



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Fire Statistics: Great Britain

April 2013 to March 2014

- Fire and Rescue Services in Great Britain attended 212,500 fires in 2013-14, continuing the generally downward trend of the last 10 years. There was a 10% increase on 2012-13, but this previous year had been unusually low due to wet weather conditions.
- The most common time for fires to be reported is in the hour of 8pm-9pm (with 9% of all fires). While only 11% of fires occurred between midnight and early morning (5am), these fires caused one fifth of all deaths in Great Britain in 2013-14.
- Over two thirds of fire-related deaths occurred in accidental dwelling fires and more than half of the victims were aged 65 years or older.
- The risk of dying in a fire for people aged 80 and over is more than four times higher than average. People aged between 65 and 79 also have a higher than average rate.
- Dwellings with no smoke alarm accounted for 38% of deaths in home fires in Great Britain, and nearly one fifth of deaths occurred where no smoke alarm worked.
- Smokers' materials (e.g. cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco) caused the largest share of deaths in accidental dwelling fires (37%), while cooking appliances are the source of ignition in more than half of accidental fires in dwellings.
- More than a third of fire deaths in non-domestic buildings were caused by smokers' materials or cigarette lighters.
- Scotland continued to have a higher rate of fire deaths compared to both England and Wales, but death rate in Scotland declined by about a third in 2013-14 compared to the previous year.



Fire & Rescue
Statistical Release

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Introduction

The statistics in this publication are compiled from Fire and Rescue Service records of incidents attended by fire and rescue authorities across Great Britain¹.

This publication contains detailed analysis of fires, casualties and their causes for 2013-14. Headline data for 2013-14 was published in July 2014 in the Fire Statistics Monitor series². All 2013-14 data remain provisional.

This is the fourth edition of this publication using data since the new Incident Recording System was adopted. Incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority meant that it was not possible to produce some of the more detailed statistics for 2009-10.

Tables - both within the text and published in a separate annex - are referenced at the start of sections. The notes and definitions section at the rear of the publication provide definitions and context, including signposting to some changes to the detailed categories which fed into statistics as of this edition of this publication. The impact on data tables was very minor, but these are nevertheless flagged up for information at the end of the definitions section.

This publication follows the content and order of previous editions as far as possible in order to be consistent for those familiar with previous editions.

In response to user comments enquiring into the composition of various categories in the data tables of this publication, a workbook showing the combinations of these has been produced.

We are keen to hear from users to broaden our knowledge of all the various uses to which these statistics are put, and as to what other analyses would be valuable in the future. Please see the user interest form which can be downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics>.

The Scottish and Welsh Governments produce their own statistical releases on fire statistics (links provided at the end of this report), and we are considering switching this publication from a Great Britain to England focus in the future, in order that detailed analysis for England is also made publicly available. We would welcome users' views on these plans.

¹ Until 2008, this was a UK publication. Since then it has covered Great Britain. This is because the new Incident Recording System with electronic data capture and transfer was adopted by Fire and Rescue Authorities across Great Britain in 2009.

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-statistics-monitor-april-2013-to-march-2014>

Main points

Fires and false alarms

- Fire and Rescue authorities attended a total of 505,600 fires or false alarms in Great Britain in 2013-14. This is 2% higher than in 2012-13, but less than half that of ten years ago ([para1.1](#)).
- The total number of fires attended in 2013-14 was 212,500, continuing the generally downward trend of the last 10 years. There was though a 10% increase on 2012-13, but this previous year had been unusually low due to wet weather conditions. The increase is mainly due to a large increase (around 20%) in outdoor fires. Outdoor fires constituted more than two thirds (68%) of fires in Great Britain (143,500), e.g. refuse, road vehicles, grassland and heathland. Nearly one fifth (19%) were dwelling fires, and these were 5% down compared to 2012-13.
- The number of false alarms fell by 3% to 293,100 in 2013-14 from 301,400 in 2012-13.
- The distribution of fire by time of day reveals that fires peaked in the hour of 8pm-9pm (9% of all fires). While only 11% of fires occurred between midnight and early morning (5am), these fires caused one fifth of all deaths in Great Britain in 2013-14 ([para1.6](#)).

Fatalities from fires

- In 2013-14 there were 322 fire-related deaths in Great Britain, 20 fewer than in 2012-13. This is the lowest recorded in the last fifty years. The highest number of fatalities recorded was 967 in 1985-86. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s there was a clear downward trend ([para1.11](#)).
- More than three quarters (80%) of fire-related fatalities occurred in dwelling fires ([para1.12](#)). In 2013-14, there were 258 dwelling fire fatalities, one more than in 2012-13 but 38% lower than ten years ago. Fire fatality rate is more than four times higher for people aged 80 and over, compared to the rate across all ages. The gap in fatality rates between males and females widened slightly in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13 ([paras1.15](#) & [1.16](#)).
- 41% of fire-related deaths in Great Britain were caused by the victim being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes. The other leading causes are burns alone (20%) and combination of burns and being overcome by gas or fumes (20%) ([para1.14](#)).
- The fatality rate in fires in Great Britain in 2013-14 was 5.2 per million of population (pmp). Scotland has a higher rate compared to the rest of Great Britain, at around 6.0, while Wales was 5.5 and England 5.1 ([para1.25](#)).

Non-fatal casualties

- There were 9,748 non-fatal casualties in fires in Great Britain in 2013-14, 5% and 36% lower compared to the previous year and ten years before respectively ([para1.17](#)).
- The number of non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires in 2013-14 is the lowest figure recorded in more than a decade. These constitute 80% of total non-fatal casualties in Great Britain.
- The non-fatal casualty rate in Great Britain was 157 pmp in 2013-14. This is the lowest rate recorded over the past 13 years. Scotland was 246, Wales 203, and England 145 ([para1.27](#)).

Dwelling Fires

- There were 39,600 dwelling fires in Great Britain in 2013-14, 5% fewer than in 2012-13. The vast majority (88%) of dwelling fires were accidental ([para 2.1](#) & [para2.3](#)).

Accidental dwelling fires

- Accidental dwelling fires were 4% and 28% lower in Great Britain in 2013-14 compared to the previous year and ten years before respectively. The main cause of accidental dwelling fires remained the misuse of equipment/appliances (13,300 fires), while the main source of ignition was cooking appliances (mainly cooker including oven) which accounted for more than half of all accidental dwelling fires ([paras2.5](#) & [para2.6](#)).

Fatalities in dwelling fires

- Of the 258 deaths in dwellings in 2013-14, 219 (85%) were of accidental causes. The main cause was careless handling of fire or hot substances (e.g. careless disposal of cigarettes), which accounted for 39% of all fatalities due to accidental causes. 43% of accidental dwelling fire deaths (94) resulted from fires which started in the living room or dining room or lounge ([paras 2.9, 2.10 & 2.27](#)).

Smoke alarm status in dwelling fires

- No smoke alarm was present in 12,000 (31%) dwelling fires in 2013-14 in Great Britain. A smoke alarm was present but did not operate in 19% of dwelling fires ([para2.32](#)).
- Working smoke alarm ownership increased rapidly from 8% in 1988 to 70% in 1994 in England, and has continued to rise in recent years to 88% in 2011 ([para2.33](#)).
- Nearly 40% of dwelling fire deaths in Great Britain occurred in properties where no alarm was installed ([para2.34](#)).

Other Building Fires

- In 2013-14, there were 22,200 fires recorded in buildings that were not dwellings. These fires have declined by more than half compared to that in 2003-04. The majority of these occurred in non-residential buildings (e.g. retail units, pubs/wine bars/cafés/take away, private garage, private garden sheds and industrial manufacturing plants) ([paras3.1 & 3.3](#)).
- In total, 17 fatal and 1,083 non-fatal casualties occurred in fires in other buildings fires ([para3.2](#)).

Road Vehicle Fires

- There were 23,100 road vehicle fires in 2013-14. This was 77% lower than the peak in 2001/02. In 2013-14, the number of deaths resulting from road vehicle fires reached its lowest level since the fire data record began in 1981-82, with 33 fatalities ([para4.1](#)).

Chapter 1 - Fires, false alarms and fatal and non-fatal casualties

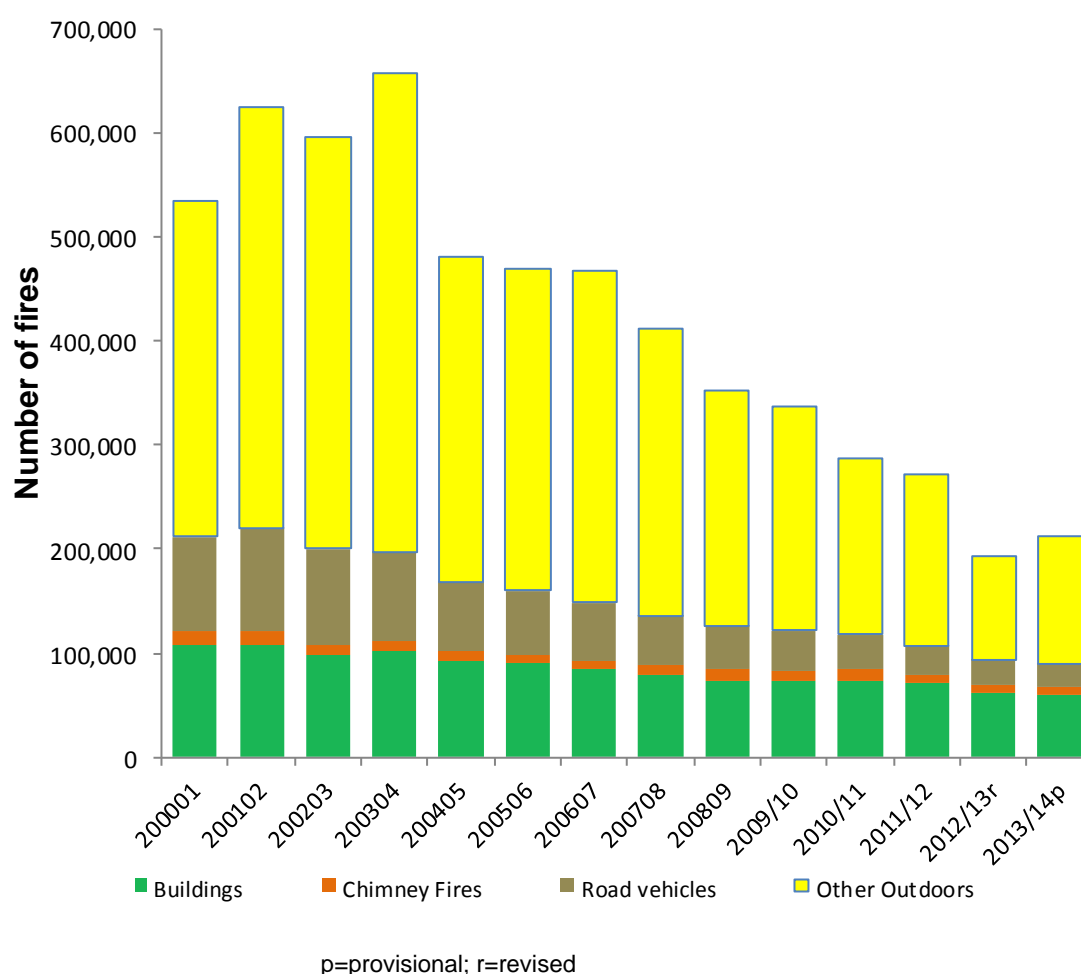
Total number of fires and false alarms attended by fire and rescue authorities (Tables 1.1, 1.2 and Figures 1.1, 1.2)

- 1.1 In 2013-14, local authority fire and rescue services attended 505,600 fires or false alarms in Great Britain, 2% more than in 2012-13. This is over 50% fewer compared to ten years earlier. Within this total, fires increased by 10% to 212,500 while false alarms fell by 3% to 293,100. The number of outdoor fires has increased by 20%. However 2012-13 had an unusually low number of fires due to weather conditions - there was above average rainfall in 2012-13 which resulted in a lower number of outdoor fires during that period than would be expected.

| Table 1.1: Fires ¹ by location and false alarms, Great Britain, 2000/01-2013/14p | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|-------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Year | Total fires & false alarms | Total Fires | Building fires | | | Outdoor Fires ³ | Chimney fires | False alarms |
| | | | Total | Dwellings ² | Other | | | |
| 2000/01 | 895.0 | 444.8 | 107.3 | 67.4 | 39.9 | 323.9 | 13.6 | 450.2 |
| 2001/02 | 992.2 | 525.0 | 108.8 | 66.5 | 42.3 | 404.3 | 11.9 | 467.2 |
| 2002/03 | 949.3 | 502.8 | 97.8 | 59.7 | 38.1 | 395.0 | 10.0 | 446.5 |
| 2003/04 | 1,027.9 | 571.6 | 102.2 | 61.7 | 40.4 | 460.3 | 9.1 | 456.3 |
| 2004/05 | 845.0 | 412.5 | 92.9 | 57.1 | 35.8 | 311.2 | 8.5 | 432.5 |
| 2005/06 | 831.6 | 408.9 | 89.7 | 55.9 | 33.8 | 309.8 | 9.4 | 422.7 |
| 2006/07 | 837.7 | 411.3 | 85.5 | 53.8 | 31.7 | 318.2 | 7.6 | 426.4 |
| 2007/08 | 769.7 | 364.1 | 79.6 | 50.4 | 29.2 | 276.0 | 8.6 | 405.5 |
| 2008/09 | 694.2 | 309.3 | 73.5 | 47.5 | 26.1 | 225.1 | 10.7 | 384.9 |
| 2009/10 | 653.6 | 299.3 | 73.7 | 47.2 | 26.5 | 215.8 | 9.9 | 354.3 |
| 2010/11 | 626.9 | 288.0 | 74.1 | 46.0 | 28.1 | 203.9 | 10.0 | 338.9 |
| 2011/12 | 586.0 | 272.8 | 71.5 | 44.4 | 27.1 | 193.6 | 7.7 | 313.3 |
| 2012/13r | 494.1 | 192.7 | 63.5 | 41.6 | 22.0 | 119.7 | 9.4 | 301.4 |
| 2013/14p | 505.6 | 212.5 | 61.3 | 39.6 | 21.7 | 143.5 | 7.7 | 293.1 |
| ¹ Figures in thousands and figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals. | | | | | | | | |
| ² Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-permanent structures used solely as a permanent dwelling. | | | | | | | | |
| ³ Primary and secondary fires. Excludes fires in derelict buildings (which are included in "Other Buildings" here, but are shown separately as "Outdoor Fires" in Annex table 1c). | | | | | | | | |
| r=revised; p=provisional | | | | | | | | |

- 1.2 A total of 212,500 fires were attended in 2013-14, of which 39,600 (19%) were in dwellings. Findings from the 2010/11 English Housing Survey on all outbreaks of fire experienced by households in England suggested that fire and rescue services attended nearly one third of all domestic fires. This is because many of the fires recorded in the survey were minor and therefore, fire and rescue service was not called.

Figure 1.1: Primary fires by location, and chimney fires, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p

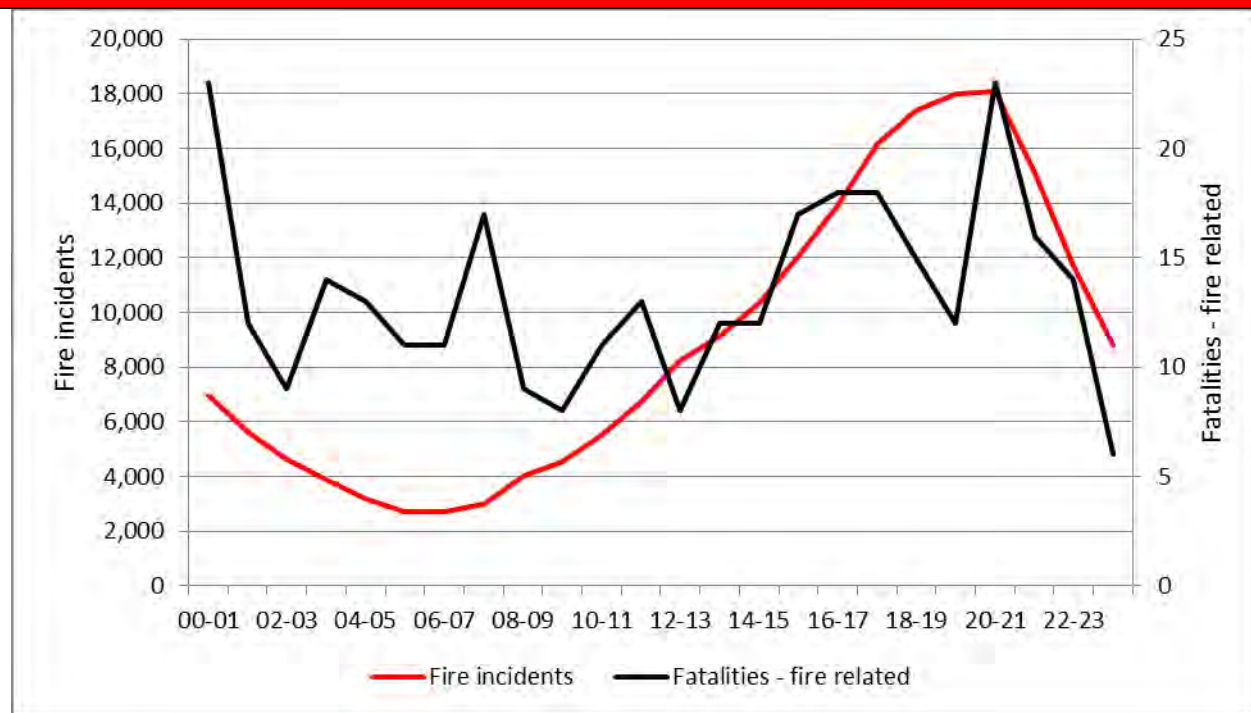


- 1.3 The number of building fires declined by 3% from 63,500 in 2012-13 to 61,300 in 2013-14. This is the lowest figure recorded over the past decade. Within this category, dwelling fires fell by 5% to 39,600.
- 1.4 There were 143,500 outdoor fires² in 2013-14. This is 20% higher than in the previous year – the large difference likely to be owing to unusually wet weather during 2012-13. Of the total fires 52,800 (37%) were refuse fires, 23,700 (17%) were road vehicle fires and 41,400 (29%) were grassland fires (including tree scrub, pasture, grazing, domestic garden, heath land and intentional straw and stubble burning). The remaining 25,600 (18%) were in other outdoor locations (including park and outdoor equipment/machinery or furniture).
- 1.5 The number of chimney fires declined by 18% to 7,700 in 2013-14 compared to 9,400 in 2012-13.

