

Highlight Report



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

Date from:	01/01/2023	Date to:	31/03/2023
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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 56 – “Don’t be the Crash Test Dummy, Wear Your Seatbelt”** – Issued following the re-opening of the seatbelt SAIB where the team followed up on initial actions.
- **Toolbox Talk 57 – “Operational Personnel OTR Due to Fitness”** – Issued to clarify what activities Operational personnel can take part in when they are off the run due to fitness.
- **Toolbox Talk 58 – “Hose Reel Failures”** – Issued following a safety event on an appliance where the second hose reel failed to energise due to the pressure being delivered to the first hose reel.
- **Toolbox Talk 59 – “Clockwise Opening Fire Hydrants”** – Issued to explain that a small percentage of fire hydrants around the county open clockwise.

Issued Safety Flashes:

- **Safety Flash 27 – “Illicit Drug and Alcohol Manufacture”** – Issued to remind Operational staff about possible electrical booby traps at premises producing illegal drugs and alcohol.

Policy Reviews:

- **SO Vol 6.6 – “Service Arrangements for the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR)”** – updated to replace any mention of OSHENS with Assure.
- **SO Vol 6.12 – “Health & Safety guidance for Safety Event reporting”** – updated to replace any mention of OSHENS with Assure.
- **SO Vol 6.15 – “Managing Occupational Road Risk”** – updated to replace any mention of OSHENS with Assure.

Eastern Regional Meeting

The department attended the Eastern Regional Health and Safety Practitioners Forum in March. This meeting is attended by Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and London FRS. London gave an update on how they intend to introduce body worn cameras following the cultural review. They are still working through a range of issues including data protection and will update further at the next meeting.

Regional Peer audits were discussed, and London requested assistance from other Services to conduct an audit at London FRS. The H&S Department here in Essex are currently looking at training the team in auditing and would be willing to assist if London can run the audit as a training event. London will look to do this and report back.

The issue of contaminants and the No Time to Lose campaign was discussed and the other Services requested Essex share the results of the workwear sampling once it has been completed.

No Time to Lose Campaign

The quarterly No Time to Lose (NTTL) meeting was held in February and introduced the new project team, Protecting our People (POP) which has been set up to assist in moving some actions forward. The POP group will now be looking at the different options below: -

- Providing hoovers on appliances
- Washing machines on stations
- Outsourced laundry service
- PPE storage boxes
- Educational comms
- Re issuing policies and guidance
- Netting on Helmets
- Reporting on Assure for contamination
- Annual health screening

The working group will feed back in to the next NTTL meeting and update on progress.

OSHENS Replacement

The new health and safety management system Assure went live on 9th January 2023. OSHENS has now been decommissioned and is no longer in use. Assure has provided the Service with better functionality and is configurable locally as well as sharing an API with both Civica and Tranman. This ensures our information is constantly updated and current as well as saving on costs for configuration.

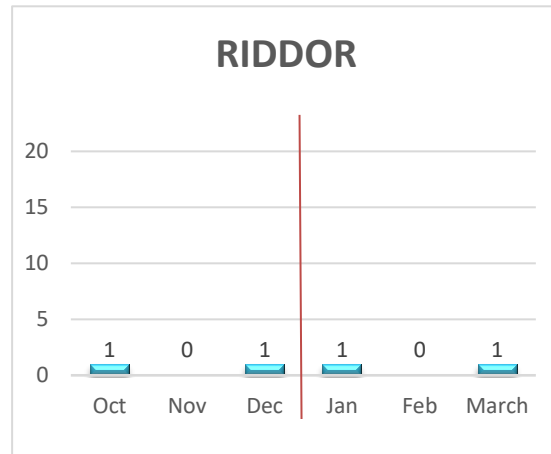
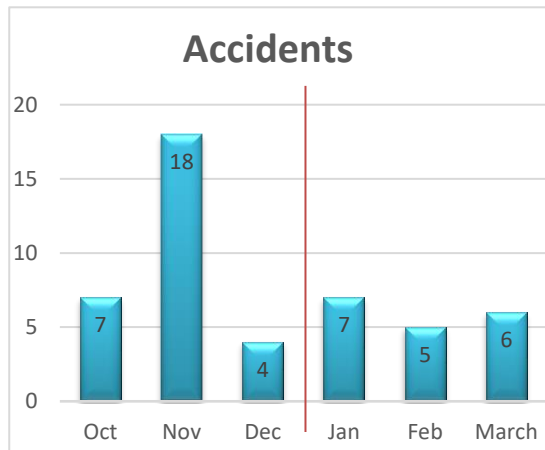
The system has been well received by users and we have also included a form on the home page for any suggestions for improvements as well as any inconsistencies noticed, which can then be amended immediately by the H&S team.

