Department for Communities and Local Government

Fire Statistics Monitor: England April 2013 to March 2014

Fire & Rescue
Statistical Release
2 July 2014

- There were 275 fire fatalities in England in 2013-14. These were 14 (5%) fewer than in 2012-13 and 39% lower than in 2003-04.
- Two thirds of all fire fatalities were in accidental dwelling fires (181 in 2013-14). While these were 6 higher than in 2012-13, this is the second lowest number recorded and more than a third lower than in 2003-04.
- In 2012-13, there were 3,600 hospital non-fatal fire casualties. These were 5% and 55% fewer than one year and ten years earlier respectively.
- Local authority fire and rescue services attended 170,000 fires in England in 2013-14. This is the second lowest number of fire incidents recorded. The record low number of fires in 2012-13 was the result of fewer outdoor fires, due to above average rainfall that year.
- In 2013-14, local authority fire and rescue services attended 223,400 fire false alarms and 130,600 non-fire incidents – 4% and 3% fewer than the previous year respectively.

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1. Introduction

This Fire Statistics Monitor focuses on analysis of fire and rescue incident and fire casualty data for England for the financial year 2013-14 (April 2013 to March 2014). Its 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).

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 2013-14 was 275, 14 (5%) fewer than in 2012-13. This is 39 (12%) and 179 (39%) fewer than two years and ten years before (in 2003-04) respectively.
- The provisional number of fatalities in accidental dwelling fires in England in 2013-14 was 181, 6 more than in 2012-13 but 36% fewer than ten years earlier.
- There were 3,600 hospital non-fatal fire casualties[1] in England in 2013-14. This is 5 per cent fewer than in 2012-13. This less than half the number in 2003-04.

Summary table 1: Fire casualties and % change, England				
	2013-14(p)	Change 2011-12 to 2013-14 (p)	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14 (p)	Change 2003-04 to 2013-14(p)
Fire fatalities	275	-12%	-5%	-39%
of which in accidental dwelling fires	181	-4%	+3%	-36%
Non-fatal fire casualties[1]	3,614	-16%	-5%	-55%

Fires, false alarms, and non-fire incidents

Fire and rescue authorities attended 170,000 fire incidents in England in 2013-14. This is 10 per cent higher than in 2012-13, but 24 percent and 64 per cent fewer than in 2011-12 and in 2003-04 respectively.

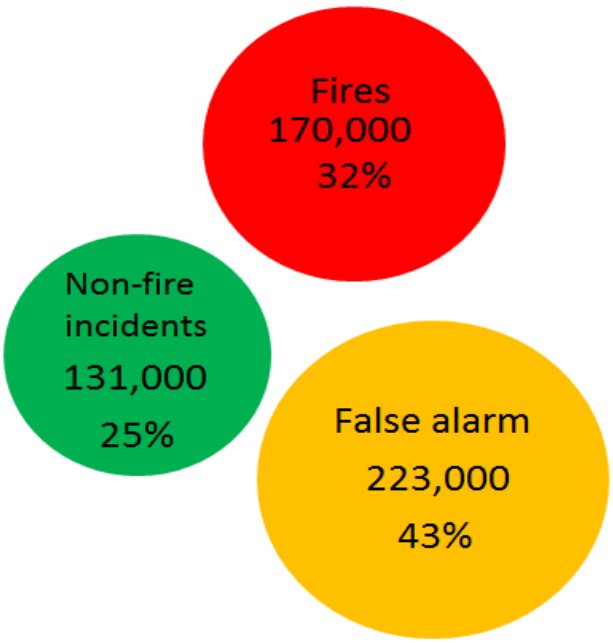
The increase in fire incidents in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13 was due to unusually low number of outdoor fires in 2012-13. This was because of the levels of rainfall which were well above average for much of that year.

[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. 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/homefireriskcheckgrant. A recent development is the introduction of fire safer cigarettes by manufacturers to the new European standard. These were introduced from November 2011.

Other headlines relating to incidents attended are:

- The total number of fire false alarms attended in England in 2013-14 was 223,400. This is 4 per cent fewer than 2012-13 and 42 per cent fewer than ten years earlier (in 2003-04).
- Fire and rescue authorities attended 130,600 non-fire incidents in 2013-14, 3 per cent less than in 2012-13 and 18 per cent lower than ten years earlier.
- The most common types of non-fire incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Authorities were road traffic collisions (21%), effecting entry (12%), flooding (11%), and medical incidents (10%). (See summary table 7).



