

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Creating the Safest Community



Dwelling Fires 03/08/2021 – 03/08/2022

Data, Intelligence and Safety

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2. Request

I'm writing to you to request information through the Freedom of Information Act regarding residential house fires in Newcastle (or wherever your parameters lie).

I would like to know the number of fires in residential houses that were reported in the last 12 months (03/08/2021 to 03/08/2022). This can include reports that were retracted, incomplete or did not need the fire service to assist.

I would also like this information to explain the following:

The number of fires in residential homes that caused fatalities

The number of fires in residential homes that caused serious injury

The number of fires in residential homes that caused irreparable damage

3. Response

The following information is taken from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) Incident Recording System (IRS) and is the number of dwelling fires attended by TWFRS.

An IRS incident record is completed by the Officer in Charge for every incident attended.

Residential houses are defined in our IRS Property Level 3 as Dwellings. Also included in the search were 'Other residential' buildings (e.g. student accommodation and care homes) – but no injuries or fatalities occurred over the report period against these property types.

The 'parameters' of TWFRS cover the five local authority areas of Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, North and South Tyneside.

We are unable to ascertain if the damage to a property is irreparable as the IRS report is completed within 24 hours of the fire. However the fire damage can be recorded from none to slight, room of origin up to whole building. If the fire involved the whole building it would be more likely to be irreparable, therefore I have included the total for fires which involved the whole building.

4. Totals

Over the report time period TWFRS attended **610** fires in Dwellings and Other Residential buildings.

Of these, **8** fires resulted in **10** people going to hospital with injuries that appeared to be serious.

Over the report period **4** fatalities were recorded in dwelling fires.

There were **5** incidents where the fire affected the whole building.