



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Her Majesty's
Inspector of Fire Services
for Scotland
Report for 1961

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
August, 1962*

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Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland
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*Scottish Home and Health Department,
12/13 Carlton Terrace,
Edinburgh, 7.*

18th June, 1962.

TO THE RIGHT HON. JOHN S. MACLAY, C.M.G., M.P.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit my report on the fire services of Scotland for 1961.

Inspection of Fire Brigades

2. All fire brigades in Scotland were inspected during the period under review. Organisations were examined and inspections of stations were carried out at a representative number of whole-time, retained and volunteer stations but, with increasing demands on the time of the Inspectorate and staffing difficulties brought about through illness, the number of stations visited had to be considerably curtailed. I am, however, able to report that progress has been maintained and that, generally, fire authorities are meeting the obligations placed upon them.

Legislation

3. The following regulations affecting the fire service have been made during the year :

- (i) The National Insurance (Modification of Firemen's Pension Scheme) Regulations, 1961, (S.I. 1961 No. 267) were made under section 69 of the National Insurance Act, 1946, and modified the Firemen's Pension Scheme in connection with the operation of the provisions of the National Insurance Act, 1959.
- (ii) The Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (Scotland) Regulations, 1961 (S.I. 1961 No. 1127) amended the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion)(Scotland) Regulations, 1958, and (a) provide that citizens of the Republic of Ireland may become members of fire brigades in Scotland ; (b) confer on certain members of the armed forces of the Commonwealth and the Republic of Ireland the benefit of the higher age of entry ; (c) enable persons employed as fire officers or firemen by the Northern Ireland Fire Authority to become members of a fire brigade in Scotland ; and (d) amend the conditions in connection with examinations for promotion to the ranks of sub-officer and station officer.

Establishment of Fire Brigades

4. Retirements have during the year brought about a number of changes in the officers holding senior posts in brigades in Scotland.

5. At the commencement of the year, Mr J. Swanson, M.B.E., G.M., Grad. I. Fire E., took over the post of Firemaster of the Glasgow Fire Brigade, a position to which he had been appointed on the retiral of Mr M. Chadwick, C.B.E., M.I. Fire E., M.I.E.S., at the end of 1960. Mr G. P. Cooper, formerly Deputy Firemaster in the Central Area Fire Brigade, was subsequently appointed to the post of Assistant Firemaster in the Glasgow Fire Brigade.

6. On the retiral during the month of March of Mr J. W. Gibson, O.B.E., Grad. I. Fire E., Firemaster of the Angus Area Fire Brigade, Mr J. Jackson, M.I. Fire E., who was formerly Deputy Firemaster in that brigade, was appointed to the post and Mr A. J. B. Jones, formerly Deputy Chief Officer in the Salford Fire Brigade, was subsequently appointed to the post of Deputy Firemaster with the rank of Divisional Officer (Grade I).

7. On the retiral during the month of August of Mr R. Bowman, O.B.E., Grad. I. Fire E., Firemaster of the Western Area Fire Brigade, Mr J. Hartil, who was formerly Assistant Firemaster in that brigade, was promoted to the post and Mr R. Herbert, formerly Divisional Officer (Grade III) in the Glasgow Fire Brigade, was subsequently appointed to the post of Assistant Firemaster.

8. Mr J. T. Davidson, O.B.E., Grad. I. Fire E., Firemaster of the Central Area Fire Brigade, retired during the month of December, and the appointment of his successor had not been finally determined at the end of the year. Mr R. Havery, A.M.I. Fire E., formerly a Divisional Officer (Grade III) in the brigade, was promoted to the post of Assistant Firemaster on the appointment of Mr Cooper to the Glasgow Fire Brigade referred to above.

Uniformed—Operational

9. Hours of duty are now finally determined, not by the Secretary of State, but by the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Fire Brigades. As a result of negotiations through the National Joint Council it was agreed in April that subject to certain conditions a 48-hour working week for whole-time operational firemen should be introduced into the fire service as one of the approved systems of duty. At the end of the year the introduction of this system of duty was under active consideration by fire authorities and in three brigade areas it had been accepted in principle as the standard duty system and in one brigade area a start had been made to implement it.

10. Table 1 of this report sets out the establishments and strengths of fire brigades. The total of the whole-time male establishments of brigades reached 2,297, which shows an increase of 108 on the figure for last year.

11. Adjustments to improve standards of fire cover and the manning of an additional fire station as well as augmentation in one brigade preparatory to introducing the new duty system account mainly for this increase. Additional posts in fire prevention departments and other minor adjustments in officer establishments make up the remainder of the increase.

12. The manning of the additional station as well as adjustments in control and watchroom staffs are reflected also in an increase of 16 in the establishments of whole-time females in brigades.

