



# Statistical Bulletin

## Criminal Justice Series

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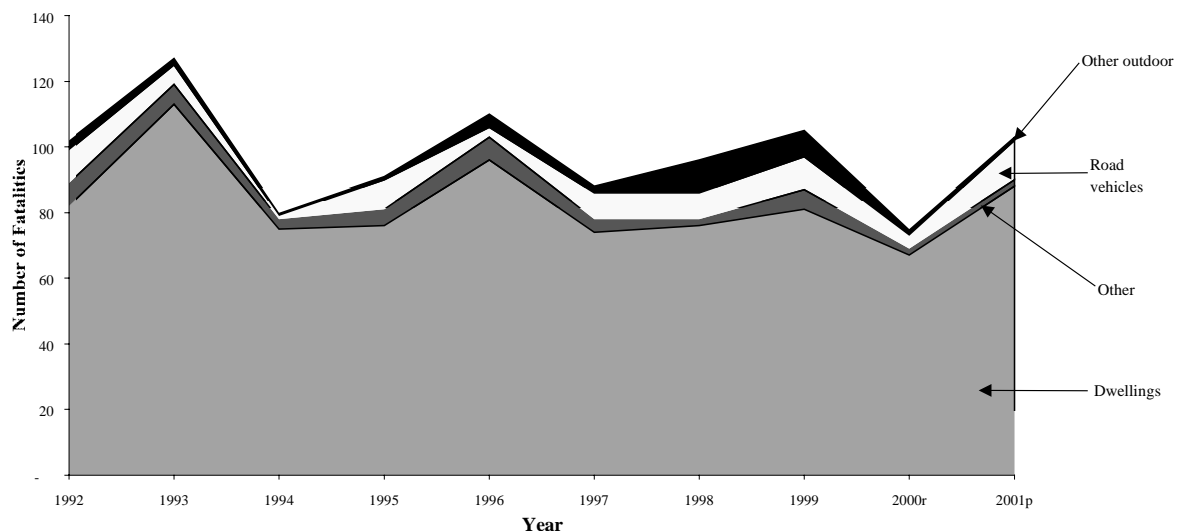
### FIRE STATISTICS SCOTLAND, 2001

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 This bulletin is the second in the series, presenting statistics on fires in Scotland. These statistics are compiled from reports submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on fires attended by all United Kingdom (UK) local authority fire brigades in 2001. This bulletin provides a detailed overview of Scottish fire statistics over the past decade, at a brigade and Scotland level with comparison with the other UK countries. (Further details of the background and basis of the statistics are given in the Notes in the Annex).

1.2 This bulletin is the collective work of staff within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (formerly the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions), Fire Statistics and Research Section and the Scottish Executive Justice Statistics Unit. In particular we would like to thank Jon Gamble and Lorraine Watson from the Fire Statistics and Research Section for the provision of the bulletin tables and for their advice and encouragement in setting up this bulletin.

**Chart 1: Fatal Casualties<sup>1</sup> from fire by location group, Scotland, 1992-2001**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> From 1994 onwards, includes casualties for "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 20001 are provisional. The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Main Points.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Commentary.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Appendix of tables .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5. Annex - Notes on statistics used in this bulletin.....</b>	<b>38</b>

## 2. Main Points

- There were 59,400 total fires (primary, secondary and chimney) in Scotland in 2001, an increase of 7 per cent on the 55,700 fires recorded in 2000.
- Around one-third of all fires were primary fires. Sixty-five per cent of primary fires were in buildings, 29 per cent were road vehicle fires and the remaining primary fires were other outdoors fires. Just over three-fifths of all fires were secondary fires and the remaining 6 per cent were chimney fires.
- Since 2000, primary fires have fallen by 2 per cent, whilst secondary fires have risen by 12 per cent and chimney fires increased by 10 per cent in 2001.
- Over the past decade total Scottish secondary fires have risen by 55 per cent. The principal categories of secondary fires that this rise can be attributed to are an increase in grassland & heathland fires and an increase in refuse fires.
- In Scotland there were a total of 103 fatal casualties in 2001 - an increase on the figures from 2000 of 28 fatal casualties or 37 per cent but still just under the number in 1999. 88 fatal casualties (85 per cent) occurred in dwellings fires and 12 (12 per cent) occurred in road vehicles.
- The number of non-fatal casualties in Scotland in 2001 was 2,091, a decrease of 8 per cent compared with 2000. Of these non-fatal casualties; 1,799 occurred in dwellings fires (86 per cent), 171 (8 per cent) occurred in other buildings and 71 (3 per cent) occurred in road vehicles.
- In comparison to the other UK countries, Scotland reported both the highest number of fatal casualties per million population and the highest rate of non-fatal casualties (to those not working for fire brigades) per million population
- The principal cause of fatal casualties was being overcome by gas and smoke (42 fatal casualties). 31 fatal casualties were caused by a combination of burns and being overcome by smoke and 22 fatal casualties were caused by burns alone.
- There were 8,806 malicious fires in 2001, representing 45 per cent of total primary fires in 2001 – the highest percentage of primary fires in the last 10 years. However, accidental fires have caused significantly more fatal and non-fatal casualties over the decade.
- In the years since 1994, the majority of fatal casualties have occurred in dwellings fires where either the smoke detector was present but failed to operate or in dwellings fires where a smoke detector was absent.
- In 2001, total fire false alarms in Scotland constituted 53,800 incidents, representing just under half (48 per cent) of total call outs to fires (primary, secondary and chimney) and false fire alarms.
- In 2001, the majority of fatal and non-fatal casualties generally occur from early afternoon through to early morning (approx. 3pm to 2am) which is similar to the majority of call outs to fires.

### 3. Commentary

#### *Total number of fires*

There were 59,400 total fires (primary, secondary and chimney) in Scotland in 2001, an increase of 7 per cent on the 55,700 fires recorded in 2000. Around one-third of all fires were primary fires. Sixty-five per cent of primary fires were in buildings, 29 per cent were road vehicle fires and the remaining primary fires were other outdoors fires. Just over three-fifths of all fires were secondary fires and the remaining 6 per cent were chimney fires.

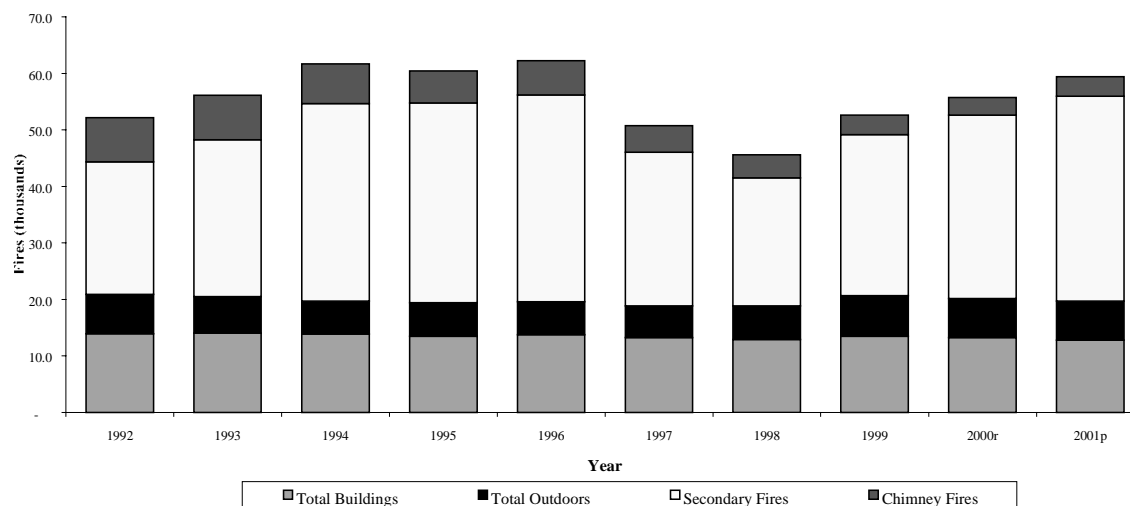
Since 2000, primary fires have fallen by 2 per cent to stand at 19,800 fires in 2001, whilst secondary fires have risen by 12 per cent to stand at 36,200 fires in 2001. Chimney fires increased by 10 per cent to stand at 3,400 in 2001.

Between 1992 and 2001 the total number of Scottish fires increased by 14 per cent, due entirely to a 55 per cent increase in secondary fires. The number of chimney fires decreased by 56 per cent.

#### *Dwellings fires*

Scottish dwellings fires accounted for 69 per cent (8,834 fires) of Scotland's total buildings fires. This compares with 60 per cent for England, 57 for Wales and 65 per cent for Northern Ireland. In comparison to 1992 dwellings fires are down 8 per cent in 2001 and all other buildings fires are also down 8 per cent.

**Chart 2: Fires<sup>1</sup> by location, Scotland, 1992-2001<sup>2,3</sup>**



**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for 1994 and later years are based on sample data weighted to the brigade totals.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 1995 excludes some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

## Outdoor fires

Over the last 10 years, outdoor fires in Scotland have risen by 42 per cent; however the number of primary outdoor fires in 2001 was slightly lower than in 1992. In Scotland, road vehicle fires accounted for 13 per cent of total outdoor fires (including secondary fires) in 2001, the equivalent proportion for the UK as a whole was almost twice this at 24 per cent. In 2001 fires in road vehicles comprised 82 per cent of all primary outdoor fires in Scotland.

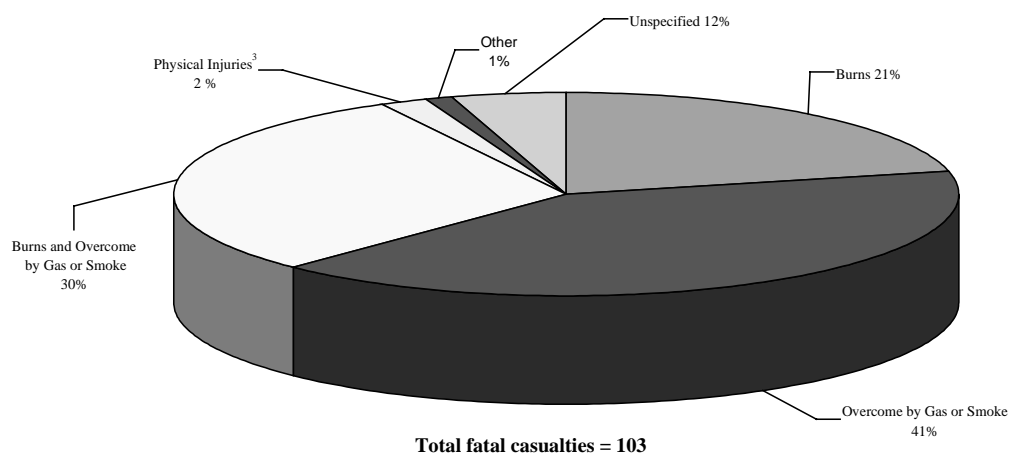
## Secondary fires

Over the past decade total Scottish secondary fires have risen by 55 per cent. The principal categories of secondary fires that this rise can be attributed to are (i) an increase in grassland & heathland fires of 87 per cent or 3,914 fires and (ii) an increase in refuse fires of 45 per cent or 7,354 fires. Sixty-six per cent of all secondary fires in 2001 involved refuse or refuse containers.

