



Fire Facts

Fatal fires in Greater London

2022

About this publication

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Greater London Authority (GLA) Group statistics

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<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/code-practice-statistics-voluntary-application>

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 time – [here](#)

Fires in Greater 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>

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Introduction

This *Fire Facts* report sets out the key information on the fires we attend where there are fatal casualties. We have a continuous record of the number of all fires and fire deaths since 1966 after the creation of the Greater London area. More detailed records on the numbers of fire deaths 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 Police 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. The LFC is the head of the London Fire Brigade and is the fire and rescue service for the Greater London area.

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 since 1966.

Recording fire incidents and casualties

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. Casualty information was recorded in Part 5.

The Fire Damage Report (FDR1) was introduced in January 1978 as a new recording method. The FDR1

was revised in 1994. The FDR1 form included details of fire casualties, including fatal casualties.

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). Again, the IRS records full details of fire casualties.

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, like the details of casualties. 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. More comprehensive and consistent recording of fire deaths happened from this date, so 2009 is the first full calendar year for which we have consistently recorded data.

Categories of fire

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 service 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. As a result of a late call, a casualty can be discovered. In such cases, the fire will be recorded as a primary fire.

Secondary fires are less serious fires and less information is recorded about these fires. If there is a casualty at a fire that would otherwise be determined to be a secondary fire (e.g. as a result of an outdoor fires including grassland and rubbish fires, or in a derelict building), the fire will be recorded as a Primary Fire in accordance with the recording protocol outlined above.

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

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

Deaths in fires and fire as the cause of death (role of the Coroner)

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.

A person who dies as a result of a fire is a relatively rare event. Often, it is simple to determine that fire (and the effects of fire, like smoke) was the cause of death; our specialist fire investigators will make an initial judgement for statistical recording purposes.

However, it will be for a Coroner to determine the cause of death.

Following an inquest, and associated autopsy (or post-mortem examination), it is sometimes determined that a heart attack, stroke or another pre-existing medical condition, was the cause of death and the fire occurred subsequently.

The data for fire deaths included in this report will reflect the view of the Coroner that fire was the cause of death, except for some fire deaths in the most recent year, where a Coroner's inquest is outstanding. For 2017, the Coroner's inquest into the Grenfell Tower fire deaths has opened and has been adjourned until the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry has concluded.

Fire investigation work

Where there are 'persons reported' or fatal or non-fatal casualties at a fire, then the Brigade's Fire Investigation Team will attend the incident scene. As necessary, they will work with the Police and other agencies to investigate the fire. The Brigade's experienced fire investigators will determine the cause of a fire and, where there is a fatality, how they think a person has died. The data from these investigations is captured as part of the LFB's incident recording process and will be the Brigade's definitive view of the fire.

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.



Seasons

In this report, months are grouped into seasons in the following way:

- Winter – Dec, Jan, Feb
- Spring – Mar, Apr, May
- Summer – Jun, Jul, Aug
- Autumn – Sep, Oct, Nov

Times of the day

In this report, the hours of the day are grouped into periods in the following way:

- Night – 12am to 6am
- Morning – 6am to 12pm
- Afternoon – 12pm to 6pm
- Evening – 6pm to 12am

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 fire deaths at fires attended by the London Fire Brigade in Greater London since 1966. The only year since 1966 when data for fire deaths isn't available is 1977 when, due to the fire service national strike that year, data was only available up until October.

Fire deaths in Greater London

(Table 1.1)

In 1966 the total number of fire deaths was 164. During the following 20 years, the number of fire deaths each year fluctuated around 150 and peaked in 1980 at 196 that year and at 193 in 1987.

For 26 years between 1966 and 1992, the total number of fire deaths fluctuated between 125 and just under 200 deaths a year. From 1993 to 2021, the number of deaths has fluctuated between 29 (in 2014) and 102 in 2017 (including the 72 fatalities relating to the Grenfell Tower fire).

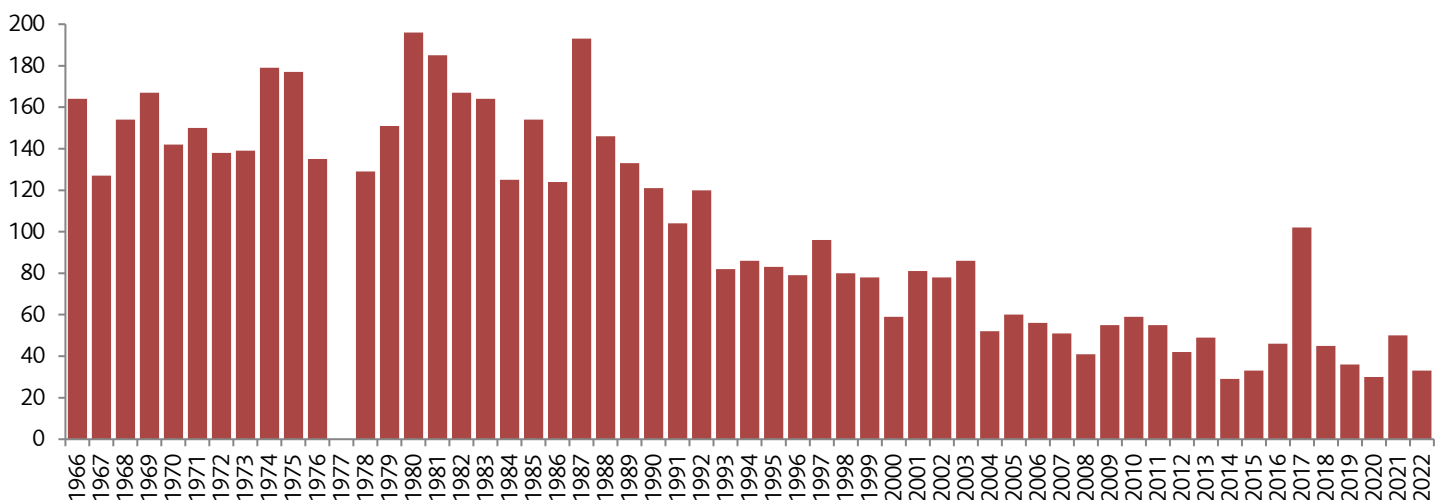
The years with the highest numbers of fire deaths have been:

- 1981 – 196 fire deaths
- 1987 – 193 fire deaths
- 1974 – 179 fire deaths
- 1975 – 177 fire deaths
- 1969 – 167 fire deaths
- 1982 – 167 fire deaths

The overall changes in the numbers of fire deaths each year have been influenced when there has been a significant change in law or policy.

One of the main causes for the high number of fire deaths in the late 1980's (nationally) was furniture containing polyurethane (PU) foam which was considered responsible for one in every 13 house fires and 35 per cent of all deaths from fire. Government responded to this trend by introducing the *Furniture and furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations*, which first came into effect in 1988.

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

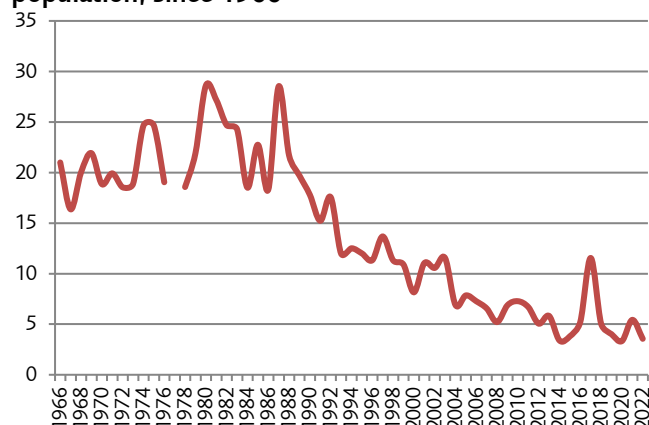


Fire deaths by head of population

(Table 1.1)

The number of fire deaths in London have been falling steadily since the early 1990s. Numbers increased in 2017 because of the multiple deaths from the Grenfell Tower fire.

Chart 2: Fire related fatalities per million resident population, since 1966



Legislative changes impacting on the number of fire deaths

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.

