



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Fire and rescue incident data and statistics – the status quo and future evolution

Fire Information Group seminar, 11 June 2014



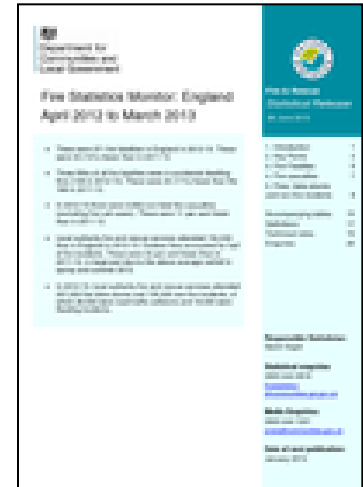
DCLG Fire incident and casualty Statistics Publications:

1. Fire Statistics Monitor, headline data - count of incidents and fire casualties each January and June/July
2. Fire Statistics Great Britain – detailed analyses of location and causes of fires and of resulting casualties, and effectiveness of smoke alarms
3. Fire Incidents Response Times – each July / August



1. Fire Statistics Monitor

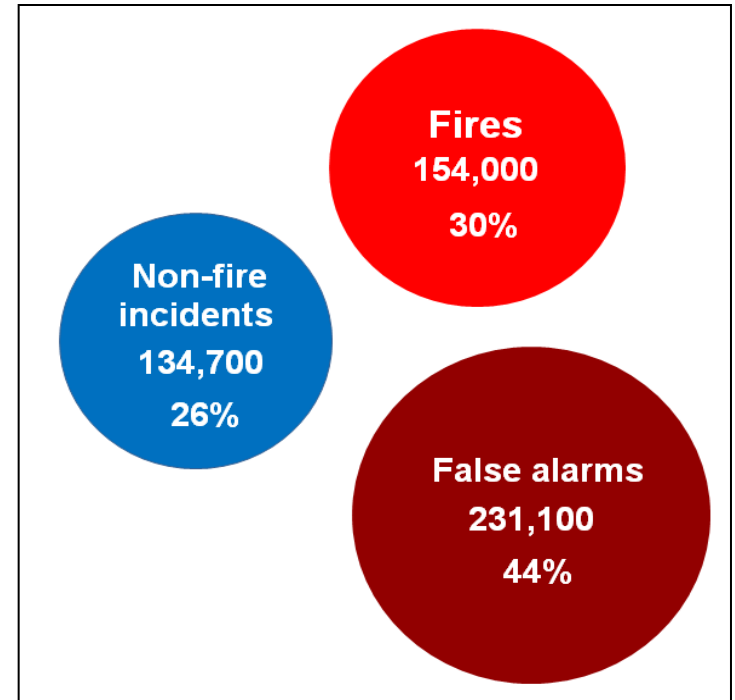
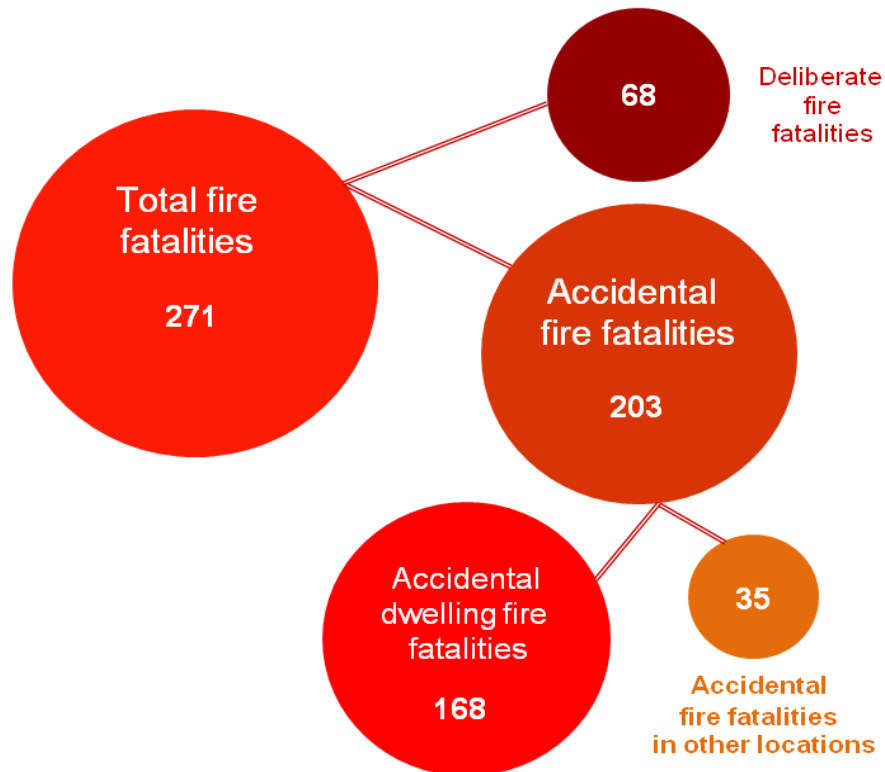
- Expansion to 39 spreadsheet reference tables (previously 23 tables) in response to user requests & regularly requested data.
- Overhaul of commentary:
 - Previously long standard text. 'Elevator commentary'
 - Reordered and with much of detail in new summary tables
- Two presentational experiments (Summer 2013):
 1. Bullet points and charts accompanying reference tables
 2. Bubble and brick diagrams...