## Casualties from fires

In Scotland, there were a total of 103 fatal casualties in 2001 - an increase on the figures from 2000 of 28 fatal casualties or 37 per cent but still just under the number in 1999. 88 fatal casualties (85 per cent) occurred in dwellings fires and 12 (12 per cent) occurred in road vehicles.

**Chart 3: Fatal casualties<sup>1</sup> from fires by cause of death<sup>2</sup>, Scotland, 2001**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>2</sup> Chart shows main injuries only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, they are shown as a separate category

<sup>3</sup> If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur, 'physical injuries' is recorded.

The principal causes of fatal casualties was being overcome by gas and smoke (42 fatal casualties). 31 fatal casualties were caused by a combination of burns and being overcome by smoke, 22 fatal casualties were caused by burns alone, 5 fatal casualties had an unspecified cause and 2 fatal casualties were caused by physical injuries.

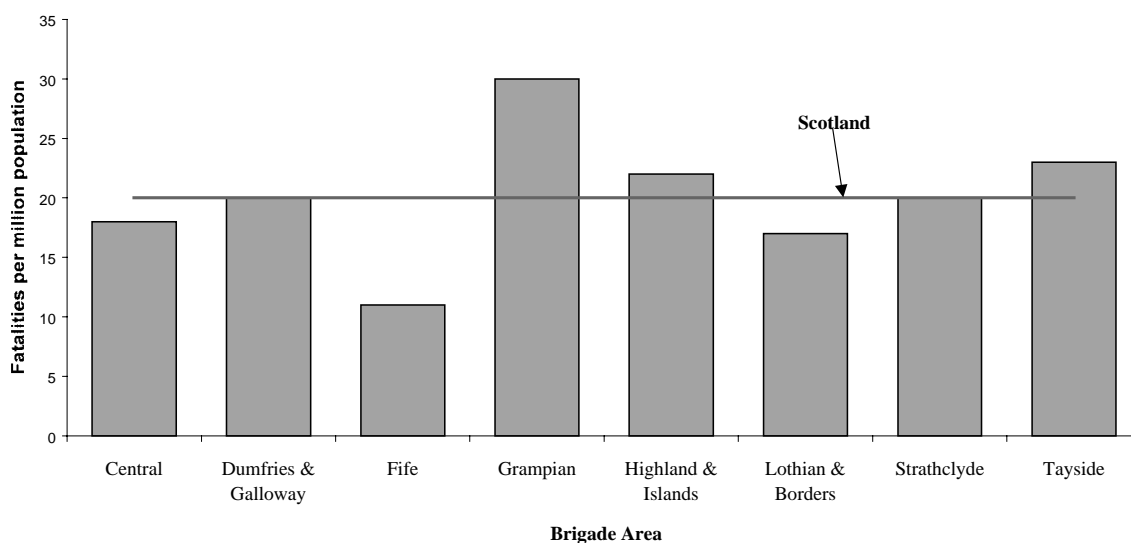
The number of non-fatal casualties in Scotland in 2001 was 2,091, a decrease of 8 per cent compared with 2000. Of these non-fatal casualties; 1,799 occurred in dwellings fires (86 per cent), 171 (8 per cent) occurred in other buildings and 71 (3 per cent) occurred in road vehicles.

### *Casualty rates from fires*

There were 20 fatal casualties per million population in Scotland in 2001. The age group with the highest rate of fatal casualties was 80 and over, with 36 per million population. The second highest rate was for the 65 – 79 age group with 34 per million population, followed by 60 – 64 age group with 23 per million population. The age group with the lowest casualty rate was the 11 – 16 age group with 3 per million population. There were no fatal casualties of babies aged under 1.

In comparison to the other UK countries, Scotland reported both the highest number of fatal casualties per million population (20 fatal casualties per million population) and the highest rate of non-fatal casualties (to those not working for fire brigades) per million population (399 non-fatal casualties per million population). The equivalent figures for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, were 10, 11, 10 and 268, 322 and 250 respectively. Within Scotland the number of fatal casualties per million population was highest in Grampian (30 fatal casualties per million population), Tayside (23 fatal casualties per million population) and Highlands and Islands (22 fatal casualties per million population). The remaining brigade areas reported fatal casualty rates which were equal or less than the Scottish rate.

**Chart 4: Fatal casualties<sup>1</sup> per million population, by brigade area and at Scotland level, 2001**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

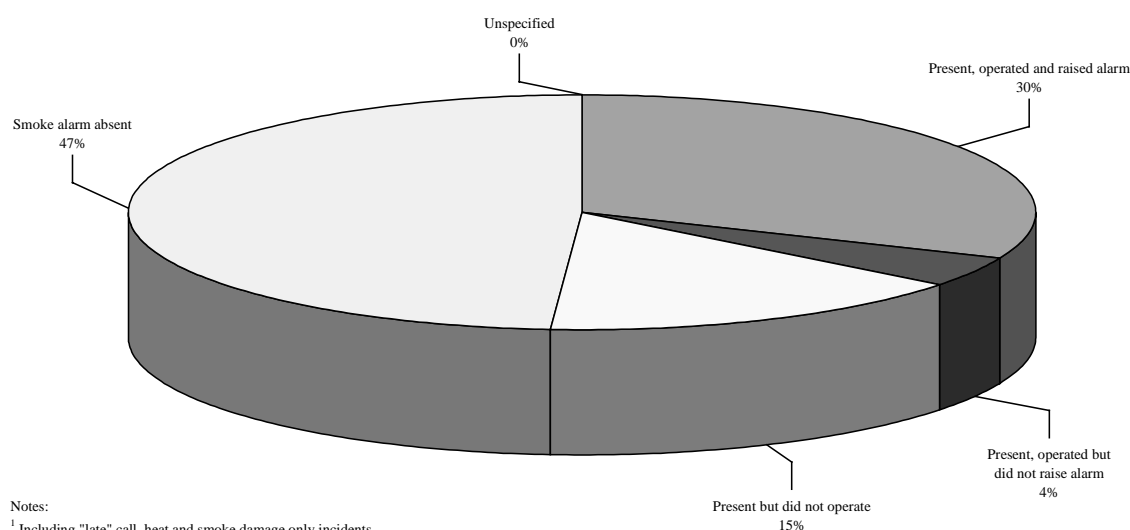
### *Malicious fires*

There were 8,806 malicious primary fires in 2001, representing 45 per cent of total primary fires in 2001 – the highest percentage of primary fires in the last 10 years. In 2001, there were 15 fatal casualties from malicious fires and these accounted for 15 per cent of total fatal casualties. There were 487 malicious fire non-fatal casualties in 2001 – the highest figure in the last 10 years, accounting for 23 per cent of Scotland’s total non-fatal casualties.

## Accidental fires

There were 10,947 accidental primary fires in 2001 accounting for 55 per cent of total primary fires – the lowest figure and percentage of total primary fires recorded in the past 10 years. There were 88 accidental fire fatal casualties in 2001, accounting for 85 per cent of total fatal casualties. There were 1,604 accidental fire non-fatal casualties in 2001 (accounting for 77 per cent of total non-fatal casualties). The pattern of accidental fires causing significantly more fatal and non-fatal casualties than malicious fires has held throughout the decade.

**Chart 5: Fires<sup>1</sup> in dwellings<sup>2</sup> by smoke alarm presence and operation, Scotland, 2001<sup>3</sup>**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structure used solely as a permanent dwelling.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional

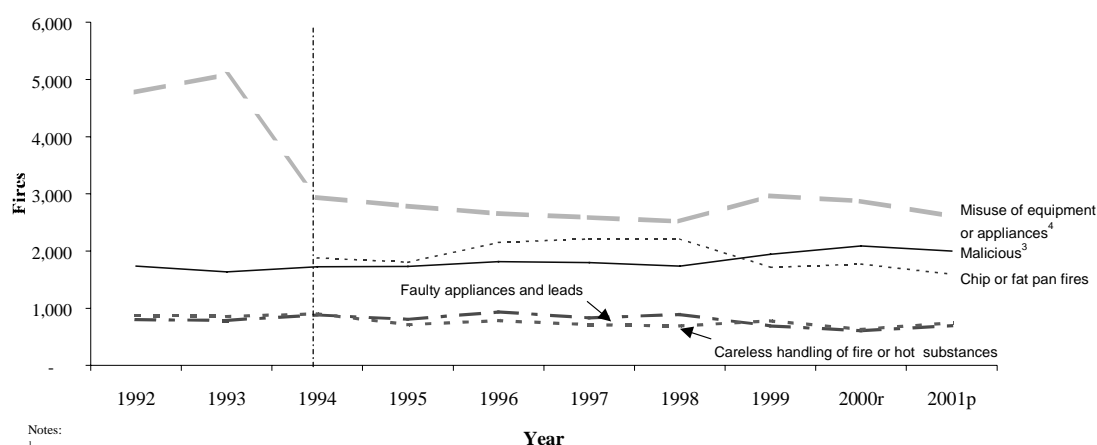
## Smoke alarms

In 2001, 4,331 dwellings fires (49 per cent of the total number of dwellings fires) occurred in dwellings without a smoke detector. This compares to 31 per cent (2,762 fires) of total Scottish dwellings fires which occurred in dwellings where a smoke detector was present, operated and raised the alarm. In the years since 1994, the majority of fatal casualties have occurred in dwellings fires where either the smoke detector was present but failed to operate or in dwellings fires where a smoke detector was absent.

## Causes of fires

1,997 or 23 per cent of the 8,834 total Scottish dwellings fires in 2001 were malicious. The remaining 77 per cent of total Scottish accidental dwellings fires were mainly spread across various causes such as misuse of equipment or appliances (2,609 fires – 30 per cent), chip or fat pan fires (1,595 – 18 per cent), careless handling of fire or hot substances (748 – 8 per cent), faulty appliances and leads (649 – 8 per cent), articles and heat too close (454 – 5 per cent) and other causes (423 – 5 per cent).

**Chart 6: Fires<sup>1</sup> in dwellings<sup>2</sup> by top five causes, Scotland, 1992 - 2001<sup>5</sup>**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling.

<sup>3</sup> Malicious fires include fires where malicious or deliberate ignition was merely suspected.

<sup>4</sup> Chip or fat pan fires were not recorded prior to 1994, previously included in 'misuse of equipment'. Prior to 1994 includes fires where person too close to heat/fell on fire, previously included in 'misuse of equipment'.

