

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:** Flat fire in Andover

# Introduction

**This activity report covers the period 23 December to 28 April 2012. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 28 April 2012 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back “Stop Press” section of the report.**

As previously indicated this Activity Report will not contain the graphs of activity levels within the Groups in order that we can standardise the accounting periods to ensure comparable data.

This reporting period continues to see similar trends as the last two reports, with incident rates remaining relatively low and continuing fire safety and community safety activity across all groups.

One unusual aspect of this period is the use of fire to attempt to cover up deaths on two occasions both within the Southampton Group on the 8th and 10th April. Investigations and or court cases involving these two unrelated incidents are ongoing.

This period also saw a particularly significant and difficult fire in a large storage area of scrap metal awaiting export overseas for recycling. The fire of various metals was very deep seated and difficult to extinguish. The resulting smoke plume was visible for miles and affected large areas of Southampton. Following this fire we have worked with the owners to prevent fires in other even larger piles of scrap metal stored in the same area.

Fire Investigators and the Arson Task Force continue with their success in identifying causes of fire and working with the police to identify the perpetrators of arson.

Community safety activity saw 3691 home safety visits targeted at the most vulnerable with over 3000 smoke detectors fitted by HFRS.

Schools education teams achieved a very impressive number of visits with 17,893 students across Key stages 1,2 and 3 receiving the relevant safety education programme.

Our ongoing focus on Road Safety also saw an increase in activity, including our hosting of the National Fire Service Motorcycle Safety Seminar in the Road Safety Centre at Winchester.

From a Protection perspective work is ongoing to target high-risk premises, especially the ongoing theme of premises with sleeping accommodation above them.

# 01 Responding to incidents

## 1.1

### **Hampshire and Wiltshire firefighters combine forces to tackle Christmas morning blaze**

**At 01:25 on 25 December 2011 the Service was alerted to a flat fire in Junction Road, Andover. Control operators mobilised crews from Andover where it was apparent the fire was serious and further backup was immediately requested.**

Two fire appliances from Andover Fire Station were mobilised together with fire appliances from Whitchurch, Sutton Scotney and Stockbridge in Hampshire.

Crews from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and Amesbury Fire Stations were also in attendance.

The fire involved a first-floor flat and combined roof space in a two-story building consisting of six self-contained flats. Eight breathing apparatus, two hose reels, two covering jets and an aerial ladder platform were used to extinguish the fire.

The police assisted firefighters with evacuating the premises. There was very severe fire damage within the affected flat, the ceiling had collapsed and the ferocity of the fire had been such that the underside of the external roof tiles were exposed.

The result of a joint fire investigation with Hampshire Constabulary showed the cause was undetermined.

## 1.2

### **Fire crews tackle blaze at Totton Industrial Estate**

**At 01:31hrs on 20 January 2012 the Service was alerted to a fire at an industrial Unit at Lulworth Business Centre, Nutwood Way, Totton. A total of 60 firefighters were in attendance to tackle the fire at the premises which operates as an industrial dry cleaner.**

Control operators mobilised eight fire appliances and support vehicles to the scene, including fire crews from Totton, Redbridge, Lyndhurst, Romsey and St Mary's.

The multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh Fire Station and the incident command unit from Service Headquarters was also in attendance.

Upon arrival crews could see flames above the roof of the building. Firefighters gained access to the premises using specialist cutting equipment and crews ventilated the premises. The blaze was tackled using a combination of dowsing the flames from above with the aerial ladder platform monitor and traditional methods on the ground.

The incident involved a two-story industrial unit measuring 40 metres by 10 metres of traditional construction consisting of brick and sandwich panels. The fire was extinguished using one aerial ladder platform, two breathing apparatus and two jets.

A fire investigation determined that the cause of the fire was accidental.



### 1.3

#### **Hampshire firefighters attend chemical incident wearing gas tight protective suits**

At 10:30hrs on Wednesday 25 January control room operators were alerted to a fire involving dry cleaning chemicals. The incident happened at West Ham industrial estate in Basingstoke and was caused when a fire broke out involving one of the dry cleaning units which contained chemicals.

As the incident involved chemicals firefighters tackled the fire wearing breathing apparatus and gas tight protective suits.

There were no injuries reported and evacuation was limited to the building involved.

Firefighters were quick to identify the increased risks posed by the chemicals and immediately set up an exclusion zone. A fire and rescue service emergency decontamination shower was also set up to clean anyone exposed to the chemicals.

