

Fire Facts

Fires in Greater London

2022

About this publication

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The London Fire Brigade

The London Fire Brigade is run by the London Commissioner (LFC) who is the fire and rescue authority for London.

For more information about LFB/LFC and the work of the London Fire Brigade visit www.london-fire.gov.uk.

Other publications in this series

The London Fire Brigade has other publications in the Fire Facts series:

Fires incident response times – [here](#)

Fire deaths in London - [here](#)

Other data available

The LFB publishes a range of data on the London Datastore. Much of these data are updated on a monthly basis. Go to the LFB page on the datastore to see what is available – <https://data.london.gov.uk/publisher/lfb>

We publish information about the incidents we attend and the attendance times for the first and second fire engines to arrive via our online mapping tool. This tool displays information at borough and ward level and is updated monthly. To use this tool visit

<https://lfbincidentmapping.london-fire.gov.uk/>

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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 by LFB.

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.

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 air raids during the Blitz (1940/1941) had shown that regional firefighting resources were insufficient and the Government decided to unify the services. On 18 August 1941 the NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE (NFS) came into being.

The NFS continued to provide a service in peacetime after the war until 1 April 1948 when the Fire Service Act 1947 placed responsibility for fire brigades on county and 'county borough' councils. At this time the London Fire Brigade was once more under 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, East Ham and West Ham. This new area was governed by the newly formed GREATER LONDON COUNCIL (GLC). The GLC took over running the London Fire Brigade in 1965 which was expanded with the fire stations, fire appliances and fire staff from the areas absorbed into Greater London from surrounding counties, including most of the former county of Middlesex, and parts of Essex, Kent, Surrey, and a small part of Hertfordshire.

In 1986 the Greater London Council was abolished 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.

From 1 April 2018 under the Policy and Crime Act 2017 LFEPA was abolished and the LONDON FIRE COMMISSIONER (LFC) was established as a corporation sole, reporting to the Mayor of London, as the fire and rescue authority for London. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) is the fire and rescue service for the Greater London area and is run by the LFC.

The Mayor has appointed a Deputy Mayor for fire and resilience. The London Assembly provides scrutiny of the new arrangements via a Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee.

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 most recent plan, known as 'Your London Fire Brigade' was approved in January 2023. The Brigade also publishes a Local Assessment of Risk in London which is available on the LFB website –[here](#) to look at how we understand risk in different areas of London.

Scope of this document

In this report we focus on those incidents that happen within the boundaries of Greater London.

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

LFB electronic data collection

LFB started collecting incident data electronically in April 1999 via its Incident Recording Information System (IRIS). This included fire incidents although not FDR1 data. FDR1 data was captured electronically from 1 January 2005. LFB began supplying data to the new national IRS on 3 November 2008 via its Incident Management System (IMS), which replaced the IRIS.

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.
Deliberate fires, include those where deliberate ignition is merely suspected.

Symbols and conventions used

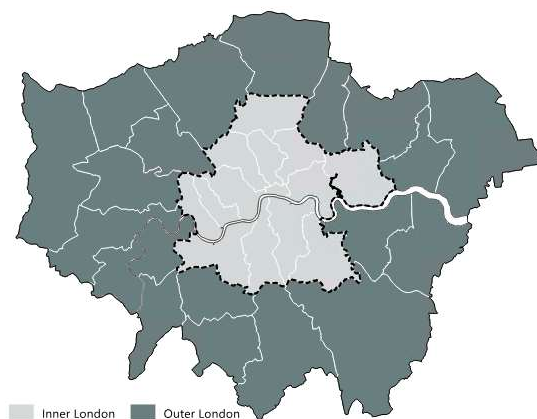
Inner and outer London

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

Based on the classification used by ONS, there are 14 inner London Boroughs and 19 outer London boroughs, as follows:

Inner London boroughs: Camden, City of London, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster.

Outer London boroughs: 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 attended by the London Fire Brigade 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.

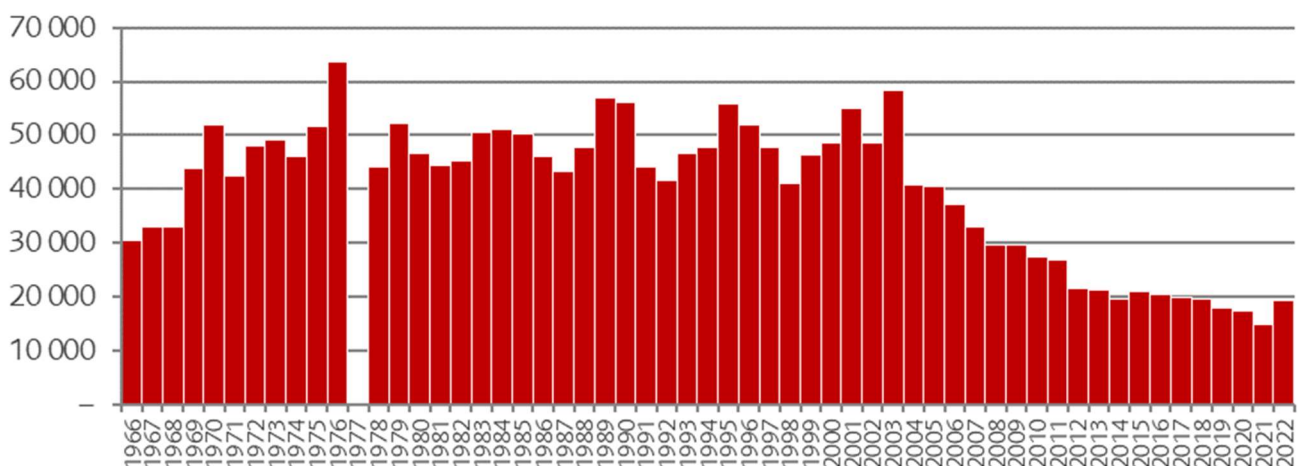
Fires in Greater London

(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. All of the UK's 10 warmest years on record have happened since 2002.

Chart 1: Total number of fires in Greater London, since 1966



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
- 2001 – 55,063 fires

The longest period showing a continuing trend is the years from 2003 – over which time the number of fires each year have consistently fallen. In recent years, the LFB have attended approximately 20,000 fires a year.

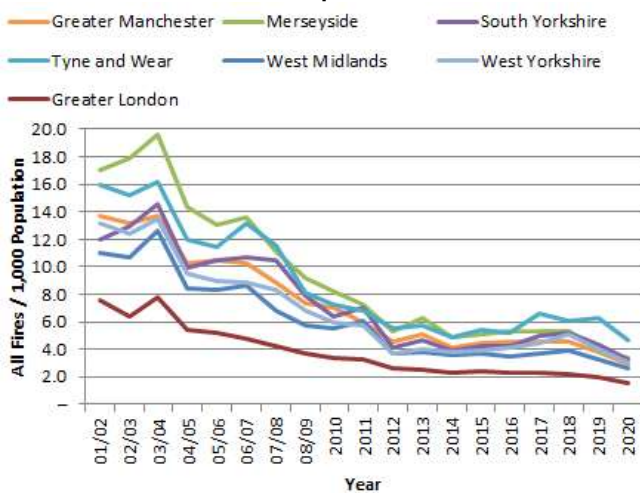
The reduction in fires since 2001 is linked to the introduction of the first Community Safety Strategy which the LFEPA approved in September 2000¹. This strategy changed the focus of the London Fire Brigade from being a mainly reactive emergency response service to a proactive service with fire prevention at the core of its activities.

¹ Community Fire Safety Strategy; LFEPA report FEP9, 14 September 2000

Rate of fires per 1,000 resident population

The Home Office collect data about all fire services² which they publish in fiscal years. From April 2001 to March 2019, Greater London has maintained the lowest rate of all fires per 1,000 population, when compared to the other metropolitan fire and rescue authorities [Chart 2]. In the financial year 2019/20 the rate for London was at its lowest at 2.0 fires for every 1,000 people.

Chart 2: Rate of all fires per 1,000 resident population by England's Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities, from April 2001 to 2020

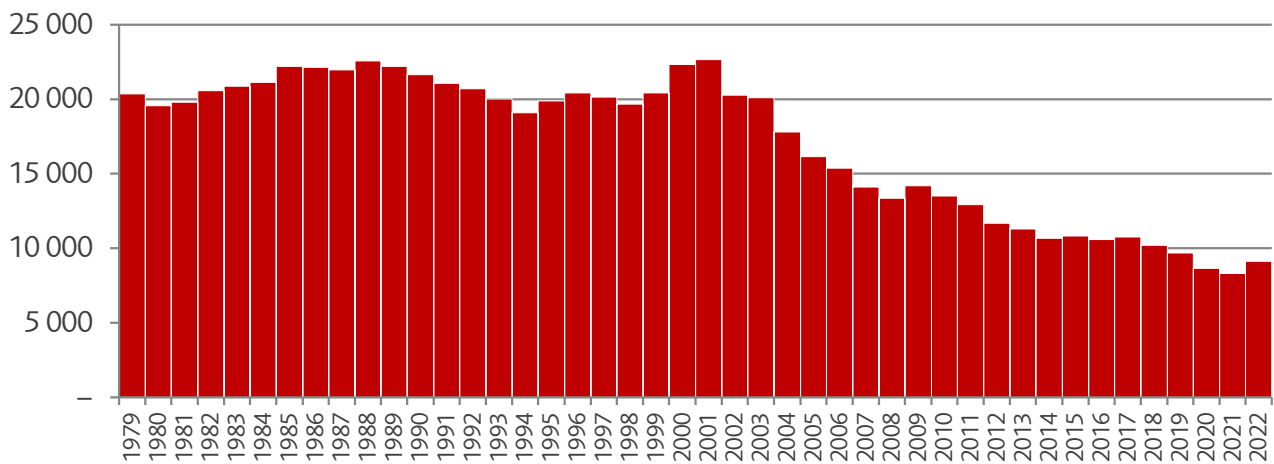


Primary fires

Between 1979 and 2003 the number of primary fires fluctuated between 19,000 and 23,000 fires per year. The most primary fires happened in 2001 (22,655). Overall, there has been a general reduction in primary fires since 2010. On average, primary fires since then have reduced, by around 850 fires per year up until 2014. In recent years the number has been between 8,000 and 10,000 a year, being closer to 8,000 in years during the pandemic. [Chart 3]

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>

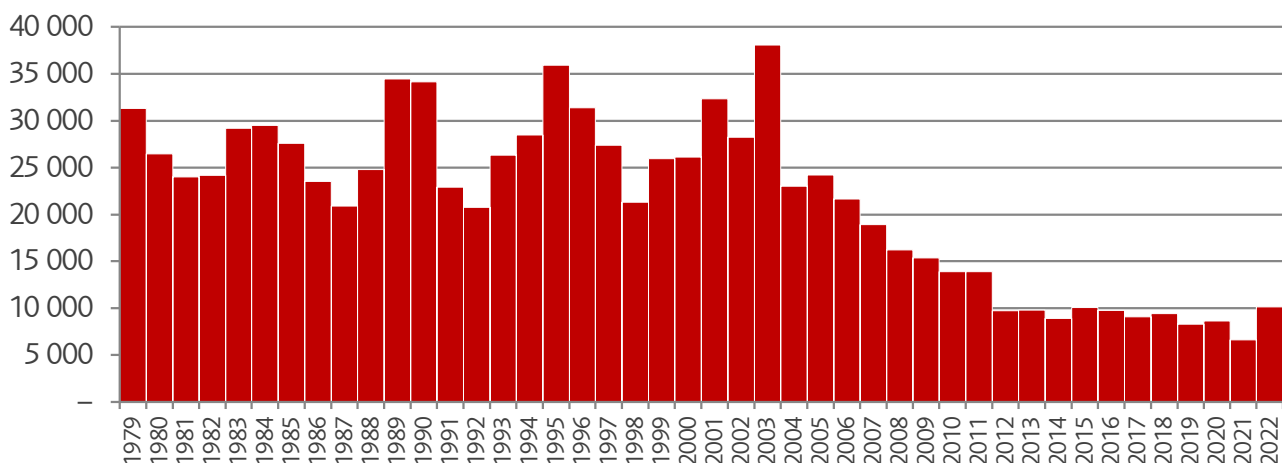
Chart 3: Number of primary fires, since 1979



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. The high number of secondary fires in 1995 and 2003 also coincide with heat waves in those years. Secondary fires now are significantly lower than they were a decade before. See chapter 2 for further information on secondary fires. [Chart 4]