<sup>5</sup> Data for 1995 excludes some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents

<sup>6</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>7</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

## False fire alarms

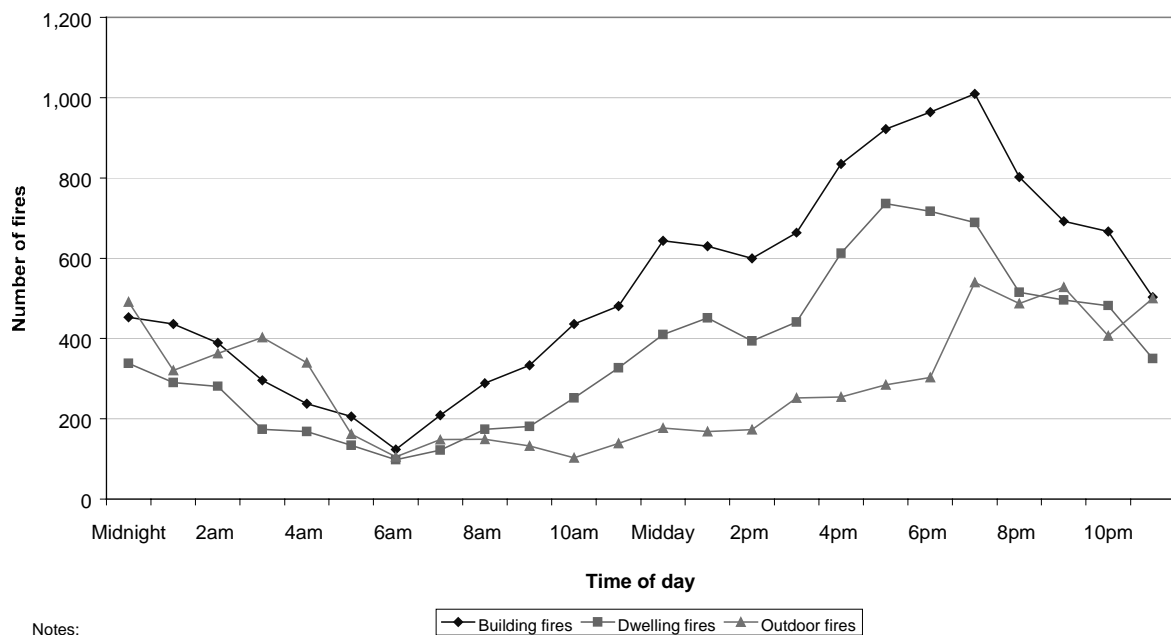
In 2001, total fire false alarms in Scotland constituted 53,800 incidents, representing just under half (48 per cent) of total call outs to fires (primary, secondary and chimney) and false fire alarms.

In 2001, 30,900 false fire alarms or 57 per cent of total false fire alarms were caused due to apparatus failure. This figure has increased substantially from earlier years where its share of total fire incidents was much smaller. Malicious false alarms have fallen since the peak of 22,500 incidents recorded in 1992, when they accounted for 43 per cent of total false fire alarms. In 2001, the 8,100 malicious fire false alarms accounted for 15 per cent of total fire false alarms.

### Call out times to fires

In Scotland in 2001 the majority of call outs to all fires generally occurred from early afternoon through to late evening (approx. 3pm to 10pm). Scotland's peak total fires call out occurred at around 7pm.

**Chart 7: Fires by location and time of call, Scotland, 2001<sup>1</sup>**

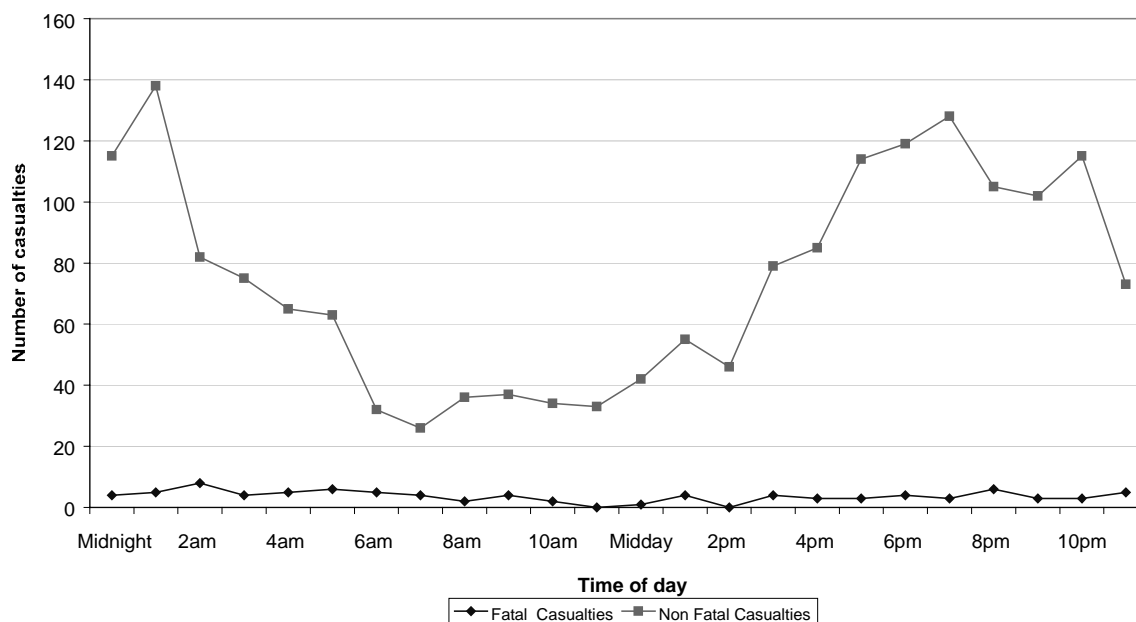


Notes:  
<sup>1</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional

### Casualties from fires, by time of call

In 2001, the majority of fatal and non-fatal casualties generally occur from early afternoon through to early morning (approx. 3pm to 2am) which is similar to the majority of call outs to fires.

**Chart 8: Total fatal and non-fatal casualties<sup>1</sup> in dwelling fires by time of call, Scotland, 2001<sup>2</sup>**



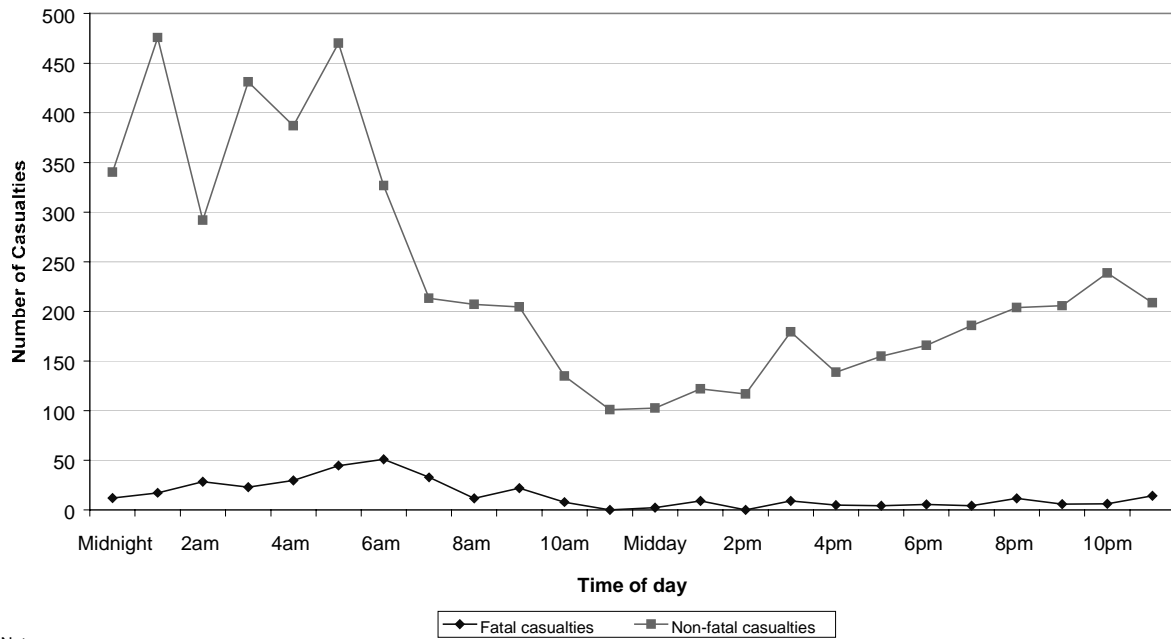
Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including casualties in late call and heat and smoke damage incidents

<sup>2</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional

However the figures from the fatal and non-fatal casualties per 1,000 dwellings fires show that fires in dwellings are more likely to cause fatal and non-fatal casualties in the early morning (approximately midnight to 7 am). The peak for fatal casualties per 1,000 dwellings fires occurred at 6am (51 fatal casualties per 1,000 dwellings fires) and the peak for non-fatal casualties per 1,000 dwellings fires occurred at 1am (476 non-fatal casualties per 1000 dwellings fires).

**Chart 9: Fatal and non-fatal casualties<sup>1</sup> per 1,000 dwelling fires by time of call, Scotland, 2001<sup>2</sup>**



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including casualties in late call and heat and smoke damage incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

#### **4. Appendix of Tables**

Table 1:	Fires by location, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 1(a):	Fires by location and brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 2:	Fires by location detail for buildings, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 2(a):	Fires by location detail of buildings and brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 3:	Fires by location detail for outdoor fires, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 3(a):	Fires by location detail for outdoor fires and by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 4:	Casualties from fires by location group, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 4(a):	Casualties from fire by location group and brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 5:	Casualties from fires by age and cause of death/nature of injury, Scotland, 2001
Table 5(a):	Casualties from fires by age and cause of death/nature of injury, per million population, Scotland, 2001
Table 6:	Casualties from fires by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 7:	Fires and casualties by motive of fire, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 7(a):	Fires and casualties by motive of fire and by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 8:	Fires, casualties and rescues from fires in dwellings, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 8(a):	Fires, casualties and rescues from fires in dwellings, by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 9:	Fires and casualties from fire in dwellings, by presence and operation of smoke detectors, Scotland, 1994-2001
Table 9(a):	Fires and casualties from fires in dwellings by presence and operation of smoke detectors, by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 10:	Fires in dwellings and other buildings by cause, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 10(a):	Fires in dwellings and other buildings by cause, by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001
Table 11:	Fires in dwellings and other buildings by spread of fires, Scotland, 1992-2001
Table 12:	False fire alarms, Scotland, 1992-2001

Table 12(a): False fire alarms attended by Scottish fire brigades, 2001

Table 13: Fires by location and time of call, Scotland, 2001

Table 13(a): Casualties in dwelling fires by time of call, 2001

# Fires<sup>1</sup> by location, Scotland, 1992-2001

**Table 1**  
**Fires (thousands)**

Year	All Fires	Primary Fires <sup>1,2</sup>							Secondary fires	Chimney Fires
		Total fires in buildings and outdoors	Buildings			Outdoors				
			Total	Dwellings	Other Buildings	Total	Road Vehicles	Other		
1992	52.2	20.9	13.9	9.6	4.3	7.0	5.8	1.2	23.4	7.8
1993	56.1	20.5	14.1	9.8	4.3	6.5	5.3	1.2	27.7	7.9
1994 <sup>(1,2)</sup>	61.7	19.7	13.9	9.5	4.3	5.9	4.6	1.2	34.9	7.0
1995 <sup>(3)</sup>	60.4	19.4	13.5	9.2	4.3	6.0	4.7	1.3	35.4	5.6
1996	62.3	19.6	13.8	9.5	4.3	5.8	4.8	1.0	36.6	6.1
1997	50.8	18.9	13.3	9.3	4.0	5.6	4.6	1.0	27.2	4.7
1998	45.6	18.9	13.0	9.2	3.8	5.9	5.1	0.8	22.7	4.1
1999	52.6	20.7	13.5	9.4	4.1	7.2	6.1	1.1	28.5	3.5
2000 <sup>r</sup>	55.7	20.2	13.3	9.3	3.9	6.9	6.0	0.9	32.4	3.1
2001 <sup>p</sup>	59.4	19.8	12.8	8.8	4.0	6.9	5.7	1.2	36.2	3.4

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for 1994 and later years are based on sample data weighted to the brigade totals.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 1995 exclude a number of Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

## Fires by location and brigade area, Scotland, 2001

Table 1(a)  
Fires (thousands)

Brigade Area	All Fires	Primary Fires <sup>1,2</sup>			Secondary fires	Chimney Fires
		Total				
		Total	Buildings	Outdoors		
Central	2.7	0.9	0.6	0.3	1.8	0.1
Dumfries & Galloway	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3
Fife	3.2	1.2	0.7	0.5	1.8	0.1
Grampian	3.8	1.6	1.1	0.5	1.7	0.5
Highland & Islands	2.8	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.9	1.2
Lothian & Borders	9.9	3.7	2.5	1.2	5.9	0.3
Strathclyde	31.1	9.7	6.1	3.6	20.8	0.6
Tayside	4.7	1.6	1.1	0.5	2.9	0.2
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>
England	426.8	188.3	90.7	97.5	229.2	9.3
Wales	35.7	13.0	5.7	7.2	21.6	1.1
N.Ireland	24.5	7.2	3.3	3.9	14.9	2.4

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Figures are based on sampled data weighted to brigade totals. Data for 2001 are provisional.

