

Highlight Report



Name and Role	Joanne Hellen T/Health and Safety Manager
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Period covered:

Date from:	01/01/2022	Date to:	31/03/2022
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Highlights / achievements this period

COVID-19 Department Work – *Prevention, Protection and Response, develop and broaden the roles and range of activities undertaken by the Service, Collaborate with our partners.*

The requirement for the Service to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their health and safety risk assessment has been removed by the Government. The Government advise 'Employers may choose to continue to cover COVID-19 in their risk assessments'.

The Service continues to comply with the requirements for cleaning, ventilation, and welfare facilities in the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 to control occupational health and safety risks within the Service. All COVID-19 workplace risk assessments have been archived and generic workplace risk assessments apply.

Departmental Work - *Prevention, Protection and Response, Develop and broaden the roles and range of activities undertaken by the Service, make best use of our resources, Collaborate with our partners.*

Issued Toolbox Talks:

- **Toolbox Talk 49A – “Reduction in Self-Isolation”** - Issued as an update following changes in Government guidance for self-isolation. Individuals with two negative COVID-19 tests (Lateral Flow Tests) could leave isolation after 6 days.
- **Toolbox Talk 50 – “Changes to Highway Code”** - Issued due to a change of rules, all road users have been requested to read the updated 'Highway Code' which focusses on safety for pedestrians, cycling, and riding horses.

Issued Safety Flashes:

- **Safety Flash 25 – “Fire Hydrant Outlet Extensions”** - Issued following information received from Water Section during hydrant inspections where hydrant outlet extensions had been found to be damaged due to corrosion. There are limited numbers of hydrants with outlet extensions within the county. The information was shared regionally and with the water company.

Policy Reviews:

- The Manual Handling policy was reviewed. No significant changes were made, and the policy has been re issued.

Eastern Regional Meeting

The department attended the Eastern Regional Health and Safety Practitioners Forum in March. There were no significant updates reported.

The National Health and Safety Committee met in February 2022 and raised the following topics:

- Risks associated with guidelines. National guidance will be produced imminently to ensure consistencies across the sector.
- Washing of BA sets and understanding local solutions each Service may have introduced to inform best practice.
- Accidents during low-speed manoeuvres and the possibility of creating a national working group as the trend is still high.

Significant Accident Investigation Boards (SAIB)

- **SAIB – Burns to Hands** – This accident investigation was created following several incidents where burns were suffered to FF's hands raising concerns over suitability of PPE and the performance of fire fighter's gloves. Glove sizing was reviewed, and several pairs sent to Bristol for cleaning to test for shrinkage. A Toolbox Talk was issued regarding the limitations of structural firefighting gloves, and it will be raised at all future BA training courses. Risk assessments were also reviewed in line with other points raised. All action points are now complete, and the SAIB has been closed.
- **SAIB – Seatbelts in Service Vehicles** – Over the past few years, the Service has had several incidents of seat belt stalks breaking which have been collectively escalated to a SAIB. Failures had occurred where the seat belt stalk had been forced under the BA kit and fastened to stop an audible alarm sounding. One action point is outstanding where Media are planning to produce a video which will remind crews how to wear and stow seatbelts correctly. This action is to be completed by 31st May 2022.

No Time to Lose

A No Time to Lose (NTTL) meeting took place in January and quarterly meetings have been programmed in for 2022. Areas raised at the meeting included:

- Service strategy with regards to NTTL
- FBU UCLAN contaminates report
- NFCC carcinogenic project
- Cleaning of operational workwear
- Cleaning of BA sets
- Clean cab guidance

RSM Risk Assurance Services Audit

RSM Risk Assurance Services carried out a follow up external audit on the Health and Safety department, in May 2021. Action point 2 remains outstanding with partial assurance given.

Action point 2 – “The Service will ensure that all new starters carry out the Health and Safety Premises Induction on their first day. To support this, a monitoring mechanism will be introduced, with non-compliance being escalated accordingly. We will make the Working Safely training a mandatory requirement for all staff, with this training being refreshed on a periodic basis”.

Partial assurance was received on this action, and an induction and onboarding working group has been established involving the relevant heads of departments to ensure this action is completed and provides full assurance going forward. A Power App has been created to facilitate the onboarding process which is now being piloted before wider roll out across the Service. This work has been scheduled with a 'go live' due in May.

