Detailed analysis of fires, England; April 2016 to March 2017

Fires comprised 29% of all incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) in 2016/17.

161,770 fires
- Primary fires 74,803
- Secondary fires 82,766
- Chimney fires 4,221

The most common causes of fires are not those that lead to the most fatalities.

Cooking appliances were the source of ignition in 49% of accidental dwelling fires but only 9% of fatalities occurred in fires ignited by cooking appliances.

Smokers' materials (such as cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco) ignited only 6% of accidental dwelling fires yet those fires led to almost 30% of fire-related fatalities.

The risk of dying in a fire is not uniform across age groups or gender.

The rate of fire-related fatalities (deaths per million people) generally increases with age.

Men are more likely to die as a result of a fire than women, with the greatest difference in the 65 to 79 age band.

Men 80 years and over had the highest fire-related fatality rate of any demographic in 2016/17.

Smoke alarms are a vital early warning for fires in the home.

Of the 211 fire-related fatalities in dwellings, 22% occurred where smoke alarms were present, operated and raised the alarm, compared with 30% where they were absent.

Mains powered smoke alarms had a lower failure rate than battery powered smoke alarms in 2016/17. These proportions have remained relatively unchanged since 2010/11.