



# Fire Statistics Monitor: England

## April 2012 to March 2013



- There were 271 fire fatalities in England in 2012-13. These were 43 (14%) fewer than in 2011-12.
- Three fifths of all fire fatalities were in accidental dwelling fires (168 in 2012-13). These were 20 (11%) fewer than the 188 in 2011-12.
- In 2012-13 there were 3,830 non-fatal fire casualties (excluding first aid cases). These were 11 per cent fewer than in 2011-12.
- Local authority fire and rescue services attended 154,000 fires in England in 2012-13. Outdoor fires accounted for half of fire incidents. These were 44 per cent fewer than in 2011-12, in large part due to the above average rainfall in spring and summer 2012.
- In 2012-13, local authority fire and rescue services attended 231,000 fire false alarms and 135,000 non-fire incidents, of which 28,000 were road traffic collisions and 18,000 were flooding incidents.

1. Introduction	1
2. Key Points	3
3. Fire Fatalities	5
4. Fire casualties	7
5. Fires, false alarms and non-fire incidents	9
Accompanying tables	15
Definitions	17
Technical notes	19
Enquiries	25

**Responsible Statistician:**  
Gavin Sayer

**Statistical enquiries**

0303 444 2818

[firestatistics](#)

[@communities.qsi.gov.uk](#)

**Media Enquiries:**

0303 444 1201

[press@communities.gov.uk](#)

**Date of next publication:**  
January 2014

# 1. Introduction

This Fire Statistics Monitor focuses on analysis of fire and rescue incident and fire casualty data for England for the financial year 2012-13 (April 2012 to March 2013). The source is the records of all incidents attended by local authority fire and rescue services.

This publication is accompanied by 38 reference data tables. Thirty two 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 at the rear of this publication.

More detailed analyses, such as on the causes 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/fire-statistics-great-britain)).

We welcome feedback. Contact details can be found at the end of this publication and a link to a feedback form is at the rear of this publication.

## 2. Key points of provisional data

### Fire fatalities and non-fatal casualties

- The provisional total number of fire fatalities in England in 2012-13 was 271, 43 (14%) fewer than in 2011-12. This is 35 per cent fewer than the 417 fire fatalities ten years previous (in 2002-03).
- The provisional number of fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in England in 2012-13 was 168, 20 (11%) fewer compared with 2011-12. This is 36 per cent fewer than the 262 fatalities in accidental dwelling fires ten years earlier in 2002-03.
- There were 3,830 non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases)<sup>1</sup> in fires in England in 2012-13. This is 11 per cent (460) fewer than 2011-12 and 54 per cent (4,460) fewer than in 2002-03.

**Summary table 1: Fire casualties, England**

	<b>2012 -13(p)</b>	<b>Change 2011-12 to 2012-13 (p)</b>	<b>Change 2002-03 to 2012-13(p)</b>
Fire fatalities	271	-14%	-35%
of which in accidental dwelling fires	168	-11%	-36%
Non-fatal fire casualties <sup>1</sup>	3,830	-11%	-54%

The decreasing trend in fire casualties and incidents are the result of successful fire safety and prevention activity<sup>2</sup>.

### Fires, false alarms, and non-fire incidents

Fire and rescue authorities attended 154,000 fires in England in 2012-13. This is 31 per cent fewer than 2011-12, and 63 per cent fewer than ten years before (in 2002-03).

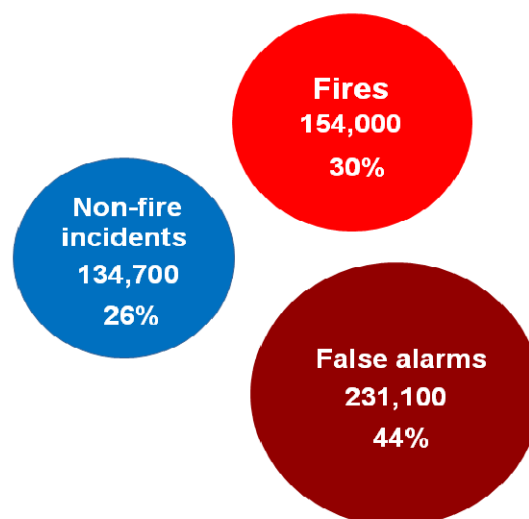
<sup>1</sup> This excludes precautionary checks and first aid cases, which provides the most accurate comparison with periods prior to April 2009. See para 6 in the section 'Data Quality' on comparability, and note 4 in Definitions section

<sup>2</sup> 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.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090121135318/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](http://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/homefireriskcheckgrant](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121102193300/http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/homefireriskcheckgrant). A recent development is the introduction of fire safer cigarettes by manufacturers to the new European standard. These were introduced from November 2011.

Much of the decrease in fire incidents in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 was due to the levels of rainfall which were well above average in Spring and Summer 2012. Outdoor fires, which account for half of fire incidents attended, were 44%<sup>3</sup> lower in 2012-13 compared to the previous year. Meanwhile building fires were 11% lower in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12 (see Summary table 6).

Other headlines relating to incidents attended are:

- The total number of fire false alarms attended in England in 2012-13 was 231,100. This is 7 per cent less than 2011-12 and 38 per cent less than ten years before (in 2002-03).
- Fire and Rescue Authorities attended 134,700 non-fire incidents in 2012-13, 1 per cent higher than in 2011-12.
- The most common types of non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities were road traffic collisions (21%), flooding (13%), effecting entry (11%) and medical incidents (11%). (see summary table 7).



