

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
**FIRE AND
RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

We make life safer

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 29 April 2012 to 11 August 2012. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 11 August 2012 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Stop Press” section of the report.

The following report shows a reduction in the number of fires within the County and while this is very positive, sadly two fatalities occurred from fires in domestic properties. Incidents such as this serve to highlight the importance of our continued efforts with regard to information sharing and joint working, in order to reach vulnerable groups with our Prevention programmes.

To provide further insight into this important work this report highlights and provides additional information regarding the varied work of our Prevention and Protection teams as part of the Service’s Community Safety strategy. These activities reflect the Service’s ‘risk based’ approach, informed by shared intelligence and in many cases based around joint working with other agencies and community groups.

Although we experienced a reduction in operational response activities, this period included the Olympic games which required significant preparation and planning for multi-agency response. In addition to Hampshire specific plans for the torch relay, the Service also formed part of a specialist response team with colleagues from the West Midlands and Avon Fire and Rescue Services to support the Olympic sailing events in Dorset.

The report contains data in graph form depicting key incident types and a comparison of the most recent quarter against the same period last year.

01 Responding to incidents

1.1

Hampshire and Berkshire fire crews mount joint ford operation

At 09.07hrs on Monday 30 April control room operators at received a call alerting them to two people and a dog trapped in a vehicle at a ford at Headley in Hampshire.

They 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 managed to reach the bank.

Newbury firefighters, who had been joined by a crew from Kingsclere, then mounted a rescue operation using ladders from both sides of the banks of the ford to reach the vehicle. A firefighter from Kingsclere went onto the roof, broke the window of the vehicle and rescued a man.

Once the man had been pulled free from the vehicle, crews from South Central Ambulance Service who were standing by attempted resuscitation.

Sadly, the man and the dog died at the scene.

1.2

Fire crews tackle a house fire in Southampton

At 13:20 on Wednesday 23 May 2012 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service received a call to attend a house fire in Maybush Road, Southampton.

Control operators mobilised a total of six fire appliances from St Mary's, Redbridge, Romsey, Totton and Eastleigh fire stations, the special equipment unit from St Mary's, aerial ladder platform from Redbridge and the multi role vehicle from Havant.

The fire was located in a ground floor extension spreading to the main roof area of the two storey dwelling. Firefighters extinguished the blaze using eight sets of breathing apparatus, seven main jets, three hose reels and the aerial ladder platform.

A full fire investigation, together with Hampshire Constabulary confirmed that the cause was an electrical fault either in the consumer unit or the wiring above it.



1.3

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service stop industrial fire spreading into Harewood Forest, Andover

At 15:35pm on 28 May 2012 control room operators were alerted to a fire in a wood processing plant in Andover where firefighters prevented the spread of fire into Harewood Forest.

The fire was in a wood dryer attached to a building of metal construction measuring 91 metres by 13 metres which had spread to a 15,000 litre diesel tank.

Six pumps were mobilised to the scene where 10 breathing apparatus, two Compressed Air Foam System and one jet were used on the fire.

The command support unit, aerial ladder platform and water carrier were mobilised from Basingstoke, along with the multi-role vehicle from Eastleigh, two pumps from Andover, one from Whitchurch, Stockbridge, Overton and Basingstoke.

The stop time was 18:10hrs and a crew monitored conditions over night.



02 Community Safety (incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.1

Princes Trust

Eastleigh Team 2 started in May 2012

Delivered by

Robert Whittaker (HFRS FF) and Samantha Cameron (ex social worker student)

Recruitment

The programme started with 15 young people and they all completed the programme and achieved qualifications meaning 100% retention and success rate.

Venue

Eastleigh Fire Station

Community project

Undertaken at Powerslides – they created a portacabin to allow disabled children and adults to have an accessible area and it was kitted out to suit their needs so that they can build and tinker with engines to create sand buggies.

Team Challenges

Working with the children's unit and the elderly unit at Southampton General Hospital, children with severe disabilities (Cedar School), young carers and children at a nursery.

Andover Team 2 started in May 2012

Delivered by

Sue Sheppard (Business consultant - Andover Vision) and Major Katie Bird

Recruitment

The programme started with 20 young people and 18 young people completed the programme and achieved qualifications meaning a 90% retention and success rate.

Venue

Based at Unit 15 Anton Business park and was kindly donated by Stannahs

Community project

Undertaken at Harroway School where they redesigned the library garden.

Team Challenges

Working with care leavers, elderly, children with mental and physical disabilities, young carers, young parent support groups (young mums), Help for Heroes and residents of Test Valley.

New Milton Team 3 started in May 2012

Delivered by

Rebecca Robinson and Ethan Grant (Help for Heroes)

Recruitment

The programme started with 14 young people and 13 young people completed the programme and achieved qualifications meaning 93% retention and success.

Venue

Based at War Memorial Centre, New Milton

Community project

Undertaken at Sanctuary Housing where they redesigned gardens, patios and designed murals. Housing support for people with mild and severe learning disabilities

Team Challenges

Working with elderly, adults with learning and mental difficulties and young carers.

2.2

Firesetters Intervention Scheme

The Firesetter Intervention Scheme has undertaken 27 juvenile and 3 adult referrals in this reporting period. They have also attended multiple multi agency meetings and events.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.3

Road Safety

The CFOA (Chief Fire Officers Association) National Road Safety Day was on 6 July 2012. This was supported in Hampshire with 10 stations taking part at strategic locations and engaging with the public on the key theme of 'watch your speed – keep your distance' and the '2 second rule'. Despite the weather, approximately 2,500 people were spoken to.

In addition, stations have delivered road safety events including; a critical incident day with the Basingstoke Consortium, truck safety at Thruxton, HMS Sultan's child safety day and family day and open days at Botley, Ringwood and Romsey.

RideSMART has attended a number of events in support of stations plus dates at Fareham mayor's charity day and RAF Odiham family day. The team have also been to two major events outside of the county, Goodwood Festival of Speed and Poole Quay, both of which were attended by bikers from Hampshire.

In support of partners activities the police have run two BikeSafe courses and Solent Advanced Motorcyclists (IAM regional group) have held five training days at Winchester road safety centre.

We have continued to assist with the college road safety week at Andover and Brockenhurst Colleges, raising awareness of seatbelt and moped safety and Hampshire County Council's 'Fit it Right' car seat campaign at Hardley and Havant.

2.4

Safeguarding and vulnerable groups

The Safeguarding officers have undertaken 69 referrals in this reporting period and have attended several emergency service meetings.

The safeguarding team continues to play an integral part of local authority activity and have attended a day shadowing the Hantsdirect call centre, Parkway, Fareham.

We presented fire fatality statistics to the Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB). As a result, a fire safety task and finish group has been set up as part of the SSAB business plan. This aims to raise awareness within adult social care of the fire risks associated with vulnerable groups and on how to make a multi-agency referral. This includes fire safety messages becoming part of the training requirements for all adult social care staff. Private care providers contracted by Southampton City Council are also required to have this awareness as this is now part of the care providers specification.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service has been invited to attend Hampshire safeguarding adults board (HSAB) to present fire fatality statistics, with the aim of becoming part of their business plan.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.5

Home Safety Visits

During this reporting period we have carried out 1964 Home Safety Visits (HSV), targeted at those we consider to be most at risk, and we installed 1780 smoke detectors as a result.

The visits were identified through MOSAIC data, partnerships, post incident protocols and referrals through other agencies.

This reflects our drive to target the most vulnerable people in Hampshire.

The visits were being delivered by a combination of whole time, retained duty system, green book personnel and on occasion other organisations that we are in partnership with delivering the visits on behalf of HFRS.

One of the visits identified an extremely vulnerable person living in a tower block. The visit by a FRS officer confirmed their personal vulnerability and in addition their vulnerability to fire, they suffered with mental and physical issues and the previous signs of fires within property. We worked with social services to ensure that this individual received the support needed to reduce and safely manage the risks that they presented. This situation is a perfect example of HFRS working within the community, delivering one of our services, identifying an issue and working collaboratively with partners to resolve that issue.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.6

Schools Education Team

This reporting quarter brings us to the end of what has been a challenging yet rewarding academic year. By targeting our resources, working hard with our partners and staying focussed on an evidence based strategy we have been able to educate children and young people about the dangers and consequences of risky behaviours and ensure that they have the knowledge around road, fire and water safety to make good informed choices now and in the future.

During this quarter we have worked with the following pupils in school :

- 3681 Key Stage 1 pupils during 69 school visits
- 5347 Key Stage 2 pupils during 90 school visits
- 4075 Key Stage 3/4 pupils during 43 school visits

In addition, with our partners, we have worked with the following pupils and staff outside of school at a range of education events:

Alongside Local authorities

- Basingstoke and Deane -Think Safe event at Bramley - 1357 pupils, 144 adults
- Hart District Council - Think Safe event at Hawley Lane - 687 pupils, 27 adults
- Havant Borough Council – Community Safety day – 42 Secondary aged pupils with special educational needs.