Summary table 2: Incidents attended and % change, England

	2013-14(p)	Change 2011-12 to 2013-14(p)	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14(p)	Change 2003-04 to 2013-14(p)
Fires	170,000	-24%	+10%	-64%
Fire false alarms	223,400	-10%	-4%	-42%
Non-fire incidents[1]	130,600	-2%	-3%	-18%
Total incidents attended	523,900	-14%	+1%	-49%

(p) Provisional

1. includes non-fire false alarm incidents

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 2013-14 there were 275 fire fatalities in England, 14 fewer than 2012-13.
- Of the 275 fire fatalities in 2013-14, about two thirds (181) 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.

Fire fatalities, England, 2013-14(p)

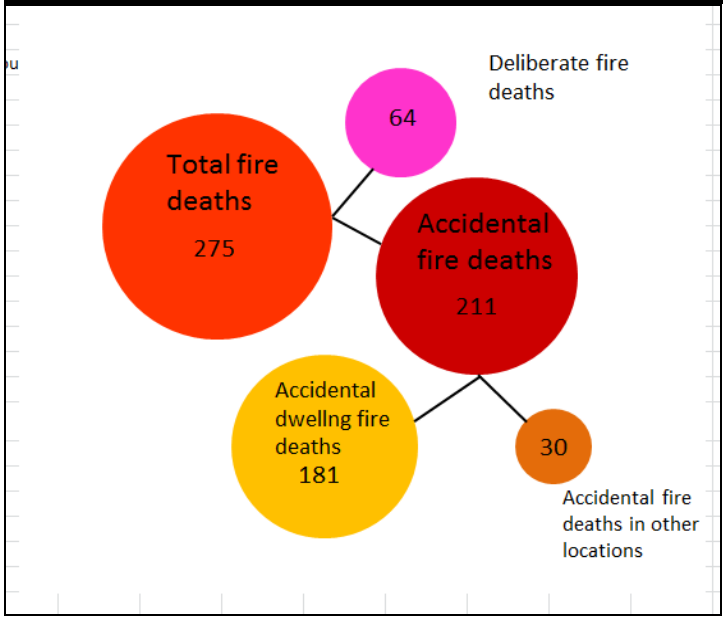
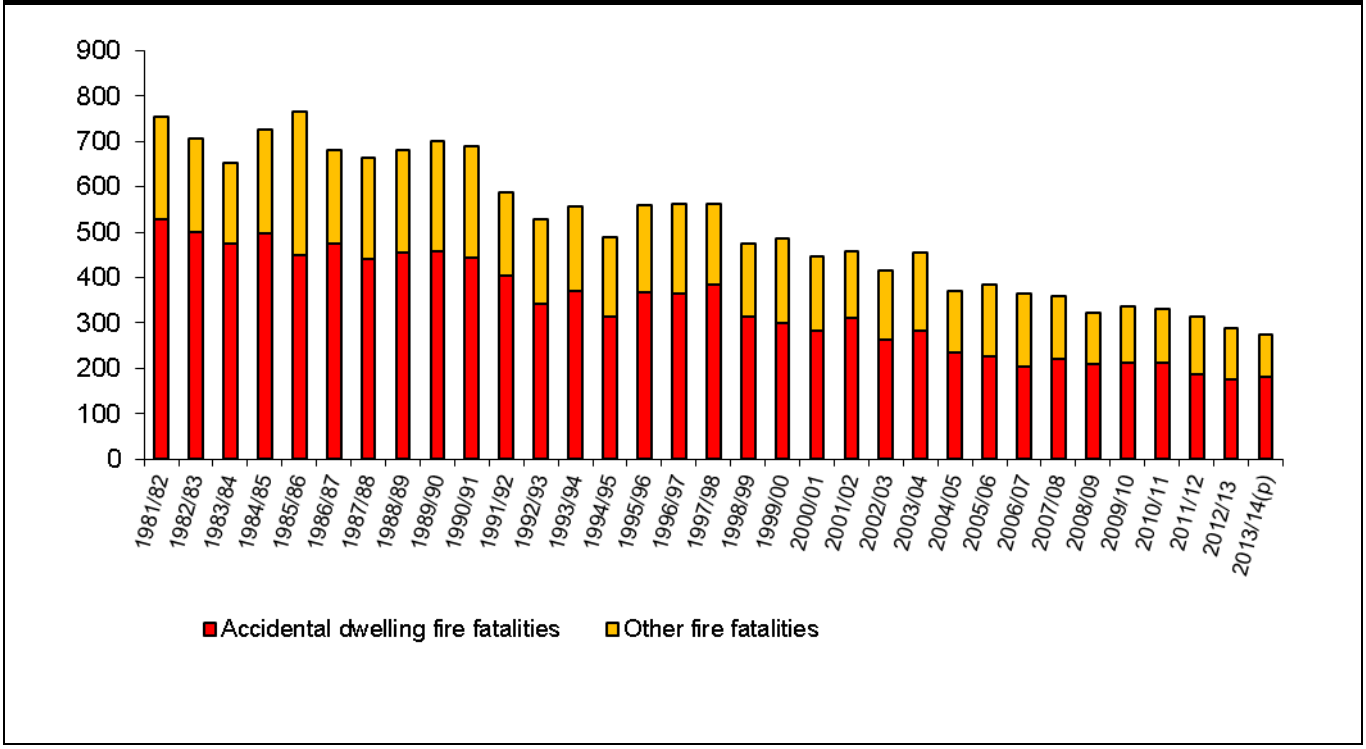


