



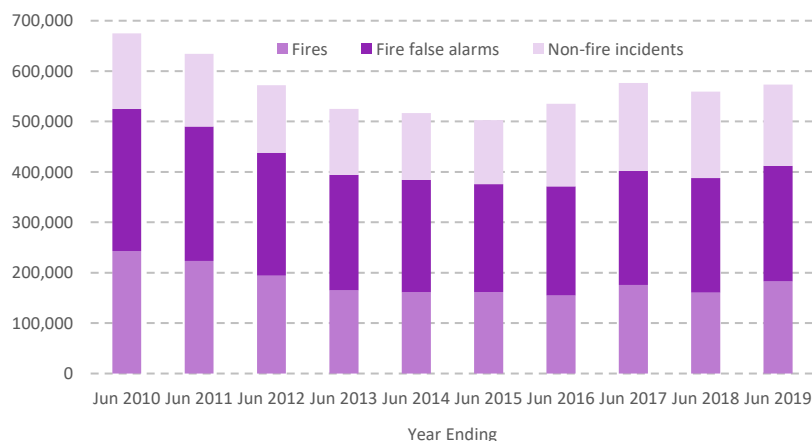
Fire & rescue incident statistics, England, year ending June 2019

This release contains statistics about incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England for the year ending June 2019. The statistics are sourced from the Home Office's online Incident Recording System (IRS) and include statistics on all incidents, fire-related fatalities and casualties from fires.

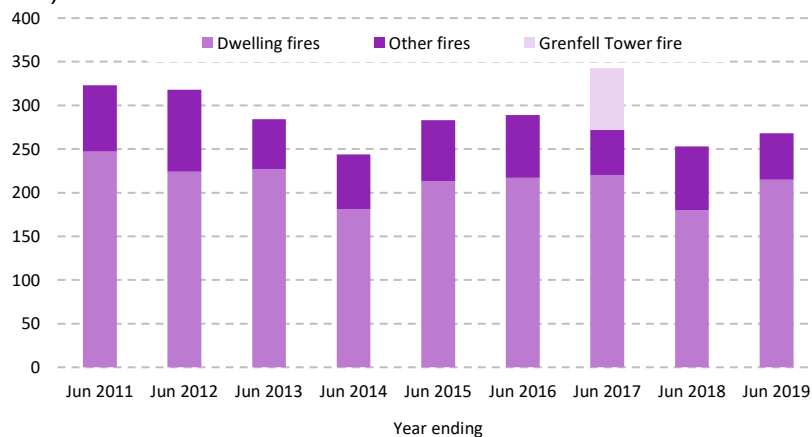
Key results



FRSs attended **573,221 incidents** in the year to June 2019. This was a two per cent increase compared with the previous year (559,347). Of these incidents, there were **182,491 fires**. This was a 14 per cent increase compared with the previous year (160,408) and was driven by a 28 per cent increase in secondary fires linked to the hot, dry 2018 summer.



There were **268 fire-related fatalities** in the year ending June 2019 compared with 253 in the previous year (an increase of 6%).



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1 Incident summary

Incidents that FRSs attend are categorised into three main types - [fires attended](#), [non-fire incidents](#) and fire false alarms.

Key results

In the year ending June 2019:

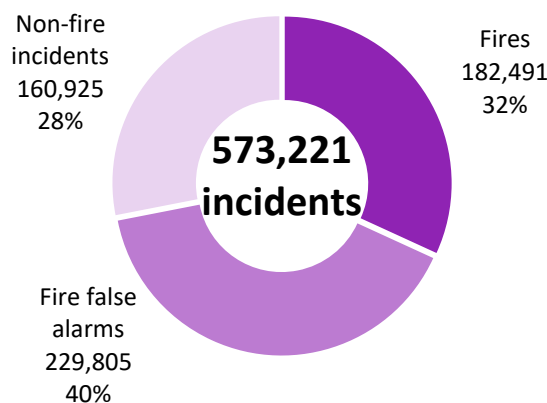
- **573,221 incidents were attended** by FRSs. This was a two per cent increase compared with the previous year (559,347). This was driven by an increase in the number of fires attended, and in particular, secondary fires. ([Source: FIRE0102](#))
- Of all incidents attended by FRSs, **fires accounted for 32 per cent, fire false alarms 40 per cent and non-fire incidents 28 per cent.** ([Source: FIRE0102](#))

The number of incidents attended by FRSs in England peaked in 2003/04, at over one million incidents. For around a decade, there was a general decline in all three categories of 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 573,000 incidents in the year ending June 2019.

