

24 December 2010 – 29 April 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:
New Winchester Fire Station

Introduction

This activity report covers the period 24 December 2010 to 29 April 2011. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 29 April and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Stop Press” section of the report.

On the 27 April we were proud to have had Dame Mary Fagan officially open the new Winchester Fire Station. This important new building is testimony to the way in which the architect, the project board and the firefighters at Winchester all worked together to develop a fire station that is truly functional, as well as being a building that portrays the professionalism of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. The purpose-built facility is the first completed UK fire station to be awarded the standard of BREEAM ‘Excellent’ under the BRE Environmental Assessment Method. BREEAM is the world’s most widely used environmental assessment model.

I am delighted to be able to report that there have been no fire deaths within this reporting period. There have been a number of near misses where either early warning from smoke detectors has prevented a tragedy or the timely intervention of our firefighters has saved lives. Unfortunately some of those rescued did sustain serious injuries. We continue to respond to serious roof fires involving thatched properties, although our prevention campaign has seen a reduction in the overall number. The two new rescue pumps that are equipped with Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS) have now been used

at these incidents and have improved our ability to suppress the fire and make fire breaks which is an important tactic in dealing with these types of incidents. We will continue to develop new techniques to utilise CAFS in a wider fire fighting role.

As part of our commitment to multi-agency working, our ‘Safeguarding Scheme’ ensures that when we encounter vulnerable people with welfare needs we have a Safeguarding Officer available 24/7. This ensures that we actively pursue assistance through the relative partners to assist when required. This report cannot give details of the assistance given but does show the level of important activity that this small team is involved in.

Finally, the recent incident aboard HMS Astute reinforces the need to further develop our response to incidents involving firearms. We are now well advanced with the provision of training and equipment to allow us to operate with the police and ambulance service in incidents that involve the need to rescue casualties when a firearms incident is in progress.

01 Responding to incidents

1.1

Thatch fire in Popham

Control room operators received a call to a thatch fire in Popham on 9 January 2011 at 00:11.

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 was also mobilised to the scene.

Crews arrived to find a two storey thatch building (19 x12 m) 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 first dwelling was severely damaged by fire.



The first floor of the adjoining property was 70% damaged by fire and the ground floor was 40% damaged by fire. Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control using 48 breathing apparatus, five jets and four hose reels. An investigation revealed that the most likely cause was heat from a faulty chimney stack igniting the thatch.

1.2

Bungalow fire in Marchwood

Control operators were alerted at 09:55 on 18 January 2011 to a severe fire in a bungalow at Pooksgreen, Marchwood.

Crews from Hythe, Lyndhurst, Totton, Eastleigh, Redbridge, St Mary's and Beaulieu Fire Stations were mobilised to the scene. Firefighters tackled the blaze at the detached property, of traditional construction measuring 20m x 20m, using 24 breathing apparatus, two jets, two high pressure hose reels, and one fan spray monitor.

Crews worked hard cutting away sections of a porch located at the front of the property to stop the fire spreading further as the heat was radiating towards this structure which consisted of compressed straw. The firefighters also removed tiles from the front and back of the collapsed roof which would have been a hazard to the structural engineer and fire investigating officer who required access to the building once it had been made safe. The cause of this fire was undetermined but most likely caused by accidental careless use of smoking materials.

01 Responding to incidents

1.3

Fire in a Basingstoke hotel

More than 30 firefighters tackled a blaze at a hotel in Basingstoke on Saturday 22 January 2011.

Firefighters from Basingstoke, Overton, Kingsclere and Eastleigh were mobilised after fire control 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 hotel, bar and restaurant. Basingstoke's aerial ladder platform and special equipment unit were also mobilised to the scene, along with the incident command unit. Fire crews used six sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels and the aerial ladder platform to extinguish the blaze.

1.4

18 residents led to safety after serious blaze in Southampton

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

Control operators were alerted to a fire in a ground floor shop in Derby Road, Southampton. On arrival at the scene, fire crews from nearby St. Mary's faced a serious, developing fire in the terraced premises, and reports that persons were unaccounted for.

With 14 firefighters and two officers in attendance at the scene, 18 residents were successfully led to safety from the adjoining houses, 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 (SCAS), along with one three month old infant that was treated for the effects of slight smoke inhalation. One further male casualty was taken to hospital by ambulance with back injuries. An investigation revealed that the cause was arson.

01 Responding to incidents

1.5

Overtaken kerosene tanker

Control room operators received a call on 3 February 2011 at 09:42 regarding a kerosene tanker carrying 10,000 litres of kerosene oil which had overturned in Coombe Road, East Meon.

Three crews and the special equipment unit were mobilised to the scene where 2,500 litres of kerosene had spilled from the lorry on to the highway. The tanker still had another 6,000 litres on board. Fire crews immediately put measures in place to prevent further spillage using poly boom and earth. The spillage was contained using Environment Agency equipment.

1.6

Fire in a public house in Southampton

Control room operators received a call on 4 February 2011 at 02:56, to a fire in 'Shotts' Public House in Onslow Road, Bevois Valley, Southampton.

The building was of traditional construction and consisted of a basement, ground floor and first floor. Crews from St Mary's, Redbridge, Hightown and Hamble were mobilised to the scene.



The aerial ladder platform from Redbridge and the special equipment unit from St Mary's were also in attendance. On arrival the crews were faced with a fire on the first floor at the rear of the building. The firefighters used 18 breathing apparatus, five jets and one hose reel to bring the blaze under control.

The ground floor was severely damaged by fire and the other floors damaged by smoke. The investigation revealed that the cause of this fire was arson.

01 Responding to incidents

1.7

UK ISAR Deployment to New Zealand and Japan

A significant 6.3 earthquake hit Christchurch at 12:51 on 21 February local time [23:51 GMT 22 February], causing widespread destruction and multiple fatalities in the city centre.

The New Zealand Prime Minister declared a 'national state of emergency' giving civil defence officials the authority to direct national resources to the ongoing operations in Christchurch. As part of the UK-ISAR team nine Hampshire firefighters were deployed and arrived in Christchurch, New Zealand on Friday 25 February to assist with search and rescue efforts. They searched and cleared three complete city blocks and also carried out searches on specific buildings.

They returned home from New Zealand on Tuesday 8 March arriving at Heathrow Airport. A major earthquake, measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale, struck the north-east of Japan at 14:46 local time [05:46

GMT] on Friday 11 March, triggering a tsunami that caused extensive damage and numerous casualties. In response to the tragedy, the Department for International Development (DFID) mobilised the UK-ISAR team, following the British Government's offer to assist.

