

Highlight Report



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

Date from:	01/04/2023	Date to:	30/06/2023
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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 60 – “Chester Walk Test”** – Issued to advise Operational staff they may adopt the protocol of breaking into a jog during the last two minutes of the Chester walk test.
- **Toolbox Talk 61– “HGV Tyre Explosion”** – Issued following an incident in Hertfordshire involving a FF being injured whilst attending a large vehicle fire.
- **Toolbox Talk 62– “Reporting Safety Observations on Assure”** – Issued to remind all staff that safety observations and ideas for improvement can be recorded on Assure.
- **Toolbox Talk 63 – “Mobilising System Failures”** – Issued following multiple reports of system failures from pager and text alerts. This has now been escalated to the Health Safety and Welfare Strategic Forum and will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Issued Safety Flashes:

- **Safety Flash 28 – “Unauthorised Methods Used for Cleaning Breathing Apparatus Sets (BA) After Operational Use”** – Issued following several Assure reports of damage caused to BA sets from unauthorised cleaning methods.

Health and Safety Annual Report 2022/23

The annual Health and Safety report was submitted to the Performance and Resources Board in July. The report provides an overview of the health, safety, and welfare performance achievements in the Service from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Health and Safety Advisors monitored safety events on the Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) known as ‘OSHENS’ until 9th January 2023 when it was replaced with a new system ‘Assure’. Data within the system is used to identify trends and issues and record remedial actions taken. Risk assessment reviews are initiated when hazards are reported or following

safety events where there are learning outcomes from investigations which require risk assessments to be re-assessed to mitigate risks to as low as is reasonably practicable.

The report gives statistical analysis on the reporting of injuries, diseases, and dangerous occurrences (RIDDOR), injuries broken down into operational incidents, operational training, fitness training and routine activities, attacks on Fire Service personnel and road traffic collisions (RTC's). It provides yearly statistics as well as a five-year comparison and compares our performance against the regional average through data that is collated quarterly and presented as per 100,000 to bring all Service data into alignment.

The report also covered our commitments, current resourcing, department achievements, and provided three case studies of departmental work. These were the project to replace the OSHENS system with Assure, the No Time to Lose campaign and the playing of volleyball workplace review. It reviewed our previous years objectives and laid out the Health and Safety department objectives for 2023/24.

SAIB – Orsett Bulk Foam Module (BFM)

On Sunday 14th May 2023 two Firefighters (FF's) from Orsett Fire Station were tasked to carry out the weekly BFM inventory at Orsett Fire Station. To undertake this task, they used the access ladder that is stowed on the BFM to gain access up to the vehicle bed rather than move the vehicle into the station yard and lower the module to the ground.

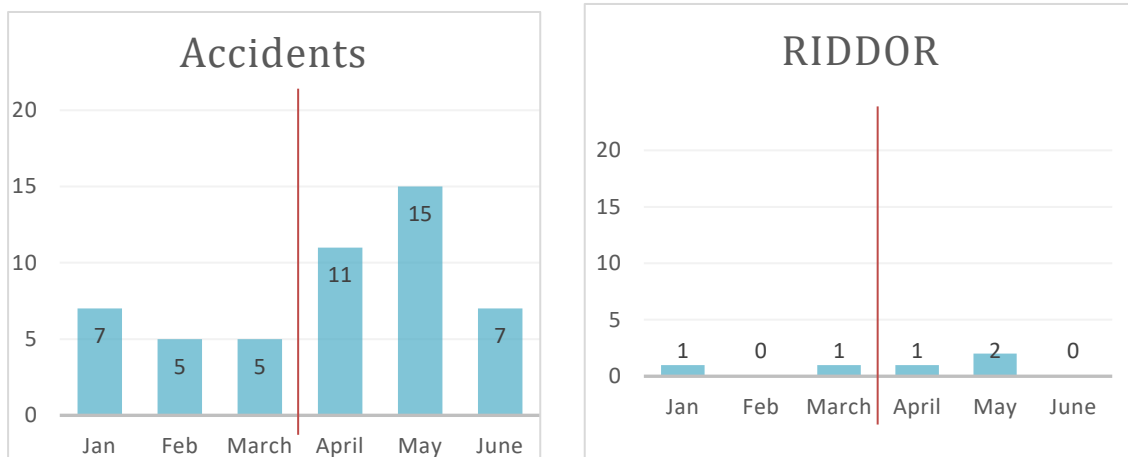
FF A ascended the access ladder whilst holding the inventory file in one hand and as they reached the top round of the ladder it separated from its securing point and FF A toppled sideways to their right causing them to fall, landing partly on the ground and partly onto the ladder which had slipped from under them. FF A became temporarily unconscious after their head struck the ground. There was also some damage and distortion to the access ladder attachment points with the weight of FF A's body landing on it.