13. The same circumstances as in previous years as regards the difference between the establishments of whole-time males and actual strengths in brigades occur again this year, when some major additions to establishments came too late to enable the gaps to be filled by recruitment before the end of the year. The difference at that time stood at 122.

14. Table 2 shows the changes which have occurred during the year in whole-time strengths. The net gain in males was 75 and in females 12. Recruitment on the whole shows a little improvement, from 175 males and 21 females in 1960 to 197 males and 37 females in 1961. There are few difficulties in recruiting in some areas, and some brigades normally have a waiting list ; but the position is not so easy in the industrial areas of Scotland, where the flow of applicants remains more or less constant at a level which only just satisfies normal demands. In these areas, increases in actual strength tend to lag behind large increases in establishment, and fire authorities would be justified in taking advantage of any surge in applications, even if this leads to their recruiting beyond the establishment in force at the time.

15. Wastage from brigades continues to be a problem. There were 60 males and 23 females who resigned from fire brigades with under 10 years' service. These figures represent 30 per cent. and 62 per cent. respectively, of the total whole-time recruitment into brigades of males and of females for the year. The service is losing appreciably by this wastage both in experience and trained personnel and in time, energy and expense in training.

16. Reverting to Table 1, some slight adjustments have been made in the establishments of part-time men to meet changing needs but on the whole the strengths of both retained men and volunteers remain much the same.

Uniformed—Control Rooms and Watchrooms

17. Members of brigades employed whole-time on control room and watchroom duties were :

Rank	Fire Brigade Area											Totals	
	Angus	Central	Fife	Glasgow	Lanark-shire	North-Eastern	Northern	Perth and Kinross	South-Eastern	South Western	Western	Men	Women
	<i>Control Rooms</i>												
Station Officer ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Sub-Officer ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Fireman ...	—	5	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Asst. Group Officer ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senior Leading Firewoman ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Leading Firewoman ...	1	—	—	4	—	4	1	—	4	1	—	—	15
Firewoman ...	7	—	8	8	8	4	4	4	4	8	9	—	64
Totals ...	9	6	9	13	9	13	5	4	9	9	9	13	82
<i>Watchrooms</i>													
Fireman ...	—	1	1	41	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	48	—
Firewoman ...	—	2	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	28
Totals ...	—	3	1	64	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	48	28
Gross Totals	9	9	10	77	10	13	5	4	9	10	15	61	110

Non-Uniformed Staffs

18. The establishments of non-uniformed staffs employed by fire brigade authorities, other than workshops staffs which are listed in paragraph 40, are shown by the following table :

Departments	Fire Brigade Area											Totals	
	Angus	Central	Fife	Glasgow	Lanark-shire	North-Eastern	Northern	Perth and Kinross	South-Eastern	South Western	Western	Men	Women
	<i>Office</i>												
Men ...	1	1	—	5	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	13	—
Women ...	3	4	4	13	6	6	4	4	10	4	8	—	66
<i>Stores</i>													
Men ...	—	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	16	—
Women ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Others</i>													
Men ...	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	15	—
Women ...	3	4	5	18	8	2	1	1	2	—	7	—	51
Totals ...	9	11	10	45	18	10	6	6	23	7	16	44	117

Health

19. The pattern of general health within brigades remains fairly constant from year to year and varies materially only on such occasions as periods of epidemic or major tragedies at fires, both of which fortunately are rare. Nothing of this sort occurred during 1961 and it is gratifying to report that no deaths or cases of serious injury at fires were reported during the period. There were, however, 8 deaths not attributable to service in fire brigades during the year.

20. Fluctuations in the health statistics for the year are shown in the following table :

		1960	1961	<i>Difference</i>
(1) The number of injuries or occasions of sickness due to service	Whole-time men	817	648	- 169
	Retained men	64	43	- 21
	Whole-time women	—	—	—
(2) Number of duty days lost due to (1)	Whole-time men	4,302	4,407	+ 105
	Retained men	1,045	959	- 86
	Whole-time women	—	—	—
(3) Total number of duty days lost on all counts	Whole-time men	20,237	24,158	+ 3,921
	Whole-time women	791	910	+ 119

21. The total of days lost represents 4.5 per cent. of whole-time men and 3.5 per cent. of whole-time women of all the on-duty days workable by brigades in each case. In recent years this figure for whole-time men has fluctuated between 4 per cent. and 4.6 per cent.

Discipline

22. There were no charges brought under the Fire Services (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations in any brigade during the year.

Benevolence

23. The sum of money raised by the Scottish Group of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund during 1960 was an outstanding record which was achieved as a result of a surge of sympathy for fire service benevolence following the tragic and disastrous fire at Cheapside Street, Glasgow. The income through the Scottish Group in 1961 could not be expected to reach anything like the 1960 figure but there were hopes that an upward trend would be maintained. In fact, the income for 1961 about equalled the year's total expenditure from the Fund in Scotland.

