

# Fire Statistics definitions

**Incident Recording System (IRS)** is the source of the data used for fire statistics publications i.e. the record of incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs). The online IRS was introduced in April 2009. Previously paper forms were submitted by FRAs and an element of sampling was involved in the data compilation process.

Full details of the questions and categories used in the recording of incidents under the 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).

The definitions within this document do not replace the National IRS guidance.

**Fire and Rescue Service (FRS)** is the local service providing emergency cover. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, there were 45 FRSs in England, one in Scotland and three in Wales.

**Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA)** is the legislative and administrative statutory public body that oversees an FRS. As a tier of local government, FRAs are funded through central government grants and small levies on local council tax. Depending on the structure of local government beneath an FRA, they can be organised as either: Greater London Authority, a unitary authority, a joint authority, a combined authority or a county council.

## Prevention

### 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.)

### Home Fire Risk Checks (HFRCs)

These checks must include:

- Identifying and advising of the potential fire risks within the home.
- Advising householders 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.

**Personnel Hours** are number of hours spent by FRS personnel on completed community fire safety campaigns and initiatives (for example, 2 personnel spending 2 hours on a single activity 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 two are counted.
- 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.

**Number of visits** is 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.

**FRS Personnel** are staff employed directly by the FRSs across all duty systems. They include:

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

Personnel excluded are:

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

**Partners** include organisations such as:

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

**Elderly people:** HFRCs are defined as having attended an elderly person when the household is occupied by a person 65 years of age or over.

**Disabled:** HFRCs 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 HFRC 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.

**Firesetter schemes** are youth initiatives designed to tackle and prevent firesetting behaviour, involving a one-to-one intervention or targeting groups of young people.

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

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

## Protection

**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.

**Satisfactory fire safety audit** is when an audit is deemed as satisfactory if the premises broadly complies with the Fire Safety Order and no further action is necessary.

**Unsatisfactory fire safety audit** is when an audit is deemed unsatisfactory if further action is necessary to bring the premises up to compliance with the Fire Safety Order.

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

**Enforcement notices (Article 30)** are served - under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (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.

**Prohibition notices (Article 31)** are served - under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (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.

**Prosecutions (Article 32)** are 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.

**Alteration notices (Article 29)** are served - under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (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.

**Premises satisfactory following enforcement** is 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.

**Premises known to FRAs** are 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.

**Short audits** are a simpler audit process using the Chief Fire Officers Association's short audit form when visiting smaller and less complex premises and those managed as part of a multi-national chain where management policies and arrangements are in place and also for follow-up visits on premises.

**Building regulation consultations** are statutory consultations with FRAs by building control bodies under articles 45 and 46 of the FSO and ensure that property comply with building regulation where the FSO applies.