

30 April 2011 – 12 August 2011

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: Artists Impression of the Blade Building, Portsmouth

Introduction

This activity report covers the period from 30 April 2011 to 12 August 2011. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 12 August 2011 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back 'Stop Press' section of the report.

You will see in this report that the last quarter has been a particularly busy period operationally, with an unusually high number of property fires ranging from high rise and thatch fires to vehicle workshops and disused premises. At a number of these incidents we mobilised and used our CAFS (compressed air foam system) appliances which have successfully enabled crews to spend less time at incidents and allowed much quicker reliefs for our staff. Thereby reducing costs and allowing our resources to be used in the most efficient and effective ways.

During this quarter we have seen the success that working in partnership can bring and you will see many examples throughout this report of the range and breadth of those partnerships. This includes our Schools Education Team support of local authority events across the county; our national work with the UK Timber Frame Association to improve the safety of timber framed buildings under construction; the Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership where we gather and share intelligence, in a highly successful way, with our partner enforcing agencies and our work in partnership with a range of national agencies to successfully lobby for the installation of sprinklers in a proposed 33-storey student building.

You may recall in the last report we highlighted that we would be changing our reporting on 'Mosaic' at risk lifestyle

groups, to indicate the top three in each of the service delivery groups. You will therefore see that we have changed this reporting this quarter and details of the different groups are now outlined in the community safety section of the service delivery group updates. On page 34 there are definitions of each risk group. We are also pleased to highlight the success of one of our long-standing community safety initiatives, with the Prince's Trust being commended for being one of the top three delivery partners in the country. In the last few months they have also introduced two new teams in Hampshire at Eastleigh and Andover.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that we outline our successful campaign to install sprinklers into a proposed high rise building in Portsmouth during this quarter. The Service led a campaign in August to encourage developers to change their decision concerning the 'Blade' building development in Portsmouth, which was to be used as student accommodation but was designed to not have sprinklers. After taking a unique approach to this media and lobbying campaign, whereby the Service took an incident led approach and set up the major incident room, the developers reconsidered their decision and as a result the 'Blade' building will now be built with sprinklers. This is a hugely successful outcome which will undoubtedly make the premises safer for all.

01 Responding to incidents

1.1

50 firefighters tackle Southampton blaze

At 02:43 on Tuesday 3 May 2011 control operators were alerted to a fire at Thorold Road at Bitterne Park in Southampton.

Crews from St Mary's Fire Station were immediately mobilised to the scene. The fire involved a four storey building and a separate premises consisting of a terrace of three town houses.



Both buildings were under construction. Control operators mobilised three fire appliances and the special equipment unit from St Mary's, two fire appliances from Redbridge, one fire appliance and the aerial ladder platform from Hightown, one fire appliance and the multi role vehicle from Eastleigh and one fire appliance with compressed air foam system (CAFS) from Winchester. A total of 50 firefighters together with senior officers and support staff were in attendance. The outcome of the investigation determined that the most likely cause was arson.

1.2

Joint working at hazardous material incident in Gosport

On 12 May at 11:47, crews were mobilised to an incident in Wych Lane in Gosport involving hazardous materials.

Two fire appliances from Fareham, one fire appliance from Gosport, one fire appliance and the special equipment unit from Cosham, the detection identification and monitoring (DIM) vehicle and one fire appliance from Hightown were mobilised to the scene as part of a pre-determined attendance.

Two hazardous materials and environmental protection officers (HMEPOs) and two firefighters entered the building wearing gas tight suits to investigate the situation whilst further crews prepared a decontamination unit nearby. Further to the investigation it was established that helium gas was present. Firefighters used positive pressure ventilation to clear the gas from within the premises and ensured that there was no risk to surrounding properties. The stop message was received at 14:26 and the incident was handed back to the control of the police.

01 Responding to incidents

1.3

Fatal high rise fire in Portsmouth

On 16 May 2011 at 17:16 control room operators were alerted to a fire in a high rise building in All Saints Road, Buckland, Portsmouth.



Control operators mobilised three fire appliances from Southsea, two fire appliances from Cosham and one fire appliance from Portchester. The aerial ladder platform from Southsea was also in attendance. The fire involved a flat on the ninth floor.

The room where the fire started was 100% damaged by fire and the remainder of the flat was 50 percent damaged by heat and smoke. Firefighters extinguished the fire using six sets of breathing apparatus, one main jet and the aerial ladder platform. Tragically one elderly man died as a result of the fire. An investigation into the cause determined that the most likely cause of fire was either careless use of smoking materials or accidental application of naked flame from cigarette lighter.

A smoke detector was fitted in the flat and it had operated.

1.4

12 fire appliances tackle Havant thatch fire

At 20:46 on Tuesday 3 May 2011 control operators were alerted to a fire at a thatched property at Southleigh Road in the Warblington area of Havant.

The fire involved 100% of the thatched roof of the two storey detached private dwelling measuring 18 metres by six metres. A total of 75 firefighters were initially deployed to the scene together with senior officers and support staff. Control operators mobilised 12 fire appliances to the scene along with other ancillary vehicles. The Arson Task Force, duty press officer, duty photographer, duty operational equipment technician and duty comms officer were also in attendance.

These included one appliance from Emsworth, Horndean, Hightown, Southsea fire stations; two from Waterlooville and Hayling Island fire stations; two fire appliances and the multi-role vehicle from Havant Fire Station, two fire appliances and the special equipment unit from Cosham, the water carrier from Fareham, one fire appliance with CAFS from Winchester, the command support vehicle from Portchester, a command support crew from Eastleigh Fire Station and the incident command unit from Service Headquarters, Eastleigh. Further firefighters from Andover, Portchester, Fareham, Wickham, St Mary's, Beaulieu, Eastleigh, Romsey and Grayshott fire stations were mobilised to relieve crews who had been tackling the blaze since the initial call.

01 Responding to incidents

1.5

One male rescued from Southampton blaze

At 12:35 on Saturday 4 June 2011 control operators were alerted to a flat fire at Jackmans Close in Woolston, Southampton.

Crews from Hightown, Redbridge and St Mary's fire stations were immediately mobilised to the scene. Control operators mobilised ten fire appliances as well as the aerial ladder platform from Redbridge and the special equipment unit from St Mary's Fire Station. The incident command unit and fire and emergency support service (FESS) vehicle were also mobilised from Service Headquarters in Eastleigh.

The fire involved a four storey traditional building with a tiled roof measuring 15 metres by 15 metres. The fire had started in a flat on the second floor and one male was rescued using a ladder. The casualty suffered smoke inhalation and was taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service, volunteers on call with the Red Cross in Hampshire were also in attendance to assist.

Mobilised by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, the FESS team made their way to the incident to provide emotional and practical support to the residents who had been evacuated from their homes.

1.6

Flat fire in Southampton

At 19:59 on Friday 22 July 2011 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service control operators mobilised fire appliances to a fire in Wyndham Court, Commercial Road Southampton.

Eight appliances from St Mary's, Redbridge, Hightown, Eastleigh, Totton and Hamble were in attendance. The fire occurred in the lower and upper floor of a maisonette, on the fourth floor of a six storey building measuring 50 metres by 25 metres.