On Sunday 13 March five firefighters and one search dog (Byron) from HFRS were mobilised as part of the UK-ISAR team. Co-ordination for the 63-strong UK-ISAR team took place from the headquarters of HFRS, under the direction of Group Manager Pete Crook. The UK-ISAR team returned to the UK on 19 March 2011 and were met at Manchester Airport.



01 Responding to incidents

1.8

Serious thatched property fire in Upton

Control room operators received a call about a fire in Upton on Sunday 27 February 2011 at 20:23.

Three appliances from Andover and Whitchurch were mobilised. Crews arrived to find this two storey thatched property (30 x 10 m) with the roof well alight. Further fire appliances were immediately mobilised from Berkshire and Wiltshire. Ancillary appliances included two water carriers, the multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh and the incident command unit were also on scene.

The fire had developed such that the entire roof was engulfed in fire. Crews immediately set upon extinguishing the fire and salvaging the contents of the ground floor. They did a fantastic job in salvaging the valuables and personal belongings from the ground floor whilst bringing the fire under control using 14 breathing apparatus, four jets and two hose reels. An investigation confirmed that this fire was caused by items falling from the wood burning stove igniting items in the sitting room.

1.9

Submarine incident in Southampton Dockyard

At 12:39 on Friday 8 April 2011 we were called to assist with the recovery of a casualty onboard HMS Astute, a submarine moored at Eastern Docks in Southampton.

Control operators immediately mobilised firefighters to assist at the scene. Two fire appliances and the special equipment unit from St Mary's were in attendance together with members of the Urban Search and Rescue Team. Crews assisted in the recovery of one casualty from confined space on the submarine before being handed over to the care of South Central Ambulance Service.

1.10

Heath fires in Fleet

On 25 April at 16:00 control room operators mobilised fire appliances to a heath fire in Fleet.

Six Appliances from Eastleigh, Fleet, Hartley Wintney, Rushmoor and Winchester were in attendance at the fire in Velmead Common, Velmead Road, Fleet. The fire involved four hectares of common land and was quickly suppressed using the latest CAFS (compressed air foam system).

Four hose reels, three jets and knapsack water extinguishers were used in addition to the new CAFS extinguishing method. On the same day at 17:35 control room operators mobilised fire appliances to another heath fire in Beacon Hill, Fleet. This fire involved two hectares of wooded area and was extinguished using hose reels and beaters.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.1

Prince's Trust

Between January and April we delivered two Prince's Trust courses.

One team was Southampton based at Redbridge Fire Station. 11 out of 12 team members successfully completed the course (92% success and retention). The other team was Basingstoke based. 11 out of 13 team members successfully completed the course (85% success and retention). This is a great achievement as the national benchmark is 80% success and retention rate. Both teams raised over £2000 for their respective communities.

On Friday 1 April, HFRS Prince's Trust hosted its first awards event at the Winchester Guildhall - with over 180 people in attendance. The event was a huge success, forging new partnerships, recognising key staff and the young people on our programme. Two of our key speakers were ex-team members, who have now represented HFRS and the team at local, regional and national events and within key organisations, influencing the future of Prince's Trust.

2.2

Firesetters Intervention Scheme

Within this reporting period, the team took on 43 new referrals to the Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Programme.

They have also taken on six referrals to the Adult Firesetters Intervention Programme.

2.2

Safeguarding

During this reporting period the Safeguarding team has responded to and dealt with:

- 47 Safeguarding concerns/issues
- Three Safeguarding concerns/issues internally

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.4

Road Safety

The Road Safety Team has supported Child Car Seat Checking events in Fareham and New Milton where advice and guidance on the correct fitting and size requirements for child restraints was given to all members of the public attending.

Since its launch the RideSMART motorcycle has attended ten events, generating a lot of interest and opportunities for engagement around the SMART themes.

Also, there has been a good response to the Rider Information Card with over 1000 in circulation – these give important rider details for the emergency services. Station personnel across Hampshire have carried out 12 engagement activities covering young driver/offender programmes and events for the general public. These events include station open days and road safety events at colleges in St Vincents (Gosport), Totton, Southdowns, Fareham, Havant, Sparsholt and Farnborough.

2.5

Home Safety Visits

During this reporting period we have conducted 2567 Home Safety Visits (HSV), targeted at those we consider to be most at risk, and fitted 2472 smoke detectors.

For the year 2010/11 we have achieved the service target of 10,000 Home Safety Visits completing 10,936. The visits were 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.

During this reporting period HFRS incorporated changes to the Mosaic group profiles. These increased from 11 groups to 15. The new Mosaic group descriptors do not align with previous ones and therefore the profiles allocated to I, F and G do not indicate the highest risk groups in terms of dwelling fires. Due to the changes it is not possible to make reference to I, F and G as was previously the case for Home Safety Visits undertaken.

The next reporting period will utilise the new Mosaic group categories and will identify the three highest risk Mosaic categories for each of the HFRS groups. Against each of the Mosaic group categories will be recorded the number of HSV completed.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.6

Fire Investigation and Arson Task Force

There have been 87 fire investigations in the reporting period, 50 deliberate fires for which there have been 14 arrests, 31 non-suspicious, six undetermined not known.



**A serious fire in Monks Brook Industrial Park
in Valley Park, Chandlers Ford
- see page 27**

Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 200
Smoke Detectors fitted: 197

Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane group have had five investigations in the reporting period, involving a thatched dwelling, two vehicles, a domestic flat and a house. Three of them were deliberate and two were non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 1

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Basingstoke office completed 66 Fire Safety Audits. 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 fourth 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. Of note is the conversion of a 'Water Tower' to residential flats which has now been completed.

This development has successfully been fitted with 'residential sprinklers' following advice from the Basingstoke office.

