



Fire and Rescue Service

Operational Statistics Bulletin for England 2010-11



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Introduction

This Bulletin contains operational statistics relating to the Fire and Rescue Services in England for the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, focusing mainly on Personnel, Health and Safety, Fire Safety and Operational activities. Unless stated, data are sourced from annual returns from the 46 Fire and Rescue Authorities in England.

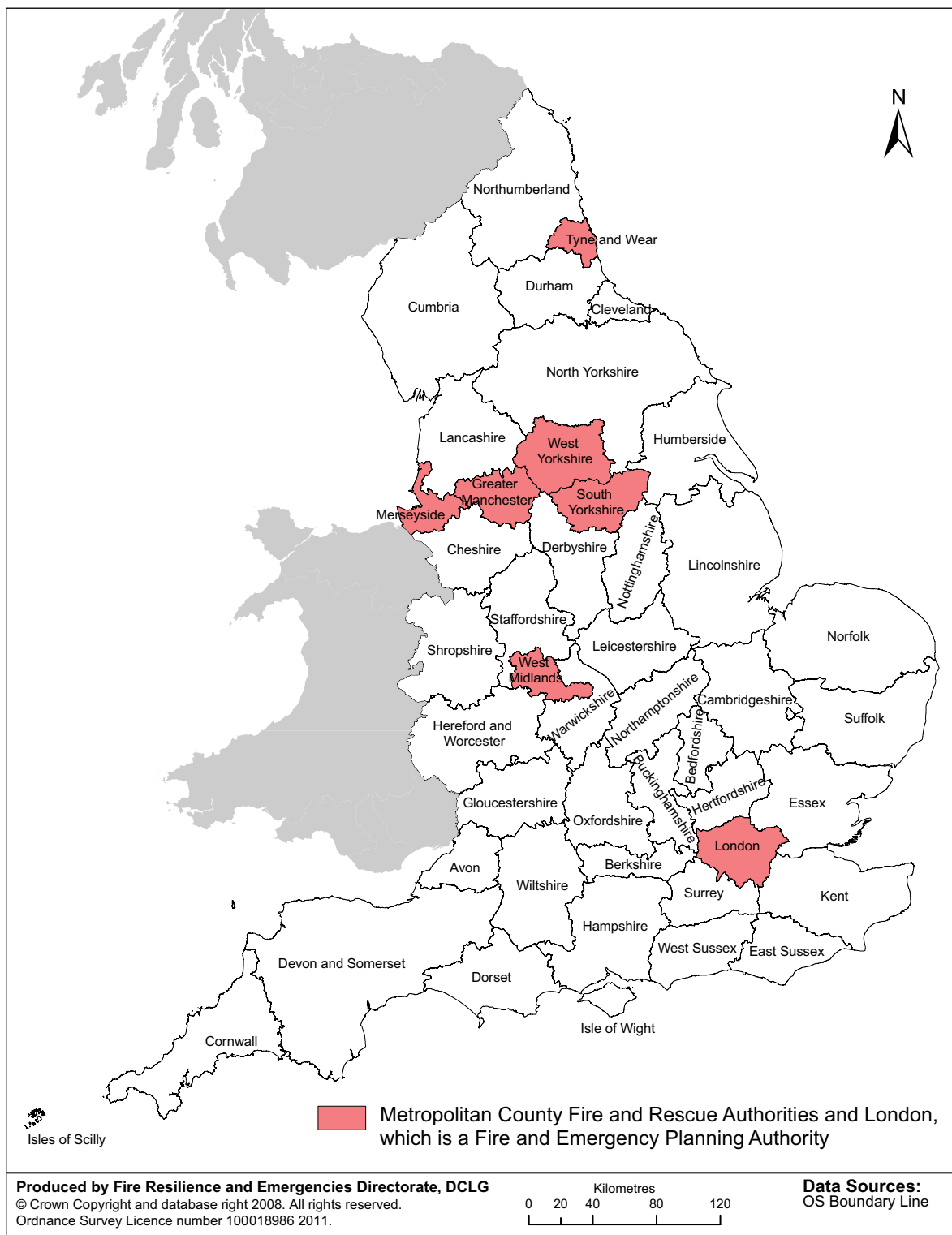
Detailed tables accompanying this bulletin are provided in appendices at:
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2010-11

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Fire Authorities in England



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Section 1

Fire and Rescue Service personnel

Number of staff in post

Table 1: Number of staff in post in England on 31 March, 2006-2011					
Year	Number of staff in post (FTE) ¹				
	Wholetime	Retained duty system ²	Fire control	Non-uniform	Total*
2006	30,596	11,321	1,470	7,231	50,618
2007	30,558	11,846	1,491	7,390	51,286
2008	30,580	11,773	1,522	7,959	51,835
2009	30,088	11,867	1,543	8,224	51,721
2010	29,735	11,899	1,510	8,509	51,652
2011	29,062	12,140	1,477	8,264	50,943
Change 2010 to 2011	-673	+241	-33	-245	-709
Percentage change 2010 to 2011	-2.3%	+2.0%	-2.2%	-2.9%	-1.4%
Change 2006 to 2011	-1,535	+819	+7	+1,033	+325
Percentage change 2006 to 2011	-5.0%	+7.2%	+0.5%	+14.3%	+0.6%