Chart 1: Fire fatalities, England. 1981-82 to 2013-14(p)



Summary table 3: All fire fatalities, England, 2007- 08 to 2013-14(p)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010–11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14(p)	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14
April-June	60	91	92	80	83	-	-
July-September	59	70	59	76	45	-	-
October-December	110	85	91	70	72	-	-
January-March	94	90	89	88	89	-	-
Financial year total	**323**	**336**	**331**	**314**	**289**	**275**	**-5%**

(p) provisional, - data not available
Quarterly data are not shown for 2013-14 as one fire and rescue authority was able only to submit an annual total in time for this publication.

Summary table 4: Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires, England, 2007-08 to 13-14(p)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14(p)	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14
April-June	36	58	58	51	40	-	-
July-September	34	42	32	40	25	-	-
October-December	67	55	67	38	50	-	-
January-March	72	58	56	59	60	-	-
Financial year total	**209**	**213**	**213**	**188**	**175**	**181**	**+6**

(p) provisional, - not available
Quarterly data are not shown for 2013-14 as one fire and rescue authority was able only to submit an annual total in time for this publication.

4. Non-fatal fire casualties

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

There were 3,614 hospital non-fatal fire casualties in fires in England in 2013-14. This was 200 (5 per cent) fewer than 2012-13 and 55 per cent fewer than 2003-04.

The total number of non-fatal casualties (including first aid cases and precautionary checks) in fires recorded in England in 2013-14 was 8,181, 3 per cent fewer than the previous year and 34 per cent fewer than ten years earlier.

Summary table 5: Injury severity for non-fatal fire casualties, England

	2013-14	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14	Change 2003-04 to 2013-14
Hospital severe	643	-3%	..
Hospital slight	2,971	-6%	..
Hospital non-fatal casualties	3,614	-5%	-55%
First aid	2,713	-2%	..
Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks	6,327	-4%	..
Precautionary check recommended[1]	1,854	0%	..
Total non-fatal casualties including first aid and precautionary checks[1]	8,181	-3%	-34%
of which resulting from dwelling fires	6,438	-4%	-36%
of which from accidental dwelling fires	5,724	-4%	-31%

[1] 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 2013-14 compared with 2012-13.