Fires<sup>1,7</sup> by locations, detail of buildings, Scotland, 1992-2001

Table 2  
Fires

Year	Total buildings	Dwellings <sup>2</sup>	Private garages, sheds etc.	Agricultural Premises	Construction industry premises	Other industrial premises	Retail Distribution <sup>3</sup>	Hotels, boarding houses, hostels etc.	Restaurants, cafes, public houses etc.	Education		Hospitals	Recreational and other cultural services <sup>4</sup>	Other <sup>3,4</sup>	Unspecified
										Schools	Further Education				
1992	13,925	9,612	705	214	88	466	397	253	298	287	60	259	201	1,066	19
1993	14,056	9,786	646	181	108	506	392	237	286	283	71	272	178	1,099	11
1994 <sup>(5)</sup>	13,853	9,539	779	200	154	439	536	218	239	298	57	162	343	878	11
1995 <sup>(6)</sup>	13,455	9,152	758	194	120	433	573	277	277	n/a	n/a	166	288	835	74
1996	13,775	9,516	767	194	78	477	524	283	302	201	48	210	250	917	9
1997	13,288	9,325	677	156	74	430	473	204	285	175	36	239	256	941	16
1998	12,954	9,154	666	144	40	391	619	235	242	132	86	215	203	817	10
1999	13,478	9,415	615	142	79	420	569	267	289	174	43	320	238	906	0
2000r	13,250	9,303	650	162	132	322	548	323	252	119	76	241	223	900	0
2001p	12,823	8,834	779	129	60	387	518	272	307	149	50	281	295	738	23

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling.

<sup>3</sup> From 1994 repair of goods and vehicles were included with retail distribution (previously part of 'other').

From 1994 'high street' banks and building society premises were included with shops. These may previously have been coded as financial intermediation.

<sup>4</sup> From 1994 places of worship were included with recreational and other cultural services (previously part of 'other').

<sup>5</sup> Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>6</sup> Data for 1995 excludes some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>7</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

n/a Not available

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Provisional data.

Fires<sup>1,3</sup> by locations, detail of buildings, by brigade area Scotland (England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001p

Table 2(a)

Fires

Brigade Area	Total buildings	Dwellings <sup>2</sup>	Private garages, sheds etc.	Agricultural Premises	Construction industry premises	Other industrial premises	Retail Distribution	Hotels, boarding houses, hostels etc.	Restaurants, cafes, public houses etc.	Education	Hospitals	Recreational and other cultural services	Other	Unspecified
Central	562	338	66	12	4	34	19	16	8	4	16	8	37	-
Dumfries & Galloway	252	159	10	10	-	8	15	1	4	-	36	6	4	-
Fife	735	456	81	12	-	52	16	31	17	17	13	28	12	-
Grampian	1,122	733	61	14	4	20	63	38	37	18	21	35	78	-
Highland & Islands	452	261	36	8	-	20	9	13	-	5	30	35	34	-
Lothian & Borders	2,508	1,784	125	19	13	76	72	68	68	44	42	56	142	-
Strathclyde	6,100	4,314	358	30	39	163	271	98	145	87	108	98	369	19
Tayside	1,092	789	43	24	-	15	53	7	29	24	16	28	61	5
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>12,823</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>23</b>
England	90,742	54,779	7,447	950	255	3,320	4,653	2,033	2,790	1,920	2,523	2,357	7,537	178
Wales	5,741	3,291	485	118	20	317	340	134	194	100	164	157	421	1
N.Ireland	3,267	2,110	218	70	36	101	176	23	101	66	43	91	219	11

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling

<sup>3</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fires<sup>1</sup> by location, detail for outdoor fires, Scotland 1992-2001**

**Table 3  
Fires**

Year	Primary outdoor fires <sup>1,2</sup>												Secondary Fires						
	Total outdoor fires <sup>5</sup>	Derelict buildings	Outdoor storage	Outdoor machinery and equipment	Road vehicles <sup>3</sup>	Caravans	Ships and boats	Railway rolling stock	Derelict Vehicles <sup>3</sup>	Grassland, crops, woods etc.	Other or unspecified	Total Secondary fires	Derelict buildings	Grassland, heath land etc.	Intentional straw and stubble burning	Single tree / Outdoor structure	Refuse, containers	Derelict vehicles	
1992	30,442	6,998	20	155	446	5,766	106	48	10	n/a	188	259	23,444	1,398	4,508	110	691	16,522	215
1993	34,189	6,482	24	175	459	5,280	96	46	8	n/a	139	255	27,707	1,448	4,108	175	859	20,885	232
1994	40,830	5,857	20	192	429	4,629	56	38	-	1	227	264	34,973	1,858	9,751	130	996	22,088	150
1995 <sup>(4)</sup>	41,322	5,954	33	145	397	4,679	110	75	9	-	259	246	35,368	1,876	10,412	281	1,355	21,315	129
1996	42,424	5,806	26	130	302	4,759	113	69	6	-	215	186	36,618	1,763	12,088	209	1,107	21,060	391
1997	32,756	5,586	13	157	318	4,586	98	53	24	187	151		27,170	1,409	5,693	216	881	18,483	488
1998	28,581	5,920	15	142	287	5,078	120	42	17	-	110	109	22,661	1,422	3,771	409	972	15,383	704
1999	35,697	7,178	11	218	334	6,085	161	17	1	-	153	199	28,519	1,560	5,621	163	817	19,210	1,148
2000 <sup>r</sup>	39,373	6,941	14	197	268	6,003	143	36	-	-	123	157	32,432	1,566	7,508	238	1,039	20,954	1,127
2001 <sup>p</sup>	43,159	6,930	14	273	309	5,706	126	59	9	-	150	284	36,229	1,724	8,422	113	897	23,876	1,197

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for 1994 and later years are based on sample data weighted to the brigade totals. These weighted estimates do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

<sup>3</sup> Derelict vehicles were recorded under "other vehicles" prior to 1994, and as such any fires in derelict vehicles before 1994 are recorded in the "Road vehicles" column

<sup>4</sup> Data for 1995 excludes a number of Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents

n/a Not applicable

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fires<sup>1</sup> by location, detail for outdoor fires by brigade area Scotland (England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001p**

**Table 3(a)**

**Fires**

Brigade Area	Primary outdoor fires <sup>3</sup>												Secondary Fires						
	Total	Total outdoor fires	Derelict buildings	Outdoor storage <sup>(2)</sup>	Outdoor machinery and equipment	Road vehicles	Caravans	Ships and boats	Railway rolling stock	Derelict Vehicles	Grassland, crops, woods etc. <sup>4</sup>	Other or unspecified	Secondary fires	Derelict buildings	Grassland, heath land etc.	Intentional straw and stubble burning	Single tree / Outdoor structure	Refuse, refuse containers	Derelict vehicles
Central	2,068	301	-	5	19	238	6	-	-	-	13	19	1,767	76	370	34	85	1,133	69
Dumfries & Galloway	473	103	-	-	21	81	-	-	-	-	-	1	370	5	58	2	20	275	10
Fife	2,345	500	-	29	30	377	9	4	-	-	17	34	1,845	60	539	1	36	1,150	59
Grampian	2,191	482	1	15	47	349	14	5	5	-	25	21	1,709	60	550	4	61	970	64
Highland & Islands	1,145	210	-	17	20	146	1	6	-	-	19	2	935	12	554	1	35	299	34
Lothian & Borders	7,061	1,175	4	104	55	916	29	-	-	-	40	26	5,886	200	1,288	5	146	4,036	211
Strathclyde	24,456	3,622	9	92	113	3,138	54	44	-	-	18	150	20,834	1,184	4,581	66	463	13,925	615
Tayside	3,420	537	-	11	5	461	12	-	5	-	17	30	2,883	127	482	-	51	2,088	135
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>43,159</b>	<b>6,930</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>36,229</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>8,422</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>23,876</b>	<b>1,197</b>
England	326,751	97,549	167	3,292	2,384	86,599	1,180	260	124	11	898	2,634	229,202	9,037	48,733	965	13,064	142,672	14,731
Wales	28,904	7,245	8	350	183	6,339	117	10	5	1	83	148	21,659	670	8,552	29	549	10,728	1,131
N.Ireland	18,819	3,932	22	114	124	3,498	32	-	5	-	76	61	14,887	901	4,916	-	236	8,035	799

<sup>1</sup>The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

<sup>2</sup> From 1994 outdoor storage includes recycling (previously part of other).

<sup>3</sup> Figures from 1994 for outdoor fires excluding secondary fires are based on sample data weighted to the brigade totals. They include "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents, which were not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>4</sup> Fires located in grassland, crops, woods etc are included under primary fires because they involved casualties, rescues or were attended by five or more appliances.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 is provisional.