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 2019 has been predominantly driven by a 28 per cent increase in non-fire incidents over this time. The increase in non-fire incidents was mainly due to two factors – medical incidents and collaboration incidents - which are discussed further [below](#).

FRSs attended 229,805 fire false alarms. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (227,228). Fire false alarms 'due to apparatus' accounted for around two thirds (65%) of fire false alarms.

Chart 1: Total incidents attended by type of incident, England; year ending June 2019



Source: [FIRE0102](#)

Notes:

1. Non-fire incidents include non-fire false alarms

2 Fires attended

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

Primary fires are those that meet at least one of the following criteria – occurred in a (non-derelict) building, vehicle or outdoor structure or involved a fatality, casualty or rescue or were attended by five or more pumping appliances.

Secondary fires are generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property.

Key results

In the year ending June 2019:

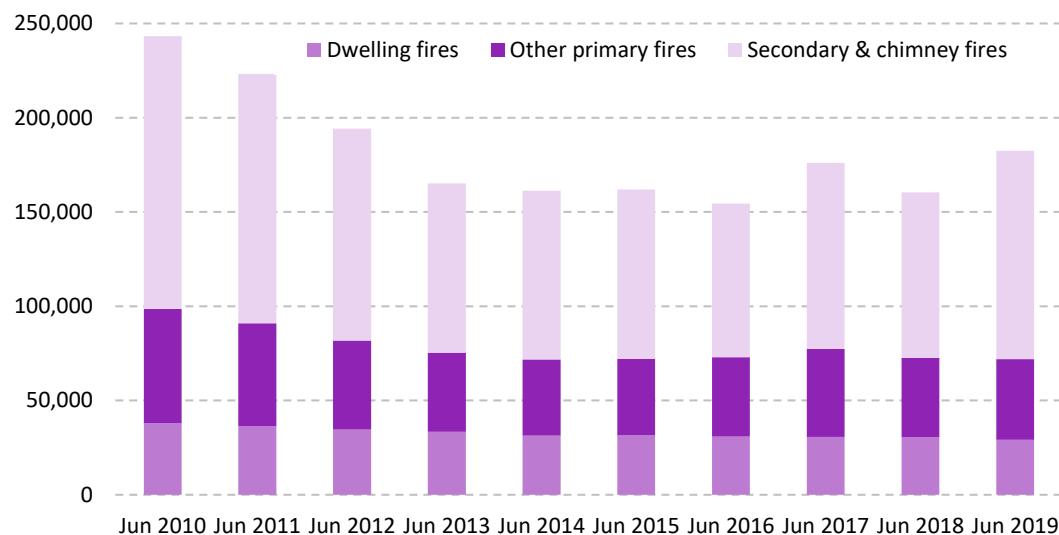
- **FRSs attended 182,491 fires.** This was a 14 per cent increase compared with the previous year (160,408). This increase can be attributed to the **greatest number of secondary fires in any quarter since 2011/12 Q1 – Apr to Jun** (43,030 in 2018/19 Q2 – Jul to Sept 2018) linked to the hot, dry summer in 2018. There were 28 per cent more secondary fires in the year ending June 2019 (107,154) than in the year ending June 2018 (83,809). Secondary fires display seasonality, with more occurring during the hotter and drier months. ([Source: FIRE0102](#))
- There were **71,961 primary fires** (39% of the 182,491 fires attended). This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (72,674). The largest decreases in primary fires were for dwelling fires (5% decrease) and road vehicle fires (4% decrease). Other outdoor fires¹ increased by 31 per cent, linked to the hot, dry summer in 2018, as with secondary fires, but these are a relatively small category of primary fires. ([Source: FIRE0102](#))
- **Total deliberate fires increased by 16 per cent** from 73,697 to 85,256. This reflected large increases in deliberate secondary fires (22%) and primary outdoor fires (26%) whilst deliberate dwelling fires, deliberate other building fires and deliberate road vehicle fires all decreased (by 9%, 5% and 5% respectively). ([Source: FIRE0401](#))
- Of the 29,128 primary dwelling fires attended by FRSs, just under three-quarters (74%) were in houses, bungalows, converted flats and other properties, whilst just over a quarter (26%) were in purpose-built flats. When looking at fires in purpose-built flats in more detail, 17 per cent of all dwelling fires were in purpose-built low-rise (1-3 storeys) flats/maisonettes; seven per cent were in purpose-built medium-rise (4-9 storeys) flats and **three per cent were in purpose-built high-rise (10+ storeys) flats.** FRSs attended **798 fires in purpose-built high-rise (10+ storeys) flats**, a two per cent decrease compared with the previous year (811). ([Source: FIRE0205](#))

The total number of fires attended by FRSs decreased for around a decade – falling by two thirds from a peak of around 474,000 in 2003/04 to around 154,000 in 2012/13. The total number of fires has fluctuated since 2012/13, although the year ending June 2019 showed one of the highest figures over this time (182,491).