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

By 2016/17, an estimated 95 per cent of homes in England had a smoke alarm fitted².

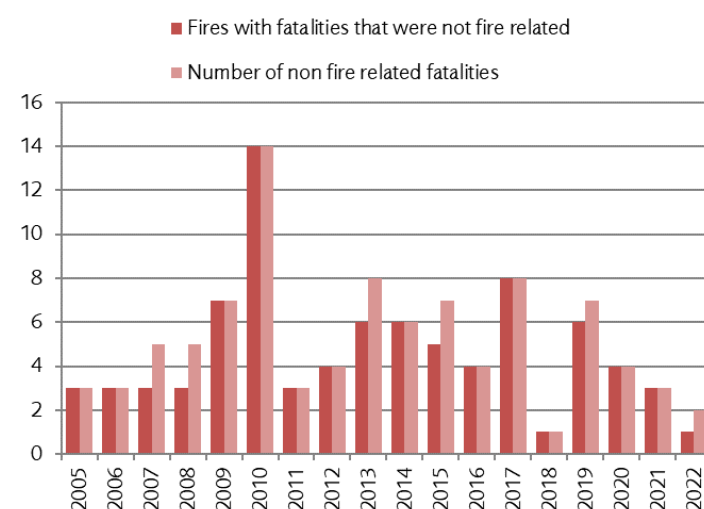
Fires with fatalities which are not fire-related

A few of the fatalities at fires are not caused by the fire. Sometimes, people die (from events such as heart attacks or strokes) and the fire starts as a result of their death; for example a person who had started cooking at the time of their heart attack may go on to have a cooking fire because it is unattended.

As outlined earlier, the Coroner will determine whether fire, or the effects of the fire (like smoke) was the cause of death.

Typically, since 2005, there have been about five fires each year at which a fatality was discovered, where later it was determined (by the Coroner) that fire was not the cause of death.

Chart 3: Fires attended by LFB with fatalities that were not fire related



¹ Community Fire Safety Strategy; LFEPA report FEP9, 14 September 2000
 NOTE: ONS Mid Year Estimates population statistics for 2022 were currently unavailable at time of publishing. Data will be updated when available. This data may include updates for the 2022 census.

² English Housing Survey 2016/2017 (fire and fire safety)

Multiple fire fatalities

(Table 1.2)

Fire deaths are rare and relatively randomly occurring events. But sometimes circumstances can lead to multiple fatalities at a single fire.

Multiple fatality fires are very rare - LFB records show that there have been 27 fires between 1966 and 2022 (56 years) where four or more people died.

Table 1.2 details the 27 fires where four or more people died. Data for these fires from 2000 onwards is taken from LFB electronic records; data before this may be less reliable and relies on published sources. In 2021, there were two fires with four or more fatalities, in which eight people (in total) died.

Any additional information that can be provided to ensure completeness should be emailed to data@london-fire.gov.uk.

Fires with fire related fatalities

(Tables 1.3 and 1.4)

It is useful for analysis purposes to make a distinction between the number of fires in which one or more people died (a 'fire with fire related fatalities'), and the numbers of actual fatalities arising from fires.

Some of the tables in this Fire Facts report are based on the analysis of 'fatal fires' and some are based on the numbers of fatal casualties. In all cases, the charts and tables will make this clear.

Over the five years to 2022, 95 per cent of fires with fatalities had a single casualty under three per cent had two casualties, with less than two per cent having three or more casualties and less than two per cent of fires with four or more fatalities.

Chart 4: Fires and the proportion of multiple fatality fires, five year average to 2022

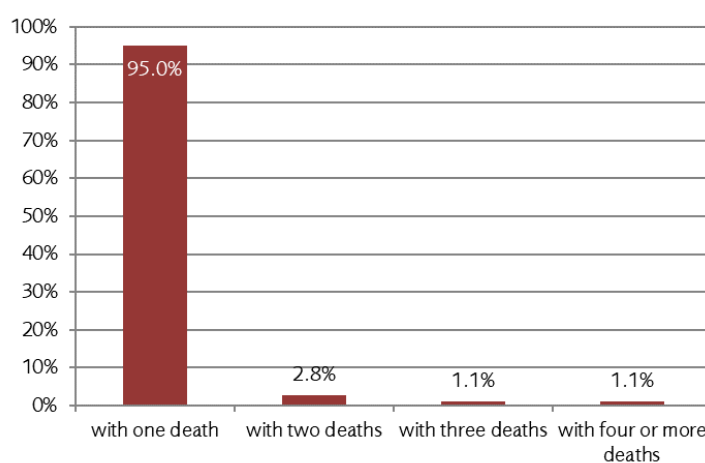


Table 1.1 Time series; number of primary fires and fatalities in Greater London, since 1966

		<i>number</i>		<i>rate</i>	
		Primary fires	Fatalities	Population estimates	Fatality rate per million pop
1966		14 825	164	7 810 000	21.0
1967		15 059	127	7 761 000	16.4
1968		13 550	154	7 693 000	20.0
1969		14 076	167	7 619 000	21.9
1970		15 306	142	7 530 000	18.9
1971		14 975	150	7 529 400	19.9
1972		15 963	138	7 442 800	18.5
1973		16 132	139	7 362 400	18.9
1974		15 397	179	7 263 600	24.6
1975		11 679	177	7 179 000	24.7
1976		14 387	135	7 089 100	19.0
1977	(a)	..		7 012 000	
1978	(b)	..	129	6 946 800	18.6
1979		20 370	151	6 887 600	21.9
1980		19 571	196	6 850 600	28.6
1981		19 790	185	6 805 600	27.2
1982		20 551	167	6 765 100	24.7
1983		20 869	164	6 753 000	24.3
1984		21 133	125	6 754 700	18.5
1985		22 202	154	6 767 000	22.8
1986		22 119	124	6 774 200	18.3
1987		21 963	193	6 765 600	28.5
1988		22 550	146	6 729 300	21.7
1989		22 199	133	6 751 600	19.7
1990		21 635	121	6 798 800	17.8
1991		21 050	104	6 829 300	15.2
1992		20 684	120	6 829 400	17.6
1993		20 025	82	6 844 500	12.0
1994		19 080	86	6 873 500	12.5
1995		19 892	83	6 913 100	12.0
1996		20 414	79	6 974 400	11.3
1997		20 148	96	7 014 800	13.7
1998		19 677	80	7 065 500	11.3
1999		20 411	78	7 153 900	10.9

Table 1.1 Time series; number of primary fires and fatalities in Greater London, since 1966 (continued)

	<i>number</i>		<i>number</i>	<i>rate</i>
	Primary fires	Fatalities	Population estimates	Fatality rate per million pop
2000	22 334	59	7 236 700	8.2
2001	22 655	81	7 336 909	11.0
2002	20 271	78	7 381 870	10.6
2003	20 081	86	7 448 221	11.5
2004	17 788	52	7 542 613	6.9
2005	16 167	60	7 642 969	7.9
2006	15 373	56	7 701 603	7.3
2007	14 115	51	7 773 547	6.6
2008	13 372	41	7 869 882	5.2
2009	14 178	55	7 991 239	6.9
2010	13 522	59	8 107 073	7.3
2011	12 911	55	8 217 475	6.7
2012	11 678	42	8 308 369	5.1
2013	11 289	49	8 416 535	5.8
2014	10 676	29	8 556 566	3.4
2015	10 820	33	8 673 713	3.8
2016	10 588	46	8 787 892	5.2
2017	10 756	102	8 825 001	11.6
2018	10 214	45	8 908 081	5.1
2019	9 676	36	8 961 989	4.0
2020	8 761	30	9 002 488	3.3
2021	8 312	50	9 203 293	5.4
2022	9 104	33	9 276 362	3.6