**Casualties<sup>1</sup> from fires by location group, Scotland, 1992-2001**

**Table 4  
Casualties**

Year	Fatal					Non-Fatal				
	Location Group					Location Group				
	Total	Dwellings	buildings	Outdoor		Total	Dwellings	buildings	Outdoor	
				Other					Road	
Vehicles				Other	Vehicles				Other	
1992	102	82	7	10	3	1,881	1,614	175	35	57
1993	127	113	6	6	2	1,908	1,688	161	25	34
1994 <sup>(1)</sup>	80	75	3	1	1	2,025	1,716	192	52	65
1995	91	76	5	9	1	1,867	1,513	198	75	81
1996	110	96	7	3	4	2,060	1,746	173	74	67
1997	88	74	4	8	2	2,145	1,861	157	79	48
1998	96	76	2	8	10	2,171	1,853	158	96	64
1999r	105	81	6	10	8	2,254	1,996	158	55	45
2000r	75	67	2	4	2	2,263	1,999	138	78	48
2001p	103	88	2	12	1	2,091	1,799	171	71	50

<sup>1</sup> From 1994 onwards, includes casualties for "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional. The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available

Casualties<sup>(1,2)</sup> from fires by location group and brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001p

Table 4(a)

Casualties

Brigade Area	Fatal					Non-Fatal				
	Total	Location Group				Total	Location Group			
		Dwellings	Other buildings	Outdoor			Dwellings	Other buildings	Outdoor	
				Road Vehicles	Other				Road Vehicles	Other
Central	5	5	-	-	-	140	115	19	5	1
Dumfries & Galloway	3	3	-	-	-	32	25	4	1	2
Fife	4	4	-	-	-	99	86	10	1	2
Grampian	16	10	-	6	-	162	128	9	18	7
Highland & Islands	6	6	-	-	-	83	62	16	1	4
Lothian & Borders	15	11	1	3	-	364	304	37	13	10
Strathclyde	45	40	1	3	1	997	879	63	31	24
Tayside	9	9	-	-	-	214	200	13	1	-
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>50</b>
England	470	354	29	66	21	13,815	10,949	1,738	558	570
Wales	32	23	7	2	-	954	783	88	43	40
N.Ireland	17	15	-	1	1	470	350	81	17	22

<sup>1</sup> From 1994 onwards, includes casualties for "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

Casualties from fires by age and cause of death/nature of injury<sup>1</sup>, Scotland, 2001p

Table 5  
Casualties<sup>2</sup>

Age	Cause of death/nature of injury								
	Total	Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and Overcome by gas or smoke	Physical Injuries <sup>3</sup>	Shock only	Precautionary Check-up	Other	Unspecified
<b>Fatal<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>103</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-4	5	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
11-16	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
17-24	8	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	1
25-29	6	-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-
30-59	45	12	18	11	1	-	-	-	3
60-64	6	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 79	21	6	6	8	-	-	-	-	1
80 and over	7	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Non Fire Brigade<sup>5</sup></b>									
Under 1	23	-	1	-	-	1	21	-	-
1-4	66	1	12	-	-	5	47	-	1
5-10	74	3	15	-	3	4	49	-	-
11-16	74	6	15	-	4	4	44	1	-
17-24	261	24	71	8	14	8	133	1	2
25-29	166	16	44	5	6	8	85	1	1
30-59	846	69	254	30	24	41	407	16	5
60-64	116	7	31	6	3	5	61	3	-
65 - 79	231	16	86	4	-	11	111	1	2
80 and over	126	5	28	3	2	10	74	2	2
Unspecified	38	5	9	1	-	2	20	-	1
<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fire Brigade<sup>6</sup></b>									
17-24	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
25-29	10	2	-	-	7	-	-	1	-
30-59	58	10	2	-	35	-	2	9	-

<sup>1</sup> Table shows main injuries only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, these are shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Including additional "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>3</sup> If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur physical injuries is recorded.

<sup>4</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to persons who are not members of the fire brigade.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to fire brigade personnel.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional

**Casualties from fires by age and cause of death/nature of injury<sup>1</sup>, per million population<sup>2</sup>, Scotland, 2001**

**Table 5(a)**  
**Casualties<sup>3</sup>**

Age	Total	Cause of death/nature of injury							
		Burns	Overcome by gas or smoke	Burns and Overcome by gas or smoke	Physical Injuries <sup>4</sup>	Shock only	Precautionary Check-up	Other	Unspecified
<b>Fatal<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	..	..	..	..	<b>1</b>
Under 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-4	22	..	18	4	..	..	..	..	..
5-10	8	..	3	5	..	..	..	..	..
11-16	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
17-24	16	2	6	6	..	..	..	..	2
25-29	19	..	10	3	3	..	..	3	..
30-59	21	6	8	5	..	..	..	..	1
60-64	23	4	11	8	..	..	..	..	..
65 - 79	34	10	10	13	..	..	..	..	2
80 and over	36	5	21	10	..	..	..	..	..
Unspecified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Non Fire Brigade<sup>6</sup></b>									
Under 1	442	..	19	..	..	19	404	..	..
1-4	294	4	54	..	..	22	210	..	4
5-10	199	8	40	..	8	11	132	..	..
11-16	191	15	39	..	10	10	113	3	..
17-24	520	48	141	16	28	16	265	2	4
25-29	527	51	140	16	19	25	270	3	3
30-59	395	32	119	14	11	19	190	7	2
60-64	444	27	119	23	11	19	233	11	..
65 - 79	377	26	140	7	..	18	181	2	3
80 and over	646	26	144	15	10	51	380	10	10
Unspecified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Table shows main injuries only, priority being given to 'burns' and being 'overcome by gas or smoke'. However, if both these injuries occur, these are shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Population figures from ONS: Mid year 2001 estimates

<sup>3</sup> Including additional "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>4</sup> If 'physical injuries' and 'shock' occur physical injuries is recorded.

<sup>5</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to persons who are not members of the fire brigade

- None

.. No casualties were recorded / not applicable

**Casualties from fires<sup>1</sup> by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), 2001** **Table 6**

Brigade Area	Fatal <sup>2</sup> Casualties		Non-Fatal Casualties (non fire brigade) <sup>4</sup>	
	Number	Rate per million population <sup>3</sup>	Number	Rate per million population <sup>3</sup>
Central	5	18	140	501
Dumfries & Galloway	3	20	31	210
Fife	4	11	99	283
Grampian	16	30	155	295
Highland & Islands	6	22	83	300
Lothian & Borders	15	17	346	390
Strathclyde	45	20	953	431
Tayside	9	23	214	550
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>399</b>
England	469	10	13,168	268
Wales	32	11	936	322
Northern Ireland	17	10	422	250

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>3</sup> Population data from ONS

<sup>4</sup> Refers to persons who are not a members of the fire brigade

**Fires<sup>1,4</sup> and casualties<sup>2</sup> by motive of fire, Scotland, 1992-2001**

**Table 7**

Year	Total Primary			Accidental			Malicious		
	Fires <sup>4</sup>	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties	Fires <sup>4</sup>	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties	Fires <sup>4</sup>	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties
1992	20,923	102	1,881	13,389	85	1,516	7,534	15	297
1993	20,538	127	1,908	13,536	105	1,494	7,002	21	347
1994	19,710	80	2,025	12,513	73	1,701	7,197	7	324
1995 <sup>(3)</sup>	19,409	91	1,867	12,302	85	1,536	7,107	6	331
1996	19,581	110	2,060	12,455	98	1,673	7,126	12	387
1997	18,874	88	2,145	12,219	80	1,819	6,655	8	326
1998	18,874	96	2,171	11,942	82	1,797	6,932	14	374
1999	20,656	105	2,254	12,120	94	1,877	8,536	11	377
2000 <sup>r</sup>	20,191	75	2,263	11,378	64	1,839	8,813	11	424
2001 <sup>p</sup>	19,753	103	2,091	10,947	88	1,604	8,806	15	487

<sup>1</sup> Includes "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 1995 exclude some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>4</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional

**Fires<sup>1</sup> and casualties<sup>2</sup> by motive of fire by brigade area, Scotland  
(England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001**

**Table 7(a)**

Brigade Area	Total Primary			Accidental			Malicious		
	Fires <sup>3</sup>	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties	Fires <sup>3</sup>	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties	Fires <sup>3</sup>	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties
Central	863	5	140	499	2	98	364	3	42
Dumfries & Galloway	355	3	32	277	3	24	78	-	8
Fife	1,235	4	99	703	4	84	532	-	15
Grampian	1,604	16	162	1,088	12	130	516	4	32
Highland & Islands	662	6	83	531	6	61	131	-	22
Lothian & Borders	3,683	15	364	1,912	11	261	1,771	4	103
Strathclyde	9,722	45	997	4,943	41	808	4,779	4	189
Tayside	1,629	9	214	994	9	138	635	-	76
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>19,753</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>10,947</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>8,806</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>487</b>
England	188291	470	13,815	85,847	411	11,095	102,444	59	2,720
Wales	12986	32	954	5,568	28	817	7,418	4	137
N.Ireland	7199	17	470	2,683	13	359	4,516	4	111

<sup>1</sup> Includes "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>3</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12.

**Fires<sup>1</sup>, casualties<sup>2</sup> and rescues from fires in dwellings<sup>3</sup>,  
Scotland, 1992-2001**

**Table 8**

Year	Fires (number)	Fatal Casualties (per 1,000 fires)		Non-Fatal Casualties (per 1,000 fires)		Rescued By brigade	Rescued Without Brigade
		(number)	fires)	(number)	fires)	(persons)	(persons)
1992	9,612	82	9	1,614	168	546	502
1993	9,786	113	12	1,688	172	761	490
1994 <sup>(1,3)</sup>	9,539	75	8	1,716	180	553	415
1995 <sup>(4)</sup>	9,152	76	8	1,513	165	549	255
1996	9,516	96	10	1,746	183	683	263
1997	9,325	74	8	1,861	200	643	351
1998	9,154	76	8	1,853	202	787	306
1999	9,415	81	9	1,996	212	826	290
2000 <sup>r</sup>	9,303	67	7	1,999	215	1,013	335
2001 <sup>p</sup>	8,834	88	10	1,799	204	835	309

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for 1994 and later years are based on sample data weighted to the brigade totals.

<sup>4</sup> Data for 1995 exclude some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents were only recorded for quarter 1 out of 4.

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fires<sup>1</sup>, casualties<sup>2</sup> and rescues from fires in dwellings<sup>3</sup> by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001**

**Table 8(a)**

Brigade Area	Number of Persons; per 1000 fires						
	Fires	Fatal Casualties		Non-Fatal Casualties		Rescued By	Rescued Without
	(number)	(number)	(per 1,000 fires)	(number)	(per 1,000 fires)	brigade (persons)	Brigade (persons)
Central	338	5	15	115	340	45	14
Dumfries & Galloway	159	3	19	25	157	19	3
Fife	456	4	9	86	189	70	16
Grampian	733	10	14	128	175	49	27
Highland & Islands	261	6	23	62	238	21	19
Lothian & Borders	1,784	11	6	304	170	161	41
Strathclyde	4,314	40	9	879	204	364	164
Tayside	789	9	11	200	253	106	25
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>309</b>
England	54,779	354	6	10,949	200	3,578	1,972
Wales	3,291	23	7	783	238	279	112
N.Ireland	2,110	15	7	350	166	120	79

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

**Fires<sup>1</sup> and casualties<sup>2</sup> from fires in dwellings<sup>3</sup> by presence  
and operation of smoke detectors, Scotland, 1994-2001**

