



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Fire and Rescue

**Operational Statistics Bulletin for England:  
2014-15**

- There were 44,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) Fire and Rescue Authority staff in England as at 31 March 2015. This was 3.6 per cent and 12.6 per cent lower than one year and ten years earlier respectively. ([Chart 1a](#))
- Total firefighter strength (full time equivalent for wholetime, and 24 hour units of cover for retained duty system) decreased by 3.2 per cent and 14.7 per cent, compared to one and ten years ago respectively. ([Section 1](#))
- During 2014-15, 4,210 staff left Fire and Rescue Authorities (including those who left to other authorities or were employed non-uniformed by the same authority). This was 8.6 per cent of staff. 8.4 per cent of staff left in 2013-14. ([Section 1](#))
- There were 2,627 injuries sustained by firefighters (during training, operational incidents and routine activities) in 2014-15. This was 16.5 per cent and 52.7 per cent lower than one year and ten years earlier respectively. This continues the downward trend seen over the past decade. ([Chart 2a](#))
- An estimated 627,500 personnel hours were spent on community fire safety campaigns and initiatives in 2014-15. This a reduction of around three per cent compared to the previous year, although the number of visits increased by ten per cent. ([Section 3](#))
- An estimated 727,500 personnel hours were spent on home fire risk checks by Fire and Rescue Authorities in England in 2014-15. This a decrease of around ten per cent compared to the previous year, while the number of visits decreased by three per cent. ([Section 3](#))
- Fire and Rescue Authorities carried out 58,827 fire safety audits in 2014-15 (4.2 per cent of premises known to the authorities), 12.5 per cent less than in 2013-14 when 67,266 audits were conducted. ([Section 4](#))

# Fire Statistics

## *Statistical Release*

<a href="#">Introduction</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">1. Staff and Leavers</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">2. Health and Safety</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">3. Community Fire Safety</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">4. Fire Safety Audits</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Definitions</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Technical notes</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Enquiries</a>	<a href="#">12</a>

**Responsible Statistician:**  
Emma Crowhurst

**Statistical enquiries:**  
0303 444 2421  
[firestatistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:firestatistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**Media Enquiries:**  
0303 444 1201  
[press@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

**Date of next publication:**  
Autumn 2016

# Introduction

This Bulletin contains operational statistics relating to the Fire and Rescue Authorities in England for the financial year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, and is focussed on Personnel, Health and Safety, Fire Safety and Prevention activities. Unless stated, data are sourced from annual returns from the 46 Fire and Rescue Authorities in England.

