



Home Office



# Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, year ending June 2018

Statistical Bulletin 25/18

8 November 2018

## Further information

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This release contains statistics about incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England. The statistics are sourced from the Home Office's online Incident Recording System (IRS). This system allows FRSs to complete an incident form for every incident attended, be it a fire, a false alarm or a non-fire (also known as a Special Service) incident. The online IRS was introduced in April 2009. Previously, paper forms were submitted by FRSs and an element of sampling was involved in the data compilation process.

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics and other Home Office statistical releases are available from the [Statistics at Home Office](#) pages on the GOV.UK website. The dates of forthcoming fire and rescue and other Home Office publications are pre-announced and can be found via the [Statistics: release calendar](#). For further information about the statistics in this publication, email [firestatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:firestatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk).

Data tables linked to this release and all other fire statistics releases can be found on the Home Office's 'Fire statistics data tables' page. The sections below state the most relevant tables for each section. The tables can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

Guidance for using these statistics and other fire statistics outputs is available on the fire statistics collection page, found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-guidance>

The information published in this release is kept under review, taking into account the needs of users and burdens on suppliers and producers, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics. If you have any comments, suggestions or enquiries, please contact the team via email using [firestatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:firestatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk) or via the user feedback form on the [fire statistics collection page](#).

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This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Analysis and Insight Directorate in accordance with the Home Office's [statement of compliance](#) with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which covers Home Office policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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# 1 Key facts

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This release presents statistics covering the year ending June 2018 (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018) for fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England. The results show in the year ending June 2018:

- FRSs attended **556,884 incidents**. This was a three per cent decrease compared with the previous year (576,545). The total number of incidents was on a downward trend for around a decade, though they have increased in recent years mainly driven by increases in non-fire incidents attended. The small decrease this year was predominantly driven by a decrease in fires attended.
- FRSs attended **159,685 fires**. This was a nine per cent decrease compared with the previous year (176,054). The decrease in fires is driven by a fall in secondary fires<sup>1</sup> with primary fires also showing a decrease.
- FRSs attended **226,466 fire false alarms**. This was a less than one per cent increase compared with the previous year (225,899).
- FRSs attended **170,733 non-fire incidents**. This was a two per cent decrease compared with the previous year (174,592). For around a decade, there had been a general decline in the number of non-fire incidents. However, recent years have shown large increases, largely due to a rise in medical incidents attended. The recent decreases in non-fire incidents are mainly due to a decline in [emergency medical responding](#) linked to many of the trials stopping in September 2017.
- Of all incidents attended by FRSs, **fires accounted for 29 per cent and non-fire incidents 31 per cent**. The remaining 41 per cent were fire false alarms, which continued to be the largest incident type<sup>2</sup>.
- There were **247 fire-related fatalities** compared with 344 (including 71 from the Grenfell Tower fire) in the previous year (a decrease of 28%).
- There were **3,106 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment**<sup>3</sup> in the year ending June 2018. This was a seven per cent decrease compared with the previous year (3,351).

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<sup>1</sup> Secondary fires are generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property. See the [Fire Statistics Definitions document](#) for more detail.

<sup>2</sup> Figures do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Casualty figures include casualties whether the injury was caused by the fire or not. Fatalities are only included if they are fire-related.

## 2 Introduction

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This release covers figures on incidents, fires, fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties for the year ending June 2018.

Quarterly updates (i.e. for years ending June, September and December) mainly compare changes from the previous 12-month period, while financial year releases, such as the last release published on [9 August 2018](#), compare changes for financial years five and ten years prior as well as longer-term comparisons.

The next release is due for publication in [February 2019](#), covering the year ending September 2018.

This is the fifth release to include figures from the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017, and the first release with the fire in the comparator, rather than the current, year. Given the unprecedented scale of this fire, specific figures on the numbers of fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties from the Grenfell Tower fire are included in the relevant narrative.

More detailed statistics on fires, fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties for the 2017/18 financial year were published on 6 September 2018 in the '[Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2017 to March 2018](#)' release. More detailed statistics on non-fire incidents were published in the '[Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2016 to March 2017](#)' release on 25 January 2018 for the 2016/17 financial year, with an update for 2017/18 data due for release in Winter 2018/19.

Each time an FRS attends an incident in England, details of that incident are uploaded to the Home Office's Incident Recording System (IRS) by the FRS. The IRS is used as the source for all the statistics in this publication. More information on the IRS can be found in the [IRS Questions and Lists](#) document.

The IRS is a continually updated database, with FRSs adding incidents daily. The figures in this release refer to records of incidents that occurred up to and including 30 June 2018. This includes incident records that were submitted to the IRS by 12 September 2018, when a snapshot of the database was taken for the purpose of analysis. As a snapshot of the dataset was taken on 12 September 2018, the statistics published may not match those held locally by FRSs and revisions may occur in the future. This is particularly the case for statistics with relatively small numbers, such as fire-related fatalities.<sup>4</sup> In addition, statisticians at the Home Office have improved the handling of historic revisions supplied to us by FRSs for figures from 2010/11 onwards.

One FRS experienced I.T. difficulties which prevented them from submitting all incident records for April to June 2018. The number of incidents missing is relatively small (around 600 incidents), so will have little effect on the national figures but are highlighted in the fire

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<sup>4</sup> For instance, this can occur because coroner's reports may mean the initial view taken by the FRS will need to be revised; this can take many months, even years, to do so.

data tables where data are shown by FRS. The additional data for April to June 2018 will be reflected in the [February 2019](#) release.

England, Scotland and Wales all use the Home Office's Incident Recording System and therefore data are comparable. All three nations publish more detailed information on fire incidents, focusing on the particular user needs in their nation. Commentary on these figures can be found in this release under '[National comparisons](#)'.

The latest fire statistical release for Scotland can be found at:  
<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/fire-and-rescue-statistics.aspx>

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

Northern Ireland fire statistics are published by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service using data from a system similar to the Incident Recording System, which means that they are not directly comparable to English, Welsh and Scottish data. Their latest fire statistical releases can be found at: <https://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

This publication is accompanied by fire data tables, which can be found on the [fire statistics data tables page](#) which contains all data tables on fires published by the Home Office.

The following tables have been updated as part of this publication:

Incidents attended: 0101, 0102, 0103 and 0104.

