



Home Office



Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, year ending March 2018

Statistical Bulletin 16/18

9 August 2018

Further information

This release contains statistics about incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England. The statistics are sourced from the Home Office's online Incident Recording System (IRS), which allows FRSs to complete an incident form for every incident attended, be it a fire, a false alarm or a non-fire (also known as a Special Service) incident. The online IRS was introduced in April 2009. Previously, paper forms were submitted by FRSs and an element of sampling was involved in the data compilation process.

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics and other Home Office statistical releases are available from the [Statistics at Home Office](#) pages on the GOV.UK website. The dates of forthcoming fire and rescue and other Home Office publications are pre-announced and can be found via the [Statistics: release calendar](#). For further information about the statistics in this publication, email firestatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Data tables linked to this release and all other fire statistics releases can be found on the Home Office's 'Fire statistics data tables' page. The sections below state the most relevant tables for each section. The tables can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

Guidance for using these statistics and other fire statistics outputs is available on the fire statistics collection page, found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-guidance>

The information published in this release is kept under review, taking into account the needs of users and burdens on suppliers and producers, in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics. If you have any comments, suggestions or enquiries, please contact the team via email using firestatistics@homeoffice.gov.uk or via the user feedback form on the [fire statistics collection page](#).

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This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Analysis and Insight Directorate in accordance with the Home Office's [statement of compliance](#) with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which covers Home Office policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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1 Key facts

This release presents statistics for the financial year 2017/18 (or ending March 2018) for fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England. This is the fourth set of statistics published by the Home Office that cover the Grenfell Tower fire. The results show:

- FRSs attended **564,827 incidents** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (560,453) but a 29 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (791,746 in 2007/08). The total number of incidents was on a downward trend for around a decade, though they have increased in recent years mainly driven by increases in non-fire incidents attended. However, the small increase this year was mainly driven by an increase in fires attended.
- FRSs attended **167,150 fires** in 2017/18. This was a three per cent increase compared with the previous year (161,997) but a 43 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (293,920 in 2007/08). The increase in fires is driven by an increase in secondary fires with primary fires showing a small decrease.
- FRSs attended **225,625 fire false alarms** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (223,896) but a 32 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (331,478 in 2007/08).
- FRSs attended **172,052 non-fire incidents** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (174,560). For around a decade, there had been a general decline in the number of non-fire incidents. However, recent years have shown large increases, largely due to a rise in medical incidents attended. The recent decrease in non-fire incidents is mainly due to a decline in emergency medical responding linked to many of the trials stopping in September 2017.
- Of all incidents attended by FRSs in 2017/18, **fires accounted for 30 per cent and non-fire incidents 30 per cent**. The remaining 40 per cent were fire false alarms, which continued to be the largest incident type. In 2007/08 these percentages were 37 per cent (fires attended), 21 per cent (non-fire incidents) and 42 per cent (fire false alarms).
- The number of fire-related fatalities had been on a general downward trend since comparable figures first became available in 1981/82, when there were 755 fire-related fatalities, though the numbers have fluctuated due to the relatively small numbers involved. In 2017/18, however, there were **334 fire-related fatalities** (including 71 from the Grenfell Tower fire) compared with 263 in the previous year (an increase of 27%).
- There were **3,306 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment¹** in 2017/18 (including 77 from the Grenfell Tower fire). This was a six per cent increase compared with the previous year (3,128) but a 13 per cent decrease compared with five years ago (3,811 in 2012/13).

¹ Casualty figures include casualties whether the injury was caused by the fire or not. Fatalities are only included if they are fire-related.

2 Introduction

In order to improve the timeliness and clarity of the Home Office's fire statistics, the annual and six-monthly Fire Statistics Monitors have been replaced by a quarterly Fire and rescue incident statistics (FRIS) publication. This release covers trends in incidents, fires, fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties for the financial year 2017/18 (or year ending March 2018) and marks the first anniversary of this new statistics release schedule.

Quarterly updates (i.e. for years ending June, September and December) compare changes from the previous 12 month period and financial years approximately five and ten years prior, while financial year releases, such as this one, also contain longer-term comparisons.

The next release is due for publication on [8 November 2018](#), covering the year ending June 2018.

This is the fourth release to include figures from the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017. Given the unprecedented scale of this fire, specific figures on the numbers of fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties from the Grenfell Tower fire are included in the relevant narrative.

More detailed statistics on fires, fire-related fatalities and casualties for the 2016/17 financial year were published on 12 October 2017 in the '[Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2016 to March 2017](#)' release, with an update for 2017/18 data due for release on [6 September 2018](#). More detailed statistics on non-fire incidents were published in '[Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2016 to March 2017](#)' on 25 January 2018, with an update for 2017/18 data due for release in Winter 2018. These two releases replace the previous [Fire Statistics England](#) publication.

Each time an FRS attends an incident in England, details of that incident are uploaded to the Home Office's Incident Recording System (IRS) by the FRS. The IRS is used as the source for all the statistics in this publication. More information on the IRS can be found in the [IRS Questions and Lists](#) document.

The IRS is a continually updated database, with FRSs adding incidents daily. The figures in this release refer to records of incidents that occurred up to and including 31 March 2018. This includes incident records that were submitted to the IRS by 10 June 2018, when a snapshot of the database was taken for the purpose of analysis. As a snapshot of the dataset was taken on 10 June 2018, the statistics published may not match those held locally by FRSs and revisions may occur in the future. This is particularly the case for statistics with relatively small numbers, such as fire-related fatalities.² In addition, statisticians at the Home Office have improved the handling of historic revisions supplied to us by FRSs for figures from 2010/11 onwards. A small number of FRSs have experienced I.T. difficulties which prevented them from submitting all incident records for 2017/18. These numbers are relatively small (numbering a few hundred each) and did not involve any fatalities, so have

² For instance, this can occur because coroner's reports may mean the initial view taken by the FRS will need to be revised; this can take many months, even years, to do so.

little effect on the national figures but are highlighted in the fire data tables where data are shown by FRS. The additional data will be reflected in the release on [8 November 2018](#).

England, Scotland and Wales all use the Home Office's Incident Recording System and therefore data are comparable. All three nations publish more detailed information on fire incidents, focusing on the particular user needs in their nation. For commentary on these figures, please see '[Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, July 2016 to June 2017](#)'. Welsh and Scottish incident data were not yet available for 2017/18 at the time of writing but are due for release in August and October 2018, respectively.

