

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

September 2013

# Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE  
FIRE AND  
RESCUE  
SERVICE

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**Front Page Photo:** Crews tackling the Durley thatch fire on 19 April 2013

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## Introduction

This activity report covers the period 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 30 June 2013 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Stop Press” section of the report.

We are pleased to report we saw no fatalities in fires during this period, nor any serious injuries as a result of fire. However, several fires caused severe damage to homes in the county, in particular those with thatched roofs.

Large thatch fires in Quarley (see 1.1) and Upton, both near Andover, and Durley, near Bishop’s Waltham (see 1.4), all occurred within April. They followed a trio of fires at thatched properties on Good Friday (29 March). A common link was established between the fires. All the homes were fitted with modern wood burners and the fires were caused by excessive heat being transferred through the chimney. It led to a publicity campaign prior to autumn/winter urging users of enclosed solid fuel burners to check the integrity of their chimney.

The work of our Control staff was also highlighted during this reporting period by the story of an elderly lady who was given vital survival advice over the phone by an operator (see 1.2). The woman was of limited mobility and so was concerned by the smell of smoke in her house but the operator was able to reassure and provide advice until fire crews arrived.

This reporting period saw another 16 young people from Basingstoke complete their 12-week Prince’s Trust course. They were presented with their awards by Basingstoke MP and Culture Secretary Maria Miller and Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Hayes.

The international reputation of our Urban Search and Rescue team was shown again during this reporting period when they were invited by the Polish authorities to deliver training on timber shoring. Two members of the Hampshire team were invited to Poland to train Polish counterparts in the important structural reinforcement techniques.



# 1 Responding to Incidents

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The tables below represent a breakdown of all the emergency calls we have received in this reporting period.

Incident_Category	Total
Fire	1147
Special Service Call	734
False Alarm	1387
<b>Total</b>	<b>3268</b>

Incident_Category	Total
Primary Fire	519
Secondary Fire	628
Special Service Call	516
RTC	218
FalseAlarm	508
Unwanted fire signal	879
<b>Total</b>	<b>3268</b>

## 1.1 Crews tackle roof fire in Cholderton near Andover

**Fire crews attended a major roof fire on Thursday 4 April at a private property in the village of Cholderton, Quarley in the Andover area.**

The response swiftly escalated to eight pumps, the mutli-role vehicle and a water carrier also attended along with colleagues from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. Crews from Andover, Whitchurch, Winchester, Stockbridge and Sutton Scotney, together with support from colleagues from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, fought the blaze in the roof of the Grade II listed period detached property.



The fire was brought under control and a stop message was issued at 21:54. No persons were reported at the property but 100 per cent of the roof was destroyed. The cause of the fire was accidental and was most likely a spark from the chimney or breakdown of the chimney liner.

# 1 Responding to Incidents

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## 1.2 Control Room operators to the rescue

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service control operators provided vital survival advice to an elderly lady, 83 with limited mobility when a fire broke out in her kitchen.**

On 7 April fire crews from Fareham attended an incident where the 83 year old resident was trapped in her house.

During the call, Control Room operators quickly ascertained that the elderly resident had limited mobility. Armed with this information they gave her vital survival advice, reassuring her and staying on the phone until the arrival of the Fareham fire crew.

Crews were able to rescue the lady from her property unharmed following their swift response and were able to extinguish the fire that had been caused by the oven grill being left on.

## 1.3 Aldershot High Street roof blaze extinguished by crews

**Fire crews worked quickly to extinguish a roof fire in a town centre premises in Aldershot on 24 April.**

Working closely with colleagues from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, firefighters from Rushmoor, Basingstoke and Hartley Wintney swiftly brought the blaze in the three-storey high street building under control.



Despite the best efforts of the crews, the roof and the top floor of the building were destroyed by the fire, while the lower floors suffered water damage. No one was injured in the incident.

The building contained a shop, offices and flats and around 50 firefighters fought the blaze using the aerial ladder platform, five jets and a hose reel.

The first 999 call was received at 14:49 and the stop message arrived at 16:43. The cause of the fire was accidental, most likely an electrical fault.