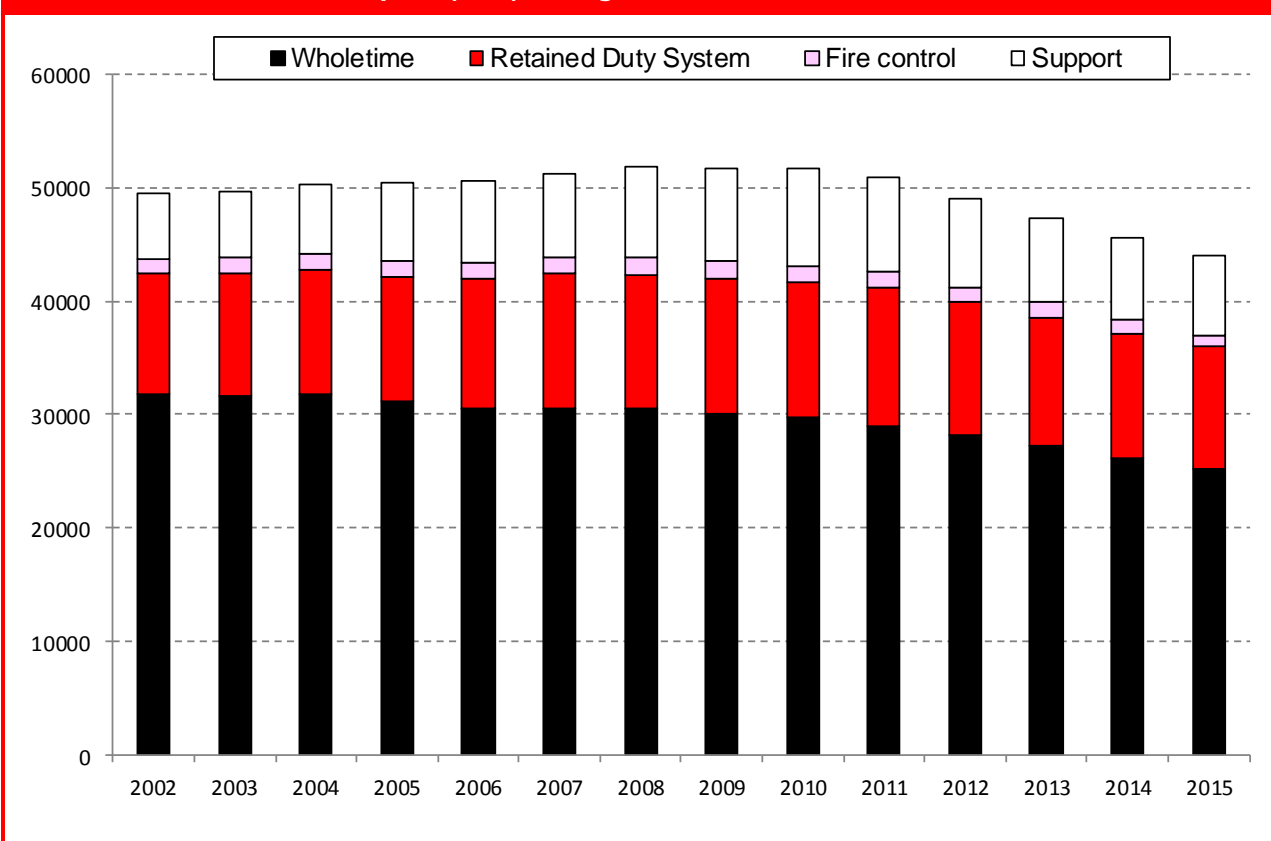
Detailed tables accompanying this bulletin are provided in spreadsheet appendices. These can be downloaded from:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-authorities-in-england-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-2014-to-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-authorities-in-england-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-2014-to-2015)

