



Fire statistics monitor

April 2011 to September 2011



Fire statistics monitor
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Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

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Data contained in this publication

This Fire Statistics Monitor consists of analysis of fire and rescue incident and fire casualty data for England for the period April 2011 to September 2011.

There are now 42 accompanying data tables. Twenty six of the tables give data at Fire and Rescue Authority level. These can be found alongside this publication as downloadable spreadsheets. An index of these tables is at the rear of this publication.

Feedback and requests for the future shape of this publication and accompanying data tables are always welcome. Seventeen of the annex data tables have been added in the last couple of years, and we are keen for our publications to continue to evolve to meet users' needs.

Next edition

The next edition of this Fire Statistics Monitor will be published in June or July 2012. It will contain data for incidents up to the end of March 2012.

Responsible statistician

Gavin Sayer
0303 444 2818

1 Key points of provisional data, April to September 2011

1.1 Fire fatalities and non-fatal casualties

- The provisional¹ total number of fire fatalities in England in the six months from April to September 2011 was 149, two fewer than in the six months from April to September 2010. This is 21 per cent fewer than the 188 fire fatalities ten years previous (in April to September 2001).
- The provisional¹ number of fatalities in England in accidental dwelling fires in 2010-11 was 87, four fewer than in April to September 2010. This is 29 per cent fewer than the 122 fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in April to September 2001.
- There were 2,120 non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases)² in fires in England in April to September 2011. This was 35 (two per cent) higher than in April to September 2010, and 53 per cent fewer than the 4,540 in April to September 2001.

Summary table 1: Fire casualties, England			
	April to September 2011 (p)	Change April to Sept 2010 to 2011(p)	Change April to Sept 2001 to 2011(p)
Fire fatalities	149	-1%	-21%
of which in accidental dwelling fires	87	-4%	-29%
Non fatal fire casualties ²	2,120	+2%	-53%
(p) Provisional			

¹ See Definitions note 3.

² This provides the most accurate comparison with periods prior to April 2009. See note 3b in Comparability Section and note 4 in Definitions section

1.2 Fires, false alarms, and non-fire incidents

- Fire and Rescue Services attended a total of 131,000 fires in England in the six months of April to September 2011. This was four per cent fewer than in April to September 2010, and 45 per cent fewer than ten years previously (April to September 2001).
- The total number of fire false alarms attended in England was 128,500 in April to September 2011. This was 10 per cent fewer than in April to September 2010 and 36 per cent fewer than in April to September 2001.
- Fire and Rescue Services attended 62,500 non-fire incidents in April to September 2011, down six per cent on April to September 2010.
- The most numerous types within non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services were road traffic collisions, effecting entry and lift releases which accounted for 23%, 13% and 12% respectively.

Summary table 2: Incidents attended, England			
	April to September 2011(p)	Change April to Sept 2010 to 2011(p)	Change April to Sept 2001 to 2011(p)
Fires	131,000	-4%	-45%
False alarms	128,500	-10%	-36%
Non-fire incidents	62,500	-6%	..
Total incidents attended	322,000	-7%	..
(p) Provisional			