² All fires – includes primary as well as secondary fires. For definition of Primary and Secondary fires, see overleaf and explanatory notes 5 and 6 for the definition of a primary and secondary fire

- 1.6 The number of fire incidents peaked in the hour of 8pm to 9pm – with 9% of all fires occurring during this time. Fire fatalities were spread more evenly throughout the twenty four hour period, and while only 11% of fires occurred in the five hours between midnight and early morning (5am), these fires claimed more than one fifth of total fire related deaths. This is likely to be because people would be less alert and able to react to fires which occur overnight compared to – for example – fires resulting from cooking the evening meal.

Figure 1.2: Fire incidents and fatalities by time of day, Great Britain, 2013/14p



Primary fires, secondary, chimney fires, outdoor fires

“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.

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.

Causes of fires

Interpretation of trends in accidental and deliberate fires

- 1.7 Fires are categorised as: accidental, deliberate or unknown, according to the probable cause as observed at the scene. Those recorded as 'unknown' are grouped with 'accidental' for all outputs. In 2013-14, there were 88,500 primary fires in Great Britain. Of these, 40% were accidental dwelling fires. Table 1.2 shows the numbers of accidental and deliberate fires by location.

Table 1.2: Primary fires¹ by cause and location of fire, Great Britain, 2000/01- 2013/14p

| Cause/Year | Total ¹ | Location | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | Dwellings | Total other buildings | Other buildings | | Road vehicles | Other outdoors |
| | | | | Other resi- dential ³ | Non- resi- dential | | |
| Accidental fires² | | | | | | | |
| 2000/01 | 103.5 | 54.1 | 22.8 | .. | .. | 23.0 | 3.6 |
| 2001/02 | 100.9 | 52.2 | 22.8 | .. | .. | 22.0 | 3.9 |
| 2002/03 | 92.2 | 47.1 | 21.5 | .. | .. | 19.6 | 4.0 |
| 2003/04 | 94.1 | 48.5 | 22.1 | .. | .. | 19.1 | 4.4 |
| 2004/05 | 87.6 | 46.1 | 21.1 | .. | .. | 17.1 | 3.4 |
| 2005/06 | 87.0 | 46.1 | 20.5 | .. | .. | 16.8 | 3.6 |
| 2006/07 | 84.7 | 44.2 | 19.4 | .. | .. | 16.9 | 4.2 |
| 2007/08 | 78.7 | 41.8 | 18.0 | .. | .. | 15.3 | 3.5 |
| 2008/09 | 74.9 | 39.6 | 16.9 | .. | .. | 14.9 | 3.5 |
| 2009/10 | 79.0 | 40.3 | 18.0 | .. | .. | 16.5 | 4.2 |
| 2010/11 | 75.8 | 38.7 | 17.6 | 3.2 | 14.4 | 15.5 | 3.9 |
| 2011/12 | 72.5 | 37.7 | 16.9 | 2.9 | 13.9 | 14.1 | 3.9 |
| 2012/13r | 66.9 | 36.4 | 14.6 | 2.6 | 12.1 | 13.2 | 2.6 |
| 2013/14p | 66.7 | 35.0 | 14.9 | 2.4 | 12.5 | 13.4 | 3.3 |
| Deliberate fires² | | | | | | | |
| 2000/01 | 106.0 | 13.3 | 17.1 | .. | .. | 67.9 | 7.7 |
| 2001/02 | 120.6 | 14.3 | 19.4 | .. | .. | 77.8 | 9.1 |
| 2002/03 | 111.5 | 12.6 | 16.7 | .. | .. | 73.4 | 8.9 |
| 2003/04 | 107.8 | 13.2 | 18.3 | .. | .. | 67.0 | 9.2 |
| 2004/05 | 84.4 | 11.0 | 14.7 | .. | .. | 50.8 | 7.9 |
| 2005/06 | 74.8 | 9.8 | 13.3 | .. | .. | 44.7 | 7.1 |
| 2006/07 | 67.7 | 9.5 | 12.4 | .. | .. | 38.6 | 7.2 |
| 2007/08 | 57.8 | 8.6 | 11.1 | .. | .. | 32.3 | 5.8 |
| 2008/09 | 49.7 | 7.9 | 9.2 | .. | .. | 27.5 | 5.2 |
| 2009/10 | 43.6 | 6.9 | 8.5 | .. | .. | 22.0 | 6.2 |
| 2010/11 | 36.1 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 0.4 | 7.0 | 17.1 | 5.3 |
| 2011/12 | 32.6 | 5.9 | 7.4 | 0.4 | 6.9 | 14.0 | 5.3 |
| 2012/13r | 23.7 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 4.9 | 10.6 | 3.1 |
| 2013/14p | 21.9 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 0.3 | 4.7 | 9.6 | 3.2 |

1 Figures are expressed in thousands and figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

2 Deliberate fires include fires where deliberate ignition was merely suspected. Accidental fires include those where the cause was accidental

3 Includes residential care homes, hotel/motel, hostels (for homeless people), boarding school accommodation and sheltered housing

.. 'Not known' or 'unspecified' (see explanatory notes). P=provisional; r=revised

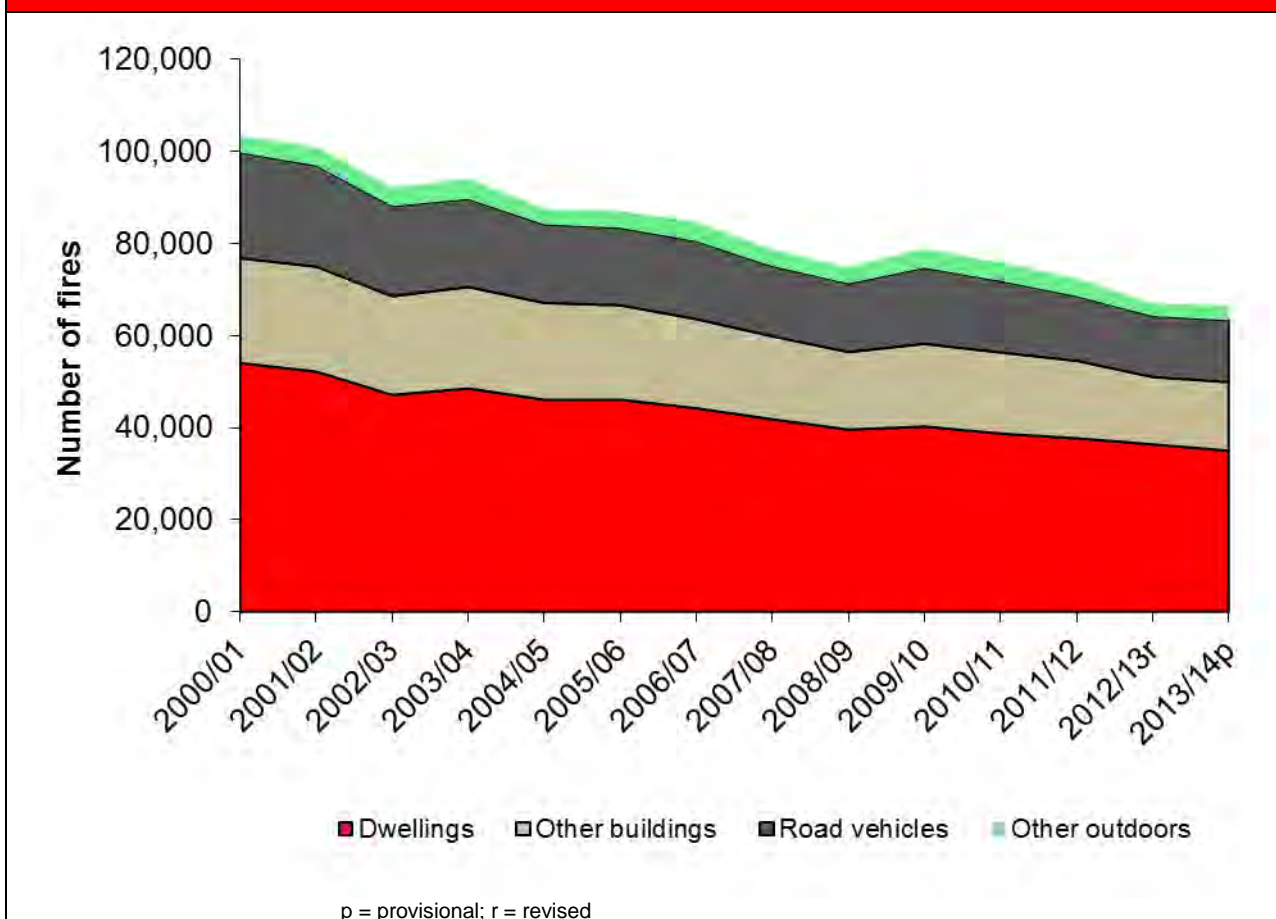
Accidental primary fires (Table 1.2, Figure 1.3)

1.8 Accidental primary fires have been on a steady decline since the decade peak in 2000/01 and the 2013/14 figure declined by more than one third compared to 2000/01. There were 66,700 accidental primary fires in Great Britain in 2013-14. Of the total accidental fires, more than half (53%) were in dwellings, 22% in other buildings (mostly non-residential properties), 20% in road vehicles and 4% in other outdoors.

The key changes in 2013-14 from 2012-13 were:

- Accidental fires in dwellings fell by 4% to 35,000;
- Accidental fires in non-residential buildings up by 4% to 12,500;
- Accidental fires in road vehicles up by 2% to 13,400
- Other outdoor fires up by 26% to 3,300.

Figure 1.3: Accidental primary fires by location group, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p



Deliberate primary fires (Table 1.2, Annex Table 14, Figure 1.4)

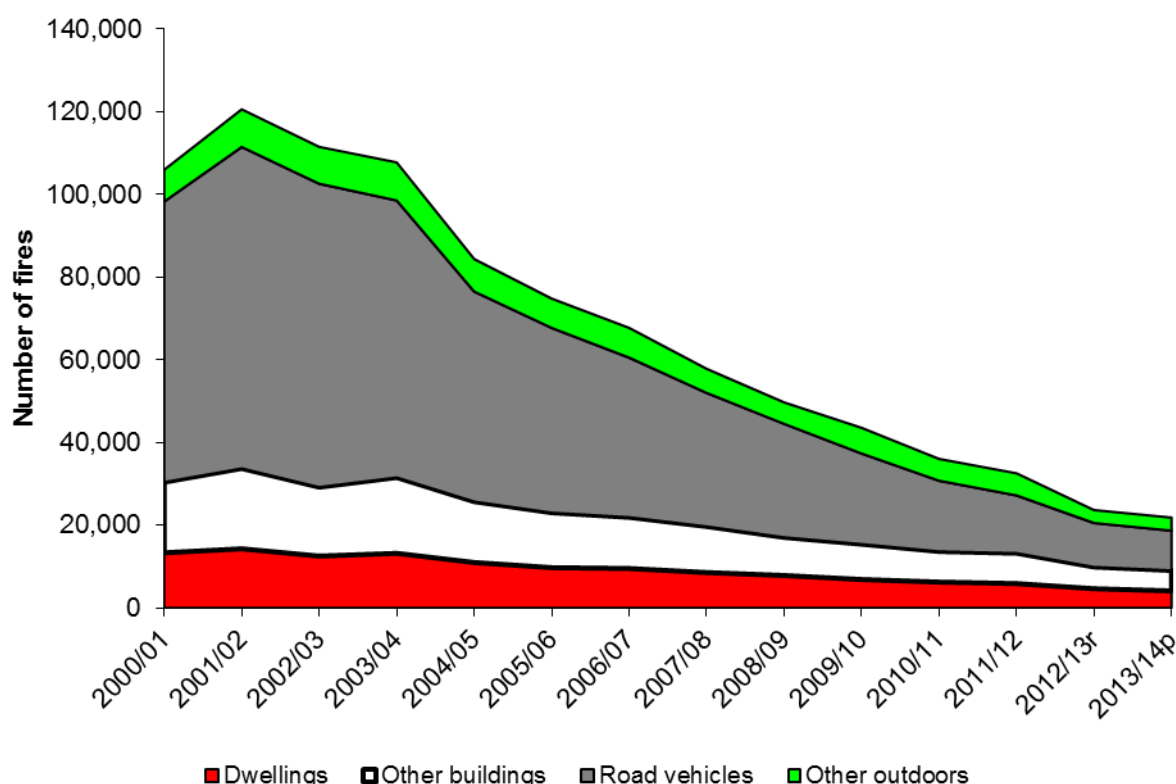
1.9 The number of deliberate primary fires has been on a steady decline since the peak in 2001/02. In 2013-14, the number of deliberate fires was 21,900 – down by 8% from 23,700 in 2012-13. About 44% of deliberate fires occurred in road vehicles.

There was a decline in deliberate fires in all locations except ‘outdoor location’:

- Deliberate fires in dwellings fell by 11% to 4,100;
- Deliberate fires in other buildings fell by 6% to 4,900;
- Deliberate fires in road vehicles also fell by 10% to 9,600.

1.10 Of the 9,100 deliberate fires in buildings recorded in 2013-14, more than half (55%) occurred in buildings that were not dwellings. Of these 4,900 deliberate fires in other buildings, nearly a third occurred in private garages or garden sheds, green houses or summer houses. Chapter 3 contains further details of deliberate fires in other buildings.

Figure 1.4: Deliberate primary fires by location group, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p

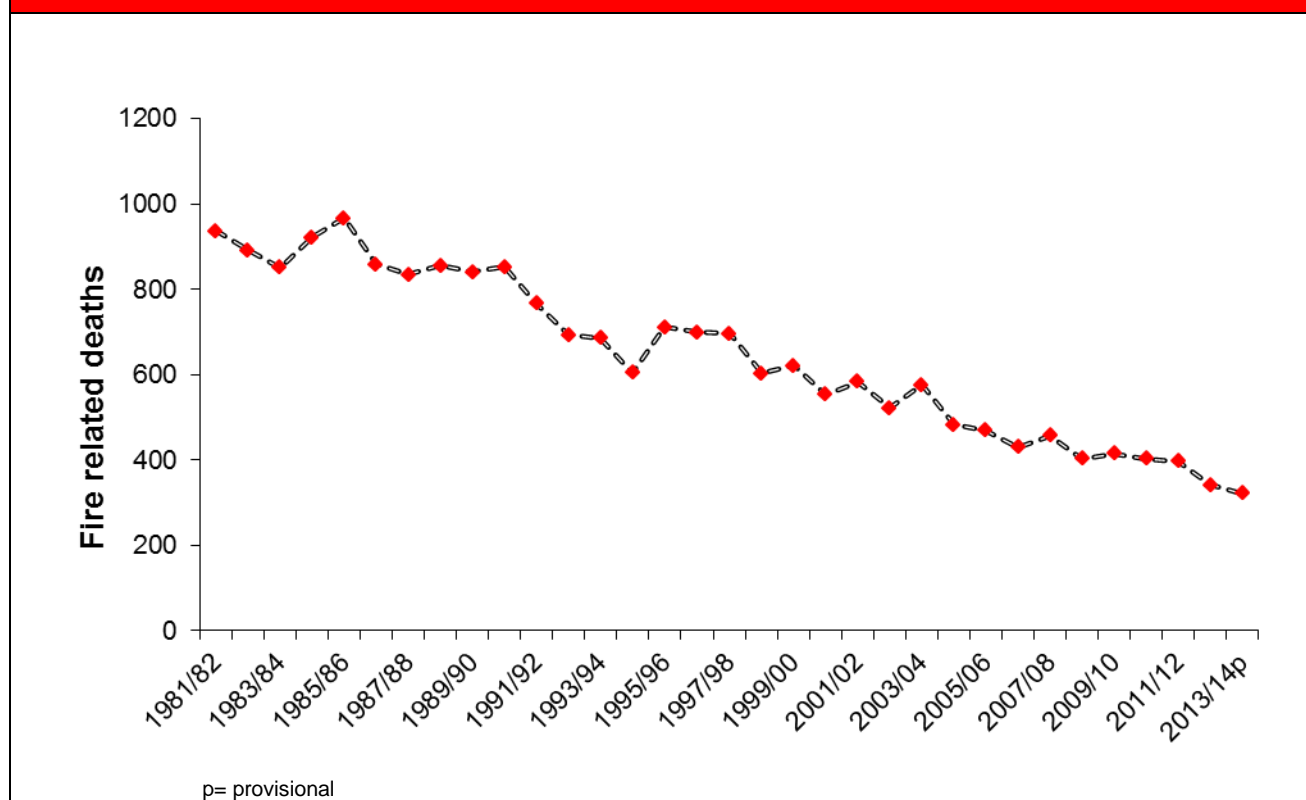


r=revised; p=provisional

Fatalities from fires (Annex tables 6, 17a, 26 and Figure 1.5)

- 1.11 In 2013-14, there were 322 fire-related fatalities in Great Britain, a reduction of 20 deaths from the previous year and 645 deaths from the peak of 967 in 1985/86. The trend in fire fatalities has been downward since the mid-1980s.

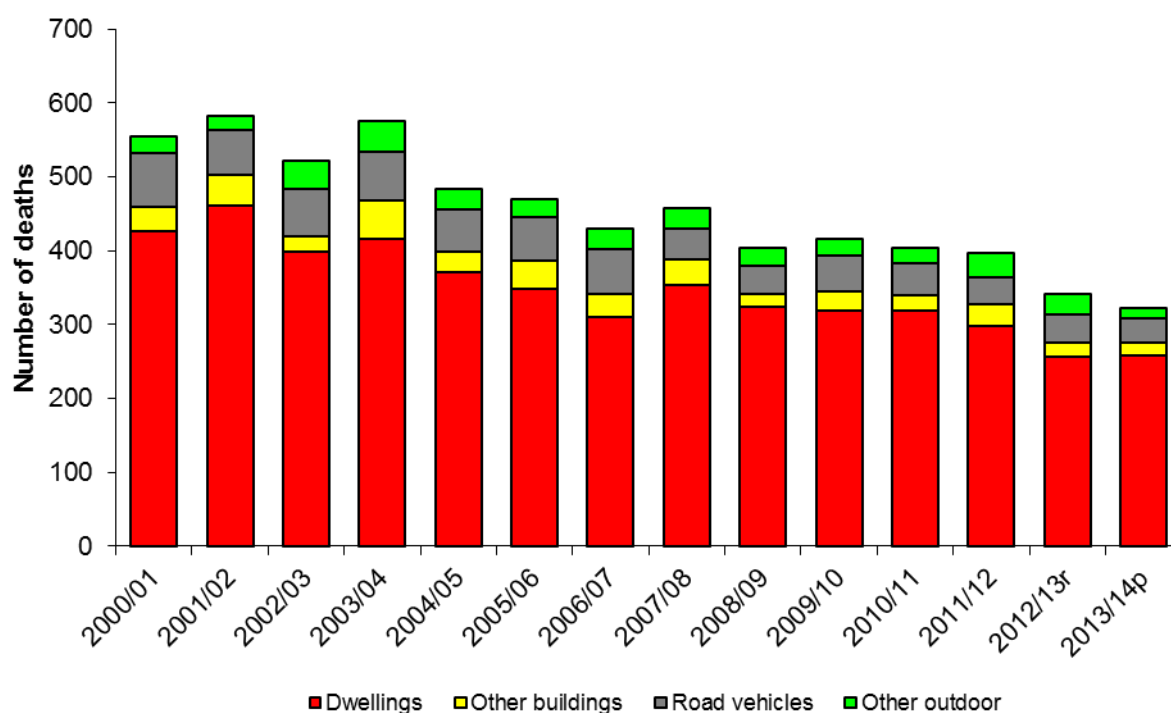
Figure 1.5: Fatalities from fires, Great Britain, 1981/82 – 2013/14p



Location (Annex tables 6 and 26, Figure 1.6)

- 1.12 The majority of fire-related fatalities (over three quarters) occurred in dwelling fires. In 2013-14, there were 258 fatalities in dwelling fires, one more than in 2012-13 but 158 fewer deaths than 10 years earlier in 2003-04, and 487 fewer than the peak in 1981-82. About one-tenth of deaths occurred in road vehicles (mostly in cars). In 2013-14, the number of road vehicle fire deaths reached its lowest level since the fire data record began in 1981-82.
- 1.13 In 2013-14, there was a fatality rate of 6.6 per 1,000 dwelling fires compared to 1 per 1,000 other building fires and 1.4 per 1,000 road vehicle fires.

