

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8515.1

Date of response: 20/03/2024

Request:

Under Freedom of Information Act, I would be very grateful if you could provide the following information relating to fires:

1. Warehouse fires: We are interested in the number of fire incidents in warehouses.
 - a. How many fires in warehouses have you attended in the last three calendar years (2024 - to date, 2023, 2022, 2021)?
 - b. Per year, please breakdown the above by the following:
 - c. Extent of damage
 - d. Cause of fire

2. Fires in Schools: I am seeking to understand how many schools have been impacted by fires and whether sprinklers were present.
 1. How many fires at schools have you attended in the last five full years (2023 to 2019 or nearest period, if not available). If possible, please provide a breakdown per year of:
 - a. of the school fires you attended in this period, how many had sprinklers fitted?
 - b. Please provide a breakdown of the causes of fire by year.
 - c. For each year, please also provide a breakdown of the type of school (e.g. primary, secondary), any injuries or deaths, the extent of damage to school, age of school, how many of the schools at the time the fire broke out had received a low, medium or high fire risk assessment (or alternative classification if used), how many school fire risk assessments have you carried out in the last five full years (2023 to 2019 or nearest period, if not available) and if possible, please provide a breakdown of the outcomes e.g. low, medium, high risk

3. I would be very grateful if you could provide figures relating to fires caused by disposable e-cigarettes and vapes. I appreciate this may not be a category you record. It would be great if you could perform a free text search on "vape" and "e-cigarette" together with any other terms you think relevant. Please could you provide the information, split by the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (to date)

If possible, please can we have an excel spreadsheet for the above requests. Please let me know if you need me to clarify anything regarding this request, otherwise i look forward to hearing from you.

Response:

Please see the tables of data below regarding warehouse fires and fires in schools, which provide responses to your request for 2019 to 2024.

- I. Warehouse fires: We are interested in the number of fire incidents in warehouses.
- a. How many fires in warehouses have you attended in the last three calendar years (2024 - to date, 2023, 2022, 2021)?
- b. Per year, please breakdown the above by the following:
- c. Extent of damage
- d. Cause of fire

**Fires in Warehouses from 2021 - 2024 (06/03/2024)
broken down by calendar year and main cause.**

Count of Incident Number	Property Type	Main Cause	Calendar Year				Grand Total
			2021	2022	2023	2024	
	Warehouse	Accumulation of flammable material	1	2	1		4
		Bonfire going out of control		1			1
		Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)	1	1	4	1	7
		Cooking – other cooking		1			1
		Fault in equipment or appliance	4	2	2		8
		Faulty fuel supplies – Electricity	3	6	4	1	14
		Faulty leads to equipment or appliance		2	1	1	4
		Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	1	4	2		7
		Natural occurrence	1				1
		Other intentional burning, going out of control	1	1			2
		Overheating, unknown cause	4	5	4		13
		Playing with fire (or heat source)			1		1
		Unable to determine	2	1	1		4
		Unsafe use of equipment or appliance (heat source)		1	1	1	3
		Unsafe use of heat source - due to knocking over		1			1
		Unsafe use of heat source - due to unsafe disposal	1	2	3		6
		(blank)			2		2
	Warehouse Total		19	30	26	4	79
	Grand Total		19	30	26	4	79

Fires in Warehouses from 2021 - 2024 (06/03/2024) broken down by calendar year and extent of damage.

Count of IncidentNumber		Calendar Year				
PropertyType	AtStopDamageSpreadSize	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Warehouse	Affecting more than 2 floors (not whole building)	1				1
	External roof only		1			1
	Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	1	2	1		4
	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2	3	2		7
	Limited to item 1st ignited	6	15	14	2	37
	Limited to room of origin	5	6	3	1	15
	Whole building	2		1	1	4
	(blank)	2	3	5		10
Warehouse Total		19	30	26	4	79
Grand Total		19	30	26	4	79

2. Fires in Schools: I am seeking to understand how many schools have been impacted by fires and whether sprinklers were present.