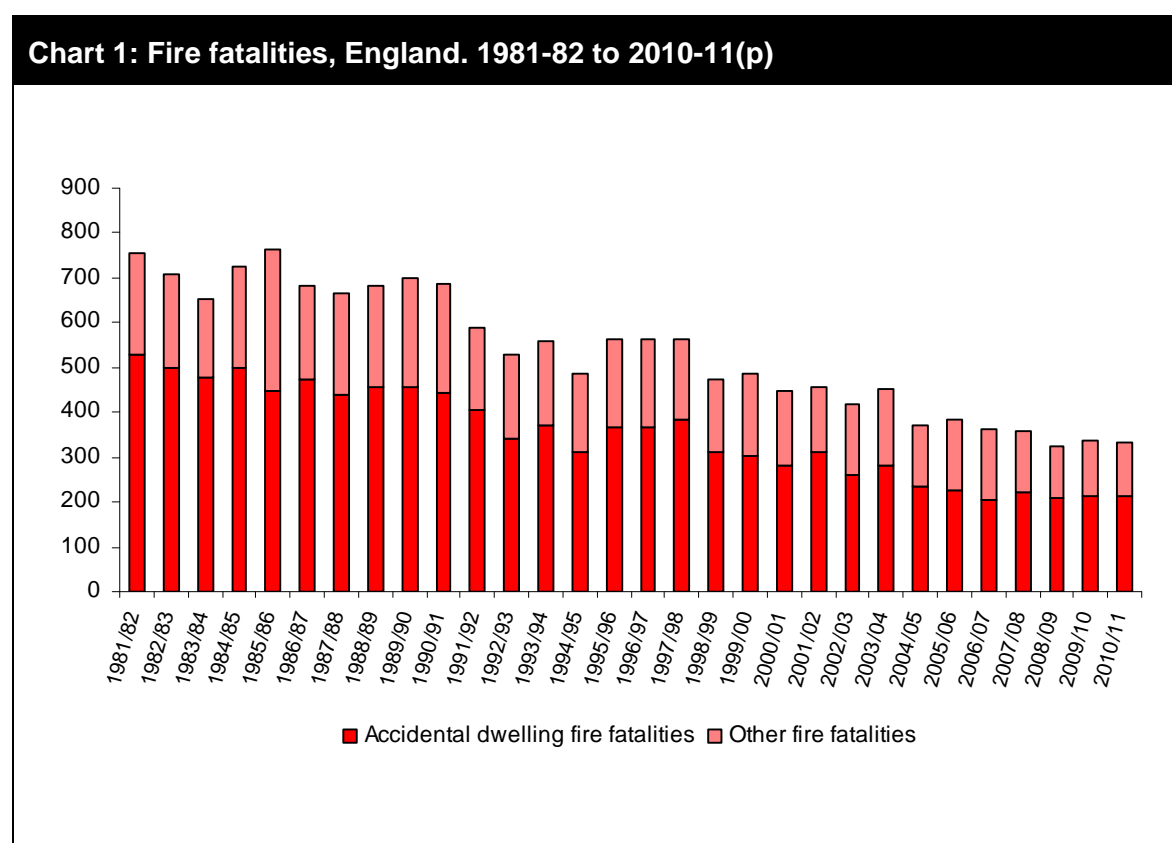
2. Fire fatalities

(see also annex tables 2b&d, 3e and 4b)

Provisional figures (subject to revision – see definition 3 for further explanation) of the total number of fire fatalities in England show:

- In April to September 2011 there were 149 fire fatalities, two fewer than in April to September 2010. Chart 1 shows the long term downward trend in fire fatalities since the mid 1980s.
- Of the 149 fire fatalities during April to September 2011, three fifths (87) occurred in accidental dwelling fires.

Summary tables 3 and 4 show that fluctuations are a common feature of these data. As a result, trends can be assessed much more readily from annual totals, as in chart 1.



Summary table 3: All fire fatalities, England								
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (p)	Change 2010 to 2011
April-June	81	100	81	60	91	92	77	-15
July-September	86	80	66	59	70	59	72	+13
October-December	93	94	102	110	85	91	..	....
January-March	126	90	109	94	90	89	..	....
April – September (6 months)	167	180	147	119	161	151	149	-2
April – March (12 months)	386	364	358	323	336	331	..	..
(p) Provisional								

Summary table 4: Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, England								
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (p)	Change 2010 to 2011
April-June	52	62	44	36	58	59	49	-10
July-September	40	37	37	34	42	32	38	+6
October-December	51	51	64	67	55	67	..	....
January-March	83	55	76	72	58	56	..	....
April - September (6 months)	92	99	81	70	100	91	87	-4
April – March (12 months)	226	205	221	209	213	214	..	..
(p) Provisional								

3 Non-fatal fire casualties

Fire non-fatal casualties

(see also annex tables 2b&d, 3f&g, 4c&d and 6b&c)

There were 2,120 non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases)² in fires in England in April to September 2011. This was 35 (two per cent) higher than in April to September 2010, and 53 per cent fewer than the 4,540 in April to September 2001.

