



Home Office

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

Non-fire incidents - animal assistance dataset guidance

Produced by the Fire Statistics team
FireStatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

25 January 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 the FRSs are working on improving the data within the IRS and reducing possible inconsistencies. Having said that, the IRS was not designed with record level datasets in mind 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

Fire and rescue services and the Home Office receive a relatively high number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests regarding animal assistance incidents. This dataset provides a national resource to enable a detailed and consistent answer to those queries. The Home Office has, and will continue to, engage with stakeholders, such as statistical users and FRSs, to gauge opinion on the most useful datasets to publish.

Dataset definition

The animal assistance dataset covers non-fire incidents attended by FRSs in England that they defined as “animal assistance”. 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, and in line with other datasets, we have merged Isles of Scilly data with Cornwall. However, there were no animal assistance incidents in Isles of Scilly between 2012/13 and 2016/17. 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 2012/13 - although the IRS began in April 2009 animal assistance incidents are not available in a consistent manner until this point. Incidents are allocated to a financial year depending on the time of the call, which is usually collected through automatic systems. For example, an incident where the call was made at 23.59 on March 31st 2013 but the incident was closed at 01.34 on April 1st 2013 would be allocated to 2012/13 not 2013/14.

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 2012/13 - although the IRS began in April 2009 animal assistance incidents are not available in a consistent manner until this point. Incidents are allocated to calendar year depending on the time of the call, which is usually collected through automatic systems. For example, an incident where the call was

made at 23.59 on December 31st 2012 but the incident was closed at 01.34 on January 1st 2013 would be allocated to 2012 not 2013. It should be noted that figures for 2012 will be lower, because only records from 1 April 2012 are included in the dataset – this is also true of the latest financial year published.

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 - Situation

Variable Name:	INCIDENT_LOCATION_TYPE
Variable Description:	The type of location the incident occurred in
IRS Question:	3.2

Incidents are categorised into one of the four following locations – dwelling, other building, road vehicle or outdoors.

4 Variable by variable – The Incident

Variable Name:	ASSISTANCE_TYPE
Variable Description:	The type of assistance performed by the FRS
IRS Question:	3.3

The most resource intensive element of the incident in the opinion of the lead fire officer at the time of the incident. There are seven options – “animal harm”, “lift heavy animal”, “rescue from below ground”, “rescue from height”, “rescue from mud/water etc.”, “trapped animal” and “other”.

Variable Name:	ANIMAL_GROUP
Variable Description:	The type of animal assisted by the incident
IRS Question:	3.3

The most resource intensive type of animal that was assisted in the opinion of the lead fire officer at the time of the incident. There are three options – “domestic”, “livestock” and “wild”. Some records have circumvented our systems and been classified as “birds”, these have been allocated to “wild” although it is likely a small number should be allocated to “domestic”. More detailed information is not available on a consistent basis.

5 Variable by Variable - Resourcing

Variable Name:	VEHICLES
Variable Description:	The number of fire service vehicles that attended the incident
IRS Question:	6.2

The total number of FRS vehicles that attended the incident. This includes all types of vehicle, for example hazardous materials units, fire boats and canteen vans would be included in this total. Large numbers are grouped for ease of use and to reduce the personal data risk of incidents being matched across datasets. For example, there is likely to be few incidents attended by 27 vehicles and this could be matched to other datasets containing this variable but grouping these in the “15 or more” grouping makes this impossible.

Variable Name:	VEHICLES_CODE
Variable Description:	A code to help users analyse data
IRS Question:	6.2

Because some of the options in the vehicles variable contains letters (e.g. 15 or more) this code has been added after feedback from users to aid analysis.

Variable Name:	PERSONNEL
Variable Description:	The number of fire crew and officers that attended the incident
IRS Question:	Combination of 6.1 and 6.4

The number of FRS personnel that attended the incident on fire service appliances or by other means (e.g. their own vehicle, on foot). Large numbers of personnel are grouped for ease of use and to reduce the personal data risk of incidents being matched across datasets. For example there is likely to be few incidents attended by 147 officers and this could be matched to other datasets containing this variable but grouping these in the “40 or more” grouping makes this impossible.