Figure 1.6: Fatalities from fires by location group, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p

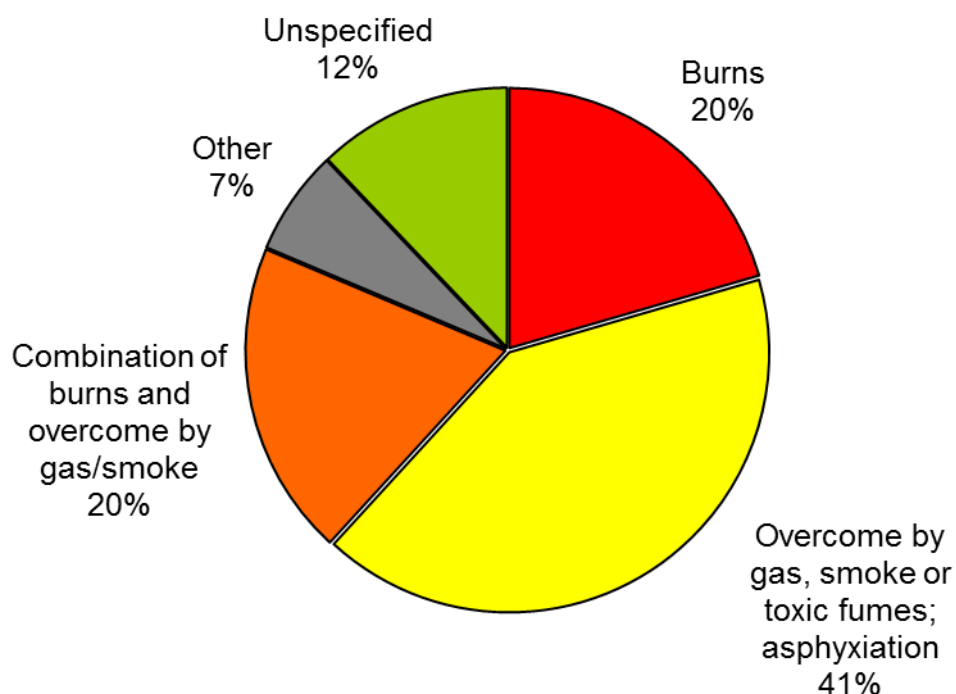


r=revised; p=provisional

Cause of death (Annex table 7, Figure 1.7)

- 1.14 The most common identified cause of death from a fire incident is being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes. In 2013-14, fire and rescue authorities reported 322 fire-related fatalities of which 133 people died because of this cause, accounting for 41% of all fatalities. A further 66 (20%) deaths were due to burns alone whilst 63 (20%) deaths were attributed jointly to burns and being overcome by gas or smoke.

Figure 1.7: Causes of fire deaths, Great Britain, 2013/14p



Note: Other includes head or chest damage or other physical injury resulting from fire, fractures, shock or other medical conditions. p=provisional

Fatality rates by age and gender (Annex tables 5b, 17a, 17b and Table 1.3)

- 1.15 The fire fatality rate is defined as the number of fire related fatalities per million of population (pmp). In 2013/14, the average fire fatality rate was 5 per million of population.
- 1.16 In 2013-14, the fatality rate was by far the highest in the age group of eighty years old and over (23 pmp, accounting for 21% of total deaths). The rate was also higher than average for ages sixty five to seventy nine years old. Rates for people under thirty were much below average. Fatality rates were higher for males than for females (6 pmp and 4 pmp for males and females respectively in 2013-14) but the gap of fire fatality rates between males and females was less than 2011-12 and earlier years.

Table 1.3: Fatal casualties and rates from fires by age and gender, Great Britain, 2008/09-2013/14p¹

| Year | Numbers of deaths | | | | | | Fatality rate (pmp) | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2008 /09 | 2009 /10 | 2010 /11 | 2011 /12 | 2012 /13r | 2013 /14p | 2008 /09 | 2009 /10 | 2010 /11 | 2011 /12 | 2012 /13r | 2013/ 14p |
| Age of victims | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| under 1 | 3 | - | 5 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | - | 6 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 – 4 | 6 | - | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 5 – 10 | 8 | - | 12 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 – 16 | 5 | - | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 17 – 24 | 24 | - | 17 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 4 | - | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 25 – 29 | 15 | - | 10 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 4 | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 30 – 59 | 155 | - | 170 | 162 | 120 | 120 | 6 | - | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| 60 – 64 | 24 | - | 33 | 27 | 23 | 16 | 7 | - | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| 65 – 79 | 88 | - | 77 | 78 | 74 | 62 | 13 | - | 11 | 11 | 10 | 8 |
| 80 & over | 74 | - | 74 | 83 | 70 | 69 | 27 | - | 26 | 29 | 24 | 23 |
| Unspecified | 10 | - | - | 3 | 11 | 15 | .. | .. | .. | .. | | .. |
| All ages² | 412 | 416 | 404 | 397 | 342 | 322 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Males | 249 | - | 241 | 244 | 197 | 196 | 9 | - | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Females | 158 | - | 160 | 150 | 143 | 124 | 5 | - | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Not specified | 5 | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

¹ The per million population rates for all years take into account the revised mid-year population estimates for 2013, published by the Office for National Statistics in June 2014 (see explanatory notes).

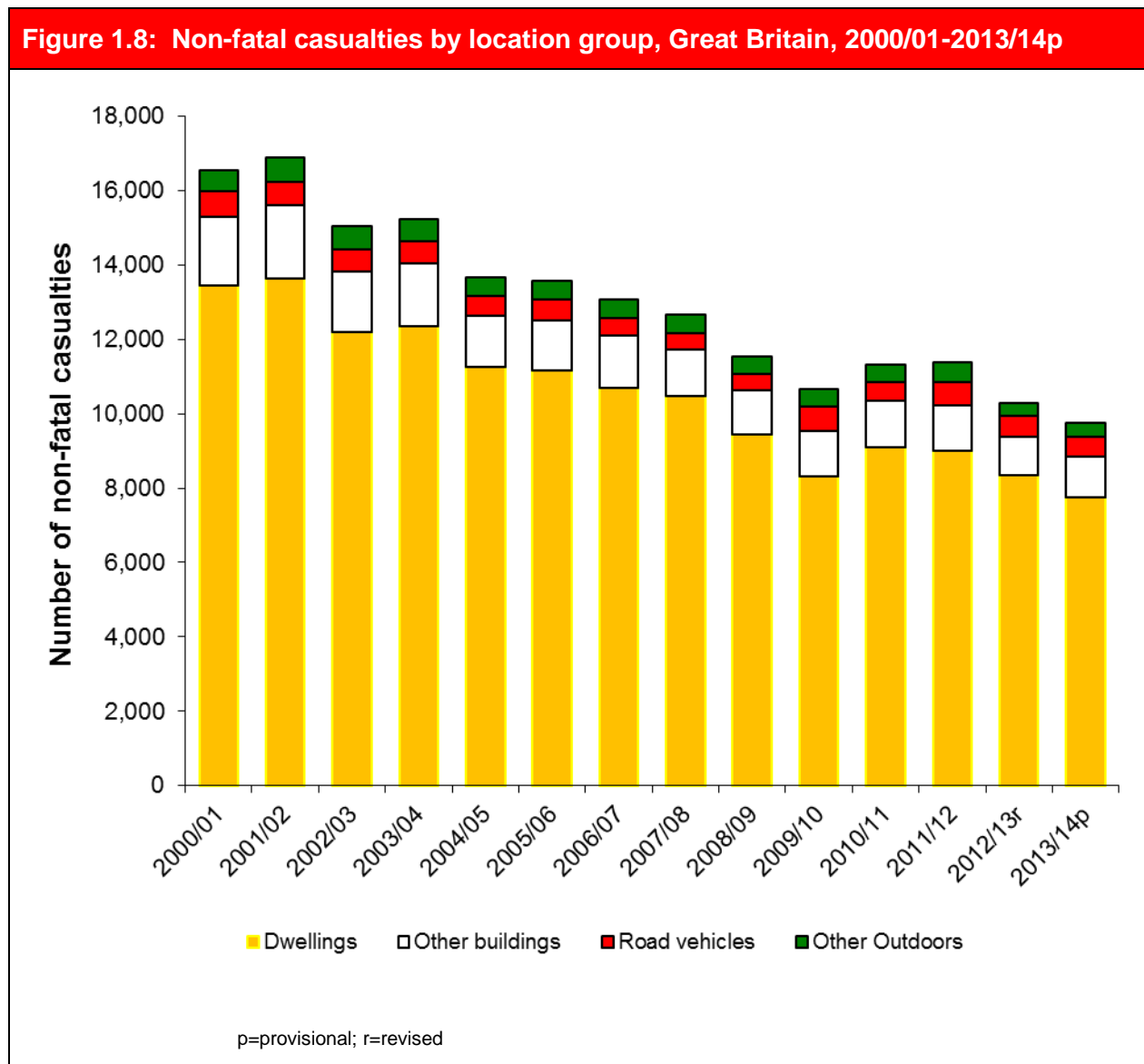
² Includes some fatal casualties, whose gender was not recorded.

- Data not available due to incomplete record from one fire and rescue authority in 2009/10

Non-fatal casualties

Location (Annex table 6, Figure 1.8)

- 1.17 There were 9,748 non-fatal casualties in Great Britain in 2013-14, 5% and 36% lower compared to the previous year and ten years earlier respectively. Dwelling fires accounted for the majority (80%) of these casualties - 7,758 non-fatal casualties, which is 7% fewer than the previous year and more than a third less than a decade ago. There was also a fall in non-fatal casualties in road vehicle fires in 2013-14, 5% lower compared to a year earlier.

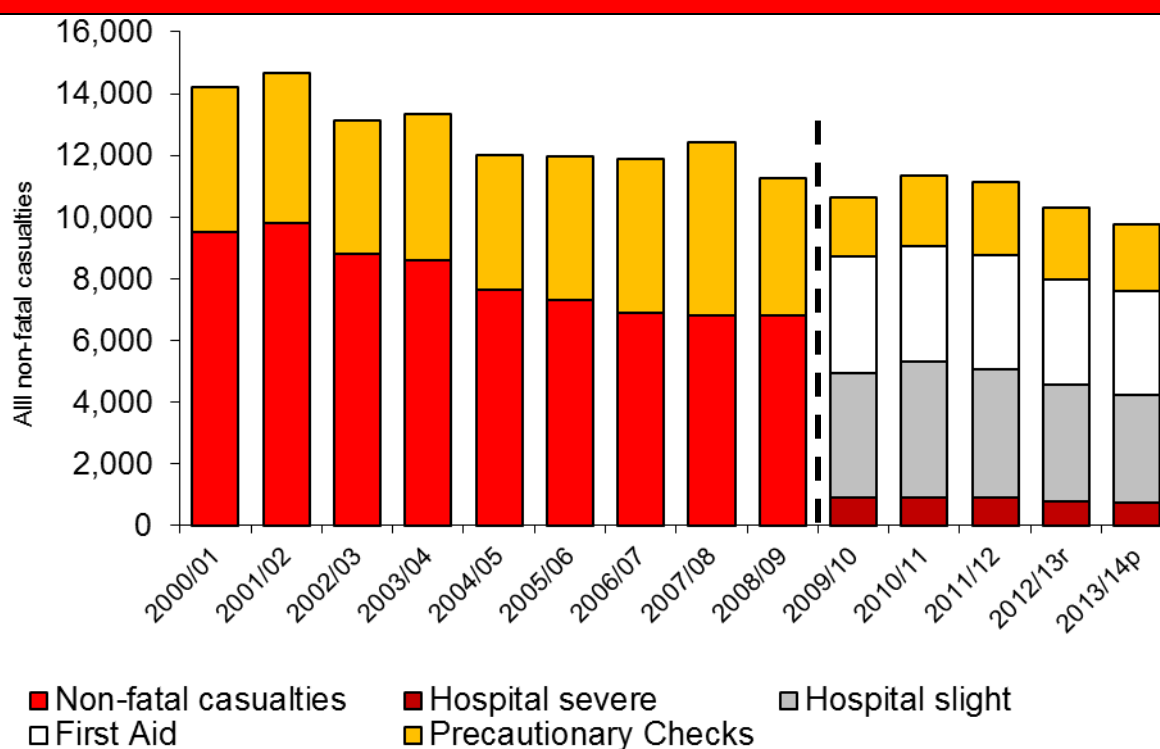


- 1.18 Dwelling fires were more likely to have casualties than any other location. In 2013-14, there were 198 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 dwelling fires, compared with 55 per 1,000 other building fires and 23 per 1,000 road vehicle fires.

Severity of injury (Figure 1.9)

- 1.19 In 2013-14, the most frequent non-fatal injury severity recorded was 'victim to hospital with slight injuries' - accounting for 36% of total injuries, and 8% lower than in 2012/13. The number of 'victim to hospital with serious injuries' in 2013-14 reached its lowest level since the introduction of the Incident Recording System (IRS) in 2009-10 – 8% of total injuries, and 1% lower than the previous year. Note that the IRS led to a change in the way that non-fatal casualties were categorised – particularly relating to precautionary checks and first aid (see the section on '[Comparability](#)' in the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication).

Figure 1.9: Non-fatal casualties from fires by severity, Great Britain, 2000/01-2013/14p



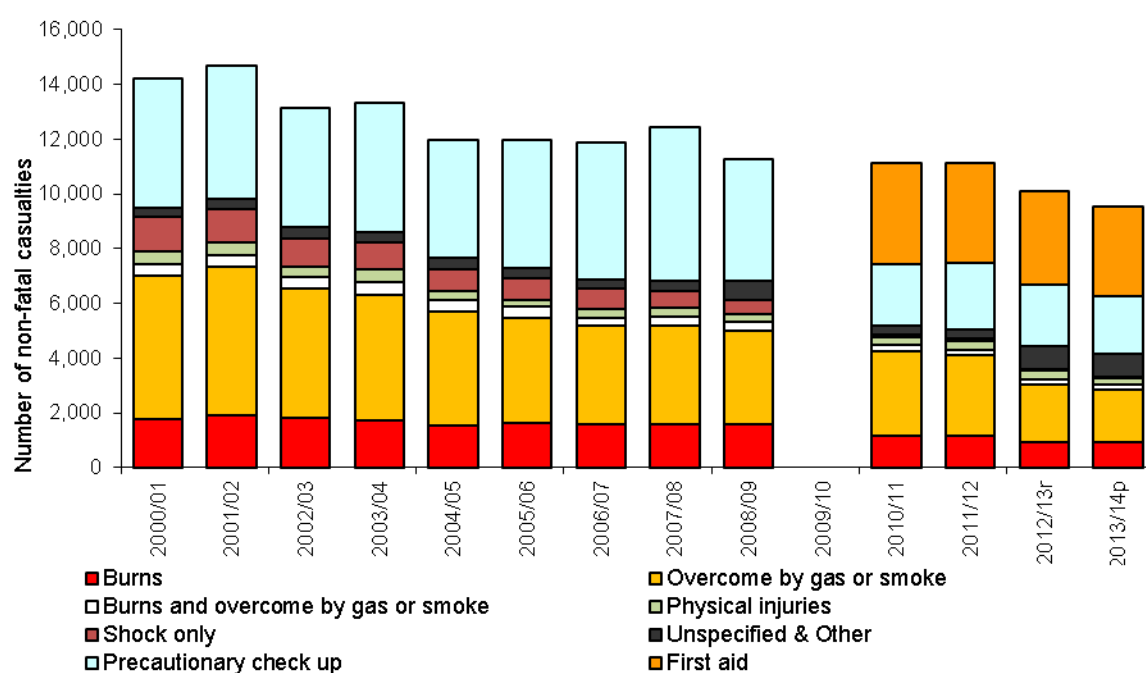
p=provisional; r= revised

Nature of injury (Annex table 8, Figure 1.10)

1.20 The types of injuries that victims (excluding fire fighters) sustained included:

- Suffering from the effects of gas or smoke, totalling about 1,904 and accounting for one-fifth of all non-fatal casualties in 2013-14;
- Burn injuries only (including severe and slight injuries) totalled 926 (10% of all non-fatal casualties);
- Suffering from both burns and having been overcome by gas or smoke totalled 182 (2% of all non-fatal casualties);
- Physical injuries from fires totalled 264 (3% of all non-fatal casualties in 2013-14).

