



Home Office

Publishing Incident Recording System data on the fire and rescue service at an Incident Level:

Daily Incidents Dataset Guidance

Produced by the Fire Statistics team

FireStatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

9 November 2017

1 Background

Data Quality

Incident records in the Incident Recording System (IRS) are the responsibility of and quality assured by Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs). The Home Office and FRSs are working on improving the data within the IRS and possible inconsistencies, having said that the IRS was not designed with record level datasets in mind and so we are aware of some possible inconsistencies and there may well be other issues.

IRS incident records are a judgement call of the lead fire officer at the time of the incident. The quality of the information provided by fire and rescue services is variable and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed, especially at a record level, for instance some records involve estimation by those in attendance.

Dataset rationale

The Home Office regularly receive requests regarding the number of incidents/fires attended on certain days of the year, for example Fireworks Night, Christmas Day and Diwali. This dataset provides this information.

Dataset definition

The daily incidents dataset covers all incidents attended by FRSs. The Home Office only has jurisdiction for fire policy in England and therefore has published incident data for England only.

The data in this dataset are consistent with records that reached the IRS by 11th September 2017.

2 Variable by variable – Scene Setting

Variable Name:	FRS_FULLNAME
Variable Description:	The FRS in which the incident took place
IRS Question:	1.6

The Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) refers to the territory in which the incident took place, not necessarily the FRS which responded. Occasionally an FRS will respond to an incident “over the border”, because of this users should be careful about making general comments about particular FRSs as some incidents may have been responded to by other FRSs. This dataset only covers incidents that took place in England.

Due to data protection issues we have merged Isles of Scilly data with Cornwall, as the number of incidents in Isle of Scilly is minimal (there were 149 between 2010/11 and 2016/17 in various types). Figures for Dorset and Wiltshire, who merged into one FRS on 1st April 2016, are presented merged.

Variable Name:	E_CODE
Variable Description:	The E Code of the FRS
IRS Question:	1.6 (based on)

The standard National Statistics code (E Code) of the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) in FRS_NAME. In this case the code for Cornwall has been used for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly combined FRS.

Variable Name:	FINANCIAL_YEAR
Variable Description:	The financial year the incident took place
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

A financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Record level information is published from 2010/11 - although the IRS began in April 2009 there are a few minor issues with the 2009/10 records which mean that while statistics at higher levels are robust some of the incident level records are not of a sufficient quality to publish. Incidents are allocated to financial year depending on the time of the call, which is usually collected through automatic systems, so for example an incident where the call was made at 23.59 on March 31st 2010 but the incident was closed at 01.34 on April 1st 2010 would be allocated to 2009/10 not 2010/11.

Variable Name:	CALENDAR_YEAR
Variable Description:	The calendar year the incident took place
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

A calendar year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Record level information is published from 2010/11 - although the IRS began in April 2009 there are a few minor issues with the 2009/10 records which mean that while statistics at higher levels are robust some of the incident level records are not of a sufficient quality to publish.

Incidents are allocated to calendar year depending on the time of the call, which is usually collected through automatic systems, so for example an incident where the call was made at 23.59 on March 31st 2010 but the incident was closed at 01.34 on April 1st 2010 would be allocated to 2009/10 not 2010/11. It should be noted that figures for 2010 will be lower, because only records from 1 April 2010 are included in the dataset.

Variable Name:	MONTH
Variable Description:	The month the incident took place
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

The month the incident took place. This would return “December” for 25 December 2015.

Variable Name:	MONTH_CODE
Variable Description:	A code to help users analyse data
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

Because the month variable is not in chronological order when sorted this code has been added, month 1 is January, month 2 is February etc. This would return “12” for 25 December 2015.

Variable Name:	DAY
Variable Description:	The day of the month the incident took place
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

The day of the month the incident took place, this would return “25” for 25 December 2015.