Dwelling fires attended: 0201, 0202 and 0205.

Non-dwelling fires attended: 0306.

Deliberate fires: 0401 and 0402.

Fatalities and casualties: 0501, 0502 and 0507.

Non-fire incidents: 0901 and 0902.

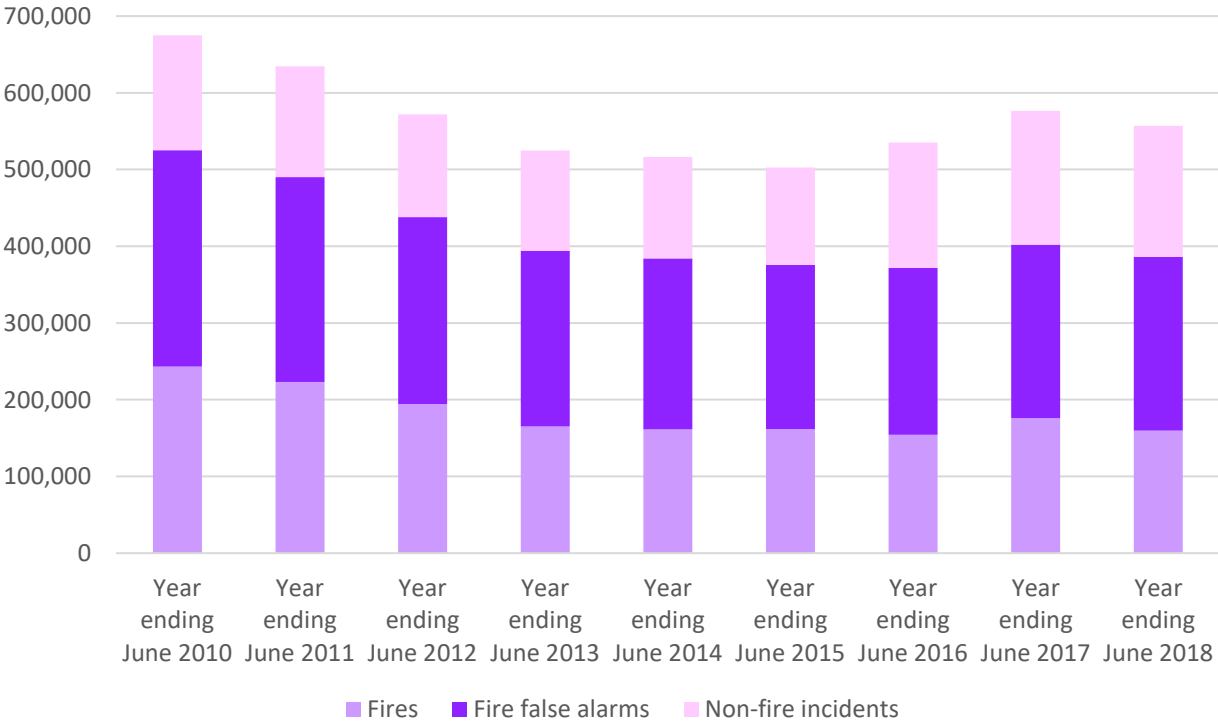
# 3 Types of incident

## All incidents attended

The number of incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England peaked in 2003/04, at over one million incidents (see [‘Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, April 2017 to March 2018’](#) for long-term trends). For around a decade, there was a general decline in all three categories of incidents (fires, fire false alarms and non-fire incidents) attended and between 2012/13 and 2015/16 there were around half a million a year. Since 2015/16 this number has risen to around 557,000 incidents in the year ending June 2018.

In contrast to the earlier decreases (caused by a reduction in fire and fire false alarm incidents), the increase in total incidents between 2014/15 and the year ending June 2018 has been predominantly driven by a 36 per cent increase in non-fire incidents over this time (see Figure 3.1). This is mainly due to an increase in FRSs attending medical co-responding incidents (see [Emergency Medical Response](#) section below for more detail).

**Figure 3.1 Total incidents attended by type of incident, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2018**



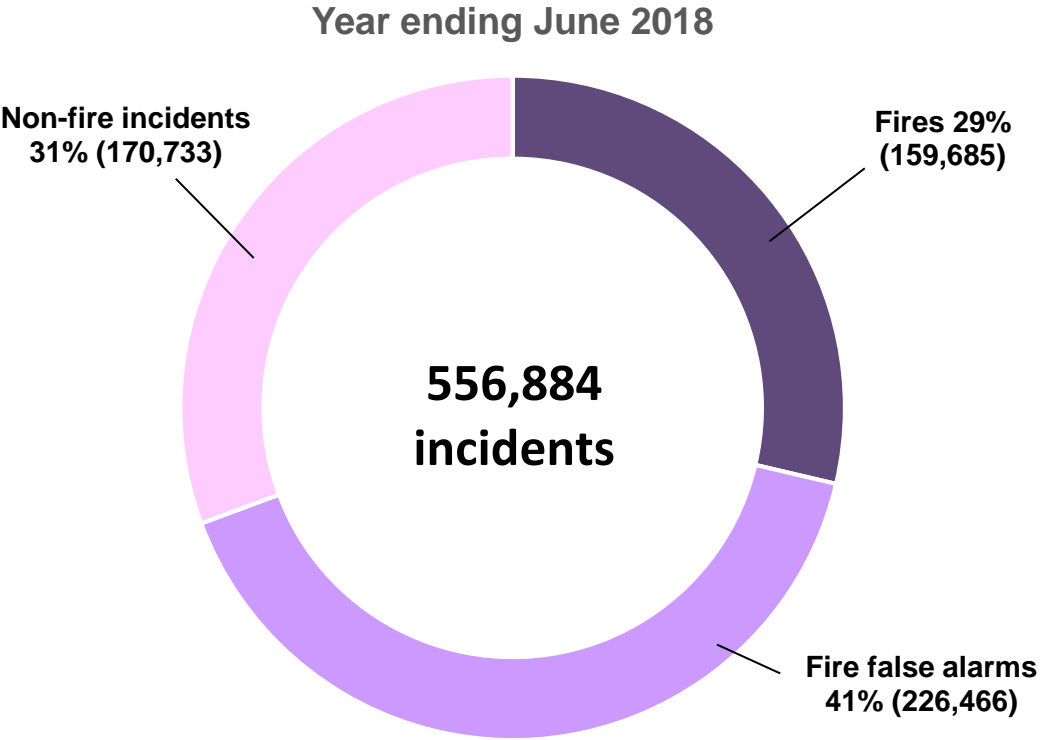
Source: FIRE0102

Over time, fire false alarms have consistently been the most common type of incident attended. In contrast, the proportion of fire incidents attended has been decreasing whilst the proportion of non-fire incidents has been increasing. In 2016/17, for the first time, FRSs attended more non-fire incidents than fires.

Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- **556,884 incidents were attended** by FRSs. This was a three per cent decrease compared with the previous year (576,545). This decrease was driven by the number of fires attended, and in particular, secondary fires. (Source: FIRE0102)
- Of all incidents attended by FRSs, **fires accounted for 29 per cent, fire false alarms 41 per cent and non-fire incidents 31 per cent.** (Source: FIRE0102)

**Figure 3.2 Total incidents attended by type of incident, England; year ending June 2018**



Further information on all incidents attended can be found in fire data tables [0101](#) and [0102](#).



## Fires attended

The total number of fires attended by FRSs decreased for around a decade – falling from a peak of around 474,000 in 2003/04 to 154,000 in 2012/13. Since then, the total number of fires has fluctuated. FRSs attended around 160,000 fires in the year ending June 2018.

## Types of fire

Fire incidents are broadly categorised as primary<sup>5</sup>, secondary or chimney<sup>6</sup> fires depending on the location, severity and risk levels of the fire, and on the scale of response needed from FRSs to contain them.

There were decreases across all fire types between the year ending June 2017 and the year ending June 2018 and, in particular, a 12 per cent decrease in secondary fires. The total number of fires attended in a single year can often be affected by the weather. This particularly affects other outdoor and secondary fires which make up a large proportion of all fires attended. Therefore, part of the decrease in fires could be attributed to some months in the year ending June 2018 being wetter than in the year ending June 2017. This could reverse next quarter, however as we anticipate the next three months in series, July in particular, as being especially dry following the hot summer of 2018.

Primary fires also decreased (7%) although by differing amounts across primary fire types, namely:

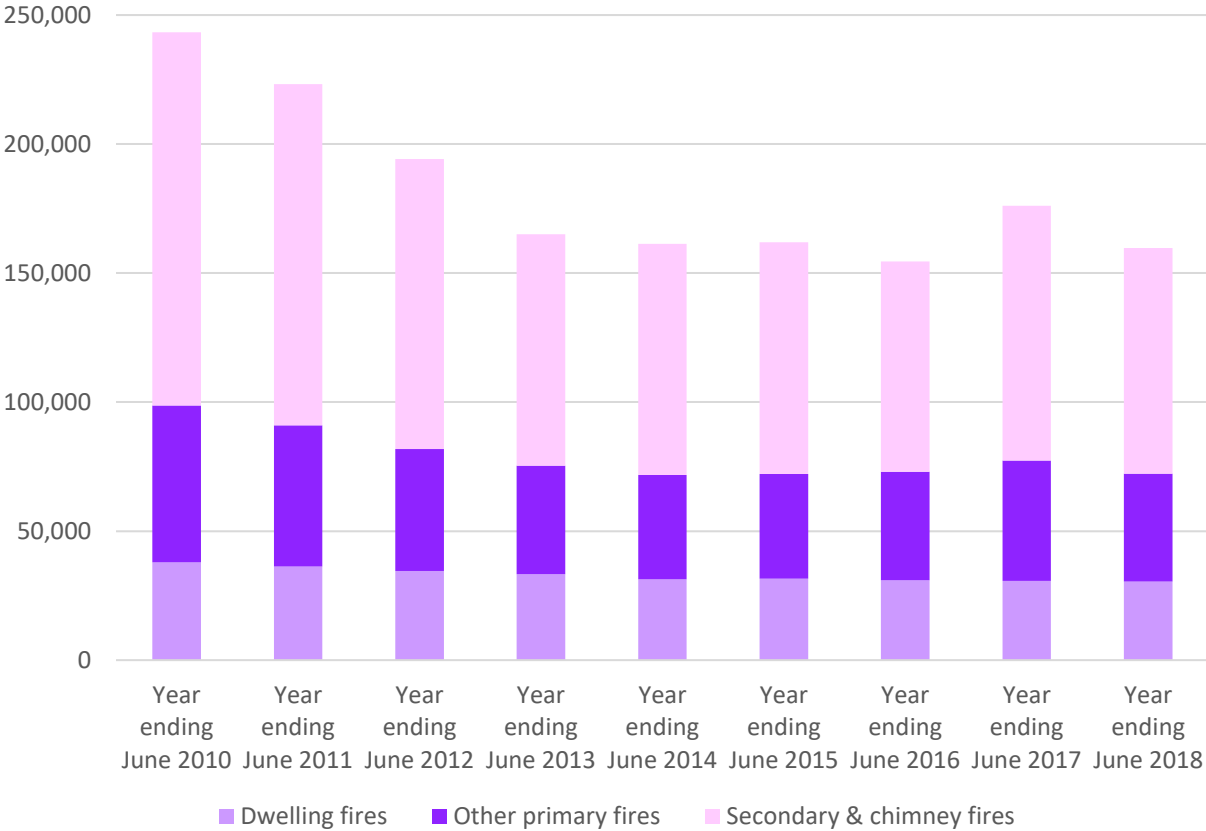
- larger decreases in other outdoor fires (14%), other building fires (11%) and road vehicle fires (9%) and;
- a small decrease in dwelling fires (1%). (Source: FIRE0102)

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<sup>5</sup> Primary fires are those that meet one of the following criteria – a) occurs in a (non-derelict) building, vehicle or outdoor structure, b) involve a fatality, casualty or rescue or c) attended by five or more pumping appliances.

<sup>6</sup> Chimney fires are fires in buildings where the flame was contained within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties, rescues or attendance by five or more pumping appliances. Chimneys in industrial buildings are not included.