Fire crews from Basingstoke along with three fire engines and a Special Equipment Unit dealt with the incident. A crew and officer remained at the scene to assist the specialist contractors and the Environmental Agency in order to clean up the spillage.

## 01 Responding to incidents

### 1.4

#### **Hampshire and Dorset fire crews tackle roof blaze**

**At 18:29 on 12 February 2012 the Service was alerted to a blaze in the roof of a terraced house in New Street, Ringwood. Control operators immediately mobilised crews from across the New Forest, Southampton and Dorset areas in order to tackle the blaze.**

Hampshire crews from Burley, Brockenhurst, Beaulieu, Eastleigh, Ringwood, Redbridge, St Mary's and Totton, as well as Ferndown and Verwood from Dorset, were called to the scene totalling more than 70 personnel at the incident.

On arrival the initial crews were faced with a well-lit roof fire and were informed that occupants were still in the building. The crews immediately mounted both firefighting and search and rescue operations and following a search of the buildings involved all the occupants were accounted for.

Fire crews continued to tackle the blaze for several more hours to contain and prevent

further spread along the row of terraces.

The roof space where the fire started was severely damaged. The first floor also suffered extensive water damage.

The roof space of the second property suffered 75 per cent fire damage and water damage to its first floor.

Firefighters used 30 breathing apparatus, three jets and four hose reels to tackle the blaze.

A fire investigation determined the most likely cause was accidental ignition of roof timbers and combustible materials within the roof space, through radiated heat and burning embers entering roof space through the void within the chimney breast.

### 1.5

#### **Fire crews tackle blaze at Millbrook Trading Estate**

**At 15:30hrs on 05 April 2012 control room operators were alerted to a fire at an industrial unit at Manor Industrial Estate, Millbrook, Southampton. A total of 45 firefighters were in attendance to tackle the fire at the premises which operates as a garage workshop.**

Operators mobilised six fire appliances and support vehicles to the scene including crews from Redbridge, St Marys, Totton, Eastleigh, Romsey and Hightown. The incident command unit from Service Headquarters was also called.

The incident involved a three-story industrial unit measuring 46 meters by 25 meters of traditional construction, consisting of brick under corrugated roof construction. The fire was

extinguished using eight breathing apparatus, four jets and one hose reel.

Firefighters gained access to the premises to extinguish the fire and crews ventilated the premises.

Crews used a thermal imaging camera to check for pockets of fire and the spread of smoke and did a good job in stopping the fire from spreading to the neighbouring units.

## 01 Responding to incidents

### 1.6

#### **Crews from Hampshire and Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services tackle thatch fire in Lower Woodcott, near Whitchurch**

**At 15:57hrs on 05 April 2012 the Service was alerted to a fire at a thatched property at Lower Woodcott, near Whitchurch. A total of nine fire appliances were mobilised including Andover, Basingstoke, Kingsclere, Overton, Stockbridge and Newbury.**

Two water carriers from Basingstoke and Eastleigh were also in attendance together with the multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh and the Special Equipment Unit from Basingstoke Fire Station, totalling over 60 firefighters.

The fire involved approximately half of the thatched roof of a pair of semi-detached private dwellings, measuring 20 metres by nine metres.

Firefighters used ten breathing apparatus, three CAFS jets, two hose reels and one jet to extinguish the fire before continuing to strip the damaged thatch from the roof. Meanwhile a salvage operation was in place with crews retrieving the occupants belongings from the stricken property.

Area Manager Andy Bowers said: "The first crews on arrival did a great job in creating a physical fire break in the thatch to stop the spread of fire to the neighbouring property. This was achieved with a combination of traditional firefighting methods which quickly killed the fire enabling crews to probe for further hotspots and stop the fire from spreading."



## 01 Responding to incidents

### 1.7

#### **Firefighters tackle bin fire with body inside**

**At 02:36 on 8 April 2012 control room operators were alerted to a dust bin fire at an industrial estate on Empress Road, Southampton.**

The Redbridge crew attended and discovered human remains 35 minutes into the call out.

The Police were immediately informed and crew members in attendance helped the investigation by giving statements to officers at the scene.

The Urban Search and Rescue team were then called and helped by removing the deceased.

The following day the crew manager assisted the Police by carrying out an evaluation of the surrounding area with an ALP ladder.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue service had received the call from a member of the public.