Source: Population figures ONS mid-year estimates

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

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

Table 1.2 Fires where four or more people died, since 1965

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Fatalities</i>
1969	17 July	Dudgeons Wharf, Manchester Road, London E14	5
1971	11 May	New Langham Hotel, Bayswater	9
1974	10 November	Brays Transport Hotel, Liverpool Road, Islington	8
1974	13 December	Worsley Hotel, 3-19 Clifton Gardens, Maida Vale, London W9	7
1978	5 January	Brathway Road, Wandsworth	5
1980	15 August	The Spanish Club and Rodo's, 18 Denmark Place, Soho, W1	37
1981	(December)	25-29 Clanricarde Gardens, Notting Hill	8
1981	18 January	439 New Cross Road, Deptford	13
1982	12 April	Stockwell, south west London	4
1984	23 April	Frensham Drive, New Addington, Croydon	4
1985	10 January	Newnham House, Manor Fields Estate, Putney	8
1985	13 July	Oakwood Gardens, Ilford, Essex	4
1987	18 November	Kings Cross underground station	31
1994	26 April	Dream City, 7 St John Street, Clerkenwell, London	10
1995	30 January	Hartley House, Southwark, south east London	5
1995	19 November	116 Uxbridge Road, London W12	4
1997	23 February	82 Aldermans Hill, London N13 4PP	5
1997	6 June	Moore House, Lukin Street, London E4 9N	4
1999	6 March	Bellamy Road, Chingford, E4	7
2001	3 November	10 Deptford Wharf, Lewisham, London SE8 3PA	4
2002	17 July	South Crescent, Newham, London, E16 4TL	5
2005	17 December	16 Willenhall Drive, Hillingdon, London, UB3 2UT	5
2009	3 July	Lakanal House, Sceaux Gardens, London, SE5 7DP	6
2011	24 September	12 Sonia Gardens, Neasden, London, NW10 1AH	6
2017	14 June	Grenfell Tower, Lancaster West Estate, W11 1TG	71
2021	18 November	2, Hamilton Road, DA7 4PX	4
2021	16 December	118, Collingwood Road, SM1 2RB	4

Note 1: Data from 2000 onwards taken from LFB electronic records; data prior to 2000 is taken from published sources and may be incomplete. Any additional information that can be provided to ensure completeness should be emailed to data@london-fire.gov.uk.

Table 1.3 Fatal fires and the number of fire deaths, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires with one or more deaths	53	54	46	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
with one death	48	51	41	32	46	26	N	34	30	36	31
with two deaths	4	4	4	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	1
with three deaths	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
with four or more deaths	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-

Table 1.4 Fatal fires and the number of fire deaths, by property type, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fires with one or more deaths	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
Dwelling fires with one or more deaths	46	47	49	23	38	27	36	29	29	37	25
with one death	42	44	48	23	38	24	34	28	29	34	24
with two deaths	3	2	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	1
with three deaths	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
with four or more deaths	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Non residential fires with one or more deaths	2	4	5	2	4	-	2	2	-	1	-
with one death	2	4	5	2	4	-	2	2	-	1	-
with two deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
with three deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other residential fires with one or more deaths	1	1	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
with one death	1	-	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
Outdoor fires with one or more deaths	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	4
with one death	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	4
with two deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transport deaths with one or more deaths	3	1	-	4	-	1	1	1	-	1	2
with one death	2	1	-	4	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
with two deaths	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
with three deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
with four or more deaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Chapter 2 | When and where fire deaths happen

This chapter looks at the property types where fire deaths 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.

Fire motive

(Table 2.1 and 2.2)

Firefighters record the suspected motive (reason) for the start of a fire. Fires are categorised as: accidental, deliberate or unknown, according to the probable cause, as observed at the scene. For fires where there is a fatal or non-fatal casualty, a specialist fire investigator would attend and then confirm the fire motive.

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. Deliberate fires, where someone dies, may also include suicides.

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 deliberate bonfire.

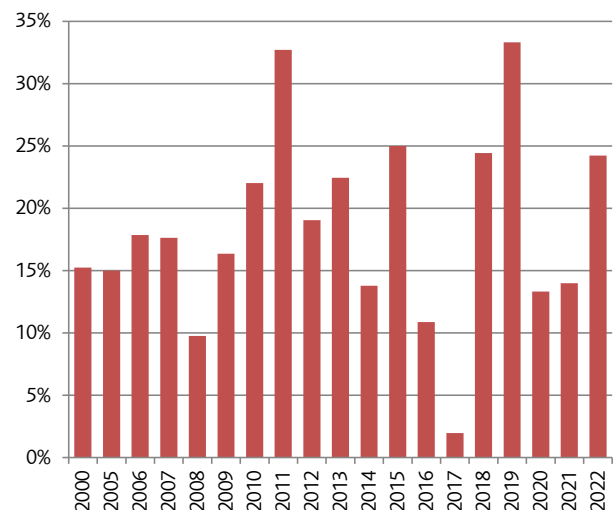
Arson is the criminal act associated with deliberate fire setting. However, fires with a deliberate motive will not always be arson; for example, a person may choose to set fire to their own property in a controlled way and this would not be arson. Arson is related to criminal intent and a Police definition and not a fire service categorisation.

Sometimes, it is not possible to determine a motive, particularly where a fatality is involved. In such cases, the motive may be recorded as 'not known'. As a general rule, fires and fire deaths where the motive is 'not known' are usually counted with accidental fires. So, accidental dwelling fires will include a small

number of fires where the motive cannot be determined with any reliability.

For fires where there were fire related fatalities, around three quarters (75 per cent) of these fires (based on the average over the ten years to 2022) were of accidental motive. Only 16 per cent were of deliberate motive. The numbers vary each year. In 2011 and 2019, for example, fires with a fire related fatality of deliberate motive peaked at a third (33 per cent) of all fatal fires.

Chart 5: Fires with a fire related fatality which were of deliberate motive, since 2000



Fire deaths in the London boroughs

(Tables 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6)

The trend in the number of fire deaths in individual boroughs may vary from the London-wide downward trend. Fire deaths are relatively indiscriminate events; there is no discernible pattern by borough.

Inner and outer London

(Tables 2.3 and 2.4)

Looking at the number of fires with fire related fatalities, there are slightly more in outer London than in inner London. Over the five years to 2022, 58 per cent of fires were in outer London with 42 per cent in inner London.

The position over the same period for fire fatalities, is that 41 per cent were in inner London and 59 per cent in outer London.

(Table 2.5 and 2.6)

There is a relatively indiscriminate pattern of fire deaths across individual London boroughs. The boroughs with the largest and fewest numbers of fires with fire related fatalities are set out in the tables below.

Table A: London boroughs with the most fatal fires, five years to 2022

Borough	Fires with fire related fatalities
Brent	10
Sutton	9
Waltham Forest	9
Barnet	8
Hammersmith and Fulham	8

Table B: London boroughs with the fewest fatal fires, five years to 2022

Borough	Fires with fire related fatalities
City of London	0
Hillingdon	1
Bexley	3
Bromley	3
Harrow	3
Kingston upon Thames	3
Richmond upon Thames	3
Tower Hamlets	3

Table C: London boroughs with most fire related fatalities, five years to 2022

Borough	Fire related fatalities
Sutton	12
Brent	10
Greenwich	9
Barnet	8
Hammersmith and Fulham	8

Table D: London boroughs with the fewest fire related fatalities, five years to 2022

Borough	Fire related fatalities
City of London	0
Hillingdon	1
Harrow	3
Richmond upon Thames	3
Tower Hamlets	3

Property types

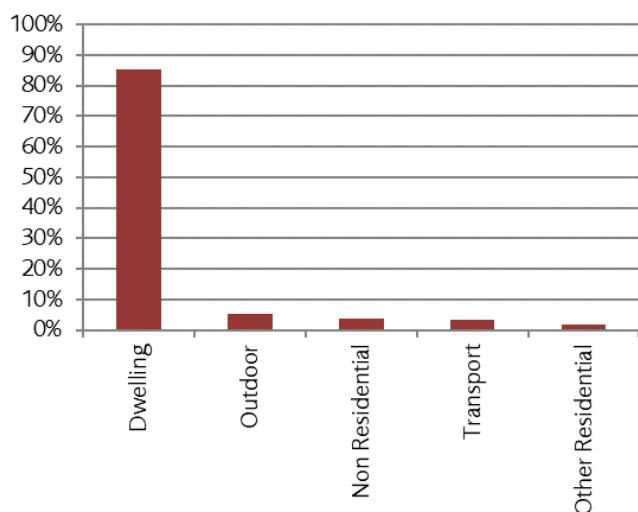
(Table 2.7)

Primary fires where people die are categorised as those in buildings (dwellings, other residential or non-residential), outdoor or transport:

- **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.
- **Outdoor** includes grass, open land and woodland.
- **Transport** includes motor vehicles, boats, trains and aircraft.