Enforcement

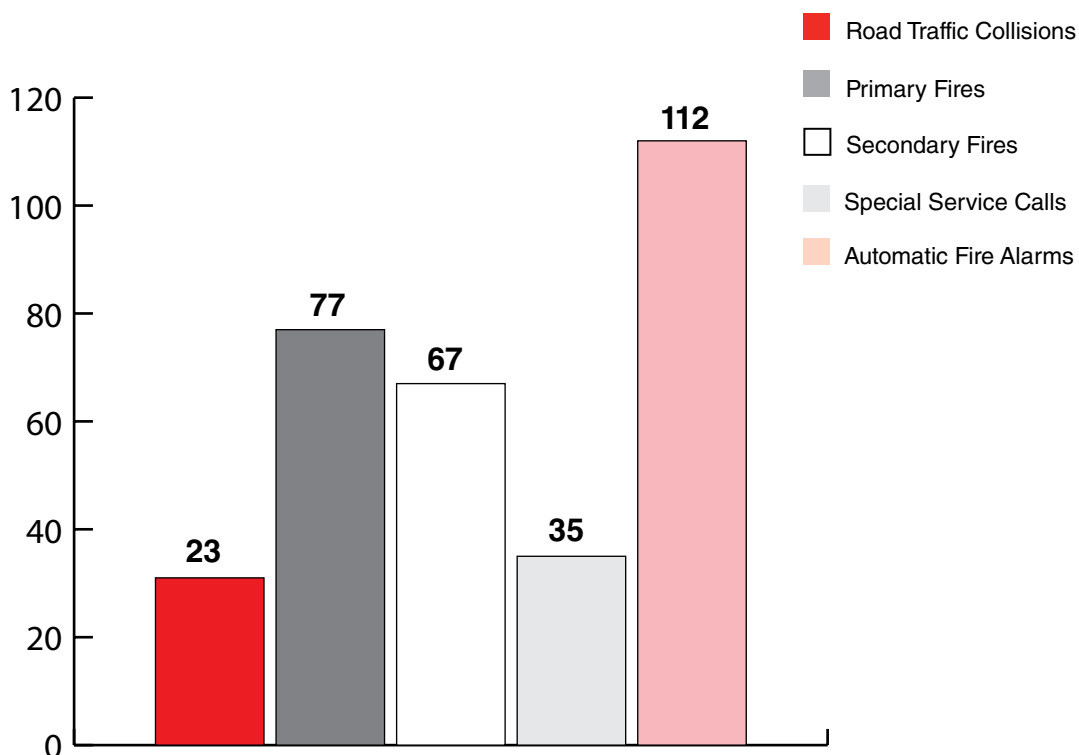
No Enforcement Notices have been served in this reporting period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

One Prohibition Notice was served restricting sleeping accommodation above a licensed premises. Following improvements this notice has now been lifted. The premises will be subject to further enforcement action to bring it up to benchmark standards. Two premises are currently undergoing legal investigation following Prohibition Notices being served. Both these premises are licensed premises and it was necessary for us to restrict the use of the premises for sleeping accommodation.

Community Response

At 00:11 on 9 January 2011 we were alerted to a serious thatch fire involving two properties in Popham. The first property was severely damaged by fire and the second property's roof and first floor were 70% damaged and the ground floor was 40% damaged by fire. Crews used 48 breathing apparatus, five jets, four hose reels and a rope pack to bring the fire under control. The stop message was received at 09:26. For more information please see 1.1



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 427

Smoke Detectors fitted: 280

Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group have had nine investigations in the reporting period, involving three houses, a garage at St Patricks Roman Catholic Primary School, an aeroplane, a vehicle, a shed at North Farnborough Infant School, a flat and caravans. Six of them were deliberate, two were non-suspicious and one was undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 1

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period 18 audits were carried out on high risk premises. These included residential care homes, hotels and identified operational risk premises. This reporting period includes the fourth quarter of the 'Pilot' trial of the combined 'Protection, Prevention, Response' concept, which has led to a working group being formed which spans all three aspects of the Service and is tasked with improving the way HFRS engages with the large Nepalese Community that is present in the north of the county. Working closely with Hart District Council, we have actively supported a recent "Face the People" event held in Fleet and the surrounding area. This work has also recently formed a small working group to address the issues around the 'night time economy' in the Hart area. We are currently working with a property development company in Farnborough, to assist and advise in the fitting of a residential sprinkler system to a newly constructed timber framed block of 24 individual dwellings.

Enforcement

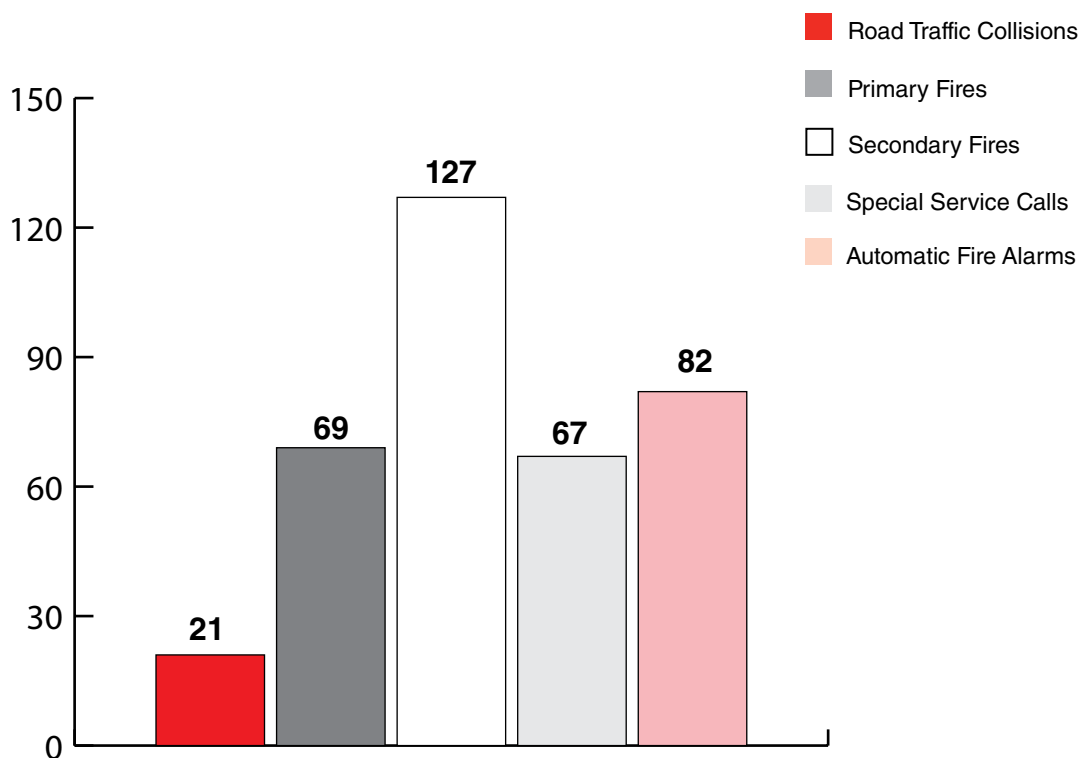
No Enforcement Notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

Two Prohibition Notices have been issued during this period, one to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) above a takeaway restaurant and one to a supermarket that was using a store room for sleeping.

Community Response

At 22:38 on 8 April 2011 we were called to a house fire in Lancer Court, Beaumont Park, Aldershot. Four crews, a Fire Investigation Officer, a Tactical Advisor and the Fire and Emergency Support Service were mobilised to the scene. The fire involved the first floor bedroom in a terraced house of traditional construction, 10m x 10m. Fire crews used eight breathing apparatus, one jet and two hose reel jets to bring the fire under control. A positive pressure ventilator and a 9m ladder was also used. A 70 year old female was treated for shock by South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). The stop message was received at 23:56.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 295

Smoke Detectors fitted: 314

Fire Investigations

Havant and East Hants Group have had 16 investigations in the reporting period, involving two domestic sheds, three houses, a bungalow, two flats, a HMO, four vehicles, a construction site, a barn and domestic grass cuttings. Nine were deliberate, four were non-suspicious and three were undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 3

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Alton office completed 94 Fire Safety Audits during this period. This included higher risk sleeping accommodation including care, nursing homes and licensed premises offering sleeping accommodation. This period included the commencement of the Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership where we gather and share intelligence with our local authority partner enforcing agencies to lessen the regulatory burden on commerce and industry.