Variable Name:	DATE
Variable Description:	The date the incident took place
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

The date the incident took place, this would return “25/12/2015” for 25 December 2015.

Variable Name:	DAY_OF_WEEK
Variable Description:	The day of the week the incident took place
IRS Question:	2.1 (based on)

The day of the week (e.g. Monday) the incident took place, this would return “Friday” for 25 December 2015.

3 Variable by variable - Incident

Variable Name:	INCIDENT_TYPE
Variable Description:	The type of incident
IRS Question:	3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.8 and 3.9 (based on)

Incidents are categorised into one of the 11 following types-

1. Primary fire – dwelling
2. Primary fire – other building
3. Primary fire – road vehicle
4. Primary fire – other outdoor

Primary fires are defined as fires that meet at least one of the following conditions:

- (a) any fire that occurred in a (non-derelict) building, vehicle or outdoor structure,
- (b) any fire involving fatalities, casualties or rescues,
- (c) any fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

5. Chimney fire

A chimney fire is any fire in a building where the flame was contained within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties, rescues or attendance by five or more pumping appliances.

6. Secondary fire

A secondary fire is any fire that isn't a primary or chimney fire.

7. Fire false alarm – due to apparatus
8. Fire false alarm – good intent
9. Fire false alarm – malicious

A false alarm is where the FRS attends a location believing there to be an incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed. If the appliances are 'turned around' by Command & Control before arriving at the incident then the incident is not classed as having been attended and is not recorded.

A false alarm due to apparatus is a call initiated by a fire alarm or fire-fighting equipment operating (including the accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by persons or where an alarm operates and a person then routinely calls the FRS as part of a standing arrangement).

A false alarm with good intent is a call made in good faith in the belief that the FRS really would attend an incident. If a person's mental condition means they do not understand the consequences of their actions then false alarm good intent is recorded rather than false alarm malicious.

A malicious false alarm is a call made with the intention of getting the FRS to attend a non-existent incident, including deliberate and suspected malicious intentions. If a person's mental condition is *unrelated* to their ability to understand the consequences of their actions then a malicious false alarm is still recorded.

Non-fire incident
Non-fire false alarm.

A non-fire incident (sometimes known as a 'special service incident') is any incident that require the attendance of an appliance or officer and is not a fire or false alarm. This includes attending road traffic accidents, effecting entry or exit, attending medical co-responding incidents or flooding incidents. The training of individuals, fire safety activities and testing equipment are not included.

4 Summary Statistics

Over the period 2010/11 to 2016/17 FRSs responded, on average, to 1,520 incidents per day. November 5th showed over twice as many incidents as a usual day, with secondary fires over four times larger than a usual day.

	Primary Fires									Fire False Alarms					Non-Fire False Alarms
	Total Incidents	Total Fires	Total	Dwelling	Other Building	Road Vehicle	Other Outdoor	Secondary Fires	Chimney Fires	Total	Malicious	Due To Apparatus	Good Intent	Non-Fire Incidents	
Average Day	1520	492	214	90	48	61	15	262	16	638	23	430	186	370	20
New Year	1362	384	221	114	39	57	11	132	31	559	27	388	145	399	20
Valentine's Day	1415	350	193	91	43	50	9	128	29	593	20	414	159	450	21
Bonfire Night	3363	1544	335	117	86	94	39	1191	18	1392	36	506	850	390	38
Around Bonfire Night	1752	651	232	96	54	64	18	402	16	727	23	451	253	352	22
Diwali	1580	533	232	109	46	64	14	290	11	672	20	458	193	352	23
Christmas Day	1371	331	210	138	27	40	5	76	45	631	17	460	154	389	19

Note:

The averages for Diwali are calculated for only 6 (rather than 7) years as Diwali was on 5th November in 2010.

Around Bonfire Night is the average of 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th November.

New Year is the average of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

ISBN: XXX-X-XXXX-XXX-X

ISSN: XXXX-XXXX



© Crown copyright 2017

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.