



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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Freedom of Information request reference number: 7134.1

Date of response: 06 February 2023

Request:

Can I please receive a list containing the number (total) of non-deliberate, fatal residential fires attended in the last five years?

Alongside this, for the aforementioned cases, can I have the following information taken from the fire investigation report:

- * Service rank of fire investigation report author*
- * Date*
- * Time of first call to fire service*
- * Time of fire service arrival*
- * Approximate location (i.e town/village)*
- * Number of fatalities*
- * Age of victim (s)*
- * Property type*
- * Details of property construction*
- * Recorded cause of death(s)*
- * Location(s) of victim(s) within the property*
- * Location of seat of fire within the property*
- * Extent of fire spread beyond item first ignited*
- * Extent of fire spread beyond the room of fire origin*
- * Recorded cause of fire*
- * Recorded source of ignition*
- * Material first ignited*
- * Material primarily responsible for fire development*

Response:

Please see my response below:

Can I please receive a list containing the number (total) of non-deliberate, fatal residential fires attended in the last five years?

The table below shows the number of accidental, fatal residential fires attended in the last five years:

Year	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended (residential)
2023	2
2022	22
2021	32
2020	26
2019	23
2018	29
Total	134

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- * Recorded source of ignition
- * Material first ignited
- * Material primarily responsible for fire development

We recently published a FOI response which explains that that fire reports, and the information held within them, are exempt via [Section 21 of the FOIA - Information accessible to applicant by other means](#). This FOI response can be accessed via the following link: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/7318/71151_response.pdf

However, we do hold some of the information you have requested on our Incident Management System (IMS). Therefore we are able to provide some of the information you have requested in an anonymised format that cannot be used to identify any specific incidents using other fire data already published by the LFB (namely London Fire Brigade Incident Records that can be accessed here: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-fire-brigade-incident-records>).

Please note, the 'Service rank of fire investigation report author' is not recorded on the IMS and remains exempt under [Section 21 of the FOIA - Information accessible to applicant by other means](#) (as explained above and in our response to FOI request no. 7115.1: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/media/7318/71151_response.pdf).

Information recorded on IMS for accidental, fatal fires in residential properties:

Date

Month	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended per year (residential)						Total
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Jan	3	6	3	2	2	2	18
Feb	7	2	3	3	3		18
Mar	2	1	3	4	1		11
Apr	3	2	3	4	1		13
May	2			1			3
Jun	1		2	1			4
Jul		3	2				5
Aug	1	1		3	1		6
Sep	2	1	1		5		9
Oct	1	4	1	3	4		13
Nov	5	1	4	2	1		13
Dec	2	2	4	9	4		21

Total	29	23	26	32	22	2	134
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Time of first call to fire service

Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended per year (residential)							
Hour of call	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
0		2	2	3			7
1	1	2	2	2	2		9
2	1	1	1	1			4
3	1		1				2
4	2				2		4
5	2	1	1		2		6
6	1		1	2			4
7		4	2	1		1	8
8	2		2	2	1		7
9		2	1	3			6
10	2			3	1		6
11	2	1	1	2			6
12	1		1	1	1		4
13		1	1		1		3
14	2		2	1	1		6
15	1		2	2	2		7
16	1	1	2		1	1	6
17	1	1		2			4
18	1	2	1	2			6
19	1	2	1		1		5
20	2		2	1	1		6
21	3	2			1		6
22	1			2	3		6
23	1	1		2	2		6
Total							134

Time of fire service arrival

Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended per year (residential)							
Hour of Arrival	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
0		3	2	3			8
1	1	1	2	2	2		8
2	1	2	1	1			5
4	2		1		2		5
5	3	1	1		2		7
6	1		1	1			3
7		4	2	2		1	9
8	2		1	1	1		5
9		1	2	4			7
10	2			2			4
11	2	1	1	3	1		8
12	1		1	1	1		4
13		1	1		1		3

14	2		2				4
15	1		2	3	3		9
16	1	1			1	1	4
17	1	1	1	2			5
18	1	2	1	2			6
19	1	2	1		1		5
20	1		2	1	1		5
21	4	2			1		7
22	1			2	3		6
23	1			2	2		5
Recorded as 'NULL'		1	1				2
Total							134

Approximate location (i.e town/village)

London Borough	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
BARKING AND DAGENHAM	1
BARNET	7
BEXLEY	3
BRENT	5
BROMLEY	2
CAMDEN	6
CROYDON	5
EALING	3
ENFIELD	4
GREENWICH	5
HACKNEY	4
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM	8
HARINGEY	6
HARROW	2
HAVERING	2
HILLINGDON	1
HOUNSLOW	5
ISLINGTON	5
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	6
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	2
LAMBETH	6
LEWISHAM	2
MERTON	4
NEWHAM	4
REDBRIDGE	4
RICHMOND UPON THAMES	1
SOUTHWARK	5
SUTTON	7
TOWER HAMLETS	3
WALTHAM FOREST	7
WANDSWORTH	6
WESTMINSTER	3
Total	134

