



Home Office

Fire Operational Statistics: Definitions Document

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Introduction

The Fire Operational Statistics publication focuses on trends in workforce, workforce diversity, firefighter safety and fire prevention by fire and rescue services, in England.

This publication accompanies the statistical releases, infographics and reference data tables on this topic. All of which can be found via the fire statistics landing page:

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

Tables on Workforce can be found in tables FIRE1101 to FIRE1112 on the Fire Statistics Data Tables page here-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables#workforce-and-workforce-diversity>

1 Total Workforce, Diversity and Leavers

1.1 Staff

FRS staff include personnel employed directly by the Fire and Rescue Authorities across all duty systems at 31 March. The returns should include:

- Temporary staff who have been employed for over a year.
- Staff on fixed term contracts who have been employed for over a year.
- Secondees where the FRS is paying their salaries.

Personnel to be excluded are:

- Agency staff employed for less than a year.
- Casual staff employed for less than a year.
- Personnel employed by outside contractors.
- Secondees where the FRS is paying their salaries.

Staff who are on temporary promotion on 31 March are to be counted in the temporary role held on that day. Personnel who are over normal retirement age are also to be included in the annual returns. A separate note should be provided for those who medically retire when over the normal retirement age. Anyone with two contracts of employment should be counted twice in the returns. For example, if a member of staff is employed with a retained and wholetime contract they will be recorded in both the retained duty system and wholetime tables.

1.2 Strength

The actual number of firefighter posts filled as per contract on 31 March. Do not include any temporary posts or posts that are fully funded by outside agencies. For example, if staff contracted as support is temporarily seconded to another position within the brigade, they should be recorded as support. Staff who are on temporary promotion at 31 March are to be counted in the temporary role held on that day. Persons seconded to Home Office, Fire Service College, charitable organisations etc. should not be included in the brigade strength.

Usually the headcount is greater than the strength.

1.3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Full-time officers and staff are counted as 1.0, and part-time are counted according to the proportion of full-time worked (for example, a firefighter working 60 per cent of full-time hours is counted as 0.6).

1.4 24 Hour Units of Cover

Retained firefighters respond when required during their 'on call' hours, therefore it is more appropriate to calculate their employment in 24 hours of cover to determine whether their number is sufficient to fulfil operational commitments.

However, staff might not be employed for an entire hour. Units should be calculated as a percentage of the time spent on call:

Full hours = 1 unit

45 minutes = 0.75 units

30 minutes = 0.5 units

15 minutes = 0.25 units

For example, if a firefighter was employed for two hours and fifteen minutes, the number of units should be calculated as follows:

2 units at 100% (full hour) = 2

1 units at 0.25% (quarter of an hour) = 0.25

1.5 Headcount

Actual number of people employed by the FRS.

1.6 Brigade Manager

Includes Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) and Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO). Brigade managers will take charge of incidents of 10 pumps or more.

1.7 Area Manager

Staff responsible for heading a directorate in the organisation. Will take charge of an incident of up to 9 pumps or undertake specialist tasks as support at an incident.

1.8 Group Manager

Group managers undertake specialist duties in a number of different disciplines such as fire safety, operations and training.

1.9 Station Manager

Station Managers will manage one or more fire stations and are responsible for all service delivery matters for that station(s). They can also undertake specialist duties. Will take charge of an incident of up to 6 pumps or undertake specialist tasks as support at an incident.

1.10 Watch Manager

Watch Managers lead larger groups of personnel and in the retained service will be in charge of a fire station. They will attend incidents as officer in charge of an appliance and will also take command of incidents involving up to 3 pumping appliances. Amongst their duties, they also undertake specialist duties such as training or fire safety.

1.11 Crew Manager

Crew Managers lead a small team on a specific task but can take charge of incidents involving up to 3 pumping appliances.

1.12 Firefighter

Trained staff carrying out day-to-day firefighting and fire safety work.

1.13 Wholetime Firefighter

A person employed as a full-time firefighter regardless of their rank (including riders, non-operational staff and flexible duty officers, and recruits in training).

1.14 Retained Duty System

For total RDS strength calculated in 24-hour units please record the number of RDS firefighters in post calculated in 24-hour units of cover (See definition on [24-hour units of cover](#)) at 31 March.

A retained duty system firefighter who is filling two posts and has separate contracts of employment with the FRS should be counted twice on the return.