The latest fire statistical release for Scotland can be found at:
<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/about-us/fire-and-rescue-statistics.aspx>

And for Wales: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/fire-statistics/?lang=en>

Northern Ireland fire statistics are published by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service using data from a system similar to the Incident Recording System, which means that they are not directly comparable to English, Welsh and Scottish data. Their latest fire statistical releases can be found at: <https://www.nifrs.org/statistics/>

This publication is accompanied by fire data tables, which can be found on the [fire statistics data tables page](#) which contains all data tables on fires published by the Home Office.

The following tables have been updated as part of this publication:

Incidents attended: 0101, 0102, 0103 and 0104.

Dwelling fires attended: 0201, 0202 and 0205.

Non-dwelling fires attended: 0301, 0302, 0303 and 0306.

Deliberate fires: 0401 and 0402.

Fatalities and casualties: 0501 and 0502.

Non-fire incidents: 0901 and 0902.

Population: 1401.

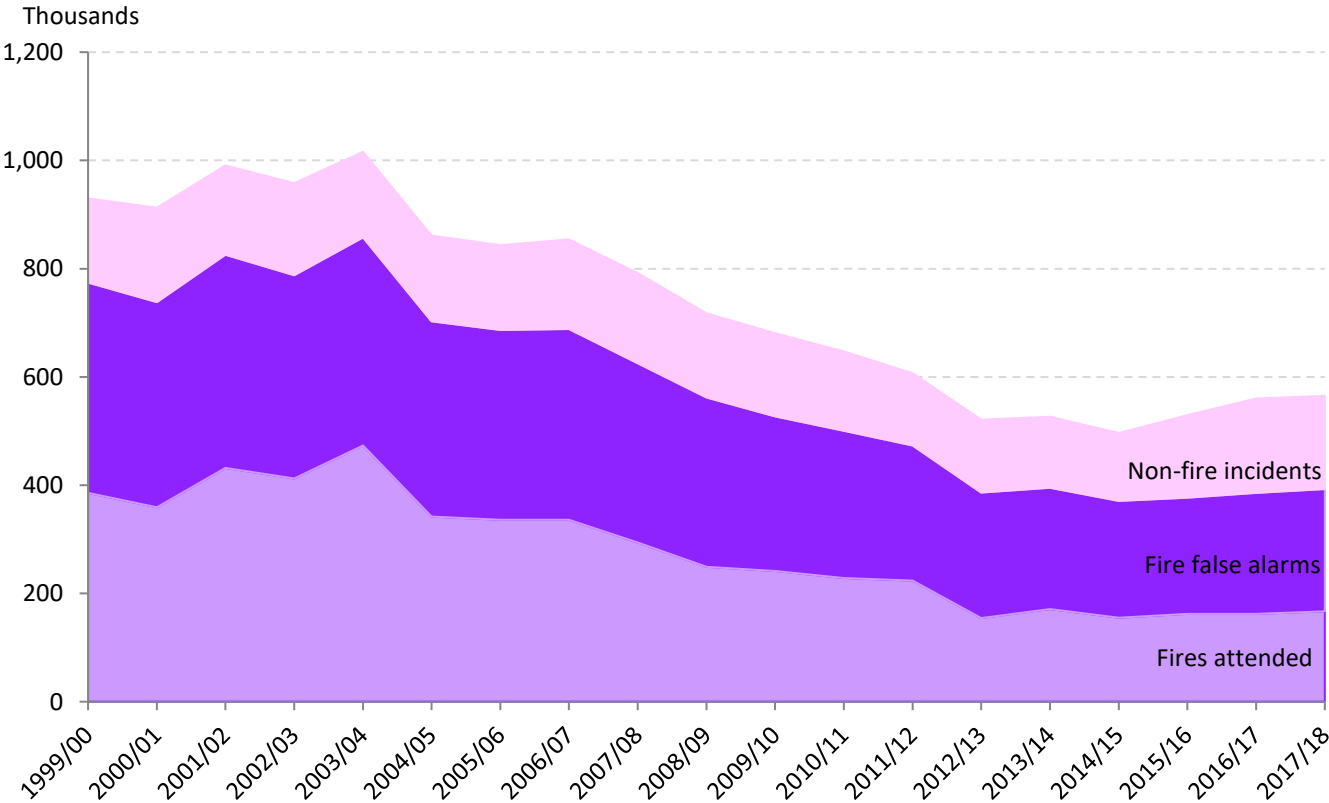
3 Types of incident

All incidents attended

The number of incidents attended by fire and rescue services (FRSs) in England peaked in 2003/04, at over one million incidents (Figure 3.1). For around a decade, there was a general decline in all three categories of incidents (fires, fire false alarms and non-fire incidents) attended and between 2012/13 and 2015/16 there were around half a million. Since then this number has risen to around 565,000 incidents in 2017/18.

In contrast to the earlier decreases (caused by a reduction in fire and fire false alarm incidents), the increase in total incidents in 2017/18 since 2014/15 has been predominantly driven by a 37 per cent increase in non-fire incidents over this time. This is mainly due to an increase in FRSs attending medical co-responding incidents (see Emergency Medical Response section below for more detail).

Figure 3.1 Total incidents attended by type of incident, England; 1999/00 to 2017/18



