

23 Oct 2010 – 23 Dec 2010

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
**FIRE AND
RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

We make life safer

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Front page photo:
Emsworth Flooding, 9 November 2010, Please see 1.4

Introduction

This activity report covers the period of 23 October 2010 to the 23 December 2010.

We are sad to have to confirm four fire deaths during this last reporting period. Three of these occurred in residential properties with one of the properties having no working smoke detection. It could not be determined if the smoke detectors fitted in the other two incidents operated because of the amount of fire damage and no evidence from neighbours having heard a smoke detector operating. The fourth fire death occurred in the open and we are awaiting the results of the coroners inquest.

This report details a number of large thatch roof fires that we have attended despite our efforts to reduce these through a proactive and targeted safety programme. Although this is disappointing, it reminds us of the importance of continually reinforcing safety messages with the public.

While we see an initial improvement with safety awareness campaigns, we know that sustainability requires the continuous commitment of our community safety resources and ongoing awareness building activity.

The adverse weather before Christmas and the dramatic rescue of the motorcyclist demonstrates our wider role and expertise.

Our involvement in wide area flooding in Emsworth, which included the provision of resources to other emergency services to help manage this incident, also provides another excellent example of the emergency services in Hampshire working closely together for the safety of the public

The report also has a number of examples of where we have been active with other agencies, like our Protection work with Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

01 Responding to incidents

1.1

Man dies of fire injuries

At 10:52 on 24 October 2010, the Service was called to a person on fire in Harkness Drive, Cowplain.

Two appliances from Waterlooville Fire Station attended to handle the incident. One male in his sixties suffered burns and was given first aid by Service personnel but sadly died of his injuries.

1.2

Male dies in property fire

At 22:10 on 30 October 2010, control room operators received a call to a property fire in Stratfield Gardens, Leigh Park, Havant.

Two appliances from Havant were mobilised and on arrival identified two people were not accounted for. An additional appliance from Emsworth was mobilised along with the Fire Emergency Support Team. Two males were rescued from the property but unfortunately one was pronounced dead at the scene.

1.3

Fire at property in West Wellow

Firefighters spent Bonfire Night tackling a fire at a property in West Wellow, near Romsey.

Control Room operators received an emergency call at 15:29 on Friday 5 November to reports of a fire in a mid terraced property in Gurnays Mead, West Wellow. Fire crews arrived to find the property well alight with the fire spreading to the roof space and affecting two neighbouring properties. Initial crews called for support and this incident was made up to six appliances from Romsey, Eastleigh, Totton, Redbridge and Lyndhurst fire stations as well as additional specialist vehicles including St Mary's special equipment unit, Redbridge's aerial ladder platform and a multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh. The property had a lot of material inside and as a result firefighters were faced with a very intense fire. Due to the intensity of the fire the stairwell collapsed as well as parts of the first floor. As a result, firefighters tackled the fire from the outside due to difficulties with access. The property involved was completely damaged by fire with a partial collapse of the first floor as well as the stairwell. Unfortunately, two dogs died in the property. In total 32 sets of breathing apparatus were used and four jets. Hampshire Constabulary and Test Valley Borough Council opened a nearby community centre as neighbouring residents were evacuated from their properties.

01 Responding to incidents

1.4

Emsworth flooding

The Service and partner agencies attended a flooding incident in the Emsworth area of the county on 9 November 2010.

The Service set up the Major Incident Room and the Adverse Weather Office was set up by the police to manage the incident. The time of call was 08:02, with the initial call from the police, to reports of flooding in the St James Road area which had suffered serious flooding.

The flooding affected 20 properties and six members of the public were evacuated using the Service's water support unit. Amongst those persons rescued was a one-week old baby girl, who was evacuated and taken to a waiting ambulance crew for a check-up.

A community centre was opened to householders who had been evacuated from homes affected by the floodwater. Havant Borough Council's road sweepers cleared the roads of debris and the Housing Officers and Building Control Officers were on site assessing people's needs and any structural damage to buildings. Havant Borough Council put notices on cars which were in the road when it flooded to alert owners that there has been a flood in the area. The Service's high volume pumping unit was used to pump the Mill Pond to encourage the flow of water through

the system during the high tide period. The Environment Agency was on site to monitor the situation.

As a result of the swift response of the emergency services in clearing the grill and culvert to Emsworth Mill Pond, the potential for the flooding to have been more widespread was averted. Crews were in attendance from Havant, Fareham, Hythe and Hardley as well as Fareham's water support unit. The Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS) assisted occupants of the affected properties and issuing flood recovery advice.



01 Responding to incidents

1.5

Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset firefighters joined forces to tackle thatch fire

Firefighters attended a serious fire at a thatched cottage in Woodgreen near Fordingbridge.

The alarm was raised at 00:41 on Thursday 11 November 2010 and control operators mobilised crews from across the New Forest to tackle the blaze. The roof and first floor of the thatched cottage were well alight when Hampshire fire crews first arrived on the scene. The crews acted quickly and efficiently to stop the fire spreading to the nearby properties. As with most thatched property fires, the fire spread very quickly and unfortunately both the roof and first floor were severely damaged. Firefighters from Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Dorset worked closely together to salvage contents from the ground floor of the property. Ancillary appliances included water carriers from Fordingbridge and Lyndhurst, the multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh, St Mary's special equipment unit, as well as the incident command unit, command support provided by Beaulieu, and the Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS), which is delivered by British Red Cross volunteers. In total over 80 fire service personnel tackled the challenging incident.

1.6

Gosport man lucky to be alive after fire in block of flats

At 09:29 on Saturday 13 November 2010 control operators were alerted to an incident on the fourth floor of a block of flats in Gosport.

In line with the Service's high rise procedures, crews were swiftly mobilised from Gosport, Fareham and Portchester after reports of smoke logging in one of the flats, along with the special equipment unit from Cosham Fire Station and Southsea's aerial ladder platform. Firefighters investigated the scene and all persons were accounted for after crews effected a forced entry and rescued one male casualty. South Central Ambulance Service treated the man at the scene for smoke inhalation. The man is very lucky to have escaped without more serious injuries. The fire started in the grill pan but the smoke alarm in the flat had been disconnected and the alarm was only raised when a neighbour called 999 to report smoke in the corridor of the block of flats. Crews used three jets and three sets of breathing apparatus to tackle the fire before ventilating the premises.

01 Responding to incidents

1.7

Control Room Operators give life-saving advice

A Gosport woman received potentially life-saving advice from Fire Service Control Room Operators after a fire broke out outside her flat.

