

Emergency rescue services activity in 2022

27.07.2023

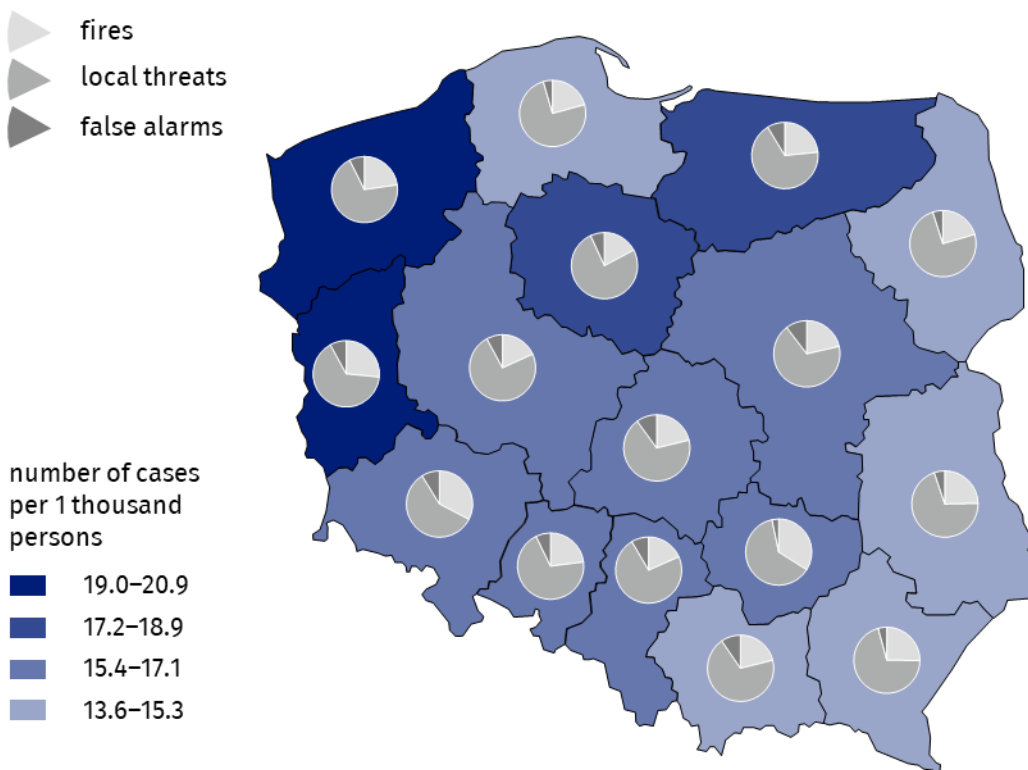
↑ 5.0%
 Increase in the number of interventions of fire brigades in 2022 compared to 2021

In 2022, fire brigades intervened in 608.8 thousand events. Interventions concerned 136.0 thousand fire events, 425.0 thousand local threats, and 47.9 thousand false alarms. 447 drowning accidents, of which 422 people died, including 47 women, were reported to the Police. Water life rescue services carried out 1 813 rescue actions.

Fire safety

In 2022, throughout the country, fire brigades intervened in 608.8 thousand events (increase by 5.0% in comparison with 2021). Most of the interventions of fire brigades were recorded in Mazowieckie Voivodship (90.6 thousand), the lowest number of events was in Opolskie Voivodship (16.1 thousand). Indicator of the number of events requiring intervention of fire brigades per 1 thousand persons, reached the highest level in Lubuskie Voivodship (20.9), and the lowest in Małopolskie Voivodship (13.6).

Map 1. Interventions of fire brigades in 2022



Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

Interventions concerned 425.0 thousand local threats (by 0.7% less than in 2021), 136.0 thousand fires (more by 27.7%) and 47.9 thousand false alarms (more by 5.9%).