Figure 1.10: Non-fatal casualties from fires (excluding firefighters) by nature of injury¹, Great Britain, 2000/01-2013/14p



¹ There was no category for 'first aid' prior to the introduction of the new Incident Recording System (see explanatory note 3)

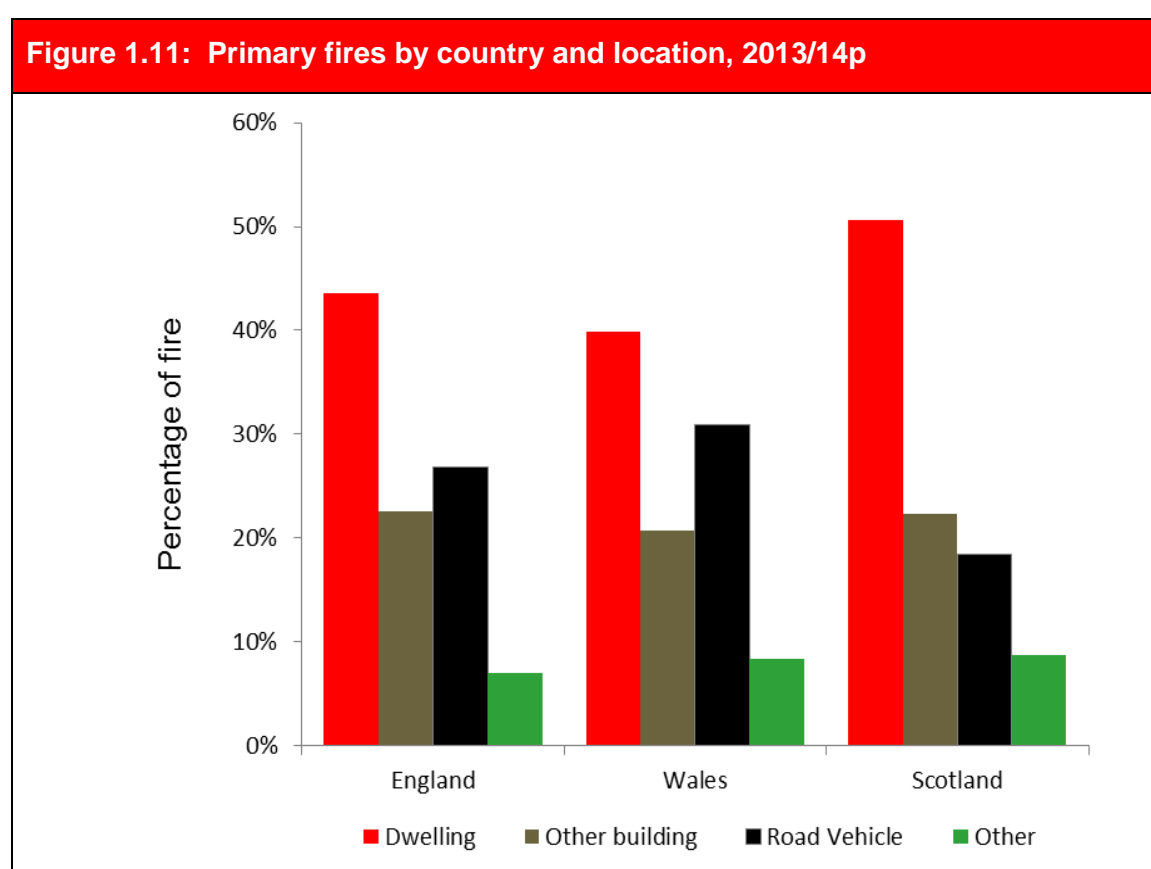
2009/10 figure was not shown due to incomplete record from one fire and rescue authority

p=provisional; r= revised

Type of fires by country

Primary fires (Annex table 5a and Figure 1.11)

- 1.21 Great Britain experienced a small decline (2%) in the number of primary fires attended by fire and rescue services in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13. Scotland experienced the largest decrease (5%) to 10,500, compared to England - where the number of primary fires fell by 2% to 73,200 - and Wales – which saw a 1% increase to 4,800 in 2013-14. See [Explanatory note 5](#) for definition of a primary fire.
- 1.22 Figure 1.11 shows the primary fires by country and locations. Dwelling fires constitute the largest share of fires in all countries, while road vehicle fires constitute the second largest share for England and Wales. In Scotland, 'other building' fires constitute the second largest share.



Secondary fires (Annex table 5a)

- 1.23 Great Britain experienced a large increase (25%) in secondary fires – largely due to wet weather during the summer of 2012-13. The increase in England and Wales was 27% and 32% respectively in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13, while the increase in Scotland was only 15%. See [Explanatory note 6](#) for definition of a secondary fire.

Chimney fires (Annex table 5a)

- 1.24 All the countries in Great Britain experienced a decrease in chimney fires in 2013-14 – by 18% overall. Wales saw the highest decrease of 25%, while Scotland and England experienced 21% and 17% decreases respectively.

Fatalities, casualties and rates by country (Annex tables 5b and 22a)

- 1.25 There were 322 fire-related fatalities in Great Britain in 2013-14, a reduction of 20 fatalities from 2012-13. The fatality rate in fires in Great Britain in 2013-14 was 5.2 per million of population (pmp). There are notable differences in fatality rates between Scotland and other countries:
- Scotland has had a consistently higher fatality rate over the years compared to the rest of Great Britain, currently at 6.0 pmp, down from 8.7 pmp in 2012-13;
 - The fatality rate in Wales remained at the same level (5.5) as in 2012-13;
 - In England, the rate in 2013-14 was 5.1 pmp, down from 5.2 pmp in 2012-13.

Non-fatal casualties and rates by country (Annex tables 5b and 22b)

- 1.26 There were 9,748 non-fatal casualties in Great Britain in 2013-14, 5% lower than the previous year. While England and Scotland experienced a 7% and 1% decline respectively, Wales experienced a 16% increase in non-fatal casualties in 2013-14.
- 1.27 The non-fatal casualty rate in Great Britain declined from 166 per million population in 2012-13 to 157 in 2013-14. This is the lowest rate recorded over the past 13 years. Within Great Britain, the non-fatal casualty rates were:
- Scotland, 246 pmp in 2013-14, down from 248 pmp in 2012-13;
 - Wales, 203 pmp in 2013-14, up from 176 pmp in 2012-13;
 - England, 145 pmp in 2013-14, down from 158 pmp in 2012-13.

Chapter 2 - Dwellings

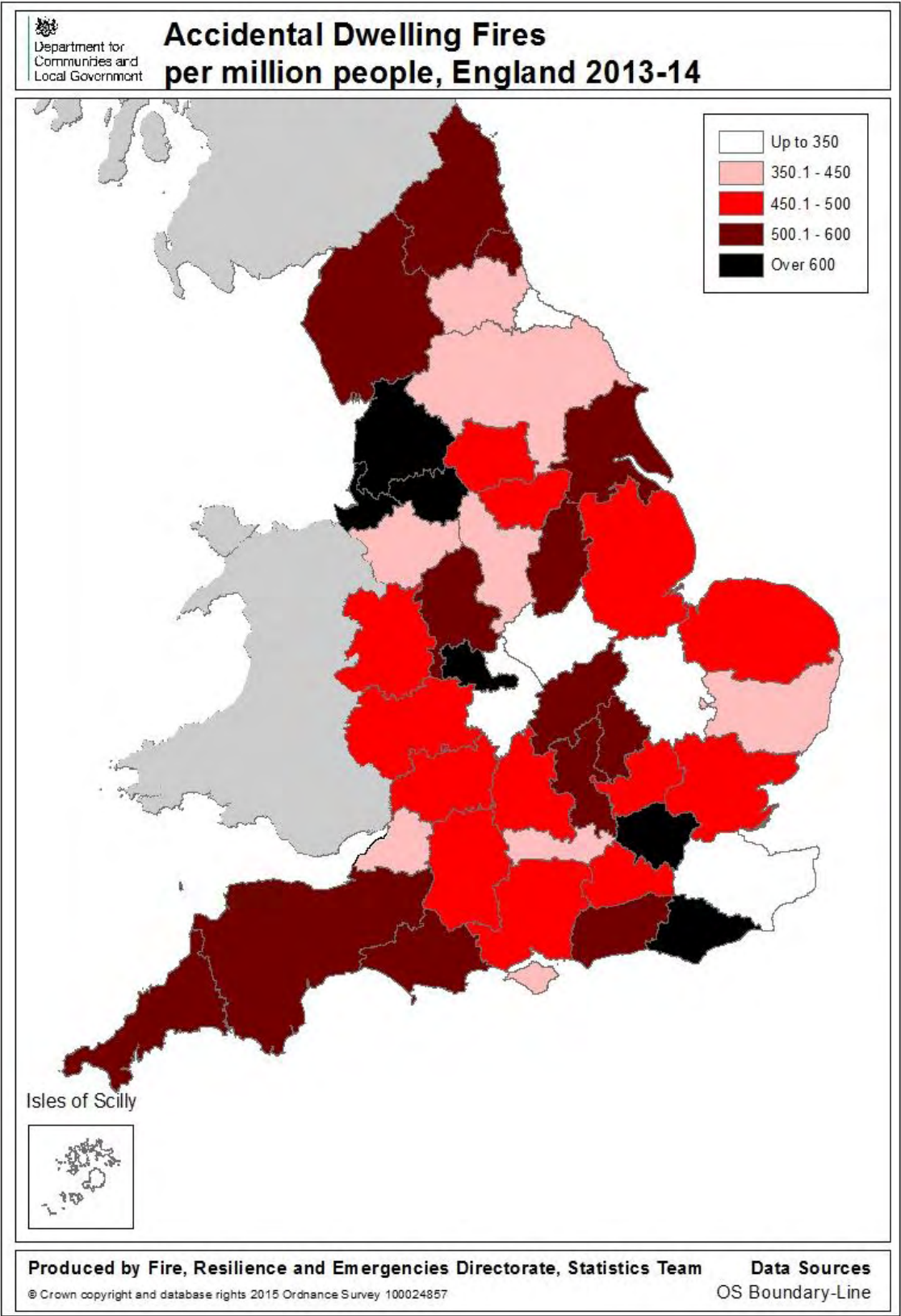
Introduction (Table 1.1, and Annex table 6)

- 2.1 Dwelling fires accounted for 44% of all primary fires and 80% of all deaths in Great Britain in 2013-14 (see [Explanatory note 5](#) for further information on the definitions of primary and dwelling fires). Within dwellings, 83% of fires occurred either in single occupancy house or in bungalows. Only 2% occurred in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Overall, the number of dwelling fires fell by 5% to 39,600 in 2013-14, continuing the downward trend since 2000-01.
- 2.2 Dwelling fires continue to account for the vast majority of fire related deaths. The number of fatalities in such fires was 258 in 2013-14, up by one compared to 2012-13 but down by 40 deaths compared to 2011-12 and down by more than a third compared to ten years earlier. Single occupancy house/ bungalow or flat accounts for 83% of all dwelling fire deaths.

Accidental fires (Annex tables 2 and 3)

- 2.3 Most dwelling fires (89%) in Great Britain in 2013-14 were accidental. Such fire in 2013-14 is the lowest number recorded in more than a decade and has been reduced by 4% and 28% respectively compared to the previous year and ten years before.

2.4 The map below shows the rate of accidental dwelling fires per million of population in England in 2013-14.



Cause of fire (Annex table 2)

2.5 The main cause of accidental fires in dwellings remains the misuse of equipment or appliances, with 13,300 cases recorded in 2013-14, 5% fewer than in 2012-13 and 22% fewer than ten years earlier in 2003-04. The 2013-14 figure is the second lowest figure recorded in over a decade. Other leading causes are:

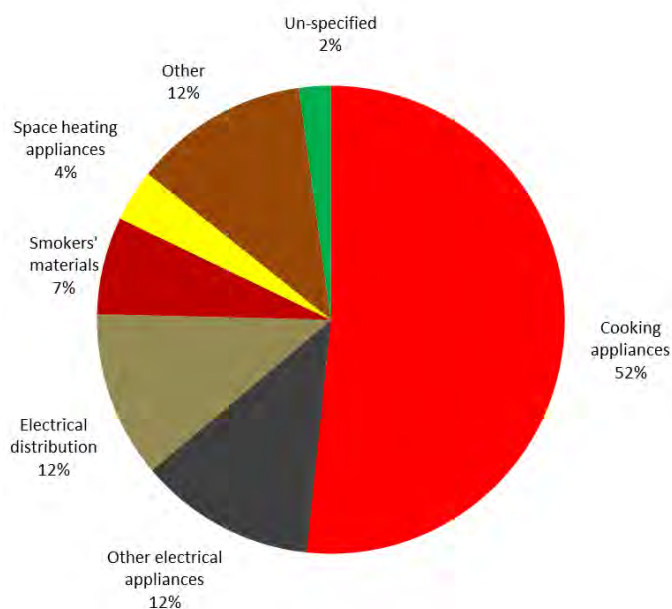
- Faulty appliances and leads. These have fallen by 23% compared to the figure in 2003-04;
- Careless handling of fire or hot substances. These declined by 30% since 2003-04;
- Chip/fat pan fries. These have fallen by 71% to 2,300 from 8,100 in 2003-04;
- Incidences of placing articles too close to heat or fire. These have fallen by 11% since 2003-04.

Source of ignition (Figure 2.1 and Annex table 3)

2.6 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.

2.7 Cooking appliances have been the main source of ignition (more than half) in accidental dwelling fires in 2013-14. Fires from this source show an almost continuous fall of around 43% from the peak of 32,000 in 2000-01.

Figure 2.1: Sources of Ignition in accidental fires in dwellings, Great Britain, 2013/14p



Note: Other includes candles, central and water heating appliances, lighters, matches
p = provisional

2.8 Other key changes from the peak of 2001-02 were:

- Fires where the source of ignition was smokers' materials (i.e. cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco but do not include lighting implements such as matches and lighters) declined by 41%;
- Candle fires fell by more than half to 1,000 in 2013-14;
- Fires from other electrical appliances have fallen by 29% in 2013-14.

Casualties from accidental fires (Annex tables 10 and 11)

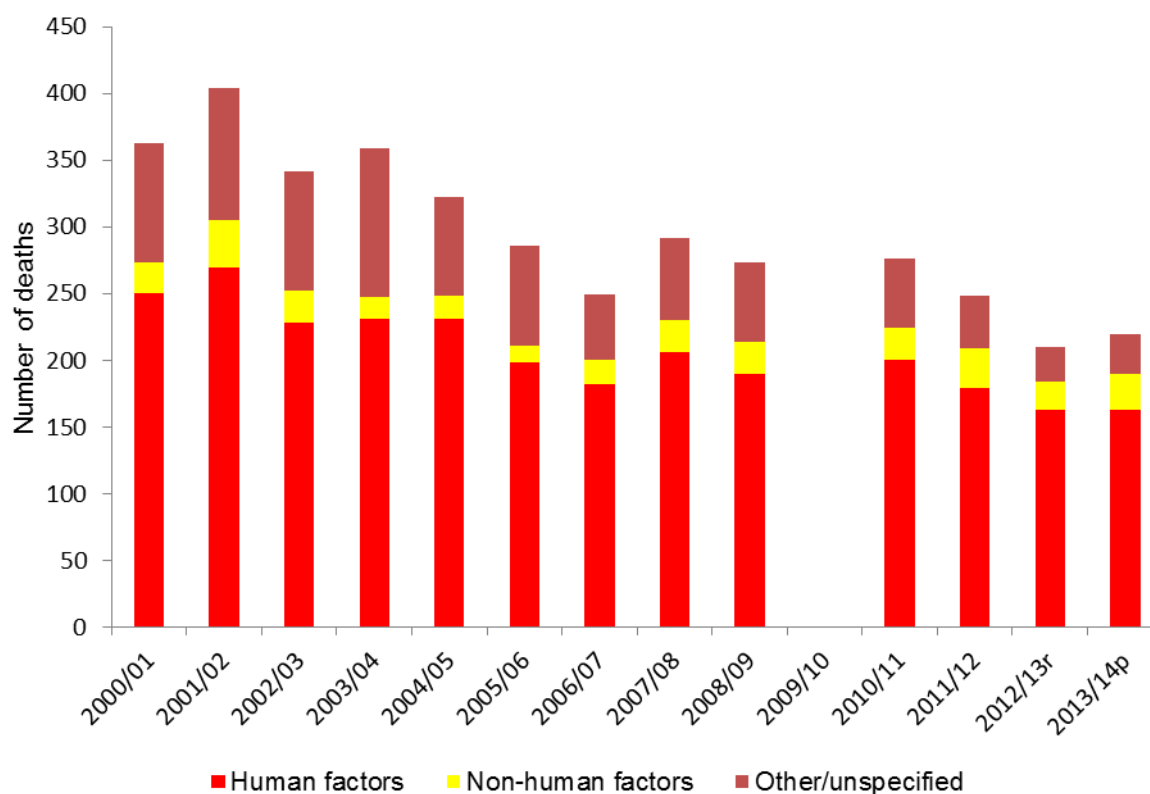
2.9 Of the 258 fatalities in dwellings in 2013-14, 219 (85%) were of accidental causes. The number of fatalities in accidental home fires has reduced by 46% from the peak of 404 in 2001-02.

Fatalities by cause of fire (Figure 2.2 and Annex table 10)

2.10 The leading cause of fatal accidental dwelling fires remains the careless handling of fire or hot substances (mostly cigarettes). This cause claimed 85 deaths (39%) in Great Britain in 2013-14. Time series data shows that the number of deaths from this cause has declined by 44% from the peak of 151 deaths in 2001/02.

2.11 Figure 2.2 shows that nearly three-quarters of accidental dwelling fire deaths were attributed to human factors (see Table 10 for details).

Figure 2.2: Fatalities from accidental dwelling fires by cause, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p



2009/10 figure is not shown due to incomplete record from one fire and rescue authority
p= provisional; r = revised

2.12 Other key changes in the number of fatal casualties by cause of fire between 2001-02 and 2013-14 were:

- Fatalities resulting from placing articles too close to heat (second leading cause of accidental home fire deaths) fell by 9 from 44 to 35 in 2013-14;
- Faulty appliances and leads accounted for 19 fatalities, down from 28 in 2001-02;
- Fatalities due to the chip/fat pan fire down by 31 from 38 in 2001-02 to 7 in 2013-14.