**Summary table 2: Incidents attended, England**

	2012-13(p)	Change 2011-12 to 2012-13 (p)	Change 2002-03 to 2012-13(p)
Fires	154,000	-31%	-63%
Fire false alarms	231,100	-7%	-38%
Non-fire incidents <sup>1</sup>	134,700	+1%	-21%
<b>Total incidents attended</b>	<b>519,900</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-46%</b>

(p) Provisional  
 Note: <sup>1</sup> includes non-fire false alarm incidents

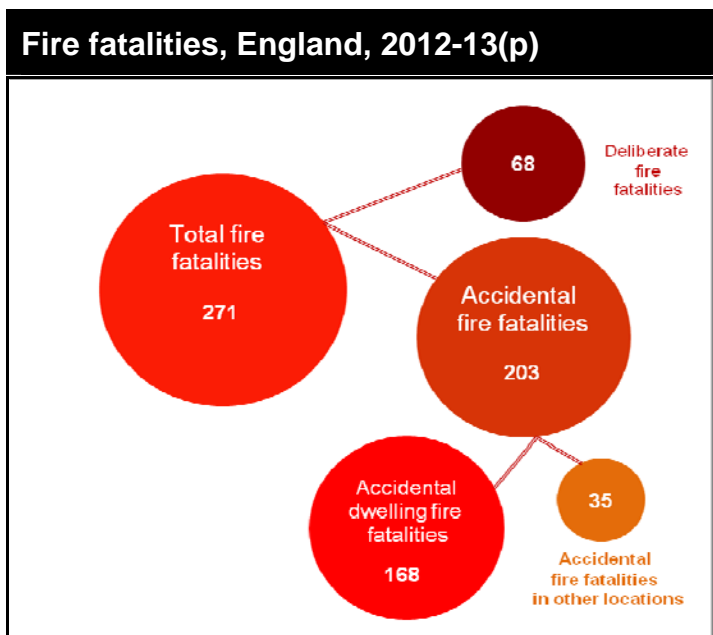
<sup>3</sup> In 2012-13 there were 72,400 secondary fires (fires in outdoor locations where there were no casualties, no property loss and fewer than 5 pumping appliances attending). These were 45 per cent fewer than in 2011-12. There were a further 4,600 outdoor 'primary' fires which were 38 per cent fewer than in 2011-12(see Summary table 6) casualties, and/or that were attended by five or more appliances. Taken together, the 77,000 outdoor fires in England in 2012-13 were 44 per cent fewer than in 2011-12.

### 3. Fire fatalities (see also accompanying spreadsheet tables 2a & b, 3e and 4b)

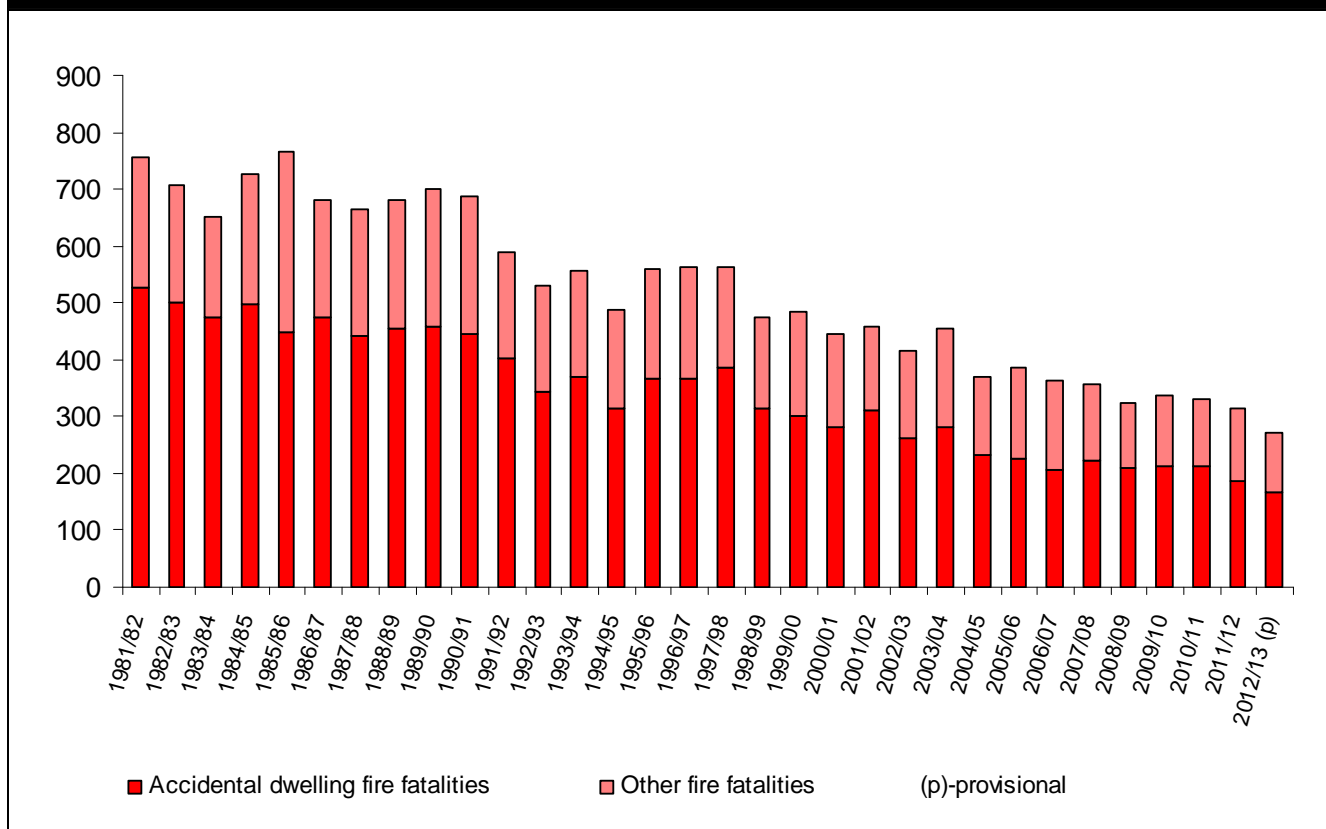
Provisional figures (subject to revision – see definition 3 for further explanation) of the total number of fire fatalities in England show:

- In 2012-13 there were 271 fire fatalities in England, 43 fewer than 2011-12.
- Of the 271 fire fatalities in 2012-13, more than three-fifths (168) 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. This shows the long term downward trend in fire fatalities since the mid 1980s.



