

Fire Statistics definitions

Incident Recording System (IRS)

The source of the data used for fire statistics publications is the record of incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs). The online IRS was introduced in April 2009. 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.

The definitions within this document do not replace the [IRS manual](#) but are intended to help users of our statistics.

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

Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) is a publicly accountable body which manages its local fire and rescue service. Fire and Rescue Authorities are funded through central Government grant, locally retained business rates and council tax precept. In England, there are 45 fire and rescue authorities operating under a variety of different governance arrangements, including (but not exclusively) within the county council structure, the Mayoral combined authority structure and under a Police and Crime Commissioner.

Non-fire incidents

- **Non-fire incidents in dwellings** are those in properties that are a place of residence i.e. places occupied by households such as houses and flats, excluding hotels/hostels and residential institutions. Dwellings also include non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats and caravans.
- **Non-fire incidents in other buildings** are those in other residential or non-residential buildings. Other (institutional) residential buildings include properties such as hostels/hotels/B&Bs, nursing/care homes, student halls of residence etc. Non-residential buildings include properties such as offices, shops, factories, warehouses, restaurants, public buildings, religious buildings etc.
- **Non-fire incidents in road vehicles** are those in vehicles used for transportation such as cars, vans, buses/coaches, motorcycles, lorries/HGVs etc. 'road vehicles' does not include aircraft, boats or trains, which are categorised in 'other outdoors'.
- **Non-fire incidents in other outdoor areas** are those in either primary outdoor locations, or non-fire incidents in non-primary outdoor locations that have casualties or five or more pumping appliances attending. Outdoor primary locations include aircraft, boats, trains and outdoor structures such as post or telephone boxes, bridges, tunnels etc.

Fatalities and Casualties

Fatalities in all non-fire incidents are classed as **not** fire-related.

Non-fatal casualties have, since the introduction of the IRS, been split into four sub-categories, defined as:

- **Hospital severe** – at least an overnight stay in hospital as an in-patient
- **Hospital slight** – attending hospital as an outpatient (not a precautionary check)
- **First Aid given** – first aid given at scene (by anyone), including after a precautionary check
- **Precautionary check** – a precautionary check (to attend hospital or to see a doctor) was recommended (by anyone).

Extrications from Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

FRSs use different methods to extricate people from their vehicles. Some of which require further definition:

- **Roof removal**
- **Other space creation**
- **B-post rip** involves the B post, which is the dividing post between the front and rear doors of a car, being cut to remove it from the structure of the car to allow safe access to the casualty inside.
- **Roof flap (vehicle on side)**
- **Side removal (vehicle on roof)**
- **Dashboard roll**