# 1 Responding to Incidents

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## 1.4 Fire crews attend a major thatch fire in Durley

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service was alerted to a thatch roof visibly alight on 19 April at 10:50. Crews from Bishops Waltham were initially dispatched, however, shortly after a further eight pumps were deployed.**

12 pumps altogether were mobilised at 11:49 from Hightown, Wickham, Eastleigh, Fareham, Basingstoke and Botley.

The thatch property's roof was 100 per cent on fire and salvage operations were undertaken. Firefighters used 10 breathing apparatus, 12 compressed air foam systems, six main jets and four hose reels to bring the blaze under control.

The cause of the fire was accidental and most likely caused by a spark from the chimney or heat transfer from the chimney liner.

## 1.5 Student led to safety from Southampton tower block blaze

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**A female student was led to safety by Hampshire firefighters after a fire in a student accommodation block in Southampton on 21 May.**

Fire crews were called to the 16-floor Liberty Quays complex at 04:51 after the block's fire alarm was activated. On arrival, the block had been evacuated but one person was found to be unaccounted for.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus swiftly carried out a search operation and located the female in a 12th floor bedroom and led her to safety. She was handed into the care of paramedics and taken to hospital as a precaution.

The fire involved a sofa in the communal kitchen of a flat on the 12th floor. Floors above and below the 12th floor suffered minor smoke logging and positive pressure ventilation fans, along with the building's built-in ventilation system, were used to clear the smoke.

A joint investigation was carried out between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary. The cause of the fire was a deliberate human act.

## **1.6 Chip pan fire causes family to flee house in Gosport area**

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**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service attended a serious fire in the Priddy Hard area of Gosport on 5 June. Thankfully, the reassuring voice of a control room operator and a working smoke alarm enabled the residents to get to safety and call 999.**

The residents were alerted to the fire by the working smoke detector and were able to evacuate the building after the calming and reassuring voice of Watch Manager Vine, who stayed on the phone until help arrived.

Two pumps from Gosport Fire Station attended the incident and used one high pressure hose reel and two breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire. The crews also used a positive pressure ventilation fan to remove the smoke from the building.

## **1.7 Crews fight roof fire in Bursledon**

Nearly 60 firefighters battled to save three terraced properties in Bursledon on 10 June.

Control operators mobilised crews following a 999 call at 16:45 to Salterns Lane. Crews arrived to discover the roof of one of the three-storey properties well alight. The roof of the first property collapsed, while the rest of the building was also badly damaged by fire.

The adjoining property suffered fire damage to the first and second floors and also its roof. The third property in the terrace suffered smoke damage. No one was injured in the incident.

Crews from Hightown, Hamble, Redbridge, St Mary's, Eastleigh and Fareham used seven jets, two hose reels, one compressed foam jet and two sets of breathing apparatus to extinguish the blaze.

Firefighters remained on the scene for some hours damping down and an investigation determined that the fire was accidental and most likely caused through the use of a blow torch.

## 2 Community Safety

### 2.1 Schools Education Team

This reporting quarter includes a two week Easter holiday and one week half term. We have been working hard to ensure that our work is inclusive, whilst continuing to stay focused on our evidence based delivery strategy. This has led us to delivering elements of our education programme to look after children in residential schools, children that are home schooled and children in faith schools.

During this quarter we have worked with the following number of pupils in schools:

4,030 Key Stage 1 pupils during 65 school visits  
 4,784 Key Stage 2 pupils during 84 school visits  
 3104 Key Stage 3/4 pupils during 38 school visits

We are pleased to report that we have also increased the number of parents and carers joining us to hear our community safety messages during school assemblies from 458 to 574 (up 25 per cent).

We are actively encouraging and supporting agencies, local authorities and the business community to organise safety events which bring together partners to support children's learning.

Type of event	Working with	Location	Children	Adults
Think Safe	Rushmoor Borough Council	Runways End	819	66
Think Safe	Hart District Council	Farnborough	576	16
Think Safe	Basingstoke and Deane	Bramley	1479	151
Prison! Me! No Way!	Prison! Me! No Way!	Gosport	370	20
Junior Road Safety Officers Champion of Champions	HCC/PCC/SCC	Eastleigh Fire Station	64	16
Science Fair	Westfields Junior School	Westfields Junior School	90	2
Peer Mentoring	Hampshire Education	Intech, Winchester	150	48



## 2 Community Safety

### 2.2 Home Safety – Safeguarding

Home Safety Visits (HSV) carried out this quarter – 1,447

Smoke alarms fitted this quarter – 1,544

The below information highlights the number of safeguarding referrals that have been dealt with by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in the past three months.