**Figure 3.3 Total fires attended by type of fire, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2018**



Source: FIRE0102

Looking at the motivation<sup>7</sup> for the fires, from the year ending June 2017 to the year ending June 2018:

- Total accidental fires decreased by five per cent from 91,035 to 86,116;
- Total deliberate fires decreased by 13 per cent from 85,019 to 73,569, driven by a 13 per cent decrease in deliberate secondary fires (61,776 to 53,540).
- Deliberate primary fires decreased by 14 per cent (23,227 to 19,995), with decreases in all deliberate primary fire categories (dwellings, other buildings, road vehicles and other outdoors). (Source: Tables 3.1a and 3.1b, FIRE0401)

<sup>7</sup> The motive for a fire is collected as accidental, deliberate or unknown in the IRS. Those marked as unknown are included in accidental fires.

Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- **FRSs attended 159,685 fires.** This was a nine per cent decrease compared with the previous year (176,054). (Source: FIRE0102)
- There were **72,263 primary fires** (45% of the 159,685 fires attended). This was a seven per cent decrease compared with the previous year (77,362).
- FRSs attended **30,412 primary dwelling fires.** This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (30,732). Primary dwelling fires made up 42 per cent of primary fires and 19 per cent of all fires in the year ending June 2018.
- There were **83,519 secondary fires**, out of the 159,685 fires attended. This was a 12 per cent decrease compared with the previous year (94,602). (Source: FIRE0102)
- Of the 30,412 primary dwelling fires attended by FRSs in England, three-quarters (75%) were in houses, bungalows, converted flats and other<sup>8</sup> properties whilst a quarter (25%) were in purpose-built flats. Of those fires in purpose-built flats, 16 per cent were in purpose-built low-rise flats; six per cent were in purpose-built medium-rise flats and **three per cent were in purpose-built high-rise flats.**<sup>9</sup>
- FRSs attended **805 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats** in England, an 11 per cent increase compared with the previous year (727).
- There were **3,903 chimney fires**, out of the 159,685 fires attended. This was a five per cent decrease compared with the previous year (4,090).

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<sup>8</sup> Other includes sheltered accommodation, caravan/mobile home, HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) etc.

<sup>9</sup> In the IRS low-rise is defined as 1 to 3 storeys, medium rise 4 to 9 storeys and high rise as 10 storeys or more.

**Table 3.1a Number of accidental fires, by fire type, England; year ending June 2017 and year ending June 2018**

	Total accidental fires	Primary fires						Secondary	Chimney
		Total	Dwellings	Other buildings	Road vehicles	Other outdoors			
Year ending Jun 2017	91,035	54,135	27,555	11,727	11,836	3,017	32,826	4,074	
Year ending Jun 2018	86,116	52,268	27,240	10,902	11,409	2,717	29,979	3,869	
% change	-5%	-3%	-1%	-7%	-4%	-10%	-9%	-5%	

Source: Calculated using FIRE0102 and FIRE0401

**Table 3.1b Number of deliberate fires, by fire type, England, year ending June 2017 and year ending June 2018**

	Total deliberate fires	Primary fires						Secondary	Chimney
		Total	Dwellings	Other buildings	Road vehicles	Other outdoors			
Year ending Jun 2017	85,019	23,227	3,177	4,851	12,336	2,863	61,776	16	
Year ending Jun 2018	73,569	19,995	3,172	3,932	10,527	2,364	53,540	34	
% change	-13%	-14%	-0.2%	-19%	-15%	-17%	-13%	N/A <sup>10</sup>	

Source: FIRE0401

<sup>10</sup> Numbers too small to provide a meaningful percentage change figure.

## Fire false alarms attended

The total **number** of fire false alarms attended showed a downward trend for over a decade, from a peak of around 394,000 in 2001/02 to a low of around 214,000 in 2015/16, rising again to around 226,000 in the year ending June 2018. Fire false alarms attended are categorised as:

- where there was good intent but no fire;
- where apparatus such as automatic fire alarms caused an attendance to a false alarm; and
- malicious calls.

The categories above do not include false alarms to non-fire incidents. For more information on non-fire false alarms, see table FIRE0902 and discussion in '[Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents, England, April 2016 to March 2017](#)'.

In every year since 2004/05 the largest incident type was fire false alarms, ranging from 40 per cent to 44 per cent. Malicious calls have accounted for the smallest **number** of fire false alarms since the information was first collected in 1999/00 and the **proportion** of this type of fire false alarms has been on a downward trend since 1999/00.

Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- FRSs attended **226,466 fire false alarms**. This was a less than one per cent increase compared with the previous year (225,899).
- **Fire false alarms** 'due to apparatus' accounted for over two thirds (67%) of fire false alarms.

*Further information on fire false alarms attended can be found in tables [0102](#) and [0104](#).*

## Non-fire incidents attended

FRSs attend many types of incidents that are not fires or fire false alarms, for example flooding incidents, responding to road traffic collisions, animal assistance and release type incidents such as lift release and effecting entry/exit (a complete list can be found in fire data table [FIRE0902](#)).

There has been a general decline since 2007/08 in the **number** of non-fire incidents attended, and by 2014/15 FRSs attended the series low of around 125,000 such incidents. In contrast, over the same time period the **proportion** of all incidents that were non-fire incidents showed a slow but steady increase. This is because the decrease in non-fire incidents was not as great as for the other two incident types.

Following this decline, there was a rapid increase to the series high of around 175,000 in 2016/17. While the number of non-fire incidents in the year ending June 2018 was slightly lower at around 171,000, it was still an increase of 36 per cent compared with the series low

in 2014/15. The **proportion** of all incidents that were non-fire incidents increased from 25 per cent in 2014/15 to 31 per cent in the year ending June 2018.

Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- FRSs attended **170,733 non-fire incidents**. This was a two per cent decrease compared with the previous year (174,592). (Source: FIRE0901, FIRE0902)
- FRSs attended **28,939 medical incidents** ([Figure 3.4](#)). This was a 35 per cent decrease compared with the previous year (44,834). See the section below for more detail on emergency medical responding.
- When **excluding medical incidents, FRSs attended 141,794 other non-fire incidents**, a nine per cent increase compared with the previous year (129,758).