Fire Statistics Monitor experiment Bubble diagrams

Fire fatalities, England, 2012-13(p)



pp 4 & 5 , July 2013 Fire Statistics
Monitor,

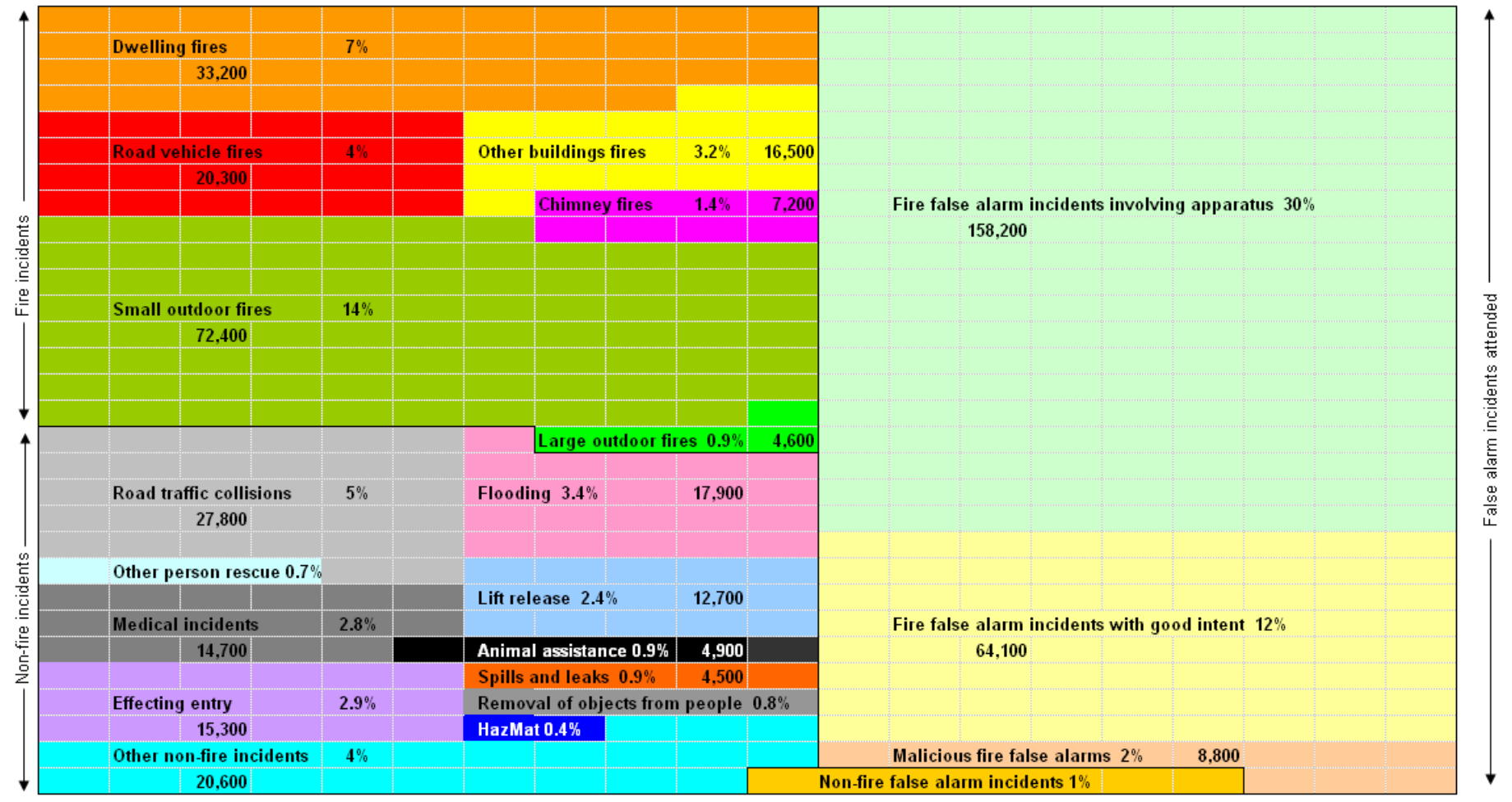
www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics-monitor



