



**SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE  
MEDIA CONFERENCE - FIRE AND AMBULANCE STATISTICS**

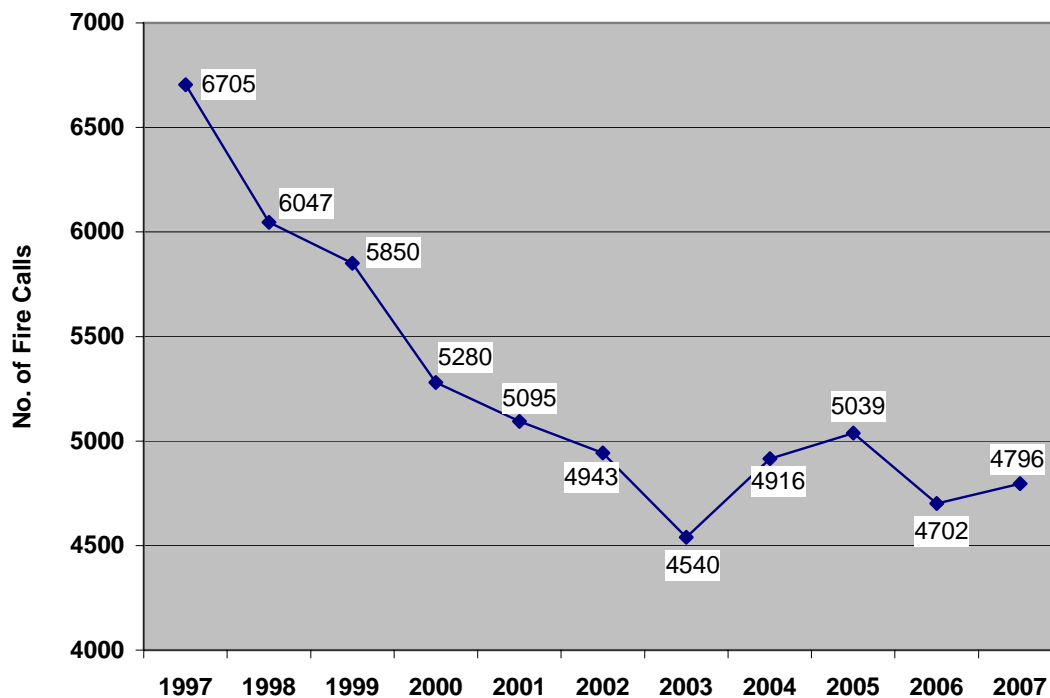
**TOPIC 1**

**FIRE INCIDENT STATISTICS  
(JAN – DEC 2007)**

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**FIRE CALLS**

1 In 2007, SCDF responded to a total of 4,796 fires. This represents a slight increase of 94 cases or 2% as compared to year 2006. The total number of fire calls attended by SCDF from year 1997 to year 2007 is as shown in Graph 1.



**GRAPH 1: NUMBER OF FIRE CALLS ATTENDED BY SCDF  
FROM 1997 TO 2007**

**BREAKDOWN OF FIRE CALLS**

2 The breakdown of fire call by premises type is as shown in Table 1 below. There is an increase in both residential and non-residential premises fire by 8.7% and 1.8% respectively as compared to the same period last year.

DESCRIPTION	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Absolute Change	% Change
Residential Premises	2957	3213	+256	+8.7
Non Residential Premises	610	621	+11	+1.8
Non Building	1135	962	-173	-15.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4702</b>	<b>4796</b>	<b>+94</b>	<b>+2.0</b>

TABLE 1: BREAKDOWN OF GENUINE FIRE CALLS

3. Of the 621 fires involving non-residential premises, 319 cases involved commercial premises, while 152 cases involved industrial premises. The remaining 150 cases involved social/communal premises. See Table 2.

DESCRIPTION	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Absolute Change	% Change
Commercial	311	319	+8	+2.6
Industrial	152	152	-	-
Social/Communal	147	150	+3	+2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>+1.8</b>

TABLE 2: BREAKDOWN OF FIRE CALLS  
(NON-RESIDENTIAL PREMISES)

## FIRES IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES

4 Fire outbreaks in residential premises involving both public and private structural dwellings are further broken down to the types of incidents as shown in Table 3.

TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Absolute Change	% Change
Rubbish Fires (Rubbish chutes, discarded items & rubbish bins)	1751	1969	+218	+12.5
Unattended Cooking	509	546	+37	+7.3
Contents*	348	283	-65	-18.7
Electrical Fires	177	150	-27	-15.3
Bicycles/ Motorcycle	33	45	+12	+36.4
Gas	30	27	-3	-10.0
Others**	109	193	+84	+77.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2957</b>	<b>3213</b>	<b>+256</b>	<b>+8.7</b>

\* Contents include furniture, clothing, awning, mattresses, praying altar, curtain, door, toiletries

\*\* Others include notice boards, banners, lifts, footwear/racks.