- Hampshire County Council Children's Services- Peer Mentoring training course at Intech – 120 Key Stage 2 pupils and 30 members of teaching staff.
- Hampshire Constabulary – Say No and Phone (SNAP) disco at Fareham – 720 Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils.
- Education Business Partnerships - Science, technology, engineering and maths in the workplace (STEM) events for 270 year 9 and 10 pupils.
- Navy training at HMS Sultan Safety day for 960 pupils from local schools and community.
- Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth County Council and Southampton City Council road safety teams Junior Road Safety event at Winchester Road Safety Centre - 57 pupils - 8 adults

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.7

Fire Investigation

There have been 66 fire investigations in the reporting period, 39 deliberate fires, 25 non-suspicious and two undetermined. There have been two fatalities over the reporting period.

Overview of the Arson Task Force activity during this period.

Fire Investigation (FI) and Arson Task Force (ATF) have supported the investigation of 39 arson offences, with arrests made in relation to 15 of the offences committed in Basingstoke and Deane, Havant and East Hants, Portsmouth, Rushmoor and Hart, Southampton and Test Valley and Eastleigh Groups.

Additionally the following case results have been achieved in relation to seven investigations during this reporting period:

- Following an act of arson to 1 Meadow Place, Leigh Park, Havant on Sunday 19 February 2012, Lee Payne was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on 4 May 2012 at Portsmouth Crown Court Mr Payne was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 24 months.
- Following an act of arson to a vehicle at Little Woodham Lane, Gosport on 2 July 2011, Matthew Daniel Styler Reid was found guilty to the following charges; unlawful wounding/inflicting grievous bodily harm twice, dangerous driving, doing an act/s tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice. At the hearing on the 4 May 2012 at Portsmouth Crown Court, Mr Styler was sentenced to 66 months imprisonment, disqualified from driving for 10 years with effect from 10 April 12, disqualified until driving test passed and driving licence endorsed.
- Following an act of arson to 3 Linnet Court, New Milton on Monday 6 February 2012, Paul Jones was found guilty of committing arson reckless. At the hearing on 21 May 2012 at Winchester Crown Court Mr Jones was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment.
- Following an act of Arson to 271 London Road, North End, Portsmouth on Wednesday 18 April 2012, Georgina Mae Crawford was found guilty of committing arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered. At the hearing on 3 July 2012 at Southampton Magistrates Court Ms Crawford was sentenced to a 12 month referral order.
- Following a joint agency investigation with Hampshire Police into an act of arson to the Castle Oak Construction Site, Gershwin Road, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke on 10 September 2010, the Security Guard Jo Palmer was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on the 6 July 2012 at Winchester Crown Court, Ms Palmer was sentenced to 6 and a half years imprisonment. More than 100 firefighters tackled the fire at the four-storey structure, a partially-built block of flats, which was being built for support accommodation for older people. The fire caused damaged put at £5.5 million and led to the evacuation of nearby homes.

02 Community Safety

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- Following an act of Arson to 43 Armstrong Rise, Charlton, Andover on Tuesday 15 November 2011, Peter Firle was found guilty of committing arson being reckless as to whether life is endangered. At the hearing on 23 July 2012 at Winchester Crown Court Mr Firle was sentenced to 54 months imprisonment.
- Following an act of arson and attempted burglary to the Park Hotel, Shirley Road, Shirley, Southampton on Friday 22 June 2012, Darren Mark Taylor and Nathan Lee Burnett was found guilty of committing attempt burglary other than dwelling with intent to steal. At the hearing on 25 July 2012 at Southampton Magistrates Court Mr Taylor was sentenced to nine weeks community service and ordered to pay costs of £50 and Mr Burnett was ordered to pay costs of £50. Evidence found at the scenes by HFRS Fire Investigators, HFRS fire crews and Hampshire Constabulary crime scene investigators was instrumental in securing the convictions.
- Delivered arson reduction and fire investigation awareness training to Hampshire Constabulary crime scene investigators, HFRS fire investigators and HFRS crews.
- Regional fire investigation search dog training
- Police Community Support Officers - Hampshire Police HQ in Netley
- Continuous south east regional fire investigation group joint working/shared services and project work.

Additionally the team have deployed the fire investigation search dogs throughout Hampshire and the south east region to assist with 14 fire investigations, taken a total of 31 statements relating to arson in preparation for evidence packages.

The Arson Task Force and Fire Investigation team over the last three months have been actively involved in carrying out multi agency level 2/3 fire investigations throughout the county of Hampshire as well as continuing to maintain regional fire investigation search dog cover for the "South East Region". The FI and ATF Force have undertaken the following work in this reporting period.

Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 189

Smoke detectors fitted: 174

Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group have had five investigations in the reporting period involving a secondary school, a house, a YMCA building, a vehicle and a barn.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- There were two statements taken
- There were three fire investigation search dog deployments

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period we completed 10 fire safety audits. Working with our operational colleagues, local authority partners and the public we responded to seven complaints relating to alleged fire risks regarding poor fire safety standards.

We have continued a themed targeting of bed and breakfast establishments in anticipation of full occupation during the Olympic Games. We visited 15 where a variety of standards were found. We were able to support the businesses as well as ensure adequate fire safety standards.

An example of the work we have done to support business was a visit to a farm in the Basingstoke area that provides bed and breakfast facilities. The audit identified that no fire risk assessment had been completed to identify the risks within the building. It was also found that the building had a fire alarm that was inadequate. In addition to this, the final exit door was kept locked with a key and the escape lighting needed improving. Our staff assisted the responsible person to identify and deal with these issues and no formal enforcement action was necessary.

Following a routine re inspection of a public house in the Basingstoke area it was identified that the premises were proposing to provide sleeping accommodation on the first floor by way of a house in multiple occupation (HMO). A fire safety audit identified that the fire alarm was not in working order and would not be suitable as sleeping accommodation. As a result of this we temporarily restricted the use of the first floor for sleeping. Our staff worked proactively with the business on an agreed action plan to cover all the necessary improvements to lift the restriction.

Occasionally we are contracted by the public, our own response crews or our partner agencies with concerns about fire safety standards in a building.

A recent example was from our response crews who attended a small fire in a block of flats in the Basingstoke area. Responding crews raised their concerns with Basingstoke protection officers, who immediately responded, and whilst attending found an occupant with learning difficulties who had set fire to some furniture to keep warm. This resulted in damage to the front door of the flat, which threatened the escape of others in the building. We were able to deal with the fire safety matters as well as signpost the vulnerability issues to Adult Services.

Unwanted Fire Signals

Progress has been made in reducing the occurrence of unwanted fire signals. At present our staff are assisting eight premises that have reached our trigger points. This includes a housing association, a number of blocks of flats and a commercial building.

Non-emergency lift rescues

We currently have one housing association building that has reached a final warning with regards to the amount of times we have attended to open a lift car. We have been working with them to reduce these incidences but any further calls will result in a charge being applied. We are also investigating a commercial building and two blocks of flats that have reached our first trigger points. We will continue to work with these organisations to reduce preventable incidents.

Enforcement

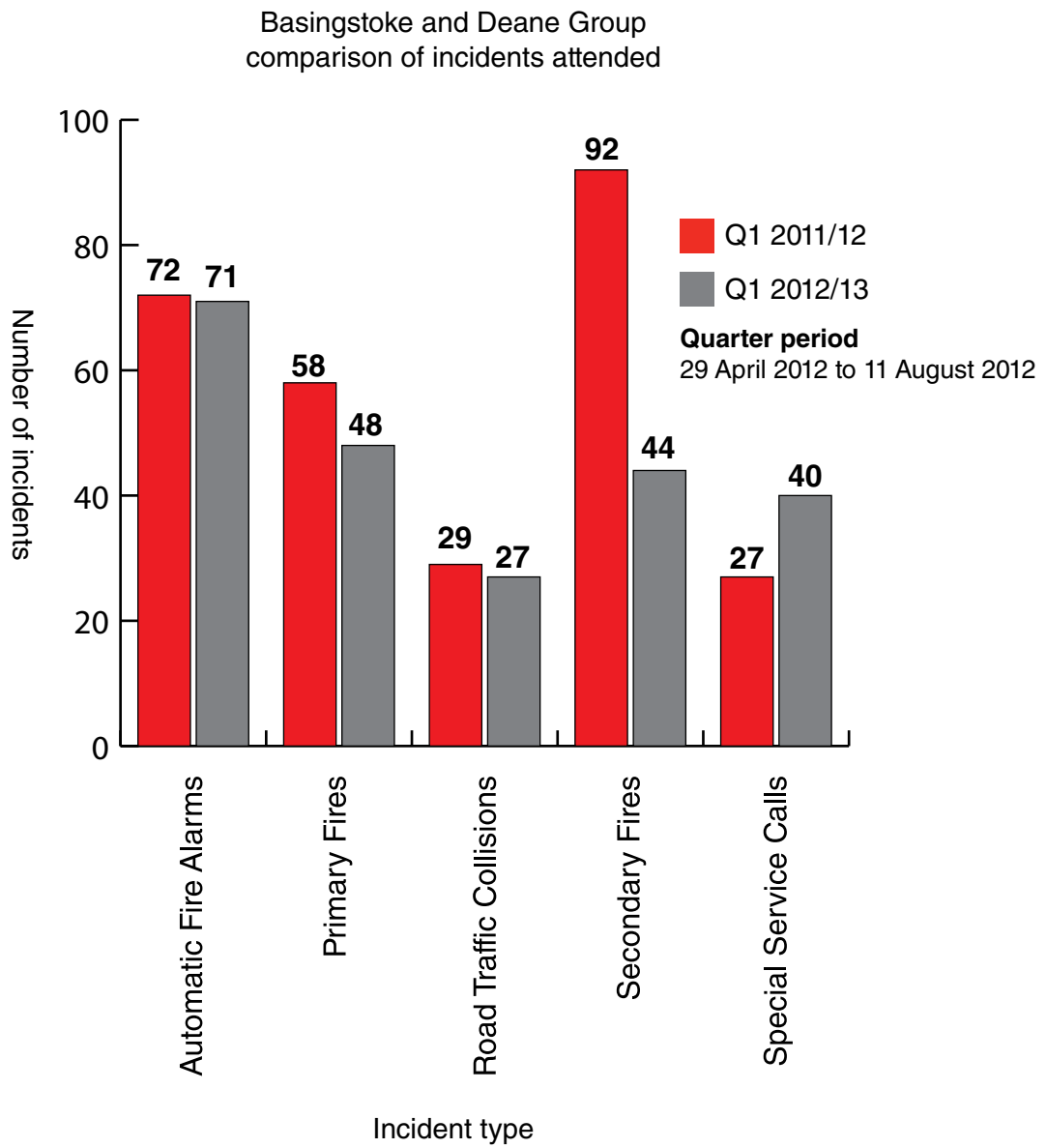
One enforcement notice was served in this reporting period on a public house.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served during this period.

