



Fire Facts

Fires in Greater London

1966 – 2014

About this publication

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The London Fire Brigade

The London Fire Brigade is run by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA).

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Introduction

This *Fire Facts* report sets out the key information on the fires we attend. We have a continuous record of the number of all fires since 1966 after the creation of the Greater London area. More detailed records on the numbers and types of fire start in 2000 when electronic recording systems were introduced.

A brief history of the London Fire Brigade

The roots of a single fire service responsible for London start in 1833 when, under the leadership of James Braidwood, the LONDON FIRE ENGINE ESTABLISHMENT was formed. The London Fire Engine Establishment was a private enterprise, funded by the insurance companies and as such was responsible mainly for saving material goods from fire.

In June 1861, a huge conflagration at Cotton's Wharf, a riverside warehouse in Tooley Street, Southwark, claimed the life of James Braidwood, and resulted in insurance claims for more than £2 million (£1.6bn at today's value). The subsequent increase in insurance premiums caused many of the merchants of the City to protest to the Lord Mayor. A Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed 'to enquire into the existing state of legislation and of any existing arrangements for the protection of life and property against fire in the Metropolis'.

In 1865, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Act was passed, placing responsibility for the fire service in the metropolis upon the Board of Works. The London Fire Establishment continued to function until 1 January 1866, on which date the new METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE formally came into existence. Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, who had been appointed as the Superintendent of the London Fire Establishment after Braidwood's death, remained in charge of the newly formed brigade.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade Act 1865 is still current today. Under sections 13-16 of the Act, insurers are required to send annually a return to LFEPA detailing the gross amounts insured by them, except by way of reinsurance, in respect of property in Greater London

(other than the outer London Boroughs) which is insured against fire. A payment is made by insurers to LFEPA based upon that sum. The payment is set by the Act at a rate of £35 per £1m of the gross amounts insured; which in 2014/15 amounted to £22.7 million.

On 21 March 1889, by virtue of the Local Government Act 1888, the Metropolis, including the City, was converted into the Administrative County of London; the Metropolitan Board of Works went out of existence and its functions taken over by the London County Council (LCC). In 1904, the London County Council changed the name of the service from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to the LONDON FIRE BRIGADE.

In March 1938, ahead of the start of the Second World War, recruitment started in London for an Auxiliary Fire Service. Heavy raids during the Blitz had shown that regional firefighting resources were insufficient and the Government decided to unify the services. On 18 August 1941 the NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE came into being.

The National Fire Service continued to provide a service in the peacetime after the war until 1 April 1948 when the Fire Service Act 1947 placed responsibility for fire brigades on county and borough councils. At this time the London Fire Brigade was once more under the administration of the London County Council.

The local government of London changed again in 1965 when the Greater London area was formally defined and created by the London Government Act 1963, which came into force on 1 April 1965. This new area replaced the former administrative counties of Middlesex and London (the LCC), adding the City of London and absorbing parts of Kent, Surrey, Essex, a small part of Hertfordshire and the County Boroughs of Croydon and East and West Ham. This new area was governed by the newly formed Greater London Council (GLC).

In 1986 the Greater London Council was disbanded and the Local Government Act 1985 transferred the functions of fire service and civil defence to a newly formed LONDON FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE AUTHORITY (LFCDA) which took over on the 1 April 1986.

On 7 May 1998 Londoners voted in a referendum asking whether there was support for Greater London Authority, made up of an elected mayor and a separately elected assembly. Londoners voted 72 per cent in favour and the new governance structure was set out in the Greater London Authority Act 1999. On the 3 July 2000 the LFCDA was reconstituted as the LONDON FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY.

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

The LFB is run by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA). The LFEPA has 17 members, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor. Eight are nominated by the London Assembly, seven are nominated by the London boroughs and two are appointed by the Mayor directly.

London Fire Brigade attended 96,078 incidents in London in 2014 of which 19,621 (20 per cent) were fires and just under half (47,535) were false alarms, occurring in a combination of domestic and non-domestic premises. We also attended 520 incidents in neighbouring Brigade areas. In this report we focus on those incidents that happen within the boundaries of Greater London.

The Brigade sets out how its prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities in its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The Brigades' IRMP is known as the London Safety Plan, the most recent of which was finally agreed on 12 September 2013 (LSP5).

Recording fire incidents

In 1966, fires were recorded using Fire Report forms K433 and K433H. Fire Report form K433 was introduced by the Home Office and Scottish Home Department in 1953 for recording every fire with the

exception of chimney fires confined to (did not spread beyond) chimneys.

To simplify the information recording of smaller, less serious fires, a second form K433H was introduced in 1960 which captured a reduced set of information for fires that were confined to grassland, heathland, or railway embankments. In 1970, K433H was revised and its use extended to cover a larger group of minor fires.

January 1978 saw the introduction of a new recording method; the Fire Damage Report – FDR1. FDR1 was revised in 1994.

Fire recording changed again in 2008 when the national Incident Recording System (IRS) was introduced and was the first fully electronic fire recording system (prior to which records were submitted to government on paper records and the statistics from these based on sampling).

LFB switched over to the new IRS recording system on 3 November 2008.

Categories of fires

A reportable fire is 'an event of uncontrolled burning involving flames, heat or smoke which was attended by a fire and rescue authority, or which was a late fire call'.

The categories for fire have remained unchanged since the introduction of the FDR1. Fires are categorised as either Primary, Secondary, Chimney or Late Call.

Primary fires are more serious fires that harm people or cause damage to property. More information is collected about primary fires than other types of fire. In the changes to the FDR1 in 1994 the definition for primary fires was broadened to include a small number of fires where there was no fire damage but there was damage from heat and smoke.

Primary fires have one or more of the following characteristics:

- (a) all fires in buildings and vehicles that are not derelict or in outdoor structures,

- (b) any fires involving casualties or rescues,
- (c) any fire attended by five or more appliances.

A **late call** is when a fire and rescue authority is called to a fire when it is known, prior to the call, that the fire has already been extinguished. In this report, Late calls are included in the totals for primary fires. There are typically less than 20 late calls per year.

Secondary fires are less serious fires and less information is recorded about these fires. Secondary fires are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and rubbish fires; unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or unless five or more appliances attend. Fires in derelict buildings are recorded as secondary fires.

Chimney fires are any fires in buildings where the flame was contained within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties, rescues or attendance by five or more pumping appliances.

Where fire crews record the motive for a fire they are categorised as follows:

- (a) Accidental fires, including those where the cause was not known or unspecified.
- (b) Deliberate fires, include those where deliberate ignition is merely suspected.

Symbols and conventions used

Inner and outer London

Where we have made reference to inner and outer London we are using the classification used by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

There are 14 inner London Boroughs which are; Camden, City of London, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster.

The 19 outer London Boroughs are; Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton and Waltham Forest.

Symbols

The following symbols have been used throughout:

.. = not available or not applicable .

– = nil.

Data tables

Some tables in this publication have been truncated in the number of years presented so that the tables remain readable. The full tables with all years data is available to download from the London Datastore at data.london.gov.uk.

Chapter 1 | Long term trends

This chapter looks at the long term time-series data for fires in Greater London since 1966. The only year since 1966 when data for 'all fires' isn't available is 1977 when, due to the fire service national strike that year, data was only available up until October.

Fires in Greater London

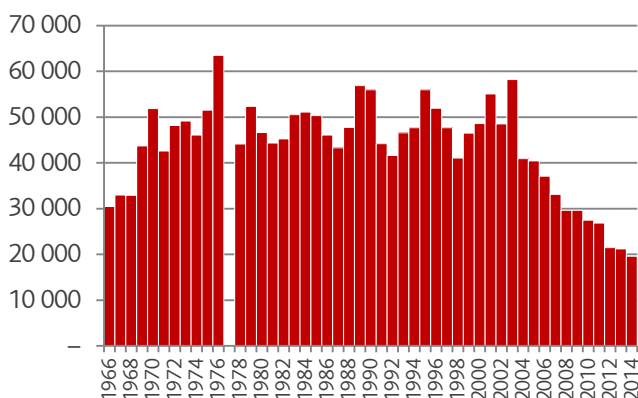
(Table 1.1)

In 1966 the total number of fires was 30,436. The number of fires each year remained above 30,000 until 2008 when, for the first time, the number of fires fell below 1966 levels to 29,653.

For most of the 36 years between 1969 and 2005, the total number of fires has fluctuated between 40,000 and 50,000 fires a year. Those years where the number of fires were at their highest coincide with the years with notably hot summers with continuous dry periods which cause many more grass fires. Eight of the UK's 10 warmest years on record have happened since 2002.

The years with the highest numbers of fires have been 1976 (63,524 fires), 2003 (58,233 fires), 1989 (56,893 fires), 1995 (55,962 fires) and 2001 (55,063 fires).

Chart 1: Total number of fires in Greater London



The longest period showing a continuing trend is the 11 years between 2003 and 2014 over which time the number of fires each year have consistently fallen.

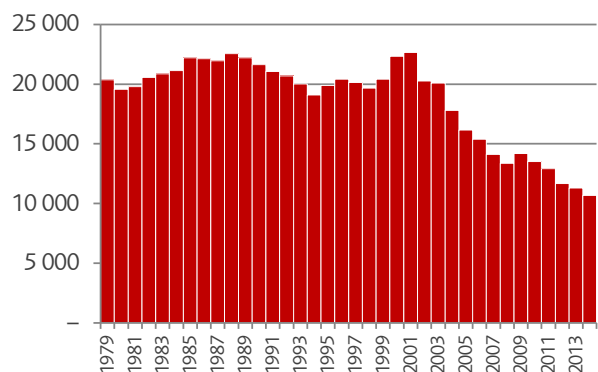
The reduction in fires since 2001 is linked to the introduction of the first Community Safety Strategy

which the Authority approved in September 2000¹. This strategy changed the focus of the London Fire Brigade from being a mainly reactive emergency response service to a proactive service with fire prevention at the core of its activities.

Primary fires

Between 1979 and 2003 the number of primary fires fluctuated between 20,000 and 22,000 fires per year. The most primary fires happened in 2001 (22,655). However, on average, primary fires since then have reduced, by around 850 fires per year. The number of primary fires in 2014 is around half the number that happened during the 1980's & 1990's..

Chart 2: Number of primary fires (since 1979)



Secondary fires

Periods of high numbers of secondary fires coincide with dry and hot summers. This is due to an increase in grass fires that happen more frequently in dry and hot periods.