Staff in the Emergency Control Room received a call to reports of a fire in the stairwell of a three storey block of flats in Burnhams Walk, Gosport at 19:11 on Thursday 18 November 2010. Control Room Operators handled the call from the distressed occupant of a second floor property and carefully guided the woman through actions to take in order to stay safe and offered her reassurance until firefighters arrived. The caller was in a distressed state when the call was taken. With the fire in a stairwell outside the caller's door, her escape route was blocked and she had to remain in her flat. Control Room Operators remained on the phone with the occupant throughout the incident while crews from Gosport and Fareham fire stations went to her assistance. She was advised to ensure doors were shut with gaps sealed, to prevent smoke getting in, and she was advised to move to a safe part of the flat where she was able to open a window and call for help and remain until firefighters arrived. In attendance were two crews from Gosport and one from Fareham Fire Station. Four sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel were used.

1.8

Rope rescue of motorcyclist

At 14:14 on 26 November 2010, ambulance crews called for the Service to come to the assistance of a motorcyclist who had come off his vehicle.

The motorcyclist was stranded approximately 40 meters down an embankment at the side of the road. The incident had occurred on a sharp bend near to The Cricketers Pub at Stoner Hill Road near Froxfield. Firefighters from Petersfield, Cosham, Southsea and Winchester fire stations were mobilised to the scene. The male casualty was assisted to the road surface in a joint effort by South Central Ambulance Service, and the fire crews who used three rope packs, before being taken to hospital by ambulance. Following the incident, the Service issued an appeal to road users to exercise particular caution on the roads during the cold weather snap. A reminder was also given to ensure vehicles were thoroughly maintained, including checking tyre tread to maximise grip on icy or wet surfaces.

1.9

Adverse weather hit Hampshire in early December

At 20:00 on 1 December 2010, the Service opened its Major Incident Room to monitor the severe weather conditions in the county. The Police also opened the Adverse Weather Office at Netley.

The Service continued to operate as normal through the sustained adverse weather and responded to all emergency calls throughout the severe conditions. The Service worked in close collaboration with partners such as South Central Ambulance Service, Hampshire Constabulary, our local authorities, the military, the Highways Agency, and the Environment Agency. Joint agency announcements were made to the public encouraging people to not travel unless absolutely necessary and to follow safety advice if they do need to travel in the severe weather conditions.

1.10

Thatch fire in Overton

Control room operators received a call to a thatch fire in Overton at 15.59 on 12 December 2010.

Crews from Overton, Kingsclere, Whitchurch, Basingstoke, Sutton Scotney and Andover were mobilised to the scene. Basingstoke water carrier, Andover multi-role vehicle and the incident command unit was also mobilised to the scene.

Crews arrived to find this two storey thatch with 15 percent of the thatch roof well alight. Firefighters immediately made breaks at the front and rear of the property to stop the fire from spreading. Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control using 40 sets of breathing apparatus, three jets, three hose reels and a rope pack. Unfortunately 40 percent of the roof was damaged by fire but had potential to be much worse.

The crews did a successful job in making a break in the thatch to stop the fire spreading to the whole of the property. Had it not been for their swift actions and hard work there is no doubt that the damage would have been much more significant. Firefighters checked the roof space using a thermal imaging camera to ensure that there were no further hotspots.

01 Responding to incidents

1.11

Elderly lady dies in house fire without smoke detector

Control room operators received reports of a fire in Osborne Road South, Southampton at 05.44 on 18 December 2010.

Fire crews from St Mary's, Redbridge and Hightown were mobilised to the scene along with the special equipment unit from St Mary's. The firefighters in attendance were faced with a private dwelling of traditional construction where the first floor was involved in fire.

Fire crews used 10 sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels and one jet to bring the blaze under control. Half of the property was damaged by fire and half was damaged by heat and smoke. One elderly lady was rescued by the Service and handed over to South Central Ambulance Service. Tragically, the elderly lady was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. Sadly, there was no smoke detection fitted in this bungalow so no early indication of the fire was given.

1.12

Man dies following flat fire in Southsea

At 14:50 on Monday 20 December 2010, control room operators received a call to a fire in flat on the fifth floor of an eight-storey residential building.

One male in his 40s was rescued from the fire and taken to Queen Alexandra Hospital by South Central Ambulance but he sadly died in hospital. Fire appliances from Southsea, Cosham, Havant and Horndean and the aerial ladder platform, special equipment unit and multi-role vehicle were in attendance to tackle the fire in Omega House, Southsea.

The flat was 20 per cent severely damaged by fire and 100 per cent severely damaged by smoke. Firefighters used eight sets of breathing apparatus, one jet, and positive pressure ventilation to tackle the incident and successfully contained the fire to the one flat.

02 Community Safety (incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.1

Road Safety

Two new road safety initiatives were launched in December.

RideSmart

The use of a sponsored motorcycle to raise awareness of safety aspects to help reduce the number of fatalities and injuries, a major concern in Hampshire.

Take Time Out

Raising awareness of the potential of driving while still over the legal limit due to insufficient recovery time. During the festive period, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service has supported Hampshire Constabulary's 'drink-drive' campaign with events in Lyndhurst, Eastleigh, Southampton, Hedge End, and Portsmouth. The 'Take Time Out' initiative was used as part of this activity. This was also utilised by HMS Sultan for their personnel.



2.2

Home Safety Visits

During this reporting period we have conducted 1178 Home Safety Visits (HSV), targeted at those we consider to be most at risk, and fitted 1222 smoke detectors.

The target 2010/2011 is 10,000. We are on target to achieve this, having completed 7118 to date since April 2010. The visits were delivered across the county and were targeted on where the need was greatest.

The visits were identified through MOSAIC data, partnerships, post incident protocols and referrals from other agencies. The visits were being delivered by a combination of wholetime, retained duty system, green book personnel and, on occasion, other organisations that we are in partnership with delivering the visits on behalf of HFRS.

We are continuing to develop a strategy for resolving the issue of long life detectors needing to be replaced before the end of their life expectancy.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.3

Fire Investigation and Arson Task Force

There have been 56 fire investigations in the reporting period, 37 deliberate fires, 17 non-suspicious and two undetermined.

There have been four fatalities over the reporting period.

During this reporting period, the Fire Investigation team and the Arson Task Force have supported the investigation of 37 arson offences, with arrests made in relation to 13 of these.

2.4

Firesetter Intervention Scheme and Safeguarding

The Firesetter Intervention Scheme has undertaken the following activity in this reporting period:

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programme

28 referrals

Adult Firesetter Intervention Programme

Six referrals

On the 15 November 2010 the Henty Ford Group at Eastleigh provided a new Ford Focus Estate vehicle for a second year.

Safeguarding

During this reporting period, the Safeguarding team has responded to and dealt with 18 safeguarding concerns/issues.