The properties above and each side were also smoke and heat damaged. A total of 64 firefighters were at the scene and eight sets of breathing apparatus, four jets and one hose reel were used to bring the fire under control. A positive pressure ventilator was also used to ventilate smoke out of the building. A total of five members of the public were affected by smoke inhalation. Two were treated on the scene and three taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service. The property was evacuated with assistance from the police and wardens. Various pets were also rescued. The fire is being treated as non suspicious and accidental.

01 Responding to incidents

1.7

Large fire on South Parade, Southsea

At 17:30hrs on 9 August 2011 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a fire in a disused building formerly known as Joanna's Nightclub on Southsea Parade.

Control operators mobilised 10 fire appliances along with other supporting vehicles, including two aerial ladder platforms and the Urban Search and Rescue team.

At the height of the fire there were around 80 firefighters on scene. Upon arrival Southsea crews were faced with rapid fire spread on the second, third and fourth floor of the building. The building was of traditional construction, measuring 27 metres by 28 metres and consisting of five floors and a basement.

The building was 100% damaged by fire and was at risk of collapse. The incident was handed over to Hampshire Constabulary on 11 August 2011 at 06:00hrs. The building was to be partially demolished to make the scene safe. There was nothing to suggest that the incident is in any way related to civil unrest or disorder which was subject to national interest at this time. An investigation into the cause is still ongoing.

1.8

Multi-agency preparations for civil disturbance

In recognition of 'civil disturbance' in London and other cities, the Service took part in multi-agency preparations from 9 August 2011 to ensure that if necessary, it could provide an effective and safe response for our communities and staff.

A multi-agency meeting took place to confirm our contingency plans in the event that civil disturbance spread into Hampshire. The Service set up the Major Incident Room during this time. Preparations were put in place, working with police, ambulance and Hampshire County Council emergency planning colleagues, to ensure we were prepared to handle any disturbance. We also jointly monitored community intelligence for signs of tension.

Service personnel were also reminded of the Service's approach to attending incidents involving civil disturbances.

02 Community Safety (incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.0

Schools Education Team

During this quarter we have completed another successful academic year of delivering the Schools Safety Education Programme to some of our most vulnerable children and young people across the county.

This term we have continued to target our resources and provided workshops to reduce arson, road traffic injuries, water related incidents and accidents in the home, to the following:

4,609 Key Stage 1 pupils during 73 school visits

6,098 Key Stage 2 pupils during 95 school visits

7,034 Key Stage 3/4 pupils during 87 school visits

In addition, we have continued to support the following outside agencies by delivering our safety messages at a range of education events:

Local authority events

Rushmoor, Hart, Basingstoke and Dean

Think Safe inter-agency events attended by 2,348 Key Stage 2 pupils and 149 adults.

Hampshire County Council Children's Services

Peer Mentoring Training courses for 234 Key Stage 2 pupils and 56 members of teaching staff.

Hampshire Constabulary

Say No and Phone (SNAP) discos attended by 1,268 secondary pupils.

Education Business Partnerships

Science, technology, engineering and maths in the workplace STEM events for 393 secondary school pupils.

School Sports Partnership

Junior Beach Olympics at Southsea attended by 270 primary children from local schools and 27 school staff.

Other events

We have also supported local station plans and community events with our home safety vehicle.

At the invitation of one of our councillors we were able to provide home safety information at Fleet carnival to 210 adults and 50 children.

At the Redbridge community open day we engaged with over 500 members of the community from all ages, passing on valuable home safety information and generating home safety referrals for the most vulnerable.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.1

Prince's Trust

Three teams delivered during this period of time as follows:

The first team in Eastleigh was delivered by two HFRS secondees. 13 out of 14 successfully completed the course (93% success and retention). The success of the team, secured a further team to be programmed for May 2012.

The first team in Andover was delivered by two secondees from the army. 12 out of 14 successfully completed the course (86% success and retention). This was the first community led and focused team, with key influences from Stannah, the local council, Twinings, SimplyHealth, The Point and Andover Vision. The success of the team, secured a further team to be programmed for May 2012.

During this time we also celebrated delivering our 50th team, by all teams coming together at Marwell Zoo with a chosen local community group to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

2.2

Firesetters Intervention Scheme

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

- 61 referrals to the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programme
- 7 referrals to the Adult Firesetter Intervention Programme

We have attended:

- 6 Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings
- 1 regional CFOA meeting hosted by HFRS
- 4 Multi Agency Services meetings/ conference and training
- 5 Professionals Team Around Child (TAC) meetings involving YPs

On the 1 March 2011 the firesetters team attended the second South East Region Firesetter Intervention Practitioners Seminar at the Runnymede Centre, Chertsey Road, Surrey. This proved to be an excellent training day with guest speakers and workshops throughout the day, there will be another seminar in 2012.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.3

Road Safety

On 11 May the Government published the ‘Strategic Framework for Road Safety’, outlining the approach for future casualty reductions and we are currently reviewing our strategy in line with this.

The date coincided with the launch of the United Nation Decade of Action for which HFRS have registered its support. The day was marked by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) with an awareness day at motorway service areas across the country. We assisted in this with a presence at Fleet (M3), Winchester (M3) and Rownhams (M27) services along with support from the Roads Policing Unit, engaging with over 200 motorists.

CFOA also organised a National Road Safety Day for 22 June along similar lines. This was supported by Fareham and Winchester fire stations but was not as successful due to operational commitments.

We have continued to assist at College Road Safety Weeks in Brockenhurst and Andover, raising awareness of seatbelt and moped safety.



The RideSMART motorcycle has been out supporting fire station events with Winchester at Peter Symonds College and at Hightown’s Bike Safety Day. Through invitation the bike has attended HMS Sultan and RAF Odiham Families Days.

In addition, station personnel have carried out three engagement activities with young driver/offender programmes at Basingstoke, Havant and Southampton.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.4

Home Fire Safety Visits

During this reporting period we have conducted 2194 Home Safety Visits (HSV), targeted at those we consider to be most at risk and fitted 2026 smoke detectors.

The visits were delivered all over the county and were targeted where the need was greatest. The visits were identified through MOSAIC data, partnerships, post incident protocols and referrals through other agencies.

The visits were delivered by a combination of whole time, retained duty system, green book personnel and on occasion other partnership organisations who delivered the visits on behalf of HFRS.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.5

Fire Investigation

There have been 93 fire investigations in the reporting period, 56 deliberate fires, 28 non-suspicious, eight undetermined not known and one out of county fire investigation search dog deployment. There have been four fatalities over the reporting period.

During the reporting period, the Fire Investigation and Arson Task Force has supported the investigation of 56 arson offences, with arrests made in relation to 11 of the offences committed. The team has deployed the fire investigation search dogs throughout Hampshire and the South East Region to assist with 16 fire investigations.

Successful sprinkler campaign

Since becoming aware of the proposed plans for the 'Blade' building in Portsmouth in January of this year, the Service had been recommending and lobbying for the installation of automatic sprinklers in the building. Service fire safety officers met with the developers, Watkin Jones, on 2 August to present a robust business case for the installation of sprinklers. They were however informed that the decision had not changed and no sprinklers were going to be included.

To ensure this building would be as safe as possible for the resident students of Portsmouth University and our firefighters by including an automatic sprinkler system, the Service embarked on a significant media and lobbying campaign. For the first time, we took a major incident approach to this campaign, as in essence this was a major incident from a fire safety perspective, which worked very well. Under the lead of Deputy Chief Officer Dave Curry, the dedicated Service team took a systematic and coordinated approach to doing everything we possibly could to successfully resolve the matter.