Three men and a woman have since appeared in court and have been charged with the murder of the deceased.

### 1.8

#### **Crews mobilised to a car fire in Chilworth, Southampton**

**At 01:30 on Tuesday 10 April the Service was alerted to a car fire on Chilworth Drove, Chilworth, where the Eastleigh Crew was immediately mobilised and a body was found within the burning vehicle.**

The Police were informed within one minute of crew arriving and the incident was formally handed over to them at 02.32.

The Urban Search and Rescue team assisted at the scene by removing the deceased.

Investigation is ongoing.

## USAR

**During the last quarter the USAR team has been working with prison officers from Winchester to carry out demonstrations and training with Petrogen hot cutting equipment in support of the Service initiative to reduce the use of acetylene and the subsequent disruption of acetylene incidents. This was a very successful event and the prison officers were impressed with the capabilities of the Petrogen hot-cutting equipment.**

USAR has also continued to support the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) based at Bramshill, by supporting the Police Search Adviser (PoISA) and Scene Evidence Recovery Manager (SERM) courses.

An assessment exercise was recently facilitated for London Fire Brigade at Fort Widley by the USAR team. This was then used by London to select members of service for overseas deployments as part of UK-ISAR.

Throughout the quarter USAR have attended 17 incidents, this included four vehicles into buildings, several weather-based instances surrounding heavy winds which required making each building more stable in the event of further collapse; assisting the ambulance service with the movement of a bariatric casualty and a bomb threat at Winchester Crown Court.

## 02 Community Safety (incorporating Prevention and Protection)

### 2.1

#### Princes Trust

The Prince's Trust Team programme is a unique personal development programme that enables young people in the 16 – 25 age group to develop their confidence, motivation and skills through teamwork in the community. It brings together people of different abilities, circumstances and backgrounds that are both employed and unemployed.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service are striving to prevent and lessen the impact of fires upon the people of Hampshire. One of the ways through which this can be achieved is through education and developing a closer partnership with local communities.

The Prince's Trust Team Programme aims to develop young people by modifying behaviour and changing attitudes. This is achieved through working directly with young people, developing them for further education, progression into the workplace or creating opportunities for those already in employment. All young people on the programme are encouraged to continue to volunteer once they have left the programme, of which is one of the positive outcomes expected of Delivery Partners by the Prince's Trust.

This process creates friends of the fire service who become socially aware and respect the dominant social beliefs and values and can assist with the Service aim of reducing the incidence of arson and accidental ignition.

### 2.2

#### Firesetters Intervention Scheme

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

- Forty referrals to the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programme
- Six referrals to the Adult Firesetter Intervention Programme.

We have attended:

- Eleven Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings
- Nine Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings
- Two South East Regional CFOA meetings hosted by Royal Berkshire and West Sussex
- Two Multi Agency Services Meetings/ Conference and Training Events
- Six Professionals Team Around Child (TAC) meetings involving youth advisers Portsmouth.

In January the Firesetters team appointed eight new practitioners, completing Firesetter Intervention Practitioners Induction and Foundation training which was facilitated by Roehampton University.



## 02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

### 2.3

#### Safeguarding

We have continued to assist at six of our Colleges Road Safety Weeks in Ringwood, Farnborough, Winchester, Totton and twice in Eastleigh, raising awareness of seatbelt and moped safety to young motorists.

Throughout December we have worked with the Police and local authority road safety teams in support of the Drink/Drive campaign. Ten public awareness events were held across the county.

### 2.4

#### Road Safety

The road safety team has continued to raise awareness of seatbelt and moped safety during the reporting period by introducing road safety weeks at colleges in Aldershot, Farnborough, Gosport, Alton, Havant and the Southdowns.

With the Service's support Hampshire County Council launched a Fit it Right car seat campaign and the police have introduced BikeSafe courses from HFRS's road safety centre.

HFRS hosted the National Fire Service Motorcycle Safety Seminar at the Road Safety Centre in April. This was attended by over 60 delegates from 20 fire services, police forces and local authorities.

The RideSMART motorcycle safety initiative was featured and as a result a number of other services are now looking to adopt the initiative.

### 2.5

#### Home Safety Visits

During the reporting period 3691 home safety visits were completed and 3048 smoke detectors were fitted, targeting those most at risk.

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

This reflects HFRS's drive to target the most vulnerable persons in Hampshire.