Training

24. An official opening of the breathing apparatus training section of the Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane, in the early part of the year was performed by Mr R. C. Brooman-White, M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, before a distinguished gathering including Sir Patrick Dollan, LL.D., D.L., J.P., as Scottish representative of the Fire Service Research and Training Trust, which, in the past, has made very generous financial grants for the purchase and adaptation of Training School buildings, and for the improvement of facilities and amenities in the premises.

25. During the year the following courses were held at the Scottish Fire Service Training School :

<i>Course</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>No. of Courses</i>	<i>No Attending</i>
Recruits'	12 weeks	4*	178
Breathing Apparatus Instructors' ...	3 "	8	73
Introductory Fire Prevention ...	8 "	1	8
Retained Men's	1 week	4	60

* 6 weeks only of the first course (commencing 1960).

26. The provision of facilities at the Training School for training in breathing apparatus has considerably improved the ability of the School to cater for modern training requirements. During the year, as will be noted from the preceding table, good use of these facilities were made and 8 courses for breathing apparatus

instructors were held at the School. A material improvement in breathing apparatus training and operation in brigades should follow ; indeed, there is evidence that breathing apparatus training in brigades is already receiving special attention, including the provision of up-to-date training facilities at selected stations. Ultimately, it is hoped that all whole-time stations at least will have modern breathing apparatus training facilities.

27. With increased recruiting resulting from improved fire cover standards and reduced hours of duty, it has been necessary to give priority to recruit training centrally. The full effects of the larger establishments in brigades will not be felt until 1962, when a substantial " bulge " in recruit training will need to be met by the Training School.

28. Courses for retained men held during the summer were reasonably well supported, but the number attending at an autumn course was rather disappointing. Eight of the ten brigades in Scotland with part-time establishments were represented on these courses.

29. An emergency tender for use at the Training School was ordered during the year. It is due to be delivered early in 1962.

30. Scottish brigades have been able to take advantage of courses in advanced and specialised training at the Fire Service College, near Dorking. A course dealing with radiation hazards was an important addition to the programme. During the year attendances at the College from Scottish brigades were :

<i>Type of Course</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Numbers Attending</i>
Long Fire Prevention	16 weeks	8
Special Fire Prevention	4 "	11
Sub-Officers'	4 "	4
Radiation Hazards	2 "	18
Retained Officers'	1 week	5

Promotions Procedure

31. Following the successful experience in 1960 it has now been decided to retain centralisation of venue for the written promotion examinations. These examinations for 1961 were again held in May at the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, to whose Director and staff gratitude is due for the facilities and ready assistance given.

32. The results of the written promotion examinations were as follow :

	<i>Presentations</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Station Officers	80	30
Sub-Officers	49	21
Leading Firemen :		
Educational Subjects	106	88
Technical Subjects	66	51

33. During the year the practical part of the promotion examinations which qualify successful candidates to take part in the written examinations for the ranks of sub-officer and leading fireman were again conducted by two panels of senior fire service officers visiting brigades. On this occasion practical examinations were confined experimentally to a period of three to four weeks rather than spread over a period of months as in previous years. On the whole the experiment showed considerable advantages over the older method both to brigades and to candidates.

34. The results of the practical examinations were as follow :

		<i>Presentations</i>	<i>Passes</i>
Sub-Officers	102	50
Leading Firemen	157	73

35. For the first time since the introduction of promotion examinations under the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (Scotland) Regulations, prizes were awarded in 1961 by the Fire Services (Scotland) Central Examinations Board. The most successful candidate in each of the three classes of examination each received a prize which took the form of a specially bound book. By courtesy of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Provost and the Magistrates of the City of Glasgow the presentation took place at the City Chambers, Glasgow, on Thursday, 31st August, 1961.

36. Promotions to the following posts were made during the year in the whole-time service :

3 Firemasters, 1 Assistant Firemaster, 4 Divisional Officers (Grade III), 6 Assistant Divisional Officers, 15 Station Officers (including 1 temporary promotion), 29 Sub-Officers (including 2 temporary promotions), 26 Leading Firemen (including 1 temporary promotion), 1 Leading Firewoman.

Appliances and Equipment

37. Twenty new major fire appliances were purchased during the year and put on the run. These comprised 2 turntable ladders, 5 pump escapes, 6 water tenders, 6 self-propelled pumps and 1 emergency tender. Additionally, some 25 light pumping appliances were purchased either for special purposes or to replace older appliances providing fire cover in the smaller landward communities.

38. Purchases of appliances over the year are only about average for the preceding several years, which suggests that the importance of modernising brigade fleets of appliances is not yet fully appreciated by all fire authorities. One or two brigades have almost completed their replacement programmes and have in consequence materially improved brigade efficiency by eradicating the dangers associated with obsolescent and worn-out appliances. Elsewhere there is too large a percentage of old and obsolescent appliances still in use, which reduces effective fire cover. No matter how well trained or otherwise efficient are firemen, they cannot hope to fight fires effectively without adequate tools.

