

Highlight Report



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

Date from:	01/07/2022	Date to:	30/09/2022
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Highlights / achievements this period

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 19A – “Sundstrom SR 100 Half Mask”** - produced following an Operational staff member suffering temporary effects of carbon monoxide poisoning whilst tackling a field fire. This was to remind all staff on the use and maintenance of the half mask respirator.
- **Toolbox Talk 55 – “Animal Rescue Response Levels”** - issued following an incident where crews attending had placed themselves at risk by entering the hazard zone.

Issued Safety Flashes:

- **Safety Flash 004A – Changes in Road Surface Conditions** - During the hot dry weather, a build-up of oil, grease, diesel and other contaminants remained present on the road surface so when it rained the surface became slippery. The safety flash was released to remind drivers to drive safely in changing conditions.

Policy Reviews:

- **First Aid Policy** – The policy was reviewed and updated to include the use of Flexi Officers casualty care kits.

Eastern Regional Meeting

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

There were no updates from the NFCC meetings as the Regional Chair did not attend.

No Time to Lose Campaign

In July 2022 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), has evaluated the carcinogenicity of occupational exposure as a firefighter. They set up a working group of 25 international experts, including 3 invited Specialists from 8 countries.

After thoroughly reviewing the available scientific literature, sufficient evidence led the working group to classify occupational exposure as a firefighter as carcinogenic to humans.

In 2017 a new working group was formed to progress work on the 'No Time to Lose' campaign (NTTL) and meetings have been held quarterly. Since the 2021 University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) report was issued by the FBU there have been concerns raised by firefighters over the washing of potentially contaminated work wear at home, spreading the potential contaminants to their home address. The report states that: *each station should provide or make arrangements to wash base layer garments (clothing worn by fire fighters under their PPE) that have been worn to a fire incident.*

A number of OSHENS reports have been submitted in relation to these concerns and it was raised as an agenda item at the latest NTTL meeting and also at the Health Safety and Welfare Functional Forum.

A report is currently being prepared for decision at ELT level for options to mitigate the risks involved to Operational staff in relation to the 'Washing of Workwear.'

OSHENS Replacement

A replacement Health and Safety Management system has been procured. The successful tender was Assure 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 of 9th January 2023.

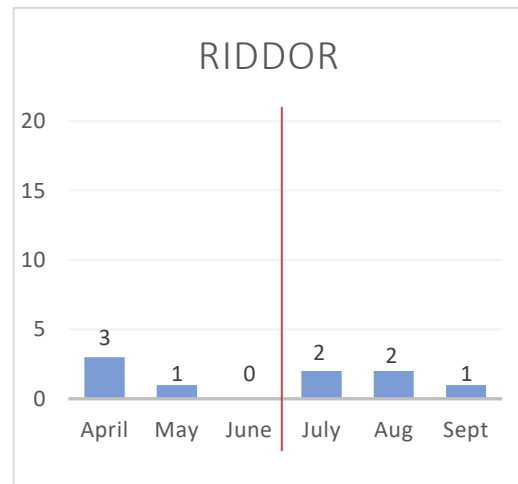
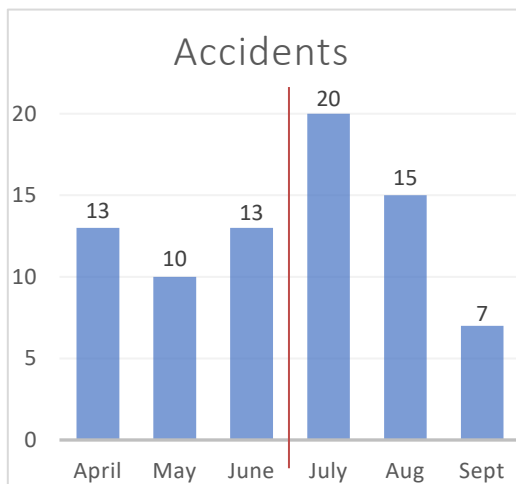
Work to configure the incident management module of the new system Assure is almost complete with user acceptance testing underway. Once this has been completed training of the Health and Safety team will be carried out who will then roll out internal training to Service Managers.

All other data currently held on OSHENS is being requested from the current provider and will then be uploaded to the new system to ensure continuity and that no historical data is lost.