Apart from medical incidents, the four largest non-fire incident types were road traffic collisions, effecting entry/exit, flooding incidents and assisting other agencies. Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- FRSs attended **30,109 road traffic collisions**, a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (29,813).
- FRSs attended **24,371 effecting entry/exit incidents**, a 13 per cent increase compared with the previous year (21,529).
- FRSs attended **16,522 flooding incidents**, a 34 per cent increase compared with the previous year (12,317). Flooding events can be linked to the weather and so are highly variable with no clear trend since 2009/10.
- FRSs attended **14,018 incidents assisting other agencies**, a 26 per cent increase compared with the previous year (11,118).

**Table 3.2 Number of non-fire incidents attended by broad incident type, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2018**

	<u>Total non-fire incident types</u>	<u>Medical incident types</u>	<u>Other non-fire incident types</u>
Year ending June 2010	149,858	10,326	139,532
Year ending June 2011	144,427	11,577	132,850
Year ending June 2012	134,154	12,825	121,329
Year ending June 2013	130,571	14,394	116,177
Year ending June 2014	132,256	14,139	118,117
Year ending June 2015	126,728	16,833	109,895
Year ending June 2016	163,716	37,328	126,388
Year ending June 2017	174,592	44,834	129,758
Year ending June 2018	170,733	28,939	141,794

Source: Further breakdown of FIRE0901

### Emergency medical responding (EMR)

Between 2009/10, when medical incidents were first recorded, and 2014/15, the number of medical incidents attended steadily rose from around 10,000 to around 16,000 a year. From 2014/15 to 2016/17 around two-thirds (61%) of the increase in non-fire incidents was accounted for by a further rise in the number of medical incidents attended. Of the 49,000 additional non-fire incidents attended in 2016/17, compared with 2014/15, 30,000 were categorised as “Medical Incident – first responder” or “Medical Incident – co responder”.

The large increase in the number of medical incidents attended coincided with the introduction, in 2015, of the National Joint Council (NJC) supported trials of emergency medical responding (EMR) where FRSs formed agreements with ambulance trusts to undertake health and care related work, in particular co-responding.

Between the year ending June 2017 and the year ending June 2018, however, there was a 35% decrease in the number of medical incidents attended, falling from around 45,000 to around 29,000. Within this time period (on 18 September 2017) the Fire Brigades Union, who represent the employees’ side of the NJC, removed their support for the EMR trials. As a result, some of this work has now stopped and it is likely that this is driving the decrease observed.

The number of EMR incidents attended is affected by seasonal variation, with the fourth quarter of the financial year (January, February and March) being higher than the surrounding quarters for each of the last three financial years (Figure 3.4). The most frequent EMR incident types were related to breathing difficulties and chest pain / cardiac arrest, making up 47 per cent of EMR incidents in the year ending June 2018.

The number of medical incidents attended varies between FRSs, with 30 showing a decrease (23 of these decreasing by at least a third) in the year ending June 2018 compared with the previous year. Conversely, 14 FRSs recorded an increase in medical incidents attended (five of these increasing by at least a third).

For more detailed information on EMR incidents, see fire statistics table [FIRE0902](#) and '[Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents](#)'.

**Figure 3.4 Number of medical incidents attended, England; April 2012 to June 2018**

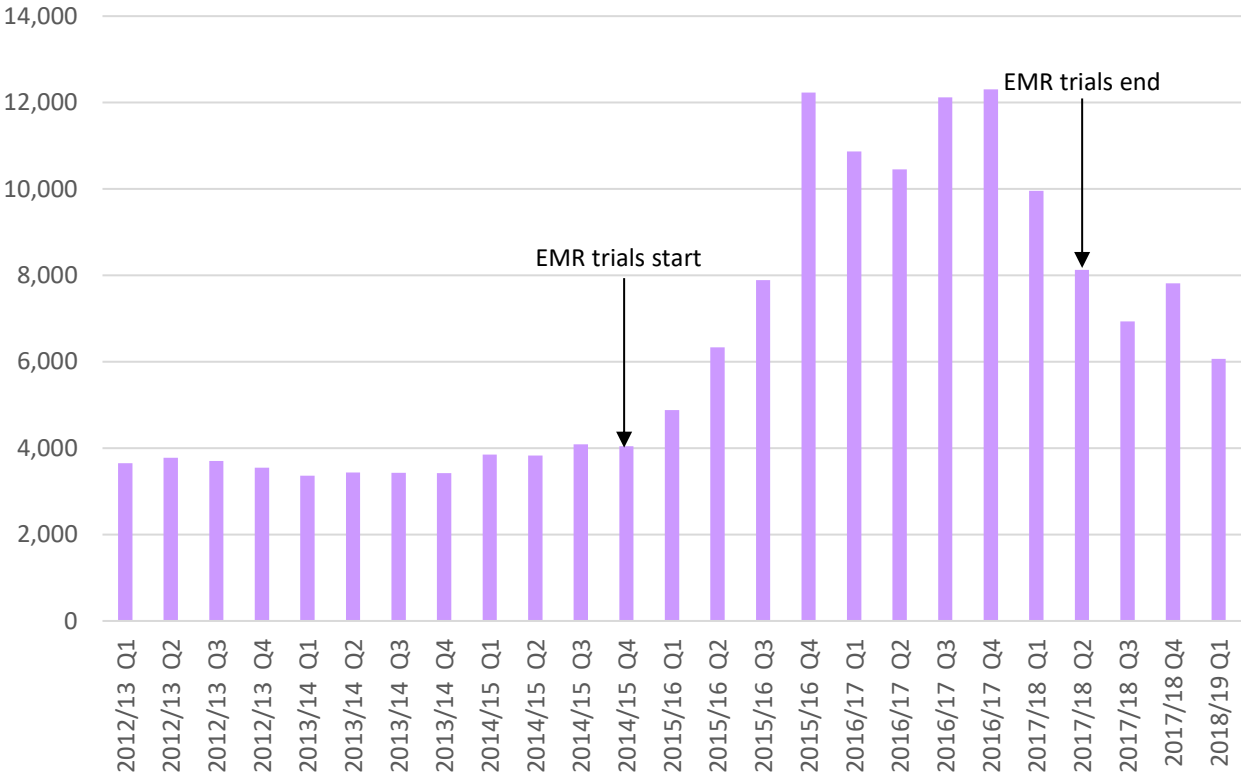


Chart notes: EMR trials started in 2015 with FRSs starting at different times. Some FRSs were already undertaking EMR before this and joined the trials once they were agreed by the NJC. The NJC removed their support for the EMR trials on 18 September 2017.