¹ Fires in either primary outdoor locations (that is, aircraft, boats, trains and outdoor structures such as post or telephone boxes, bridges, tunnels etc.), or fires in non-primary outdoor locations that have casualties or five or more pumping appliances attending.

Whilst primary fires decreased by one per cent compared with the year ending June 2018, secondary fires increased by 28 per cent. This was mainly because the number of secondary fires attended in 2018/19 Q2 (43,030) was the fourth highest quarterly figure since the IRS was introduced in April 2009 and the highest since 2011/12 Q1. This can be attributed to the hot, dry summer experienced in much of England in 2018.

Chart 2: Total fires attended by type of fire, England; year ending June 2010 to year ending June 2019



Source: [FIRE0102](#)

The number of secondary fires attended throughout the year shows seasonality due to the weather, with hotter and drier weather, generally in quarters one and two (April to September), showing more secondary fires compared to the colder and wetter months in quarters three and four (October to March). Further detail on this can be found in [Fire and rescue incident statistics, England: year ending December 2018](#).

3 Non-fire incidents attended

FRSs attend many types of incident that are not fires or fire false alarms, these are known as **non-fire incidents** or special service incidents. Examples include flooding incidents, responding to road traffic collisions, animal assistance and collaboration incidents such as effecting entry/exit and assisting other agencies (a complete list can be found in fire data table [FIRE0902](#)).

Key results

In the year ending June 2019:

- FRSs attended **160,925 non-fire incidents**. This was a six per cent decrease compared with the previous year (171,711). This decrease was a mixed picture with a large decrease in medical incidents being partly offset by increases in other non-fire incident types. (Source: [FIRE0901](#), [FIRE0902](#))
- FRSs attended **18,489 medical incidents**. This was a 37 per cent decrease compared with the previous year (29,370). The removal of support for the emergency medical responding trials by the Fire Brigades Union in September 2017 ([described further below](#)) is likely to be driving this decrease. (Source: [FIRE0901](#), [FIRE0902](#))
- FRSs attended **42,450 collaborating incidents**². This was a six per cent increase compared with the previous year (40,179) and continued the increases in recent years, reflecting the duty to collaborate legislation.
- FRSs attended **31,172 road traffic collisions** (RTCs, a 3% increase on the previous year) and **12,799 flooding incidents** (a 23% per cent decrease). The number of RTCs and flooding incidents have been broadly stable since comparable information became available in 2009/10. (Source: [FIRE0901](#), [FIRE0902](#))

There was a general decline in the number of non-fire incidents attended between 2007/08 and 2014/15. Since then, numbers have increased mainly due to increases in two incident types.

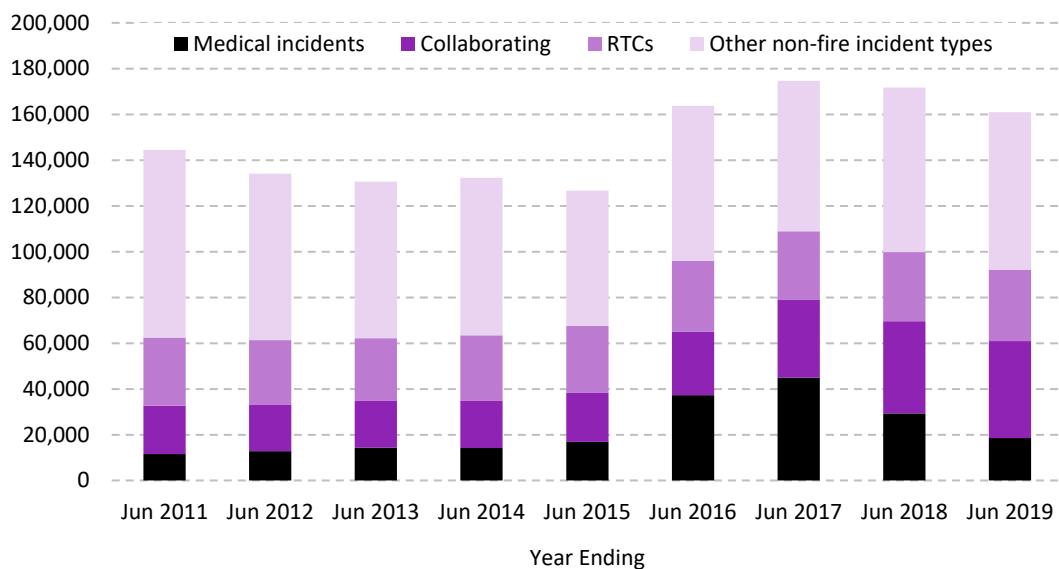
As Chart 3 (below) shows, from 2014/15 to 2016/17 around two-thirds (61%) of the increase in non-fire incidents was accounted for by a rise in the number of medical incidents attended. The large increase in the number of medical incidents attended coincided with the introduction, in 2015, of the National 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. Recently, the number of these incidents has decreased to a level slightly higher than before the trials.