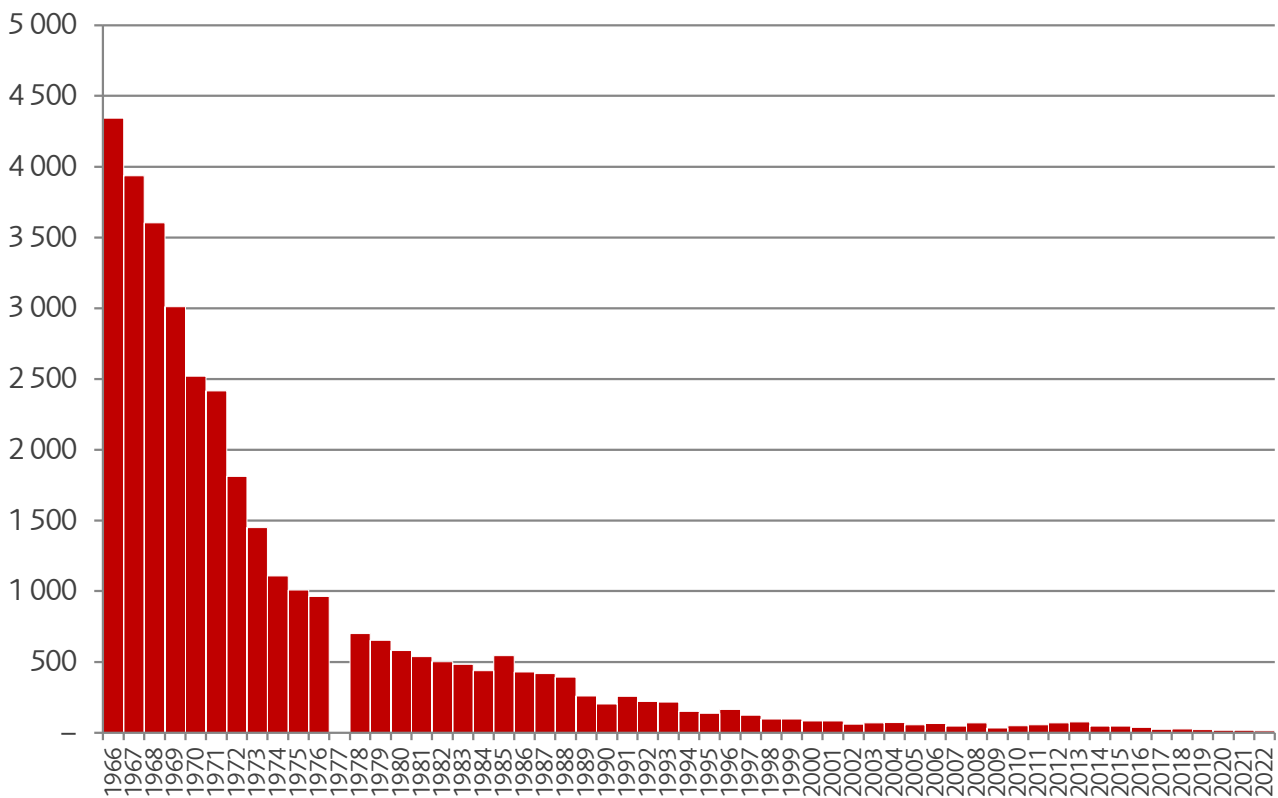
Chart 4: Number of secondary fires, since 1979



Chimney fires

In the 1950s and 1960s, open fires were a common means of household heating. However, the air pollution from coal and wood fuels caused smog – most notably the ‘Great London Smog’ in December 1952. The government introduced its first Clean Air Act in 1956 to control domestic smoke pollution by introducing smokeless zones, where smokeless fuels had to be burnt. This also encouraged many households to change to gas or electric heating systems, which resulted in a dramatic decrease in chimney fires.

Chart 5: Number of chimney fires, since 1966



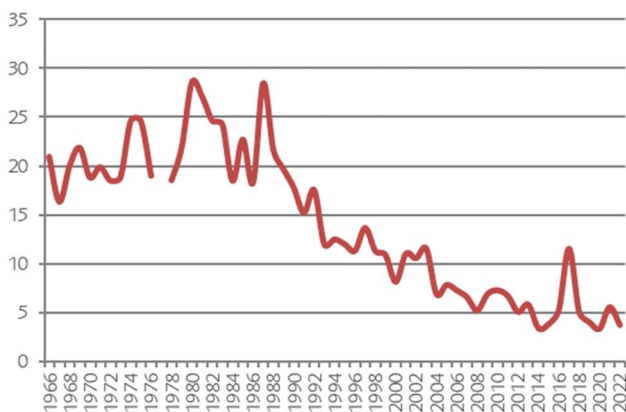
Fire related deaths

(Table 1.3)

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 in the Brigade's and government published statistics. There are also occasional cases where a Coroner may rule that the fire was not the cause of death. As a Coroner's inquest will not have been held for all fire fatalities in the latest year reported here, the number of fatalities is subject to revision.

The number of fire deaths in London have been falling steadily since the late 1980s. Numbers increased in 2017 because of the multiple deaths from the Grenfell Tower fire. In 2022, there was an decrease from 2021 of 34 per cent.

Chart 6: 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.

LFB publish a separate Fire Facts document *Fatal fires in London* which can be found on the London Datastore [here](#).

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. Numbers of non-fatal casualties increased in 2017 partly because of those injured at the Grenfell Tower fire.

Chart 7: Fire related injuries per million resident population, since 1966

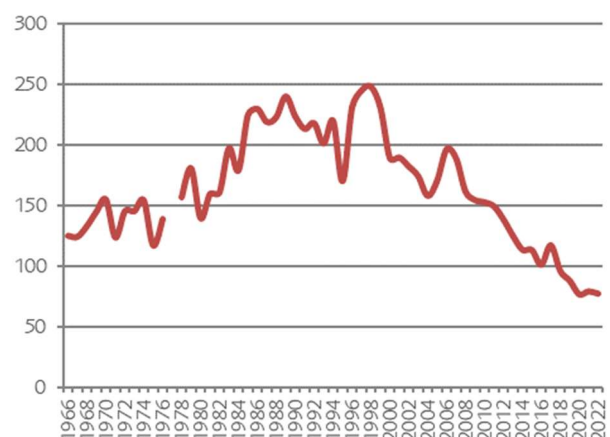


Table 1.1 Time series; total number of fires in Greater London, since 1966

<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

(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 1.1 Time series; total number of fires in Greater London, since 1966 (continued)

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	10 676	8 898	48	19 622
2015	10 820	10 054	49	20 923
2016	10 588	9 766	37	20 391
2017	10 756	9 082	25	19 863
2018	10 214	9 433	28	19 675
2019	9 678	8 293	22	17 993
2020	8 661	8 630	20	17 311
2021	8 312	6 598	19	14 929
2022	9 126	10 156	15	19 297

(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 All fires per 1,000 resident population

<i>rate</i>	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Greater London	7.6	6.3	7.7	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.6
Greater Manchester	13.7	13.2	13.7	10.2	10.5	10.2	8.9	7.3	7.0	6.0	4.6	5.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5	3.8	2.9
Merseyside	17.1	17.9	19.6	14.3	13.1	13.6	11.2	9.2	8.2	7.3	5.3	6.3	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.0	3.3
South Yorkshire	12.0	12.9	14.6	10.0	10.5	10.7	10.5	7.9	6.4	7.0	4.1	4.7	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.3	4.4	3.3
Tyne and Wear	16.0	15.3	16.2	12.0	11.4	13.2	11.5	8.1	7.2	6.9	5.5	5.7	4.8	5.4	5.2	6.6	6.1	6.2	4.7
West Midlands	11.0	10.7	12.7	8.4	8.3	8.6	6.8	5.8	5.6	6.0	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.3	2.7
West Yorkshire	13.2	12.4	13.4	9.6	9.0	8.8	8.3	6.8	5.9	5.7	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.5	5.1	4.0	3.0

Population estimates are provided by calendar year. Before April 2009 the financial quarter was not specified with the national fire data, therefore the population size for those years is based on the first part of the financial year.

Note: The latest data for Fire and Rescue Service Areas were unavailable at the time of publishing.

Table 1.3 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

Source: Population figures GLA mid-year estimates

Table 1.3 Time series; fire related fatalities and injuries, since 1966 (continued)

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	8 322 008	5.0	138.5
2013	49	1 054	8 440 130	5.8	124.9
2014	29	972	8 556 566	3.4	113.6
2015	33	984	8 669 748	3.8	113.5
2016	46	889	8 779 641	5.2	101.3
2017	102	1 036	8 885 990	11.5	116.6
2018	45	858	8 969 090	5.0	95.7
2019	36	791	9 049 498	4.0	87.4
2020	30	694	9 127 567	3.3	76.0
2021	50	715	9 203 293	5.4	77.7
2022	33	692	9 276 362	3.6	74.6

Source: Population figures GLA 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.

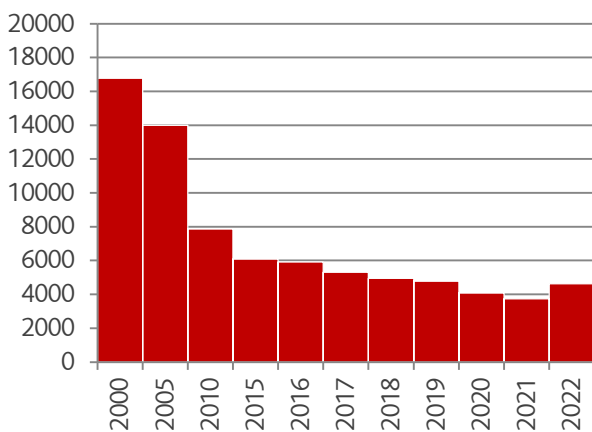
Property types

(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 20 years. [Chart 8]

Chart 8: Fires involving rubbish, since 2000

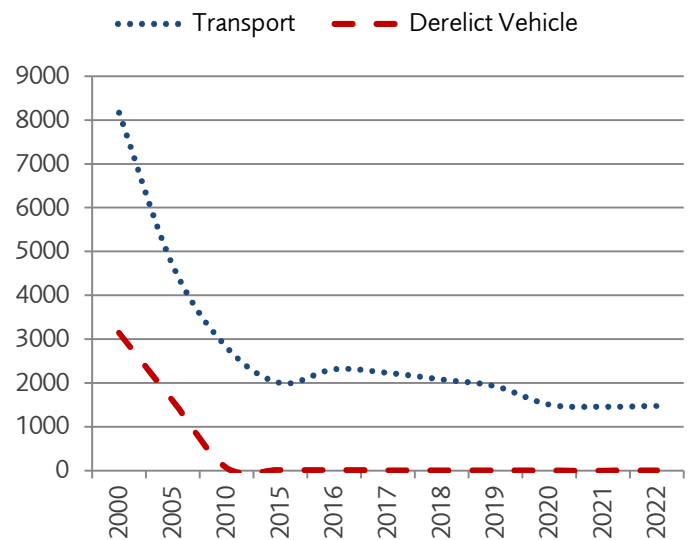


We attribute the reduction in rubbish fires to our work on arson prevention, work by local authorities to remove rubbish and to stop fly tipping and an increase in social responsibility towards recycling and waste disposal.

Fires in transport and derelict vehicles have also reduced over the last 20 years. [Chart 9] The number of fires in derelict vehicles has been linked to the prices for scrap metal; when scrap metal prices are

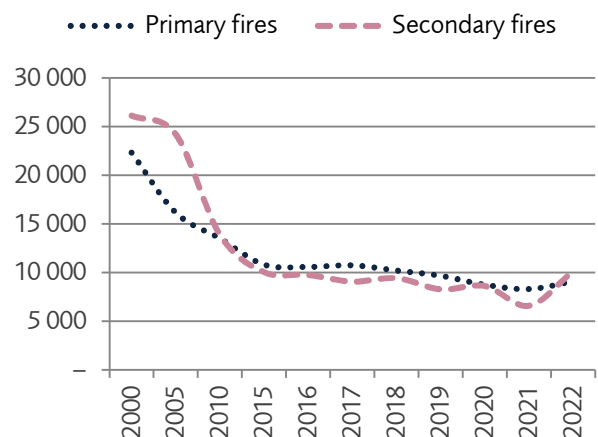
very low and old cars have little or no residual value, derelict car fires are higher.

Chart 9: 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 10]

Chart 10: Number of primary and secondary fires, since 2000



Fires in buildings

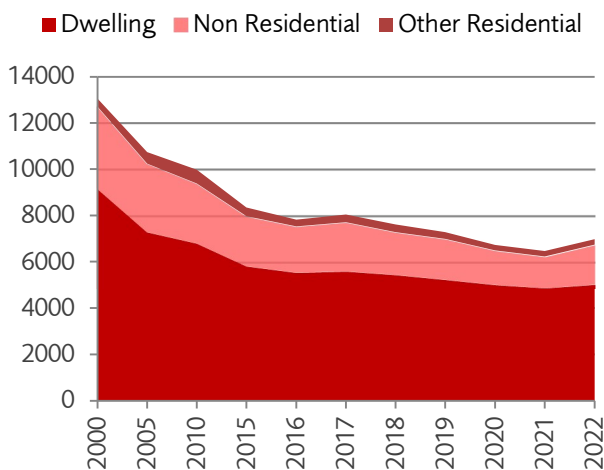
Primary fires in buildings are categorised as either dwellings, other residential or non-residential:

- **Dwellings** include all types of private residences and homes. It covers houses, flats, houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and self-contained sheltered housing.
- **Other residential** covers places of communal living and where people receive care, like residential care homes. It also includes short term accommodation residential accommodation like student halls, hostels and 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 primarily reduced over the last 20 years. [Chart 11]

Chart 11: Primary fires in buildings, since 2000



Primary fires across all building categories have significantly reduced (by 52 per cent overall) since 2000. Fires in dwellings have reduced by 45 per cent, fires in other residential buildings have also seen a reduction over the last 20 years (down 33 per cent). Individual property types are discussed further in chapter 4.

