

Highlight Report



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

Date from:	01/09/2022	Date to:	31/12/2022
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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.*

Policy Reviews:

- **Accident Investigation Policy** – The policy was reviewed and updated with all references to OSHENS changed to the new Health and Safety Management system Assure.
- **Health and Safety Guidance for Safety Event Reporting** – The policy was reviewed and updated with all references to OSHENS changed to the new Health and Safety Management system Assure.

Eastern Regional Meeting

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

No Time to Lose Campaign

The NTTL group is committed to updating and maintaining best practice. To do that, we welcome national and local incident debriefs as well as the ongoing research, including the work of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Health and Safety group which is still to be shared and findings from the recent Fire Brigades Union / University of Lancashire research which highlights firefighter safety best practice.

While we await the results from the NFCC's research, the NTTL group is looking closely at the washing of workwear – i.e., the clothes under fire kit – to see if there is contamination of firefighting equipment and workwear, to understand the impact on firefighters' health.

An action from the last NTTL meeting was to send samples of both clean and dirty workwear to look at the potential contamination levels to our Scientific Advisors (Bureau Veritas). Once we have these results, we can make an informed decision on how to proceed.

We're also working hard to make sure all our appliances are at a Euro 6 standard. These appliances have a 'chemical plant' within their exhaust which removes virtually all toxic substances from engine fumes. That includes a particulate filter, a second chamber to remove nitrogen and finally two catalytic converters.

There are a handful of appliances that still have Euro 3 / 4 standard (due to the capacity in stations) - which is why we brought in Bureau Veritas to carry out workplace air monitoring at two of these sites in December. We're waiting for these results – once we have them, we'll share them with the No Time to Lose group and implement any recommendations.

Work is also underway to explore opportunities to carry two sets of structural firefighting PPE on front line appliances and teams across the Service are working with representative bodies to provide a sustainable solution.

A project team has now been set up to assist the NTTL group in the delivery of some further actions and a full update on this work will be provided in the next quarterly report.

OSHENS Replacement

A replacement Health and Safety Management system has been procured. The successful tender was Assure from Evox 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 all the modules on the system has continued with members of the team producing forms for incident reporting, DSE assessment, FB153 workplace inspection, manual handling assessment and accident investigation. All live risk assessments have been transferred to the system and a form to complete site specific risk assessments (SSRA) has been created.

Training for Managers continued to roll out and “How To” guides were produced and uploaded to the system itself as well as being made available on PDR Pro and Learn Pro so that all staff have access to guidance on how to report an incident and for Line Managers, how to review and close an incident.

With all live risk assessments transferred to Assure the department saved copies of all archived assessments for our records. A register of all Service vehicles has been uploaded to the new system and an API is now working between Civica and Assure to maintain an up to date and accurate record for all our staff.

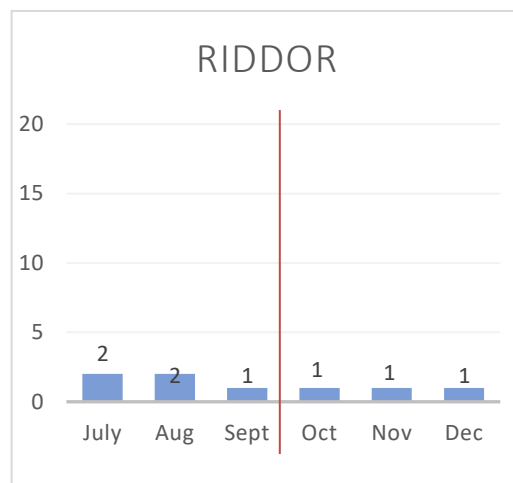
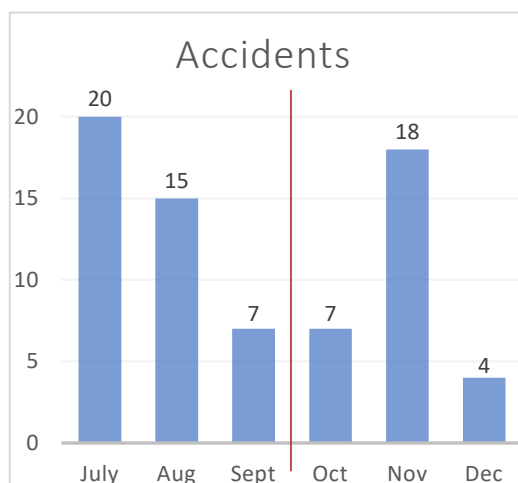
The OSHENS system will still be live in the background until the end of January 2023 to provide continuity should there be any technical problems with the new system. It will also allow the team to ensure continuity of reporting as not all historical data will be available on the new system until one month after the end of the OSHENS contract.