2.5

Schools Education Team

As part of our targeted delivery of the Schools Safety Education Programme, the following number of pupils were seen at schools across Hampshire during this reporting period:

Key Stage 1

2,727 during 49 visits

Key Stage 2

3,080 during 48 visits

Key Stage 3

5,764 during 94 visits

Key Stage 4

460 during four visits

We also took part in a Science Fair in Alton, organised by the Education Business First Partnership. A workshop was held for 72 pupils from local primary schools. We piloted our new arson education module with 90 Year 6 pupils from Copnor. We used our newly converted Arson Awareness Vehicle.

Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 105
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 37

Group F: 4

Group G: 16

Smoke Detectors fitted: 90

Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group have had nine fire investigations for the reporting period, involving a barn, domestic storage, three houses, bin store, flat, thatch premises and a vehicle.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Basingstoke Office audited 32 premises. This included higher risk sleeping accommodation including care and nursing homes, educational establishments, hotels and licensed premises offering sleeping accommodation. This reporting period includes the third quarter of the 'pilot' trial of the combined 'Protection, Prevention, Response' concept.

This had led to response and protection personnel exchanging intelligence, undergoing joint planning and has aided service resilience by supporting the Rushmoor and Alton fire safety offices.

We conducted pre-Christmas inspections of the larger 'out of town' retail outlets, as well as a number of retail outlets within Festival Place Shopping Centre, to ensure that excessive stock levels did not compromise Fire Safety. General standards of fire safety were found to be good with some minor informal enforcement issued.

Enforcement

We have issued two Enforcement Notices to licensed premises, which are currently subject to Prohibition Notices described below.

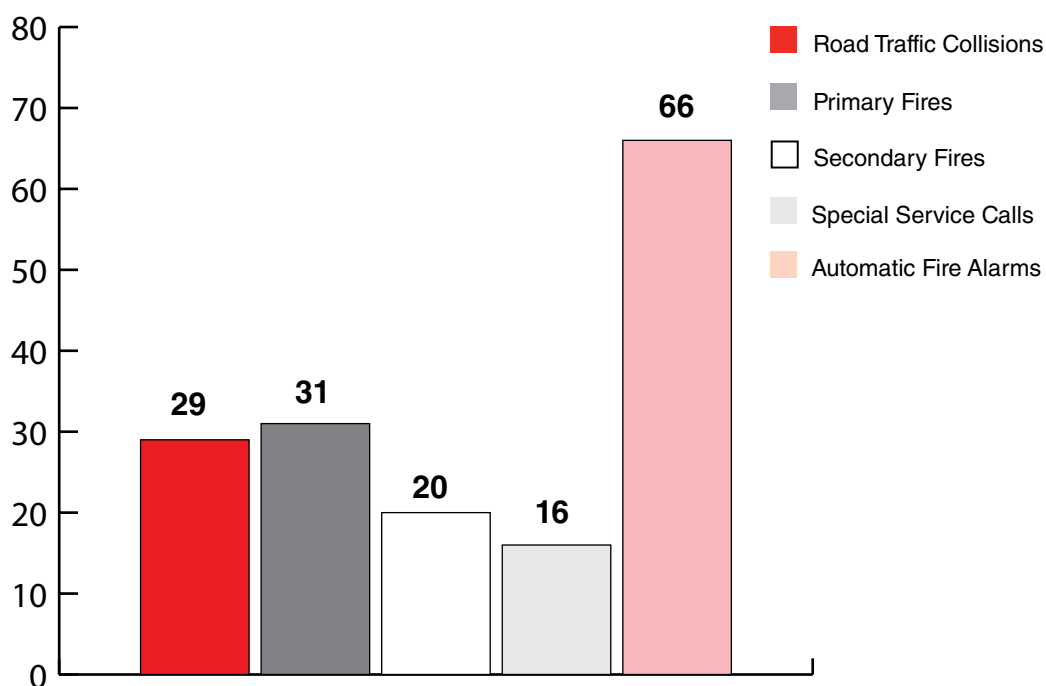
Prosecution/Prohibitions

Two premises are currently undergoing legal investigation following Prohibition Notices being served. Both of these are licensed premises and we have restricted the use of the premises for sleeping accommodation.

Community Response

At 15:59 on 12 December 2010 crews were called to a fire involving the roof of a thatched property in Kingsclere Road, Overton. Over half of the roof was saved from the fire. 12 appliances were in attendance and 40 sets of breathing apparatus, three jets, three hose reel jets and rope were pack used.

Basingstoke and Deane



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 151
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 60

Group F: 3

Group G: 16

Smoke Detectors fitted: 139

Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group have had six fire investigations for the reporting period, involving a vehicle, two domestic flats, shop and two domestic garages.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Prince's Trust

Rushmoor achieved a 100% success and retention rate, with all 15 of the young people taking part finishing the project. This project was run at Rushmoor Fire Station by a Team Leader from HFRS and Deputy Team Leader from the Police.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this reporting period, 11 audits were carried out on high risk premises. These included residential care homes, hotels and identified operational risk premises. In partnership with the Rushmoor Borough Council, we conducted a presentation to private Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) landlords.

HMO accommodation is one of our highest priorities and this will help lead to greater information and support for landlords and reduce the risk within these buildings. We continue to inspect HMO Local buildings with our local authority housing colleagues, working within partnership agreements to reduce risk.

Working closely with Hart District Council, we have actively supported the recent “Face the People” event held in Yateley, and the Crime Reduction and Environment Weeks (CREW) held in Fleet and the surrounding area. This produced 20 focussed and specific inspections on licensed premises such as, public houses, night clubs and local retail establishments.

Enforcement

No Enforcement Notices were issued during this reporting period.

