

# 9A Emergency management attachment

## 9A.1 All jurisdictions' data — fire

### Descriptors

Table 9A.1 Reported fires and other primary incidents, 1997-98 (number)

	<i>Fires</i>	<i>Other incidents</i>	<i>False reports</i>	<i>Total reports</i>
<i>NSW</i>				
— NSW Fire Brigade	33 617	30 455	47 599	111 671
— NSW Rural Fire Service	13 760	5 221	2 585	21 556
— <i>Total NSW</i>	<i>47 377</i>	<i>35 676</i>	<i>50 184</i>	<i>133 227</i>
<i>Victoria</i>				
— Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board	9 840	5 640	16 643	32 123
— Country Fire Authority	10 871	4 685	6 995	22 721
— <i>Total Victoria</i>	<i>20 711</i>	<i>10 325</i>	<i>23 638</i>	<i>54 844</i>
<i>Queensland</i>				
— Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority <sup>a</sup>	13 009	8 783	20 711	42 503
<i>WA</i>				
— Fire and Rescue Service	11 298	2 091	7 728	21 117
— Bush Fire Service	2 612	21	113	2 746
— <i>Total WA</i>	<i>13 910</i>	<i>2 112</i>	<i>7 841</i>	<i>23 863</i>
<i>SA</i>				
— Metropolitan Fire Service (Metro)	3 709	12 348	3 741	19 798
— Metropolitan Fire Service (Rural)	868	1 427	668	2 963
— Country Fire Service	4 519	2 189	267	6 975
— <i>Total SA</i>	<i>9 096</i>	<i>15 964</i>	<i>4 676</i>	<i>29 736</i>
<i>Tasmania</i>				
Tasmania Fire Service	4 579	870	3 885	9 334

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Table 9A.2 (Continued)

	<i>Fires</i>	<i>Other incidents</i>	<i>False reports</i>	<i>Total reports</i>
<i>ACT</i>				
ACT Emergency Services Bureau <sup>b</sup>	1 760	1 853	4 831	8 444
<i>NT</i>				
— Fire and Rescue Service	2 048	948	2 586	5 582
— Bush Fires Council	na	na	na	na
— <i>Total NT</i>	na	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>203 584</b>	<b>140 608</b>	<b>204 691</b>	<b>549 203</b>

<sup>a</sup> Excludes Rural Fire Service data. <sup>b</sup> Reported fires include both the ACT Bushfire Service and the ACT Fire Brigade. Other incidents and false reports include the ACT Fire Brigade only. **na** Not available.

Table 9A.3 Source of funding for fire services, 1997-98<sup>a</sup>

	State Govt	Local govts	Levies on insurance companies	Levies on property owners	User charges	Other	Total	value
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	\$m
NSW								
— NSW Fire Brigade	14	12	74	0	0	0	100	273
— Rural Fire Service	14	12	74	0	0	0	100	70
Victoria <sup>b</sup>								
— Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board	11	11	63	0	1	14	100	150
— Country Fire Authority	22	0	68	0	2	8	100	109
Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority	19	0	0	76	4	1	100	178
WA								
— Fire and Rescue Service (Permanent)	13	12	75	0	0	0	100	62
— Fire and Rescue Service (Volunteers)	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	6
— Bush Fire Service <sup>c</sup>	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	8
SA								
— Metropolitan Fire Service	13	12	75	0	0	0	100	55
— Country Fire Service <sup>d</sup>	48	0	40	0	0	10	100	16
Tasmania Fire Service	8	0	21	50	17	4	100	35
ACT Emergency Services Bureau <sup>e</sup>	79	0	0	0	21	0.4	100	31
NT								
— Fire and Rescue Service	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	15
— Bush Fires Council	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	4

<sup>a</sup> Totals may not sum to 100 per cent as a result of rounding. <sup>b</sup> The proportion of principal funding contributions from State Governments, local governments and insurance companies are established in legislation. The actual proportions received may vary as a result of the level of income from user charges and other income sources. <sup>c</sup> The Bush Fire Service does not include Bush Fire Brigades which are the responsibility of local government. <sup>d</sup> Other income includes \$1 million received from AUSAID for reimbursement of costs of the Indonesian Fire Suppression Exercise. <sup>e</sup> Total expenditure for the ACT includes expenditure for four response agencies: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service.