Fire Statistics Monitor experiment Brick diagram

(page 10 of July 2013 Fire Statistics Monitor)

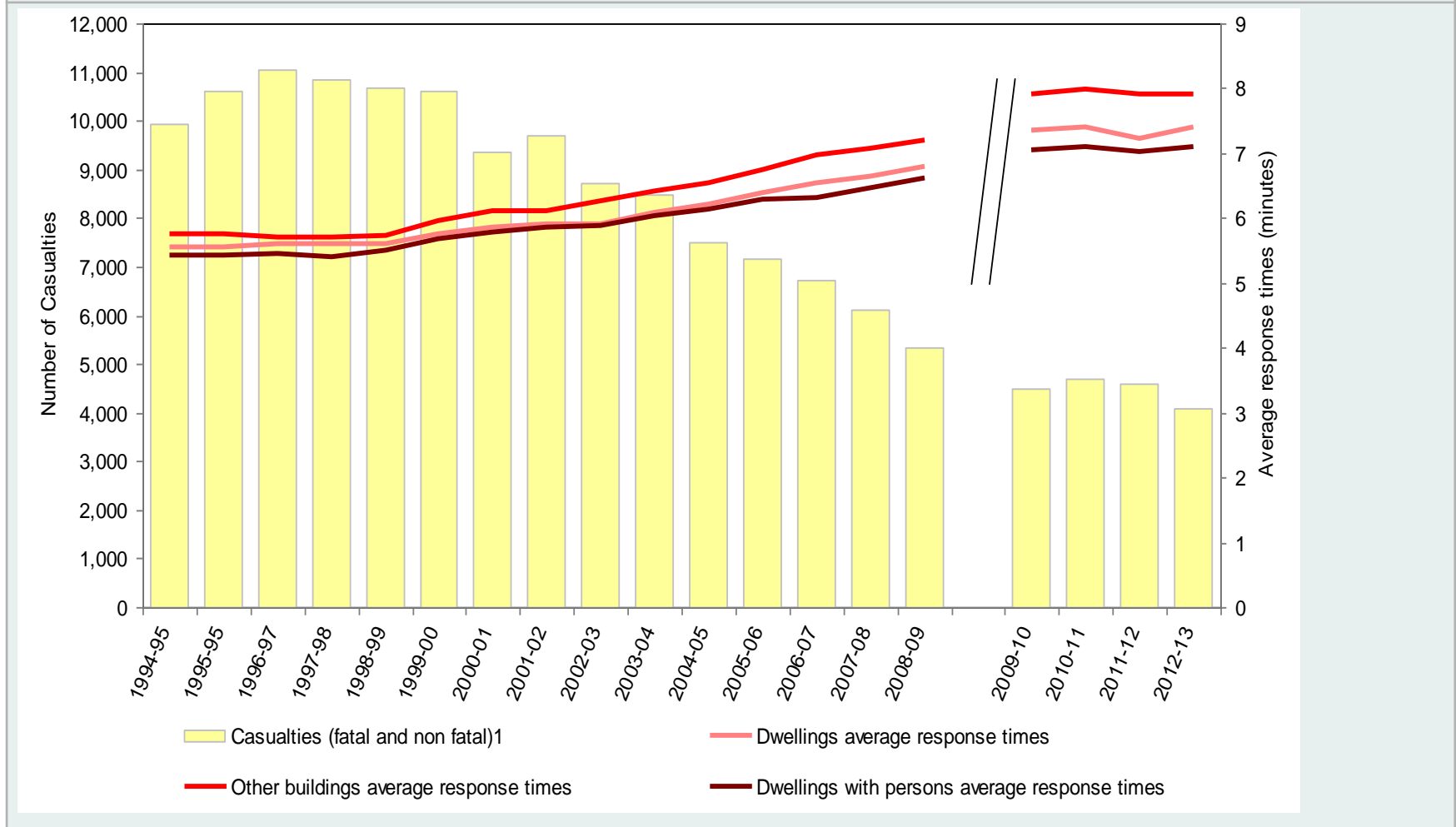
Incidents attended by local authority fire and rescue services, England, 2012-13