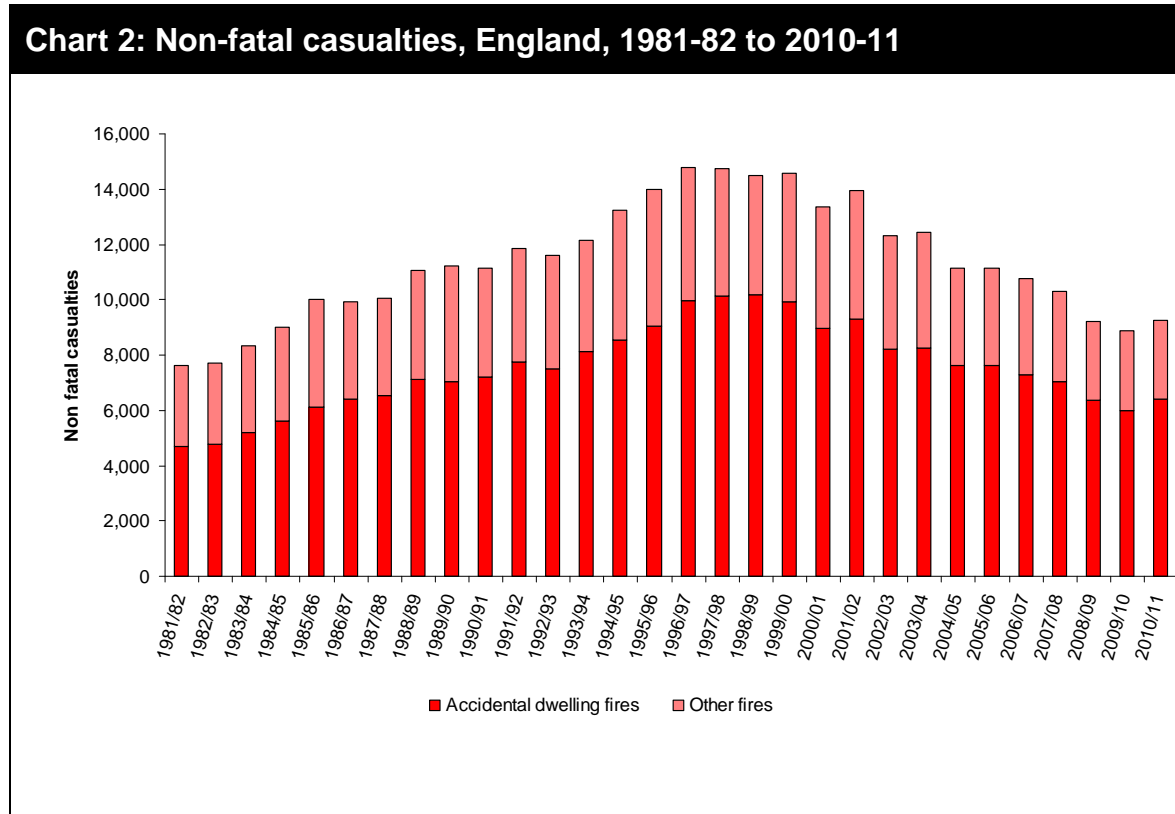
The total number of non-fatal casualties (including first aid cases and precautionary checks) in fires recorded in England was 4,620, five per cent higher than in April to September 2010 (4,400).

Summary table 5: Injury severity for non-fatal fire casualties, England, April- September 2011 compared with April - September 2001 and 2010

	April – September 2011	Change April – September 2010-2011	Change April – September 2001-2011
Hospital severe	390	+7%	..
Hospital slight	1,730	+1%	..
Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks and first aid	2,120	+2%	-53%
First aid	1,580	+8%	..
Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks	3,700	+4%	..
Precautionary check recommended ¹	920	+8%	..
Total non-fatal casualties (includes precautionary checks¹)	4,620	+5%	-32%
of which resulting from dwelling fires	3,470	+3%	-34%
of which from accidental dwelling fires	3,000	+4%	-32%
¹ See Definitions note 4(iv) .. Not available under reporting system prior to April 2009. These changes in categories of non-fatal casualties are explained in note 3 in the section 'Comparability' at the back of this publication.			

² This provides the most accurate comparison with periods prior to April 2009. See note 3b in Comparability Section and note 4 in Definitions section

This increase is in contrast to the strong downward trend since the mid 1990s. (See chart 2.) Total non-fatal casualties in April to September 2011 were 32 per cent lower than in April to September 2001.



4 Fires, false alarms and non-fire incidents

Summary table 6: Incidents and false alarms attended, England			
	April to September 2010 ⁴	April to September 2011 ⁴	Change April – September 2010-2011
Primary fires (A)	48,600	45,900	-6%
Building fires (A1)	28,900	28,200	-2%
Dwelling fires (A1i)	17,800	17,300	-2%
of which accidental	15,200	14,900	-2%
Other buildings ¹ (A1ii)	11,100	10,800	-2%
Road vehicles (A2)	14,800	12,900	-13%
Other ² (A3)	5,000	4,800	-3%
Secondary fires ³ (B)	86,400	83,600	-3%
Chimney fires (C)	1,650	1,200	-29%
Total fires attended (A+B+C)	136,700	130,700	-4%
of which deliberate fires	73,700	71,000	-4%
Fire false Alarms	142,200	128,600	-10%
Total (fires and false alarms)	278,900	259,300	-7%
Non-fire incidents	66,500	62,500	-6%
Total (including non-fire incidents)	345,300	321,900	-7%
¹ Largest components of which are commercial, health and education buildings ² Typically outdoor fires that are 'primary' (See Definitions note 2) because of a casualty or casualties, or attendance by five or more appliances ³ Typically outdoor fires not involving property (See Definitions note 2) ⁴ Since each cell is rounded, components may not sum exactly to totals.			

4.1 Fires (see also annex tables 1b&d, 3, 4, 5, 6a and 6d)

Fire and Rescue Services attended a total of 131,000 fires in England in April to September 2011, four per cent fewer than in April to September 2010.