Chart 1. Structure of events involving fire brigades in 2022



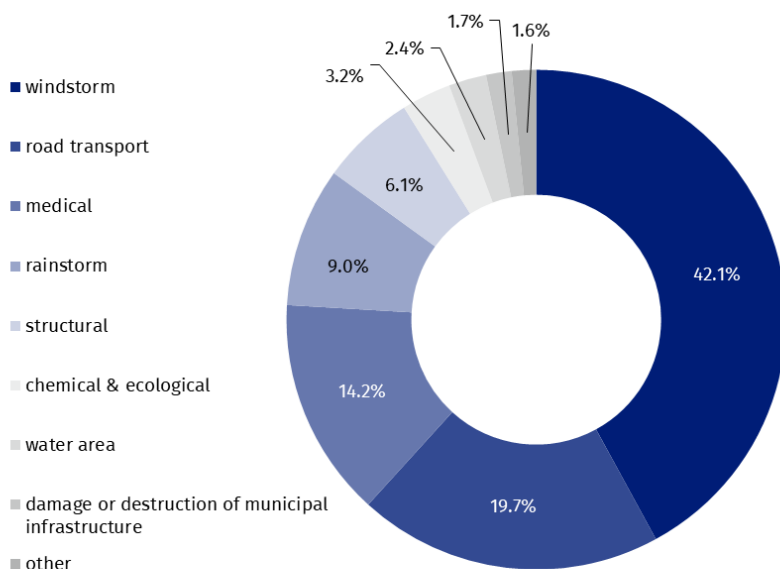
Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

Small fires – 129.6 thousand – constituted the largest share of all fires (95.3% of all fires), while 87 fire cases were classified as very big fires (0.1%).

In case of local threats per 1 thousand persons, requiring the participation of fire brigades, the highest value of the indicator was in Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship (14.3), while the lowest value was in Dolnośląskie Voivodship (9.3). The most common local threats requiring the intervention of fire brigades were windstorms (125.4 thousand). The number, in comparison with 2021, increased by 64.8%.

In 2022, 95.3% of all fires were classified as small fires

Chart 2. Structure of local threats by type in 2022

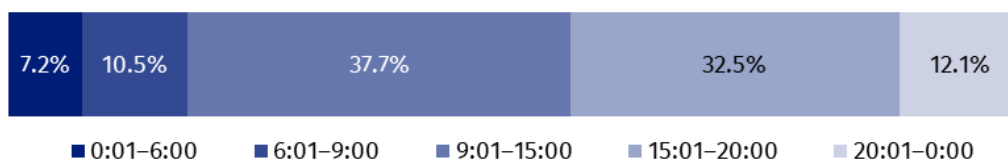


Windstorms were the most common local threats requiring the intervention of fire brigades (42.1% cases)

Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

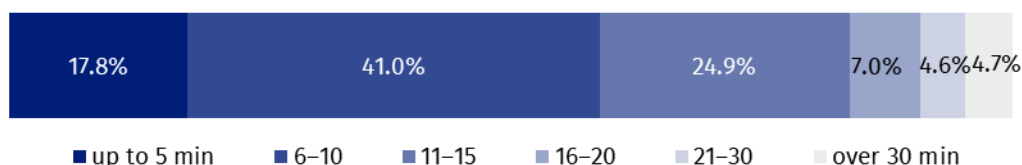
As in previous years, more than a half of all false alarms i.e. 26 941 (56.3%) were reported in good faith.

Chart 3. Structure of events requiring intervention of fire brigades by time of spotting in 2022



Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

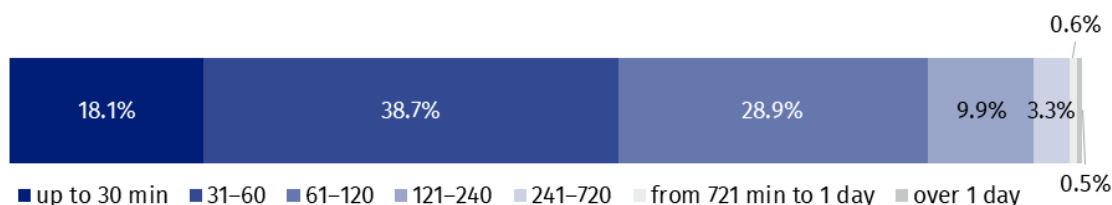
Chart 4. Structure of events requiring intervention of fire brigades by drive time in 2022



Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

In more than 40% of incidents, the drive time of arrival at the location of the accident was between 6 and 10 minutes

Chart 5. Structure of events requiring intervention of fire brigades by duration of intervention in 2022



Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

In almost 40% of incidents, the duration of the intervention of the fire protection units was between 31 and 60 minutes

4 301.3 thousand firefighters were involved in interventions of fire brigades, including 2 276.1 thousand volunteer firefighters, 1 019.6 thousand vehicles were used in rescue actions, of which 824.7 thousand fire engines. As a result of fires and local threats, 9.3 thousand persons died (including two firefighters) and 46.1 thousand were injured (including 266 firefighters).

Table 1. Events involving fire brigades in 2022

Specification	Total	Fires	Local threats	False alarms
POLAND	608 818	135 965	424 958	47 895
Dolnośląskie	45 640	14 900	26 723	4 017
Kujawsko-pomorskie	37 660	6 478	28 605	2 577
Lubelskie	28 753	7 108	20 141	1 504
Lubuskie	20 523	5 447	13 436	1 640
Łódzkie	36 923	7 838	25 374	3 711
Małopolskie	46 499	9 808	32 239	4 452
Mazowieckie	90 614	19 407	61 807	9 400
Opolskie	16 091	3 704	11 219	1 168
Podkarpackie	29 868	7 495	21 103	1 270
Podlaskie	16 810	3 448	12 532	830
Pomorskie	35 361	7 337	26 421	1 603
Śląskie	73 500	13 512	53 778	6 210
Świętokrzyskie	18 200	6 179	11 432	589
Warmińsko-mazurskie	25 477	5 961	17 316	2 200
Wielkopolskie	53 696	9 794	39 653	4 249
Zachodniopomorskie	33 203	7 549	23 179	2 475

Source: National Headquarters of the State Fire Service.