**Chart 1: Fire fatalities, England. 1981-82 to 2012-13(p)**



**Summary table 3: All fire fatalities, England, 2006-07 to 2012-13(p)**

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (p)	Change 2011-12 to 2012-13
April-June	100	81	60	91	92	80	83	+3
July-September	80	66	59	70	59	76	45	-31
October-December	94	102	110	85	91	70	64	-6
January-March	90	109	94	90	89	88	79	-9
<b>Financial year total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>- 43</b>
(p) provisional								

**Summary table 4: Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, England, 06-07 to 12-13(p)**

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (p)	Change 2011-12 to 2012-13
April-June	62	44	36	58	58	51	46	-5
July-September	37	37	34	42	32	40	23	-17
October-December	51	64	67	55	67	38	44	+6
January-March	55	76	72	58	56	59	55	-4
<b>Financial year total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-20</b>
(p) provisional								

## 4. Non-fatal fire casualties

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

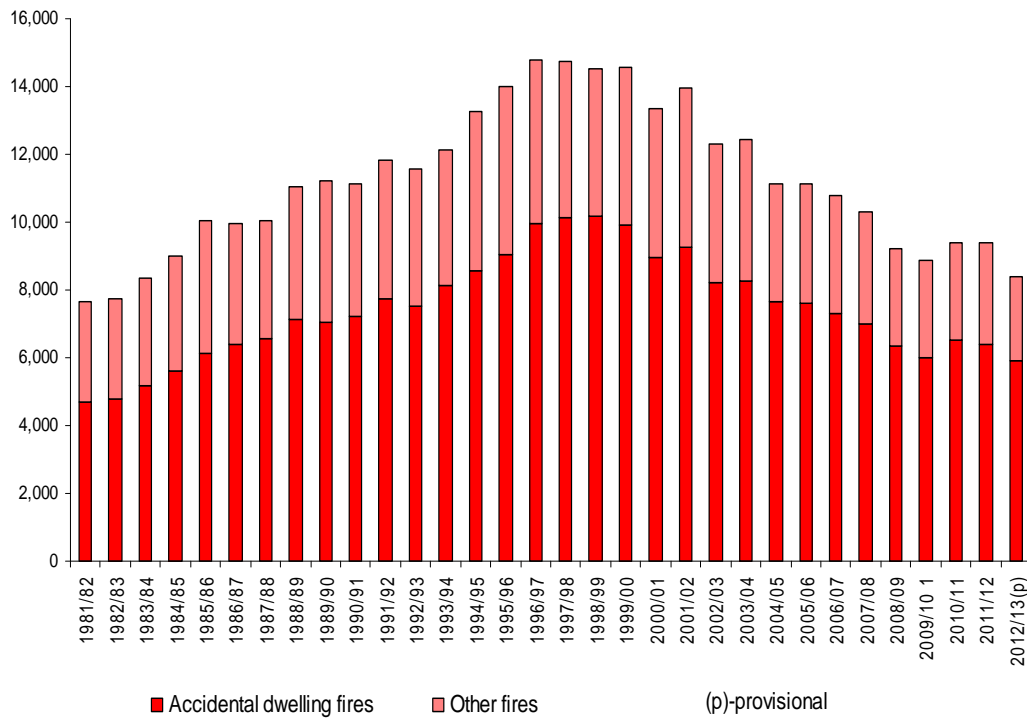
There were 3,830 non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks and first aid cases) in fires in England in 2012-13. This was 11 per cent (460) fewer than 2011-12 and 54 per cent (4,460) fewer than 2002-03.

The total number of non-fatal casualties (including first aid cases and precautionary checks) in fires recorded in England in 2012-13 was 8,380, 11 per cent (990) fewer than the previous year and 32 per cent (3,940) fewer than ten years earlier (in 2002-03).