Number of referrals	
Month	Number of referrals
April	23
May	33
June	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>

The table below highlights which authority we have passed our safeguarding concerns onto. As you can see, adults from Hampshire make up the largest number of safeguarding referrals. Internally we have dealt with 23 safeguarding referrals which would have all been identified for high fire risk.

Action taken on referrals made by HFRS	
Referred to	Number of referrals
Passed to HCC Adult Services	24
Passed to HCC Childrens Services	3
Passed to HCC NHS Mental Health Services	2
Passed to PCC Adult Services	7
Passed to PCC Childrens Services	3
Passed to SCC Adult Services	6
Passed to SCC Childrens Services	1
Passed to SCC NHS Mental Health Services	1
Internal action only	23
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>

The table below highlights the action taken by HFRS from safeguarding referrals which have been made to us from other agencies such as South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). This means that SCAS have referred onto HFRS because they have identified a high fire risk and we would have passed this information internally to the local community safety officer for them to visit and provide a home safety visit.

Action taken	Number of referrals
Passed to CSO team	9
Not stated	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## 2 Community Safety

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### 2.3 Volunteers

**At the end of this period, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service had a total of 31 volunteers, of 15 are actively volunteering, the remainder were being integrated into the Service undertaking training or are yet to be deployed.**

The support our volunteers have brought to the Service is invaluable. They have provided a wealth of knowledge and freed up HFRS staff which has enabled them to undertake other essential tasks.

During this reporting period, our volunteers completed 39 home safety visits, 33 visits to thatched properties, made five referrals to the Sensory Loss Team and attended eight community events, all of which amounted to a total of 382 voluntary hours.

The village agents have undertaken one home safety visit, made five referrals and invited us to attend a community event to promote fire safety.

Our British Sign Language volunteers have also proved to be an invaluable resource. They have been very proactive, delivering fire safety presentations for deaf clubs around the county and taking referrals to undertake home safety checks. They have also developed an excellent working relationship with Hampshire County Council's Deaf Services Team. Following their visit to a family of five, all of whom are deaf, our volunteers advised the Deaf Services Team that the family had no adapted doorbell or fire detection equipment and within two days all the necessary equipment had been fitted.

### 2.4 Prince's Trust

**During the start of April our previous Basingstoke team were at the end of their 12 week programme. For their challenges they had a community day at the Russell Howard Park Pavilion and took Help for Heroes bowling. Their final presentation was held at the Ark Centre with a theme of Deal or No Deal and saw 16 out of 18 young people complete the course with 89 per cent success and retention. MP Maria Miller attended, alongside Police Crime Commissioner Simon Hayes and DCO Dave Curry (HFRS).**

Our next Basingstoke team then started at the beginning of May with 19 young people. Their community project was a decking area and flower beds at the Russell Howard Park Pavilion. The team enjoyed a Fire Safety Day at Eastleigh and First Aid at Basingstoke Fire Station. Work experience placements were also held at the end of June where the team members all had placements in various industries.

## 2 Community Safety

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During week 11 of the programme, our New Forest group worked with local residents at residential homes and the children centre in Hardley. To end the programme 13 out of 15 (87 per cent) young people hosted their final presentation at Fawley Refinery and welcomed over 60 guests including family, friends and local community groups to witness their successful completion.

During this period we had our first St Mary's group for a while, HFRS have recently found it easier to engage with people in that geographic area. The team's community project was a regeneration of the garden for the local community at St Denys Community Centre. This project included creating a pathway through the trees, and repainting the walls in a bright and interesting way which was appropriate for all local residents that use the garden.

Our Redbridge team started their programme with 11 team members that undertook a community project within a nursing home in Southampton. For a few of the team members this project later led to their work placements being with the same nursing home.