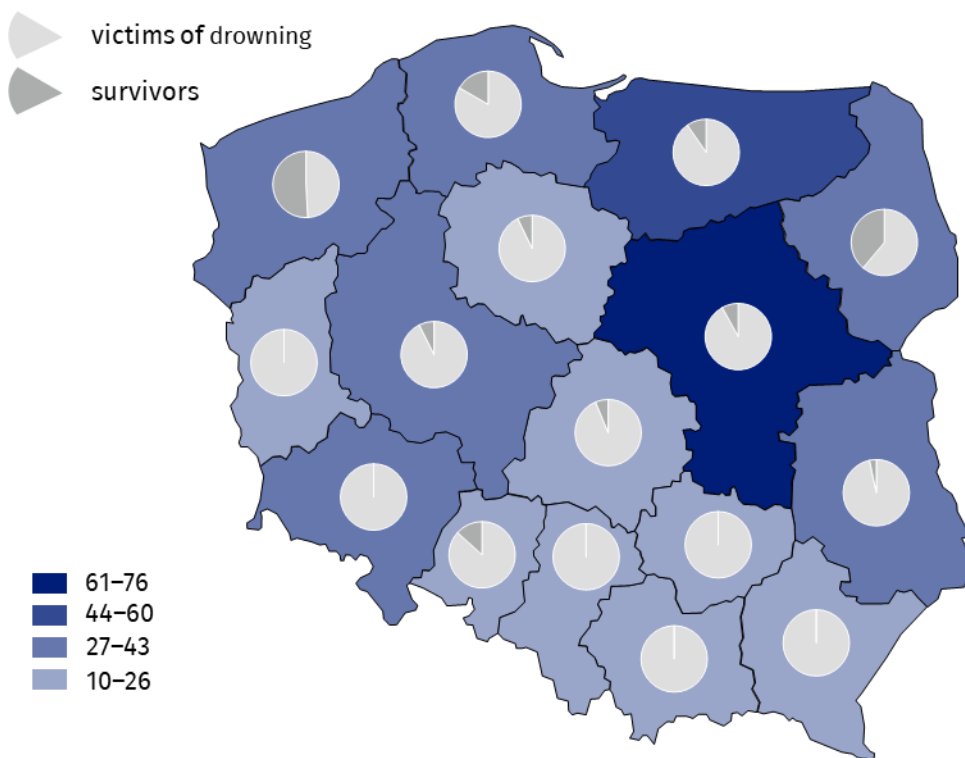
Drowning events¹

In 2022, 447 drowning events were reported to the police (by 5.9% more than in 2021), resulting in 422 deaths (by 3.4% more), including 47 women (17.5% more than in the previous year).

Most victims of drowning events were recorded in Mazowieckie Voivodship (69), the smallest number of them in Lubuskie Voivodship (10).

In 2022, 422 persons drowned, that is 14 persons more than in the previous year

Map 2. Drowning incidents by voivodships in 2022

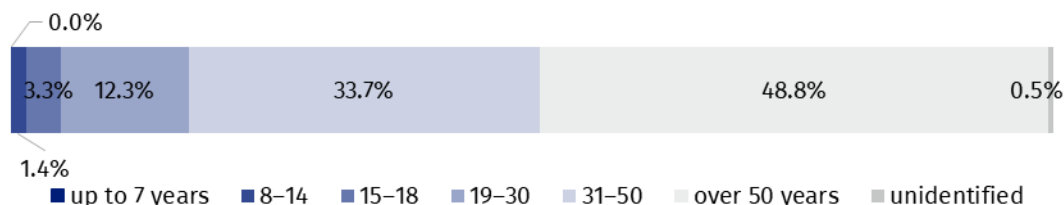


Source: data on the basis of data from registered proceedings by Police offices.

Persons over 50 years of age were most frequent victims of drowning (206 persons), while children between 8–14 years of age were the least frequent victims (6 persons). No drowning incidents were reported in the group of children under 7 years of age.

206 victims of drowning were over 50 years of age (48.8% of all victims)

Chart 6. Structure of victims of drowning by age in 2022

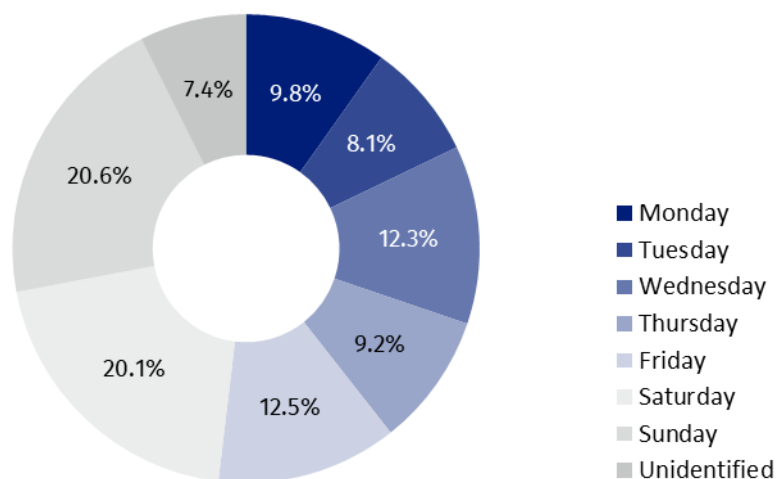


Source: National Headquarters of Police.

The highest numbers of drowning accidents were recorded on Sundays (92), while the lowest numbers of them were recorded on Tuesdays (36).

¹ Data based on events reported to the Police.

Chart 7. Structure of drowning incidents by days of the week in 2022



Source: National Headquarters of Police.

Most of victims drowned in lakes (105), of which the biggest number in Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodship (29). No victim of drowning in the lakes in Małopolskie, Dolnośląskie, Łódzkie and Podkarpackie Voivodships was recorded. 103 persons drowned in rivers. The biggest number of victims of drowning in the rivers was recorded in Mazowieckie Voivodship (22), while the smallest number of such victims was recorded in the Śląskie voivodship (1). 16 persons drowned in the sea, i.e. by 10 persons less than in 2021, (10 victims in Pomorskie Voivodship and 6 victims in Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship).