Further information on non-fire incidents attended can be found in tables [0102](#), [0901](#) and [0902](#).



## 4 Fire-related fatalities and casualties

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As the Incident Recording System (IRS) is a continually updated database, the statistics published in this release may not match those held locally by FRSs and revisions may occur in the future (see Introduction for further detail). This may be particularly relevant for fire-related fatalities<sup>11</sup> where a coroner's report could lead to revisions in the data sometime after the incident. It should also be noted that the numbers of fire-related fatalities are prone to year-on-year fluctuations due to relatively low numbers.

The figures in this release refer to records of incidents that had reached the IRS by 12 September 2018, when a snapshot of the database was taken. In addition, statisticians at the Home Office have improved the handling of historic revisions supplied by FRSs for figures from 2010/11 onwards.

Given the unprecedented scale of the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017, specific figures on the numbers of fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties from it are included in the relevant narrative and the box below.

### Box 1: The Grenfell Tower fire

This box contains information provided by London Fire Brigade<sup>12</sup> on the fire that took place at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. The data in this release includes records of incidents that had reached the IRS by 12 September 2018, when a snapshot of the database was taken. As such, figures on the Grenfell Tower fire may be revised in subsequent releases. When the snapshot of the database was taken London Fire Brigade reported:

- 71 fire-related fatalities<sup>13</sup>
- 109 non-fatal casualties, of which:
  - 67 were 'hospital severe'
  - 10 were 'hospital slight'
  - 1 required 'first aid' and;
  - 31 had 'precautionary checks'.

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<sup>11</sup> For the purpose of publications, a fire-related fatality includes the number of fatal casualties that were recorded as 'fire-related' or 'don't know' and only excludes those that were recorded as 'not fire-related'.

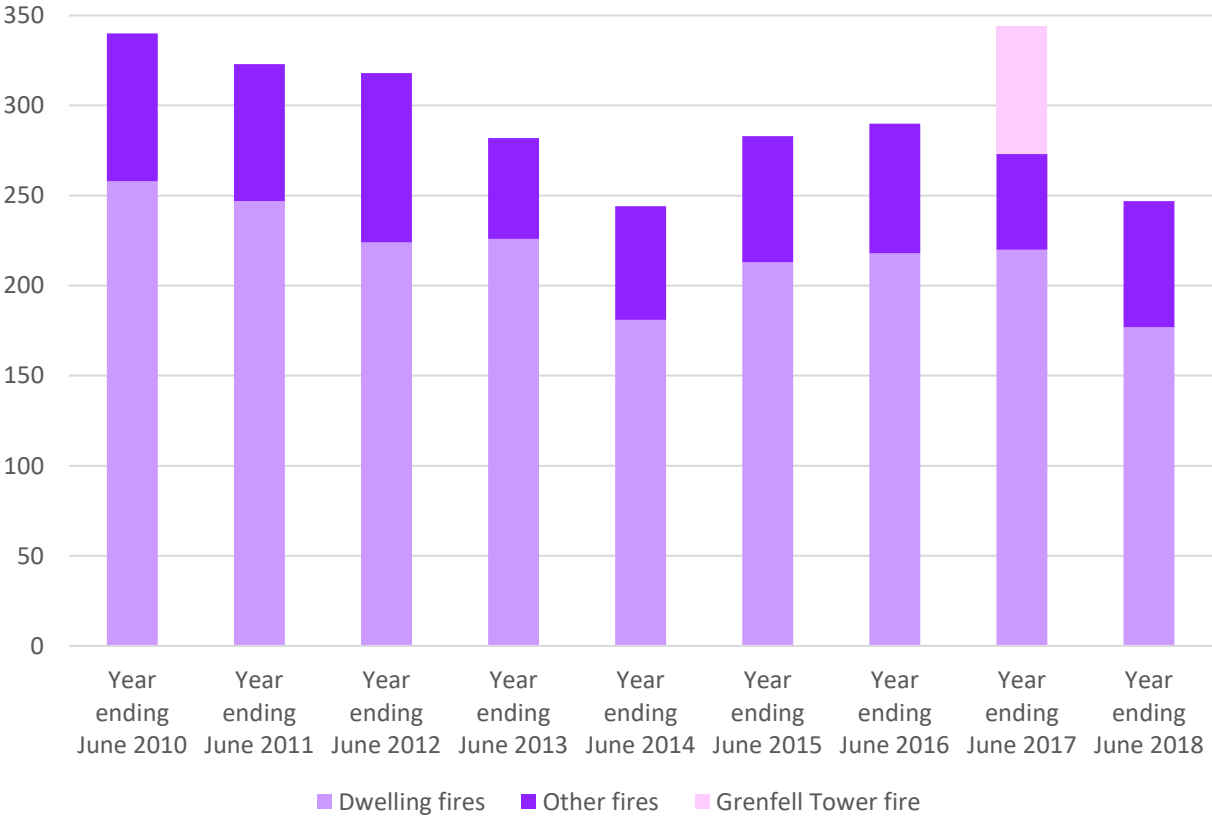
<sup>12</sup> London Fire Brigade's records of the number of fatalities are based on information provided by the Metropolitan Police Service. The fire-related fatalities figure of 80 was announced by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 10 July 2017. MPS have since revised this number to 71 fire-related fatalities on 16 November 2017. The non-fatal casualty numbers are derived from numbers published by the London Ambulance Service for people who attended hospital together with those recorded by the London Fire Brigade who received first aid or required a 'precautionary check'.

<sup>13</sup> On 29 January 2018, a further victim, who had initially survived the fire, passed away in hospital. As a result, a figure of 72 fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire has been widely cited in the media and the Grenfell Tower inquiry honoured her memory at the commemoration hearings. However, at the time of writing the Metropolitan Police had not yet added her to the official list of fatalities from the fire pending the results of a coroner's report which will determine whether her death was a direct result of the fire or caused by her pre-existing medical condition. She, therefore, remains counted in the list of non-fatal casualties.

### Fire-related fatalities

The number of fire-related fatalities in England has been on a general downward trend since 1981/82, when comparable figures first became available, though the numbers have fluctuated due to the relatively small numbers involved.

