



Fire Statistics Monitor: England April to September 2013



Fire & Rescue

Statistical Release

28 January 2014

- There were 140 fire fatalities in England in the six months from April to September 2013. This is 33% lower than in the same period of 2003 and lower than in any other year apart from 2012 and 2008, when there 128 and 119 fire fatalities respectively.
- There were 94 deaths in accidental dwelling fires in England between April and September 2013. This is 17 per cent lower than in the same period of 2003. It is similar to the number in April to September of 2009, 2010 and 2011, but 29 more than in the same period of 2012.
- There were 1,664 hospital non-fatal casualties in fires in England between April and September 2013. This is seven per cent fewer than in the same period of 2012.
- Local authority fire and rescue services attended 102,000 fires in England between April and September 2013. This is 55 per cent lower than in the same period of 2002.
- Local authority fire and rescue services attended 115,000 fire false alarms between April and September 2013, five per cent fewer than in the same period of 2012.
- Local authority fire and rescue services attended 61,800 non-fire incidents in England between April and September 2013. The most common types of non-fire incidents are road traffic collisions (21%), effecting entry or exit (13%), lift release (10%), medical incidents (10%) and flooding (9%).

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1. Introduction

This Fire Statistics Monitor consists of analysis of fire and rescue incident and fire casualty data for England for the period April to September 2013

This publication is accompanied by 38 reference data tables. Thirty of the tables contain data at fire and rescue authority level. These are published alongside this publication as downloadable spreadsheets. An index of these tables can be found toward the rear of this publication.

More detailed analyses, such as on the causes and source of ignition of fire can be found in the publication *Fire Statistics Great Britain*:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-statistics-great-britain).

We welcome feedback. Contact details are at the rear of this publication.

Proposed change to revisions policy and extra fire fatalities table

The following change to revisions policy is proposed for subsequent editions of this publication and its supporting data tables:

Counts of casualties will be updated for up to the latest four financial year periods.

This should ensure that updates resulting from Coroners' courts findings can always be incorporated. For further details, see the section entitled *Revisions* at the back of this publication.

It is also proposed that an additional fire fatalities table will be produced. This will show numbers of fatalities by fire and rescue authority area for which it is as yet unknown whether or not fire was the cause of death. These 'unknown' cases have always been included in these National Statistics outputs. The purpose of the proposed additional table is to allow reconciliation with any data produced by any fire and rescue authority which may not include such cases.

2. Key points of provisional data, April to September 2013

Fire fatalities and non-fatal casualties

- The provisional total number of fire fatalities¹ in England in the six months from April to September 2013 is 140, 12 more than in the same period of 2012. This is 33 per cent fewer than the 209 fire fatalities ten years previous (in April to September 2003).
- The provisional number of fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in England between April and September 2013 is 94, twenty nine more than the same period of 2012. This is 17 per cent fewer than the 113 fatalities in April to September 2003.
- There were 1,664 non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases)¹ in fires in England in April to September 2013. This is 7 per cent (129) fewer than the same period of 2012 and 59 per cent (2,350) fewer than in the same period of 2003.

Summary table 1: Fire Casualties, England				
	April to September 2013 (p)	Change April to September 2012 to 2013(p)	Change April to September 2011 to 2013(p)	Change April to September 2003 to 2013(p)
Fire fatalities	140	+12	-16	-69
of which in accidental dwelling fires	94	+29	+3	-19
Non-fatal fire casualties ¹	1,664	-129	-481	-2,354

The decreasing trend in fire casualties and incidents are the result of successful fire safety and prevention activity².

¹ This excludes precautionary checks and first aid cases, which provides the most accurate comparison with periods prior to April 2009. See para 6 in the section 'Data Quality' on comparability, and note 4 in Definitions section.

² For example: smoke alarms and other building fire safety systems and features, audits and enforcement activity, fire safety campaigns and education and other advice. The 2008 publication 'Safer Houses' gives a chronology of many of these developments [webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090121135318/http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/saferhouses](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/saferhouses). Ownership of smoke alarms has been a key factor. It increased from 25% in 1989 to 86% of households reported owning a working smoke alarm in 2008 (page 37, Table 2.3 of www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics-great-britain-2011-to-2012) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Home Fire Risk Check programme, in which fitting smoke alarms was a key element, can be found at [webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121102193300/http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/homefireriskcheckqrant](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/homefireriskcheckqrant). A recent development is the introduction of fire safer cigarettes by manufacturers to the new European standard. These were introduced from November 2011.

Fires, false alarms, and non-fire incidents

Fire and Rescue Authorities attended a total of 102,000 fires in England between April and September 2013. This is lower than in every previous year except 2012, when there were many months of well above average rainfall. It is 55 per cent fewer than in the same period eleven years before (April to September 2002).