**TABLE 3: BREAKDOWN ON FIRES IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES (BY TYPES)**

5 Based on Table 3, there are a number of significant points to highlight:

a. Rubbish Fires

Rubbish fires continue to form the main bulk of residential fires constituting 61.3% (1969 cases) of the total number of residential fires in year 2007.

i) Rubbish Chute Fires

The largest component of rubbish fires for year 2007 is rubbish chute fires in HDB residential estates which account for 60.9% (or 1,199 cases) of the total number of 'rubbish' fires. This is usually caused by the poor social habits of some residents who indiscriminately disposed of lighted materials such as embers from charcoal, cigarette butts and lighted incense materials into rubbish chutes. There is an increase of 100 cases (or 9.1%) in the number of rubbish chute fires from 1,099 fires to 1,199 fires in year 2007 as compared to the previous year.

ii) Rubbish Bin Fires

Another hot spot for rubbish fires would be rubbish bins located at lift lobbies. Rubbish bin fires accounted for 14.1% (277 cases) of the total fires occurring in residential premises in year 2007. Although such fires do not pose a serious threat to the life of residents or cause significant damage to property, the resultant smoke emitted can be a source of irritation to other residents. The public is urged to continue to practice fire safety awareness when disposing of lighted materials so as to reduce the occurrence of such fires.

iii) Discarded Items Fires

The other source of rubbish fires came from discarded items found in common areas of residential buildings. In year 2007, there were 493 cases of fires involving discarded items, an increase of 14.9% (or 64 cases) in comparison to 429 cases in year 2006. Residents are advised not to leave discarded items at common areas such as corridors and lift lobbies as these can fuel fires when lighted materials are indiscriminately thrown onto them. Residents should make arrangements with the Town Councils for removal of bulky items.

b. Unattended Cooking Fires

The number of unattended cooking fires has increased by 7.3% from 509 cases last year to 546 cases this year. These fires occurred due to absent-mindedness of residents and could easily be avoided with greater care on the part of occupants. Members of public are urged to practice home fire safety awareness when cooking so as to prevent such fires from occurring.

## **NON-BUILDING FIRES**

6. Non-building fires (e.g. vegetation, vehicle) decreased by 173 cases (or 15.2%) in year 2007 as compared to last year due mainly to a reduction in vegetation fires. The breakdown is shown in Table 4.

DESCRIPTION	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Absolute Change	% Change
Vegetation	651	453	-198	-30.4
Rubbish (in open space)	216	206	-10	-4.6
Vehicles	161	181	+20	+12.4
Vessels	0	2	+2	-
Others*	107	120	+13	+12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>-173</b>	<b>-15.2</b>

\* Others include bus stops, stand alone ATM kiosks, praying altar, incense, tentage and canvas.

**TABLE 4: BREAKDOWN ON FIRES INVOLVING NON-BUILDINGS**

## **CAUSES OF FIRES**

7. The breakdown on the causes of fire is as shown in Table 5.

DESCRIPTION	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Absolute Change	% Change
Light thrown down	2873	2827	-46	-1.6
Overheating of Food	555	599	+44	+7.9
Electrical Origin	497	524	+27	+5.4
Incendiary/Suspicious	374	411	+37	+9.9
Naked Light	277	299	+22	+7.9
Others	126	136	+10	+7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4702</b>	<b>4796</b>	<b>+94</b>	<b>+2.0</b>

TABLE 5: CAUSES OF FIRES

8. Fires caused by “light thrown down” in year 2007 have seen a drop of 46 cases (ie. 1.6%) as compared to year 2006. It contributed to 59% of the total fire outbreaks. Members of public should refrain from indiscriminate disposal of lighted items such as lighted cigarettes butts, embers from charcoal etc. Fires can easily occur if such lighted items were to come into contact with combustible materials.

## **FIRE INJURIES**

9 The number of fire injuries increased by 5 (or 5.5%) from 91 in year 2006 to 96 in year 2007. The breakdown on the number of fire injuries sustained over the years is shown in Table 6.

DESCRIPTION	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of fire injuries	73	131	111	91	96

TABLE 6: NUMBER OF FIRE INJURIES OVER LAST 5 YEARS

## **FIRE FATALITIES**

10 There were 4 fire fatalities in year 2007, compared to 3 fatalities for the same period in 2006. 2 of the fatalities arose from a fire incident involving an overhead exchanger of a distillation column used for processing crude oil at 1 Pulau Ayer Chawan on 3 May 2007. The other 2 fatalities (1 male Chinese and 1 female Chinese) were the victims of a shop house fire which occurred at Hougang Ave 8 on 13 September 2007.

DESCRIPTION	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of fire fatalities	1	7	1	3	4

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF FIRE FATALITIES OVER LAST 5 YEARS