**Figure 4.1 Total fire-related fatalities in dwellings or other fires, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2018**

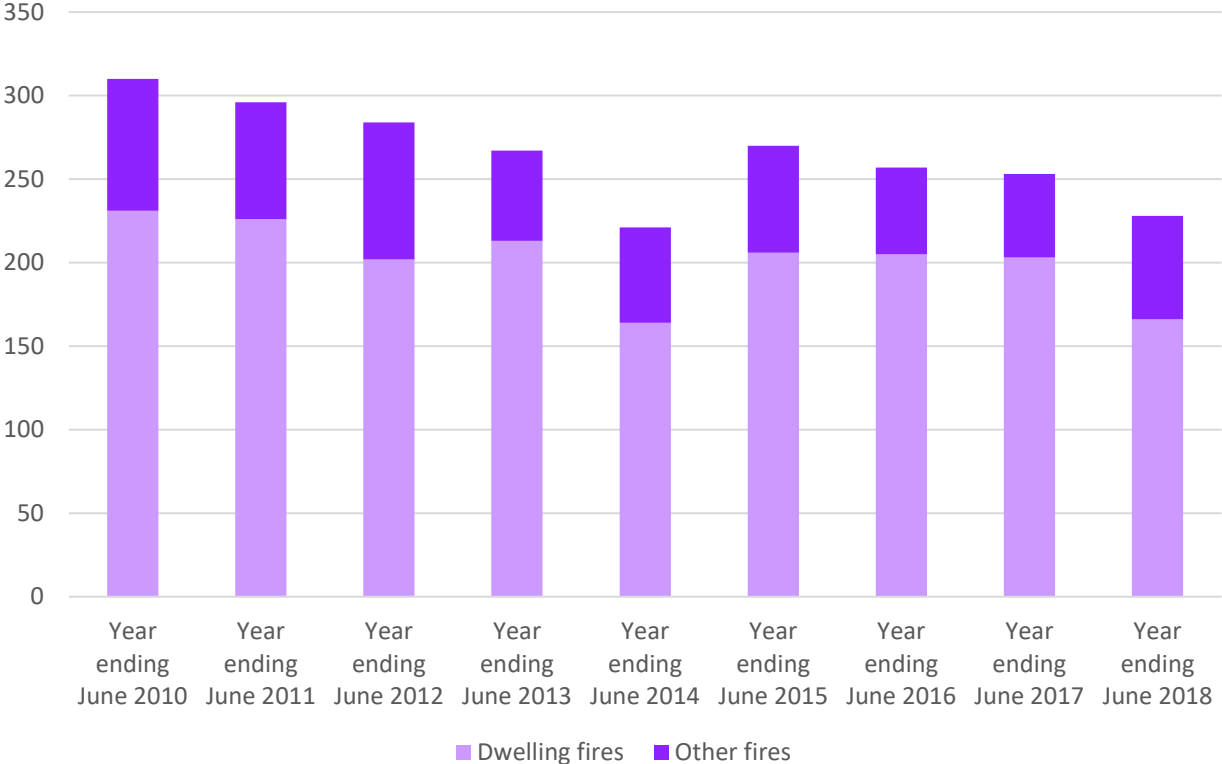


Source: FIRE0502

Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- There were **247 fire-related fatalities**. This compared with 344 in the year ending June 2017 (a decrease of 28%). The year ending June 2017 figure includes 71 fire-related fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire. (Source: FIRE0502)
- There were **177 fire-related fatalities in dwelling fires**. This compared with 291 in the year ending June 2017 (a decrease of 39%). The year ending June 2017 figure includes 71 fire-related fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire.
- **A very small proportion of fires resulted in a fire-related fatality**: 228 out of the 159,685 fires (0.14%). This proportion was unchanged from the previous year, when there were 253 fires with a fire-related fatality out of the 176,054 fires.

**Figure 4.2 Number of fires with a fire-related fatality in dwelling fires or other fires, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2018**



Source: Further breakdown of FIRE0502

- In the year ending June 2018 there was **one fire which resulted in a fatality out of the 805 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats (0.1%)**. This compares with five fires with a fatality out of the 727 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats (0.7%) in the previous year.

**Table 4.1 Percentage of dwelling fires attended by FRSs with a fire-related fatality, by dwelling type, England; year ending June 2018**

	House, bungalow, converted flat, other	Purpose-built flat –1 to 3 storeys	Purpose-built flat –4 to 9 storeys	Purpose-built flat –10 storeys or more
Number of dwelling fires	22,749	4,961	1,897	805
Number of fires with a fatality	118	39	8	1
Percentage of fires with a fatality	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%	0.1%