Source: Appendix Tables 2 and 3

Notes:

¹ In full time equivalents (FTEs) except retained duty system firefighters

² In 24-hour units of cover

* Totals may not add up due to rounding

- 1.1 As at 31 March 2011, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) fire and rescue service staff in England was 50,943, 1.4 per cent fewer than in March 2010.
- 1.2 The numbers of wholetime firefighters, fire control and non-uniform staff were each between two and three per cent lower at March 2011 compared to March 2010. Numbers of retained duty system firefighters rose by two per cent between April 2010 and March 2011.

Firefighter strength (FTE)

Table 2: Firefighter strength (FTE) by role in England at 31 March 2011			
Role	<i>Wholetime</i>	<i>Retained duty System¹</i>	Total*
Brigade Manager	159	0	159
Area Manager	195	0	195
Group Manager	640	1	641
Station Manager	1,574	45	1,619
Watch Manager	4,493	1,028	5,520
Crew Manager	3,907	2,080	5,987
Firefighter	18,093	8,986	27,080
All Firefighters*	29,062	12,140	41,202

Source: Appendix Table 3

Notes:

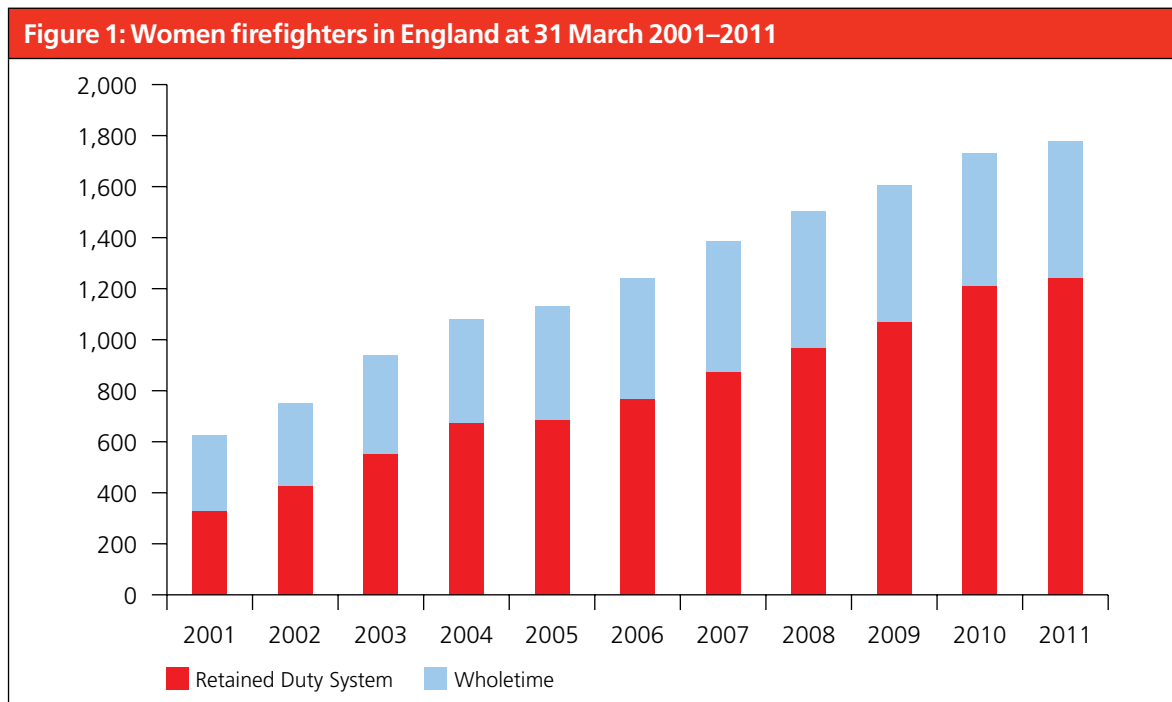
¹ In 24-hour units of cover

* Totals may not add up due to rounding

- 1.3 At 31 March 2011, in England, the total firefighters' strength (full time equivalent wholetime and 24 hour units of cover retained duty system) was 41,202, one per cent less compared to the year before.

Firefighter numbers by gender and ethnicity

- 1.4 Firefighters in England are predominantly male and white. However, the proportion of women firefighters has increased steadily from 1.4 per cent in 2001 to 4.1 per cent in 2011 (Figure 1).



Source: Appendix Table 6

- 1.5 The percentage of firefighters from minority ethnic backgrounds has also increased steadily from 1.5 per cent in 2002 to 3.2 per cent in 2011¹. The percentage of staff whose ethnicity was reported as 'not stated' also increased from 2.7 per cent in 2002 to 10 per cent at 31 March 2011.

