Primary fires in schools

**Metadata**

The data columns

* Column B – this was what the LFB was called to, when dealing with the 999 call
* Column E – this denotes a suspected motive (e.g. whether the fire was deliberate)
* Columns F/G – this gives you some idea of the firefighting (if any) that took place at the incident. Some of the fires attended (as you will see) were very small and required no firefighting (i.e. ‘none’ in column F). See further note below.
* Column H – the type of schools premises (in the opinion of the crew).
* Column K – how far the fire had spread by the time the fire brigade was able to get it ‘under control’.
* Columns L to P is the address data for the incident, including the name of the school (where recorded).
* Column Y – indicates whether any ‘active fire safety systems’ (like sprinklers) were found to be in place.
* Column Z – the value “1” denotes a sprinkler system. Other types of ’active safety systems’ would, for example, be water mist or drenchers systems, although none were found at the locations listed. You will note that there were five incidents over the three years where attending crews noted a sprinkler system was in place.

Some advice using the data

The data is largely recorded by attending fire crews and is collected for statistical purposes.

It is believed to be accurate but we cannot verify that it does not contain errors. For example, we cannot guarantee that attending crews identified any ‘active safety system’ (col Y) in place, so that some of the premises listed may have them, but they were not noticed/recorded by the crew. And, of course, such systems could have been installed after the fire.

The type of school is what the crew believed was the use of the premises; this description is not further validated, so may not always be correct.

Although the London Fire Brigade attended and recorded a fire at the various addresses listed (the data does not include any ‘false alarms’ where no fire was found), columns F/G show what firefight8ng action was undertaken. Of the 241 fires listed for 2015, 2016 and 2017, 107 (44 per cent) required *no firefighting* (i.e. ‘none’), and a further 72 (30 per cent) only required *‘small means’* (like a bucket of water, or disconnection of supply) or a ’portable extinguisher’ to put the fire out.