An immediate serious accident investigation was initiated and the access ladder from all three BFM's were impounded and removed to Fleet Workshops in Colchester as a precautionary measure, pending investigation.

Safety Event Figures Q1 2023/24 April, May, June and Q4 2022/23 January, February, March - *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 Q4.

Accidents and RIDDOR



Accidents – There were 33 accidents reported in Q1 against 17 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 Q1 accidents by month:

- **April 2023:**
 - **Operational Incident:** 1 injury at an operational incident was reported; 1 pain in shoulder raising station barrier.
 - **Operational Training:** 4 injuries at operational training incidents were reported; 1 strain moving training dummy, 1 pain in lower back, 1 trip over hose and 1 FF struck by cow during animal rescue training.
 - **Fitness Training:** 1 injury during fitness training was reported; 1 injury to shoulder whilst using station gym (over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable)
 - **Routine Activity:** 5 injuries reported; 1 shoulder strain moving BA set from cab, 1 trip over PPE, 2 manual handling, 1 cut to finger.

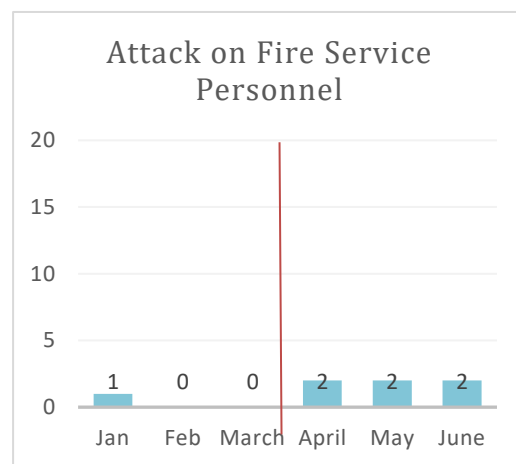
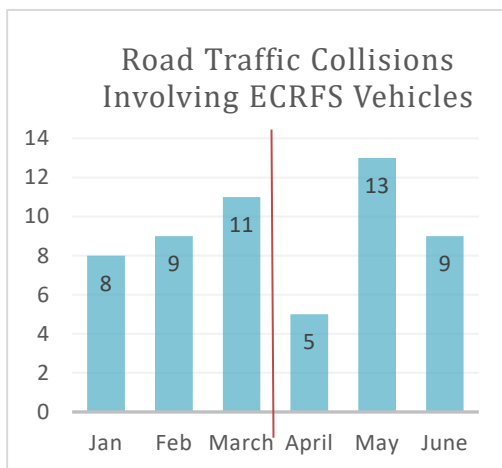
- **May 2023:**
 - **Operational Incident:** 7 injuries were reported at operational incidents; 1 fingers pinched by Holmatro, 1 bump to head, 3 slip/trip/falls, 1 back strain moving equipment, 1 twisted knee (over 7-day absence and therefore RIDDOR reportable).
 - **Operational Training:** 5 injuries during operational training reported; 1 shoulder injury during ladder drills, 1 skin reaction during firebreak course, 3 injuries during swift water rescue training.
 - **Routine Activity:** 3 injuries reported during routine activities; 1 trip walking up stairs, 1 fall from ladder on bulk foam module (specified injury and therefore RIDDOR reportable), 1 twisted back testing fire hydrant.

- **June 2023:**
 - **Operational Incident:** 2 injuries at operational incident was reported; 1 back injury during lift rescue, 1 smoke inhalation.
 - **Operational Training:** 3 injuries reported during operational training; 1 sprained ankle, 2 injuries during swift water rescue training.

- **Fitness Training:** 1 injury reported; 1 tear to calf muscle whilst on treadmill.
- **Routine Activity:** 1 injury reported during routine activities; 1 trip on uneven ground

RIDDOR – There were 3 RIDDORs reported during Q1. Two of these were an over 7-day absence; 1 where a member of staff suffered a shoulder injury in the gym, 1 knee injury whilst wearing BA at operational incident.. The other was a specified injury which occurred to a FF who fell from a ladder whilst accessing the bulk foam module in the appliance bay. This resulted in a head injury. A full accident investigation has been undertaken.