**Table 9**

Year	Total <sup>6</sup>	Present,			Smoke alarm absent	Unspecified
		Present, operated & raised alarm	operated, but did not raise alarm	Present but did not operate		
<b>Fires</b>						
1994	9,539	2,539	487	1,180	5,332	-
1995 <sup>(4)</sup>	9,152	2,400	432	1,293	4,916	111
1996	9,516	2,395	473	1,431	5,216	-
1997	9,325	2,405	460	1,395	5,065	-
1998	9,154	2,433	512	1,548	4,661	-
1999	9,415	2,655	458	1,655	4,647	-
2000 <sup>r</sup>	9,303	2,747	454	1,608	4,495	-
2001 <sup>p</sup>	8834	2762	370	1371	4331	-
<b>Fatal Casualties</b>						
1994	75	10	12	17	36	-
1995	76	18	5	22	26	5
1996	96	15	8	28	45	-
1997	74	8	10	19	37	-
1998	76	12	4	27	33	-
1999	81	8	2	30	41	-
2000 <sup>r</sup>	67	10	5	20	32	-
2001 <sup>p</sup>	88	21	9	26	32	-
<b>Non-Fatal casualties</b>						
1994	1,716	451	114	269	882	-
1995	1,513	412	102	287	707	5
1996	1,746	378	119	336	913	-
1997	1,861	439	117	385	920	-
1998	1,853	472	86	405	890	-
1999	1,996	545	125	462	864	-
2000 <sup>r</sup>	1,999	541	110	470	878	-
2001 <sup>p</sup>	1,799	583	93	382	741	-

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>3</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling

<sup>4</sup> Data for 1995 exclude some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>5</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fires<sup>1</sup> and casualties<sup>2</sup> from fires in dwellings<sup>3</sup> by presence and operation of smoke detectors, by brigade area, Scotland (England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001**

**Table 9(a)**

Brigade Area	Total <sup>4</sup>	Present, operated & raised alarm	Present, operated, but did not raise alarm	Present but did not operate	Smoke alarm absent	Unspecified
<i>Fires</i>						
Central	338	115	41	66	117	-
Dumfries & Galloway	159	39	9	31	81	-
Fife	456	120	37	78	220	-
Grampian	733	332	36	156	209	-
Highland & Islands	261	66	42	49	104	-
Lothian & Borders	1,784	445	68	354	916	-
Strathclyde	4,314	1,383	110	489	2,332	-
Tayside	789	262	26	149	352	-
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>2,762</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>4,331</b>	<b>-</b>
England	54,779	13,548	2,128	5,945	33,153	6
Wales	3,291	924	201	502	1,664	-
N.Ireland	2,110	449	85	318	1,256	1
<i>Fatal Casualties</i>						
Central	5	1	1	3	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	3	-	1	1	1	-
Fife	4	2	1	-	1	-
Grampian	10	4	-	4	2	-
Highland & Islands	6	1	1	1	3	-
Lothian & Borders	11	-	2	5	4	-
Strathclyde	40	8	3	8	21	-
Tayside	9	5	-	4	-	-
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-</b>
England	354	42	22	62	228	-
Wales	23	1	5	5	12	-
N.Ireland	15	1	1	4	9	-
<i>Non Fatal Casualties</i>						
Central	115	52	11	38	14	-
Dumfries & Galloway	25	4	4	9	8	-
Fife	86	22	2	26	36	-
Grampian	128	40	10	39	39	-
Highland & Islands	62	29	1	4	28	-
Lothian & Borders	304	91	19	76	118	-
Strathclyde	879	282	41	149	407	-
Tayside	200	63	5	41	91	-
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>-</b>
England	10,949	2,530	485	1,859	6,073	2
Wales	783	220	48	156	359	-
N.Ireland	350	96	24	85	144	1

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> The fatality figures for 2001 are likely to be revised downwards as later information becomes available.

<sup>3</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling

<sup>4</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

Fires<sup>1,7</sup> in dwellings<sup>2</sup> and other buildings by cause, Scotland, 1992-2001

Table 10

Fires<sup>1,7</sup>

Cause of Fire											
Year	Total	Malicious <sup>3</sup>	Faulty fuel appliance and supplies	Faulty appliance and leads	Misuse of equipment or appliances <sup>4,5</sup>	Chip or fat pan fires <sup>4</sup>	Playing with fire	Careless handling of fire or hot substances	Articles and heat too close <sup>5</sup>	Other	Unspecified
<b>Dwellings<sup>2</sup></b>											
1992	9,612	1,738	289	801	4,778	n/a	284	873	418	376	55
1993	9,786	1,636	277	789	5,086	n/a	269	857	394	423	55
1994	9,539	1,724	167	883	2,940	1,882	136	904	410	445	47
1995 <sup>(6)</sup>	9,152	1,732	227	805	2,784	1,802	67	712	370	600	54
1996	9,516	1,818	281	937	2,656	2,150	83	783	433	352	23
1997	9,325	1,801	304	833	2,587	2,214	46	711	411	370	48
1998	9,154	1,738	244	890	2,518	2,211	54	690	387	379	43
1999	9,415	1,944	259	691	2,966	1,716	64	782	512	417	64
2000r	9,303	2,089	267	608	2,874	1,774	62	631	530	421	38
2001p	8,834	1,997	214	694	2,609	1,595	47	748	454	423	43
<b>Other Buildings</b>											
1992	4,313	1,734	163	583	545	n/a	141	401	123	546	77
1993	4,270	1,716	187	607	535	n/a	112	380	128	556	49
1994	4,315	1,978	156	592	418	73	11	411	235	384	57
1995 <sup>(6)</sup>	4,303	2,086	172	592	439	43	20	334	121	433	64
1996	4,259	2,019	155	818	282	42	6	365	174	375	24
1997	3,963	1,830	208	732	326	19	21	307	151	299	72
1998	3,800	1,638	215	614	383	60	-	323	161	377	29
1999	4,063	1,791	223	509	474	67	9	311	186	407	86
2000r	3,947	1,895	268	443	442	61	5	217	179	373	62
2001p	3,989	1,925	211	541	343	68	10	275	147	400	68

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling

<sup>3</sup> Malicious fires include fires where malicious or deliberate ignition was merely suspected

<sup>4</sup> Chip or fat pan fires were not recorded prior to 1994, previously included in 'misuse of equipment etc'

<sup>5</sup> Prior to 1994 includes fires where person too close to heat/fell on fire, previously included in 'misuse of equipment'.

<sup>6</sup> Data for 1995 exclude some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>7</sup> The figures are weighted estimates and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12.

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fires<sup>1,6</sup> in dwellings<sup>2</sup> and other buildings by cause and brigade area,  
Scotland (England, Wales & N.Ireland) 2001p**

**Table 10(a)  
Fires<sup>1,6</sup>**

Brigade Area	Total	Cause of Fire									
		Malicious <sup>3</sup>	Faulty fuel supplies	Faulty appliance and leads	Misuse of equipment or appliances <sup>4,5</sup>	Chip or fat pan fires <sup>4</sup>	Playing with fire	Careless handling of fire or hot substances	Placing articles and heat too close <sup>5</sup>	Other accidental	Unspecified
<i>Dwellings<sup>2</sup></i>											
Central	338	70	9	21	104	66	4	39	21	1	4
Dumfries & Galloway	159	24	5	24	50	26	-	2	16	13	-
Fife	456	90	31	22	96	90	11	49	20	41	5
Grampian	733	113	12	69	317	107	-	52	24	40	-
Highland & Islands	261	14	21	49	55	28	-	19	27	46	3
Lothian & Borders	1,784	564	37	110	501	197	-	162	102	103	5
Strathclyde	4,314	976	88	374	1,194	960	30	343	205	135	2
Tayside	789	147	12	26	293	120	2	81	39	44	24
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>43</b>
England	54,779	11,450	1,701	6,248	14,806	7,082	654	4,007	4,144	4,082	568
Wales	3,291	648	118	337	913	537	38	243	215	229	10
N.Ireland	2,110	674	61	150	461	247	20	172	101	189	35
<i>Other Buildings</i>											
Central	224	111	6	34	9	6	0	8	17	28	6
Dumfries & Galloway	93	27	18	16	14	0	0	5	0	4	10
Fife	279	120	37	32	14	-	-	18	13	38	6
Grampian	389	137	6	51	73	4	5	19	28	59	5
Highland & Islands	191	60	8	37	22	-	-	16	4	40	4
Lothian & Borders	724	329	29	119	90	5	-	70	21	62	0
Strathclyde	1,786	986	89	218	105	53	-	124	47	145	18
Tayside	303	155	19	34	16	0	5	15	16	24	19
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>3,989</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>68</b>
England	35,963	16,146	1,721	5,382	3,929	704	96	1,895	1,183	4,160	737
Wales	2,450	1,097	126	328	309	35	5	102	94	308	46
N.Ireland	1,157	572	77	96	104	6	1	54	44	171	32

<sup>1</sup> Including "late" call, heat and smoke damage only incidents. Not recorded prior to 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling

<sup>3</sup> Malicious fires include fires where malicious or deliberate ignition was merely suspected

<sup>4</sup> Chip or fat pan fires were not recorded prior to 1994, previously included in 'misuse of equipment etc'

<sup>5</sup> Prior to 1994 includes fires where person too close to heat/fell on fire, previously included in 'misuse of equipment'.

<sup>6</sup> The figures are weighted samples and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fires<sup>1,5</sup> in dwellings<sup>3</sup> and other buildings by spread of fire, Scotland, 1992-2001**

**Table 11**

**Fires<sup>1,5</sup>: percentage**

Spread of fire	1992	1993	1994 <sup>(1,2)</sup>	1995 <sup>(4)</sup>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 <sup>r</sup>	2001 <sup>p</sup>
<b>DWELLINGS<sup>3</sup></b>										
<i>Number of fires</i>										
Confined to item	4,836	5,316	5,570	5,268	5,491	5,393	5,256	5,266	5,469	5,038
Beyond item but confined to room	4,047	3,837	3,067	3,116	3,113	3,136	3,119	3,223	3,110	3,046
Elsewhere in building	716	617	615	643	619	501	507	587	516	450
Beyond building	13	16	33	25	32	35	28	52	36	44
No fire damage	-	-	254	100	261	260	244	287	172	256
Total	9,612	9,786	9,539	9,152	9,516	9,325	9,154	9,415	9,303	8,834
<i>Percentage</i>										
Confined to item	50%	54%	58%	58%	58%	58%	57%	56%	59%	57%
Beyond item but confined to room	42%	39%	32%	34%	33%	34%	34%	34%	33%	34%
Elsewhere in building	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Beyond building	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
No fire damage	0%	0%	3%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
<b>OTHER BUILDINGS</b>										
<i>Number of fires<sup>3</sup></i>										
Confined to item	1,460	1,498	1,877	1,714	1,773	1,704	1,758	1,840	1,909	1,756
Beyond item but confined to room	2,333	2,306	1,733	2,026	1,950	1,689	1,593	1,575	1,496	1,728
Elsewhere in building	375	310	484	397	320	354	271	394	300	283
Beyond building	145	156	102	130	109	91	108	147	98	121
No fire damage	-	-	120	37	107	124	71	106	145	102
Total	4,313	4,270	4,315	4,303	4,259	3,963	3,800	4,063	3,947	3,989
<i>Percentage</i>										
Confined to item	34%	35%	43%	40%	42%	43%	46%	45%	48%	44%
Beyond item but confined to room	54%	54%	40%	47%	46%	43%	42%	39%	38%	43%
Elsewhere in building	9%	7%	11%	9%	8%	9%	7%	10%	8%	7%
Beyond building	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%
No fire damage	0%	0%	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%

<sup>1</sup> Changes were made in the method of recording the spread of fire in 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Figures from 1994, are based on sample data weighted to the brigade totals. They include additional 'late' call and heat and smoke damage only incidents, which were not recorded prior to 1994

<sup>3</sup> Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used solely as a permanent dwelling

<sup>4</sup> Data for 1995 exclude some Late call, heat and smoke damage only incidents.