## Effectiveness

### Outcomes

Table 9A.4 Fire death rate, 1997-98 (per 100 000 persons)

	NSW <sup>a</sup>	Vic <sup>a</sup>	Qld <sup>a</sup>	WA	SA	Tas <sup>a</sup>	ACT <sup>a</sup>	NT
1997-98	0.80	0.65	0.50	0.60	0.40	1.10	0.30	0.50

<sup>a</sup> Death rate verified by the State Coroner.

**Table 9A.5 Fire death rate, 1991-92 to 1995-96 (per 100 000 persons)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>NT<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Aust</i>
1991-92	0.82	0.67	0.43	0.12	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.55
1992-93	0.73	0.72	0.32	0.18	0.27	0.85	0.00	2.36	0.57
1993-94	0.73	0.62	0.69	0.35	0.34	1.06	0.66	0.85	0.63
1994-95	0.57	0.51	1.00	0.69	0.41	1.06	1.64	0.00	0.66
1995-96	0.82	0.39	0.68	0.45	0.07	1.27	0.65	0.00	0.60

<sup>a</sup> The fire death rate was zero in 1991-92 in SA. <sup>b</sup> The fire death rate was zero in 1991-92 and 1992-93 in the ACT. <sup>c</sup> The fire death rate was zero in 1991-92, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the NT.

**Table 9A.6 Fire injury rate, 1997-98 (per 100 000 persons)**

	<i>NSW<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Vic<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Qld<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>WA<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
1997-98	12.1	7.6	4.3	0.8	9.0	12.9	13.3	6.9

<sup>a</sup> Includes NSW Fire Brigades only and excludes the NSW Rural Fire Service. <sup>b</sup> Includes Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority. <sup>c</sup> Includes urban fire services only and excludes rural fire services. <sup>d</sup> Includes both urban fire brigades and rural volunteer fire brigades.

**Table 9A.7 Median dollar loss per structural fire, 1997-98 (\$)**

	<i>NSW<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Vic<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Qld<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>WA<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>SA-MFS<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>SA-CFS<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>Tas<sup>e</sup></i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT<sup>f</sup></i>
1997-98	4 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	3 000	4 500	5 000	5 000	na

<sup>a</sup> Includes NSW Fire Brigades only and excludes the NSW Rural Fire Service. <sup>b</sup> Includes Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority. <sup>c</sup> Includes urban fire services only and excludes rural fire services. <sup>d</sup> Data for the SA Metropolitan Fire Service and the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) were not combined. <sup>e</sup> Includes both urban fire brigades and rural volunteer fire brigades. <sup>f</sup> Data for the NT were not available.

**Table 9A.8 Total property loss due to structural fire, 1997-98 (\$ per person)**

	<i>NSW<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Vic<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Qld<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>WA<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT<sup>e</sup></i>
1997-98	27	19	14	19	15	48	10	na

<sup>a</sup> Includes NSW Fire Brigades only and excludes the NSW Rural Fire Service. <sup>b</sup> Includes Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority. <sup>c</sup> Includes urban fire services only and excludes rural fire services. <sup>d</sup> Includes both urban fire brigades and rural volunteer fire brigades. <sup>e</sup> Data for the NT were not available. **na** Not available.

**Table 9A.9 Total fire incidents, 1997-98 (per 100 000 persons)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Qld<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>WA<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
1997-98	751	437	382	627	597	971	570	1 083

<sup>a</sup> Includes Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority. <sup>b</sup> Includes urban fire services only and excludes rural fire services. <sup>c</sup> Includes both urban fire brigades and rural volunteer fire brigades.