As our media campaign started to take effect the developers requested a further meeting with us, as they had reconsidered their original stance based on the information and advice provided by us. As a result the Blade building will now be built with sprinklers. This is a hugely successful outcome which will undoubtedly make the premises safer for all.

As ever, we will learn from this experience and continue to lobby nationally for changes to the Building Regulations to make it mandatory for all buildings over 30m to contain sprinklers.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 162

Smoke Detectors fitted: 139

Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group have had six investigations in this reporting period, involving two houses, a commercial office, a caravan, a garage used as living accommodation and one fatal (see Community Response for further details). Four were found to be deliberate and two non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Three fire investigation search dog deployments

One statement taken

Mosaic Risk Group

D,H and K

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Basingstoke office completed 42 Fire Safety Audits. This included higher risk sleeping accommodation including hotels and licensed premises offering sleeping accommodation. This reporting period includes the start of the 'Response Watch Fire Safety Visits'. Watch based personnel are carrying out fire safety inspections (reduced level of Fire Safety Audit), with support from Protection Watch Managers. This has led to response and protection personnel exchanging intelligence, and undergoing joint planning. 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. The conversion of a 'water tower' to residential flats has now been completed. This development has been fitted with residential sprinklers following advice from HFRS. We have worked with our Marketing and Communications Department in conjunction with the building developers to publicise this development in local and trade press.

Enforcement

Three enforcement notices have been served on licensed premises with sleeping accommodation on the upper floors

Prosecution / Prohibitions

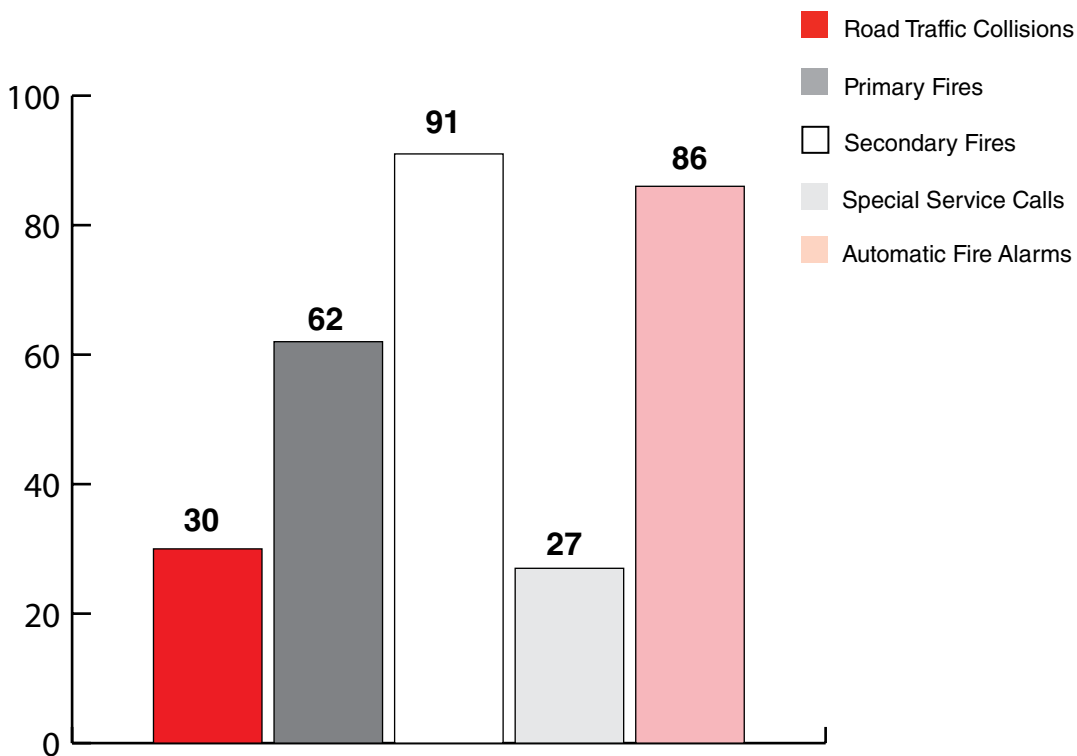
One prohibition notice was served restricting sleeping accommodation

above a licensed premises, following improvements and guidance from the Service this notice has now been withdrawn. Two premises are currently undergoing legal investigation following prohibition notices being served. Both these premises are licensed premises with the restriction being for sleeping accommodation within.

Community Response

At 12:56 on 7 June 2011 control room operator were alerted to an incident in Polecat Corner, Tunworth. A crew from Basingstoke were sent to the scene and observed a 40 year old female who had poured flammable liquid on herself set herself alight. She was taken to hospital suffering 70 percent burns and tragically died the next day in hospital.

At 14:57 on 1 July 2011, crews were called to a fire involving a terraced property in a terrace of nine houses in Tobago Close, Popley. 95 percent of the property was damaged by fire, smoke and fire damage to a second property and smoke damage to a third. Four appliances were in attendance along with a special equipment unit and aerial ladder platform.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 176

Smoke Detectors fitted: 169

Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group has had 12 investigations in the reporting period, involving a children's playhouse, two shops, three houses, a house of multiple occupancy (HMO), a flat, sheds and fencing, sheds and summerhouse, domestic fencing and a vehicle. Four were found to be deliberate, six non-suspicious and two undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Two fire investigation search dog deployments

No statements taken

Mosaic Risk Group

D, F and E

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period 33 Fire Safety Audits were carried out on high risk premises. These included residential care homes, boarding schools, hotels and identified operational risk premises. We have been working closely with a development in Farnborough which is a timber framed building under construction. We have influenced the inclusion of sprinklers into this building and have seen these made 'live' during the initial construction phase. This is intended to protect the structure from fire whilst it is at its most vulnerable and unprotected, and will also provide protection for the life of the building. This is a unique approach, the first in the country, and has generated considerable interest from the UK Timber Frame Association and CFOA, as they work together nationally to improve the safety of timber framed buildings.

As part of a 'Hart Night Time Economy' working group, we have, along with the Safer Hart Partnership, conducted several 'during performance' inspections on licensed premises in the Fleet area. We intend to conduct a full audit following these visits on a number of premises.

We have continued to conduct joint inspections with our Local Authority housing partners when required. We have issued one action plan during this period to an HMO above an Indian takeaway.