Fire motive

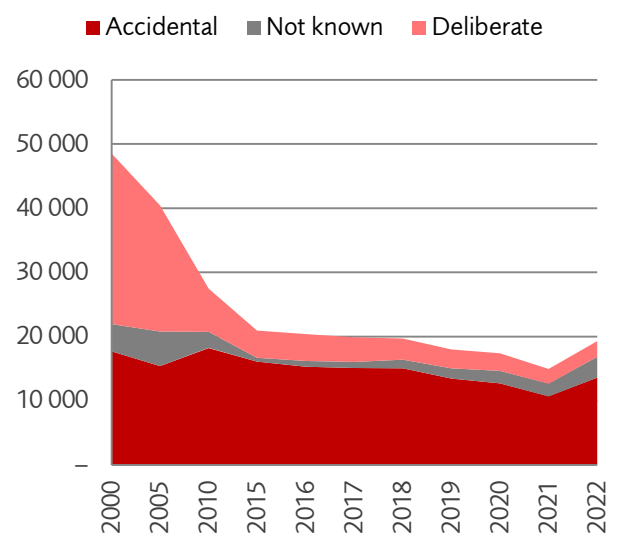
(Table 2.2)

Firefighters record the suspected reason (motive) for the start of a fire. Fires are categorised as: accidental, deliberate 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. [Chart 12]

Chart 12: Fires by motive, since 2000



The perceived increase in accidental fires around 2009 is linked to a policy change around the recording of fires of 'unknown' motive. 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).

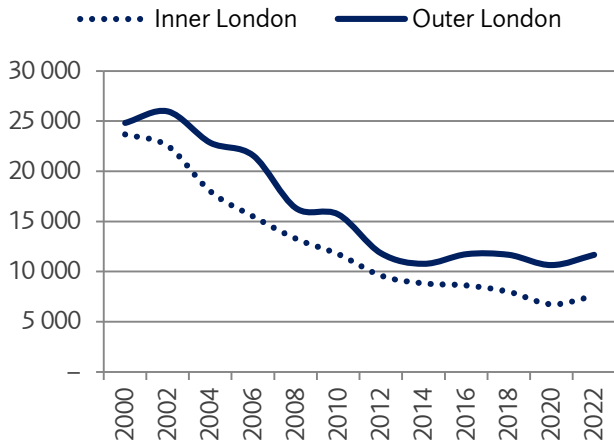
Fires in the London boroughs

All fires

(Table 2.3)

The number of all fires are changing at a similar rate when comparing inner and outer London. [Chart 13]

Chart 13: All fires, inner and outer London, since 2000

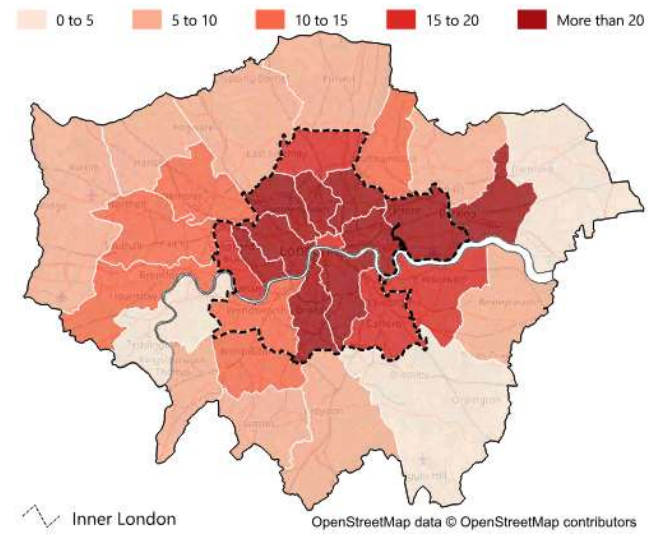


Proportions of primary fires in both inner and outer London boroughs have remained the same on average. Between 2018 to 2022, primary fires in inner London averaged around 43 per cent, while primary fires in outer London boroughs averaged around 57 per cent over the years.

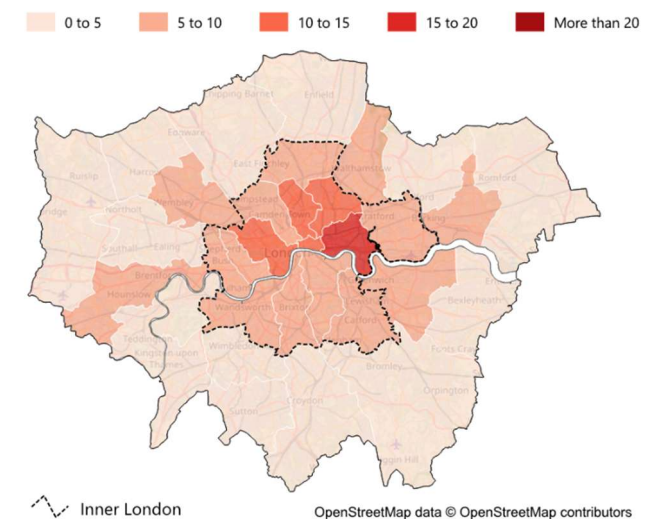
In 2022, secondary fires in Inner and outer London boroughs increased. This is likely to be a result of the increase in grassland fires due to the hot and dry weather conditions.

Map 1 shows how many fires there were per km² in each borough at the start of the millennium, ten boroughs had over 20 fires per km², nine of which were within inner London. The second map shows that in 2022, 5 boroughs had more than 10 fires per km², all within inner London

Map 1: Fires per km² by borough, in 2000



Map 2: Fires per km² by borough, in 2022



The reduction rates within the boroughs have been different. The boroughs with the greatest numbers of fires – when comparing 2000 with 2022 – are shown in the table below.

**Extract from table 2.3:
Number of fires for the top five inner and outer London Boroughs, 2000 and 2022**

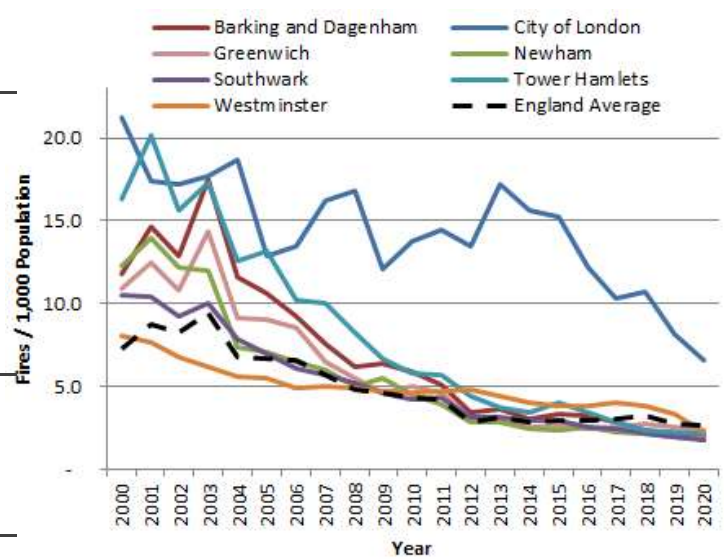
Top 5 inner London boroughs				
	2000		2022	
Tower Hamlets	3211	Westminster	815	
Newham	3011	Tower Hamlets	813	
Southwark	2662	Newham	784	
Hackney	2276	Lambeth	640	
Lambeth	2178	Southwark	633	

Top 5 outer London boroughs				
	2000		2022	
Greenwich	2341	Croydon	854	
Barking and Dagenham	1936	Hillingdon	838	
Bromley	1747	Greenwich	795	
Hillingdon	1632	Bromley	784	
Croydon	1623	Hounslow	763	

Rate of fires per 1,000 resident population in London boroughs

When compared to the average rate of fires in England, 21 of the 33 London boroughs have had a lower rate every year from 2000 to 2020. In that period, only seven have been above the English average for ten or more years [chart 14]. The City of London is the only borough which has been consistently above the average rate in those 20 years. This is in part due to the unusual make-up of the City of London which has a very small resident population and is the business centre for the capital.

Chart 14 : The rate of fires per 1,000 resident population in the London boroughs which have been above the English Average rate for ten or more years



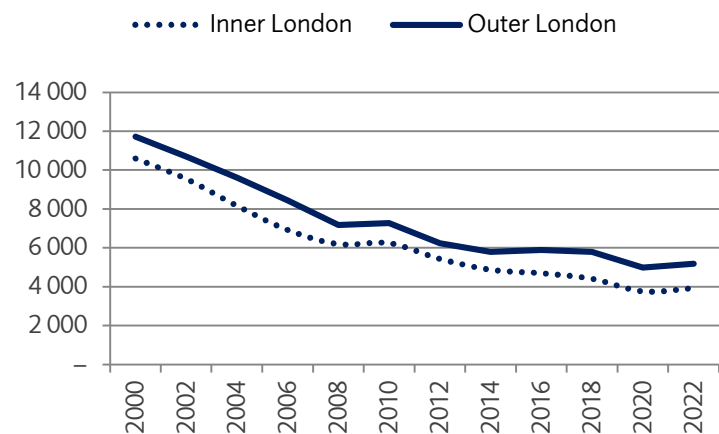
Primary fires

(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.

Due to the impact of the lockdown restrictions as a safety response to the Coronavirus, there were some slightly noticeable changes to primary fires in 2020 and 2021.

Chart 15: Primary fires, inner and outer London, since 2000



The boroughs with the greatest numbers of primary fires – when comparing 2000 with 2022 – are shown in the table below.

Extract from table 2.6: Number of primary fires for the top five inner and outer London Boroughs, 2000 and 2022.

Top 5 inner London boroughs

	2000		2022	
Newham	1 257	Newham	372	
Southwark	987	Tower Hamlets	372	
Tower Hamlets	966	Southwark	341	
Lambeth	938	Lambeth	335	
Westminster	934	Westminster	327	

Top 5 outer London boroughs

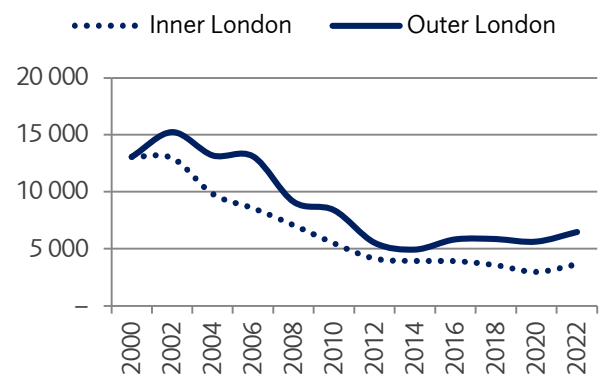
	2000		2022	
Greenwich	893	Hillingdon	425	
Croydon	843	Croydon	384	
Ealing	817	Barnet	365	
Hillingdon	817	Greenwich	365	
Brent	795	Ealing	340	

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, but has a lower proportion of secondary fires (63 percent for the five years to 2022). [Chart 16]

Chart 16: Secondary fires, inner and outer London, since 2000



The boroughs with the greatest numbers of secondary fires – when comparing 2000 with 2022 – are set out in the table below.

Extract from table 2.7: Number of secondary fires for the top 5 inner and outer London Boroughs; 2000 and 2022.

Top 5 inner London boroughs			
	2000		2022
Tower Hamlets	2 242	Westminster	487
Newham	1 753	Tower Hamlets	441
Southwark	1 672	Newham	412
Hackney	1 366	Lambeth	305
Lambeth	1 237	Southwark	292

Top 5 outer London boroughs			
	2000		2022
Greenwich	1 447	Enfield	482
Barking and Dagenham	1 219	Croydon	470
Bromley	1 000	Havering	453
Hounslow	869	Bromley	452
Bexley	847	Hounslow	436

Chimney fires

(Table 2.7)

Chimney fires have steadily declined over the years. From May 2021, the government introduced new legislation restricting the sale of coal, wet wood and manufactured solid fuels for burning in the home. This forms part of a wider initiative to tackle air pollution.

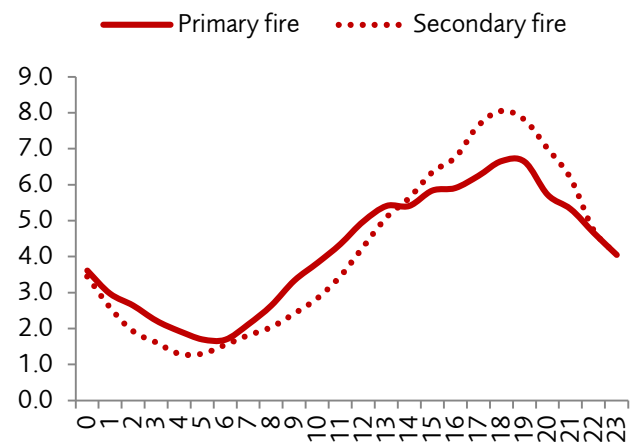
When fires happen

Hour of the day

(Table 2.10)

Primary and secondary fires follow a similar daily profile. The lowest period is at 6am and the highest period is at 7pm. [Chart 17]

Chart 17: Proportion of fires (%) by hour of the day, five years to 2022



Month of the year

(Table 2.11)

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 18]