1.15 Retained staff on separate contracts

It is acknowledged that a number of FRSs are now contracting individuals on a wide range of contracts to meet local circumstances. For example, this category includes wholetime operational staff providing retained cover or members of staff from technical rescue on a dual contract. However, the category for recording staff on separate contracts should not include day crewing or nucleus crewing personnel who are, in effect, providing some retained cover but do this as part of their normal single contract. For the purposes of this category only, those personnel who are wholetime in one FRS and have a retained commitment in another should only be recorded on the return for the FRS in which they have that retained commitment

1.16 Part of wholetime contract

These include retained strength for staff that are part of a wholetime contract. For example wholetime personnel who are, in effect, providing some retained cover but do this as part of their normal single contract.

1.17 Non Operational Staff

Wholetime posts which are not deemed to require personnel to fulfil any operational commitment, i.e. not mobilised at fires, road traffic accidents or special services incidents.

1.18 Fire Control personnel

Uniformed personnel who are employed to work in fire and rescue service control centres to answer emergency calls and deal with mobilising, communications and related activities, regardless of rank. Fire control staff detached to staff departments or undertaking special projects are included in the fire control figures. These are recorded in full time equivalents (FTEs). Staff on temporary promotion at 31 March should be counted for strength purposes only in the temporary role held on that day.

1.19 Support Staff

Support staff employed by the FRS. It includes for example administrative roles, clerical support, finance, vehicle maintenance, property management etc.

1.20 Disabled

As defined in the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if:

- They have a physical or mental impairment
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities

1.21 Leavers

All personnel who ceased to be employed by the FRS. Include personnel whose last day of employment in the fire service, regardless of any prior periods of sickness or suspension, falls within the year.

Exclude personnel transferring to other FRSs or being seconded to Communities and Local Government, Fire Service College etc. Where, at the end of the reporting year, it is known that an appeal is pending over the dismissal of an individual, be it for disciplinary, medical or proficiency reasons, then the details are not to be entered until the outcome of the appeal is known, which may be in the following reporting year.

1.22 Dismissal on disciplinary or poor performance grounds/efficiency

Termination of the contract of employment with FRS for disciplinary reasons such as gross misconduct or as a consequence of poor performance. This does not include failure to maintain fitness which is dealt with separately below.

1.23 Medical discharge

Personnel resigning on the grounds of ill-health, please include medical discharge due to harassment or discrimination

If someone is 'medically retired' beyond the normal retirement age, then he/she is included in the ill-health retirement figures.

1.24 Resignation due to harassment or discrimination

Personnel resigning as a result of harassment or discrimination, not on the grounds of ill-health.

1.25 Failure to maintain fitness

Termination of the contract of employment with FRS as a consequence of a failure to maintain the required level of fitness.

1.26 Normal retirement

Where a person leaves the FRS to take up retirement after having served their eligible length of service to receive a full pension.

1.27 Re-employment by another Fire and Rescue Service

Resignation to take employment with another FRS.

1.28 Re-employment by another Fire and Rescue Service

Resignation to take employment with another FRS.

1.29 Re-employment as support personnel within the same Fire and Rescue Service

Where a person leaves to take up another type of employment within the same FRS as support staff (e.g. wholetime staff re-engaged under the FPS scheme).

Further statistics on Firefighter Safety can be found in tables FIRE0508, FIRE0509 and FIRE1402 on the Fire Statistics Data Tables page here-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

2 Firefighter Safety

2.1 Total number of personnel injured

The number of individuals sustaining injuries during an activity. Multiple injuries to an individual sustained during a single event are counted as a single injury, e.g. a broken arm and leg = 1 injury. However, if a person was injured in more than one activity this is counted more than once. For example, if the same person was injured during three different operational activities, they will be counted three times.

2.2 RIDDOR

[The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 \(RIDDOR\)](#), place a legal duty on employers, self-employed people and people in control of premises to report:

- Work-related deaths
- Major Injuries
- Over three days injuries
- Work related diseases
- Dangerous Occurrences (near miss accidents)

The return collects all injuries that are classified as RIDDOR and not just RIDDOR reportable.

2.3 Over 3 day injuries

This category refers to actual number of injuries sustained during an activity, which were not 'major' as defined in RIDDOR, but resulted in the person being unavailable for their normal duties for a period of more than three days.

2.4 Major Injuries

Injuries sustained during each activity for each group which resulted in an injury that is defined in RIDDOR as a 'major' injury. Those injuries are:

- Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes.
- Amputations.
- Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight.
- Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs.
- Serious burns (including scalding) which: covers more than 10% of the body.

- Causes significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs.
- Any scalping requiring hospital treatment.
- Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia.
- Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which: leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness
- Requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

Further guidance is available from HSE.