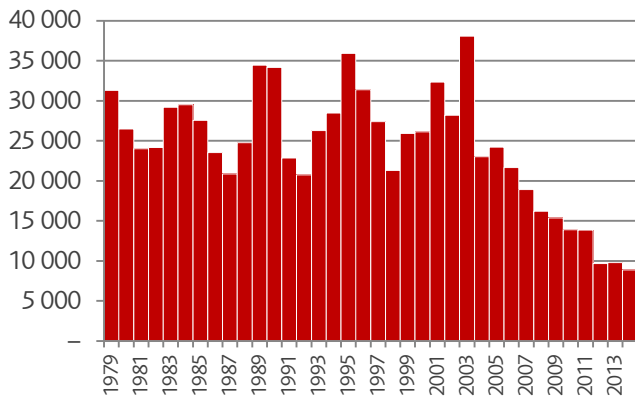
Whilst secondary fires weren't recorded in 1976, we know from other records at the time, that there were over 12,000 grass fires recorded that year. This is acknowledged as being due to the very dry and hot summer which led to a drought across the UK.

¹ Authority Community Fire Safety Strategy; FEP9, 14 September 2000

The high number of secondary fires in 1995 and 2003 also coincide with heat waves in those years.

Secondary fires in 2014 were 60 per cent lower than they were a decade before and 77 per cent lower than the high in 2003.

Chart 3: Number of secondary fires (since 1979)

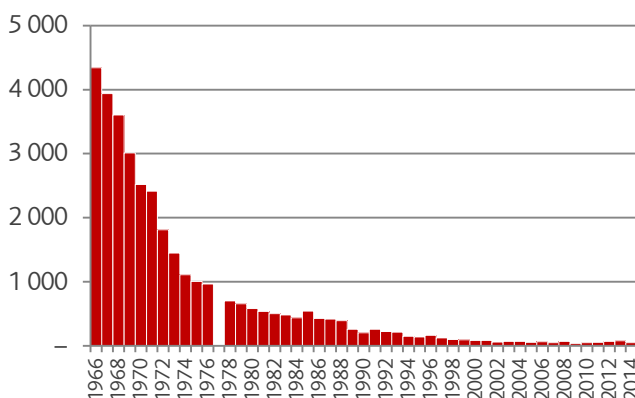


Chimney fires

In the 1950's and 1960's open fires were a common means of household heating. However, the air pollution from the use of coal and wood fuels caused smog – most notable of which was the 'Great London Smog of December 1952'.

In response, the Government introduced its first Clean Air Act in 1956. This Act aimed to control domestic sources of smoke pollution by introducing smokeless zones, where smokeless fuels had to be burnt. This requirement encouraged many households to change either to smokeless coals, but more significantly to gas or electric heating systems, which are acknowledged to be the influence behind the dramatic decrease in chimney fires.

Chart 4: Number of chimney fires (since 1966)



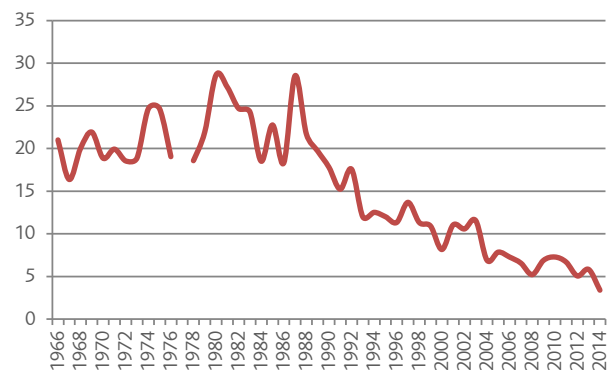
Fire related deaths

(Table 1.2)

Fire fatalities include any fatal casualty which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident. Even if the fatal casualty dies subsequently, any fatality whose cause is attributed to a fire is included. There are also occasional cases where a Coroner may rule that the fire was not the cause of death. For these reasons, the number of fatalities, in the most recent years, is subject to revision.

The number of fire deaths in London have been falling steadily since the late 1980's. In 1987 there were 28.5 fire deaths per million resident population compared to just 3.4 per million in 2014.

Chart 5: Fire related fatalities per million resident population (since 1966)



The factors that influence the chances of a person being involved in a fire becoming a fire fatality are complex. The main contributors include:

- how early the fire is discovered
- how quickly the brigade are called
- the materials (and/or their volume) involved in the fire
- the size and construction of the room/building
- the proximity of the victim to the fire
- the alertness and mobility of the victim and whether the person is alone
- the arrival time and response of the brigade

As well as work on fire prevention and an increase in smoke alarm ownership, legislative change has also contributed to the reduction in fire deaths. Most notably the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 which improved the fire retardants

of home furniture and reduced the amount of fatally toxic smoke when ignited.

Fire related injuries

Between 1985 and 1999 the rate of fire injury per million resident population remained above 200 a year (with one exception in 1995). Since 2000 the rate of fire injury has been falling. In 2014 the rate of fire injury fell to the lowest level (113.6 injuries per million resident population) since the formation of Greater London area.

Chart 6: Fire related injuries per million resident population (since 1966)

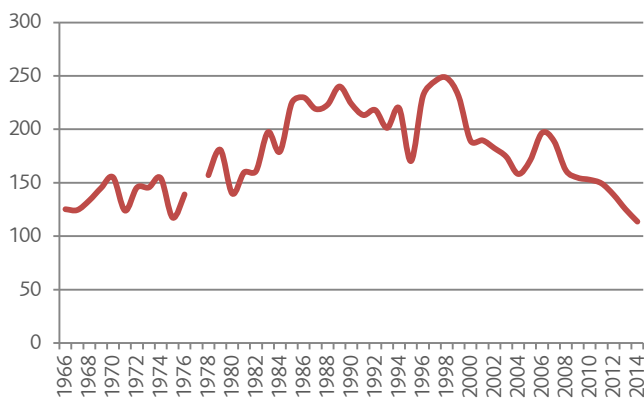


Table 1.1 Time series; total number of fires in Greater London since 1966

<i>number</i>					
	Primary fires	Secondary fires	Chimney fires	<i>Not categorised (a)</i>	Total
1966	14 825	11 268	4 343		30 436
1967	15 059	13 961	3 936		32 956
1968	13 550	15 770	3 602		32 922
1969	14 076	25 536	3 013	1 108	43 733
1970	15 306	33 505	2 521	503	51 835
1971	14 975	24 356	2 417	845	42 593
1972	15 963	30 364	1 813	19	48 159
1973	16 132	30 282	1 451	1 277	49 142
1974	15 397	28 800	1 108	742	46 047
1975	11 679	19 961	1 008	18 891	51 539
1976	14 387	32 261	964	15 912	63 524
1977	(b) ..	..	..	..	..
1978	(c) ..	..	703	43 433	44 136
1979	20 370	31 306	655		52 331
1980	19 571	26 493	581		46 645
1981	19 790	24 003	538		44 331
1982	20 551	24 162	502		45 215
1983	20 869	29 196	484		50 549
1984	21 133	29 504	439		51 076
1985	22 202	27 580	544		50 326
1986	22 119	23 521	430		46 070
1987	21 963	20 886	419		43 268
1988	22 550	24 789	394		47 733
1989	22 199	34 433	261		56 893
1990	21 635	34 155	204		55 994
1991	21 050	22 877	257		44 184
1992	20 684	20 732	222		41 638
1993	20 025	26 303	215		46 543
1994	19 080	28 463	150		47 693
1995	19 892	35 932	138		55 962
1996	20 414	31 380	165		51 959
1997	20 148	27 406	124		47 678
1998	19 677	21 295	99		41 071
1999	20 411	25 947	97		46 455
2000	22 334	26 135	85		48 554
2001	22 655	32 322	86		55 063
2002	20 271	28 213	60		48 544
2003	20 081	38 084	68		58 233
2004	17 788	23 023	72		40 883
2005	16 167	24 218	56		40 441
2006	15 373	21 674	66		37 113
2007	14 115	18 920	49		33 084
2008	13 372	16 211	70		29 653
2009	14 178	15 379	34		29 591
2010	13 522	13 895	50		27 467
2011	12 911	13 880	56		26 847
2012	11 678	9 697	68		21 443
2013	11 289	9 791	78		21 158
2014	10 675	8 898	48		19 621

(a) During industrial disputes over many periods between 1969 and 1976 no details were recorded of the circumstances in which fire started

(b) Data is only available until 31 October 1977 (36, 151 fires and 700 chimney fires) due to a fire service national strike

(c) There is no data available on the split between primary and secondary fires for 1978

Table 1.2 Time series; fire related fatalities and injuries since 1966

<i>number</i>			<i>number</i>	<i>rate</i>	
	Fatalities	Injuries	Population estimates	Fatality rate per million pop	Injury rate per million pop
1966	164	978	7 810 000	21.0	125.2
1967	127	966	7 761 000	16.4	124.5
1968	154	1 026	7 693 000	20.0	133.4
1969	167	1 106	7 619 000	21.9	145.2
1970	142	1 168	7 530 000	18.9	155.1
1971	150	933	7 529 400	19.9	123.9
1972	138	1 083	7 442 800	18.5	145.5
1973	139	1 072	7 362 400	18.9	145.6
1974	179	1 121	7 263 600	24.6	154.3
1975	177	842	7 179 000	24.7	117.3
1976	135	986	7 089 100	19.0	139.1
1977	..	..	7 012 000		
1978	129	1 091	6 946 800	18.6	157.1
1979	151	1 246	6 887 600	21.9	180.9
1980	196	958	6 850 600	28.6	139.8
1981	185	1 087	6 805 600	27.2	159.7
1982	167	1 089	6 765 100	24.7	161.0
1983	164	1 333	6 753 000	24.3	197.4
1984	125	1 210	6 754 700	18.5	179.1
1985	154	1 521	6 767 000	22.8	224.8
1986	124	1 557	6 774 200	18.3	229.8
1987	193	1 482	6 765 600	28.5	219.0
1988	146	1 501	6 729 300	21.7	223.1
1989	133	1 621	6 751 600	19.7	240.1
1990	121	1 521	6 798 800	17.8	223.7
1991	104	1 457	6 829 300	15.2	213.3
1992	120	1 489	6 829 400	17.6	218.0
1993	82	1 378	6 844 500	12.0	201.3
1994	86	1 511	6 873 500	12.5	219.8
1995	83	1 177	6 913 100	12.0	170.3
1996	79	1 611	6 974 400	11.3	231.0
1997	96	1 718	7 014 800	13.7	244.9
1998	80	1 753	7 065 500	11.3	248.1
1999	78	1 651	7 153 900	10.9	230.8
2000	59	1 369	7 236 700	8.2	189.2
2001	81	1 392	7 336 909	11.0	189.7
2002	78	1 346	7 381 870	10.6	182.3
2003	86	1 298	7 448 221	11.5	174.3
2004	52	1 193	7 542 613	6.9	158.2
2005	60	1 306	7 642 969	7.9	170.9
2006	56	1 515	7 701 603	7.3	196.7
2007	51	1 469	7 773 547	6.6	189.0
2008	41	1 271	7 869 882	5.2	161.5
2009	55	1 236	7 991 239	6.9	154.7
2010	59	1 239	8 107 073	7.3	152.8
2011	55	1 227	8 217 475	6.7	149.3
2012	42	1 153	8 308 369	5.1	138.8
2013	49	1 054	8 416 535	5.8	125.2
2014	29	972	8 556 566	3.4	113.6

Source: Population figures ONS mid-year estimates

Chapter 2 | Where fires happen

This chapter looks at the property types where fires occur, the reason for fire and the number of fires in each London borough. This chapter looks at the data since 2000 where more detailed electronic records are available.