Chart 3 and Summary table 6 show latest figures for broad categories of incidents. Some key points for fire incidents are as follows:

- There were 28,000 building fires in April to September 2011, two per cent fewer than in April to September 2010. This comprised 17,000 dwelling fires, of which 15,00 were accidental, and 11,000 other building fires.
- There were 13,000 road vehicle fires in April to September 2011, thirteen per cent lower than in April to September 2010.
- There was a total of 71,000 deliberate fires in April to September 2011, four per cent lower than in April to September 2010.

Chart 3: Percentage change in numbers of false alarms and fires in England, April to September 2010 compared with April to September 2011

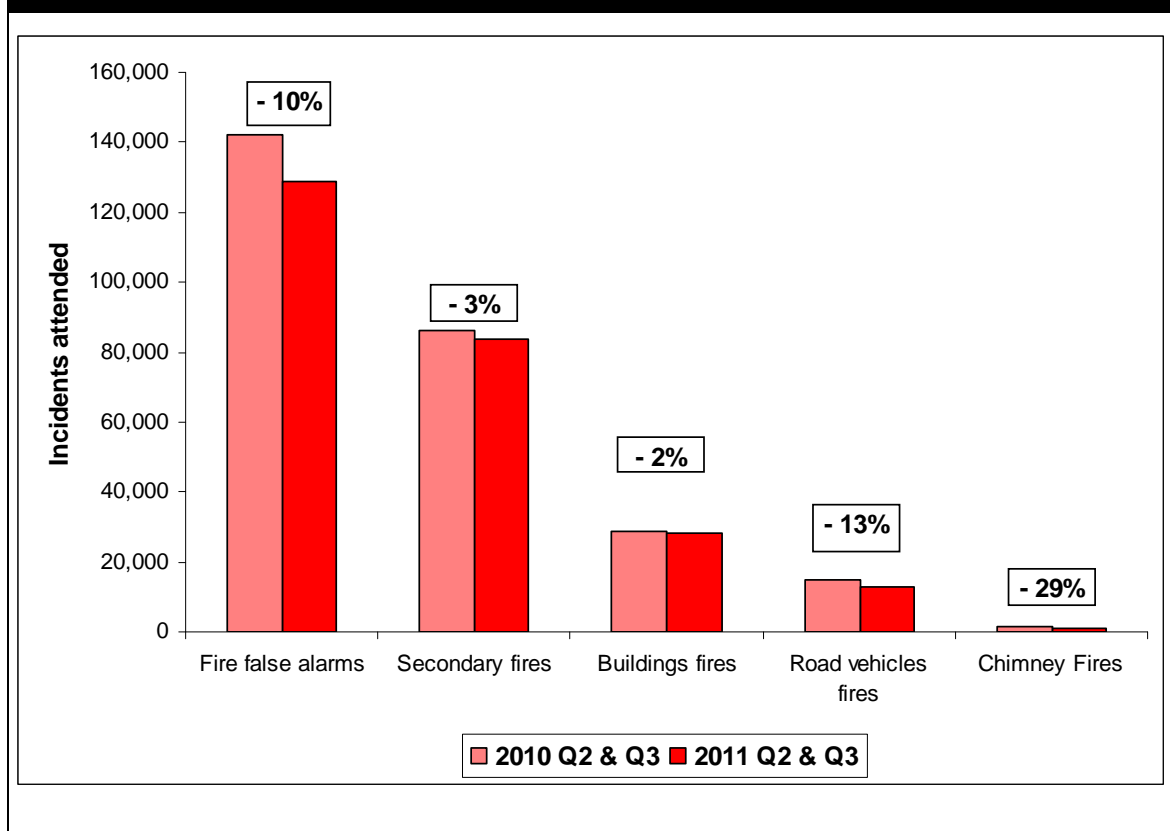
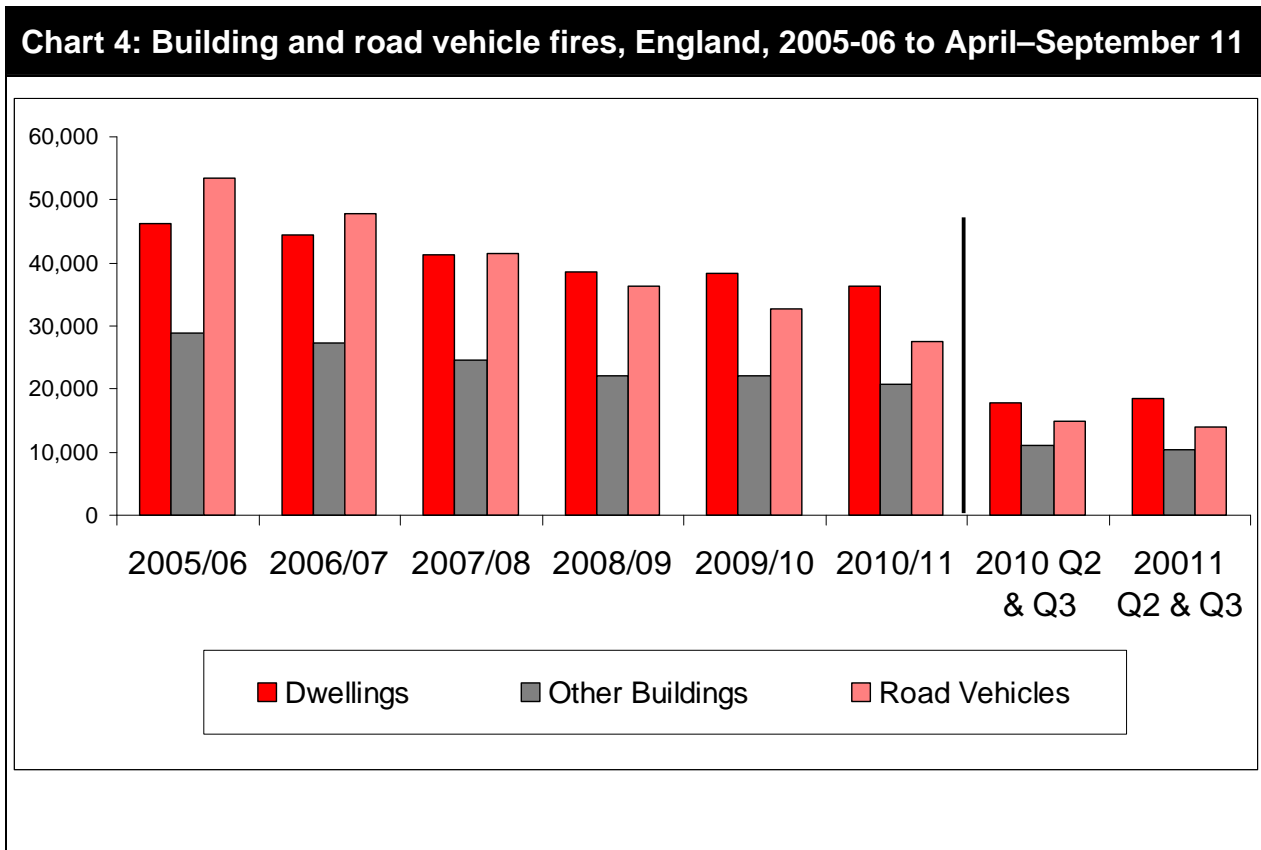