Enforcement

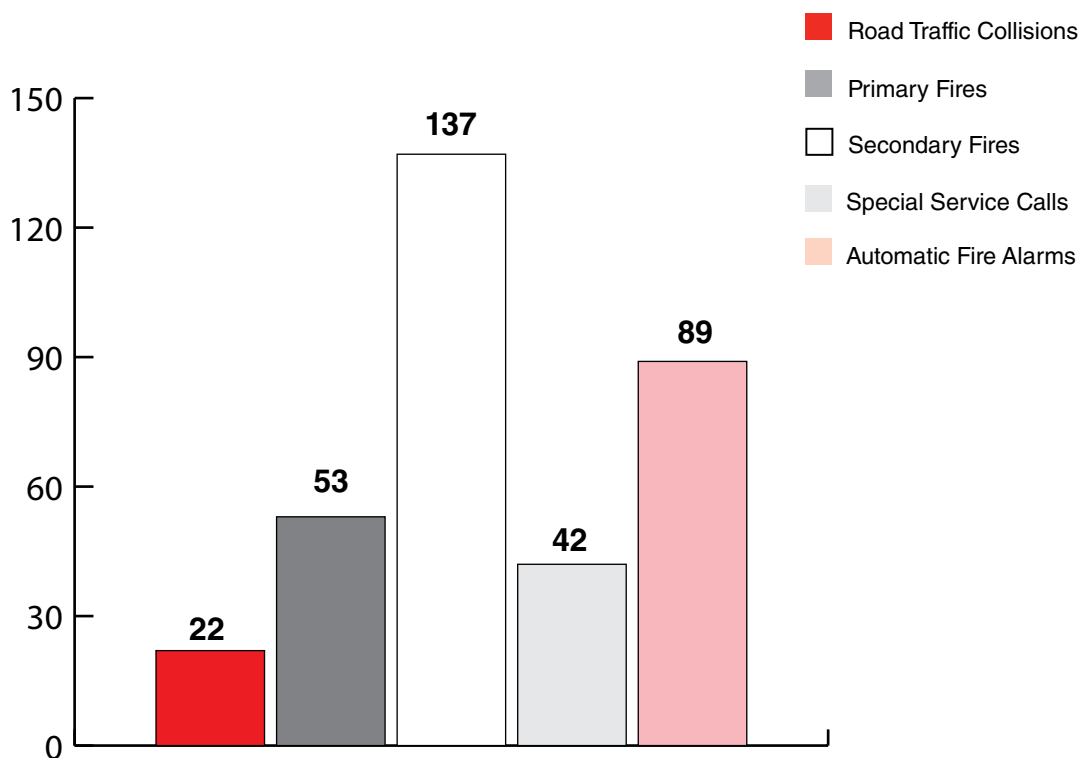
No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

One prohibition notice was issued on an HMO above a DVD rental shop.

Community Response

At 07:41 on 5 June 2011 crews were called to a fire involving approximately three hectares of trees and undergrowth in Caesars Camp, Church Cookham, Fleet. Six pumps were in attendance and eight jets, five hose reels and beaters were used to bring the fire under control.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 231
Smoke Detectors fitted: 308

Fire Investigations

Havant and East Hants Group has had nine investigations in the reporting period, involving a thatched cottage, three flats, two houses, stable block, girl guides HQ and one fatal vehicle fire (see Community Response for further details). Five were found to be deliberate and four non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Four fire investigation search dog deployments
Three statements taken

Mosaic Risk Group

D, B and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

A total of 44 fire safety audits were completed using our risk based inspection programme. This included higher risk sleeping accommodation such as 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 continue to work with other agencies and in this period one such piece of work with UK Border Control led to a prohibition notice being served on a takeaway with sleeping accommodation provided for staff. This period includes the Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership (HBRP) where we gather and share intelligence with our partner enforcing agencies. Complaints regarding the fire safety standards of the premises occur frequently across the county and we maintain our response to such information within our objective of 24 hours for life endangering conditions. Our continued work with agencies within the HBRP, continues to identify high risk premises as a result of the visits of other agencies. This approach also highlights premises we do not need to visit following information from our partners.

Enforcement

Three enforcement notices were served, on a restaurant and two shops.

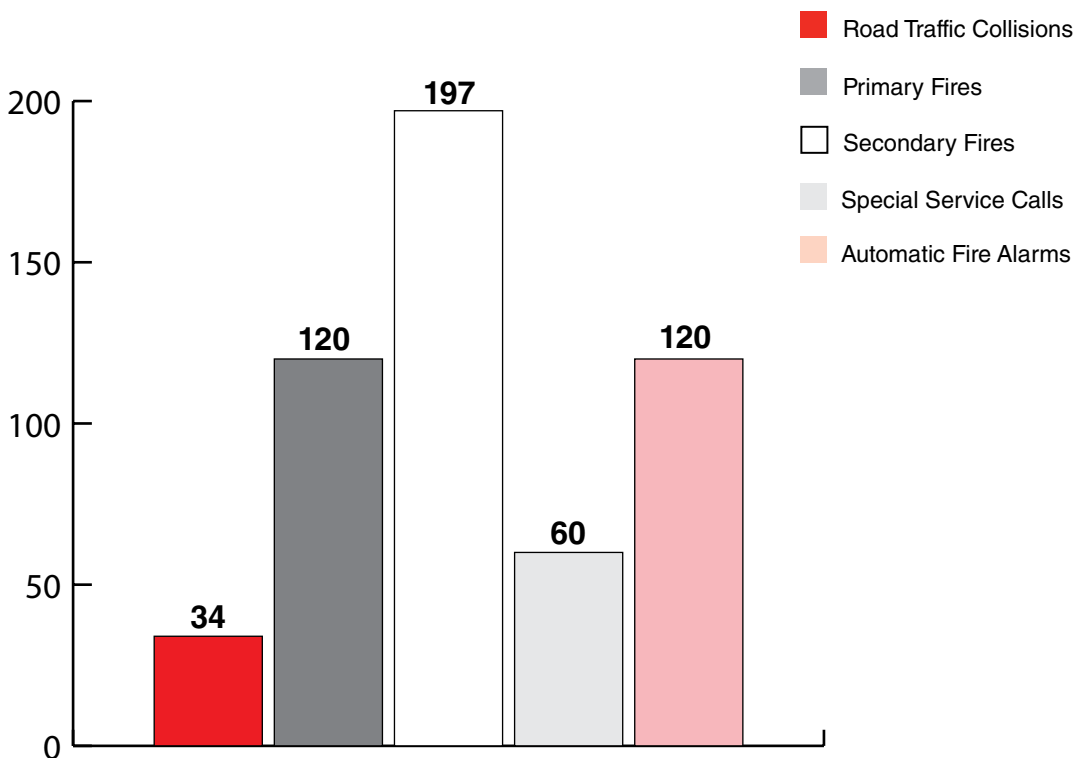
Prosecution/Prohibitions

Three prohibition notices have been served during this period on a restaurant, a takeaway with sleeping accommodation above and accommodation used as sleeping above a licensed premises.

Community Response

On 3 May 2011 at 20:46 crews were mobilised to a thatch roofed property fire in Warblington, Havant. The roof was 100 percent destroyed by fire, first floor 70 percent damaged by fire and the ground floor severely damaged by smoke and water. (Please see 1.4 for further details).

On 28 July 2011 at 11:39 control room operators were alerted to a car fire in Oakhanger. A crew from Bordon were mobilised to the scene and used one hose reel and one breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire. Tragically there was a person inside the car. Firefighters assisted the police with access to the vehicle and a subsequent investigation determined that this was a suicide.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 201

Smoke Detectors fitted: 235

Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group has had six investigations in the reporting period, involving two vehicles, a flat, house, bedsit and one fatality (please see Community Response section for further details). Three were found to be deliberate, two non-suspicious and one undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

No fire investigation search dog deployments

No statements taken

Mosaic Risk Group

E, M and J

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire safety officers completed 29 fire safety audits for the Fareham and Gosport area for this period. Through a targeted approach with a national company, we are achieving a positive change in fire safety culture within the business. This activity was the result of formal enforcement action, by way of an enforcement notice and a prohibition notice being served on the company.

