



Summary of the Latest Fire Statistics (England)

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The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government collects detailed information on incidents attended by fire and rescue services. It recently published the official fire statistics for the year ending Dec 2024.

We have produced a summary of the statistics and offer some observations as to how Vantify can support clients in managing fire risk and staying compliant with an increasingly complex legal landscape.

1. Overall Volume of Fire & Rescue Incidents

- Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) in England attended 598,504 incidents in the year ending September 2024, a 1% increase on the previous year.
- Over the last decade, total incidents are up 18%, although they peaked in 2022 during extreme summer weather.

2. Distribution of Incident Types

- Fires: 22% of all attended incidents.
- Fire false alarms: 42% (still the largest incident category).
- Non fire incidents: 35%, continuing a long term upward trend.
- Non fire incidents (e.g., medical emergencies, flooding, RTCs, assisting other agencies) have risen 60% over the past decade.

3. Fire Incidents – Long-term Decrease

- Fire incidents fell to 133,072, a 7.4% decrease vs the previous year and the lowest level on record.
- Primary fires have dropped 14% since 2014 (from 70,937 to 61,103).

4. Fatalities and Casualties

- Fire related fatalities:
 - 263 deaths in 2024, down 4.7% from 2023.
 - 204 fatalities occurred in dwellings (1% decrease).
 - Fatalities in high rise residential buildings remain very low and stable (only two fatal fires in high rise blocks).
- Non fatal casualties:
 - Slight rise to 6,300 (up from 6,231).
 - 2,758 people required hospital treatment, a 1.6% increase.

5. Trends in False Alarms

- Total false alarms: 254,041, up 2.9%.
- Majority (around 183,000) are due to automatic fire detection systems, up 4.9%.
- Good intent false alarms slightly decreased; malicious alarms dropped 7.4%.

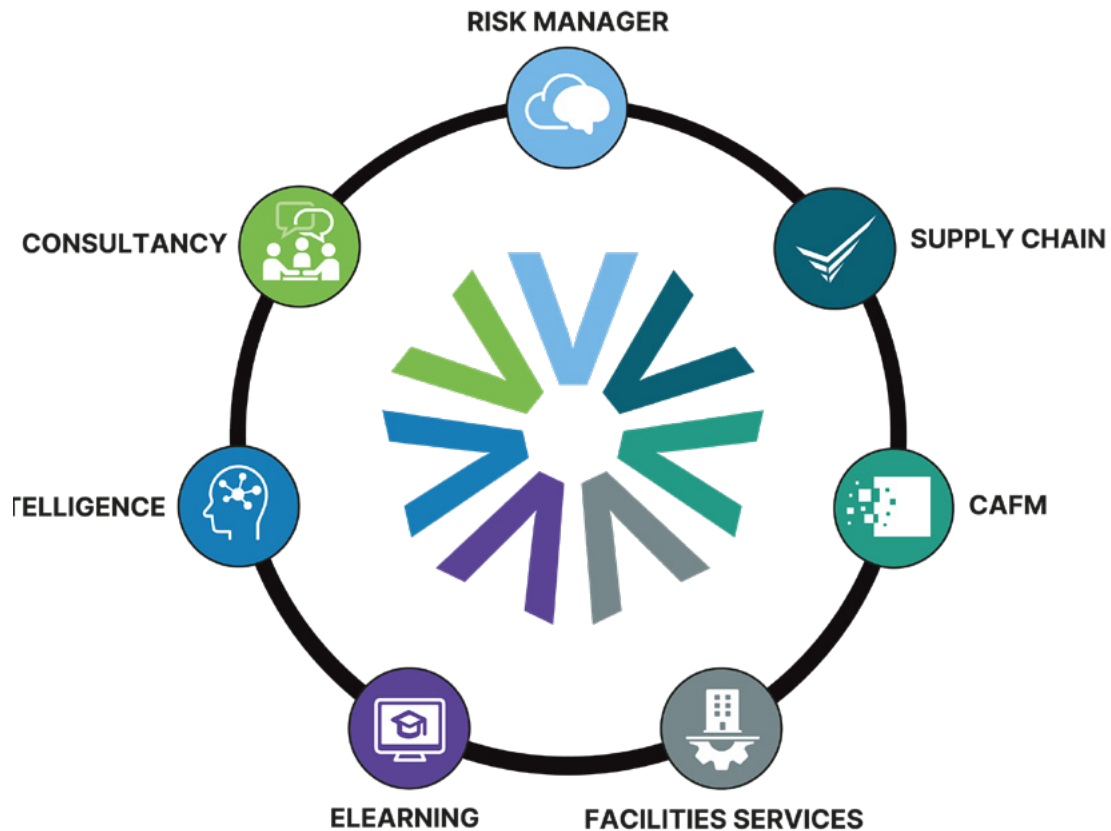
6. Notable Increases in Non Fire Incident Types

- Collaborating/assisting other agencies: up 11% to 71,681.
- Road traffic collisions: up 1.4% to 31,946.
- Flooding incidents: decreased by 3.7%, showing some stabilisation.
- Medical incidents: decreased 9.7%.

The Vantify view:

Even with fire incidents and fatalities at historically low levels, maintaining a strong focus on fire safety is essential. Falling statistics can create a misleading sense of security, but fire risk is never static - buildings change, systems age, and human behaviour remains unpredictable. Even when risk is assessed as tolerable, regular reviews and targeted action plans are still required to address emerging gaps and ensure controls remain effective. Past experience also shows us that when attention drifts, standards slip and organisations forget the lessons that originally drove improvements in legislation and best practice. Sustained vigilance is therefore crucial to prevent complacency, protect people and property, and ensure that today's positive trends continue into the future.

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 0203 337 3575

 enquiries@vantify.com

 vantify.com

Registered Office, 20 Grosvenor Place, London, England SW1X 7HN

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