## Prevention

**Table 9A.10 Households with a fire safety measure, by fire safety measure installed or followed, May and August 1998<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Fire safety measure</i>	<i>Estimate ('000)</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<i>Proportion of households with a fire safety measure</i>		
Fire safety measure installed or followed		
Smoke alarm/smoke detector	4 134.3	60.0
Fire sprinkler system	78.5	1.1
Safety switch/circuit breaker	3 343.4	48.5
Fire extinguisher	1 645.7	23.9
Fire blanket	539.7	7.8
Fire evacuation plan	924.2	13.4
External water supply	688.7	10.0
Removal of external fuel sources	1 168.4	17.0
External sprinkler	1 032.0	15.0
Other fire safety measure	57.9	0.8
<i>Total</i>		
Total households with a fire safety measure <sup>b</sup>	5 711.4	82.9
No fire safety measure installed or followed	1 126.4	16.3
Don't know	55.1	0.8
<b>Total households</b>	<b>6 892.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size, see table 9A.11. <sup>b</sup> For the total number of households with a fire safety measure, the sum of the components is larger than the total as a number of households have more than one fire safety measure installed or followed.

Source: ABS (1998).

## Preparedness

**Table 9A.12 Households with an operational smoke alarm or smoke detector installed, May and August 1998<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Estimate ('000)	1	1	589.5	282.0	417.7	140.0	73.3	12.8	4
	213.7	405.3							134.3
Per cent	52.6	81.5	47.1	40.7	72.2	76.9	67.0	28.6	60.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>693.2</b>	<b>578.3</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>households</b>	<b>308.6</b>	<b>725.0</b>	<b>251.6</b>						<b>892.9</b>

<sup>a</sup> Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size, see table 9A.13.

Source: ABS (1998).

## Response

Table 9A.14 Response times, 1997-98 (minutes)

	NSW <sup>a</sup>	Vic <sup>b</sup>	Qld <sup>c</sup>	WA <sup>c</sup>	SA <sup>d</sup>	Tas <sup>e</sup>	ACT <sup>f</sup>	NT
50th percentile	6.0	5.7	7.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	6.5	6.4
90th percentile	11.0	10.1	16.0	13.0	8.0	19.0	11.7	9.0

<sup>a</sup> Includes NSW Fire Brigades only and excludes the NSW Rural Fire Service. NSW Fire Brigades respond to calls throughout the state, in urban and regional communities. The 90th percentile response time for the greater Sydney area was within 10 minutes. <sup>b</sup> Includes both the Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (Melbourne only) and the Country Fire Authority. <sup>c</sup> Includes urban fire services only and excludes rural fire services. <sup>d</sup> Includes SA Metropolitan Fire Service only and excludes SA Country Fire Service. <sup>e</sup> Includes both urban fire brigades and rural volunteer fire brigades. <sup>f</sup> Includes ACT Fire Brigade only and excludes ACT Bush Fire Service.

Table 9A.15 Proportion of structural fires contained to the object or room of origin, 1997-98 (per cent)

	NSW <sup>a</sup>	Vic <sup>b</sup>	Qld <sup>c</sup>	WA <sup>c</sup>	SA <sup>d</sup>	Tas <sup>e</sup>	ACT <sup>f</sup>	NT <sup>g</sup>
1997-98	73.0	87.6	64.7	77.9	42.7	72.0	76.2	na

<sup>a</sup> Includes NSW Fire Brigades only and excludes the NSW Rural Fire Service. <sup>b</sup> Includes Victorian Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board only and excludes the Country Fire Authority. <sup>c</sup> Includes urban fire services only and excludes rural fire services. <sup>d</sup> Includes SA Metropolitan Fire Service only and excludes SA Country Fire Service. <sup>e</sup> Includes both urban fire brigades and rural volunteer fire brigades. <sup>f</sup> Includes ACT Fire Brigade only and excludes ACT Bush Fire Service. <sup>g</sup> Data for the NT were not available. **na** Not available.

## Efficiency

Table 9A.16 Fire expenditure, 1997-98

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT <sup>a</sup>	NT
Expenditure (\$ per person)	54	53	52	42	47	74	99	99
Population ('000)	6 306.3	4 627.3	3 430.4	1 811.1	1 482.9	471.7	309.0	189.2

<sup>a</sup> Total expenditure for the ACT includes expenditure for four response agencies; the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service.

