



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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**FOI REFERENCE:** FOI 24/25 - 235

**DATE RECEIVED:** 15/05/24

**TITLE / CATEGORY:** Incident Statistics – Solar PV Panels

### REQUEST

1. Number of incidences attributed to:
  - a. Solar PV
  - b. Battery Storage System
  - c. Heatpump (Airsouce)
  - d. Heatpump (ground source)
  - e. Wind turbine
  - f. Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment
2. Number of injuries caused by the incidences in question 1.
3. Number of deaths caused by the incidences in question 1.
4. What was the cause of the incidences (based on IRS categories)?
  - Faulty Appliances and Leads
  - Misuse of Equipment or Appliances
  - Careless handling of fire or hot substances
  - Deliberate
  - Faulty fuel supplies
  - Placing articles too close to heat
  - Playing with fire
  - Other (please state)
5. Can the problems be pinpointed to:
  - a. User error/lack of understanding of the item /system requirements? (please explain)
  - b. Installation error? (please explain)
    - i. Electrical
    - ii. Mechanical / fixing (note: we do need to find if there is an issue with electrical installers breaching roofing construction methods)
  - c. Design error (please explain)
  - d. Equipment failure? (please explain)
  - e. Lack of maintenance of the LCT system and wiring? (please explain)
6. Were the affiliated switchgear, and protective devices (e.g., MCB, Fuse, RCBO, RCD, etc), in the consumer unit/distribution board checked to be suitable and correctly sized for the installation, considering the potential increased current flows and bi-directional operation

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### REQUEST CONT.

7. What was the age of the installation?

### RESPONSE

This covers the number of fire incidents within the Tyne and Wear region involving Solar PV panels from the 1st of April 2023 to the 31st of March 2024.

The following information is taken from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) Incident Recording System (IRS). An IRS incident record is completed by the Officer in Charge for every incident attended.

As there is no Incident Recording System (IRS) categories for each incident type requested, these incidents have been identified and categorised using a manual search of section 10.4 for each incident report.

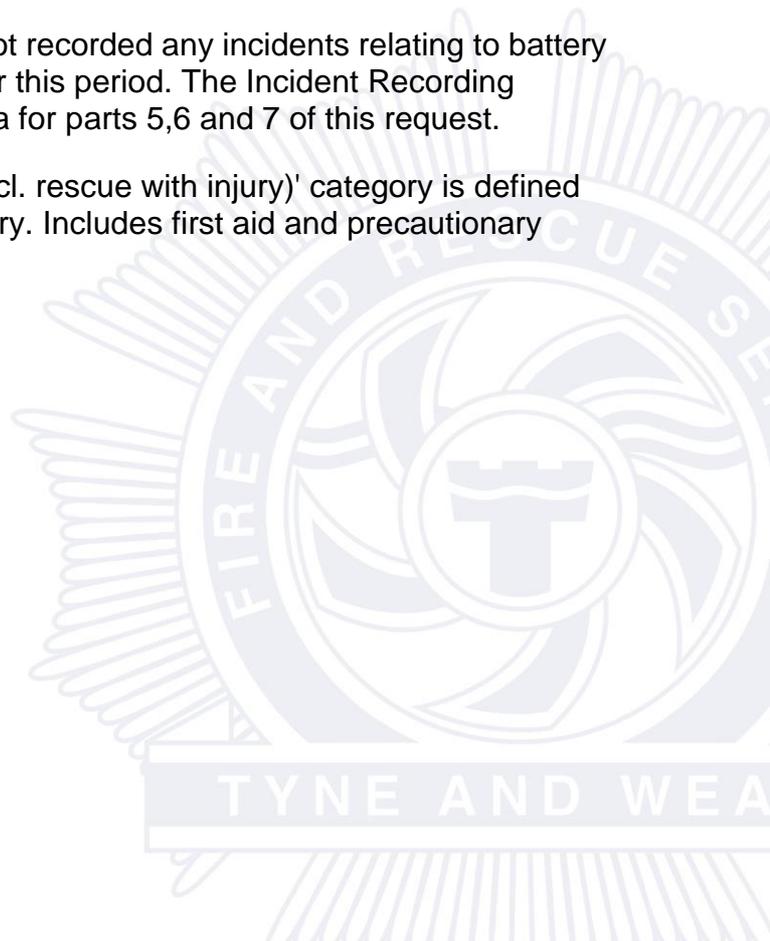
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service have not recorded any incidents relating to battery storage systems, heatpumps, or wind turbines for this period. The Incident Recording System (IRS) unfortunately does not capture data for parts 5,6 and 7 of this request.

The Incident Recording System (IRS) 'Injured (incl. rescue with injury)' category is defined as 'Include victims that were rescued with an injury. Includes first aid and precautionary checks.'

Please see below table

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[www.twfire.gov.uk](http://www.twfire.gov.uk)



Calendar year	Month	Fire Classification	Reason/ Motive	Source of Ignition	Number of Injuries Caused	Fatalities	Potential Incident Type
2023	May	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Apparatus - batteries, generators	0	0	Solar
2023	July	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Wiring, cabling, plugs	0	0	Solar
2023	October	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Wiring, cabling, plugs	0	0	Solar
2023	October	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Wiring, cabling, plugs	0	0	Solar
2023	October	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Wiring, cabling, plugs	0	0	Solar
2023	November	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Apparatus - batteries, generators	4	0	EV Charging Equipment
2024	February	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Apparatus - batteries, generators	0	0	Solar
2024	February	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Wiring, cabling, plugs	0	0	Solar
2024	February	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Wiring, cabling, plugs	0	0	Solar
2024	March	Primary	Accidental	Electricity supply - Apparatus - batteries, generators	5	0	EV Charging Equipment
2024	March	Primary	Accidental	Other appliance or equipment	0	0	EV Charging Equipment