Fatalities and rates by source of ignition of fire (Table 2.1 and Annex table 11)

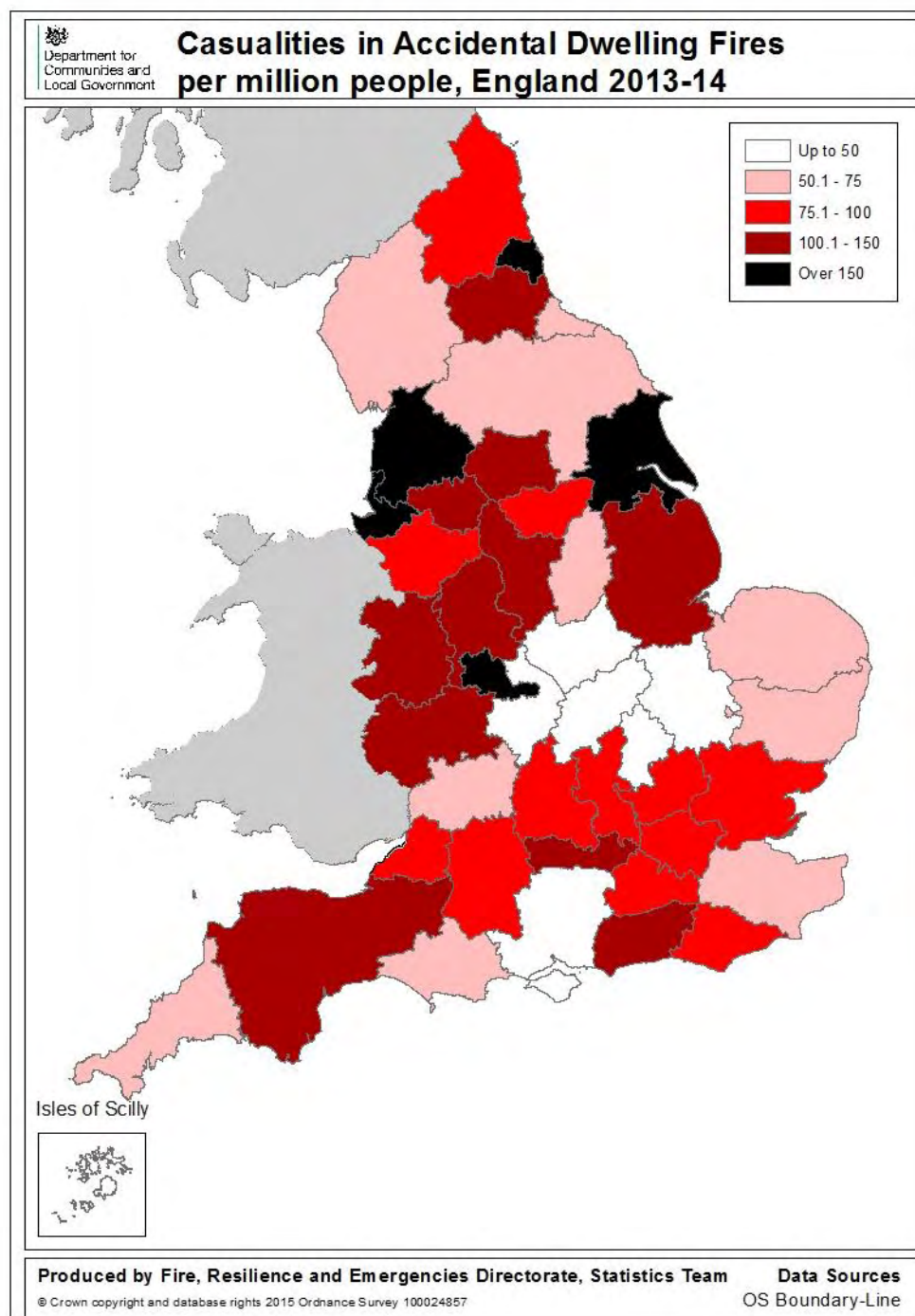
- 2.13 Smokers' materials (i.e. cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco) were the most common source of ignition causing accidental dwelling fire fatalities, accounting for over a third of all accidental dwelling fire fatalities in 2013-14. For every 1,000 accidental dwelling fires caused by smokers' materials, 34 people were killed in 2013-14. Fatalities from this source have fallen by 44% from the peak of 144 in 2001-02.
- 2.14 While cooking appliances were responsible for more than half of accidental dwelling fires, it was not the main source of ignition that claimed most deaths. These fires caused 30 deaths in 2013-14. For every 1,000 fires started in cooking appliances, there were only two fatalities. This could reflect 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.
- 2.15 Accidental dwelling fires sourced from space heating appliances resulted in 20 fatalities in 2013-14.
- 2.16 Fires caused by electrical distribution resulted in 18 fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in 2013-14.
- 2.17 Candle fires accounted for 11 fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in 2013-14.

Table 2.1: Fatal and non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling¹ fires by source of ignition, Great Britain, 2013/14p

| | Total accidental Fires | Fatal casualties | | Non-fatal casualties | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | | Total | Per 1,000 fires | Total | Per 1,000 fires |
| Total accidental | 35,024 | 219 | 6 | 6,872 | 196 |
| Smokers' materials | 2,360 | 80 | 34 | 673 | 285 |
| Cigarette lighters | 217 | 5 | 23 | 93 | 429 |
| Matches | 232 | 6 | 26 | 57 | 246 |
| Cooking appliances | 18,092 | 30 | 2 | 3,642 | 201 |
| Space heating appliances | 1,256 | 20 | 16 | 313 | 249 |
| Central and water heating appliances | 394 | 0 | - | 35 | 89 |
| Blowlamps, welding and cutting equipment | 237 | 0 | - | 22 | 93 |
| Electrical distribution | 4,032 | 18 | 4 | 419 | 104 |
| Other electrical appliances | 4,277 | 13 | 3 | 682 | 159 |
| Candles | 951 | 11 | 12 | 385 | 405 |
| Other | 2,207 | 15 | 7 | 364 | 165 |
| Unspecified | 769 | 21 | 27 | 187 | 243 |
| ¹ Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-permanent structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory notes). p=provisional | | | | | |

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

2.18 The map below shows the rates of non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires per million of population across England in 2013-14.



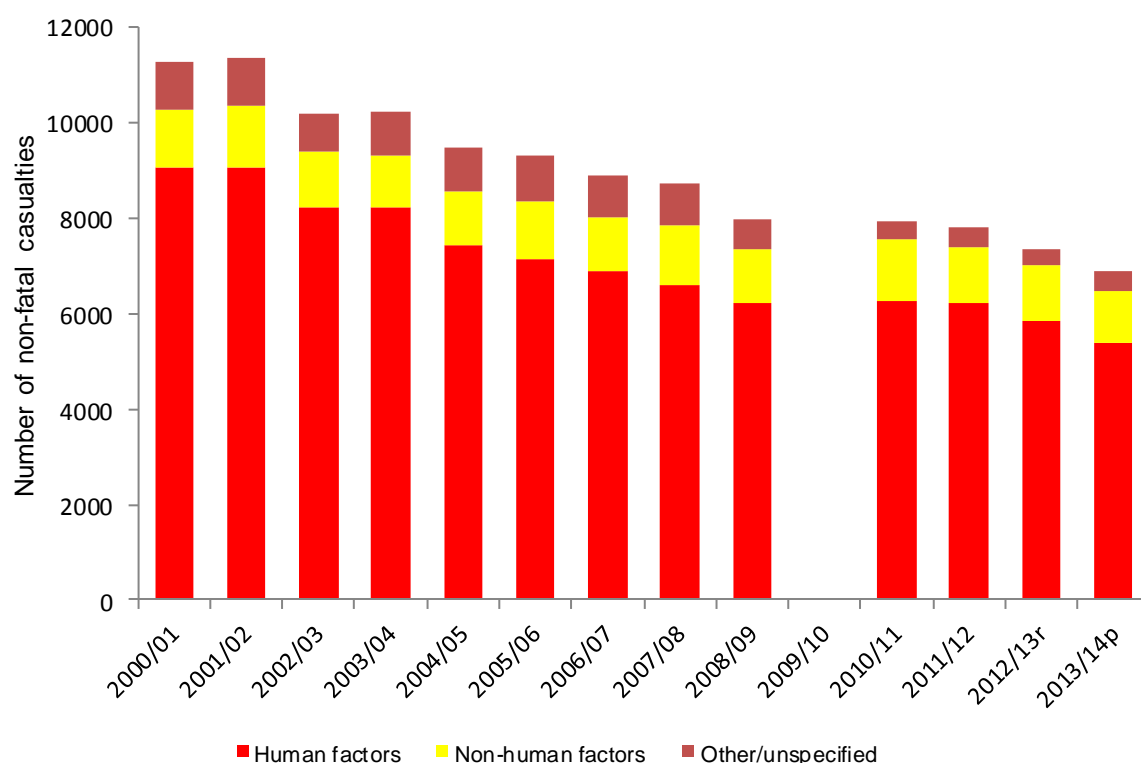
2.19 In 2013-14, there were 3,600 non-fatal casualties from accidental dwelling fires started by cooking appliances. This accounted for over half (53%) of non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires and equates to 201 injuries per 1,000 fires. Although cooking appliance fires caused the largest number of injuries, they did not have the highest injury *rate* (per 1000 fires), again possibly reflecting the relatively minor nature of many cooking-related fires.

- 2.20 The injury rate was highest for fires started by cigarette lighters – 429 per 1,000 fires, a total of 93 injuries in 2013-14. The next highest was for fires caused by candles – 405 per 1,000 fires, a total of 385 injuries in 2013-14.
- 2.21 Accidental dwelling fires caused by other electrical appliances resulted in 680 non-fatal casualties in 2013-14. This is the lowest figure recorded in more than a decade.
- 2.22 Fires started by smokers' materials resulted in 670 injuries –maintaining the long term downward trend.

Non-fatal casualties by cause of fire (Figure 2.3 and Annex table 10)

- 2.23 In 2013-14, the total number of non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires in Great Britain was 7,800 – 7% fewer than in 2012-13. The vast majority of these casualties occurred in fires caused accidentally (89%). The total number of non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires fell by 7% from 7,400 in 2012-13 to 6,900 in 2013-14. Time series data shows a gradual decline in the number of non-fatal casualties since 2001-02.
- 2.24 Figure 2.3 shows that more than three-quarters of accidental dwelling fire non-fatal casualties were attributed to human factors (see accompanied table 10).
- 2.25 The pattern of non-fatal casualties by cause has changed over time. Until 2004-05, chip/fat pan fires was the leading cause of non-fatal casualties in Great Britain. From 2005-06 misuse of equipment and appliances remains the biggest cause of non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires. Fires due to this cause resulted in 2,200 non-fatal casualties in 2013-14, 10% fewer than in 2012-13.
- 2.26 Other key changes between 2012-13 and 2013-14 in the number of non-fatal casualties by cause of fire were:
- Chip pan fire non-fatal casualties were down by 6% to 1,100 in 2013-14. Injuries from this cause are at the lowest level since 2000-01.
 - Non-fatal casualties caused by careless handling of fire or hot substances declined by 5% to 960 in 2013-14.
 - Non-fatal casualties from fires caused by faulty appliances and leads declined by 2% to 820 in 2013-14.

Figure 2.3: Non-fatal casualties from accidental dwelling fires by cause, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p



2009/10 figure was not shown due to incomplete record from one fire and rescue authority
p = provisional; r = revised

Casualties by room of origin of fire (Table 2.2, Annex table 12a and 12b)

- 2.27 In 2013-14, most fatalities (94) occurred in either the living room or dining room or lounge where only 9% of fires started. This equates to a fatality rate of 30 per 1,000 fires. By contrast, kitchen fires (accounted for 62% of accidental dwelling fires) resulted in 40 deaths – with fatality rate of 2 per 1,000 fires.
- 2.28 In 2013-14, 58% of all accidental dwelling fire death victims were located in the room where the fire started. However, this proportion varies widely depending on the room in which the fire started. For example, nearly half of fatalities located in the room in which the fire started were in the living/dining room, while a third were in a bedroom or bedsit.
- 2.29 Non-fatal casualties show a different pattern in terms of location. The majority (88%) of all non-fatal casualties were located in the room where fire did not originate. Once again, variations occurred according to where the victims were found. For example, for casualties found in a room other than when the fire started, 61% of these fires started in the kitchen compared to 15% in a bedroom or bedsit.

2.30 Similar to fatalities, the non-fatal casualty rate in kitchen fires was relatively low at 191 per 1,000 fires compared to the highest rate of 339 per 1,000 fires starting in the bedroom/bedsit.

Table 2.2: Casualties in accidental dwelling¹ fires by use of room where fire started, Great Britain, 2013/14p

| | Total accidental Fires | Fatal casualties | | Non-fatal casualties | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | | Total | Per 1,000 fires | Total | Per 1,000 fires |
| Room of origin of fire | 35,024 | 219 | 6 | 6,872 | 196 |
| Bedroom or bedsitting room | 3,039 | 63 | 21 | 1,031 | 339 |
| Living room, dining room or lounge | 3,170 | 94 | 30 | 890 | 281 |
| Kitchen | 21,577 | 40 | 2 | 4,125 | 191 |
| Bathroom or lavatory | 778 | 1 | 1 | 136 | 175 |
| Corridor, hall or stairs | 930 | 5 | 5 | 130 | 140 |
| Laundry or airing cupboard | 987 | 2 | 2 | 116 | 118 |
| Store room or loft | 1,284 | 2 | 2 | 111 | 86 |
| Other ² | 3,140 | 11 | 4 | 320 | 102 |
| Unspecified | 119 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 109 |
| ¹ Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-permanent structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory notes). | | | | | |
| ² Conservatory, garage, refuse stores, external fittings and external structures | | | | | |
| p=provisional | | | | | |

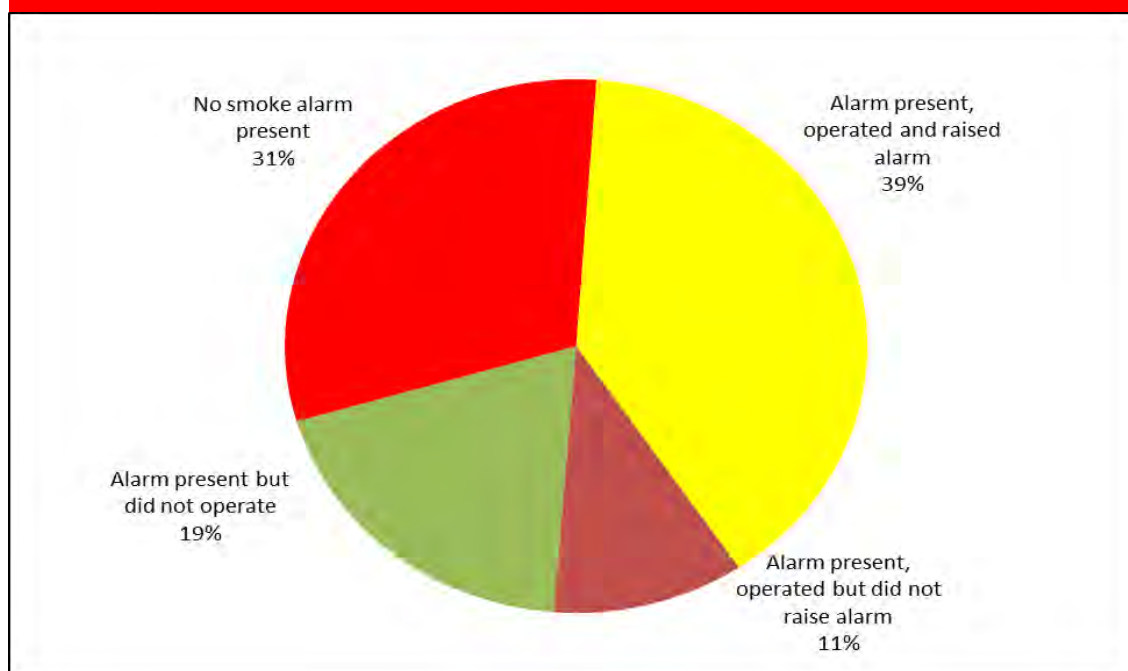
Smoke alarm analysis (Tables 2.3 to 2.9 and Figure 2.4)

2.31 This section looks at the ownership and 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 services in Great Britain. Any fires involving alarms where no emergency call was made to the fire and rescue service will not be recorded. Therefore, the figures reported may 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, making it is less likely the fire and rescue service will be called. Findings from the 2010/11 English Housing Survey (EHS) estimated that the fire and rescue service were called to nearly one third of all domestic fires ([see paragraph 1.2](#) and [Technical note 10](#) for further details).

Smoke alarm ownership and operational status

2.32 Figure 2.4 shows the presence and operational status of smoke alarm in dwelling fires. Smoke alarms were present in 69% of home fires, and raised the alarm in 39%. In 11% of occasions, an alarm operated but did not raise alarm - 59% of the time because the occupant was already aware of fire, 18% was because no one was within earshot of the alarm and 14% was because the occupants failed to respond (either due to poor health condition, being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or being asleep) ([see table 2.9](#)). An alarm was present but did not operate in 19% of occasions, and was absent entirely in nearly one third of dwelling fires.

Figure 2.4: Fires in dwellings by smoke alarm presence and operation, Great Britain, 2013-14p



p=provisional

2.33 Survey data (see table 2.3) show that the proportion of households with a smoke alarm increased rapidly from 8% in 1988 to 70% in 1994 in England, but has risen more slowly in later years up to 88% has at least one working smoke alarm in 2012-13 (the most recent EHS report).

| Table 2.3: Smoke alarm ownership, percentage of households, 1988-2011 | | | |
|--|--|--------|------------------------|
| England and Wales (unless otherwise stated) | | | |
| Year | Smoke alarm ownership (% of households) | | Source ¹ |
| | 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 |
| | Working smoke alarm ownership (% of households) | | Source ¹ |
| | 2001 | 76% | BCS ³ |
| 2002/03 | | 76% | BCS ³ |
| 2003/04 | | - | - |
| 2004/05 | | 80% | SEH ^{2,3} |
| | 2006 | 84% | EHCS ² |
| | 2007 | 85% | EHCS ² |
| | 2008 | 86% | EHS ⁴ |
| | 2011 | 88% | EHS ⁴ |
| 2012-13 | | 88% | EHS ⁴ |
| <p>¹ Sources: British Crime Survey (BCS); BJM survey commissioned by the Home Office (BJM);</p> <p>English House Condition Survey (EHCS); ONS Omnibus Survey (ONS); National Community Fire</p> <p>Safety Centre 'Fire Safety Attitude and Behaviour Monitor' (NCFSC); Survey of English Housing (SEH);</p> <p>In April 2008 the English House Condition Survey was integrated with the Survey of English Housing to form English Housing Survey, ² England only</p> <p>³ Refers specifically to ownership of a working smoke alarm. ⁴ English Housing survey, ⁴ Data not available</p> | | | |

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

2.34 Nearly 40% (97) of home fire deaths resulted from fires where there was no smoke alarm at all. These fires accounted for 1,900 non-fatal casualties.

2.35 Within the dwelling fires where an alarm was present:

- An alarm failed to operate resulted in 49 deaths and 1,300 non-fatal casualties;
- An alarm operated but did not raise the alarm, 46 deaths and 1,000 casualties;
- An alarm operated and raised the alarm, 66 deaths and 3,500 non-fatal casualties.
- Among the fatalities where an alarm operated and raised alarm, 4 were suspected to be under the influence of drugs, 2 sustained intentional injuries to commit suicide and 14 had health conditions that limited their mobility.