Between 2014/15 and 2018/19 the number of collaborating incidents attended almost doubled (from 21,116 to 41,602), as can be seen in Chart 3 (below). The increases coincide with the [duty to collaborate legislation](#) which announced a statutory duty to collaborate imposed on all three emergency services.

² The following non-fire incident types are classed as incidents that could involve collaborating: "Effecting entry/exit", "Assist other agencies" and "Suicide/attempts".

For more detailed information on EMR and collaborating incidents see table [FIRE0901](#) and statistical release '[Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services, England](#)'.

Chart 3: Total non-fire incidents attended by FRSs, England; year ending June 2011 to year ending June 2019



Source: [FIRE0901](#)

Notes: Consistent detailed non-fire incident information was only available from April 2010.

4 Fire-related fatalities and casualties

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 the [revisions section](#) for further detail). This may be particularly relevant for fire-related fatalities where a coroner's report could lead to revisions in the data some time 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.

Fire-related fatalities are those that would not have otherwise occurred had there not been a fire. For the purpose of publications, a fire-related fatality includes those that were recorded as 'don't know'.

Non-fatal casualties are those resulting from a fire, whether the casualty was caused by the fire or not.

Key results

In the year ending June 2019:

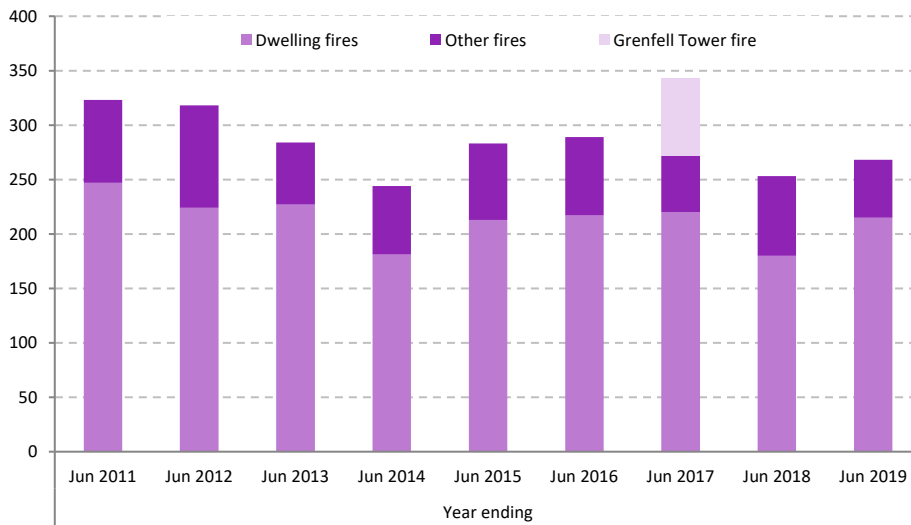
- There were **268 fire-related fatalities** ([see front page key results](#) for chart) compared with 253 in the previous year (an increase of 6%). Fire-related fatalities have been on a downward trend since the 1980s but have plateaued in recent years. ([Source: FIRE0502](#))
- There were **215 fire-related fatalities in dwelling fires**, compared with 180 in the previous year (an increase of 19%). This increase was the main factor behind the increase in all fire-related fatalities.
- There were **7,128 non-fatal casualties**³, a one per cent increase compared with 7,052 in the previous year. Of these, **3,164 were casualties requiring hospital treatment**, a two per cent increase compared with the 3,114 in the previous year. ([Source: FIRE0502](#))
- A **very small proportion of fires resulted in a fire-related fatality**: 244 out of the 71,961 primary fires (0.34%). This proportion was slightly higher than the previous year, when there were 231 fires with a fire-related fatality out of the 72,674 primary fires (0.32%). There were five fires which resulted in a fatality, from the 798 fires in purpose-built high-rise (10+ storeys) flats in the year ending June 2019.