39. The provision of equipment for replacement and for the introduction of new types shows a healthy standard. Hose, perhaps the most important equipment used in fire brigades, is almost entirely of high standard and there is little wartime hose left in brigades. Advancement in design, material and construction of modern hose provides a high degree of reliability and should contribute towards greater durability. It is regretted that in some brigades there is a tendency to replace wheeled escapes with 45 feet extension ladders, presumably on grounds of economy.

40. The number of personnel employed in brigade workshops at the end of the year is shown by the following table :

Rank	Fire Brigade Area										Totals	
	Angus	Central	Fife	Glasgow	Lanarkshire	North-Eastern	Northern	Perth and Kinross	South-Eastern	South Western		Western
Asst. Divisional Officer...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Station Officer ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Sub-Officer ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Leading Fireman ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Fireman ...	6	—	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	19
Totals—Uniformed ...	7	—	1	12	1	1	—	1	—	3	1	27
Totals—Non-Uniformed	—	3	2	6	4	5	1	—	9	1	5	36
Gross Totals	7	3	3	18	5	6	1	1	9	4	6	63

Premises

41. Progress was continued with the building programme in brigades during the year when one further whole-time station and five retained stations were completed and put into commission.

42. At the close of the year, the post-war building programme had reached the following stage :

	<i>Whole-time</i>	<i>Retained</i>
(i) New fire stations built	14	57
(ii) New fire stations under construction	5	6
(iii) New fire stations authorised but on which work had not been started	3	5
(iv) Major adaptations to existing stations completed	4	3
(v) Properties purchased and adapted as fire stations	—	13
(vi) Drill towers :		
(a) Completed	10	1
(b) Building	5	—

43. At the end of the year 380 houses for firemen had been completed and 15 were in the course of construction.

Water Supplies

44. Again for 1961 it was reported with regret that the hydrant position does not show any great improvement. During the year about 3.1 per cent. of the total hydrants in brigades were replaced by standard hydrants and about 0.5 per cent. were provided with standard outlets, giving an overall position of 50.4 per cent. of the total hydrants completely standardised and 74.0 per cent. with standard outlets (including the completely standard hydrants). These figures represent the average position in Scotland and include one or two brigades whose replacement programme is almost complete. The position in some brigades is considerably below the average.

45. The total number of hydrants in brigades had been increased during the year by 1.7 per cent., which includes new hydrants installed either to cover new building schemes or when new water mains are being laid. The provision of these hydrants is, of course, an essential duty on fire authorities in meeting new commitments but has no effect on the problem of eradicating non-standard hydrants.

46. The great majority of non-standard hydrants remaining in brigades are incapable of outlet conversion so that to achieve any degree of standardisation they will need complete replacement.

Communications

47. Increasing use of wireless as a necessary form of communication is continuing to be made in brigades and brigade schemes are being extended or improved as experience suggests. Traffic on joint police/fire brigade schemes is growing with the result that demands for separate frequencies for both services are being made.

48. Of the 11 brigades 4 are working on separate fire service frequencies and 6 are working on frequencies jointly with the police. During the year a further brigade has had approval to transfer to a separate frequency to cover the major part of the fire area. The changeover is due to take place early in 1962.

49. The position in Scotland is now that, with the exception of the Northern Fire Area, most of the country is served by wireless or is due to get such service under plans already in being.

50. During the year 3 fixed and 29 mobile additional transmitter/receivers have come into use in brigades.

51. Fire brigades are continuing to extend the use of remote control call-out systems for retained stations. Recent improvements made by the General Post Office in equipment now available should contribute towards an even more satisfactory method of turning out retained men to fires. There is now no technical reason why remote call-out systems should not be adopted throughout most of the country.

52. Progress has been made by manufacturers and the General Post Office in designing suitable terminating equipment for automatic fire alarms in brigade control rooms. This equipment should be available in the near future, when it will be possible for brigade control room and watchroom staffs to operate more efficiently both the Post Office and the automatic fire alarm communications systems.

Fire Prevention

53. A National Fire Prevention Week sponsored by the Fire Protection Association and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents was inaugurated on the 30th October, 1961. The Secretary of State for Scotland gave support to the campaign and fire authorities throughout Scotland actively participated. Arrangements were made centrally to supply films and other publicity material for use locally and publicity was given for the campaign on television and sound broadcasting networks by the showing of a film, reference in the news programmes and in other ways. The national and local press publicised the campaign and also gave coverage during the week. Local activities by fire brigades included displays and exhibitions at fire stations and elsewhere, "at homes" at fire stations where the public were invited to visit and witness demonstrations, the distribution of printed matter and visits by firemen to resident homes. Local authorities co-operated in many cases and cinemas lent support by showing films and providing space in foyers for displays. There were a number of excellent displays in shop windows.