Other headlines relating to incidents attended are:

- The total number of fire false alarms attended in England was 115,000 in April to September 2013. This is 5 per cent fewer than in the same period of 2012, and 43 per cent fewer compared to both 2002 and 2003.
- Fire and Rescue Authorities attended 61,800 non-fire incidents in April to September 2013, 11 per cent down compared with the same period of 2012.
- The most common types within non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities were road traffic collisions (21%), effecting entry (13%), lift release (10%), medical incidents (10%) and flooding (10%). (see [Summary table 7](#))

Summary table 2: Types of incidents attended, England

	April to September 2013(p)	Change April to September 2012 to 2013(p)	Change April to September 2011 to 2013(p)	Change April to September 2002 ³ to 2013(p)
Fires	101,900	+23%	-22%	-55%
Fire false alarms	115,000	-5%	-11%	-43%
Non-fire incidents ¹	61,800	-11%	-9%	..
Total incidents attended	278,800	+2%	-15%	..

(p) = Provisional

'..' = not available. (Part year data not available prior to 2009)

Note: ¹ Non-fire incidents include non-fire false alarm incidents (see [Summary table 7](#))

³ Comparison with 2002 chosen to avoid comparison with the summer of 2003 which was exceptionally dry.

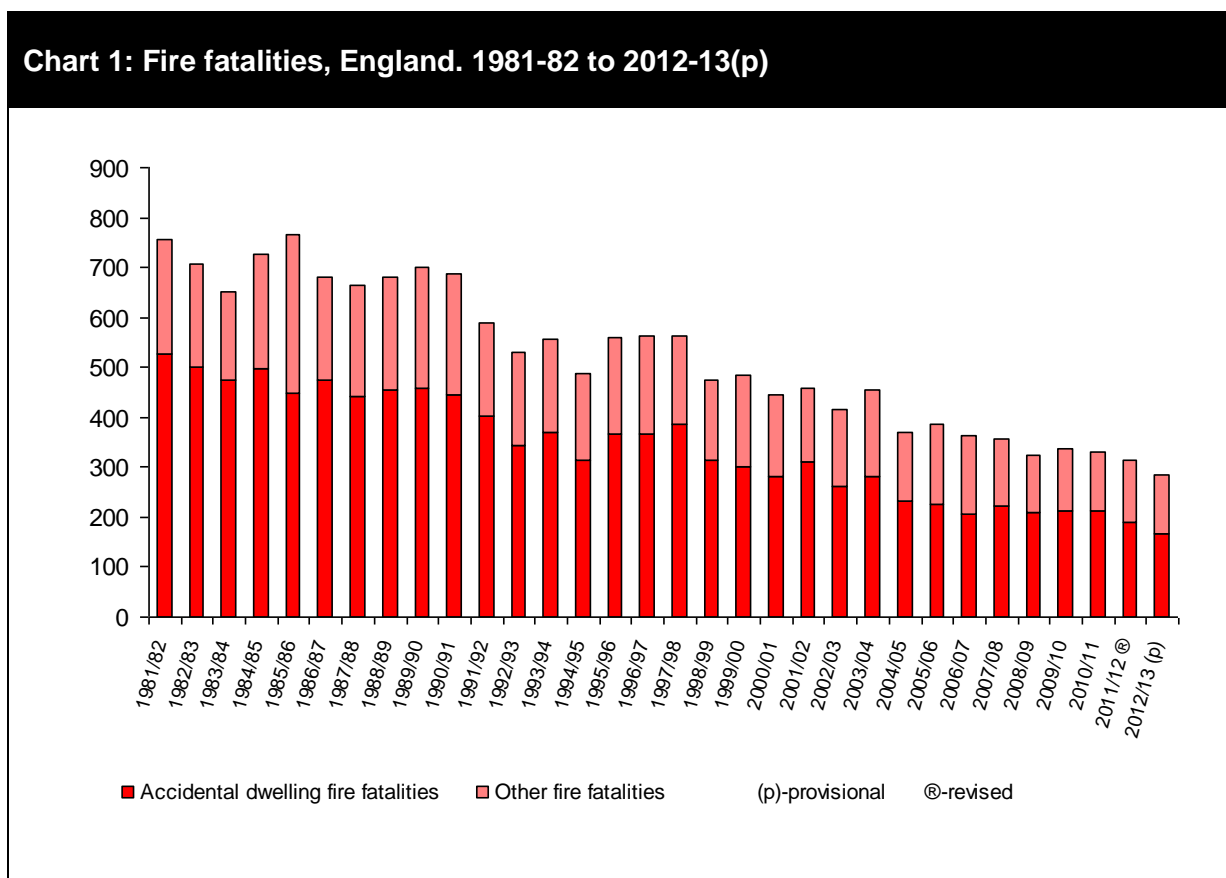
3. Fire fatalities

(accompanying tables 2a & b, 3e and 4b)

Provisional⁴ figures of the total number of fire fatalities in England show:

- In April to September 2013 there were 140 fire fatalities, 12 more than in the same period of 2012.
- Of the total fire fatalities during April to September 2013, more than two-thirds (94) 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. Chart 1 shows the long term downward trend in fire fatalities since the mid 1980s.



⁴ (subject to revision – see Definition 3 for further explanation)

Summary table 3: All fire fatalities, England

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (r)	2012-13 (p)	2013-14 (p)	Change 2012 to 2013
April-June	81	60	91	92	80	83	79	-4
July-September	66	59	70	59	76	45	61	+16
October-December	102	110	85	91	70	71	..	..
January-March	109	94	90	89	88	87	..	..
April – September (6 months)	147	119	161	151	156	128	140	+12
April – March (12 months)	358	323	336	331	314	286	..	..