The number of fire-related fatalities in England was on a general downward trend from 1981/82, when comparable figures first became available. Though the numbers have fluctuated due to the relatively small numbers involved, over recent years the number of fatalities has plateaued. There was an exceptionally high figure in 2017/18 due to the Grenfell Tower fire⁴.

³ For more detailed technical definitions of fire-related and 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.

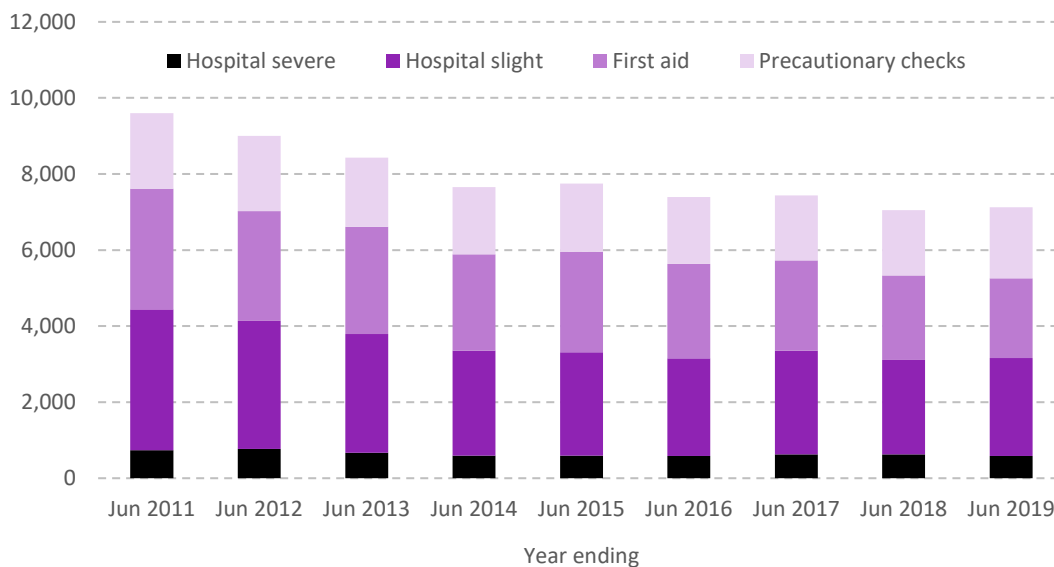
⁴ London Fire Brigade's records of the number of fatalities are based on information provided by the Metropolitan Police Service. The fire-related fatalities figure of 80 was announced by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 10 July 2017. MPS have since revised this number to 71 fire-related fatalities 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'. 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 pending a final decision from the coroner and the subsequent updating of any formal records in the police and fire systems regarding this case.

Chart 4: Total fire-related fatalities, England; year ending June 2011 to year ending June 2019



The number of non-fatal casualties in fires in England had been on a downward trend since the mid-1990s, but it appears the downward trend has slowed in recent years.

Chart 5: Total non-fatal casualties in fires by injury severity, England; year ending June 2011 to year ending June 2019



Source: [FIRE0502](#)

Notes: These figures are for all casualties in fires, whether the fire caused the casualty or not.

5 Summary of changes over time

Below is a table comparing the year ending June 2019 with the year ending June 2018, five years previously in 2013/14 and ten years previously (where available) in 2008/09.