Chart 2: Non-fatal casualties, England, 1981-82 to 2013-14(p)

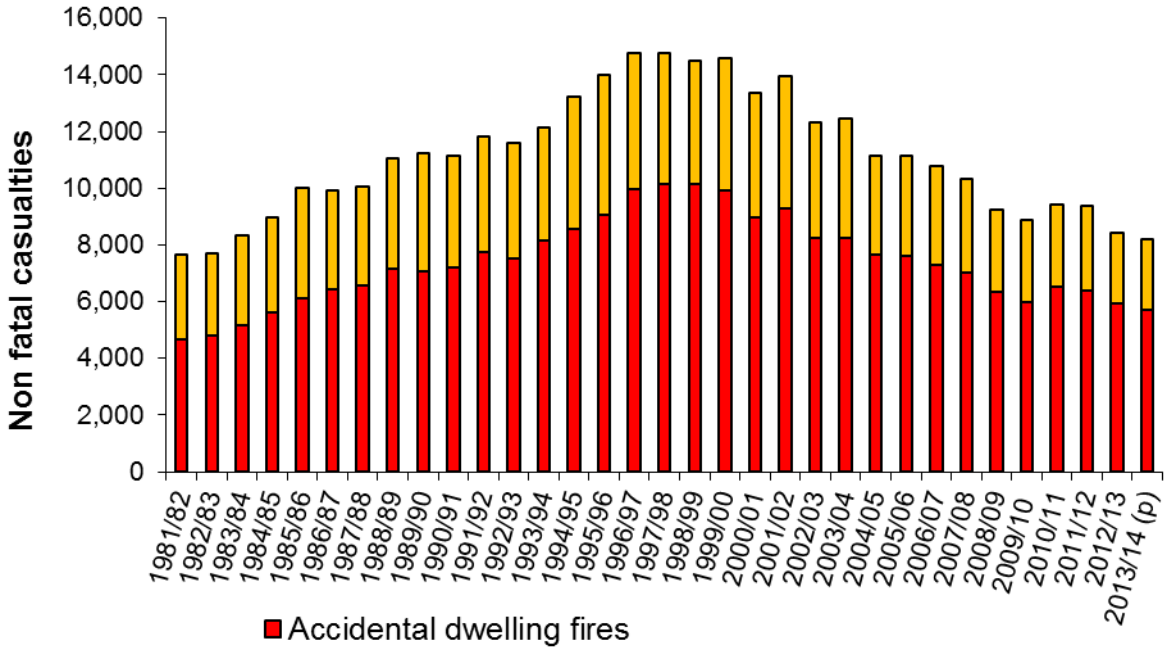
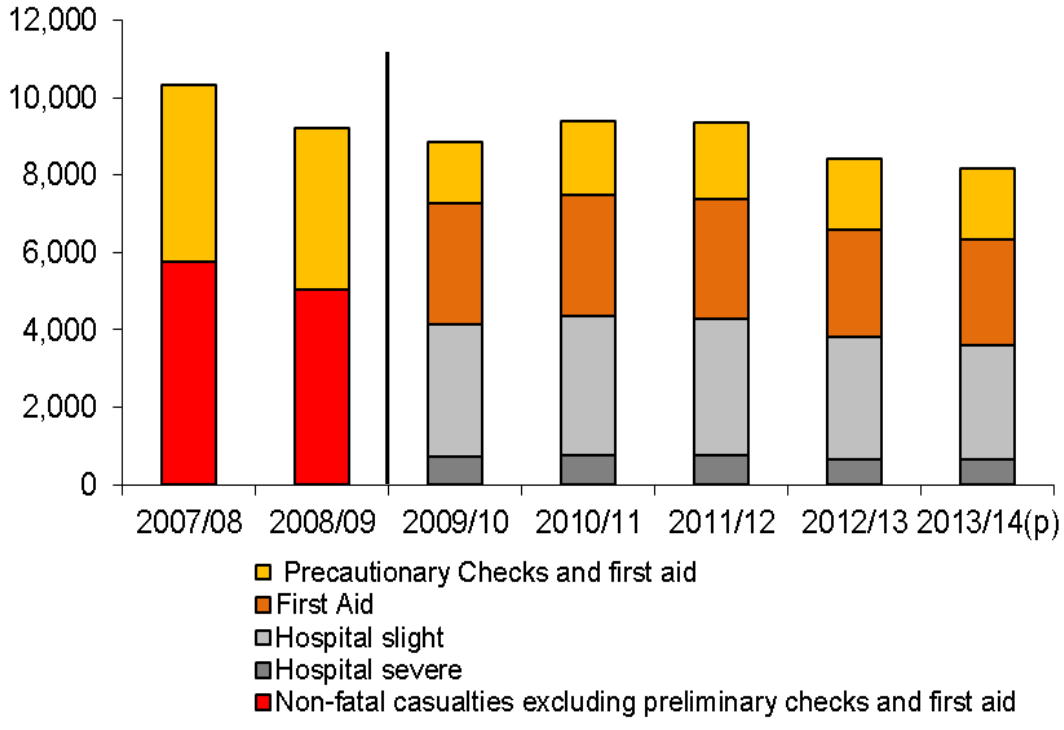


Chart 3: Non-fatal casualties, England 2006-07 to 2013-14(p)



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 2013-14. Analysis follows in sections 4.1 to 4.3.