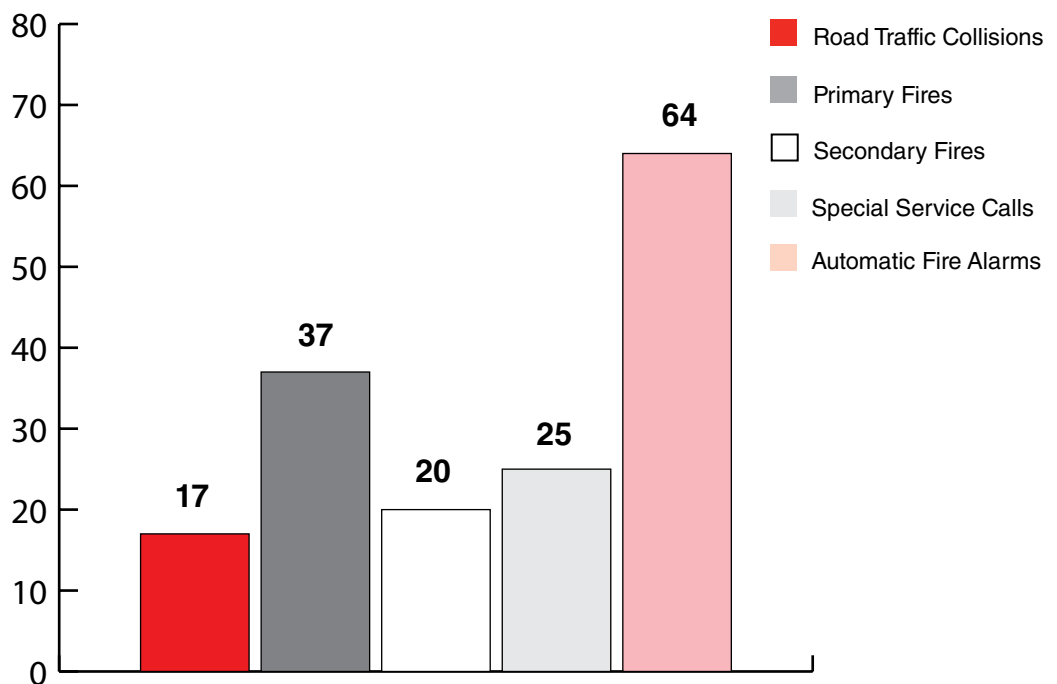
Prosecution/Prohibitions

No Prohibition Notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community Response

At 18:00 on 8 December 2010 crews were called to a fire in single storey domestic garage in Elphage Road, Elvetham Heath, Fleet. Half of the contents were saved from damage from the fire. Three appliances were in attendance and six sets of breathing apparatus, one jet and two hose reel jets were used.

Rushmoor and Hart



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 80
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 1
Group F: 3
Group G: 4

Smoke Detectors fitted: 107

Fire Investigations

Havant and East Hants Group have had six fire investigations for the reporting period, involving two fatalities, one vehicle fire, garage, flat and a thatch premises.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Alton office completed 31 Fire Safety Audits. This included higher risk sleeping accommodation including care and nursing homes, educational establishments, hotels and licensed premises offering sleeping accommodation.

Some of the East Hants inspectors have been used in other geographical locations as we continue to identify and service the highest risks across the county. We are continuing to drive the Service objective to reduce the impact of acetylene at incidents and have inspected a number of premises and recorded the risks for our response colleagues.

Enforcement

No Enforcement Notices were served during this period.

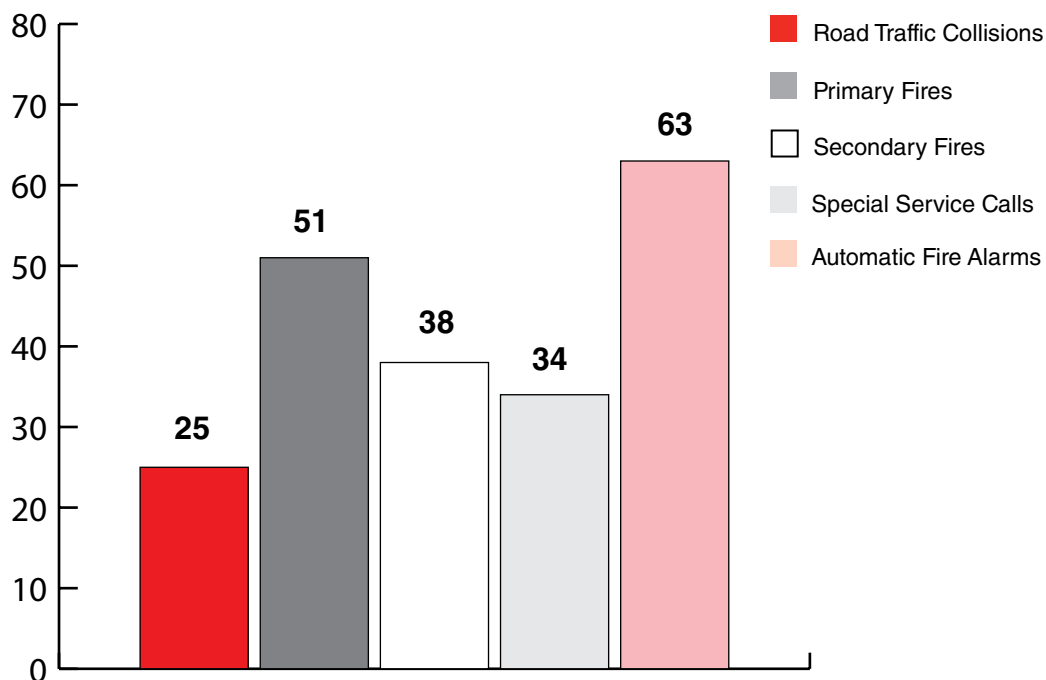
Prosecution/Prohibitions

No Prohibition Notices were served during this period.

Community Response

At 08:02 on 9 November 2010 the Service was called to assist in the flooding of 20 properties in Bridge Road Emsworth. Six members of the public were evacuated by using the Water Support Unit. Three appliances, the multi-role vehicle and high volume pumping unit were in attendance. (See 1.4 for further information).

Havant and East Hampshire



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 107
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 13

Group F: 1

Group G: 0

Smoke Detectors fitted: 146

Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group have completed two fire investigations for the reporting period, involving a community centre and a domestic flat.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The number of Fire Safety Audits completed by the Fire safety officers for the Fareham and Gosport area for this period was 46.

Following inspections of Gosport Borough Council offices and a recent fire, we have worked with the council to improve the fire safety within the offices and have agreed to maintain the support we provide to give education and information to all local authorities.

We are working closely with Local Authority Building Control Departments strongly pushing the inclusion of sprinkler systems in residential commercial and residential care premises. We are progressing an engineered solution for creation of office space in a listed premises in the Clock Tower, Warsash. This will allow usage of the building whilst ensuring the historic building is protected for the future.

Working with the responsible persons for a block of flats in the Fareham area we agreed an action plan as an alternative to an Enforcement Notice to replace the doors with ones to the suitable fire resisting standard. We have worked hard with the owners of the flats to achieve this and will continue to work with them to improve fire safety within their building stock.

Enforcement

No Enforcement Notices were served during this period.