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.

Most people who die in a fire die in their home. The number of dwelling fire deaths outnumbers fire deaths in other locations by a significant margin. This drives our focus on community safety work to help keep people safe in their homes.

Chart 6: Fire deaths by property type, five year average to 2022

Accidental dwelling fires with fire related fatalities

(Table 2.8)

Accidental dwelling fires are categorised into four property types:

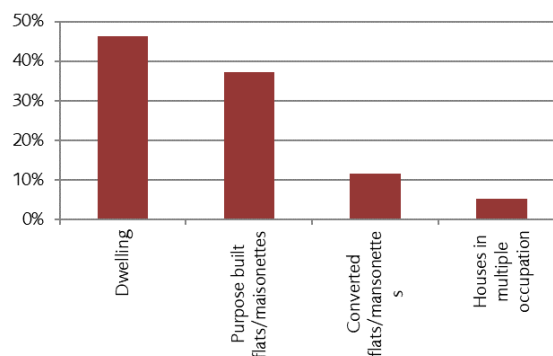
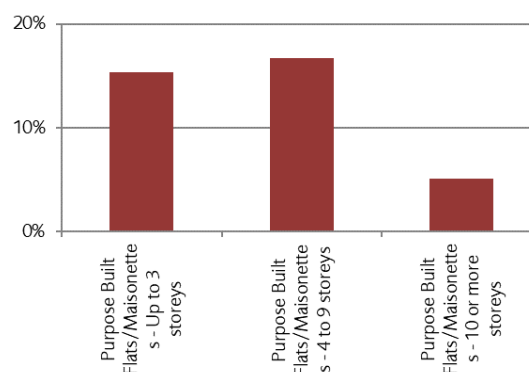
- **Dwellings** which includes single occupancy house or bungalow, self contained sheltered housing, caravan/mobile home.
- **Purpose built flats or maisonettes**, which are designated by how tall the building is (up to three storeys, between 4 and 9 storeys, and 10 or more storeys).
- **Converted flats and maisonettes**, of either up to 2 storeys or 3 storeys or more.
- **Houses in multiple occupation**, by how many storeys and whether licensed or unlicensed.

Dwellings and Purpose built flats/maisonettes accounted for 44 and 38 per cent respectively of accidental dwelling fires with fire related casualties.

Around half of the population of London live in flats³.

Over the five past years purpose built flats/maisonettes that had up to three storeys, accounted for 15 per cent of purpose built flats/maisonette fires with fire related casualties, between 4 and 9 storeys

slightly more (17 per cent) and 10 or more storeys accounted for less than five per cent.

Chart 7: Proportion of accidental dwelling fires with fire related casualties, by dwelling type, five years to 2022**Chart 8a: Proportion of accidental dwelling fires with fire related casualties in purpose built flats/maisonettes, by number of storeys, five years to 2022**

When fire deaths happen

Season/Month of the year

(Table 2.9)

Primary fires vary little throughout the year, with slightly more in the Spring and Winter months compared to Autumn and Summer. Fires with fire related casualties have a slightly different pattern (looking over the last five years) with slightly more in Winter (36 per cent) and Autumn (26 per cent),

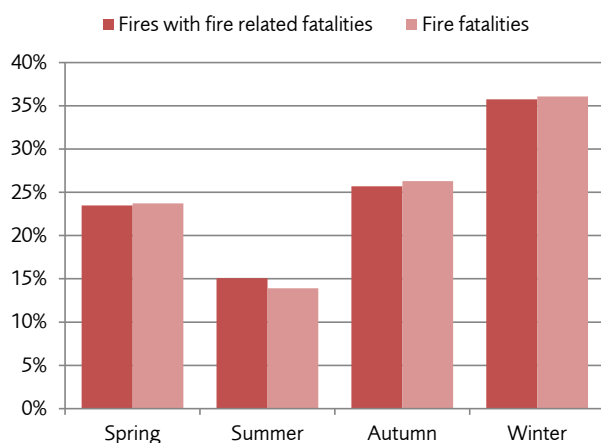
³ HOUSING IN LONDON 2015

compared to Spring (23 per cent) and Summer (15 per cent).

(Table 2.10)

Over the five years to 2022, there were slightly more fatalities in the Winter months.

Chart 9: Proportion of fires with fire related fatalities and fatalities (%) by season, five years to 2022



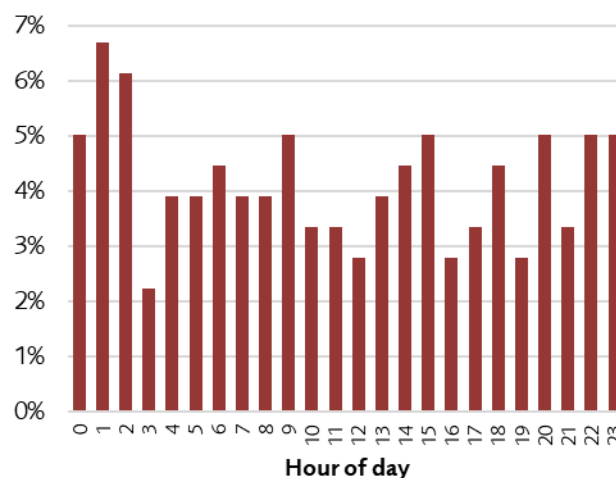
Hour of the day

(Table 2.11 and 2.12)

We do not consistently capture the actual time of death from a fire. We can say when we were notified about a fire and the times in this section are based on 'time of call' to the fire. Someone injured in a fire may not die at the time, and a death may be some days or weeks after the fire.

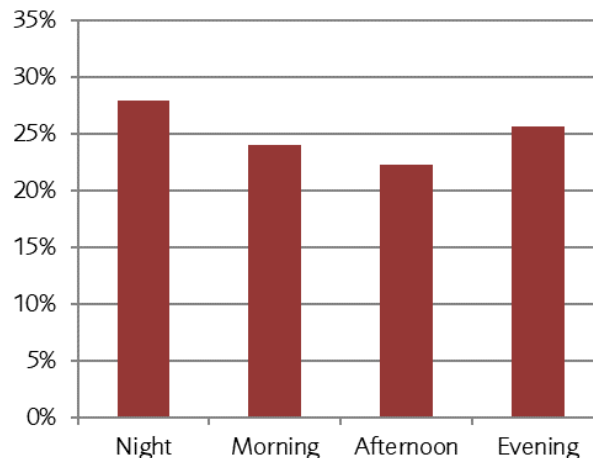
The pattern by hour of day fluctuates throughout the day.

Chart 10: Proportion of fires with fire related fatalities (%) by hour of the day, five years to 2022



Looking over the last five years, there are more fires with fire related casualties in the night (28 per cent) and at evening (26 per cent) compared to the morning or afternoon 24 and 22 per cent respectively.

Chart 11: Proportion of fires with fire related fatalities (%) by time of the day, five years to 2022



Where fires with fatalities start

We record the point within the location where a fire starts. This may not be where a casualty dies (for example a fire might start in the kitchen, but the resulting fire causes a fatality in a bedroom).

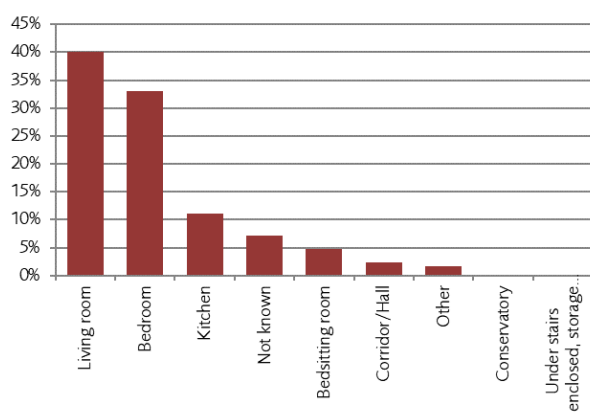
Room in dwelling where fatal fires started

(Table 2.13)

Our report *Fires in Greater London*, shows that most of the dwelling fires in recent years happen in the kitchen.