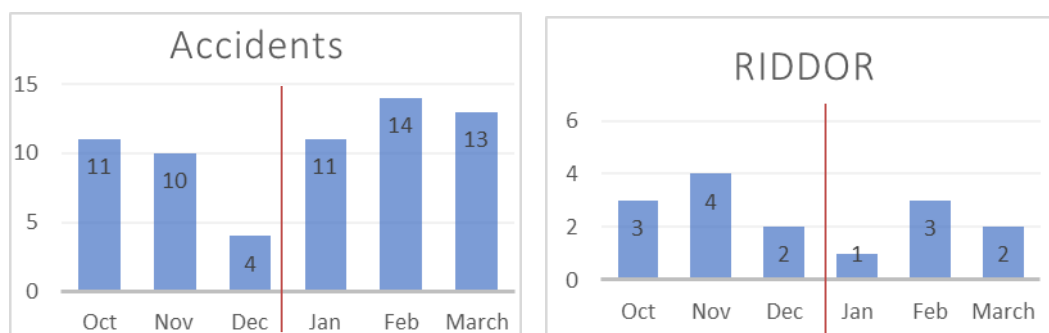
OSHENS Replacement

A replacement health and safety management system has been procured. The successful tender was from Evotix, and this system will allow the Service to monitor, audit and review safety events in line with HSG65 (Managing for Health and Safety) to meet statutory requirements with an estimated go live date set for August 2022. Works to implement the system and the delivery of training will start in April 2022.

Safety Event Figures Q3 October, November, December 2021 and Q4 January, February, March 2022 - *Prevention, Protection and Response, promote a positive culture in the workplace, Be transparent, open, and accessible.*

The graphs below show Q4 safety event data in comparison with Q3.

Accidents and RIDDOR



Accidents – There were 38 accidents reported in Q4 against 25 in the previous quarter. Accident investigations have taken place to ensure learning opportunities are captured, to mitigate the risk of similar events reoccurring. Below is a breakdown of the Q4 accidents by month:

- **January 2022:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 4 operational incidents were reported; 1 report of debris in eye, 1 experience of chest tightness, 1 manual handling injury and 1 burn to hands.
 - **Operational Training:** 6 operational training incidents were reported; 3 muscular injuries were related from hose drills (1 elbow, 1 shoulder and 1 neck), 3 injuries were reported from ladder drills (1 shoulder pain, 1 cut finger and 1 wrist pain).
 - **Routine Activities:** 1 injury reported: FF tripped on the steps whilst entering the Station resulting in a hamstring injury (this injury resulted in over 7 days absence and was RIDDOR reportable).

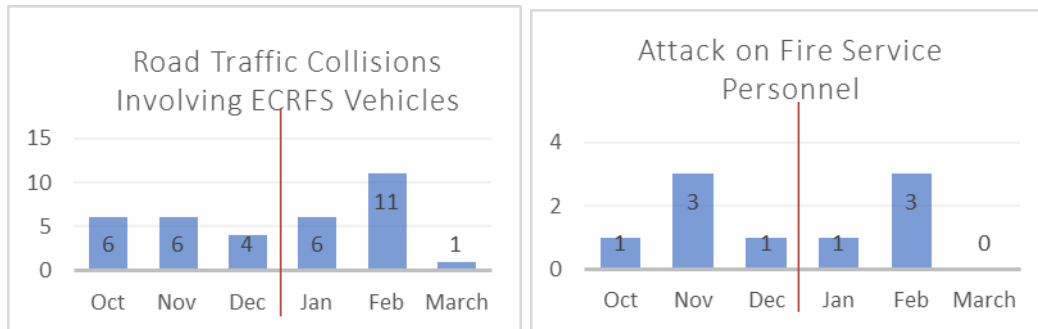
- **February 2022:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 5 operational incidents were reported; 1 report of ill health whilst wearing BA, 2 knee injuries from stumbling on uneven ground, 1 cut hand whilst using the hooligan tool (this injury resulted in over 7 days absence and was therefore RIDDOR reportable), and 1 muscular arm injury after using the door enforcer.
 - **Operational Training:** 4 operational training incidents were reported; 2 whilst BA training (1 burns to hands and 1 muscular back injury), 1 back injury reported during RTC training and 1 sprained wrist during ladder drills.
 - **Routine Activities:** 5 injuries were reported; 1 cut finger, 1 ringing in ears after a battery exploded in the battery testing station at Service Workshops, behind a protective shield (this injury was RIDDOR reportable as a Dangerous Occurrence), 1 back injury whilst pulling out the sliding tray that houses the PPV fan, 1 jarred back from tripping up stairs and 1 back pain whilst loading bag in to vehicle.