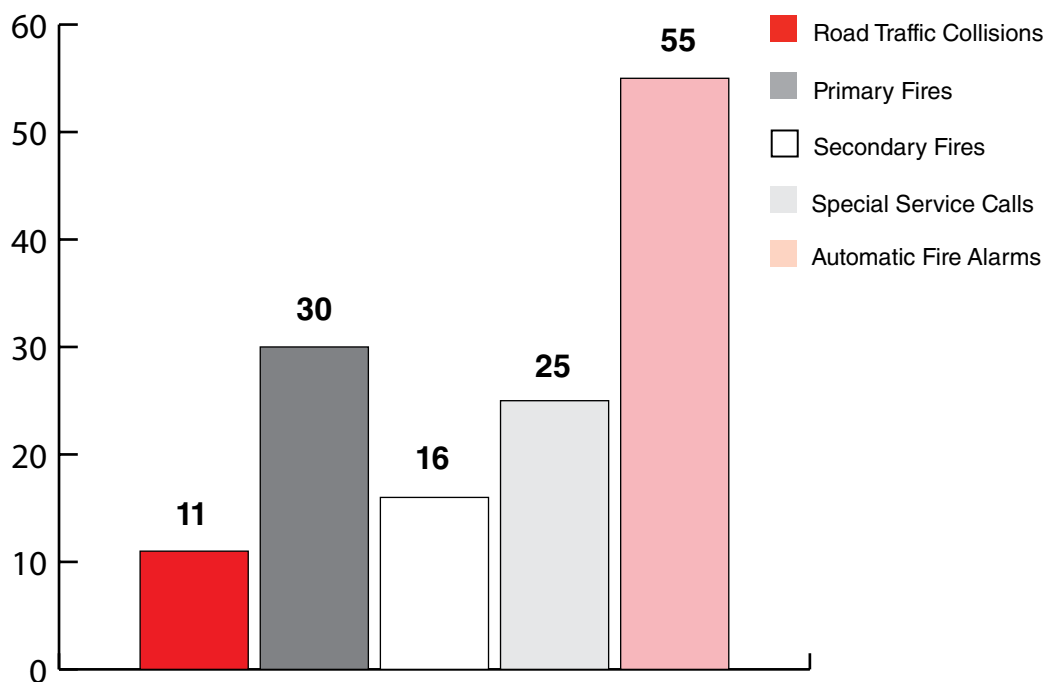
Prosecution/Prohibitions

One Prohibition Notices was issued during this reporting period. This was to a block of flats in Fareham and issued in close conjunction with Fareham Borough Council Environmental Health team.

Community Response

At 09:29 on 13 November 2010 crews were called to a fire on the fourth floor of purpose built high rise building. One person was rescued by the firefighters. Five appliances, a special equipment unit and aerial ladder platform were in attendance. Three sets of breathing apparatus, three jets and positive pressure ventilation were used.

Fareham and Gosport



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 317
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 18

Group F: 39

Group G: 35

Smoke Detectors fitted: 384

Fire Investigations

Portsmouth Group have had 12 fire investigations for the reporting period, involving an aircraft carrier, refuse store, two bin sheds, public house, four vehicles, two flats and one fatal incident.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The number of Fire safety Audits completed for this period was 105.

In partnership with Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire Police we led a seminar to people with responsibility for licensed premises, following the Best Bar None initiative run earlier in the year. This was a well attended seminar, which will now be run at regular intervals.

We have continued a series of joint inspections with Portsmouth City Council. Premises included those which have had a fire, such as the recent fatal fire within Omega House (also see 1.12) following our post incident protocols and premises with sleeping accommodation above commercial outlets. We have used a joint approach to enforcement where required.

We carried out themed inspections of retail premises in Gunwharf Quays, Commercial Road, North End, Palmerston Road and Cosham. Issues identified in the retail areas were dealt with by informal enforcement. We uncovered some more serious means of escape issues in some of the older premises and we are working with the responsible persons to remedy the deficiencies.

Enforcement

One Enforcement Notice was issued for this period to a Portsmouth Synagogue. This premises had sleeping accommodation and the standard of the means of escape and the fire alarm system were not adequate.

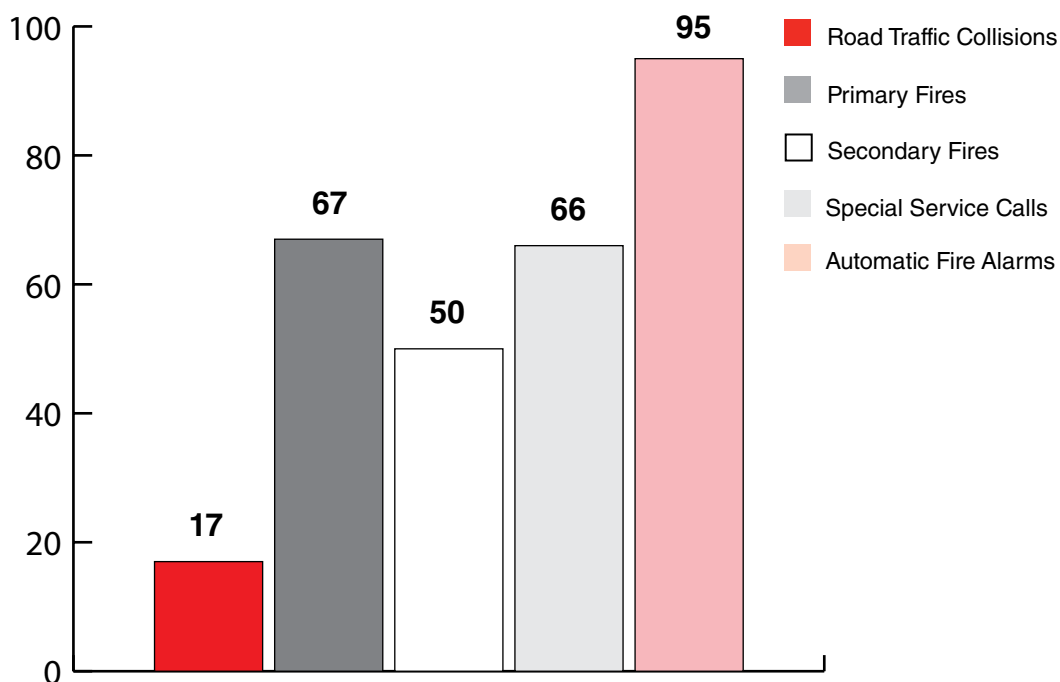
Prosecution/Prohibitions

Two Prohibition Notices were issued during this reporting period. These premises were both restaurants with sleeping accommodation provided above.

Community Response

At 17:16 on 13 November 2010 crews were called to a fire in a three-storey derelict building of traditional construction. Half of the roof was involved in the fire. Four appliances, a special equipment unit and aerial ladder platform were in attendance. Two sets of breathing apparatus, two jets, two hose reel jets and the aerial ladder platform monitor were used.

Portsmouth



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 93
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 17

Group F: 0

Group G: 1

Smoke Detectors fitted: 76

Fire Investigations

Winchester Group have had three fire investigations for the reporting period, involving a house, service station and an incident at the prison.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 50 Fire Safety Audits were completed. These were aimed at higher life risk hotels and residential care homes, with community school risks also visited.