54. On the whole the National Fire Prevention Week was very well supported and response by the public everywhere was favourable. Undoubtedly the campaign proved very successful and the sponsors and all those who took part are to be congratulated on the results of the first project of this sort. It is evident that the public are becoming generally more aware of the existence of fire dangers in the home and are receptive to guidance.

55. Table 4 of this report sets out, so far as it can be tabulated, the work of fire prevention departments in brigades. In addition to carrying out the inspections recorded in the table fire prevention officers have been required, as in past years, to give considerable time to other necessary duties which cannot readily be tabulated such as advising architects and building authorities at the planning stage of new building projects.

56. A total of 17,362 inspections by all brigades is an advance of 1,970 on the total for the previous year. Closer study, however, reveals that there is a gain of 2,735 inspections under the Factories Act, and a reduction of 1,058 inspections in full (260) and specific (798) surveys of the goodwill variety, that is in premises not necessarily covered by the Factories Acts or by other legislation. It would seem, therefore, that an essential part of fire prevention work is being curtailed to enable Factories Acts inspections to be carried out. In the majority of brigades where increases in fire prevention staffs have been made for a sufficiently long period to be effective, the same degree of unbalance is not so much in evidence, which is a further clear indication of the need to adjust fire prevention staffs to meet the increasing responsibilities of brigades in fire prevention.

57. It would be unfortunate if goodwill inspections were allowed to fall off. These have been the main pre-occupations of fire prevention staffs over the last 13 years. The demand for goodwill advice under section 1 (i) (f) of the Fire Services Act, 1947, has continued to increase and, although a great deal of work has been done in response to these requests, a very great deal remains to be done. Increasing rather than lessening attention is called for particularly in view of the probable introduction of legislation ultimately to cover fire prevention in some premises presently free from legislative control of that sort.

58. At the conclusion of the first full year's activities by fire brigades in carrying out their obligations under the Factories Act, 1959, there were about 820 factories still without means of escape certificates. During the year, as will be seen from Table 4, some 761 inspections of means of escape were carried out by brigades. These resulted in 273 new certificates and 154 revised certificates being issued. Because of the inevitable difficulties in initiating completely new duties, the first years' results cannot be regarded as an indication of the work likely to be done in succeeding years. A considerable increase in the annual turnover will be necessary to complete the issue of certificates in reasonable time. The work of issuing revised certificates and reviewing existing certificates will also need attention.

59. Advising factory inspectors of fire prevention requirements in factories, which also became a statutory responsibility of brigades under the Factories Act, 1959, entailed during the year 894 visits of inspection and resulted in 438 reports being received by H.M. Inspectors of Factories. In this field also work will not fall off with the completion of initial inspections. Visits for special purposes and check visits will become a regular feature of the duties of fire

prevention officers. It will be noted from Table 4 that already in the first year's activities 466 follow-up inspections in this group had been made.

60. With the rapidly increasing fire prevention responsibilities in brigades it is imperative that fire service training and availability of trained personnel are kept abreast of requirements. In addition to staffs directly concerned with fire prevention, officers of all ranks, particularly the senior ranks, should ultimately be trained and experienced fire preventionists. To achieve this important aim within reasonable time a greatly increased programme of training would be required together with arrangements in brigades which would enable experience in fire prevention work to be obtained. At the end of the year 46 members of brigades had attended the long fire prevention course at the Fire Service College and 118 the introductory course at the Scottish Training School.

61. The establishment of fire prevention departments at the end of the year is shown by the following table :

Rank	Fire Brigade Area											Totals
	Angus	Central	Fife	Glasgow	Lanarkshire	North-Eastern	Northern	Perth and Kinross	South-Eastern	South Western	Western	
Divisional Officer (Grade II)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Divisional Officer (Grade III)	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Assistant Divisional Officer	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	7
Station Officer	—	3	2	5	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	21
Sub-Officer	2	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	3	3	3	21
Totals	3	4	3	12	8	2	2	3	7	4	5	53

Mutual Assistance Arrangements

62. Mutual assistance between neighbouring brigades provided for under sections 2 and 12 of the Fire Services Act, 1947, ensures that attendances to fires are not limited by the administrative boundaries of fire brigade areas. Once again the arrangements made under these provisions have proved satisfactory in practice. During the year there were 776 occasions on which aiding brigades provided either the whole or part of first attendances to fires and 3 occasions on which reinforcements were sent to fires from neighbouring brigades.

Fires and Other Occurrences

63. A summary of fires and special services attended by brigades during the year is given in Table 3 attached to this report. A total of 26,344 fire calls were attended, of which 11,639 were actual fires. The remaining fire calls were made up by chimney fires and false alarms. Although there was a reduction of 438 from the previous year in the number of fires, which continued the trend since 1959, the pattern of fire incidents was a familiar one in that the great majority of fires were extinguished before they reached large proportions. Statistical analysis of fires in recent years shows that something less than 20 per cent. of fires reach a size which necessitates the use of major equipment to extinguish them. There is no indication that 1961 will show any variation from normal in analysis.

