

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/01223

Date of request: 29th September

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for each of the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

1. The number of fires attended where the source of ignition was recorded as a vape, e-cigarette or vape battery or charger.
2. The number in question 1 broken down by where the fire occurred: a dwelling; a road vehicle; a refuse collection vehicle; a waste, recycling or landfill site; a domestic bin or communal bin store; other.
3. The number in question 1 where the vape was recorded as a disposable (single-use) device, where that is recorded.
4. The number of fatalities and the number of casualties in the fires in question 1.
5. For the largest fire in question 1 in each year, the date, the type of location and the number of appliances sent.

I recognise that vapes are not a separate category in the Incident Recording System and are often recorded under batteries or other electrical sources. Where that is the case, please identify the fires by a keyword search of the incident narrative or description fields for "vape", "vaping", "e-cig" and "e-cigarette", and state in your response that the figures were produced that way.

Response:

I refer to your request received by the London Fire Brigade under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding incidents involving vapes, e-cigarettes and associated batteries or chargers.

Our response is set out below.

Fires involving vapes, e-cigarettes, vape batteries or chargers

The Brigade identified incidents where either:

- The ignition source was recorded as "e-Smoking equipment"; or
- The terms "vape", "vaping" or "e-cig" appeared in the further information field or the ignition source "other" field.

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2025, the Brigade attended a total of 94 fires meeting these criteria.

Breakdown by ignition source

Ignition Source	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Batteries, generators	0	2	3	0	5
Battery charger	1	0	0	0	1
Cigarette	1	0	1	0	2
Cigarette lighter	0	1	0	0	1
e-Smoking equipment	5	15	14	11	45
Lighted paper/card or other naked flame	0	1	0	0	1
Microwave oven	0	0	1	0	1
Not known	1	2	4	1	8
Oil/incense burners	0	0	0	1	1
Other	1	5	7	9	22
Other appliance or equipment	0	0	0	2	2
Smoking materials	0	0	1	4	5
Total	9	26	31	28	94

Location of fires

The breakdown by property type is shown below. For ease of reference, these may be grouped broadly as follows:

- Dwellings: 29 incidents
- Road vehicles: 2 incidents
- Waste/recycling sites: 1 incident at a recycling plant
- Other locations: 62 incidents

The remaining incidents occurred across a range of locations including prisons, hospitals, shops, transport infrastructure and other premises.

Disposable (single-use) vapes

The Brigade does not record whether a vape involved in an incident was a disposable (single-use) device. Accordingly, this information is not held.

Casualties and fatalities

Year	Incidents	Fire Injuries	Fire Deaths
2022	9	5	0
2023	26	4	0
2024	31	7	0
2025	28	2	0
Total	94	18	0

There were 18 fire-related injuries and no fire-related fatalities recorded in these incidents.

Largest fire in each year

The largest fire in each year has been identified based on the number of fire appliances mobilised.

Date of Call	Property Type	Number of Appliances	Ignition Source
14 April 2022	House - single occupancy	8	Battery charger
1 September 2023	House - single occupancy	8	e-Smoking equipment
21 August 2024	Single shop	8	Batteries, generators
10 May 2025	House - single occupancy	7	Not known

Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Further information about making requests for information is available on our website: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>