Summary table 6: Incidents type and false alarms attended, England

	2013-14[4]	Change 2011-12 to 2013-14	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14	Change 2003-04 to 2013-14
Primary fires (A)	72,000	-17%	-4%	-58%
Building fires (A1)	47,500	-15%	-5%	-44%
Dwelling fires (A1i)	31,200	-12%	-6%	-39%
of which accidental	28,000	-9%	-5%	-30%
Other buildings[1] (A1ii)	16,200	-20%	-2%	-53%
Road vehicles (A2)	19,400	-19%	-4%	-74%
Other[2] (A3)	5,100	-31%	+11%	-56%
Secondary fires[3] (B)	92,000	-30%	+27%	-69%
Chimney fires (C)	6,000	+2%	-18%	-8%
Total fires attended (A+B+C)	**170,000**	**-24%**	**+10%**	**-64%**
of which deliberate fires	77,500	-33%	+13%	-76%
Fire false Alarms	223,400	-10%	-4%	-42%
Total (fires and false alarms)	**393,300**	**-17%**	**+2%**	**-54%**
Non-fire incidents[5]	130,600	-2%	-3%	-18%
Total (including non-fire incidents)	**523,900**	**-14%**	**+1%**	**-48%**

[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

.. not available

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

Fire and rescue authorities in England attended a total of 170,000 fires in 2013-14. This is 24 per cent lower than in 2011-12 and less than half the number each year in the early 2000s. The number of fires in 2012-13 was a record low due to above average rainfall for many of the months of that year.

Deliberate fires accounted for 77,500 (46%) of the fires attended in 2013-14. This was 33% lower than in 2011-12, and 13% higher than in 2012-13. Chart 4 shows the recent levels as well as the trend over the past decade.

Chart 4: Details of deliberate fires, England, 2001-02 to 2013-14(p)