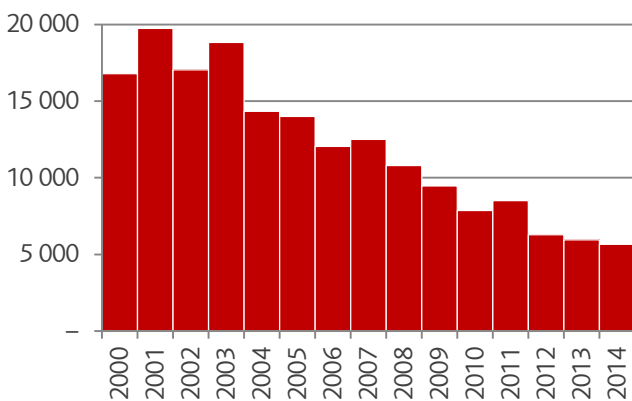
Property types

(Table 2.1)

For many years, fires involving rubbish and waste were the largest group of fires. In 2001, the highest year for rubbish fires in recent decades, the number was 19,741 (36 per cent). In comparison, fires in dwellings in 2001 accounted for 16 per cent of fires and fires involving transport and derelict vehicles accounted for 25 per cent of fires.

Rubbish fires, and those involving transport and derelict vehicles, have seen a dramatic decline over the last 15 years.

Chart 7: Fires involving rubbish (since 2000)

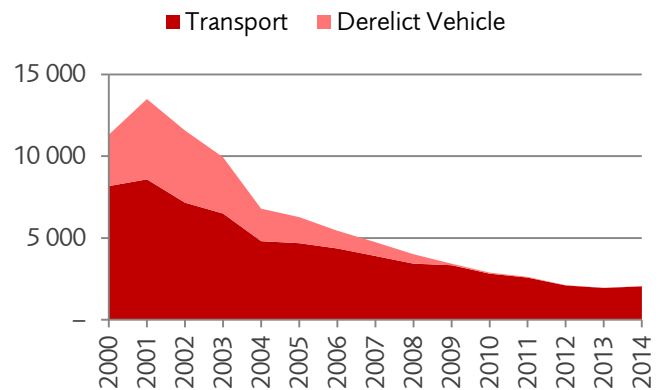


We attribute the reduction in rubbish fires to our work on arson prevention, work by local authorities to remove rubbish and to stop fly tipping and an increase in social responsibility towards recycling and waste disposal.

Fires in transport and derelict vehicles have also reduced over the last 15 years. The number of fires in derelict vehicles has been linked to the prices for scrap metal; when scrap metal prices are very low and

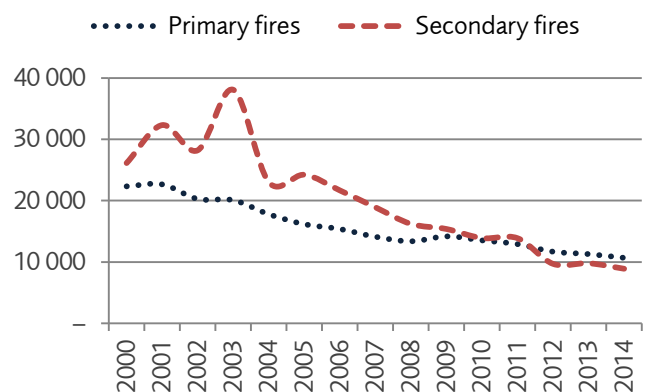
old cars have little or no residual value, derelict car fires are higher.

Chart 8: Total number of fires involving transport and derelict vehicles (since 2000)



The reductions in rubbish and vehicle fires has led to a change in the distribution between primary and secondary fires. In most years the number of secondary fires is higher than the number of primary fires (by as much as 53 per cent). In 2012 this trend reversed with the number of primary fires exceeding the number of secondary fires. This reversal has only happened once before, in 1987.

Chart 9: Number of primary and secondary fires (since 2000)



Fires in buildings

Primary fires in buildings are categorised as either dwellings, other residential or non-residential.

Dwellings include all types of private residences and homes. It covers houses, flats, houses in multiple

occupation (HMO's) and self-contained sheltered housing.

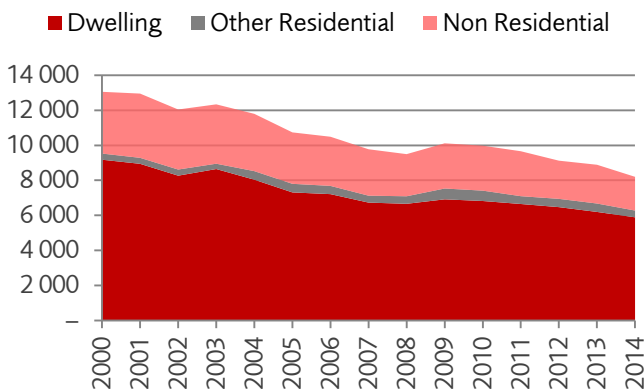
Other residential covers places of communal living and where people receive care. This includes student halls, residential care homes and short term accommodation such as hotels.

Non-residential includes all types of commercial building as well as private outdoor structures and outhouses.

Where a building has one or more uses, we record the property type for the area where the fire started; for example where a fire occurs in a shop with a flat above, we would record a fire in a shop.

Fires in buildings have been reducing over the last 15 years.

Chart 10: Primary fires in buildings (since 2000)



Fires in non-residential buildings have seen the largest decrease, with a reduction of 45 per cent since 2000. Fires in dwelling have reduced by 36 per cent. Fires in other residential buildings haven't changed significantly over the last 15 years, showing a 10 per cent increase when comparing 2014 with 2000.

Fire motive

(Table 2.2)

Firefighters record the suspected reason (motive) for the start of a fire. Fires are categorised as: accidental, de-liberate or unknown, according to the probable cause, as observed at the scene.

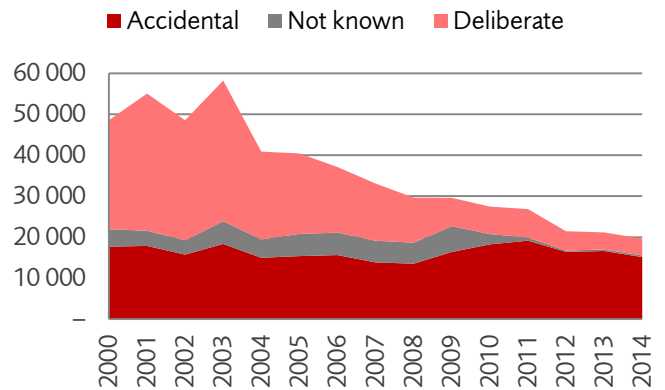
Deliberate fires are those where a fire is suspected to have been started deliberately (but not always with a

malicious intent), for example some fires are started by children.

The motive reflects the nature of the 'uncontrolled burning'. For example whilst a bonfire will be started deliberately, if it gets out of control and sets light to a nearby shed, the motive will be recorded as accidental; the uncontrolled shed fire was an accidental consequence of the bonfire.

The reduction in deliberate fires since 2003 reflects the reduction seen in rubbish and derelict vehicle fires (whereby the motives for these are often deliberate).

Chart 11: Fires by motive (since 2000)



The perceived increase in accidental fires around 2009 is linked to a policy change around the recording of 'unknown'. If a fire crew are not sure about the suspected cause of the fire, they will now consult with a fire investigation officer so that a motive can be determined, rather than record the incident as not known. In national fire statistics, the not known motive is grouped with accidental as this is the most likely motive when the cause is unclear (as deliberately started fires are usually more discernible).

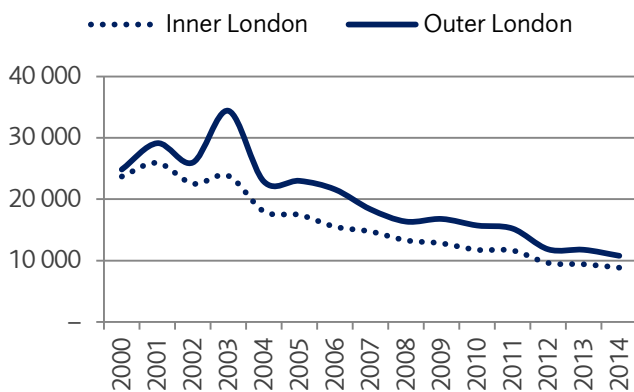
Fires in the London boroughs

All fires

(Table 2.3)

The number of all fires have been reducing at a similar rate when comparing inner and outer London; with around 24,200 fires each in 2000 and around 9,800 fires each in 2014. Around 60 per cent of London's population live in outer London, where 55 per cent of the fires in 2014 happened.

Chart 12: All fires, inner and outer London



The reduction rates within the boroughs have been different. The boroughs with the greatest reductions – when comparing 2000 with 2014 – are Newham (73%), Greenwich (71%) and Tower Hamlets (70%), although Tower Hamlets nevertheless remains the borough with the most fire incidents, with 977 in 2014.

Extract from table 2.3: Number of fires for the top 5 inner and outer London Boroughs; 2000 and 2014

Top 5 inner London boroughs			
	2000		2014
Tower Hamlets	3 211	Tower Hamlets	977
Newham	3 011	Westminster	926
Southwark	2 662	Southwark	901
Hackney	2 276	Newham	822
Lambeth	2 178	Lambeth	787

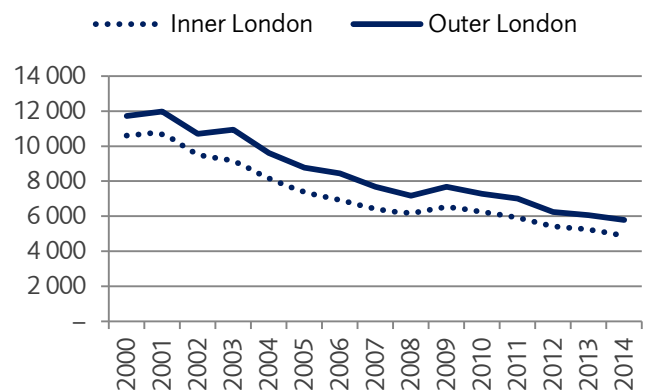
Top 5 outer London boroughs			
	2000		2014
Greenwich	2 341	Croydon	839
Barking and Dagenham	1 936	Bromley	750
Bromley	1 747	Hillingdon	746
Hillingdon	1 632	Enfield	724
Croydon	1 623	Greenwich	679

Primary fires

(Table 2.5)

The change in the number of primary fires in inner and outer London follows a similar pattern to all fires, with similar reductions in both areas and with there being more primary fires in outer London compared to inner London.