### 2.5 Fire Investigation

**There have been 51 fire investigations in the reporting period, 34 deliberate fires, 13 non-suspicious and four undetermined. There have been no fatalities over the reporting period.**

During this period, Fire Investigation (FI) and Arson Task Force (ATF) have supported the investigation of 34 arson offences, with 17 arrests made in relation to 15 of the offences committed in Basingstoke and Deane, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley and Eastleigh, Winchester, Fareham and Gosport and Havant and East Hants Groups.

Additionally case results being received in relation to eight investigations and one Coroners Inquest during this reporting period:

- Following an act of arson to Clere School, Adbury Road, Burghclere on 7 November 2012, a young offender was found guilty of committing arson with intent. At the hearing on 5 April 2013 at Winchester Crown Court the young offender was sentenced to three years Youth Rehabilitation Order, combined with a Supervision Order and a three month curfew.
- Following an act of arson to 14 Longacre Rise, Chineham, Basingstoke on 7 January 2013, Phoebe Catharine Pullen was found guilty of arson. At the hearing on the 16 April 2013 at Basingstoke Magistrates Court, Ms Pullen was sentenced to 12 months Community Service Order.
- Following an act of arson to 38 Bernstein Road, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke on 2 April 2013, David Matthew Walker was found guilty of arson. At the hearing on the 16 April 2013 at Basingstoke Magistrates Court, Mr Walker was sentenced to pay compensation of £60 and an unpaid work requirement.

## 2 Community Safety

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- Following an act of arson to 91 Paignton Road, Millbrook, Southampton on 1 January 2013, Daniel John Morgan was found guilty of arson. At the hearing on the 24 April 2013 at Southampton Crown Court, Mr Morgan was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months.
- Following an act of arson to St Bartholemews Church, Kings Alfreds Place, Hyde, Winchester on 23 December 2012, Andrew David Richardson was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on the 25 April 2013 at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Richardson was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment.
- Following the death of Mr Peter Chandler at 79 Osbourne Road, Portswood, Southampton on 15 February 2013. The primary cause of fire was careless disposal of smoking materials. At the Coroners Inquest on 30 April 2013, the Coroner's Verdict was accidental death and cause of death being smoke inhalation and burns.
- Following two acts of arson to The Quality Hotel, Micheldever Road, Andover on 7 January 2013, Asha Dixon was found guilty of two charges of arson. At the hearing on the 3 May 2013 at Basingstoke Magistrates Court, Ms Dixon was sentenced to a 12 months Supervision Order.
- Following an act of arson to flat 28 Chalton House, Temple Street, Landport, Portsmouth on 26 April 2012, David James Clarke was found guilty of arson. At the hearing on the 17 May 2013 at Portsmouth Crown Court, Mr Clarke was sentenced to 32 months imprisonment.
- Following acts of arson to The Deanery, Phase Eight Shop and behind Upper Brook Street, Winchester on 1 January 2013, Sean Clement was found guilty of committing two acts of arson and assault. At the hearing on the 28 May 2013 at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Clement was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

Evidence found at the scenes by HFRS Fire Investigators, HFRS fire crews and Hampshire Constabulary Crime Scene Investigators was instrumental in securing the convictions.

The ATF and FI Team have over the last three months been actively involved in the carrying out of multi agency fire investigations throughout Hampshire. Together, continuing to maintain Regional Fire Investigation Search Dog cover for the South East Region. The FI and ATF have undertaken the following work in this reporting period:

- Regional Fire Investigation Search Dog – Certification for 'Millie'
- Regional Fire Investigation Search Dog Training
- Police Community Support Officers FI training at Hampshire Police HQ, Netley.
- Continuous training for HFRS Fire Investigation First Response Officer personnel.
- Continuous South East Regional Fire Investigation Group Joint Working/ Shared Services and project work.

## 2 Community Safety

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### 2.5 Cont.

- FI search dog presentation and demonstration to 75 students and staff at Grange School Gosport
- FI search dog presentation and demonstration to 200 students and staff at Bohunt School, Liphook
- FI search dog presentation and demonstration to 800 students and staff at Portchester Community School
- Attendance at Cosham Fire Station Open Day
- Presentation at HFRS Sprinkler Seminar, Winchester
- Set up and delivery of theory and practical sessions of Supervisory Managers Managing Incidents Course FI Module
- FI search dog demonstration presentation at HMS Nelson for Royal Navy Special Investigation branch

In addition to the above the team have also deployed the Fire Investigation search dogs throughout Hampshire and the South East Region to assist with 32 fire investigations.