2.5 Shifts Lost

The actual number of working days/shifts lost to sickness by FRS personnel. 'Shift' includes any period within a 24-hour day, commencing midnight, when a work period is scheduled to start. The figures are actual working days/shifts lost and do not include any rota days that may form part of the period of absence. For example, for retained duty staff, a shift may be a 24-hour duty day or an 8-hour duty day. The calculation is the number of days they were out of action when they would have been on call, regardless of the number of hours they were contracted for per day. So, if retained duty staff were contracted to be on call a certain number of hours (e.g. 8 hours for 6 days a week) and were out of action for three of the 8 hour shifts, the number of shifts lost would be three. If they were contracted for 24 hours and missed three shifts, three would also be recorded. In the instance of an employee reporting sick part way through a working day/shift, the information is to be recorded to the nearest half day/shift. Part time staff and job share staff should be recorded in full time equivalent shifts within their relevant employee category. Cumulative totals of part shifts are added together and reported as full shifts lost based on the average work pattern within the relevant employee category.

Example for a non-uniformed employee working 3 hours per day conditioned to 37 hour pay and conditions pro-rata, who was sick for a period covering five calendar days normally scheduled for work.

2.6 Operational incidents

This category includes incidents/injuries that occurred while responding to an emergency. The relevant categories are a fire, a road traffic collision or other special service incidents. For example, injuries occurring whilst responding to fire incidents (e.g. a retained person en route to the fire station) are included as operational incidents under fire. If an injury occurs whilst returning from an incident, this is also included under operational incidents. The incident is considered to be ongoing until such time as the person is back at the station or, if preceding other duties such as hydrant testing or training, then until commencing that activity.

2.7 Fire incidents

This includes primary and secondary fire incidents. Primary fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances. Secondary Fires are fire incidents that did not occur at a primary location, was not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did

not involve casualties (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident) and was attended by four or fewer appliances.

2.8 Road Traffic collisions

Non-fire incidents which require the attendance of the Fire and Rescue Services for collisions involving road vehicles (i.e. large and small vehicles, including motorbikes).

2.9 Other Special Service Incidents

There are non-fire incidents which require the attendance of an appliance or officer and include:

- Flooding
- Rescue or evacuation from water
- Medical Incident - Co-responder/First responder
- Animal assistance incidents

2.10 Training

Any training activity including lectures, exercises, practical training sessions and other forms of training to maintain competence levels. Training and development includes sessions delivered either locally or at one of the regional training centres. The injuries need to be split depending on whether they were sustained during operational training or during fitness training.

2.11 Operational Training

This includes theory and practical work covering basic rescue techniques, such as:

- Using firefighting equipment and breathing apparatus, foam and fire extinguishers, ladders, hoses and hydraulic equipment.
- Life-saving skills such as teaching fire safety and giving first aid.
- Training for Inspecting Officers and Fire Safety Officers, community fire prevention, licensing, health care, building design, fire engineering and investigation.

2.12 Fitness Training

This category refers to physical exercise sessions such as gym time, running and circuit training carried out during shifts.

2.13 Routine Activities

Routine activities include public education activities such as drills, fire safety talks, maintenance, equipment checks, yard work, tea and coffee breaks etc.

2.14 Total number of vehicle incidents

This include all accidents involving FRS vehicles. It count accidents, not damaged vehicles: i.e. an accident involving two FRS vehicles is recorded as one accident.

2.15 Blue light accident

An accident involving a Fire Service vehicle on its way to an emergency incident with an activated blue light.

2.16 FRS vehicles involved

The total number of all FRS vehicles involved in accidents. If one vehicle was involved in more than one accident, each accident it was involved in is counted.

2.17 Vehicle Damage only

These are the number of damaged FRS vehicles from accidents where no one was injured.

2.18 Fire appliances

Road vehicles designed to assist firefighters in operational activities, other than cars and vans, including pumps and aerials.

2.19 Other Vehicles

All vehicles other than appliances, cars and vans, such as general purpose lorries, boats etc.

Further statistics on Fire Prevention can be found in tables FIRE1201, FIRE1202 and FIRE1203 on the Fire Statistics Data Tables page here-
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables#fire-prevention>

3 Fire Prevention

3.1 Fire prevention campaigns and initiatives

“Fire Prevention campaigns and initiatives” includes:

- Youth diversion
- Young Firesetter schemes
- Schools education activity (nursery to key stage 5)
- Arson prevention initiatives
- Other fire prevention campaigns/initiatives (Road safety campaigns etc.)

3.2 Home Fire Risk Checks

These checks must include:

- Identifying and advising of the potential fire risks within the home Young Firesetter schemes.
- Advising householder what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks.
- Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out and ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms. The HFRC can include installing a smoke alarm(s) where appropriate.

If more than one check has been carried out on the same location, they are counted separately.