We undertook a thematic audit in this period by targeting a number of national newsagent chain premises following the findings of deficient fire safety standards during inspections. Some of this activity has led to formal enforcement and we are seeking to engage proactively with the organisations to remedy deficiencies. We are developing our working protocols with Havant Borough Council (HBC) Private Sector Housing and undertake joint visits to HMOs and supporting each authority in line with the established protocols.

This protocol helped to identify sleeping accommodation above a restaurant where we subsequently issued a Prohibition Notice as a result of dangerous conditions being present. 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

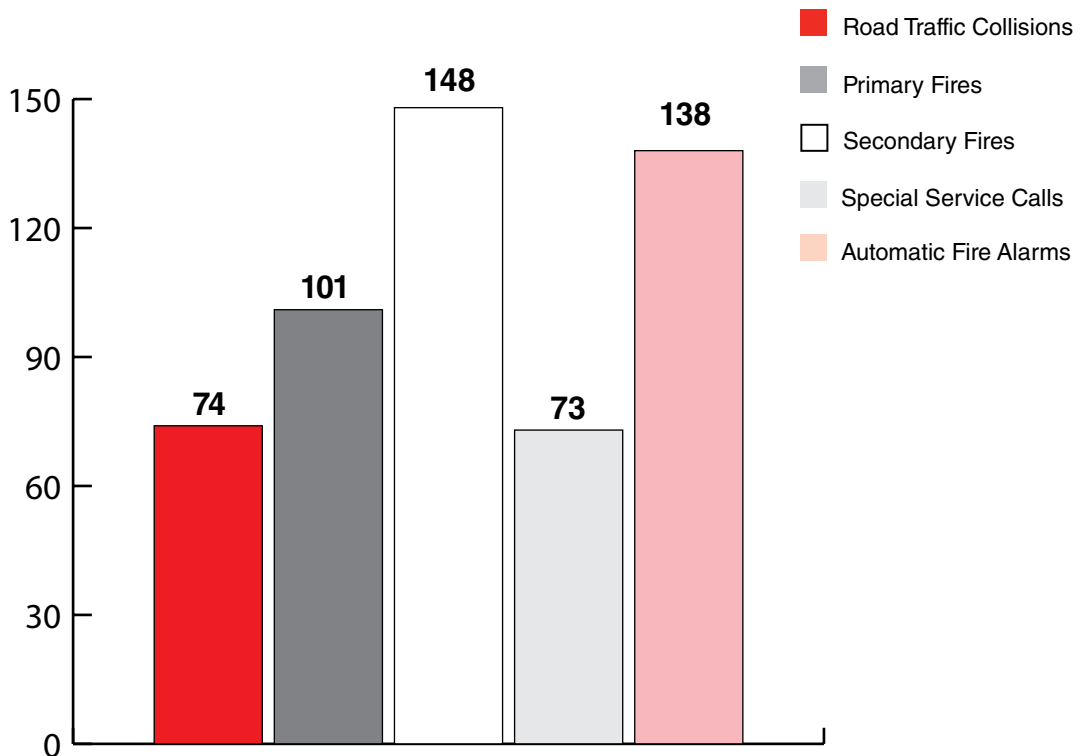
Three Enforcement Notices were issued in this period on a residential care premises, licensed premises and a shop.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

Two Prohibition Notices have been served during this period. One on accommodation used as sleeping above a licensed premises and the second on accommodation used as sleeping above a restaurant.

Community Response

At 00:56 on 13 April we responded to a fire in Curlew Gardens, Weacock Farm, Cowplain in Waterlooville. Control operators mobilised five crews, the aerial ladder platform and the special equipment unit. A total of 37 firefighters and three officers were in attendance. On arrival, the initial crews were faced with a very serious fire and flames coming out of the roof of the third house along a row of seven terraced properties. They did a good job in tackling the fire and stopping it from spreading to the adjoining properties. Firefighters were also dispatched to work on the neighbouring buildings where the roof spaces were starting to smoke. Four casualties suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation were taken to hospital by SCAS. The stop message was received at 03:35. The cause of this fire was undetermined.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 264

Smoke Detectors fitted: 319

Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group have had five investigations in the reporting period, involving a community school, two houses and two domestic sheds. Two of them were deliberate and three were non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 0

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 45. Since our last report we have influenced the installation of sprinklers in two further high risk premises. One is offices in a heritage building in Warsash, the other is a care home in Fareham. Suitable premises benefit from sprinkler installations due to type of occupancy, or to enable otherwise unsuitable premises to remain in use.

Enforcement

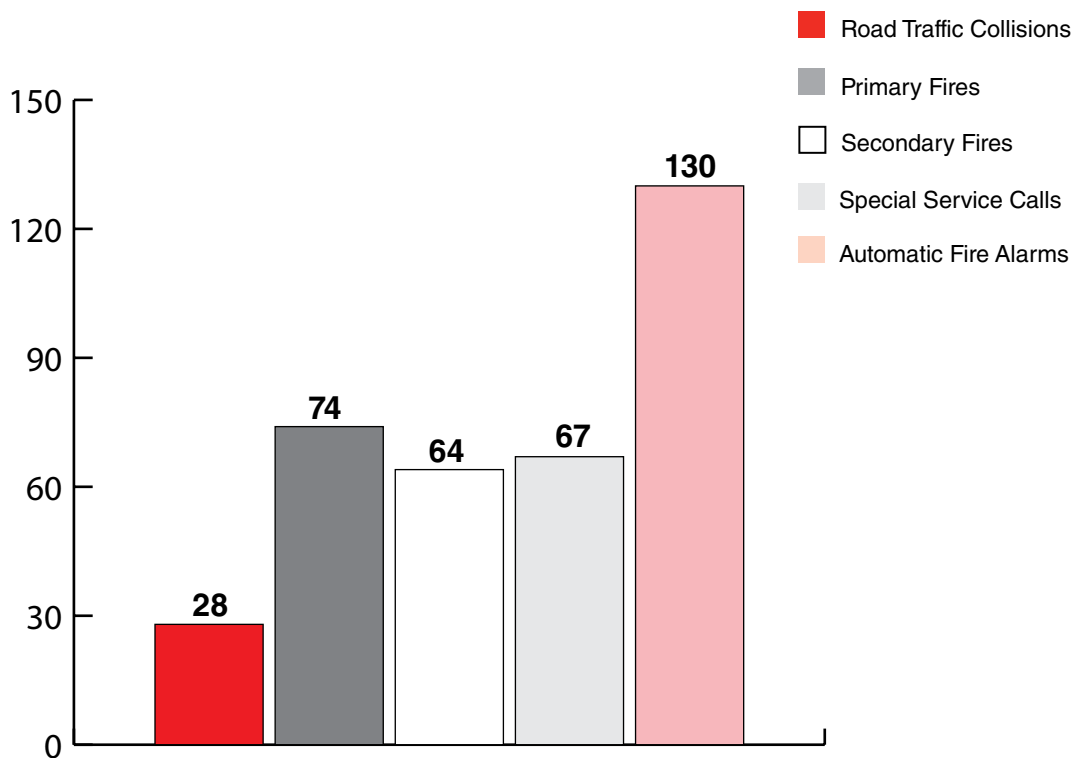
One Enforcement Notice was issued for this period to a shop.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