(p)-provisional; (r)-revised

Summary table 4: Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, England

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (r)	2012-13 (p)	2013-14 (p)	Change 2012 to 2013
April-June	44	36	58	58	51	40	59	+19
July-September	37	34	42	32	40	25	35	+10
October-December	64	67	55	67	38	49	..	..
January-March	76	72	58	56	59	60	..	..
April - September (6 months)	81	70	100	90	91	65	94	+29
April – March (12 months)	221	209	213	213	188	174	..	..

(p)-provisional; (r)-revised

4. Non-fatal fire casualties

Fire non-fatal casualties (see also accompanying tables 2a&b, 3(f-h) 4c&d and 6c)

There were 1,664 non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases)⁵ in fires in England in April to September 2013. This was 7 per cent fewer than in April to September 2012, and 59 per cent fewer than ten years earlier (in April to September 2003).

The total number of non-fatal casualties (including first aid cases and precautionary checks) in fires in England between April to September 2013 was 3,720 (8 per cent) fewer than in the same period a year earlier (in 2012) and 38 per cent fewer than in the same period of 2003.

Summary table 5: Non-fatal fire casualties by injury severity, England

	April to September 2013	Change April to September 2012 to 2013	Change April to September 2003 to 2013
Hospital severe	330	-4%	..
Hospital slight	1,340	-8%	..
Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks and first aid	1,660	-7%	-59%
First aid	1,250	-6%	..
Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks	2,920	-7%	..
Precautionary check recommended ¹	800	-12%	..
Total non-fatal casualties including first aid and precautionary checks¹	3,720	-8%	-38%
of which resulting from dwelling fires	2,800	-12%	-40%
of which from accidental dwelling fires	2,440	-12%	-36%
¹ See Definitions note Precautionary check recommended .. 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.			

⁵ This provides the most accurate comparison with periods prior to April 2009. See note 3b in Comparability Section and note 4 in Definitions section

Chart 2 shows the long term downward trend in non-fatal casualties since the mid 1990s.

