

Abstract

This paper presents the findings of a research study designed and conducted by Kent Fire and Rescue Service into human behaviour during accidental dwelling fires (ADFs). The analysis of the results obtained was conducted in conjunction with the Fire Safety Engineering Group of the University of Greenwich.

In order to develop an understanding of the behaviours and motivations of those experiencing a domestic fire, quantitative and qualitative data were collected through the use of a questionnaire survey. The survey was distributed by post to those members of the public who had experienced an ADF attended by KFRS between April 2011 and October 2012. The occupants were asked about themselves and their experience, providing details about how they were alerted to the fire, their activities and motivations undertaken in response to the fire, plus the details of any injuries. Supplementary details about the fire itself and the property were extracted from the electronic Incident Recording System (IRS) used by KFRS.

Please note that not all questions were answered by each respondent and so in some instances the percentages stated do not always relate to the full sample size of 177 surveys. Individual response rates are not shown, but can be supplied on request.

Wales, D., Thompson, O., & Hulse, L. (2014). **Human behaviour in accidental dwelling fires research: The Kent Study**. Tovil, England: Kent Fire & Rescue Service.