### 2.6 Road Safety

**During this reporting period station personnel have carried out 10 road safety engagements.**

In April, all three Local Authority Road Safety teams held events supported by their local fire crews. St Mary's supported Southampton City Councils 'Two-wheeler' campaign with events at Tauntons' and Itchen College. Portsmouth City Council held a powered two wheeler (motorcycle) event on Portsdown Hill which was supported by Cosham personnel and Hampshire County Council gave young driver/rider safety education to students at St Vincent's College, Gosport and Barton Peverill's, Eastleigh. All events were assisted by volunteers from the RideSMART team.

The Chief Fire Officers' Association held their national campaign, 'Let's look out for each other' for the week of 6 – 13 May. A number of stations supported this by arranging local engagement events. Basingstoke held a daytime and evening event in the town centre. Rushmoor Fire Station set up a static display using a crashed car and Winchester went into Peter Symonds College. Winchester crews also took advantage of the Highways Agency Safety Week to promote safe road use to their staff.

June saw the second Junior Road Safety Officers Champion of Champions annual challenge, held at Eastleigh Fire Station. Each of the local authorities were represented with eight schools from around Hampshire attending. After a closely contested day of activities, South Wonston School came out as the overall winners and received the trophy. All schools were awarded a participation shield to recognise their contribution.

## 2 Community Safety

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### 2.7 National Resilience Capability

**The Hampshire Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team continue to support operational activity within Hampshire utilising the centrally provided assets to resolve incidents at a local level. The team have attended incidents within Hampshire and used the team's equipment and enhanced skills wherever possible. Regional and national incidents have thankfully not escalated to levels where the Hampshire team have been requested to assist.**

Exercise Endeavour took place at Tyne and Wear from 26-28 April as part of a national test of operational resilience in response to three simultaneous large scale incidents in the UK.

The exercise was attended by fire service, police, ambulance, local authority and Coroners teams. A multi agency strategic holding area was set up at Washington Service Station where teams were accommodated when off shift. Testing was carried out of the new standard operating procedure for Disaster Victim Identification and joint USAR and police working was tested with the Coroner. The exercise ran over three days with around the clock working in a realistic and demanding environment. This sort of exercise can only reinforce the skills of the team available within Hampshire.

In addition to the above the USAR team worked on the following projects:

- Multi agency exercise Exford Drive Southampton – a demolition site owned by Southampton City Council in Exford Drive was offered to the USAR Team as an explosion exercise venue. A full day exercise was conducted with the main involvement from local fire crews, hazardous area response team and the USAR team.
- Police Joint working - the USAR team continue to work closely with the College of Policing at Bramshill (formerly the NPIA) and assist in the training of Police Search Advisors to ensure good joint working and the best use of USAR assets at local, regional and national levels.
- Two of the Hampshire USAR team delivered a timber shoring course in Poland at the request of the Polish authorities. This course was fully funded by the Polish authorities and once again demonstrates how highly the USAR team in Hampshire is regarded.

## 3 Group Activity

### 3.1 Group Activity - Basingstoke and Deane Group

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#### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	122
Smoke detectors fitted	112

#### Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group has had four investigations in the reporting period, involving two houses, a flat and a domestic outdoor structure.

#### Arson and Risk Reduction

There was one fire Investigation search dog deployment.

#### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

#### Business Fire Safety

During this period the business fire safety officers from the Basingstoke office have been working hard to reduce risk in the community by way of dealing with consultations, complaints, inspections as well as advising, educating and where appropriate, enforcing. In addition to our risk reduction activities we have two new business support officers working out of the Basingstoke office. Their role is to talk to responsible persons about business continuity and resilience.

Following a serious fire in the kitchen of a Grade II listed public house (circa 1610) in the Basingstoke area, the crews were concerned with the fire precautions within the premises. Business fire safety officers from the Basingstoke office attended and found that the main issue was that people were sleeping in the second floor roof space without protection by a means of escape or an adequate fire alarm. Working with the owner, we served a prohibition notice preventing people sleeping on the second floor but allowing the business to remain open. We are now working with the owner and the local authority conservation officer by way of an agreed action plan to bring the premises back into full use.