64. There have been a number of large fires during the year, mostly in Glasgow, but in all cases they were contained and extinguished without exhausting fire service resources.

65. Malicious false alarms continued to increase and for 1961 totalled 1,702. The equivalent figures for the last 3 years were : for 1960, 1,463, for 1959, 1,479 and for 1958, 1,190. This disturbing trend lifts the relationship of malicious false alarms to total fire calls for 1961 to 6.5 per cent. in face of extra vigilance by both the fire service and the police. The problem of malicious calls, which is no doubt shared with other emergency services, has now reached serious proportions and fully justifies closer study into ways of discouraging or preventing these occurrences. On the human side the problem is perhaps just one more facet of a wider social one.

66. The number of special services undertaken by brigades each year has risen slightly but steadily over the past few years until 1961, when it rose steeply by 257 to a total of 1,435. This has been due in the main to weather conditions causing flooding and storm damage to property. Traffic accidents are also making increasing demands on the services of fire brigades.

67. Rescues of persons at fires during the year totalled 115 and, at occurrences other than fire, 118 persons were rescued. In the same period 63 lives were lost at fires attended by fire brigades and of these 49 died or received injuries from which they died before the arrival of the fire brigade.

Civil Defence

68. At the end of the year the strength of the auxiliary fire service was 749, made up of 604 men and 145 women. The immediate recruitment target is 7,678 men and 768 women. Despite continued efforts locally and the annual centrally directed autumn recruiting drive the figures dropped during the year by 24 men and 20 women. Wastage from the service had not lessened although a great deal of attention was paid in brigades to making the duties of the auxiliaries both interesting and instructive.

69. A fairly ambitious programme of training in civil defence has been built up in recent years and most aspects of this type of training are being covered. The majority of regular whole-time members of brigades have completed civil defence basic training and radiac training. The same progress, however, has not been made in training in light rescue work, only about 34 per cent. having completed training in this subject. The part-time side of the regular service does not show quite the same progress, no doubt due to the greater difficulties attendant on arranging specialised instruction at the more remote fire stations.

70. The training of recruits in the auxiliary fire service revealed a different pattern. Completion of training has been achieved in firefighting subjects by 511, in basic civil defence by 256, in radiac training by 116 and in rescue training by 3. Attendances during training periods in brigades followed the same pattern. There is considerably less difficulty in maintaining the interest of auxiliaries in firefighting than in any of the other subjects.

71. Specialised training in emergency firefighting was continued at Moreton-in-Marsh during the year, when 25 regular members of brigades and 5 auxiliaries attended.

72. During the year exercises were held on several occasions, either to test the control and communications arrangements at the various levels of control and to exercise control room staff in emergency conditions or to exercise and train personnel in mobile fire column work and in firefighting under emergency conditions. All these exercises, which were mostly undertaken in conjunction with the other emergency services, proved very useful and further more extensive control exercises are to be held. It is also hoped that zone fire officers will be able to extend practical field exercise work in zones, using emergency appliances and equipment already held in brigades or available in central stores.

Conclusion

73. The fire service continues to show a full sense of its responsibilities and improvements in organisation and in firefighting techniques are continually in evidence and result in a steady advance in operational efficiency. The increasing ability of the fire service has, in fact, made a contribution towards the pattern of fires in 1961 being of little outstanding interest.

74. The work of fire brigades during the first year of their new duties under the Factories Act, 1959, has shown a ready response which justifies the placing of these responsibilities on fire brigades. The main restricting factor is now that of staffing.

75. Added emphasis is being given to fire prevention in every sphere and, as new legislation is introduced and codes of practice are developed, increasing responsibility will inevitably fall on fire authorities. Fortunately the organisation of fire authorities in Scotland lends itself readily to development in this field and ensures the minimum variation in standards of application of fire prevention measures.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. D. WILSON,