Fire Incidents Response Times (1)

Chart 1: Fire response times and hospital casualties, England. 1994-95 to 2012-13



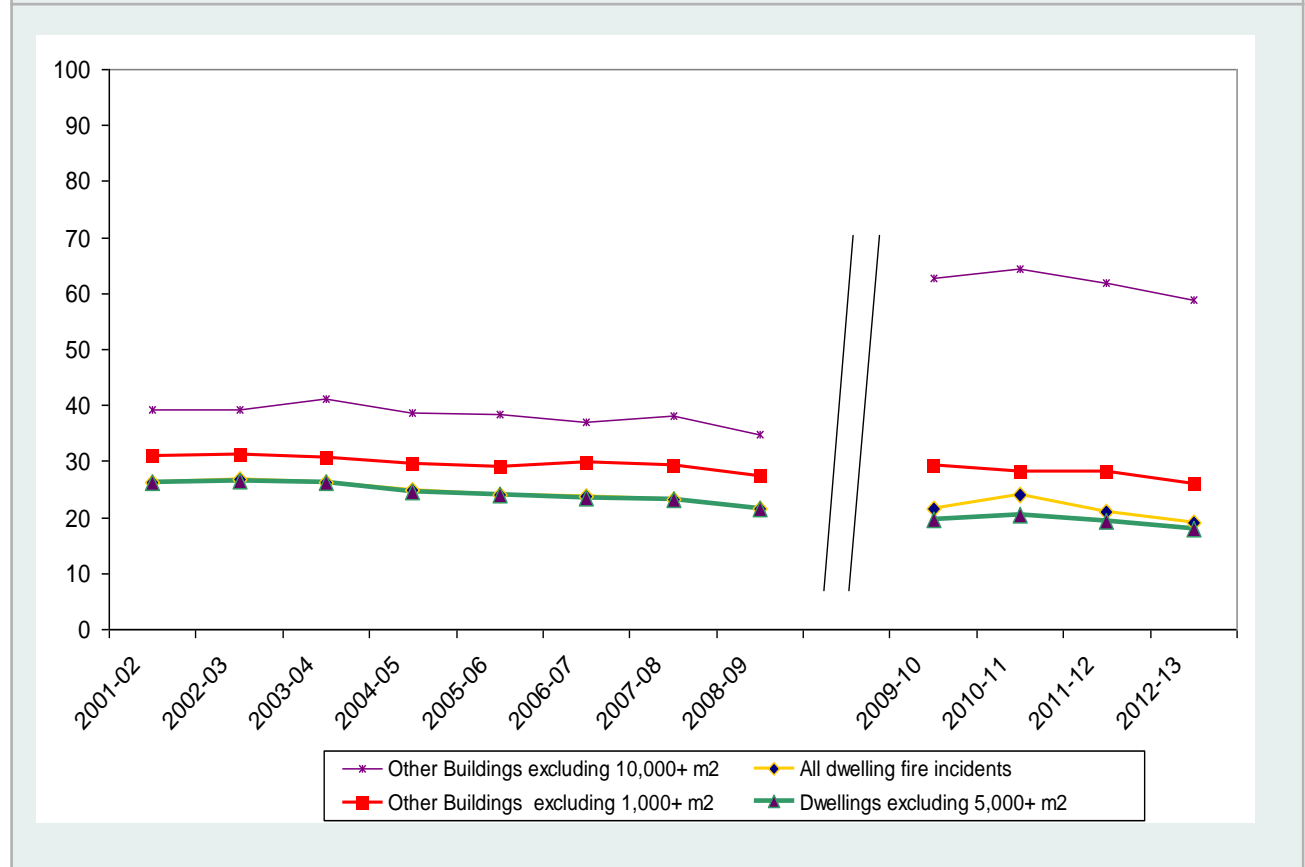


Shortlisted for Royal
Statistical Society
Excellence in Official
Statistics Awards in
2013.