An update on the roll out of the new system will be provided in the next quarterly report.

Safety Event Figures Q3 October, November, December 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 Q3 safety event data in comparison with Q2. The number of accidents/ill health at work reported in November rose to 18 although there were no trends to report and none of these were serious injuries.

Accidents and RIDDOR



Accidents – There were 29 accidents reported in Q3 against 42 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 Q3 accidents by month:

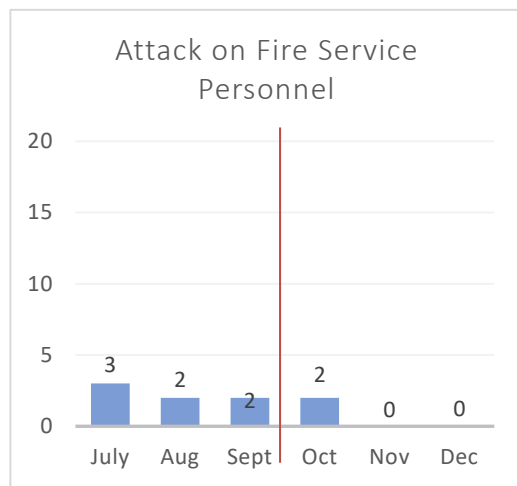
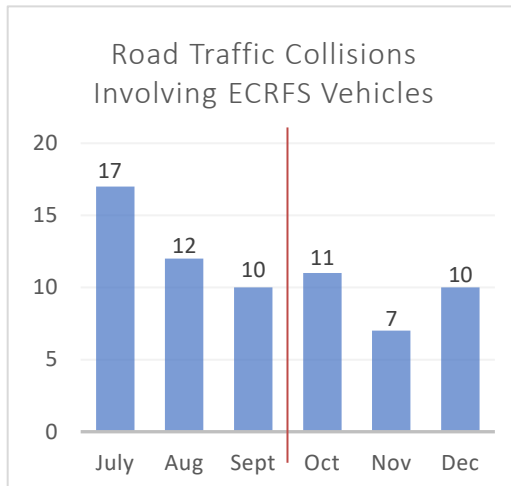
- **October 2022:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 1 injury at an operational incident was reported; FF twisted ankle stepping off curb.
 - **Operational Training:** 5 injuries at operational training incidents were reported; 1 Shoulder injury during swift water rescue training, 2 FF's injured during combination 135 ladder drills: one pulled back muscle and one twisted knee, 1 manual handling injury whilst dragging a BA dummy (over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable), and 1 trapped finger during a USAR lifting and moving exercise.
 - **Routine Activities:** 1 injury reported; 1 FF struck head on open appliance door causing cut to head.

- **November 2022:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 5 injuries at operational incidents were reported; 1 FF pulled muscle at animal rescue, 1 FF fall into manhole left open by member of public, 1 shoulder injury pulling hose reel up to first floor, 1 shoulder injury whilst lifting casualty and 1 Heart paramedic injured hand in car door at RTC.
 - **Operational Training:** 8 injuries were reported during operational training; 1 dust in eye, 1 pulled back muscle during ladder training, 1 ill health/lost consciousness during casualty care course, 1 knee injury climbing into appliance during training, 1 hand injury during swift water rescue training, 1 finger injury during ladder drills, 1 hip injury during tethered defensive swim training, 1 elbow injury during BA training.
 - **Routine Activities:** 5 injuries during routine activities reported; 1 hand injury pulling on fire boots, 1 rolled ankle descending stairs on station, 1 cut finger whilst refueling the appliance and 1 twisted knee exiting the appliance on standby and 1 jarred back whilst descending stairs on station (over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable).