H. M. Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland.

**SUMMARY OF FIRES AND SPECIAL SERVICES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961**

TABLE 3

FIRE AREA	Fires requiring the attendance of								Total Fires	Chimney Fires	False Alarms			Total Fire Calls	Special Services	Total Calls 1961
	Pumps										Malici- ous	With good intent	Total			
	1 Pump	2 Pumps	3-4 Pumps	5 Pumps	6-8 Pumps	9-10 Pumps	11-15 Pumps	16-20 Pumps								
Angus	732	52	18	—	—	—	—	—	802	645	73	163	236	1,683	313	1,996
Central	758	21	5	2	—	1	—	—	787	498	84	158	242	1,527	103	1,630
Fife	640	13	3	—	—	—	—	—	656	539	45	83	128	1,323	48	1,371
Glasgow	2,884	—	—	10	—	2	3	—	2,899	2,019	793	2,465	3,258	8,176	317	8,493
Lanarkshire	1,133	67	10	—	—	—	—	—	1,210	525	222	257	479	2,214	224	2,438
North-Eastern	907	40	12	1	1	—	—	—	961	757	36	145	181	1,899	81	1,980
Northern	283	25	3	1	—	—	—	—	312	320	26	27	53	685	56	741
Perth and Kinross	289	16	3	—	—	—	—	—	308	343	16	54	70	721	40	761
South-Eastern	1,938	19	3	—	—	—	—	—	1,960	1,973	172	440	612	4,545	53	4,598
South Western	771	16	3	—	—	—	—	—	790	562	72	95	167	1,519	92	1,611
Western	922	25	5	2	—	—	—	—	954	679	163	256	419	2,052	108	2,160
Totals	11,257	294	65	16	1	3	3	3	11,639	8,860	1,702	4,143	5,845	26,344	1,435	27,779

**FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY FIRE BRIGADES
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961**

TABLE 4

		FIRE AREA.											
		Angus	Central	Fire	Glasgow	Lanarkshire	North-Eastern	Northern	Perth & Kinross	South-Eastern	South-Western	Western	Total
(a) Industrial or Business Premises or Undertakings	Inspections (excluding Factories Acts Inspections)	21	62	21	91	395	1	11	11	27	1	20	661
		30	137	150	127	2,004	129	67	334	152	112	380	3,622
		—	3	—	—	—	—	—	109	—	—	—	112
		9	13	13	50	279	4	30	16	—	—	—	414
	Means of Escape ...	87	123	13	65	34	96	7	10	209	39	78	761
	Follow-up Inspection ...	18	127	23	31	206	29	—	10	126	35	124	719
	General Fire Prevention ...	154	74	32	110	50	103	115	11	171	5	69	894
	Follow-up Inspection ...	6	12	7	44	170	45	—	—	120	—	62	466
	Total ...	325	551	259	518	3,138	407	230	491	805	192	733	7,649
(b) Local Authority Premises or Undertakings (other than (c) and (d))	Full Survey ...	4	64	—	39	27	—	—	4	—	1	4	143
	Specific Inspection ...	—	63	4	173	61	7	35	15	18	9	73	458
	Routine Inspection ...	—	1	—	29	—	—	—	35	—	—	72	137
	Follow-up Inspection ...	—	7	1	20	15	—	23	4	—	1	—	71
	Total ...	4	135	5	261	103	7	58	58	18	11	149	809
(c) Schools	Full Survey ...	5	38	18	29	1	—	11	—	6	2	13	123
	Specific Inspection ...	6	6	57	12	84	63	40	22	28	26	60	404
	Routine Inspection ...	—	2	5	—	—	7	—	8	—	—	592	614
	Follow-up Inspection ...	—	11	1	6	12	—	29	8	—	4	—	71
	Total ...	11	57	81	47	97	70	80	38	34	32	665	1,212

(d) Hospitals, Homes, &c.	Full Survey...	6	1	9	1	1	6	10	1	16	62	
	Specific Inspection...	8	27	8	12	50	33	41	15	76	319	
	Routine Inspection	7	15	3	—	58	1	3	—	—	87	
	Follow-up Inspection	—	11	8	8	—	30	7	3	—	90	
	Total	21	73	39	26	21	108	70	58	19	92	558
(e) Cinemas, Theatres and other places of public entertainment or Assembly	Full Survey...	174	22	15	2	339	7	5	—	9	575	
	Specific Inspection...	13	85	16	175	143	14	15	25	77	1,081	
	Routine Inspection	238	197	115	205	1,052	3	52	270	312	2,548	
	Follow-up Inspection	—	3	193	—	598	10	—	—	—	814	
	Total	425	307	339	382	2,132	304	34	68	295	398	5,018
(f) Miscellaneous Premises or Undertakings not included elsewhere in this table	Full Survey...	33	55	21	—	15	1	9	4	1	172	
	Specific Inspection...	10	85	134	27	73	133	300	116	101	1,503	
	Routine Inspection	1	—	3	—	—	1	2	355	—	362	
	Follow-up Inspection	—	17	3	—	—	6	40	11	2	79	
	Total	44	157	161	27	88	147	343	491	107	107	2,116
(g) Gross Totals	Inspections (Excluding Factories Acts Inspections)	243	253	76	170	778	9	36	25	63	1,736	
	Factories Acts Inspections	87	123	13	65	34	7	10	209	39	761	
	Means of Escape	18	127	23	31	206	29	—	126	35	124	719
	Follow-up Inspection	154	74	32	110	50	103	115	11	5	69	894
	Follow-up Inspection	6	12	7	44	170	45	—	120	—	62	466
Total	830	1,280	884	1,261	5,579	1,043	815	1,177	656	2,144	17,362	