Over this period Fareham and Gosport issued two Prohibition Notices. Both notices were on shop premises with inadequate or non existing warning in case of fire. One notice has since been withdrawn due to the risk being reduced after working proactively with the owners. One notice is still in force.

Community Response

At 12:17 on 10 March 2011 we were called to an incident at Walpole Park Boating Lake, Creek Road in Gosport. Three crews and the water rescue unit were mobilised to the scene. One adult male was retrieved from the boating lake by HFRS using level two water rescue team. Tragically the male showed no signs of life when our crews arrived. This incident was subject to considerable local media interest that was misleading as to how we responded. The stop message was received at 13:28.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 628

Smoke Detectors fitted: 597

Fire Investigations

Portsmouth Group have had fourteen investigations in the reporting period involving four vehicles, an industrial unit, a hostel, five flats, a bedsit and three houses. Eight of them were deliberate, six were non-suspicious and one was undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 1

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The number of Fire Safety Audits completed for this period was 76, our main focus on higher risk sleeping and retail premises. Following an inspection of a Portsmouth University Halls of Residence it was identified that the fire alarm was not working adequately. We subsequently advised the university and worked with them during the day to ensure that the alarm issue was resolved without the need to issue a Prohibition Notice. We are now seeking to ensure university fire safety provision and maintenance is satisfactory and maintain a good relationship with this institution. We will continue to work with the local authority private sector housing in order to identify HMO and other shared premises. We work jointly to reduce the risk within them.

One of our inspectors has been accepted as a member of the CPS Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel and has attended his first quarterly meeting. This membership will allow us to actively promote fire safety to vulnerable groups by being in a position to work closer with them.

Enforcement

The number of Enforcement Notices issued for this period was nine. Premises included a house of multiple occupancy, a licensed premises and shops.

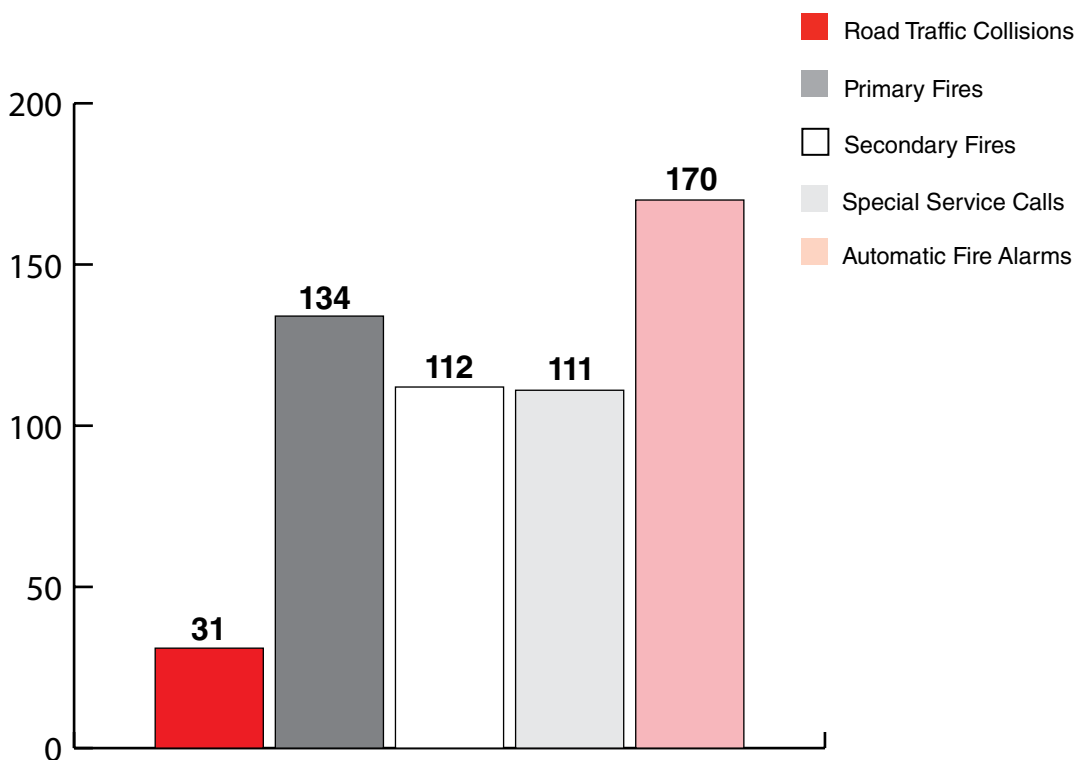
Prosecution/Prohibitions

During this period we have issued two Prohibition Notices on premises providing sleeping accommodation above takeaway restaurants.

Community Response

Two people travelling in a silver blue BMW, the driver, a man aged in his 30s, and front seat passenger, a woman aged in her 20s ploughed into a local pub.

The accident happened 15:56pm on 2 April 2011 in New Road, Portsmouth. The driver of the BMW needed to be cut free by firefighters. The driver and passenger were both taken to hospital and received medical attention for injuries which were described as serious, but not life threatening. A woman, who was inside the pub at the time of the collision received minor injuries. The Urban Search and Rescue Team also attended the incident after fears that the building may become unsafe. The building was then shored up before the car could be removed.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 102

Smoke Detectors fitted: 128

Fire Investigations

Winchester Group have had two investigations in the reporting period, involving a house and a school. One was deliberate and one was non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 0

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 64 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 have responded to four 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. We continue to inspect HMO buildings with our local authority housing colleagues, working within partnership agreements to reduce risk. To this end a new partnership agreement between Winchester City Council and HFRS has been agreed. We continue to support and encourage businesses to consider sprinkler and suppression systems.