Community Response

At 18:04 on 9 June 2012 crews were called to a fire at Keeps Cottage, Fair Oak Lane in Stratfield Saye. Four appliances, a special equipment unit and an aerial ladder platform were all mobilised to the scene. The incident was a fire in the roof of two semi-detached domestic properties measuring 30 metres by 10 metres. Fire crews used four jets, two breathing apparatus and a positive pressure ventilator to bring the blaze under control. The stop message was received at 20:40hrs.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 120

Smoke detectors fitted: 118

Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group have had five investigations in the reporting period involving a shop, two houses, a fatal flat fire (see Community Response for details) and a domestic garage.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- There were two fire investigation search dog deployments
- Six statements were taken

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, F and E

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We completed 11 fire safety audits targeting our resources towards licensed premises and small bed and breakfast type sleeping accommodation in preparation for the Olympics. We also responded to information and completed seven alleged fire risks in various retail establishments.

As part of our “themed” inspections we have identified potential risk in licensed premises and, in particular, a licensed building with sleeping accommodation above. During this reporting period our inspectors visited a number of these detailed below.

A public house in Farnham provided sleeping accommodation for the manager of the business where we found that there was no fire detection or emergency lighting. In addition to this a fire risk assessment had not been completed for the premises and there had been no staff training. As a result of the audit a notification of fire safety deficiencies was issued to the manager and we provided help and support to the business. The building now has satisfactory fire safety arrangements in place and the risk has been reduced.

We audited a public house in the Farnham which provides bed and breakfast to holiday makers. It consists of a main building and a converted barn. We identified that the fire risk assessment was not suitable and sufficient and it did not identify adequate systems in the barn area, or the requirement for staff training. As a result of the audit a notification of fire safety deficiencies was issued and we have been supporting the business to ensure the safety of residents and guests.

Safety Advisory Groups

We continue to be at the forefront of partnership working. One of the references is to attend and be a standing member of the safety advisory groups (SAGs) of the local football teams and the local authorities.

Farnborough Air Show

In order to assist and ensure compliance with fire safety legislation at the last show, we have been supporting the organisers of the 2012 Air Show. We also provided support for the health and safety team at the show to ensure fire safety was at the forefront of the exhibitors mind during the build phase. Once opened, we carried out a during performance inspection and found a positive attitude towards fire safety.

Joint Working

As part of our work with partners of the night time economy our staff from the Rushmoor office made a joint visit with the police in the Aldershot area. They visited 10 premises consisting of a squat, various bars, restaurants and night clubs. The result was that two of the building have been brought forward for fire safety audits due to identified risk. Other general issues of safety were also resolved quickly on the spot.

Consultations

It is the statutory duty of Building Control to consult with the Fire Authority on proposals for new buildings or where material alterations are made. This is for all premises subject to the Regulatory Reform (fire safety) Order 2005. Our consultation responses are based on the affect that the order will have on the premises once built, access for the fire service and water supplies. Below is an example of a recent consultation:

We received a consultation for an alteration and extension to form two dwellings and refurbish shop unit and loft conversion in Farnborough. These proposals compromised our ability to access a fire in the early stages due to access restrictions around the building. In order to assist developers we have recommended that the building is fitted with sprinklers as a compensatory feature.

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were served during this period.

Prohibitions

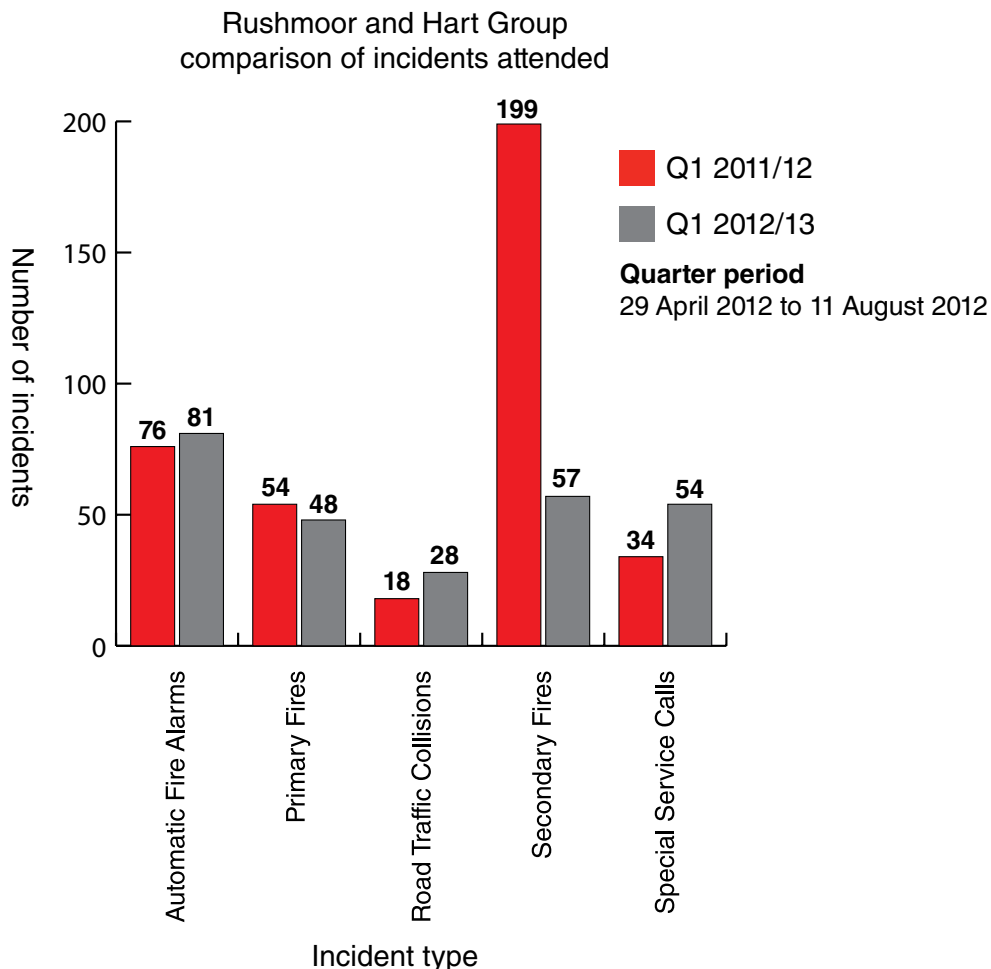
No prohibition notices were served during this period.

Community Response

On 26 May 2012 at 12:10, eight fire crews attended a house fire in Rother Road, Cove in Farnborough. A special equipment unit and an aerial ladder platform and other support vehicles were also in attendance.

The incident was a fire in three terraced dwellings consisting of two floors measuring 30 metres by 12 metres. The fire started in a compost bin at the rear of the properties and spread to the properties. One property was 50 percent damaged by fire and 100 percent damaged by smoke. Another property was 25 percent damaged by fire and 50 percent damaged by smoke and there was 10 percent fire damage in the roof of the third house. Firefighters used eight breathing apparatus, four jets and one hose reel to bring the blaze under control.

On 8 June 2012 at 14:14 crews from Odiham were mobilised to a fire involving a basement flat in Elms Road, Hook. The basement flat was 10 percent damage by fire. One male was rescued and CPR was given. Sadly the 60 year old male died after suffering with 60 percent burns. During the incident firefighters used two breathing apparatus and one hose reel. An investigation confirmed that the fire had started from careless disposal of smoking materials.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 230

Smoke detectors fitted: 226

Fire Investigations

Havant and East Hants Group have had nine investigations in the reporting period, involving three flats, a garden gate, a social club, two houses, a caravan and a bin shed.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- There was one fire investigation search dog deployment
- Eight statements were taken

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, B and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We completed 33 fire safety audits during this period with our target predominantly being higher risk premises providing sleeping accommodation.

Our staff have been working with Havant Borough Council to conduct joint visits to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) where concerns have been raised over fire safety standards. Risk levels have subsequently been reduced by adopting this partnership approach.

During this period the inspectors who enforce fire safety legislation in Havant and East Hampshire have dealt with a number of different types of premises according to the risk-based inspection programme. These included offices, licensed buildings, a school and a hospital. Examples of these inspections are detailed below.

