

TABLE I.—CAUSES OF FIRE.

	Cities over 20,000 Population: Six-year Average, 1/4/31-31/3/37.				All Fire Districts: Year ending 31st March, 1937.			
	Dwellings.		Business Premises.		Dwellings.		Business Premises.	
	Number of Fires.	Loss. £	Number of Fires.	Loss. £	Number of Fires.	Loss. £	Number of Fires.	Loss. £
Defective electrical installations ..	1-2	58	1-5	47	2-7	105	..	..
Electric irons and radiators left on ..	17-2	2,921	7-3	2,689	24-5	5,610	10	5,838
Short circuits and overheating ..	5-7	291	14-5	1,171	20-2	1,462	34	5,127
Other electrical faults ..	2-0	222	3-3	376	5-3	598	2	13
Gas-explosions ..	1-0	71	0-3	2	1-3	73	..	276
Gas rings, &c., left on or in contact with curtains, &c.	6-5	432	3-8	344	10-3	776	5	89
Defective gas-installations ..	3-0	89	1-0	112	4-0	201	..	..
Candles in contact with curtains, &c.	6-3	634	0-5	2	6-8	636	2	407
Lamps, stoves—overturned or exploded ..	2-3	101	1-2	12	3-5	113	4	352
Miscellaneous, due to naked lights ..	3-5	696	3-0	65	6-5	761	15	306
Defective chimneys and flues ..	17-8	1,480	4-5	282	22-3	1,762	14	1,536
Defective hearths, fireplaces, and furnaces ..	18-5	711	2-8	344	21-3	1,055	2	175
Defective hot-water systems ..	1-8	320	0-2	1	2-0	321	1	5
Lighted match dropped ..	18-0	2,898	10-3	4,784	28-3	7,682	3	722
Children playing with matches ..	7-5	230	2-3	143	9-8	373	3	280
Smoking in bed ..	3-7	70	..	..	3-7	70	..	..
Cigarette or cigar butts dropped ..	9-8	978	11-7	2,794	21-5	3,772	14	1,150
Ashes from pipes, sparks from cigarettes ..	2-3	108	0-5	60	2-8	168	1	18
Rats chewing matches ..	0-7	12	0-7	182	1-4	194	..	..
Miscellaneous causes—smoking and matches ..	3-3	308	1-7	319	5-0	627	8	4,012
Sparks from fireplaces, furnaces, &c.	33-8	3,350	11-7	1,103	45-5	4,453	23	1,159
Airing clothes before a fire ..	4-0	1,062	1-3	146	5-3	1,208	3	308
Ashes placed in wooden boxes, &c.	8-3	373	4-1	150	12-4	523	11	389
Heating tar, polishes, &c.	5-8	263	7-5	1,072	13-3	1,335	14	2,202
Spontaneous combustion ..	2-0	331	5-0	4,058	7-0	4,389	4	8,911
Allowing benzine, &c., near naked lights ..	7-2	382	4-8	513	12-0	895	10	834
Arson ..	4-3	462	1-8	747	6-1	1,209	..	..
Suspicious origin ..	8-5	3,097	5-8	8,008	14-3	11,105	2	254
Overheating of and sparks from machinery ..	..	..	5-3	1,532	5-3	1,532	4	283
Sparks from bush and gorse fires ..	3-7	146	1-2	38	4-9	184	..	..
Sparks from rubbish fires ..	6-3	178	3-2	167	9-5	345	10	864
Sparks from chimneys, locomotives, &c.	8-5	185	9-3	1,032	17-8	1,237	5	173
Blow-lamps used for burning off paint ..	15-5	597	1-7	29	17-2	626	4	69
Fires spread from other buildings ..	8-0	1,972	3-3	128	11-3	2,100	3	88
Miscellaneous known causes ..	12-0	595	19-2	1,950	31-2	2,545	33	8,103
Unknown causes ..	75-0	25,511	54-7	67,586	129-7	93,097	109	107,018
Total ..	335-0	51,134	211-0	102,008	546-0	153,142	351	149,980
Loss per fire—								
Known causes ..	..	98-5	..	220-2	..	144-2	..	177-5
Unknown causes ..	..	340-1	..	1,235-6	..	717-8	..	981-8
All causes ..	..	152-6	..	483-5	..	280-5	..	427-3
Unoccupied dwellings ..	..	381-1	..	..	..	..	..	..