▪ **March 2022:**

- **Operational Incidents:** 2 operational incidents were recorded; 1 nose bleed after the door enforcer rebounded back and struck FF on the face/nose and 1 twisted knee after slipping on cab access step (this injury resulted in over 7 days absence and was therefore RIDDOR reportable).
- **Operational Training:** 6 operational incidents were reported; 4 relating to water rescue training (1 report of cold-water immersion syndrome, 1 ankle injury after it became momentarily trapped, 1 twisted knee during a wading exercise and 1 discomfort to hands due to tightness of the cuffs of the FF's dry suit) There were 2 reports from BA training (1 shoulder pain whilst moving in a restricted space and 1 burn to hands).
- **Routine Activities:** 5 injuries were reported; 1 elbow pain whilst using the torque wrench, 1 electric shock from a switch plate after the consumer unit was reset, 1 strained back, 1 jarred knee after climbing a step ladder and 1 finger injury after it struck a tap.

RIDDOR – There were 6 RIDDORs reported during Q4 compared with 9 during the last quarter. Of the RIDDORs reported, 4 were over 7 day injuries and 2 were Dangerous Occurrences: 1 BA set malfunction whilst FF wearing BA in open air at a car fire and 1 battery exploded in the battery testing station at Service Workshops behind a protective shield (there was momentary ringing of the ears).

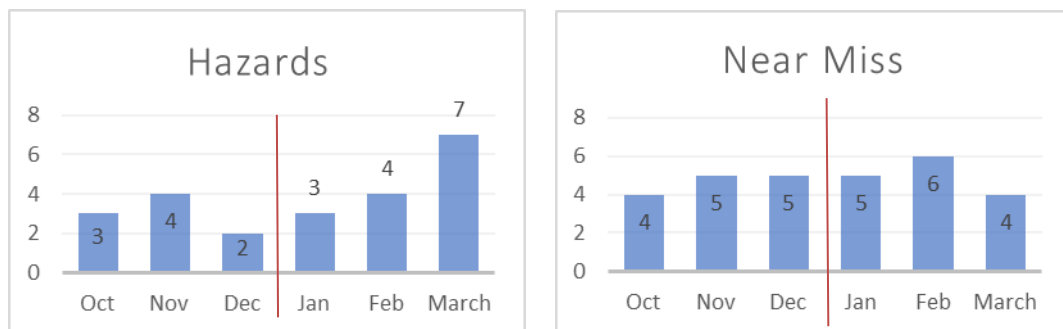
Road Traffic Collisions and Attacks on Fire Service Personnel (FSP)



Road Traffic Collisions – There were 18 reported RTC's reported during Q4 compared with 16 in the previous quarter. Collision data is being analysed and discussed at the Operational Road Risk Group to continually monitor trends and introduce additional control measures where required.

Attacks on FSP – There were 4 reported Attacks on Fire Service Personnel during Q4 compared with 5 in the previous quarter. 2 attacks were verbal and 2 involved missiles/objects being thrown (no injuries occurred to FSP).

Hazards and Near Misses



Hazards – 14 hazards were reported during Q4 compared with 9 hazards in the previous quarter. The department issued a Toolbox Talk explaining the importance of reporting hazards which may have led to the increased numbers in this quarter. There are no trends to note within the reported hazards.

Near Misses - 15 near misses were reported during Q4, against 14 in the previous quarter. Local accident investigations have taken place to ensure learning opportunities are captured to mitigate the risk of similar events reoccurring. Below is a breakdown of the reports received in the quarter:

Operational Incidents:

- Mains scheme radio not working
- Seatbelt securing eye in place had loosened
- Personnel unaware of significance of live cables at an incident

Operational Training:

- Metal cover attached to an old heating system fell off the wall
- Inadequate welfare facilities reported at Lee Valley water rescue training centre
- 'Loss of water pressure' whilst using a hose inside building fed via the Alp, (filter/gauze has collected debris from inside the dry riser)

Physical Training:

- Treadmill jammed whilst in use

Responding:

- Visual warning devices were not operating on appliance
- Called to a false alarm, on return to Station an SUV was seen entering the Fire Station (there had been recent suspicious activities around Stations in Essex involving 4x4 vehicles)

'Other' reports:

- Tree fell into the side of the Fire Station covering the route to the drill yard
- During a Fire Break course, a length of hose failed at the branch due to it not having a washer in the coupling

Routine Activities:

- Whilst testing the hose reels on the water tender the PTO jumped out of gear losing water to the hose reels
- Offside rear inner tyre was flat, and the tyre was off the rim
- Holmatro blade snapped
- Hose reel came apart

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

Key issues (problems occurring now – needing action)	Actions required e.g.; decisions needed