rate in Wales was in Mid & West Wales (199 non-fatal casualties pmp), while the rate in Northern Ireland was 136 non-fatal casualties pmp. The lowest rates were recorded by the English non-metropolitan fire and rescue services; Kent (59 pmp), Bedfordshire (60 pmp) and Shropshire (65 pmp).

Figure 2.3: Non-fatal casualty rates in accidental dwelling fires by fire and rescue service area, 2004

United Kingdom



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Smoke alarm analyses (Tables 2.3 to 2.9 and Figure 2.4)

Introduction

2.28 This section looks at the effectiveness of smoke alarms and the likely cause of failure on those occasions when alarms did not operate. The assessment and analysis presented here is based (as elsewhere in this report) on fires attended by the fire and rescue service. Any fires involving alarms where no emergency call was made to the service will not be recorded. Therefore the figures reported should understate the effectiveness of smoke alarms. If a smoke alarm is working correctly it will provide the occupier with an early warning of fire or smoke. They can then react quickly and put out the fire so that it is less likely the fire and rescue service will be called. Findings from the 2004/05 Survey of English Housing (SEH) suggest that the fire and rescue service were called to just over a fifth of all domestic fires (see paragraph 1.2 and explanatory note 10 for further details). This would suggest that working smoke alarms do prevent fires becoming serious on many occasions, making fire and rescue service attendance unnecessary.

2.29 Various research (see table 2.3) shows that the proportion of households with a smoke alarm increased rapidly from 8% in 1988 to 70% in 1994, but has risen more slowly in recent years to around 80%.

Table 2.3: Smoke alarm ownership, percentage of households, 1988-2004/05

England and Wales (unless otherwise stated)		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Smoke alarm ownership (% of households)</i>	<i>Source¹</i>
1988	8%	BCS
1989	25%	BJM
1990	..	..
1991	36%	EHCS ²
1992	45/50%	BCS/ONS
1993	66%	ONS
1994	70%	ONS
1995	71%	ONS
1996	67/72%	EHCS ² /ONS
1997	75%	ONS
1998	82%	NCFSC
1999	77/81%	BCS/NCFSC
2000	83%	NCFSC
2001	81%	NCFSC
2002	..	..
2003	78%	EHCS ²
<i>Year</i>	<i>Working smoke alarm ownership (% of households)</i>	<i>Source¹</i>
2001	76%	BCS ³
2002/03	76%	BCS ³
2003/04	..	..
2004/05	80%	SEH ^{2,3}

¹ Sources: British Crime Survey (BCS); BJM survey commissioned by the Home Office (BJM); English House Condition Survey (EHCS); ONS Omnibus Survey (ONS); National Community Fire Safety Centre 'Fire Safety Attitude and Behaviour Monitor' (NCFSC); Survey of English Housing (SEH).

² England only.

³ Refers specifically to ownership of a working smoke alarm.

.. Data not available.

Smoke alarm presence, type and operation (Tables 2.4 to 2.6, Figure 2.4)

2.30 A smoke alarm was absent in the area in which the fire started in 30,300 (51%) dwelling fires in 2004. These fires accounted for 201 deaths and a further 5,300 non-fatal casualties. For the remaining dwelling fires where an alarm was present:

- the alarm operated and raised the alarm in 19,200 cases (32%);
- operated but did not raise the alarm in 3,100 cases (5%);
- failed to operate in 7,200 cases (12%).

Figure 2.4: Fires in dwellings by smoke alarm presence and operation, 2004¹

United Kingdom

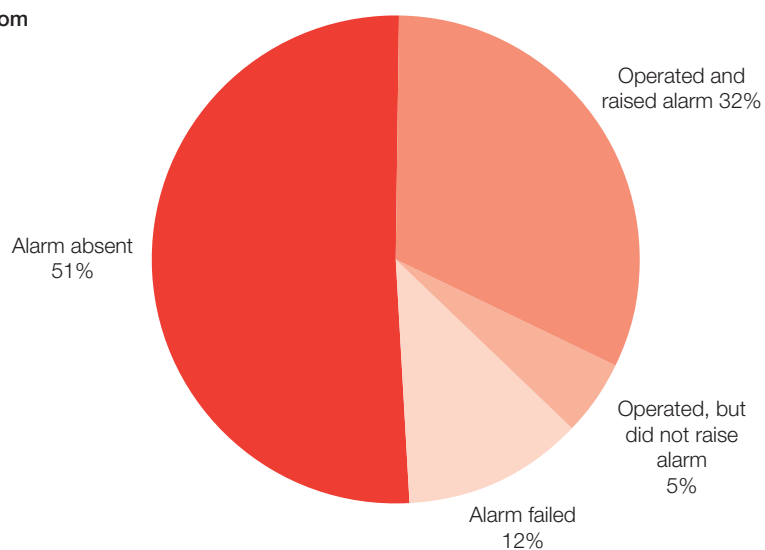


Table 2.4: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ by presence and operation of smoke alarms, 2000-2004

United Kingdom						Number
<i>Presence and operation of smoke alarm</i>						
	<i>Present, operated & raised the alarm</i>	<i>Present, operated, but did not raise the alarm</i>	<i>Present, but did not operate</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fires²						
2000	17,899	2,752	7,922	42,325	–	70,899
2001	17,697	2,783	8,153	40,414	1	69,048
2002	17,660	2,705	7,535	37,126	7	65,033
2003	18,821	3,108	7,445	34,449	–	63,823
2004	19,221	3,076	7,166	30,274	5	59,743
Fatal casualties³						
2000	53	38	81	283	–	455
2001	67	36	99	281	–	483
2002	60	45	84	240	1	430
2003	68	30	88	261	–	447
2004	42	35	97	201	–	375
Non-fatal casualties⁴						
2000	3,379	684	2,415	7,906	–	14,384
2001	3,440	656	2,495	7,370	2	13,963
2002	3,625	754	2,203	6,881	–	13,463
2003	3,709	705	2,056	6,110	–	12,580
2004	3,848	733	2,061	5,335	–	11,977

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Includes fire-related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by alarm presence in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁴ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Type of alarm (Table 2.5)

2.31 In 2004, smoke alarms were present in the fire area in 29,500 dwelling fires. Of these fires, 44% had battery-operated alarms, while 56% had mains-powered. There has been a rise in the number of mains-powered alarms present in dwelling fires over the last five years.

Table 2.5: Dwelling¹ fires where a smoke alarm was present by type of alarm, 2000-2004²

United Kingdom					Number ³
Year	2000	2001	2002 ²	2003 ²	2004
Total	28,574	28,633	27,900	29,374	29,464
Battery-powered	13,439	13,707	13,069	13,428	12,928
Mains-powered	15,035	14,802	14,676	15,802	16,423
Other/Unspecified	99	124	155	144	113
					Percentage
Year	2000	2001	2002 ²	2003 ²	2004
Battery-powered	47	48	47	46	44
Mains-powered	53	52	53	54	56
Other/Unspecified	–	–	–	–	–

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Discovery of fires (Table 2.6)

2.32 In 2004, a smoke alarm raised the alarm in 32% of reported dwelling fires. This continued the general increase since 2000 (when smoke alarms raised the alarm in only 25% of reported fires), even though ownership of smoke alarms appears to have levelled off in this period. Dwelling fires in which smoke alarms raise the alarm continue to:

- be discovered more rapidly after ignition;
- be associated with lower fatal casualty rates;
- cause less damage as they are more often confined to the item first ignited.

2.33 Generally, the shorter the interval between ignition and discovery of a fire, the lower the death rate. Working smoke alarms tend to shorten the discovery time. In 2004, nearly two-thirds (64%) of dwelling fires where a smoke alarm raised the alarm were discovered in under 5 minutes. In contrast, where a smoke alarm did not raise the alarm only half (51%) of all dwelling fires were discovered in under 5 minutes. Consequently, fatality rates in dwelling fires in which smoke alarms raise the alarm are lower than those in which smoke alarms are either absent or do not raise the alarm (2 per 1,000 fires compared to 8 per 1,000 for fires in 2004).

Table 2.6: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ by smoke alarm presence and operation, by percentage discovered in under 5 minutes and percentage confined to item first ignited, 2000-2004

United Kingdom							
Year	Fires ²	Fatal casualties ³		Non-fatal casualties ⁴		% of fires discovered < 5 minutes	% of fires confined to item
	Number	Number	Per 1,000 fires	Number	Per 1,000 fires	%	%
Fires where an alarm was present, operated and raised the alarm							
2000	17,899	53	3	3,379	189	69	71
2001	17,676	67	4	3,440	195	67	65
2002	17,660	60	3	3,625	205	66	66
2003	18,821	68	4	3,709	197	65	67
2004	19,221	42	2	3,848	200	64	68
Fires where an alarm was absent or an alarm was present but failed to raise the alarm							
2000	53,000	402	8	11,005	208	51	46
2001	51,371	416	8	10,521	205	51	44
2002	47,366	369	8	9,838	208	52	45
2003	45,002	379	8	8,871	197	50	45
2004	40,522	333	8	8,129	201	51	46

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by alarm presence in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁴ Includes estimates of non-fatal casualties for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Smoke alarm failures (Tables 2.7 to 2.9)

2.34 In those dwelling fires where a smoke alarm was present, 24% of alarms in 2004 failed to operate. However, this overall figure masks a wide difference in performance between battery-powered alarms and mains-powered alarms – 39% of all battery-powered smoke alarms failed in 2004 compared to just 13% of mains-powered alarms.

Table 2.7: Smoke alarm failures in dwelling¹ fires by type of alarm, 2000-2004²

United Kingdom					Number ³
<i>Alarm presence and operation</i>	2000	2001	2002 ²	2003 ²	2004
Total⁴					
Alarm present	28,574	28,633	27,900	29,374	29,464
Alarm failed to activate	7,922	8,153	7,535	7,445	7,166
<i>Failure rate (%)</i>	28	28	27	25	24
Battery-powered					
Alarm present	13,439	13,707	13,069	13,428	12,928
Alarm failed to activate	6,056	6,159	5,619	5,306	5,072
<i>Failure rate (%)</i>	45	45	43	40	39
Mains-powered⁵					
Alarm present	15,035	14,802	14,676	15,802	16,423
Alarm failed to activate	1,818	1,934	1,855	2,066	2,053
<i>Failure rate (%)</i>	12	13	13	13	13

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Total does not sum to individual sections as a small number of alarms with another or an unspecified power source have been included.

⁵ Mains-powered alarms include those powered by mains only or by battery and mains.

2.35 The main reason for smoke alarm failure to activate was missing or flat batteries. In 2004 they accounted for 58% of all failures in battery-powered alarms. The main reason for failure to activate by mains-powered alarms was that the fire products did not reach the detectors (42% of cases).

Table 2.8: Fires in dwellings¹ with a smoke alarm where alarm did not operate by type of alarm and reason for failure, 2000-2004²

United Kingdom					Percentage ³
<i>Type of alarm and reason for failure to activate</i>	2000	2001	2002 ²	2003 ²	2004
Battery					
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Missing battery	56%	53%	52%	51%	47%
Battery failure/flat	12%	11%	10%	12%	11%
Other act preventing alarm from operating inc. turned off	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Fire products did not reach detector(s)	18%	21%	23%	25%	27%
Poor siting of detector(s)	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%
Faulty system / incorrectly installed	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Mains⁴					
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Missing battery	4%	4%	6%	4%	3%
Battery failure/flat	1%	..	..	1%	1%
Other act preventing alarm from operating inc. turned off	38%	30%	33%	30%	30%
Fire products did not reach detector(s)	31%	38%	36%	43%	42%
Poor siting of detector(s)	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Faulty system/incorrectly installed	11%	13%	13%	11%	12%
Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged	16%	12%	12%	10%	12%

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Mains-powered alarms include those powered by mains only or by battery and mains.

2.36 The smoke alarm operated but did not raise the alarm in 3,100 fires in 2004, a similar number to 2003. The main reasons were that a person raised the alarm before the smoke alarm operated (53%) or there was no person within earshot of the alarm (24%).

Table 2.9: Fires in dwellings¹ with a smoke alarm where alarm operated but did not raise the alarm by reason, 2000-2004²

United Kingdom					Percentage ³
<i>Reason</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002²</i>	<i>2003²</i>	<i>2004</i>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Person raised the alarm before system operated	50%	55%	52%	57%	53%
No person in earshot	21%	21%	24%	22%	24%
Poor siting of detectors meant person raised alarm	6%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Occupants failed to respond	14%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Faulty system inc. incorrectly installed	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged	8%	9%	8%	7%	9%

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Deliberate fires (Tables 2 and 24)

2.37 Approximately one-fifth of all dwelling fires in 2004 were deliberate or suspected deliberate. The number of deliberate dwelling fires fell for the third consecutive year – down by 13% to 12,000 from 13,800 in 2003. Of the total 91,200 deliberate fires in 2004, only 13% were in dwellings. The majority of deliberate fires in 2004 (60%) involved road vehicles (55,000 fires) (see Chapter 4 for further details).

2.38 A significant proportion of all deliberate dwelling fires in 2004 occurred in multiple occupancy dwellings (47%), 31% occurred in single occupancy dwellings and the remaining 22% were in dwellings of other or unspecified occupancy.

Casualties from deliberate fires (Table 10)

2.39 In total there were 88 fatalities in deliberate fires in 2004, significantly less than in the previous year (117 in 2003). The majority of these occurred in dwelling fires, 48 in 2004. This represents only 13% of the total deaths in dwelling fires and is a decrease from the previous year (52 in 2003).

2.40 There were a total of 2,800 non-fatal casualties as a result of deliberate fires in 2004 – a reduction of 12%. The majority of these injuries occurred in deliberate dwelling fires (70%); 2,000 in 2004, down from 2,200 in 2003. Just 17% of the total number of non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires occurred in deliberate fires, the same as the previous year.

Fire spread (Table 4)

2.41 Most dwelling fires were confined to the room of origin and do not spread elsewhere in the building (88% in 2004). Of these, 50% were confined to the item first ignited. These proportions have remained fairly constant over this last 11 year period.

Time of call to the fire and rescue service (Table 2.10)

2.42 The most likely time that the fire and rescue service were called to a fire varied according to the type of fire. Accidental dwelling fires in 2004 occurred most frequently between midday and 6pm, 37% of the total, and peaked at around 5pm. This peak is most likely related to cooking fires. In contrast, the peak period for deliberate dwelling fires was later in the day, between the hours of 6pm and midnight (41% of the total), with the highest numbers recorded around 7pm.

Table 2.10: Accidental and deliberate dwelling¹ fires, total dwelling fire casualties² and casualties per 1,000 dwelling fires by time of day, 2004

United Kingdom				Percentage/Rate ³	
<i>Time of day</i>	<i>Accidental dwelling fires</i>	<i>Deliberate dwelling fires</i>	<i>Dwelling fire casualties</i>	<i>Dwelling fire casualty rate</i>	
Midnight – 5.59am	13%	25%	27%	375	
6am – 11.59am	18%	10%	16%	202	
Midday – 5.59pm	37%	24%	25%	150	
6pm – 11.59pm	33%	41%	32%	192	

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fatal and non-fatal casualties.

³ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

2.43 Of the total number of dwelling fire casualties (fatal and non-fatal), 32% were recorded in fires which occurred between 6pm and midnight. By comparison, only 16% occurred between 6am and midday. However, the casualty rate better illustrates how the risk of death or injury in fire varied by time of day. The average casualty rate for all dwelling fires in 2004 was 207 per 1,000 fires. However, casualty rates fluctuated widely during any 24-hour period. The rate was significantly higher in the early hours of the morning – between midnight and 6am the average number of casualties per 1,000 fires was 375. In contrast, in the afternoon (midday to 6pm) the rate was only 150 per 1,000 fires. The higher casualty rates during the night probably reflect the lack of awareness of the casualties at the time of ignition. It must also be borne in mind that many early morning fires may have started earlier in the night – the times used for analysis are those when the fire was first reported to the fire and rescue service.

CHAPTER 3 – OTHER BUILDINGS

Introduction (Tables 1b, 2 and 6)

- 3.1 In 2004 there were 37,600 fires recorded in buildings other than dwellings, 10% less (4,200 fires) than the previous year. This follows a 2% rise between 2002 and 2003 but follows the general downward trend since 1995. The majority of fires occurred in:
- private garages and sheds (20%) – 7,700 fires;
 - retail distribution (13%) – 4,900 fires;
 - restaurants, cafes, public houses etc (8%) – 2,900 fires;
 - industrial premises (other than construction) (7%) – 2,700 fires;
 - recreational and other cultural services (7%) – 2,500 fires.
- 3.2 In 2004, 55 people died in buildings other than dwellings. This is almost double the figure for 2003, which stood at 28. This significant increase is partly due to the fire in an elderly persons home in Strathclyde, in January 2004, in which 14 people died. Also in fires in other buildings, 1,500 injuries were sustained in 2004 (a reduction of 10% compared with 2003). These figures represent around 11% of all fire deaths and 10% of non-fatal casualties.

Accidental fires (Table 2)

Trends

- 3.3 Over half of fires in other buildings were started accidentally (57%) compared to 80% of those in dwellings. In 2004, a total of 21,500 accidental fires in other buildings were recorded, 7% less than in 2003. The general trend in such fires over the last 11 years has been downward, with the 2004 figure being 11% lower than the 1994 figure of 24,100.

Cause of fire

- 3.4 As in the previous year, the main cause of accidental fires in other buildings in 2004 was faulty appliances and leads. These represented 29% of all such fires, a total of 6,300 fires, and a reduction of 2% from 2003 (6,400). There was no change in the number of fires caused by misuse of equipment or appliances, which remained at 4,000 fires. Other key changes in the causes of accidental fire in other buildings were:
- Careless handling of fire or hot substances – decreased by 20% to 1,800;
 - Placing articles too close to heat – decreased by 14% to 1,500;
 - Faulty fuel supplies – increased by 9% to 2,000.

Source of ignition (Table 3)

- 3.5 Just over half of accidental fires in other buildings were started by either electrical appliances (6,000 fires) or by cooking appliances (5,100 fires). The number of fires started by electrical appliances remained the same as in the previous year, while cooking appliance fires rose by 5%. Other key changes relating to source of ignition from 2003 were:

- Space heating appliances – decreased by 19% to 638;
- Smokers’ materials – decreased by 16% to 1,900, while fires started by matches fell by 19% to 180;
- Candle fires – fell by 16% to 217;
- Electrical distribution (leads to appliances, wires and cables) – increased the most, by 20% to 2,700.

Deliberate fires (Tables 2 and 24, Figure 3.1)

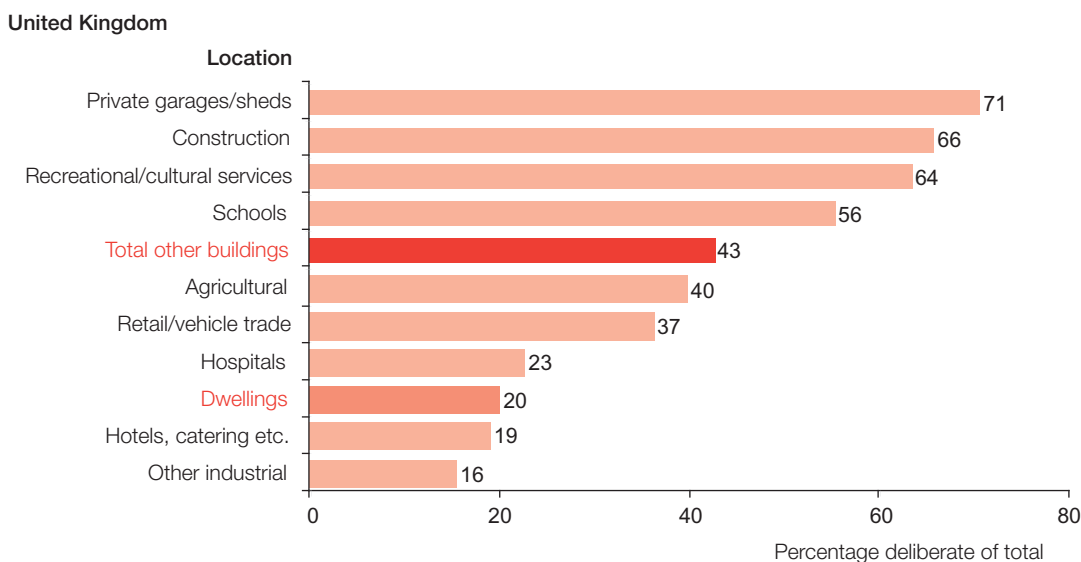
Trends

- 3.6 The remaining 16,100 (43%) other building fires were due to deliberate ignition – a similar proportion to 2003. Over the last 11 year period the number of deliberate fires in other buildings has decreased by 28%, from 22,400 in 1994 (see paragraph 1.10 and table 1.2).

Location (Figure 3.1)

- 3.7 A comparison of the number of deliberate fires in other building locations with the total fires experienced shows that certain buildings are more prone to deliberate ignition than others. The main targets in 2004 were private garages and sheds (71% deliberate); construction industry premises (66%); recreational and other cultural services premises (64%); and schools (56%). This compares with an overall figure for all types of other buildings of 43% and 20% for dwellings. This follows a similar pattern seen in previous years.

Figure 3.1: Building fires: deliberate fires as a percentage of all fires in each location category, 2004



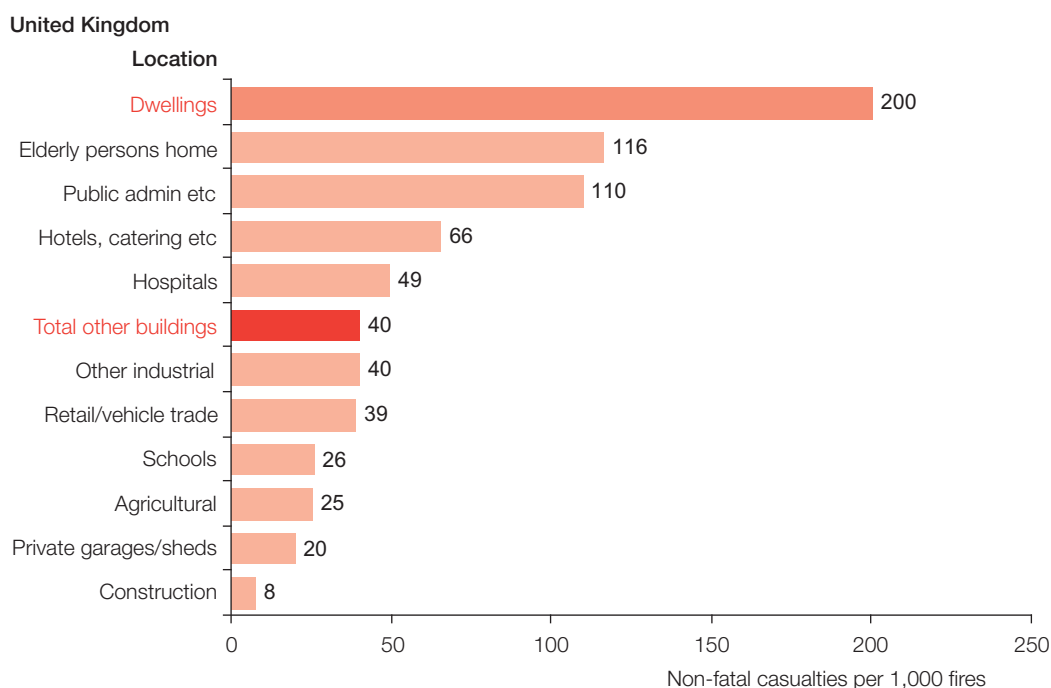
Casualties (Tables 18 and 22, Figure 3.2)

3.8 Only a small number of casualties occur in other building fires (see paragraph 3.2). Casualty rates show that in 2004, there were 1.5 deaths per 1,000 other building fires (0.7 in 2003) compared with 6 deaths per 1,000 dwelling fires (7 in 2003). For non-fatal casualties the rates were 40 per 1,000 fires for other buildings (also 40 in 2003) and 200 per 1,000 fires for dwellings (197 in 2003).