Chart 13: Primary fires, inner and outer London



The boroughs with the greatest reductions in primary fires – when comparing 2000 with 2014 – are Newham (68%), Barking & Dagenham (64%), Islington (58%) and Tower Hamlets (58%). In 2014, the borough with the most primary fires was Westminster with 490 incidents.

Extract from table 2.5: Number of primary fires for the top 5 inner and outer London Boroughs; 2000 and 2014

Top 5 inner London boroughs			
	2000		2014
Newham	1 257	Westminster	490
Southwark	987	Southwark	467
Tower Hamlets	966	Lambeth	455
Lambeth	938	Hackney	412
Westminster	934	Newham	408

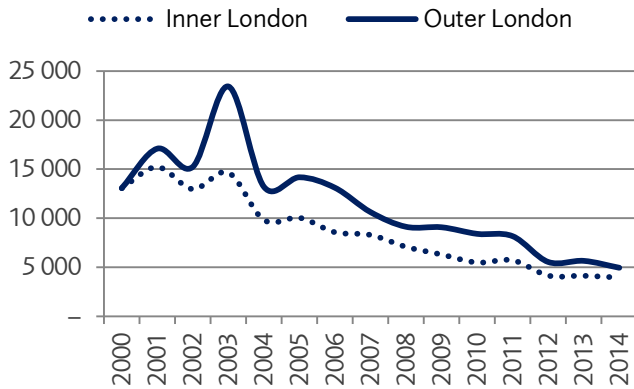
Top 5 outer London boroughs			
	2000		2014
Greenwich	893	Croydon	471
Croydon	843	Hillingdon	420
Ealing	817	Ealing	397
Hillingdon	817	Enfield	392
Brent	795	Greenwich	386

Secondary fires

(Table 2.6)

The change in the number of secondary fires in inner and outer London follows a similar pattern to all fires, with similar reductions in both areas. Outer London makes up around 80 percent of London's area, whereas 56 per cent of secondary fires happened in outer London in 2014.

Chart 14: Secondary fires, inner and outer London



The boroughs with the greatest reductions in secondary fires – when comparing 2000 with 2014 – are Greenwich (80%), Hackney (79%) and Newham (76%). In 2014, the borough with the most secondary fires was Tower Hamlets with 575 incidents.

Extract from table 2.6: Number of secondary fires for the top 5 inner and outer London Boroughs; 2000 and 2014

Top 5 inner London boroughs			
	2000		2014
Tower Hamlets	2 242	Tower Hamlets	575
Newham	1 753	Westminster	436
Southwark	1 672	Southwark	433
Hackney	1 366	Newham	413
Lambeth	1 237	Lambeth	330

Top 5 outer London boroughs			
	2000		2014
Greenwich	1 447	Bromley	418
Barking and Dagenham	1 219	Croydon	367
Bromley	1 000	Havering	356
Hounslow	869	Barking and Dagenham	342
Bexley	847	Enfield	328

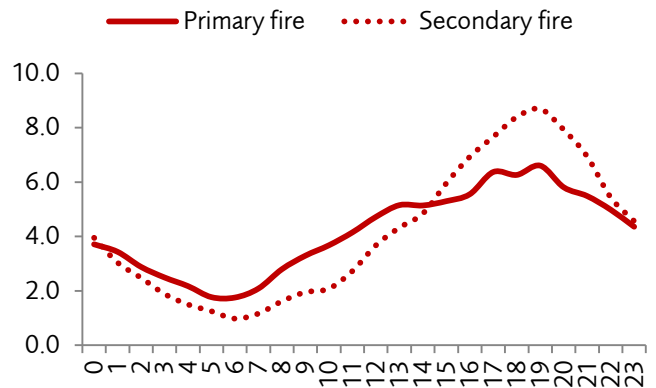
When fires happen

Hour of the day

(Table 2.9)

Primary and secondary fires follow a similar daily profile. The lowest period is at 6am and the highest period is at 7pm.

Chart 15: Proportion of fires (%) by hour of the day



Month of the year

(Table 2.10)

Primary fires vary little throughout the year, with slightly more in the spring and summer months compared to autumn and winter.

Contrastingly, there is significant seasonality with secondary fires, mostly due to the increase in outdoor fires (grass and rubbish) in periods of hot and dry weather.

Chart 16: Proportion of fires (%) by month of the year

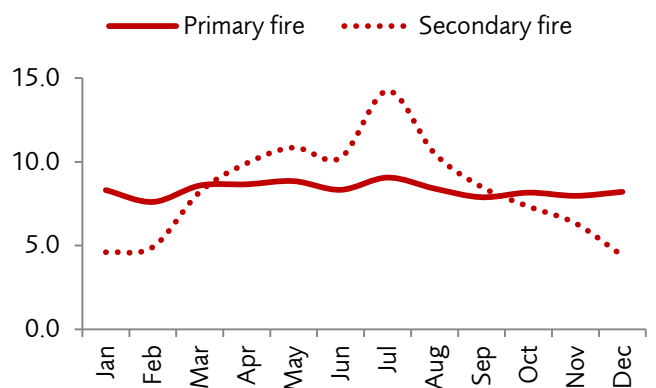


Table 2.1 Fires, by fire and property type categories

number

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total fires	48 554	40 441	27 467	26 847	21 443	21 158	19 621
Chimney fires	85	56	50	56	68	78	48
Dwelling	77	51	47	52	62	68	44
Other Residential	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
Non Residential	8	5	2	3	6	10	4
Primary fires	22 334	16 167	13 522	12 911	11 678	11 289	10 675
Dwelling	9 178	7 311	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
Other Residential	351	491	591	446	472	480	386
Non Residential	3 524	2 936	2 566	2 565	2 180	2 213	1 925
Transport	8 171	4 679	2 816	2 575	2 094	1 942	2 039
Outdoor	1 110	750	728	675	461	457	435
Secondary fires	26 135	24 218	13 895	13 880	9 697	9 791	8 898
Rubbish	16 784	13 993	7 860	8 507	6 292	5 945	5 649
Open Land	4 056	6 988	5 598	4 737	2 957	3 361	2 782
Other Outdoor Structure	1 144	1 155	308	518	389	439	433
Derelict Building	1 006	488	66	76	46	35	24
Derelict Vehicle	3 145	1 594	63	42	13	11	10

Table 2.2 Fires, by property type category and motive

<i>number</i>							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All fires	48 554	40 441	27 467	26 847	21 443	21 158	19 621
Accidental	17 675	15 373	18 237	19 131	16 411	16 614	15 124
Deliberate	26 614	19 653	6 721	6 950	4 719	4 166	4 085
Not known	4 265	5 415	2 509	766	313	378	412
Chimney Fire Total	85	56	50	56	68	78	48
Accidental	79	53	50	56	68	76	48
Deliberate	4					2	
Not known	2	3					
Primary Fire Total	22 334	16 167	13 522	12 911	11 678	11 289	10 675
Accidental	11 730	9 710	10 012	9 673	9 443	9 381	8 743
Deliberate	9 305	5 946	3 048	3 078	2 163	1 783	1 785
Not known	1 299	511	462	160	72	125	147
Secondary Fire Total	26 135	24 218	13 895	13 880	9 697	9 791	8 898
Accidental	5 866	5 610	8 175	9 402	6 900	7 157	6 333
Deliberate	17 305	13 707	3 673	3 872	2 556	2 381	2 300
Not known	2 964	4 901	2 047	606	241	253	265

Table 2.3 All fires, by London borough

<i>number</i>							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
London total	48 554	40 441	27 467	26 847	21 443	21 158	19 621
Inner London	23 695	17 449	11 748	11 636	9 609	9 398	8 841
Camden	1 329	1 070	799	743	610	731	630
City of London	149	92	101	107	89	104	97
Hackney	2 276	1 508	783	854	748	686	696
Hammersmith and Fulham	800	628	509	532	409	408	360
Haringey	1 360	1 149	836	804	595	544	560
Islington	1 706	1 183	675	750	554	537	563
Kensington and Chelsea	650	531	399	359	339	320	315
Lambeth	2 178	1 299	922	937	834	792	787
Lewisham	1 592	1 358	946	855	661	717	631
Newham	3 011	1 809	1 364	1 215	901	929	822
Southwark	2 662	1 822	1 197	1 250	929	943	901
Tower Hamlets	3 211	2 810	1 438	1 464	1 173	1 029	977
Wandsworth	1 186	959	773	735	686	668	576
Westminster	1 585	1 231	1 006	1 031	1 081	990	926
Outer London	24 847	22 992	15 719	15 211	11 834	11 760	10 779
Barking and Dagenham	1 936	1 770	1 072	961	651	715	603
Barnet	1 295	1 242	869	918	719	710	609
Bexley	1 327	1 467	945	701	550	501	542
Brent	1 301	1 069	710	795	644	687	586
Bromley	1 747	1 787	1 031	1 131	803	715	750
Croydon	1 623	1 410	1 101	1 176	952	905	839
Ealing	1 463	1 350	873	872	756	752	654
Enfield	1 450	1 470	963	942	825	817	724
Greenwich	2 341	2 078	1 256	1 191	796	786	679
Harrow	681	567	433	457	371	372	331
Havering	1 372	1 542	901	826	532	568	620
Hillingdon	1 632	1 252	955	1 019	869	829	746
Hounslow	1 562	1 269	946	764	670	674	566
Kingston upon Thames	551	477	421	352	299	301	299
Merton	986	765	561	490	399	432	381
Redbridge	1 057	1 112	883	795	574	587	560
Richmond upon Thames	535	447	391	393	322	296	299
Sutton	828	755	568	541	435	473	406
Waltham Forest	1 160	1 163	840	887	667	640	585
Not geo-coded	12						1