## 9A.2 All jurisdictions' data — ambulance

### Descriptors

Table 9A.17 Reported ambulance incidents, 1997-98 (per cent)

	NSW <sup>a</sup>	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
<i>Patients transported</i>								
Emergency stretcher ambulance	41.1	46.9	54.6	57.8	56.5	81.1	69.9	17.9
Non-emergency stretcher ambulance	33.5	26.4	36.6	38.8	28.9	5.8	8.4	30.9
Clinic/non-stretcher patients	na	8.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	28.8
Air ambulance	1.2	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total patients transported</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>77.6</b>
<i>Patients treated, not transported</i>								
Emergency stretcher ambulance	11.2	na	3.5	0.0	10.8	0.0	9.6	0.0
Non-emergency stretcher ambulance	0.7	na	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.4	0.0
Clinic/non-stretcher patients	na	na	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Air ambulance	0.0	na	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public events	0.3	na	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total patients treated</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>na<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<i>Ambulance not required</i>								
<b>Total incidents when ambulance not required</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>na<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>na<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>22.4</b>
<i>Total cases ('000s)</i>	<i>694.7</i>	<i>384.7</i>	<i>459.1</i>	<i>118.8</i>	<i>139.9</i>	<i>46.4</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>22.0</i>

<sup>a</sup> Clinic and non-stretcher patients were not recorded separately in NSW. <sup>b</sup> Data not separately available for 'patients treated, not transported' and 'ambulance not required'. An aggregate figure of 17.1 per cent represents these reported ambulance incidents. <sup>c</sup> Data not separately available for 'patients treat, not transported' and 'ambulance non required'. **na** Not available.

**Table 9A.18 Source of funds for ambulance services, 1997-98 (per cent)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>NT</i>
Transport fees								
from government hospitals	14.7	4.2	8.2	0.6	8.5	5.9	na	7.0
from private hospitals	4.7	5.2	3.7	52.5	0.4	3.8	na	12.2
from insurances	3.3	4.8	0.9	2.4	3.6	3.0	na	2.1
other	0.7	2.3	1.7	0.0	27.4	1.6	na	0.0
Total transport fees	23.4	16.5	14.5	55.5	39.9	14.2	na	21.4
Subscriptions/levies	0.0	24.5	41.9	2.4	20.8	0.0	na	5.1
Government contributions	76.6	54.8	37.8	25.7	35.9	85.8	na	48.1
Other	0.0	4.1	5.8	16.3	3.4	0.0	na	25.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	na	100.0
<b>Total (\$ million)</b>	<b>228.0</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>159.6</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>8.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> The source of funds for the ACT Ambulance Service were included in the ACT Emergency Services Bureau data in table 9A.2 and could not be provided separately. The total expenditure in table 9A.2 included expenditure for the four response agencies under the Emergency Services Bureau: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service. **na** Not available.

## Effectiveness

### Response

**Table 9A.19 Response times, 1997-98 (minutes)**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>
50th percentile	10	9	8	8	7	10	7	8
90th percentile	17	14	16	15	13	22	11	15

<sup>a</sup> Response times for Victoria included the Metropolitan Ambulance Service only. The Metropolitan Ambulance Service includes highly populated rural and semi-rural areas. <sup>b</sup> Includes metropolitan ambulance services only and excludes rural ambulance services.

**Table 9A.20 Persons aged over 18 years who had used an ambulance in the last 12 months, satisfaction with ambulance services, May and August 1998<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%
Very satisfied	844.2	69.2
Satisfied	256.2	21.0
Neither satisfied nor	38.2	3.1
Dissatisfied	46.8	3.8
Very dissatisfied	24.4	2.0
Don't know	10.6	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 220.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size, see table 9A.21.

Source: ABS (1998).



**Table 9A.22 Persons aged over 18 years who had not used an ambulance in the last 12 months, satisfaction with ambulance services, August 1998<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
	'000	%
Very satisfied	3 853.9	32.0
Satisfied	4 587.4	38.1
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1 194.9	9.9
Dissatisfied	574.4	4.8
Very dissatisfied	161.8	1.3
Don't know	1 671.8	13.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 044.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Caution should be used where there are small differences in the results, which are affected by sample and estimate size, see table 9A.23.

Source: ABS (1998).