Location (Figure 3.2)

3.9 In 2004, the highest non-fatal casualty rates in fires in other buildings occurred in elderly persons homes (116 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires). High injury rates were also recorded in public administration buildings (110 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires) and hotels and catering establishments (66 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires). This compares with the lowest rate of 8 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires in construction premises and an average in all types other building fires of 40 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires.

Figure 3.2: Building fires: Non-fatal casualty rates per 1,000 in each location category, 2004



Automatic fire detector analyses (Tables 3.1 to 3.3, Figure 3.3)

Introduction

3.10 This section looks at the effectiveness of automatic fire detectors (AFD) and the likely causes of failure on those occasions when detectors did not operate. The assessment and analysis presented here is based (as elsewhere in this report) on fires attended by the fire and rescue service. Any fires involving detectors where no emergency call was made will not be recorded, meaning that effectiveness of AFDs may be understated. See paragraph 2.28 for further details in relation to domestic smoke alarms.

Automatic fire detector presence and operation

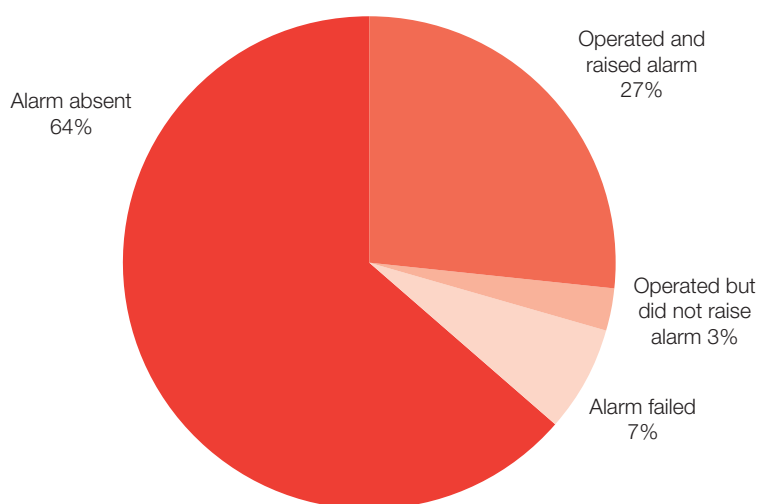
3.11 AFDs were absent in the area in which the fire started in 23,900 (64%) of all other building fires in 2004. These fires resulted in 26 deaths and a further 830 non-fatal casualties. For the remaining 37% of other building fires where an AFD was present:

- the AFD operated and raised the alarm in 10,200 cases (27%);
- operated but did not raise the alarm in 960 cases (3%);
- failed to operate altogether in 2,600 cases (7%).

This follows a broadly similar pattern to that for dwelling fires (32%, 5% and 12% respectively).

Figure 3.3: Fires in other buildings by automatic fire detector presence and operation, 2004¹

United Kingdom



¹ Components of the chart do not sum to 100% due to rounding

3.12 Since 2000, the number of fires in other buildings where the AFD failed to operate has fallen from around 2,700 to 2,600. The main reason why AFDs failed to operate was due to fire products not reaching the detectors (just over three-quarters of such cases). This is in contrast to dwelling fires where the main reason for the failure of alarms was missing batteries.

Table 3.1: Fires and casualties from fires in other buildings by presence and operation of automatic fire detectors, 2000-2004

United Kingdom	<i>Presence and operation of automatic fire detectors</i>					Number
	<i>Present, operated & raised the alarm</i>	<i>Present, operated, but did not raise the alarm</i>	<i>Present, but did not operate</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Unspecified</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fires¹						
2000	10,040	974	2,709	28,093	–	41,816
2001	10,085	1,141	2,862	29,511	5	43,604
2002	9,832	935	2,706	27,436	10	40,919
2003	9,999	917	2,427	28,402	–	41,745
2004	10,156	955	2,579	23,892	–	37,582
Fatal casualties²						
2000	13	–	1	25	–	39
2001	17	1	3	21	–	42
2002	8	2	1	18	–	29
2003	3	1	1	23	–	28
2004	28	–	1	26	–	55
Non-fatal casualties³						
2000	513	89	168	1,130	–	1,900
2001	518	101	183	1,268	–	2,070
2002	574	61	104	1,104	–	1,843
2003	538	100	123	930	–	1,691
2004	498	77	116	828	–	1,519

¹ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

² Includes fire-related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by alarm presence in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Table 3.2: Fires in other buildings with an automatic fire detector where detector did not operate by reason, 2000-2004¹

United Kingdom	Percentage ²				
<i>Reason</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002¹</i>	<i>2003¹</i>	<i>2004</i>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Missing battery	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Battery failure/flat	–	–	–	1%	1%
Other act preventing alarm from operating inc. turned off	10%	8%	7%	9%	7%
Fire products did not reach detector(s)	75%	77%	78%	77%	77%
Poor siting of detector(s)	1%	–	1%	–	–
Faulty system inc. incorrectly installed	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%
Insufficient detectors	–	–	1%	–	–
Other reason (not act or omission)	2%	1%	2%	1%	–
System apparently operational after fire	1%	1%	–	1%	–
Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged	5%	6%	6%	6%	9%

¹ Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

3.13 The number of fires where the AFD operated, but did not raise the alarm rose by 4% (to 960 from 920 in 2003). The main reasons in 2004 were that a person raised the alarm before the detector operated (68%) or there was no-one within earshot of the alarm (15%).

Table 3.3: Fires in other buildings with an automatic fire detector where detector operated but did not raise the alarm by reason, 2000-2004¹

United Kingdom					Percentage ²
<i>Reason</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002¹</i>	<i>2003¹</i>	<i>2004</i>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Person raised the alarm before system operated	67%	73%	70%	65%	68%
No person in earshot	16%	16%	15%	20%	15%
Poor sitting of detectors meant person raised alarm	4%	1%	1%	–	1%
Occupants failed to respond	1%	–	3%	2%	2%
Faulty system inc. incorrectly installed	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged	12%	9%	9%	11%	13%

¹ Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Fire spread (Table 4)

3.14 The vast majority of fires are confined to the room of origin and do not spread elsewhere in the building (84% of other building fires in 2004 compared to 88% for dwellings). Within other buildings 43% of these are confined to the item first ignited. These proportions have remained fairly constant over this last 11 year period.

CHAPTER 4 – ROAD VEHICLE FIRES

Introduction (Table 16)

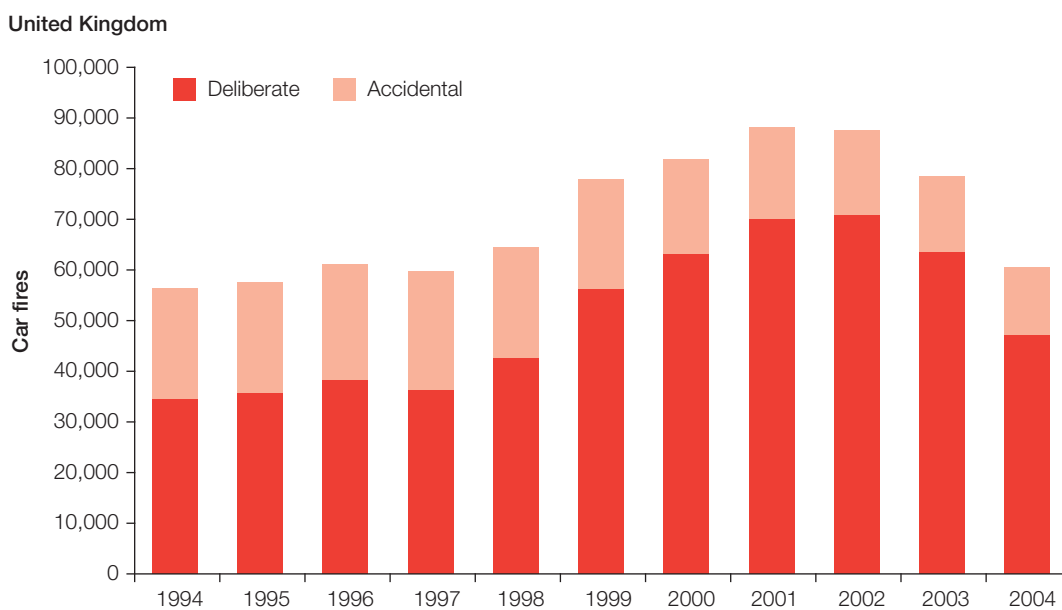
4.1 Road vehicle fires totalled 72,800 in 2004, of which 60,300 (83%) were in cars, 4,800 (7%) were in vans and 2,000 (3%) were in lorries. The total number of fires recorded in road vehicles decreased by 22% (20,000 fires less) compared with 2003 and follows an 8% fall between 2002 and 2003. This is the third consecutive reduction in road vehicle fires following successive increases between 1997 and 2001. Those increases were mainly due to rises in deliberate car fires.

Car fires by cause of fire (Table 16, Figures 4.1 and 4.2)

4.2 In 2004, the total number of car fires fell for the third successive year – decreasing by 23% to 60,300 from 78,600 in 2003. This sharp fall follows a rapid rise in car fires in previous years due to a significant increase in the number of deliberate fires. Deliberate fires now account for 78% of all car fires, this compares with 61% a decade earlier. However, the latest figure (46,900 deliberate car fires) shows another annual fall since the peak of 70,900 in 2002 and is 26% less than the number recorded in 2003.

4.3 The fall in deliberate car fires can be attributed to a number of factors. These are: an improved vehicle licensing regime; the success of vehicle removal schemes; and recent increases in the price of scrap metal, which has increased the value of end of life vehicles making them less likely to be abandoned.

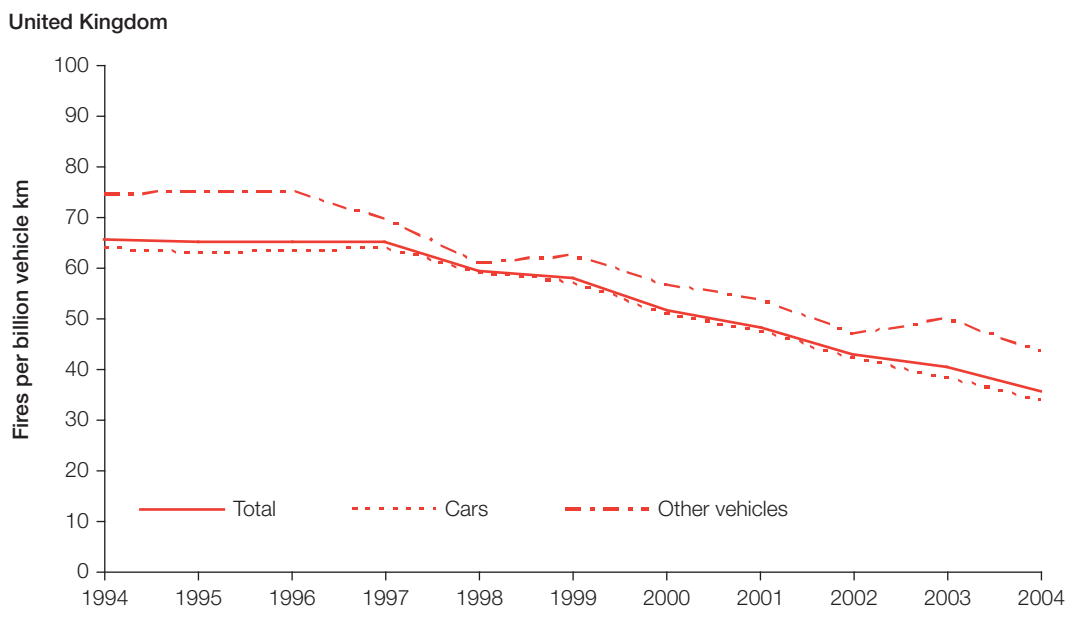
Figure 4.1: Fires in cars by cause, 1994–2004¹



¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

4.4 Accidental car fires fell by 11% to 13,400 in 2004, continuing the general decline, and were 39% less than the 22,000 recorded in 1994. This was despite the fact that, according to Department for Transport statistics, the number of motor vehicles in use in Great Britain increased from 25 million in 1994 to 32 million in 2004. One method for measuring the risk of having an accidental car fire is to relate the number of fires to the number of kilometres cars are estimated to have travelled in a year. The number of accidental car fires per billion vehicle kilometres fell from 64 in 1994 to 34 in 2004. There was a similar decline for other road vehicles from 74 in 1994 to 43 in 2004.

Figure 4.2: Accidental road vehicle fires per billion vehicle kilometres¹, 1994–2004²



¹ Source: Department for Transport. Data available for Great Britain only.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Sources of ignition for accidental car fires (Table 15)

4.5 Of the 13,400 accidental car fires, 71% were due to vehicle defects, with defects in wiring and batteries being the biggest single cause. Only 8% of accidental car fires were caused by a crash or collision.

Casualties (Table 6)

4.6 There were 50 fatalities in road vehicle fires in 2004, compared with 79 in 2003. This equates to 0.7 deaths per 1,000 fires and contrasts with a fatality rate for dwellings of 6 per 1,000 fires.

4.7 The number of non-fatal casualties in road vehicle fires fell to 528 in 2004 from 651 in 2003, and is much lower than the levels recorded in the mid-1990s (837 in 1996). These latest figures equate to 7 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires, compared with the rate of 11 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires in 1996.

Time of call to fire and rescue service (Table 4.1)

4.8 The time that the fire and rescue service was called to road vehicle fires varied according to the cause of the fire. The number of fires per hour for deliberate fires was greatest late in the evening or in the early hours of the morning, with a peak around 10pm. The number of accidental fires per hour was more evenly spread throughout the day, with the peak hourly rate occurring about 6pm.

Table 4.1: Accidental and deliberate road vehicle fires, total road vehicle fire casualties¹ and casualties per 1,000 road vehicle fires by time of day, 2004

United Kingdom				Percentage/Rate ²	
<i>Time of day</i>	<i>Accidental fires</i>	<i>Deliberate fires</i>	<i>Casualties</i>	<i>Casualty rate</i>	
Midnight – 5.59am	12%	38%	22%	6	
6am – 11.59am	23%	6%	21%	16	
Midday – 5.59pm	36%	11%	26%	12	
6pm – 11.59pm	29%	45%	31%	6	

¹ Fatal and non-fatal casualties.

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

CHAPTER 5 – OUTDOOR FIRES

Introduction (Tables 1c, 6 and 5.1)

- 5.1 Primary and secondary outdoor fires totalled 335,600 in 2004. Of which 167,400 (50%) were refuse fires (including bonfires, fires in derelict vehicles and refuse containers), 61,400 (18%) were grassland and heathland fires and 72,800 (22%) were road vehicle fires. Further details on road vehicle fires are given in Chapter 4. The remainder of this chapter mainly covers other types of outdoor fires.
- 5.2 Relatively few casualties occur in outdoor fires, other than road vehicle fires. In 2004 there were 28 fire related deaths, and 555 non-fatal casualties in outdoor fires (excluding road vehicle fires), amounting to just 0.1 deaths and 2.1 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires.

Table 5.1: Primary and secondary outdoor fires by location, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom		Fires (thousands) ²			
Year	Total ³	Road vehicles	Grassland, etc (inc. intentional straw and stubble burning)	Refuse, etc (inc. derelict vehicles)	Other outdoor fires
1994	337.0	68.1	75.7	156.4	36.9
1995	462.1	69.5	174.6	173.9	44.1
1996	384.9	73.3	110.3	163.7	37.7
1997	330.0	71.5	68.7	157.1	32.7
1998	277.8	76.0	40.9	131.3	29.7
1999	336.6	90.1	62.5	150.2	33.7
2000	348.3	94.9	60.2	159.3	33.8
2001	417.9	102.2	73.0	203.4	39.4
2002 ¹	401.3	101.2	65.7	196.1	38.3
2003 ¹	503.8	92.8	152.7	215.2	43.2
2004	335.6	72.8	61.4	167.4	34.0

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures for primary fires are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

- 5.3 The number of grassland and heathland fires is very dependent on weather conditions. In 2004, there were 61,400 such fires recorded, 60% less than the previous year. This was due to a return to more seasonally average weather conditions after a dry 2003 saw 152,700 grassland fires.
- 5.4 Refuse fires decreased in 2004 to 167,400 – a fall of 22% compared to 2003 and the lowest since 2000. This fall included a 42% decrease in the number of fires in derelict vehicles from 16,300 to 9,500. However, these latest figures were still very much higher than the 3,600 derelict vehicle fires recorded in 1995.

When fires occur (Table 5.2 and Figure 5.1)

5.5 Outdoor fires exhibit the strongest seasonal pattern mainly due to the effect of the weather on grassland fires. There was an average of 297 grassland fires per day in June 2004, compared with just 29 fires per day in January 2004. Fires in dwellings showed a different seasonal variation, generally with higher numbers of fires per day occurring in the winter months.

Table 5.2: Daily rates of fires by month and location, 2004

United Kingdom		Fires per day ¹						
	Total fires	Buildings		Outdoor fires				Chimney fires
		Dwellings	Other	Total ²	Road vehicles	Grassland ³	Refuse ⁴	
2004	1,213	164	103	919	199	168	459	27
Jan	891	168	95	577	208	29	287	50
Feb	1,235	181	99	903	214	157	446	53
Mar	1,367	171	117	1,032	208	251	478	47
Apr	1,347	165	109	1,042	190	247	497	31
May	1,441	165	107	1,154	209	279	549	14
Jun	1,391	154	111	1,119	203	297	500	7
Jul	1,276	156	104	1,010	201	237	461	6
Aug	1,079	150	92	832	196	171	377	4
Sep	1,212	153	101	948	206	172	467	10
Oct	1,121	158	99	843	194	71	489	21
Nov	1,275	170	108	963	191	68	615	33
Dec	894	167	91	591	168	37	330	45

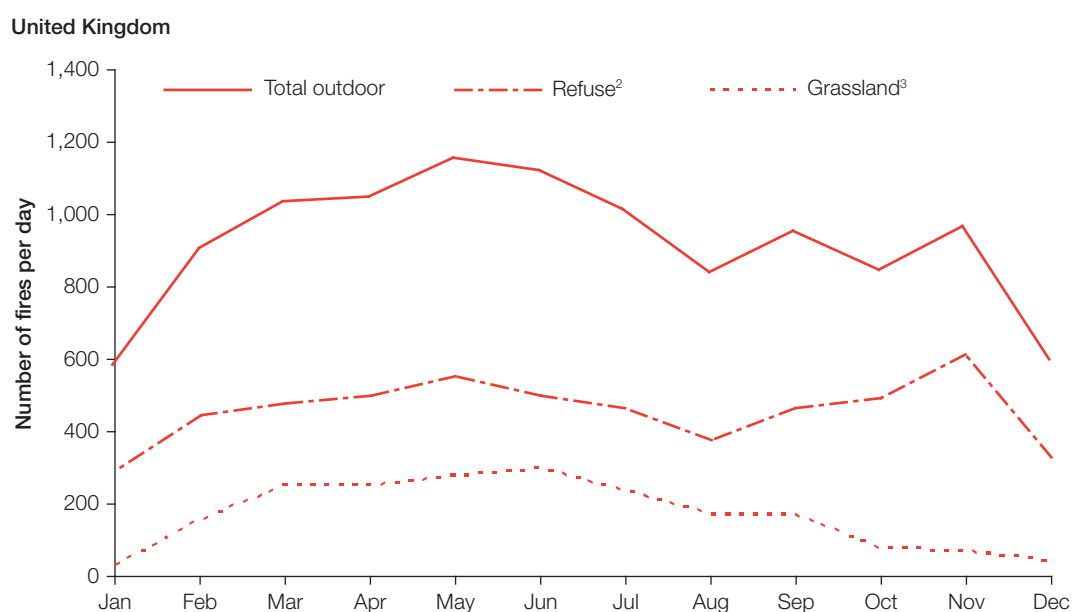
¹ Figures for primary fires are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

² Includes "other outdoor fires".

³ Includes intentional straw and stubble burning.

⁴ Includes derelict vehicles.

Figure 5.1: Daily rates of outdoor¹ fires by month and location, 2004



¹ Primary and secondary fires. Figures for primary fires are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

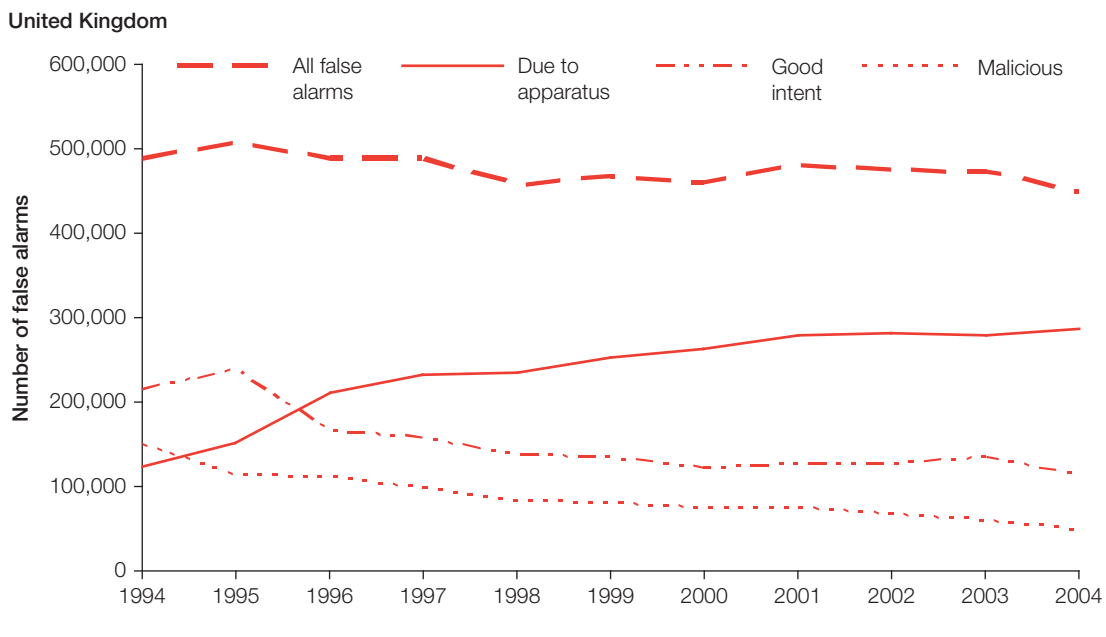
² Includes derelict vehicles.

³ Includes intentional straw and stubble burning.

CHAPTER 6 – FALSE ALARMS

- 6.1 There were 448,800 false fire alarms attended in 2004, a decrease of 5% (or 23,600 incidents) from 2003 and 11% lower than the peak level of 507,000 in 1995. Within this category, false alarms due to apparatus rose by 2% to 286,200, while good intent false alarms decreased by 15% to 113,400. There was also a large decrease in malicious false alarms (a reduction of 16% to 49,200). This continues the downward trend seen over this last 11 year period and represents a fall of 67% since 1994.
- 6.2 False alarms due to apparatus represented 64% of the total number of false alarms in 2004, compared to a quarter in 1994.

Figure 6.1: False alarms, 1994–2004¹



¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

- 6.3 In 2004, half of all fire-related incidents attended (i.e. all fires plus false alarms) were false alarms. Malicious false alarms accounted for just 6%, whereas false alarms due to apparatus accounted for about a third of all fire related incidents.

Table 6.1: False alarms, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom				Number (thousands)
<i>Year</i>	<i>Malicious</i>	<i>Good intent²</i>	<i>Due to apparatus²</i>	<i>Total</i>
1994	149.2	215.7	123.4	488.3
1995	114.8	238.9	153.3	507.0
1996	110.3	166.6	212.8	489.7
1997	99.5	158.4	231.7	489.6
1998	83.8	136.7	236.0	456.6
1999	80.4	134.5	253.4	468.3
2000	74.1	121.5	264.9	460.5
2001	74.1	127.2	279.8	481.1
2002 ¹	67.1	127.1	283.0	477.1
2003 ¹	58.4	134.0	280.0	472.4
2004	49.2	113.4	286.2	448.8

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² The marked changes between 1995 and 1996 are partly the result of coding changes (see explanatory note 14).

