

# Highlight Report



<b>Name &amp; Role</b>	Senior H&S Advisor Joanne Hampton <b>SLT report: 20-107 (part 1)/ P&amp;R 29 May- Item 11</b>
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## Period covered:

<b>Date from:</b>	01/01/20	<b>Date to:</b>	31/03/20
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## Highlights / achievements this period

### RSM Risk Assurance Services Audit

RSM Risk Assurance Services carried out an external audit on the H&S department in May 2019. We can confirm out of the 13 action points identified in the initial draft report all of the high and medium risks have been resolved and mitigated and we currently have 1 low action that remains outstanding. The original target date for this action was 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, although this date has lapsed we have made progress in initiating meetings with the Performance department and Training department. The outstanding action is in relation to KPI's for training targets for relevant health and safety training and the training department are currently working through their current data sources and how information has previously been stored, as there are currently a number of health and safety training courses missing from their systems. We will continue to monitor this monthly through to closure of the action point with a revised target date set at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. This target date may now be extended in conjunction with L&D due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation but we will ensure to keep this as close as possible to the target date.

### OSHENS Replacement/Take over

The provider of our online health and safety system, Optima has been taken over by a new company called Ideagen. Members of the Health & Safety team attended a seminar to find out more about the new provider and to assess what it means for the current OSHENS system users. Ideagen will phase out OSHENS out over the next 3 - 5 years and look to move current users onto their own health and safety management system Q Pulse. The team, in conjunction with ICT, now needs to determine if the Q Pulse system will be a suitable replacement for OSHENS. Work is ongoing with this project and we are still pursuing this project albeit timelines for this may now be extended due to the current Covid-19 situation.

### Policy Updates

Service arrangements for the workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) regulations 1992 Policy has been reviewed, updated and consultation has taken place and is now published on the intranet.

### Risk Assessments

A Model Risk Assessment has been produced for ECFRS response to a flu pandemic and then an additional 34 Site Specific Risk Assessments were created under the Model Risk Assessment, which significantly reduced workload.

The Team were also asked to professionally critique the draft National risk assessments for the flu pandemic work which were 'Assisting the Ambulance Service' and 'COVID 19 body handling' which have now been released to all FRS's.

### Toolbox Talks

- **No 41 – Station and Appliance Genie Leads** was produced following another OSHENS report where the lead had not been removed before the appliance was moved out of the bay.

### Safety Flashes

- **SF-10 Sanitisers and Hygiene Guidance** was issued to remind all staff on the correct hand washing procedure and how to obtain hand sanitising gel for all personnel and locations.
- **SF-11, Operational Response where COVID-19 is suspected or Confirmed** was issued giving guidance to all crews on dealing with operational incidents where COVID-19 is suspected to be present or is confirmed.
- **SF-12, Station Cleaning Routines** was issued to reduce the risk of contamination on stations where multiple crews use the facilities over 24 hours. All regular cleaning plus additional measures have been put in place to ensure Stations are de contaminated at the end of watch and before the next watch beings work.

### Significant Accident Investigation –

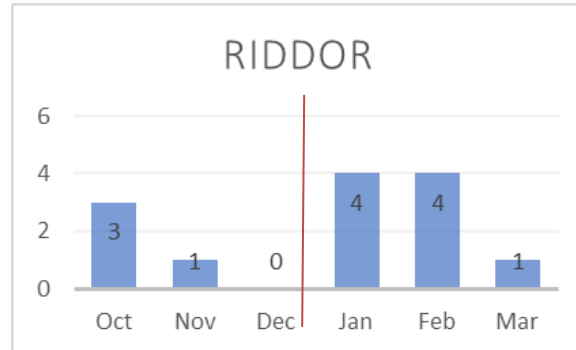
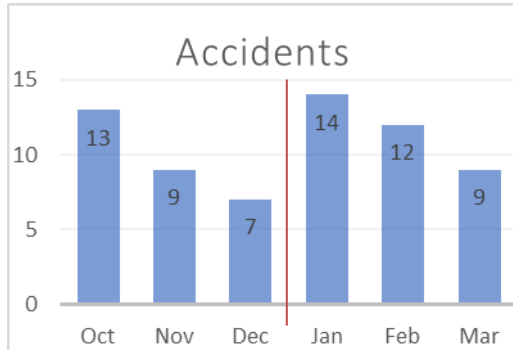
The Health & Safety team conducted an accident investigation into the chemical incident in Thurrock in January. Advisors attended the scene to gather evidence and take witness statements and then produced a full report to pass on to the Operations Assurance department to assist in the Operational de-brief. A separate serious accident investigation board is also to be arranged to ensure that the Health and Safety learning outcomes from this investigation are mitigated to ensure these are lessons learnt and to stop them from occurring again.