3.3 Personnel Hours

The number of hours spent by FRS personnel on completed community fire safety campaigns and initiatives (please note: 2 personnel spending 2 hours on a single activity should count as 4 hours). This category includes:

- Persons actively involved in the activity, for instance, if an appliance has four staff and only two participate, only count two.
- Personnel hours spent on preparations (including administration time), travel and carrying out the campaigns and initiatives.
- The total number of hours spent on campaigns/initiatives that are still 'open' are not recorded but fully included in the following year. This prevents 'double counting' these initiatives

3.4 Number of visits

The number of visits to individual types of premises. If a programme of visits has been arranged then each visit is counted separately, e.g. if there were four programmes, and each programme constituted four visits, then the number of visits would be recorded as 16. A repeat visit from a delivery program is counted twice.

3.5 Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC)

Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) comprise:

- Identifying and advising of the potential fire risks in the home.
- Advising the householder what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks.
- Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out and ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms. The HFSC can include installing a smoke alarm where appropriate.

If more than one check is carried out on the same location, then these are recorded separately.

3.6 FRS Personnel

FRS personnel include staff employed directly by the fire and rescue services across all duty systems. These include:

- All temporary staff
- Staff on fixed term contracts
- Secondees where the FRS is paying their salaries

Personnel that are excluded are:

- Personnel employed by outside contractors
- Secondees where the FRS is not paying their salaries

3.7 Partners

Partners include organisations such as:

- Home Improvement Services
- Education Services
- Social Services
- Voluntary Sector
- Housing Associations
- Primary Care Trusts

3.8 Elderly people

Home Fire Safety Checks are defined as having attended an elderly person when the household is occupied by a person 65 years of age or over.

If a Home Fire Safety Check is carried out with a person that is both elderly and disabled, the information is recorded twice, as both an elderly and a disabled check.

3.9 Disabled

Home Fire Safety Checks are defined as having attended a disabled person when the household is occupied by a disabled person, as defined in the Equality Act 2010:

- The individual has a physical or mental impairment.
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities.

If a Home Fire Safety Check is carried out with a person that is both elderly and disabled, the information is recorded twice, as both an elderly and a disabled check.

3.10 Firesetter schemes

Youth initiatives designed to tackle and prevent firesetting behaviour, involving a one-to-one intervention or targeting groups of young people.

3.11 Youth diversion schemes

Initiatives designed to divert young (aged 18 and under) people from offending or those at risk of offending. This category includes Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) and Cadets schemes.

3.12 Other youth fire safety schemes

Other youth fire safety programmes include information on FRS involvement with schools, including visits to fire stations or school talks.

3.13 Fire safety audit

A fire safety audit is defined as a scheduled or planned visit by an appropriately skilled fire safety officer to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the level of compliance with the requirements of The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) by a responsible person.

3.14 Satisfactory fire safety audit

An audit is deemed as satisfactory if the premises broadly complies with the Fire Safety Order and no further action is necessary.

3.15 Unsatisfactory fire safety audit

An audit is deemed unsatisfactory if further action is necessary to bring the premises up to compliance with the Fire Safety Order.

3.16 Informal notification

An informal notification includes any non-legally binding action, resulting from an unsatisfactory audit e.g. informal notification or agreed action plan.

3.17 Enforcement notices (Article 30)

An enforcement notice is served - under RR(FS)O(2005)- Article 30 - if the enforcing authority is of the opinion that the responsible person has failed to comply with any provision of the Fire Safety Order or of any regulations made under it.

3.18 Prohibition notices (Article 31)

A prohibition notice is served - under RR(FS)O(2005)- Article 31 - on the responsible person or any other person, if the enforcing authority is of the opinion that use of premises involves or will involve a risk to relevant persons so serious that use of the premises ought to be prohibited or restricted.

3.19 Prosecutions (Article 32)

The number of convictions for failure to comply with an alteration, enforcement or prohibition notice, or any other matter for which it is an offence under Article 32.

3.20 Alteration notices (Article 29)

An alteration notice is served - under RR(FS)O(2005)- Article 29 - on the responsible person if the enforcing authority is of the opinion that the premises constitutes a serious risk to relevant persons (whether due to the features of the premises, their use, any hazard present, or any other circumstances); or may constitute such a risk if a change is made to them or the use to which they are put.

3.21 Premises satisfactory following enforcement

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

3.22 Premises known to FRAs

The FRA's knowledge, as far as possible, of all relevant premises; for the enforcing authority to establish a risk profile for premises in its area. These refer to all premises except single private dwellings.

4 Further Information

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If you have any comments, suggestions or enquiries, please contact the team via email using FireStatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or via the user feedback form on the [fire statistics collection page](#).

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www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics



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