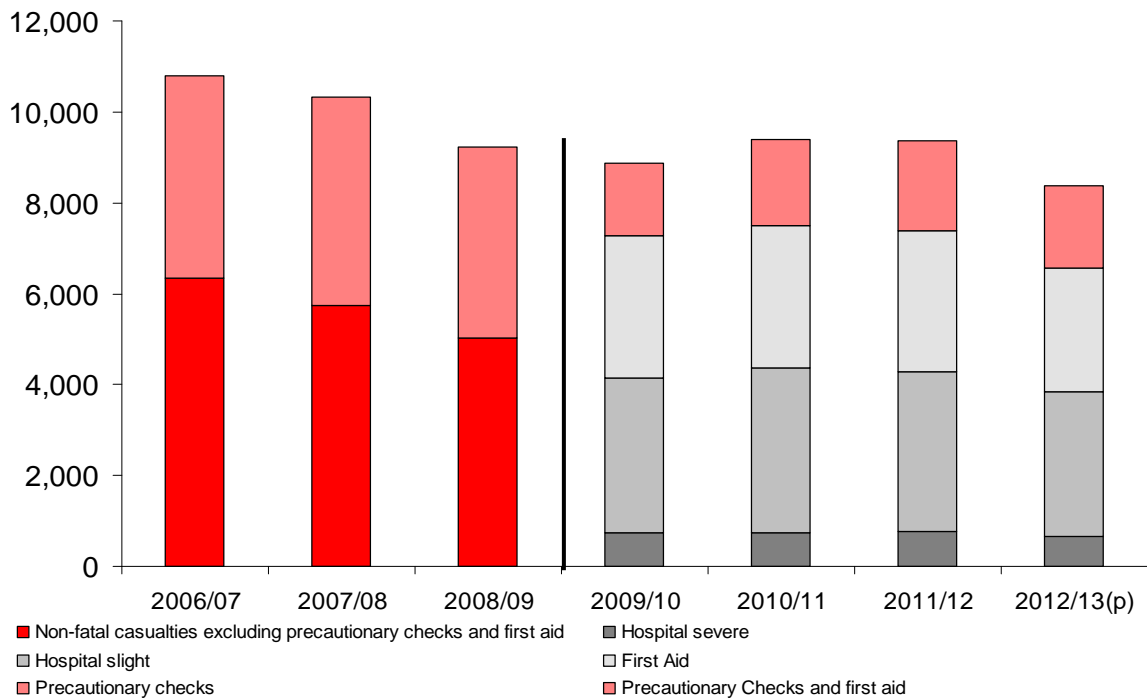
<b>Summary table 5: Injury severity for non-fatal fire casualties, England</b>			
	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Change 2011-12 to 2012-13</b>	<b>Change 2002-03 to 2012-13</b>
Hospital severe	670	-14%	..
Hospital slight	3,170	-10%	..
<b>Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks and first aid</b>	3,830	-11%	-54%
First aid	2,740	-11%	..
<b>Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks</b>	6,570	-11%	..
Precautionary check recommended <sup>1</sup>	1,810	-9%	..
<b>Total non-fatal casualties including first aid and precautionary checks<sup>1</sup></b>	8,380	-11%	-32%
of which resulting from dwelling fires	6,700	-8%	-32%
of which from accidental dwelling fires	5,900	-8%	-28%
<sup>1</sup> See Definitions note 4(iv) .. Not available under reporting system prior to April 2009. These changes in categories of non-fatal casualties are explained in paragraph 6 in the section 'Comparability of data' toward the rear of this publication.			

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 with a decrease in 2012-13 compared with 2011-12.

**Chart 2: Non-fatal casualties, England, 1981-82 to 2012-13(p)**



**Chart 3: Non-fatal casualties, England 2006-07 to 2012-13(p)**





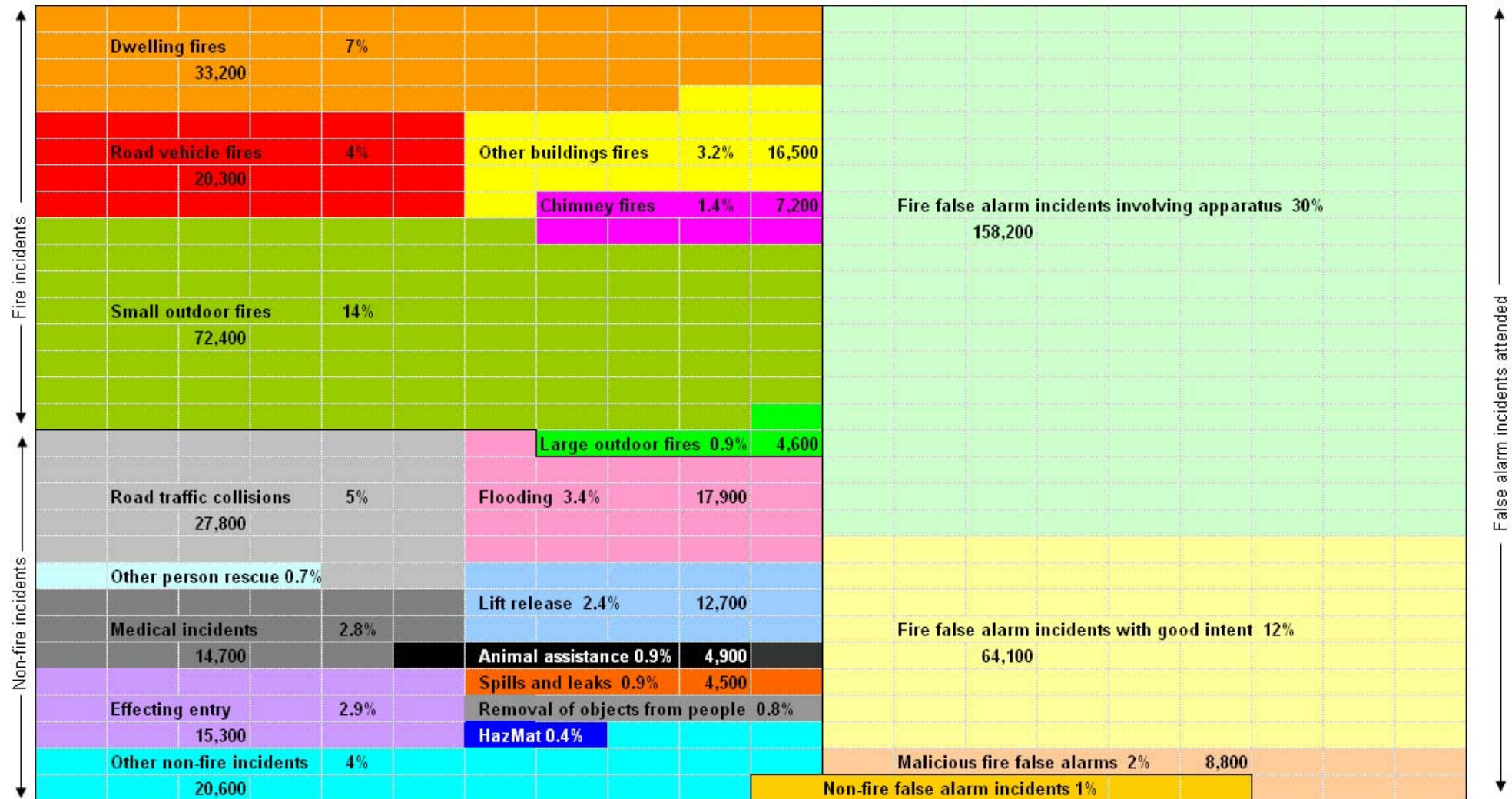
## 5. Fires, false alarms and non-fire incidents

