

TABLE I.—CAUSES OF FIRE.

	Cities over 20,000 Population: Five-year Average, 1/4/31—31/3/36.				All Fire Districts: Year ending 31st March, 1936.			
	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 ..	1.4	70	1.8	56	1	106	2	26
Electric irons and radiators left on ..	16.2	2,743	6.8	2,059	14	1,700	10	2,289
Short circuits and overheating ..	4.4	309	11.4	1,115	6	666	29	2,842
Other electrical faults ..	2.4	267	3.6	449	2	831	1	17
Gas-explosions ..	0.8	31	0.4	3	1	34	3	27
Gas rings, &c., left on or in contact with curtains, &c. ..	6.2	442	4.0	410	8	1,322	4	309
Defective gas-installations ..	3.0	57	1.2	134	7	53	2	15
Candles in contact with curtains, &c. ..	6.8	760	0.4	1	8	823	1	9
Lamps, stoves—overturned or exploded ..	2.4	117	1.2	14	1	10	1	25
Miscellaneous, due to naked lights ..	19.0	1,740	3.4	211	24	1,703	8	76
Defective chimneys and flues ..	17.6	732	3.2	410	23	2,311	5	1,123
Defective hearths, fireplaces, and furnaces ..	2.2	384	..	..	3	456	..	..
Defective hot-water systems ..	20.0	3,339	11.8	5,596	17	553	9	74
Lighted match dropped ..	7.2	262	2.2	116	11	263	1	2
Children playing with matches ..	..	..	..	..	2	71	..	..
Smoking in bed ..	8.2	919	12.0	3,131	13	1,117	20	2,778
Cigarette or cigar butts dropped ..	2.4	133	0.4	68	4	179	3	61
Ashes from pipes, sparks from cigarettes ..	0.8	15	0.8	219	..	..	..	..
Rats chewing matches ..	34.6	279	1.6	300	53	5,400	22	1,734
Miscellaneous causes—smoking and matches ..	4.6	3,689	10.2	1,105	7	283	3	7,681
Sparks from fireplaces, furnaces, &c. ..	..	1,272	1.0	114	4	11,498	..	..
Airing clothes before a fire ..	8.2	349	3.0	83	11	524	4	37
Ashes placed in wooden boxes, &c. ..	5.4	313	6.8	924	6	111	7	535
Heating tar, polishes, &c. ..	1.6	362	5.2	3,087	5	859	6	50
Spontaneous combustion ..	7.6	437	4.6	511	9	409	6	380
Allowing benzine, &c., near naked lights ..	4.6	520	2.2	896	8	1,198	3	242
Arson ..	9.6	3,343	6.6	9,559	6	1,130	4	7,967
Suspicious origin ..	..	..	5.6	1,582	..	..	8	1,676
Overheating of and sparks from machinery ..	4.2	175	1.4	46	2	18	..	..
Sparks from bush and gorse fires ..	6.8	193	2.0	30	16	215	10	4,733
Sparks from rubbish fires ..	9.2	213	10.2	1,248	17	451	6	541
Sparks from chimneys, locomotives, &c. ..	14.6	415	1.2	21	25	517	..	..
Blow-lamps used for burning off paint ..	8.0	2,359	3.6	251	4	60	5	770
Fires spread from other buildings ..	11.6	524	17.2	805	31	1,698	28	7,995
Miscellaneous known causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total, known causes ..	259.6	26,963	147.6	34,262	353	36,557	212	44,061
Unknown causes ..	77.2	28,019	51.4	68,883	124	38,978	84	61,700
Grand total ..	336.8	54,982	199.0	103,145	477	75,535	296	105,761
Loss per fire—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Known causes ..	..	103.8	..	232.1	..	104	..	208
Unknown causes ..	..	362.9	..	1,340.1	..	314	..	734
All causes ..	..	163.2	..	518.3	..	158	..	357
Unoccupied dwellings ..	..	419	..	..	..	362	..	..