Awarding panel's
comments were:
- "engaging and
informative",
- "good use of
contextual data to
give a rounded
picture of the
statistics being
reported on", and
- "what a good
statistical bulletin
should be".

Fire Incident Response Times (2)

Chart 2: Total area of damage in building fires, England, 2001-02 to 2012-13





Supplementary analyses (one-off publications)

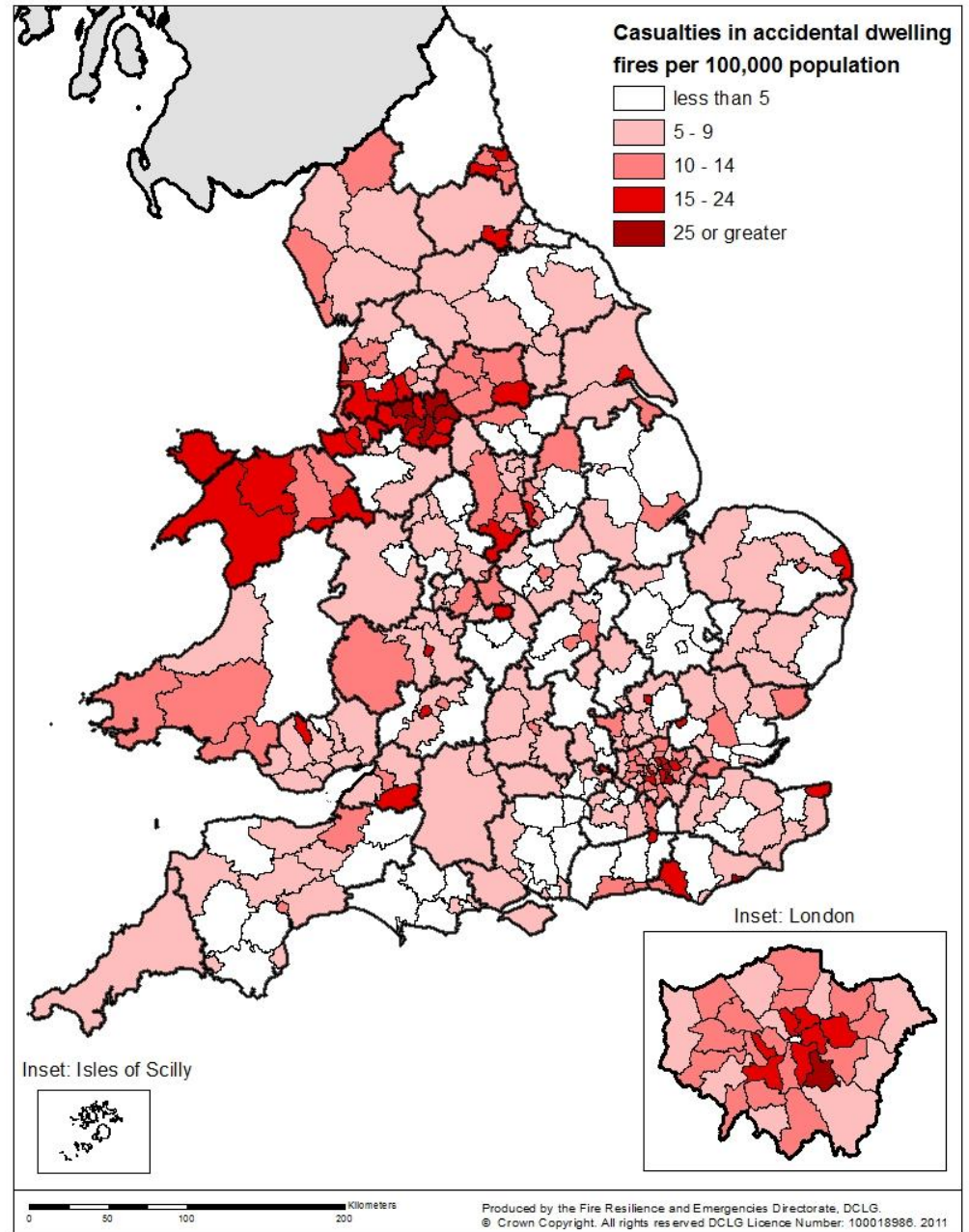
www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics-supplementary-analyses