## 02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

### 2.6

#### Schools Education Team

The Schools Safety Education programme has been delivered to the following pupils in mainstream, private and special needs schools throughout Hampshire:

- 6,667 Key Stage 1 pupils during 107 school visits
- 6,061 Key Stage 2 pupils during 97 school visits
- 5,165 Key Stage 3/4 pupils during 70 school visits

A variety of education events were also supported by the Service and run by our partners which support, enhance and evaluate our Safety Education Programme. These included:

- Engaging with 469 pupils at science fairs throughout the reporting period
- Engaging with 1,632 students at Think Safe Events with Rushmoor and Eastleigh Borough Councils
- SNAP discos (Say No And Phone Disco) with Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire constabulary helping us to reach over 1,200 young people
- Over 120 Secondary-aged pupils learned how they can contribute to their community and make it a happy, safe place to live at the citizenship day at Alderman Quilley
- Reading stories and leading workshops for 112 primary-aged pupils on the importance of being and feeling safe and how that keeps us healthy during the Healthy Schools Week
- Completing school assemblies for 232 pupils as part of the project to tackle arson in the New Forest.

## 02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

### 2.7

#### Fire Investigation

There have been 95 fire investigations in the reporting period. This includes 49 deliberate fires, 36 non-suspicious and 10 undetermined fires.

	Basingstoke & Deane	Fareham & Gosport	Havant & East Hants	New Forest	Portsmouth	Rushmoor & Hart	Southampton	Test Valley & Easleigh	Winchester	Out of Country	Total
No. of Investigations	6	6	17	8	14	8	19	14	3	-	95
No. of Resulting Arrests	1	1	5	3	2	-	2	7	1	-	22
No. of Suspects Arrested	1	1	5	3	3	-	2	10	1	-	26
No. of Suspects Charged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. on Bail	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
No. Cautioned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 266

Smoke detectors fitted: 289

#### Fire Investigations

The Basingstoke and Deane Group has undertaken six investigations in the reporting period, this includes a shed, three houses and two commercial premises. Two of the incidents were found to be deliberate and four non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements were taken
- There was one fire investigation dog deployment

#### Prince's Trust

The Basingstoke group had 14 young people complete a programme between the 23 January 2012 and 13 May 2012 at a pre-school in Kempshott.

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period HFRS focused on sleeping risks such as small bed and breakfast premises, hotels, and sleeping above licensed premises.

An example of this specific targeting led to an audit of one particular licensed premises which had its first floor converted into a house in multiple occupation. A Prohibition Notice was issued as the set-up was assessed to be dangerous and a new fire alarm has since been installed.

Fire safety workshops have also been running in the area targeted at the local business community in order to provide education on fire safety and business continuity. This approach has helped to protect local business interests and comply with the law.

### **Enforcement**

No enforcement notices were issued during this period.

### **Prohibition**

Two prohibition notices were served, one was on a shop and the other on a HMO.

## **Community Response**

On the 13 April 2012 at 15:57 crews responded to a thatch roof fire in a semi-detached property in Whitchurch. Eight appliances attended along with three compressed air foam jets, four jets, three hose reels and 32 sets of breathing apparatus. A stop message was received at 23:46. Please see 1.6 for more information.

On the 1st March 2012 four pumps were mobilised to a fire involving a traditional constructed terraced building of two floors, where severe fire had affected the first floor and roof. Equipment used included eight breathing apparatus, three jets, four hose reels and an Aerial Ladder Platform monitor.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 251

Smoke detectors fitted: 206

#### Fire Investigations

The Rushmoor and Hart Group have undertaken eight investigations in the reporting period including two houses, four flats, a cricket club and a vehicle.

Investigations indicate that three were deliberate, one was undetermined and four were non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- One statement was taken
- There was one fire investigation dog deployment

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Rushmoor and Hart group are continuing its partnership with Rushmoor Borough Council environmental health department to carry out joint visits and exchange information.

One such joint inspection was to a HMO above a public house in Aldershot that had not been converted correctly. Both are now jointly working to remedy the planning and structural conversion problems of the property.

This type of premises, with flats above licensed or take away premises, provides many challenges. The prohibition notice helps stop the use should it be deemed dangerous in order to protect the occupants. Issues with fire alarm and separating of the escape routes are the most problematic.

### **Enforcement**

No enforcement notices were issued during this period.

### **Prohibition**

One prohibition notice was served on a takeaway restaurant.