Whilst most fires start in a kitchen, these fires are less likely to be fatal. Most dwelling fires with fatalities happen in a living room, followed by the bedroom. However, in some of these incidents, the living room was also being used as a bedroom. Over the last five years to 2022, bedrooms and living rooms resulted in 33 and 40 percent respectively for all fatal fires in dwellings.

Chart 12: Fires with fire related deaths in dwelling fires by location of fire start, five year average to 2022



Other locations where fatal fires started

(Table 2.14)

Although there are very few fires resulting in fire related fatalities outside the home, there is a relatively wide spread across different locations with only, perhaps, garages as a place where fires involving fire fatalities occur repeatedly.

Source of ignition

(Tables 2.15 and 2.16)

Smoking related source of ignition at fires where there is a fire related casualty accounts for 25 per cent of all

fatal fires, with a further 18 per cent involving matches and candles. The proportions for dwelling fires are similar at 28 per cent, and 19 per cent respectively. The next highest identified source of ignition was naked flame (12 per cent of all fatal fires and 10 per cent of fatal dwelling fires). Heating and cooking equipment accounted for less than ten per cent each as the source of ignition for fires where there are fire related fatalities (including in dwelling fires).

Chart 13: Top seven source of ignition for fires with fire related fatalities, five years to 2022

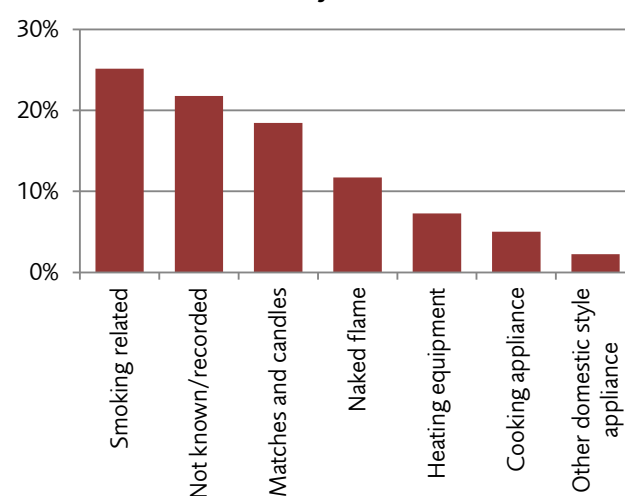


Chart 14: Top seven source of ignition for fires in dwellings with fire related fatalities, five years to 2022

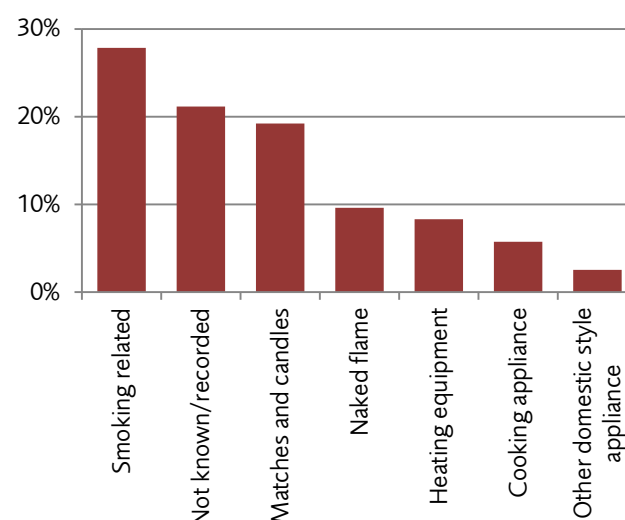


Table 2.1 Fire deaths, by motive, since 2000

number and percentage

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Accidental	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
Dwelling	42	43	40	18	34	96	27	21	19	32	20
Non Residential	-	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Residential	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
Transport	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	3	1
Deliberate	9	9	13	8	5	2	11	12	4	7	9
Dwelling	6	8	9	4	3	2	8	7	3	7	4
Non Residential	2	1	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other Residential	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Outdoor	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	3
Transport	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Not Known	5	2	1	1	4	3	5	3	7	6	3
Dwelling	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	7	6	2
Non Residential	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other Residential	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Transport	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Accidental	76%	82%	76%	72%	80%	95%	64%	58%	63%	74%	64%
Dwelling	71%	72%	68%	56%	74%	94%	60%	58%	63%	64%	61%
Non Residential	0%	5%	3%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Other Residential	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Outdoor	0%	2%	2%	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Transport	3%	2%	0%	3%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	6%	3%
Deliberate	15%	15%	22%	25%	11%	2%	24%	33%	13%	14%	27%
Dwelling	10%	13%	15%	13%	7%	2%	18%	19%	10%	14%	12%
Non Residential	3%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Other Residential	0%	0%	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Outdoor	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	8%	3%	0%	9%
Transport	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	3%
Not Known	8%	3%	2%	3%	9%	3%	11%	8%	23%	12%	9%
Dwelling	5%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	7%	6%	23%	12%	6%
Non Residential	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Other Residential	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Outdoor	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Transport	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 2.2 Fires with fire related deaths, by motive, since 2000

number and percentage

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Accidental	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
Dwelling	41	43	44	24	37	24	26	21	19	32	20
Non Residential	39	37	39	19	34	23	25	21	19	29	19
Other Residential	-	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Outdoor	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
Deliberate	8	9	13	8	6	2	11	11	4	5	9
Dwelling	5	8	9	4	3	2	8	6	3	5	4
Non Residential	2	1	3	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other Residential	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Outdoor	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	3
Transport	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Not Known	4	2	1	-	3	3	5	3	7	3	3
Dwelling	2	2	1	-	1	2	3	2	7	3	2
Non Residential	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Other Residential	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Transport	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Accidental	77%	80%	76%	75%	80%	83%	62%	60%	63%	80%	63%
Dwelling	74%	69%	67%	59%	74%	79%	60%	60%	63%	73%	59%
Non Residential	0%	6%	3%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Other Residential	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Outdoor	0%	2%	2%	3%	4%	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Transport	2%	2%	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	3%
Deliberate	15%	17%	22%	25%	13%	7%	26%	31%	13%	13%	28%
Dwelling	9%	15%	16%	13%	7%	7%	19%	17%	10%	13%	13%
Non Residential	4%	2%	5%	0%	2%	0%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Other Residential	0%	0%	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Outdoor	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	9%	3%	0%	9%
Transport	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	3%
Not Known	8%	4%	2%	0%	7%	10%	12%	9%	23%	8%	9%
Dwelling	4%	4%	2%	0%	2%	7%	7%	6%	23%	8%	6%
Non Residential	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Other Residential	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Outdoor	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Transport	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Table 2.3 Fires with a fire related fatality, inner and outer London, since 2000

<i>number and percentage</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
Inner London	22	27	26	16	23	16	16	15	14	19	12
Outer London	31	27	32	16	23	13	26	20	16	21	20
Inner London	42%	50%	45%	50%	50%	55%	38%	43%	47%	48%	38%
Outer London	58%	50%	55%	50%	50%	45%	62%	57%	53%	53%	63%

Table 2.4 Fire fatalities, inner and outer London, since 2000

<i>number and percentage</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
Inner London	23	27	26	16	23	86	17	15	14	21	12
Outer London	36	33	33	16	23	16	28	21	16	29	21
Inner London	39%	45%	44%	50%	50%	84%	38%	42%	47%	42%	36%
Outer London	61%	55%	56%	50%	50%	16%	62%	58%	53%	58%	64%