A fire in a three storey multi-occupied shop in Petersfield highlighted concerns regarding the fire safety provisions within the premises. Our post incident audit found that the building had poor documentation, no fire risk assessment, no fire safety arrangements between occupiers and no maintenance records for the fire alarm system. In addition to this, the means of escape provisions needed improvements. Our staff have worked proactively with the owner and as a result an action plan was agreed rather than formal enforcement. We are working with the responsible person for the building to ensure satisfactory completion.

As part of our themed inspection of licensed premises, a visit was made to a public house in Alton to carry out a fire safety audit. Our visit found that there was no fire risk assessment, fire safety arrangements or maintenance records. In addition to this the fire alarm system was not being properly maintained and was found to be inappropriate and the means of escape required some improvement. As a result, an action plan has been agreed in place of formal enforcement and we are working with the management to ensure that people are safe.

Unwanted Fire Signals

We continue to deal with preventable incidents such as unwanted fire signals using our powers under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Our crews responded to a food services factory in Petersfield on a number of occasions to unwanted fire signals. Protection staff arranged a joint meeting with the responsible person and the alarm provider. It was identified that the reason for the faults was that the wrong type of detector heads were installed in relation to their operations. We have subsequently worked with the business to reduce risk and the number of false alarms.

We have also worked with Petersfield Hospital and a local block of flats to reduce instances of unwanted fire alarm calls. We are continuing to reduce false alarms in identified premises within Hampshire and support businesses.

Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership (HBRP)

We continue to support the other local authority agencies with the HBRP partnership. Examples of HBRP alerts from partners which have resulted in audits are detailed below.

Public houses in Alton and Bordon and a bed and breakfast establishment in Beech were audited and found they all had poor management and documentation. They also had issues with training of staff, means of escape and fire detection. Working with the owners of the businesses, action plans were agreed for all establishments and we continue to support them.

The Hampshire Better Regulation Partnership is continuing to bear fruit for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. The above premises were identified from alerts received from other partner authorities. This partnership allows HFRS to concentrate on serious fire safety issues without having to proactively employ resources to find them ourselves.

East Hants district HBRP provided 17 alerts in the period 1 May 2012 to 31 July 2012, out of which three were identified as worthy of follow up action.

Jalsa Salana

Our Alton Protection office is working closely with management of the Jalsa Salana religious event. The event caters for several thousand religious followers and has been an annual event for a number of years over a period of three days each year. The Local Safety Advisory Group (SAG) is the vehicle by which a partnership approach by all relevant enforcing authorities is assured. In parallel with SAG, Alton protection office is working closely with the organisers to ensure fire safety in particular before, during and after the event is assured. This is achieved by good working relationship with management and provision of continued support and guidance from HFRS.

Consultations

Alton protection office is working closely with East Hants building control department. This joint approach ensures that any identified issues regarding existing or proposed building works to premises are dealt with ensuring that businesses have to endure minimum disruption to their trading and a common sense approach to Building Regulation and Fire Safety Order compliance is maintained. This has included consultations for alterations to a golf club in Blacknest and Bedales School. In both cases we attended the premises on the request of the management and the local authority building control to provide additional advice regarding the existing provisions for fire safety. The result of these actions is that the agreed improvements will be incorporated into the building works and risk is reduced.

We received two complaints relating to fire safety standards from occupants of houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) on Hayling Island. These complaints either came direct from occupiers or via Havant Borough Council private sector housing department. We conducted joint audits with a local authority officer to ensure that the premises were not dangerous and therefore subject to a possible prohibition notice. The complaints were founded and we are dealing with the issues in partnership with the local authority and the owners to reduce risk.

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were served during this period.

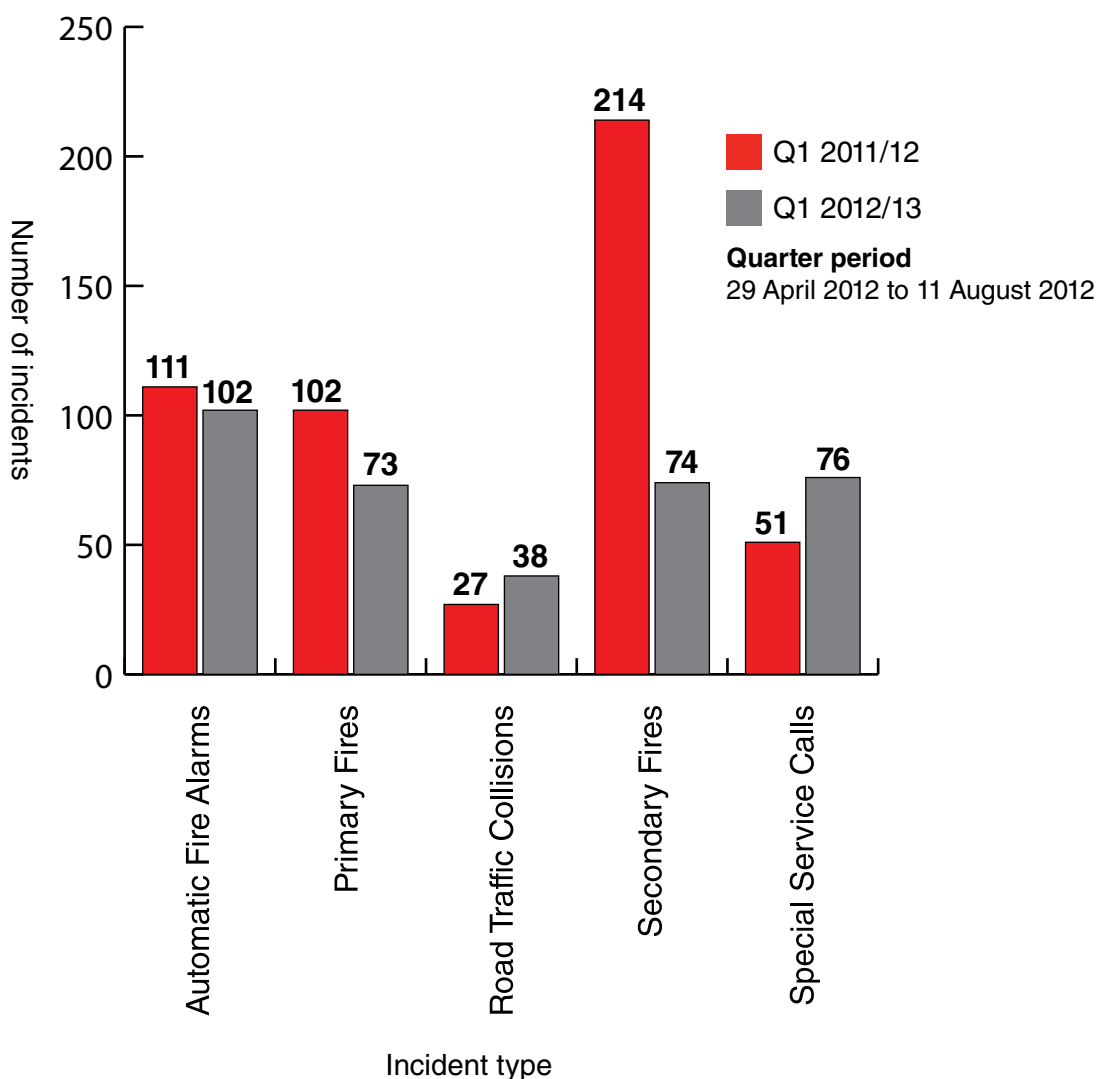
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served during this period.

Community Response

On 19 July 2012 at 01:02 two fire crews were mobilised to a severe house fire in Park House Farm Way, Leigh Park in Havant. The fire was in the ground floor front room in a two bedroom terraced house measuring five metres by five metres. Two adults and two children were taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation and cuts and lacerations. Firefighters used six breathing apparatus, two hose reels and two jets to bring the blaze under control.

Havant and East Hampshire Group comparison of incidents attended



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 253

Smoke detectors fitted: 309

Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group have had two investigations in this reporting period, involving a flat and a house.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements were taken
- There have been no fire investigation search dog deployments

Mosaic Risk Groups

E, M and J

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We completed a total of 23 fire safety audits during this period. We also continue to consult with our partners advising them on specific fire safety solutions through building regulations and licensing consultations.

We used action plans on six occasions to reduce the risk within businesses working with the responsible person and avoiding formal enforcement action.

Consultation from the Fareham Borough Council licensing department identified a 14th Century Tithe Barn which was being converted into a theatre. This is an important historical heritage building in south Hampshire linking the area back to battle of Agincourt (Henry V). An audit of the building highlighted some safety issues and through good partnership working we have ensured a reduction of risk alongside sympathetic fire safety systems.

As part of our planned targeting of life risk premises we identified a bed and breakfast establishment and a residential care home in the Fareham area as well as a guest house a bed and breakfast premises in the Gosport area. An initial audit outcome identified that enforcement action was appropriate. However, in line with our ethos of supporting businesses and the willingness of responsible persons to comply, we were able to agree action plans allowing the responsible person to drive the fire safety improvements in their premises, with guidance and support from HFRS. This enables control measures to be tailored to exact requirements of individual premises at the same time complying with current Communities Local Government (CLG) guidance documents.

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were served during this period.

