



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MATTERS

A PARLIAMENTARY BULLETIN FROM THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION | FEB 2019

Firefighters continue to rescue more people year on year

Firefighters carried out record levels of rescues over the last year, underlining the exceptional role of emergency intervention, according to new research by the Fire Brigades Union.

Latest figures show that **more than 45,000 people** were rescued by firefighters in the UK between April 2017 and March 2018. This equates to more than 3,800 rescues a month, or more than **100 rescues every day**.

In England, Nearly 38,000 people were rescued by firefighters between 2017-18. Around 2,500 rescues took place in Wales, whilst there were almost 1,700 rescues in Northern Ireland. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service rescued over 3,500 people overall between 2017-18.

RESCUES ON THE RISE

Total recorded rescue activity **increased by 4% over the last year across the UK** – with both England and Northern Ireland experiencing increases. This underlines both the diversity of emergencies that firefighters now deal with and continued importance of emergency intervention.

Last year there were significant increases in the number of rescues carried out by firefighters in Northumberland, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Dorset and Wiltshire fire and rescue services. Firefighters are being asked to do more with less; serving our communities by tackling a range of hazards promptly and effectively, protecting, lives, homes and workplaces.

Firefighters rescue more people year on year – yet funding is still being cut to the bone – our fire and rescue service needs investment.

NON-FIRE INCIDENTS

A major finding is the huge number of rescues from non-fire incidents including flooding, hazardous chemical spillages, road traffic collisions and lift rescues.

There were around ten times more rescues at non-fire incidents than at fires. This reflects the breadth of activities that firefighters now undertake and shows the service provides an outstanding response to a range of emergencies.

For the UK as a whole, **nearly 42,000 rescues were carried out at non-fire incidents in 2017-18**. This is the highest figure since the FBU began collecting this data.

The figures indicate that firefighters still make a significant intervention in fire related incidents. Across the UK, **almost 4,000 people were rescued from fires by firefighters over the last year**.

Figures may be revised in light of further research. Some firefighter rescues may be underestimated, such as terrorism and flooding. Furthermore, brigades do not uniformly provide the same data with some including evacuations. Staffordshire do not record non-fire incident rescues if the individual is harmed, while other FRSS have provided this information.

The FBU implores all government bodies publish official, comprehensive statistics on rescues. **We need clear evidence of the overall value firefighters contribute to their communities.**

Rescues by Brigade April 2017 - March 2018

Fire and Rescue Service	Total Rescues (Fire)	Total Rescues (Non-fire)	Total Rescues	Change %
Scotland	488	3,024	3,512	0%
Northern Ireland	176	1,519	1,695	12%
Mid and West Wales	44	795	839	4%
North Wales	26	316	342	15%
South Wales	86	1,216	1,302	-11%
Wales	156	2,327	2,483	-3%
Cleveland	24	283	307	1%
Durham	14	316	330	5%
Northumberland	14	254	268	52%
Tyne and Wear	241	1,440	1,681	-11%
Humberside	70	857	927	15%
North Yorkshire	73	631	704	2%
South Yorkshire	73	1,223	1,296	16%
West Yorkshire	76	1,341	1,417	4%
Cheshire	22	505	527	-15%
Cumbria	40	425	465	-5%
Greater Manchester	187	1,804	1,991	6%
Lancashire	75	934	1,009	3%
Merseyside	47	506	553	-2%
Derbyshire	83	739	822	7%
Leicestershire	43	475	518	-13%
Lincolnshire	28	532	560	9%
Northamptonshire	67	572	639	0%
Nottinghamshire	54	762	816	1%
Hereford and Worcester	50	607	657	20%
Shropshire	88	506	594	10%
Staffordshire	89	215	304	-3%
Warwickshire	5	227	232	38%
West Midlands	152	1,190	1,342	33%
Bedfordshire	59	461	520	-8%
Cambridgeshire	16	78	94	-2%
Essex	48	1,456	1,504	5%
Hertfordshire	159	1,331	1,490	5%
Norfolk	26	585	611	13%
Suffolk	25	337	362	-13%
London	409	3,880	4,289	-6%
Berkshire	94	765	859	-23%
Buckinghamshire	29	633	662	13%
East Sussex	41	921	962	14%
Hampshire	186	1,888	2,074	25%
Isle of Wight	5	72	77	3%
Kent	48	779	827	13%
Oxfordshire	21	395	416	12%
Surrey	71	1,273	1,344	-3%
West Sussex	41	346	387	6%
Avon	30	713	743	0%
Cornwall	16	224	240	28%
Devon and Somerset	73	1,134	1,207	27%
Dorset and Wiltshire	41	1,070	1,111	30%
Gloucestershire	9	216	225	-24%
England	3,062	34,901	37,963	5%
UK Total	3,882	41,771	45,653	4%