Note :— For the Purposes of this table the terms " Full Survey ", " Specific Inspection ", " Routine Inspection ", " Follow-up Inspection " and " Means of Escape " are used as follows :—

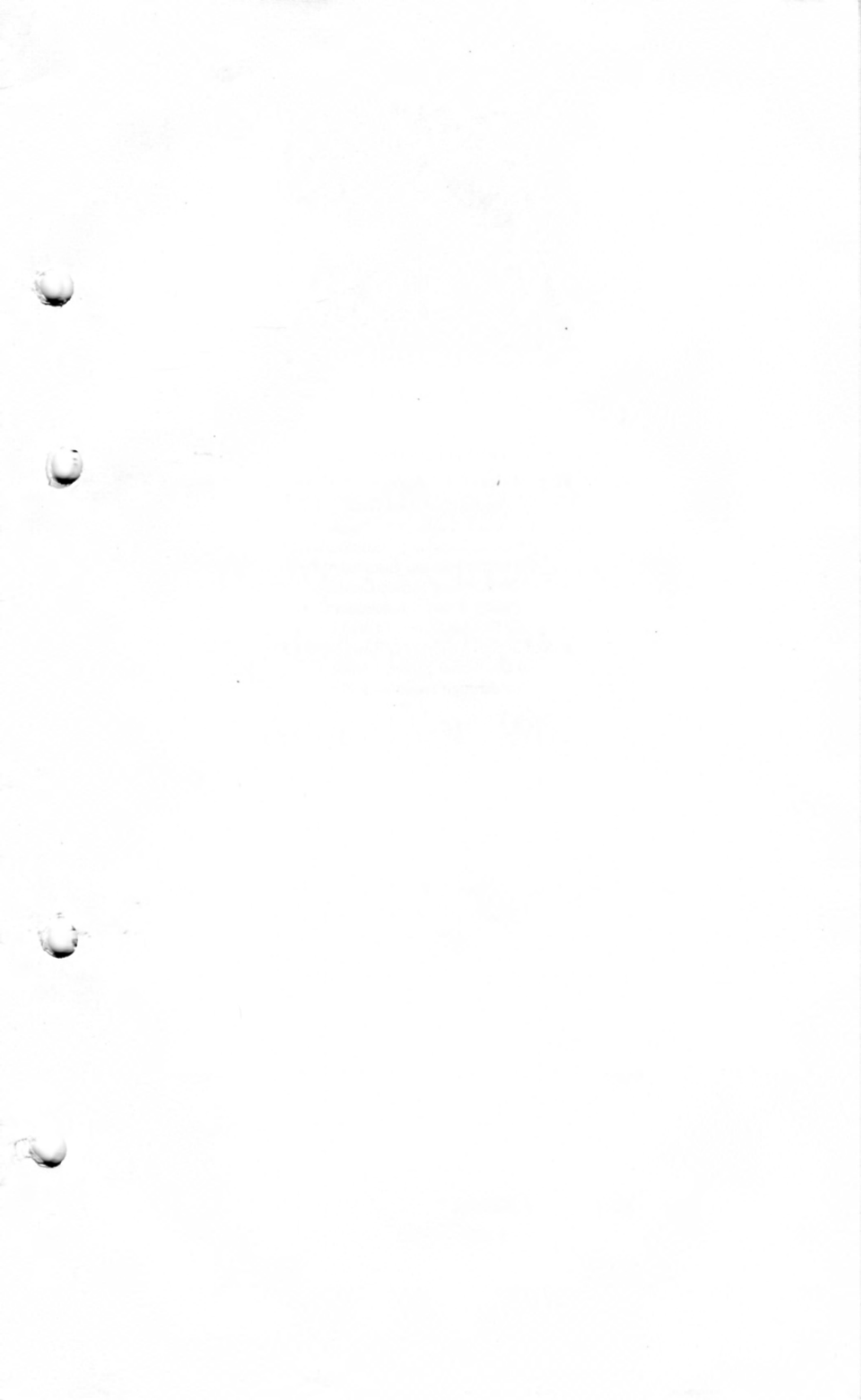
Full Survey. A thorough and comprehensive examination of the premises and processes at risk, as regards fire prevention arrangements which are in operation or require to be made, covering for instance fire appliances and equipment, water supplies, means of escape, storage conditions and good-housekeeping.

Means of Escape. An inspection made under section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, as amended by sections 9 and 10 of the 1959 Act.

Follow-up Inspection. An inspection made following a survey or specific inspection to note progress or to advise on detail.

Routine Inspection. An examination made as a rule periodically for the purpose of ascertaining whether particular precautions which should be in operation are in fact being maintained.

Specific Inspection. An examination of the premises and plant for the purposes indicated above but limited to one or more particular aspects of fire prevention.



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