As a result of our response staff having received specific training on fire safety protection issues, we continue to see more urgent action requests. In this quarter we have responded to three such requests.

We have responded to six acetylene cylinder alerts. This adds to the continued success of the acetylene initiative in reducing disruption to businesses and the public from fires involving these cylinders.

As part of the December themed inspection programme we carried out pre-Christmas audits in many of the shops in the Central Group Area. This resulted in some informal enforcement action and education to occupiers.

Community Response

Enforcement

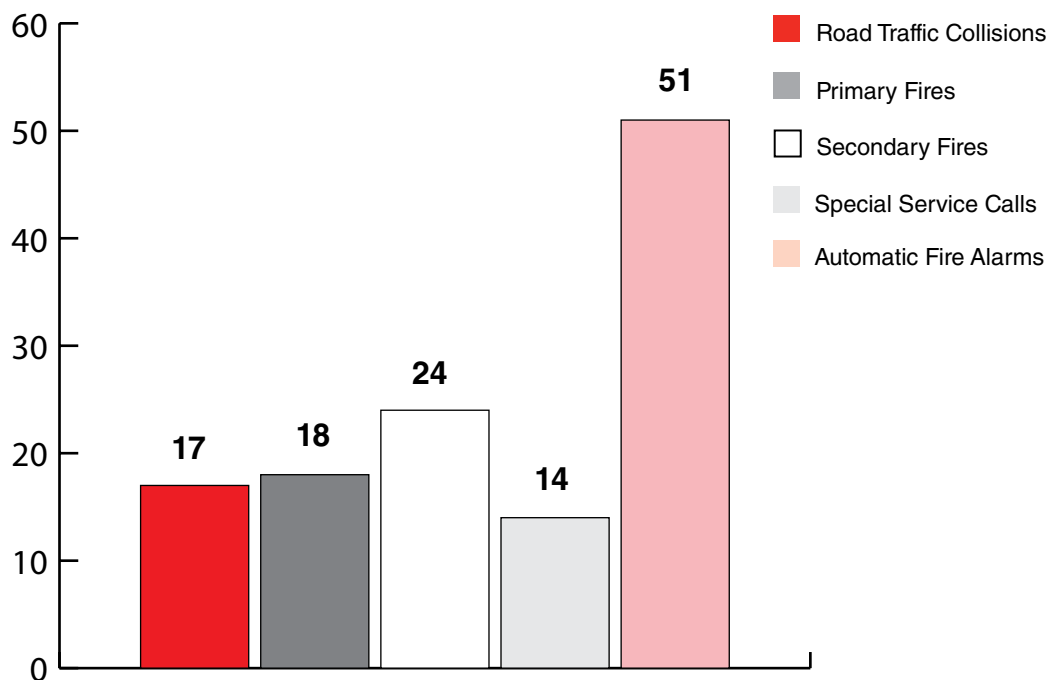
One Enforcement Notice was issued during this period. This was to a shop which was adversely affecting the means of escape for sleeping accommodation above.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

There were no prosecutions or prohibitions issued.

At 12:20 on 30 October 2010 crews were called to a fire in a bedroom in a two-storey thatch property in Cheriton. Four appliances were in attendance. Six sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reel jets and one jet were used.

Winchester



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 98
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 23

Group F: 3

Group G: 1

Smoke Detectors fitted: 91

Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group have had six fire investigations for the reporting period, including, baled hay, a house, industrial unit, lorry, four vehicles and a domestic garage.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 42 Fire Safety Audits were completed, these were identified using risk analysis and as a result of information from our response colleagues. We have also dealt with six urgent action requests.

As part of the December themed inspection programme we carried out pre-Christmas audits in many of the shops within Central Group Area. No major fire safety issues were discovered.

The established joint inspection partnership with Environmental Health (EH) continues to show excellent results. With 12 Inspections complete, many resulting in action by EH to improve the risk level within these premises. Our input helps to educate our partner colleagues and add credibility to their enforcement action.

We continue to support and encourage businesses to consider sprinkler and suppression systems, we have a proposal for a sprinkler system to overcome fire safety deficiencies in a local activity centre, which we are actively seeking to secure.

Enforcement

Three Enforcement Notices were issued during this period to a hostel, a nursing home and a retail premises.

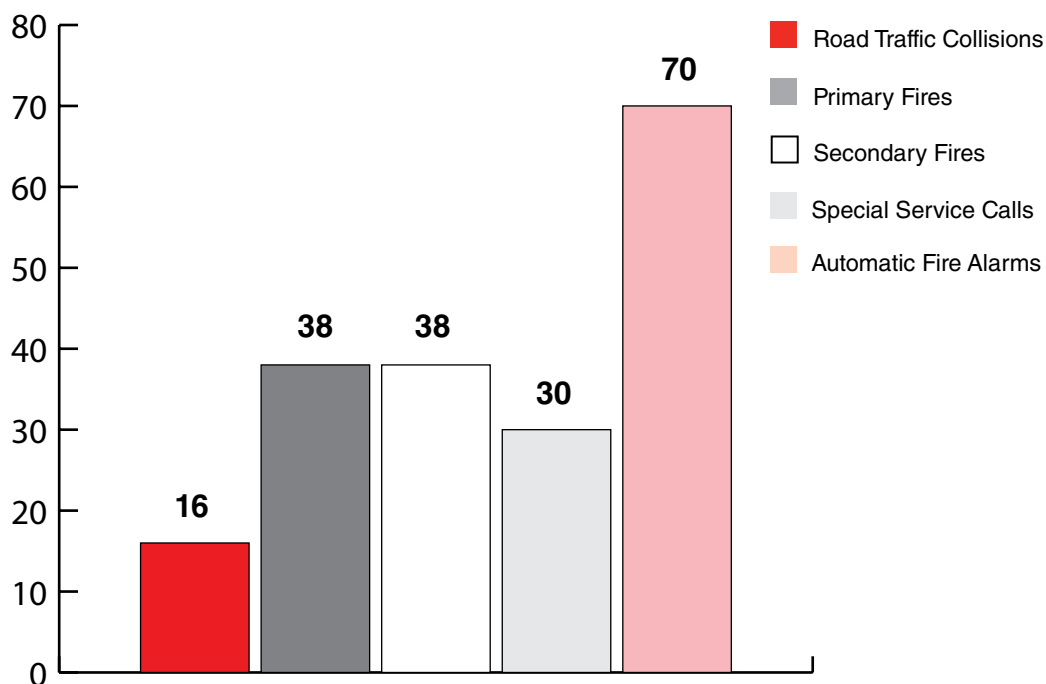
Prosecution / Prohibitions

There were no prosecutions or prohibitions issued.