Incident type	Year ending June 2019 compared with		
	Year ending June 2018	2013/14	2008/09
573,221 all incidents	559,347 +2% ↑	526,812 +9% ↑	717,805 -20% ↓
182,491 fires	160,408 +14% ↑	171,349 +7% ↑	249,237 -27% ↓
71,961 primary fires	72,674 -1% ↓	73,230 -2% ↓	104,348 -31% ↓
29,128 dwelling fires	30,565 -5% ↓	31,910 -9% ↓	38,584 -25% ↓
26,216 accidental dwelling fires	27,367 -4% ↓	28,613 -8% ↓	32,428 -19% ↓
107,154 secondary fires	83,809 +28% ↑	92,132 +16% ↑	136,744 -22% ↓
229,805 fire false alarms	227,228 +1% ↑	224,119 +3% ↑	312,914 -27% ↓
160,925 non-fire incidents	171,711 -6% ↓	131,344 +23% ↑	155,654 +3% ↑
18,489 medical incidents	29,370 -37% ↓	13,649 +35% ↑	.. ¹
268 fire-related fatalities	253 +6% ↑	278 -4% ↓	323 -17% ↓
215 fire-related fatalities in dwellings	180 +19% ↑	217 -1% ↓	255 -16% ↓
7,128 non-fatal casualties	7,052 +1% ↑	7,819 -9% ↓	9,227 -23% ↓
3,164 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment	3,114 +2% ↑	3,453 -8% ↓	5,030 -37% ↓
5,210 non-fatal casualties in dwellings	5,295 -2% ↓	6,118 -15% ↓	7,455 -30% ↓

Source: [Fire statistics data tables](#)

Notes:

1. Medical incidents were first separately recorded in the IRS in 2009/10. This means a ten-year comparison is unavailable.

6 National comparisons

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 and rescue incidents, focusing on the particular user needs in their nation.

Key results

In 2018/19:

- There were **over 705,000 incidents attended by FRs in Great Britain**. Approximately 576,000 of these were in England, 92,000 in Scotland and 37,000 in Wales. These figures correspond to rates per million people of 10,294 in England, 16,997 in Scotland and 11,686 in Wales. ([Source: FIRE0101](#))
- There were **over 88,000 primary fires attended by FRs in Great Britain**. Approximately 73,000 of these were in England, 10,000 in Scotland and 4,000 in Wales. These figures correspond to rates per million people of 1,308 in England, 1,922 in Scotland and 1,399 in Wales. ([Source: FIRE0103](#))
- There were **over 32,600 accidental dwelling fires attended by FRs in Great Britain**. Approximately 26,600 of these were in England, 4,600 in Scotland and 1,400 in Wales. These figures correspond to rates per million people of 474 in England, 851 in Scotland and 455 in Wales. ([Source: FIRE0201](#))
- There were **316 fire-related fatalities in Great Britain**. 251 of these were in England, 45 in Scotland and 20 in Wales. These figures correspond to rates per million people of 4 in England, 8 in Scotland and 6 in Wales. ([Source: FIRE0501](#))
- There were **8,750 non-fatal casualties in Great Britain**. 7,163 of these were in England, 1,191 in Scotland and 396 in Wales. These figures correspond to rates per million people of 128 in England, 219 in Scotland and 126 in Wales. ([Source: FIRE0501](#))

7 Further information

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 incident (also known as a Special Service). 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.

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 above 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 are 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 or via the user feedback form on the fire statistics collection page.

Revisions

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 2019. This includes incident records that were submitted to the IRS by 26 September 2019, when a snapshot of the database was taken for the purpose of analysis. As a snapshot of the dataset was taken on 26 September 2019, 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. 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.

Changes to this release and future releases

This release has been published using the new Home Office statistical release template. We [welcome comments](#) on the new format of release.

Other related publications

[Home Office](#) publish five other statistical releases covering fire and rescue services:

- [Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services in England](#): focuses on fires attended by fire and rescue services across England, and fire-related fatalities and non-fatal

casualties in those fires; including analyses of the causes of fires and smoke alarms ownership and operation.

- [Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services, England](#): focuses on non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services across England, including analysis on overall trends, fatalities and non-fatal casualties in non-fire incidents, and further detailed analysis of different categories of non-fire incidents.
- [Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics](#): focuses on total workforce numbers, workforce diversity and information regarding leavers and joiners; covers both pension fund income and expenditure and firefighters' pension schemes membership; and includes information on incidents involving attacks on firefighters.
- [Fire prevention and protection statistics, England](#): focuses on trends in smoke alarm ownership, fire prevention and protection activities by fire and rescue services.
- [Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services, England](#): covers statistics on trends in average response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services.

The [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#) publish one statistical release on fire:

[English housing survey: fire and fire safety report](#): focuses on the extent to which the existence of fire and fire safety features vary by household and dwelling type.

Fire statistics are published by the other UK nations:

Statistics for [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) are published based on the IRS. [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.

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