Table 6.2: False fire alarms attended by the UK fire and rescue service, 2003¹ and 2004

United Kingdom								Number
FRS Area	2003 ¹				2004			
	Total false alarms	Malicious	Good intent	Due to apparatus	Total false alarms	Malicious	Good intent	Due to apparatus
United Kingdom	472,441	58,390	134,012	280,039	448,819	49,218	113,396	286,205
England and Wales	406,905	49,378	115,405	242,123	382,325	41,017	95,987	245,321
England	387,032	47,010	108,721	231,301	364,551	39,139	90,931	234,481
England – Non-Met	211,339	20,137	63,753	127,449	197,601	16,983	53,573	127,045
Avon	10,175	1,682	3,361	5,133	7,997	1,181	2,301	4,515
Bedfordshire	3,326	360	1,072	1,894	2,973	289	788	1,896
Berkshire	6,797	607	1,882	4,308	6,645	561	1,744	4,340
Buckinghamshire	3,966	357	1,193	2,417	4,099	318	674	3,107
Cambridgeshire	6,174	354	1,521	4,299	6,220	352	1,427	4,441
Cheshire	5,709	577	1,031	4100	5,296	535	823	3,938
Cleveland	4,438	590	1,527	2,321	3,746	394	1,254	2,098
Cornwall	2,428	174	858	1,397	2,034	120	758	1,156
Cumbria	3,092	376	674	2,042	2,696	184	488	2,024
Derbyshire	6,322	628	1,753	3,941	5,986	574	1,490	3,922
Devon	7,597	627	1,693	5,278	6,954	406	1,543	5,005
Dorset	4,529	320	3,004	1,205	4,336	351	2,729	1,256
Durham	3,734	682	1,330	1,722	3,569	377	1,027	2,165
East Sussex	5,937	477	4,018	1,442	5,684	439	3,751	1,494
Essex	10,803	1,624	4,280	4,899	9,971	1,485	3,696	4,790
Gloucestershire	3,176	134	935	2107	3,469	133	808	2,528
Hampshire	10,333	788	2,945	6,600	9,827	666	2,431	6,730
Hereford & Worcs	4,182	307	1,180	2,696	4,086	323	901	2,862
Hertfordshire	6,349	448	1,615	4,286	4,947	234	1,155	3,558
Humberside	6,107	729	1,956	3,422	5,654	642	1,629	3,383
Isle of Wight	797	61	470	267	718	78	215	425
Kent	11,143	1,189	3,836	6,118	9,819	773	3,160	5,886
Lancashire	11,692	1,338	3,464	6,889	11,285	1,205	2,904	7,176
Leicestershire	6,095	540	1,461	4,094	5,914	533	1,234	4,147
Lincolnshire	3,190	511	891	1,788	3,200	562	776	1,862
Norfolk	4,841	276	1,229	3,336	4,448	221	1,109	3,118
North Yorkshire	4,661	314	972	3,375	5,086	384	922	3,780
Northamptonshire	4,307	392	1,174	2,741	4,371	344	1,145	2,882
Northumberland	2,060	203	462	1,395	1,914	166	394	1,354
Nottinghamshire	7,208	733	1,868	4,606	6,833	693	1,699	4,441
Oxfordshire	2,446	168	766	1,513	2,368	163	709	1,496
Shropshire	2,284	207	671	1,406	2,112	203	636	1,273
Somerset	2,867	236	682	1,949	2,288	155	444	1,689
Staffordshire	6,244	633	1,677	3,934	6,150	535	1,421	4,194
Suffolk	4,132	355	922	2,855	3,831	329	785	2,717
Surrey	8,102	427	1,841	5,834	7,904	420	1,476	6,008
Warwickshire	3,579	162	1,007	2,410	3,490	174	931	2,385
West Sussex	6,731	370	1,711	4,650	6,529	370	1,478	4,681
Wiltshire	3,772	181	813	2,778	3,145	111	717	2,317
Isles of Scilly	11	0	8	3	7	0	1	6
England – Met	175,693	26,873	44,968	103,852	166,950	22,156	37,358	107,436
Greater Manchester	23,647	5,268	5,829	12,549	22,209	4,572	4,564	13,073
Merseyside	12,425	2,397	3,478	6,550	10,687	1,548	2,523	6,616
South Yorkshire	9,320	2,148	2,891	4,281	7,566	1,131	2,226	4,209
Tyne & Wear	9,626	978	2,391	6,256	8,596	862	1,945	5,789
West Midlands	24,243	4,074	8,771	11,398	23,629	3,435	7,582	12,612
West Yorkshire	20,762	2,321	5,285	13,156	19,571	2,050	4,274	13,247
Greater London	75,671	9,686	16,323	49,663	74,692	8,558	14,244	51,890
Wales	19,873	2,368	6,684	10,822	17,774	1,878	5,056	10,840
North Wales	5,002	548	1,362	3,092	4,140	301	899	2,940
Mid and West Wales	4,859	733	1,501	2,625	4,514	585	1,203	2,726
South Wales	10,012	1,086	3,822	5,104	9,120	992	2,954	5,174
Northern Ireland	12,636	2,063	2,988	7,585	12,399	1,851	2,913	7,635
Scotland	52,900	6,949	15,619	30,331	54,095	6,350	14,496	33,249
Strathclyde	25,269	3,861	9,674	11,734	26,255	3,690	9,617	12,948
Highland & Islands	2,506	279	613	1,614	2,363	218	395	1,750
Grampian	3,341	280	672	2,389	3,450	247	558	2,645
Tayside	4,208	399	807	3,002	4,131	333	666	3,132
Lothian & Borders	11,291	1,264	1,763	8,264	11,558	1,136	1,319	9,103
Fife	3,054	430	592	2,032	3,136	361	525	2,250
Central	2,359	383	1,296	680	2,360	321	1,254	785
Dumfries & Galloway	872	54	202	617	842	44	162	636

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Time Series Tables,
1994–2004

Table 1a: Fires by location, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom					Fires (thousands) ^{2,3}	
Year	Total	Fires in buildings and outdoors excluding chimney and secondary fires ³			Secondary fires	Chimney fires
		Total	Total Buildings	Outdoors ⁴		
1994	479.5	194.6	113.1	81.4	255.6	29.3
1995	604.2	200.5	116.5	83.9	378.1	25.5
1996	532.2	205.6	118.8	86.8	298.1	28.6
1997	469.0	200.6	116.9	83.6	246.4	22.1
1998	409.7	199.9	112.9	87.0	190.8	18.9
1999	468.8	218.4	115.9	102.5	234.1	16.3
2000	476.5	219.7	112.7	106.9	241.4	15.5
2001	546.8	228.3	112.7	115.7	302.2	16.2
2002 ¹	519.4	220.4	106.0	114.5	286.8	12.2
2003 ¹	621.0	212.8	105.6	107.3	396.5	11.6
2004	442.7	181.8	97.3	84.4	251.1	9.8

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

³ Figures for primary fires are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Mainly road vehicles – see table 1c.

Table 1b: Fires by location, detail for buildings, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom													Fires (thousands) ^{2,3}	
Year	Total buildings	Dwellings ⁴	Private garages, sheds etc	Agricultural premises	Construction industry premises	Other industrial premises	Retail distribution	Hotels, boarding houses, hostels etc	Restaurant, cafes, public houses etc	Education	Hospitals	Recreational and other cultural services	Other	Unspecified
1994	113.1	66.6	8.5	2.1	0.7	5.1	6.3	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.4	3.2	10.9	0.2
1995	116.5	68.6	10.1	1.8	0.7	5.4	5.7	2.3	3.2	2.4	2.5	2.9	10.0	1.0
1996	118.8	71.7	9.3	1.9	0.6	5.8	5.8	2.6	3.4	2.5	2.9	2.6	9.6	0.1
1997	116.9	72.5	8.4	1.7	0.5	4.9	5.8	2.5	3.4	2.2	2.9	2.6	9.6	0.2
1998	112.9	71.1	7.5	1.3	0.4	4.6	5.7	2.4	3.1	1.9	2.8	2.3	9.6	0.3
1999	115.9	72.2	8.0	1.4	0.4	4.4	5.7	2.7	3.7	2.2	3.1	2.6	9.2	0.2
2000	112.7	70.9	7.9	1.4	0.5	4.2	5.4	2.4	3.1	1.9	3.3	2.5	9.0	0.2
2001	112.7	69.0	9.0	1.3	0.4	4.1	5.7	2.5	3.4	2.3	3.0	2.9	8.9	0.2
2002 ¹	106.0	65.0	8.7	1.4	0.3	3.2	5.3	2.4	3.2	2.0	2.7	2.6	8.9	0.3
2003 ¹	105.6	63.8	9.9	1.3	0.3	3.2	5.2	2.2	3.4	2.0	2.4	2.7	8.8	0.3
2004	97.3	59.7	7.7	1.2	0.3	2.7	4.9	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.2	2.5	8.6	0.2

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

³ Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Table 1c: Fires by location, detail for outdoor fires, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom																Fires (thousands) ²
Year	Total outdoor fires	Outdoor fires excluding secondary fires ⁴									Secondary fires					
		Derelict buildings	Outdoor storage	Outdoor machinery and equipment	Road vehicles	Caravans	Ships and boats	Railway rolling stock	Grassland, crops, woods etc	Other or unspecified	Derelict buildings	Grassland, heathland etc	Intentional straw and stubble burning ³	Refuse, refuse containers	Derelict vehicles ³	Other
1994	337.0	0.3	2.3	3.4	68.1	0.9	0.3	0.2	2.2	3.8	13.4	72.1	1.4	152.7	3.8	12.2
1995	462.1	0.2	2.9	3.4	69.5	1.1	0.4	0.1	3.4	2.9	13.1	168.5	2.7	170.3	3.6	19.9
1996	384.9	0.1	3.3	3.1	73.3	1.2	0.4	0.2	2.7	2.6	12.7	105.9	1.7	159.9	3.8	14.1
1997	330.0	0.1	3.2	2.9	71.5	1.1	0.3	0.1	2.0	2.5	10.7	65.5	1.3	153.3	3.8	11.9
1998	277.8	0.1	3.1	2.8	76.0	1.1	0.3	0.2	1.3	2.1	9.4	38.0	1.6	126.8	4.6	10.5
1999	336.6	0.2	3.4	3.0	90.1	1.4	0.3	0.1	1.5	2.4	10.3	59.5	1.5	141.8	8.5	12.6
2000	348.3	0.2	3.5	2.7	94.9	1.3	0.3	0.1	1.5	2.4	10.5	57.3	1.4	147.9	11.5	12.9
2001	417.9	0.2	4.1	3.0	102.2	1.5	0.3	0.1	1.2	3.1	12.3	70.6	1.1	185.5	17.9	14.8
2002 ¹	401.3	0.1	3.8	3.1	101.2	1.6	0.2	0.1	1.6	2.8	12.1	62.7	1.3	176.1	20.0	14.5
2003 ¹	503.8	0.2	3.7	3.3	92.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	2.5	2.9	12.4	148.4	1.8	198.9	16.3	18.7
2004	335.6	0.1	3.4	2.6	72.8	1.3	0.3	0.1	1.4	2.5	10.4	58.5	1.5	157.9	9.5	13.3

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

³ Figures for Strathclyde not available separately for 1994 and 1995.

⁴ Figures for primary outdoor fires (excluding secondary fires) are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Table 2: Fires in dwellings and other buildings by cause, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom												Fires (thousands) ^{2,3}
Year	Total	Cause										
		Deliberate ⁴	Accidental or unspecified causes									
			Total	Faulty fuel supplies	Faulty appliances and leads	Misuse of equipment or appliances	Chip/fat pan fires	Playing with fire	Careless handling of fire or hot substances	Placing articles too close to heat	Other accidental	Un-specified cause
Dwellings⁵												
1994	66.6	13.7	52.9	1.6	8.6	15.8	11.4	1.2	6.3	3.8	3.7	0.6
1995	68.7	13.8	54.8	2.0	7.9	16.9	10.5	1.1	5.8	4.1	5.8	0.7
1996	71.7	14.3	57.5	2.2	9.1	17.1	12.1	1.1	5.9	4.9	4.5	0.6
1997	72.5	13.8	58.7	2.0	9.1	18.3	12.8	1.1	5.5	5.0	4.1	0.7
1998	71.1	13.4	57.7	2.1	8.6	17.4	12.8	1.1	5.5	5.0	4.6	0.7
1999	72.2	13.9	58.4	1.9	8.2	19.4	11.4	0.9	5.7	5.4	4.6	0.9
2000	70.9	14.2	56.7	2.1	7.4	20.1	11.0	0.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	0.7
2001	69.0	14.8	54.3	2.1	7.5	18.8	9.5	0.8	5.2	5.0	4.9	0.6
2002 ¹	65.0	14.2	50.8	2.0	7.4	17.3	8.9	0.7	4.6	5.1	4.3	0.5
2003 ¹	63.8	13.8	50.0	1.9	7.0	17.4	8.4	0.6	5.0	4.6	4.5	0.6
2004	59.7	12.0	47.8	1.8	7.1	17.2	7.4	0.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	0.6
Other buildings												
1994	46.5	22.4	24.1	2.2	6.1	4.6	0.6	0.3	3.3	2.0	4.3	0.9
1995	47.9	21.9	26.0	2.1	5.9	4.7	0.6	0.3	3.4	2.0	5.8	1.1
1996	47.1	21.4	25.7	2.2	6.9	4.6	0.9	0.3	3.1	2.0	4.9	0.9
1997	44.4	18.9	25.5	2.0	6.8	5.0	1.0	0.2	2.9	2.1	4.8	0.7
1998	41.8	17.1	24.7	2.0	6.7	4.7	0.9	0.2	2.9	1.7	4.7	0.8
1999	43.7	17.9	25.7	2.0	6.7	5.3	1.0	0.2	2.6	1.7	5.2	1.0
2000	41.8	18.0	23.8	2.2	6.2	4.8	0.9	0.1	2.4	1.9	4.7	0.8
2001	43.6	19.8	23.8	2.1	6.4	4.7	0.8	0.1	2.3	1.5	5.0	0.9
2002 ¹	40.9	18.2	22.7	1.9	6.4	4.2	0.8	0.1	2.3	1.8	4.6	0.8
2003 ¹	41.7	18.7	23.1	1.8	6.4	4.0	0.8	0.1	2.3	1.7	5.1	0.8
2004	37.6	16.1	21.5	2.0	6.3	4.0	0.8	0.1	1.8	1.5	4.3	0.8

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

³ Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was merely suspected (see explanatory note 11).

⁵ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Table 3: Accidental fires¹ in dwellings and other buildings by source of ignition, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom													Fires (thousands) ^{2,3}	
Year	Total	Source of ignition												
		Smokers' materials	Cigarette lighters	Matches	Cooking appliances	Space heating appliances	Central and water heating appliances	Blowlamps, welding and cutting equipment	Electrical distribution	Other electrical appliances	Candles	Other	Un-specified	
Dwellings⁴														
1994	52.9	5.3	0.5	1.5	27.8	3.1	1.6	1.0	2.0	6.7	1.0	1.9	0.7	
1995	54.8	4.9	0.6	1.2	28.6	2.9	1.5	1.0	2.4	6.4	1.3	2.0	2.0	
1996	57.5	5.1	0.6	1.1	31.0	3.3	1.5	0.9	2.5	7.2	1.5	2.2	0.7	
1997	58.7	4.9	0.6	1.0	32.9	2.6	1.7	0.8	2.5	7.3	1.6	2.0	0.6	
1998	57.7	4.8	0.7	0.8	32.8	2.6	1.4	0.8	2.7	6.8	1.8	2.0	0.7	
1999	58.4	4.8	0.6	0.9	33.5	2.4	1.4	0.6	2.7	6.4	2.0	2.3	0.9	
2000	56.7	4.0	0.5	0.7	33.9	2.4	1.4	0.6	2.8	5.6	2.1	1.9	0.6	
2001	54.3	4.3	0.5	0.7	30.7	2.3	1.4	0.7	2.6	6.0	2.0	2.2	0.8	
2002 ¹	50.8	3.8	0.6	0.6	28.8	1.9	1.3	0.6	2.7	5.7	2.0	2.0	0.8	
2003 ¹	50.0	4.2	0.5	0.5	28.4	1.6	1.3	0.6	2.8	5.6	1.8	2.1	0.7	
2004	47.8	3.5	0.4	0.5	27.2	1.7	1.1	0.6	2.9	5.5	1.8	1.9	0.7	
Other buildings														
1994	24.1	2.8	0.1	0.6	3.9	1.0	0.6	1.5	2.1	6.0	0.2	4.4	0.9	
1995	26.0	3.0	0.1	0.6	4.4	1.2	0.7	1.6	2.1	5.8	0.2	4.6	1.7	
1996	25.7	2.8	0.1	0.6	5.0	1.2	0.6	1.3	2.2	6.7	0.2	4.1	0.9	
1997	25.5	2.6	0.1	0.4	5.6	1.1	0.7	1.3	2.2	6.5	0.2	3.8	0.9	
1998	24.7	2.8	0.1	0.3	5.5	1.1	0.7	1.2	2.3	6.6	0.2	3.1	1.0	
1999	25.7	2.4	0.1	0.3	6.6	0.9	0.7	1.1	2.5	6.3	0.2	3.6	1.2	
2000	23.8	2.1	0.1	0.3	5.8	0.8	0.6	1.2	2.4	6.0	0.2	3.4	0.9	
2001	23.8	2.1	0.1	0.2	5.5	0.9	0.6	1.1	2.3	6.1	0.2	3.6	1.1	
2002 ¹	22.7	2.0	0.1	0.3	5.1	0.7	0.5	1.0	2.3	6.1	0.2	3.4	1.0	
2003 ¹	23.1	1.9	0.1	0.2	4.9	0.8	0.5	0.7	2.3	6.0	0.2	4.2	1.1	
2004	21.5	1.6	0.1	0.1	5.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	2.7	6.0	0.2	2.9	0.9	

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

³ Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

⁴ Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was merely suspected (see explanatory note 11).

⁵ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Table 4: Fires in dwellings and other buildings by spread of fire, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom											Percentage ²
Spread of fire	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 ¹	2003 ¹	2004
DWELLINGS³											
Confined to item	49	48	48	48	49	48	50	49	48	48	50
Beyond item but confined to room	39	40	41	41	40	40	39	40	41	40	38
Elsewhere in building	8	8	8	7	7	8	7	7	7	8	7
Beyond building	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No fire damage	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
OTHER BUILDINGS											
Confined to item	39	39	39	42	42	42	44	42	41	41	43
Beyond item but confined to room	44	44	45	42	41	40	41	42	42	41	41
Elsewhere in building	11	10	9	9	9	11	8	8	9	9	8
Beyond building	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	5
No fire damage	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4

¹ Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike period (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Table 5a: Fires by location and country, 1994-2004¹

Year	Fires (thousands) ²																			
	United Kingdom				England				Wales				Scotland				Northern Ireland			
	Total	Primary	Secondary	Chimney	Total	Primary	Secondary	Chimney	Total	Primary	Secondary	Chimney	Total	Primary	Secondary	Chimney	Total	Primary	Secondary	Chimney
1994	479.5	194.6	255.6	29.3	371.7	159.4	195.8	16.6	26.3	10.5	14.2	1.5	61.7	19.7	35.0	7.0	19.7	5.0	10.6	4.1
1995	604.1	200.5	378.1	25.5	479.0	164.5	300.2	14.4	37.2	10.7	25.0	1.5	60.8	19.8	35.4	5.6	27.2	5.5	17.6	4.1
1996	532.3	205.6	298.1	28.6	411.8	168.6	226.7	16.5	33.2	11.2	20.2	1.8	62.2	19.6	36.6	6.1	25.1	6.3	14.6	4.2
1997	469.0	200.6	246.3	22.1	366.6	164.4	189.5	12.6	31.0	11.3	18.3	1.3	50.8	18.9	27.2	4.7	20.6	5.9	11.3	3.4
1998	409.7	199.9	190.8	18.9	320.5	163.4	146.3	10.7	25.2	11.6	12.5	1.1	45.6	18.9	22.7	4.1	18.4	6.0	9.4	3.1
1999	468.8	218.4	234.1	16.3	368.3	178.8	180.0	9.6	29.2	12.9	15.3	1.0	52.6	20.7	28.5	3.5	18.6	6.1	10.3	2.3
2000	476.5	219.7	241.4	15.5	368.7	180.0	179.8	8.9	30.9	12.4	17.5	1.0	55.7	20.2	32.4	3.1	21.2	7.1	11.7	2.4
2001	546.8	228.3	302.2	16.2	427.2	188.4	229.5	9.3	35.7	13.0	21.7	1.1	59.4	19.7	36.2	3.4	24.5	7.2	14.9	2.4
2002 ¹	519.4	220.4	286.8	12.2	415.5	182.6	225.9	7.1	32.2	12.3	19.1	0.8	52.6	19.2	30.9	2.5	19.1	6.3	11.0	1.9
2003 ¹	621.0	212.8	396.5	11.6	492.3	176.8	308.5	7.0	39.9	12.2	27.0	0.8	65.6	18.0	45.4	2.2	23.1	5.8	15.6	1.7
2004	442.7	181.8	251.1	9.8	349.1	150.9	192.0	6.1	27.9	10.2	17.1	0.6	46.9	15.8	29.5	1.7	18.8	4.9	12.6	1.3

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Figures for primary fires are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

70 **Table 5b: Casualties from fires by country, 1994-2004^{1,2}**

Year	Number of persons (n); per million population (pmp) ²																			
	United Kingdom				England				Wales				Scotland				Northern Ireland			
	Fatal		Non-Fatal		Fatal		Non-Fatal		Fatal		Non-Fatal		Fatal		Non-Fatal		Fatal		Non-Fatal	
	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp
1994	641	11.1	16,854	291	509	10.6	13,429	278	26	9.0	845	293	80	15.7	2,025	397	26	15.8	555	338
1995	736	12.7	17,171	296	571	11.8	13,844	286	56	19.4	857	297	91	17.8	1,867	366	18	10.9	603	366
1996	709	12.2	18,221	313	551	11.4	14,593	301	37	12.8	856	296	110	21.6	2,060	405	11	6.6	712	428
1997	723	12.4	18,583	319	563	11.6	14,827	305	42	14.5	951	329	88	17.3	2,145	422	30	18.0	660	395
1998	656	11.2	18,198	311	493	10.1	14,543	298	37	12.8	932	321	96	18.9	2,171	428	30	17.9	552	329
1999	623	10.6	18,198	310	459	9.4	14,372	293	28	9.7	1,017	351	105	20.7	2,254	444	31	18.5	555	331
2000	613	10.4	17,646	300	487	9.9	13,867	282	34	11.7	974	335	75	14.8	2,263	447	17	10.1	542	322
2001	606	10.3	17,406	294	458	9.3	13,898	281	35	12.0	947	325	96	19.0	2,091	413	17	10.1	470	278
2002 ^{1,2}	562	9.5	16,595	280	436	8.8	13,160	265	29	9.9	925	316	77	15.2	2,045	405	20	11.8	465	274
2003 ^{1,2}	593	10.0	15,536	261	469	9.4	12,383	248	30	10.2	810	276	80	15.8	1,880	372	14	8.2	463	272
2004	508	8.5	14,597	244	369	7.4	11,447	229	26	8.8	830	281	99	19.5	1,858	366	14	8.2	444	260

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Table 6: Casualties from fires by location group, 1994-2004^{1,2}

United Kingdom											Casualties
Year	Fatal					Non-fatal					
	Total	Location group				Total	Location group				
		Dwellings	Other buildings	Outdoor			Dwellings	Other buildings	Outdoor		
				Road vehicles	Other				Road vehicles	Other	
1994	641	488	43	75	35	16,854	12,916	2,405	718	815	
1995	736	559	46	89	42	17,171	13,108	2,274	837	952	
1996	709	564	36	64	45	18,221	14,189	2,419	837	776	
1997	723	562	33	83	45	18,583	14,896	2,119	791	777	
1998	656	513	28	68	47	18,198	14,979	1,747	817	655	
1999	623	463	38	78	44	18,198	14,624	1,900	706	968	
2000	613	455	39	92	27	17,646	14,384	1,900	719	643	
2001	606	483	42	62	19	17,406	13,963	2,070	690	683	
2002 ^{1,2}	562	430	29	63	40	16,595	13,463	1,843	643	646	
2003 ^{1,2}	593	447	28	79	39	15,536	12,580	1,691	651	614	
2004	508	375	55	50	28	14,579	11,977	1,519	528	555	

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Table 7: Fatal casualties from fires by cause of death, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom							Fatal casualties [of which firefighters]
Year	Total	Cause of death					
		Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and overcome by gas or smoke	Other	Unspecified	
1994	641[0]	149	203	142	30	117	
1995	736[0]	212	313	132	40	39	
1996	709[3]	219[1]	355	103[2]	15	17	
1997	723[0]	224	336	122	24	17	
1998	656[0]	180	305	132	10	29	
1999	623[0]	152	238	130	23	80	
2000	613[0]	151	233	157	8	64	
2001	606[0]	167	300	101	14	24	
2002 ¹	562[1]	132	263	94	14[1]	59	
2003 ¹	593[1]	152	301	91[1]	21	28	
2004	508[3]	108[2]	270	78	15[1]	37	

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media with estimates calculated for the breakdown by cause of death in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Table 8: Non-fatal casualties from fires (excluding firefighter casualties) by nature of injury¹, 1994-2004²

United Kingdom										Casualties
Year	Total	Nature of injury ¹								
		Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and overcome by gas or smoke	Physical injuries ³	Shock only	Precautionary check-up	Other	Unspecified	
1994	15,880	2,298	4,998	490	638	1,716	5,299	157	284	
1995	16,149	2,396	5,527	444	759	1,711	4,806	248	258	
1996	17,348	2,402	6,179	560	743	1,680	5,449	176	159	
1997	17,779	2,317	6,339	489	721	1,651	5,859	232	171	
1998	17,517	2,190	6,596	550	666	1,550	5,514	281	170	
1999	17,541	2,006	6,331	520	602	1,521	5,741	282	538	
2000	16,960	2,006	6,253	475	541	1,401	5,874	261	149	
2001	16,627	2,064	5,953	494	539	1,340	5,793	229	215	
2002 ²	16,030	2,045	5,739	520	449	1,173	5,598	286	220	
2003 ²	15,015	1,873	5,088	536	487	1,162	5,455	233	181	
2004	14,181	1,736	4,812	468	424	946	5,361	248	186	

¹ Table shows main injury only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, this is shown separately.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur 'physical injuries' is recorded.