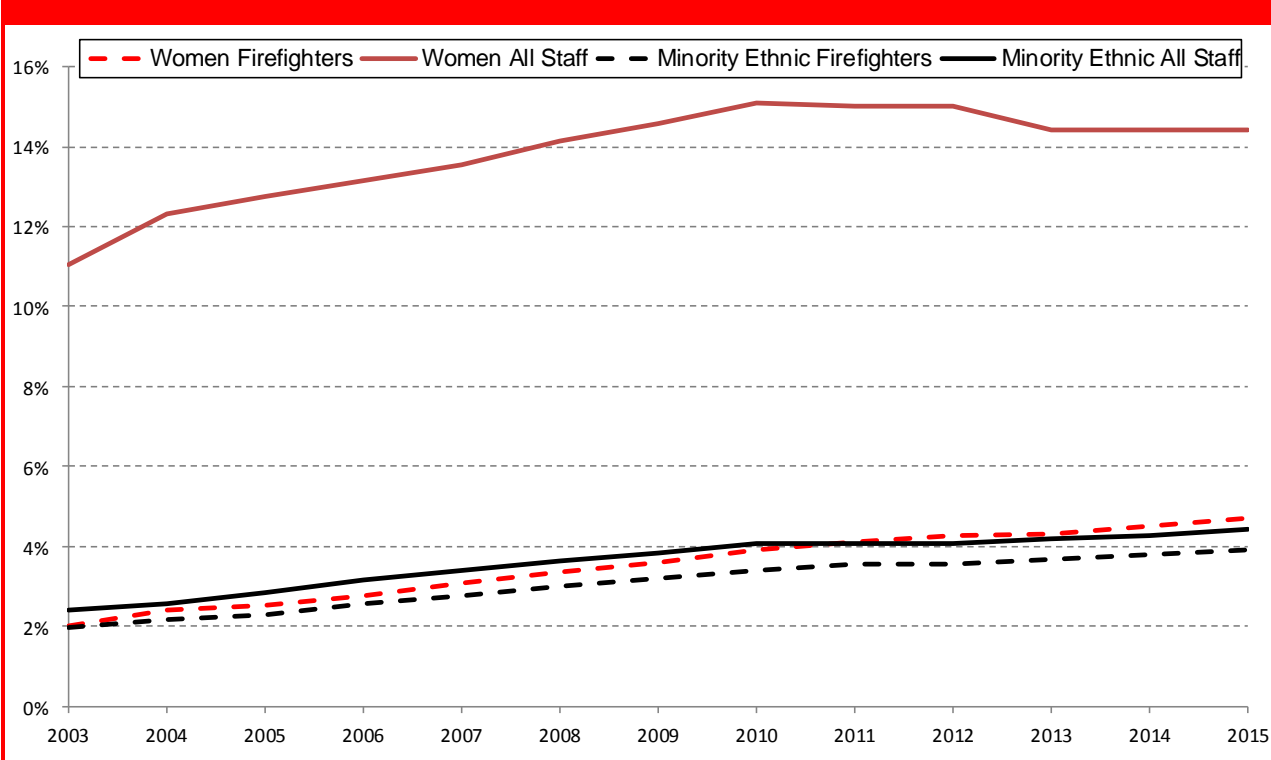
# 1. Staff and Leavers

- There were 44,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) Fire and Rescue Authority staff in England as at 31 March 2015. This was 3.6 per cent and 12.6 per cent lower than one year and ten years earlier respectively.
- The numbers of FTE wholetime firefighters, retained duty system firefighters, fire control staff and support staff as at 31 March 2015 in England all decreased compared to one year and ten years previously. The greatest decrease was in the number of fire control staff, which was 16.8 per cent and 28.9 per cent lower than one year and ten years earlier respectively.
- The total firefighter strength (full time equivalent for wholetime, and 24 hour units of cover for retained duty system) decreased by 3.2 per cent and 14.7 per cent compared to one and ten years ago respectively.
- Firefighters in England are predominantly male and white. However the proportion of firefighters (wholetime and retained) who are women has increased from 2.5 per cent in March 2005 to 4.5 per cent in March 2014 and then 4.7 per cent in March 2015. The proportion declaring themselves as minority ethnic (of those who stated an ethnicity) has increased from 2.3 per cent in March 2005 to 4.3 per cent in March 2014 and then 4.4 per cent in March 2015.
- During 2014-15, 4,210 staff left Fire and Rescue Authorities (including those who left to other authorities or were employed non-uniformed by the same authority). This is 8.6 per cent of staff. 8.4 per cent of staff left in 2013-14.
- The most common reason for leaving varied by type of staff. 70.3 per cent of wholetime firefighters left through retirement, compared to only 10.7 per cent of other staff.
- There were 1.8 ill-health retirements per 1,000 employees in 2014-15, higher than the 1.7 in 2013-14 but lower than the 7.3 in 2004-05. These figures decreased greatly between 2003-04 and 2007-08.
- Normal retirements (including early retirements) in 2014-15 increased to 28.8 per 1,000 employees. The same figure was 26.3 last year and 25.0 ten years ago. The previous marked increase in normal retirements in 2008-09 is believed to be largely due to the addition, nationally, of an extra watch at the end of the 1970s. Many of the people recruited at that time have been reaching retirement age.