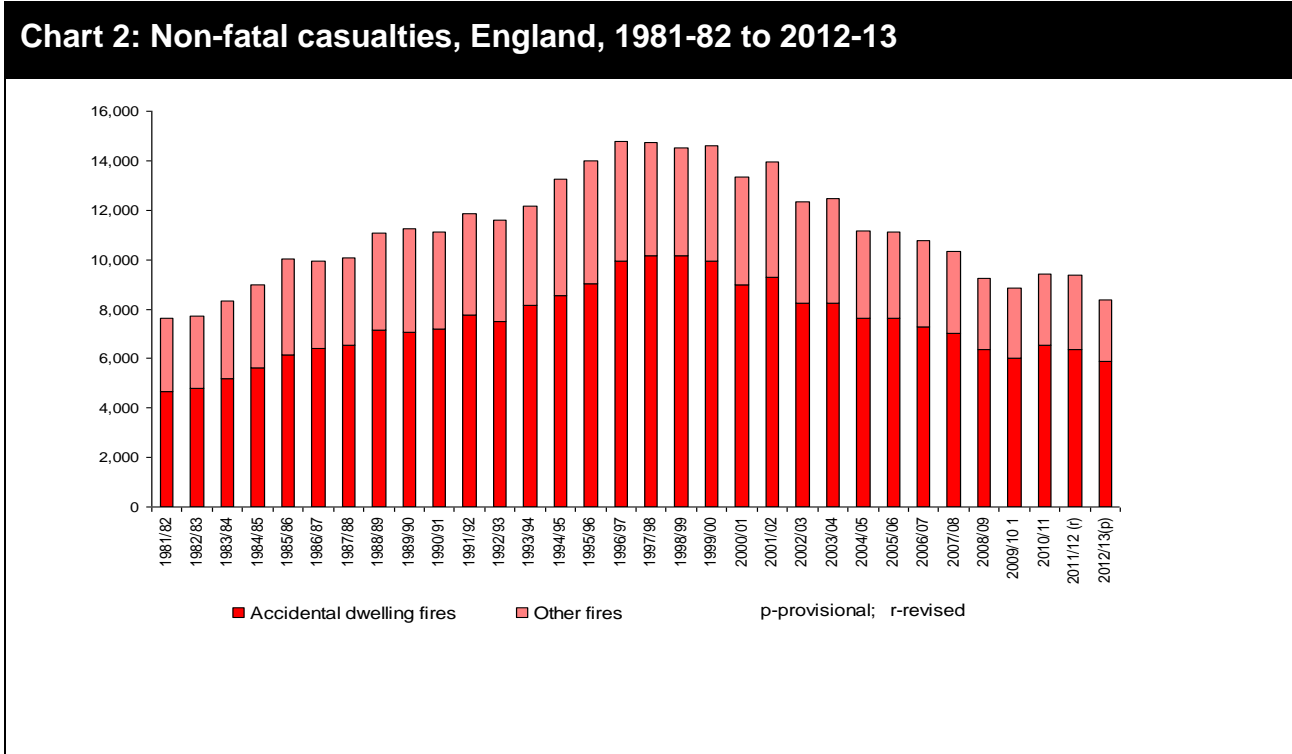
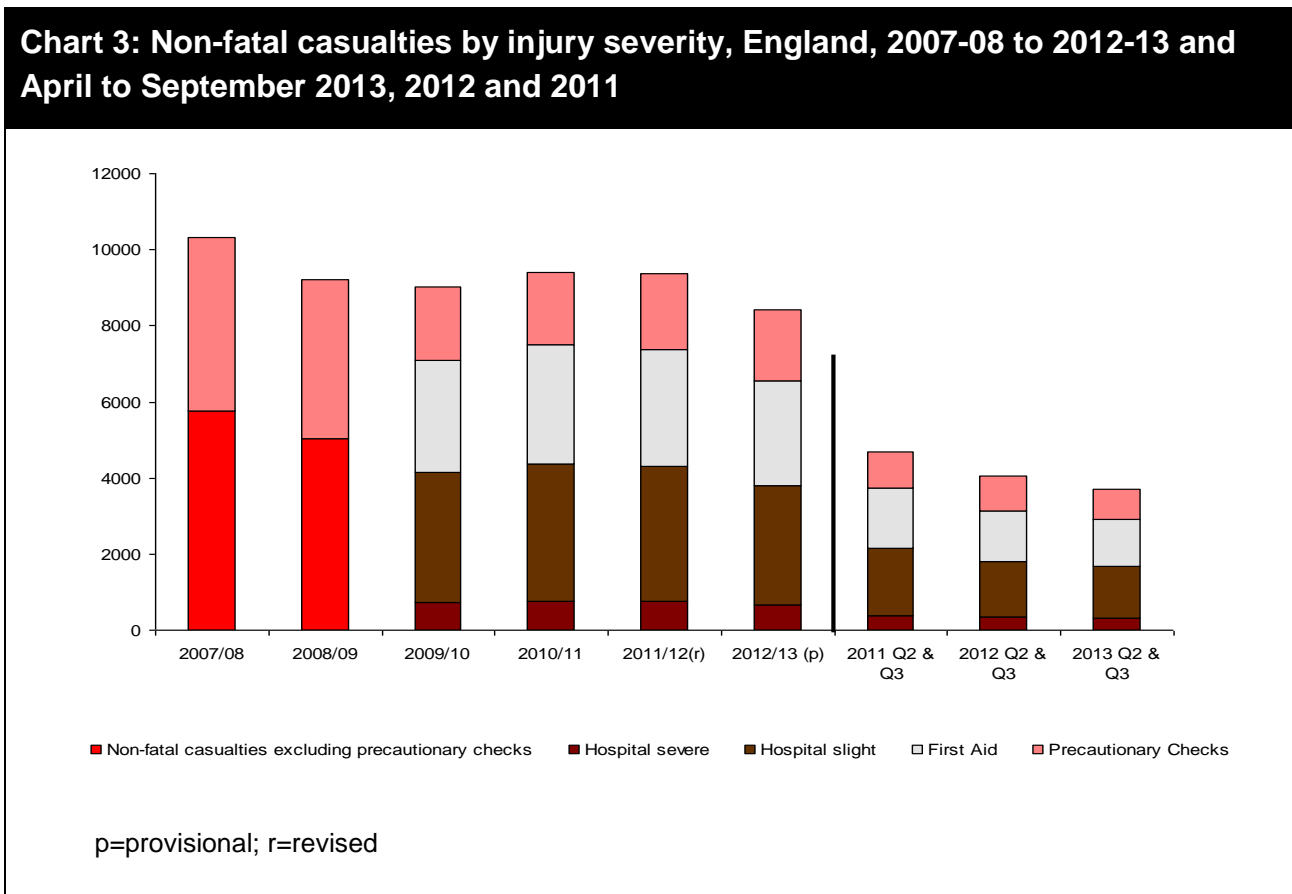


Chart 3 shows different categories of non-fatal casualties and the decrease of seven per cent for April to September 2013 compared with the same period in 2012.



5. Fires, false alarms and non-fire incidents

Summary table 6 presents an overview of the numbers of all types of incidents attended by local authority fire and rescue services between April and September 2013 compared to the same months 2012, 2011 and 2003.

Summary table 6: Incidents types and false alarms attended, England				
	April to September 2013 ⁴	Change April to September 2012 to 2013 ⁴	Change April to September 2011 to 2013 ⁴	Change April to September 2003 to 2013
Primary fires (A)	37,800	-1%	-18%	-58%
Building fires (A1)	24,000	-2%	-15%	-44%
Dwelling fires (A1i)	15,300	-4%	-12%	-39%
of which accidental	13,600	-4%	-9%	-30%
Other buildings ¹ (A1ii)	8,700	+3%	-20%	-52%
Road vehicles (A2)	10,300	-3%	-20%	-75%
Other ² (A3)	3,500	+20%	-27%	-49%
Secondary fires ³ (B)	62,300	+45%	-26%	-66%
Chimney fires (C)	1,800	+9%	+54%	+25%
Total fires attended (A+B+C)	102,000	+23%	-22%	-63%
of which deliberate fires	49,700	+28%	-30%	-74%
Fire false Alarms	115,000	-5%	-11%	-43%
Total (fires and false alarms)	217,000	+7%	-17%	-54%
Non-fire incidents ⁵	61,800	-11%	-9%	..
Total (including non-fire incidents)	278,800	+2%	-15%	-50%