Table 9: Non-fatal firefighter casualties from fires by nature of injury¹, 1994-2004²

United Kingdom										Casualties
Year	Total	Nature of injury ¹								
		Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and overcome by gas or smoke	Physical injuries ³	Shock only	Precautionary check-up	Other	Unspecified	
1994	974	158	90	4	570	4	79	67	2	
1995	1,022	204	73	2	543	-	80	107	13	
1996	873	167	46	1	502	3	80	73	1	
1997	804	148	44	1	398	6	108	91	8	
1998	681	129	16	2	404	4	48	78	-	
1999	657	108	33	1	356	4	42	112	1	
2000	686	84	31	-	296	1	139	127	8	
2001	779	75	42	1	311	2	282	66	-	
2002 ²	565	83	27	-	288	1	108	57	1	
2003 ²	521	78	30	2	299	4	57	48	3	
2004	398	70	9	2	241	-	58	16	2	

¹ Table shows main injury only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, this is shown separately.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur, 'physical injuries' is recorded.

Table 10: Casualties from fires in dwellings¹ by cause, 1994-2004^{2,3}

United Kingdom														Casualties
Year	Total	Cause												
		Deliberate ⁴	Accidental or unspecified causes											
			Total	Faulty fuel supplies	Faulty appliances and leads	Misuse of equipment or appliances	Chip/fat pan fires	Playing with fire	Careless handling of fire or hot substances	Person too close/fell on fire	Placing articles too close to heat	Other accidental	Un-specified cause	
Fatal														
1994	488	60	428	8	17	19	18	17	152	21	37	51	88	
1995	559	78	481	12	29	14	32	22	178	26	50	60	58	
1996	564	76	488	20	28	19	47	15	173	24	53	58	51	
1997	562	65	497	6	25	23	44	14	183	22	53	41	86	
1998	513	59	454	6	17	20	47	11	164	25	43	56	65	
1999	463	65	398	8	19	24	34	3	131	26	41	35	77	
2000	455	58	397	7	16	21	33	8	147	16	48	50	51	
2001	483	55	428	7	30	24	34	10	147	16	57	48	55	
2002 ²	430	75	355	3	23	18	33	3	141	17	37	28	52	
2003 ²	447	52	395	2	16	26	37	8	138	9	43	47	69	
2004	375	48	327	4	8	27	32	13	120	5	21	46	51	
Non-fatal														
1994	12,916	1,922	10,994	214	1,058	1,887	3,541	585	1,926	52	1,063	508	160	
1995	13,108	1,932	11,176	236	993	2,041	3,580	497	1,846	49	973	767	194	
1996	14,819	2,026	12,163	218	1,075	2,121	4,115	479	1,926	71	1,184	812	162	
1997	14,896	2,019	12,877	235	1,145	2,253	4,635	470	1,976	53	1,274	654	182	
1998	14,979	2,152	12,827	228	1,178	2,334	4,473	425	1,907	54	1,377	687	164	
1999	14,624	2,068	12,556	207	1,146	2,648	4,054	347	1,886	49	1,318	754	147	
2000	14,384	2,325	12,059	199	1,128	2,704	3,645	351	1,786	46	1,199	868	133	
2001	13,963	2,272	11,691	204	1,045	2,574	3,372	358	1,765	33	1,290	881	169	
2002 ³	13,463	2,281	11,182	215	1,107	2,483	3,197	353	1,680	48	1,221	729	149	
2003 ³	12,580	2,154	10,426	186	947	2,431	2,898	361	1,647	37	1,030	711	178	
2004	11,977	1,984	9,993	215	969	2,487	2,614	316	1,492	18	943	743	196	

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁴ Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was merely suspected (see explanatory note 11).

Table 11: Casualties from accidental fires in dwellings¹ by source of ignition, 1994-2004^{2,3}

United Kingdom													Casualties
Year	Total	Source of ignition											
		Smokers' materials	Cigarette lighters	Matches	Cooking appliances	Space heating appliances	Central heating appliances	Blowlamps, and water heating appliances	Welding and cutting equipment	Electrical distribution	Other electrical appliances	Candles	Other	Un-specified
Fatal													
1994	428	136	7	21	53	55	2	1	10	16	7	19	101
1995	481	156	10	33	65	73	4	–	15	29	9	11	76
1996	488	171	15	22	79	51	1	–	18	32	18	11	70
1997	497	161	12	19	74	50	1	1	7	33	20	22	97
1998	454	155	14	17	66	46	2	–	7	21	13	16	97
1999	398	122	7	9	70	43	3	–	11	25	18	12	78
2000	397	139	13	16	58	47	1	–	12	16	11	10	74
2001	428	138	20	15	68	54	1	–	13	28	16	11	64
2002 ²	355	123	13	10	59	33	2	–	7	21	19	5	63
2003 ²	395	125	15	8	66	29	1	–	5	18	22	13	93
2004	327	114	13	18	52	13	1	–	9	13	11	19	64
Non-fatal													
1994	10,994	1,632	263	495	5,506	786	158	75	287	915	456	225	196
1995	11,176	1,620	312	438	5,683	762	173	64	294	884	467	216	263
1996	12,163	1,709	286	400	6,364	868	127	65	294	985	587	245	233
1997	12,877	1,783	297	304	7,096	666	159	47	321	1,033	687	254	230
1998	12,827	1,644	336	256	7,114	624	131	74	338	1,017	779	284	230
1999	12,556	1,599	270	250	6,953	610	138	77	308	1,073	810	277	191
2000	12,059	1,530	308	237	6,565	583	141	46	324	1,019	880	219	207
2001	11,691	1,507	332	236	6,210	587	151	62	271	916	931	258	230
2002 ³	11,182	1,420	283	251	5,989	499	106	55	294	965	840	254	226
2003 ³	10,426	1,416	300	213	5,643	418	120	53	304	803	664	283	209
2004	9,993	1,260	251	155	5,377	363	124	44	315	885	691	302	226

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Tables 12a & 12b: Casualties in accidental fires in dwellings¹ by use of room where fire started and location of casualty in relation to fire, 1994-2004^{2,3}

United Kingdom										
										Non-fatal casualties
Year & location of casualty	Total	Room of origin								
		Bedroom or bedsit room	Living room/ dining room	Kitchen	Bathroom	Corridor, hall or stairs	Laundry or airing cupboard	Store room or loft ⁴	Other	Unspecified
In room of origin										
1994	3,995	923	782	2,057	34	25	20	28	63	63
1995	4,093	956	778	2,150	32	38	24	18	52	45
1996	4,489	1,003	809	2,425	55	30	22	26	75	44
1997	4,630	1,022	791	2,598	36	33	27	24	52	47
1998	4,717	943	845	2,696	33	31	22	19	65	63
1999	4,574	921	791	2,622	36	41	20	31	67	45
2000	4,374	930	705	2,519	38	33	20	25	51	53
2001	4,277	933	821	2,282	43	36	26	30	50	56
2002 ²	4,027	871	678	2,248	47	33	24	30	54	42
2003 ²	3,801	835	624	2,128	45	34	33	22	46	34
2004	3,594	735	603	2,018	59	37	22	18	49	53
Not in room of origin										
1994	6,999	1,269	1,179	3,898	100	143	137	75	83	115
1995	7,083	1,225	1,251	4,007	105	130	83	73	77	132
1996	7,674	1,242	1,319	4,496	108	168	78	61	88	114
1997	8,247	1,201	1,284	5,088	85	164	108	82	116	119
1998	8,110	1,266	1,272	4,916	136	139	88	83	95	115
1999	7,982	1,135	1,201	4,960	147	121	99	99	137	83
2000	7,685	1,159	1,287	4,664	120	105	87	71	114	78
2001	7,414	1,136	1,194	4,472	139	128	69	64	94	118
2002 ²	7,155	1,100	1,148	4,272	149	110	76	80	117	103
2003 ²	6,625	969	979	4,003	121	145	81	67	101	159
2004	6,399	901	917	3,890	139	132	84	91	101	144

United Kingdom										
										Fatal casualties
Year & location of casualty	Total	Room of origin								
		Bedroom or bedsit room	Living room/ dining room	Kitchen	Bathroom	Corridor, hall or stairs	Laundry or airing cupboard	Store room or loft ⁴	Other	Unspecified
In room of origin										
1994	259	99	111	33	1	4	–	–	1	10
1995	279	98	130	38	–	3	–	1	–	9
1996	273	112	107	41	1	3	–	–	2	7
1997	293	110	107	52	3	4	–	–	4	13
1998	259	110	101	32	3	–	–	–	3	10
1999	227	79	99	30	2	2	1	1	4	9
2000	217	75	105	26	1	3	1	–	1	5
2001	221	80	95	28	1	1	–	–	3	13
2002 ³	197	71	90	28	1	1	1	2	–	3
2003 ³	212	86	83	30	4	1	–	2	–	6
2004	166	56	74	30	1	3	–	1	–	1
Not in room of origin										
1994	169	37	73	47	1	5	–	1	1	4
1995	202	53	81	44	–	12	–	1	2	9
1996	215	49	84	64	1	8	2	–	3	4
1997	204	39	86	57	1	7	–	2	7	5
1998	195	46	69	59	3	4	1	2	2	9
1999	171	36	67	52	6	1	–	2	2	5
2000	180	43	64	52	–	7	–	3	1	10
2001	207	47	80	64	1	7	2	–	1	5
2002 ³	158	34	60	42	3	4	3	–	2	10
2003 ³	183	43	65	56	3	7	–	1	–	8
2004	161	36	59	51	4	3	2	–	–	6

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁴ Includes refuse storage.

Table 13: Fatal casualties by number of deaths per fire, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom		Fatal casualties			
Year	Total	Total deaths from fires causing:			
		1 death	2-4 deaths	5-9 deaths	10 or more
1994	641	518	105	18	–
1995	736	590	116	30	–
1996	709	609	100	–	–
1997	723	601	112	10	–
1998	656	553	88	15	–
1999	623	511	99	13	–
2000	613	500	113	–	–
2001	606	499	96	11	–
2002 ¹	562	469	75	18	–
2003 ¹	593	487	106	–	–
2004	508	406	83	5	14

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

Table 14: Deliberate primary fires¹ and casualties in buildings by location, 1994-2004²

United Kingdom														Fires ¹ and casualties	
Year	Location													Other buildings	Unspecified
	Total	Dwellings ³	Private garages, sheds, etc	Agricultural premises	Construction industry premises	Other industrial premises	Retail & vehicle trade premises	Hotels, boarding houses, hostels etc	Restaurants, cafes, pubs etc	Schools	Further education	Hospitals	Recreational and other cultural services		
Fires¹															
1994	36,060	13,697	5,649	927	486	965	2,739	335	942	1,312	293	608	2,250	5,738	119
1995	35,683	13,824	6,619	698	489	827	2,638	346	982	1,322	183	584	1,960	4,859	354
1996	35,645	14,253	6,610	824	450	946	2,579	359	954	1,239	277	682	1,758	4,614	101
1997	32,725	13,784	5,883	747	261	655	2,321	281	880	1,066	164	664	1,658	4,257	105
1998	30,461	13,359	5,397	659	253	527	2,229	221	741	856	167	616	1,406	3,862	169
1999	31,811	13,862	5,640	650	222	699	2,236	316	927	1,018	145	563	1,615	3,792	127
2000	32,222	14,215	5,629	651	341	528	2,200	313	792	882	169	612	1,671	4,095	124
2001	34,564	14,782	6,612	491	270	699	2,484	294	952	1,037	200	632	1,852	4,109	150
2002 ²	31,323	13,706	6,076	635	231	420	2,021	304	838	849	94	578	1,644	3,733	194
2003 ²	32,118	13,645	6,755	568	181	401	2,138	229	785	896	136	619	1,817	3,743	204
2004	28,044	11,974	5,432	473	167	422	1,776	273	758	840	164	501	1,602	3,504	158
Fatal casualties															
1994	73	60	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	-
1995	86	78	4	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
1996	87	76	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	-
1997	74	65	2	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1998	65	59	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1
1999	75	65	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-
2000	72	58	6	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
2001	64	55	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	3	-
2002 ²	75	70	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
2003 ²	61	51	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	-
2004	60	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	-
Non-fatal casualties															
1994	2,756	1,922	47	19	6	56	88	42	44	39	7	66	69	343	8
1995	2,686	1,932	68	17	2	42	103	74	66	44	6	41	21	267	3
1996	2,845	2,026	76	24	6	26	94	64	52	32	5	76	21	338	5
1997	2,645	2,019	58	13	4	13	98	25	38	25	1	64	22	264	1
1998	2,716	2,152	51	13	4	24	50	20	40	27	2	70	19	240	4
1999	2,715	2,068	65	6	4	25	85	38	27	35	3	61	24	274	-
2000	2,982	2,325	76	7	4	24	91	30	44	21	46	69	26	218	1
2001	3,079	2,272	95	14	8	12	73	43	34	36	2	61	22	405	2
2002 ²	2,848	2,204	72	6	1	14	68	31	49	29	1	63	15	292	3
2003 ²	2,734	2,124	66	22	1	14	65	25	67	23	3	58	14	250	2
2004	2,533	1,984	52	8	-	12	66	30	42	23	3	67	13	231	2

¹ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals and exclude secondary fires.

² Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike period (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Table 15: Fires and casualties from fires in cars¹ by source of ignition/cause of fire, 1994-2004²

United Kingdom										
Year	Total	Deliberate ³	Accidental or unspecified source of ignition							
			Total	Vehicle related						
				Total	Vehicle defects or possible defects					Other
					Total	Wiring on vehicle and batteries	Ignition related	Engine		
							Exhaust	Other/Sparks		
Fires⁴										
1994	56,334	34,322	22,012	19,983	18,339	9,758	1,870	2,628	2,862	1,221
1995	57,461	35,387	22,074	20,122	18,214	9,690	1,926	2,735	2,411	1,452
1996	61,086	38,312	22,774	20,763	18,776	10,185	1,762	2,629	2,784	1,416
1997	59,802	36,403	23,399	21,188	19,237	10,307	1,731	2,477	2,953	1,769
1998	64,581	42,659	21,922	19,498	17,475	9,640	1,377	2,246	2,952	1,260
1999	77,674	56,207	21,467	18,967	16,545	9,115	1,127	1,978	2,932	1,393
2000	82,002	62,964	19,038	16,763	14,763	8,272	945	1,623	2,621	1,302
2001	88,301	70,183	18,118	15,849	13,748	7,530	947	1,686	2,374	1,211
2002 ²	84,761	68,682	16,079	13,881	12,106	6,879	694	1,288	2,233	1,012
2003 ²	77,501	62,618	14,883	12,730	10,785	5,720	748	1,013	2,253	1,051
2004	60,340	46,927	13,413	11,316	9,534	5,275	550	822	1,930	957
Fatal casualties										
1994	71	17	54	37	1	1	-	-	-	-
1995	80	22	58	48	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996	56	21	35	25	4	1	-	-	1	2
1997	78	20	58	44	2	-	-	-	1	1
1998	61	19	42	31	2	-	-	2	-	-
1999	71	19	52	36	1	-	-	-	1	-
2000	81	21	60	48	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	55	13	42	33	2	-	-	1	1	-
2002 ²	55	14	41	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003 ²	66	23	43	32	2	1	-	-	1	-
2004	45	10	35	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-fatal casualties										
1994	509	66	443	381	160	80	27	17	21	15
1995	642	73	569	515	173	87	25	32	15	14
1996	642	95	547	480	179	91	17	14	36	21
1997	600	73	527	492	190	98	14	24	28	26
1998	624	95	529	480	149	87	11	16	20	15
1999	540	81	459	414	128	68	12	14	23	11
2000	581	105	476	421	128	74	6	13	23	12
2001	522	87	435	403	143	78	6	15	30	14
2002 ²	482	103	379	345	112	62	8	8	20	14
2003 ²	488	108	380	341	110	64	6	7	25	8
2004	386	69	317	280	88	51	2	8	19	8

¹ Includes estate and land rover type cars and 3 wheeled cars.

² Excludes November 2002 and January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was merely suspected (see explanatory note 11).

⁴ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Table 15: Fires and casualties from fires in cars¹ by source of ignition/cause of fire, 1994-2004² (cont.)

											Year	
		Not vehicle related								Unspecified		
Crash, collision	Not vehicle defects	Total	Smokers' materials & cigarette lighters	Matches	Welding, cutting and blowlamps	Other electric	Wiring not on vehicle	Other oil, petrol or unspecified fuel	Other			
											Fires	
974	670	1,044	246	82	451	35	10	34	186	983	1994	
947	961	896	274	40	400	41	12	19	110	1,056	1995	
980	1,007	825	196	34	432	33	10	20	100	1,186	1996	
989	962	1,044	315	45	424	10	70	21	159	1,166	1997	
1,041	982	1,008	218	85	342	90	52	29	192	1,418	1998	
1,219	1,203	1,037	321	74	275	40	45	35	247	1,463	1999	
1,112	888	856	236	61	198	29	51	42	239	1,419	2000	
1,205	896	833	212	85	131	51	56	36	262	1,434	2001	
1,032	743	738	219	54	138	63	42	33	189	1,461	2002 ²	
1,089	856	822	193	55	99	45	123	42	265	1,329	2003 ²	
1,045	737	741	171	61	85	55	164	43	162	1,356	2004	
											Fatal casualties	
35	1	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	15	1994	
48	–	3	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	7	1995	
18	3	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	8	1996	
42	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	1997	
29	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	9	1998	
34	1	3	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	13	1999	
47	1	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	10	2000	
30	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	2001	
25	3	4	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	9	2002 ²	
29	1	3	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	8	2003 ²	
27	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	2004	
											Non-fatal casualties	
213	8	56	6	5	32	2	–	–	11	6	1994	
332	10	44	14	1	17	2	1	4	5	10	1995	
281	20	54	18	3	20	9	–	1	3	13	1996	
277	25	31	10	1	15	2	–	1	2	4	1997	
316	15	45	3	3	20	7	–	1	11	4	1998	
266	20	30	6	3	10	4	2	–	5	15	1999	
282	11	45	15	6	10	6	2	–	6	10	2000	
245	15	21	5	3	11	–	2	–	–	11	2001	
216	17	27	4	4	7	3	–	5	4	7	2002 ²	
215	16	24	8	–	6	4	–	2	4	15	2003 ²	
169	23	26	8	2	5	4	1	3	3	11	2004	

Table 16: Fires in road vehicles by cause and type of vehicle, 1994-2004¹

United Kingdom											
Year	Total Fires ²	Cause		Type of vehicle					Estimated traffic on all roads (billion vehicle kilometres) ⁴		Motor vehicles in use (millions) ⁴
		Deliberate	Accidental or unspecified	Cars ³	Vans	Lorries	Coaches, omnibuses, minibuses	Other road vehicles	All vehicles	Cars & taxis	
1994	68,061	40,329	27,732	56,334	5,481	2,373	739	3,134	422	345	25.231
1995	69,508	41,511	27,997	57,461	5,525	2,476	768	3,278	430	351	25.369
1996	73,265	44,439	28,826	61,086	5,676	2,548	864	3,091	441	360	26.302
1997	71,459	42,203	29,256	59,802	5,737	2,348	822	2,750	450	366	26.974
1998	75,970	48,751	27,219	64,581	5,822	2,163	611	2,793	458	371	27.538
1999	90,111	63,029	27,082	77,674	5,915	2,450	798	3,275	467	377	28.368
2000	94,947	70,806	24,141	82,002	6,079	2,224	697	3,946	467	377	28.898
2001	102,224	79,241	22,983	88,301	6,264	2,321	799	4,538	474	383	29.747
2002 ¹	101,177	80,205	20,972	87,437	6,215	2,020	767	4,738	487	393	30.557
2003 ¹	92,768	72,869	19,899	78,594	5,933	2,175	849	5,217	490	393	31.207
2004	72,785	55,000	17,784	60,340	4,823	2,046	818	4,759	499	398	32.259

¹ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Includes estate and land rover type cars and 3 wheeled cars.

⁴ Source: Department for Transport. All figures are for Great Britain only.

Annual Tables, 2004

Table 17a: Casualties from fires by age, gender and location, 2004¹

United Kingdom										Casualties
Age	Total ²	Gender		Total Buildings	Dwellings ³			Other buildings	Outdoors and derelict buildings	
		Male	Female		Total	Single occupancy	Multiple occupancy			Other or unspecified
Fatal non-firefighter	505	311	193	427	375	227	144	4	52	78
Under 1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
1- 4	18	11	7	18	18	13	5	–	–	–
5-10	13	9	4	12	12	10	2	–	–	1
11-16	10	4	6	7	6	5	1	–	1	3
17-24	28	18	10	18	18	10	8	–	–	10
25-29	19	12	7	13	12	6	6	–	1	6
30-59	204	144	60	164	142	74	67	1	22	40
60-64	26	21	5	24	23	11	10	2	1	2
65-79	92	53	39	89	82	50	31	1	7	3
80 and over	83	30	53	78	60	48	12	–	18	5
Unspecified	11	9	1	4	2	–	2	–	2	7
Fatal firefighter	3	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	3	–
25-29	2	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	–
30-59	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–
Non-fatal non-firefighter	14,181	7,932	6,172	13,218	11,836	6,052	5,618	166	1,382	963
Under 1	107	63	41	104	97	40	55	2	7	3
1- 4	539	300	236	525	509	321	181	7	16	14
5-10	484	258	224	442	426	300	122	4	16	42
11-16	661	337	321	583	512	352	150	10	71	78
17-24	1,827	1,016	810	1,669	1,445	695	727	23	224	158
25-29	1,119	684	431	1,027	892	387	490	15	135	92
30-59	5,751	3,533	2,212	5,328	4,667	2,390	2,202	75	661	423
60-64	594	367	226	564	533	255	271	7	31	30
65-79	1,551	784	765	1,511	1,442	706	720	16	69	40
80 and over	1,115	370	742	1,101	1,020	470	545	5	81	14
Unspecified	433	220	164	364	293	136	155	2	71	69
Non-fatal firefighter	398	388	10	278	141	60	53	28	137	120
17-24	32	27	5	24	11	2	6	3	13	8
25-29	56	54	2	36	11	7	2	2	25	20
30-59	309	306	3	217	118	51	45	22	99	92
Unspecified	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	1	–	–

¹ Excludes January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Including some casualties whose gender was not specified.