Chart 18: Proportion of fires (%) by month of the year, five years to 2022

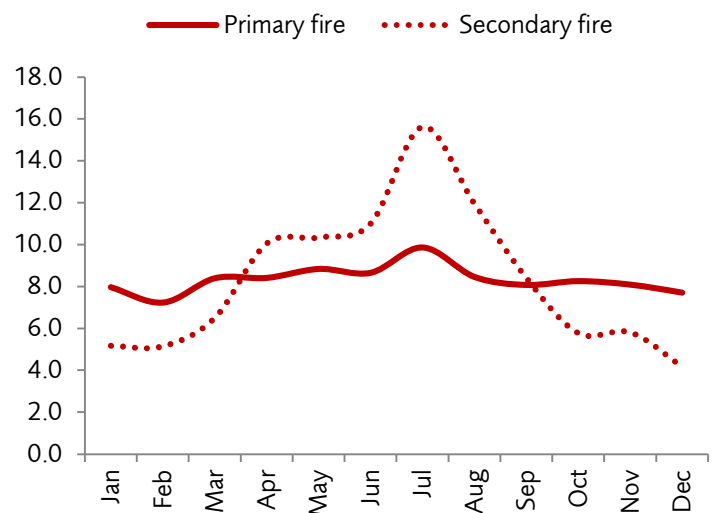


Table 2.1 Fires, by fire and property type categories, since 2000

<i>number</i>	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total fires	48554	40441	27467	20 923	20 391	19 863	19 675	17 993	17 411	14 929	19 297
Chimney fires	85	56	50	49	37	25	28	22	20	19	15
Dwelling	77	51	47	41	33	20	26	19	20	18	14
Other Residential	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
Non Residential	8	5	2	7	3	4	2	3	–	1	1
Primary fires	22 334	16 167	13 522	10 820	10 588	10 756	10 214	9 678	8 761	8 312	9 126
Dwelling	9178	7311	6821	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 045
Other Residential	351	491	591	377	286	328	326	294	233	230	234
Non Residential	3524	2936	2566	2 126	1 975	2 083	1 818	1 724	1 453	1 337	1 697
Transport	8171	4679	2816	2 001	2 316	2 232	2 081	1 925	1 507	1 460	1 477
Outdoor	1110	750	728	476	453	488	528	474	530	391	673
Secondary fires	26 135	24 218	13 895	10 054	9 766	9 082	9 433	8 293	8 630	6 598	10 156
Rubbish	16784	13993	7860	6 092	5920	5315	4943	4770	4087	3734	4 621
Open Land	4056	6988	5598	3 473	3381	3297	4014	3130	4092	2558	5 012
Other Outdoor Structure	1144	1155	308	455	420	451	460	382	443	291	500
Derelict Building	1006	488	66	18	29	12	11	5	5	14	17
Derelict Vehicle	3145	1594	63	16	16	7	5	6	3	1	6

Table 2.2 Fires, by property type category and motive, since 2000

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total fires	48 554	40 441	27 467	20 923	20 391	19 863	19 675	17 993	17 411	14 929	19 297
Accidental	17 675	15 373	18 237	16 110	15 315	15 108	15 055	13 473	12 680	10 687	13 598
Deliberate	26 614	19 653	6 721	4 223	4 220	3 835	3 271	2 926	2 746	2 242	2 431
Not known	4 265	5 415	2 509	590	856	920	1 349	1 594	1 985	2 000	3 268
Chimney Fire Total	85	56	50	49	37	25	28	22	20	19	15
Accidental	79	53	50	48	37	25	28	22	20	19	15
Deliberate	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Not known	2	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Primary Fire Total	22 334	16 167	13 522	10 820	10 588	10 756	10 214	9 678	8 761	8 312	9 126
Accidental	11 730	9 710	10 012	8 760	8 324	8 571	8 251	7 698	6 979	6 660	7 119
Deliberate	9 305	5 946	3 048	1 878	2 022	1 901	1 578	1 509	1 271	1 056	1 165
Not known	1 299	511	462	182	242	284	385	471	511	596	842
Secondary Fire Total	26 135	24 218	13 895	10 054	9 766	9 082	9 433	8 293	8 630	6 598	10 156
Accidental	5 866	5 610	8 175	7 302	6 954	6 512	6 776	5 753	5 681	4 008	6 464
Deliberate	17 305	13 707	3 673	2 345	2 198	1 934	1 693	1 417	1 475	1 186	1 266
Not known	2 964	4 901	2 047	407	614	636	964	1 123	1 474	1 404	2 426

Table 2.3 All fires, by London borough, since 2000

	<i>number</i>										
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
London total	48 554	40 441	27 467	20 923	20391	19863	19 675	17 993	17 411	14 930	19 297
Inner London	23 695	17 449	11 748	9 257	8 636	8 541	7 996	7 428	6 756	6 276	7 595
Camden	1 329	1 070	799	639	592	588	574	505	418	450	521
City of London	149	92	101	101	89	79	93	78	52	44	88
Hackney	2 276	1 508	783	668	605	646	636	564	551	486	554
Hammersmith and Fulham	800	628	509	393	385	344	330	341	313	251	373
Haringey	1 360	1 149	836	650	643	639	627	616	548	460	537
Islington	1 706	1 183	675	568	465	534	496	429	408	363	447
Kensington and Chelsea	650	531	399	325	286	318	264	262	251	226	288
Lambeth	2 178	1 299	922	751	762	675	665	575	583	522	640
Lewisham	1 592	1 358	946	712	610	633	574	576	612	484	598
Newham	3 011	1 809	1 364	803	876	806	783	707	701	714	784
Southwark	2 662	1 822	1 197	920	784	782	698	642	600	651	633
Tower Hamlets	3 211	2 810	1 438	1 171	1 043	878	755	721	697	606	813
Wandsworth	1 186	959	773	649	566	631	515	549	448	433	504
Westminster	1 585	1 231	1 006	907	930	988	986	863	574	586	815
Outer London	24 847	22 992	15 719	11 666	11 751	11 319	11 673	10 561	10 653	8 651	11 694
Barking and Dagenham	1 936	1 770	1 072	675	673	610	510	469	450	425	549
Barnet	1 295	1 242	869	721	632	682	721	616	637	576	728
Bexley	1 327	1 467	945	664	580	591	613	531	563	399	674
Brent	1 301	1 069	710	664	665	677	657	668	667	530	619
Bromley	1 747	1 787	1 031	902	950	744	731	674	666	590	784
Croydon	1 623	1 410	1 101	820	871	812	769	726	772	641	854
Ealing	1 463	1 350	873	694	744	745	709	659	776	508	686
Enfield	1 450	1 470	963	734	753	732	738	635	684	631	820
Greenwich	2 341	2 078	1 256	719	692	727	790	730	702	590	795
Harrow	681	567	433	339	342	403	391	350	365	296	346
Havering	1 372	1 542	901	662	706	598	626	538	492	466	728
Hillingdon	1 632	1 252	955	812	877	818	853	763	663	538	838
Hounslow	1 562	1 269	946	680	656	644	726	683	705	516	763
Kingston upon Thames	551	477	421	257	291	286	341	280	233	175	279
Merton	986	765	561	400	413	368	383	332	386	300	360
Redbridge	1 057	1 112	883	577	587	565	655	539	526	430	593
Richmond upon Thames	535	447	391	296	294	293	288	290	295	244	307
Sutton	828	755	568	381	356	354	381	354	376	296	331
Waltham Forest	1 160	1 163	840	669	669	670	791	724	695	500	640

Table 2.4 Rate of fires per 1,000 resident population by London borough since 2000

<i>rate</i>	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
England Average	7.3	6.6	4.3	4.2	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.3	2.7	2.7
Inner London	9.3	6.4	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.1
Camden	6.8	5.1	3.7	3.4	2.7	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.6
City of London	21.2	12.9	13.8	14.4	13.5	17.2	15.6	15.3	12.1	10.3	10.7	8.1	6.6
Hackney	11.2	7.0	3.2	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	4.9	3.6	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.6
Haringey	6.2	5.0	3.3	3.1	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.9
Islington	9.6	6.4	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.7
Kensington and Chelsea	4.2	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.5
Lambeth	8.1	4.7	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7
Lewisham	6.3	5.3	3.5	3.1	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9
Newham	12.3	7.1	4.6	3.9	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9
Southwark	10.5	7.0	4.2	4.3	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.8
Tower Hamlets	16.3	13.2	5.8	5.7	4.4	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.5	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.1
Wandsworth	4.4	3.4	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.3
Westminster	8.1	5.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.3	2.2
Outer London	5.7	5.1	3.3	3.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.9
Barking and Dagenham	11.8	10.6	5.9	5.1	3.4	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.0
Barnet	4.1	3.8	2.5	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6
Bexley	6.1	6.6	4.1	3.0	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.3
Brent	4.9	3.9	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9
Bromley	5.9	6.0	3.3	3.6	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0
Croydon	4.8	4.2	3.1	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
Ealing	4.8	4.3	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.1
Enfield	5.3	5.2	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.0
Greenwich	10.9	9.0	5.0	4.7	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.4
Harrow	3.3	2.6	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4
Havering	6.1	6.8	3.8	3.5	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.9
Hillingdon	6.6	5.0	3.5	3.7	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.1
Hounslow	7.3	5.7	3.8	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.5
Kingston upon Thames	3.7	3.1	2.7	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.3
Merton	5.2	4.0	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.8
Redbridge	4.4	4.4	3.2	2.8	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.8
Richmond upon Thames	3.1	2.5	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Sutton	4.6	4.1	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8
Waltham Forest	5.2	5.1	3.3	3.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.4

Note: 2022 Data for England was unavailable at the time of publishing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire0103-previous-data-tables>

Table 2.5 Primary fires, by London borough, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
London total	22 334	16 167	13 522	10 820	10 588	10 756	10 214	9 678	8 761	8 312	9 126
Inner London	10 603	7 389	6 246	4 983	4 701	4 826	4 413	4 166	3 768	3 723	3 932
Camden	708	563	473	367	321	361	335	309	250	262	286
City of London	115	57	68	75	61	62	57	59	41	37	57
Hackney	907	635	431	388	352	369	379	299	327	295	310
Hammersmith and Fulham	499	384	315	245	261	233	212	221	203	172	214
Haringey	705	547	427	355	336	310	322	316	272	277	272
Islington	766	501	384	331	275	302	297	249	238	238	259
Kensington and Chelsea	416	293	261	221	213	237	198	198	174	168	190
Lambeth	938	716	536	431	424	382	371	317	285	324	335
Lewisham	776	546	512	410	362	370	343	345	363	325	311
Newham	1 257	671	532	388	439	456	417	371	344	355	372
Southwark	987	613	628	481	444	460	384	351	355	339	341
Tower Hamlets	966	688	596	435	419	436	379	349	343	322	372
Wandsworth	629	461	438	411	350	391	305	358	254	264	286
Westminster	934	714	645	445	444	457	414	424	319	345	327
Outer London	11 724	8 778	7 276	5 837	5 885	5 927	5 799	5 511	4 993	4 588	5 189
Barking and Dagenham	717	546	346	305	327	297	270	231	214	189	242
Barnet	682	582	470	398	364	402	414	370	320	347	365
Bexley	477	389	365	298	271	294	275	242	233	177	248
Brent	795	576	428	421	370	387	382	352	329	283	278
Bromley	743	570	437	312	394	375	323	334	292	287	332
Croydon	843	632	611	442	489	486	442	457	433	373	384
Ealing	817	612	501	369	389	395	356	350	326	289	340
Enfield	703	586	470	384	397	393	387	309	320	325	337
Greenwich	893	595	487	376	372	391	409	387	340	325	365
Harrow	389	276	242	185	182	223	196	176	158	156	163
Havering	577	410	327	269	296	252	287	273	231	226	272
Hillingdon	817	543	486	424	489	472	409	401	324	277	425
Hounslow	688	530	395	337	311	336	316	343	309	255	326
Kingston upon Thames	312	251	226	153	176	139	174	150	140	105	134
Merton	457	297	261	218	199	170	197	199	192	172	155
Redbridge	539	442	402	285	264	306	324	289	236	227	274
Richmond upon Thames	280	204	193	175	163	163	146	142	131	146	147
Sutton	386	275	269	179	184	174	196	197	177	172	153
Waltham Forest	609	462	360	307	248	272	296	309	288	257	249

Table 2.6 Secondary fires, by London borough, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
London total	26 135	24 218	13 895	10 054	9 766	9 082	9 433	8 293	8 630	6 598	10 156
Inner London	13 058	10 043	5 488	4 253	3 927	3 708	3 572	3 255	2 983	2 547	3 660
Camden	616	505	324	270	270	227	238	196	168	188	234
City of London	34	35	33	26	28	17	36	19	11	7	31
Hackney	1 366	871	352	277	252	277	256	265	223	190	244
Hammersmith and Fulham	300	244	194	148	123	111	117	119	110	79	159
Haringey	653	600	406	292	306	328	301	300	275	183	265
Islington	936	681	291	236	190	232	199	178	169	124	188
Kensington and Chelsea	231	238	136	101	73	81	66	63	76	58	98
Lambeth	1 237	583	385	318	338	292	293	256	298	197	305
Lewisham	814	810	434	300	246	262	231	231	249	159	286
Newham	1 753	1 135	831	415	437	350	366	336	357	358	412
Southwark	1 672	1 209	568	439	340	321	314	291	244	312	292
Tower Hamlets	2 242	2 121	842	735	624	441	376	372	354	284	441
Wandsworth	556	494	332	236	216	240	208	190	194	168	218
Westminster	648	517	360	460	484	529	571	439	255	240	487
Outer London	13 072	14 175	8 407	5 801	5 837	5 374	5 857	5 035	5 645	4 050	6 493
Barking and Dagenham	1 219	1 224	725	370	344	313	239	237	236	236	307
Barnet	611	659	397	320	266	280	307	246	317	229	363
Bexley	847	1 074	580	362	307	297	338	289	329	222	425
Brent	504	493	282	243	293	290	275	316	338	247	341
Bromley	1 000	1 210	588	587	556	368	406	338	374	303	452
Croydon	773	776	488	376	381	325	326	269	339	267	470
Ealing	646	735	371	325	355	350	352	307	450	217	345
Enfield	744	879	492	348	354	338	349	325	362	306	482
Greenwich	1 447	1 480	768	342	319	334	381	343	362	265	430
Harrow	291	291	190	153	159	179	195	173	206	140	182
Havering	789	1 128	573	391	408	344	338	262	259	237	453
Hillingdon	812	709	464	387	387	346	443	362	338	260	412
Hounslow	869	737	551	342	345	308	409	340	395	260	436
Kingston upon Thames	235	225	193	104	113	146	166	127	92	67	144
Merton	528	466	298	181	212	197	186	132	193	128	205
Redbridge	517	668	480	291	321	259	331	250	289	203	319
Richmond upon Thames	253	241	196	119	127	126	139	147	162	97	159
Sutton	437	480	294	200	169	177	183	157	199	123	177
Waltham Forest	550	700	477	360	421	397	494	415	405	243	391