Variable Name:	PERSONNEL_CODE
Variable Description:	A code to help users analyse data
IRS Question:	Combination of 6.1 and 6.4

Because some of the options in the personnel variable contains letters (e.g. 40 or more) this code has been added after feedback from users to aid analysis.

Variable Name:	RESPONSE_TIME
Variable Description:	The time between the call being made and the first fire vehicle attending the scene
IRS Question:	Combination of 2.1 and 6.8

The time of the call is defined as when first call was received by Command & Control. If the call was received by one FRS and relayed to another, then the time of the call to the first FRS is used. Both of these variables are usually collected through automatic systems.

Variable Name:	RESPONSE_TIME_CODE
Variable Description:	A code to help users analyse data
IRS Question:	Combination of 2.1 and 6.8

Because all of the options in the response time variable contain letters (e.g. 1-2 mins) this code has been added after feedback from users to aid analysis.

Variable Name:	TIME_AT_SCENE
Variable Description:	The time between the first fire vehicle attending the scene and the incident being closed.
IRS Question:	Combination of 6.8 and 2.6

An incident is closed when the last FRS appliance, vehicle or officer left the scene of the incident. Both of these variables are usually collected through automatic systems.

Variable Name:	TIME_AT_SCENE_CODE
Variable Description:	A code to help users analyse data
IRS Question:	Combination of 6.8 and 2.6

Because all of the options in the time at scene variable contain letters (e.g. 0-15 mins) this code has been added after feedback from users to aid analysis.

6 Summary Statistics

FRSs attended over 23,000 animal assistance incidents between 2012/13 and 2016/17. The table below shows the number of animal assistance incidents by FRS over the time covered by this release.

FRS_NAME	E_CODE	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
England	E92000001	4,884	4,888	4,392	4,413	4,694
Avon	E31000001	142	148	152	125	139
Bedfordshire	E31000002	55	67	85	43	59
Berkshire	E31000003	48	66	46	42	50
Buckinghamshire	E31000004	59	75	58	52	55
Cambridgeshire	E31000005	82	105	96	106	126
Cheshire	E31000006	68	64	63	72	75
Cleveland	E31000007	65	43	28	25	25
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	E31000008	96	110	90	84	82
Cumbria	E31000009	50	53	48	43	47
Derbyshire	E31000010	92	87	70	69	88
Devon and Somerset	E31000011	251	278	266	242	287
Dorset and Wiltshire	E31000047	151	137	122	161	137
Durham	E31000013	57	57	64	45	50
East Sussex	E31000014	223	256	183	219	197
Essex	E31000015	150	118	94	111	116
Gloucestershire	E31000016	106	97	91	89	81
Greater Manchester	E31000040	95	49	86	94	106
Hampshire	E31000017	178	174	163	131	142
Hereford and Worcester	E31000018	95	104	84	95	143
Hertfordshire	E31000019	102	89	64	80	86
Humberside	E31000020	103	117	99	109	88
Isle Of Wight	E31000021	13	16	12	15	11
Kent	E31000022	176	214	155	160	163
Lancashire	E31000023	223	173	135	157	146
Leicestershire	E31000024	90	91	83	84	80
Lincolnshire	E31000025	57	62	51	71	69
London	E31000046	583	592	557	526	635
Merseyside	E31000041	75	84	87	79	81
Norfolk	E31000026	156	126	152	148	127
North Yorkshire	E31000027	106	112	94	114	79
Northamptonshire	E31000028	66	51	47	63	53
Northumberland	E31000029	25	18	20	28	22
Nottinghamshire	E31000030	78	78	110	80	98
Oxfordshire	E31000031	57	54	65	45	67
Shropshire	E31000032	51	62	54	49	51
South Yorkshire	E31000042	83	87	71	64	64
Staffordshire	E31000033	142	95	90	91	102
Suffolk	E31000034	69	82	90	71	76
Surrey	E31000035	103	119	100	124	99
Tyne and Wear	E31000043	95	111	97	77	122
Warwickshire	E31000036	38	17	15	36	51
West Midlands	E31000044	109	103	92	94	135
West Sussex	E31000037	106	119	75	102	98
West Yorkshire	E31000045	115	128	88	98	86



© Crown copyright 2018

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.