



London fire: What happened at Grenfell Tower?

1) What happened?

The fire was reported at the 24-storey block in North Kensington at 00:54 BST (23:54 GMT), leading to 40 fire engines and more than 200 firefighters tackling the blaze. It took until 01:14 BST the following day to get it under control, with the fire affecting most floors of the building and destroying 151 homes, both in the tower and surrounding areas. The Metropolitan Police says it will

consider manslaughter, health and safety and fire safety charges. (block 英: 一棟のビル fire engines 消防車 blaze(大きな)炎 manslaughter 故殺(罪))

2) Police say that while 80 people are currently presumed to have died, the final toll will not be known until at least the end of the year. Westminster Coroner Dr Fiona Wilcox said on 12 July that 34 victims had been identified. The Metropolitan Police say it believes there were about 255 survivors from the fire. "Extensive investigations" have led them to conclude 350 people should have been in the tower block on the night of the blaze. (coroner 検視官 presume (ある程度確信を持って)推定する)

3) Fourteen residents were not in the building at the time, leaving at least 80 people dead or missing, the Met said. Thirty-two people have been formally identified by the coroner, but not all names have been released. Metropolitan Police Commander Stuart Cundy has said there is "a risk that sadly we may not be able to identify everybody". He announced on 5 July that the last of the visible human remains had been forensically recovered from the building. (remains 遺体 forensically 科学捜査的に)

4) London Mayor Sadiq Khan said fire crews only managed to reach the 12th floor at the height of the fire. There were claims from within the local community - and by celebrities such as Lily Allen and rapper Akala - that the true death toll was being suppressed by the media.

5) What caused the fire?

The fire started in a Hotpoint fridge freezer, but police said it was not started deliberately. Footage has shown the fire spreading up one side of the building externally, before engulfing the entire block. Downing Street ordered immediate testing of the fridge freezer that was involved. (fridge=refrigerator 冷蔵庫 deliberately 故意に Downing Street 英国官庁街のある街⇒(英国)内閣、政府)

6) How did firefighters respond?

More than 200 firefighters and 40 fire engines were involved in battling the blaze. They were called at 00:54 BST, but it took until 01:14 BST - just over 24 hours later - to get the fire under control. The blaze affected most floors of the building and destroyed 151 homes, both in the tower and surrounding areas.

The fire brigade rescued 65 people. However, a BBC investigation has found a series of failings hampered the efforts of firefighters to tackle the fire and rescue the building's residents. Crews cited low water pressure, radio problems and equipment that was either lacking or did not arrive before the fire got out of control. (fire brigade 消防隊 ※brigade=(軍隊式編成の)隊、組 hamper 阻止する)

7) What about the cladding?

The cladding - installed on Grenfell Tower in a recent renovation - has come under scrutiny, with experts saying a more fire-resistant type could have been used. Both the cladding and insulation on the outside of the building failed all preliminary tests by the police. The insulation samples burned more quickly than the cladding tiles. Documents obtained by the BBC suggest the cladding fitted during its refurbishment was changed to a cheaper version. They show the zinc cladding originally proposed was replaced with an aluminium type, which was less fire resistant, saving nearly £300,000. cladding can create cavities which in some cases can cause a chimney effect, drawing flames up the cavity if there are no fire barriers. (cladding クラッド法外装、被膜加工 scrutiny 精査 insulation 断熱材 preliminary 予備の refurbishment 改装 zinc 亜鉛 fire resistant 耐火性 cavity へこみ、くぼみ) 後略 【2017-07-12 | BBC】

★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What made the fire in Grenfell Tower so devastating?
2. What precautionary measures should be done against fires?
3. If you should get caught in a fire, what are things you must keep in your mind?
4. Which do you prefer, living in a high-rise condominium or in a house?
5. Make sentences using the following words: *manslaughter, presume, deliberately, hamper and scrutiny.*