Table 2.7 Chimney fires, by London borough, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
London total	85	56	50	49	37	25	28	22	20	19	15
Inner London	34	17	14	21	8	7	11	7	5	6	3
Camden	5	2	2	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	1
City of London	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hackney	3	2	–	3	1	–	1	–	1	1	–
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	–
Haringey	2	2	3	3	1	1	4	–	1	–	–
Islington	4	1	–	1	–	–	–	2	1	1	–
Kensington and Chelsea	3	–	2	3	–	–	–	1	1	–	–
Lambeth	3	–	1	2	–	1	1	2	–	1	–
Lewisham	2	2	–	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	1
Newham	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Southwark	3	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–
Tower Hamlets	3	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Wandsworth	1	4	3	2	–	–	2	1	–	1	–
Westminster	3	–	1	2	2	2	1	–	–	1	1
Outer London	51	39	36	28	29	18	17	15	15	13	12
Barking and Dagenham	–	–	1	–	2	–	1	1	–	–	–
Barnet	2	1	2	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bexley	3	4	–	4	2	–	–	–	1	–	1
Brent	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bromley	4	7	6	3	–	1	2	2	–	–	–
Croydon	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	–	–	1	–
Ealing	–	3	1	–	–	–	1	2	–	2	1
Enfield	3	5	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	–	1
Greenwich	1	3	1	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–
Harrow	1	–	1	1	1	1	–	1	1	–	1
Havering	6	4	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3
Hillingdon	3	–	5	1	1	–	1	–	1	1	1
Hounslow	5	2	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	1	1
Kingston upon Thames	4	1	2	–	2	1	1	3	1	3	1
Merton	1	2	2	1	2	1	–	1	1	–	–
Redbridge	1	2	1	1	2	–	–	–	1	–	–
Richmond upon Thames	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	1	–	1	1
Sutton	5	–	5	2	3	3	2	–	–	1	1
Waltham Forest	1	1	3	2	–	1	1	–	–	–	–

Table 2.8 Fire related fatalities, by London borough, since 2000*number*

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
London total	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
Inner London	23	27	26	16	23	86	17	15	14	21	12
Camden	3	2	4	1	2	3	2	1	2	–	1
City of London	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hackney	5	4	2	1	1	1	–	2	1	1	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	1	2	2	1	–	3	2	–	2	1
Haringey	–	2	2	1	3	3	2	1	–	4	–
Islington	1	3	3	–	3	–	2	1	–	3	1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	–	–	–	2	72	3	1	2	–	1
Lambeth	1	5	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2
Lewisham	–	3	3	–	2	–	1	–	1	–	2
Newham	3	1	2	4	1	1	–	1	2	1	2
Southwark	1	1	3	2	3	–	–	1	2	1	–
Tower Hamlets	3	–	1	1	–	1	–	1	1	1	–
Wandsworth	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	–	–
Westminster	–	2	1	–	1	1	1	–	–	7	–
Outer London	36	33	33	16	23	16	28	21	16	29	21
Barking and Dagenham	–	1	1	–	1	2	1	2	–	1	1
Barnet	3	1	3	–	–	1	2	2	1	2	1
Bexley	3	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	4	–
Brent	–	1	2	1	3	–	1	3	4	1	1
Bromley	5	–	4	1	2	1	1	2	1	–	–
Croydon	1	2	3	2	1	–	–	1	–	1	4
Ealing	2	2	5	4	3	1	–	3	1	1	1
Enfield	2	2	1	–	1	2	4	–	1	1	1
Greenwich	2	–	3	1	3	1	2	–	2	3	2
Harrow	6	1	2	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
Havering	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	1	1	1	1
Hillingdon	–	10	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–
Hounslow	–	2	1	3	1	–	1	2	1	–	1
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	–	1	1	1	2	–	–	–	2
Merton	1	–	1	–	1	–	1	1	2	1	2
Redbridge	3	1	2	1	1	–	2	1	–	2	1
Richmond upon Thames	1	2	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	–	–
Sutton	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	–	1	9	–
Waltham Forest	3	5	2	–	2	1	2	2	–	2	3

Table 2.9 Fire related injuries, by London borough, since 2005

<i>number</i>										
	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
London total	1 306	1 239	984	889	1036	858	791	694	715	692
Inner London	599	632	455	390	533	366	331	311	346	321
Camden	35	29	24	18	17	14	17	26	23	17
City of London	3	1	1	4	1	1	0	1	1	4
Hackney	52	58	37	31	30	38	32	21	20	28
Hammersmith and Fulham	38	26	14	27	50	14	30	13	16	24
Haringey	49	52	42	14	41	32	17	20	23	23
Islington	37	44	23	31	30	51	36	20	24	18
Kensington and Chelsea	29	43	45	26	106	18	8	18	20	20
Lambeth	51	41	46	36	29	27	13	23	42	27
Lewisham	66	83	41	39	40	39	54	28	24	19
Newham	65	62	23	38	47	36	19	30	30	32
Southwark	29	42	51	45	31	29	21	23	42	24
Tower Hamlets	54	54	39	16	31	17	22	33	32	34
Wandsworth	37	53	42	40	43	27	30	26	34	26
Westminster	54	44	27	25	37	23	32	29	15	25
Outer London	707	607	529	499	503	492	460	383	369	371
Barking and Dagenham	43	38	22	28	28	36	12	15	14	26
Barnet	48	38	32	28	48	30	26	23	11	30
Bexley	32	21	19	28	25	24	24	22	18	17
Brent	51	48	51	38	30	34	22	33	25	33
Bromley	26	22	24	20	19	30	43	26	25	12
Croydon	53	54	48	34	45	33	59	31	40	32
Ealing	72	35	35	41	37	39	43	30	35	23
Enfield	43	37	51	45	59	27	26	20	13	29
Greenwich	41	29	39	22	27	29	26	30	39	27
Harrow	34	43	8	21	14	19	14	9	11	6
Havering	17	24	26	20	26	32	19	24	12	23
Hillingdon	40	25	28	40	26	22	19	28	21	24
Hounslow	42	44	34	36	31	24	29	27	23	33
Kingston upon Thames	15	20	11	10	6	13	4	7	8	9
Merton	15	21	27	18	15	11	14	11	11	12
Redbridge	33	51	29	28	15	31	24	17	21	16
Richmond upon Thames	25	13	13	7	11	11	15	6	10	7
Sutton	25	18	12	11	18	24	15	11	14	4
Waltham Forest	52	26	20	24	23	23	26	13	18	8

Table 2.10 Fires by hour of the day, since 2000

	<i>number</i>											<i>percentage</i>
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average distribution
Primary fire	22 334	16 167	13 522	10 820	10 588	10 756	10 214	9 678	8 761	8 312	9 126	
0	1 087	745	536	387	359	394	396	335	318	291	328	3.6
1	946	690	501	321	333	355	289	310	282	247	244	3.0
2	857	632	413	264	295	291	293	241	254	194	239	2.6
3	662	483	372	263	255	241	233	246	171	152	223	2.2
4	499	396	311	194	221	204	221	192	152	151	177	1.9
5	377	329	234	168	185	185	192	169	139	135	151	1.7
6	360	258	249	198	196	191	182	164	135	126	173	1.7
7	349	322	289	238	230	202	225	205	174	183	189	2.1
8	533	411	382	305	267	295	273	260	219	231	238	2.6
9	565	466	430	399	383	368	342	338	277	280	303	3.3
10	682	503	475	395	402	393	377	388	323	306	371	3.8
11	791	588	556	475	449	479	459	421	365	366	397	4.4
12	870	693	606	517	509	526	508	451	462	412	467	5.0
13	924	692	695	579	563	577	534	524	469	482	485	5.4
14	988	769	641	528	539	546	553	499	510	447	487	5.4
15	1 038	758	698	605	585	578	598	532	522	497	544	5.8
16	1 119	810	728	648	584	579	570	535	538	508	574	5.9
17	1 526	921	893	682	634	677	644	592	525	548	573	6.3
18	1 436	932	795	727	729	698	633	657	594	594	592	6.7
19	1 425	1 035	816	747	750	764	683	652	575	530	622	6.6
20	1 431	991	786	675	651	620	541	560	535	485	518	5.7
21	1 457	1 003	746	580	569	576	555	550	446	434	471	5.3
22	1 273	878	694	492	490	543	477	461	433	372	408	4.7
23	1 139	862	676	433	410	474	436	396	343	341	352	4.1
Secondary fire	26 135	24 218	13 895	10 055	9 766	9 082	9 433	8 293	8 630	6 598	10 156	
0	1 057	943	563	347	332	292	329	286	306	238	330	3.5
1	724	703	401	282	239	223	217	234	227	193	243	2.6
2	593	534	327	237	205	186	175	186	151	151	168	1.9
3	486	457	258	168	156	137	149	136	134	128	150	1.6
4	333	333	193	140	152	101	132	124	88	98	120	1.3
5	253	261	135	114	116	102	146	103	92	84	138	1.3
6	218	225	127	108	125	106	135	123	131	118	163	1.6
7	241	244	174	131	146	146	189	136	144	110	204	1.8
8	311	320	225	166	199	203	220	181	151	98	231	2.0
9	281	293	255	218	211	222	260	190	179	160	256	2.4
10	384	392	271	232	241	245	266	235	259	170	298	2.8
11	555	590	341	339	320	316	336	295	304	201	356	3.5
12	765	692	483	376	393	396	385	356	391	268	447	4.3
13	1 070	983	565	521	457	404	457	417	435	325	562	5.1
14	1 200	1 125	659	488	472	510	489	471	507	356	610	5.6
15	1 555	1 454	839	597	593	557	620	541	522	397	660	6.4
16	1 871	1 609	983	681	719	614	639	558	580	468	674	6.8
17	2 278	2 167	1 191	767	773	701	768	661	595	484	793	7.7
18	2 337	2 188	1 180	837	807	777	740	655	715	565	799	8.1
19	2 425	2 268	1 167	827	807	767	746	614	720	499	787	7.8
20	2 414	2 071	1 139	788	726	653	612	582	629	496	702	7.0
21	2 082	1 858	1 007	692	660	546	616	490	552	386	620	6.2
22	1 488	1 459	790	573	533	494	422	386	455	318	463	4.7
23	1 214	1 049	622	426	384	384	385	333	363	287	382	4.1

Note: Average distribution is for the five years to 2022

Table 2.11 Fires by month of the year, since 2000

	<i>number</i>											<i>percentage</i>
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average distribution
Primary fire	22 334	16 167	13 522	10 820	10 588	10 756	10 214	9 678	8 761	8 312	9 126	
Jan	1 791	1 352	1 161	930	834	890	825	760	774	620	692	8.0
Feb	1 722	1 267	972	802	771	745	756	724	653	572	628	7.2
Mar	1 917	1 435	1 165	925	868	872	800	817	794	709	751	8.4
Apr	1 809	1 361	1 161	977	860	1 047	806	793	725	785	770	8.4
May	1 889	1 521	1 200	956	955	918	906	911	840	677	743	8.8
Jun	1 928	1 400	1 215	955	820	949	902	805	737	751	796	8.7
Jul	1 942	1 271	1 347	976	991	965	1 139	897	769	698	1 048	9.9
Aug	1 889	1 225	1 082	873	982	864	818	809	725	655	894	8.5
Sep	1 746	1 269	1 019	832	862	812	820	831	769	666	638	8.1
Oct	1 933	1 389	1 098	868	913	905	864	781	664	698	799	8.3
Nov	1 918	1 328	1 026	884	859	877	854	784	662	776	654	8.1
Dec	1 850	1 349	1 076	842	873	912	724	766	649	705	713	7.7
Secondary fire	26 135	24 218	13 895	10 055	9 766	9 082	9 433	8 293	8 630	6 598	10 156	
Jan	1 543	1 409	532	474	454	410	443	569	437	322	460	5.2
Feb	1 574	1 315	490	452	606	411	462	436	438	414	470	5.1
Mar	2 388	1 740	928	747	654	744	458	594	561	576	617	6.5
Apr	1 820	1 816	1 334	1 099	747	1 272	589	872	921	984	969	10.1
May	1 940	2 317	1 343	987	1 005	945	833	953	1 289	534	850	10.3
Jun	2 895	2 990	1 741	1 394	604	1 076	1 217	819	988	666	1 055	11.0
Jul	2 914	3 599	2 931	1 491	1 107	1 000	2 077	1 037	966	567	2 089	15.6
Aug	3 305	2 491	1 428	948	1 440	683	919	856	1 042	535	1 801	12.0
Sep	2 036	1 787	982	661	949	614	786	892	815	566	567	8.4
Oct	2 002	1 679	851	726	935	804	719	461	339	462	509	5.8
Nov	2 256	1 768	874	575	733	687	548	416	514	630	399	5.8
Dec	1 462	1 307	461	501	532	436	382	388	320	342	370	4.2

Note: Average distribution is for the five years to 2022

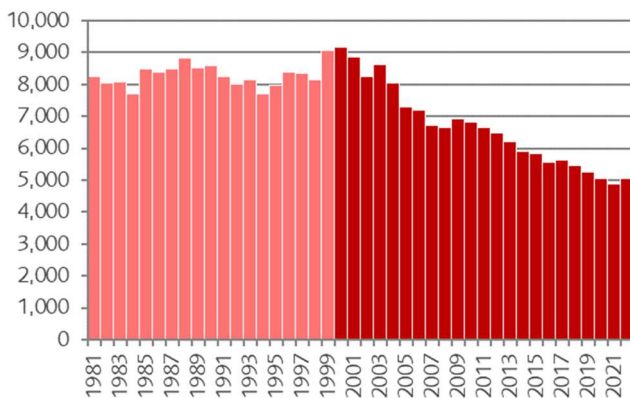
Chapter 3 | Fires in the home

This chapter looks at fires in dwellings – people’s homes. In 2022, fires in dwellings accounted for 55 per cent of primary fires attended.