Table 2.4 Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ by presence and operation of smoke alarms, Great Britain, 2006/07-2013/14p

| | Presence and operation of smoke alarm | | | | | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | Present, operated & raised the alarm | Present, operated, but did not raise the alarm | Present, but did not operate | Absent | Unspecified | |
| Fires | | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 18,906 | 3,220 | 6,832 | 21,444 | 5 | 50,407 |
| 2008/09 | 17,715 | 3,558 | 10,176 | 15,998 | 19 | 47,466 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | .. | 47,152 |
| 2010/11 | 16,382 | 4,433 | 7,780 | 16,407 | .. | 45,002 |
| 2011/12 | 16,226 | 4,551 | 7,881 | 14,936 | | 43,594 |
| 2012/13r | 16,199 | 4,316 | 7,716 | 12,803 | | 41,034 |
| 2013/14p | 15,443 | 4,177 | 7,526 | 12,002 | | 39,148 |
| Fatal casualties | | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 67 | 43 | 102 | 159 | .. | 371 |
| 2008/09 | 70 | 55 | 103 | 112 | .. | 340 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | .. | 405 |
| 2010/11 | 83 | 43 | 76 | 116 | .. | 318 |
| 2011/12 | 73 | 52 | 62 | 111 | .. | 298 |
| 2012/13r | 68 | 61 | 47 | 81 | | 257 |
| 2013/14p | 66 | 46 | 49 | 97 | | 258 |
| Non-fatal casualties | | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 4,177 | 799 | 1,882 | 3,989 | .. | 10,847 |
| 2008/09 | 3,994 | 903 | 2,074 | 2,845 | 6 | 9,822 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | .. | 10,316 |
| 2010/11 | 3,787 | 1,147 | 1,561 | 2,599 | .. | 9,094 |
| 2011/12 | 3,901 | 1,198 | 1,433 | 2,468 | .. | 9,000 |
| 2012/13r | 3,785 | 1,062 | 1,424 | 2,078 | | 8,349 |
| 2013/14p | 3,515 | 1,045 | 1,303 | 1,895 | | 7,758 |

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-structured buildings used solely as a permanent dwelling, r= revised; p=provisional

- Data not available due to incomplete records from one fire and rescue authority in 2009/10

Type of alarm (Table 2.5)

2.36 In 2013-14, smoke alarms were present in around 27,100 dwelling fires. Of these fires, 38% had battery-operated alarms, while 60% had mains-powered.

| Table 2.5: Dwelling¹ fires where a smoke alarm was present by type of alarm, Great Britain, 2006/07-2013/14p | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Year | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13r | 2013/14p |
| Alarm type (Number) | | | | | | | |
| Battery-powered | 12,072 | 11,725 | - | 12,302 | 11,883 | 11,083 | 10,369 |
| Mains-powered | 16,503 | 16,165 | - | 15,961 | 16,395 | 16,786 | 16,420 |
| Other/Unspecified | 287 | 142 | - | 332 | 380 | 362 | 357 |
| Total | 28,862 | 28,033 | - | 28,595 | 28,660 | 28,231 | 27,146 |
| Alarm type (%) | | | | | | | |
| Battery-powered | 42 | 42 | - | 43 | 41 | 39 | 38 |
| Mains-powered | 57 | 58 | - | 56 | 57 | 59 | 60 |
| Other/Unspecified | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| ¹ Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-structure buildings used solely as a permanent dwelling | | | | | | | |
| p=provisional, r=revised | | | | | | | |

Discovery of fires (Table 2.6)

2.37 In 2013-14, a smoke alarm raised the alarm in 39% of reported dwelling fires. Dwelling fires in which smoke alarms raise the alarm continue to:

- Be discovered more rapidly (less than 5 minutes) after ignition;
- Be associated with lower fatal casualty rates.

2.38 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 2013-14, nearly three-fifths (59%) of dwelling fires where a smoke alarm operated and raised the alarm were discovered in under 5 minutes. In contrast, where a smoke alarm was either absent or did not raise the alarm, just over half (52%) of all dwelling fires were discovered in under 5 minutes. Consequently, a wide variation in dwelling fire fatality rates have been observed between the two situations: where at least one smoke alarm raised the alarm and where smoke alarms are either absent or did not raise the alarm (4 per 1,000 detected fires compared to 8 per 1,000 for undetected fires in 2013-14).

Table 2.6: Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings¹ by smoke alarm presence and operation, by percentage discovered in under 5 minutes, Great Britain, 2006/07-2013/14p

| Year | Fires | Fatal casualties | Rate ² | Non-fatal casualties | Rate ² | % of fires discovered < 5 minutes |
|--|--------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fires where an alarm was present, operated and raised the alarm | | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 18,906 | 67 | 4 | 4,047 | 214 | 62 |
| 2008/09 | 17,715 | 67 | 4 | 3,836 | 217 | 61 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2010/11 | 16,382 | 83 | 5 | 3,787 | 231 | 58 |
| 2011/12 | 16,226 | 73 | 4 | 3,901 | 240 | 58 |
| 2012/13r | 16,199 | 68 | 4 | 3,785 | 234 | 58 |
| 2013/14p | 15,443 | 66 | 4 | 3,515 | 223 | 59 |
| Fires where an alarm was absent or an alarm was present but failed to raise the alarm | | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 31,502 | 286 | 9 | 6,443 | 205 | 52 |
| 2008/09 | 29,752 | 261 | 9 | 5,621 | 189 | 51 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2010/11 | 28,620 | 235 | 8 | 5,307 | 185 | 50 |
| 2011/12 | 27,368 | 225 | 8 | 5,099 | 186 | 51 |
| 2012/13r | 24,835 | 189 | 8 | 4,564 | 296 | 52 |
| 2013/14p | 23,705 | 192 | 8 | 4,242 | 287 | 52 |
| ¹ Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-structured buildings used solely as a permanent dwelling (See explanatory notes). ² rate per thousand fires - Data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10 p = provisional; r= revised | | | | | | |

Smoke alarm failures (Tables 2.7 to 2.9)

- 2.39 In dwelling fires where a smoke alarm was present, 28% of alarms in 2013-14 failed to operate. However, a wide difference in performance between battery-powered alarms and mains-powered alarms was observed: 39% of all battery-powered smoke alarms failed compared to just 20% of mains-powered alarms in 2013-14.
- 2.40 The main reason for smoke alarms failure in battery-powered alarms in 2013-14 was that the fire products (typically smoke) did not reach the alarms (44%). Missing or flat batteries accounted for 24% of all failure in battery-powered smoke alarm. For mains-powered alarms, fire products did not reach the alarms was also the main reason for alarm failure (50% of cases). Poor sitting of the detector accounted for 12% of alarm failure.

2.41 The smoke alarm operated but did not raise the alarm in 4,200 fires in 2013-14. The main reasons were either the occupants raised the alarm before the smoke alarm operated (59%) or there was no person within earshot of the alarm (18%) or occupants failed to respond (14%).

Table 2.7: Smoke alarm failures in dwelling¹ fires by type of alarm, Great Britain, 2006/07-2013/14p

| Year | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13r | 2013/14p |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Alarm present² | 28,862 | 28,033 | - | 28,595 | 28,658 | 28,231 | 27,146 |
| Alarm failed to operate | 6,735 | 6,760 | - | 7,659 | 7,881 | 7,716 | 7,526 |
| <i>Failure rate (%)</i> | 23 | 24 | - | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 |
| Battery-powered | | | | | | | |
| Alarm present | 12,072 | 11,725 | - | 12,302 | 11,883 | 11,083 | 10,369 |
| Alarm failed to operate | 4,321 | 4,198 | - | 4,596 | 4,600 | 4,336 | 4,058 |
| <i>Failure rate (%)</i> | 36 | 36 | - | 37 | 39 | 39 | 39 |
| Mains-powered³ | | | | | | | |
| Alarm present | 16,503 | 16,165 | - | 15,961 | 16,395 | 16,786 | 16,420 |
| Alarm failed to activate | 2,327 | 2,504 | - | 3,063 | 3,133 | 3,262 | 3,344 |
| <i>Failure rate (%)</i> | 14 | 15 | - | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 |
| ¹ Includes caravans, houseboats, mobile homes and other non-permanent structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see explanatory notes). ² Alarm present total does not sum to individual categories as a small number of alarms with other or an unspecified power source have been included. ³ Mains-powered alarms include those powered by mains only or by both mains and battery r=revised; p=provisional | | | | | | | |

Table 2.8: Fires in dwellings¹ with a smoke alarm where alarm did not operate by type of alarm and reason for failure, Great Britain, 2007/08 - 2013/14p

| Year | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13r | 2013/14p |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Type of alarm and reason for failure | | | | | | | |
| Powered - Battery | | | | | | | |
| Missing battery | 37% | 32% | - | 21% | 18% | 17% | 14% |
| Battery failure/flat | 9% | 10% | - | 10% | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| Other act pre-venting alarm from operating (including alarm turned off) | 5% | 4% | - | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| Fire products did not reach detector(s) | 36% | 39% | - | 44% | 43% | 45% | 44% |
| Poor sitting of detector(s) | 4% | 2% | - | 10% | 11% | 10% | 12% |
| Faulty system / incorrectly installed | 4% | 4% | - | 4% | 3% | 4% | 3% |
| Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged | 5% | 8% | - | 10% | 12% | 12% | 15% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | - | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Powered - Mains | | | | | | | |
| Missing battery | 5% | 3% | - | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Battery failure/flat | 0% | 1% | - | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Other act pre-venting alarm from operating including. System turned off | 24% | 22% | - | 14% | 11% | 10% | 9% |
| Fire products did not reach detector(s) | 50% | 48% | - | 48% | 48% | 51% | 50% |
| Poor sitting of detector(s) | 1% | 1% | - | 12% | 12% | 10% | 12% |
| Faulty system / incorrectly installed | 9% | 10% | - | 9% | 8% | 8% | 7% |
| Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged | 11% | 15% | - | 14% | 20% | 19% | 19% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | - | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

¹ Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling (see Definitions section).
 -Data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10

n=provisional; r= revised

Table 2.9: Fires in dwellings¹ with a smoke alarm where alarm operated but did not raise the alarm by reason, Great Britain, 2006/07-2013/14p

| Year | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13r | 2013/14p |
|---|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reason | | | | | | | |
| Person raised the alarm before system operated | 59% | 55% | - | 57% | 57% | 59% | 59% |
| No person in earshot | 21% | 20% | - | 20% | 20% | 19% | 18% |
| Poor sitting of detectors meant person raised alarm | 2% | 1% | - | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Occupants failed to respond | 9% | 11% | - | 15% | 15% | 14% | 14% |
| Faulty system including incorrectly installed | 1% | 1% | - | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged | 9% | 11% | - | 7% | 7% | 8% | 8% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | - | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

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

-Data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10; p=provisional; r=revised

Deliberate fires (Annex tables 2 and 24, Table 2.10)

- 2.42 There were 22,000 deliberate (or suspected to be deliberately started) primary fires in Great Britain in 2013-14. Of the total deliberate fires, the majority (44%) of fires involved road vehicles. Only 19% were in dwellings. The number of deliberate dwelling fires peaked in 2001-02, and has declined by 71% by 2013-14.
- 2.43 In total there were 70 fatalities in deliberate fires in 2013-14, 23 fewer than in 2012-13. The majority (39) of these deaths occurred in dwelling fires, accounting for over half of the total fatalities in deliberate fires.
- 2.44 There were a total of 1,300 non-fatal casualties as a result of deliberate fires in 2013-14, down from 1,400 in 2012-13. More than half of the injuries were either hospital slight or hospital severe injuries. About 67% of non-fatal casualties occurred in dwelling fires.

Table 2.10 Deliberate fires and casualties by location, Great Britain, 2012/13r -2013/14p

| | 2012/13r | | 2013/14p | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | Fatal | Non-fatal casualties | Fatal | Non-fatal casualties |
| Dwelling | 48 | 988 | 39 | 886 |
| Other building | 8 | 242 | 9 | 281 |
| Road vehicle | 21 | 59 | 14 | 56 |
| Other | 16 | 120 | 8 | 107 |
| Total | 93 | 1,409 | 70 | 1,330 |

Chapter 3 - Other Buildings

Introduction (Annex tables 1b and 6)

3.1 In 2013-14 there were 22,200 fires recorded in buildings that were not dwellings. The majority of fires occurred in:

- Private garages, sheds etc. (21%) – 4,600 fires;
- Retail distribution (13%) – 3,000 fires;
- Industrial premises (11%) – 2,500 fires;
- Restaurants, cafes, pub/wine bars, and take away (10%) – 2,200 fires;
- Communal living (9%) – 1,900 fires.

3.2 In 2013-14, 17 people died in buildings fires other than dwellings, one fewer than a year earlier and 34 fewer than the peak of 51 in 2003-04. Also, 1,083 injuries were sustained in other building fires in 2013-14, 5% higher compared with 2012-13 but 45% lower than the peak in 2001-02. These figures represent around 5% of all fire fatalities and 11% of non-fatal casualties in Great Britain.

Accidental fires (Annex table 2)

Trends

3.3 About 75% of all fires in other buildings were started accidentally compared to 89% of dwelling fires. In 2013-14, a total of around 14,900 accidental fires were recorded in other buildings, 2% higher than the previous year but a third fewer than ten years earlier in 2003-04.

Cause of fire

3.4 The main cause of accidental fires in other buildings remains faulty appliances and leads. In 2013-14, fires from this cause resulted in around 3,700 fires, representing 25% of all such fires and down by 5% from 2012-13. Another key cause of accidental fires in other buildings was the misuse of equipment or appliances which accounted for 2,000 fires and was down by 8% in 2013-14 from a year earlier.

Source of ignition (Annex table 3)

3.5 The main source of ignition in fires in other buildings was electrical distribution. These accounted for nearly one fifth of accidental fires in other buildings and slightly down (1%) in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13. Other key sources are cooking appliances and other electrical appliances. Fires whose source was from a cooking appliance fell by 8% in 2013-14. Other key changes relating to

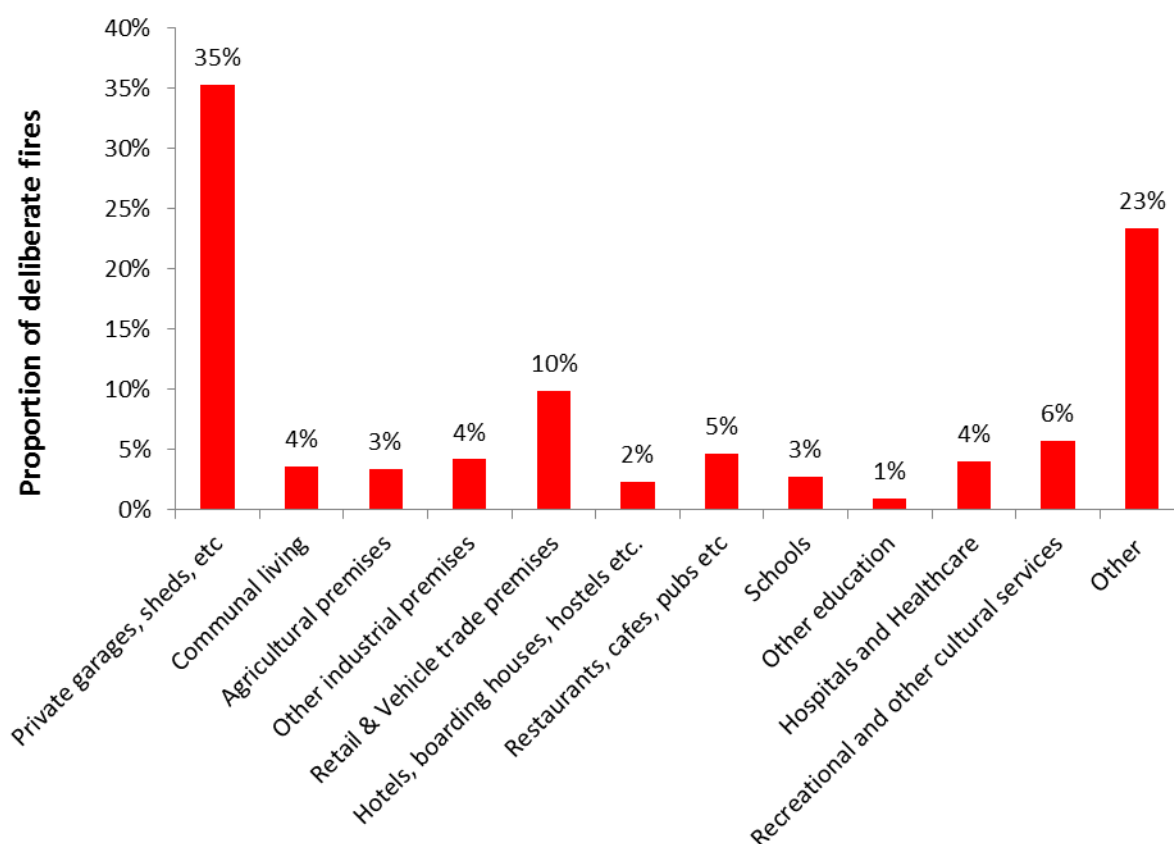
source of ignition from 2012-13 were smokers' materials (up by 3%) to 870) and other electrical appliances (down by 5% to 2,700).

Deliberate fires (Annex tables 2 and 24, Figure 3.1)

Trends

- 3.6 4,950 (25%) of other building fires were due to deliberate ignition, down (6%) from 2012-13. Over the last decade, the number of deliberate fires in other buildings has declined by more than two thirds. (See paragraph 1.10 and table 1.2).

Figure 3.1: Other building fires: proportion of deliberate fires by location, Great Britain, 2013/14p

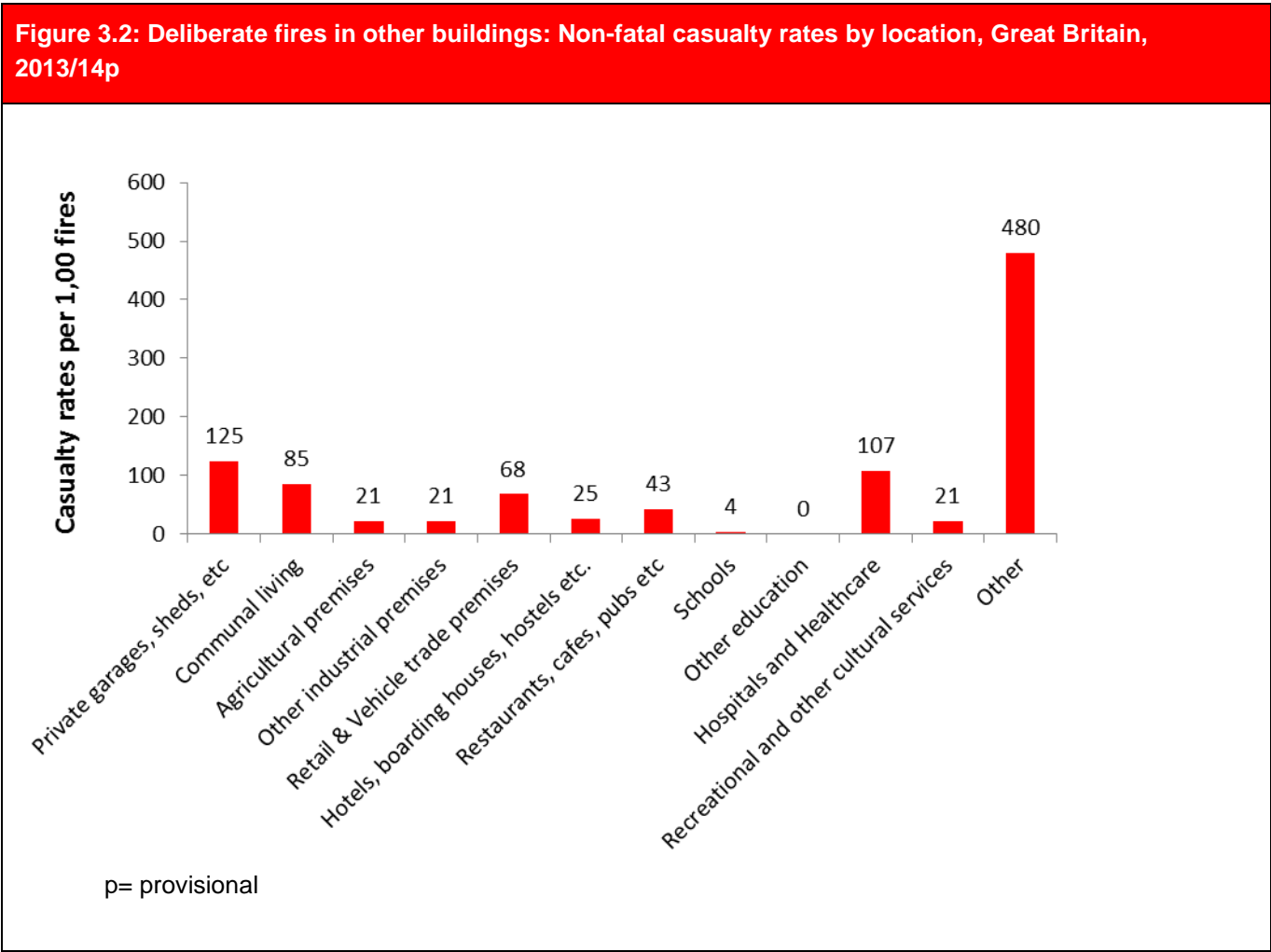


Location (Figure 3.1)

- 3.7 A comparison of the number of deliberate fires in other building locations shows that certain buildings are more prone to deliberate ignition than others. The main locations in 2013-14 were private garages and sheds (35%), buildings whose use were not known or not categorised (23%) and retail and vehicle trade premises (10%).