The new Winchester Fire Station officially opened on the 27 April, the sprinkler system fitted to the premises was presented as an example of best practice.

Our post incident protocols have lead to us working closely with St. Swithuns School after a fire had occurred there.

Enforcement

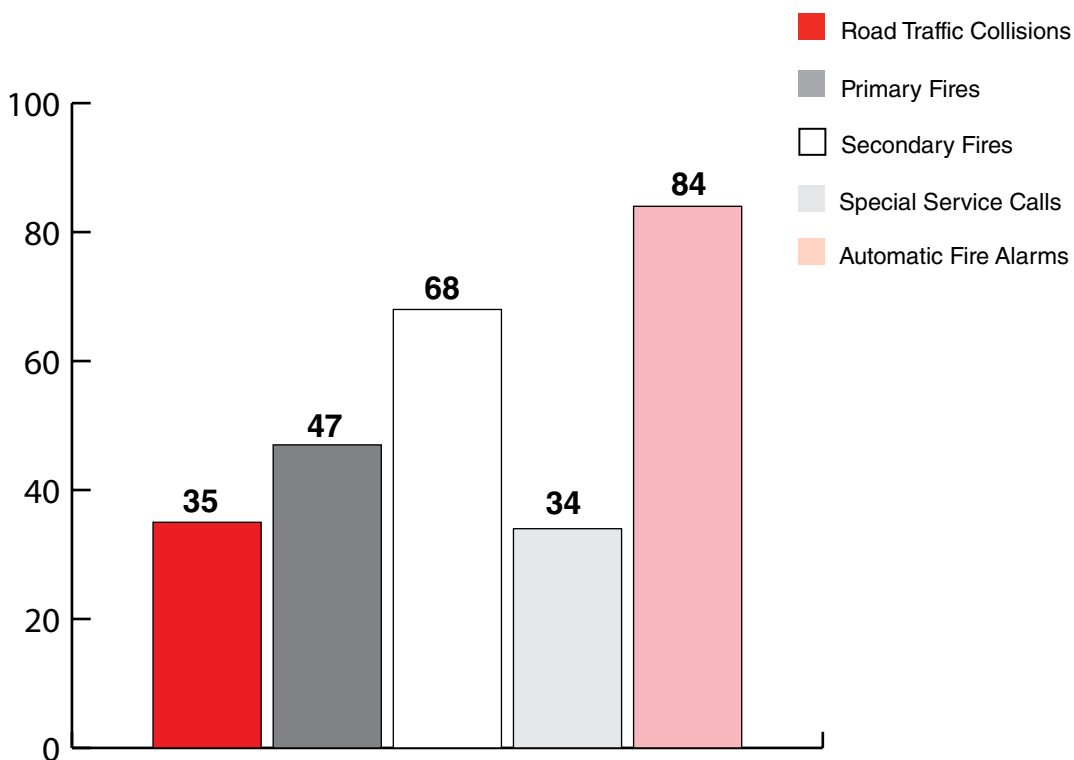
Two Enforcement Notices were issued during this period to premises offering sleeping accommodation for young people.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

There was one Prohibition Notice issued to a vehicle recovery facility. Sleeping had been allowed in a room, where the means of warning and escape in case of fire were inadequate. This has subsequently been removed in favour of an Enforcement Notice as the room is no longer used for sleeping.

Community Response

At 11:13 on 25 January the Service was alerted to a house fire in Compton Road, Winchester. Three pumps and a fire investigation officer were mobilised to the scene. This was a three storey semi-detached building of traditional construction, 15m x 15m, the fire involved a first floor bedroom. Fire crews used six breathing apparatus, three hose reels and two jets. The stop was received at 12:13.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 169

Smoke Detectors fitted: 204

Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group have had seven investigations in the reporting period, involving a public house, two vehicles, a house, a domestic wheelie bin, a flat and a thatched cottage. Two were deliberate and five were non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Arson and Risk Reduction: 3

Statements taken: 5

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 0

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 79 Fire Safety Audits were completed, these were identified using risk analysis, the type of premises audited, mainly shops, industrial units, restaurants, and three residential care homes. Following a small fire at an industrial unit at Brookwood Avenue Industrial Estate Eastleigh, we were contacted by response crews.

We subsequently completed audit inspections of six industrial units in the same close and we have now provided guidance on improvement in fire safety standards. Joint working with Eastleigh Borough Council HMO team we inspected 13 HMOs which resulted in two Prohibition Notices being issued, one by HFRS and one by the Council. We are working together using our combined sanctions to ensure the safety of these premises and the occupants. Inspectors working in the Test Valley Borough Council area are currently involved in the Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership (HBRP) designed to have a less burdensome effect on local businesses by reducing the amount of regulators visits to their premises.

We continue to support and encourage businesses to consider sprinkler and suppression systems. We have two major construction projects in our area and they are the multi storey car park at Parkway Station, Eastleigh and the new auditorium at Kings Church Hedge End.

Enforcement

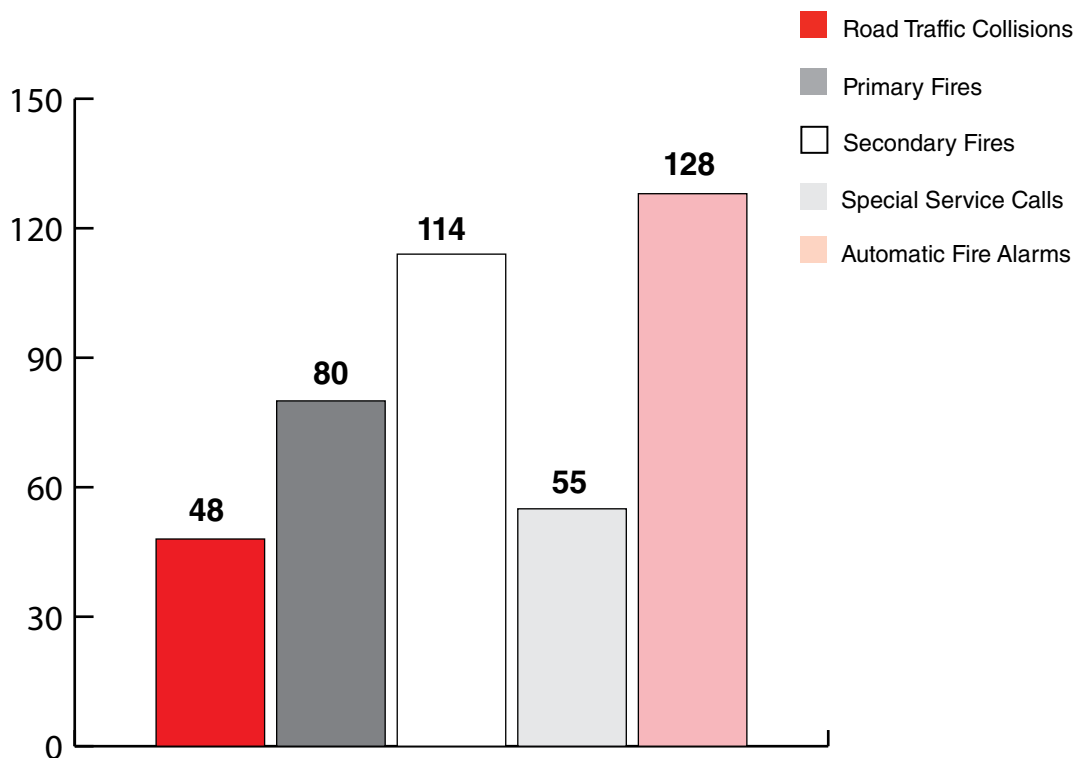
Ten Enforcement Notices were issued during this period. Individual notices were served on a number of residential blocks within one activity site, to detail the differing requirements. Other premises included licensed premises and shops.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