Table 2.5 Fires with a fire related fatality, by London borough, since 2000
number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
Barking and Dagenham	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	1
Barnet	3	1	3	-	-	1	2	2	1	2	1
Bexley	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Brent	-	1	2	1	3	-	1	3	4	1	1
Bromley	3	-	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	-	-
Camden	3	2	4	1	2	3	2	1	2	-	1
City of London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croydon	1	2	3	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
Ealing	2	2	5	4	3	1	-	3	1	1	1
Enfield	2	2	1	-	1	2	3	-	1	1	1
Greenwich	2	-	3	1	3	1	2	-	2	1	2
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	1	1	-	4	-
Harrow	5	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Havering	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	1	1
Hillingdon	-	6	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hounslow	-	2	1	3	1	-	1	2	1	-	1
Islington	1	3	3	-	3	-	2	1	-	3	1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	-	-	-	2	2	3	1	2	-	1
Kingston upon Thames	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	2
Lambeth	1	5	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2
Lewisham	-	3	3	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	2
Merton	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	2
Newham	2	1	2	4	1	1	-	1	2	1	2
Redbridge	3	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	2	1
Richmond upon Thames	1	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Southwark	1	1	3	2	3	-	-	1	2	1	-
Sutton	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	-	1	6	-
Tower Hamlets	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
Waltham Forest	2	4	2	-	2	1	2	2	-	2	3
Wandsworth	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	-	-
Westminster	-	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	5	-

Table 2.6 All fire deaths, by London borough, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
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	-	-
Camden	3	2	4	1	2	3	2	1	2	-	1
City of London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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
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	-
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
Islington	1	3	3	-	3	-	2	1	-	3	1
Kensington and Chelsea	3	-	-	-	2	72	3	1	2	-	1
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
Lambeth	1	5	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2
Lewisham	-	3	3	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	2
Merton	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	2
Newham	3	1	2	4	1	1	-	1	2	1	2
Redbridge	3	1	2	1	1	-	2	1	-	2	1
Richmond upon Thames	1	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
Southwark	1	1	3	2	3	-	-	1	2	1	-
Sutton	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	-	1	9	-
Tower Hamlets	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
Waltham Forest	3	5	2	-	2	1	2	2	-	2	3
Wandsworth	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	-	-
Westminster	-	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	7	-

Table 2.7 Fires with fire related deaths, by property category, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
Dwelling	46	47	49	23	38	27	36	29	29	37	25
Non Residential	2	4	5	2	4	-	2	2	-	1	-
Other Residential	1	1	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
Outdoor	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	4
Transport	3	1	-	4	-	1	1	1	-	1	2

Table 2.8 Accidental dwelling fires with fire related deaths, by dwelling type, since 2000

<i>number</i>												
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
	40	36	40	19	35	25	28	23	26	32	21	
Dwelling	24	16	17	9	14	11	9	5	16	16	12	
Bungalow - single occupancy	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	
Caravan/Mobile home (permanent dwelling)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
House - single occupancy	-	-	13	4	14	6	7	4	13	13	11	
Other dwelling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Self contained Sheltered Housing	-	2	3	4	-	3	1	-	2	-	1	
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes	16	17	18	3	15	12	13	12	9	10	6	
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	-	-	3	1	1	1	-	3	2	-	1	
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	-	-	6	2	6	6	5	1	6	6	4	
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - Up to 3 storeys	-	-	9	-	8	5	8	8	1	4	1	
Converted Flats/Maisonettes	-	3	5	6	5	2	6	4	-	5	3	
Converted Flat/Maisonette - Up to 2 storeys	-	-	3	1	4	1	4	-	-	2	1	
Converted Flat/Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	-	-	2	5	1	1	2	4	-	3	2	
House in Multiple Occupation	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	
House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	
Licensed House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Unlicensed House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Note: Accidental dwelling fires include dwellings fires with an unknown motive

Table 2.9 Fires with fire related deaths, by season, since 2000

number												percentage
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average distribution
	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32	
Spring	11	15	19	14	17	5	11	7	7	13	4	23%
Mar	2	5	6	5	7	1	5	2	3	6	1	9%
Apr	4	9	5	3	6	3	4	3	4	5	3	11%
May	5	1	8	6	4	1	2	2	-	2	0	3%
Summer	8	8	8	6	7	6	8	6	4	4	5	15%
Jun	1	4	1	2	-	1	2	1	2	1	3	5%
Jul	4	1	5	1	3	4	1	4	2	0	0	4%
Aug	3	3	2	3	4	1	5	1	-	3	2	6%
Autumn	16	16	16	6	10	9	10	10	9	7	10	36%
Sep	2	7	7	1	2	3	3	1	3	1	5	7%
Oct	4	2	4	5	7	4	2	7	1	4	4	10%
Nov	10	7	5	-	1	2	5	2	5	2	1	8%
Winter	18	15	15	6	12	9	13	12	10	16	13	36%
Jan	6	4	6	4	3	4	4	6	3	2	4	11%
Feb	4	3	7	-	3	3	7	4	3	4	3	12%
Dec	8	8	2	2	6	2	2	2	4	10	6	13%

Note: average distribution is for the five years to 2022

Table 2.10 Fire deaths, by season, since 2000

<i>number</i>											<i>percentage</i>	
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average distribution
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33	
Spring	13	15	19	14	17	5	12	8	7	15	4	24%
Summer	10	9	8	6	7	76	8	6	4	4	5	14%
Autumn	18	16	16	6	10	9	10	10	9	12	10	26%
Winter	18	20	16	6	12	12	15	12	10	19	14	36%

Table 2.11 Fires with fire related fatalities, by hour of the day of fire start, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
0	2	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	3	-
1	-	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
2	5	4	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	3
3	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	-	-
4	1	3	6	2	1	1	2	-	-	1	4
5	5	-	3	1	-	2	2	1	1	1	2
6	4	1	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	-
7	1	1	3	-	-	3	-	4	2	1	-
8	2	3	-	-	3	1	2	-	2	2	1
9	1	3	5	-	2	2	-	3	2	3	1
10	3	2	1	3	4	-	2	-	-	3	1
11	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	1	1	2	-
12	3	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
13	1	-	1	1	-	2	1	3	1	1	1
14	2	1	2	3	5	1	4	-	2	1	1
15	-	2	3	2	1	-	2	-	2	3	2
16	2	5	3	4	2	-	1	1	2	-	1
17	6	2	1	-	3	1	2	2	-	2	-
18	-	1	5	-	4	-	1	3	1	3	-
19	4	4	2	-	2	3	1	2	1	-	1
20	4	2	1	2	1	-	2	-	2	3	2
21	1	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	-	-	1
22	2	4	5	1	1	-	1	-	1	3	4
23	1	5	3	1	1	-	1	4	-	2	2

Note: the hour is the time of call; when the brigade received a confirmed address for the incident

Table 2.12 Fire related fatalities, by hour of the day of fire start, since 2000

<i>number</i>	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	32
0	4	3	3	1	3	71	2	2	2	3	-
1	-	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
2	6	8	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	1	3
3	2	4	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	-	-
4	1	3	6	2	1	3	3	-	-	3	4
5	7	-	4	1	-	2	2	1	1	3	2
6	4	2	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	-
7	1	1	3	-	-	4	-	4	2	1	-
8	2	3	-	-	3	1	2	-	2	2	1
9	1	3	5	-	2	2	-	3	2	3	1
10	3	2	1	3	4	-	3	-	-	3	1
11	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	1	1	2	-
12	3	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
13	1	-	1	1	-	2	1	3	1	1	1
14	2	1	2	3	5	1	4	-	2	1	1
15	-	2	3	2	1	-	2	-	2	3	2
16	2	5	3	4	2	-	1	1	2	-	1
17	7	2	1	-	3	1	2	2	-	2	-
18	-	1	5	-	4	-	1	3	1	6	-
19	4	4	2	-	2	3	1	2	1	-	1
20	4	2	1	2	1	-	2	-	2	6	3
21	1	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	-	-	1
22	2	4	5	1	1	-	1	-	1	3	4
23	1	5	3	1	1	-	1	5	-	2	2

Note: the hour is the time of call; when the brigade received a confirmed address for the incident