Table 2.4 Chimney fires, by London borough

<i>number</i>							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
London total	85	56	50	56	68	78	48
Inner London	34	17	14	13	16	25	12
Camden	5	2	2	–	3	3	–
City of London	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hackney	3	2	–	2	1	–	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	–	–	–	2	1	–
Haringey	2	2	3	1	1	2	2
Islington	4	1	–	1	1	3	1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	–	2	–	1	2	–
Lambeth	3	–	1	2	2	2	2
Lewisham	2	2	–	–	3	3	1
Newham	1	3	1	–	–	1	1
Southwark	3	–	1	2	–	3	1
Tower Hamlets	3	1	–	–	–	–	–
Wandsworth	1	4	3	4	2	3	1
Westminster	3	–	1	1	–	2	–
Outer London	51	39	36	43	52	53	36
Barking and Dagenham	–	–	1	1	–	1	1
Barnet	2	1	2	3	4	4	1
Bexley	3	4	–	2	1	1	1
Brent	2	–	–	2	1	2	1
Bromley	4	7	6	5	8	8	3
Croydon	7	2	2	3	7	7	1
Ealing	–	3	1	2	1	1	–
Enfield	3	5	1	4	2	2	4
Greenwich	1	3	1	2	6	–	1
Harrow	1	–	1	1	2	–	2
Havering	6	4	1	1	2	2	4
Hillingdon	3	–	5	4	1	4	3
Hounslow	5	2	–	3	3	1	2
Kingston upon Thames	4	1	2	2	1	3	1
Merton	1	2	2	–	2	3	3
Redbridge	1	2	1	1	1	3	1
Richmond upon Thames	2	2	2	1	2	8	3
Sutton	5	–	5	3	5	1	1
Waltham Forest	1	1	3	3	3	2	3
Not geo-coded	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Table 2.5 Primary fires, by London borough

number

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
London total	22 334	16 167	13 522	12 911	11 678	11 289	10 675
Inner London	10 603	7 389	6 246	5 912	5 439	5 237	4 883
Camden	708	563	473	407	390	422	358
City of London	115	57	68	83	73	78	67
Hackney	907	635	431	484	415	413	412
Hammersmith and Fulham	499	384	315	326	260	265	228
Haringey	705	547	427	396	321	308	310
Islington	766	501	384	410	329	300	320
Kensington and Chelsea	416	293	261	245	246	217	232
Lambeth	938	716	536	566	567	484	455
Lewisham	776	546	512	437	414	405	365
Newham	1 257	671	532	491	427	478	408
Southwark	987	613	628	561	512	478	467
Tower Hamlets	966	688	596	538	493	452	402
Wandsworth	629	461	438	435	417	420	369
Westminster	934	714	645	533	575	517	490
Outer London	11 724	8 778	7 276	6 999	6 239	6 052	5 791
Barking and Dagenham	717	546	346	338	301	293	260
Barnet	682	582	470	449	424	415	353
Bexley	477	389	365	311	304	247	267
Brent	795	576	428	413	407	402	374
Bromley	743	570	437	446	378	351	329
Croydon	843	632	611	633	509	471	471
Ealing	817	612	501	475	408	414	397
Enfield	703	586	470	455	419	432	392
Greenwich	893	595	487	474	396	377	386
Harrow	389	276	242	243	211	226	210
Havering	577	410	327	320	240	253	260
Hillingdon	817	543	486	513	446	429	420
Hounslow	688	530	395	356	342	335	308
Kingston upon Thames	312	251	226	167	163	168	168
Merton	457	297	261	237	218	211	199
Redbridge	539	442	402	335	296	278	298
Richmond upon Thames	280	204	193	193	178	172	175
Sutton	386	275	269	265	249	256	222
Waltham Forest	609	462	360	376	350	322	302
Not geo-coded	7	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2.6 Secondary fires, by London borough

<i>number</i>							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
London total	26 135	24 218	13 895	13 880	9 697	9 791	8 898
Inner London	13 058	10 043	5 488	5 711	4 154	4 136	3 946
Camden	616	505	324	336	217	306	272
City of London	34	35	33	24	16	26	30
Hackney	1 366	871	352	368	332	273	281
Hammersmith and Fulham	300	244	194	206	147	142	132
Haringey	653	600	406	407	273	234	248
Islington	936	681	291	339	224	234	242
Kensington and Chelsea	231	238	136	114	92	101	83
Lambeth	1 237	583	385	369	265	306	330
Lewisham	814	810	434	418	244	309	265
Newham	1 753	1 135	831	724	474	450	413
Southwark	1 672	1 209	568	687	417	462	433
Tower Hamlets	2 242	2 121	842	926	680	577	575
Wandsworth	556	494	332	296	267	245	206
Westminster	648	517	360	497	506	471	436
Outer London	13 072	14 175	8 407	8 169	5 543	5 655	4 952
Barking and Dagenham	1 219	1 224	725	622	350	421	342
Barnet	611	659	397	466	291	291	255
Bexley	847	1 074	580	388	245	253	274
Brent	504	493	282	380	236	283	211
Bromley	1 000	1 210	588	680	417	356	418
Croydon	773	776	488	540	436	427	367
Ealing	646	735	371	395	347	337	257
Enfield	744	879	492	483	404	383	328
Greenwich	1 447	1 480	768	715	394	409	292
Harrow	291	291	190	213	158	146	119
Havering	789	1 128	573	505	290	313	356
Hillingdon	812	709	464	502	422	396	323
Hounslow	869	737	551	405	325	338	256
Kingston upon Thames	235	225	193	183	135	130	130
Merton	528	466	298	253	179	218	179
Redbridge	517	668	480	459	277	306	261
Richmond upon Thames	253	241	196	199	142	116	121
Sutton	437	480	294	273	181	216	183
Waltham Forest	550	700	477	508	314	316	280
Not geo-coded	5	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2.7 Fire related fatalities, by London borough

number

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
London total	59	60	59	55	42	49	29
Inner London	23	27	26	20	19	26	10
Camden	3	2	4	–	2	2	–
City of London	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Hackney	5	4	2	1	2	1	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	1	2	2	2	4	–
Haringey	–	2	2	2	–	2	1
Islington	1	3	3	–	2	1	–
Kensington and Chelsea	3	–	–	1	1	–	–
Lambeth	1	5	1	1	4	2	–
Lewisham	–	3	3	2	1	1	4
Newham	3	1	2	2	–	4	1
Southwark	1	1	3	5	2	2	–
Tower Hamlets	3	–	1	2	1	1	1
Wandsworth	2	3	2	1	–	3	–
Westminster	–	2	1	1	2	2	1
Outer London	36	33	33	35	23	23	19
Barking and Dagenham	–	1	1	2	1	–	1
Barnet	3	1	3	2	1	1	1
Bexley	3	–	1	1	–	–	–
Brent	–	1	2	8	3	2	–
Bromley	5	–	4	2	3	–	1
Croydon	1	2	3	2	2	1	3
Ealing	2	2	5	2	2	1	2
Enfield	2	2	1	–	2	4	1
Greenwich	2	–	3	3	1	2	2
Harrow	6	1	2	–	–	–	2
Havering	–	–	–	1	2	1	–
Hillingdon	–	10	–	1	1	4	–
Hounslow	–	2	1	2	2	3	1
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	–	2	–	–	1
Merton	1	–	1	–	–	1	–
Redbridge	3	1	2	2	–	–	1
Richmond upon Thames	1	2	–	–	2	–	–
Sutton	2	2	2	–	–	2	–
Waltham Forest	3	5	2	5	1	1	3

Table 2.8 Fire related injuries, by London borough

number

	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
London total	1 306	1 239	1 227	1 153	1 054	972
Inner London	599	632	555	537	500	491
Camden	35	29	40	33	42	34
City of London	3	1	–	3	–	7
Hackney	52	58	43	56	28	30
Hammersmith and Fulham	38	26	17	31	18	32
Haringey	49	52	55	50	29	47
Islington	37	44	34	20	22	26
Kensington and Chelsea	29	43	28	31	11	11
Lambeth	51	41	48	55	57	53
Lewisham	66	83	47	64	72	36
Newham	65	62	60	34	38	40
Southwark	29	42	62	34	60	44
Tower Hamlets	54	54	25	53	43	29
Wandsworth	37	53	50	35	40	51
Westminster	54	44	46	38	40	51
Outer London	707	607	672	616	554	481
Barking and Dagenham	43	38	25	45	32	24
Barnet	48	38	37	34	32	21
Bexley	32	21	33	19	18	11
Brent	51	48	53	37	40	43
Bromley	26	22	39	37	23	20
Croydon	53	54	59	72	60	52
Ealing	72	35	45	37	44	54
Enfield	43	37	40	40	48	37
Greenwich	41	29	38	43	43	22
Harrow	34	43	28	14	18	10
Havering	17	24	19	30	19	30
Hillingdon	40	25	42	32	25	25
Hounslow	42	44	44	40	37	24
Kingston upon Thames	15	20	13	14	17	8
Merton	15	21	21	10	10	13
Redbridge	33	51	56	39	28	26
Richmond upon Thames	25	13	14	24	7	8
Sutton	25	18	29	28	15	19
Waltham Forest	52	26	37	21	38	34

Table 2.9 Fires by hour of the day

<i>number</i>						<i>percentage</i>
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average distribution
Primary fire	13 522	12 911	11 678	11 289	10 675	
0	536	509	431	385	370	3.7
1	501	466	400	355	343	3.4
2	413	425	326	297	271	2.9
3	372	333	286	254	253	2.5
4	311	318	269	203	206	2.2
5	234	228	204	210	187	1.8
6	249	216	208	217	165	1.8
7	289	259	260	230	216	2.1
8	382	353	336	352	258	2.8
9	430	398	371	390	391	3.3
10	475	437	459	413	425	3.7
11	556	502	525	474	437	4.2
12	606	613	575	539	503	4.7
13	695	648	627	562	564	5.2
14	641	652	619	635	542	5.1
15	698	696	605	609	576	5.3
16	728	676	689	623	621	5.6
17	893	786	703	728	718	6.4
18	795	791	727	719	732	6.3
19	816	853	776	777	747	6.6
20	786	789	652	647	617	5.8
21	746	709	620	641	581	5.5
22	694	666	555	556	525	5.0
23	676	588	455	473	427	4.4
Secondary fire	13 895	13 880	9 697	9 791	8 898	
0	563	590	371	364	333	4.0
1	401	445	288	282	292	3.0
2	327	359	235	203	270	2.5
3	258	258	193	176	175	1.9
4	193	223	135	136	155	1.5
5	135	183	126	114	145	1.3
6	127	138	97	99	89	1.0
7	174	170	101	101	109	1.2
8	225	227	147	177	134	1.6
9	255	267	170	211	193	2.0
10	271	289	218	216	175	2.1
11	341	331	283	302	275	2.7
12	483	466	352	396	366	3.7
13	565	563	433	462	406	4.3
14	659	642	461	548	410	4.8
15	839	788	572	621	526	6.0
16	983	948	694	706	562	6.9
17	1 191	1 057	684	759	614	7.7
18	1 180	1 122	866	770	775	8.4
19	1 167	1 230	861	830	793	8.7
20	1 139	1 103	781	711	718	7.9
21	1 007	982	695	633	582	6.9
22	790	835	489	529	412	5.4
23	622	664	445	445	389	4.6