¹ Data prior to 2002 was not comparable. Ethnic minority staff does not include 'other white'.

Table 3: Firefighters by gender and ethnicity in England on 31 March 2001–2011

	Gender		Ethnicity		
	Men	Women	White ¹	Ethnic minority	Not stated per cent
2001	98.6	1.4	**	**	**
2002	98.3	1.7	95.8	1.5	2.7
2003	97.9	2.1	92.7	1.9	5.4
2004	97.6	2.4	94.7	2.1	3.2
2005	97.5	2.5	94.4	2.2	3.4
2006	97.2	2.8	92.7	2.5	4.8
2007	96.9	3.1	90.7	2.6	6.7
2008	96.7	3.3	90.8	2.8	6.7
2009	96.4	3.6	88.6	2.9	8.5
2010	96.1	3.9	88.0	3.1	8.9
2011	95.9	4.1	86.8	3.2	10.0

Source: Appendix Tables 6 and 7

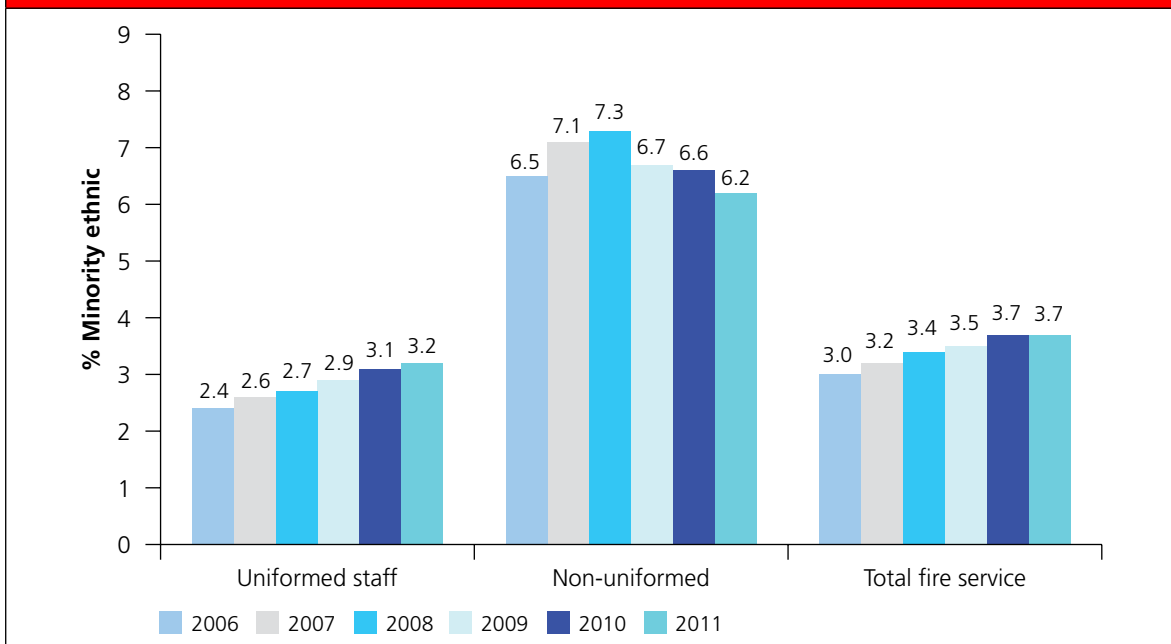
Notes:

** Data prior to 2002 not comparable

¹ Includes 'Other White'

Ethnicity

Figure 2: Proportion of FRS minority ethnic staff in England 2006–2011



Source: Appendix Table 7

Notes:

Ethnic minority staff excludes 'Other White'

- 1.6 The proportion of ethnic minority staff in Fire and Rescue Services increased from 3.0 per cent in 2006 to 3.7 per cent in 2011.
- 1.7 The numbers of uniformed staff² from ethnic minority background increased from just over 1,100 staff on 31 March 2006 to 1,400 in 2011 – from 2.4 to 3.2 per cent of all uniformed staff (Table 7 in the statistical appendices³).

Leavers

- 1.8 During 2010-11, 3,936 staff left the Fire and Rescue Services⁴ – 7.2 per cent of all personnel, slightly more than the 6.8 per cent of staff who left in 2009-10.
- 1.9 The most common reason for leaving varied greatly by type of staff, for example:
- of the 231 redundancies, eighty per cent were non-uniformed staff
 - three quarters of wholetime firefighters who left, did so on retirement, compared to eleven per cent of other staff.
- 1.10 In total, 1,345 retained duty system firefighters and 1,338 wholetime firefighters left Fire and Rescue Services during 2010-11, compared to 1,174 and 1,622, respectively, during 2009-10.