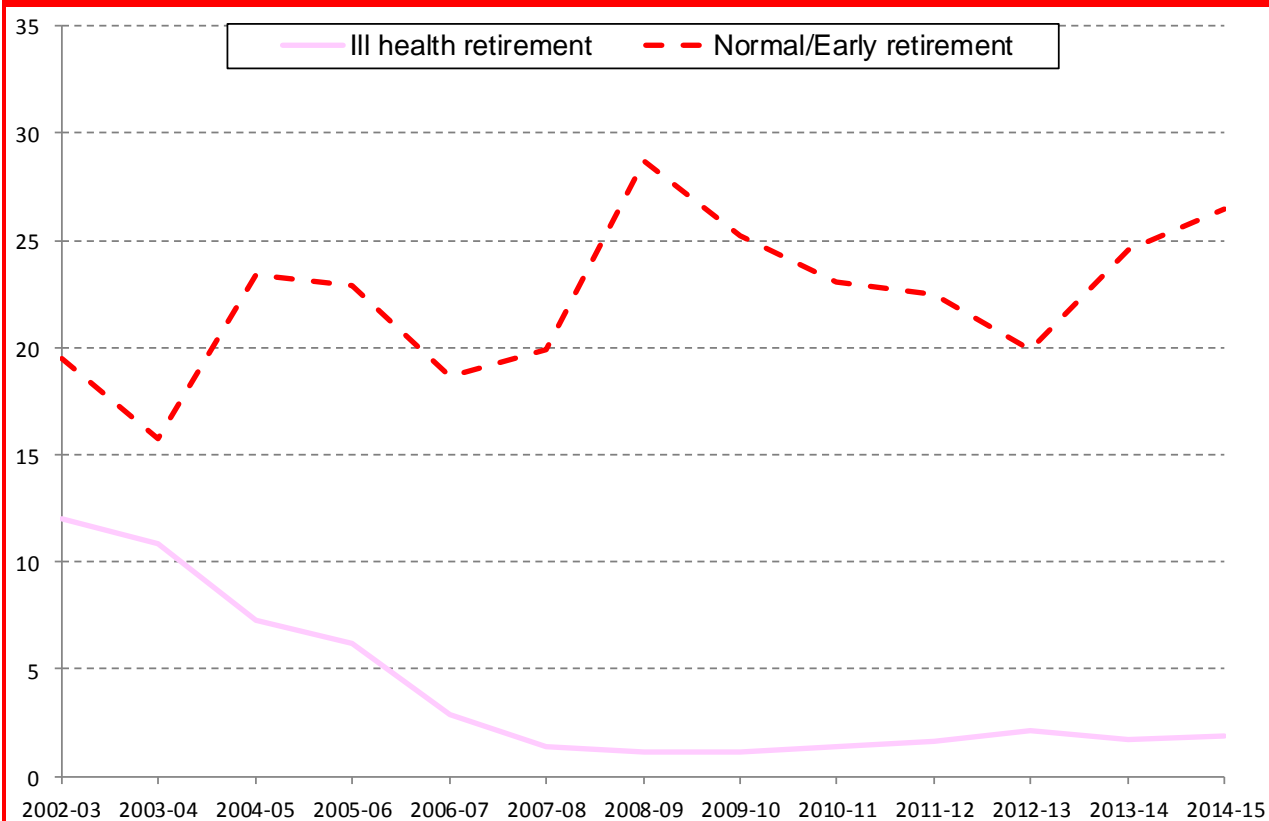
**Chart1a: Number of staff in post (FTE) in England on 31 March 2002-2015**



**Chart1b: Proportion of firefighters and all staff who are women and from ethnic minorities (where stated), March 2003 to March 2015.**



