

One important finding of the research project in English in the "Etudes et Dossiers"

No. 27 of the Geneva Association is that fire is costing many countries around 1 % of their Gross Domestic Product. The project goes on to suggest some lines of action which could cut millions of pounds of fire waste. In sponsoring a study into fire costs, the Geneva Association was continuing a deep rooted insurance tradition to play a prominent part in fire protection. In the United Kingdom, for example, it was the fire insurance companies who took the lead in the 18th century by the formation of their own fire brigades.

Across the Atlantic, it was the determination of a few insurance men in 1896 that led to the creation of the USA National Fire Protection Association, a model which was rapidly copied all over the world. The Geneva study has attempted to break new ground in the fire protection field for one thing, most fire research projects tend to concentrate on national, rather than international problems, whereas the Association studies fire costs in 12 European countries.

Previous studies on national fire costs have tended to concentrate on fire losses, whereas the Geneva study also produced figures for the national costs of fire protection - thus opening the way to cost effectiveness studies.

This summary report starts by a brief comment dealing with the objects and results of the research, then i comments on the 7 items of fire costs and finally summarizes the suggestions for further action to cut European fire costs.