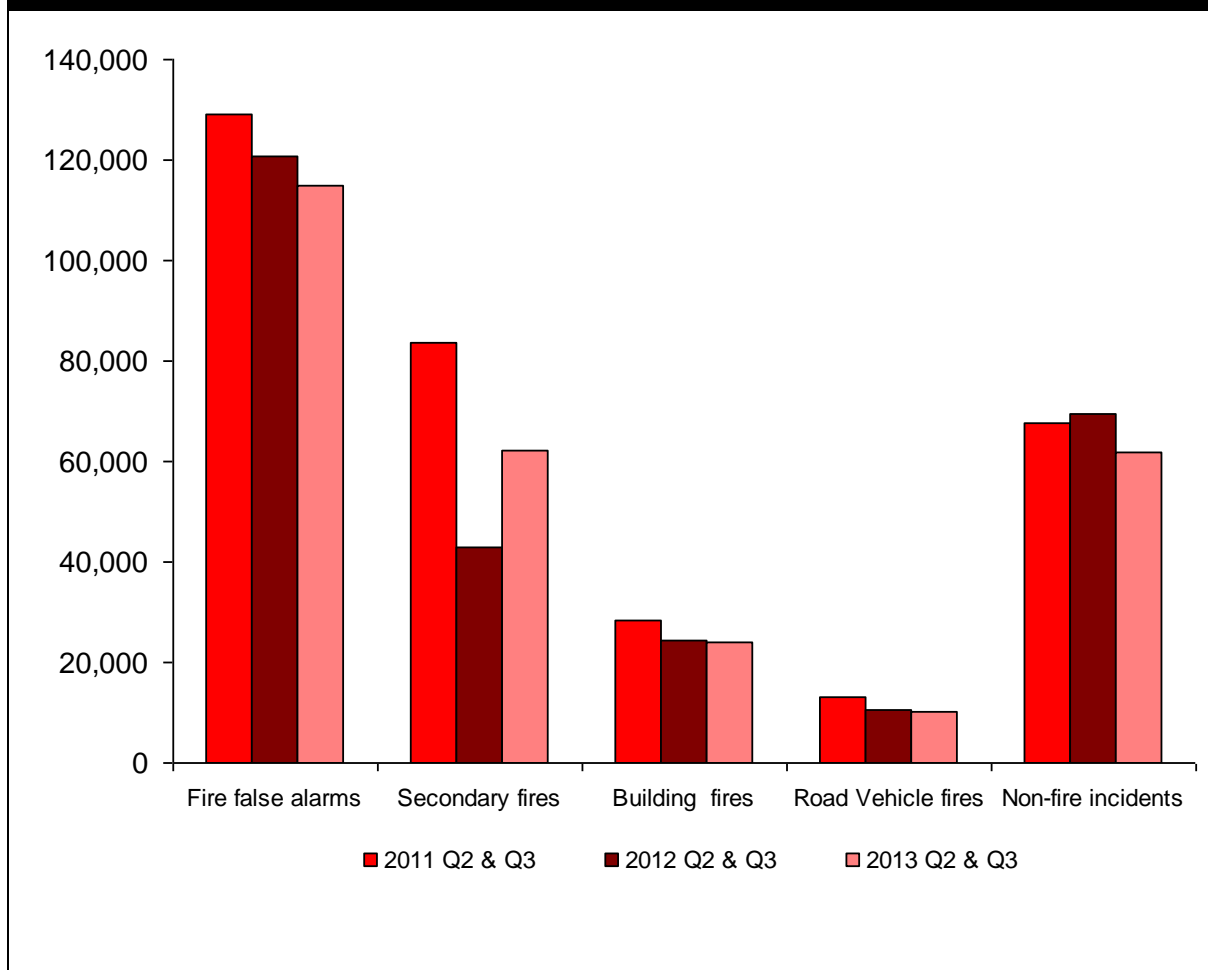
¹ Largest components of which are commercial, health and education buildings
² Typically outdoor fires that are 'primary' (See [Definitions](#) section note 2) because of a casualty or casualties, and/or that were attended by five or more appliances
³ Typically outdoor fires not involving property (See [Definitions](#) section note 2)
⁴ Since each cell is rounded, components may not sum exactly to totals
⁵ Includes non-fire false alarm incidents attended (2,811 in April to September 2013 and 3,306 in April to September 2012)
 .. not available

Fires (see also accompanying tables 1a, 1b, 3bi-bv, 5a-5d, & 6a-6d)

Some key points for fire incidents are as follows:

- Local authority fire and rescue services attended a total of 102,000 fires in England in April to September 2013, 63% fewer than in April to September 2003, and 55% fewer than in April to September 2002. NB April to September 2012 had an exceptionally low number of secondary⁶ fires due above average rainfall (see chart 4), and April to September 2003 had an exceptionally high number of outdoor fires due to hot weather (see spreadsheet table 1a).
- Fire false alarm incidents declined by 5 per cent and 11 per cent respectively in April to September 2013 compared to April to September 2012) and April to September 2011.