Safety Event Figures Q1 April, May, June 2022/23 and Q2 July, August, September 2022/23 - *Prevention, Protection and Response, promote a positive culture in the workplace, Be transparent, open, and accessible.*

The graphs below show Q1 safety event data in comparison with Q2. The increase in numbers is due to the higher number of incidents attended due to the spell of very hot weather. In July 2022 we attended 2,325 incidents compared to 1,339 in July 2021, and in August 2022 we attended 2,285 incidents compared to 1,275 in August 2021.

Accidents and RIDDOR



Accidents – There were 42 accidents reported in Q2 against 36 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 Q2 accidents by month:

▪ **July 2022:**

- **Operational Incidents:** 10 injuries at operational incidents were reported; 4 slips, trips, falls (1 of these resulting in an over 7-day absence for a twisted ankle and therefore RIDDOR reportable), 2 feeling unwell at incident due to heat exhaustion, 1 struck by falling object, 3 pulled muscles.
- **Operational Training:** 2 injuries at operational training incidents were reported; 1 BA crew member feeling unwell and 1 pulled muscle whilst swift water rescue training.
- **Routine Activities:** 7 injuries reported: 1 FF walked into locker door striking forehead, 1 FF caught thumb on tailgate of vehicle, 1 FF slip on wet floor, 1 FF burn whilst lighting oven, 1 FF feeling unwell, 1 cut hand whilst cleaning, 1 FF injured elbow by banging it against a solid object (this resulted in an over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable).
- **Other:** 1 member of the public visiting Essex Fire Museum hit by a nail thrown from neighbouring property resulting in cut to the head.

▪ **August 2022:**

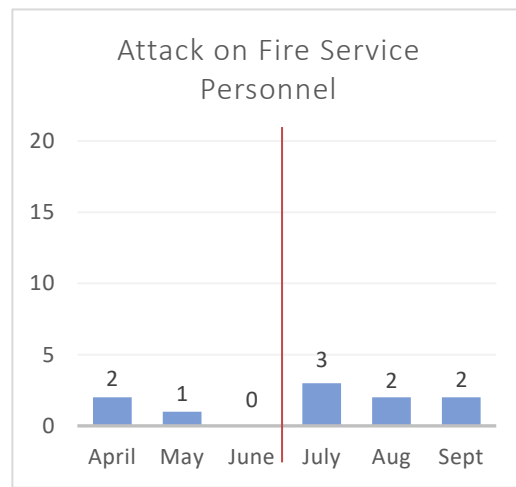
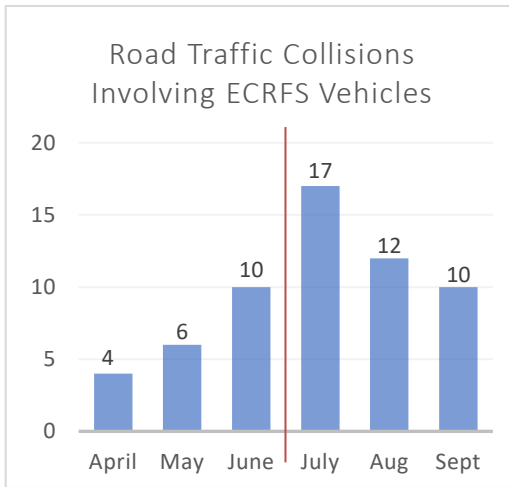
- **Operational Incidents:** 10 injuries at operational incidents were reported; 1 trip down a rabbit hole, 1 FF with chest pains, 3 FF suffering effects of chemical incident, 2 FF with breathing problems at field fire, 1 FF caught lip on burnt branch of tree, 1 FF suffered skin reddening at house fire, 1 FF injured mouth/cheek caused by adaptor from LPP being thrown (this resulted in an over 7 day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable)
- **Routine Activities:** 3 injuries during routine activities reported; 1 cut to finger whilst using saw on station, 1 FF trip whilst carrying PPE, 1 back injury getting up from office chair.
- **Other:** 2 injuries reported; 1 where FF felt ill on arrival for shift, 1 member of public hit on the head with mini golf club at station open day (this was RIDDOR reportable as MOP taken to hospital for checks)

▪ **September 2022:**

- **Operational Incidents:** 2 injuries at operational incidents were reported; 1 injury where FF injured hand on lift door using crowbar, 1 MOP taken to hospital following collision with ALP (this was reportable under RIDDOR)
- **Operational Training:** 4 operational incidents were reported; 1 FF back strain during swift water rescue training, 1 FF twisted knee, 1 FF fainted during ladder drill, 1 FF rolled ankle during ladder drill.
- **Physical Training:** 1 injury reported where FF Slipped off treadmill.
- **Off Duty:** 1 FF injury whilst taking part in football match for ECFRS