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Table 17b: Casualties from fires by age and cause of death/nature of injury¹, 2004²

United Kingdom										Casualties
Age	Total	Cause of death/nature of injury								
		Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and overcome by gas or smoke	Physical injuries ³	Shock only	Precautionary check-up	Other	Unspecified	
Fatal non-firefighter	505	106	270	78	6	4	–	4	37	
Under 1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	
1-4	18	4	12	2	–	–	–	–	–	
5-10	13	2	8	3	–	–	–	–	–	
11-16	10	3	5	–	–	–	–	–	2	
17-24	28	3	18	3	1	–	–	–	3	
25-29	19	4	10	3	–	–	–	–	2	
30-59	204	49	101	36	3	2	–	1	12	
60-64	26	7	14	4	–	–	–	–	1	
65-79	92	16	50	18	1	1	–	1	5	
80 and over	83	16	50	9	1	1	–	2	4	
Unspecified	11	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	8	
Fatal firefighter	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	
25-29	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	
30-59	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Non-fatal non-firefighter	14,181	1,736	4,812	468	424	946	5,361	248	186	
Under 1	107	6	25	3	1	4	58	1	9	
1-4	539	23	190	4	3	37	265	9	8	
5-10	484	50	155	7	7	39	212	6	8	
11-16	661	118	185	26	21	60	229	16	6	
17-24	1,827	263	555	60	78	130	692	35	14	
25-29	1,119	164	348	34	56	65	415	27	10	
30-59	5,751	790	2,073	198	184	325	2,004	104	73	
60-64	594	74	196	24	13	51	225	9	2	
65-79	1,551	127	550	63	20	114	645	17	15	
80 and over	1,115	71	366	43	16	87	501	17	14	
Unspecified	433	50	169	6	25	34	115	7	27	
Non-fatal firefighter	398	70	9	2	241	–	58	16	2	
17-24	32	8	1	–	16	–	5	2	–	
25-29	56	12	1	–	34	–	8	1	–	
30-59	309	50	7	2	190	–	45	13	2	
Unspecified	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	

¹ Table shows main injury only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, this is shown separately.

² Excludes January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur 'physical injuries' is recorded.

Table 17c: Casualties from accidental dwelling fires by age and cause of death/nature of injury¹, 2004²

United Kingdom										Casualties
Age	Total	Cause of death/nature of injury								
		Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and overcome by gas or smoke	Physical injuries ³	Shock only	Precautionary check-up	Other	Unspecified	
Fatal non-firefighter	327	53	201	49	3	2	–	3	16	
Under 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
1-4	18	4	12	2	–	–	–	–	–	
5-10	10	1	7	2	–	–	–	–	–	
11-16	4	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	1	
17-24	16	–	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	
25-29	8	2	5	–	–	–	–	–	1	
30-59	110	14	72	17	2	–	–	1	4	
60-64	20	4	11	4	–	–	–	–	1	
65-79	81	14	44	15	1	1	–	1	5	
80 and over	58	13	31	9	–	1	–	1	3	
Unspecified	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	
Non-fatal non-firefighter	9,915	890	3,571	364	160	655	3,985	178	112	
Under 1	68	3	20	1	–	3	33	1	7	
1-4	387	10	145	2	1	25	192	7	5	
5-10	335	16	130	5	3	30	143	4	4	
11-16	396	37	126	16	7	30	166	12	2	
17-24	1,175	129	383	44	28	87	469	26	9	
25-29	702	79	238	23	17	49	273	17	6	
30-59	3,847	384	1,484	151	65	214	1,440	67	42	
60-64	478	50	170	21	8	38	181	8	2	
65-79	1,350	99	479	57	14	94	579	15	13	
80 and over	968	62	306	40	15	67	451	15	12	
Unspecified	209	21	90	4	2	18	58	6	10	
Non-fatal firefighter	78	25	5	2	41	–	2	2	1	
17-24	7	2	–	–	2	–	1	–	–	
25-29	5	4	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	
30-59	66	19	4	2	37	–	1	2	1	

¹ Table shows main injury only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, this is shown separately.

² Excludes January and February 2003 strike periods (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur 'physical injuries' is recorded.

Table 18: Fires and casualties from fires in buildings by location and country, 2004

Location	United Kingdom			England			Wales			Scotland			Northern Ireland		
	Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
TOTAL	97,325	430	13,496	79,502	303	10,568	4,608	22	770	10,656	93	1,757	2,559	12	401
Dwellings total	59,743	375	11,977	48,062	269	9,317	2,627	18	677	7,421	76	1,637	1,634	12	346
Single occupancy dwellings	28,588	227	6,112	24,161	175	5,091	1,560	13	433	1,872	34	359	995	5	229
Multiple occupancy dwellings	27,684	144	5,671	20,922	91	4,046	931	5	241	5,404	41	1,272	428	7	112
Other or unspecified dwellings	3,471	4	194	2,979	3	180	136	–	3	145	1	6	211	–	5
Private garages, sheds, etc	7,669	7	155	6,488	7	129	457	–	9	523	–	8	202	–	9
Agricultural buildings	1,180	1	30	904	–	18	115	–	5	106	1	3	56	–	4
Industrial premises	2,932	4	109	2,405	4	89	156	–	8	262	–	10	110	–	2
Mining and quarrying	22	–	–	21	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Electricity, gas, water coke, nuclear	192	–	2	146	–	2	6	–	–	35	–	–	5	–	–
Metal manufacture	208	–	5	178	–	3	23	–	2	6	–	–	–	–	–
Non-metallic mineral products	44	–	9	40	–	9	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chemicals	158	–	9	139	–	9	–	–	–	14	–	–	5	–	–
Metal goods engineering	342	3	20	303	3	20	6	–	–	18	–	–	16	–	–
Vehicle manufacture	99	–	5	77	–	2	7	–	1	4	–	–	11	–	2
Food, drink, and tobacco	443	–	10	355	–	10	11	–	–	53	–	–	25	–	–
Textiles, footwear etc.	129	–	11	103	–	8	–	–	–	16	–	3	10	–	–
Timber, wood products ²	178	1	4	155	1	2	5	–	1	18	–	1	–	–	–
Paper, printing	344	–	6	294	–	3	29	–	3	21	–	–	–	–	–
Rubber, plastics	187	–	16	166	–	15	13	–	1	2	–	–	5	–	–
Other manufacturing	333	–	10	240	–	4	45	–	–	39	–	6	9	–	–
Construction	253	–	2	188	–	2	7	–	–	35	–	–	24	–	–
Trade, hotels, catering, repairs etc.	11,560	8	588	9,738	7	507	535	–	28	1,038	1	38	249	–	15
Wholesale distribution	122	–	6	119	–	4	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	2
Recycling	118	–	9	88	–	8	22	–	–	8	–	–	1	–	1
Retail distribution	4,317	2	133	3,644	2	113	172	–	7	421	–	11	80	–	2
Sale, repair etc. of vehicles	540	2	57	447	2	52	31	–	4	31	–	–	30	–	1
Hotels	950	–	75	786	–	57	20	–	3	130	–	9	14	–	6
Hostels, holiday camps, etc.	1,451	–	47	1,202	–	42	136	–	1	77	–	3	36	–	1
Restaurants	1,314	1	92	1,062	1	76	79	–	8	137	–	7	36	–	1
Public houses, clubs etc.	1,614	3	137	1,404	2	132	63	–	3	127	1	2	20	–	–
Transport and communications premises	581	–	16	536	–	11	1	–	2	24	–	3	20	–	–
Banking, finance, insurance, real estate etc.	553	–	16	450	–	12	11	–	–	81	–	3	11	–	1

Table 18: Fires and casualties from fires in buildings by location and country, 2004 (continued)

Location	United Kingdom			England			Wales			Scotland			Northern Ireland		
	Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties		Fires ¹	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Other Services	10,461	32	534	8,847	13	423	493	4	30	913	15	57	208	-	24
Public administration, defence, law enforcement etc.	1,427	-	157	1,269	-	116	40	-	2	101	-	19	17	-	20
Schools	1,512	-	39	1,229	-	32	63	-	5	196	-	2	25	-	-
Further education etc.	542	-	8	438	-	6	32	-	2	57	-	-	15	-	-
Hospitals – nonpsychiatric	1,598	3	53	1,369	2	38	64	1	-	138	-	14	26	-	1
Hospitals – psychiatric	586	1	55	523	1	51	21	-	-	28	-	4	14	-	-
Other medical care	307	-	7	260	-	6	11	-	1	21	-	-	15	-	-
Recreational and other cultural services	2,521	2	41	2,097	1	31	126	-	2	256	1	8	42	-	-
Elderly persons home	886	20	103	745	4	81	67	2	14	59	14	7	15	-	1
Childrens home, homes for disabled or handicapped	456	-	23	398	-	22	34	-	-	15	-	-	10	-	1
Other miscellaneous services	626	6	48	519	5	40	35	1	4	42	-	3	29	-	1
Other buildings	3,554	2	89	2,888	2	71	222	-	13	347	-	4	97	-	1
Unspecified buildings	226	1	14	172	1	14	4	-	-	45	-	-	5	-	-

¹ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

² Wood furniture included in 'other manufacturing'.

Table 19: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ and other buildings by material or item first ignited, 2004

Material first ignited	Number					
	Dwellings ¹			Other buildings		
	Fires ²	Casualties		Fires ²	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Total	59,743	375	11,977	37,582	55	1,519
Gases	615	9	182	314	–	65
Mains gas	423	7	73	115	–	13
Liquid petroleum gas	164	2	86	127	–	28
Acetylene gas	1	–	–	40	–	1
Other	27	–	23	32	–	23
Liquids	1,310	25	369	1,763	7	178
Petroleum	522	14	185	651	5	76
Paraffin	51	–	7	48	–	5
Diesel oil, fuel oil	126	–	1	130	–	6
Paint, varnish	139	–	9	199	–	9
Other oils	67	–	8	384	–	25
Spirits	110	5	42	76	–	26
Other	295	6	117	275	2	31
Agricultural and forestry produce	215	–	27	853	2	25
Animal products	21	–	11	26	1	7
Standing vegetation	12	–	1	19	–	–
Cut but unprocessed vegetation	133	–	10	683	1	16
Other agricultural produce	49	–	5	125	–	2
Textiles, upholstery and furnishings	8,936	163	2,950	2,919	10	261
Clothing, on person (not nightwear)	80	16	51	30	2	23
Clothing, nightwear on person	13	3	13	9	2	6
Other textiles and clothing	2,842	20	779	1,131	4	92
Bedding (on bed or mattress)	1,338	40	588	307	1	57
Bed or mattress used as bed	642	13	237	136	–	28
Bed or mattress not used as bed	173	–	39	90	–	1
Furniture, not upholstered	205	–	39	129	–	8
Combustion-modified foam upholstery	48	2	18	8	–	1
Other foam upholstery	409	5	160	182	–	14
Other upholstery, covers	1,326	46	478	460	–	9
Curtains, blinds	870	4	269	150	–	8
Floor coverings	794	8	200	179	–	10
Furniture and furnishings – other	196	6	79	108	1	4
Structure and fittings	3,583	2	277	4,962	–	58
Floors, stairs	231	1	14	116	–	2
Wall, partition, wall tiles	225	–	10	827	–	9
Ceiling, ceiling lining	19	–	2	56	–	–
Cavity contents (wall, ceiling, floor)	89	–	2	92	–	1
Roof, roof members	330	–	29	526	–	6
Chimney or hearth	52	–	7	3	–	–
Internal fittings	282	–	28	213	–	2
External fittings	515	–	15	725	–	6
Other structure, fitting etc	1,840	1	170	2,404	–	32

Table 19: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ and other buildings by material or item first ignited, 2004 (continued)

United Kingdom	Number						
	Material first ignited	Dwellings ¹			Other buildings		
		Fires ²	Casualties		Fires ²	Casualties	
			Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Food	22,549	41	4,670	4,234	1	196	
Fat	13,912	40	3,502	2,255	1	152	
Other	8,637	1	1,168	1,979	–	44	
Paper, cardboard	5,237	26	722	6,836	–	238	
Paper and cardboard (not recycling or waste)	2,362	20	374	3,492	–	155	
Waste paper, cardboard	2,875	6	348	3,344	–	83	
Other materials	14,579	32	2,189	12,882	3	409	
Materials for recycling	49	–	6	88	–	3	
Unspecified waste	2,017	1	229	2,072	–	58	
Packaging and wrapping	620	1	110	640	–	14	
Lagging, non-electrical insulation	287	–	23	217	–	6	
Electrical insulation	6,786	5	798	6,232	2	167	
Electrical insulation in bedding ³	111	1	42	1	–	–	
Dust, powder, flour	124	–	12	474	–	18	
Fireworks	49	–	1	36	–	2	
Ammunition, explosives	10	–	2	8	–	–	
Other	4,526	24	966	3,114	1	141	
Unspecified	2,718	77	591	2,821	32	89	

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Including fires started by electric blankets where the material first ignited was reported as electrical insulation.

Table 20: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ and other buildings by material mainly responsible for the development of the fire, 2004

Material or item mainly responsible	Number					
	Dwellings ¹			Other buildings		
	Fires ²	Casualties		Fires ²	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Total	59,743	375	11,977	37,582	55	1,519
Gases	468	10	136	314	1	63
Mains gas	321	8	56	136	–	13
Liquid petroleum gas	123	–	63	112	–	23
Acetylene gas	–	–	–	43	–	3
Other	24	2	17	23	1	24
Liquids	1,037	18	275	1,544	6	131
Petroleum	370	9	143	447	5	51
Paraffin	45	–	7	44	–	3
Diesel oil, fuel oil	119	–	1	160	–	10
Paint, varnish	144	–	15	229	–	7
Other oils	61	–	6	369	–	13
Spirits	71	2	24	56	–	17
Other	227	7	79	239	1	30
Agricultural and forestry produce	809	1	118	1,004	1	28
Animal products	594	1	105	124	–	11
Standing vegetation	10	–	–	22	–	–
Cut but unprocessed vegetation	122	–	10	740	1	16
Other agricultural produce	83	–	3	118	–	1
Textiles, upholstery and furnishings	10,991	193	3,420	3,823	14	352
Clothing, on person (not nightwear)	96	21	58	38	3	32
Clothing, nightwear on person	17	3	12	12	2	7
Other textiles and clothing	2,931	15	678	1,170	7	111
Bedding (on bed or mattress)	1,070	24	398	332	1	73
Bed or mattress used as bed	1,119	28	473	185	–	44
Bed or mattress not used as bed	243	2	66	117	–	3
Furniture, not upholstered	493	6	165	361	1	12
Combustion-modified foam upholstery	86	7	45	15	–	2
Other foam upholstery	830	31	316	302	–	16
Other upholstery, covers	1,549	43	499	631	–	14
Curtains, blinds	1,000	2	273	163	–	8
Floor coverings	1,117	1	250	300	–	14
Furniture and furnishings – other	440	10	187	197	–	16
Structure and fittings	6,399	34	957	8,508	5	203
Floors, stairs	510	3	47	293	–	3
Wall, partition, wall tiles	360	2	46	1,272	–	26
Ceiling, ceiling lining	70	2	31	113	–	2
Cavity contents (wall, ceiling, floor)	117	–	7	138	–	2
Roof, roof members	591	2	46	934	1	26
Chimney or hearth	46	–	5	2	–	–
Internal fittings	1,229	16	305	875	3	55
External fittings	548	–	26	816	–	6
Other structure, fitting etc	2,928	9	444	4,065	1	83

Table 20: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ and other buildings by material mainly responsible for the development of the fire, 2004 (continued)

United Kingdom						Number
Material or item mainly responsible	Dwellings ¹			Other buildings		
	Fires ²	Casualties		Fires ²	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
Food	20,872	19	4,151	3,949	–	184
Fat	13,003	19	3,125	2,074	–	150
Other	7,869	–	1,026	1,875	–	34
Paper, cardboard	3,126	9	368	3,935	–	140
Paper and cardboard (not recycling or waste)	1,556	9	227	2,277	–	94
Waste paper, cardboard	1,570	–	141	1,658	–	46
Other materials	14,452	35	2,232	13,529	–	385
Materials for recycling	39	–	6	103	–	2
Unspecified waste	2,085	–	217	1,959	–	48
Packaging and wrapping	512	–	58	624	–	13
Lagging, non-electrical insulation	395	–	29	331	–	17
Electrical insulation	4,614	–	386	4,873	–	61
Electrical insulation in bedding ³	24	–	7	1	–	–
Dust, powder, flour	107	–	9	416	–	10
Fireworks	47	–	2	32	–	3
Ammunition, explosives	39	–	7	29	–	–
Other	6,590	35	1,511	5,161	–	231
Unspecified	1,587	56	320	975	28	33

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to brigade totals.

³ Including fires started by electric blankets where the material first ignited was reported as electrical insulation.

Table 21: Accidental fires in dwellings¹ by source of ignition and cause, 2004

United Kingdom											Fires ²
Source of Ignition	Total	Faulty fuel supplies	Faulty appliances and leads	Misuse of equipment or appliances	Chip/fat pan fires	Playing with fire	Careless handling of fire or other hot substance	Person too close/fell on fire	Placing articles too close to heat	Other accidental	Unspecified
Total	47,769	1,840	7,121	17,186	7,400	504	4,476	40	4,254	4,302	646
Smoking related items	4,336	3	3	178	–	407	3,359	–	251	113	21
Smokers' materials	3,457	–	–	131	–	1	3,085	–	144	78	17
Cigarette lighters	415	1	1	20	–	248	74	–	63	8	1
Matches	464	2	2	27	–	159	200	–	44	27	3
Cooking appliances	27,248	43	930	15,625	7,390	38	491	16	1,712	945	57
Electric cookers	17,748	7	343	10,124	5,226	25	320	3	1,162	512	24
Gas cookers	6,424	8	186	3,494	1,892	4	114	12	426	274	14
Liquid petroleum gas cooker	53	4	3	22	16	1	1	1	2	1	2
Microwave cooker	198	7	21	97	33	–	1	–	19	13	7
Other cooker	1,422	4	145	1,184	5	2	28	–	16	35	3
Other electric cooking appliance	1,229	6	216	647	154	6	22	–	66	105	8
Other non-electric cooking appliance	174	6	16	58	63	–	5	–	21	5	–
Space heating appliances	1,677	24	351	155	–	9	41	20	762	299	17
Electric	701	7	175	55	–	1	34	14	376	29	9
Gas	420	9	66	25	–	6	2	5	241	62	5
Liquid petroleum gas	65	4	31	1	–	2	1	–	22	2	2
Solid fuel: Fire in grate	189	1	22	36	–	–	1	1	31	97	–
Slow combustion stove etc.	162	1	15	24	–	–	2	–	69	50	1
Oil and petroleum	48	1	23	1	–	–	1	–	3	19	–
Other and unspecified fuel	91	1	19	12	–	–	–	–	20	39	–
Central heating appliances	756	41	442	31	–	1	7	1	109	113	11
Electric	184	3	137	7	–	–	2	1	20	12	11
Gas	474	17	271	13	–	1	4	–	77	83	–
Oil and petroleum	64	21	24	5	–	–	–	–	5	9	–
Other and unspecified fuel	34	–	10	6	–	–	1	–	7	9	–
Water heating appliances	392	18	347	2	–	1	–	–	8	14	2
Electric water heating	351	15	311	2	–	–	–	–	8	13	2
Gas water heating	41	3	36	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–
Other and unspecified fuel water heating	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Welding and cutting appliances	56	–	–	50	–	–	2	–	3	1	–
Electric	12	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Acetylene	11	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	32	–	–	27	–	–	2	–	2	1	–
Blowlamps	574	–	18	480	–	1	33	–	32	2	8
Electric	104	–	6	86	–	1	4	–	7	–	–
Gas	72	–	1	68	–	–	2	–	1	–	–
Liquid petroleum gas	365	–	11	295	–	–	25	–	24	2	8
Other	33	–	–	31	–	–	2	–	–	–	–

Table 21: Accidental fires in dwellings¹ by source of ignition and cause, 2004 (continued)

United Kingdom												Fires ²
Source of Ignition	Total	Faulty fuel supplies	Faulty appliances and leads	Misuse of equipment or appliances	Chip/fat pan fires	Playing with fire	Careless handling of fire or other hot substance	Person too close/fell on fire	Placing articles too close to heat	Other accidental	Unspecified	
Vehicle related	107	27	22	2	–	–	–	–	1	51	3	
Motor vehicle related	23	12	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	–	
Non-motor vehicle related	84	16	18	2	–	–	–	–	1	44	3	
Electrical distribution	2,850	1,517	973	90	8	–	6	–	9	208	40	
Plugs	47	24	15	4	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	
Sockets and switches	248	135	75	11	–	–	–	–	–	18	9	
Leads to appliances	347	10	276	32	–	–	1	–	–	26	2	
Other wiring	2,208	1,348	608	42	8	–	5	–	9	161	27	
Other electrical	5,525	134	3,923	340	1	2	43	–	549	490	44	
Washing machine	1,112	28	1,009	10	–	–	–	–	5	42	18	
Dishwasher	368	12	311	12	–	–	–	–	8	18	6	
Refrigerator	371	12	325	1	–	–	–	–	10	21	2	
Tumble and spin driers	851	5	589	55	–	–	–	–	3	192	7	
Lighting	1,004	16	322	85	–	–	29	–	471	79	3	
Blanket, bedwarmer	250	4	183	53	–	–	1	–	–	9	–	
Television	557	26	482	15	–	–	1	–	6	23	4	
Iron	44	–	10	22	–	–	2	–	4	5	–	
Audio visual	107	13	77	2	–	–	1	–	5	8	–	
Computer/VDU	44	1	31	1	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	
Kettle, Urn, etc	64	–	38	13	–	–	1	–	1	11	–	
Other	754	16	546	71	1	2	8	–	36	71	3	
Other appliances fuelled by:	159	16	50	37	1	5	10	–	24	15	3	
Gas	34	6	12	2	1	1	1	–	12	–	–	
Liquefied petroleum gas	30	1	2	16	–	4	3	–	3	1	–	
Oil and petroleum	33	5	13	8	–	–	–	–	2	5	–	
Other and unspecified	62	4	23	10	–	–	6	–	7	9	3	
Chimney, stove pipe, flue (not confined to)	265	2	35	17	–	–	2	1	43	160	5	
Candles	1,771	5	–	77	–	16	328	2	483	860	–	
Other sources	1,373	5	16	62	–	22	128	–	235	853	52	
Ashes, soot	76	–	4	6	–	–	15	–	16	35	–	
Rubbish	60	–	–	5	–	1	2	–	21	23	7	
Taper, lighted paper, other naked light	343	1	6	28	–	16	94	–	129	54	14	
Hot metal, molten glass	65	1	5	2	–	–	1	–	30	26	–	
Fireworks	42	–	–	7	–	3	1	–	22	4	6	
Lightning	203	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	196	5	
Spontaneous combustion	24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24	–	
Spread from fire	469	–	1	2	–	–	2	–	2	444	19	
Other	91	3	–	12	–	2	13	–	13	47	1	
Unspecified	681	4	13	40	–	1	26	–	35	179	383	

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

² Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Table 22: Casualties by fire and rescue service area and location group, 2004