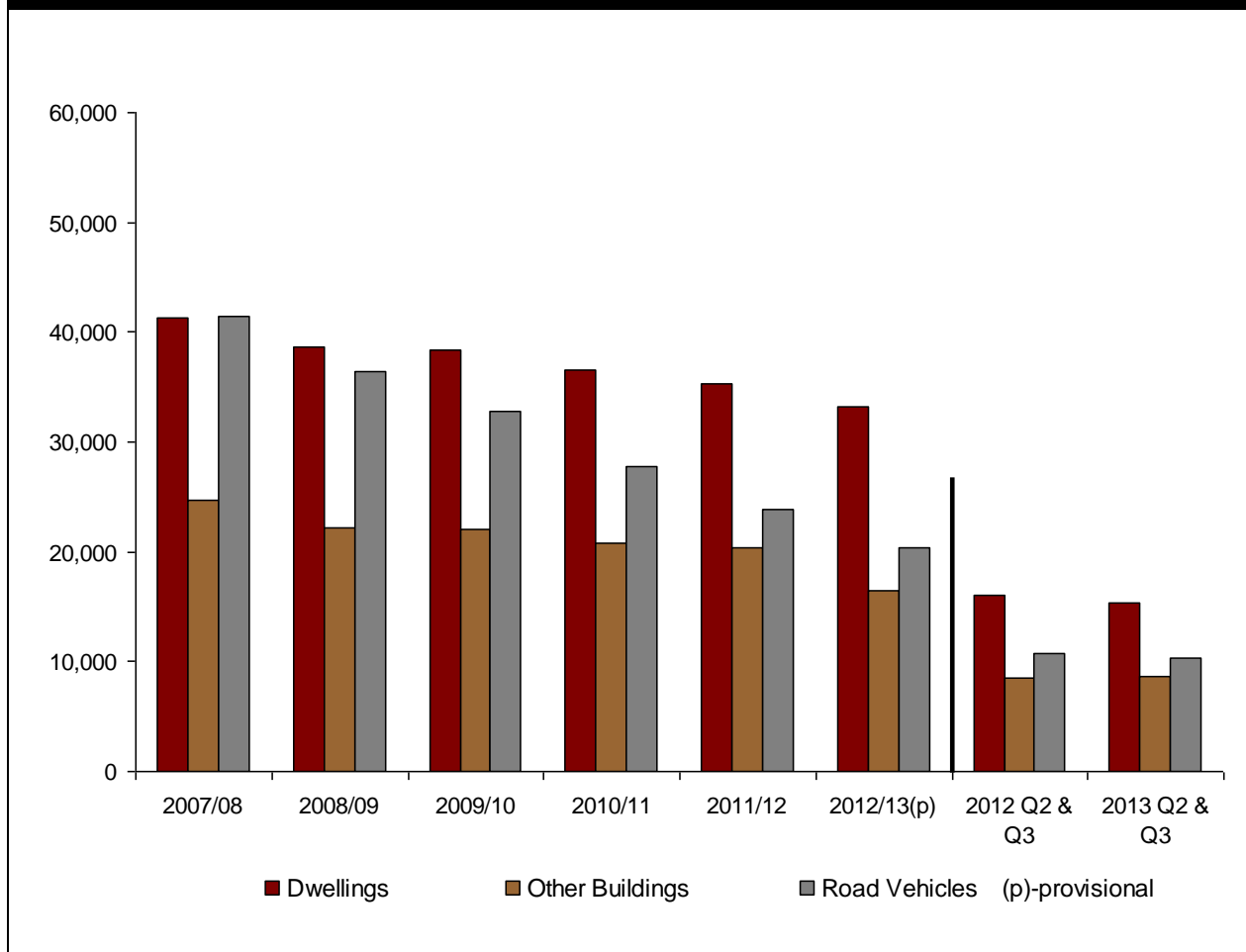
Chart 4: Number of false fire alarms and fires in England, April to September 2013 compared with April to September 2012 & 2011



⁶ Secondary fires are outdoor fires that i) did not affect property, and ii) had no casualties, and iii) had fewer than five pumping appliances attended.

Chart 5 shows the trend over recent years for buildings and for vehicle fires. Each component shows a clear downward trend. The change over the five years to 2012-13 was: dwellings -20%, other buildings -33%, and road vehicles -51%.

Chart 5: Building and road vehicle fires, England, 2007- 08 to 2012-13 and April to September 2012 and 2013



False alarms (see accompanying tables 1a & 3d(i) –3d(iv))

There were 115,000 false fire alarms attended in England in April to September 2013. This was five per cent lower than in April to September 2012 and 43 per cent lower than in April to September 2003. Between April and September 2013 the number of malicious false alarms fell by 16 per cent to 3,900. False alarms due to apparatus were down by nine per cent to 75,500; these incidents constitute two-thirds of all false fire alarms.

Non-fire incidents (see accompanying table 7)

In April to September 2013, Fire and Rescue Authorities attended a total of 59,000 non-fire incidents (excluding non-fire false alarm incidents), 13 per cent (6,600) fewer than in the same period of 2012. Much of this change was due the lower number of flood incidents in April to September 2013 (5,700), down 3,500 (38%) from 9,200 in the same months of 2012.