In consultation with our local authority building control partners a new 80 bed residential care/nursing home is in the process of being constructed and covered by a full sprinkler system. This will ensure the safety of those in care, protect the business from fire and has progressed good local partnership working. We have worked with Gosport Borough Council with six sheltered housing schemes. By working collaboratively a prompt response in agreeing appropriate remedial works to remove significant hazards, we did not serve any formal enforcement notices. Gosport Borough Council Town Hall is another example of where good joint working has seen the risk reduced for occupants of the building without the need for formal enforcement.

Enforcement

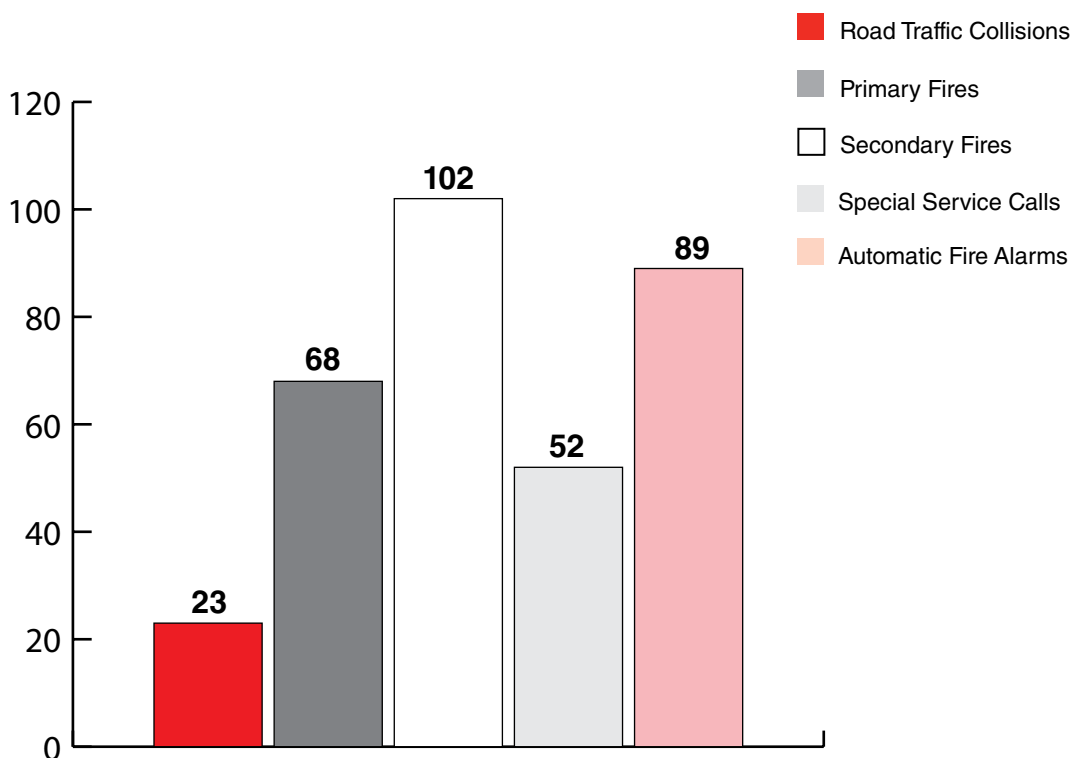
There were two enforcement notices served on a shop and a licensed premises.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

At 11:47 on 12 May 2011 crews were called to a chemical suicide in a private dwelling in Bridgemary, Gosport. Five pumps, a special equipment unit, hazmat officer and detection, identification and monitoring (DIM) unit were in attendance. The chemical was believed to be helium. Four gas-tight suits with breathing apparatus, four additional sets of breathing apparatus, positive pressure ventilation and the decontamination unit were used at the incident.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 592

Smoke Detectors fitted: 563

Fire Investigations

Portsmouth Group has had 19 investigations in the reporting period, involving four disused buildings, six flats, two houses, a waste bin store, a caravan, four vehicles and a prison cell and one fatality (see Community Response and 1.4 for further details). 15 were found to be deliberate, three non-suspicious and one undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Two fire investigation search dog deployments

Six statements taken

Mosaic Risk Group

G, N and I

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The number of fire safety audits completed for this period was 89. Members will be aware of the recent events surrounding the 'Blade' building set to be constructed for student accommodation in Portsmouth. This 33 storey building was designed not to have sprinklers fitted. By taking a major incident approach we successfully influenced the developer to install sprinklers within this building. The successful campaign involving many areas of the Service and has been widely publicised nationally, through the print and broadcast media, trade press and the wider fire sector. Our strong links with other fire and rescue services and the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), allowed us to build a compelling case and we met with the developers on a number of occasions. These links will also assist us to lobby government for a change in building regulations and ensure this situation does not happen again in the future.

We organised a fire safety road show event at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in conjunction with the hospital and our response colleagues. This event helped to raise awareness of fire safety to staff at the hospital and the wider public. This has helped to build a safer building with the management of the hospital improving their fire safety management.

A new method of responding to unwanted fire signals (UFS) commenced in April 2011. This method now sees protection officers responding to calls at lower risk premises during the day. This approach allows us to educate those responsible for buildings directly at the scene of an unwanted fire signal, helping to further reduce

our activity in this area. We will evaluate this project after 12 months and in conjunction with the phased approach being adopted to cover Southampton and Basingstoke.

Enforcement

A total of five enforcement notices were served in this period to licensed premises, a guest house and restaurants.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

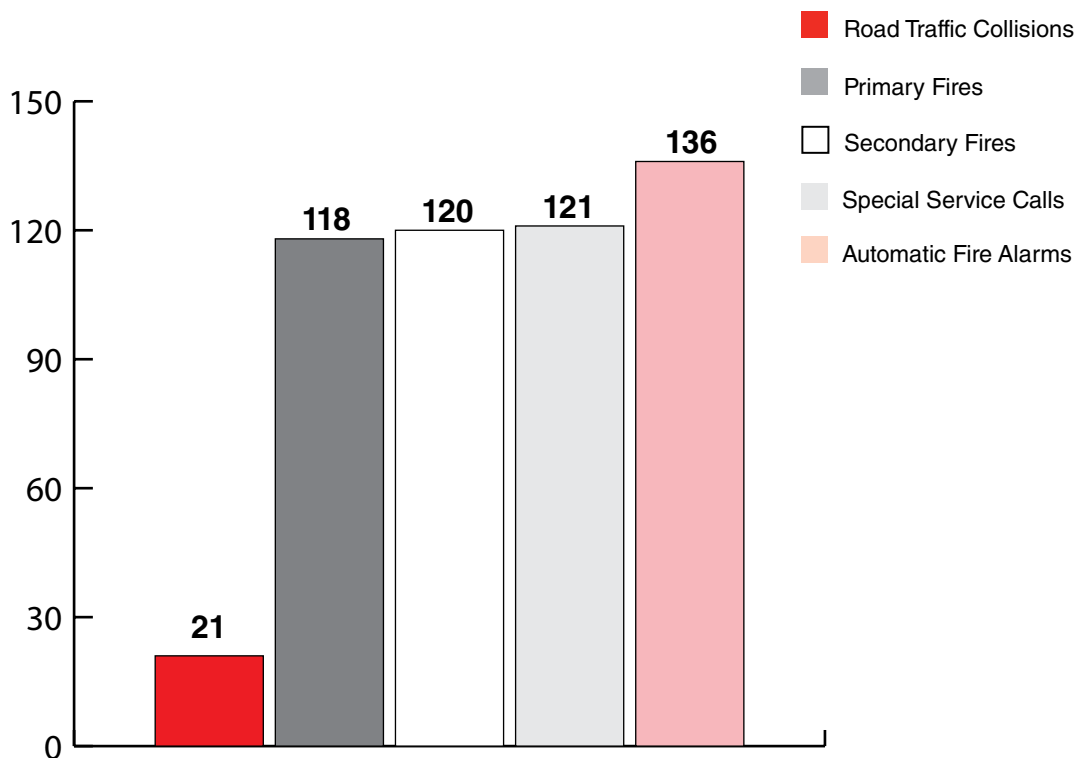
Five prohibition notices were served. Premises included a takeaway with sleeping accommodation above, a restaurant and flats.