² Wholetime, retained and fire control

³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2010-11>

⁴ Includes 373 staff re-employed by another Fire and Rescue Service or employed as non-uniformed by the same Fire and Rescue Service

Table 4: FRS leavers by reasons for leaving in England in 2010-11					
Reasons for leaving	<i>Number of staff leaving</i>				
	<i>Wholetime</i>	<i>Retained duty system</i>	<i>Fire control</i>	<i>Support</i>	Total
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds	25	31	0	14	70
Medical discharge	32	33	2	11	78
Resignation due to harassment or discrimination	1	0	0	1	2
Poor performance/efficiency	13	10	0	6	29
Compulsory redundancy	2	5	16	25	48
Voluntary redundancy	1	12	6	164	183
Early retirement	76	26	4	19	125
Normal retirement	912	66	25	156	1,159
Resignation to take other employment outside the Fire and Rescue Service	97	402	27	11	537
Deceased	11	13	0	11	35
Other reasons	80	731	36	432	1,279
Total staff leaving (excluding re-employment)	1,250	1,329	116	850	3,545
Re-employment by another Fire and Rescue Service	81	10	3	279	373
Re-employment as support personnel within the same Fire and Rescue Service	7	6	5	-	18
Total staff leaving (including re-employment)	1,338	1,345	124	1,129	3,936

Source: Appendix Tables 4 and 5

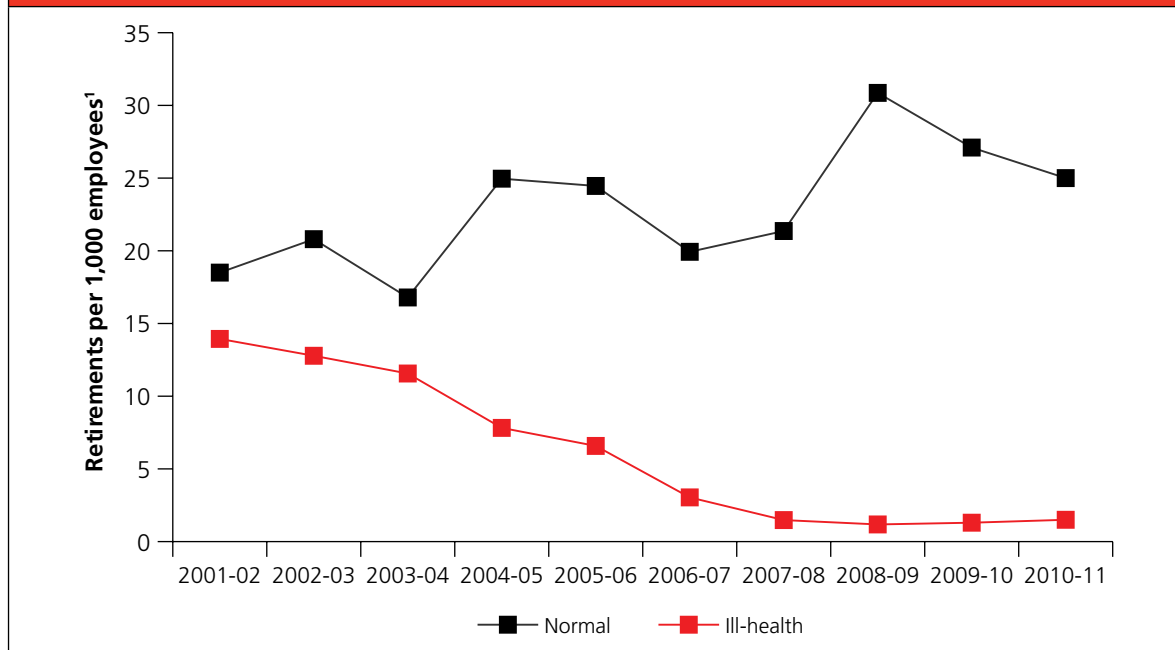
Notes:

¹ Other reasons include end of fixed term contract, personal/work commitments and moving form area

Retirements

- 1.11 Ill-health retirements in the Fire and Rescue Service at 31 March 2011 remained much lower than just a few years ago. In 2010-11, there were 1.5 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees, slightly higher than in 2009-10 (when there were 1.3 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees), but still much lower than prior to 2007-08 (See Figure 3).
- 1.12 As highlighted by the figures on number of staff leaving the Fire and Rescue Service, normal retirements in the last three years have been the highest in the last 10 years. The main reason for this was the addition, nationally, of an extra watch at the end of the 1970s. Many of the people recruited at that time are now reaching retirement age.