FRS Area	Population estimate mid – 2004 (thousands)	Fatal casualties									
		By location									
		Total		Dwellings		Other buildings		Road vehicles		Other	
	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	
United Kingdom	59,835	508	8	375	6	55	1	50	1	28	–
England and Wales	53,046	395	7	287	5	38	1	45	1	25	–
England	50,094	369	7	269	5	34	1	42	1	24	–
England – Non-Met	31,708	201	6	137	4	18	1	26	1	20	1
Avon	1,007	6	6	3	3	–	–	1	1	2	2
Bedfordshire	576	2	3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Berkshire	806	3	4	2	2	–	–	–	–	1	1
Buckinghamshire	695	3	4	1	1	–	–	2	3	–	–
Cambridgeshire	738	7	9	3	4	4	5	–	–	–	–
Cheshire	993	5	5	1	1	–	–	3	3	1	1
Cleveland	553	3	5	2	4	1	2	–	–	–	–
Cornwall	515	3	6	3	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cumbria	495	8	16	3	6	1	2	3	6	1	2
Derbyshire	979	7	7	6	6	1	1	–	–	–	–
Devon	1,102	2	2	1	1	–	–	1	1	–	–
Dorset	700	6	9	3	4	–	–	–	–	3	4
Durham	595	5	8	4	7	1	2	–	–	–	–
East Sussex	749	8	11	4	5	–	–	4	5	–	–
Essex	1,636	10	6	6	4	1	1	1	1	2	1
Gloucestershire	573	1	2	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hampshire	1,663	7	4	7	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hereford & Worcs	730	4	5	2	3	–	–	2	3	–	–
Hertfordshire	1,041	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Humberside	888	7	8	7	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
Isle of Wight	138	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Kent	1,610	7	4	5	3	1	1	–	–	1	1
Lancashire	1,435	17	12	15	10	1	1	–	–	1	1
Leicestershire	945	12	13	9	10	–	–	1	1	2	2
Lincolnshire	674	5	7	4	6	–	–	1	1	–	–
Norfolk	817	3	4	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
North Yorkshire	765	2	3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Northamptonshire	647	6	9	3	5	1	2	1	2	1	2
Northumberland	311	1	3	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–
Nottinghamshire	1,035	6	6	5	5	–	–	–	–	1	1
Oxfordshire	620	3	5	2	3	1	2	–	–	–	–
Shropshire	449	6	13	1	2	2	4	3	7	–	–
Somerset	512	4	8	2	4	2	4	–	–	–	–
Staffordshire	1,051	8	8	6	6	–	–	1	1	1	1
Suffolk	684	2	3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Surrey	1,067	5	5	2	2	–	2	1	–	–	–
Warwickshire	525	2	4	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
West Sussex	762	13	17	12	16	–	–	–	–	1	2
Wiltshire	627	1	2	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Isles of Scilly	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
England – Met	18,385	168	9	132	7	16	1	16	1	4	–
Greater Manchester	2,539	23	9	17	7	1	–	2	1	3	1
Merseyside	1,366	15	11	13	10	–	–	2	1	–	–
South Yorkshire	1,278	12	9	12	9	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tyne & Wear	1,086	5	5	4	4	–	–	1	1	–	–
West Midlands	2,579	24	9	17	7	6	2	1	–	–	–
West Yorkshire	2,108	32	15	23	11	2	1	6	3	1	–
Greater London	7,429	57	8	46	6	7	1	4	1	–	–
Wales	2,952	26	9	18	6	4	1	3	1	1	–
North Wales	674	5	7	3	4	–	–	2	3	–	–
Mid and West Wales	865	10	12	7	8	2	2	–	–	1	1
South Wales	1,413	11	8	8	6	2	1	1	1	–	–
Northern Ireland	1,710	14	8	12	7	0	0	2	1	–	–
Scotland	5,078	99	19	76	15	17	3	3	1	3	1
Strathclyde	2,206	57	26	38	17	17	8	1	–	1	–
Highland & Islands	279	11	39	9	32	–	–	1	4	1	4
Grampian	524	4	8	4	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tayside	388	4	10	4	10	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lothian & Borders	897	10	11	9	10	–	–	–	–	1	1
Fife	355	6	17	5	14	–	–	1	3	–	–
Central	282	4	14	4	14	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dumfries & Galloway	148	3	20	3	20	–	–	–	–	–	–

Table 22: Casualties by fire and rescue service area and location group, 2004 (continued)

										Number of persons (n), per million population (pmp)
Non-fatal casualties										FRS Area
By location										
Total		Dwellings		Other buildings		Road vehicles		Other		
n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	n	pmp	
14,579	244	11,977	200	1,519	25	528	9	555	9	United Kingdom
12,277	231	9,994	188	1,344	25	452	9	487	9	England and Wales
11,447	229	9,317	186	1,251	25	424	8	455	9	England
5,848	184	4,634	146	665	21	294	9	255	8	England – Non-Met
128	127	100	99	17	17	6	6	5	5	Avon
70	121	60	104	5	9	3	5	2	3	Bedfordshire
78	97	66	82	7	9	1	1	4	5	Berkshire
123	177	93	134	14	20	10	14	6	9	Buckinghamshire
132	179	93	126	27	37	2	3	10	14	Cambridgeshire
191	192	153	154	14	14	14	14	10	10	Cheshire
174	314	144	260	16	29	2	4	12	22	Cleveland
105	204	80	155	14	27	7	14	4	8	Cornwall
115	232	81	164	10	20	19	38	5	10	Cumbria
157	160	126	129	15	15	8	8	8	8	Derbyshire
255	231	201	182	30	27	9	8	15	14	Devon
86	123	70	100	5	7	3	4	8	11	Dorset
135	227	110	185	13	22	7	12	5	8	Durham
187	250	147	196	21	28	13	17	6	8	East Sussex
254	155	197	120	33	20	19	12	5	3	Essex
70	122	45	79	18	31	2	3	5	9	Gloucestershire
315	189	258	155	28	17	16	10	13	8	Hampshire
82	112	65	89	12	16	–	–	5	7	Hereford & Worcs
147	141	116	111	18	17	11	11	2	2	Hertfordshire
234	264	192	216	23	26	13	15	6	7	Humberside
36	260	28	202	7	51	1	7	–	–	Isle of Wight
169	105	122	76	22	14	11	7	14	9	Kent
569	397	490	341	42	29	20	14	17	12	Lancashire
145	153	123	130	17	18	–	–	5	5	Leicestershire
135	200	110	163	15	22	5	7	5	7	Lincolnshire
142	174	122	149	10	12	6	7	4	5	Norfolk
115	150	93	122	14	18	4	5	4	5	North Yorkshire
122	189	98	152	13	20	9	14	2	3	Northamptonshire
56	180	49	158	4	13	1	3	2	6	Northumberland
282	273	245	237	19	18	12	12	6	6	Nottinghamshire
125	202	78	126	30	48	6	10	11	18	Oxfordshire
42	94	31	69	3	7	5	11	3	7	Shropshire
82	160	61	119	7	14	10	20	4	8	Somerset
167	159	133	127	16	15	6	6	12	11	Staffordshire
112	164	81	118	17	25	7	10	7	10	Suffolk
205	192	153	143	33	31	6	6	13	12	Surrey
58	110	40	76	15	29	2	4	1	2	Warwickshire
163	214	113	148	32	42	11	14	7	9	West Sussex
85	136	67	107	9	14	7	11	2	3	Wiltshire
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Isles of Scilly
5,599	305	4,683	255	586	32	130	7	200	11	England – Met
1,737	684	1,387	546	210	83	45	18	95	37	Greater Manchester
560	410	506	370	34	25	10	7	10	7	Merseyside
289	226	257	201	21	16	7	5	4	3	South Yorkshire
344	317	289	266	32	29	8	7	15	14	Tyne & Wear
486	188	390	151	52	20	11	4	33	13	West Midlands
559	265	477	226	47	22	9	4	26	12	West Yorkshire
1,624	219	1,377	185	190	26	40	5	17	2	Greater London
830	281	677	229	93	31	28	9	32	11	Wales
200	297	169	251	16	24	5	7	10	15	North Wales
272	314	205	237	44	51	7	8	16	18	Mid and West Wales
358	253	303	214	33	23	16	11	6	4	South Wales
444	260	346	202	55	32	19	11	24	14	Northern Ireland
1,858	366	1,637	322	120	24	57	11	44	9	Scotland
846	384	740	335	51	23	33	15	22	10	Strathclyde
75	269	58	208	5	18	1	4	11	39	Highland & Islands
203	387	172	328	18	34	10	19	3	6	Grampian
135	348	123	317	7	18	5	13	–	–	Tayside
343	382	314	350	21	23	4	4	4	4	Lothian & Borders
91	257	79	223	9	25	1	3	2	6	Fife
141	500	131	464	6	21	2	7	2	7	Central
24	162	20	135	3	20	1	7	–	–	Dumfries & Galloway

Table 23: Fires by location and fire and rescue service area, 2004

FRS Area	All fires n	Buildings and outdoors (excluding secondary and chimney fires) ^{1,2}																	
		Total (=100%)		Dwellings		Private garages and sheds		Agricultural premises		Industrial premises		Retail distribution buildings		Other buildings		Road vehicles		Other outdoors	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
United Kingdom	442,688	181,758	59,743	33%	7,669	4%	1,180	1%	2,933	2%	4,857	3%	20,944	12%	72,785	40%	11,648	6%	
England and Wales	376,972	161,066	50,689	31%	6,944	4%	1,018	1%	2,560	2%	4,295	3%	18,603	12%	66,569	41%	10,387	6%	
England	349,059	150,905	48,062	32%	6,488	4%	904	1%	2,405	2%	4,092	3%	17,552	12%	61,700	41%	9,703	6%	
England - Non-Met	192,048	86,634	25,166	29%	4,188	5%	808	1%	1,423	2%	2,158	2%	10,391	12%	35,979	42%	6,521	8%	
Avon	6,985	3,437	760	22%	156	5%	10	0%	27	1%	76	2%	376	11%	1,810	53%	222	6%	
Bedfordshire	3,350	1,675	488	29%	44	3%	9	1%	19	1%	59	4%	218	13%	700	42%	138	8%	
Berkshire	4,005	1,994	611	31%	102	5%	13	1%	15	1%	48	2%	294	15%	805	40%	105	5%	
Buckinghamshire	4,126	2,018	525	26%	87	4%	11	1%	37	2%	56	3%	244	12%	917	45%	141	7%	
Cambridgeshire	4,054	2,137	550	26%	103	5%	28	1%	43	2%	42	2%	242	11%	987	46%	142	7%	
Cheshire	7,982	3,118	856	27%	144	5%	39	1%	85	3%	121	4%	374	12%	1,238	40%	261	8%	
Cleveland	7,249	2,584	715	28%	157	6%	5	0%	54	2%	63	2%	199	8%	1,212	47%	178	7%	
Cornwall	2,294	1,177	351	30%	30	3%	20	2%	16	1%	23	2%	168	14%	457	39%	112	10%	
Cumbria	3,526	1,442	471	33%	64	4%	18	1%	43	3%	45	3%	175	12%	539	37%	87	6%	
Derbyshire	4,598	2,264	718	32%	120	5%	21	1%	25	1%	52	2%	284	13%	867	38%	177	8%	
Devon	5,852	2,791	922	33%	109	4%	40	1%	16	1%	79	3%	401	14%	995	36%	229	8%	
Dorset	3,279	1,556	451	29%	65	4%	26	2%	20	1%	39	3%	206	13%	574	37%	175	11%	
Durham	5,378	1,977	555	28%	121	6%	19	1%	47	2%	40	2%	212	11%	776	39%	207	10%	
East Sussex	4,228	2,375	956	40%	62	3%	14	1%	11	0%	79	3%	361	15%	717	30%	175	7%	
Essex	8,720	3,455	910	26%	173	5%	32	1%	49	1%	81	2%	384	11%	1,652	48%	174	5%	
Gloucestershire	3,015	1,684	446	26%	104	6%	13	1%	18	1%	33	2%	173	10%	772	46%	126	7%	
Hampshire	9,178	3,316	1,117	34%	110	3%	23	1%	58	2%	93	3%	410	12%	1,314	40%	191	6%	
Hereford & Worcs	3,428	1,566	462	30%	62	4%	40	3%	54	3%	39	2%	157	10%	684	44%	68	4%	
Hertfordshire	4,799	2,359	736	31%	136	6%	15	1%	33	1%	61	3%	286	12%	982	42%	111	5%	
Humberside	9,529	3,774	937	25%	250	7%	38	1%	26	1%	46	1%	358	9%	1,846	49%	273	7%	
Isle of Wight	540	265	96	36%	18	7%	-	-	-	-	4	2%	64	24%	66	25%	16	6%	
Kent	10,117	4,335	1,056	24%	277	6%	14	0%	77	2%	121	3%	393	9%	2,075	48%	323	7%	
Lancashire	12,042	5,037	2,085	41%	161	3%	35	1%	70	1%	162	3%	752	15%	1,440	29%	332	7%	
Leicestershire	4,751	2,230	607	27%	107	5%	18	1%	39	2%	42	2%	244	11%	928	42%	244	11%	
Lincolnshire	3,316	1,790	461	26%	83	5%	32	2%	36	2%	38	2%	225	13%	683	38%	232	13%	
Norfolk	3,695	1,804	461	26%	123	7%	24	1%	34	2%	41	2%	206	11%	725	40%	190	11%	
North Yorkshire	3,316	1,701	501	29%	88	5%	42	2%	79	5%	51	3%	166	10%	572	34%	203	12%	
Northamptonshire	4,854	2,155	577	27%	129	6%	9	0%	40	2%	47	2%	243	11%	1,029	48%	81	4%	
Northumberland	2,513	1,016	277	27%	70	7%	-	-	61	6%	14	1%	149	15%	368	36%	77	8%	
Nottinghamshire	9,305	4,293	1,004	23%	263	6%	12	0%	57	1%	81	2%	424	10%	2,019	47%	432	10%	
Oxfordshire	2,849	1,492	388	26%	121	8%	12	1%	12	1%	17	1%	162	11%	673	45%	107	7%	
Shropshire	2,886	1,226	353	29%	32	3%	9	1%	42	3%	40	3%	159	13%	510	42%	81	7%	
Somerset	2,560	1,354	391	29%	99	7%	28	2%	14	1%	39	3%	173	13%	453	33%	157	12%	
Staffordshire	6,915	2,745	792	29%	99	4%	20	1%	14	1%	62	2%	355	13%	1,251	46%	153	6%	
Suffolk	3,097	1,459	397	27%	65	4%	13	1%	62	4%	25	2%	175	12%	525	36%	198	14%	
Surrey	4,577	2,447	772	32%	113	5%	6	0%	10	0%	71	3%	385	16%	971	40%	119	5%	
Warwickshire	3,091	1,419	340	24%	27	2%	21	1%	25	2%	26	2%	151	11%	777	55%	52	4%	
West Sussex	3,683	1,841	610	33%	64	3%	25	1%	25	1%	49	3%	310	17%	608	33%	150	8%	
Wiltshire	2,349	1,324	461	35%	50	4%	54	4%	31	2%	51	4%	134	10%	460	35%	83	6%	
Isles of Scilly	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	50%	-	-	1	50%	
England - Met	157,011	64,271	22,896	36%	2,299	4%	96	0%	982	2%	1,934	3%	7,161	11%	25,722	40%	3,181	5%	
Greater Manchester	26,677	12,375	4,390	35%	503	4%	12	0%	228	2%	386	3%	1,401	11%	4,722	38%	733	6%	
Merseyside	20,256	6,970	2,292	33%	164	2%	5	0%	66	1%	218	3%	645	9%	3,114	45%	466	7%	
South Yorkshire	12,872	5,189	1,312	25%	252	5%	10	0%	122	2%	102	2%	493	10%	2,631	51%	267	5%	
Tyne & Wear	13,209	5,037	2,013	40%	206	4%	19	0%	27	1%	112	2%	632	13%	1,761	35%	267	5%	
West Midlands	22,638	9,513	3,199	34%	283	3%	5	0%	223	2%	330	3%	1,046	11%	3,933	41%	494	5%	
West Yorkshire	20,820	7,899	2,133	27%	285	4%	40	1%	158	2%	189	2%	632	8%	4,062	52%	340	4%	
Greater London	40,539	17,348	7,557	44%	607	3%	5	0%	158	1%	596	3%	2,312	13%	5,498	32%	615	4%	
Wales	27,913	10,161	2,627	26%	457	4%	115	1%	155	2%	204	2%	1,051	10%	4,869	48%	684	7%	
North Wales	4,749	1,955	575	29%	91	5%	50	3%	39	2%	43	2%	220	11%	672	34%	266	14%	
Mid and West Wales	7,547	2,940	884	30%	87	3%	24	1%	55	2%	62	2%	409	14%	1,235	42%	185	6%	
South Wales	15,617	5,266	1,168	22%	279	5%	41	1%	62	1%	99	2%	422	8%	2,962	56%	233	4%	
Northern Ireland	18,783	4,896	1,634	33%	202	4%	56	1%	109	2%	109	2%	449	9%	2,051	42%	286	6%	
Scotland	46,933	15,796	7,420	47%	523	3%	106	1%	263	2%	452	3%	1,892	12%	4,165	26%	975	6%	
Strathclyde	24,597	7,645	3,438	45%	246	3%	28	0%	85	1%	202	3%	863	11%	2,378	31%	405	5%	
Highland & Islands	1,697	511	223	44%	40	8%	1	0%	6	1%	19	4%	65	13%	116	23%	42	8%	
Grampian	3,203	1,460	812	56%	20	1%	26	2%	7	0%	54	4%	207	14%	195	13%	138	9%	
Tayside	3,235	1,207	637	53%	30	2%	11	1%	31	3%	29	2%	140	12%	235	19%	94	8%	
Lothian & Borders	7,799	2,995	1,495	50%	115	4%	24	1%	43	1%	98	3%	372	12%	674	23%	173	6%	
Fife	3,191	936	353	38%	41	4%	7	1%	47	5%	30	3%	90	10%	319	34%	50	5%	
Central	2,341	682	316	46%	17	2%	-	-	36	5%	20	3%	102	15%	157	23%	34	5%	
Dumfries & Galloway	870	360	146	41%	14	4%	8	2%	9	3%	-	-	53	15%	92	26%	38	11%	

¹ Primary fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Table 23: Fires by location and and fire and rescue service area, 2004 (continued)

Number of fires (n), percentage of fires (%)										
Total (=100%)	Derelict Buildings	Secondary fires				Other	Chimney fires	FRS Area		
		Grassland, heathland etc	Refuse and derelict vehicles							
n	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	
251,149	10,407	4%	59,987	24%	167,418	67%	13,337	5%	9,781	United Kingdom
209,115	8,446	4%	49,421	24%	138,685	66%	12,563	6%	6,791	England and Wales
192,012	8,012	4%	42,422	22%	129,468	67%	12,110	6%	6,142	England
99,705	3,369	3%	25,483	26%	64,759	65%	6,094	6%	5,709	England - Non-Met
3,490	97	3%	789	23%	2,498	72%	106	3%	58	Avon
1,628	75	5%	307	19%	1,204	74%	42	3%	47	Bedfordshire
1,939	56	3%	617	32%	1,096	57%	170	9%	72	Berkshire
2,009	52	3%	285	14%	1,463	73%	209	10%	99	Buckinghamshire
1,844	40	2%	392	21%	1,264	69%	148	8%	73	Cambridgeshire
4,754	145	3%	968	20%	3,442	72%	199	4%	110	Cheshire
4,657	140	3%	762	16%	3,593	77%	162	3%	8	Cleveland
875	5	1%	388	44%	432	49%	50	6%	242	Cornwall
1,888	54	3%	487	26%	1,303	69%	44	2%	196	Cumbria
2,175	85	4%	567	26%	1,352	62%	171	8%	159	Derbyshire
2,707	77	3%	666	25%	1,706	63%	258	10%	354	Devon
1,538	35	2%	783	51%	656	43%	64	4%	185	Dorset
3,257	167	5%	736	23%	2,227	68%	127	4%	144	Durham
1,690	39	2%	276	16%	1,205	71%	170	10%	163	East Sussex
5,153	152	3%	1,596	31%	3,118	61%	287	6%	112	Essex
1,139	51	4%	229	20%	788	69%	71	6%	192	Gloucestershire
5,554	93	2%	1,827	33%	3,369	61%	265	5%	308	Hampshire
1,665	77	5%	569	34%	783	47%	236	14%	197	Hereford & Worcs
2,370	42	2%	590	25%	1,575	66%	163	7%	70	Hertfordshire
5,647	217	4%	741	13%	4,459	79%	230	4%	108	Humberside
246	12	5%	61	25%	146	59%	27	11%	29	Isle of Wight
5,554	185	3%	1,033	19%	3,600	65%	736	13%	228	Kent
6,906	341	5%	1,500	22%	4,758	69%	307	4%	99	Lancashire
2,405	50	2%	627	26%	1,593	66%	135	6%	116	Leicestershire
1,386	63	5%	421	30%	803	58%	99	7%	140	Lincolnshire
1,678	59	4%	450	27%	1,091	65%	78	5%	213	Norfolk
1,398	42	3%	293	21%	1,018	73%	45	3%	217	North Yorkshire
2,618	84	3%	441	17%	1,973	75%	120	5%	81	Northamptonshire
1,362	39	3%	349	26%	909	67%	65	5%	135	Northumberland
4,908	270	6%	2,112	43%	2,271	46%	255	5%	104	Nottinghamshire
1,175	49	4%	341	29%	691	59%	94	8%	182	Oxfordshire
1,481	38	3%	528	36%	833	56%	82	6%	179	Shropshire
940	60	6%	251	27%	580	62%	49	5%	266	Somerset
4,048	139	3%	1,261	31%	2,407	59%	241	6%	122	Staffordshire
1,481	44	3%	418	28%	924	62%	95	6%	157	Suffolk
2,029	47	2%	821	40%	1,032	51%	129	6%	101	Surrey
1,606	79	5%	335	21%	1,006	63%	186	12%	66	Warwickshire
1,660	35	2%	440	27%	1,068	64%	117	7%	182	West Sussex
834	34	4%	216	26%	522	63%	62	7%	191	Wiltshire
11	-	-	10	91%	1	9%	-	-	4	Isles of Scilly
92,307	4,643	5%	16,939	18%	64,709	70%	6,016	7%	433	England - Met
14,258	735	5%	1,586	11%	10,979	77%	958	7%	44	Greater Manchester
13,248	947	7%	2,712	20%	9,074	68%	515	4%	38	Merseyside
7,623	495	6%	1,438	19%	4,883	64%	807	11%	60	South Yorkshire
8,154	371	5%	1,272	16%	6,199	76%	312	4%	18	Tyne & Wear
13,069	699	5%	3,464	27%	8,017	61%	889	7%	56	West Midlands
12,838	838	7%	1,519	12%	9,311	73%	1,170	9%	143	West Yorkshire
23,117	558	2%	4,948	21%	16,246	70%	1,365	6%	74	Greater London
17,103	434	3%	6,999	41%	9,217	54%	453	3%	649	Wales
2,494	54	2%	1,029	41%	1,329	53%	82	3%	300	North Wales
4,366	139	3%	2,058	47%	2,017	46%	152	3%	241	Mid and West Wales
10,243	241	2%	3,912	38%	5,871	57%	219	2%	108	South Wales
12,550	634	5%	3,927	31%	7,864	63%	125	1%	1,337	Northern Ireland
29,484	1,327	5%	6,639	23%	20,869	71%	649	2%	1,653	Scotland
16,699	934	6%	3,131	19%	12,339	74%	295	2%	253	Strathclyde
583	28	5%	297	51%	237	41%	21	4%	603	Highland & Islands
1,494	48	3%	380	25%	1,003	67%	63	4%	249	Grampian
1,893	76	4%	383	20%	1,399	74%	35	2%	135	Tayside
4,646	126	3%	1,220	26%	3,192	69%	108	2%	158	Lothian & Borders
2,184	67	3%	659	30%	1,410	65%	48	2%	71	Fife
1,617	44	3%	502	31%	1,008	62%	63	4%	42	Central
368	4	1%	67	18%	281	76%	16	4%	142	Dumfries & Galloway

Table 24: Deliberate¹ primary fires by fire and rescue service and location, 2004 (continued)

FRS Area	Location																Fires ²	
	Total	Dwellings ³			Other buildings											Road vehicles		Other
		Single occupancy	Multiple occupancy	Other and unspecified occupancy	Private garages, sheds, etc	Agricultural premises	Construction industry premises	Other industrial premises	Retail & vehicle trade premises	Hotels catering premises pubs etc	Schools	Hospitals	Other services	Other buildings	Un-specified other building	Cars	Other road vehicles	Other outdoors or derelict
England - Met	34,265	1,417	2,151	1,383	1,747	66	68	195	728	382	276	198	970	712	79	18,173	3,178	2,543
Greater Manchester	6,529	234	299	368	409	7	6	45	138	59	65	22	168	99	11	3,413	588	598
Merseyside	4,663	265	135	387	135	5	19	20	121	50	44	16	121	95	-	2,562	244	444
South Yorkshire	3,300	120	117	102	204	7	15	18	48	34	20	8	83	42	4	2,028	252	198
Tyne & Wear	2,568	85	140	161	165	15	-	4	47	40	23	9	50	69	19	1,315	199	227
West Midlands	5,275	251	410	155	225	3	6	46	137	72	28	24	97	111	19	2,797	504	390
West Yorkshire	5,167	222	194	126	227	29	7	36	86	43	42	36	112	99	21	3,246	374	267
Greater London	6,763	239	857	84	382	-	15	25	151	84	54	83	339	196	5	2,812	1,017	419
Wales	5,595	194	153	119	305	33	-	4	83	71	45	9	136	121	4	3,433	426	459
North Wales	857	29	39	16	44	5	-	-	9	9	4	-	36	19	-	397	80	168
Mid and West Wales	1,281	51	30	17	49	4	-	-	22	19	8	-	47	37	-	811	95	92
South Wales	3,457	114	84	86	211	24	-	4	52	43	32	9	54	65	4	2,224	251	199
Northern Ireland	2,793	202	147	163	119	19	19	18	57	20	10	10	98	71	5	1,423	205	205
Scotland	6,532	129	1,336	118	393	26	21	47	182	101	108	27	285	230	36	2,479	375	639
Strathclyde	3,572	64	583	87	204	16	10	11	92	43	64	17	101	131	25	1,627	207	290
Highland and Islands	92	2	15	-	5	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	14	7	-	23	4	9
Grampian	367	15	100	1	19	-	-	1	14	8	6	-	36	8	-	85	4	69
Tayside	365	-	128	-	18	-	-	12	6	12	6	1	18	6	-	87	29	42
Lothian & Borders	1,359	28	387	25	99	9	-	11	41	20	25	9	54	38	4	383	73	152
Fife	408	12	48	4	28	1	11	5	11	6	-	-	17	10	6	170	32	44
Central	259	6	55	-	6	-	-	6	12	-	7	-	44	18	-	58	21	28
Dumfries	110	1	20	-	14	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	11	-	46	5	5

¹ Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was suspected (see explanatory note 11).

² Figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

Long Time Series Tables 1950–2004

Table 25: Fires by location, UK, 1950-2004¹

United Kingdom							Fires (thousands)	
Year	Total	Primary fires ²			Secondary fires	Chimney fires		
		Dwellings	Other Buildings	Outdoors				
				Road Vehicles			Other	
1950	..	21.0	22.7	5.5	..	..
1951	..	20.0	22.4	5.8	..	..
1952	..	22.5	24.2	6.5	..	..
1953	..	21.2	22.6	6.8	..	..
1954	..	22.8	23.2	6.6	..	..
1955	..	23.5	27.0	7.9	..	..
1956	..	24.5	27.0	7.8	..	..
1957	..	22.8	27.9	7.6	..	..
1958	..	24.3	27.7	8.2	..	..
1959	..	26.6	34.7	10.3	..	..
1960	..	27.6	34.8	9.6	..	..
1961	..	29.8	36.3	10.3	..	..
1962	..	32.5	33.5	10.4	..	..
1963	..	37.6	32.9	10.7	..	..
1964	..	35.1	36.8	11.9	..	..
1965	..	34.5	37.5	12.0	..	72.1		
1966	..	35.9	35.5	13.2	..	64.4		
1967	..	39.3	37.4	14.0	..	65.9		
1968	..	43.1	40.6	15.2	..	67.7		
1969	..	45.9	45.0	16.3	..	63.8		
1970	..	45.3	45.1	16.9	..	59.5		
1971	..	46.0	43.3	18.1	..	59.8		
1972	..	52.9	47.2	20.4	..	59.0		
1973	..	55.5	49.8	23.2	..	52.4		
1974	..	55.1	46.4	21.9	..	45.5		
1975	..	52.0	44.0	23.0	..	43.0		
1976	..	51.1	44.7	25.1	..	46.5		
1977 ³	..	51.0	42.4	24.3	..	45.8		
1978 ³	..	53.3	39.7	27.2	..	49.3		
1979	..	58.6	41.4	30.3	..	44.9		
1980 ³	..	56.9	41.5	31.5	..	43.8		
1981	139.3	56.0	38.8	33.8	10.7	146.2	44.1	
1982	146.7	56.4	39.8	38.6	11.9	167.3	43.9	
1983	150.4	57.4	40.1	40.0	12.9	175.1	46.9	
1984	161.0	59.0	42.6	44.3	15.2	235.0	50.5	
1985	162.0	62.6	42.0	45.0	12.3	162.2	63.8	
1986	165.9	63.5	42.2	47.7	12.5	167.4	54.0	
1987	165.6	63.2	40.9	49.7	11.9	139.7	48.6	
1988	166.4	64.2	42.2	49.0	11.1	149.0	40.6	
1989	176.8	64.5	45.6	51.7	14.9	242.1	37.2	
1990	178.9	63.2	44.9	56.7	14.1	255.0	33.1	
1991	191.3	64.1	43.3	71.4	12.5	205.9	39.0	
1992	198.5	64.6	42.9	78.8	12.3	191.9	35.4	
1993	196.1	65.3	43.3	75.4	12.0	220.4	34.9	
1994 ²	194.6	66.6	46.5	68.1	13.4	255.6	29.3	
1995	196.6	66.4	46.7	69.2	14.3	378.1	25.5	
1996	205.6	71.7	47.1	73.3	13.5	298.1	28.6	
1997	200.6	72.5	44.4	71.5	12.2	246.4	22.1	
1998	199.9	71.1	41.8	76.0	11.0	190.8	18.9	
1999	218.4	72.2	43.7	90.1	12.4	234.1	16.3	
2000	219.7	70.9	41.8	94.9	12.0	241.4	15.5	
2001	228.3	69.0	43.6	102.2	13.5	302.0	16.2	
2002 ⁴	220.4	65.0	40.9	101.2	13.3	286.8	12.2	
2003 ⁴	212.8	63.8	41.7	92.8	14.5	396.5	11.6	
2004	181.8	59.7	37.6	72.8	11.6	251.1	9.8	

¹ Data collection methods have varied so categories may not be consistent throughout the period.

² Figures for primary fires from 1994 are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

They include 'late' call and heat and smoke damage only incidents, which were not recorded prior to 1994 (see explanatory notes 6 and 7).

³ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in 1977, 1978 & 1980 during industrial action.

⁴ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

.. No figures available

Table 26: Fatal casualties in fires by location, UK, 1950-2004¹

United Kingdom				Fatal Casualties		
Year	Total	Dwellings	Other Buildings	Outdoor		
				Total Outdoor	Road Vehicles	Other
1950	557	..	..	..	..	..
1951	621	..	..	..	..	..
1952	636	..	..	..	..	..
1953	463	..	..	..	..	..
1954	495	..	..	..	..	..
1955	633	..	..	..	..	..
1956	529	..	..	..	..	..
1957	507	..	..	..	..	..
1958	451	..	..	..	..	..
1959	487	..	..	..	..	..
1960	529	390	..	..	..	..
1961	572	388	..	..	..	..
1962	667	506	..	..	..	..
1963	818	656	..	..	..	..
1964	681	549	..	..	..	..
1965	703	567	..	..	..	..
1966	780	611	..	..	..	..
1967	779	583	..	..	..	..
1968	865	654	..	..	..	..
1969	861	688	..	..	..	..
1970	839	627	87	125	..	..
1971	822	574	152	96	..	..
1972	1,078	785	148	145	..	..
1973	1,041	765	125	151	..	..
1974	1,046	787	136	123	..	..
1975	920	720	83	117	..	..
1976	895	690	84	121	..	..
1977 ²	849	652	94	103	..	..
1978 ²	946	733	87	126	..	..
1979	1,096	865	89	142	..	..
1980 ²	1,035	822	104	109	..	..
1981	975	780	80	115	63	52
1982	919	728	80	111	60	51
1983	903	710	93	100	61	39
1984	886	692	74	120	62	58
1985	975	699	104	172	61	111
1986	947	744	74	129	82	47
1987	926	707	92	127	85	42
1988	898	731	57	110	75	35
1989	861	634	74	153	109	44
1990	850	625	57	168	113	55
1991	800	613	56	131	92	39
1992	759	578	61	120	73	47
1993	688	530	54	104	82	22
1994	641	488	43	110	75	35
1995	736	559	46	131	89	42
1996	709	564	36	109	64	45
1997	723	562	33	128	83	45
1998	656	513	28	115	68	47
1999	623	463	38	122	78	44
2000	613	455	39	119	92	27
2001	606	483	42	81	62	19
2002 ³	562	430	29	103	63	40
2003 ³	593	447	28	118	79	39
2004	508	375	55	78	50	28

¹ Data collection methods have varied so categories may not be consistent throughout the period.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in 1977, 1978 & 1980 during industrial action.

³ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

.. No figures available

Table 27: Fires by location, England, 1950-2004¹

England						Fires (thousands)	
Year	Total	Primary fires ²			Secondary fires	Chimney fires	
		Dwellings	Other Buildings	Outdoors			
				Road Vehicles			Other
1950	..	..	..	..	..	..
1951	..	..	..	..	..	..
1952	..	..	..	..	..	..
1953	..	..	..	..	..	..
1954	..	19.0	..	..	..	..
1955	..	19.3	..	..	..	..
1956	..	20.1	..	..	..	..
1957	..	18.7	..	..	..	..
1958	..	19.9	..	..	..	..
1959	..	21.9	..	..	..	..
1960	..	25.2	..	..	..	..
1961	..	24.0	..	..	..	..
1962	..	26.4	..	..	..	..
1963	..	30.6	..	..	..	..
1964	..	28.5	..	..	..	..
1965	..	27.8	..	..	..	..
1966	..	27.4	30.0	..	..	..
1967	..	32.0	30.5	..	..	..
1968	..	34.2	32.9	..	..	..
1969	..	36.2	36.5	..	..	..
1970	..	36.7	37.8	15.7	..	59.5	
1971	..	37.5	35.8	15.1	..	59.8	
1972	..	42.3	37.8	17.8	..	59.0	
1973	..	44.3	41.0	19.0	..	52.4	
1974 ⁵	..	43.8	38.0	18.0	..	45.5	
1975 ⁵	..	41.1	36.1	18.9	..	38.8	
1976	..	39.8	36.4	20.5	..	228.8	
1977 ³	..	40.1	33.8	20.0	..	105.3	
1978 ³	..	39.6	35.1	21.6	..	113.4	
1979	..	48.4	33.9	25.4	..	133.7	
1980 ³	..	42.2	36.6	25.1	..	123.9	
1981	113.0	44.4	31.8	28.3	8.5	112.9	
1982	118.8	44.2	32.5	32.6	9.4	126.2	
1983	122.4	45.0	32.9	34.1	10.5	132.6	
1984	129.1	45.6	34.7	37.2	11.6	169.8	
1985	131.0	48.5	34.6	38.0	10.0	125.6	
1986	134.1	49.1	34.5	40.4	10.1	122.5	
1987	135.0	49.4	33.6	42.4	9.6	102.9	
1988	135.7	50.0	35.0	41.7	8.9	118.2	
1989	144.5	50.1	37.9	44.2	12.3	194.0	
1990	146.0	48.7	37.3	48.3	11.6	210.7	
1991	155.8	49.4	35.5	60.8	10.0	156.3	
1992	162.5	50.2	35.2	67.1	10.0	148.8	
1993	160.2	50.7	35.6	64.1	9.8	168.6	
1994 ²	159.4	52.0	38.6	57.6	11.2	195.8	
1995	161.3	52.2	38.7	58.8	11.6	300.2	
1996	168.6	56.6	38.9	61.9	11.2	226.7	
1997	164.5	57.6	36.9	60.1	9.9	189.5	
1998	163.4	56.5	34.6	63.1	9.2	146.3	
1999	178.8	57.5	36.3	74.8	10.2	180.0	
2000	180.0	56.2	34.4	79.6	9.8	179.8	
2001	188.4	54.8	36.0	86.7	10.9	229.5	
2002 ⁴	182.6	51.6	34.0	86.0	11.0	225.9	
2003 ⁴	176.8	51.1	34.8	79.0	11.8	308.5	
2004	150.9	48.1	31.4	61.7	9.7	192.0	

¹ Data collection methods have varied so categories may not be consistent throughout the period.

² Figures for primary fires from 1994 are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

They include 'late' call and heat and smoke damage only incidents, which were not recorded prior to 1994 (see explanatory notes 6 and 7).

³ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in 1977, 1978 & 1980 during industrial action.

⁴ Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

⁵ Figures for 1974 and 1975 are estimates.

.. No figures available

Table 28: Fatal casualties in fires by location, 1950-2004¹

United Kingdom				Fatal Casualties	
Year	Total	Dwellings	Other Buildings	Outdoor	
				Road Vehicles	Other
1981	768	602	70	57	39
1982	717	548	74	53	42
1983	689	527	79	49	34
1984	653	503	64	44	42
1985	756	504	101	51	100
1986	729	560	64	68	37
1987	686	507	87	60	32
1988	689	534	62	64	29
1989	701	508	66	89	38
1990	677	478	48	102	49
1991	587	430	48	75	34
1992	594	449	47	57	41
1993	513	376	46	71	20
1994	509	376	34	68	31
1995	571	428	36	70	37
1996	551	428	27	58	38
1997	563	432	23	69	39
1998	493	383	25	49	36
1999	459	334	28	64	33
2000	487	351	35	80	21
2001	458	358	32	52	16
2002 ²	436	328	21	51	37
2003 ²	469	350	22	64	33
2004	369	269	34	42	24

¹ Data collection methods have varied so categories may not be consistent throughout the period.

² Includes estimates for incidents not recorded in 1977, 1978 & 1980 during industrial action.

³ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

-- No figures available

Regional Tables, 2002–2004

Table 29: Fires and casualties by region and location group, 2002-2004^{1,2}

United Kingdom														Number	
Year & Region	Total			Dwellings ²			Other buildings			Road vehicles			Other		
	Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal	Fatal	Non-fatal
2002^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	220,407	562	16,595	65,033	430	13,463	40,919	29	1,843	101,177	63	643	13,278	40	646
North East	13,369	14	726	3,840	10	591	2,557	–	83	5,922	3	27	1,050	1	25
North West	33,891	78	3,665	11,192	62	2,971	6,199	4	424	14,647	4	94	1,853	8	175
Yorkshire & the Humber	23,723	46	1,429	5,263	38	1,183	3,505	2	134	13,705	5	70	1,249	1	42
East Midlands	16,528	44	955	3,644	32	756	2,796	4	92	8,678	5	44	1,410	3	62
West Midlands	20,123	41	1,098	5,749	33	890	3,837	–	107	9,338	4	53	1,199	4	48
East	15,752	36	1,005	3,789	24	792	3,012	2	122	7,961	5	55	990	5	35
London	20,040	73	1,762	7,753	56	1,521	4,005	3	185	7,541	7	37	740	7	19
South East	23,176	58	1,560	6,250	39	1,162	4,848	5	229	10,802	8	84	1,276	6	86
South West	16,007	46	960	4,116	33	743	3,265	1	110	7,392	10	52	1,233	2	55
Wales	12,341	29	925	3,040	26	735	2,237	–	111	6,276	3	40	789	–	38
Scotland	19,196	77	2,045	8,504	63	1,759	3,681	4	183	5,798	7	61	1,212	3	41
Northern Ireland	6,261	20	465	1,892	14	358	976	4	62	3,117	2	25	276	–	20
2003^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	212,832	593	15,536	63,823	447	12,580	41,745	28	1,691	92,768	79	651	14,495	39	614
North East	12,618	35	808	3,827	26	681	2,430	2	82	5,335	5	28	1,026	2	16
North West	32,897	74	3,254	10,915	59	2,639	6,461	3	309	13,415	10	128	2,106	2	178
Yorkshire & the Humber	22,777	58	1,304	4,985	50	1,070	3,724	1	119	12,836	5	58	1,232	2	57
East Midlands	15,327	36	924	3,473	26	727	2,839	3	108	7,565	2	40	1,450	5	49
West Midlands	19,474	39	1,031	5,748	27	828	3,857	1	122	8,688	9	32	1,181	2	49
East	15,412	40	996	3,781	23	758	3,107	3	140	7,315	10	59	1,210	4	38
London	19,900	76	1,695	8,096	67	1,451	4,086	3	184	6,920	2	36	799	4	23
South East	22,853	68	1,410	6,233	45	1,052	4,962	2	206	10,148	14	92	1,511	7	60
South West	15,504	43	961	4,065	27	723	3,370	4	152	6,745	7	54	1,325	5	31
Wales	12,198	30	810	2,787	27	681	2,234	–	63	6,245	3	24	933	–	41
Scotland	18,025	80	1,880	8,043	61	1,625	3,659	3	140	4,998	10	69	1,325	6	46
Northern Ireland	5,848	14	463	1,871	9	343	1,018	3	67	2,559	2	30	400	–	23

Table 29: Fires and casualties by region and location group, 2002-2004^{1,2} (continued)

United Kingdom														Number	
Year & Region	Total			Dwellings ²			Other buildings			Road vehicles			Other		
	Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
2004															
United Kingdom	181,758	508	14,579	59,743	375	11,977	37,582	55	1,519	72,785	50	528	11,648	28	555
North East	10,614	14	709	3,560	10	592	2,208	3	65	4,117	1	18	729	–	34
North West	28,942	68	3,172	10,094	49	2,617	5,916	3	310	11,054	10	108	1,878	6	137
Yorkshire & the Humber	18,503	53	1,197	4,883	44	1,019	3,426	2	105	9,112	6	33	1,082	1	40
East Midlands	12,732	36	841	3,367	27	702	2,673	2	79	5,526	3	34	1,166	4	26
West Midlands	16,469	44	835	5,146	28	659	3,320	8	98	7,156	7	24	847	1	54
East	12,889	25	857	3,542	16	669	2,823	5	110	5,570	1	48	954	3	30
London	17,348	57	1,624	7,557	46	1,377	3,678	7	190	5,498	4	40	615	–	17
South East	20,083	49	1,401	6,131	35	1,058	4,479	2	194	8,147	8	75	1,326	4	74
South West	13,325	23	811	3,782	14	624	2,917	2	100	5,520	2	44	1,106	5	43
Wales	10,161	26	830	2,627	18	677	1,981	4	93	4,869	3	28	684	1	32
Scotland	15,796	99	1,858	7,420	76	1,637	3,236	17	120	4,165	3	57	975	3	44
Northern Ireland	4,896	14	444	1,634	12	346	925	–	55	2,051	2	19	286	–	24
3-year average (2002-2004)^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	204,999	554	15,570	62,866	417	12,673	40,082	37	1,684	88,910	64	607	13,140	36	605
North East	12,200	21	748	3,742	15	621	2,398	2	77	5,125	3	24	935	1	25
North West	31,910	73	3,364	10,734	57	2,742	6,192	3	348	13,039	8	110	1,946	5	163
Yorkshire & the Humber	21,668	52	1,310	5,044	44	1,091	3,552	2	119	11,884	5	54	1,188	1	46
East Midlands	14,862	39	907	3,495	28	728	2,769	3	93	7,256	3	39	1,342	4	46
West Midlands	18,689	41	988	5,548	29	792	3,671	3	109	8,394	7	36	1,076	2	50
East	14,684	34	953	3,704	21	740	2,981	3	124	6,949	5	54	1,051	4	34
London	19,096	69	1,694	7,802	56	1,450	3,923	4	186	6,653	4	38	718	4	20
South East	22,037	58	1,457	6,205	40	1,091	4,763	3	210	9,699	10	84	1,371	6	73
South West	14,945	37	911	3,988	25	697	3,184	2	121	6,552	6	50	1,221	4	43
Wales	11,567	28	855	2,818	24	698	2,151	1	89	5,797	3	31	802	–	37
Scotland	17,672	85	1,928	7,989	67	1,674	3,525	8	148	4,987	7	62	1,171	4	44
Northern Ireland	5,668	16	457	1,799	12	349	973	2	61	2,576	2	25	321	–	22

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

⁴ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Table 30: Accidental fires and casualties by region and location group, 2002-2004^{1,2}

United Kingdom													Number		
Year & Region	Total			Dwellings ²			Other buildings			Road vehicles			Other		
	Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
2002^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	98,594	451	13,256	50,828	355	11,182	22,675	24	1,175	20,972	49	498	4,119	23	402
North East	4,872	11	572	2,793	9	501	1,221	–	44	665	1	18	193	1	9
North West	14,041	64	2,875	8,131	52	2,490	3,286	4	248	2,202	3	49	419	5	88
Yorkshire & the Humber	7,457	34	1,147	3,925	28	982	1,718	2	87	1,506	3	54	307	1	23
East Midlands	6,268	31	745	2,752	22	610	1,474	3	49	1,613	3	40	429	3	45
West Midlands	8,728	31	867	4,376	26	705	2,158	–	79	1,808	3	45	386	2	38
East	7,467	29	796	3,183	23	632	1,692	2	85	2,202	3	52	390	1	27
London	11,080	64	1,356	6,408	50	1,216	2,437	3	101	1,961	7	26	274	4	13
South East	12,493	43	1,269	5,376	31	979	3,010	3	155	3,659	6	77	448	3	58
South West	8,304	35	814	3,610	24	650	2,014	1	78	2,214	9	39	466	1	47
Wales	5,197	25	787	2,480	22	648	1,240	–	84	1,220	3	31	258	–	25
Scotland	10,403	65	1,671	6,525	55	1,474	1,940	2	129	1,499	6	46	439	2	21
Northern Ireland	2,284	19	357	1,270	13	295	483	4	36	420	2	20	111	–	6
2003^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	97,734	476	12,349	49,998	395	10,426	23,059	17	1,072	19,899	54	519	4,778	10	332
North East	4,846	25	638	2,815	22	564	1,169	2	42	628	1	24	233	–	7
North West	13,781	59	2,548	7,888	48	2,198	3,330	2	192	2,073	9	88	491	–	71
Yorkshire & the Humber	7,199	47	1,048	3,662	44	906	1,869	–	77	1,364	2	41	304	1	24
East Midlands	6,046	25	709	2,606	21	582	1,469	2	62	1,526	2	30	445	–	34
West Midlands	8,795	32	799	4,464	25	661	2,137	–	77	1,825	7	26	370	–	34
East	7,584	26	773	3,150	17	592	1,839	3	105	2,111	6	47	484	–	29
London	11,449	65	1,360	6,739	61	1,202	2,493	2	114	1,971	1	31	246	1	13
South East	12,376	58	1,151	5,338	39	890	2,974	2	141	3,450	12	79	614	5	41
South West	8,229	32	810	3,562	25	618	2,058	1	114	2,062	5	50	548	1	28
Wales	4,934	29	670	2,262	28	581	1,264	–	49	1,055	1	18	354	–	22
Scotland	10,130	67	1,523	6,253	57	1,371	1,939	2	69	1,420	6	67	517	2	16
Northern Ireland	2,365	11	319	1,259	8	261	518	1	30	415	2	17	173	–	11

Table 30: Accidental fires and casualties by region and location group, 2002-2004^{1,2} (continued)