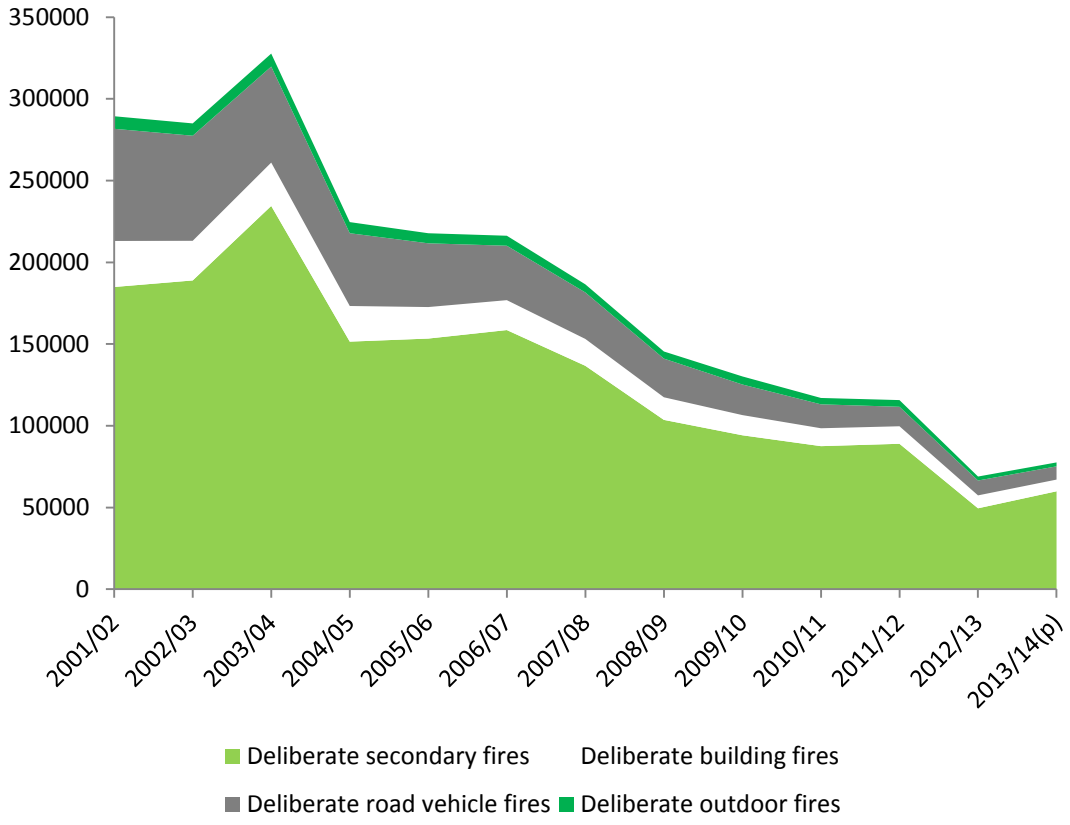
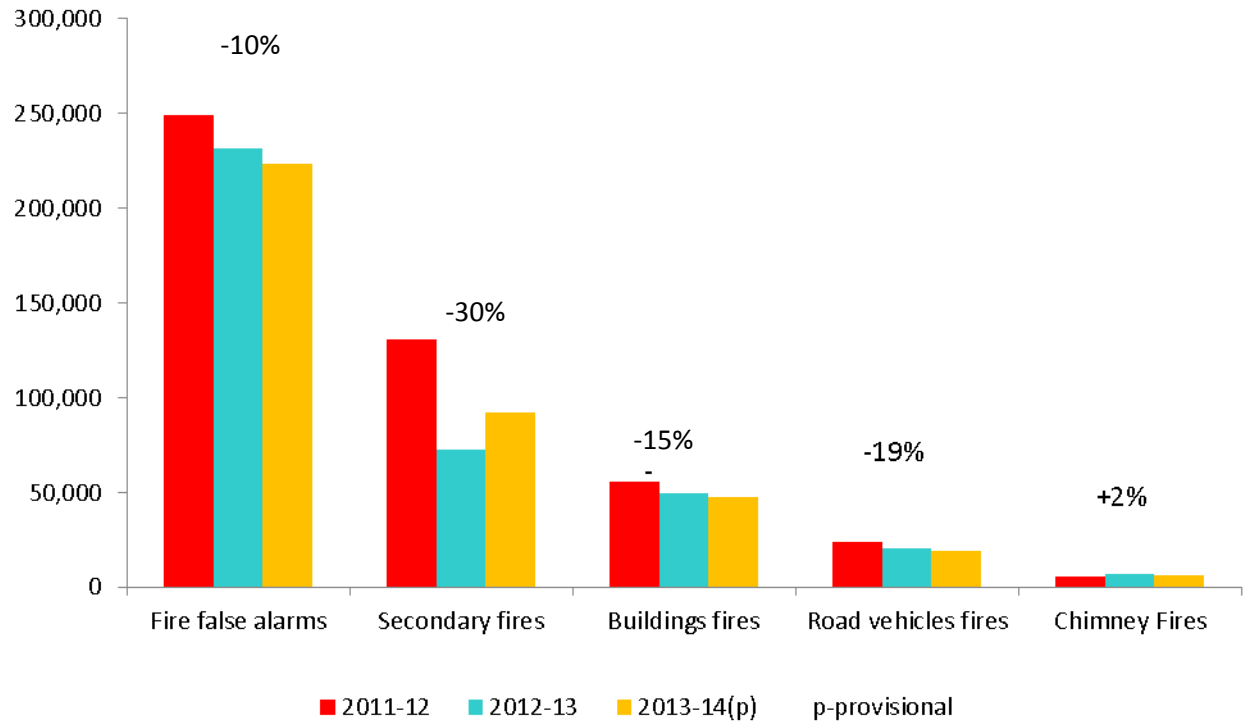


Chart 5 shows the percent changes in false alarms and fire components over the period 2011-12 to 2013-14. The percentage change represents the change from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

Chart 5: Fire false alarms and fires in England, 2013-14(p) compared with 2012-13