Figure 3: Retirements per 1,000 employees in England, 2001-02 to 2010-11



Source: Appendix Table 8

Notes:

¹ Average strength figure taken over 2 years

Section 2

Health and safety

Firefighters' injuries

2.1 The numbers and types of injuries reported by each Fire and Rescue Service are shown in Appendix Tables 9a-d.

Table 5: Injuries sustained by wholetime and retained firefighters during training, operational incidents and routine activities in England, 2006 to 2011				
Year	RIDDOR ¹			All personnel injured
	Major injuries ²	Other over 3 day injuries ³	Fatal injuries	
2005-06	71	955	0	4,593
2006-07	113	939	2	4,312
2007-08	106	910	5	4,291
2008-09	83	828	1	3,828
2009-10	78	785	3	3,840
2010-11	74	747	2	3,495

Source: Appendix Tables 9a-d

Notes:

¹ Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

² A list of 'major' injury types can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/guidance.htm>

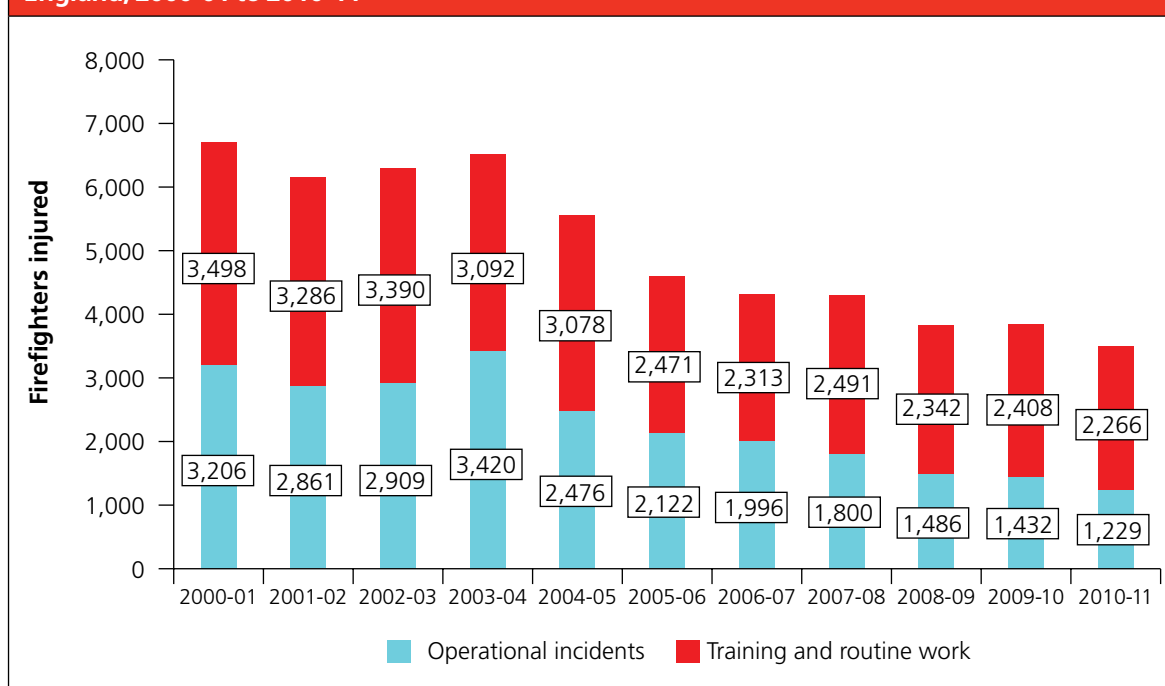
³ Injuries which are not classified as 'major' but as a result of which an individual was off work or unable to do their full range of normal duties for more than 3 days

2.2 In 2010-11, two firefighters died in a fire in high rise flats.

2.3 The overall number of injuries sustained by firefighters (during training, operational incidents and routine activities) during 2010-11 was 3,495 – nine per cent fewer compared to 2009-10 (3,840). In 2010-11, some Fire and Rescue Authorities introduced new practical training courses and poster awareness campaigns to prevent slips, trips and falls, which might have contributed to this reduction.

- 2.4 The total number of RIDDOR⁵ reportable injuries was 821 in 2010-11, five per cent lower than 2009-10 (863). Overall, 74 'major' injuries were reported during 2010-11, which is lower than average for recent years. Meanwhile 'over three day' injuries were also lower than the previous year (down 5 per cent – See Table 5 and Appendix Table 9).
- 2.5 Figure 4 illustrates the downward trend in numbers of firefighters injured during operational incidents, training and routine work. During 2010-11 over one third of firefighter injuries occurred at operational incidents (see Appendix Table 9).

Figure 4: Firefighters injured during operational incidents, training and routine work in England, 2000-01 to 2010-11