United Kingdom														Number	
Year & Region	Total			Dwellings ²			Other buildings			Road vehicles			Other		
	Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
2004															
United Kingdom	90,528	420	11,760	47,769	327	9,993	21,512	43	970	17,784	37	431	3,463	13	366
North East	4,834	10	597	2,794	8	514	1,211	2	52	667	–	14	162	–	17
North West	13,289	60	2,570	7,668	47	2,245	3,323	3	180	1,952	8	76	346	2	69
Yorkshire & the Humber	6,918	43	977	3,672	35	869	1,701	2	64	1,282	5	26	263	1	18
East Midlands	5,658	28	673	2,625	25	576	1,422	1	48	1,297	2	29	314	–	20
West Midlands	7,836	27	671	3,970	19	534	1,946	4	74	1,663	4	18	257	–	45
East	6,795	20	656	2,949	14	522	1,665	3	70	1,803	1	42	378	2	22
London	10,585	46	1,232	6,377	39	1,078	2,343	4	115	1,669	3	25	196	–	14
South East	11,421	41	1,167	5,306	31	914	2,685	2	126	2,926	6	65	504	2	62
South West	7,259	17	708	3,289	12	548	1,788	2	79	1,780	–	43	402	3	38
Wales	4,566	21	704	2,161	15	585	1,169	3	71	1,010	3	26	226	–	22
Scotland	9,264	95	1,485	5,837	72	1,337	1,780	17	69	1,311	3	51	336	3	28
Northern Ireland	2,103	12	320	1,121	10	271	479	–	22	422	2	16	81	–	11
3-year average (2002-2004)^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	95,619	449	12,455	49,532	359	10,534	22,415	28	1,072	19,552	47	483	4,120	15	367
North East	4,851	15	602	2,801	13	526	1,200	1	46	653	1	19	196	–	11
North West	13,704	61	2,664	7,896	49	2,311	3,313	3	207	2,076	7	71	419	2	76
Yorkshire & the Humber	7,191	41	1,057	3,753	36	919	1,763	1	76	1,384	3	40	291	1	22
East Midlands	5,991	28	709	2,661	23	589	1,455	2	53	1,479	2	33	396	1	33
West Midlands	8,453	30	779	4,270	23	633	2,080	1	77	1,765	5	30	338	1	39
East	7,282	25	742	3,094	18	582	1,732	3	87	2,039	3	47	417	1	26
London	11,038	58	1,316	6,508	50	1,165	2,424	3	110	1,867	4	27	239	2	13
South East	12,097	47	1,196	5,340	34	928	2,890	2	141	3,345	8	74	522	3	54
South West	7,931	28	777	3,487	20	605	1,953	1	90	2,019	5	44	472	2	38
Wales	4,899	25	720	2,301	22	605	1,224	1	68	1,095	2	25	279	–	23
Scotland	9,932	76	1,560	6,205	61	1,394	1,886	7	89	1,410	5	55	431	2	22
Northern Ireland	2,251	14	332	1,217	10	276	493	2	29	419	2	18	122	–	9

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

⁴ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

Table 31: Deliberate fires and casualties by region and location group, 2002-2004^{1,2}

United Kingdom													Number		
Year & Region	Total			Dwellings ²			Other buildings			Road vehicles			Other		
	Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
2002^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	121,813	111	3,339	14,206	75	2,281	18,244	5	668	80,205	14	145	9,159	17	245
North East	8,497	3	154	1,048	1	90	1,336	–	39	5,257	2	9	857	–	16
North West	19,850	14	789	3,062	10	481	2,912	–	177	12,441	1	45	1,435	3	87
Yorkshire & the Humber	16,266	12	282	1,338	10	201	1,787	–	47	12,199	2	16	942	–	19
East Midlands	10,260	13	210	893	10	146	1,321	1	43	7,065	2	4	981	–	17
West Midlands	11,395	10	231	1,373	7	185	1,679	–	28	7,531	1	8	812	2	10
East	8,285	7	209	606	1	161	1,320	–	37	5,759	2	3	600	4	8
London	8,960	9	406	1,346	6	305	1,568	–	84	5,580	–	11	466	3	6
South East	10,683	15	291	874	8	183	1,838	2	74	7,144	2	6	827	3	28
South West	7,703	11	146	506	9	93	1,251	–	33	5,179	1	13	767	1	8
Wales	7,144	4	138	560	4	88	997	–	27	5,055	–	9	532	–	13
Scotland	8,793	12	374	1,979	8	285	1,741	2	54	4,300	1	15	773	1	20
Northern Ireland	3,978	1	109	622	1	63	493	–	26	2,697	–	5	165	–	14
2003^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	115,098	117	3,187	13,825	52	2,153	18,686	11	619	72,871	25	132	9,716	29	282
North East	7,772	10	170	1,012	4	117	1,261	–	39	4,707	4	4	792	2	9
North West	19,115	15	706	3,027	11	441	3,131	1	117	11,342	1	41	1,615	2	107
Yorkshire & the Humber	15,578	11	256	1,323	6	164	1,855	1	42	11,471	3	17	928	1	33
East Midlands	9,281	11	215	868	5	145	1,369	1	46	6,040	–	9	1,004	5	15
West Midlands	10,679	7	232	1,283	2	166	1,721	1	44	6,863	2	6	811	2	15
East	7,828	14	223	630	6	167	1,268	–	35	5,204	4	12	726	4	9
London	8,451	11	335	1,357	6	249	1,593	1	71	4,949	1	6	552	3	10
South East	10,477	10	258	895	6	161	1,987	–	65	6,699	2	13	896	2	19
South West	7,275	11	151	503	2	106	1,312	3	38	4,683	2	4	777	4	3
Wales	7,264	2	140	525	–	100	970	–	14	5,190	2	6	579	–	19
Scotland	7,896	11	357	1,790	2	254	1,720	1	71	3,577	4	2	809	4	30
Northern Ireland	3,483	4	144	612	2	82	499	2	37	2,144	–	12	227	–	12

Table 31: Fires and casualties by region and location group, 2002-2004^{1,2} (continued)

United Kingdom														Number	
Year & Region	Total			Dwellings ²			Other buildings			Road vehicles			Other		
	Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties		Fires ⁴	Casualties	
		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal		Fatal	Non-fatal
2004															
United Kingdom	91,230	88	2,819	11,974	48	1,984	16,070	12	549	55,000	13	97	8,186	15	189
North East	5,780	4	112	766	2	78	997	1	13	3,450	1	4	567	-	17
North West	15,653	8	602	2,426	2	372	2,593	-	130	9,101	2	32	1,533	4	68
Yorkshire & the Humber	11,585	10	220	1,211	9	150	1,725	-	41	7,829	1	7	820	-	22
East Midlands	7,074	8	168	742	2	126	1,251	1	31	4,229	1	5	852	4	6
West Midlands	8,633	17	164	1,176	9	125	1,374	4	24	5,493	3	6	590	1	9
East	6,094	5	201	593	2	147	1,158	2	40	3,767	-	6	576	1	8
London	6,763	11	392	1,180	7	299	1,335	3	75	3,829	1	15	419	-	3
South East	8,662	8	234	825	4	144	1,794	-	68	5,220	2	10	823	2	12
South West	6,066	6	103	493	2	76	1,129	-	21	3,740	2	1	704	2	5
Wales	5,595	5	126	466	3	92	812	1	22	3,858	-	2	459	1	10
Scotland	6,532	4	373	1,583	4	300	1,456	-	51	2,854	-	6	639	-	16
Northern Ireland	2,793	2	124	513	2	75	446	-	33	1,629	-	3	205	-	13
3-year average (2002-2004)^{1,2}															
United Kingdom	109,380	105	3,115	13,335	58	2,139	17,667	9	612	69,359	17	125	9,020	20	239
North East	7,350	6	145	942	2	95	1,198	-	30	4,471	2	6	739	1	14
North West	18,206	12	699	2,838	8	431	2,879	-	141	10,961	1	39	1,528	3	87
Yorkshire & the Humber	14,476	11	253	1,291	8	172	1,789	-	43	10,500	2	13	897	-	25
East Midlands	8,872	11	198	834	6	139	1,314	1	40	5,778	1	6	946	3	13
West Midlands	10,236	11	209	1,277	6	159	1,591	2	32	6,629	2	7	738	2	11
East	7,402	9	211	610	3	158	1,249	1	37	4,910	2	7	634	3	8
London	8,058	10	378	1,294	6	284	1,499	1	77	4,786	1	11	479	2	6
South East	9,941	11	261	865	6	163	1,873	1	69	6,354	2	10	849	2	20
South West	7,015	9	133	501	4	92	1,231	1	31	4,534	2	6	749	2	5
Wales	6,668	4	135	517	2	93	926	-	21	4,701	1	6	523	-	14
Scotland	7,740	9	368	1,784	5	280	1,639	1	59	3,577	2	8	740	2	22
Northern Ireland	3,418	2	126	582	2	73	479	1	32	2,157	-	7	199	-	13

¹ Includes fire related deaths recorded by the MOD and media in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

² Includes estimates for non-fatal casualties not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action (see explanatory notes 3 and 4).

³ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory note 24).

⁴ Fire figures are based on sample data weighted to individual FRS totals.

NOTES

1. Responsibility for the fire and rescue service was transferred from the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in May 2002. (The Home Office was responsible for the fire and rescue service until June 2001.)
2. The statistics in this Bulletin are compiled from reports submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) on fires attended by the fire and rescue service in the UK. More detailed information is collected on all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures and any fires involving casualties or rescues (i.e. "primary" fires). Less detailed aggregated information is collected on "secondary" and chimney fires; so subsequent analysis of them is limited. Brief definitions of the fires and false alarms reported on are given below. However for fuller definitions see paragraph 24.

Industrial action

3. Due to the industrial action by firefighters in November 2002 and January and February 2003 the reporting of fires for these days was disrupted. In total fifteen 24-hour periods were affected;

from 18:00 on 13th to 18:00 on 15th November 2002 (2 days);

from 09:00 on 22nd to 09:00 on 30th November 2002 (8 days);

from 09:00 on 21st to 09:00 on 22nd January 2003 (1 day);

from 09:00 on 28th to 09:00 on 30th January 2003 (2 days);

from 09:00 on 1st to 09:00 on 3rd February 2003 (2 days);

Some information relating to this period has been received via data collected by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and also from special summary reports submitted by some fire and rescue services.

4. In order to present the most accurate picture of the fires, casualties and false alarms which occurred in 2002 and 2003, in some cases estimates have been incorporated into the figures to account for missing information. These have been produced using comparable data from November 2001, January 2002 and February 2002. Information on the actual number of fatal casualties which occurred during the strike periods has been obtained from the MOD and media. For the more complex tables in this bulletin the figures are as reported by the fire and rescue service and therefore exclude any estimates for strike days. All the tables are labelled accordingly.

Definitions: primary fires, secondary and chimney fires and false alarms

5. **“Primary”** fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances. **“Secondary”** fires are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or five or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelict buildings. **Chimney** fires are any fire in an occupied building where the fire was confined within the chimney structure (and did not involve casualties or rescues or attendance by five or more appliances). A **false alarm** is defined as an event in which the fire and rescue service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no such incident. For fuller definitions, see paragraph 24 below. The term **“outdoor fires”** used in this Bulletin refers to primary and secondary fires in road vehicles, other outdoor property, derelict buildings and derelict vehicles and more minor refuse, grassland and intentional straw/stubble fires.

Data for primary fires

6. The source of these data is the fire data report form FDR1(94) introduced from January 1994. The count specifically included two categories of fire-related incident not recorded in the fire statistics from the early 1980s to 1993. These categories are described as late fire calls and heat and smoke damage only incidents:
 - **“late fire calls”** which are fires not attended as an emergency because they are known to be extinguished when the call was made, or to which no emergency call was made;
 - **heat or smoke damage only ‘fires’** – where no fire damage is reported (see paragraph 24 for fuller explanation).
7. In order to avoid previous interpretation problems, the contents of all tables and charts were revised in *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/98 – “Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1997”* so that analyses for 1994 and later years include both “late fire calls” and heat or smoke damage only ‘fires’. (Because of the way that these types of fire were processed in 1995, this involved some additional estimation for missing data.)

Fatalities

8. A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred weeks or months later. However, it is not always the case that fire was the cause of death. The figures for fatalities are thus subject to revision, as information supplied by the fire and rescue service needs to be cross-checked against the cause of death that appears on the death certificate. The main area of uncertainty is whether fire was the cause of death in road accident fatalities. This publication contains the finalised fire death figures for all years.
9. Revisions to the time series data relating to fire deaths have been published in previous Statistical Bulletins. A comprehensive revision exercise was undertaken in 1998, which resulted in major revisions (mainly for fires in road vehicles) to fire-related deaths occurring between 1988 and 1996. These revisions were first published in *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/98 – “Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1997”*. A further data refinement exercise was undertaken in June 2000 to complete the revision exercise undertaken to the 1998 deaths information. The 2000 exercise resulted in some very minor changes to the information held

on non-fatal casualties, rescues and the information held on the location of some fatal casualties for the years 1989 to 1993. The results of these very minor revisions were published in *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/00 – “Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1999”*.

Survey of English Housing

10. The Survey of English Housing (SEH) is a large continuous survey carried out primarily to collect information on households in England, their housing and other related issues. In 2004/05 the SEH also asked a set of questions about fire-related issues in the home. A similar module of fire questions was asked in previous years in the British Crime Survey (BCS). Information collected in the SEH on experience of fire provides a valuable source of additional information in measuring the prevalence of domestic fires in England. This is because many of the fires measured by the SEH result in little or no damage and consequently are often not brought to the attention of fire and rescue service, thus escaping official recording via fire data reports (FDR1 and FDR3 forms). Even fires involving property damage or injury are not always brought to their attention. The SEH also collects a wide variety of social and demographic information from households, including details about their ethnicity, housing tenure and economic status. These characteristics together with the fire module responses allow the groups most likely to experience a fire or least likely to own a smoke alarm to be identified.

Deliberate and accidental fires

11. Deliberate fires include those where deliberate ignition is merely suspected, and those recorded by the brigade as “doubtful”.
12. In 1994, as a result of a review of the assessment of the motive of primary fires (accidental or deliberate), there were changes in the recording of these classifications, which resulted in:
 - Some fires previously classified as accidental being classified as deliberate.
 - Some deliberate fires previously considered to be “ignition of others’ property” being classified as “unspecified cause”.
 - A reduction in accidental fires due to “playing with fire”.

The effect appeared most noticeable for building fires, where an estimated 4,000 fires may have been categorised as deliberate where they were previously classed as accidental. These changes affect comparisons before and after 1994, but do not affect comparisons between 1994 and later years.

13. Data for deliberate and accidental fires were further revised in 2000. These revisions were published in *Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/00 – “Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1999”*. The revised data corrected an error, which resulted in a small distortion (about 3,500 fires) in the number of deliberate and accidental fires for the years 1996 to 1998. The total number of primary fires (involving property or casualties) for these years was not affected.

False alarms

14. The marked changes between 1995 and 1996 in the numbers of false alarm calls for “good intent” and “due to apparatus” are partly the result of coding changes. Guidance clarifying false alarm calls to be included in the “due to apparatus” category as applied by some fire brigades has resulted in some false alarm calls being classified into this category rather than “good intent”.

Population data

15. Population data used in this Bulletin have been provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the form of mid-year estimates. Since publication of *“Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2002”* ONS revised the mid-year estimates for all years back to 1991 and these figures have been incorporated into this Bulletin. Further information on the exact changes made to the population estimates can be obtained via the ONS website www.statistics.gov.uk

Fire and rescue service in Wales

16. With effect from 1 April 1996, 22 new unitary authorities were created in Wales to replace the former eight counties. The unitary authorities were arranged into three new combined fire authorities to replace the eight-brigade structure, as follows:

New fire authorities	Areas of former brigades
North Wales	Clwyd and Gwynedd
Mid and West Wales	Dyfed, Powys and West Glamorgan
South Wales	Gwent, Mid Glamorgan and South Glamorgan

Selection of samples of primary fires

17. The databases for 1994 to 2004 contain all fires with casualties, but only a sample of other fires. The samples were selected systematically for each brigade, with the following approximate sampling fractions: 1994 – 10%, 1995 – 40%, 1996 to 2004 – 20%.
18. The data have all been weighted to agreed fire and rescue service totals. The detailed analysis of data other than for casualties, or fires involving casualties is based on the sampled data grossed to fires and rescue service totals.

Statistical sample confidence limits

19. The sample may well produce figures that differ from the ones which would have been obtained if all forms (the population) had been used. We can construct statistical confidence limits for each estimate at the 95% level of significance. This means we can be confident that there is a 95 per cent chance that the limit contains the true population value of interest. The methodology for constructing confidence limits is shown below.
20. A parameter (R) from the fire incident population (N) will take the form of a proportion ($P = R/N$) with a particular attribute, for example the number of dwelling fires as a proportion of fires in all locations. Using the normal distribution approximation gives confidence limits for p as:

$$p \pm Z_{\alpha} \frac{\sqrt{(1-f)pq}}{\sqrt{(n-1)}}$$

where p = Proportion of fires with a given attribute

q = 1-p

f = n/N = Sampling fraction

n = Sample size

N = Known population size

Z_{α} = Normal distribution significance level a (i.e. $\alpha=0.05 \Rightarrow Z_{\alpha}=1.96$)

However, this normal approximation requires that

(i) $n \ll \min(R, N-R)$

(ii) $\min(nP, nQ) \geq 30$

(See COCHRAN, William G, 'Sampling Techniques', Wiley Publications 1977, (p57-60) for details)

21. We cannot use these approximations safely if a proportion (p value) close to zero or one is being estimated. When the normal approximation does not apply limits for p may be found from binomial tables (e.g. Fisher and Yates *Statistical Tables* (1957)).

An example for car fires

22. In 2004 there were 181,758 primary fire incidents, of which, 101,290 primary fire incident forms were entered onto the database. Of these forms, 81,023 were for fires involving casualties and other types of fire where 100% were coded (e.g. data received electronically from participating fire and rescue services) and the remaining 20,267 were other types of fire for which only a sample were coded. Therefore, the 20,267 (n) sampled forms are based on a population of $181,758 - 81,023 = 100,735$ forms and the overall sampling fraction (f) was 20%.
23. Calculating the 95% confidence limits for fires in cars (60,340) gives a result of $\pm 1,053$. Therefore, the number of car fires with 95% confidence is between 59,287 and 61,393.

Definitions

24. From 1994, with the introduction of the fire report form FDR1(94) some definitions were changed or clarified. The following list shows definitions applicable from 1994:

A reportable fire – no specific definition prior to 1994
A reportable fire is an event of uncontrolled burning involving flames, heat or smoke and which the fire and rescue service attended.

Late fire call – no specific definition prior to 1994
A fire known to be extinguished when the call was made (or to which no call was made, e.g. a fire which comes to the attention of the fire and rescue service as a result of a press report or inquest) and the fire and rescue service attended.

Heat or smoke Damage only Incidents – no specific definition prior to 1994
These are reportable 'fires' where there is no fire damage. The damage reported may be due to any combination of heat, smoke and other which will include any water damage.

Location
The type of premises, property or countryside in which the fire started. This is not necessarily the type of premises in which most casualties or damage occurred as a result of the fire.

Cause of fire	The defect, act or omission leading to ignition of the fire.
Deliberate	Includes fires where deliberate ignition is merely suspected, and recorded by the brigade as “doubtful”.
Accidental	Includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified
Source of ignition	The source of the flame, spark or heat that started the fire.
Spread of fire	The extent to which fire damage (as opposed to heat, smoke or other damage) spread, for example, beyond the room of origin.
Buildings	All buildings including those under construction, but excluding derelict buildings or those under demolition. Prior to 1994 ‘buildings’ were referred to as ‘occupied buildings’.
Dwellings	Buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. From 1988, mobile homes have been specifically included in the dwelling count. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling (for FDR1 purposes) was widened to include any non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc (amounts to about 0.3% of the total number of dwelling fires). This change brings the definition of a dwelling more in line with that required under Best Value legislation. All analyses from 1994 to 1998 relating to dwellings were retrospectively revised to include the new categories of dwellings (prior to 1994 these categories were included in the dwelling count) and published in <i>Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/00 – “Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1999”</i> . Caravans, boats etc not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property (caravan, vehicle etc.).
Primary fires – no specific definition prior to 1994	<p>These are reportable fires (as listed below i) to vi)) or any fires involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances. An appliance is counted if either the appliance, equipment from it or personnel riding on it, were used to fight the fire.</p> <p>i) Buildings</p> <p>ii) Caravans, trailers etc.</p> <p>iii) Vehicles and other methods of transport (not derelict)</p> <p>iv) Outdoor storage, plant and machinery</p> <p>v) Agricultural and forestry premises and property</p> <p>vi) Other outdoor structures including post boxes, tunnels, bridges, etc.</p>
Secondary fires	<p>These are reportable fires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● were not in primary fire locations (before 1994 defined as a list of locations) ● were not chimney fires in buildings ● did not involve casualties or rescues

- were attended by four or fewer appliances. An appliance is counted if either the appliance, equipment from it or personnel riding on it, were used to fight the fire.

They are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information concerning them is available.

Chimney fires

These are reportable fires in occupied buildings:

- where fire was confined within the chimney structure
- that did not involve casualties or rescues
- attended by four or fewer appliances.

Fatal Casualty

A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if death occurred weeks or months later – see paragraphs 8 and 9 for a more detailed discussion.

Non-fatal casualty

Non-fatal casualties consist of persons requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the fire, and those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, are recorded as “precautionary check-ups”.

False Alarm

A **false alarm** is defined as an event in which the fire and rescue service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no such incident. False alarms are categorised as:

- **Malicious** – the call was made with the intention of getting the fire and rescue service to attend a non-existent fire-related event. This includes ‘deliberate’ and ‘suspected malicious’ intentions.
- **Good Intent** – the call was made in good faith in the belief that the fire and rescue service really would attend a fire.
- **Due to Apparatus** – the call was initiated by fire alarm and firefighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by person).

25. Details of the main definitions and classifications that applied to data for the period 1978 to 1993 are set out in the publication *“Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1993”*.

Standard Industrial Classification (trade or business)

26. In 1994, the classification of industrial fire locations was simplified. The new codes were based on the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1980) (SIC) published by the Central Statistical Office but combined or added categories where relevant to fire risk. The aim is to identify the main trade or business carried on where the fire started.

Symbols

27. Symbols used in the tables are:
- Nil or less than half the final digit shown.
 - .. Not available/Not applicable.
 - p Provisional figures
 - pmp Per million population

Enquiries

28. The bulletin was written by Lyndsey Avery, Jon Gamble and Gilly Diggins with the help of other colleagues in the Fire Statistics and Research Division, Fire and Resilience Directorate, ODPM.
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- ODPM Publications
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This bulletin, together with those listed at paragraph 31 below, can be downloaded free of charge via the ODPM website <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/>

Previous statistical publications on fires

31. **A. Fire Statistical Bulletins:**
- Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2003 (ISBN 1-85112-775-5)
 - Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2002 (ISBN 1-85112-695-3)
 - Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2001 (ISBN 1-85112-619-8)
 - Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2000 (FS/PPU/2765)
 - Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1999 (issue number 20/00)
 - Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1998 (issue number 15/99)
 - Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1997 (issue number 25/98)

Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1996 (issue number 1/98)
Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1995 (issue number 8/97)
Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1994 (issue number 13/96)

B. Other ODPM fire related Statistical Bulletins/Research reports

Fires in the home: findings from the 2004/05 Survey of English Housing
(ISBN 978-185-112-8419)

Fires in the home: findings from the 2002/03 British Crime Survey (ISBN 1-85112-694-5)

Fires in the home: findings from the 2001/02 British Crime Survey (ISBN 1-85112-620-1)

The Economic Cost of Fire: Estimates for 2003

The Economic Cost of Fire: Estimates for 2000 (ISBN 1-85112-667-8)

C. Home Office Statistical Bulletins

*Fires in the home: findings from the 2000 British Crime Survey (issue number 13/01)

Fires in the home in 1995: Results from the British Crime Survey (issue number 9/97)

D. Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate Occasional Papers/Research Studies:

The economic cost of fires, by Mark Weiner (Home Office Research Study issue 229),
October 2001

The Cost of Fires. A Review of the Information Available, by Donald Roy (£7.50 plus P&P)

32. Copies of the above Home Office publications are obtainable from:

RDS Communications Development Unit

Tel: 020 7273 2084

Email: publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

(Home Office publications denoted by * are also available from the ODPM Website)

This bulletin presents statistics on fires, casualties and false alarms attended by the Fire & Rescue Services in the United Kingdom in 2004. It is the latest publication in the Fire Statistics series.

The publication provides information for key stakeholders and the public about the causes of fires and fire-related casualties in the United Kingdom. Time trends are shown, together with a breakdown of incidents by type of property and geographical location. The publication also contains additional analysis regarding smoke alarm ownership and function.

ISBN 13 – 978 185 112 8433

ISBN 10 – 185 112 8433

Price: £12.00

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