At the time of the incident, 109 drowning victims were intoxicated whereas 22 were sober. In 291 events of drowning (69.0%) state of consciousness (i.e. sober, intoxicated or under influence of drugs) could not be determined.

Most of victims drowned in the lakes (105 cases)

Table 2. Drowning incidents in 2022

Specification	Drowning incidents	Victims of drowning	Survivors
POLAND	447	422	42
Dolnośląskie	27	27	–
Kujawsko-pomorskie	26	26	2
Lubelskie	30	29	1
Lubuskie	10	10	–
Łódzkie	15	15	1
Małopolskie	16	17	–
Mazowieckie	74	69	6
Opolskie	15	13	2
Podkarpackie	22	22	–
Podlaskie	29	22	14
Pomorskie	43	40	8
Śląskie	16	16	–
Świętokrzyskie	13	13	–
Warmińsko-mazurskie	52	47	5
Wielkopolskie	27	25	2
Zachodniopomorskie	32	31	1

42 persons were rescued from drowning incidents

Note: There can be more than one person per incident.

Source: data on the basis of data from registered proceedings by Police stations.

Actions of water rescue services²

As of 31 December 2022, 119 entities received permission to water rescue service and they employed 13 165 water lifeguards.

Water lifeguards carried out 1 813 rescues operations, most of them in inland and coastal water area (1 168) and least in places occasionally used for bathing (39).

In 2022, 119 entities were eligible to water rescue

Water lifeguards carried out 1 813 rescue operations

Chart 8. Structure of rescue operations to save drowning people by place of rescue in 2022



Source: Ministry of Interior and Administration.

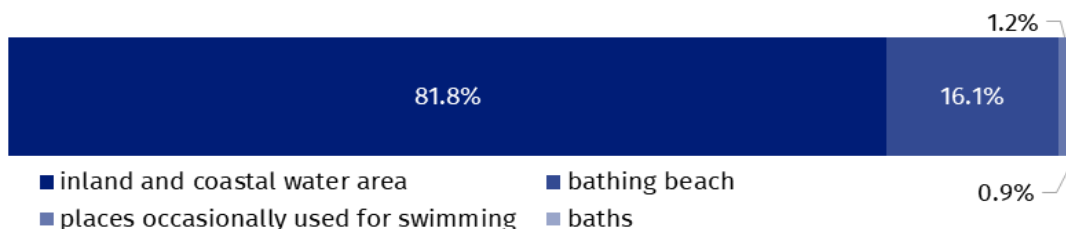
Water lifeguards carried out 5 904 actions requiring professional first aid. Most rescue actions occurred in the inland and coastal water area (1 392), such interventions were the least frequent in places occasionally used for swimming (41).

In the analysed period 721 actions dealt with transporting victims of the incidents or in danger of losing health or life in water area to a location where it was possible to perform medical rescue actions by the units of the State Medical Emergency³.

Water lifeguards took part in 579 actions of searching for missing people. They saved 1 388 persons.

Water lifeguards saved lives of 1 388 drowning persons

Chart 9. Structure of actions of searching for missing persons in water area by place of rescue in 2022



Source: Ministry of Interior and Administration.

Entities, eligible to water rescue, were carrying out training activities in the area of water rescue. In 2022 they delivered 531 training courses, including 508 training courses dedicated to water lifeguards. 18 courses were delivered for instructors of water rescue and 5 courses for rescue dogs with the guide. 5 321 persons were awarded with the certificate of acquired qualifications.

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: “Statistics Poland data source”, and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: “Own study based on Statistics Poland data”.

² Data based on reports of services entitled to water life savings reported to the Ministry of Interior and Administration.

³ Reference to Article 32(1) Act of 8 September 2006 on Medical State Emergency. Journal of Laws 2022, pos. 1720 and further amendments.

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Data available in databases

[Database Local Data Bank – organisation of the state and justice](#)