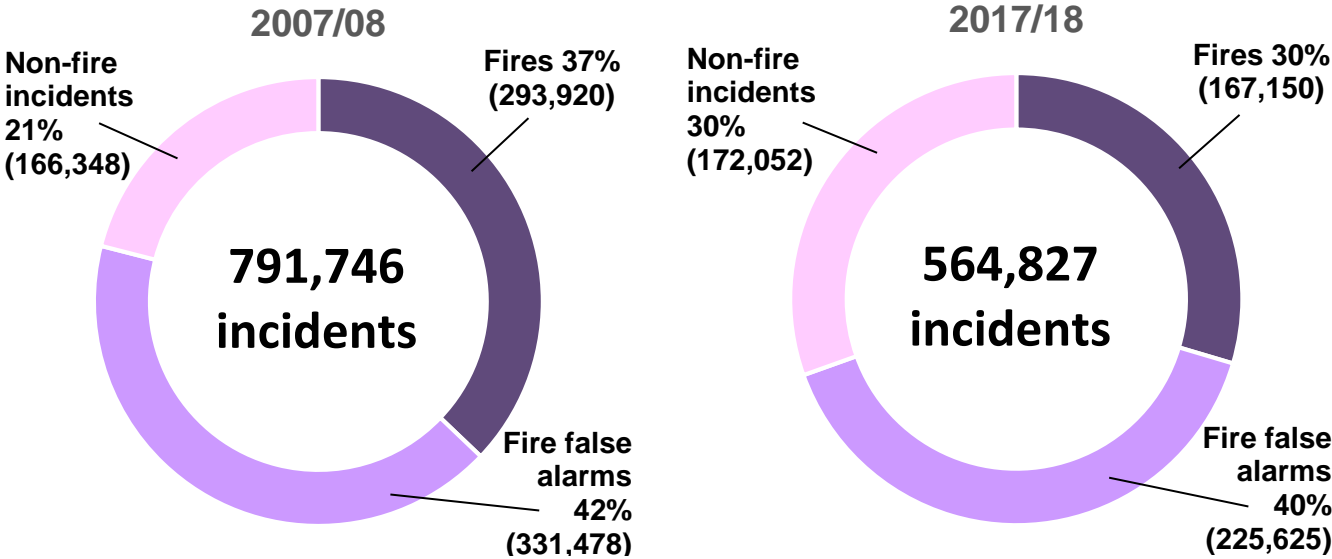
Source: FIRE0102

Of the total incidents attended in 2017/18, fires accounted for 30 per cent, non-fire incidents for 30 per cent and fire false alarms for 40 per cent. Over time, fire false alarms have consistently been the most common type of incident attended. In contrast, the proportion of fire incidents attended has been decreasing whilst the proportion of non-fire incidents has been increasing. In 2016/17, for the first time, FRSs attended more non-fire incidents than fires.

Specifically:

- **564,827 incidents were attended** by FRSs in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (560,453). (Source: FIRE0102)
- Of all incidents attended by FRSs in 2017/18, **fires accounted for 30 per cent, fire false alarms 40 per cent and non-fire incidents for 30 per cent** (Figure 3.2). Ten years ago these percentages were 37 per cent, 42 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively. (Source: FIRE0102)

Figure 3.2 Total incidents attended by type of incident, England; 2007/08 and 2017/18



[Further information on all incidents attended can be found in fire data tables 0101 and 0102.](#)

Fires attended

The total number of fires attended by FRSs decreased for around a decade – falling from around 474,000 in 2003/04 to 154,000 in 2012/13 (Figure 3.3). Since then, the total number of fires has fluctuated. FRSs attended around 167,000 fires in 2017/18, which was an increase of three per cent from around 162,000 in 2016/17.

Types of fire

Fire incidents are most broadly categorised as primary³, secondary⁴ or chimney⁵ fires depending on the location, severity and risk levels of the fire, and on the scale of response needed from FRSs to contain them.

Over the past decade, secondary and road vehicle fires (a sub-category of primary fires) have shown the greatest decreases (48 and 46 per cent decreases, respectively) while primary 'other outdoor' and dwelling fires showed the smallest decreases (31 and 26 per cent decreases, respectively).

Figure 3.3 shows the long-term trend in fire incidents from 1999/00 to 2017/18, for primary (split into dwelling and other primary) and secondary plus chimney fires. The series high for secondary plus chimney fires occurred in 2003/04, which experienced an unusually hot and dry summer. This reflects the fact that the total number of fires attended in a single year can often be affected by external factors, particularly the weather. Weather is more likely to affect outdoor primary and secondary fires which make up a large share of all fires (over half in almost every year since these data became available in 1999/00).

The increase in the total number of fires between 2016/17 and 2017/18 (3%) was predominantly driven by a seven per cent increase in secondary fires.

Overall, primary fires decreased by one per cent although there was some variation across primary fire types, namely:

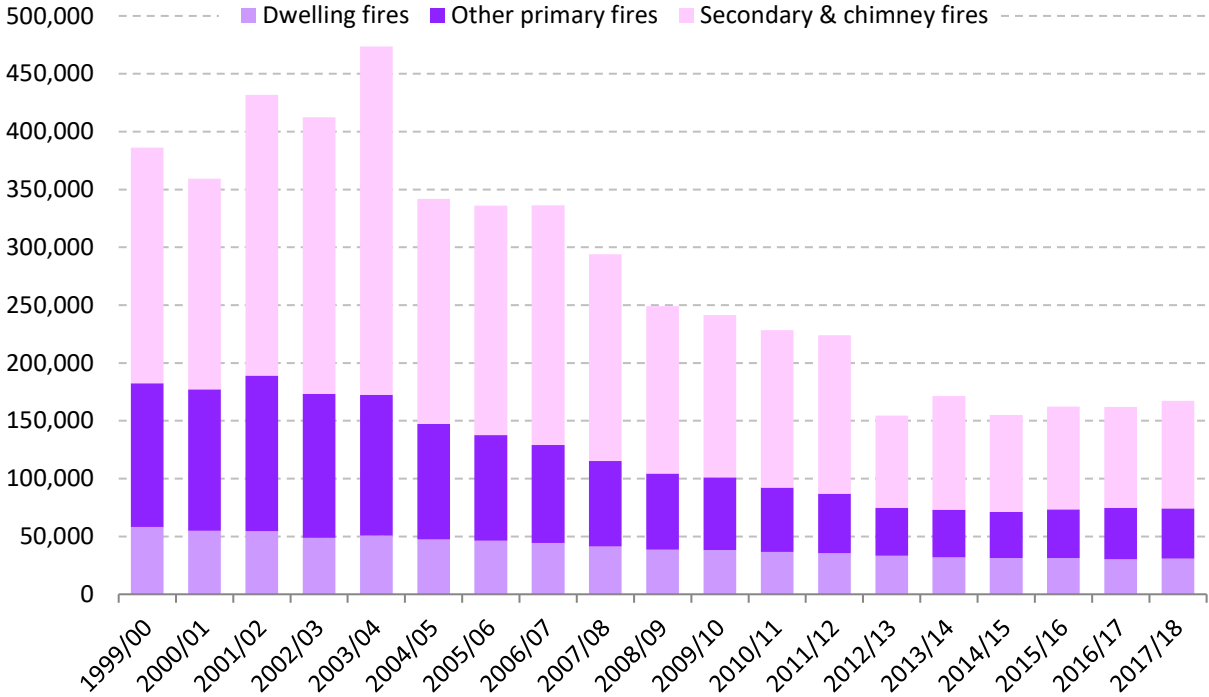
- an increase in other outdoor fires (4%) and dwelling fires (1%) and;
- decreases in other building fires (2%) and road vehicle fires (5%). (Source: FIRE0102)

³ Primary fires are those that meet one of the following criteria – a) occurs in a (non-derelict) building, vehicle or outdoor structure, b) involve a fatality, casualty or rescue or c) attended by five or more pumping appliances.