## Efficiency

**Table 9A.24 Ambulance expenditure, 1997-98**

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>ACT<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>NT</i>
Expenditure (\$ per person)	36	36	44	24	24	32	na	46
Population ('000)	6 306.3	4 627.3	3 430.4	1 811.1	1 482.9	471.7	309.0	189.2

<sup>a</sup> Expenditure data for Tasmania are provided on a full accrual basis and do not include expenditure on administration of the ambulance subscription scheme, hospital based transport services, independent ambulance services, first-aid training and clinic transport services. <sup>b</sup> Expenditure per person for the ACT Ambulance Service were included in the ACT Emergency Services Bureau data in table 9A.13 and could not be provided separately. The total expenditure in table 9A.13 included expenditure for the four response agencies under the Emergency Services Bureau: the ACT Fire Brigade, ACT Bushfire Service, ACT Emergency Service and ACT Ambulance Service. <sup>c</sup> Data for Queensland are provided on an accrual basis, and includes expenditure on the administration of the Subscription Scheme, First Aid and clinic transports. A full accrual breakdown of the expenditure of Emergency Services provision was not available at the time of reporting. **na** Not available.

## 9A.3 Information on sample data

Some of the results reported are estimates obtained by conducting surveys of samples of the group or population in question. Results are therefore subject to *sampling error*. The data obtained from a sample may be different from the 'true' data which would have been obtained from the entire group or population — not just a sample — using the same methods. Consequently, when using survey results, it is necessary to be cautious.

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The *standard error* is a measure of sampling error. It indicates the extent to which the estimate may differ by chance from the 'true value' because only a sample was taken. If the survey is performed repeatedly, the difference between the sample estimate and the population value will be less than one standard error about 68 per cent of the time. The difference will be less than two standard errors 95 per cent of the time. It will be less than three standard errors 99 per cent of the time. Another way of expressing this is to say that in 68 (95, 99) of every hundred samples, the estimate obtained from a single survey will be within one (two, three) standard errors of the 'true' value.

The chance that an estimate falls within a certain range of the true value is known as the confidence of the estimate. When interpreting any particular survey results, there is a trade-off between the confidence of the estimate (68, 95 or 99 per cent) and the range of error (in terms of standard errors) attached to the estimate. The appropriate level of confidence chosen depends on the purpose of obtaining the estimate.

The *relative standard error* is the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate to which it relates. It indicates the margin of error which should be attached to the estimate. The smaller the estimate, the higher is the relative standard error.

Tables 9A.20 and 9A.21 present the relative standard errors associated with different survey estimates by jurisdiction. For example, a survey performed in two quarters estimated that 52.6 per cent or 1 213 700 households in NSW have an operational smoke alarm or smoke detector installed (Table 9A.10). Table 9A.20 shows that the associated relative standard error is 3.2 per cent. There is a 68 per cent probability that the proportion of the population having the device installed is within one relative standard error of the estimated proportion. That is, we can be 68 per cent confident that the true value lies between 52.6 per cent plus or minus 3.2 per cent — 50.9 to 54.3 per cent. (Note that this is not equivalent to 52.6 plus or minus 3.2 per cent). We can be 95 per cent confident that the true value lies within two relative standard errors — that is, between 49.2 and 55.9 per cent. The higher the level of confidence, the less precise the estimate is likely to be.

**Table 9A.25 Relative standard error of estimates for two quarters of the Population Survey Monitor by jurisdiction<sup>a b</sup>**

<i>Estimate</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>Tas</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
'000	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2	..	..	..	66.2	62.0	32.8	22.8	20.4	79.6
5	69.7	62.0	59.5	41.8	39.2	20.8	14.4	12.9	50.3
10	48.2	43.9	40.7	28.6	26.6	14.1	9.5	8.7	36.3
20	32.9	30.5	27.3	19.3	17.8	9.4	6.1	5.7	25.7
50	19.6	18.4	15.8	11.3	10.3	5.3	3.2	3.0	16.0
100	13.1	12.2	10.2	7.4	6.6	3.4	2.0	1.8	10.9
200	8.7	8.0	6.5	4.8	4.2	2.1	1.2	1.0	7.4
500	5.0	4.4	3.5	2.6	2.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	4.3
800	3.6	3.0	2.4	1.9	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.3	3.1
1 000	3.2	2.7	2.1	1.7	1.4	0.7	0.3	0.2	2.8
1 500	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.0
2 000	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.8
5 000	1.1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.0

<sup>a</sup> The ABS considers that only estimates with relative standard errors of 25 per cent or less are sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates greater than 25 per cent are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and should be treated with caution and viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved. <sup>b</sup> The Population Survey Monitor is conducted quarterly. These relative standard errors relate to data based on adding the sample data across two quarters. .. Not applicable.