1. How many fires at schools have you attended in the last five full years (2023 to 2019 or nearest period, if not available). If possible, please provide a breakdown per year of:

a. of the school fires you attended in this period, how many had sprinklers fitted?

b. Please provide a breakdown of the causes of fire by year.

c. For each year, please also provide a breakdown of the type of school (e.g. primary, secondary), any injuries or deaths, the extent of damage to school, age of school, how many of the schools at the time the fire broke out had received a low, medium or high fire risk assessment (or alternative classification if used), how many school fire risk assessments have you carried out in the last five full years (2023 to 2019 or nearest period, if not available) and if possible, please provide a breakdown of the outcomes e.g. low, medium, high risk

1. How many fires at schools have you attended in the last five full years

Count of Incident Number	Calendar Year						
Property Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Boarding School accommodation				2			2

Infant/Primary school	35	22	17	34	20	7	135
Pre School/nursery	21	8	10	10	22	2	73
Secondary school	21	10	14	19	23	9	96
Grand Total	77	40	41	65	65	18	306

Please provide a breakdown of the causes of fire by year.

Count of IncidentNumber MainCause	CalendarYear						Grand Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Accumulation of flammable material		1		1	1		3
Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)	7	4	6	6	10	1	34
Cooking – chip pan/deep fat fryer	1	1					2
Cooking – other cooking	5	4	2	4	6	2	23
Fault in equipment or appliance	15	10	6	16	16	4	67
Faulty fuel supplies – Electricity	20	12	7	16	10	1	66
Faulty fuel supplies – Gas						1	1
Faulty leads to equipment or appliance	2	1		1	1		5
Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	11	2	8	3	5	1	30
Natural occurrence					1		1
Other intentional burning, going out of control	1		1		2	1	5
Overheating, unknown cause	6	3	4	8	8	1	30
Pending Fire Investigation Team findings					1	1	2
Playing with fire (or heat source)	2			2	1		5
Unable to determine	1		2		2		5
Unsafe use of equipment or appliance (heat source)	3	2	1	4	1	4	15
Unsafe use of heat source - due to knocking over	1		1	1			3
Unsafe use of heat source - due to unsafe disposal	2		3	3		1	9
Grand Total	77	40	41	65	65	18	306

The extent of damage to school

Count of Incident Number		CalendarYear						
PropertyType	AtStopDamageSpreadSize	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Infant/Primary school	External roof only	1			1			2
	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)		1	1				2
	Limited to item 1st ignited	19	10	10	21	15	5	80
	Limited to room of origin	7	9	4	5	1	1	27
Infant/Primary school Total		27	20	15	27	16	6	111
Pre School/nursery	External roof only	1				1		2
	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2		1		1		4
	Limited to item 1st ignited	12	7	8	8	14	2	51
	Limited to room of origin	2			1	4		7
	Whole building	1				1		2
Pre School/nursery Total		18	7	9	9	21	2	66
Secondary school	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)					2		2
	Limited to item 1st ignited	14	5	7	8	14	5	53
	Limited to room of origin	6	4	6	5	5	3	29
Secondary school Total		20	9	13	13	21	8	84
Grand Total		65	36	37	49	58	16	261

Type of school (e.g. primary, secondary), any injuries or deaths (There were 0 deaths within this time fame).

Sum of NumAllFireInjuries	CalendarYear						
PropertyType	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Boarding School accommodation				-			-

Infant/Primary school	2	1	-	1	-	-	4
Pre School/nursery	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Secondary school	7	1	-	1	-	-	9
Grand Total	9	2	-	3	-	-	14

Of the school fires you attended in this period, how many had sprinklers fitted? There may have been more schools that had sprinklers fitted but may not have been recorded.

Count of CallId	Calendar years				
Firefighting system type	2019	2020	2021	2023	Grand Total
Sprinklers	2	2	2	1	7
Infant/Primary school (P)			1		1
Other education establishment (P)		1		1	2
Secondary school (P)	2	1	1		4
Grand Total	2	2	2	1	7

How many school fire risk assessments have you carried out in the last five full years (2023 to 2019)

Count of Reference code	Calendar years				
FS Risk	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Low	2	19	28	1	50
Medium		4	1		5
Other	3	17	2		22
Grand Total	5	40	31	1	77

3. I would be very grateful if you could provide figures relating to fires caused by disposable e-cigarettes and vapes. I appreciate this may not be a category you record. It would be great if you could perform a free text search on "vape" and "e-cigarette" together with any other terms you think relevant. Please could you provide the information, split by the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (to date)

Count of IncidentNumber	Calendar years				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
e-cigarette	4	5	15	3	27
Grand Total	4	5	15	3	27

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: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>