Table 2.10 Fires by month of the year

	<i>number</i>					<i>percentage</i>
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average distribution
Primary fire	13 522	12 911	11 678	11 289	10 675	
Jan	1 161	1 040	999	951	841	8.3
Feb	972	939	984	933	740	7.6
Mar	1 165	1 129	1 009	917	936	8.6
Apr	1 161	1 263	887	965	924	8.7
May	1 200	1 207	1 056	959	892	8.8
Jun	1 215	1 022	905	930	930	8.3
Jul	1 347	1 085	934	1 108	967	9.1
Aug	1 082	1 197	944	968	856	8.4
Sep	1 019	974	998	847	899	7.9
Oct	1 098	1 086	949	885	884	8.2
Nov	1 026	936	999	945	880	8.0
Dec	1 076	1 033	1 014	881	926	8.2
Secondary fire	13 895	13 880	9 697	9 791	8 898	
Jan	532	596	665	438	353	4.6
Feb	490	624	653	522	467	4.9
Mar	928	1 004	1 190	625	857	8.2
Apr	1 334	1 649	877	835	872	9.9
May	1 343	2 064	876	976	833	10.8
Jun	1 741	1 116	774	1 003	1 118	10.2
Jul	2 931	1 401	841	1 765	1 055	14.2
Aug	1 428	1 437	1 002	1 125	904	10.5
Sep	982	1 000	1 176	781	836	8.5
Oct	851	1 419	569	623	656	7.3
Nov	874	912	669	631	469	6.3
Dec	461	658	405	467	478	4.4

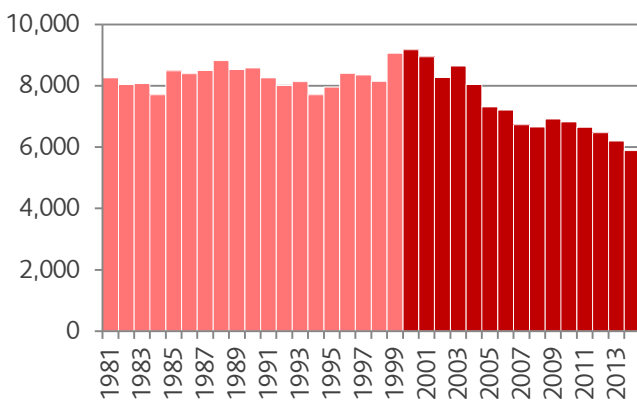
Chapter 3 | Fires in the home

This chapter looks at fires in dwellings – people’s homes. In 2014 there were 5,890 primary fires in dwellings, which accounts for around a third (30 per cent) of all the fires attended that year.

Trend in dwelling fires

Using official estimates for the number of fires in dwellings between 1981 and 1999², we can see that the number of fires in dwellings in London were consistently around the average over this period of 8,200. Over his period there was very little change in the population of London, rising by just 350,000 people.

Chart 17: Fires in dwellings. 1981 to 2014



Between 2000 and 2014, the population of London increased by 1.32 million people, yet the number of dwelling fires has reduced by over a third (36 per cent). This reduction is attributed to the success of Community Safety initiatives and an increase in smoke alarm ownership.

Where fires in the home happen

(Table 3.1 and 3.2)

The 2011 Census recorded that half of the population of London lived in flats. Dwelling fires by property type show that a slightly larger proportion of dwelling fires start in flats (57 per cent); and 34 per cent

happen in houses; the remaining 9 per cent happening in other dwelling types.

Most of the fires in homes are accidental, with only 7 per cent recorded as having a deliberate motive in 2014.

Room where the fires started

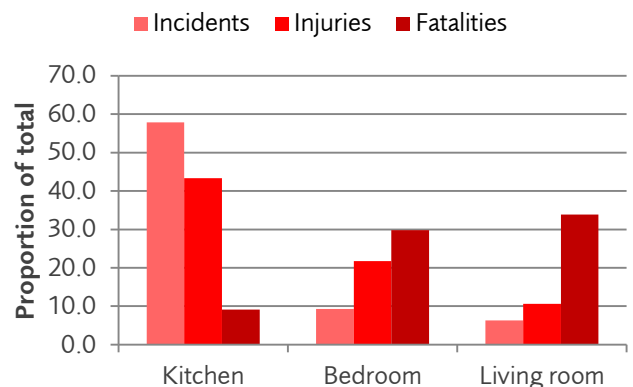
(Table 3.3)

Looking at the room where the fire started, most fires happen in the kitchen, where in 2014, 58 per cent of fires started here. Nine per cent of fires started in the bedroom, and six per cent started in a living room.

Whilst most fires start in a kitchen, these fires are less likely to be fatal (9 per cent of fatalities). Most dwelling fire fatalities happen in a living room (34 per cent), followed by the bedroom (30 per cent). However, in many of these incidents, the living room was also being used as a bedroom.

Under half of the fire injuries are from fires that start in the kitchen (43 per cent); 22 per cent of injuries happen from bedroom fires, and 11 per cent from fires that start in a living room.

Chart 18: Where fires in the home start, showing proportion of incidents, injuries and fatalities



² Official estimates based on Home Office Fire Statistics, reconciled to Brigade totals 1981-1999.

How fires in the home start

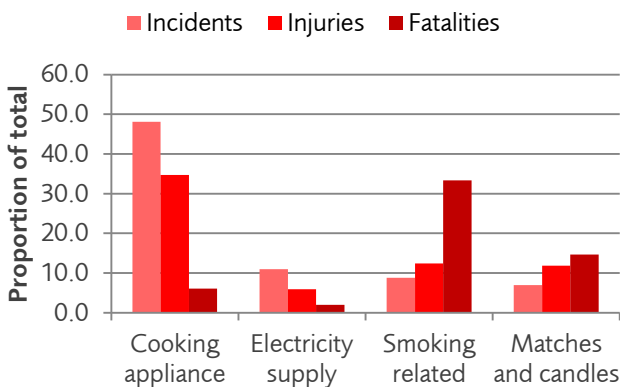
(Table 3.4)

Given that over half of fires start in the kitchen, it is not surprising that 48 per cent of fires in the kitchen are caused by cooking. Cooking appliances however are the cause of just 6 per cent of dwelling fires fatalities.

Most dwelling fires fatalities (33 per cent) are caused by fires started by smoking materials, which is the cause of just nine per cent of dwelling fires.

Matches and candles are also disproportionately fatal; 7 per cent of fires started this way in 2004, yet, on average, they cause around 15 per cent of dwelling fire fatalities. This is often caused by candles being left alight when people fall asleep.

Chart 19: How fires in the home start, showing proportion of incidents, injuries and fatalities



The second most common cause of fires in the home are those caused by electrical supplies and wiring which account for 11 per cent of the dwelling fires in 2014. However, just 2 per cent of dwelling fire deaths over the last five years have been caused by fires starting this way.

Firefighting actions

(Table 3.5)

Fires in the home are not inevitably serious and may not even involve the fire service. Of those to which we were called over the last five years, on 30 per cent of occasions we did not need to undertake any firefighting when we arrive, and on a further third of occasions (33 per cent) we undertook minimal firefighting; taking actions such as taking items away from the heat source or stamping the fire out.

This means that fire-engine hose reels or main jets are used at only 32 per cent of fires in dwellings.

Where there are fatalities in dwelling fires, we use fire engine hose reels or main jets 87 per cent of the time. We know from an analysis of our attendance times³, that there is often a delay in calling the fire brigade. On more than 40 per cent of occasions the delay between discovering the fire and calling 999 is more than 10 minutes.

Working smoke alarms

The DCLG English Housing Survey 2013/14 reported that in England 88 per cent of households had at least one working smoke alarm in their home. This is an increase of eight percent from 2004/05 (80 per cent).

In London however, over the last five years, when there has been a fire in a home in London, a smoke alarm was working and active at just 41 per cent of fires. Where there was a fire death, this drops to 38 per cent of homes where a working smoke alarm was present.

Year	Fires in dwellings		Dwelling fire fatalities	
	No alarm or not working	Alarm operated	No alarm or not working	Alarm operated
2010	4,415	2,406	34	16
2011	4,127	2,523	33	13
2012	3,768	2,703	25	12
2013	3,509	2,688	19	20
2014	3,157	2,733	12	14
	59%	41%	62%	38%

³ LFB Fire Facts – Incident response times 2005-2013

Table 3.1 Dwelling fires, by property category and type

number

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in dwellings	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
Flats	3 957	3 837	3 839	3 612	3 370
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - Up to 3 storeys	1 407	1 404	1 502	1 245	1 185
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	1 280	1 230	1 170	1 189	1 135
Converted Flat/Maisonette - Up to 2 storeys	450	435	434	470	395
Converted Flat/Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	374	363	396	420	386
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	446	405	337	288	269
Houses	2 341	2 283	2 121	2 099	1 977
House - single occupancy	2 286	2 235	2 083	2 061	1 938
Bungalow - single occupancy	55	48	38	38	39
Self contained Sheltered Housing	275	287	313	309	355
House in multiple occupation (HMO)	235	225	164	148	162
House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys (not known if licensed)	49	41	36	29	37
Unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys	56	47	23	27	33
Licensed House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys	30	34	25	14	30
House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys (not known if licensed)	33	33	32	21	27
Licensed House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys	44	46	21	33	25
Unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys	23	24	27	24	10
Other dwellings	13	18	34	29	26
Other Dwelling	4	11	23	20	18
Caravan/Mobile home (permanent dwelling)	9	5	6	7	5
Houseboat (permanent dwelling)	-	2	5	2	3

Table 3.2 Dwelling fires, by motive

number

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in dwellings	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
Accidental	5 978	5 864	5 889	5 690	5 419
Deliberate	712	730	552	456	428
Not Known	131	56	30	51	43

Table 3.3 Dwelling fires, by location of fire start

<i>number</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in dwellings	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
Kitchen	3 566	3 536	3 643	3 428	3 410
Bedroom	692	662	647	578	547
Living room	468	411	407	400	369
Corridor/Hall	319	332	305	267	247
Other	234	335	266	288	199
Bathroom/Toilet	188	153	177	169	138
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	167	155	140	145	135
Refuse store/Bin room	208	228	159	158	135
External structures	228	206	145	135	92
Utility room	82	71	86	85	84
Roof	82	71	73	70	77
Stairs	87	54	50	55	62
Airing/Drying cupboard	76	65	80	56	62
External fittings	77	72	69	71	51
Roof space	75	46	56	80	47
Bedsitting room	66	71	38	47	38
Private balcony	..	..	..	..	35
Garage	48	37	21	33	33
Conservatory	17	18	19	14	25
Open plan area	24	26	22	20	24
Dining room	36	39	30	39	21
Lift/Lift shaft/Motor room	21	27	18	19	16
Not known	32	22	7	22	13
Communal balcony/Elevated walkway	..	..	..	..	13
Chimney	25	12	9	16	10
Green or living roof	..	..	..	..	6
Sauna	2	1	4	1	1
Indoor swimming pool	1	-	-	1	-
No. of fire related fatalities	50	46	37	39	26
Living room	16	14	15	15	7
Bedroom	14	8	12	14	11
Kitchen	6	2	4	3	3
Bedsitting room	8	2	-	1	1
Other	-	5	2	2	2
Corridor/Hall	2	7	-	2	-
Bathroom/Toilet	3	1	2	-	-
Not known	1	4	-	-	-
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	-	2	1	1	1
Garage	-	1	1	-	-
Roof space	-	-	-	1	-
Conservatory	-	-	-	-	1
No. of fire injuries	1 081	1 048	959	865	802
Kitchen	459	424	449	376	352
Bedroom	212	247	211	201	163
Living room	104	103	100	81	118
Corridor/Hall	78	90	41	31	47
Other	24	49	38	36	24
Bedsitting room	20	21	12	33	13
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	26	4	30	20	16
<i>Other locations (less than 2.0%)</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>69</i>