There were no prosecutions with four Prohibitions Notices issued, three to staff accommodation at an activity centre and one to flats above a shop.

Community Response

At 18:42 on Saturday 12 March we received a 999 call alerting us to a serious fire in Monks Brook Industrial Park in Valley Park, Chandlers Ford. With two double-decker buses and a single-decker bus reported to be involved in the blaze, control operators mobilised three crews. 20 firefighters tackled the challenging incident preventing the fire from spreading to an adjacent two-storey building. Four jets, 10 sets of breathing apparatus, one portable hand-held prima foam unit and one foam branch were used to bring the blaze under control. The cause of this fire was deliberate but no one has been arrested.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 353

Smoke Detectors fitted: 269

Fire Investigations

Southampton Group have had 16 investigations in the reporting period, involving a leisure centre, a shed, three shops, a house, a person, a public house/night club, five flats, an industrial unit, a HMO and a domestic shed. 12 of them were deliberate, three were non-suspicious and one was undetermined.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 4

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Redbridge office continues to inspect the highest risk premises. 56 Fire Safety Audits have been completed and 21 complaints against fire safety standards have been dealt with within the agreed 24 hour period. Statutory Building Regulations consultations continue across the group including the new development of 115 residential premises adjacent to the Mayflower Theatre. Our prime focus continues to be residential accommodation. Following a fire in a bed sit a Prohibition Notice was served for a risk to life. Not only were the fire safety provisions below the expected standard, the occupants were amongst some of the most vulnerable requiring housing. This action was taken in partnership with the local authority, who we continue to work closely with to target and enforce where necessary. We have been working with Southampton City Council, giving support and advice to architects to assist in making the Civic Centre clock tower a safe and compliant structure. This will allow the tower to be used for guided tours offering a unique experience to both local residents and tourists visiting Southampton.

Enforcement

Five Enforcement Notices were served in this period. Premises included a residential care home, a licensed premises and shops.

Prosecution/Prohibitions

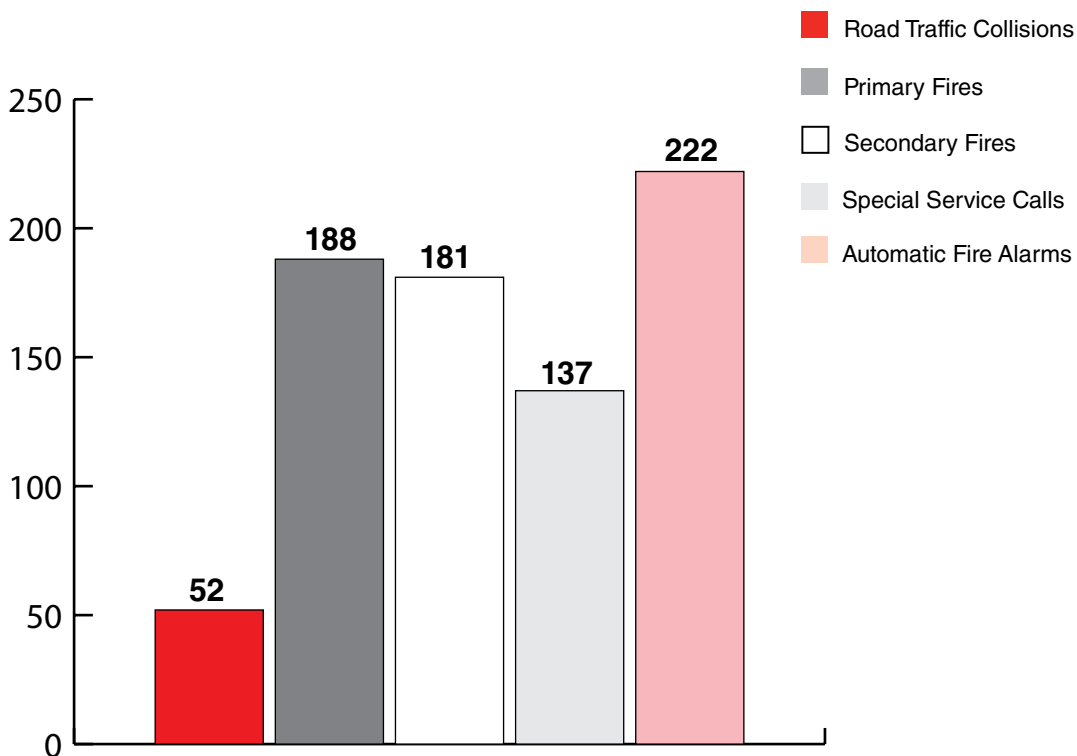
We have served five Prohibition Notices in this period, all are now being investigated in conjunction with our legal team. These premises were sleeping accommodation above and within licensed premises, a shop and a HMO type accommodation.

Community Response

At 00:09 on 9 April Control were alerted to a flat fire in Lower Mortimer Road, Itchen in Southampton. Four crews were mobilised to the scene along with command support, the aerial ladder platform and the special equipment unit. The fire occurred in a first floor flat and an adjoining roof space.

Three adults and one child were rescued by firefighters and taken to hospital by SCAS suffering from smoke inhalation. Two dogs were also rescued. One of the casualties was a member of the public who attempted to rescue the occupants. The stop message was received at 02:54. An investigation showed that this was caused by the cooker being left on in the kitchen.

On 19 March control room operators were alerted to a fire at a recycling centre in Hazel Road, Woolston. Crews from Hightown, Redbridge, Eastleigh and St Marys were mobilised to the scene along with the incident command unit and the aerial ladder platform. Firefighters were faced with 2000 tonnes of refuse that was well alight. Crews worked hard to bring the blaze under control using the aerial ladder platform and one jet.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 129

Smoke Detectors fitted: 164

Fire Investigations

New Forest Group have had 12 investigation in the reporting period, involving six houses, a garage, a bungalow, a temporary building, a football club, sheltered accommodation and a snack bar trailer.