Community Response

On 16 May 2011 at 17:16, crews were called to a fire in a flat on the ninth floor of an 18-storey high rise block of flats in Nickelby House, All Saints Road, Buckland, Portsmouth. One male sadly died in the fire.

The room of origin was 100 percent damaged by fire, 50 percent of the remainder of flat was damaged by heat and smoke. Five appliances, a special equipment unit and an aerial ladder platform were in attendance. Six sets of breathing apparatus were also used.

(Please see 1.3 for further details).



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 66

Smoke Detectors fitted: 49

Fire Investigations

Winchester Group has had two investigations in the reporting period, involving a prison cell, a domestic summer house, garden sheds and numerous trees and fences. Both were found to be deliberate.

Arson and Risk Reduction

No fire investigation search dog deployments

No statements taken

Mosaic Risk Group

D, A and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 69 fire safety audits were completed.

As a result of our response staff having received specific training on fire safety protection issues called 'Post Incident Protection Protocols', we continue to see more urgent action requests. In this quarter we have responded to 11 such requests.

We were particularly active during this period with the Winchester group due to the large number of open air events in the area over the summer months.

Enforcement

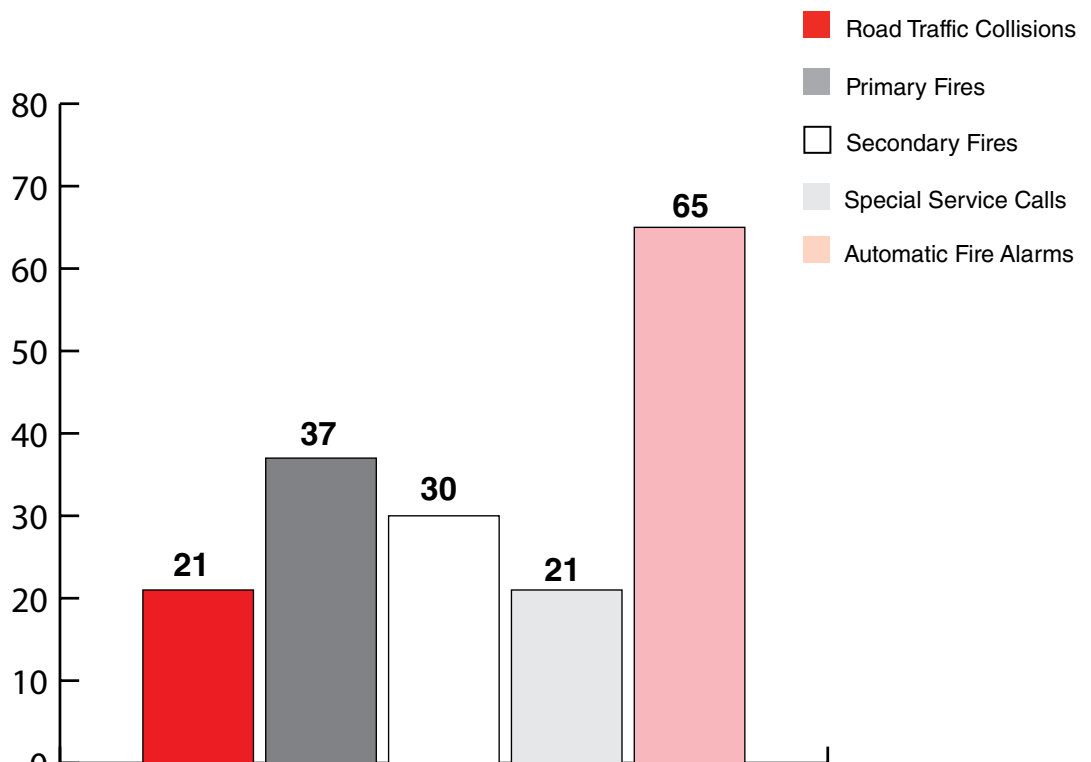
One enforcement notice was issued during this period. This was to a public house providing bed and breakfast accommodation.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

One prohibition notice was issued. This was to a restaurant providing sleeping accommodation for staff with insufficient fire detection and warning arrangements. The notice was removed the following day as the arrangements had been sufficiently improved.

Community Response

At 20:35 on 14 July 2011, crews were called to a fire in a derelict farm building previously used as a mushroom farm in Duke Street, Micheldever. Four appliances and a special equipment unit were used to bring the fire under control in the timber and corrugated steel construction.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 135

Smoke Detectors fitted: 93

Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group has had 11 investigations in the reporting period, involving a commercial workshop, portable cabin, workshop/stable, a flat, bungalow, shop, house, domestic BBQ, domestic outbuilding and a caravan. Five were found to be deliberate, five non-suspicious and one undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Two fire investigation search dog deployments

One statement taken

Mosaic Risk Group

D, M and A

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 55 fire safety audits were completed, these were identified using risk analysis, the type of premises audited was mainly shops, industrial units, restaurants, and three residential care homes. The joint working with Eastleigh Borough Council house of multiple occupancy (HMO) team continues with great success. A total of 10 HMOs have been inspected. A total of 45 consultations have been completed under building and licensing regulations. The main area of audit inspection activity has been sleeping accommodation and HMOs. We have worked closely with B&Q with the fire safety solutions within their new headquarters building in Chandlers Ford. This close working has seen sprinklers form part of this building. We have also worked with Travelodge Ltd regarding their new development within Eastleigh. We are seeking a high level of fire safety within the premises with the potential for sprinklers. We are also seeking their views with regard to this standard across the country in new developments.

We are continuing to expand and improve our Local Government Regulation partnerships by drafting a partnership with Test Valley Borough Council private sector housing team. We are working with Test Valley Borough Council and Eastleigh Borough Council on a pilot partnership in relation to caravan parks and fire safety. We continue to provide support and advice to the Winchester and Test Valley Safety Advisory Groups.