## **Community Response**

On the 25th February 2012 at 22:06 five pumps were mobilised to a waste metal site in Aldershot following a fire involving 40 tonnes of mixed scrap metal covering a site of over 100 square metres.

Three compressed air foam system jets and two conventional jets were used. The stop time to the incident was 10:46 on the 26th February 2012.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 374

Smoke detectors fitted: 537

#### Fire Investigations

The Havant and East Hants Group have undertaken seventeen investigations in the reporting period, this includes six houses, three flats, a care home, two vehicles, a shop, a bin shed, a garage and two separate wheelie bin incidents.

Investigations found that 10 were deliberate, four undetermined and three were non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- Four statements was taken
- There were five fire investigation dog deployments

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order - Havant

As part of the Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership (HBRP) the Havant and East Hants group are working with partners to reduce burdens from regulators on businesses.

During the reporting period the group received information on 37 higher risk premises that all had reasonable fire safety management viewed by other authorities during their inspection, therefore inspections have not been needed.

Fire safety concerns are investigated after all fires involving non domestic buildings. An example is a recent fire in an office block in Petersfield where the occupant was rescued by fire crew. A Post Incident Inspection indicated a number of serious fire safety concerns resulting in an Enforcement Notice being issued to formally manage the improvement of the premises.

Following numerous non-emergency lift calls, protection inspectors have been working with Hyde Housing group to resolve this problem with preventable incidents. With this guidance they are now reviewing existing arrangements and hope to see a reduction in calls.

### **Enforcement**

No enforcement notices were issued during this period.

### **Prohibition**

One prohibition notice was served on a licensed premises.

## **Community Response**

On the 19th February 2012 at 00:19 three pumps were mobilised to a fire in Leigh Park involving a detached building of approximately five metres by seven metres in size. Six breathing apparatus, one hose reel and a PPV was used. One male casualty was rescued along with three cats. The incident lasted 40 minutes.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 328

Smoke detectors fitted: 455

#### Fire Investigations

The Fareham and Gosport Group had six investigations in the reporting period. This involved a flat, two houses, a bin shed, a container, and a vehicle. Three of the fires were found to be deliberate and three non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- Two statements was taken
- There were two fire investigation dog deployments

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Fareham and Gosport group have been involved in discussions with Fareham Borough Council partners and the Daedalus Facilities Management Company about the impact of the planned redevelopment of the former Airfield.

As numerous original buildings are being retained and converted, the necessary infrastructure requirements to provide adequate future resilience for the site are currently being jointly considered.

Sleeping accommodation was again the theme for targeted inspections and accommodation above licensed premises have presented numerous problems with the level of fire safety provision, therefore the group has continued to educate occupiers on the risks and have only used formal notices where risks are those most serious.

### **Enforcement**

One enforcement notice was issued to a takeaway restaurant during the reporting period.

### **Prohibition**

No prohibition notices were issued.

## **Community Response**

At 11:36 on the 11 March 2012 crews were called to a kitchen fire in a detached property in Stubbington.

Crews recall heavy smoke logging into the property and one female casualty was assisted by firefighters.

Four appliances and the special equipment unit were in attendance.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 1229

Smoke detectors fitted: 606

#### Fire Investigations

The Portsmouth Group have undertaken fourteen investigations in the reporting period including a house boat, two houses, a ship, five flats, a shop, two vehicles, a car port and a domestic storage cupboard.

Investigations found that eight were deliberate and six were non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- Three statements was taken
- There were four fire investigation dog deployments

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Following the success of voluntary fire safety business advocates within the Southampton area the Portsmouth group have been planning and recruiting from within BME communities in Portsmouth.

The group have been engaging with the Kurdish community as its the second largest BME community after Bengali in Portsmouth. This engagement has helped to build links and educate local businesses to alleviate risks within typical businesses.

Making premises safer for occupants is always a priority. Following a post-fire inspection which uncovered serious fire safety concerns on a block of flats that experienced a fire and resulted in the occupant being taken to hospital, an enforcement notice was issued.

This managed approach will make the premises safer for occupants. The Portsmouth group continue to react to information from the community. For example, thanks to information received regarding a day centre for adults with learning difficulties, a prohibition notice was served. Without the public bringing information forward this would have been undetected and proves the value of being able to react to such information. The problems detected within the building have since been resolved and the notice is no longer in force.