**Chart1c: Retirements per 1,000 employees in England 2002-03 to 2014-15**

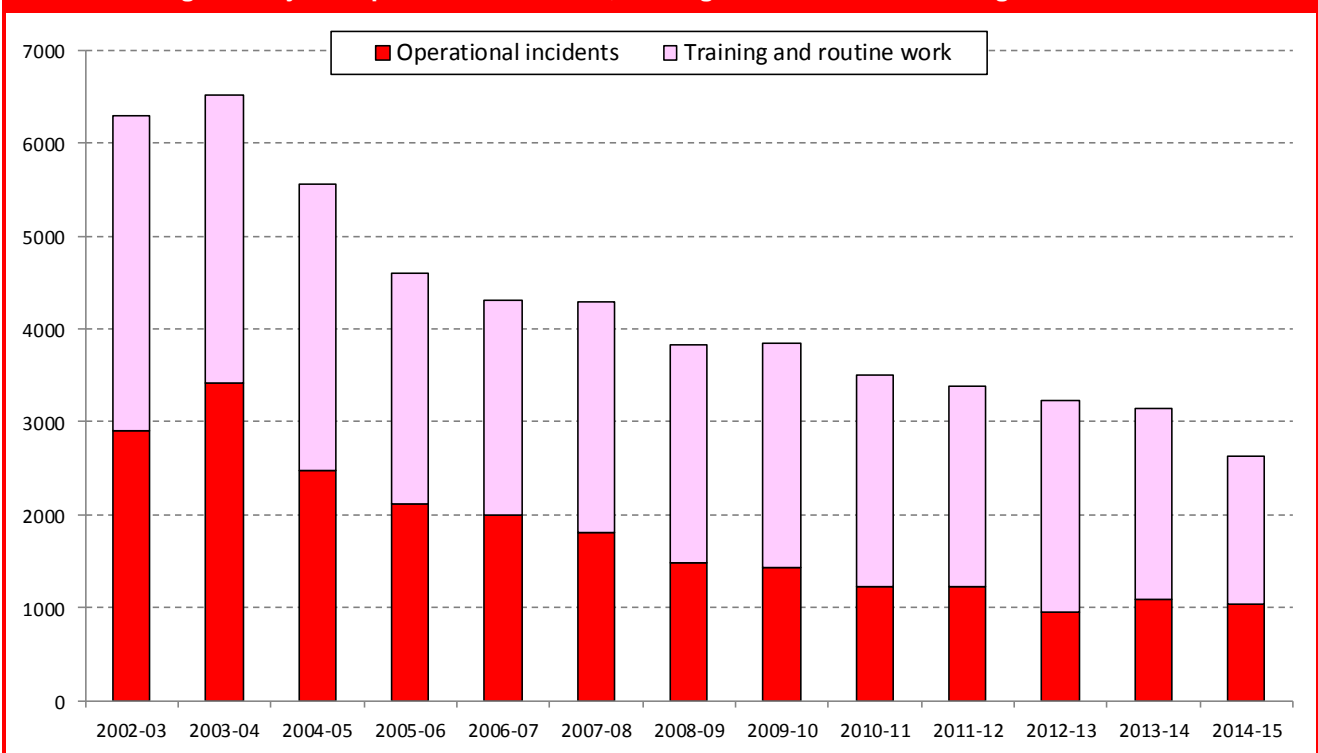


Further detail on these figures can be found in Operational Statistics Appendix Tables 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 8, 19, 20 and 21. They can be found here- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-authorities-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-england-2014-to-2015>

## 2. Health and Safety

- There were 2,627 injuries sustained by firefighters (during training, operational incidents and routine activities) in 2014-15. This was 16.5 per cent and 52.7 per cent lower than one year and ten years earlier respectively. This continues the downward trend shown in Chart 2a below.
- There were 81 'major injuries' (as defined by [RIDDOR](#)) in 2014-15, eleven more and eleven fewer than one year and ten years earlier respectively.
- There were no firefighter fatalities in 2014-15.
- There were 2,831 incidents involving fire vehicles in 2014-15, 13.2 per cent lower than the previous year and 24.5 per cent lower than four years previously (the earliest for which data are available).

**Chart2a: Firefighters injured operational incidents, training and routine work in England 2002-03 to 2014-15**



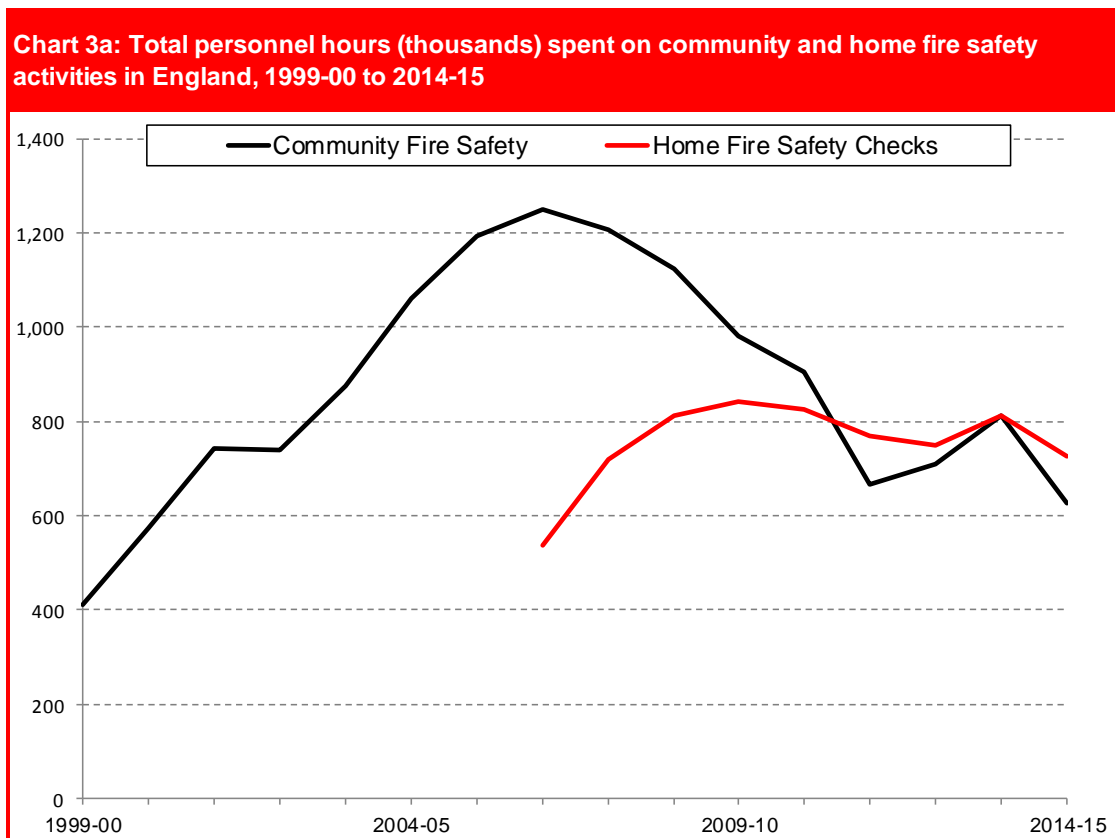
Further detail on these figures can be found in Operational Statistics Appendix 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 10 and 22. They can be found here-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-authorities-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-england-2014-to-2015>