### No Time To Lose Campaign –

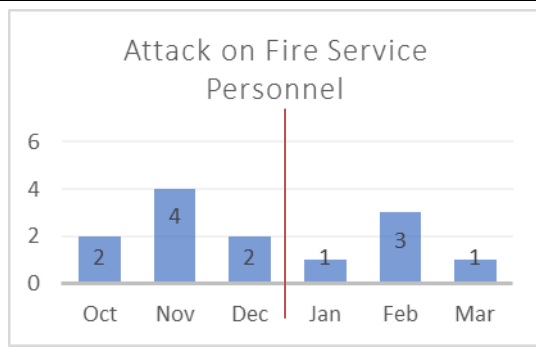
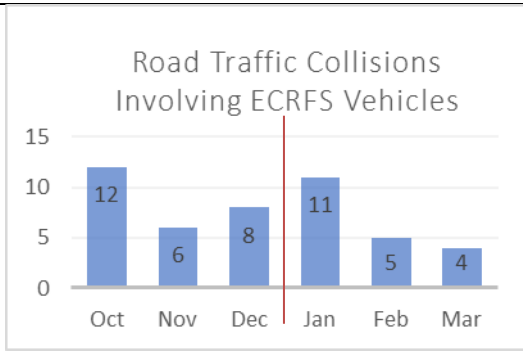
- It has been identified that early awareness and education of a firefighters working environment and the control of contaminants is crucial. A dedicated presentation has been developed and implemented at Service training centre as part of the new inductee training programme.
- New whole-time squads have received a theoretical presentation on the 'No time to lose' campaign and how to control cross contamination from the incident, they have also taken part in a practical session to embed an understanding of the 'Safe undress' procedure for Structural firefighting PPE and breathing apparatus. This will now be rolled out to all new on-call firefighters with a view to providing catch up sessions where required.
- The gas monitoring thematic review came to an end at 09:00hrs on 28<sup>th</sup> April and produced 64 detailed reports from 205 HMEPA mobilisations. The reports will now be analysed by the hazmat group to assess the requirement for dedicated gas monitoring equipment on front-line appliances.
- In line with the clean cab policy, the availability of suitable vacuum cleaners on stations to improve the air quality within the interior cab has been assessed. The make and model of service supplied vacuum cleaners have now been obtained from all stations with a view to supplying two HEPA filters to each location for a 6 month cab deep clean.
- An email was sent to Anna Stec of Lancashire University on 17<sup>th</sup> February requesting specialist advice around the suitability of washing machines on stations for cleaning work wear following the research conducted within the service. An email response received on 26<sup>th</sup> February stated that the results of the sampling within Essex will be ready shortly. We have not received a response to date and the team are currently following this up.