- **December 2022:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 1 injury at operational incident was reported; 1 back spasm on exiting the appliance.
 - **Operational Training:** 2 operational incidents were reported; 1 back pain whilst lifting exercise casualty (over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable) and 1 trapped nerve in leg during classroom lecture.
 - **Other:** 1 FF skidded on ice in private car whilst responding

RIDDOR – There were 3 RIDDORs reported during Q3 compared with 5 during the last quarter. All of these were over 7 day injuries: 1 FF experienced lower back pain whilst dragging a BA dummy in preparation for a training exercise and 1 Watch Manager experienced lower back pain whilst lifting an exercise casualty and 1 FF tripped on bottom step jarring their back.

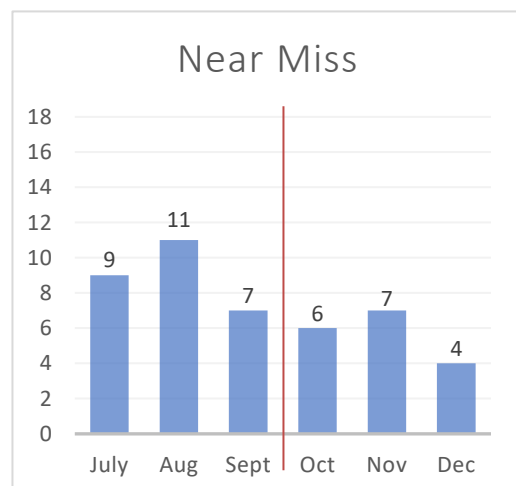
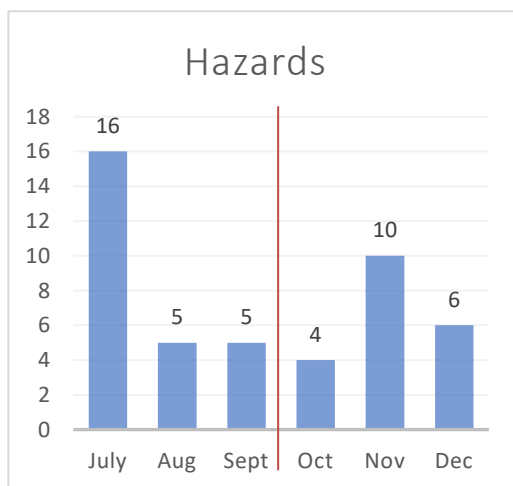
Road Traffic Collisions and Attacks on Fire Service Personnel (FSP)



Road Traffic Collisions – There were 28 reported RTC's reported during Q3 compared with 39 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 2 reported Attacks on Fire Service Personnel during Q3 compared with 7 in the previous quarter. 1 was verbal abuse aimed at crews using cutting equipment during RTC training on station and 1 member of the public became verbally abusive and then tried to push and bite crews on station who were trying to assist him. No injuries were sustained by crews.

Hazards and Near Misses



Hazards – 20 hazards were reported during Q3 compared with 26 hazards in the previous quarter. 6 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. Below is a breakdown of the reports received this quarter.

Operational Incidents:

- 1 x hose reel branch became detached under pressure

Responding:

- 3 x main scheme radio not loud enough
- 1 x BA set contaminated and off the run

Premises:

- 1 x appliance leaking water on bay floor
- 1 x PPE exposed to exhaust fumes on station
- 1 x loose paving slabs
- 6 x no laundry facilities on station
- 1 x station barrier not working
- 1 x station lights not activating on receipt of fire call
- 1 x snow and ice in car park
- 1 x slippery floor in bay

Routine Activity:

- 1 x damaged seatbelt
- 1 x lifejackets not replaced following testing

Near Misses - 17 near misses were reported during Q3, against 27 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:

- 1 x BA communications failure
- 1 x BA free flow of air to mask
- 1 x BA leak of air from mask

Responding:

- 1 x flat battery on appliance
- 1 x front screen unable to clear due to broken fan
- 1 x bay door not opening fully
- 1 x strong smell of gas on station
- 1 x bay door control unit severed from cable
- 1 x equipment left on bay floor causing obstruction
- 1 x MDT not updated with GPS location
- 1 x on call member of staff only contacted by colleagues on receipt of fire call

Operational Training:

- 1 x water pressure dropped during live fire training
- 1 x BA mask leaking air
- 1 x Holmatro malfunction during RTC training

Routine Activity:

- 1 x Genie lead caught in rear door of appliance
- 1 x office blind came away from fixings

'Other' reports:

- 1 x call disconnected during 999 call to Control

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