Community Response

At 04:02 on 30 October 2010 a call was received to a barn fire in Bourne Court, The Main Road, St Mary Bourne. The barn was completely damaged by fire and the fire spread to three adjoining buildings. Six appliances and the water carrier were in attendance. Eight sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel were used.

Test Valley and Eastleigh



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 195
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 16

Group F: 41

Group G: 16

Smoke Detectors fitted: 152

Fire Investigations

Southampton Group have had seven fire investigations for the reporting period, involving a fatal incident, flats and restaurant, commercial garage, two flats, and two houses.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Prince's Trust

Southampton achieved a 92% success and retention rate. Delivered at Redbridge Fire Station by a Team Leader from HFRS and Deputy Team Leader from the Army. This is the first time we have also had a social worker student attached to us for 100 days, which has helped with various personal and social issues that the young people face.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 40 Fire Safety Audits were completed, these were identified using risk analysis and as a result of risk information from HFRS staff and the public.

We have developed a good working relationship with Trading Standards, as we sought to reduce the risk of premises storing and selling fireworks, towards the end of the year.

The Southampton General Hospital continue to experience a high number of unwanted fire alarm signals. We have led a co-ordinated response to address these issues and gain useful risk information for our response colleagues using site specific risk intelligence.

Training and support to the Southampton Group fire stations has been completed. By giving the further training it is hoped that the information we receive will be of higher quality to enable better targeted risk reduction. This will now be rolled out to external partners in the local authority.

Enforcement

No Enforcement Notices were issued during this reporting period.

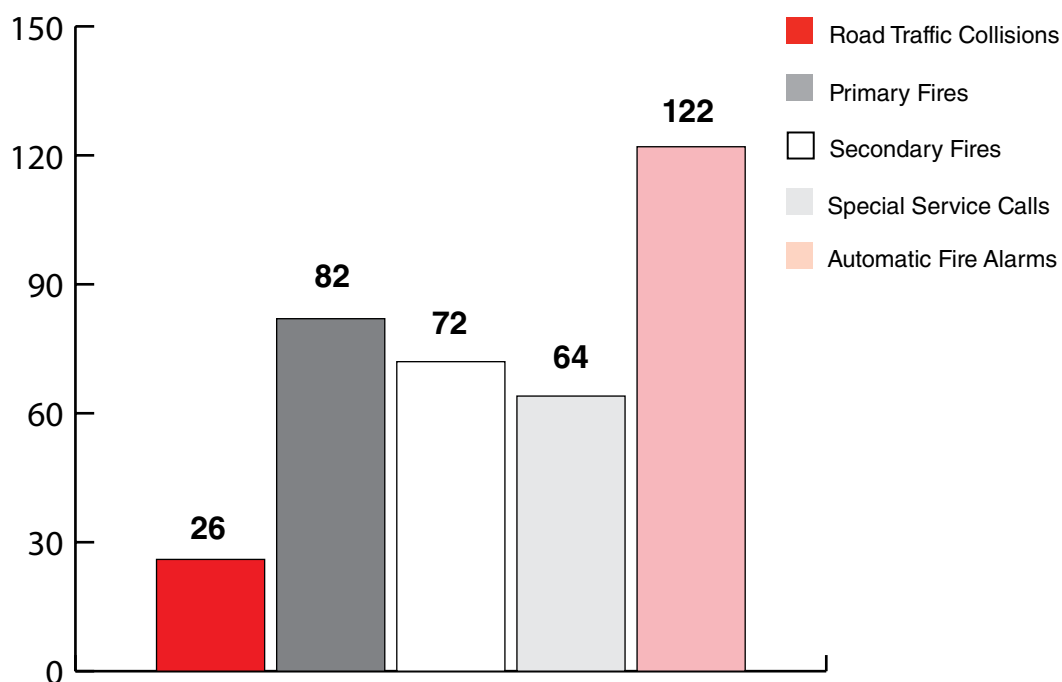
Prosecution / Prohibitions

Three Prohibition Notices served in this period. These were served on a restaurant, a shop and to a common area in between flats above a shop.

Community Response

At 22:28 on 10 December 2010 crews were called to a fire in a first floor flat in Mansel Road, East Millbrook, Southampton. The fire was spreading to the roof of the property, which consisted of terraced properties including four flats. Five appliances, a special equipment unit and aerial ladder platform were in attendance. 14 sets of breathing apparatus, three hose reel jets, three jets and the aerial ladder platform monitor were used.

Southampton



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 32
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 2

Group F: 0

Group G: 0

Smoke Detectors fitted: 37

Fire Investigations

New Forest Group have had four fire investigations for the reporting period, involving a thatch property, bungalow, scooters and a car.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 54 Fire safety Audits were completed. Our focus being the substantial number of hotels, guest houses and B&Bs, in addition to our listed premises within the New Forest. Residential care homes continue to be categorised as high risk and we continue to work with the responsible persons to provide information and reduce the risk.

Enforcement

One Enforcement Notice was served during this period on a Chinese takeaway with sleeping accommodation provided above.

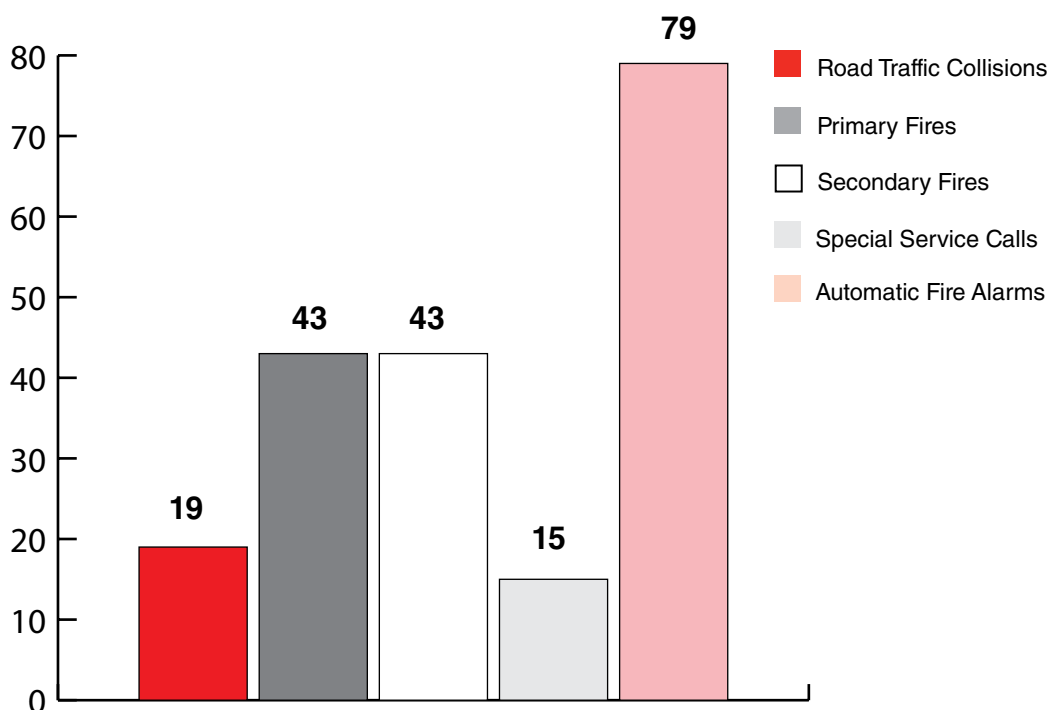
Prosecution / Prohibitions

One Prohibition Notice was served on a licensed premises with sleeping accommodation.