Summary table 7 shows numbers of incidents for the larger categories of non-fire incidents for April to September 2013. Other key points relating to non-fire incidents numbers are:

- Road traffic incidents accounted for more than one fifth of non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities.
- Medical incidents (First responder & Co-responder) accounted for ten per cent of non-fire incidents. These were 13 per cent fewer than in April to September 2012.

Summary table 7: Types of non-fire incidents attended, England

Type of incident	April to September 2013	Proportion of total non-fire incidents	Change April to September 2012 to 2013 (%)	Change April to September 2011 to 2013 (%)
Road traffic collisions	12,800	21	-5%	-10%
Flooding	5,700	9	-38%	+9%
Effecting entry	7,900	13	-2%	0%
Lift release	6,400	10	-8%	-18%
Medical incidents	6,000	10	-13%	+11%
Animal assistance incidents	2,900	5	+5%	-6%
Spills and leaks	2,300	4	-8%	-14%
Removal of objects from people	2,400	4	+2%	+19%
Other rescue/release of persons	2,000	3	-10%	-31%
Hazardous material incidents	900	1	-3%	+25%
Other ¹	9,400	15	-11%	-12%
Non-fire incidents (excluding non-fire false alarm attended)	59,000	95	-13%	-5%
Non-fire false alarm incidents attended	2,800	5	-15%	-44%
Total non-fire Incidents attended	61,800	100	-11%	-9%

Note: ¹ includes 'no action / advice only', 'assisting other agencies', 'making pedestrian area/unsafe structure safe' and rescues from other transport incidents and from water, suicide attempts. See accompanying table 7.

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. These are:

Workbook 1 & 2 (England, 1999- 2013Q3)

Table 1a: Fires by location and false alarms

Table 1b: Accidental fires by location and false alarms

Table 2a: Casualties from fires

Table 2b: Casualties from accidental fires

Workbook 3 (by Fire and Rescue Authority, England, 2001- 2013Q3)

Table 3a: All fires, including chimney fires,

Table 3b (i): Primary fires

Table 3b (ii): Primary fires in dwellings

Table 3b (iii): Primary fires in other buildings

Table 3b (iv): Primary fires in road vehicles

Table 3b (v): Primary 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 checks recommended)

Workbook 4 (by Fire and Rescue Authority, England, 2001- 2013Q3)

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 in accidental dwelling fires (excluding pre-cautionary checks and first aid cases)

Workbook 5 (by Fire and Rescue Authority, England, 2001- 2013Q3)

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, England and Great Britain)

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 Authority, England)

Table 7a (i): Special service incidents by FRS and type, April to September 2013

Table 7a (ii): Special service incidents by FRS and type, April to September 2012

Table 7a (iii): Special service incidents by FRS and type, April to September 2011

Table 7a (iv): Special service incidents by FRS and type, 2012-13

Population workbook – Resident population by Fire and Rescue Authority area, England, 2012.

These tables can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-statistics-monitor>

Related DCLG statistical releases are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics>

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.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities

Some changes to the detailed classifications were implemented in April 2012, the first since the implementation of the Incident Recording System. These do not affect the statistics in this publication, but there may be slight impact on some of the detailed tables published in future editions of Fire Statistics Great Britain. The updated categories are available via the link above.

Categories of incident

- 2 A **reportable fire is an** event of uncontrolled burning involving flames, heat or smoke which was attended by a fire and rescue authority, or which was a **late fire call**. These are when a fire and rescue authority learned of the fire when it was known to have already been extinguished.

Primary fires are fires with one or more of the following characteristics:

- i) all fires in buildings and vehicles that are not derelict or in outdoor structures,
- 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 these involve casualties or rescues, property loss or unless five or more appliances attend. It includes fires in derelict buildings.

Chimney fire - Any 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.

Fire false alarm - Where the Fire and Rescue Authorities attend a location believing there to be a fire incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.

Accidental fires include those where the cause was not known or unspecified.

Deliberate fires include those where deliberate ignition is merely suspected.

False Alarms are events in which the Fire and Rescue Service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no incident. False alarms are categorised as follows:

- **Malicious False Alarms** are calls made with the intention of getting the fire and rescue service to attend a non-existent fire-related event, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions.
- **Good Intent False Alarms** are calls made in good faith in the belief that the fire and rescue service really would attend a fire.
- **False Alarms Due to Apparatus** are calls initiated by fire alarm and fire-fighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by persons).

Fatalities

- 3 Fire fatalities include any fatal casualty which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident. Even if the fatal casualty dies subsequently, any fatality whose cause is attributed to a fire is included. There are also occasional cases where it transpires subsequently that the cause of death was not due to injuries which occurred as a result of the fire. Fire fatalities data are therefore prone to revision.

Non-fatal casualties and Precautionary checks

- 4 Since the introduction of the Incident Recording System, non-fatal casualties are recorded as being in one of the following four classes of severity:
 - 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, having no obvious injury or distress, is advised to attend hospital or to see a doctor as a precaution. This category does not lend itself to comparison between fire and rescue authorities, and numbers over time may not be wholly comparable. This is because this category is based on a subjective assessment, and this may also be dependent on the policy of the attending fire and rescue authority.