RIDDOR – There were 5 RIDDORs reported during Q2 compared with 4 during the last quarter. Of the RIDDORs reported, 3 were over 7 day injuries: 1 twisted ankle at operational incident, 1 injured elbow during routine activity, 1 cut to mouth/cheek at operational incident. 2 reports were for members of the public; 1 child at station open day hit on the head by a mini golf club, and 1 member of the public injured following collision with the ALP

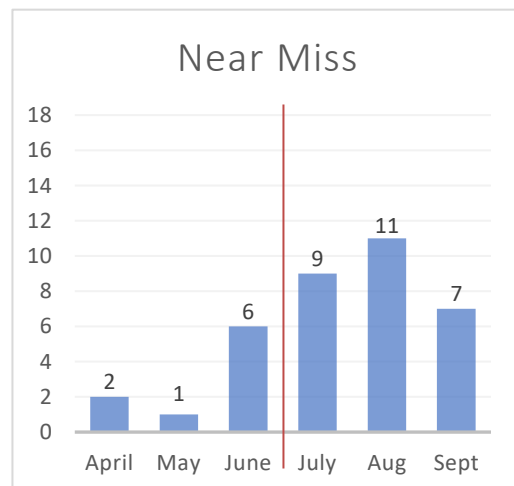
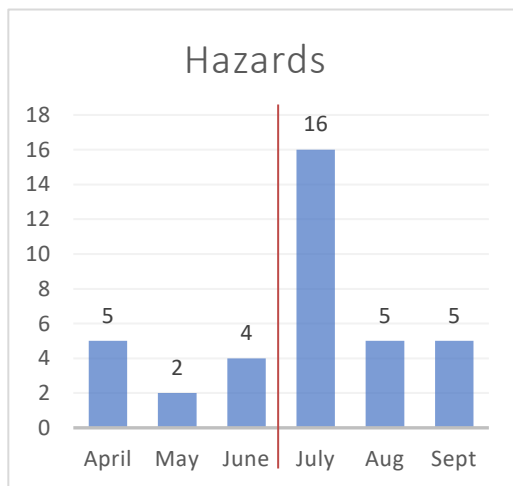
Road Traffic Collisions and Attacks on Fire Service Personnel (FSP)



Road Traffic Collisions – There were 39 reported RTC's reported during Q2 compared with 20 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 7 reported Attacks on Fire Service Personnel during Q2 compared with 3 in the previous quarter. All were verbal abuse, 1 directed towards crew on station premises, 3 at operational incidents and 3 at safe and well visits.

Hazards and Near Misses



Hazards – 26 hazards were reported during Q2 compared with 11 hazards in the previous quarter. 8 of these were concerns over possible contaminated workwear being taken home to wash which has been addressed at the recent No Time to Lose meeting. This was also due to the increase in incidents and the number of field fires attended. There were no other trends to note.

Near Misses - 27 near misses were reported during Q1, against 9 in the previous quarter. This can also be attributed to the increase in incident numbers due to the spell of very hot weather. 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:

- 1 x Godiva blank cap failure
- 1 x loss of water from hydrant
- 1 x drivers' seat in appliance malfunctioned returning from operational incident
- 1 x LPP cable on fire whilst pumping from open water
- 1 x hose reel burst
- 1 x siren not alerting station to a fire call
- 1 x appliance auxiliary lighting failure at operational incident
- 1 x PTO failure
- 1 x MDT's GPS location failing to update
- 1 x hose reel jet not delivering water
- 1 x BA comms radios

Responding:

- 1 x motorcycle drove through road closure on incident ground
- 1 x lost trailer board from boat vehicle on route to incident
- 1 x ESP activation on route to incident
- 1 x lone working concerns during safeguarding visit
- 1 x faulty seatbelt alarm constantly sounding

Operational Training:

- 1 x broken Holmatro blade
- 1 x BA set failure to record GUN reading
- 1 x non approved knot found on throw line
- 1 x metal bar fell in BA chamber
- 1 x 135 ladder stuck on appliance

Routine Activity:

- 1 x bolt from bay door fell off
- 1 x forklift not secured in foam unit
- 1 x lone working device not used
- 1 x water hydrant leak causing electric failure
- 1 x hose coupling lug failure

'Other' reports:

- 1 x unknown substance on BA set received at BA workshops

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