Non-fatal casualties and Location (Figure 3.2)

3.8 In 2013-14, the highest non-fatal casualty rates in deliberate fires in other buildings occurred where the building categories were not known (480 casualties per 1,000 fires). High non-fatal casualty rates were also recorded in private garages sheds etc. (125 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires) and hospital and health care (107 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires). The rate in schools was the lowest, only 4 per 1,000 fires, and other education with 0.



Automatic smoke alarm analyses in other buildings (Tables 3.1 to 3.3, Figure 3.3)

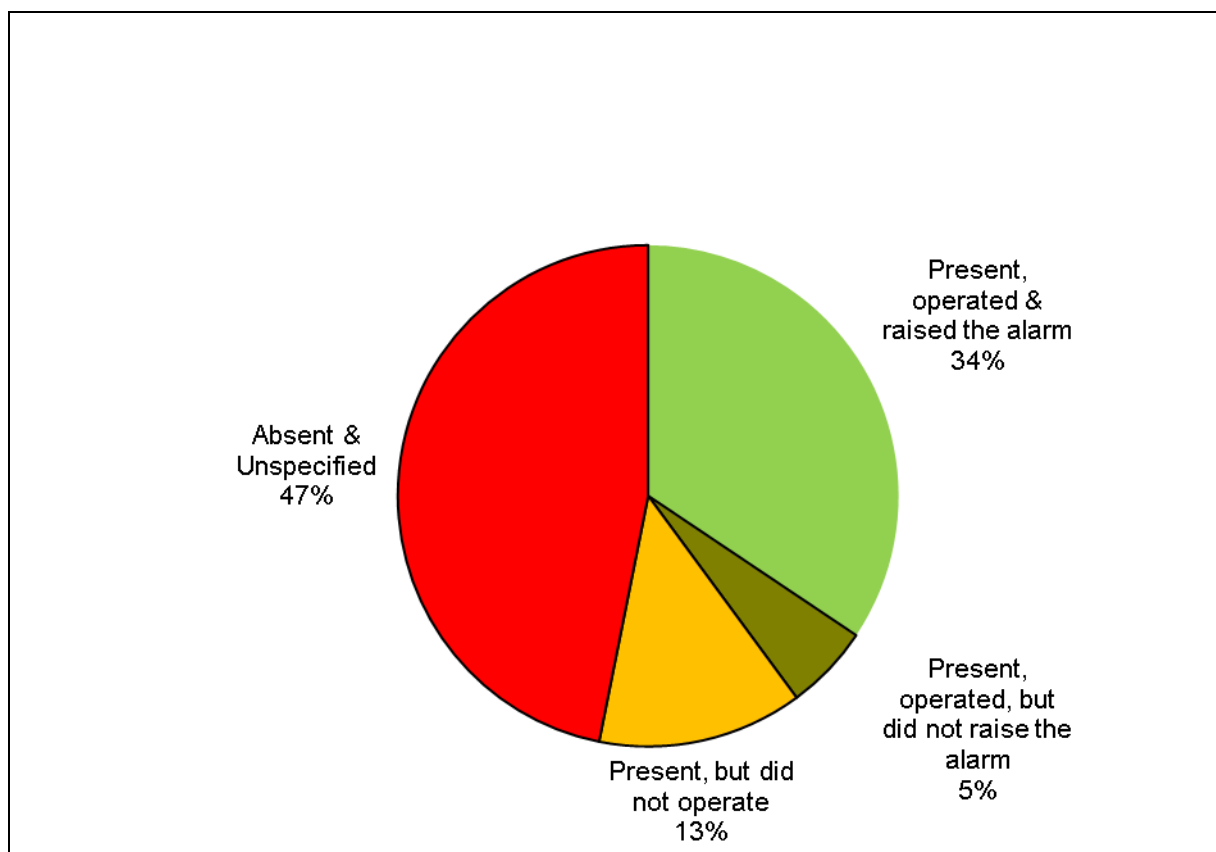
- 3.9 This section looks at the effectiveness of smoke alarms and the likely causes of failure on those occasions when alarms did not operate. The assessment and analysis presented here is based (as elsewhere in this report) on fires attended by the fire and rescue service. Any fires involving alarms where no emergency call was made will not be recorded, meaning that effectiveness of automatic fire alarms may be understated. See paragraph 2.26 for further details in relation to domestic smoke alarms.

Automatic smoke alarm presence and operation

- 3.10 Automatic smoke alarms were not present in 47% (9,300) of other building fires in 2013-14, 2 percent up compared with 2012-13. These fires resulted in 8 fatalities (47% of total other building fire deaths) and a further 407 non-fatal casualties. For the remaining 53% of other building fires where an automatic smoke alarm was present:
- The automatic fire alarm operated and raised the alarm in 34% (6,800 fires);
 - The fire alarm operated but did not raise the alarm in 5% (1,100 fires);
 - The alarm failed to operate altogether in 13% (2,600 fires).

This follows a broadly similar pattern to that for dwelling fires (39%, 11% and 19% respectively). Again, 47% of fires occurred in other buildings without having any smoke alarm compared to 31% of dwelling fires occurred where smoke alarm was absent.

Figure 3.3: Fires in other buildings by automatic smoke alarm presence and operation, Great Britain, 2013/14p



- 3.11 The number of fires in other buildings where the automatic smoke alarm failed to operate was 2,600 in 2013-14, 2% less than in 2012-13. Such fires resulted in 2 deaths. The main reason why automatic fire alarms failed to operate was due to fire products not reaching the alarms – 47% of such fires. Other reasons include other action which prevented alarm from operating (including alarm turned off (19%) and poor positioning of the alarm (14%)).
- 3.12 The number of fires in other buildings where the automatic fire alarm operated, but did not raise the alarm has increased slightly to 1,090 in 2013-14 from 1,040 in 2012-13. The main reasons in 2013-14 for this condition were that a person raised the alarm before the alarm operated (71%) or there was no-one within earshot of the alarm (18%).

Table 3.1: Fires and casualties from fires in other buildings by presence and operation of smoke alarm¹, Great Britain, 2007/08- 2013/14p

| | Presence and operation of smoke alarm | | | | Total |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| | Present, operated & raised the alarm | Present, operated, but did not raise the alarm | Present, but did not operate | Absent & Unspecified | |
| Fires | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 7,914 | 955 | 2,457 | 17,861 | 29,186 |
| 2008/09 | 7,631 | 1,002 | 4,530 | 12,910 | 26,074 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2010/11 | 8,164 | 1,131 | 3,004 | 12,741 | 25,040 |
| 2011/12 | 7,553 | 1,203 | 2,942 | 12,515 | 24,213 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2012/13r | 7,041 | 1,038 | 2,653 | 9,184 | 19,916 |
| 2013/14p | 6,830 | 1,089 | 2,611 | 9,323 | 19,853 |
| Fatal casualties | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 35 |
| 2008/09 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 17 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | 26 |
| 2010/11 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 19 |
| 2011/12 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 29 |
| 2012/13r | 5 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 18 |
| 2013/14p | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 17 |
| Non-fatal casualties | | | | | |
| 2007/08 | 442 | 56 | 102 | 629 | 1,229 |
| 2008/09 | 412 | 55 | 204 | 515 | 1,186 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2010/11 | 531 | 77 | 132 | 502 | 1,242 |
| 2011/12 | 498 | 66 | 169 | 504 | 1,237 |
| 2012/13r | 440 | 80 | 129 | 385 | 1,034 |
| 2013/14p | 459 | 89 | 128 | 407 | 1,083 |
| 1 includes smoke a very small number of other automatic detectors such as heat detector | | | | | |
| - Data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10. | | | | | |
| p=provisional; r=revised | | | | | |

Table 3.2 Fires in other buildings with fire alarm where alarm did not operate by reason, Great Britain, 2007/08-2013/14p

| Year | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13r | 2013/14p |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reason for not operating | | | | | | | |
| Missing battery | 1% | 1% | - | 0% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Battery failure/flat | 1% | .. | - | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Other act preventing alarm from operating including system turned off | 8% | 6% | - | 23% | 20% | 20% | 19% |
| Fire products did not reach detector(s) | 75% | 73% | - | 44% | 47% | 50% | 47% |
| Poor siting of detector(s) | 1% | 1% | - | 14% | 13% | 11% | 14% |
| Faulty system including incorrectly installed | 4% | 3% | - | 3% | 3% | 4% | 3% |
| Other ¹ | 10% | 15% | - | 14% | 14% | 13% | 16% |
| Unspecified | 0% | 1% | - | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | - | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| 1 Other includes 'not known' and 'system damaged by fire' | | | | | | | |
| - Data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10 | | | | | | | |

Table 3.3: Fires in other buildings with an automatic fire detector where detector operated but did

| not raise the alarm by reason, Great Britain, 2007/08-2013/14p | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Year | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13r | 2013/14p |
| Reason for not operating | | | | | | | |
| Person raised the alarm before system operated | 66% | 68% | - | 71% | 69% | 73% | 71% |
| No person in earshot | 17% | 14% | - | 17% | 19% | 17% | 18% |
| Poor positioning of detector(s) meant person raised alarm | 1% | 0% | - | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| Occupants failed to respond | 1% | 2% | - | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| Faulty system including incorrectly installed | 1% | 1% | - | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Other including not known e.g. where system too badly damaged | 13% | 14% | - | 10% | 10% | 9% | 10% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | - | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| - Data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10 | | | | | | | |

Chapter 4 - Road Vehicle Fires

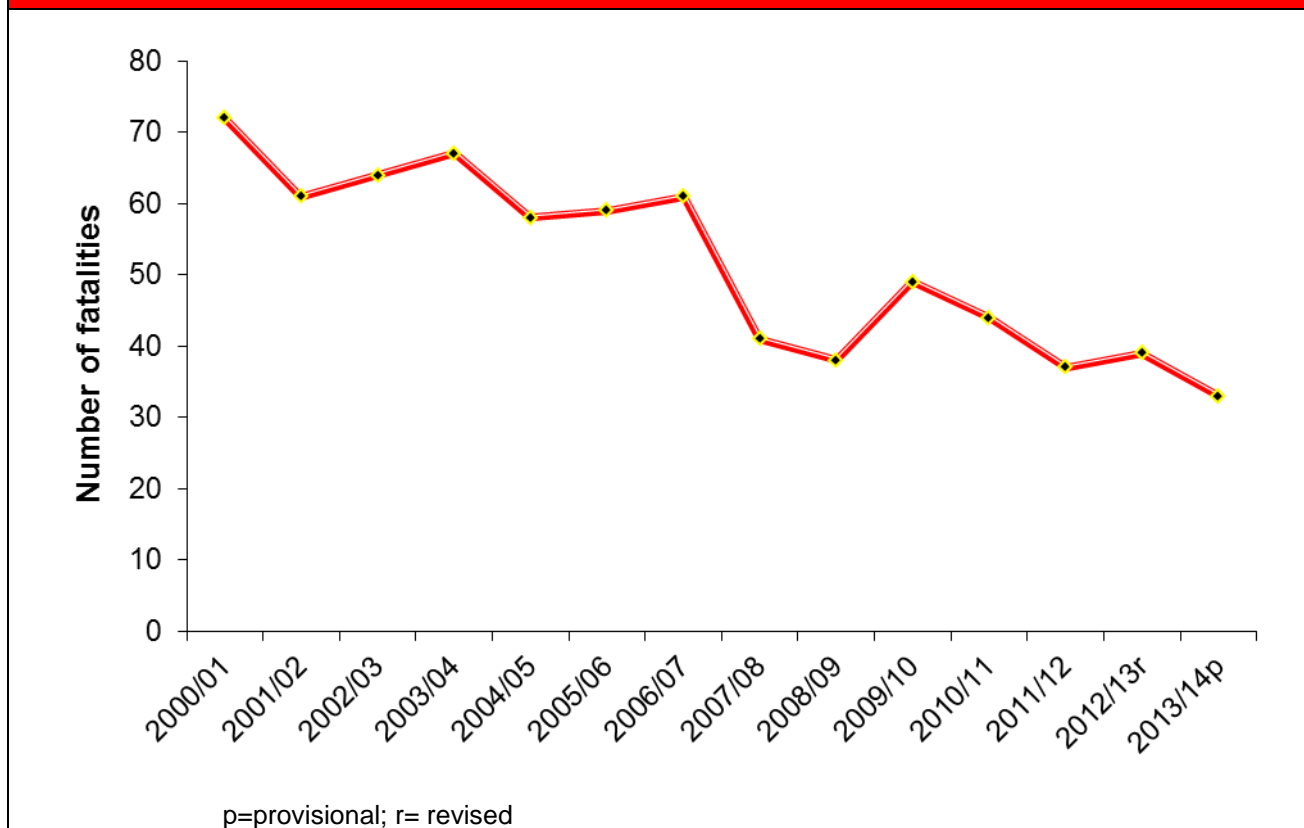
Introduction (Annex table 16)

- 4.1 In 2013-14, Fire and Rescue Services in Great Britain responded to 23,100 road vehicle fires, down by 3% from 2012-13. The 2013-14 figure represented the lowest in more than a decade and declined by more than three quarters from the peak in 2001-02.
- 4.2 There has been a particularly notable downward trend for deliberate vehicle fires - since 2001-02, deliberate vehicle fires have fallen by 88%.
- 4.3 The majority (63%) of fires occurred in cars, 10% in vans, 5% in lorries and heavy good vehicles and 2% in coaches, buses or minibuses. About one fifth of fires occurred in 'other' category of vehicles. The number of car fires fell - by 8% and 80% compared to the previous year and ten years earlier respectively - but fires in all the other categories increased slightly in compared to a year earlier.

Casualties (Annex tables 6 and 26)

- 4.4 The number of deaths in road vehicle fires in 2013-14 was 33, 6 down from 39 in 2012-13. This is the lowest figure recorded since the fire data record began in 1981-82. Car fires claimed most deaths (27). The rate of road vehicle fire fatalities in 2013-14 was 1.4 per 1,000 fires in contrasts with a fatality rate for dwellings of 6.6 fatalities per 1,000 fires. Figure 4.1 shows that road vehicle fire fatalities have declined by half over the last decade.

Figure 4.1: Number of fatalities in fires in road vehicle, Great Britain, 2000/01 – 2013/14p



- 4.5 The number of non-fatal casualties in road vehicle fires decreased slightly to 530 in 2013-14 from 560 in 2012-13. This is much lower than the level of fires recorded in 2000-01 (700 non-fatal cases). These latest figures equate to 23 non-fatal casualties per 1,000 fires, compared with 198 in dwellings and 55 in other buildings.

Chapter 5 – Outdoor Fires

Introduction (Table 5.1 and Annex table 6)

- 5.1 In 2013-14, primary and secondary³ outdoor fires in Great Britain totalled 143,500, 16% higher than in 2012-13. Of these 52,900 (37%) were refuse fires (including bonfires, refuse containers), 39,700 (28%) were grassland and heathland fires, 23,700 (17%) were road vehicle fires and 27,200(19%) were other outdoor fires.
- 5.2 The increase in outdoor fires is mainly due to a large increase (80%) in grassland fires. Fires in grassland increased to 39,700 in 2013-14 from 22,100 in 2012-13. This is due to the effect of weather, and the wet summer of 2012-13. Road vehicle fires show a different pattern, decreasing by 5,000 fires in 2013-14 compared to the previous year. Further details on road vehicle fires are given in Chapter 4. The remainder of this chapter mainly covers other types of outdoor fires.

Table 5.1: Primary and secondary outdoor fires¹ by location, Great Britain, 2000/01-2013/14p

| Year | Total | Road vehicles | Grassland, etc ² | Refuse ³ | Other outdoor fires |
|----------------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2000/01 | 323.9 | 90.9 | 50.8 | 139.2 | 43.1 |
| 2001/02 | 404.3 | 99.7 | 69.6 | 178.2 | 56.8 |
| 2002/03 ¹ | 395.0 | 93.0 | 81.4 | 166.0 | 54.6 |
| 2003/04 | 460.3 | 86.1 | 129.3 | 188.9 | 55.9 |
| 2004/05 | 311.1 | 67.9 | 54.8 | 148.0 | 40.5 |
| 2005/06 | 309.8 | 61.5 | 67.3 | 142.9 | 38 |
| 2006/07 | 318.2 | 55.6 | 84.8 | 140.8 | 37.1 |
| 2007/08 | 275.2 | 47.6 | 56.2 | 139.2 | 32.3 |
| 2008/09 | 202.0 | 42.4 | 34.9 | 101.0 | 23.8 |
| 2009/10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2010/11 | 203.9 | 33.7 | 61.6 | 87.4 | 21.3 |
| 2011/12 | 193.6 | 28.9 | 57.3 | 85.7 | 21.7 |
| 2012/13r | 123.8 | 28.6 | 22.1 | 50.6 | 22.5 |
| 2013/14p | 143.5 | 23.7 | 39.7 | 52.9 | 27.2 |

¹ Figures in thousand and figures are rounded and the components do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals.