### 3. Community Fire Safety

Fire and Rescue Authorities have a duty to undertake community fire safety campaigns and initiatives. Typical activities include: home fire safety checks, arson prevention, promotional work with young people and other vulnerable groups. Home Fire Safety checks are carried out on a targeted basis with various members of the community, including elderly, disabled and youth groups, and can result in the installation of fire prevention equipment, such as smoke alarms.

- There were an estimated 627,500 personnel hours spent on community fire safety campaigns and initiatives in England in 2014-15. This is a reduction of around three per cent compared to the previous year.
- In contrast there were an estimated 165,000 personnel visits spent on community fire safety campaigns and initiatives in England in 2014-15. This is an increase of around ten per cent compared to the previous year.
- There were an estimated 727,500 personnel hours spent on home fire risk checks by Fire and Rescue Authorities in England in 2014-15. This a decrease of around ten per cent compared to the previous year.
- There were an estimated 607,000 personnel visits spent on home fire risk checks by Fire and Rescue Authorities in England in 2014-15. This is a decrease of around three per cent compared to the previous year



Further detail on these figures can be found in Operational Statistics Appendix 11, 12 and 23. They can be found here-

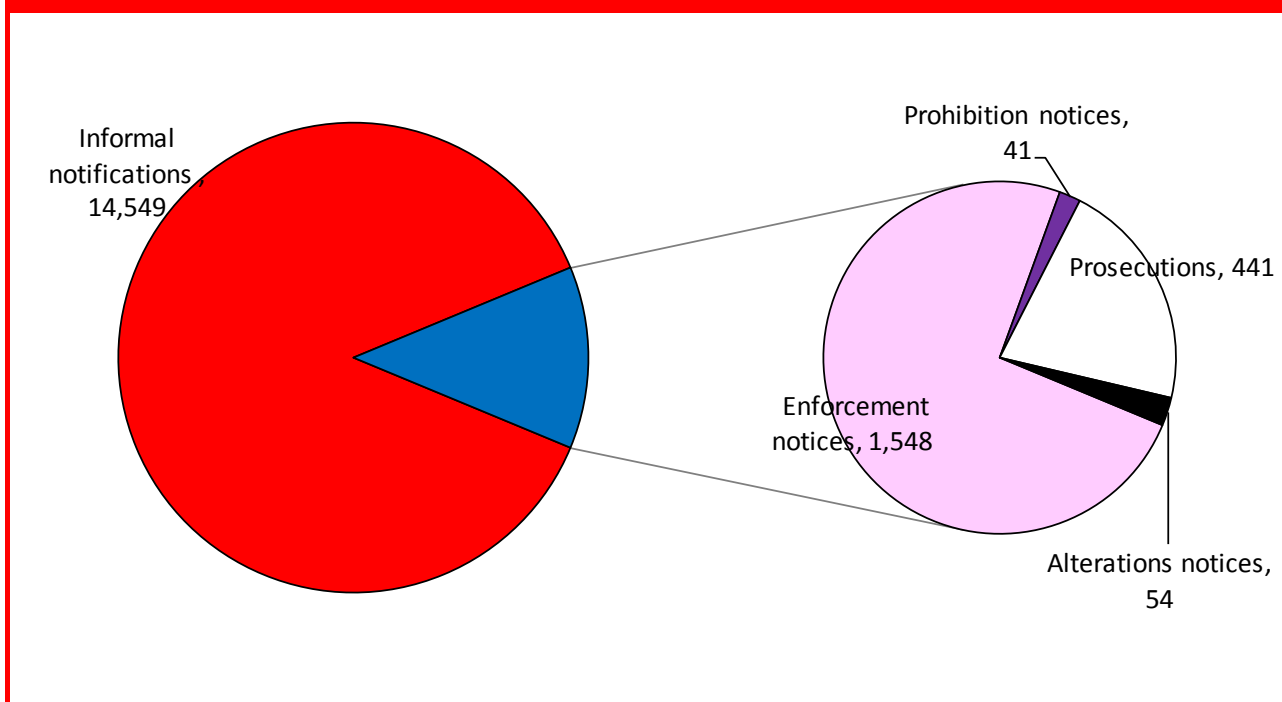
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-authorities-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-england-2014-to-2015>