⁴ Secondary fires are generally small outdoor fires, not involving people or property. See the [Fire Statistics Definitions document](#) for more detail.

⁵ Chimney fires are fires in buildings where the flame was contained within the chimney structure and did not involve casualties, rescues or attendance by five or more pumping appliances. Chimneys in industrial buildings are not included.

Figure 3.3 Total fires attended by type of fire, England; 1999/00 to 2017/18



Source: FIRE0102

Looking at the motivation for the fires, from 2016/17 to 2017/18:

- Total accidental fires⁶ increased by one per cent (see Table 3.1a, below) and;
- Total deliberate fires increased by six per cent (Table 3.1b). This was a 17 per cent increase since 2012/13 but a 57 per cent decrease since 2007/08. (Source: FIRE0401)

The increase in deliberate fires was driven by a ten per cent increase in deliberate secondary fires. Deliberate primary fires, by contrast, decreased by 3 per cent, comprising decreases in other buildings and road vehicles but small increases in dwellings and other outdoor fires.

Specifically:

- **FRSs attended 167,150 fires** in 2017/18. This was a three per cent increase compared with the previous year (161,997 in 2016/17), an eight per cent increase compared with five years ago (154,456 in 2012/13) but a 43 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (293,920 in 2007/08). (Source: FIRE0102)
- There were **74,118 primary fires** in 2017/18 (44% of the 167,150 fires attended). This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (74,914 in 2016/17), a one

⁶ The motive for a fire is collected as accidental, deliberate or unknown in the IRS. Those marked as unknown are included in accidental fires.

per cent decrease compared with five years ago (74,709 in 2012/13) and a 36 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (115,271 in 2007/08).

- FRSs attended **30,744 primary dwelling fires** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (30,343 in 2016/17), an eight per cent decrease compared with five years ago (33,295 in 2012/13) and a 26 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (41,336 in 2007/08). Primary dwelling fires made up 41 per cent of primary fires and 18 per cent of all fires in 2017/18.
- There were **27,525 accidental dwelling fires** in 2017/18, out of the 30,744 primary dwelling fires. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (27,237 in 2016/17), a seven per cent decrease compared with five years ago (29,669 in 2012/13) and a 20 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (34,258 in 2007/08). (See FIRE0202 and Table 3.1a, below)
- There were **3,219 deliberate dwelling fires** in 2017/18. This was a four per cent increase compared with the previous year (3,106), an 11 per cent decrease compared with five years ago (3,626 in 2012/13) and a 55 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (7,078 in 2007/08). (See FIRE0202 and Table 3.1b, below)
- Of the 30,744 primary dwelling fires attended by FRSs in England in 2017/18, three-quarters (75%) were in houses, bungalows, converted flats and other⁷ properties whilst a quarter (25%) were in purpose-built flats. Of those fires in purpose-built flats, 16 per cent were in purpose-built low-rise flats; six per cent were in purpose-built medium-rise flats and **three per cent were in purpose-built high-rise flats**.⁸
- FRSs attended **801 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats** in England in 2017/18, a 12 per cent increase compared with the previous year (713 in 2016/17) but 36 per cent fewer than in 2009/10 (1,261).
- There were **89,017 secondary fires** in 2017/18, out of the 167,150 fires attended. This was a seven per cent increase compared with the previous year (82,842 in 2016/17), and a 23 per cent increase compared with five years ago (72,497 in 2012/13) but a 48 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (172,306 in 2007/08). (Source: FIRE0102)
- There were **4,015 chimney fires** in 2017/18, out of the 167,150 fires attended. This was a five per cent decrease compared with the previous year (4,241 in 2016/17), a 45 per cent decrease compared with five years ago (7,250 in 2012/13) and a 37 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (6,343 in 2007/08).

The tables below show the number of fires by motive and type of fire for 2017/18 compared with 2016/17.

⁷ Other includes sheltered accommodation, caravan/mobile home, HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) etc.

⁸ In the IRS low-rise is defined as 1 to 3 storeys, medium rise 4 to 9 storeys and high rise as 10 storeys or more. These IRS definitions are different to those from the English Housing Survey which defines low rise as a flat in a purpose-built block less than 6 storeys high. This includes cases where there is only one flat with independent access in a building which is also used for non-domestic purposes. High rise is defined as a flat in a purpose-built block of at least six storeys high.

Table 3.1a Number of accidental fires, by fire type, England; 2016/17 and 2017/18

	Total accidental fires	Primary fires					Secondary	Chimney
		Total primary	Dwellings	Other buildings	Road vehicles	Other outdoors		
2016/17	85,846	52,856	27,237	11,282	11,703	2,634	28,765	4,225
2017/18	86,392	52,653	27,525	11,141	11,263	2,724	29,755	3,984
% change	1%	0%	1%	-1%	-4%	3%	3%	-6%

Source: Calculated using FIRE0102 and FIRE0401

Table 3.1b Number of deliberate fires, by fire type, England; 2016/17 and 2017/18

	Total deliberate fires	Primary fires					Secondary	Chimney
		Total primary	Dwellings	Other buildings	Road vehicles	Other outdoors		
2016/17	76,151	22,058	3,106	4,577	11,821	2,554	54,077	16
2017/18	80,758	21,465	3,219	4,436	11,157	2,653	59,262	31
% change	6%	-3%	4%	-3%	-6%	4%	10%	94%

Source: FIRE0401

[Further information on fires attended can be found in tables 0102, 0103, 0201, 0202, 0205, 0301, 0302, 0303, 0306, 0401 and 0402.](#)

Fire false alarms attended

The total **number** of fire false alarms attended showed a downward trend for over a decade, from a peak of around 394,000 in 2001/02 to a low of around 214,000 in 2015/16, rising again to around 226,000 in 2017/18. Fire false alarms attended are categorised as:

- where there was good intent but no fire;
- where apparatus such as fire alarms caused an attendance to a false alarm; and

- malicious calls.

The categories above do not include false alarms to non-fire incidents. For more information on non-fire false alarms, see table FIRE0902 and discussion in '[Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents, England, April 2016 to March 2017](#)'.

In every year since 2004/05 the largest incident type was fire false alarms, ranging from 40 per cent to 44 per cent. Malicious calls have accounted for the smallest **number** of fire false alarms since the information was first collected in 1999/00 and the **proportion** of this type of fire false alarms has been on a downward trend since 1999/00.