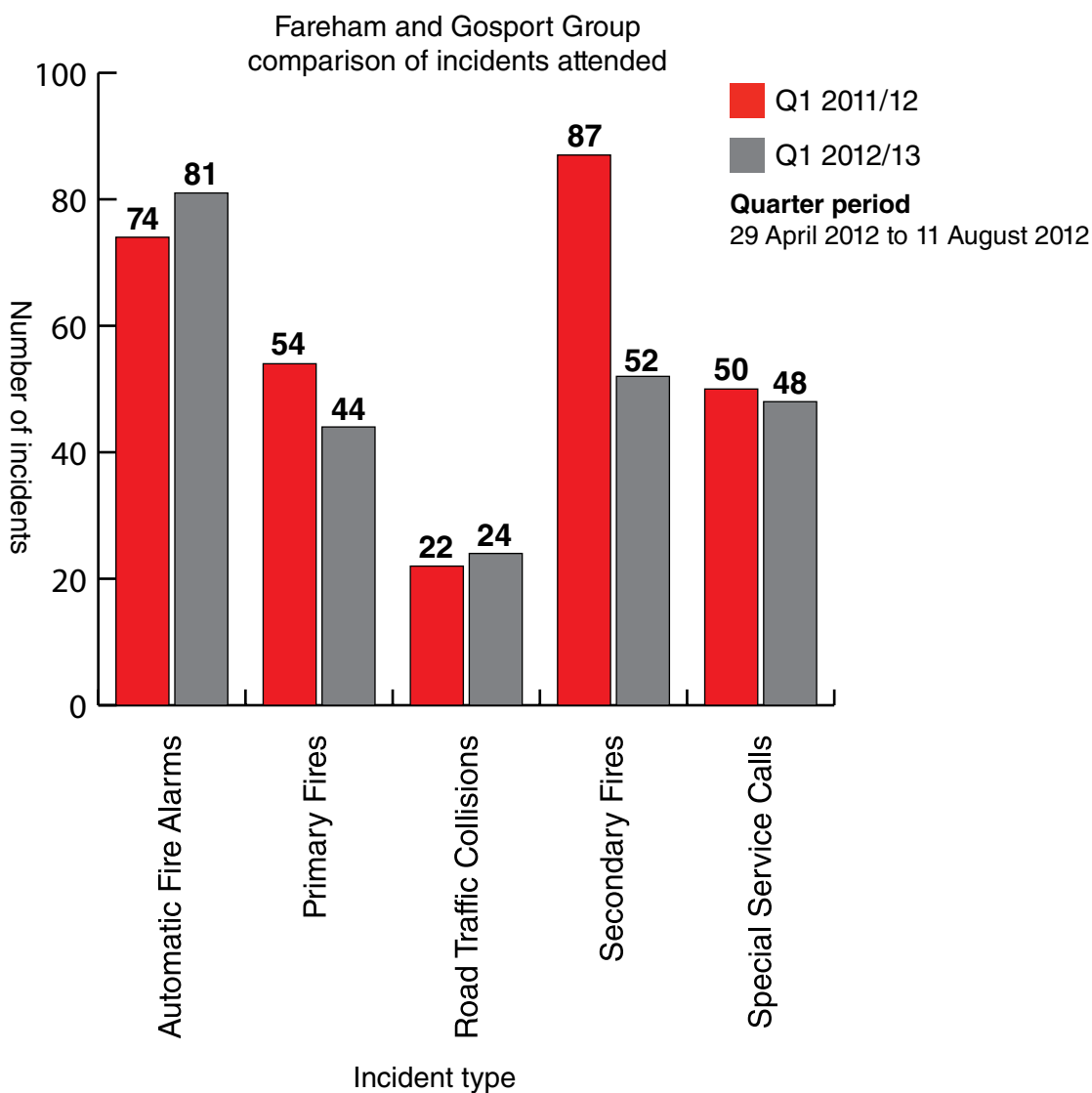
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served during this period.

Community Response

On 30 April 2012 at 01:15 three fire crews were mobilised to a kitchen fire in Ash Close, Malvern Avenue in West End. The fire involved an oil pan which caused heavy smoke logging throughout the detached property. Six breathing apparatus, two jets and positive pressure ventilation were used to extinguish the fire. One 20 year old casualty received oxygen therapy for shock.

On 1 May 2012 four fire crews were mobilised to Gudge Heath Lane in Fareham. This was a fire in a first floor bedroom which was 100 percent damaged by fire. The roof space was also 50 percent damaged by fire and remainder of property was 100 percent damaged by smoke. Firefighters used 14 breathing apparatus, two jets, two hose reels, two rope packs and an aerial ladder platform to put the fire out.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 537

Smoke detectors fitted: 447

Fire Investigations

Portsmouth Group had 10 investigations in this reporting period, involving three flats, two houses, a caravan, a commercial refuse bin, a restaurant and two bedsits.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- There were two fire investigation search dog deployments
- Four statements were taken

Mosaic Risk Groups

G, N and I

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

In addition to our normal risk based inspection programme, we responded to a request from the Portsmouth Museum to advise them of increased fire security measures whilst the original Nicholas Nickleby manuscript was loaned to the city from the British Museum.

We also worked in partnership with the Immigration Service which resulted in identifying buildings which were dangerous and we issued formal prohibition notices to reduce the risk within these buildings.

We are training a total of 19 volunteer representatives from the local community, similar to the scheme in Southampton. These advocates will receive information regarding fire safety law and standards to adopt. They will be supporting businesses within their community on our behalf. In addition, the scheme will assist us to overcome cultural and language barriers to reduce risk within Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) owned businesses.

During this reporting period we have agreed four action plans with the management of care homes in Portsmouth. The common issues identified in these inspections are lack of means to carry out a full evacuation. Other issues included fire doors, compartment sizes, training and recording of training and fire detection, evacuation devices for the non ambulant. We are working with all of these premises to improve the safety for the staff and residents.

Following information received from the immigration office we conducted an audit of a chinese takeaway in Southsea. During the audit we discovered that people were sleeping in the loft accessed by a ladder and in a side room both accessed by the kitchen. As a result a restriction notice was served on the responsible person to prevent sleeping taking place on the premises. We are working with the management of the premises to resolve the issues identified to reduce risk.

We previously reported the issue of a prohibition notice served on a mosque in Portsmouth. Since then we have supported the community and provided advice. As a result of the good work by our staff and the owners we have been able to reduce risk and lift the prohibition. We will continue to work proactively with the community to ensure fire safety standards.

Gunwharf Quays

Following a large fire in a restaurant in the Gunwharf, a multi agency working group was set up to debrief the management processes in the event of fire. It was identified during the fire and the subsequent inspection that the activation of the sprinklers contained the fire in the roof area and minimised the effects, this proved the benefits of the sprinkler system.

Another finding from this meeting was that Gunwharf Quays was experiencing numerous unwanted fire signals which are causing a strain on the management and clearly identifies that some occupiers have poor systems in place. The highest risk premises have been targeted for fire safety audits to reduce the number of unwanted fire alarm signals.

Multiple failures in the power supplies to a large high rise block of flats in the Gunwharf area resulted in the failure of lifts, emergency lighting and facilities for firefighters. HFRS has worked proactively with the management to find a solution and ensure that the building has greater contingency plans in place for the future. This includes facilities for portable generators with a delivery time suitable to arrive prior to failure of emergency lighting and fire alarm systems. We continue to support the management to improve safety within the premises.

Iftaar

Officers from protection and the liaison officer from Southsea had the honour of being invited to the Iftaar evening with the leaders of the Portsmouth Muslim Academy. This is the time when the muslims break their fast after night fall during Ramadan and is done as a community. We took the opportunity to talk about fire safety in the home and at places of work and have offered support both in their businesses and education. We continue to support all communities in the area and county.

Crime Reduction Day (CRED)

Our officers supported response crews and the police in a crime reduction day recently. The event was organised by the police in the Elm Grove/Belmont Street area. The target audience was the local residents and businesses, but particularly the children and parents that attend Cottage Grove Primary School. This is a multicultural school and in addition to the days activities, the aim was to have all the agencies at the school for closing time to speak with students and parents.

Consultation

A developer has been working to convert an old night club in the Kingston area into a care home for the elderly. This is a traditionally constructed large assembly building which will be converted with a mainly timber frame internal partitions and extensions. During our considerations of the building regulations consultation we agreed that the building should be fitted with residential sprinklers to compensate for some difficulties in creating means of escape routes. The building is well under way for completion with the sprinkler system being installed.

Presentations

Advocate training

A total of 19 people with representatives from across the community were provided training to be able to understand the main principles of the FSO and how to carry out a basic risk assessment while recognising risk at a premises. The recruitment and training of these advocates is to assist HFRS when inspectors experience difficulties with language and cultures whilst performing their duty to ensure that businesses are safety in the event of fire. Languages included English, Chinese, Thai, Romanian, Kurdish, German, Gujhzan, Spanish, Hindi, Urdu and Polish. We were really impressed with the engagement of our advocates in learning about compliance with fire safety and look forward to working with them.

Licensing Presentation

A total of 30 publicans within the licensing trade in Portsmouth attended Southsea Fire Station with representatives from the police and the local authority. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with the Safer Portsmouth Partnership gave a free presentation on guidance in relation to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, to all pubs and clubs in Portsmouth. The training session was to ensure that everyone was given the opportunity to find out what they needed to do in order to comply with the law. Previous partnership working in 2009 in the Portsmouth Best Bar One process identified that many operators of licensed premises had a lack of understanding and knowledge of their fire safety responsibilities and obligations.