## 4. Fire Safety Audits

Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their enforcement duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ([the FSO](#)) through locally determined, risk-based programmes of audit/inspection visits to non-domestic premises. These audits form part of each authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan ([IRMP](#)).

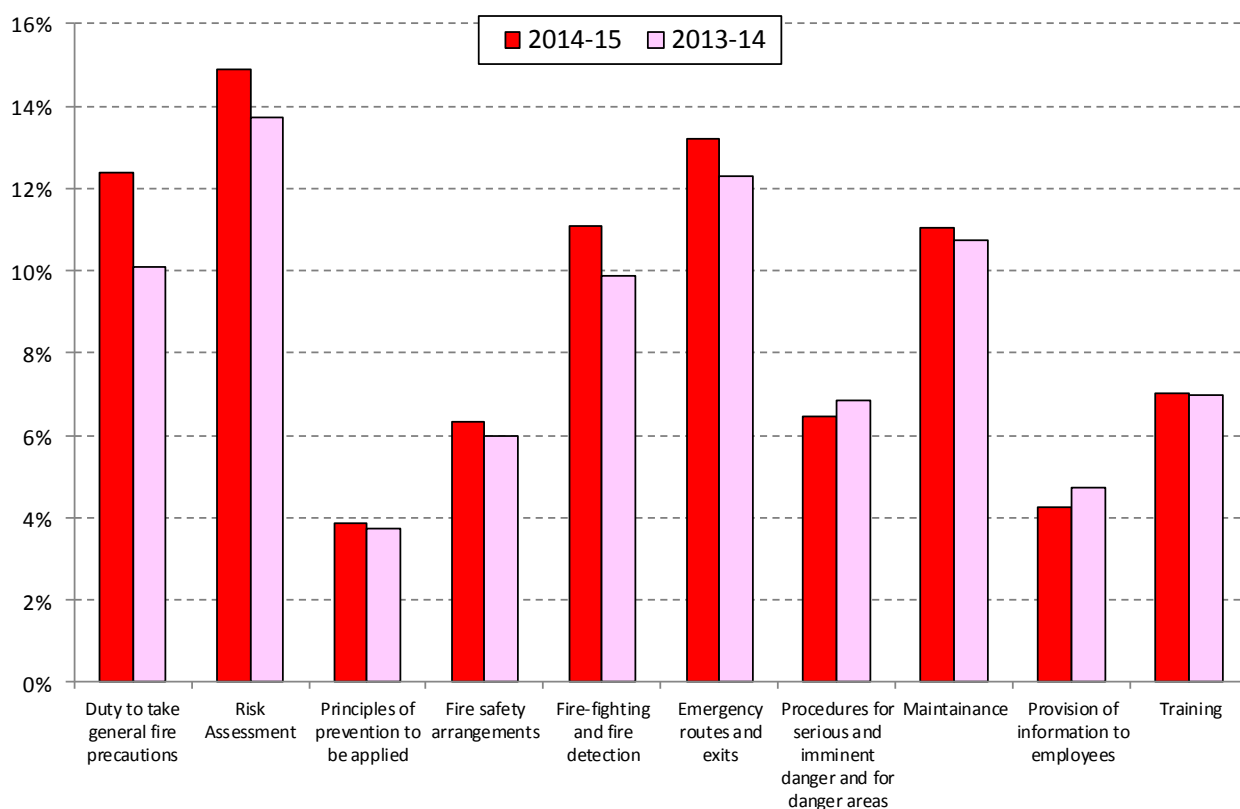
- Fire and Rescue Authorities carried out 58,827 fire safety audits in 2014-15 (4.2 per cent of premises known to the authorities), 12.5 per cent less than in 2013-14 when 67,266 audits were conducted.
- Fire and Rescue Authorities reported spending 264,413 personnel hours on fire safety audits in 2014-15, 14.5 per cent less than the 309,221 personnel hours in 2013-14.
- Of the 58,827 fire safety audits in 2014-15 19,176 were deemed unsatisfactory. This compares to 67,266 audits in 2013-14, of which 23,906 were deemed unsatisfactory.
- These 2014-15 fire safety audits resulted in 14,549 informal notifications (compared to 18,733 in 2013-14), 1,548 enforcement notices (compared to 2,059), 441 prohibition notices (compared to 392), 41 alteration notices (compared to 44) and 54 prosecutions (compared to 71).
- In 2014-15 the most common article of non-compliance resulting in action of any type (excluding prosecutions) in England was again Article 9 (Risk Assessment) with 15 per cent of non-compliance. The top ten articles were consistent with last year.