Summary table 6 and the area diagram on the next page present an overview of the numbers and proportions of all types of incidents attended by local authority fire and rescue services in 2012-13. Analysis follows in sections 4.1 to 4.3.

<b>Summary table 6: Incidents type and false alarms attended, England</b>			
	<b>2012-13<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Change 2011-12 to 2012-13<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Change 2002-03 to 2012-13</b>
Primary fires (A)	74,500	-14%	-57%
Building fires (A1)	49,600	-11%	-39%
Dwelling fires (A1i)	33,200	-6%	-32%
of which accidental	29,600	-4%	-24%
Other buildings <sup>1</sup> (A1ii)	16,500	-19%	-49%
Road vehicles (A2)	20,300	-15%	-75%
Other <sup>2</sup> (A3)	4,600	-38%	-58%
Secondary fires <sup>3</sup> (B)	72,400	-45%	-69%
Chimney fires (C )	7,200	+23%	+5%
<b>Total fires attended (A+B+C)</b>	<b>154,000</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>-63%</b>
of which deliberate fires	68,900	-40%	-76%
Fire false Alarms	231,100	-7%	-38%
<b>Total (fires and false alarms)</b>	<b>385,200</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-51%</b>
Non-fire incidents <sup>5</sup>	134,700	+1%	..
<b>Total (including non-fire incidents)</b>	<b>519,900</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-46%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Largest components of which are commercial, health and education buildings  
<sup>2</sup> 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  
<sup>3</sup> Typically outdoor fires not involving property (See Definitions section note 2)  
<sup>4</sup> Since each cell is rounded, components may not sum exactly to totals  
<sup>5</sup> Includes non-fire false alarm incidents attended (6,300 in 2012-13 and 9,900 in 2011-12)  
 .. not available

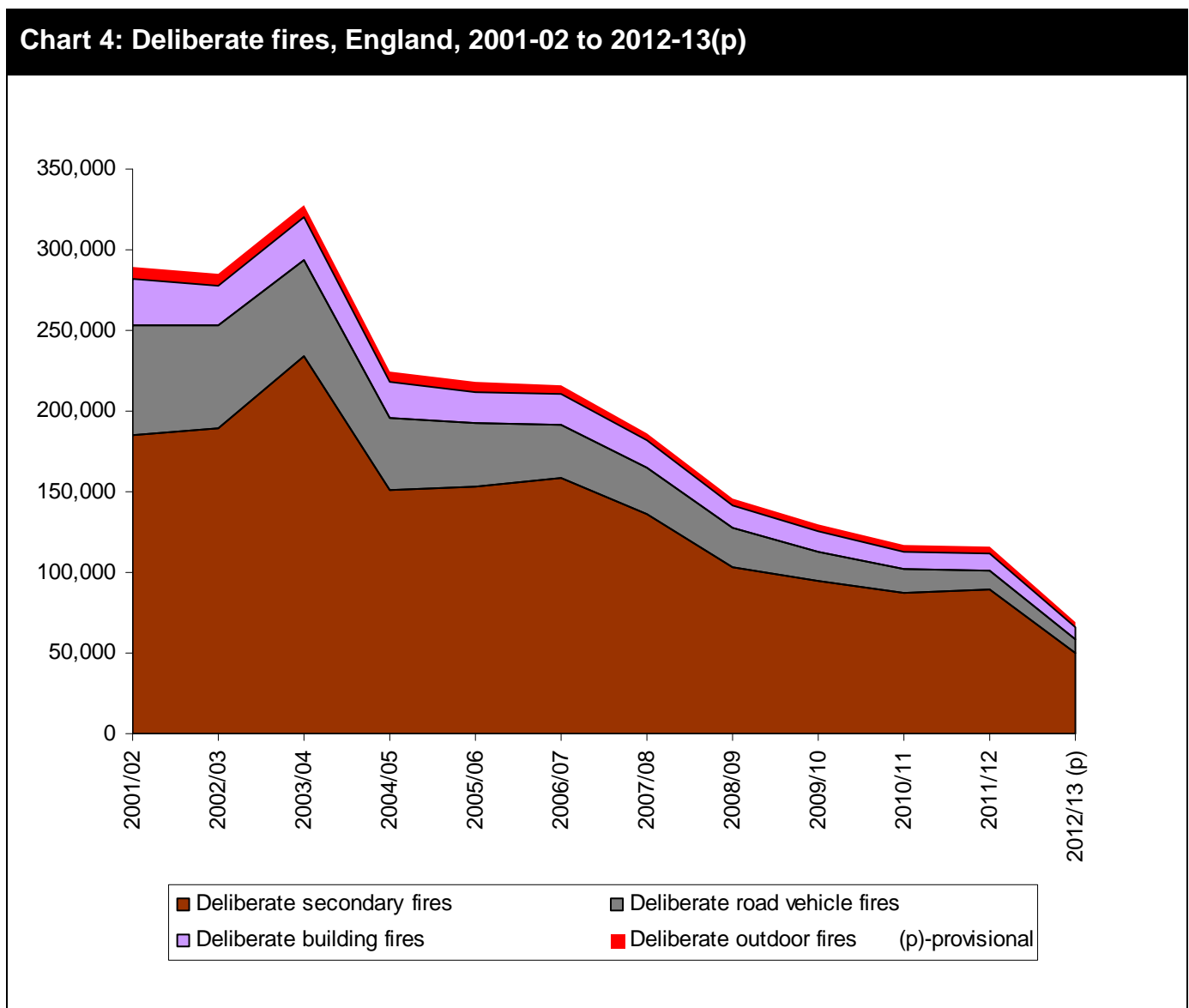
# Incidents attended by local authority fire and rescue services, England, 2012-13