Chart 4 shows the trend over recent years for buildings and vehicle fires. Each component shows a clear downward trend. The changes compared to 5 years previous (April to September 2011 compared to April to September 2006) were as follows: dwellings -21%, other buildings -28%, and road vehicles -48%.



4.2 False alarms (see also annex tables 1b&d and 3d)

There were 129,000 false fire alarms attended in England in April to September 2011, 10 per cent lower than in April to September 2010. Within this total, the number of malicious false alarms fell by 8 per cent to 5,300. False alarms due to apparatus were down by 11 per cent to 85,000; these incidents constitute over two-thirds of all false fire alarms.

4.3 Non-fire incidents (see also annex table 7)

In April to September 2011, Fire and Rescue Services attended a total of 62,500 non-fire incidents, down 6 per cent from April to September 2010.

Road traffic incidents accounted for almost quarter of non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services.

Summary table 7 shows numbers of incidents for the largest categories of non-fire incidents.

Summary table 7: Non-fire incidents in England, April to September 2010-11				
Type of incident	April to September 2010	April to September 2011	Proportion April to September 2011 (%)	Change April to September 2010 to 2011
Road traffic incidents	14,900	14,100	23	-5%
Non-road traffic incidents	51,600	48,400	77	-6%
of which :				
Effecting entry	8,400	7,900	13	-6%
Lift release	8,600	7,300	12	-14%
Medical incidents	5,800	6,100	10	+4%
Water removal	5,800	5,300	8	-9%
Animal incidents	3,500	3,300	5	-5%
Other rescue/release of persons	3,300	3,200	5	-2%
Spills and leaks	3,200	2,600	4	-18%
Other [#]	13,000	12,600	20	-3%
Total non-fire incidents	66,500	62,500	100	-6%
# Includes 'assist other agencies', 'stand by' and other 'no action'.				

5 Deliberate fires during the August 2011 disorder

5.1 Introduction

This section presents a brief analysis from Fire and Rescue Service incident records of deliberate fires in the 46 local authority areas which were affected by more than isolated incidents of disorder³.