Specifically:

- FRSs attended **225,625 fire false alarms** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent increase compared with the previous year (223,896 in 2016/17) but a three per cent decrease compared with five years ago (231,767 in 2012/13) and a 32 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (331,478 in 2007/08).
- The small increase in fire false alarms in 2017/18 compared with the previous year was made up of a **two per cent increase in 'good intent' fire false alarms** (65,252 to 66,881), a **four per cent increase in 'malicious'** (6,954 to 7,257) fire false alarms but **virtually no change in fire false alarms 'due to apparatus'** (151,690 to 151,487).
- **Fire false alarms** 'due to apparatus' accounted for over two thirds (67%) of fire false alarms in 2017/18.

[Further information on fire false alarms attended can be found in tables 0102 and 0104.](#)

Non-fire incidents attended

FRSs attend many types of incidents that are not fires or fire false alarms, for example flooding incidents, responding to road traffic collisions, animal assistance and effecting entry/exit (a complete list can be found in fire data table [FIRE0902](#)).

There has been a general decline since 2007/08 in the **number** of non-fire incidents attended, reaching a series low of around 125,000 such incidents in 2014/15. In contrast, over the same time period the **proportion** of all incidents that were non-fire incidents showed a slow but steady increase. This is because the decrease in non-fire incidents was not as great as for the other two incident types.

Following this decline, there was a rapid increase to a series high of around 175,000 in 2016/17, while the number of non-fire incidents in 2017/18 was slightly lower at around 172,000: an increase of 37 per cent compared with the series low in 2014/15. The **proportion** of all incidents that were non-fire incidents increased from 25 per cent in 2014/15 to 30 per cent in 2017/18.

Specifically:

- FRSs attended **172,052 non-fire incidents** in 2017/18. This was a one per cent decrease compared with the previous year (174,560 in 2016/17) but a 27 per cent increase compared with five years ago (135,054 in 2012/13) and a three per cent

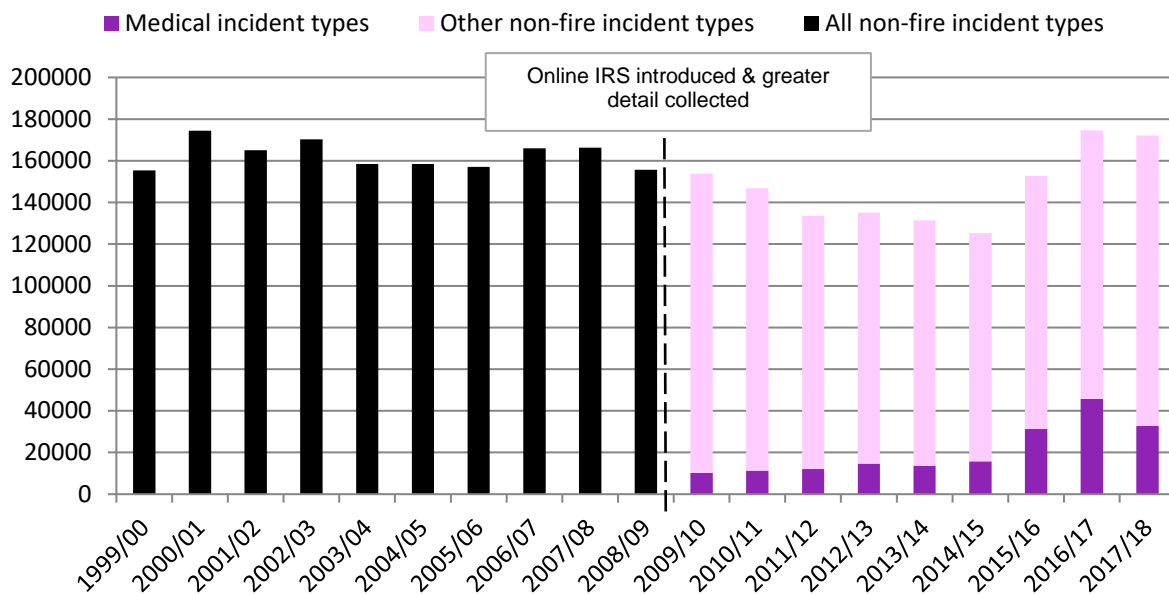
increase compared with ten years ago (166,348 in 2007/08). Since annual data became available in 1999/00, 2016/17 was the series high for non-fire incidents attended. (Source: FIRE0901, FIRE0902)

- FRSs attended **32,820 medical incidents** in 2017/18 (Figure 3.4). This was a 28 per cent decrease compared with the previous year (45,765 in 2016/17) but a 123 per cent increase compared with five years ago (14,686 in 2012/13). See the section below for more detail on emergency medical responding.
- When **excluding medical incidents, FRSs attended 139,232 other non-fire incidents** in 2017/18, an eight per cent increase compared with the previous year (128,795 in 2016/17) and a 16 per cent increase compared with five years ago (120,368 in 2012/13).

Apart from medical incidents, the four largest non-fire incident types were road traffic collisions, effecting entry/exit, flooding incidents and assisting other agencies. Specifically:

- FRSs attended **29,902 road traffic collisions** in 2017/18. This was no change compared with the previous year (29,900 in 2016/17) and a seven per cent increase compared with five years ago (27,930 in 2012/13).
- FRSs attended **24,007 effecting entry/exit incidents** in 2017/18. This was a 16 per cent increase compared with the previous year (20,628 in 2016/17) and a 57 per cent increase compared with five years ago (15,279 in 2012/13).
- FRSs attended **15,611 flooding incidents** in 2017/18. This was an 11 per cent increase compared with the previous year (14,111) but a 13 per cent decrease compared with five years ago (17,908 in 2012/13). Flooding events can be linked to the weather and so are highly variable with no clear trend since 2009/10.
- FRSs attended **13,461 incidents assisting other agencies** in 2017/18. This was a 32 per cent increase compared with the previous year (10,225 in 2016/17) and more than tripled compared with five years ago (4,057 in 2012/13).

Figure 3.4 Non-fire incidents attended by broad incident type, England; 1999/00 to 2017/18



Source: FIRE0102, FIRE0901

Emergency medical responding (EMR)

Between 2009/10, when medical incidents were first recorded, and 2014/15, the number of medical incidents attended steadily rose from around 10,000 to around 16,000. From 2014/15 to 2016/17 over half (61%) of the increase in non-fire incidents was accounted for by a further rise in the number of medical incidents attended. Of the 49,000 additional non-fire incidents attended in 2016/17, compared with 2014/15, 30,000 were categorised as “Medical Incident – first responder” or “Medical Incident – co responder”. This large increase in the number of medical incidents attended coincided with the introduction, in 2015, of the National Joint Council (NJC)⁹ supported trials of emergency medical responding (EMR) where FRSs formed agreements with ambulance trusts to undertake health and care related work – in particular co-responding.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 however, there was a 28 per cent decrease in the number of medical incidents attended falling from around 46,000 to around 33,000. Within this time period (on 18 September 2017) the Fire Brigades Union, who represent the employees’ side of the NJC, removed their support for the EMR trials. As a result, some of this work has now stopped and it is likely that this is driving the decrease observed. See Figure 3.5 (below) for the number of EMR incidents attended by quarter, noting that this is affected by seasonal variation with the fourth quarter of the financial year (January, February and March) being higher than the surrounding quarters for each of the last three financial years. The most frequent EMR incident types were related to breathing difficulties and chest pain / cardiac arrest, making up 48 per cent of EMR incidents in 2017/18.