Work to upload all the current risk assessments is almost complete and user guidance has been supplied through various avenues e.g., PDR Pro, LearnPro, local video guidance in Assure and communications sent out Service wide.

Safety Event Figures Q4 January, February, March 2022/23 and Q3 October, November, December 2022/23 - *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 18 accidents reported in Q4 against 29 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 Q4 accidents by month:

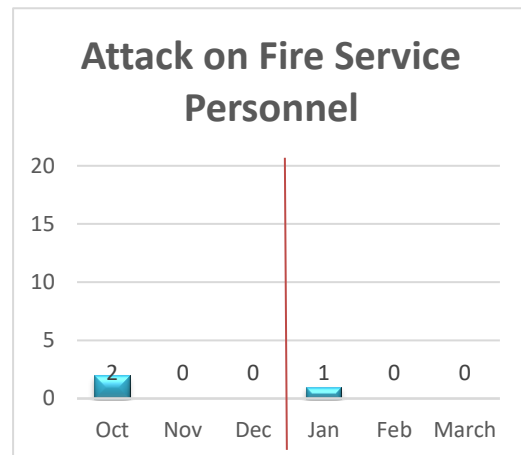
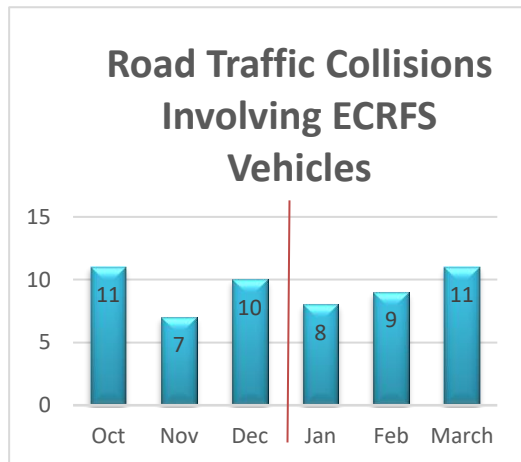
- **January 2023:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 3 injuries at an operational incident were reported; 1 debris in eye, 1 cut to face, 1 nerve pain in upper arm.
 - **Operational Training:** 2 injuries at operational training incidents were reported; 1 shoulder injury during smoke blocker training, 1 shin injury following running out hose.
 - **Routine Activities:** 2 injuries reported; 1 cadet feeling unwell on station, 1 back pain when reaching for glass (over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable)

- **February 2023:**
 - **Operational Training:** 2 injuries were reported during operational training; 1 FF pinned hand between car and halmatro during RTC training, 1 back pain carrying dummy during BA training.
 - **Routine Activities:** 3 injuries during routine activities reported; 1 burn to hand from pressure washer, 1 FF slipped on ice in drill yard, 1 injury to shoulder blade mounting appliance.

- **March 2023:**
 - **Operational Incidents:** 1 injury at operational incident was reported; 1 foot injury to FF whilst retrieving door enforcer from appliance.
 - **Operational Training:** 1 injury reported during operational training; FF suffered heat exhaustion during BA training.
 - **Routine Activities:** 4 injuries were reported during routine activities; 1 FF broke foot in two places using pole drop (specified injury and therefore RIDDOR reportable), 1 trip over bucket on station, 1 knee injury whilst carrying out diesel dip test, 1 ankle and knee injury to Safe and Well Officer due to trip on stairs.