This is not intended as a comprehensive analysis, but rather aims to give an indication of the number and nature of deliberate fires incidents attended according to Fire and Rescue Services records. Its value includes indicating how much trends of numbers deliberate fires were affected by the period of disorder.

Numbers of outdoor fires (eg rubbish or bin fires) are likely to be underestimates. This is because in some cases fire crews attended to these one after another, and so a single incident record may reflect multiple smaller fires.

5.2 Numbers of deliberate fire incidents

Chart 4.1 reflects that the total number of deliberate fires in these areas was substantially higher than in previous weeks from the early hours of Sunday 7 August until Wednesday 10 August in the 26 London Boroughs⁴, and on Tuesday 9 August and Wednesday 10 August in the twenty other local authority areas³.

As noted, the numbers of fire incidents recorded during the disorder is likely to be an underestimate of smaller outdoor fires. Table 5.1 highlights the days when the total number of recorded fires were above typical daily levels, while annex table 8 shows the numbers of incidents by local authority for the period of disorder for the 46 local authority areas³.

³ The Home Office report 'An overview of recorded crimes and arrests resulting from disorder events in August 2011' lists the areas that were affected during the public disorder of 6-11 August 2011. This analysis is limited to the 46 local authority areas (26 London boroughs and 20 other local authority areas) where there were more than 'isolated incidents' in the ten police force areas with 20 or more disorder-related incidents during the disorder.

⁴ There was also disorder and fires on the evening of Saturday 6 August

Chart 4.1: Deliberate fires in 46 local authority areas from 23 July to 4 September 2011