During a Building Regulations Consultation for alterations to a Portsmouth Mosque, inadequate means of escape was uncovered. HFRS restricted the occupancy of the Mosque and has since used the situation as a case study to educate those responsible in fire safety and the issues of overcrowding

### **Enforcement**

Three enforcement notices were issued during this period.

### **Prohibition**

Three prohibition notices were served. This includes a Mosque, an adult day centre and a takeaway restaurant.

## **Community Response**

On the 11th February 2012 control room operators were alerted to a flat fire in Canal Walk, Portsmouth. The fire stretched over six floors which measured 23 metres by 24 metres.

One male casualty was rescued after he was found unconscious and not breathing.

Six breathing apparatus and three jets were used. The flat contained African parrots, monkeys and a tortoise. Unfortunately only the tortoise survived.

On the 23rd February 2012 four pumps attended a fire in a ground floor flat in Southsea, Portsmouth. Multiple persons were reported and 12 elderly residents were treated for smoke inhalation. Six breathing apparatus, one hose reel and two jets were used.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 371

Smoke detectors fitted: 189

#### Fire Investigations

The Winchester Group have undertaken three investigations in the reporting period, this has included a flat, house, and static caravan.

Investigations show that one was deliberate and two were non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- One statement was taken
- There was one fire investigation dog deployment

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Winchester group completed 35 Audits in the area during the reporting period, with most inspections taking place within nursing, healthcare and licensed premises.

The group has adopted the use of Action Plans to deal with all fire safety issues during the period. This allows more flexibility, supports businesses, and continues to provide education to assist with reducing risk.

Working with the BUPA owned Berewecke Court Nursing Home in Winchester the group has seen the successful installation of sprinklers. This is a significant move to retro fit the sprinklers into this existing building, reducing the life risk for vulnerable people significantly.

### **Enforcement**

No enforcement notices were issued during this period.

### **Prohibition**

No prohibition notices were issued during this period.

## **Community Response**

On the 18th March 2012 at 20:18 four pumps were mobilised to a fire involving an extractor unit in a kitchen in Hipley.

The kitchen fire spread to the flat roof of the building and caused smoke damage to the remainder of it. Four breathing apparatus, three hose reels and two jets were used. One casualty was taken to hospital with burns to his hands.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 246

Smoke detectors fitted: 217

#### Fire Investigations

The Test Valley and Eastleigh Group have had fourteen investigations in the reporting period involving five houses, a bungalow, a flat, college, school, hotel, two domestic garages, a vehicle and a barn.

Investigations show that nine were deliberate, two undetermined and three non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- Three statements was taken
- There were five fire investigation dog deployments

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Test Valley and Eastleigh group carried out 56 Audits in the reporting period with a focus on sleeping accommodation within takeaway premises.

The group are currently developing the concept of Business Support Officers within Protection.

These individuals provide small and medium businesses with advice regarding business continuity and fire safety, they do not conduct enforcement actions and have been operating in the Andover and Eastleigh areas during this period.

The group has worked to influence the provision of a sprinkler system within a part of the Elizabeth House care home in Enham Alamein, Andover. This system addresses a particular problem with the building and demonstrates the flexible approach to controlling risks in a cost effective manner for the business.

### **Enforcement**

No enforcement notices were issued during this period.

### **Prohibition**

Two prohibition notices were issued during the reporting period. The first involved construction workers sleeping on the second floor of a building above a takeaway whilst building work was still being completed.

The second was within a different takeaway where persons were sleeping in the basement of the premises without necessary protection.

## **Community Response**

On the 8th April 2012 at 13:51 three pumps were called to Andover following an incident involving two chest freezers which contained 40 litres of the chemical Triganox which had gone above its maximum temperature and filled the room with smoke.

Two occupants were treated with oxygen and after ventilating the property it was handed back to the management. Equipment used included 12 breathing apparatus, six gas-tight suits, one hose reel, detection identification and monitoring equipment.

On the 7th April 2012 three pumps were mobilised to a fire in Andover where one elderly male was rescued by neighbours and suffered smoke inhalation. HFRS went on to rescue an elderly female who suffered smoke inhalation. Four breathing apparatus, two hose reels and one jet was used.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 462

Smoke detectors fitted: 347

#### Fire Investigations

The Southampton Group have had nineteen investigations in the reporting period involving four houses, seven flats, two public houses, a scrap metal yard, a hostel, a vehicle and three warehouse units.