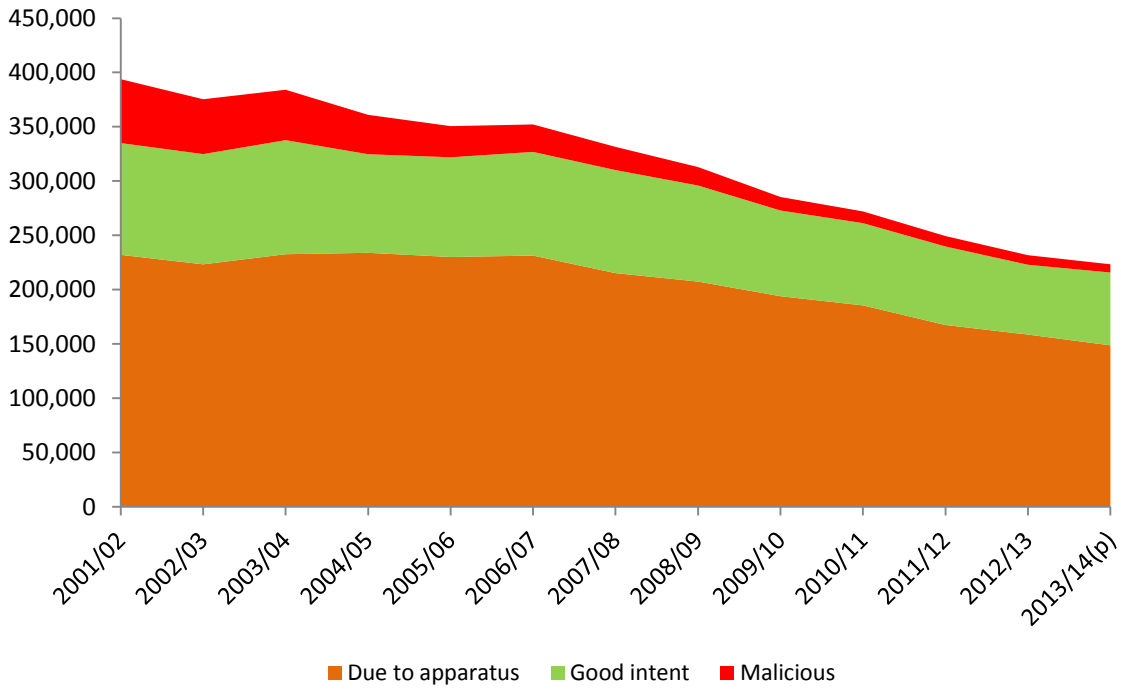


5.2 False alarms (see also accompanying spreadsheet tables 1a & 3di-iv)

There were 223,400 false fire alarms attended in England in 2013-14, four per cent lower than 2012-13 and 42 per cent lower than ten years previous (in 2003-04). In 2013-14, False alarms due to apparatus were down by 6 per cent to 148,700; these incidents constitute over two-thirds of all fire false alarms. Meanwhile the number of malicious false alarms fell by 14 per cent to 7,600.

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

Chart 6: Fire false alarm categories, England, 2013-14(p)



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

Summary table 7 shows that in 2013-14, fire and rescue authorities attended a total of 130,600 non-fire incidents. This was 3 per cent lower than in 2012-13.

Summary table 7 shows the number of incidents for the larger categories of non-fire incidents in 2013-14. 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.
- There were 14,400 flooding incidents (11 per cent of all non-fire incidents). This was at a similar level to the average over the previous 5 years of 14,700 flooding incidents per year.

- Medical incidents accounted for 10 per cent, down by 7 percent from that in 2012-13.
- Lift release accounted for 9 per cent, down by about 12 per cent from that in 2012-13.

Summary table 7: Type of non-fire incidents attended[1], England

Type of incident	2013-14	Proportion 2013-14 (%)	Change 2012-13 to 2013-14
Road traffic incidents	27,800	21	-0.3%
Non-road traffic incidents	97,100	74	-3.6%
Of which			
Effecting entry	15,100	12	-1.4%
Flooding	14,400	11	-19.6%
Medical incidents	13,600	10	-7.3%
Lift release	11,200	9	-11.7%
Animal assistance incidents	4,900	4	-0.5%
Spills and leaks	4,200	3	-8.5%
Removal of objects from people	4,500	3	5.5%
Other rescue/release of persons	3,700	3	-3.8%
Hazardous material incidents	1,800	1	-8.0%
Other[2]	23,800	18	-15.0%
Non-fire false alarm incidents	5,600	4	-11.1%
Total non-fire Incidents attended	**130,600**	**100**	**-3.3%**