<sup>5</sup> The Figures are weighted samples and do not necessarily sum to the independently rounded totals - see Annex Note 5.12.

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.

**Fire False Alarms, Scotland,  
1992-2001**

**Table 12  
Number (Thousands)**

Year	Malicious	Good Intent <sup>1</sup>	Due to Apparatus <sup>1</sup>	Total
1992	22.5	20.9	9.4	52.8
1993	19.5	23.2	9.5	52.2
1994	14.1	27.3	10.1	51.6
1995	9.7	28.3	12.2	50.1
1996	9.3	17.4	22.8	49.5
1997	8.2	15.6	24.8	48.7
1998	7.5	13.7	26.8	48.0
1999	8.0	13.5	29.6	51.1
2000r	8.1	13.9	29.8	51.8
2001p	8.1	14.8	30.9	53.8

<sup>1</sup> The marked changes between 1995 and 1996 are partly the result of coding changes.

<sup>r</sup> Data for 2000 are revised.

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional

**False fire alarms attended by Scottish fire brigades, 2001p**

**Table 12(a)**  
**Number**

Brigade Area	2001							
	Total false fire alarms		Malicious		Total apparatus		Good intents	
	Number	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Central	2,675	59%	399	9%	862	19%	1,414	31%
Dumfries & Galloway	734	52%	82	6%	464	33%	188	13%
Fife	2,943	60%	486	10%	1,970	40%	487	10%
Grampian	3,229	59%	318	6%	2,359	43%	552	10%
Highland & Islands	2,188	50%	281	6%	1,520	35%	387	9%
Lothian & Borders	10,536	63%	1,253	7%	7,819	47%	1,464	9%
Strathclyde	27,266	56%	4,799	10%	12,968	27%	9,499	20%
Tayside	4,267	58%	487	7%	2,978	40%	802	11%
<b>All Brigades</b>	<b>53,838</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>30,940</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>14,793</b>	<b>16%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are based on total number of fires plus false alarms

<sup>p</sup> Data for 2001 are provisional.



Casualties(1) in dwelling fires by time of call, Scotland, 2001

Fatal casualties

Number	Time of call																					Table 13(a)				
	Total	Midnight	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	Midday	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm		8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm
Central	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumfries	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fife	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Grampian	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Highland and Islands	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Lothian & Borders	11	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Strathclyde	40	3	3	1	2	1	3	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	4
Tayside	9	0	0	5	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
England	354	15	18	22	17	16	21	16	15	19	14	12	12	12	18	10	13	12	14	7	10	19	12	15	14	14
Wales	23	4	0	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0
Northern Ireland	15	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Per 1,000 fires

Number	Time of call																					Table 13(a)			
	Total	Midnight	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	Midday	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm		8pm	9pm	10pm
Strathclyde	9	17	19	7	23	15	61	43	49	11	0	9	0	0	5	0	9	8	6	6	6	11	4	4	22
Highland and Islands	23	0	0	0	0	xxx	xxx	0	167	0	xxx	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	100	0	0
Grampian	14	0	50	0	0	0	118	667	0	0	0	0	29	20	0	0	14	0	19	0	0	0	0	37	0
Tayside	11	0	0	333	111	375	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lothian & Borders	6	0	18	34	31	19	0	83	0	22	17	17	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Fife	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	29	71	0	0	77	
Central	115	67	0	0	0	0	143	0	0	0	167	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	
Dumfries	19	0	0	0	0	0	xxx	0	xxx	1,000	xxx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
England	6	8	12	16	15	18	29	27	16	11	7	5	4	4	6	3	4	3	2	3	6	4	6	6	7
Wales	7	30	0	14	48	16	26	61	17	13	24	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	5	4	0	4	13	8	0
Northern Ireland	7	0	0	0	13	14	0	54	0	18	47	17	0	14	11	0	0	10	0	15	0	15	0	0	0

Non-fatal casualties

Number	Time of call																					Table 13(a)			
	Total	Midnight	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	Midday	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm		8pm	9pm	10pm
Central	115	8	12	2	3	2	4	0	7	3	1	1	2	1	1	0	7	8	14	3	10	10	5	9	2
Dumfries	25	1	1	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	3	3	1	0	2	1
Fife	86	5	4	5	4	0	5	4	0	1	1	0	2	2	6	2	6	5	6	5	1	3	5	8	6
Grampian	128	9	11	3	0	8	5	2	2	6	3	3	3	3	6	6	5	8	10	6	6	13	7	1	
Highland and Islands	62	3	6	0	3	9	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	2	1	2	0	4	3	6	4	1	8
Lothian & Borders	304	15	29	24	12	13	16	6	2	10	9	8	4	5	8	6	12	7	24	19	20	16	17	14	8
Strathclyde	879	61	70	42	45	28	23	15	12	14	19	16	26	28	27	37	38	50	64	46	58	51	64	33	
Tayside	200	13	5	3	8	3	8	3	3	7	6	3	3	4	5	3	9	18	10	11	39	5	7	10	
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>73</b>
England	10,949	614	630	562	461	396	289	205	268	321	276	298	391	439	436	350	333	480	595	627	658	597	527	610	586
Wales	783	47	43	49	35	23	27	31	19	26	14	22	22	26	33	29	24	44	37	43	44	38	39	34	34
Northern Ireland	350	19	24	22	12	21	8	2	11	7	10	16	8	9	8	11	7	10	17	27	10	24	17	13	37

Per 1,000 fires

Number	Time of call																					Table 13(a)			
	Total	Midnight	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	Midday	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm		8pm	9pm	10pm
Strathclyde	204	339	446	290	523	424	469	319	197	138	241	173	87	147	133	137	170	155	141	189	133	210	196	227	182
Highland and Islands	238	375	3,000	0	214	2,250	xxx	333	0	91	xxx	0	1,500	167	107	286	48	118	0	103	167	600	200	125	889
Grampian	175	220	550	143	0	333	294	667	1,000	182	600	91	188	88	61	125	231	68	163	189	79	300	542	259	26
Tayside	253	650	227	200	889	375	308	150	375	2,333	429	120	75	75	135	158	237	340	112	193	796	128	109	233	350
Lothian & Borders	170	259	518	407	375	245	500	500	69	217	150	133	87	65	88	82	143	49	146	134	157	117	202	209	148
Fife	189	313	174	238	500	0	1,667	571	0	167	32	0	95	71	222	91	333	238	188	88	29	214	250	800	462
Central	340	533	1,333	333	1,500	2,000	571	0	1,167	300	167	111	222	32	125	0	259	174	583	214	435	833	278	360	154
Dumfries	157	1,000	1,000	429	0	1,000	2,000	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	0	1,000	0	111	118	167	188	167	167	0	100	1,000
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>209</b>
England	200	329	432	419	404	448	401	341	282	333	163	145	178	153	140	126	114	137	157	145	169	174	183	254	288
Wales	238	353	309	700	565	359	711	939	328	333	165	172	188	126	132	221	124	177	188	191	199	167	258	283	296
Northern Ireland	166	188	238	212	154	296	222	63	297	189	182	250	136	117	111	126	77	86	83	257	90	180	150	134	287

xxx=means that calculation is not appropriate

(1) Including casualties in late call and heat and smoke damage incidents (not recorded prior to 1994)

(2) Data for 2001 are provisional

## 5. Notes on statistics used in this bulletin

Annex

- 5.1 Responsibility for the Fire Service was transferred from the Home Office to the new Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in June 2001. The statistics in this bulletin are compiled from reports submitted to the ODPM on fires attended by local authority fire brigades. Although a variety of Scottish fire statistics are currently published annually by the ODPM (see references below) this is the second time that detailed data for the eight Scottish fire brigades have been collated and reported by the Scottish Executive in the form of a dedicated Scottish fire statistics bulletin. This bulletin is intended to provide a detailed overview of Scottish fire statistics over the past decade, at a brigade and Scotland level with comparison to the other UK regions. More detailed information is collected on all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures and any fires involving casualties or rescues - "primary" fires and more detailed information on these are presented in this bulletin. Less detailed aggregated information is collected on "secondary" and chimney fires' so subsequent analysis of them is limited. For definitions of the terms used in this bulletin, see paragraph 5.18 below.

### Data for primary fires

- 5.2 The source of these data is the fire report form FDR1 (94) introduced from January 1994. The count specifically included two categories of fire related incident not recorded in the fire statistics from the early 1980s to 1993. These categories are described as late fire calls and heat and smoke damage only incidents:
- **"late fire calls"** are fires not attended as an emergency because they are known to be extinguished when the call was made, or to which no emergency call was made;
  - **heat or smoke damage only** 'fires' - where no fire damage is reported (see definitions paragraph 5.18, for fuller explanation).
- 5.3 Analyses for 1994 and later years include both "late fire calls" and heat or smoke damage only 'fire'. Because of the way that these types of fire were processed in 1995, this involved some additional estimation for missing data.

### Deaths

- 5.4 A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if death occurred weeks or months later. The figures for fatalities are subject to revision as firstly death certificates are received from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) (and the Scottish and Northern Ireland Registrars General), which tends to increase the numbers and secondly as information provided by the Fire Service is forwarded to ONS etc. for confirmation that fire was the main cause of death. The latter leads to a decrease in the number recorded, particularly for fires involving road vehicles.
- 5.5 This publication contains the finalised figures for 2000 deaths following the death certificates exercise (described above). Based on the changes made to previous figures, estimates have been produced for the key 2001 figures. Due to the late receipt of information concerning the total number of fire related deaths occurring in 1998, this bulletin also contains some very minor revisions to the 1998 death figures.
- 5.6 A further data refinement exercise was undertaken in June 2000 to complete the revision exercise undertaken to the deaths information in 1998. The 2000 exercise resulted in some very minor changes to the information held on non-fatal casualties, rescues and the information held on the location of some fatal casualties for the years 1989 to 1993.

## **Malicious and accidental fires**

- 5.7 Malicious fires include those where malicious or deliberate ignition is merely suspected, and those recorded by the brigade as "doubtful".
- 5.8 As a result of a review of the assessment of the motive of primary fires the classification of certain types of primary fires was changed from accidental to malicious, with effect from 1994. The effect appeared most noticeable for buildings fires, where an estimated 4,000 UK fires may have been categorised as malicious where they were previously classed as accidental. For example, the main change for fires in dwellings was those caused by 'playing' with fire - in particular if children were involved. Prior to 1994, it was assumed that they were caused accidentally. In 1994 it was estimated that 1,500 such fires would have been recorded as accidental in 1993. In buildings other than dwellings, the main change occurred for fires that spread to them from small (secondary) fires, where an estimated 2,000 were recorded as malicious instead of accidental. Within the malicious category, a higher proportion of fires was recorded as "doubtful" or "unspecified", rather than "ignition of other property". These changes affect comparisons before and after 1994, but do not affect comparison between 1994 and later years.
- 5.9 Data for malicious and accidental fires were further revised in 2000. The revised data corrected an error which resulted in a small distortion (about 3,500 UK fires) in the number of malicious and accidental fires for the years 1996 to 1998. This error meant that the number of accidental fires were under represented by about 3,500 in these years, whilst malicious fires were over represented by 3,500. The total number of primary fires (involving property or casualties) for these years were not affected.