Trend in dwelling fires

Using official estimates for the number of fires in dwellings between 1981 and 1999³, we can see that the number of fires in dwellings in London were consistently around the average over this period of 8,200. Over this period there was very little change in the population of London, rising by just 350,000 people. [Chart 19]

Chart 19: Fires in dwellings, 1981 to 2022

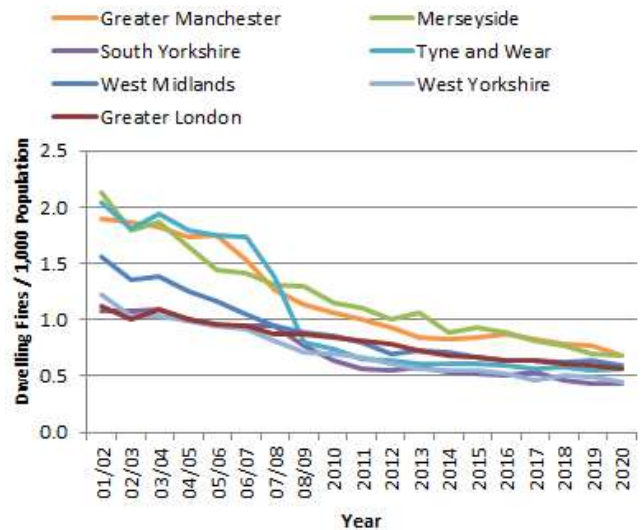


Since 2000, the population of London has been increasing, yet the number of dwelling fires has reduced. This reduction is attributed to the success of community safety initiatives and an increase in smoke alarm ownership.

Rate of dwelling fires

In April 2001 Greater London had one of the lowest rates of dwelling fires per 1,000 resident population, with nearly half as many dwelling fires per person than in some other metropolitan authorities. Since then the rates in all authorities have reduced, some more so than in Greater London, therefore, they now all seem to be converging to a similar rate [Chart 20].

Chart 20 : The rate of dwelling fires per 1,000 resident population by England’s Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities, from April 2001 to 2020



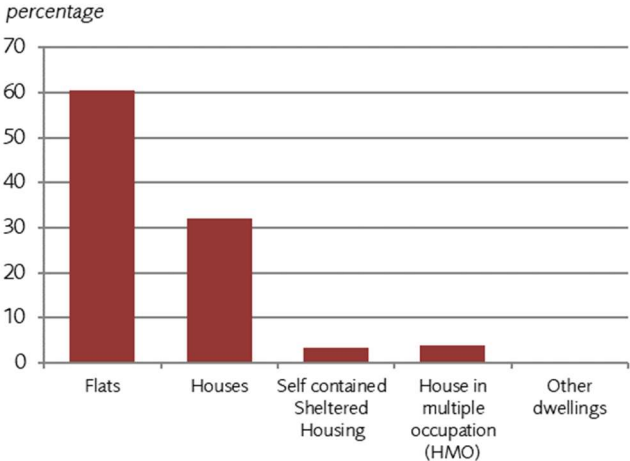
Where fires in the home happen

(Table 3.2 and 3.3)

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 compared to the proportion of the population living in flats [Chart 21]. Overall, fires in flats were down by four per cent in 2022 compared to the five previous years.

³ Official estimates based on Home Office Fire Statistics, reconciled to Brigade totals 1981-1999.

Chart 21: Fires by dwelling type, 2022



Between 2018 and 2022, most of the fires in homes have been accidental (88 per cent), with only a small proportion recorded as having a deliberate motive (seven per cent) in recent years.

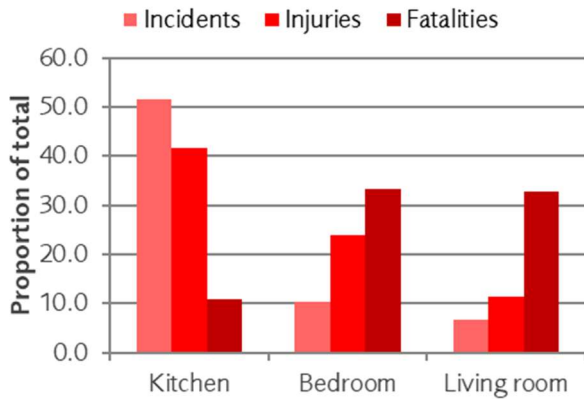
Room where the fires started

(Table 3.4)

Looking at the room where fires start, within the last five years, most fires take place in the kitchen (52 per cent). In 2022, there was a 13 per cent reduction in kitchen fires compared to the average over the five previous years. Although more than half of fires started in the kitchen, only 11 per cent have resulted in a fatality. Most fatal dwelling fires occur in the bedroom and the living room (both 33 per cent). However, in many of the incidents involving living rooms, the living room was also being used as a bedroom.

Around two-fifths of fires that result in injury start in the kitchen (41 per cent); 24 per cent start in the bedroom and 11 per cent in the living room. [Chart 22]

Chart 22: Where fires in the home start, showing proportion of incidents, injuries and fatalities, five years to 2022



How fires in the home start

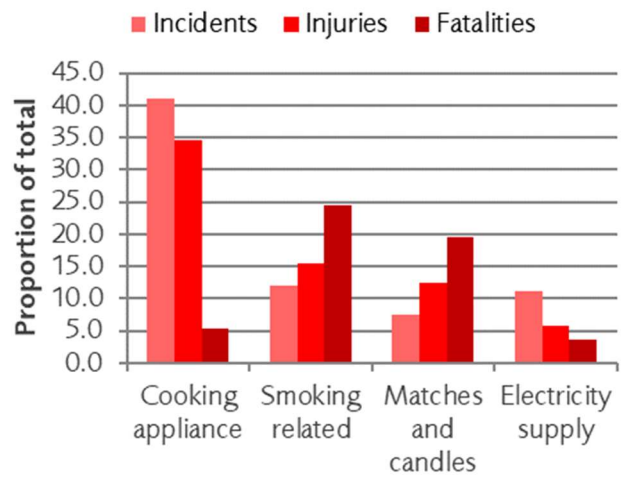
(Table 3.5)

Given that over half of fires start in the kitchen, it is not surprising that a large proportion of fires in the kitchen are caused by cooking (41 per cent). However, these fires cause only a small proportion of dwelling fire fatalities (at five per cent).

Despite smoking materials causing just 11 per cent of dwelling fires, they caused 24 per cent of dwelling fire fatalities.

Fires started by matches and candles are also disproportionately fatal; a relatively small proportion of fires start in this way (at eight per cent), yet, on average, they cause more fatalities in dwelling fires (20 per cent). This is often because candles are left alight when people fall asleep. [Chart 23]

Chart 23: How fires in the home start, showing proportion of incidents, injuries and fatalities, five years to 2022



Another common cause of fires in the home are those caused by electrical supplies and wiring (11 per cent). In recent years, fires starting this way have contributed to four per cent of overall dwelling fire fatalities.

Firefighting actions

(Table 3.6)

Fires in the home are not always serious and may not even involve the fire and rescue service. Of those to which the Brigade were called over the last five years, on about a third of occasions the Brigade did not need to undertake any firefighting when it arrived, and on a further third of occasions, the Brigade undertook minimal firefighting; for example, taking actions such as taking items away from the heat source or stamping the fire out.

This means that the fire-engine's hose reels or main jets are used at only a third of fires in the home.

Where there are fatalities in dwelling fires, we use fire engine hose reels or main jets most of the time. We know from an analysis of our attendance times in our document Fire Facts, Incident Response Times⁴, that there is often a delay in calling the fire brigade. On over a third of occasions, the delay between the ignition of the fire and calling 999 is more than 10 minutes.

Working smoke alarms

The English Housing Survey – fire and fire safety 2016/17⁵ reported that in England 90 per cent of households had at least one working smoke alarm in their home. This is an increase of six percentage points from 2008/09 (84 per cent).

In London, however, over the last five years to 2022, when there has been a fire in a home, which we have been called to attend, a smoke alarm was working and active in just over half of these fires (53 per cent).

Fires in dwellings		
Year	No alarm or not working	Alarm Operated
2018	2,656	2,805
2019	2,421	2,840
2020	2,416	2,622
2021	2,263	2,631
2022	2,375	2,670
	12,131	13,568
	47%	53%

⁴ LFB Fire Facts – Incident response times

⁵ Published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2016-to-2017-fire-and-fire-safety>

Table 3.1 The rate of dwelling fires per 1,000 resident population by metropolitan fire and rescue authority

rate

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Greater London	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Greater Manchester	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Merseyside	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
South Yorkshire	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Tyne and Wear	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
West Midlands	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
West Yorkshire	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

Population estimates are provided by calendar year. Before April 2009 the financial quarter was not specified with the national fire data, therefore the population size for those years is based on the first part of the financial year.

Note: The latest data for Fire and Rescue Service Areas were unavailable at the time of publishing.

Table 3.2 Dwelling fires, by property category and type, since 2010

number

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in dwellings	6 821	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 044
Flats	3 957	3 362	3 275	3 382	3 240	3 202	2 973	3 032	3 054
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - Up to 3 storeys	1 407	1 126	1 178	1 159	1 092	1 101	937	992	985
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	1 280	1 143	1 124	1 176	1 069	1 106	1 057	1 061	1 107
Converted Flat/Maisonette - Up to 2 storeys	450	418	370	370	377	353	303	321	328
Converted Flat/Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	374	415	369	410	389	389	379	369	361
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	446	260	234	267	313	253	297	289	273
Houses	2 341	1 977	1 911	1 840	1 843	1 727	1 713	1 526	1 613
House - single occupancy	2 286	1 926	1 866	1 809	1 805	1 695	1 679	1 491	1 586
Bungalow - single occupancy	55	51	45	31	38	32	34	35	27
Self contained Sheltered Housing	275	293	213	233	221	193	187	142	168
House in multiple occupation (HMO)	235	177	134	149	138	119	146	177	191
House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys (not known if licensed)	49	35	28	24	22	24	19	21	18
Unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys	56	36	26	31	19	20	19	21	19
Licensed House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys	30	30	23	32	33	24	46	56	54
House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys (not known if licensed)	33	24	19	17	20	11	4	17	24
Licensed House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys	44	33	24	31	33	29	44	49	63
Unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys	23	19	14	14	11	11	14	13	13
Other dwellings	13	31	25	21	19	20	19	17	18
Other Dwelling	4	20	20	15	14	10	15	11	11
Caravan/Mobile home (permanent dwelling)	9	6	3	5	5	7	3	4	5
Houseboat (permanent dwelling)	-	5	2	1	-	3	1	2	2

Table 3.3 Dwelling fires, by motive, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in dwellings	9 178	7 311	6 821	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 045
Accidental	7 037	5 973	5 978	5 360	5108	5147	4972	4760	4486	4373	4420
Deliberate	1 651	1 163	712	429	390	404	391	363	399	311	372
Deliberate - others property	–	–	375	200	165	179	162	139	153	124	136
Deliberate - own property	–	–	155	106	101	114	132	132	159	134	150
Deliberate - unknown owner	–	–	182	123	124	111	97	92	87	53	86
Not Known	490	175	131	51	60	74	98	138	153	210	253

The further breakdown of deliberate motive has only been available since 2010

Table 3.4 Dwelling fires and casualties, by location of fire start, since 2010

<i>number</i>	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in dwellings	6 816	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 045
Kitchen	3 566	3 234	3 034	3 072	2 849	2 928	2 578	2 492	2 425
Bedroom	690	549	545	544	569	462	470	588	573
Living room	467	355	347	339	346	348	330	328	386
Corridor/Hall	319	251	246	243	236	250	232	253	250
Other	234	219	221	247	221	185	230	189	245
Bathroom/Toilet	187	155	144	150	149	144	134	133	147
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	167	128	105	106	120	106	86	100	88
Refuse store/Bin room	208	122	125	99	116	109	143	138	105
External structures	228	108	88	104	119	104	130	91	129
Utility room	83	76	104	93	106	81	86	70	73
Roof	81	68	68	58	65	53	65	49	63
Stairs	87	51	46	61	31	35	43	34	30
Airing/Drying cupboard	76	70	59	59	47	49	53	35	49
External fittings	77	53	40	52	65	40	59	48	46
Roof space	75	59	51	53	55	40	32	52	53
Bedsitting room	65	57	45	33	38	32	41	38	53
Private balcony	–	95	92	118	126	105	130	109	148
Garage	48	27	33	36	27	46	42	25	31
Conservatory	17	18	21	16	14	19	24	11	21
Open plan area	24	24	27	25	31	21	19	13	16
Dining room	36	35	24	27	33	15	30	24	22
Lift/Lift shaft/Motor room	21	18	20	22	26	13	6	22	14
Not known	32	11	4	7	15	14	13	18	27
Communal balcony/Elevated walkway	–	42	37	35	35	36	40	16	33
Chimney	25	9	28	18	13	20	18	13	11
Green or living roof	–	4	3	6	3	4	3	1	5
Sauna	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Indoor swimming pool	1	–	–	1	3	1	–	3	1
No. of fire fatalities	50	23	38	100	38	30	27	44	26
Living room	16	8	13	9	10	11	13	10	10
Bedroom	14	5	13	12	14	7	6	17	11
Kitchen	6	1	6	74	6	3	4	3	2
Bedsitting room	8	3	1	–	1	2	1	2	–
Other	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	–	2
Corridor/Hall	2	1	2	–	3	4	–	3	–
Bathroom/Toilet	3	4	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Not known	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	9	1
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Garage	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Roof space	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Conservatory	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
Airing/Drying cupboard	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Stairs	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
No. of fire injuries	1 078	827	731	807	720	664	580	596	563
Kitchen	458	360	332	356	286	306	268	229	215
Bedroom	211	165	141	197	167	124	129	170	154
Living room	104	82	85	89	82	68	67	76	63
Corridor/Hall	78	57	43	29	25	19	22	34	34
Other	24	35	32	40	27	26	26	13	21
Bathroom/Toilet	23	23	16	14	13	17	6	17	10
Bedsitting room	19	33	10	12	15	11	4	11	16
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	26	3	1	7	11	4	6	6	6
<i>Other locations (less than 2.0%)</i>	135	69	71	63	94	89	52	40	44