Investigations are shown that nine were deliberate, one was undetermined and nine were non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- Five statements was taken
- There were five fire investigation dog deployments

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

##### HFRA v Tony Mirza of Furniture World.

Mr Mirza appeared without the support of Counsel and pleaded guilty to all nine offences. The Magistrates decided its sentencing powers were insufficient (offering a maximum of £5,000 per offence) and so referred the case to Crown Court.

##### HFRA v Mr Joseph Dorrington.

Mr Dorrington owned 12A Jonas Nicols Square, Southampton, at the time of a fire on 28th March 2011, at which persons were rescued by the attending fire crews. The premises was used as a house in multiple occupation for some of the more vulnerable members of the community.

Mr Dorrington pleaded guilty to all seven offences laid before the courts and received a fine of £7,600. HFRS was awarded full costs of £6,417.70

The Southampton group met with the developers of the forthcoming Mayflower Plaza, which is a three high-rise blocks to be built as student accommodation in Central Southampton. Through negotiation and design flexibilities they have agreed to the installation of sprinklers throughout the project which will ultimately lead to a safer place to live for the resident students and also a safer place for firefighters in the event of a fire.

### **Enforcement**

A total of nine enforcement notices were served during the reporting period, this included takeaway restaurants and licensed premises.

### **Prohibitions**

Four prohibition notices were served, this includes a Mosque, takeaway restaurant, licensed premises and a commercial outlet.

## **Community Response**

On the 18th February 2012 control room operators were alerted to a fire in a roof of a two-storey public house in Southampton. The building was of traditional construction and measured 20 metres by 15 metres. Five pumps were mobilised and eight breathing apparatus, three jets, two hose reels and one Aerial Ladder Platform monitor was used.

On the 5th March 2012 four pumps were mobilised to Rampart Road in Southampton where one private semi-detached property of traditional construction was on fire. The property consisted of two floors measuring 10 metres by 10 metres and the fire was in the ground floor extension. Eight breathing apparatus, one jet and two hose reels were used. Three casualties suffering smoke inhalation were rescued.

On the 14th April 2012 four pumps attended a fire in a purpose built residential block of flats in Southampton. The block of flats measured 50 metres by 10 metres with the fire stretching across the second, third and fourth floor balconies. Six breathing apparatus and four jets were used.

On the 17th April six pumps were mobilised to Western Avenue, Southampton where approximately 50,000 tonnes of scrap metal was reported to be on fire. Measuring 300 metres by 50 metres 10 per cent was destroyed by fire. Seven jets, two aerial ladder platform monitors, one high volume pumping vehicle, 80 breathing apparatus and a high volume pump was in attendance

On the 25th April 2012 control room operators were alerted to a fire in Portswood Road, Southampton. The fire involved a range of single-storey buildings used as industrial units measuring 30 metres by 40 metres. Six large cylinders of unknown contents were affected by fire. One LPG cylinder was removed from the building. Equipment used included 32 breathing apparatus, four jets and one aerial ladder platform monitor. Five appliances were mobilised.

### Community Safety

#### Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 164

Smoke detectors fitted: 202

#### Fire Investigations

The New Forest Group has undertaken eight investigations in the reporting period including a caravan, HMO, doctor's surgery, a commercial building, two flats and two houses.

Investigations found that four were deliberate, two undetermined and two non-suspicious.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements was taken
- There was one fire investigation dog deployments

#### Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The New Forest group has contacted 428 cottages that may become short-term holiday lets during the 2012 Olympics in order to give advice on the fire safety standards that will be expected of each one. An audits on any property that offers accommodation for eight or more people will then be carried out.

The group also has an agreement in principle to a partnership with New Forest District Council to promote self compliance within premises under their control. This will allow self auditing and self regulation whilst being quality assured by the Fire Service through providing training to key personnel, peer group approval processes and scheduled inspections.

A new way of dealing with simple buildings consultations is now being trialled within the area, saving time for both HFRS and NFDC whilst increasing the available information for each authority.

### **Enforcement**

Six premises were issued with enforcement notices during this period. This included two takeaways, two public houses and two communal areas.

### **Prohibition**

One prohibition notice was issued to a takeaway that had sleeping accommodation above it. The property lacked fire detection, warning arrangements and suitable fire separation between the commercial and domestic areas.

## **Community Response**

On the 9th January 2012 four pumps were mobilised to a block of flats in Totton where the top floor was 100% damaged by fire and the stairwell and communal area was 100% damaged by smoke. All persons were accounted for and six breathing apparatus, two hose reels and two jets were used.