#### 4.1 Fires (see also accompanying spreadsheet tables 1a, 1b, 3b-h, 5a-d, & 6a, 6d)

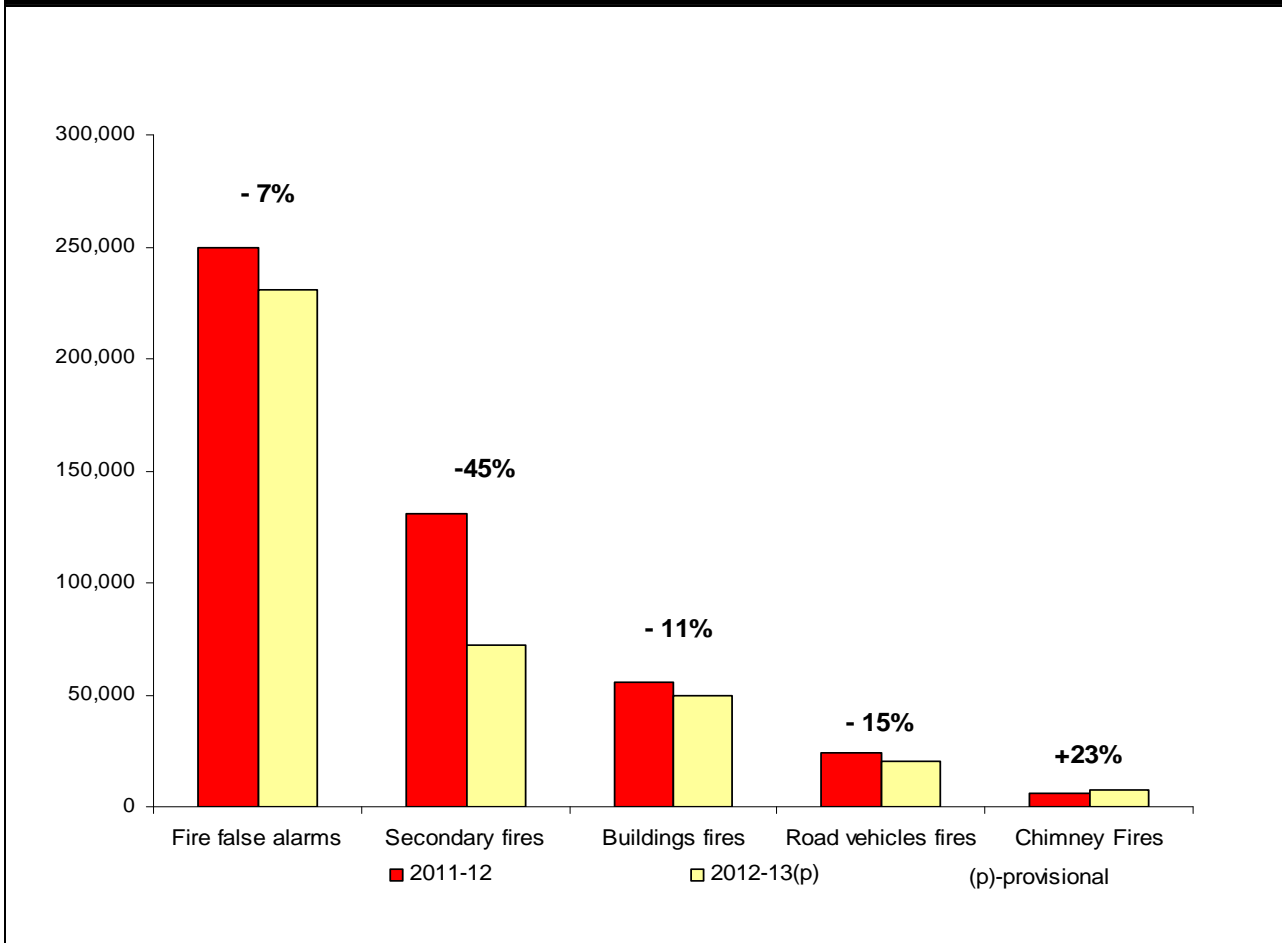
Fire and rescue authorities in England attended a total of 154,000 fires in 2012-13, 31 per cent fewer than in 2011-12.

Deliberate fires accounted for 68,900 (45%) of the fires attended in 2012-13, and these were 40 per cent fewer than in 2011-12. Among deliberate fires, 49,500 (72%) were secondary fires (small outdoor fires) and there were 44 per cent fewer of these than in 2011-12. Chart 4 shows this latest change as well as the trend over the past decade.