Table 3.5 Primary dwelling fires and casualties, by source of ignition, since 2010

<i>number</i>	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in dwellings	6 816	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 045
Cooking appliance	2 809	2 688	2 453	2 516	2 303	2 353	2 053	1 948	1 903
Smoking related	644	632	589	610	641	589	631	533	711
Electricity supply	721	636	625	621	599	585	541	586	577
Other domestic style appliance	514	474	468	488	490	458	431	453	422
Unknown	405	317	345	352	377	376	424	471	500
Matches and candles	486	406	397	389	379	336	407	393	406
Heating equipment	292	179	193	206	219	170	171	175	147
Naked flame	601	252	235	207	192	167	167	147	152
Electric lighting	193	174	155	149	166	134	110	98	88
Fuel/Chemical	99	44	58	50	43	55	65	43	44
Industrial equipment	44	31	31	30	42	29	30	24	37
Vehicles only	2	–	1	1	3	4	3	11	54
Office equipment	4	5	5	5	6	4	3	10	3
Bombs and explosives	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	1
No. of fire fatalities	50	23	38	100	38	30	29	45	26
Smoking related	17	11	19	12	9	9	7	11	5
Unknown	7	2	3	5	5	7	8	14	5
Matches and candles	9	6	6	3	9	3	3	11	7
Naked flame	4	2	4	2	6	4	2	3	2
Heating equipment	5	1	1	3	3	4	2	3	1
Cooking appliance	4	–	3	1	2	2	3	1	1
Electricity supply	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5
Other domestic style appliance	2	–	1	74	1	1	2	–	–
Electric lighting	–	1	1	–	3	–	–	1	–
Fuel/Chemical	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
No. of fire injuries	1 078	827	731	807	720	664	580	596	563
Cooking appliance	351	306	249	241	239	257	229	189	165
Smoking related	145	87	98	107	129	86	85	88	93
Matches and candles	125	98	81	107	80	65	77	84	81
Unknown	38	71	70	71	55	90	74	74	60
Other domestic style appliance	108	65	60	133	63	36	29	38	33
Electricity supply	56	42	43	15	37	28	29	47	38
Naked flame	144	74	67	56	42	40	22	30	25
Heating equipment	64	45	39	56	32	30	13	27	17
Electric lighting	22	13	15	14	21	8	10	8	6
Fuel/Chemical	11	20	9	4	4	19	9	5	8
Vehicles only	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	4	32
Industrial equipment	9	4	–	2	16	4	–	1	5
Office equipment	2	2	–	–	1	–	–	1	–
Bombs and explosives	3	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–

Table 3.6 Dwelling fires, by firefighting actions, since 2010

number

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in dwellings	6 816	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 035
None	1 844	1 805	1 746	1 812	1 791	1 740	1 796	1 745	1 741
Small means	2 121	1 977	1 787	1 890	1 668	1 711	1 335	1 290	1 303
Portable extinguishers	399	222	236	217	212	205	231	207	204
Non-portable / fixed sources	7	4	3	6	1	2	6	2	4
Main jets or hose reel	2 376	1 790	1 736	1 668	1 747	1 556	1 613	1 610	1 743
Other means	69	42	50	32	42	47	57	40	40
No. of fire fatalities	50	23	38	100	38	30	29	45	26
None	6	–	6	3	6	3	7	4	1
Small means	3	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	–
Portable extinguishers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Non-portable / fixed sources	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Main jets or hose reel	41	23	32	96	32	27	20	41	25
Other means	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
No. of fire injuries	1 078	827	731	807	720	664	580	596	562
None	185	215	183	176	160	175	175	143	120
Small means	179	109	84	100	83	84	66	77	47
Portable extinguishers	38	23	16	15	22	19	10	7	12
Non-portable / fixed sources	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
Main jets or hose reel	674	479	448	515	453	382	324	367	383
Other means	2	1	–	1	2	4	3	2	–

Table 3.7 Dwelling fires, by London borough, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dwelling fires	9 178	7 311	6 821	5 840	5 558	5 625	5 461	5 261	5 038	4 894	5 045
Inner London	4 844	3 759	3 449	2 828	2 657	2 705	2 570	2 504	2 404	2 370	2 381
Camden	364	251	232	202	187	194	192	157	160	162	159
City of London	11	4	10	10	3	5	3	4	8	4	6
Hackney	458	376	282	259	239	224	250	218	231	197	221
Hammersmith and Fulham	260	217	185	136	157	132	144	141	123	110	115
Haringey	334	291	242	212	216	176	199	191	177	173	186
Islington	350	249	209	173	158	200	183	155	158	147	167
Kensington and Chelsea	231	190	159	126	124	151	135	134	126	129	125
Lambeth	531	404	345	281	261	245	231	210	203	219	220
Lewisham	344	294	304	259	236	230	193	230	231	232	196
Newham	431	293	262	201	198	234	205	184	188	195	217
Southwark	476	344	356	286	263	289	245	230	246	240	221
Tower Hamlets	354	298	347	236	204	220	222	200	213	212	252
Wandsworth	304	253	248	238	212	214	183	242	164	150	144
Westminster	396	295	268	209	199	191	185	208	176	200	152
Outer London	4 332	3 552	3 372	3 012	2 901	2 920	2 891	2 757	2 634	2 524	2 664
Barking and Dagenham	209	212	162	139	160	130	135	112	111	95	123
Barnet	291	251	263	230	210	234	236	214	185	195	217
Bexley	153	131	129	131	118	116	114	97	99	93	113
Brent	394	284	243	238	222	237	213	192	195	185	166
Bromley	200	165	178	143	176	156	137	155	134	161	145
Croydon	354	259	266	264	267	268	257	268	244	230	231
Ealing	340	282	250	202	196	221	173	182	176	183	176
Enfield	240	231	214	193	181	200	187	177	170	169	172
Greenwich	349	249	248	187	185	199	214	186	199	180	175
Harrow	172	159	124	113	102	128	107	90	96	86	102
Havering	145	106	108	118	122	94	116	128	105	105	112
Hillingdon	191	153	145	151	161	151	153	138	128	119	165
Hounslow	217	200	156	168	138	168	148	146	149	140	160
Kingston upon Thames	123	92	106	80	96	62	92	79	88	54	67
Merton	185	122	147	126	111	91	118	126	116	94	87
Redbridge	192	174	197	154	132	151	151	135	119	107	142
Richmond upon Thames	135	106	98	100	97	87	75	74	71	73	84
Sutton	168	145	154	106	102	85	103	96	92	96	86
Waltham Forest	274	231	184	169	125	142	162	162	157	159	141

Table 3.8 Dwelling fire related fatalities, by London borough, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dwelling fire fatalities	51	53	50	23	38	100	38	30	29	45	26
Inner London	21	23	22	12	20	85	16	14	14	17	9
Camden	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	–	2	–	1
City of London	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hackney	5	4	2	1	1	1	–	2	1	–	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	–	2	2	1	–	3	2	–	2	1
Haringey	–	2	2	–	2	2	2	1	–	4	–
Islington	1	2	3	–	3	–	2	1	–	3	1
Kensington and Chelsea	2	–	–	–	1	72	3	1	2	–	1
Lambeth	1	4	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	1
Lewisham	–	3	3	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	2
Newham	3	1	1	3	1	1	–	1	2	1	1
Southwark	1	1	2	1	3	–	–	1	2	1	–
Tower Hamlets	3	–	1	1	–	1	–	1	1	1	–
Wandsworth	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	–	–
Westminster	–	2	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	4	–
Outer London	30	30	28	11	18	15	22	16	15	28	17
Barking and Dagenham	–	1	1	–	1	2	1	1	–	1	1
Barnet	2	1	2	–	–	1	1	2	1	2	1
Bexley	3	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	4	–
Brent	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	2	4	1	1
Bromley	5	–	4	–	2	1	1	2	1	–	–
Croydon	1	2	3	2	1	–	–	1	–	1	4
Ealing	1	2	4	3	2	1	–	2	1	1	–
Enfield	2	1	1	–	1	2	2	–	1	1	–
Greenwich	2	–	2	–	2	1	2	–	2	3	2
Harrow	3	1	2	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
Havering	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	–	1	1	1
Hillingdon	–	10	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–
Hounslow	–	2	1	2	1	–	1	2	1	–	1
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	1
Merton	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	1	1	1	1
Redbridge	3	–	2	1	1	–	2	–	–	1	1
Richmond upon Thames	1	1	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	–
Sutton	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	–	1	9	–
Waltham Forest	3	5	2	–	1	1	1	2	–	2	3

Table 3.9 Dwelling fire injuries, by London borough, since 2005

<i>number</i>										
	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dwelling fire injuries	1 120	1 081	827	731	807	720	664	580	596	563
Inner London	516	557	382	323	417	310	284	265	286	266
Camden	26	26	20	15	16	10	15	22	14	15
City of London	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Hackney	50	54	30	29	26	33	28	16	18	24
Hammersmith and Fulham	36	24	12	22	17	11	26	10	15	16
Haringey	44	40	33	13	34	30	11	15	18	20
Islington	27	35	14	24	22	46	33	17	23	18
Kensington and Chelsea	28	38	41	23	104	15	8	18	20	20
Lambeth	46	39	39	34	25	23	9	20	31	20
Lewisham	58	72	35	35	31	35	51	23	20	19
Newham	60	57	22	36	43	25	17	26	24	26
Southwark	25	38	47	40	28	26	19	21	33	19
Tower Hamlets	51	49	32	13	24	15	17	29	27	30
Wandsworth	25	48	36	27	27	23	26	23	28	18
Westminster	39	36	20	12	20	18	24	24	14	21
Outer London	604	524	445	408	390	410	380	315	310	297
Barking and Dagenham	35	35	18	26	24	34	11	11	11	13
Barnet	33	32	27	26	28	24	24	18	11	23
Bexley	25	19	18	23	20	21	15	12	17	17
Brent	43	44	48	33	25	30	16	25	24	30
Bromley	25	19	19	16	15	27	34	26	23	12
Croydon	49	48	46	28	31	30	51	25	39	30
Ealing	67	31	30	32	25	32	40	28	34	20
Enfield	41	34	46	39	47	21	19	15	11	24
Greenwich	27	26	29	19	25	20	24	28	29	21
Harrow	32	37	7	20	13	13	13	8	8	3
Havering	13	16	15	13	21	27	17	21	11	9
Hillingdon	32	19	22	33	18	21	16	21	18	17
Hounslow	31	37	28	15	24	12	21	20	17	28
Kingston upon Thames	15	12	9	8	4	11	4	6	5	9
Merton	14	20	22	18	13	11	12	11	10	11
Redbridge	30	47	23	26	12	24	18	13	14	13
Richmond upon Thames	23	11	10	5	9	11	11	6	7	5
Sutton	23	17	10	10	15	21	9	9	10	4
Waltham Forest	46	20	18	18	21	20	25	12	11	8

Chapter 4 | Fires in other buildings

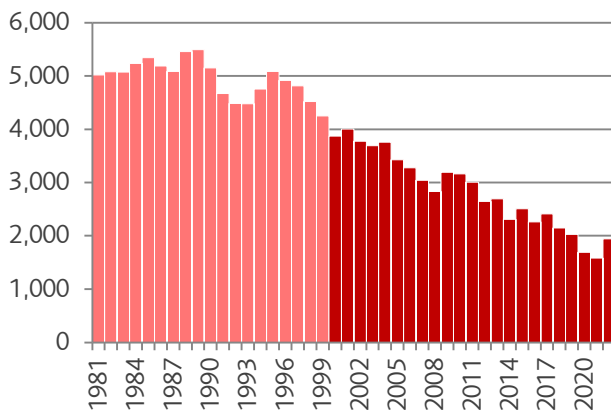
This chapter looks at fires in other buildings – buildings which are not dwellings and which are either:

- 'other residential' – places such as care homes and student halls; or
- 'non-residential' – primarily commercial and public buildings, but also includes private outbuildings (like sheds).

Trend in other building fires

Based on official estimates⁶, the number of fires in other buildings were at their highest in 1989 when there were 5,495 fires that year. Since 2000, fires in other buildings have reduced by around 50 per cent [Chart 24]

Chart 24: Fires in other buildings, 1981 to 2022



Other residential building fires

(Table 4.1)

Nearly half of the fires in other residential buildings occurred in accommodation providing care for elderly people. There are very few fire deaths in other residential buildings, averaging at one each year.

Additionally, roughly half of all injuries (in other residential buildings) took place in properties that were used to provide care for the elderly.