Table 3.4 Dwelling fires, by source of ignition

<i>number</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in dwellings	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
Cooking appliance	2 810	2 850	2 945	2 808	2 836
Electricity supply	722	687	704	772	647
Smoking related	644	681	617	610	520
Other domestic style appliance	516	515	537	492	476
Matches and candles	485	443	471	400	411
Not recorded	404	356	298	318	305
Naked flame	602	590	347	272	258
Heating equipment	293	241	265	215	194
Electric lighting	193	166	172	183	156
Fuel/Chemical	99	85	77	70	51
Industrial equipment	45	25	33	41	28
Office equipment	4	6	1	9	7
Vehicle	2	2	1	2	1
Bombs and explosives	2	3	3	5	–
No. of fire related fatalities	50	46	37	39	26
Smoking related	17	7	13	20	9
Not recorded	8	8	6	7	6
Matches and candles	8	6	5	5	5
Naked flame	4	9	2	3	2
Heating equipment	5	3	4	2	1
Cooking appliance	4	2	3	1	2
Other domestic style appliance	2	9	–	1	–
Electricity supply	1	–	2	–	1
Electric lighting	–	1	2	–	–
Fuel/Chemical	1	–	–	–	–
No. of fire injuries	1 081	1 048	959	865	802
Cooking appliance	352	344	355	310	288
Smoking related	145	123	128	104	92
Matches and candles	124	128	106	106	99
Naked flame	144	159	91	89	62
Other domestic style appliance	110	86	92	65	83
Electricity supply	56	60	43	61	63
(blank)	39	69	66	39	66
Heating equipment	64	52	36	44	32
Electric lighting	22	19	34	34	11
Fuel/Chemical	11	4	7	9	3
Industrial equipment	9	1	1	–	3
Office equipment	2	3	–	3	–
Bombs and explosives	3	–	–	1	–

Table 3.5 Dwelling fires, by firefighting actions

<i>number</i>					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in dwellings	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
None	1 844	1 861	1 991	1 901	1 899
Small means	2 124	2 154	2 256	2 061	2 005
Portable extinguishers	398	340	196	259	270
Non-portable / fixed sources	7	5	3	6	4
Main jets or hose reel	2 379	2 247	1 970	1 914	1 677
Other means	69	43	55	56	35
No. of fire related fatalities	50	46	37	39	26
None	6	2	3	2	5
Small means	3	–	1	–	–
Portable extinguishers	–	1	1	–	–
Non-portable / fixed sources	–	–	–	–	–
Main jets or hose reel	41	41	32	37	21
Other means	–	2	–	–	–
No. of fire injuries	1 081	1 048	959	865	802
None	186	207	232	186	203
Small means	180	132	152	127	98
Portable extinguishers	38	39	25	20	40
Non-portable / fixed sources	–	1	1	1	1
Main jets or hose reel	675	667	542	527	457
Other means	2	2	7	4	3

Table 3.6 Dwelling fires, by London borough

<i>number</i>							
	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dwelling fires	9 178	7 311	6 821	6 650	6 471	6 197	5 890
Inner London	4 844	3 759	3 449	3 281	3 199	3 025	2 865
Camden	364	251	232	203	216	197	193
City of London	11	4	10	3	6	7	10
Hackney	458	376	282	301	282	275	280
Hammersmith and Fulham	260	217	185	206	157	170	136
Haringey	334	291	242	219	196	192	193
Islington	350	249	209	241	198	183	166
Kensington and Chelsea	231	190	159	153	159	135	156
Lambeth	531	404	345	333	365	310	303
Lewisham	344	294	304	230	262	264	227
Newham	431	293	262	269	248	249	225
Southwark	476	344	356	313	340	306	306
Tower Hamlets	354	298	347	300	259	248	228
Wandsworth	304	253	248	261	252	251	230
Westminster	396	295	268	249	259	238	212
Outer London	4 332	3 552	3 372	3 369	3 272	3 172	3 025
Barking and Dagenham	209	212	162	157	146	157	135
Barnet	291	251	263	227	243	238	211
Bexley	153	131	129	143	144	118	122
Brent	394	284	243	240	245	234	220
Bromley	200	165	178	167	160	155	136
Croydon	354	259	266	301	290	251	259
Ealing	340	282	250	239	205	225	224
Enfield	240	231	214	238	231	234	219
Greenwich	349	249	248	222	206	210	194
Harrow	172	159	124	141	126	144	130
Havering	145	106	108	109	111	108	109
Hillingdon	191	153	145	176	179	161	144
Hounslow	217	200	156	168	166	165	152
Kingston upon Thames	123	92	106	96	94	98	83
Merton	185	122	147	134	113	106	109
Redbridge	192	174	197	169	169	153	171
Richmond upon Thames	135	106	98	92	100	99	113
Sutton	168	145	154	137	145	141	134
Waltham Forest	274	231	184	213	199	175	160
Not-geocode	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3.7 Dwelling fire related fatalities, by London borough

number

	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dwelling fire fatalities	51	53	50	46	37	39	26
Inner London	21	23	22	18	17	24	10
Camden	2	2	2	–	2	2	–
City of London	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Hackney	5	4	2	1	2	1	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	–	2	2	2	4	–
Haringey	–	2	2	2	–	2	1
Islington	1	2	3	–	2	1	–
Kensington and Chelsea	2	–	–	–	1	–	–
Lambeth	1	4	1	1	2	1	–
Lewisham	–	3	3	2	1	1	4
Newham	3	1	1	2	–	3	1
Southwark	1	1	2	4	2	2	–
Tower Hamlets	3	–	1	2	1	1	1
Wandsworth	2	2	2	1	–	3	–
Westminster	–	2	1	1	2	2	1
Outer London	30	30	28	28	20	15	16
Barking and Dagenham	–	1	1	–	1	–	1
Barnet	2	1	2	1	1	–	–
Bexley	3	–	1	–	–	–	–
Brent	–	1	1	8	3	1	–
Bromley	5	–	4	2	3	–	1
Croydon	1	2	3	1	2	–	3
Ealing	1	2	4	2	2	–	1
Enfield	2	1	1	–	1	3	1
Greenwich	2	–	2	2	–	2	2
Harrow	3	1	2	–	–	–	2
Havering	–	–	–	1	2	1	–
Hillingdon	–	10	–	1	1	2	–
Hounslow	–	2	1	1	1	3	1
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	–	2	–	–	1
Merton	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Redbridge	3	–	2	2	–	–	1
Richmond upon Thames	1	1	–	–	2	–	–
Sutton	2	2	1	–	–	2	–
Waltham Forest	3	5	2	5	1	1	2

Table 3.8 Dwelling fire injuries, by London borough

number

	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dwelling fire injuries	1 120	1 081	1 048	959	865	802
Inner London	516	557	473	442	400	411
Camden	26	26	38	26	37	21
City of London	1	1	–	1	–	3
Hackney	50	54	40	50	23	25
Hammersmith and Fulham	36	24	11	21	17	24
Haringey	44	40	54	45	22	46
Islington	27	35	29	12	21	22
Kensington and Chelsea	28	38	14	28	8	11
Lambeth	46	39	42	46	42	43
Lewisham	58	72	38	58	62	34
Newham	60	57	50	32	29	34
Southwark	25	38	55	32	49	40
Tower Hamlets	51	49	17	39	34	28
Wandsworth	25	48	44	30	31	45
Westminster	39	36	41	22	25	35
Outer London	604	524	575	517	465	391
Barking and Dagenham	35	35	21	36	30	22
Barnet	33	32	35	26	30	18
Bexley	25	19	27	18	9	8
Brent	43	44	47	34	33	39
Bromley	25	19	33	26	19	15
Croydon	49	48	54	67	47	46
Ealing	67	31	34	31	32	43
Enfield	41	34	38	32	40	36
Greenwich	27	26	34	40	38	16
Harrow	32	37	28	13	18	7
Havering	13	16	14	23	15	23
Hillingdon	32	19	34	27	18	18
Hounslow	31	37	38	33	31	16
Kingston upon Thames	15	12	12	13	16	8
Merton	14	20	17	7	10	9
Redbridge	30	47	42	30	25	21
Richmond upon Thames	23	11	11	20	7	8
Sutton	23	17	24	24	14	18
Waltham Forest	46	20	32	17	33	20

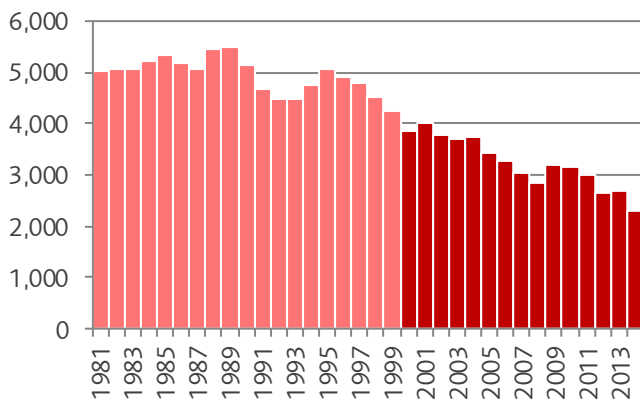
Chapter 4 | Fires in other buildings

This chapter looks at fires in other buildings – buildings which are not dwellings and are either: 'other residential', places such as care homes and student halls; or 'non-residential', which are primarily commercial and public buildings, but also includes private outbuildings. In 2014 there were 2,311 primary fires in other buildings, which accounts for around 12 per cent of all the fires attended that year.

Trend in other building fires

Based on official estimates⁴, the number of fires in other buildings were at their highest in 1989 when there were 5,495 fires that year. When compared to 2014, fires in other buildings have reduced by 56 per cent over 25 years.

Chart 20: Fires in other buildings. 1981 to 2014



Other residential building fires

Of the 2,311 primary fires that occur in other buildings in 2014, six per cent happened in 'other residential' buildings.

(Table 4.1)

Nearly half (45 per cent) of the fires in other residential buildings happened in accommodation providing care for elderly people. There are very few fire deaths in other residential buildings, but of the six

in the last five years, five of them were in places providing care.

Of the fire injuries that occur in other residential buildings, 54 per cent are in places providing care to the elderly. These facts are of serious concern to the Brigade and we have strategies in place to try and make a change to this situation.

(Table 4.4)

Half of the fires in other residential buildings (53 per cent) were started by cooking; 12 per cent were started by smoking, and 11 per cent were started by electrical supplies and wiring.