Community Response

At 00:41 on 11 November 2010 crews were called to a fire in the roof of a thatched property in Wood Green, Fordingbridge. The roof and first floor were completely damaged by fire and there was water damage to the ground floor. Eight appliances, the multi-role vehicle and the special equipment unit were in attendance. USAR was called to the incident to shore the property. 10 sets of breathing apparatus two jets and two hose reels were used.

New Forest



4.1

Fire on a fishing vessel near Hythe

Control room operators received a call at 18:05 on 29 December 2010 about a fire involving a commercial fishing boat near Hythe Marina.

Crews from Hythe and Hardley were immediately deployed to the scene where there was a fire in the engine compartment of the 25 foot long fishing vessel. The vessel was moored approximately 50 meters from Hythe Pier. Fire crews were taken to the incident via the Southampton Harbour Master Vessel. One jet was used to bring the fire under control. The stop message was received at 19:49 when the vessel was to remain on mooring and the incident was handed over to the Harbour Master.

4.2

Thatch fire in Popham

At 00:11 on 9 January 2011, control room operators received a call to a thatch fire in Popham.

Crews from Overton, Kingsclere, Whitchurch, Basingstoke, Sutton Scotney, Rushmoor, Alton, Winchester, Alresford, Andover and Odiham were mobilised to the scene. Basingstoke's water carrier, Andover's multi role vehicle and the incident command unit were also mobilised to the scene.

Crews arrived to find a two storey building with the thatch roof well alight. Firefighters immediately made a firebreak in the roof of the two adjoining dwellings to stop the fire from spreading.

The roof and first and ground floor of the first dwelling was severely damaged by fire. The first floor of the adjoining property was 70 percent damaged by fire and the ground floor was 40 percent damaged by fire.

Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control using 48 sets of breathing apparatus, five jets, four hose reels and a rope pack. Firefighters checked the roof space using a thermal imagine camera to ensure that there were no further hotspots.

4.3

Fire in Portsmouth sheltered accommodation

At 22:12 on Monday 17 January 2011, control operators were alerted to an incident on the 5th floor of The Portsmouth Foyer, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth.

The building consisted of sheltered accommodation and contained self contained flats over seven floors.

Fire appliances from Southsea, Cosham, and Havant were mobilised to the scene along with the Cosham special equipment unit and Southsea's aerial ladder platform. A total of over 30 firefighters and supporting officers were in attendance. The Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS), which is delivered by trained British Red Cross volunteers, was also on hand to provide support to the residents affected by this incident.

Firefighters tackled the blaze, which was contained within a flat located on the 5th floor, using 10 sets of breathing apparatus and three jets. The smoke logged building was cleared by crews using a combination of natural ventilation and positive pressure fans.

All residents were successfully evaluated from the premises by firefighters and taken to safety with the assistance of the police.

The fire started in a pan left unattended on a cooker and it spread to coats and clothing that were being stored next to the appliance. This resulted in extensive fire and smoke damage to the affected flat.

4.4

Firefighters successfully tackle fire in Basingstoke hotel

More than 30 firefighters tackled a blaze at a hotel in Basingstoke on Saturday 22 January.

Firefighters from Basingstoke, Overton, Kingsclere and Eastleigh were drafted in after control room operators received reports that the first floor boiler room was well alight at the Beach Arms Hotel and restaurant in Andover Road, Basingstoke.

The alarm was raised at 12:08 and police cordoned off the area to allow firefighters to tackle the blaze at the popular hotel, bar and restaurant.

Basingstoke's aerial ladder platform and special equipment unit were also mobilised to the scene, along with the Service's incident command unit.

Fire crews used six sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels, and the specialist aerial ladder platform to extinguish the blaze.

Two members of hotel staff had attempted to tackle the blaze with a fire extinguisher, however the hotel manager took the right course of action by swiftly evacuating the whole premises and alerting the fire and rescue service.

If the hotel not had a well-maintained smoke alarm system, the fire could potentially have spread beyond the room of origin and seriously damaged the roof of the hotel, if not the whole building. The effective evacuation of staff and hotel residents at the incident was commended by the Incident Commander.

4.5

Firefighters tackle house fire in Catherington

Control room operators received reports of a fire in Draycote Road, Catherington at 04:35 on Sunday 23 January.

Fire crews from Horndean and Waterlooville were swiftly mobilised to the scene, along with the Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS), which is delivered by trained British Red Cross volunteers.

Firefighters in attendance were faced with a serious fire in the ground floor of a residential dwelling. The lounge and stairwell were 100 percent damaged by fire and 80 percent of the house sustained smoke damage.

Fire crews used six sets of breathing apparatus and two hose reels to bring the blaze under control.

One male casualty was taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service.

4.6

Fire crews lead 18 residents to safety in Southampton

Southampton firefighters led 18 residents to safety on the morning of Thursday 27 January 2011 after a serious fire in the Newtown area of the city.

Control room operators were alerted at 04:50 to a fire in a ground floor shop in Derby Road, Southampton. On arrival at the scene, fire crews from nearby St. Mary's Community Fire Station faced a serious, developing fire in the terraced premises, and reports that persons were unaccounted for. With 14 firefighters and two officers swiftly in attendance at the scene, the Service successfully led residents in the adjoining houses to safety, including the occupant of the flat above the fire-stricken shop.

Fire crews used six sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels, and one main jet to bring the blaze under control.

One young adult sustained burns to his arm and was treated by South Central

Ambulance Service, along with one three-month-old infant who was treated for the effects of slight smoke inhalation. One further male casualty was taken to hospital by ambulance with back injuries. As part of the British Red Cross' emergency response role, the Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS) joined the rescue effort to provide practical help, advice and comfort to those affected by the fire.

The working smoke alarm gave precious minutes for the residents to escape, and undoubtedly saved their lives. This was a challenging fire that was well-alight on arrival of the fire crews.



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