Source: Appendix Tables 9a-d

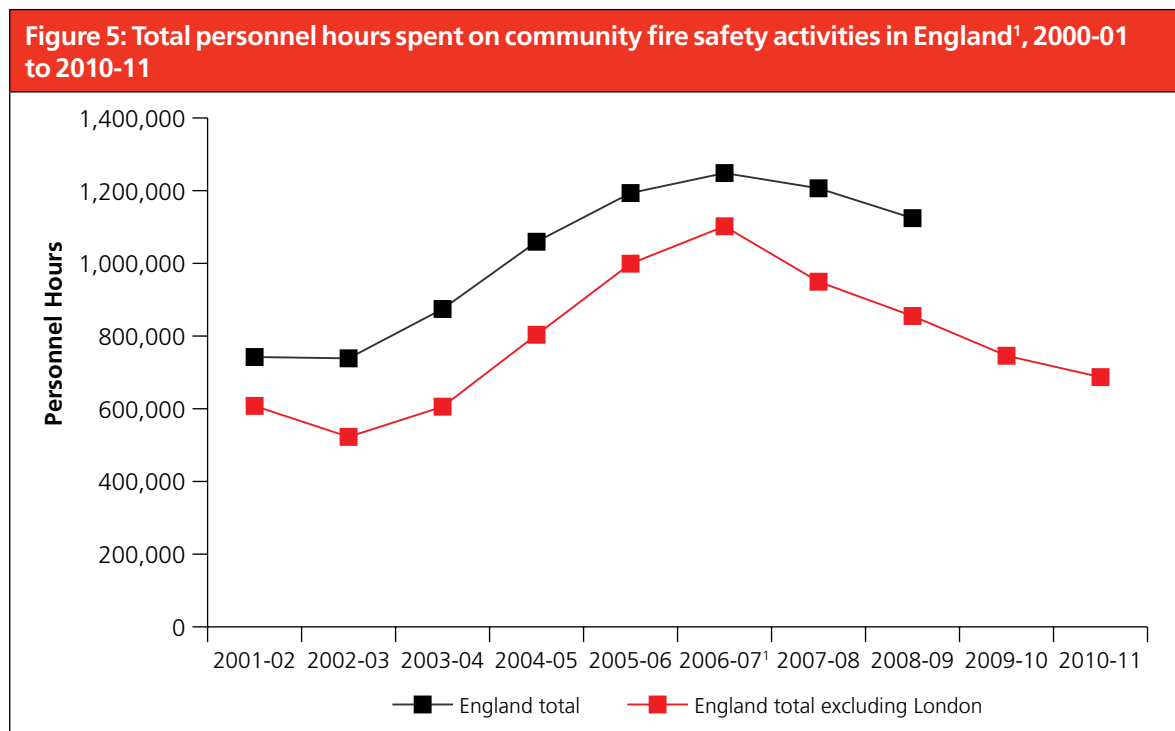
⁵ Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/guidance.htm>. An injury must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive if it is of a type listed by RIDDOR, or if it results in the injured person being away from work or unable to do their full range of their normal duties for more than three days.

Section 3

Community fire safety

Campaigns and initiatives

3.1 Fire and Rescue Services have a duty to undertake community fire safety campaigns and initiatives. Typical activities include: home fire safety checks, arson prevention, promotional work with young people and other vulnerable groups. Time spent on campaigns and initiatives has declined since 2006-07. In 2010-11, personnel hours spent on campaigns and initiatives were eight per cent lower compared to 2009-10.



Source: Appendix Table 11

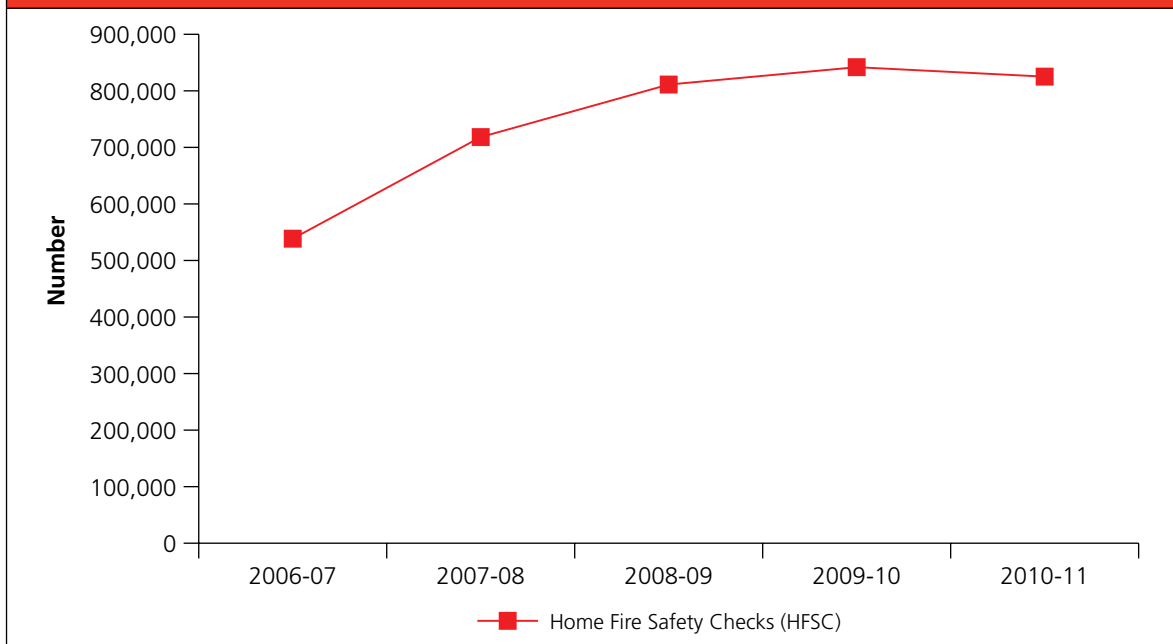
Notes:

¹ Data not provided for London for 2009-10 and 2010-11

Home fire safety checks

- 3.2 In 2010-11 Fire and Rescue Services personnel undertook over 800,000 home fire safety checks. Home Fire Safety checks are carried out on a targeted basis with various members of the community, including vulnerable groups and can result in the installation of fire prevention equipment, such as smoke alarms (See Appendix Table 12).