## Safety Event Figures Q3 October, November, December 2019 and Q4 January, February, March 2020

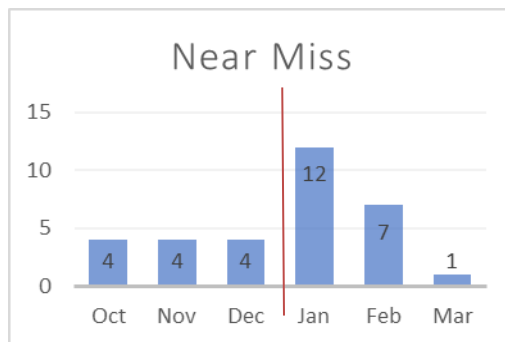
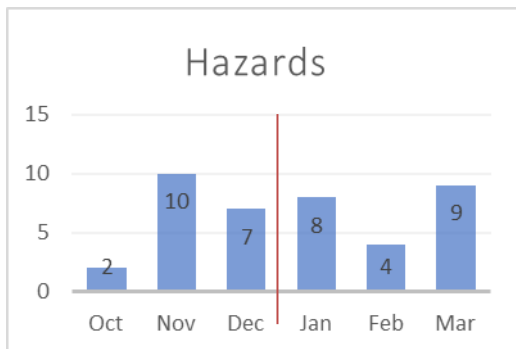
The graphs below show a comparison of Q3 safety event data with Q4 safety event data. With no notable trends in Q4 to note.



- Accidents - 35 accidents in this quarter against 29 last quarter.
  - January 2020- Of the 14 accidents at work reported this month, 6 occurred during training these consisted of 1 slip, 1 small burn to the hand and 4 manual handling injuries. 5 whilst on operational duty which 4 of these were manual handling injuries and 1 was whip lash following an RTC. 2 in the office and 1 was a flare up of an existing condition.
  - February 2020 – Of the 12 accidents at work reported this month, 8 occurred during routine activities, 2 whilst at operational incidents 1 was a small burn to the neck and one was a slip, 2 during operational training which were both slips/trips at the Fire Service college (Significant Accident Investigation took place)
  - March 2020 - There were 9 accidents on duty recorded during March. 3 were during training 1 was manual handling, 1 was poorly fitting PPE (boots) 1 was a slip. 4 at operational incidents 2x manual handling incidents and 2 equipment catching hands (struck by), 1 at head office and 1 on Station ground.
  
- RIDDOR – 9 RIDDOR reports in this quarter against 4 last quarter.
  - January 2020 – The 4 RIDDORs reported in January were all over 7 day absences. 2x Manual handling injuries, 1 during a BA training drill pulled back and 1 during a training drill at STC also pulled back. 1x Slip whilst running out hose in training at STC, 1x strained neck at Operational Incident.
  - February 2020 – There were 4 RIDDORs reported in February, 2x Over 7 day's absence 1x fall on station down the stairs 1x manual handling injury when carrying out standard tests. 1x Specified Injury, Injured person banged head and temporarily loss conscious (this makes it reportable) and 1 Dangerous Occurrence (BA Malfunction) breathing valve came away from facemask this was during a live fire training drill and full investigation via BA Workshops took place it was an isolated incident and were the user had incorrectly fitted the breathing valve after test.
  - March 2020 – The 1 RIDDOR reported in March was an over 7 day event this was an RTC Member of Public crashed into Service Appliance on a blue light call, CM suffered bruising to his shoulder from the seatbelt. A Significant Accident Investigation was carried out and found that there was nothing that could have been done to avoid the collision.



- Road Traffic Collisions – A drop of 6 from previous quarter. Most collisions reported were minor at low speed whilst manoeuvring appliances at Operational Incidents.
- Attacks on FSP – 1 verbal abuse, 3 were objects being thrown and 1 threatening behaviour.



- Hazards – 21 Hazards submitted this quarter, which was 2 higher than the previous quarter. There are no significant trends to highlight.
- Near Misses – There has been an increase in near misses this quarter with 12 being reported in Q3 compared to 20 in Q4, there are no significant trends to report.

Key Risks (problems and opportunities predicted, not occurring)	Mitigating actions – how prevent a problem or develop an opportunity

<b>Key issues (problems occurring now – needing action)</b>	<b>Actions required e.g. decisions needed</b>