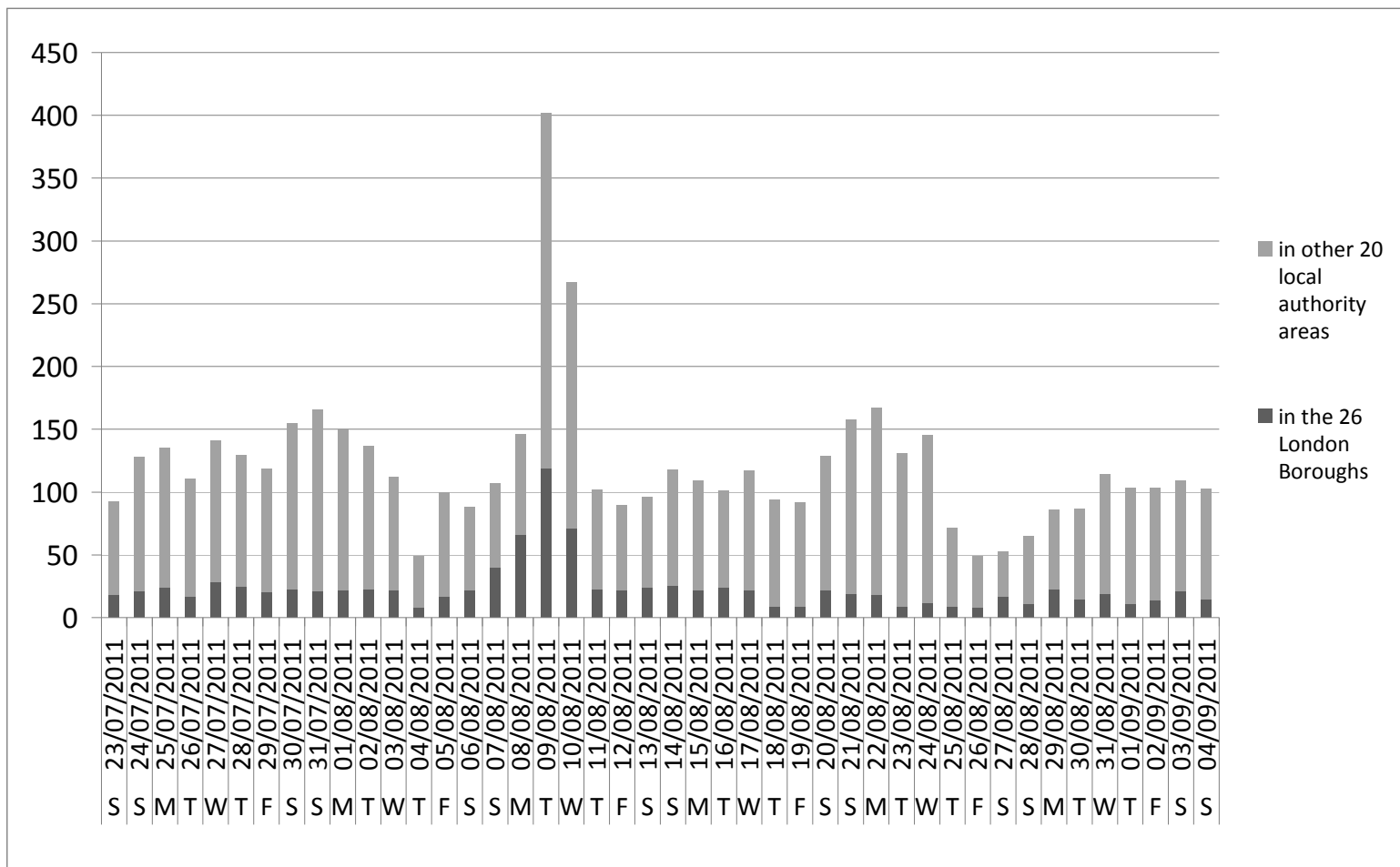


Table 5.1: Deliberate fires in the 46 local authority areas during the disorder in August 2011

Deliberate fires in the 26 London Boroughs

	Saturday 06/08/2011	Sunday 07/08/2011	Monday 08/08/2011	Tuesday 09/08/2011	Wednesday 10/08/2011	Thursday 11/08/2011	Daily average in prior fortnight (23/7-5/8)
All deliberate fires	22	40	66	119	71	23	20
<i>of which:</i>							
Buildings	10	13	26	29	8	3	
Road vehicles	1	8	12	26	16	4	
Other*	11	19	28	64	47	16	

Deliberate fires in other 20 local authority areas

	Saturday 00/01/1900	Sunday 00/01/1900	Monday 00/01/1900	Tuesday 00/01/1900	Wednesday 00/01/1900	Thursday 00/01/1900	Daily average in prior fortnight (23/7-5/8)
All deliberate fires	66	67	80	283	196	79	103
<i>of which:</i>							
Buildings	7	11	6	47	28	13	
Road vehicles	8	10	11	69	41	7	
Other*	51	46	63	167	127	59	

* Predominantly loose refuse and refuse containers

5.3 Size of deliberate building fires

There were a number of building fires with a large area of fire damage reported during the disorder. Fire and Rescue Service incident records show that among the 168 deliberate building fires between 6 and 11 August in the 46 local authority areas, eighteen incidents (11%) had an area of fire damage of over 200m². This contrasts with two per cent of deliberate building fires being of that size or greater over the twelve month period from April 2010 to March 2011.

Table 5.2 Deliberate building fires by size of fire damage for the period Saturday 6 August to Wednesday 10 August 2011 in the 46 local authority areas

Area ¹ of fire damage (m ²)			Average over year 2010-11
0 - 5	72	43%	61%
6 - 10	23	14%	15%
11 - 20	23	14%	10%
21 - 50	17	10%	7%
51 - 100	14	8%	3%
101 - 200	1	1%	1%
201 - 500	7	4%	1%
501 - 1,000	6	4%	1%
1,001 - 2,000	2	1%	0%
2,001 - 5,000	1	1%	0%
5001-10,000	0	0%	0%
Over 10,000	2	1%	0%
	168		

¹ The measure of area of fire damage that is recorded is of horizontal area

Definitions

- 1 Details of the questions and categories used in the recording of incidents under the Incident Recording System (IRS) are available in the document, *IRS Questions and Lists*. This can be downloaded from:
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/irsquestionslists

Categories of fire incident

- 2 **Primary** fires are those where one or more of the following apply: i) all fires in buildings outdoor structures and vehicles that are not derelict, ii) any fires involving casualties or rescues, iii) any fire 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 unless five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings.

Fatalities

- 3 Even if a casualty dies subsequently, any fatality whose cause is attributed to a fire is included. There are also occasional cases where it transpires subsequently that fire was not the cause of death. For both these reasons, fatalities data may therefore be subject to revision.

Non-fatal casualties and Precautionary checks

- 4 Non-fatal casualties are recorded as being in one of four classes of severity as follows:
 - i) Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be serious
 - ii) Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be slight
 - iii) First aid given at scene
 - iv) Precautionary check recommended – this is when an individual is advised to attend hospital or to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury or distress.

Data and data quality

- 1 Commentary on the statistics in this publication is for the period April 2011 to September 2011. There can be considerable seasonality and other fluctuation in both incident and casualty data which can make interpretation difficult, especially for periods of less than twelve months. The hot dry summer of 2003 is a particularly acute example.
- 2 Tables 1a and 1b and 2a and 2b (accompanying spreadsheet tables) contain data for 2002 and 2003 which include estimates for November 2002 and January and February 2003 to account for the lack of information recorded during fifteen days of national industrial action. These estimates have been produced using comparable data for the same month of the previous year – a daily rate was calculated then multiplied by the number of strike days. Information on the actual number of fatal casualties which occurred during the strike periods were obtained from the Ministry of Defence and media and is included in tables 2a and 2b.