Source: Further breakdown of FIRE0205

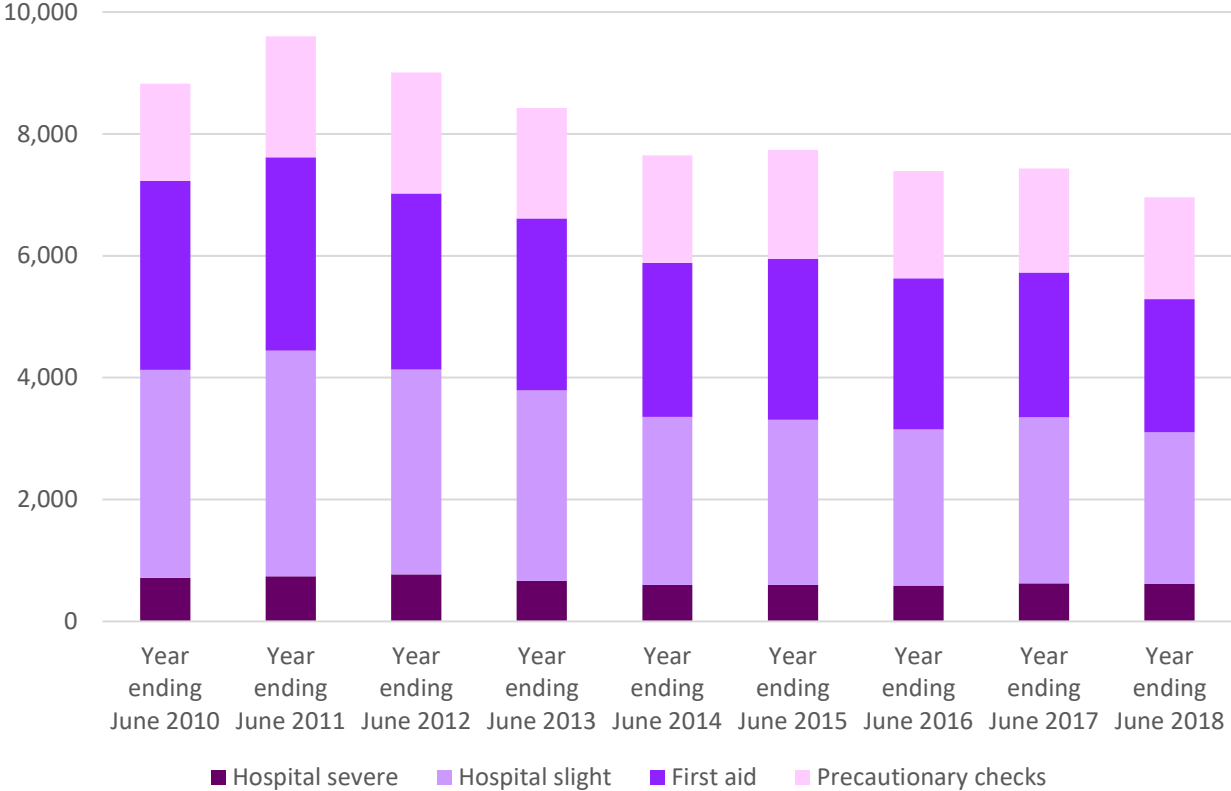
Further information on fire-related fatalities can be found in tables [0501](#), [0502](#) and [0205](#).

### Non-fatal casualties in fires

The number of non-fatal casualties<sup>14</sup> in fires in England had been on a downward trend since the mid-1990s, but it appears that the downward trend has slowed in the last few years and was relatively stable since 2014/15. However, the number of non-fatal casualties in the year ending June 2018 decreased by six per cent from the previous year, to around 7,000. While the fatality figures above are for those fatalities caused by the fire (i.e. fire-related) or when the cause was unknown, the casualty figures are for those resulting from a fire, whether the casualties were caused by the fire or not.

<sup>14</sup> For more detailed technical definitions of fire-related non-fatal casualties, see the [Fire Statistics Definitions document](#). A further breakdown of the different types of non-fatal casualties is available in the published fire data tables.

**Figure 4.3 Total non-fatal casualties in fires by injury severity, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2018**



Source: FIRE0502

Specifically, in the year ending June 2018:

- There were **6,962 non-fatal casualties in fires**, a six per cent decrease compared with the previous year (7,434).
- There were **3,106 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment** a seven per cent decrease compared with the previous year (3,351). (Source: FIRE0502)
- There were **5,237 non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires**, a six per cent decrease compared with the previous year (5,571).

Further information on non-fatal casualties can be found in tables [0501](#), [0502](#) and [0205](#).

## 5 Summary of changes over time

Below is a table comparing the year ending June 2018 with the year ending June 2017, five years previous in 2012/13 and ten years previous (where available) in 2007/08.

Incident type	Year ending June 2018 compared with		
	Year ending June 2017	2012/13	2007/08
556,884 all incidents	576,545 -3% ↓	521,277 +7% ↑	791,746 -30% ↓
159,685 fires	176,054 -9% ↓	154,456 +3% ↑	293,920 -46% ↓
72,263 primary fires	77,362 -7% ↓	74,709 -3% ↓	115,271 -37% ↓
30,412 dwelling fires	30,732 -1% ↓	33,295 -9% ↓	41,336 -26% ↓
83,519 secondary fires	94,602 -12% ↓	72,497 +15% ↑	172,306 -52% ↓
3,903 chimney fires	4,090 -5% ↓	7,250 -46% ↓	6,343 -38% ↓
226,466 fire false alarms	225,899 <+1% ↑	231,767 -2% ↓	331,478 -32% ↓
170,733 non-fire incidents	174,592 -2% ↓	135,054 +26% ↑	166,348 +3% ↑
28,939 medical incidents	44,834 -35% ↓	14,686 +97% ↑	N/A <sup>15</sup>
247 fire-related fatalities	344 -28% ↓	286 -14% ↓	358 -31% ↓
177 fire-related fatalities in dwellings	291 -39% ↓	210 -16% ↓	275 -36% ↓
6,962 non-fatal casualties	7,434 -6% ↓	8,429 -17% ↓	10,319 -33% ↓
3,106 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment	3,351 -7% ↓	3,811 -18% ↓	5,749 -46% ↓
5,237 non-fatal casualties in dwellings	5,571 -6% ↓	6,738 -22% ↓	8,424 -38% ↓

<sup>15</sup> Medical incidents were first recorded in the IRS in 2009/10. This means a ten-year comparison is unavailable.

## 6 National comparisons

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England, Scotland and Wales all use the Home Office's Incident Recording System and therefore data are comparable. All three nations publish more detailed information on fire incidents, focusing on the particular user needs in their nation. Below are some comparisons of the key measures.

- There were around 74,000 primary fires in England, 11,000 in Scotland and 4,000 in Wales attended by FRSs in 2017/18. The number of primary fires attended corresponds to rates per million people of 1,334 in England, 1,964 in Scotland and 1,381 in Wales. (Source: FIRE0103)
- There were 334 fire-related fatalities in England, 44 in Scotland and 15 in Wales in 2017/18. This corresponds to rates per million people of 6 in England, 8 in Scotland and 5 in Wales. (Source FIRE0501)
- There were approximately 7,300 non-fatal casualties from fires in England, 1,100 in Scotland and 500 in Wales in 2017/18. This corresponds to rates per million people of 131 in England, 205 in Scotland and 168 in Wales. (Source: FIRE0501)

All of these figures have been on a downward trend over the past decade.

The latest fire statistical release for Scotland can be found at:

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/fire-and-rescue-statistics.aspx>

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

Northern Ireland fire statistics are published by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service using data from a system similar to the Incident Recording System, which means that they are not directly comparable to English, Welsh and Scottish data. Their latest fire statistical releases can be found at: <https://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the National Statistics Code of Practice and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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