A discussion of these categories compared to those in the previous system can be found in paragraph 3 in the section 'Comparability of data under the Incident Recording System (IRS) and its predecessor, the 'Fire Data Report system'.

Non-fire incidents

5. Non-fire incidents include:

(i) local emergencies eg. road traffic incidents, rescue of persons, or 'making pedestrian area/highway/unsafe structure safe', emergency medical responses;

(ii) major disasters eg flooding or hazardous material incidents;

(iii) domestic incidents eg water leaks, persons locked in or out etc;

(iv) prior arrangements to attend incidents, which may include some provision of advice and inspections and 'stand by' to tackle emergency situation.

Technical notes

Symbols

- Zero is denoted by ‘-‘
- Not available by ‘..’
- (p) provisional data scheduled for revision in due course
- (r) revised since previous edition of *Fire Statistics Monitor, England*

Data and data quality

1. The source of the data of this publication is records of incidents attended by local authority fire and rescue services. Fire and rescue authorities across Great Britain adopted the Incident Recording System by April 2009. Previously returns were made by the Fire Data Report system. Details of the Incident Recording System are available at -> www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities
2. Commentary on the statistics in this publication is for the period April to September 2013. There can be considerable seasonality and other fluctuation which can make interpretation difficult, especially for periods of less than twelve months. For example, numbers of outdoor fires were exceptional in the hot dry summer of 2003 and in Spring and Summer 2012 when rainfall was well above average for most months.
3. 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.

Comparability of data under the Incident Recording System (IRS) and its predecessor, the Fire Data Report (FDR) system

4. The Incident Recording System was adopted across Great Britain by 1 April 2009. Sixteen Fire and Rescue Authorities 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.
5. 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 Authorities, 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; and
- there is no suggestion of difference in completeness of recording of casualties.

6. 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 nine per cent of non-fatal casualties were marked as not fire-related in April 2011 to March 2012. 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 9 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' (see chart 3), 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.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>). There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

For this publication, any such revisions have been included as follows:

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. For example once data for 2012-13 are published for the first time, statistics for 2010-11 would not subsequently be revised further, barring exceptional circumstances.

Proposal for change of revisions policy from the next (Summer 2014) edition of this publication

As noted in the introduction to this publication, it is proposed that in future editions revisions will be made for up to 4 years for casualty data, specifically 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
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Revisions will be made twice a year at the following times: a) when data are first produced for the period up to 30 September, b) when data are first produced for the period up to 31 March	Revisions will be made to the three preceding financial year periods. eg Once data for 2013-14 are published for the first time, statistics for 2010-11 would not subsequently be revised further, barring exceptional circumstances.
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ii) For statistics that are counts of incidents:

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, b) when data are first produced for the period up to 31 March	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 2013-14 data, data for the financial year of 2012-13 would be revised for the last time, barring exceptional circumstances.

Uses of these data

1 The data in this publication and its accompanying spreadsheet annex table are used in the following ways:

- Informing and monitoring local and national and local fire prevention and safety policy, initiatives and campaigns.
- Benchmarking by fire and rescue authorities
- The Department's Fire Casualties indicator. This is calculated from the numbers of fatalities and non-fatal casualties excluding the precautionary check category. 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:
www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/corporate-reports/

2 We judge that the quality and reliability of the data are suitable for these uses with the following exceptions:

- Numbers of 'precautionary checks' within non-fatal casualties. By definition, these involve judgement of the fire officers at the scene and may also depend on policy. Therefore they may not be comparable i) between fire and rescue authorities, and ii) over time.
- Numbers of 'false alarms due to apparatus' attended. These may also vary greatly according to the policies of fire and rescue authorities on mobilisation, in particular human confirmation of the fire may be a requirement by some fire and rescue authorities for some or all buildings. It is worth noting that numbers of false alarms reduced greatly for these authorities due to such a change in policy: Oxfordshire in 2003-04 and Warwickshire and Essex in 2011-12.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department for Communities and Local Government held a Statistics User Engagement Day on 25 November 2013. The objective of the event was to hear from users about their use and suggestions across the range of the Department's Official Statistics publications. The introductory speech by Head of Profession and the presentations given on DCLG statistics can be accessed from: <http://www.slideshare.net/DCLGStats>

Related statistics for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Fire incident statistics for other UK countries are available as follows:

Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubFires>

Wales: http://data.gov.uk/dataset/fire_statistics_wales

Northern Ireland: Equivalent data is not available for Northern Ireland. Annual fire incident data is available from: <http://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

Designation

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Enquiries

<p>For queries about data availability and requests for analyses:</p> <p>Nazneen Chowdhury Department for Communities & Local Government Fire and Resilience Directorate Eland House, 3rd Floor Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU</p> <p>Tel: 0303 444 2144 Email: Nazneen.Chowdhury@communities.gsi.gov.uk</p>	<p>For suggestions relating to publications and other feedback:</p> <p>Gavin Sayer Department for 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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If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, email contactus@communities.gov.uk or write to us at:

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