On the 20th January 2012 at 01:31 eight pumps were mobilised to a three-unit industrial building which measured 45 metres by 22 metres of sandwich panel construction. Two breathing apparatus, two jets and two hose reels were used. This incident finished at 05:12. Please see 1.2 for more information.

On the 12th February 2012 control room operators mobilised six pumps to a fire on New Street, Ringwood where a row of terraced buildings were on fire.

The ten traditional built terraced buildings stretched 11 metres by five metres. The fire severely damaged all of the roof, and water damaged 100 per cent of the first floor.

Other properties were also damaged by fire and smoke.

Thirty breathing apparatus, three jets and four hose reels were used. Please see 1.4 for more information.

### 5.1

#### **Firefighters tackle serious house blaze in Fareham**

**Control room operators were alerted to a serious fire in a semi-detached property in Gudge Heath Lane, Fareham on 1st May at 21:19hrs.**

Attending appliances included two from Fareham, one from Portchester, two from Cosham, one aerial ladder platform from Southsea and one special equipment unit from Cosham. There were also three officers in attendance and fire investigation.

The fire was extinguished at 23:53hrs using 14 breathing apparatus, two jets and two hose reel jets.

The first-floor bedroom of the property was 100 per cent damaged by fire, the roof space was 50 per cent damaged by fire and the remainder of the property was 100 per cent affected by smoke.

### 5.3

#### **Isle of Wight ferry fire**

**At 16:29hrs on 1st May 2012 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a fire on board the 520 tonne Wight Link ferry that crosses between Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.**

It is understood there was a small explosion in the port engine compartment which became smoke logged and flooded with CO<sub>2</sub>.

An inspection was carried out by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service who then went on to vent the ship using its own venting system.

### 5.2

#### **Hazardous materials incident in Southampton**

**At 17:27hrs on 17 May 2012 control room operators were alerted to a liquid oxygen cylinder leaking in Dunkirk Road, Southampton.**

Firefighters used two breathing apparatus, two gas monitors from the Detection Investigation Monitoring (DIM) Equipment Vehicle, one hose reel jet and one safety jet.

The cylinder was believed to be empty at the time of stop (18:43), and an appliance from Redbridge Hill remained at the scene until the cylinder had been collected.

The Rescue Pump from Redbridge Hill, Water Tender, Water Tender Ladder and Special Equipment Unit from St Marys, DIM Vehicle from Headquarters and three officers attended the incident, totalling over 40 personnel in attendance.

Equipment used included four breathing apparatus, one jet and one safety Jet.

Attending appliances included two from Southsea, one from Cosham, one aerial ladder platform from Southsea and one special equipment unit from Cosham. Approximately 16 firefighters attended along with four officers.

The stop time to the incident was 17:29hrs.

### 5.4

#### **Nursing home bedroom blaze**

**On the 12th May 2012 at 16:58hrs control room operators were alerted to a fire in a ground-floor bedroom of Allenbrook Nursing Home in Fordingbridge.**

Crews from Fordingbridge, Ringwood, New Milton, Lymington and Romsey were in attendance.

Equipment used to extinguish the ground-floor bedroom of the three floor nursing home included two breathing apparatus and two hose reel jets.

Two persons were rescued by crew and 42 residents were relocated.

Over 25 firefighters were in attendance at the scene.

The stop time to the incident was 19:23hrs.

### 5.5

#### **Man dies after car becomes submerged in water**

**On Monday 30 April at at 9.07hrs control room operators received a call alerting them to two people and a dog trapped in a vehicle at a ford at Headley.**

Operators immediately mobilised a full deployment for a water rescue with fire crews from both Hampshire and Berkshire and one of Hampshire's specialist water support units from Rushmoor.

Firefighters from Newbury were first at the scene at Thornford Park, Thornford Road. They quickly located the car which was completely submerged under 5ft of fast-flowing water. The woman from the car had already managed to swim free of the vehicle and reach the bank.

The firefighters, who had been joined by a crew from Kingsclere, then mounted a complex rescue operation using ladders from both sides of the banks of the ford to reach the vehicle. After entering the water firefighters broke the window of the vehicle and pulled a man free.

Station Manager Mark White says, "This is a terrible tragedy and our thoughts are with the family. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to do its utmost to warn motorists of the risks of driving into deep water."



HAMPSHIRE  
**FIRE AND  
RESCUE**  
AUTHORITY

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