Table 2.13 Location of fire start in accidental dwelling fires with fire related fatalities, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	24	36	40	19	35	24	27	23	24	31	21
Living room	14	17	12	8	11	7	10	11	12	10	8
Bedroom	-	-	12	5	13	9	10	5	5	12	10
Kitchen	7	5	5	-	6	4	4	2	4	2	2
Not known	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	-
Bedsitting room	3	1	7	3	1	-	1	2	1	2	-
Corridor/Hall	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	-
Other	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bathroom/Toilet	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Conservatory	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2.14 Location of fire start other property types (fires with fire related deaths), since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Other property types	7	2	9	8	6	2	5	5	1	3	7
Non Residential	2	-	5	1	2	-	2	1	-	1	-
Garage	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Office	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
External structures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roof	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shop floor/Showroom/Display hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Store room	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
External fittings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Residential	1	-	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
Bedroom	-	-	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
Living room	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedsitting room	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	1	-	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	4
Other	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	1
On or near tracks or paths	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
In open area next to housing	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1
Transport	3	-	-	4	-	1	-	1	-	1	2
Driver/Passenger area	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Engine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Table 2.15 Fires with fire related deaths, by source of ignition, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	53	54	58	32	46	29	42	35	30	40	32
Smoking related	22	15	20	14	22	11	9	9	7	11	9
Matches and candles	5	5	10	6	6	3	10	4	3	8	8
Naked flame	11	14	5	5	5	2	8	7	2	1	3
Not known/recorded	2	3	11	2	5	6	6	8	9	11	5
Heating equipment	3	3	4	2	1	2	3	4	2	3	1
Cooking appliance	5	6	4	-	4	1	2	2	3	1	1
Other domestic style appliance	1	3	2	-	1	4	1	1	2	-	-
Electric lighting	2	3	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	1	-
Electricity supply	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Vehicles only	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Fuel/Chemical	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Industrial equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Table 2.16 Dwelling fires with fire related deaths, by source of ignition, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	46	47	49	23	38	27	36	29	29	37	25
Smoking related	19	13	17	11	19	10	8	8	7	11	7
Not known/recorded	1	3	7	2	3	5	4	7	8	11	7
Matches and candles	5	5	9	6	6	3	9	3	3	8	3
Heating equipment	3	3	4	1	1	2	3	4	2	3	2
Naked flame	9	10	4	2	4	2	6	4	2	1	1
Cooking appliance	5	6	4	-	3	1	2	2	3	1	1
Electric lighting	2	3	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	1	-
Electricity supply	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Other domestic style appliance	1	3	2	-	1	4	1	1	2	-	4
Fuel/Chemical	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industrial equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Chapter 3 | Characteristics of the people who die in the home

This chapter looks at the characteristics of people who die in the home.

Why people die in fires

The factors that influence the chances of a fire casualty becoming a fire fatality are complex. Some of the main contributors include:

- how able the person was to respond to the fire (i.e. were they mobile; were they awake; were they impaired by drugs or alcohol);
 - how early the fire is discovered;
 - how quickly the brigade is called;
 - the materials involved in the fire;
 - the size and construction of the room/building;
 - the proximity of the victim to the fire;
- as well as the arrival time and response of the brigade.

The Grenfell Tower fire

The fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017 has changed the profile of the people who die in fires from the trends that have been seen in the years before. Most of the people who died at Grenfell were under 65 (years) and many were of black and minority ethnic origin. However, the information the LFB has recorded about the Grenfell victims has been supplied by the Metropolitan Police Service and is the only information that has been made publicly available. At this time, that includes the age of the victims, but not the specific detail of their ethnic origins. This information will be confirmed by the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry and the LFB will update its records at that time.

Age of fire fatalities

(Table 3.1 and 3.2)

Over the last five years, 5 per cent of those who died in fires were aged between 0 to 15 years, 46 per cent of fire fatalities were of people within the 16 to 64 age range, 46 per cent of fatalities were of those aged 65 and over and two per cent were unknown. The proportion of older people who die in fires is higher

than the proportion of that age group within the population for London. Around only 12 per cent of Londoners are aged 65 and over.

Do you know the next fire fatality?

This is an older person aged 65 or over who lives alone. Where they live, or the type of property, doesn't matter. However, their home will be unsafe from the risks of fire and without adequate fire detection. They will have reduced mobility and find it hard to walk unaided. As such, they will spend most of their time in one room of their home and often this can become a bed/sitting room. This person is a smoker, uses candles or has other naked flames in their home.

Other than a reduced mobility, this person also has other health implications (such as dementia or Parkinson's, for example) which affects the primary senses, they could also be at risk of neglect. They may have an impaired judgement or become forgetful or disorientated; either through a health issue, or as a result of their medication or from drinking. There may be signs of previous fire 'near misses'; this could be cigarette burn marks on clothing or furnishing, or scorch marks from cooking or using candles. This person either receives, or would benefit from, some care and support (from a local authority, relative or friend, or other care provider). They would likely be a candidate for and not currently in receipt of, or in receipt of telecare that is not linked to smoke detection and reliant on a manual pendant. Any combination of these factors can undermine the ability of a person to react to a fire.

If you know a person who fits this description, they would benefit from a home fire safety visit and you should contact your local fire service.

This is the profile the LFB use to target its fire safety work in people's homes

Gender of fire fatalities

(Table 3.4 and 3.5)

At LFB, data relating to gender is recorded as advised by the police or the Coroner. On average over the last five years to 2022, 61 per cent of those that died in fire are male and 39 per cent female. When compared to the 50/50 London gender demographic, this suggests that men are more likely to be victims of fatal fires than women. Ethnicity of fire fatalities

(Table 3.6 and 3.7)

On average over the last 5 years, 63 per cent of those that died in fire were white, while 36 per cent were from other minority ethnic groups. This compares with the London ethnic demographic which is around 54 per cent white and 46 per cent other ethnic origin⁵⁴.

2022 Case Study

The following incident took place in 2022 and highlights the key characteristics and issues that may contribute to a fatal fire.

Age:	85
Property Type:	A privately owned mid terrace house of two floors
Lived alone:	Yes
Smoker:	Yes – smoker
Alcohol/Drugs/Medication	Yes - prescription medication
Mobility issues:	Yes – visually impaired and pain across her legs following a back injury some years ago
Other medical conditions:	Yes - multiple conditions
In receipt of care:	Yes – formal care consisting of four visits per day provided by a care agency
Smoke detection:	Yes – three single point smoke detectors were installed in the property, one in the room of origin, one in the ground floor hallway and one on the first-floor landing ceiling.
Telecare Services:	Yes - telecare system consisting of a base unit a pendant alarm and a bed sensor. It was not linked to smoke detection.
Healthcare Equipment e.g., emollients, oxygen, air flow mattress:	Yes – mobility aids including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wheeled walking aids • walking frames • large electric mobility scooter • hospital bed • air flow mattress • hoist • incontinence pads
Hoarding:	Level 3 hoarding had been reported during a HFSV.
Known to LFB or partner organisations	Yes – Social service, NHS district nurse
HFSV received (Yes/No./ Date)?	Yes – 4 visits, one revisit due to a faulty alarm and one cancelled visit.
Person at risk raised?	Yes - a HFSV was conducted in 2021 and a PAR was identified during the visit
Recommendation for Prevention of Future Death notice (PFD)	No
FRS Recommendations	No
Cause of fire:	Unsafe use of smoking materials.

Mrs D was 85 years old. In her later years Mrs D's mobility had declined and she had become bedbound. In addition to this she had been diagnosed with a number of health conditions including Osteoarthritis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Asthma and Insomnia. She was also visually impaired and experienced pain across her legs following a back injury some years ago, it was reported that she was bedbound. Due to Mrs D's medical conditions, she was in receipt of a formal care package, which consisted of four care visits per day. The care she received assisted with personal care, meals preparation, administering medication, general housekeeping and shopping. In 2021, following a HFSV conducted by the LFB, the care provider made a

⁴ 2021 Census

referral to the Care Quality Commission raising concerns about Mrs D neglecting herself and refusing personal care as detailed in her care plan. They also raised concerns about Mrs D's smoking, she was a smoker of both manufactured cigarettes and also smoked cannabis in the evening to manage pain. Evidence of the unsafe use and disposal of smoking materials was found on numerous items of clean bedding. Mrs D was known to a number of partner agencies, after conducting a visit at Mrs D's property agencies recommended that a fire-resistant ashtray and fire extinguisher be purchased as Mrs D smoked in bed.