Accompanying tables

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

Table 1a	Fires by location and false alarms, England, 1999/00-2013/14p
Table 1b	Accidental fires by location and false alarms, England, 1999/00-2013/14p
Table 2a	Casualties from fires, England, 1999/00-2013/14p
Table 2b	Casualties from accidental fires, England, 1999/00-2013/14p
Table 3a	All fires, including chimney fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3b(i)	Primary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3b(ii)	Primary fires in dwellings, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3b(iii)	Primary fires in other buildings, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3b(iv)	Primary fires in road vehicles, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3b(v)	Primary fires in non-domestic buildings, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3c	Secondary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3d(i)	False alarms, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3d(ii)	Malicious false alarms, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3d(iii)	False alarms due to apparatus, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3d(iv)	False alarms made with good intent, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3e	Fatal casualties, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3f	Non-fatal1 casualties, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3g	Non-fatal1 casualties, excluding precautionary checks recommended and first aid cases, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 3h(i)	Non-fatal casualties, Hospital severe, by fire and rescue authority, 2009/10 - 2013/14p
Table 3h(ii)	Non-fatal casualties, Hospital slight, by fire and rescue authority, 2009/10 - 2013/14p
Table 3h(iii)	Non-fatal casualties, First Aid, by fire and rescue authority, 2009/10 - 2013/14p
Table 3h(iv)	Non-fatal casualties, Precautionary checks recommended, by fire and rescue service, 2009/10 - 2013/14p
Table 4a	Accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 4b	Fatal1 casualties in accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 4c	Non-fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 4d	Non-fatal casualties excluding precautionary checks recommended and first aid cases in accidental dwelling fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p

Table 5a	Deliberate primary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 5b	Deliberate road vehicle primary fires, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
Table 5c	Deliberate primary fires in locations other than road vehicles, by fire and rescue authority, 2001/02 - 2013/14p
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, 2013/14p
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.

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 r**eportable fires 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, including sometimes following road traffic collisions. 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

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.

2013-14 data

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue was unable to provide a complete set of records for 2013-14 in time for the production of these statistics. The following actions were taken to minimise the impact on national totals as far as was possible:

i) exact annual totals of numbers of fire fatalities were requested from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue and these are fully reflected in all data,
ii) numbers of fire non-fatal casualties for fires attended within Greater Manchester for 2013-14 were assumed to be unchanged from 2012-13. For the rest of England the change in non-fatal fire casualties averaged around 6% down from 2012-13 to 2013-14. With zero change assumed for Greater Manchester, the resulting reported average change for all England was smaller at 3% down.
iii) numbers of fire incidents are based on records received, and the number for Greater Manchester for 2013-14 is an undercount. As a result the national totals of numbers of fires are in the order of 1% lower than they would have been, had a complete set of incident records been received on time from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue.

There were nine periods of industrial action during 2013-14. The first was on 25 September, and the last was on 3 January, and their durations varied between two and six hours. The numbers of records of incidents during these periods that were received were close to the numbers of incidents.

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 2013-14 are published for the first time, statistics for 2011-12 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 2013-14 data, any revisions to statistics for periods during the financial year of 2012-13 would be made. These would not subsequently be revised further, barring exceptional circumstances.

Revisions in this release

This release includes routine revisions to the 2012-13 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 2013.

Revisions – data for 2012-13 published in July 2014 compared to that published in July 2013, England

	Revised 2012-13 at July 2014	Difference from when first published in July 2013	% Difference from when first published in July 2013
All fires	154,433	+389	+0.2%
Fire false Alarms	231,757	+612	+0.3%
Non-fire incidents	135,032	+320	+0.2%
Fire fatalities	289	+18	+6.6%
Fire non-fatal casualties	8,181	-198	-2.4%

It is worth noting that fire fatalities have been subject to the largest percentage revision, and that this revision since the first figure for 2012-13 is larger than normal. Fire fatalities for 2012-13 were reported to be 286 in the January 2014 edition of this publication, and so this latest revision is relatively small. Revisions to fire fatality numbers are to be expected, and reasons for this are outlined 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/

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.

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

This document/publication is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/dclg

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