Source: ABS (1998).

**Table 9A.26 Relative standard error of estimates for one quarter of the Population Survey Monitor, Australia<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Aust</i>
'000	%
5	98.0
10	69.3
20	48.8
50	30.3
100	20.8
200	13.9
500	8.1
800	6.0
1 000	5.3
1 500	4.0
2 000	3.4
5 000	1.9

<sup>a</sup> The ABS considers that only estimates with relative standard errors of 25 per cent or less are sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates greater than 25 per cent are subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes and should be treated with caution and viewed as merely indicative of the magnitude involved.

Source: ABS (1998).

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## 9A.4 Definitions

Table 9A.27 Terminology

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Emergency ambulance response	An emergency ambulance response to a pre-hospital medical or accident emergency which necessitates the use of ambulance warning devices, and takes priority over the use of ambulance resources.
False report	An incident where the fire service has responded and investigated the site and found that no action was necessary.
Fire death	A fatality that the reporting officer deems as directly attributable to the incident or the action of handling the fire incident. This excludes fatalities where a fire conceals a death occurring prior to the incident. This information may be verified by a coronial inquiry.
Fire incident	A fire which requires a fire service response.
Fire injury	An injury that the reporting officer deems as directly attributable to the incident or the action of handling the incident. An injury is defined as requiring treatment by a medical practitioner or third party and/or at least one day of restricted activity immediately after the incident.
Fire safety measure	Fire safety measures installed or followed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• smoke alarms or smoke detectors;</li><li>• fire sprinkler systems;</li><li>• safety switches or circuit breakers;</li><li>• fire extinguishers;</li><li>• fire blankets;</li><li>• fire evacuation plans;</li><li>• external water supplies;</li><li>• the removal of external fuel sources;</li><li>• external sprinklers; and</li><li>• other fire safety measures.</li></ul>
Nonstructural fire	A fire outside of a structure where the material burnt has value, such as yard storage and crops.
Other incident	An incident that requires a fire service response other than fire. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• over pressure rupture (for example, steam or gas), explosion, or excess heat (no combustion);</li><li>• rescue (for example, resuscitator or emergency medical call);</li><li>• hazardous condition (for example, escape of hazardous materials);</li><li>• salvage; and</li><li>• storm and extreme weather.</li></ul>

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(Continued on next page)

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**Table 9A.28 (Continued)**

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Paramedic response	A level of emergency care categorised as advanced life support which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• invasive airway support to isolate the tracheal pathway;</li><li>• intravenous fluid replacement;</li><li>• intravenous drug therapy that can increase myocardial performance; and</li><li>• intravenous narcotic pain relief.</li></ul>
Response time	The interval between the receipt of the call at the dispatch centre and the arrival of the vehicle at the scene (that is, when the vehicle is stationary and the handbrake is applied).
Structural fire	A fire inside a building or structure, whether or not there was damage to the structure.

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**Table 9A.29 Indicators**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Definition</i>
50th percentile ambulance service response times	The time at which 50 per cent of first ambulance resources actually responded.
50th percentile fire service response times	The time at which 50 per cent of first fire resources actually responded.
Fire death rate	Number of fire deaths per 100 000 persons in the total population.
Fire injury rate	Number of fire injuries per 100 000 persons in the total population.
Median dollar loss per structural fire	The median (middle number in a given sequence) of the structural loss in \$'000 per structural fire incident.
90th percentile ambulance service response times	The time at which 90 per cent of first ambulance resources actually responded.
Proportion of structural fires contained to object or room of origin	A fire where direct fire/flame is contained to the room of origin (that is, excludes wildfires and vehicle fires in unconfined spaces). A room is an enclosed space, regardless of its dimensions or configuration. This category should be confined to residential and nonresidential structures.

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