Mrs D lived alone in her privately owned three-bedroomed, mid terrace house. Mrs D's limited mobility meant she was unable to access the first floor of the property and as a result the living room on the ground floor had been converted into a bedroom.

Three smoke alarms were installed in the property, one was in the room of origin, one was in the hallway outside the front room and the other was located on the landing of the first floor. They actuated at the time of the fire and raised the alarm. It is believed that these alarms were installed by the LFB during a number of HFSV's conducted at the property. In total four HFSV had been conducted at the property the first took place in 2013 following a referral from Mrs D's occupational therapist. In November 2015 she declined an arranged HFSV. Following this, three further visits were conducted in 2017, 2021 and another in 2021.

The last HFSV conducted was carried out after the Brigade was called to a Special Service Incident at the address. Whilst still at the scene, the attending crew carried out a full HFSV and installed an additional smoke alarm in Mrs D's front room. They also identified a number of significant risks including Mrs D living alone, being over 80, smoking, having mobility impairments, as well as visual and age-related impairments. These characteristics made Mrs D

vulnerable to experiencing, reacting to and escaping a fire and as a result raised a person at risk referral (PAR), flame retardant bedding was recommended.

A telecare system was found in the property, this consisted of a base unit, pendant alarm and bed/chair sensor, however it wasn't linked to smoke detection. This was installed in 2014 following a referral from social services. The telecare system was activated the day before the fire and was reportedly malfunctioning that evening. It was tested following the incident and worked correctly.

On the evening of the incident Mrs D received two visits one at 19:00 from her carer lasting 30 minutes. At 10:15 Mrs D received the last visit of the evening; this was from her neighbour who regularly helped Mrs D take her medication. They remained at the property for 15 minutes. Five minutes later another neighbour heard an alarm sounding and shouts for help coming from Mrs D's property. They investigated and discovered a fire in the front room on the ground floor. Aware that neighbours who had previously visited Mrs D that evening had keys to the property they knocked on their door and alerted them to the fire. Upon gaining entry to Mrs D's front door, they entered the property but were unable to access the front room due to the heat and smoke.

The first call was made to Brigade Control by a neighbour just before 23:00 hours reporting the fire within the property and an elderly person known to be inside. Upon arrival crews could see smoke issuing from the front door. After gaining entry into the property they extinguished a fire in the front room on the ground floor and located the body of Mrs D. She had sustained injuries incompatible with life and was pronounced recognition of life extinct (ROLE) by attending paramedics.

The cause of the fire is believed to be the unsafe use of smoking materials.

Table 3.1 Fire deaths, by age band, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
Age Group											
00 to 15	6	7	1	-	-	17	1	1	-	8	-
16 to 64	27	33	30	13	20	54	20	25	10	20	15
65 and over	25	20	28	19	26	31	24	8	19	21	18
Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Age Group (%)											
00 to 15	10%	12%	2%	0%	0%	17%	2%	3%	2%	3%	0%
16 to 64	46%	55%	51%	41%	43%	53%	44%	69%	44%	69%	33%
65 and over	42%	33%	47%	59%	57%	30%	53%	22%	53%	22%	63%
Unknown	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	6%	3%

Table 3.2 Fire deaths, by age, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
00 to 01	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
01 to 04	1	3	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	6	-
05 to 09	1	4	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	-
10 to 14	2	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	1	-
15 to 19	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
20 to 24	3	2	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	1	2
25 to 29	2	-	1	1	1	8	-	-	1	1	1
30 to 34	5	4	4	1	2	8	-	1	-	2	1
35 to 39	2	2	2	1	1	4	4	2	3	3	1
40 to 44	4	3	5	3	1	4	4	5	3	2	2
45 to 49	3	7	1	1	2	3	4	4	-	1	-
50 to 54	6	6	5	5	5	5	2	5	2	1	1
55 to 59	1	6	4	-	2	5	4	3	-	4	3
60 to 64	1	3	8	1	4	11	2	4	1	4	4
65 to 69	3	5	7	5	3	8	2	2	5	5	1
70 to 74	3	2	5	3	8	8	4	1	5	3	6
75 to 79	5	4	2	3	5	8	5	2	3	4	4
80 to 84	3	4	7	3	3	4	9	1	4	3	1
85 to 89	7	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	-	5	2
90 plus	4	2	4	2	3	-	1	-	2	1	4
Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-

Table 3.3 Fire deaths, by age and property type, since 2000

<i>number</i>											
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
Dwelling	51	53	50	23	38	100	38	30	29	45	26
00 to 15	6	7	1	-	-	17	1	1	-	8	-
16 to 64	20	29	24	8	15	53	14	20	10	17	10
65 and over	24	17	25	15	23	30	23	8	19	20	16
Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Non Residential	2	4	5	2	4	-	2	2	-	1	-
00 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 64	2	3	5	-	3	-	2	1	-	1	-
65 and over	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other Residential	1	1	3	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
00 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 64	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	4
00 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 64	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	3	-	-	3
65 and over	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Transport	4	1	-	4	-	1	2	1	-	3	2
00 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 64	4	1	-	3	-	1	2	1	-	2	2
65 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Table 3.4 Fire deaths by gender, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Gender	59	60	59	32	46	102	45	36	30	50	33
Female	29	30	26	5	14	51	22	16	13	24	13
Male	30	30	33	27	32	51	23	20	17	26	20
Gender (%)											
Female	49%	50%	44%	16%	30%	50%	49%	44%	43%	48%	39%
Male	51%	50%	56%	84%	70%	50%	51%	56%	57%	52%	61%

Table 3.5 Fire deaths by gender and age, since 2000

number

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Female	29	30	26	5	14	51	22	16	13	24	13
00 to 19	3	5	1	-	-	12	-	1	-	1	-
20 to 39	6	4	2	-	-	17	2	2	2	3	1
40 to 59	3	8	8	1	4	5	6	9	1	5	1
60 to 79	7	8	8	2	5	16	6	3	8	9	7
80 and over	9	5	7	2	5	1	8	-	2	5	4
Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Male	30	30	33	27	32	51	23	20	17	26	20
00 to 19	3	2	-	-	-	8	1	1	-	7	-
20 to 39	6	4	6	4	6	7	2	1	2	4	4
40 to 59	11	15	8	8	8	14	10	8	4	3	5
60 to 79	5	7	14	11	13	16	6	6	6	7	8
80 and over	5	2	5	4	5	6	4	3	4	4	3
Unkown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-

Table 3.6 Fire deaths, by BAME and non-BAME, since 2010

<i>number</i>									
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	32	46	102	45	37	30	50	33
Fatalities by ethnicity									
Black and minority ethnic (BAME)	12	14	15	9	14	14	5	16	8
White	43	18	30	22	28	12	22	24	14
Not recorded	4	-	1	71	3	10	3	10	11
Fatalities by ethnicity (%)									
Black and minority ethnic (BAME)	20%	44%	33%	9%	17%	38%	17%	32%	24%
White	73%	56%	65%	22%	81%	32%	73%	48%	42%
Not recorded	7%	0%	2%	70%	2%	27%	10%	20%	33%

Table 3.7 Fire deaths, by ethnicity, since 2010

<i>number</i>									
	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	59	32	46	102	45	37	30	50	33
Arab*	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladeshi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black African	4	-	-	1	5	1	1	1	-
Black Caribbean	1	6	4	-	4	3	-	2	2
Black Other	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	8	5
Chinese	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Indian	2	2	3	-	3	2	-	-	-
Latin American*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Asian	4	3	6	4	1	5	-	5	-
Pakistani	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
White	43	18	30	22	28	12	21	24	14
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not recorded	4	-	1	71	3	11	4	10	11

Ethnicity data only collected from 2009.

Categories of Arab and Latin American introduced from March 2015