Number of fatalities

Year	Number of fatalities recorded at accidental residential fires
2023	2
2022	23
2021	38
2020	26
2019	23
2018	31
Total	143

Age of victim (s)

Age group	Number of fatalities recorded at accidental, residential fires in last 5 years
01 to 09	6
10 to 19	2
20 to 29	3
30 to 39	8
40 to 49	12
50 to 59	18
60 to 69	28
70 to 79	32
80 to 89	27
90 to 99	6
100 plus	1
Total	143

Property type

Residential Property Type	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Bungalow - single occupancy	3
Converted Flat/Maisonette - Up to 2 storeys	7
Converted Flat/Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	11
House - single occupancy	49
House in Multiple Occupation - Up to 2 storeys (not known if licensed)	2
Licensed House in Multiple Occupation - 3 or more storeys	3
Other Residential Home	2
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	6
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	22
Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - Up to 3 storeys	22
Self contained Sheltered Housing	7
Total	134

Details of property construction

Special construction details	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
None	128
Not known	3
Other	1
(blank)	2
Total	134

Recorded cause of death(s)

Cause of Death	Count of cause of death recorded at accidental, residential fires in last 5 years
Burns - severe	45
Combination of burns and inhalation of gas/smoke	23
Inhalation of gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	54
Not known	8
Other	13
Total	143

Location(s) of victim(s) within the property

Victim Location	Count of victim location recorded at accidental, residential fires in last 5 years
Different room or compartment on floor of origin	13
Floor above origin	9
Location of person unknown	18
One floor below origin	1
Other	2
Room, cabin or compartment of origin	99
Two or more floors above origin	1
Total	143

Location of seat of fire within the property

Location	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Bedroom	44
Bedsitting room	6
Corridor/Hall	3
Dining room	3
Kitchen	14
Living room	51
Not known	10
Other	2
Stairs	1
Total	134

*Extent of fire spread beyond item first ignited, and;
Extent of fire spread beyond the room of fire origin*

Spread of fire from item first ignited	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	4
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	16
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	60
Limited to item 1st ignited	1
Limited to room of origin	45
Roof space and other floors(s)	1
Whole building	7
Total	134

Recorded cause of fire

Main Cause of Fire	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Accumulation of flammable material	1
Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)	27
Cooking – chip pan/deep fat fryer	1
Cooking – other cooking	1
Fault in equipment or appliance	9
Faulty leads to equipment or appliance	1
Pending Fire Investigation Team findings	11
Person too close to heat source (or fire)	10
Unable to determine	15
Unsafe use of equipment or appliance (heat source)	12
Unsafe use of heat source - due to knocking over	10
Unsafe use of heat source - due to sleep or unconsciousness	1
Unsafe use of heat source - due to unsafe disposal	35
Grand Total	134

Recorded source of ignition

Ignition Source	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Batteries, generators	2
Candles/Tea lights - Religious use	3
Candles/Tea lights - Secondary lighting	4
Candles/Tea lights - Social use	9
Cigarette	28
Cigarette lighter	6
Cooker incl. oven	5
Fan heater	3
Flammable chemicals	1
Fluorescent lights	1
Fridge/Freezer - Freestanding	1
Hair dryer	1
Halogen heater	1
Heating/Fire	5
Lighted paper or card, or other naked flame	3

Liquids; petrol/oil related	1
Matches	7
Not known	24
Oil/Incense burners	2
Other	12
Other appliance or equipment	1
Other domestic style appliance	1
Other heating equipment	3
Other incandescent light bulbs	1
Other lights	2
Panel heater	1
Ring/hot plate (not part of cooker)	2
Smoking materials	1
Television	1
Wiring, cabling, plugs	2
Grand Total	134

Material first ignited

Item First Ignited	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Bed/mattress	8
Bedding	18
Chemicals in raw state	1
Clothing	23
Cooking oil or fat	1
Gases	2
Household paper/Cardboard	7
Internal Fittings	2
Not known	25
Other furniture	4
Other item	12
Other textiles	6
Other wooden item	2
Petrol/Oil products	2
Plastic - raw material only	2
Printed circuit board	1
Rubbish/Waste material	3
Unspecified material for recycling	1
Upholstered furniture	11
Wiring insulation	3
Grand Total	134

Material primarily responsible for fire development

Item mainly responsible for fire	Number of accidental, fatal fire incidents attended in last 5 years (residential)
Bed/mattress	18
Bedding	14
Chemicals in raw state	1
Clothing	18
Cooking oil or fat	1
Foam - raw material only	1

Gases	2
Household paper/Cardboard	3
Internal Fittings	5
None	1
Not known	15
Other	6
Other furniture	9
Other textiles	4
Other wooden	5
Other/Unspecified furnishings	5
Petrol/Oil products	2
Plastic - raw material only	4
Upholstered furniture	19
Window coverings	1
Grand Total	134

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](#).