The number of medical incidents attended varies between FRSs, with 31 showing a decrease (19 of these decreasing by at least a third) in 2017/18. Conversely, 11 FRSs recorded an increase in medical incidents attended (seven of these increasing by at least a third) and two showed virtually no change in 2017/18. One FRS continued not to attend any medical incidents.

For more detailed information on EMR incidents, see fire statistics table [FIRE0902](#) and [‘Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents’](#).

Figure 3.5 Number of medical incidents attended, England; 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2018

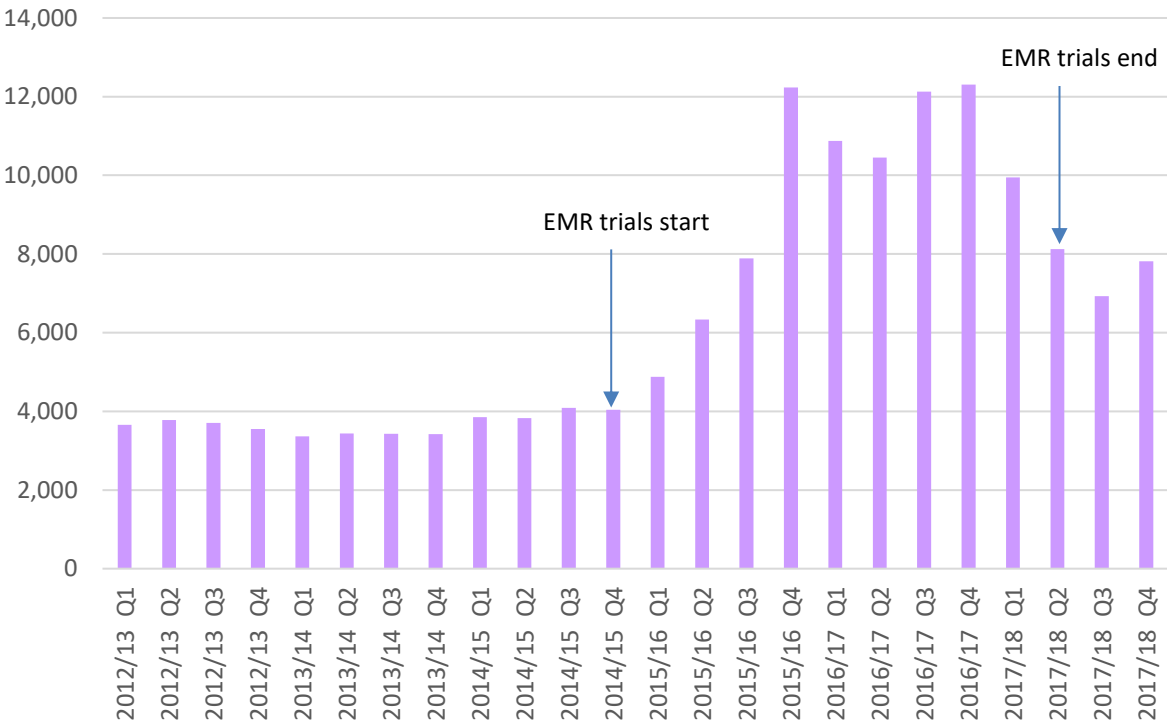


Chart notes: EMR trials started in 2015 with FRSs starting at different times. Some FRSs were already undertaking EMR before this and joined the trials once they were agreed by the NJC. The NJC removed their support for the EMR trials on 18 September 2017.

[Further information on non-fire incidents attended can be found in tables 0102, 0901 and 0902.](#)

4 Fire-related fatalities and casualties

As the Incident Recording System (IRS) is a continually updated database, the statistics published in this release may not match those held locally by FRSs and revisions may occur in the future (see Introduction for further detail). This may be particularly relevant for fire-related fatalities⁹ where a coroner's report could lead to revisions in the data some time after the incident. It should also be noted that the numbers of fire-related fatalities are prone to year-on-year fluctuations due to relatively low numbers. The figures in this release refer to records of incidents that had reached the IRS by 10 June 2018, when a snapshot of the database was taken. In addition, statisticians at the Home Office have improved the handling of historic revisions supplied by FRSs for figures from 2010/11 onwards.

Given the unprecedented scale of the Grenfell Tower fire on 14 June 2017, specific figures on the numbers of fire-related fatalities and non-fatal casualties from it are included in the relevant narrative and the box below.

Box 1: The Grenfell Tower fire

This box contains information provided by London Fire Brigade¹⁰ on the fire that took place at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. The data in this release includes records of incidents that had reached the IRS by 10 June 2018, when a snapshot of the database was taken. As such, figures on the Grenfell Tower fire may be revised in subsequent releases. When a snapshot of the database was taken London Fire Brigade reported:

- 71 fire-related fatalities¹¹
- 109 non-fatal casualties, of which:
 - 67 were 'hospital severe'
 - 10 were 'hospital slight'
 - 1 required 'first aid' and;
 - 31 had 'precautionary checks'.

⁹ For the purpose of publications, a fire-related fatality includes the number of fatal casualties that were recorded as 'fire-related' or 'don't know' and only excludes those that were recorded as 'not fire-related'.