Enforcement

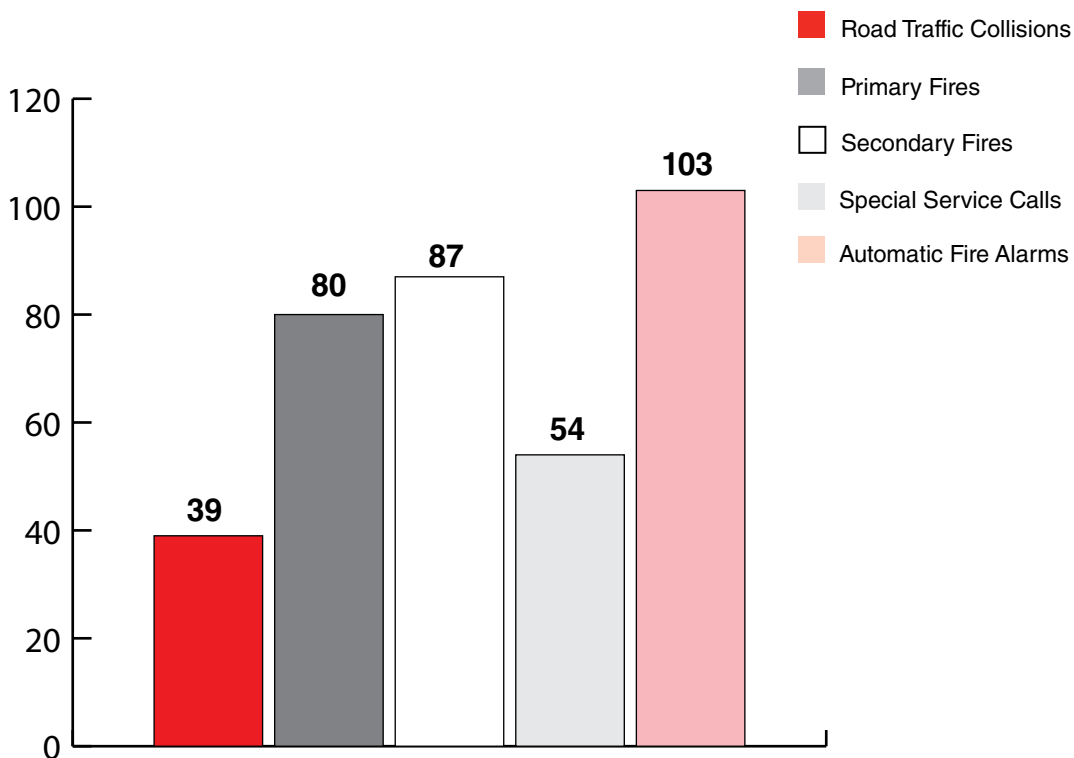
Four enforcement notices were issued during this period to licensed premises and HMO premises.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were issued to accommodation above retail shops.

Community Response

At 22:14 on 6 May 2011, crews were called to a fire in a single storey vehicle workshop in Weyhill, Andover. The building was 100 percent damaged by fire, with four acetylene cylinders in the premises, one of which was affected by fire, with three LPG and two oxygen cylinders also affected by fire. Four appliances, the command unit, a special equipment unit, two water carriers, a Hazmat Officer and Duty Photographer were also in attendance. One adult male casualty was taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 509

Smoke Detectors fitted: 349

Fire Investigations

Southampton Group has had 20 investigations in the reporting period, involving five houses, seven flats, a domestic bin, series of commercial bins, commercial car wash building, two shops, a care home and two commercial offices. 12 were found to be deliberate, six non-suspicious and two undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Two fire investigation search dog deployments

Seven statements taken

Mosaic Risk Group

G, N and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

In this period 105 fire safety audits have been completed within the highest risk premises. 41 complaints against fire safety standards have been dealt with within a 24 hour period due to the refuse dispute.

The unwanted fire signals (UFS) pilot commenced in Southampton on the 4 July. This 12 month pilot has been established in a phased approach following implementation in Portsmouth in April. We are working in consultation with local authority partners and the principle contractor with a development at Admirals Quay, Ocean Village. The proposed development is for a 22 storey block of flats with commercial premises on the lowest two floors. We will be seeking the highest standard of fire safety whilst working with the developer. Joint working with response, protection and the local authority has led to the successful staging of the Clipper event in Ocean Village, without incident.

Enforcement

We served 16 enforcement notices during this period. Premises included shops, house of multiple occupancy (HMO) and licensed premises.

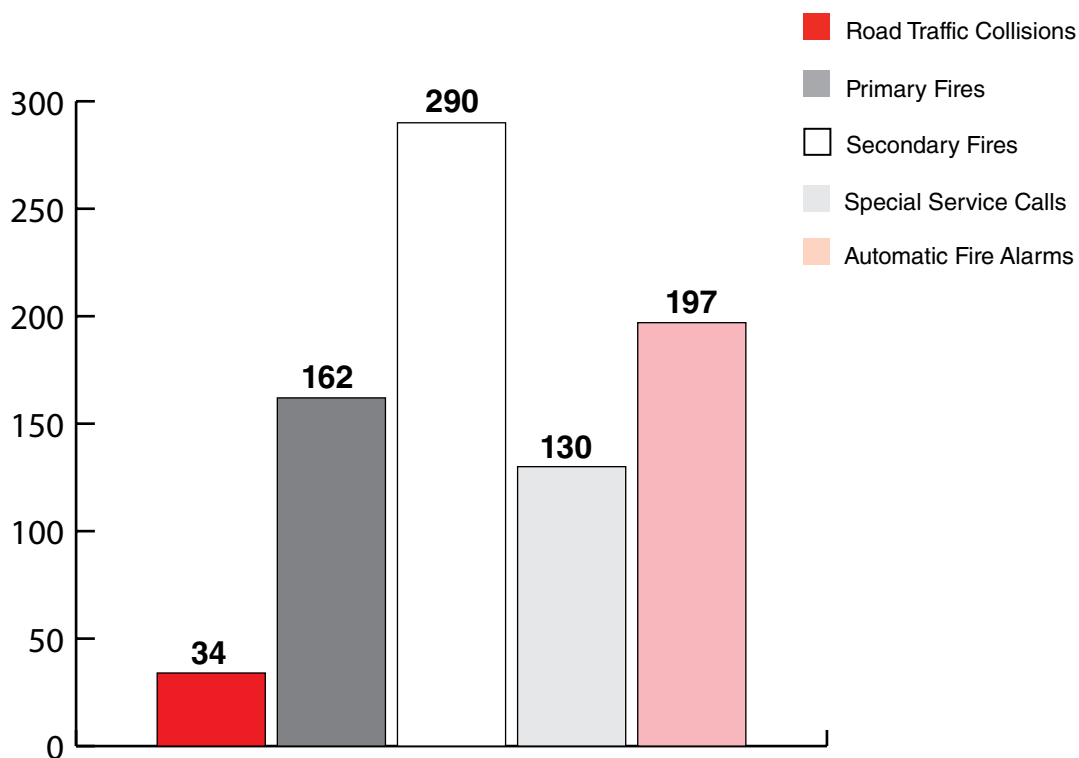
Prosecution/Prohibitions

We have five current premises being investigated for further legal action. In this period four prohibition notices were served on a shop, hotel, HMO and takeaway establishment.

Community Response

At 12:35 on 4 June 2011, crews were called to a fire in a building consisting of 28 flats and a doctor’s surgery in Jackmans Close, Woolston, Southampton. The fire was in a flat on the second floor, spreading to the third floor and roof. One person was rescued by firefighters from a balcony and taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service. Ten appliances, a special equipment unit, an aerial ladder platform, command units and command support, the duty press officer and duty photographer, duty operational equipment technician and duty comms were in attendance.

(Please 1.5 for further details.)



Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 122

Smoke Detectors fitted: 121

Fire Investigations

New Forest Group has had seven investigations in the reporting period, involving three houses, public house/restaurant, vehicle, shed and a car repair garage. Five were found to be deliberate, one non-suspicious and one undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

One fire investigation search dog deployment

Mosaic Risk Group

A, D and B

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

New Forest office continues to target sleeping accommodation working towards its completion in time for the Summer Olympics 2012. 77 fire safety audits have been completed along with 10 complaints against fire safety standards. The New Forest office has recently commenced inspection under the Hampshire Better Regulation Project (HBRP). This is proving very successful in identifying premises where fire safety standards are below average.

Enforcement

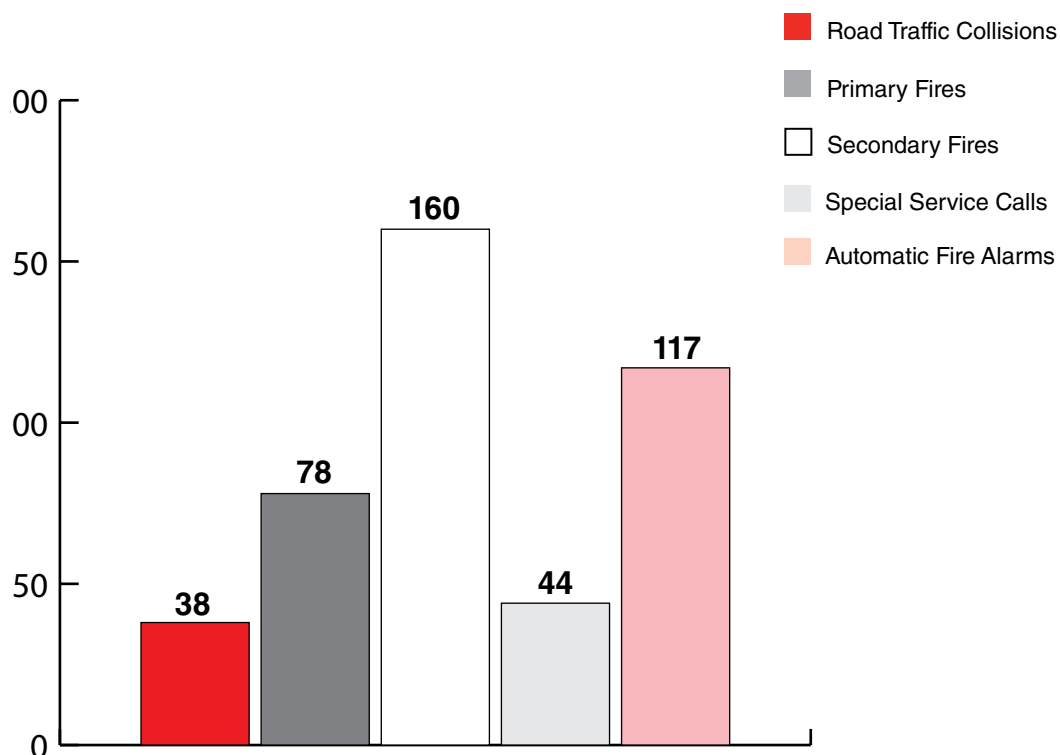
Four enforcement notices were served on a licensed premises, a restaurant and HMO premises.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

Three prohibition notices were issued in this period. These were on a hotel, a restaurant and a shop.

Community Response

At 03:58 on 30 June 2011, crews were called to an 'L' shaped building of traditional construction with a slate roof in Fryern Court Road, Tinkers Cross, Fordingbridge. 50 percent of the roof was involved in fire, 30 percent of first floor damaged by fire and 75 percent of first floor damaged by smoke and water. Two people were treated by Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) on site for smoke inhalation. Eight appliances, a compressed air foam system (CAFS) appliance, a special equipment unit, an aerial ladder platform, two command units, the duty operational equipment technician and duty photographer were in attendance. Six jets, five hose reel jets and 25 sets of breathing apparatus were used to bring the fire under control.



4.1

Partnership working during floods in Hampshire and Dorset

On Thursday 18 August there were some weather related floods in Hampshire and significant floods in Dorset.

Six fire appliances from Hampshire were mobilised to Dorset to support and assist Dorset Fire and Rescue Service with weather related incidents in their county.

4.2

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service called to attend a fire in Portsmouth

On Friday 19 August 2011 at 19:49 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a large fire at Airport Industrial Estate in Portsmouth.

Control operators mobilised ten fire appliances including those from Southsea, Cosham and Havant fire stations. The special equipment unit from Cosham and the aerial ladder platform from Southsea were also in attendance.

The fire involved an automotive body repair shop containing eight cars and one motorcycle. Fire spread to involve five further vehicles outside of the building.

On arrival, the initial crews were faced with a well developed fire in a large building with a large amount of smoke. Due to the swift action and coordinated approach the crews were able to prevent any significant spread to nearby businesses.

The building of timber and tin construction, measuring 40 metres by 20 metres, was 90 percent damaged by fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire using two breathing apparatus, six jets and the aerial ladder platform.

The results of an investigation determined that the origin of the fire was around the spray booth/oven and the most likely cause of the fire was accidental.

4.3

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service crews respond to huge blaze at recycling facility in Lasham

At 16:44 on Friday 26 August 2011 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a fire at Loddon Recycling, Church Lane, Lasham, near Basingstoke.

The fire involved a large single storey industrial warehouse used as a recycling facility. The warehouse was occupied at the time of the fire and contained 300 tonnes of used alkaline, zinc chloride and lithium batteries, two diesel vans and various quantities of plastic and cardboard boxes used for packaging purposes.

Ten crews from across Hampshire were mobilised to tackle the blaze and at the height of the incident over 75 firefighters were in attendance, together with 16 officers and other support staff. Fire crews from nearby Lasham Airfield also worked alongside the firefighters from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and crews from neighbouring counties Surrey and Berkshire were also mobilised to assist at the scene.

Firefighters from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service remained at the scene overnight and operations were stepped up to extinguish the smouldering remains the following day [Saturday 27 August].

On Sunday 28 August 2011 the fire fighting operation was scaled down to six firefighters in breathing apparatus together with jets, three fire appliances and two water carriers. A landrover pump was used to pump contaminated water to specialist bowsers for removal from the scene. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team based at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service headquarters were also mobilised to assist with cutting away the remains of the building to enable access to hot spots.

During the following two days [Monday 29 August and Tuesday 30 August 2011] members of the USAR team continued to cut away and remove the collapsed structure in order to gain access to the stored batteries. Once access was created the batteries and other debris, much of which had melted into a single large mass, were removed using mechanical equipment.

Activity was constrained by the need to avoid contaminated water run off from the site and we assisted the Environment Agency in the safe removal of potentially contaminated water during the incident.

The fire investigation determined the cause of the blaze is most likely to be accidental.

Mosaic Risk Groups

- A Residents of isolated rural communities
- B Residents of small and mid-sized towns with strong local roots
- C Wealthy people living in the most sought-after neighbourhoods
- D Successful professionals living in suburban or semi-rural homes
- E Middle income families living in moderate suburban semis
- F Couples with young children in comfortable modern housing
- G Young, well-educated city dwellers
- H Couples and young singles in small modern starter homes
- I Lower income workers in urban terraces in often diverse areas
- J Owner occupiers in older-style housing, typically in ex-industrial areas
- K Residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social housing
- L Active elderly people living in pleasant retirement locations
- M Elderly people reliant on state support
- N Young people renting flats in high density social housing
- O Families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need



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