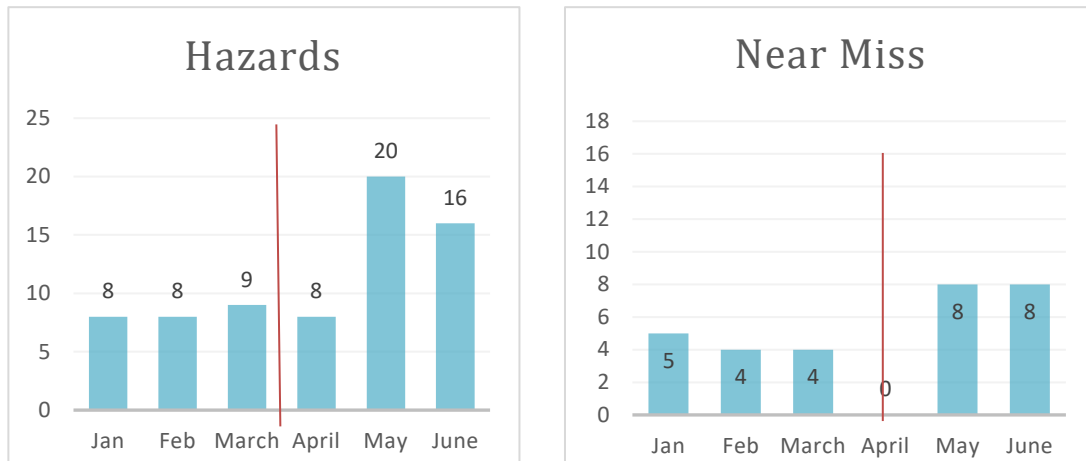
Road Traffic Collisions and Attacks on Fire Service Personnel (FSP)



Road Traffic Collisions – There were 27 RTC incidents reported during Q1 which is one less than 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 6 reported Attacks on Fire Service Personnel during Q1 compared with 1 in the previous quarter. 1 of these was a gate being slammed in a FF's face (no injury) when attempting to gain entry, 1 member of public threatening FF's with a knife, and 4 verbal abuse at operational incidents.

Hazards and Near Misses



Hazards – 44 hazards were reported during Q1 compared with 25 hazards in the previous quarter. We encourage all hazards to be reported to ensure measures are taken to avoid them developing into accidents. Below is a breakdown of the reports received this quarter and brief details of remedial action taken.

Operational Incidents:

- 1 x MDT details unclear – reported to Project Team
- 1 x OIC driving – discussed with Duty Officer at the time who authorised activity
- 1 x Mainline branch lever broke – taken off the run and replaced

Premises:

- 2 x Air con not operating correctly – reported to Property Services
- 1 x BA servicing area dated and difficult to clean – request for Property Services to inspect
- 2 x exhaust emissions contaminating PPE in bay – new solution to be trialled for exhaust emissions
- 1 x minibuses, taxis and members of the public restricting access to the fire station - crews regularly speaking to members of the public about not parking in the fire station
- 1 x Chairs placed restricting access to storage – hazard removed and re located
- 1 x Drainage grids warped and raised creating a trip hazard – reported to Property Services
- 1 x WIFI Router bracket not secured to wall – reported to Property Services
- 1 x Appliance bay overcrowded with equipment – this has now been relocated
- 1 x Broken decking boards causing trip hazard – reported to Property Services
- 1 x Plug for treadmill broken with wiring exposed – reported to Fitness
- 1 x flooring lifting causing trip hazard – reported to Property Services
- 1 x Glass debris found inside bay and yard – cleared immediately
- 1 x Water from boiler tasted funny after it was serviced – Contractor attended to clean
- 1 x PAT test out of date – reported to Property Services
- 2 x birds nesting on drill tower causing constant mess in tower and yard – reported to Property Services
- 1 x Bay door too small for appliance to be reversed in – unable to resolve immediately but this is being looked at for a long term solution

Operational Training:

- 1 x Faulty two-tones – reported to workshops for inspection
- 1 x Insufficient rest breaks – added to Functional Forum agenda for discussion
- 1 x Fuel bladder on boat expanding due to heat causing tear and leak – boat taken off the run until repaired

Routine Activity:

- 15 x lack of washing facilities for work wear – new work wear cleaning contract set up to commence soon
- 1 x BA set discoloured whilst being cleaned – discussions with Duty Officer on how to carry out further cleaning

PPE

- 1 x Contaminated fire helmet – reported to Bristol
- 1 x gloves shrunk on return from cleaning – reported to Technical Services and replaced
- 1 x FF unable to obtain new shoes from stores – new request made with Technical Services

Near Misses - 16 near misses were reported during Q4, against 13 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 Appliance unable to move past cars parked either side of street
- 1 x Appliance unable to pick up foam at RTC incident
- 1 x Genie lead caught on appliance when leaving station
- 1 x Holmatro switch broke during use
- 1 x Appliance left BA deficient following operational incident
- 1 x Holmattro used in unsafe manner
- 1 x Rescue pump steering lock stuck
- 1 x Vehicle drove into path of appliance
- 1 x Hose reel failed whilst in use at operational incident

Operational Training:

- 1 x Personal BA line snapped during training

Routine Activity:

- 1 x RTC gloves not replaced by Bristol
- 1 x Dry riser failed during testing
- 1 x hose reel bust during demonstration
- 1 x Foul smell from fire hydrant causing ill health
- 1 x Member of staff locked in toilet

Premises:

- 1 x Bay door had to be opened manually due to switch failure

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