Areas covered included:

- Fire risk assessments
- Employer responsibilities
- Premises capacities
- Crowd management

NatWest Presentation

As part of our drive to influence the support to business we gave a presentation to the business managers for South Hampshire NatWest bank. These managers engage with the small to medium enterprises (SME) in the county. We spoke to them about our role in supporting business and enforcing the Fire Safety Order and asked them to act as advocates for us whilst engaging with businesses. We will be giving the presentation to other areas in the county and have been asked to deliver a presentation at their next seminar.

Enforcement

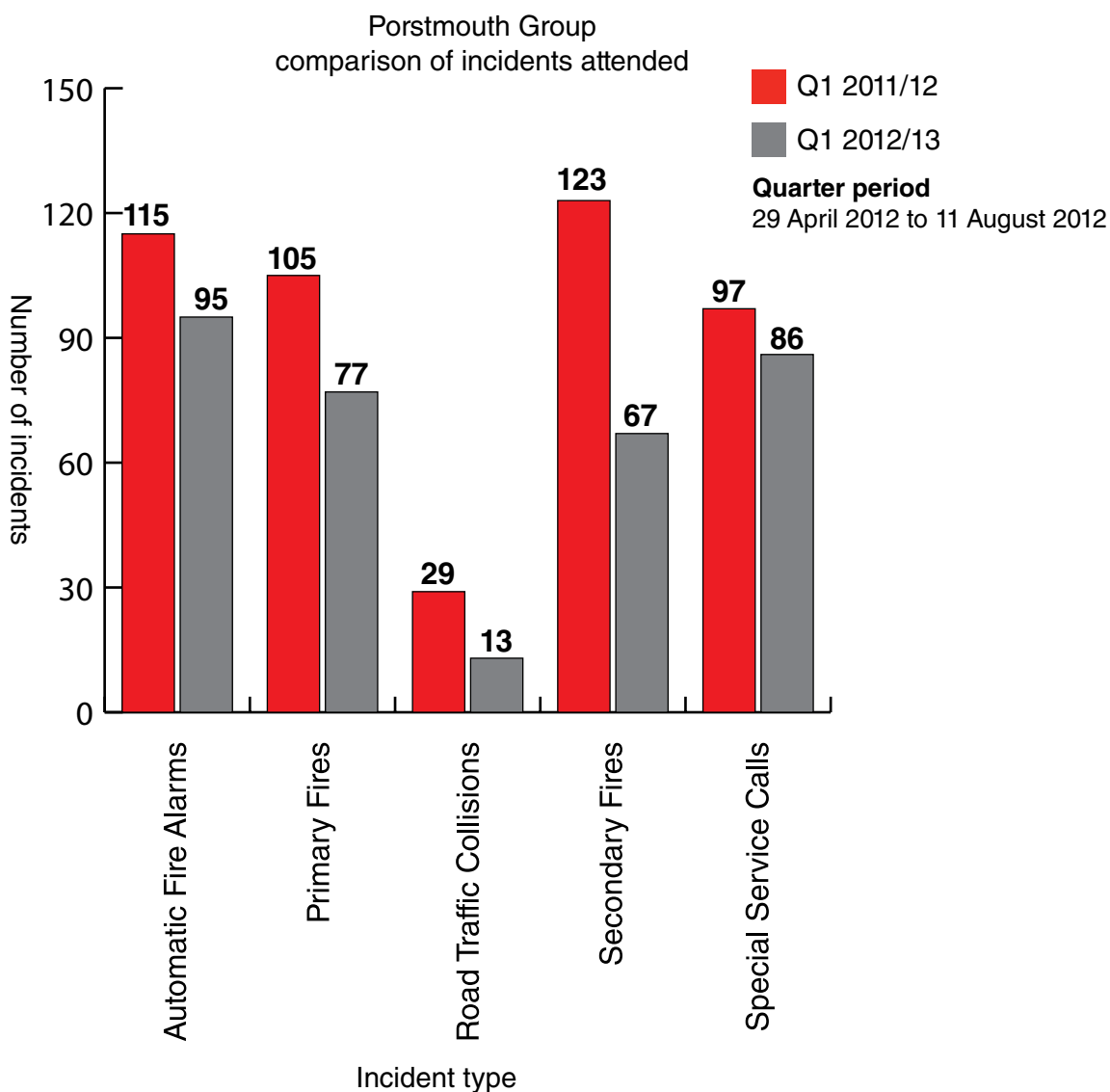
No enforcement notices were served during this period.

Prohibitions

We served two prohibition notices on take away restaurant businesses with sleeping accommodation as part of the premises.

Community Response

On 22 May 2012 at 09:17 five crews were mobilised to a fire at the Water Margin restaurant in Gunwarf Quays, Portsmouth. The special equipment unit and the aerial ladder platform were also in attendance. The fire was in the ground floor kitchen area approximately seven metres by ten metres. The ground floor was 80 percent damaged by fire. Firefighters used four breathing apparatus, two hose reels and two jets to bring the blaze under control.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 119

Smoke detectors fitted: 135

Fire Investigations

Winchester Group have had one investigation in the reporting period involving a warehouse.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- There were no fire investigation search dog deployments
- No statements were taken

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, A and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We have used action plans to work with businesses on over 60 percent of our audits during this period. We have found that this approach is welcomed by those responsible for businesses and allows a greater degree of flexibility when dealing with fire safety problems which are not immediately life threatening.

Our continued joint working with Winchester City Council housing department has resulted in two joint audits so far. One of the joint inspections resulted in the issuing of a prohibition notice by HFRS for employees sleeping on the second floor of the building. There was a lack of fire detection and insufficient fire separation for the single staircase.

Business support officers have continued working in the Winchester, Andover and Eastleigh areas to provide SME's with support, fire safety advice and guidance.

Enforcement

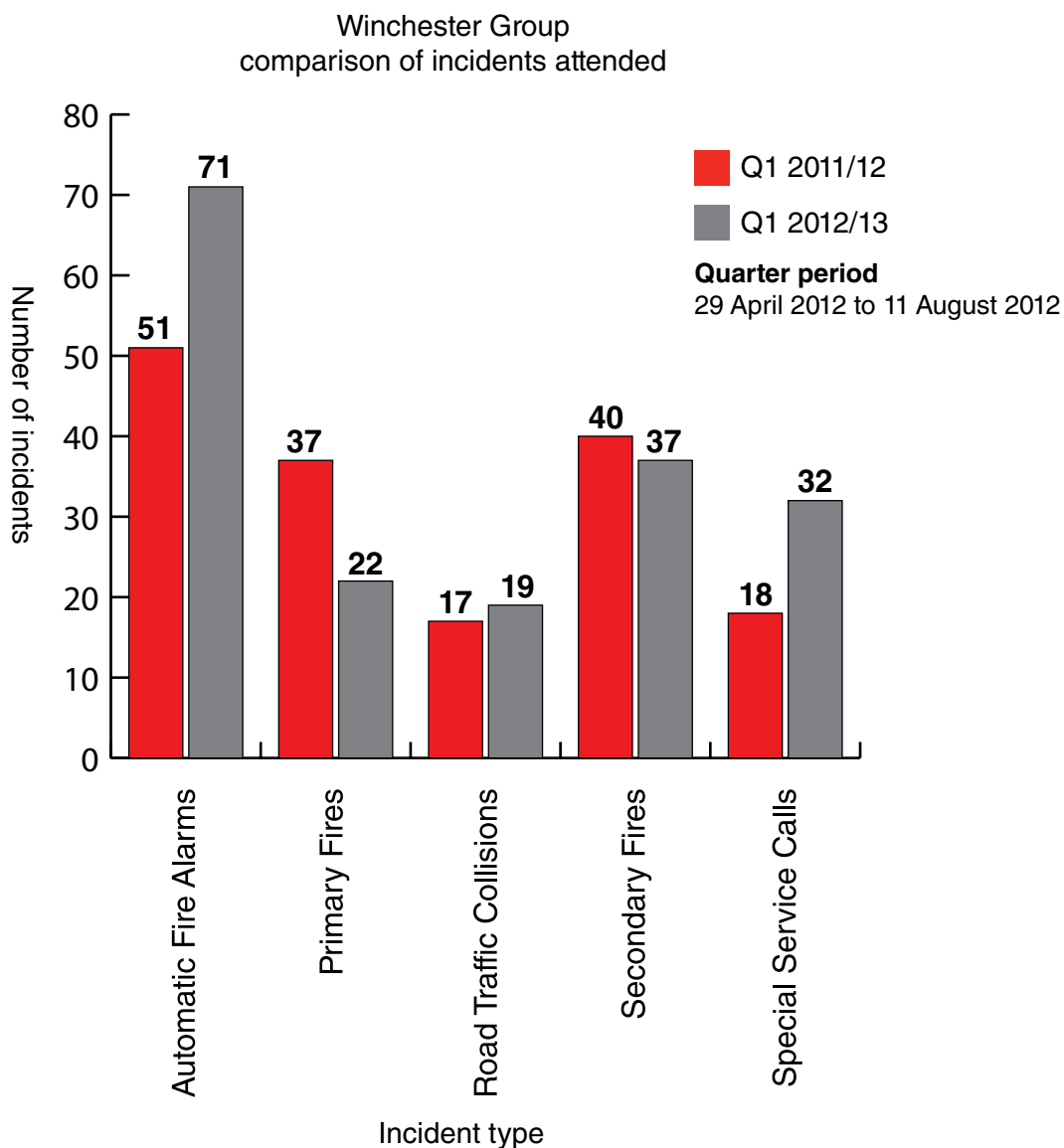
One enforcement notice was served on a bed and breakfast establishment.

Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were served on a licensed bar and on a bed and breakfast establishment.

Community Response

On 18 May 2012 at 15:37 three crews and a USAR advisor were mobilised to Stockbridge Road in Crawley to assist a male that had fallen down a basement. The casualty suffered head and spinal injuries and was rescued using a rope pack.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 136

Smoke detectors fitted: 88

Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group have had 11 investigations in this reporting period involving a flat, a bin, a house, a factory, commercial bins, a nursing home, offices, a domestic garage, a vehicle, a school and a public house.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- One fire investigation search dog deployment
- Three statements were taken

Mosaic Risk Groups

D, M and A

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We completed a total of 60 fire safety audits in this period. Our target is premises where the risk to people's life is greatest and this is normally within premises which have a mixed occupancy of commercial and sleeping accommodation.

HFRS attended a fire in a care home in Romsey. This fire, in a high risk premises housing many vulnerable people, was suppressed and extinguished by the installed sprinkler system. The fire started in a kitchen and our response crews did not have to perform fire fighting operations due to the actuation of the sprinkler system.

Preventable Incidents

We have actively worked on reducing unwanted automatic fire signal calls by inspecting the premises of offenders that reach a total of six calls in a rolling twelve month period. We are working proactively with one of our top offenders who will be making major changes to their policies and procedures as well as altering their maintenance schedule in an attempt to eliminate any further false calls. This change is following several on site meetings with the responsible person.

A partial sprinkler system has now been successfully installed and commissioned in a wing of Elizabeth House care home in Enham Alamein, Andover to compensate for excessive travel distances.

Enforcement

Three enforcement notices were served during this period including a licensed inn, a care home and a retail shop.

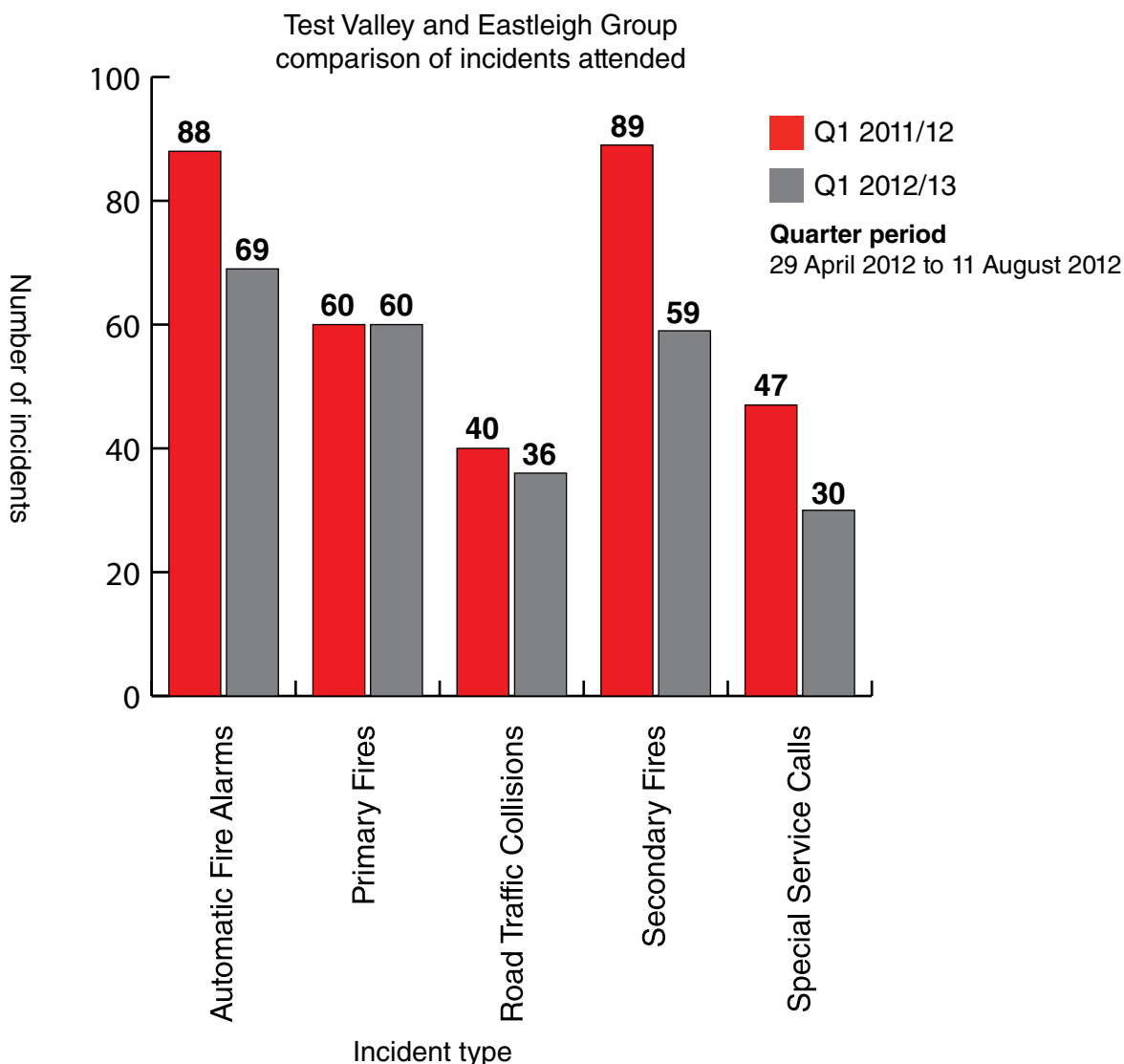
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were served in this period.

Community Response

On 28 May 2012 at 15:35, six fire crews were mobilised to a commercial building (Bedmax) in Forton, Andover. The special equipment unit and aerial ladder platform were also in attendance along with other support vehicles. The building was of metal construction measuring 91 metres by 13 metres consisting of two floors. The fire involved a wood dryer which spread to a 15000 litre diesel tank. Fire crews used 10 breathing apparatus, two compressed air foam systems (CAFS), one jet and an aerial ladder platform.

On 9 June 2012 four crews were mobilised to Fair Oak Lane, Fair Oak Green. This incident was a fire in the roof space of two semi detached properties. Four jets, two breathing apparatus, positive pressure ventilation and an aerial ladder platform were used to put the fire out.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 321

Smoke detectors fitted: 212

Fire Investigations

Southampton Group have had 18 investigations in the reporting period including seven flats (one being fatal), six houses, a hospital ward, a group of vehicles, a derelict public house and two separate vehicles.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- Eight statements were taken
- There were four fire investigation search dog deployments

Mosaic Risk Groups

G, N and M

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

A new Licensing Action Group (LAG) has been set up involving all the responsible authorities. This group meets monthly at St Mary's Fire Station to share real time evidence so that joint responses can be initiated to ensure our night time economy continues to prosper.

We responded to 24 instances of an alleged fire risks during this period. Many of these alerts came from working with our partners and them being able to identify problems in our highest risk buildings on our behalf. Such buildings during this period included licensed premises, high rise blocks of flats and commercial businesses with higher fire risk operations.

Two notable projects that we have successfully influenced, Orion's Point (Student High-Rise Accommodation) and Admirals Quay (high-end flats and commercial property in Ocean village) are now including sprinklers into their design. This will dramatically reduce the risks from the hazards of fire to members of the public and our own firefighters.

Notable partnerships within Southampton that have recently been formed are with Southampton City Council (SCC). This is for the effective reduction of fire risk to SCC building stock and Southampton hospitals to reduce unwanted AFAs and reduce fire risk within their buildings by assisting in identifying higher risk areas for immediate action.

Enforcement

One enforcement notice was issued to a licensed premises during this period.

Prohibitions

We served two prohibition notices in this period and they were both licensed premises.