Figure 6: Home Fire Safety Checks carried out by the Fire and Rescue Service and partners in England, 2006-07 to 2010-11



Source: Appendix Table 12

Section 4

Operational activities

Incidents

- 4.1 About one in five incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service are not related to fire. Non-fire incidents cover a wide spectrum of activity, including:
- road traffic incidents
 - severe weather conditions such as flooding and high winds, collapsed buildings
 - rescue of trapped people, including those stuck in lifts; and
 - chemical, biological and radioactive exposures and spills.
- 4.2 The tables below are drawn from the Fire Statistics Monitor which was published on 24 June 2011⁶. This publication and its accompanying spreadsheets contain more detailed fire and rescue incident and casualty statistics.

⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/monitorq1q42011>

Fires and fire false alarms

Table 6: Incidents to which the Fire and Rescue Service responded in England, 2009-10 and 2010-11

	2009-10	2010-11(p)	% change 2009-10 to 2010-11 (p)
Fires			
Primary fires ¹	102,000	92,000	-10%
Secondary fires ²	132,000	128,000	-3%
Chimney fires	7,400	7,600	+4%
All fires	241,000	227,000	-6%
False Alarms	285,000	272,000	-5%
Non-fire incidents	143,000	134,000	-6%
Total	669,000	633,000	-5%

Source: DCLG Fire Statistics Monitor (FDR and Incident Recording System)

Notes:

The figures have been rounded, thus while numbers are correct, the table may nevertheless appear to give small discrepancies

¹ Includes fires in buildings, outdoor structure (excluding if derelict), vehicles (excluding if abandoned) or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

² Typically outdoor fires, not including property.

(p) Provisional data

Non-fire incidents

Table 7: Non-fire incidents in England, 2008-09 to 2010-11

Type of incident	2009-10		2010-11 (p)	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total non-fire incidents	142,600	100	134,300	100
Road traffic incidents	33,900	24.0	30,000	22.0
Non-road traffic incidents	108,700	76.0	104,300	78.0
of which:				
Spills and leaks	6,400	4.0	5,700	4.0
Flooding/Water provision	15,300	11.0	16,800	12.0
Effecting entry	15,700	11.0	15,700	12.0
Lift release	20,400	14.0	16,600	12.0
Other rescue/release of people	50,900	36.0	49,600	37.0

Source: DCLG Fire Statistics Monitor (Incident Recording System)

Notes:

The figures have been rounded, thus while numbers are correct, the table may nevertheless appear to give small discrepancies

Includes revisions since the publication of the Operational Statistical Bulletin for England 2009-10

(p) Provisional data

Section 5

Fire safety audits

- 5.1 Fire and Rescue Services deliver their enforcement duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire safety Order)⁷ through locally determined, risk-based programmes of audit/inspection visits to non-domestic premises. These audits form part of each authority's integrated risk management plan⁸.
- 5.2 Fire and Rescue Services carried out 84,600 audits in 2010-11 (5 per cent of premises known to the authorities), 6 per cent more compared to 2009-10 when 78,800 audits were reported. Fire and Rescue Services reported spending a similar amount of time on audits as in 2009-10, just over 400,000 personnel hours (See Appendix Tables 13 and 15).
- 5.3 The proportion of audits in residential or care buildings that were found to have a satisfactory level of compliance with the Fire Safety Order was 57 per cent, up from 53 per cent in 2009-10. Meanwhile satisfactory compliance in other buildings was 56 per cent, down from 58 per cent in 2009-10.
- 5.4 Audits identifying an unsatisfactory level of compliance led to 27,000 informal notifications, 3,400 enforcement notices, 529 prohibition notices, 124 alteration notices and 64 prosecutions under article 32 (failure to comply with the Fire Safety Order), Table 9 shows these by type of building.
- 5.5 Table 8 illustrates that Fire and Rescue Services are focusing their audit activities so that premises which are considered to represent the highest risks (as identified by the Fire Services Emergency Cover toolkit⁹) are more likely to be audited. The highest proportions were care homes (25 per cent were audited during 2010-11), followed by hospitals (23 per cent) and hotels (19 per cent).
- 5.6 The number of premises that became satisfactory following enforcement action (including informal notifications) increased from 9,100 in 2009-10 to 10,200 in 2010-11.
- 5.7 The articles of the Fire Safety Order where premises were mostly non-compliant were: article 9 (Risk assessment), 14 (Emergency routes and exits) and 17 (maintenance) (See Fire Safety Appendix Table 15).