- *The effect of alcohol or drugs on casualty rates in accidental dwelling fires, England, 2011-12*
- *Analysis of fires in buildings of timber framed construction, England, 2009 to 2012*



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Casualties in accidental dwelling fires





Main fire and rescue incident and casualty statistics publications – in summary

Publications

1. *Fire Statistics Monitor* (biannual)
Headline incident and casualty data by fire and rescue authority areas, England.
GB data in supporting data tables where agreed by devolved administrations.
2. *Fire Incidents Response Times* (annual) – annual average response times & numbers of incidents by time bands (minute intervals) by fire and rescue authority area
3. *Fire Statistics Great Britain* (annual) – detailed analyses of locations and causes of fires, and analysis of the operation of smoke alarms.





Fire and Rescue Incident Recording System ('IRS') HISTORY

- Data definition - 2005 & 2006
- Piloted - late 2006
- Go live between Autumn 2007 and 1 April 2009
- Suggestions for change to questions reviewed in 2010
- Large batch of changes to categories in April 2012 (not additional questions)

Current 'Questions and Lists' (since April 2012) ->

www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities

Original questions and lists ->

www.gov.uk/government/publications/incident-recording-system-for-fire-and-rescue-authorities-questions-and-lists-v1-2



Fire and Rescue Incident Recording System ('IRS') DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SYSTEM

Why?

- Support old IT is also expensive
(no improvement would still require upgrades!)
- Existing system was always expensive to make any changes
(new system to be built in a way that is more flexible)

Timings

- Contractor carried out exploratory phase in February.
- Approval received from Cabinet Office and Government Digital Service
- Contractor now finalising design
- Replacement system being developed during the Summer and Autumn



A few examples of changes to the data being collected (1)

A group of data experts from Fire and Rescue Service has been meeting since Autumn to finalise the details of new questions and new categories.

Here are a few examples:

1. For fires in dwellings, a new question of the **tenure of household** (eg owner-occupied, privately rented, social/council rented)
 - Requested by numerous fire and rescue services and others
 - Has been collected successfully by West Midlands Fire and Rescue



A few examples of changes to the data being collected (2)

2. Electricity supply, wiring, cables etc...

The Incident Recording System has just two broad categories. These are to be split as follows:

a) 'Electricity apparatus, batteries and generators' to become:

- Apparatus including generators
- Batteries
- Cut-out fuse
- Consumer unit
- Meter

b) 'Wiring, cabling and plugs' to become:

- Wiring and cabling
- Extension lead (single socket)
- Multi adaptor
- Multi adaptor extension lead
- Plugs
- Solar panel



A few examples of changes to the data being collected (3)

3. Casualty 'other circumstances'

a) Extra categories to be added: deaf/hearing-impaired, blind/visually-impaired

b) The existing 20 categories are a mix of i) casualty characteristics, and ii) what happened.

These are to be split to allow selection of i) significant characteristics of victim:

ie Bed-ridden, wheel-chair, other immobility, suspected alcohol, suspected drugs

From ii) the 15 options of what happened to the casualty:

eg discovered fire, trapped by fire, attempted to fight fire, returned to fire, and the five categories of how the casualty injured



Fire and Rescue Incident Recording System ('IRS') A RICH DATA SOURCE

- Now 5 years of data (April 2009 to March 2014)
- Over 100 data fields (for building fires with casualties)
- Data quality is predominantly good, and the new IRS will support data quality further, eg for questions with long lists of categories
- Access to record-level data
 - 18 fire and rescue authorities accessing England data base
 - 22 other applications
 - The future... open data (covering data items without data protection issues)



Thank you for your attention!

To get in touch:

- i) by email to fire.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk,
or by contact details are on the front and at the rear
of each of our publications

- iii) fire and rescue statistics user interest and feedback form:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics
The page also links to all our fire statistics publications.