RIDDOR – There were 2 RIDDORs reported during Q4. One of these was an over 7 day absence where a member of staff twisted their back and then passed out whilst reaching for a glass. The other was a specified injury which occurred to a FF using the pole drop on station and landing awkwardly breaking two bones in his foot.

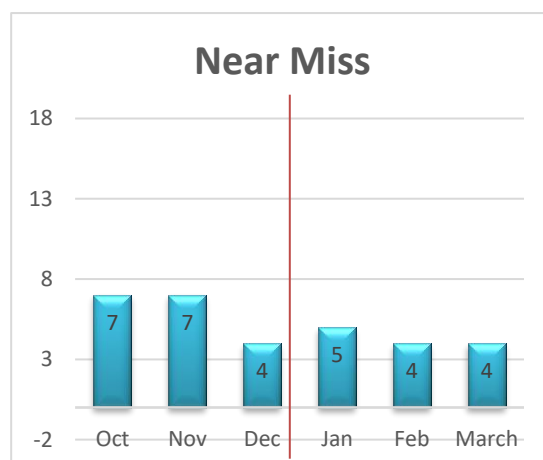
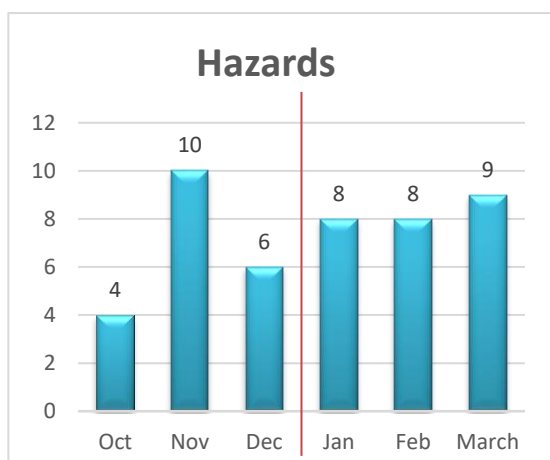
Road Traffic Collisions and Attacks on Fire Service Personnel (FSP)



Road Traffic Collisions – There were 28 RTC incidents reported during Q4 which is the same amount as 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 was 1 reported Attack on Fire Service Personnel during Q4 compared with 2 in the previous quarter. This was a verbal attack on crews who were carrying out an RTC exercise on Station premises.

Hazards and Near Misses



Hazards – 25 hazards were reported during Q3 compared with 20 hazards in the previous quarter. We will be reviewing the report to incorporate assurance to the Service that action has

been taken in response to the hazards and near misses reported. This will be included in future reports. Below is a breakdown of the reports received this quarter.

Operational Incidents:

- 2 x contaminated BA set
- 1 x missing back plate in appliance

Premises:

- 2 x fire escape route obstructed
- 1 x bay floor sinking
- 2 x undertaking on slip road at KP
- 1 x new bay floor perpetually damp
- 1 x bricks falling from drill tower
- 1 x access to barn obstructed by rubbish
- 1 x mummified rat found in box of clothing in barn
- 1 x floor trim loose creating trip hazard
- 1 x diesel fumes contaminating PPE
- 1 x insufficient shower facilities
- 1 x Uncollected rubbish build up on station
- 1 x temporary chain lock to gate causing delay for emergency access
- 1 x build-up of moss on drill tower and yard
- 1 x bay floor lifting causing trip hazard
- 1 x lights stuck on in Service Control room

Operational Training:

- 1 x contaminated appliance following BADA training

Routine Activity:

- 3 x damaged seatbelt
- 1 x Bristol not collected contaminated PPE

Near Misses - 13 near misses were reported during Q4, against 18 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 ESP Activation
- 1 x SWR PPE failure
- 1 x rescue of persons from lift
- 1 x second hose reel not charged

Operational Training:

- 1 x pressure causing monitor to slide sideways moving water jet
- 1 x BA set malfunction

Routine Activity:

- 1 x slip on bay floor
- 1 x wet PPE
- 1 x face fit leak test failed
- 1 x broken genie lead

- 1 x adult mask still attached to oxygen cylinder in casualty care bag

Premises:

- 1 x false ceiling collapse
- 1 x live electrical cable

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