

Sent by Email:

To: Louise Lea

Governance & Compliance Team
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Date: 7th May 2020

Our Ref: FOI004 20-21

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Your Reference: Construction Incidents

Dear Louise,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

We are writing in respect of your recent application for the release of information held by the Authority.

You asked:

I'd like to please request statistics for:

- The number of fires in the construction industry in 2018/19
- The number of fires caused by hot works in the construction industry in 2018/19
- The main causes of hot works incidents in the construction industry
- The number of injuries and fatalities caused by hot work incidents in the construction industry.

You subsequently clarified the following:

1. Please provide your definition of 'construction industry' – what are you referring to?
Buildings under construction. Buildings that are unoccupied - under construction.
2. Please provide your definition of 'hot works'
A fire started by electric or gas welding, cutting, grinding, brazing, or similar flame or spark-producing operations.
3. Please confirm whether you would like it for the financial or calendar year of 2018/2019 financial year, please.
4. Do you want the causes and injuries for the time frame of 2018/2019?
as above, financial year, please.

Our answer:

For the financial year of 2018/2019 there were 10 fire incidents in buildings under construction. Of these incidents, only 1 incident has been recorded whereby the fire was caused by 'hot works'; this involved the use of a blow torch. We cannot confirm or deny whether the other incidents involved the use of 'hot works' because it may be that specific level of detail has not been recorded within the other incidents.

No casualties were recorded for the 10 fire incidents.

We are unable to provide you with an answer in relation to "the main causes of hot works incidents in the construction industry" because as explained above, the level of detail that is recorded within incidents varies and therefore we do not hold the data as per Section 1 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Any future correspondence with HFRS in relation to this matter should be sent to the Information Compliance Officer at the above address.

If for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response you may request an internal review by contacting DP@hantsfire.gov.uk or by writing to the Governance and Compliance Team at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9SJ.

Should you remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the internal review decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Tiffany Hoole
Governance and Compliance Team