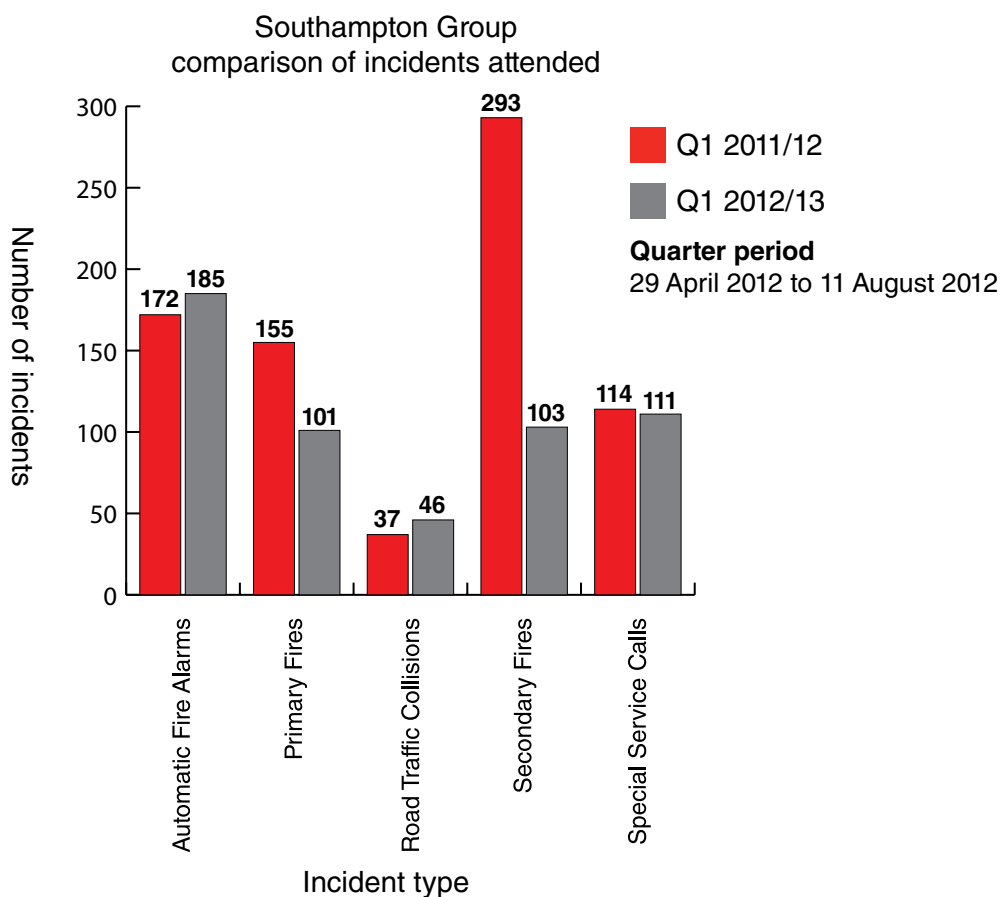
Community Response

Fire crews for Hamble, Hightown and Botley were called to a fire in Hamble on 5 May at 11:38. The fire involved a toaster in the kitchen on a ground floor flat. Firefighters rescued a 86 year old male and handed him over to South Central Ambulance Service. The male suffered smoke inhalation and sadly died a few weeks later whilst in hospital.

On 6 June 2012 at 02:28 five fire crews were mobilised to a fire involving terraced houses in Aldermoor Road, Southampton. The special equipment unit and aerial ladder platform were also in attendance. The fire was in the roof space of a terraced house measuring ten metres by seven metres. Three people were rescued by attending crews. Firefighters used 24 breathing apparatus, three jets and the aerial ladder platform to bring the blaze under control. The roof space was 100 percent damaged by fire and the property had water damage throughout.

On 23 May 2012 at 13:20 fire crews were mobilised to Maybush Road in Southampton. The incident was a fire on the ground floor of a two storey dwelling. (See 1.2 for further details)

On 14 July 2012 at 23:07 fire crews were mobilised to Shirley Towers, Church Street, Southampton following reports of a fire. The fire was in the lobby of the 9th floor and the corridor was heavily smoke logged. Firefighters led 10 people to safety and used four breathing apparatus, one jet and a positive pressure ventilator to extinguish the fire and clear the smoke.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of home safety visits: 59

Smoke detectors fitted: 71

Fire Investigations

The New Forest Group have had five investigations in the reporting period including an industrial unit, a commercial unit, a house in multiple occupancy and two vehicles.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements were taken
- One fire investigation search dog deployment

Mosaic Risk Groups

A, D and B

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We completed a total of 69 fire safety audits in the New Forest during this period as we continued to work with the district council and be prepared for the accommodation being safe for the summer period including the Olympics.

Our close links with the local authority led to a high number of fire safety concerns being highlighted to us. This partnership working helps us deal with those businesses where a problem is identified, reducing the burden on others we do not have to visit.

We have successfully completed our holiday let campaign. This has resulted in 10 incidences of enforcement activity. Audits were limited to lets offering accommodation for eight or more. All other lets have been sent a letter detailing common findings of the audits. 'Visit Britain' have been approached with a view to their inspectors being trained to offer quality fire safety guidance to owners.

A partnership agreement has been signed and adopted by New Forest District Council. Early work has resolved potentially serious deficiencies in sheltered housing blocks.

A fire safety champion scheme is being adopted by retained fire stations within the New Forest to provide us with quality information and local intelligence.

We have developed a close working partnership with the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive to ensure that our sites designated as control of major accident hazards on the Waterside undertake their statutory obligations as defined under the Fire Safety Order, Comah Regulations and Recommendations made in the Buncefield Report.

Enforcement

We served three enforcement notices in this period including a residential care home and two restaurants.

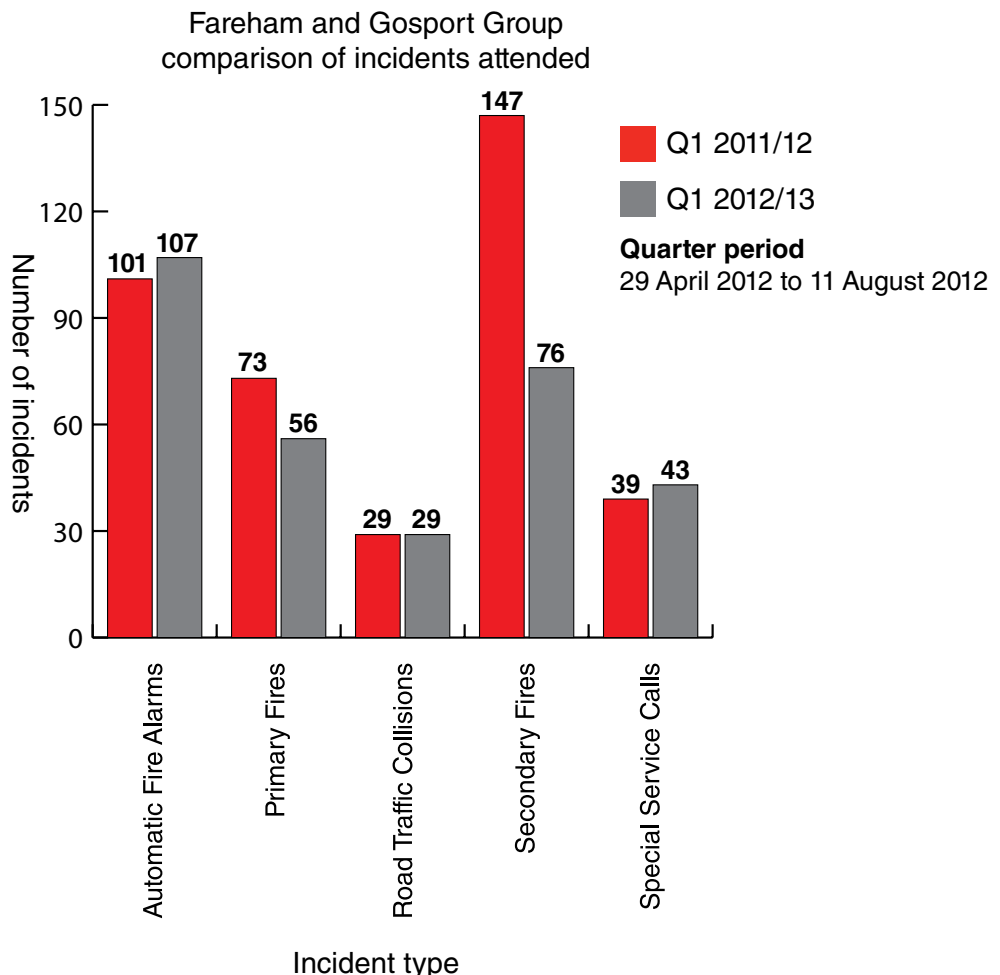
Prohibitions

There were no prohibition notices served in this period.

Community Response

On 6 July 2012 at 11:43 four fire crews were mobilised to a farm fire in Woodlands Road, Netley Marsh. The special equipment unit and other support vehicles were also in attendance. The fire involved a ‘L’ shaped building measuring 20 metres by 20 metres and was of concrete and steel construction. Two cylinders were located and removed by firefighters. The building was 75 percent damaged by fire. Firefighters used six breathing apparatus, four jets and compressed air foam system to bring the fire under control.

On 12 May 2012 at 16:58 four crews were alerted to a fire at Allenbrook Nursing Home in Fordingbridge. The building consisted of three floors and a basement measuring 30 metres by 30 metres. The fire was in the ground floor bedroom. Two people were rescued and five people were assisted out of the building. Firefighters used eight breathing apparatus and two hose reels to put the fire out.



5.1

Woman dies in Stubbington fire

A woman has died following a severe fire at a flat in Stubbington on September 2.

Fire control received a 999 call at 23.23 and crews arrived at Spencer Court within six minutes to discover a fully developed fire in a ground floor flat.

More than 20 firefighters from Fareham, Gosport and Cosham battled intense heat and extinguished the blaze using six sets of breathing apparatus, two jets and one hose reel.

A body was discovered in a ground-floor flat and another woman was taken to Queen Alexandra Hospital to be treated for mild smoke inhalation.

Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control and extinguish it in the face of extreme conditions but were sadly unable to save the woman.

A joint investigation between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary is now underway.

Key to 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



HAMPSHIRE
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