**Chart 4a: Fire Safety notices (informal and formal) issued in England, 2014-15**





**Chart 4b: Top ten articles of non-compliance resulting in action of any type (excluding prosecutions) in England, 2013-14 and 2014-15**



Further detail on these figures can be found in Operational Statistics Appendix 13, which can be found here-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-authorities-operational-statistics-bulletin-for-england-2014-to-2015>

# Definitions

## **Wholetime firefighter**

Staff whose main employment is a firefighter, regardless of their role

## **Retained duty system (RDS) firefighter**

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

## **Fire control staff**

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

## **Support/Non-uniformed staff**

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

## **Operational personnel**

Wholetime and retained firefighters irrespective of role.

# Technical Notes

## **Data collection**

This Fire and Rescue Operational Statistics Bulletin has been produced annually since the 2002-03 edition. The coverage of the publication has been for England since the 2005-06 edition.

For the three years of 2002-03 to 2004-05 the publication included data for both England and Wales, with the accompanying spreadsheets showing data for each, and for their constituent Fire and Rescue Authorities separately.

Prior to 2002-03, similar data were collected by Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate and published in the statistical annex to the HM Chief Inspector's Annual Report.

The data collected has been chosen to provide useful and relevant information on the levels and trends in the fire and rescue service.

Data are provided to DCLG by the 46 Fire and Rescue Authorities in England, who each complete six individual forms covering separate areas of the statistics. The analysis carried out by DCLG aggregates the raw data and calculates percentages so as to allow comparison between authorities and between different years.

Previous editions of the release can be found in these locations-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-and-rescue-authorities-operational-statistics>  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121108165934/http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firerescue/>

## Data quality

All returns submitted by Fire and Rescue Authorities undergo thorough validation and checks. Inconsistent data highlighted during validation and checks are verified by contacting the relevant FRA. Validation checks are done at the point of data entry when the FRAs are filling in the returns and further validation checks done once the data are received.

Late returns are pursued to ensure the overall response rate is as high as possible. Where a response rate of 100 per cent is not achieved estimates are imputed for non-responding Fire and Rescue Authorities. In the year 2014-15 all 46 FRAs provided the returns although some figures required imputation.

## Revisions policy

There are no scheduled revisions for this data. Where a substantial inaccuracy is discovered, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical. Minor inaccuracies will be corrected at the time of the next issue of this publication.

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>).

## 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>

## Devolved administration statistics

**Scotland:** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/3869>  
**Wales:** <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/fire2013>  
**Northern Ireland:** <http://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

# 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:

Paul Gaught

0303 444 1190

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, 2015

*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

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Telephone: 030 3444 0000

24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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

ISBN: 978-1-4098-4685-7