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 monitor is based identified the following two 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 11 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 11 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', 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.

Departmental Fire Casualties Indicator

- 1 The Department's fire casualty indicator is based on the following data from this publication: Non-fatal casualties (including hospital severe & slight and first aid cases, but excluding precautionary checks), plus fire fatalities. The indicator is calculated per population as described in the Indicator Measurement Annex. This and the values of this indicator are available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/corporate-reports/>

Revisions policy

- 1 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 follows:

- i) For statistics that are counts of fatalities and other casualties:

When any revisions will implemented	Which periods of data will be revised
Revisions will be made twice a year at the following times: a) when data are first produced for the period up to 30 September, and b) when data are first produced for the period up to 31 March	Revisions will be made to the two preceding financial year periods. eg Once data for 2012-13 are published for the first time, statistics for 2010-11 would not subsequently be revised further, barring exceptional circumstances.

- ii) For statistics that are counts of incidents:

When any revisions will implemented	Which periods of data will be revised
Revisions to any statistics relating to any given time period will be made only once. These would be implemented at the time of the publication of data up to 31 March. This single revision is because there should typically be very little revision of numbers of types of incidents.	At the time of revision, revisions will be made to statistics relating to the period of the one preceding financial year. eg upon first publication of 2011-12 data, any revisions to statistics for periods during the financial year of 2010-11 would be made. These would not subsequently be revised further, barring exceptional circumstances.

Index of appendix data tables

Tables referred to in this document are available as separate downloadable files on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firestatisticsmonitors/

Workbook 1 & 2

Table 1a: Fires by location and false alarms, UK, 1999–2009Q1

Table 1b: Fires by location and false alarms, England, 1999–2011Q3

Table 1c: Fires by location and false alarms (non-deliberate), UK, 1999–2009Q1

Table 1d: Fires by location and false alarms (non-deliberate), England, 1999–2011Q3

Table 2a: Casualties from fires, UK, 1999–2009Q1

Table 2b: Casualties from fires, England, 1999–2011Q3

Table 2c: Casualties from non-deliberate fires, UK, 1999–2009Q1

Table 2d: Casualties from non-deliberate fires, England, 1999–2011Q3

Workbook 3 (*tables by Fire and Rescue Service*)

Table 3a: All fires, including chimney fires,

Table 3b (i): Primary fires

Table 3b (ii): Dwelling fires

Table 3b (iii): Other building fires

Table 3b (iv): Road vehicle fires

Table 3b (v): Fires in non-domestic buildings

Table 3c: Secondary fires

Table 3d (i): False alarms

Table 3d (ii): Malicious false alarms

Table 3d (iii): False alarms due to apparatus

Table 3d (iv): False alarms made with good intent

Table 3e: Fatal casualties

Table 3f: Non-fatal casualties

Table 3g: Non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases)

Table 3h (i): Non-fatal casualties (Hospital severe)

Table 3h (ii): Non-fatal casualties (Hospital slight)

Table 3h (iii): Non-fatal casualties (First Aid)

Table 3h (iv): Non-fatal casualties (Precautionary check)

Workbook 4 (tables by Fire and Rescue Service)

Table 4a: Accidental dwelling fires

Table 4b: Fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires

Table 4c: Non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires

Table 4d: Non-fatal casualties excluding pre-cautionary checks and first aid cases

Workbook 5 (tables by Fire and Rescue Service)

Table 5a: Deliberate primary fires

Table 5b: Deliberate road vehicle primary fires

Table 5c: Deliberate primary fires in locations other than road vehicles

Table 5d: Deliberate secondary fires

Workbook 6 (Incidents and casualties long time series, UK and England)

Table 6a: Primary fires, dwelling fires, accidental dwelling fires

Table 6b: Fatalities in i) all fires and in ii) accidental dwelling fires

Table 6c: Non-fatal casualties

Table 6d: Deliberate fires by main types

Workbook 7 Special Service Incidents (by Fire and Rescue Service)

Workbook 8 – Deliberate fires in the local authority areas that experienced more than ‘isolated incidents’ of disorder in August 2011

Population workbook – Population by Fire Authority area

Further information on fire statistics can be obtained from:

<p>For queries about data availability and requests for analyses:</p> <p>Jon Gamble Communities & Local Government Fire and Resilience Directorate Eland House, 3rd Floor Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU</p> <p>Tel: 0303 444 3923 Email: Jon.Gamble@communities.gsi.gov.uk</p>	<p>For suggestions relating to publications and other feedback:</p> <p>Gavin Sayer Communities & Local Government Fire and Resilience Directorate Eland House, 3rd Floor Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU</p> <p>Tel: 0303 444 2818 Email: Gavin.Sayer@communities.gsi.gov.uk</p>
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