



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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**Request:**

*What is the percentage of house fires caused by house fires in the UK? Which rooms of the house are most commonly set alight first by cigarettes? What is the most common type of material cigarettes are dropped on to start a fire or smoulder? The age range of people who cause fires caused by cigarettes?*

**Response:**

Please find our response to your query set out in the table below:-

In total from January 2020 to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 there were 9,184 dwelling fires in London making the percentage related to smoking 12%.

| Dwelling fires      | Incidents    | % of Incidents |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Not smoking related | 8,099        | 88%            |
| Smoking related     | 1,099        | 12%            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>9,184</b> | <b>100%</b>    |

The five locations where smoking related dwelling fires most commonly start are:

| Location Fire Started | Fires |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Bedroom               | 214   |
| Private balcony       | 135   |
| Refuse store/Bin room | 131   |
| Living room           | 122   |
| External structures   | 81    |

The five items most commonly first ignited in smoking related dwelling fires:

| Item First Ignited        | Fires |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Rubbish/Waste material    | 200   |
| Household paper/Cardboard | 171   |
| Other wooden item         | 92    |
| Clothing                  | 78    |
| Bedding                   | 77    |

The fires were caused by :

| Caused by             | Fires |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Adult (18 - 64)       | 644   |
| Person, age not known | 143   |

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Not known         | 138 |
| Elderly (65 plus) | 116 |
| Youth (10 - 17)   | 29  |
| Child (0 - 9)     | 27  |
| Other             | 2   |

I hope you find the information we have been able to provide of use. Should you have any further questions please do let me know.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#).