⁷ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/firesafety/firesafetylaw/>

⁸ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/irmpcommunitysafety>

⁹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/doc/fsectoolkit012008.doc>

Table 8: Number of fire safety audits carried out in England, 2008-09 to 2010-11

Type of premises ¹	2008-09 (r)			2009-10 (r)			2010-11		
	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory	Number of audits	% of premises audited	% Satisfactory
Residential/care	22,500	8	52	25,100	8	53	28,100	9	57
Hospitals	900	15	59	1,100	20	60	1,300	23	63
Care homes	7,000	24	58	7,400	25	56	7,300	25	58
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	1,900	4	47	1,700	3	42	2,400	4	39
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	1,200	4	50	2,900	10	56	4,000	13	59
Hostels	700	14	55	700	14	61	900	17	64
Hotels	6,900	22	48	6,200	20	48	6,000	19	54
Houses converted to flats	700	3	46	900	4	56	1,100	5	59
Other sleeping accommodation	3,200	3	54	4,300	4	56	5,200	4	61
Not residential/care	60,500	4	61	53,700	4	58	56,500	4	56
Further education	600	8	63	700	9	59	700	9	63
Public buildings	800	5	52	800	5	50	1000	6	54
Licensed premises	10,500	10	47	10,900	11	46	10,200	10	46
Schools	4,500	10	55	4,200	9	51	4,600	10	58
Shops	16,900	5	62	15,800	5	61	17,500	6	60
Other premises open to public	2,900	4	60	3,300	5	61	3,500	5	57
Factories or warehouses	10,800	7	68	6,900	4	59	7,900	5	51
Offices	10,200	5	68	8,700	4	68	8,300	4	64
Other ²	3,300	1	71	2,400	0	65	2,900	1	50
Total	83,000	5	59	78,800	5	57	84,600	5	56

Source: Appendix Tables 13 and 19

Notes:

The figures have been rounded, thus while numbers are correct, the table may nevertheless appear to give small discrepancies

¹ Houses in multiple occupation (HMO), purpose built flats and houses converted to flats may also be audited by the local authority under different legislation. Those audits do not appear here

² Other includes premises such as garages, road haulage, storage depots, stores and other industrial/commercial locations

(r) Revised from last year

Table 9: Outcomes from unsatisfactory fire safety audits in England in 2010-11						
Type of premises ¹	Informal Notifications ²	Enforcement notices (Article 30)	Prohibition notices (Article 31)	Prosecutions (article 32)	Alterations Notices Article (29)	Number of premises satisfactory following enforcement action
Residential/care	9,604	1,301	163	31	55	3,670
Hospitals	321	9	0	0	0	71
Care homes	2,657	177	2	3	4	1,073
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO)	942	335	57	11	15	363
Purpose built flats >= 4 storeys	1,111	164	7	2	2	256
Hostels	262	33	5	2	0	112
Hotels	2,435	363	39	6	31	1,109
Houses converted to flats	305	82	21	5	0	145
Other sleeping accommodation	1,571	138	32	2	3	541
Not residential/care	17,290	2,082	366	33	69	6,553
Further education	193	11	0	0	2	60
Public buildings	315	13	2	0	0	110
Licensed premises	4,214	827	132	8	16	1,877
Schools	1,682	54	4	0	5	606
Shops	4,836	630	160	18	24	1,697
Other premises open to public	1,096	71	15	0	9	299
Factories or warehouses	2,213	281	34	3	6	1,039
Offices	2,103	144	12	2	7	601
Other ³	638	51	7	2	0	264
Total	26,894	3,383	529	64	124	10,223

Source: Appendix Tables 13 and 19

Notes:

This information refers to the outcome from Fire Safety audits reported by Fire and Rescue Authorities in England.

¹ Houses in multiple occupation (HMO), purpose built flats and houses converted to flats may also be audited by the local authority under different legislation. Those audits do not appear here.

² This category includes instances where an audit is initially recorded as unsatisfactory and enforcement action subsequently leads to a satisfactory outcome. In these cases, the fire safety officer is expected to carry out a new audit to reflect the reduced risk. This activity is not counted as a separate audit, but as part of the time accumulated against the initial audit.

³ Other includes premises such as garages, road haulage, storage depots, stores and other industrial/commercial locations

Glossary of terms

Wholetime firefighter

Staff whose main employment is a firefighter regardless of their role

Retained duty system (RDS) firefighter

Personnel contracted to be available for agreed periods of time for fire-fighting purposes, but who could have an alternative full-time employment.

Fire control staff

Uniformed personnel who are employed to work in fire and rescue service control centres to answer emergency calls and deal with mobilising, communications, and related activities, regardless of rank.

Support/Non-uniformed staff

Generally support/administrative staff employed by a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA).

Operational personnel

Wholetime and retained firefighters irrespective of role.

Attendance

Predetermined resources mobilised to an incident, based upon risk analysis.

Primary 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

“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. For fuller definitions, see paragraph 24 below. 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.