## **False alarms**

- 5.10 The marked changes between 1995 and 1996 in the numbers of false alarm calls for "good intent" and "due to apparatus" are partly the result of coding changes. Guidance clarifying false alarm calls to be included in the "due to apparatus" category as applied by some fire brigades has resulted in some false alarm calls being classified into this category rather than "good intent".

## **Selection of samples of primary fires, since 1994**

- 5.11 The databases for 1994 to 2000 contain all casualties but only a sample of other fires. The samples were selected systematically for each brigade, with the following approximate sampling fractions: 1994 - 10 per cent; 1995 - 40 per cent, 1996 to 2000 - 20 per cent.
- 5.12 The data have all been weighted to agreed brigade totals. The detailed analysis of data are based on grossed sample estimates and fact components may not sum exactly to totals.

## **Statistical sample (of primary fires) confidence limits**

- 5.13 The sample may well produce estimates, which differ slightly from figures, which would have been obtained if all forms (the population) had been examined. We can construct statistical confidence limits for each estimate at the 95 per cent level of significance. This means we can be confident that there is a 95 per cent chance that the limit contains the true population value of interest. The methodology for constructing confidence limits is shown below.
- 5.14 A parameter (R) from the fire incident population (N) will take the form of a proportion ( $P=R/N$ ) with a particular attribute, for example the number of dwelling fires as a proportion

of fires in all locations. Using the normal distribution approximations gives confidence limits for p as:

$$p \pm Z\alpha \sqrt{\frac{(1-f)pq}{\sqrt{(n-1)}}}$$

where p = Proportion of fires with a given attribute  
q = 1-p  
f = n/N = Sampling fraction  
n = Sample size  
N = Known population size  
Zα = Normal distribution significance level

However, this normal approximation requires that;

(i)  $n \ll \min(R, N-R)$

(ii)  $\min(nP, nQ) \geq 30$

(see COCHRAN, William G, 'Sampling Techniques', Wiley Publications 1977, (pp57-60) for details)

5.15 We cannot use the approximations safely if a proportion (p value) close to zero or one is being estimated. When the normal approximation does not apply, limits for p may be found from binomial tables (e.g. Fisher and Yates *Statistical Tables* (1957)).

### An example for car fires

5.16 In 2001, there were 228,229 primary fire incidents in the UK, of which 90,382 primary fire incident forms were entered onto the database, 55,784 of which were for fires involving casualties and other types of fire where 100 per cent were coded (e.g. data received electronically from participating brigades) and 34,598 were other types of fire which only a sample were coded. Therefore, the 34,598 (n) sampled forms are based on a population of  $228,229 - 55,784 = 172,445$  forms and the overall sampling fraction (f) was 20 per cent.

5.17 Calculating the 95 per cent confidence limits for fires in cars (88,242) gives a result of  $\pm 1,047$ . Therefore, the number of UK car fires with 95 per cent confidence is between 87,195 and 89,289.

### Definitions

5.18 From 1994, with the introduction of the fire report form DDR1 (94) some definitions were changed and clarified. The following list shows definitions applicable from 1994:

**A reportable fire** (*no specific definition prior to 1994*)

A reportable fire is an event of uncontrolled burning involving flames, heat or smoke and which the brigade attended.

**Late fire call** (*no specific definition prior to 1994*)

A fire known to be extinguished when the call was made (or which no call was made, e.g. a fire which comes to the attention of the brigade as a result of a press report or inquest) and the brigade attended.

**Heat or smoke damage incidents** (*no specific definition prior to 1994*)

These are reportable 'fires' where there is no fire damage. The damage reported may be due to any combination of heat, smoke and other which will include any water damage.

**Location**

The type of premises, property or countryside in which the fire *started*. This is not necessarily the type of premises in which most casualties or damage occurred as a result of the fire.

**Cause of fire**

The defect, act or omission leading to ignition of the fire.

**Malicious**

Includes fires where malicious or deliberate ignition is merely suspected, and recorded by the brigade as "doubtful". The group was described as "deliberate or possible deliberate" in fire statistics publications up to 1990".

**Accidental**

Includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.

**Source of ignition**

The source of the flame, spark or heat that started the fire.

**Spread of fire**

The extent to which fire damage (as opposed to heat, smoke or other damage) spread, for example, beyond the room of origin.

**Buildings**

All buildings including those under construction, but excluding derelict buildings or those under demolition. Prior to 1994 'buildings' were referred to as 'occupied buildings'.

**Dwellings**

Buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. From 1988, mobile homes have been specifically included in the dwelling count. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling (for FDR1 purposes) was widened to include any non-permanent structures used **solely** as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc. (amounts to 0.3 per cent of the total number of UK dwelling fires). This change brings the definition of a dwelling more in line with that required under Best Value legislation. All analyses from 1994 to 1998 relating to dwellings were retrospectively revised to include the new categories of dwelling (prior to 1994 these categories were included in the dwelling count). Caravans, boats etc. **not used as a permanent dwelling** are shown according to the type of property (caravan, vehicle etc.).

**Primary fires** (*no specific definition prior to 1994*)

These are reportable fires (as listed below i) to vi) or any fires involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances regardless of its actual physical location. An appliance is counted if either the appliance, equipment from it or personnel riding it, were used to fight fire.

(i) Buildings

(ii) Caravans

(iii) Vehicles and other methods of transport (not derelict)

(iv) Outdoor storage, plant and machinery

(v) Agricultural and forestry premises and property

(vi) Other outdoor structures including post boxes, tunnels, bridges etc.

### **Secondary fires**

These are reportable fires that:

- were not in primary fire locations (before 1994 defined as a list of locations)
- were not chimney fires in buildings
- did not involve casualties or rescues
- were attended by four or fewer appliances. An appliance is counted if either the appliance, equipment from it or personnel riding on it, were used to fight the fire.

They are reported in less detail than other fires and consequently less information concerning them is available.

### **Chimney fires**

These are reportable fires in occupied buildings:

- where fire was confined within the chimney structure
- that did not involve casualties or rescues
- attended by four or fewer appliances.

### **Fatal Casualty**

A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if death occurred weeks or months later - see paragraphs 5.4 to 5.6 for a more detailed discussion.

### **Non-Fatal Casualties**

Non-fatal casualties consist of persons requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the fire, and those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, are recorded as "precautionary check-up".

### **Non-brigade Casualties**

Refers to fatal or non-fatal casualties involving persons who are not members of the fire brigade.

### **Brigade Casualties**

Refers to fatal or non-fatal casualties involving fire brigade personnel.

Details of the main definitions and classifications that applied to data for the period 1978 to 1993 are set out in the publication "Fire Statistics United Kingdom 1993" (see source below). These are the definitions used during the period of the previous fire report form (FDR1).

## **Standard Industrial Classification (Trade or business)**

5.19 In 1994, the classification of industrial fire locations was simplified. The new codes were based on the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised) (SIC) published by the Central Statistical Office but combined or added categories where relevant to fire risk. The aim is to identify the main trade or business carried on where the fire started. Comparisons with data for the period 1988 to 1993 are affected as follows:

- **"Mining and quarrying"** replaces "Extraction of coal etc." and includes all mining and quarrying e.g. metal extraction.
- **"Metal manufacturing"** and **"Transport and vehicle manufacturing"** replace "Metal manufacturing and extraction" (with extraction now included in "Mining and quarrying") and "Metal goods engineering and vehicle manufacture".
- **"Other manufacturing"** includes office machinery and computers, electrical machinery, radio, television and communication equipment, medical, precision, optical, watch and clock manufacture and other not elsewhere specified, and replaces other manufacturing, and some "other unspecified" categories although the comparison may not be exact.
- **"Recycling"** is a new category which was previously included in one of the "other" categories. Outdoor recycling points are included with "outdoor storage" and not as previously in "other".
- **"Retail Distribution"** includes the sale and repair of goods which were previously included with sale and repair of motor vehicles. A new category for "sale and repair of motor vehicles" is shown separately in detailed tables. Also included in retail distribution is trading premises of bank and building societies which may have been previously included with financial intermediation.
- **"Recreational and other cultural services"** now includes "places of worship" previously in "other".
- **"Children's and disable homes"** excludes some other welfare establishments now in "other miscellaneous services".

## Symbols

5.20 Symbols used in the tables are:

- Nil or less than half the final digit shown.
- .. Not available/Not applicable
- <sup>p</sup> Provisional figures
- <sup>r</sup> Revised

## Sources of fire statistics

5.21 Previous statistical publications on fires include:

### **UK Fire Statistics:**

- Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2000
- Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1999 (issue number 20/00)
- Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1998 (issue number 15/99)
- Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1997 (issue number 25/98)
- Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1996 (issue number 1/98)
- Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1995 (issue number 8/97)
- Summary Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 1994 (issue number 13/96)

Up to and including data for 1993, detailed information on fires, including location, cause, spread and casualties were published by the Home Office in "Fire Statistics United Kingdom". Copies of the above publications can be downloaded from the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Region's website at <http://www.safety.dtlr.gov.uk/fire/rds/index.htm>

**Scottish Fire Statistics:**

HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland Annual Report for 2000-01

HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland Annual Report for 1999-00

Fire Statistics Scotland 2000

The above publications report on the number of primary fires, secondary fires and casualties at brigade area/ Scotland level and are published by the Scottish Executive. Copies of the above publications can be downloaded from the Scottish Executive's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications>

# SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STATISTICAL SERVICES

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The aim of the Statistical Service is to provide relevant and reliable statistical information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

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[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about\\_ns/cop/default.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/cop/default.asp)

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## Correspondence and enquiries

Enquiries on Fire Statistics Scotland 2001 should be addressed to:

Katy Barratt  
 Scottish Executive Justice Department  
 Justice Statistics Unit Branch 2  
 1 WR, St Andrew's House  
 EDINBURGH EH1 3DG  
 Telephone: (0131) 244 2226; Fax: 0131 244 2623  
 e-mail: Katy.Barratt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries on Scottish Executive statistics can be addressed to:

Kevin Meenan  
 Central Statistics Unit  
 Scottish Executive  
 4 Floor East Rear, St Andrews House  
 EDINBURGH EH1 3DG  
 Telephone: (0131) 244 0442; Fax: (0131) 244 0335  
 e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Further information on the General Register Office for Scotland is available on the website **www.gro-scotland.gov.uk**

### Most recent Justice Statistical Publications relating to the Crime and Justice theme

Ref no.	Title	Last published	Price
CrJ/2002/5	Recorded Crimes and Offences involving Firearms, Scotland, 2001	Sep 2002	£2.00
Statistics Release	Criminal Appeal Statistics, Scotland 2001	Sep 2002	N/A
CrJ/2002/6	Prison Statistics Scotland, 2001	Sep 2002	£2.00
CrJ/2002/7	Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 1 January – 31 December 2001	Oct 2002	£2.00
Statistics Release	Homicide in Scotland, 2001	Nov 2002	N/A
CrJ/2002/8	Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics, 2001-02	Nov 2002	£2.00
CrJ/2002/9	Criminal Proceedings in Scottish Courts, 2001	Dec 2002	£2.00
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