

Fighting fire – the increased burden



In 1991 the Fire Service answered over 1 million calls. In England, Wales and Scotland 861 people, including two firefighters, lost their lives. Insurance paid out in 1990 totalled more than £1 billion. This figure excludes hospital care – it costs an estimated £228,000 to treat a child with severe burns

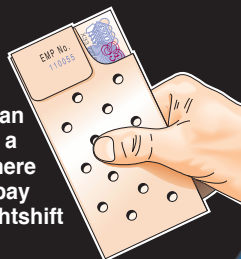
Staff: England, Wales, Scotland

1991 – 41,117

1980 – 40,181

Increase – 2.5%

A fully qualified firefighter earns an average £300 for a 42 hour week. There is no additional pay for a 15 hour nightshift



Call-outs: England, Wales, Scotland

Fire calls

1991 – 414,396

1980 – 338,215

Increase – 28%

False alarms

1991 – 414,444

1980 – 198,575

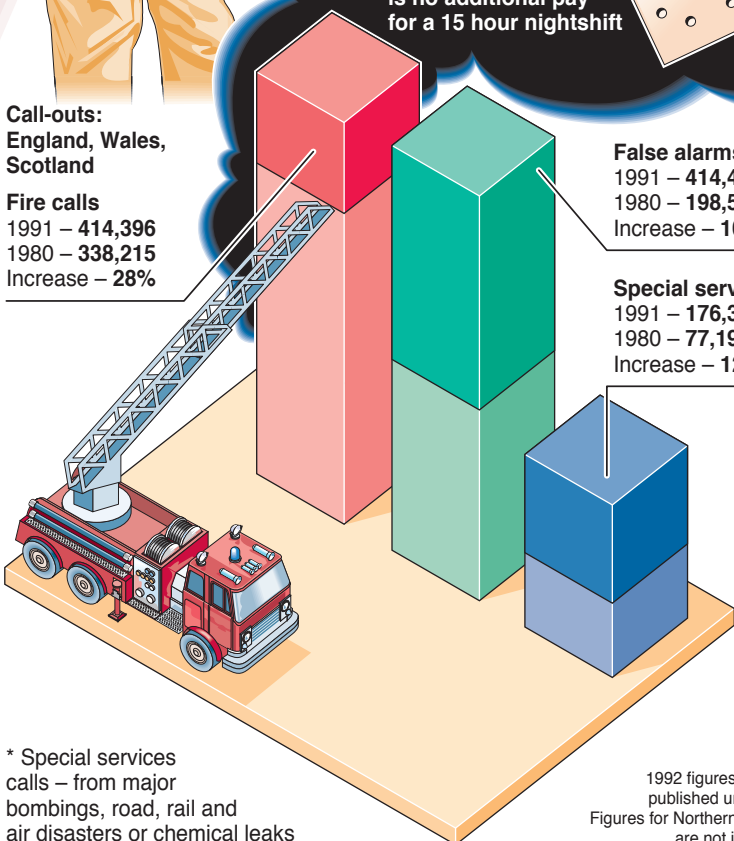
Increase – 109%

Special services*

1991 – 176,326

1980 – 77,192

Increase – 128%



* Special services calls – from major bombings, road, rail and air disasters or chemical leaks to rescuing trapped children and animals

1992 figures are not published until July. Figures for Northern Ireland are not included