Seven were deliberate and five were non-suspicious.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 1

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

New Forest office continues to target sleeping accommodation working towards its completion in time for the Summer Olympics 2012. 74 Fire Safety Audits have been completed along with six complaints against fire safety standards.

We continue to work with New Forest District Council (NFDC) Environmental Health (food safety) to identify small guest houses and bed and breakfasts. We have identified premises and are planning to write to those responsible for the premises, reminding them of their obligation under the Fire Safety Order. It is anticipated this proactive measure will assist us to achieve safer premises without the need to inspect all.

Protection staff have worked closely with English Heritage and the NFDC Conservation Officer to resolve issues with fire doors in a prominent New Forest hotel. This has protected the heritage nature of the doors and spaces using innovative solutions.

A Fire Safety Audit of a control of a major hazards (COMAH) site in the waterside area has resulted in both the Health and Safety Executive issuing an Improvement Notice and HFRS issuing an Enforcement Notice, following some joint intelligence and active partnership working.

Enforcement

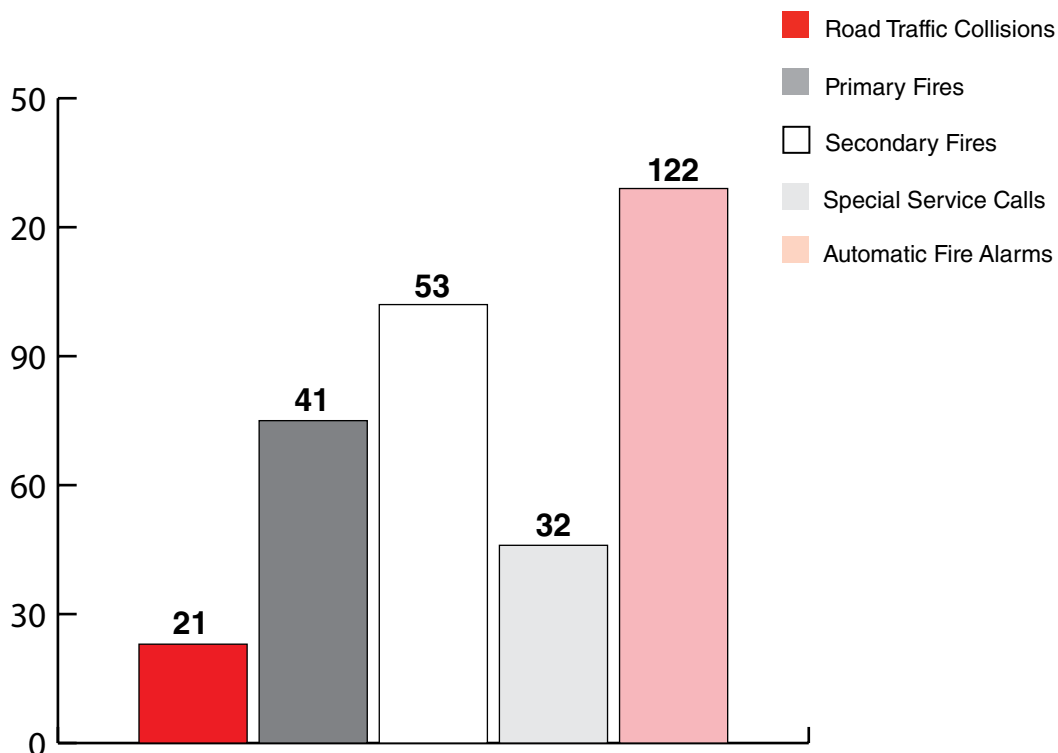
Four Enforcement Notices were issued in this period. These included a shop, public houses and an industrial site..

Prosecution/Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

At 09:54 on 23 January we received a call to an animal rescue at Sims Farm, Southampton Road, Godshill, a horse had become trapped in a swimming pool. The stop message was received at 11:10.



Community

Safety

Fire Investigations

Out of county we have had one Fire Investigation Search Dog deployment in the reporting period, involving flats above a shopping centre at the request of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. An investigation determined that the cause of this was deliberate.

Arson and Risk Reduction

Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments: 1

4.1

Control were alerted to a 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 floor building measuring 20 meters by 30 meters and a separate premises measuring 30 meters by 20 meters 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 CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) 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.

4.2

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 a two storey detached private dwelling measuring 18 meters by 6 meters. A total of 75 firefighters were initially deployed to the scene together with senior officers and various support staff.

Control operators mobilised 12 fire appliances to the scene along with other ancillary vehicles.

Firefighters used five jets, three CAFS jets, two hose reels and 12 breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire.

The occupants of the thatched property, which included two adults, one child and two dogs, were evacuated from the property safely.

The investigation showed that the most likely cause was a hot ember emitting from the chimney and igniting the thatch.

4.3

Fire involving acetylene in Andover

At 22:14 on 06 May 2011 control room operators mobilised fire appliances to a fire involving acetylene cylinders at Weyhill, Andover

The fire was at Shamrock Works in Weyhill Andover. It involved a block and steel clad building (20m x 50m) which was 100% damaged by fire.

Four acetylene cylinders were involved, one was damaged by fire. A 200 metre exclusion zone was set up whilst the cylinder was cooled to safety. This resulted in the A342 being closed.

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

An investigation determined that this was an explosion which had occurred when a male was working on a petrol tank which caused the fire to develop in the workshop.

4.4

Hazardous material incident in Wych Lane, Gosport.

On 12 May at 11:47 control operators were alerted to this incident.

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 was present. Firefighters used high pressure ventilation to clear the air 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.

4.5

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 9th floor where the room of origin was 100% damaged by fire and the remainder of the flat was 50% damaged by heat and smoke. Firefighters extinguished the fire using six 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.

4.6

Property fire in Southampton.

On 21 May 2011 at 05:28 we were alerted to a fire at a single storey multi use building in Kings Way in the Kingsland area.

Control operators mobilised three fire appliances from St Mary's Fire Station, two fire appliances from Hightown and one fire appliance from Eastleigh. The special equipment unit from St Mary's and the aerial ladder platform from Redbridge were also in attendance.

The building of brick construction, measuring 13 meters by 8 meters, was 100% damaged by fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire using 4 breathing apparatus, 4 jets, 2 hose reels and the aerial ladder platform.

Unfortunately the fire spread to properties at the rear of the building. Residents, stall holders and people from local businesses in the area were evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Bitterne CID have an on going arson investigation into the cause of this fire.



HAMPSHIRE
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