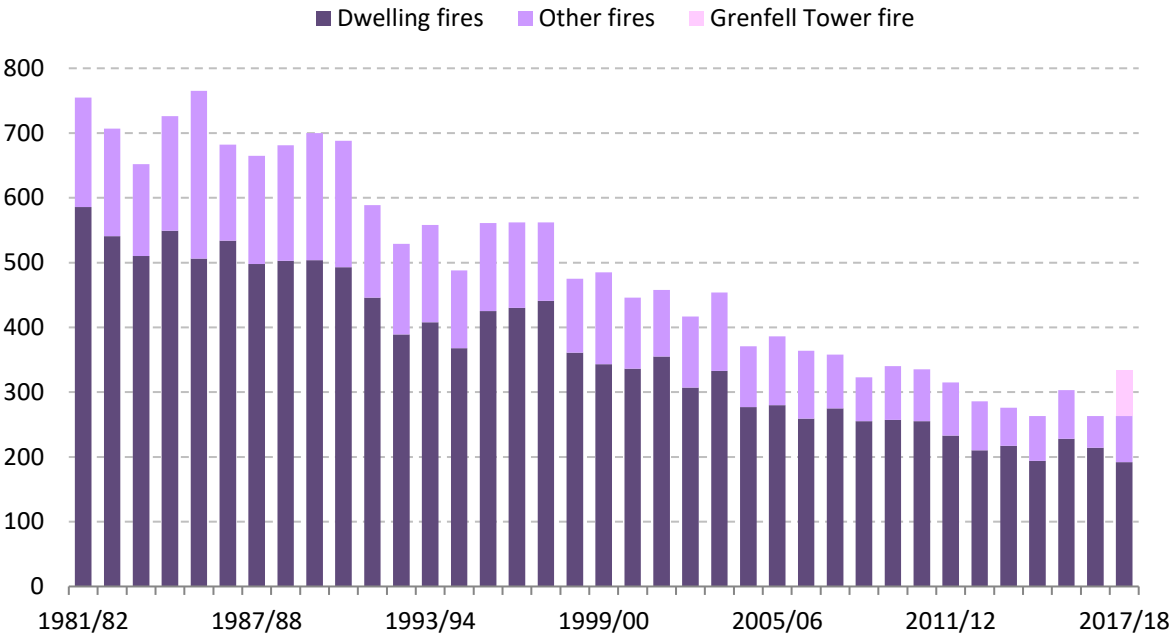
¹⁰ London Fire Brigade's records of the number of fatalities are based on information provided by the Metropolitan Police Service. The fire-related fatalities figure of 80 was announced by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 10 July 2017. MPS have since revised this number to 71 fire-related fatalities on 16 November 2017. The non-fatal casualty numbers are derived from numbers published by the London Ambulance Service for people who attended hospital together with those recorded by the London Fire Brigade who received first aid or required a 'precautionary check'.

¹¹ On 29 January 2018, a further victim, who had initially survived the fire, passed away in hospital. As a result, a figure of 72 fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire has been widely cited in the media and the Grenfell Tower inquiry honoured her memory at the commemoration hearings. However, at the time of writing the Metropolitan Police had not yet added her to the official list of fatalities from the fire pending the results of a coroner's report which will determine whether her death was a direct result of the fire or caused by her pre-existing medical condition. She, therefore, remains counted in the list of non-fatal casualties.

Fire-related fatalities

The number of fire-related fatalities in England has been on a general downward trend since 1981/82, when comparable figures first became available, though the numbers have fluctuated due to the relatively small numbers involved. In 1981/82 there were 755 fire-related fatalities but by 2014/15 this figure had fallen to a low of 263 – a decrease of 65 per cent over 33 years – and has fluctuated thereafter.

Figure 4.1 Total fire-related fatalities in dwellings or other fires, England; 1981/82 to 2017/18

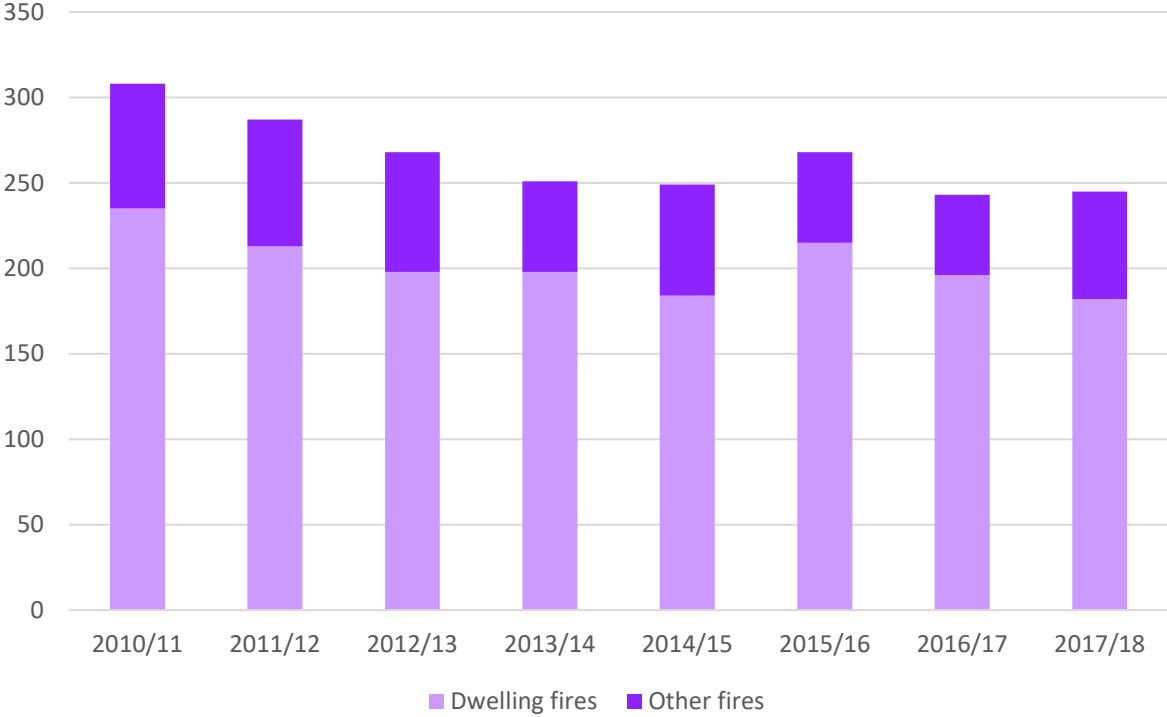


Source: FIRE0502

Specifically:

- There were **334 fire-related fatalities** in 2017/18. This compared with 263 in the previous year (2016/17, an increase of 27%), 286 five years previously (2012/13, an increase of 17 per cent) and 358 ten years previously (2007/08, a decrease of seven per cent). The 2017/18 figure includes 71 fire-related fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire. (Source: FIRE0502)
- There were **263 fire-related fatalities in dwelling fires** in 2017/18. This compared with 214 in the previous year (an increase of 23%). The 2017/18 figure includes 71 fire-related fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire.
- **A very small proportion of fires resulted in a fire-related fatality** in 2017/18: 245 out of the 167,150 fires (0.15%). This was virtually unchanged from 2016/17, when there were 243 fires with a fire-related fatality out of the 161,997 fires.