The above average rainfall from April 2012 was a key factor in this lower overall number of fires and in the lower number of deliberate fires in April to September 2012 compared to April to September 2011.

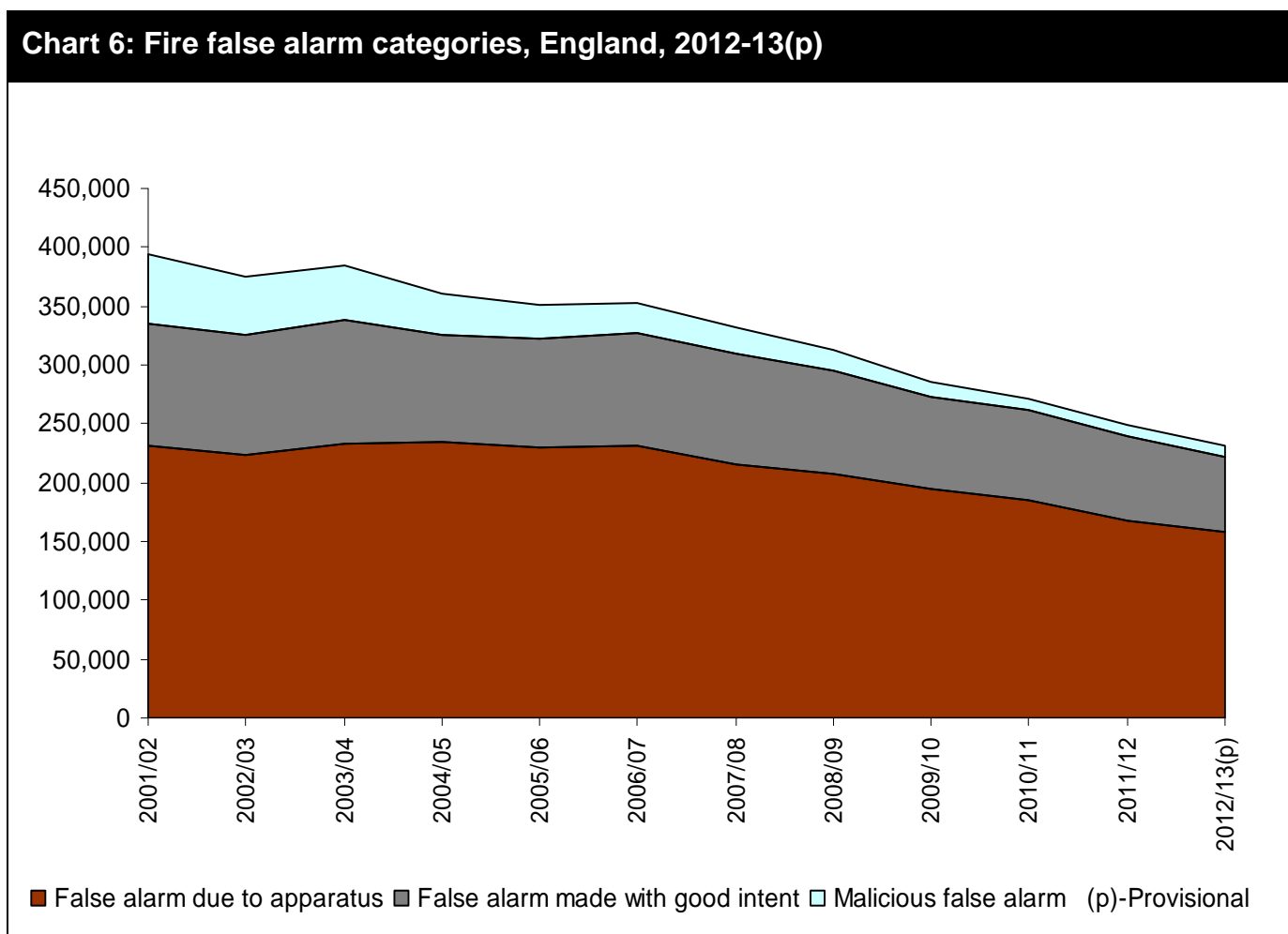
**Chart 5: Fire false alarms and fires in England, 2012-13(p) compared with 2011-12**



## 4.2 False alarms (see also accompanying spreadsheet tables 1a & 3di-iv)

There were 231,100 false fire alarms attended in England in 2012-13, seven per cent lower than 2011-12 and 38 per cent lower than ten years previous (in 2002-03). In 2012-13 False alarms due to apparatus were down by 6 per cent to 158,200; these incidents constitute over two-thirds of all fire false alarms. Meanwhile the number of malicious false alarms fell by 9 per cent to 8,800.

Chart 6 shows the trend for the different categories of false alarm. Each of the three categories has been declining since 2006-07.



### 4.3 Non-fire incidents (see also accompanying spreadsheet table 7a)

Summary table 7 shows that in 2012-13, fire and rescue authorities attended a total of 134,700 non-fire incidents. This was 1,200 (1 per cent) higher than in 2011-12. The increase is largely the result of flood incidents being 6,000 (50 per cent) higher in 2012-13 than the previous year.

Summary table 7 shows the number of incidents for the larger categories of non-fire incidents in 2012-13. 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 accounted for 11 per cent, up from 9 per cent in 2011-12.
- Lift release accounted for 9 per cent, down from 11 per cent in 2011-12.