Of the six fire fatalities in the last five years, three were started by smoking materials, one by candles and in two cases the source of ignition was unconfirmed.

Non-residential building fires

Ninety-four per cent of the primary fires in other buildings in 2014 happened in non-residential buildings.

(Table 4.2)

A fifth of the non-residential building fires in 2014 (20 per cent) started in outbuildings such as private garages and sheds. Six of the eleven fire related fatalities over the last five years also happened in outbuildings (in some cases, people were living in these buildings).

A third of the fires (34 per cent) happened in commercial retail buildings and places providing food or drink (17 per cent in each).

However nearly a third of the fire injuries (27 per cent) happened in places providing food or drink, whereas retail buildings accounted for 17 per cent of the injuries.

⁴ Official estimates based on Home Office Fire Statistics, reconciled to Brigade totals 1981-1999.

Table 4.1 Fires in other residential buildings

<i>number</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in other residential buildings	591	446	472	480	386
Retirement/Old Persons Home	96	79	120	145	111
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	96	68	64	68	66
Nursing/Care Home/Hospice	99	80	85	80	58
Hotel/motel	79	58	60	65	54
Student Hall of Residence	85	75	46	60	50
Other Residential Home	31	13	18	15	9
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	19	7	8	12	9
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	9	11	11	8	9
Sheltered Housing : not self contained	50	40	38	12	6
Youth hostel	9	6	10	6	4
Military/barracks	1	3		1	3
Boarding House/B&B other	4	2	2	1	3
Boarding School accommodation	–	–	–	1	2
Towing caravan/Camper van on site	3		1	3	1
Children's Home	9	4	8	2	1
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	–	–	–	1	–
Monastery/convent	1	–	1	–	–
No. of fire related fatalities	3	1	1	1	–
Nursing/Care Home/Hospice	3	1	–	–	–
Retirement/Old Persons Home	–	–	1	–	–
Hotel/motel	–	–	–	1	–
No. of fire injuries	33	51	35	34	19
Retirement/Old Persons Home	5	11	12	13	7
Nursing/Care Home/Hospice	8	7	6	5	3
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	6	13	1	6	–
Hotel/motel	3	3	8	7	3
Sheltered Housing : not self contained	3	8	3	1	–
Student Hall of Residence	3	3	2	–	3
Other Residential Home	2	4	2	1	1
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	3	2	1	–	–
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	–	–	–	1	1
Youth hostel	–	–	–	–	1

Table 4.2 Fires in non-residential buildings

<i>number</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in non-residential buildings	2 566	2 565	2 180	2 213	1 925
Out buildings	544	575	444	455	387
Retail	485	490	455	430	333
Food and Drink	376	354	328	336	322
Offices and call centres	212	259	208	221	172
Hospitals and medical care	192	157	139	152	129
Public admin, security and safety	109	102	86	98	116
Education	146	145	122	140	110
Industrial Manufacturing	53	69	52	56	67
Transport buildings	82	73	74	52	51
Entertainment and culture	107	97	74	55	49
Warehouses and bulk storage	63	66	46	47	41
Sporting venues	49	43	33	37	40
Industrial Processing	30	34	26	38	34
Public Utilities	48	42	35	36	26
Religious	30	28	34	30	22
Car Parks	28	18	13	23	20
Permanent Agricultural	9	6	8	5	4
Animal boarding/breeding/kennels	3	7	3	2	2
No. of fire related fatalities	5	–	–	5	1
Private garage	4	–	–	–	–
Private Garden Shed	–	–	–	2	–
Sports pavilion/shower block/changing facility	–	–	–	–	1
Community centre/Hall	–	–	–	1	–
TV/film/music/art studio	1	–	–	–	–
Other private non-residential building	–	–	–	1	–
Vehicle Repair Workshop	–	–	–	1	–
No. of fire injuries	86	79	103	114	116
Food and Drink	22	16	28	30	42
Non Residential	15	20	18	20	14
Retail	14	14	21	21	12
Public admin, security and safety	13	5	12	9	11
Hospitals and medical care	3	5	2	11	9
Offices and call centres	6	1	3	8	9
Industrial Manufacturing	1	6	–	2	6
Industrial Processing	–	3	2	5	3
Entertainment and culture	3	–	6	3	–
Sporting venues	2	2	5	–	–
Education	2	2	2	1	2
Warehouses and bulk storage	3	–	1	2	2
Religious	–	–	3	2	2
Transport buildings	1	1	–	–	3
Public Utilities	1	2	–	–	–
Car Parks	–	1	–	–	1
Permanent Agricultural	–	1	–	–	–

Table 4.3 Fires in other buildings, by source of ignition

number

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in other buildings	3 157	3 011	2 652	2 693	2 311
Fires in other residential buildings	591	446	472	480	386
Cooking appliance	300	224	248	263	204
Smoking related	72	65	61	66	46
Electricity supply	40	30	30	32	31
Other domestic style appliance	31	23	23	18	23
Electric lighting	19	16	20	23	18
Matches and candles	22	21	15	21	18
Other sources	27	12	18	10	16
Naked flame	41	32	28	21	12
Heating equipment	20	10	11	13	10
Industrial equipment	11	12	12	9	6
Fuel/Chemical	7	1	5	4	1
Office equipment	–	–	1	–	1
Vehicles only	1	–	–	–	–
Fires in non-residential buildings	2 566	2 565	2 180	2 213	1 925
Electricity supply	514	472	443	485	392
Smoking related	305	341	292	284	276
Other sources	293	296	253	255	266
Cooking appliance	296	280	282	285	245
Naked flame	350	386	240	191	143
Electric lighting	191	175	184	172	138
Industrial equipment	146	144	120	154	130
Matches and candles	158	166	129	123	125
Other domestic style appliance	99	109	97	85	77
Heating equipment	99	92	77	116	69
Fuel/Chemical	83	72	35	43	36
Office equipment	18	16	17	15	25
Vehicles only	12	10	10	5	2
Bombs and explosives	2	6	1	–	1

Table 4.4 Fires in other residential buildings, by borough

number

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in other residential buildings	491	470	395	430	618	591	446	472	480	386
Inner London	305	292	243	260	324	328	250	258	274	220
Camden	66	37	39	35	43	41	29	27	56	32
City of London	–	–	1	5	1	2	1	4	1	
Hackney	14	15	10	14	30	11	16	14	11	13
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	14	10	4	16	21	9	7	7	7
Haringey	5	9	6	9	8	19	9	12	13	8
Islington	24	25	22	15	16	27	20	13	14	17
Kensington and Chelsea	11	18	18	22	13	17	15	20	17	15
Lambeth	33	22	17	24	35	24	33	38	24	25
Lewisham	11	6	14	12	19	16	22	18	12	20
Newham	11	12	12	13	18	17	12	8	17	8
Southwark	15	35	20	21	30	41	29	22	29	15
Tower Hamlets	25	16	15	14	16	19	10	18	15	12
Wandsworth	9	18	13	20	21	16	17	16	21	15
Westminster	65	65	46	52	58	57	28	41	37	33
Outer London	186	178	152	170	294	263	196	214	206	166
Barking and Dagenham	6	9	3	6	13	4	6	3	3	1
Barnet	23	18	9	14	26	18	9	19	14	9
Bexley	7	5	1	3	6	9	6	3	4	4
Brent	13	12	5	4	24	12	21	15	22	17
Bromley	8	3	2	7	10	15	7	20	15	12
Croydon	20	14	14	15	27	27	20	20	23	17
Ealing	16	15	9	25	33	23	16	12	13	13
Enfield	6	4	13	5	13	20	8	13	11	9
Greenwich	8	12	6	8	14	15	12	17	18	16
Harrow	8	4	7	7	8	10	8	9	8	8
Havering	6	7	4	4	5	12	11	8	7	7
Hillingdon	17	19	14	16	15	15	10	11	13	14
Hounslow	6	6	12	11	18	18	12	10	7	8
Kingston upon Thames	16	17	23	16	30	17	12	11	8	6
Merton	7	4	5	4	3	7	2	7	6	2
Redbridge	4	9	5	3	7	6	13	8	4	4
Richmond upon Thames	5	6	5	6	11	17	7	7	8	9
Sutton	2	8	4	6	12	14	5	8	9	2
Waltham Forest	8	6	11	10	19	4	11	13	13	8

Table 4.5 Fires in non-residential buildings, by borough

number

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fires in non-residential buildings	2 936	2 805	2 649	2 405	2 580	2 566	2 565	2 180	2 213	1 925
Inner London	1 482	1 380	1 285	1 228	1 267	1 260	1 217	1 092	1 104	936
Camden	143	153	127	99	131	132	110	102	121	82
City of London	47	55	64	55	47	46	71	49	57	46
Hackney	86	98	59	65	84	68	81	60	76	52
Hammersmith and Fulham	78	70	59	80	75	62	63	60	48	52
Haringey	86	90	69	60	71	69	69	48	46	45
Islington	100	70	98	79	71	66	79	72	57	71
Kensington and Chelsea	56	54	58	64	59	56	46	45	45	31
Lambeth	118	91	98	80	77	88	86	79	81	66
Lewisham	70	66	60	64	59	68	72	51	52	48
Newham	111	102	84	87	90	81	72	69	83	58
Southwark	107	85	97	80	92	96	100	75	66	67
Tower Hamlets	123	102	87	95	90	92	85	83	87	64
Wandsworth	97	98	83	81	75	90	81	80	86	70
Westminster	260	246	242	239	246	246	202	219	199	184
Outer London	1 454	1 425	1 364	1 177	1 313	1 306	1 348	1 088	1 109	989
Barking and Dagenham	104	85	62	48	54	55	68	54	42	41
Barnet	71	69	73	59	89	61	82	70	50	51
Bexley	60	38	45	39	64	64	74	42	47	47
Brent	85	89	86	64	72	66	75	69	73	66
Bromley	79	99	87	71	68	67	77	64	65	46
Croydon	104	113	107	80	99	109	113	60	80	75
Ealing	111	106	102	85	93	107	102	81	93	63
Enfield	83	86	72	82	90	84	89	71	83	71
Greenwich	96	73	82	52	75	60	83	77	61	68
Harrow	38	49	58	40	43	50	47	38	40	35
Havering	69	62	50	57	59	70	72	37	47	44
Hillingdon	119	126	131	115	109	110	118	112	91	91
Hounslow	108	116	103	80	87	106	75	74	78	66
Kingston upon Thames	57	60	50	43	42	48	23	29	34	40
Merton	42	45	52	41	40	47	37	47	50	36
Redbridge	69	52	62	67	61	81	51	42	43	43
Richmond upon Thames	34	41	29	40	39	33	50	29	43	22
Sutton	49	50	47	41	45	37	58	44	51	34
Waltham Forest	76	66	66	73	84	51	54	48	38	50

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