Figure 4.2 Number of fires with a fire-related fatality in dwellings or other fires, England; 2010/11 to 2017/18



Source: Further breakdown of FIRE0502

- There were **73 fire-related fatalities in purpose-built high-rise flats** (defined as ten storeys or more) in England in 2017/18. In the previous year, this figure was four. The 2017/18 figure includes 71 fire-related fatalities from the Grenfell Tower fire.
- In 2017/18 there were **three fires which resulted in a fatality out of the 801 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats (0.4%)**. This compares with four fires with a fatality out of the 713 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats (0.6%) in 2016/17.

Table 4.1 Percentage of dwelling fires attended by FRSs with a fire-related fatality, by dwelling type, England; 2017/18

	House, bungalow, converted flat, other	Purpose-built flat – 1 to 3 storeys	Purpose-built flat – 4 to 9 storeys	Purpose-built flat – 10 storeys or more
Number of dwelling fires	22,985	5,004	1,954	801
Number of fires with a fatality	138	34	7	3
Percentage of fires with a fatality	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: Further breakdown of FIRE0205

[Further information on fire-related fatalities can be found in tables 0501, 0502 and 0205.](#)

Non-fatal casualties in fires

The number of non-fatal casualties¹² in fires in England has been on a downward trend since the mid-1990s, more than halving from a peak of around 14,800 in 1996/97 down to a low of around 7,100 in 2016/17, although it appears that the downward trend has slowed in the last few years and shows some fluctuation (Figure 4.3). The number of non-fatal casualties in 2017/18 increased by three per cent from the previous year, to around 7,300. While the fatality figures above are for those fatalities caused by the fire (i.e. fire-related) or when the cause was unknown, the casualty figures are for those resulting from a fire incident, whether the casualties were caused by the fire or not.

Specifically:

- There were **3,306 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment** in 2017/18. This was a six per cent increase compared with the previous year (3,128 in 2016/17) but a 13 per cent decrease compared with five years ago (3,811 in 2012/13) and a 42 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (5,749 in 2007/08)¹³. The 2017/18 figure includes 77 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment from the Grenfell Tower fire. (Source: FIRE0502)
- There were **7,290 non-fatal casualties in fires** in 2017/18, three per cent more than the previous year (7,092 in 2016/17) but 14 per cent fewer than five years ago (8,429 in 2012/13) and 29 per cent fewer than ten years ago (10,319 in 2007/08). The 2017/18 figure includes 109 non-fatal casualties from the Grenfell Tower fire.
- There were **5,447 non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires** in 2017/18. This was a two per cent increase compared with the previous year (5,365 in 2016/17) but a 19 per cent

¹² For more detailed technical definitions of fire-related non-fatal casualties, see the [Fire Statistics Definitions document](#). A further breakdown of the different types of non-fatal casualties is available in the published fire data tables.

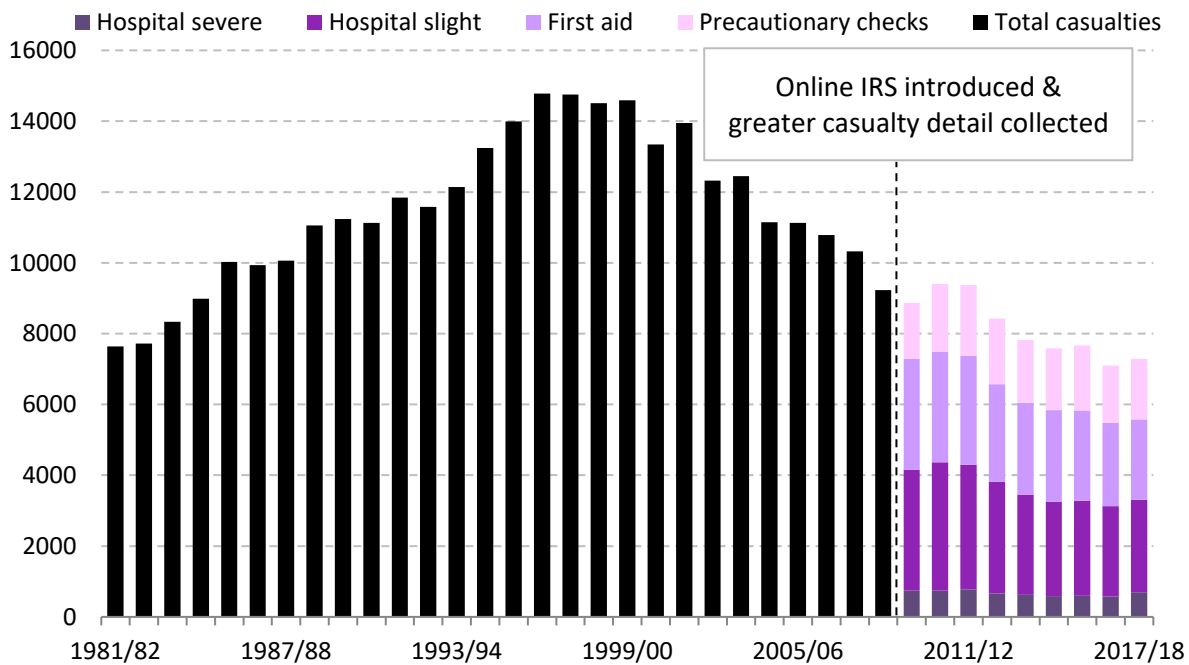
¹³ Non-fatal casualties in fires have only been categorised by “hospital – severe”, “hospital – slight”, “first aid given” and “precautionary checks recommended” since the introduction of the IRS in 2009. This means a ten year comparison is unavailable for those measures.

decrease compared with five years ago (6,738) and a 35 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (8,424 in 2007/18). The 2017/18 figure includes 109 non-fatal casualties from the Grenfell Tower fire.

- There were **126 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment from fires in purpose-built high-rise flats** (10 storeys or more) in 2017/18. This figure was 62 in 2016/17 and 65 in 2012/13. The 2017/18 figure includes 77 non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment from the Grenfell Tower fire. (Source: FIRE0205)

[Further information on non-fatal casualties can be found in tables 0501, 0502 and 0205.](#)

Figure 4.3 Total non-fatal casualties in fires by injury severity, England; 1981/82 to 2017/18



Source: FIRE0502

Statistical Bulletins are prepared by staff in Home Office Statistics under the Code of Practice for Statistics and can be downloaded from GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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