<b>Summary table 7: Type of non-fire incidents attended<sup>1</sup>, England</b>			
<b>Type of incident</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>Proportion 2012-13 (%)</b>	<b>Change 2011-12 to 2012-13</b>
Road traffic incidents	27,800	21	-2%
Non-road traffic incidents	100,600	75	+6%
Of which			
Flooding	17,900	13	50%
Effecting entry	15,300	11	0%
Medical incidents	14,700	11	21%
Lift release	12,700	9	-10%
Animal assistance incidents	4,900	4	-9%
Spills and leaks	4,500	3	-9%
Removal of objects from people	4,200	3	12%
Other rescue/release of persons	3,800	3	-24%
Hazardous material incidents	2,000	1	+25%
Other <sup>2</sup>	20,600	15	-2%
Non-fire false alarm incidents	6,300	5	-36%
<b>Total non-fire Incidents attended</b>	<b>134,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>+1%</b>

# Accompanying tables

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

Table 1a	Fires by location and false alarms, England, 1999/00-2012/13p
Table 1b	Accidental fires by location and false alarms, England, 1999/00-2012/13p
Table 2a	Casualties from fires, England, 1999/00-2012/13p
Table 2b	Casualties from accidental fires, England, 1999/00-2012/13p
Table 3a	All fires, including chimney fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3b(i)	Primary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3b(ii)	Primary fires in dwellings, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3b(iii)	Primary fires in other buildings, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3b(iv)	Primary fires in road vehicles, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3b(v)	Primary fires in non-domestic buildings, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3c	Secondary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3d(i)	False alarms, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3d(ii)	Malicious false alarms, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3d(iii)	False alarms due to apparatus, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3d(iv)	False alarms made with good intent, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3e	Fatal casualties, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3f	Non-fatal <sup>1</sup> casualties, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3g	Non-fatal <sup>1</sup> casualties, excluding precautionary checks recommended and first aid cases, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 3h(i)	Non-fatal casualties, Hospital severe, by fire and rescue authority, 2009/10 - 2012/13p
Table 3h(ii)	Non-fatal casualties, Hospital slight, by fire and rescue authority, 2009/10 - 2012/13p
Table 3h(iii)	Non-fatal casualties, First Aid, by fire and rescue authority, 2009/10 - 2012/13p
Table 3h(iv)	Non-fatal casualties, Precautionary checks recommended, by fire and rescue service, 2009/10 - 2012/13p
Table 4a	Accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 4b	Fatal <sup>1</sup> casualties in accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 4c	Non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 4d	Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks recommended and first aid cases in accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p

Table 5a	Deliberate primary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 5b	Deliberate road vehicle primary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 5c	Deliberate primary fires in locations other than road vehicles, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13p
Table 5d	Deliberate secondary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2012/13
Table 6a	Primary fires, dwelling fires, accidental dwelling fires, England, 1981/82 - 2012/13
Table 6b	Fatalities in i) all fires and in ii) accidental dwelling fires, England, 1981/82 - 2012/13
Table 6c	Non-fatal casualties, England, 1981/82 - 2012/13
Table 6d	Deliberate fires by main types, England, 1981/82 - 2012/13
Table 7a(i)	Special Service Incident by FRA and type of incident in England & Wales, April to September 2012(p)
Table 7a(ii)	Special Service Incident by FRA and type of incident in England & Wales, April to September 2011(r)
Table 7a(iii)	Special Service Incident by FRA and type of incident in England & Wales, 2012/13p
Table P	Mid Year Population Estimates by Fire Authority Area, 1998 - 2011

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 new 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](http://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 fire was not the cause of death. For all of these reasons, fatalities data may therefore be subject 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';
  - (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](http://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 2012 to March 2013. There can be considerable seasonality and other fluctuation which can make interpretation difficult, especially for periods of less than twelve months. The hot dry summer of 2003 is a particularly acute example.
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

Revisions will be handled as per the Department for Communities and Local Government revisions policy <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1466387.pdf>. This requires explanation of the handling of scheduled revisions due to the receipt of subsequent information in the case of each statistical publication. For this publication, any such revisions will be included in the future as follows:

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

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

- ii) For statistics that are counts of incidents:

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

## Revisions in this release

This release includes routine revisions to the 2011-12 data. Revised figures for selected measures: fires, false alarm, non-fire incidents, fire fatalities and non-fatal casualties are compared with the figures when first provisional figures were first published in July 2012.

<b>Revisions – data for 2011-12 published in July 2013 compared to that published in July 2012, England</b>			
	Revised 2011-12 at July 2013	Difference from when first published in July 2012	% Difference from when first published in July 2012
All fires	223,858	+389	+0.2%
Fire false Alarms	249,370	+477	+0.2%
Non-fire incidents	133,476	+281	+0.2%
Fire fatalities	314	+10	+3.2%
Fire non-fatal casualties	9,370	+51	+0.5%

It is worth noting that fire fatalities have been subject to the largest percentage revision. This is as expected and is explained in Note 3 in the Definitions section.

## Uses of the data

- 1 The data in this publication and its accompanying spreadsheet annex table is 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/](http://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 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's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

## 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://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/fire2012/>

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

## 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

## Media enquiries:

office hours: 0303 444 1157

0303 444 1159

out of hours: 0303 444 1201

Email: [press@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

## Public enquiries:

Gavin Sayer

0303 444 2818

Nazneen Chowdhury

0303 444 2144

Email: [FireStatistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FireStatistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

[www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html)

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)

© Crown copyright, 2013

*Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.*

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document/publication is also available on our website at [www.gov.uk/dclg](http://www.gov.uk/dclg)

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, email [contactus@communities.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@communities.gov.uk) or write to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU  
Telephone: 030 3444 0000  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2013

For all our latest news and updates follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CommunitiesUK>

ISBN: 978-1-4098-3812-8