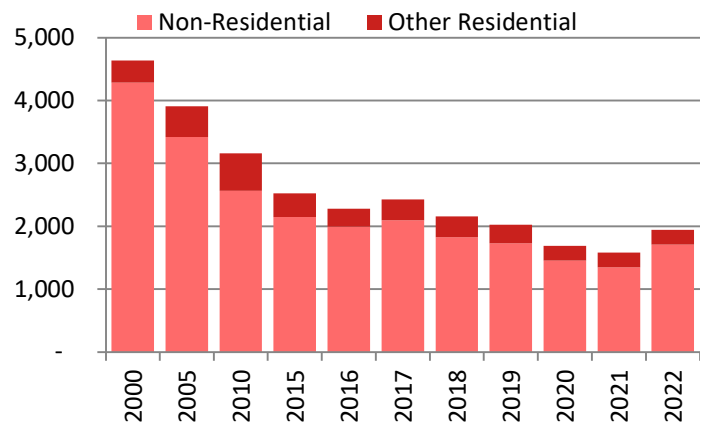
(Table 4.3)

Just under forty percent of the fires in other residential buildings were caused by cooking; smaller proportions were started by smoking (21 per cent), and by electrical supplies and wiring (9 per cent).

Non-residential building fires

A very high proportion of the primary fires in other buildings in recent years occurred in non-residential buildings. There have been 1,475 more fires in non-residential properties than in other residential buildings in 2022. [Chart 25]

Chart 25: Fires in other buildings, proportion of residential and non-residential buildings, since 2000



(Table 4.2)

Nearly a quarter of non-residential property fires in recent years started in out-buildings, such as private garages and sheds.

However, just under a fifth of the fire injuries happened in places providing food or drink (at 16 per

⁶ Official estimates based on Home Office fire statistics, reconciled to Brigade totals 1981-1999.

cent). Additionally, Public admin, security and safety buildings accounted for 25 per cent and private sheds/garages at 32 per cent of injuries.

In 2020 to 2021, many of these non-residential property types will have faced restricted access to the public due to the Coronavirus pandemic. With the exception of private garages/sheds, there was a 24 per cent reduction in the number of fires in all other non-residential buildings compared to 2019.

Table 4.1 Fires in other residential buildings, since 2010

<i>number</i>									
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in other residential buildings	591	378	287	329	327	294	233	230	234
Retirement/Old Persons Home	96	88	84	82	90	76	56	50	37
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	96	69	41	54	59	32	35	44	46
Nursing/Care Home/Hospice	99	67	39	60	45	59	43	36	28
Hotel/motel	79	56	53	53	53	46	39	51	52
Student Hall of Residence	85	39	32	31	49	43	22	22	36
Other Residential Home	31	23	14	19	8	13	14	10	9
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	19	15	5	2	3	2	3	1	1
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	9	8	9	7	12	9	7	5	12
Sheltered Housing : not self contained	50	–	–	–	–	–			
Youth hostel	9	6	3	6	3	2	4	1	5
Military/barracks	1	–	–	3	1	–	–	1	3
Boarding House/B&B other	4	1	3	1	3	5	2	3	2
Boarding School accommodation	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	2
Towing caravan/Camper van on site	3	–	1	5	1	2	1	–	1
Children's Home	9	4	2	6	–	2	5	5	–
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	–	1	–	–	–	2	2	–	–
Monastery/convent	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
No. of fire related fatalities	3	2	1	–	2	–	–	–	1
Nursing/Care Home/Hospice	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Retirement/Old Persons Home	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hotel/motel	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Other Residential Home	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
No. of fire injuries	34	30	25	31	24	21	12	21	17
Retirement/Old Persons Home	6	9	12	10	6	8	2	6	4
Nursing/Care Home/Hospice	8	4	1	11	3	9	2	1	3
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	6	7	1	6	3	–	1	7	4
Hotel/motel	3	1	7	2	4	1	1	4	1
Sheltered Housing : not self contained	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Student Hall of Residence	3	–	3	1	3	1	4	2	1
Other Residential Home	2	5	–	–	–	1	2	–	2
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Youth hostel	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
Children's Home	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Boarding House/B&B other	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Towing caravan/Camper van on site	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–

Table 4.2 Fires in non-residential buildings, since 2010

<i>number</i>									
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in non-residential buildings	2 566	2 144	1 993	2 096	1 827	1 730	1 456	1 350	1 709
Non Residential (including Private garages/ sheds)	544	468	427	438	422	375	431	341	385
Retail	485	375	343	401	341	293	256	249	270
Food and Drink	376	357	346	372	321	310	224	227	288
Offices and call centres	212	173	172	176	158	138	97	94	105
Hospitals and medical care	192	123	109	96	97	81	68	52	83
Public admin, security and safety	109	134	127	109	68	107	79	72	159
Education	146	113	92	123	103	101	57	60	80
Industrial Manufacturing	53	53	52	48	45	41	31	36	31
Transport buildings	82	63	81	102	49	63	44	48	77
Entertainment and culture	107	69	73	62	57	42	35	32	54
Warehouses and bulk storage	63	51	35	28	39	40	39	21	39
Sporting venues	49	42	47	38	31	30	20	19	35
Industrial Processing	30	38	25	28	34	35	22	21	26
Public Utilities	48	27	25	37	20	30	19	30	23
Religious	30	29	13	20	26	26	10	18	28
Car Parks	28	22	22	14	15	14	15	26	20
Permanent Agricultural	9	4	2	1	1	2	4	4	3
Animal boarding/breeding/kennels (not farm)	3	3	2	3	–	2	5	–	3
No. of fire related fatalities	5	2	4	–	2	2	–	–	–
Private garage	4	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private Garden Shed	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sports pavilion/shower block/changing facility	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Community centre/Hall	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TV/film/music/art studio	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other private non-residential building	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vehicle Repair Workshop	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Local Government Office	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Other building/use not known	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mosque	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Club/night club	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hospitals and medical care	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Warehouses and bulk storage	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–

Table 4.2 (continued) Fires in non-residential buildings, since 2010

No. of fire injuries	86	81	94	111	73	55	61	65	67
Food and Drink	22	23	31	38	24	9	19	11	11
Non Residential	15	7	13	17	15	7	17	21	12
Retail	14	9	11	25	13	6	7	11	2
Public admin, security and safety	13	14	12	10	8	10	4	9	17
Hospitals and medical care	3	6	13	4	6	3	5	1	7
Offices and call centres	6	8	8	5	1	3	1	1	4
Industrial Manufacturing	1	3	2	2	2	1	4	4	3
Industrial Processing	-	1	1	5	1	-	-	3	-
Entertainment and culture	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	6
Sporting venues	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Education	2	1	2	2	1	10	2	-	2
Warehouses and bulk storage	3	5	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
Religious	-	1	1	1	-	4	-	1	-
Transport buildings	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Public Utilities	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Car Parks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Permanent Agricultural	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Table 4.3 Fires in other buildings, by source of ignition, since 2010

number

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in other buildings	3 157	2522	2280	2425	2154	2 009	1 680	1 564	1 930
Fires in other residential buildings	591	378	287	329	327	279	224	214	221
Cooking appliance	300	186	149	142	151	137	105	85	84
Smoking related	72	61	43	42	51	53	42	47	48
Electricity supply	40	31	25	36	30	25	24	16	20
Other domestic style appliance	31	9	14	23	23	16	9	20	17
Electric lighting	19	15	6	11	8	16	4	4	10
Matches and candles	22	27	15	28	12	16	18	10	16
Other sources	27	14	14	16	18	–	–	–	–
Naked flame	41	17	11	16	15	6	11	15	10
Heating equipment	20	8	7	8	12	6	7	11	11
Industrial equipment	11	4	3	4	6	2	3	3	1
Fuel/Chemical	7	5	–	2	–	1	1	2	2
Office equipment	–	1	–	1	1	1	–	1	–
Vehicles only	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Fires in non-residential buildings	2 566	2 144	1 993	2 096	1 827	1 730	1 456	1 350	1 709
Electricity supply	514	404	428	424	350	348	256	270	338
Smoking related	305	373	302	345	276	274	220	183	303
Other sources	293	295	262	303	329	291	303	271	346
Cooking appliance	296	243	247	269	229	202	170	174	194
Naked flame	350	177	171	145	110	108	96	80	88
Electric lighting	191	161	126	136	123	113	78	65	77
Industrial equipment	146	119	113	120	119	84	62	61	80
Matches and candles	158	152	139	113	95	108	89	68	83
Other domestic style appliance	99	85	76	87	77	79	60	56	75
Heating equipment	99	65	70	99	74	75	63	60	50
Fuel/Chemical	83	45	41	36	27	30	36	34	42
Office equipment	18	17	10	9	11	15	15	14	21
Vehicles only	12	7	7	8	6	3	8	13	12
Bombs and explosives	2	1	1	2	1	–	–	1	–

Table 4.4 Fires in other residential buildings, by borough, since 2005

number

	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in other residential buildings	491	591	378	287	329	327	294	233	230	234
Inner London	305	328	196	148	177	189	149	123	114	130
Camden	66	41	32	15	17	29	23	19	12	13
City of London	–	2	6	2	3	2	2	1	1	3
Hackney	14	11	15	6	16	11	6	8	10	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	21	7	9	10	3	2	6	9	6
Haringey	5	19	5	2	4	7	8	7	6	3
Islington	24	27	13	7	10	16	11	9	13	15
Kensington and Chelsea	11	17	13	8	11	9	6	1	3	11
Lambeth	33	24	25	16	15	18	12	10	10	9
Lewisham	11	16	11	11	14	18	11	11	8	5
Newham	11	17	6	7	9	12	10	8	6	8
Southwark	15	41	22	18	20	18	13	14	11	15
Tower Hamlets	25	19	6	11	15	9	19	6	4	6
Wandsworth	9	16	12	10	8	13	8	6	9	11
Westminster	65	57	23	26	25	24	18	17	12	20
Outer London	186	263	182	139	152	138	145	110	116	104
Barking and Dagenham	6	4	4	1	3	2	4	2	3	2
Barnet	23	18	11	6	7	7	9	6	16	6
Bexley	7	9	6	5	5	4	7	4	3	4
Brent	13	12	13	12	13	13	14	6	8	5
Bromley	8	15	9	5	6	7	5	7	2	2
Croydon	20	27	23	16	13	8	17	13	8	7
Ealing	16	23	16	14	14	8	6	7	6	8
Enfield	6	20	11	8	7	8	5	7	6	4
Greenwich	8	15	14	7	7	9	9	9	9	15
Harrow	8	10	2	6	6	6	7	4	2	2
Havering	6	12	7	5	8	7	9	2	5	8
Hillingdon	17	15	11	18	15	7	12	9	7	10
Hounslow	6	18	8	8	19	9	13	10	5	5
Kingston upon Thames	16	17	9	7	4	11	4	7	6	3
Merton	7	7	2	2	1	5	2	0	2	5
Redbridge	4	6	15	8	8	9	7	6	11	6
Richmond upon Thames	5	17	7	4	5	8	6	2	9	1
Sutton	2	14	5	4	6	6	4	3	4	5
Waltham Forest	8	4	9	3	5	4	5	6	4	6

Table 4.5 Fires in non-residential buildings, by borough, since 2005

<i>number</i>	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires in non-residential buildings	2 936	2 566	2144	1993	2096	1827	1730	1456	1350	1709
Inner London	1 482	1 260	961	1013	850	850	804	632	640	806
Camden	143	132	75	103	82	82	82	43	47	77
City of London	47	46	45	44	44	44	42	24	25	39
Hackney	86	68	62	62	51	51	37	48	36	45
Hammersmith and Fulham	78	62	71	59	45	45	54	53	30	65
Haringey	86	69	43	44	47	47	58	35	51	34
Islington	100	66	60	57	61	61	49	40	50	46
Kensington and Chelsea	56	56	52	46	35	35	39	27	22	32
Lambeth	118	88	67	54	54	54	42	25	38	54
Lewisham	70	68	41	37	49	49	33	47	38	47
Newham	111	81	63	79	68	68	64	63	51	59
Southwark	107	96	66	64	58	58	47	34	45	50
Tower Hamlets	123	92	73	72	53	53	53	49	45	52
Wandsworth	97	90	74	107	51	51	68	48	58	87
Westminster	260	246	169	185	152	152	136	96	104	119
Outer London	1 454	1 306	1032	1083	977	977	926	824	710	903
Barking and Dagenham	104	55	43	47	47	47	33	34	30	31
Barnet	71	61	58	68	65	65	59	48	42	53
Bexley	60	64	43	60	50	50	41	41	16	43
Brent	85	66	56	67	73	73	66	48	33	56
Bromley	79	67	66	43	47	47	51	46	31	58
Croydon	104	109	67	65	63	63	60	60	51	51
Ealing	111	107	66	72	68	68	60	62	43	76
Enfield	83	84	73	81	58	58	41	40	62	64
Greenwich	96	60	63	64	57	57	57	51	57	64
Harrow	38	50	29	36	37	37	33	30	34	21
Havering	69	70	60	46	52	52	34	36	45	32
Hillingdon	119	110	130	124	77	77	89	64	55	96
Hounslow	108	106	68	62	58	58	83	56	42	74
Kingston upon Thames	57	48	35	40	30	30	35	29	15	27
Merton	42	47	35	35	33	33	30	37	29	21
Redbridge	69	81	39	61	54	54	43	51	37	43
Richmond upon Thames	34	33	29	31	31	31	31	20	27	27
Sutton	49	37	28	40	33	33	37	30	28	29
Waltham Forest	76	51	44	41	44	44	43	41	33	37

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