² Includes woodland, heathland, domestic garden, nurseries, vegetation etc. and intentional straw and stubble burning

³ Includes large and small refuse/rubbish containers (but excludes domestic refuse, which is included in Table 1c) and land fill sites

- data not available due to incomplete records from one Fire and Rescue Authority in 2009/10

Total outdoor fires shown is lower than Table 1c because it excludes derelict buildings

p=provisional; r=revised

³ Whereas other sections of this publication focus on primary fires (those involving property and/or any casualties and/or five or more appliances and for which more detailed information is collected), this outdoor fires chapter considers all outdoor fires regardless of whether they qualified as being 'primary fires'. Most outdoor fires are 'secondary' fires since they involved no property, no casualties and were not attended by five or more appliances. Derelict building fires are excluded from this analysis, but included in the breakdown in Table 1c.

- 5.3 Refuse fires increased by 5% to 52,900 in 2013-14 from 50,600 in 2012-13. Other outdoor fires increased by 21% in 2013-14.
- 5.4 Relatively fewer casualties occurred in 'other' category of outdoor fires (excluding road vehicle fires). In 2013-14 there were 14 fire related fatalities – half that of the previous year, and 380 non-fatal casualties.

When fires occur (Table 5.2)

- 5.5 Table 5.2 presents the daily rates of fire by month and location. Monthly distribution of fire rates clearly exhibits a strong seasonality in outdoor fires while little fluctuations have been observed in the rates in building fires (fig 4.2). The seasonal pattern in outdoor fires mainly due to the effect of the weather on grassland fires. The April of 2013 was drier than average across most of England and the first few months of summer was well above average temperature, which may be reflected in the daily rates of grassland fires during 2013-14. Fires in dwellings show less distinct seasonal variation. Seasonal variation is more prominent in chimney fires, with higher numbers of fires per day in winter months.

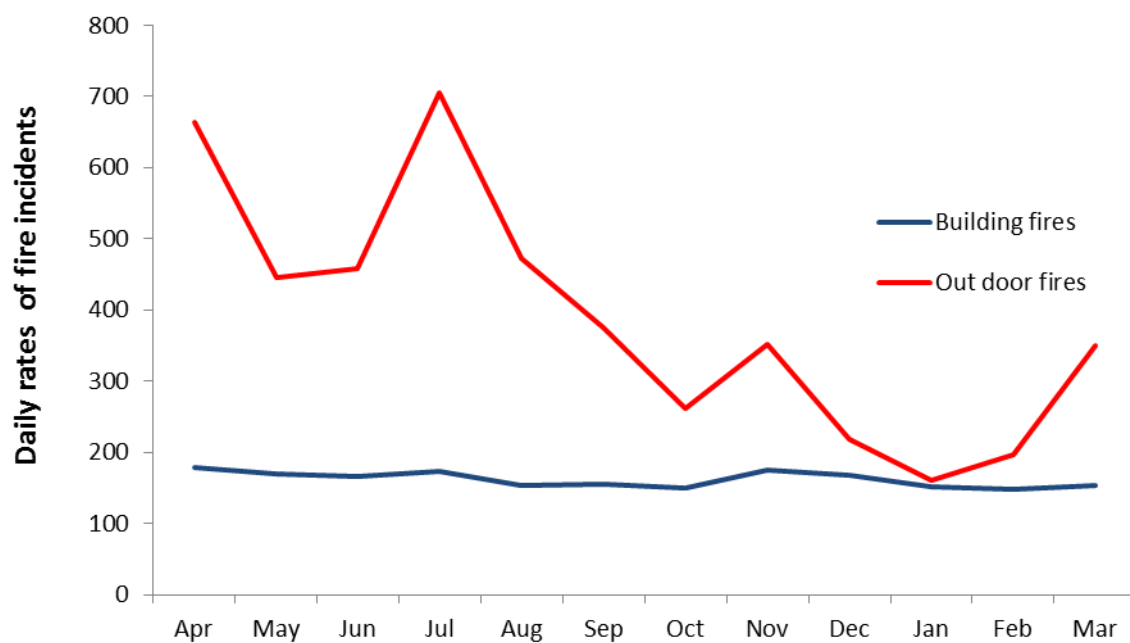
Table 5.2: Daily rates of fires by month and location, Great Britain, 2013/14p

| | <i>Total fires</i> | <i>Buildings</i> | | <i>Outdoor Fires</i> | | | | <i>Chimney fires</i> |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | <i>Dwellings</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Road vehicles</i> | <i>Grassland etc¹</i> | <i>Refuse</i> | <i>Other Outdoor</i> | |
| 2013/14 | 580 | 109 | 59 | 65 | 116 | 165 | 45 | 21 |
| Apr | 895 | 117 | 69 | 67 | 337 | 201 | 61 | 42 |
| May | 644 | 110 | 69 | 61 | 152 | 182 | 52 | 18 |
| Jun | 640 | 108 | 67 | 70 | 133 | 200 | 57 | 6 |
| Jul | 921 | 110 | 73 | 80 | 294 | 247 | 87 | 2 |
| Aug | 639 | 100 | 62 | 75 | 146 | 199 | 55 | 3 |
| Sep | 548 | 104 | 58 | 69 | 93 | 172 | 43 | 9 |
| Oct | 433 | 101 | 53 | 63 | 37 | 132 | 32 | 15 |
| Nov | 562 | 122 | 58 | 65 | 35 | 208 | 44 | 30 |
| Dec | 420 | 119 | 52 | 57 | 23 | 112 | 27 | 31 |
| Jan | 349 | 106 | 48 | 55 | 12 | 77 | 18 | 33 |
| Feb | 383 | 102 | 49 | 57 | 25 | 96 | 21 | 33 |
| Mar | 544 | 104 | 56 | 62 | 98 | 156 | 35 | 32 |

¹ Includes woodland, heathland and intentional straw and stubble burning.

p=provisional

Figure 4.2: Daily rates in building and outdoor fires by month, 2013/14p Great Britain



p=provisional

Definitions

1. The following list shows definitions which have been applicable since 1994:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Primary fires</p> <p>- no specific definition prior to 1994</p> | <p>These are reportable fires (at the locations listed below i) to vi)) <u>or</u> any fires involving casualties, rescues, <u>or</u> any fire 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Buildings ii) Caravans, trailers etc. iii) Vehicles and other modes of transport (not derelict) iv) Outdoor equipment and machinery v) Agricultural and forestry premises and property vi) Other outdoor structures including outdoor storage, recycling collection point, post boxes, tunnels, bridges etc. |
| <p>Secondary fires</p> | <p>These are mostly outdoor fires including grass-land, woodland, scrub land, tree scrub, roadside vegetation, loose refuse and rubbish containers.</p> <p>Secondary fires :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are those fires that are not primary fires (i.e. fires that: a) were not at the locations listed above (i) - (vi)), and b) did not involve casualties or rescues, and c) were attended by four or fewer appliances, and • includes fires in derelict buildings • do not include chimney fires in buildings. • are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information about them is available. |
| <p>Chimney fires</p> | <p>These are reportable fires in occupied buildings:</p> |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the fire was confined within the chimney structure • that do not involve casualties or rescues • attended by four or fewer appliances. |
| False Alarm | <p>A <i>false alarm</i> is defined as an event in which the fire and rescue service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then on arrival discover that there is no such incident. False alarms are categorised as:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Good Intent – the call was made in good faith in the belief that the fire and rescue service really would attend a fire.</p> <p>Due to Apparatus – the call was initiated by fire alarm and fire fighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by person).</p> |
| Location | <p>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.</p> |
| Buildings | <p>All buildings including those under construction, but excluding derelict buildings or those under demolition. Prior to 1994 'buildings' were referred to as 'occupied buildings'.</p> |
| Dwelling | <p>Buildings occupied by households, excluding residential institutions and short-stay accommodation eg hotels/motels and hostels. From 1988, mobile homes have been specifically included in the dwelling count. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling (for the purposes of reporting of fires) 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 retrospective-</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | ly revised to include the new categories of dwellings (prior to 1994 these categories were included in the dwelling count) and published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/00 - "Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1999". Caravans, boats etc not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property (caravan, vehicle etc.). |
| 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. Late fire calls are included as fire in this publication. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Fatal Casualty | Fire fatalities include any fatal casualty which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident even if death occurred weeks or months later. There are also occasional cases where it transpires subsequently that fire was not the cause of death. For all of these reasons, fatalities data may therefore be subject to revision. |
| Non-fatal casualty | Non-fatal casualties consist of persons who were |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • given first aid at the scene of the fire • taken to hospital to see a doctor for injuries (appeared to be either serious or slight) • advised to attend hospital or to see a doctor as a precaution when no obvious sign of injury or shock have been observed to the persons (these are recorded as 'precautionary checks'). |
|--|--|

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Cause of fire | The defect, act or omission leading to ignition of the fire. |
| Motive | Fires are categorised as: accidental, deliberate or unknown, according to the probable cause, as observed at the scene. |
| Deliberate | Includes fires where deliberate ignition is merely suspected and recorded by the FRS as "doubtful". |
| Accidental | Fires that started accidentally. Those recorded as 'not known' are grouped together with 'accidental' for all outputs. |

Details of the questions and categories used in the recording of incidents under the new Incident Recording System (IRS) are available in the document IRS Questions and Lists. This can be downloaded from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities>

Some minor changes to the detailed classifications were implemented in April 2012, the first since the implementation of the Incident Recording System. There may be a slight impact on some of the tables with detailed location categories published in later editions of Fire Statistics Great Britain. Because it is only the lowest levels of sub-categories that have changed, the differences are likely to be negligible – e.g. false alarms by detailed reason will also have some slight changes, which users can anticipate by noting the new detailed sub-categories.

The updated categories are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities> . The differences in the classifications are highlighted in red and crossed out text.

The categories in force prior to April 2012 are also available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities-questions-and-lists-v1-4>

Technical Notes

Comparability of data under the Incident Recording System (IRS) and its predecessor, the Fire Data Report system

- 1 The Incident Recording System was adopted nationally by 1 April 2009. Sixteen Fire and Rescue Services switched to the Incident Recording System before this date: Five switched by 1 April 2008. A further three switched in Autumn 2008, and eight switched in the first quarter of 2009. Quality assurance of the data on which this publication is based identified the following two fundamental areas of potential discontinuity arising from the switchover from the old Fire Data Report system, which was largely paper-based, to the new Incident Recording System questions.
- 2 The first area relates to increases (typically slight) in the numbers of certain types of incident within the data of a handful of Fire and Rescue Services, notably in numbers of primary outdoor fires. These are apparently not real increases, but for example they may rather be the result of a small proportion of incidents in the past having been incorrectly reported as being 'secondary fires' rather than 'primary fires'. The following conclusions can be drawn:
 - it appears that these differences follow from incorrect reporting under the old Fire Data Report system
 - the effect on national totals appears to be slight
 - there is no suggestion of difference in completeness of recording of casualties.
- 3 The second area is the possibility of discontinuity in numbers of non-fatal casualties. Though the totals themselves do not suggest change in recording overall, the new categories have clearly affected sub-totals, notably the category 'precautionary check recommended'. This all follows from two improvements to the way in which non-fatal casualties have been recorded since the introduction of the Incident Recording System:
 - a. The first change is that each casualty or fatality can be marked as 'not fire-related'. Around eight per cent of non-fatal casualties were marked as not fire-related in April 2010 to March 2011. However, in fire incidents, almost all non-fatal casualties can be expected to be 'fire-related', since very few would have occurred if there had not been a fire. Due to this concern, those non-fatal casualties marked 'not fire-related' have not been excluded. It is also worth noting that excluding the 8 per cent of non-fatal casualties would have introduced a large discontinuity compared to data from before the introduction of the new Incident Recording System.
 - b. The other potential issue arises since the Incident Recording System collects details of the injury of each non-fatal casualty in two questions, the first categorising the casualty as one of: '*severe injury (hospital)*', or '*slight injury*', or '*first aid*' or '*precautionary check advised*', while the second question records the type of injury.

This contrasts with the Fire Data Report system where a single question was used instead, with no category for 'first aid'. It appears that casualty cases recorded under Incident Recording System as 'first aid' would have most commonly been recorded under the old Fire Data Report system as 'precautionary check' (see figure 1.7), and a smaller proportion recorded as a specific type of injury. As noted, overall the total of all non-fatal casualty categories (including non-fatal casualties whose severity was either 'first aid' or 'precautionary check recommended' under Incident Recording System) appears to be consistent with totals under the Fire Data Report system.

Recording during industrial action

- 4 The reporting of fires may be disrupted during periods of industrial action. In old editions of this publication, these gaps were covered by estimates for some tables. Due to resource constraints, it is no longer possible to include such estimates.

Definitions: primary fires, secondary, chimney fires, outdoor 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.
- 6 "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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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

- 9 Two categories of fire-related incident have been recorded in the fire statistics from the since 1994. 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 definitions section for fuller explanation).

English Housing Survey/Survey of English Housing

- 10 The English Housing Survey is a continuous national survey that collects information on household, housing circumstances and the condition and energy efficiency of housing in England. In April 2008 the English Housing Survey was created by merging the English Housing Condition survey with the Survey of English housing. In 2004/05 the Survey of English Housing also asked a set of questions about fire-related issues in the home including installation of smoke alarm. A similar module of fire questions was asked in previous years in the British Crime Survey. This information collected 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 survey result in little or no damage and consequently are often not brought to the attention of fire and rescue service, thus being outside the scope of those incidents attended and recorded by Fire and Rescue Services. Even fires involving property damage or injury are not always brought to their attention. The survey data also collects a wide variety of social and demographic information from households, including details about their ethnicity, housing tenure and economic status. The publication 'Fires in the Home' is the result of analysis of these characteristics to identify the groups most likely to experience a fire or least likely to own a smoke alarm.

Population data

- 11 Population data used in this Bulletin have been provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the form of mid-year estimates. Further information on the exact changes made to the population estimates can be obtained via the ONS website www.statistics.gov.uk.

Selection of samples of primary fires

- 12 For incidents between 2004 and March 2009, only a dozen key fields were entered from every Fire Data Report paper form. The details of incidents were entered for all fires with casualties, but for only a proportion of other primary fire incidents attended. Previous editions of this publication provided detail of the sampling and weighting methodology used.

Revisions

- 13 Revisions will be handled as per the Department for Communities and Local Government revisions policy <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1466387.pdf>. This requires explanation of the handling of scheduled revisions due to the receipt of subsequent information in the case of each statistical publication. For this publication, any such revisions will be included in the future as set out below.
- 14 Barring exceptional circumstances, revisions will be made only once and will affect only the preceding year's data - i.e. when new provisional 2013-14 data are published for the first time in the 2013-14 edition, then data for 2012-13 will be revised.
- 15 In practice, numbers of fatalities can experience revisions that are small but not insignificant in percentage terms. As noted in the Definitions section, Fire fatalities include any fatal casualty

which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident even if death occurred weeks or months later. Therefore, numbers can be revised by those that die subsequently, and by changes in the information about whether the fatality was caused by the fire. Fire investigations and coroners' findings can both lead to such a revision, for example.

- 16 By contrast, numbers of non-fatal casualties and incidents experience revisions that are very small in percentage terms.
- 17 This release includes routine revisions to the 2012-13 data as per the revisions policy above. A rough idea of the scale of revisions to 2012-13 figures can be gauged on pages 21 and 22 of the 2013-14 *Fire Statistics Monitor* (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-statistics-monitor). This is because *Fire Statistics Great Britain* is derived from a similar – but not identical - snapshot of the Fire and Rescue Incidents data base.
- 18 Note that the 2013-14 Fire Statistics Great Britain cut of data was this year taken several months later than that used to produce Fire Statistics Monitor, and the equivalent Scotland and Wales publications. This is because one Fire and Rescue service was unable to supply detailed data in time for inclusion in the Monitor (explained on page 20 of the Monitor publication, from the link above) and estimates had to be made for the earlier publication. This was not possible for the more detailed Fire Statistics Great Britain, so its publication was delayed. For this reason, there will be some differences in total figures between this publication and the Monitor, Scotland and Wales publications.

Uses and users of these data

- 19 The data used in this publication and its accompanying spreadsheet annex tables are used to inform and monitor the impact of fire prevention and safety policy through:
 - Identifying the prevalence of fires and fire false alarms, their causes, and their severity, including casualty details
 - Showing when fires and casualties occur (seasonality and time of day)
 - Highlighting different outcomes (fires and casualties) according to whether smoke alarms were present, and whether they activated
 - Showing reasons why smoke alarms failed to operate

The users of fire statistics include Government, Fire and Rescue Authorities, and safety campaign organisations. A list of users who responded to the 2012 Consultation on this publication can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics-user-survey-2012-summary-of-responses>

- 20 We judge that the quality and reliability of the data are suitable for these uses. Fire and Rescue Incident data are collected across Great Britain under common definitions and guidance. Records undergo quality assurance within each Fire and Rescue Authority where data are also analysed, as well as being submitted to the national data base. The Department of Communities and Local Government published a quality assurance best practice guide in 2010. This was informed by ideas and experience of Fire and Rescue Authorities. The data are also

subjected to quality assurance by statistical staff in the Department of Communities and Local Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government.

Symbols

21 Symbols used in the tables are:

| | |
|-----|------------------------|
| - | Not available. |
| .. | Not applicable. |
| p | Provisional figures |
| r | Revised figures |
| pmp | Per million population |

Links to previous editions of this publication

This publication, as well as previous editions of *Fire Statistics Great Britain* and related publications, can be downloaded free of charge from the Department for Communities and Local Government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-statistics-great-britain>

Earlier editions of the predecessor *Fire Statistics UK* publication for the years 2000 to 2008 can be downloaded from:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121108165934/http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firestatisticsuk/>

Related Statistics for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Fire incident statistics for other UK countries are available as follows:

Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubFires>

Wales: <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/fire-statistics/?lang=en>

Minor differences between the figures in this publication and the Scotland and Wales publications can be explained by the differences in the timings that the cuts of data were taken.

Northern Ireland: Equivalent data is not available for Northern Ireland. Annual fire incident data is available from: <http://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

The Department for Communities and Local Government is considering switching this publication from a Great Britain to England focus in the future, in order that detailed analysis for England is also made publically available. We would welcome users' views on these plans.

Links to other Fire Statistics Publications produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government

Fire statistics publications can be accessed via this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics>

These include the Department's annual publications on Response Times and Fire and Rescue Operational Statistics (which includes headline data on fire prevention and protection activity as well as numbers of staff and fire stations).

Overseas fire data

Internationally, there are significant variations in the scope of reporting fire incidents, both in definitional terms, and whether such data are collected nationally. The Department commissioned a project examining comparability of fire statistics around Europe, which

can be accessed from:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121108165934/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/2159418.pdf>

That said, data for other countries can be found at

<https://www.genevaassociation.org/search?Search=fire>, which has a link to the April 2014 edition of their World Fire Statistics Bulletin

<https://www.genevaassociation.org/media/874729/ga2014-wfs29.pdf>

Enquiries

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