We visited a fast food takeaway and restaurant as part of our themed inspections of sleeping over licensed premises. We found that staff were sleeping on the upper floors without an adequate fire alarm to give early warning, or full protection to the means of escape. The initial consideration in both cases was a prohibition notice.

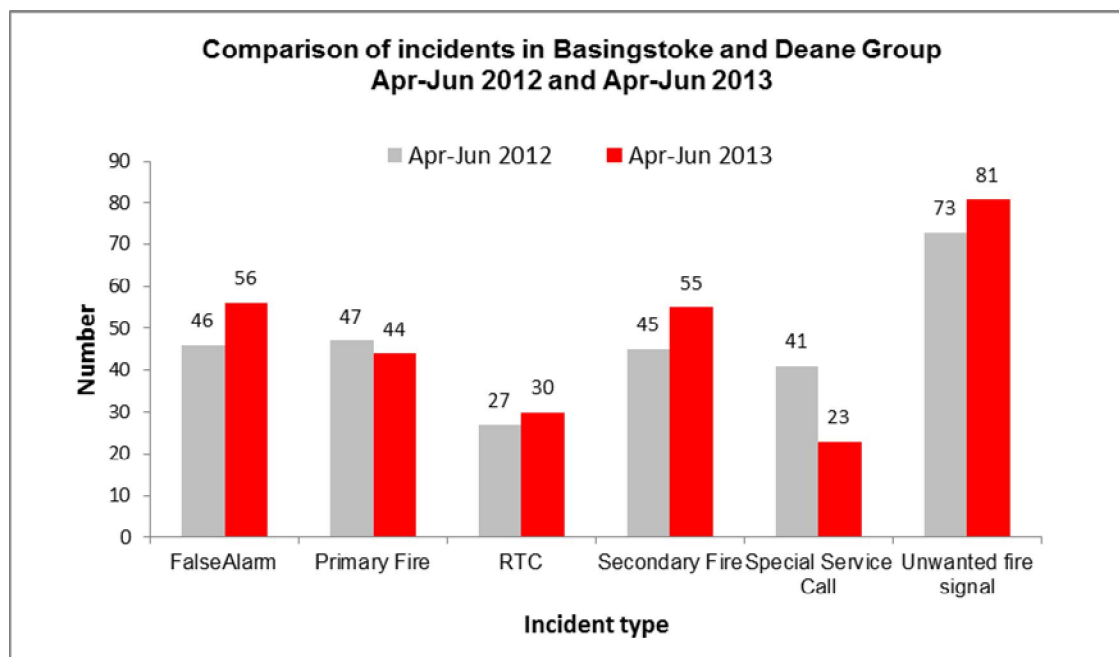
## 3.1 Group Activity - Basingstoke and Deane Group

However, one of our business fire safety officers is fluent in Hindi so we were able to communicate with the responsible persons and put immediate measures in place so the premises could continue to operate. Our business fire safety officer worked with the responsible person for both premises to bring the premises to a satisfactory standard. The business fire safety officer has made a major impact with the Basingstoke BME community both for fire safety and business continuity advice.

A visit was made to a Grade II listed public house in the Whitchurch area. At the inspection it was found that sleeping accommodation was provided on the upper floors. In addition there was poor compartmentation, no fire doors, and an inadequate fire alarm. The main issue being, the occupants had to pass the staff kitchen for their means of escape. As a result of the inspection a prohibition notice was served restricting the kitchen from use. Additional smoke detectors were also installed. This reduced the serious risk and enabled the premises to continue to trade. We are now working with the owner to improve the premises.

### Community Response

Three pumps and the aerial ladder platform were mobilised on 18 July to a fire at a building used as a public house in Basingstoke. The call came at 12:33 about a fire which involved one hundred per cent of the kitchen. Upon arrival crews used four breathing apparatus, one jet and two hose reels to get the fire under control.



## 3.2 Group Activity - Rushmoor and Hart Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	106
Smoke detectors fitted	123

### Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group have had two investigations involving two commercial buildings.

### Arson and Risk Reduction

There were no fire investigation search dog deployments and no statements taken.

### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

As part of our on going risk reduction activities we have handled a number of alleged fire risks (AFR) in the Rushmoor area, examples are:

We received a complaint regarding fire safety matters (AFR) on a premise used to support children and other potentially vulnerable people under supervised contact. The complaint was around the poor evacuation procedure in case of fire. Our business safety officer made a visit to the premises to carry out an inspection and give advice on procedures to be followed. The advice was taken on by the responsible person for the premises and has resulted in a new robust procedure.

Following the recent attacks on Muslim establishments in the London area, business fire safety officers from Rushmoor have made visits to two boarding schools and a mosque in the Aldershot area and carried out a fire safety audit at all the premises. Although no immediate concerns or issues were identified, business continuity advice was given.

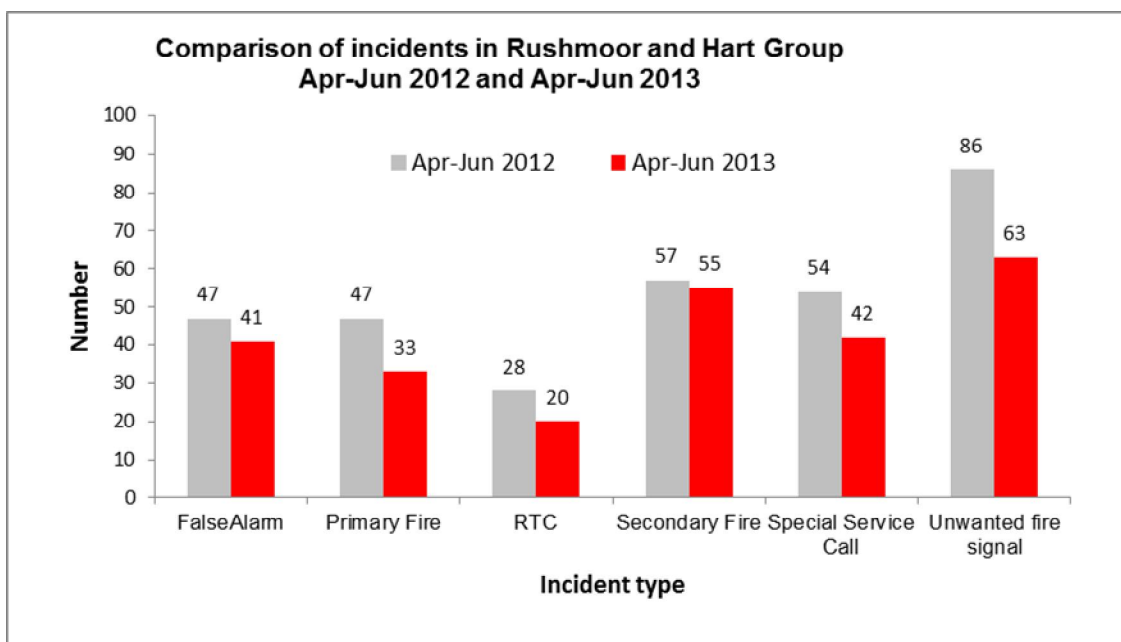
In line with our group plan we visited a farm which has been converted into an industrial estate in Rotherwick. A fire safety audit was carried out through all the industrial units on the farm. They were of mixed standard and as a result inspections advice was given to the responsible persons regarding risk assessments, means of escape, maintenance and training.

## 3.2 Group Activity - Rushmoor and Hart Group

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### Community Response

On the 24 April eight pumps and the aerial ladder platform were mobilised to a roof fire at a mid terrace property on Aldershot High Street at 14:49. Crews used twelve breathing apparatus, five jets and one hose reel to combat the fire. The building was of a traditional build consisting of three floors, used as shops, offices and residential flats. The roof and second floor were damaged one hundred per cent by fire, the first and ground floor were damaged by water. (For more details see 1.3)



## **3.3 Group Activity - Havant and East Hampshire Group**

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### **Community Safety**

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	<b>Number</b>
<b>HSVs undertaken</b>	208
<b>Smoke detectors fitted</b>	227

### **Fire Investigations**

Havant and East Hants Group have had seven investigations involving four vehicles, a domestic shed, a mobile home and a house.

### **Arson and Risk Reduction**

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

### **Mosaic Risk Groups**

D, H and K

### **Business Fire Safety**

As part of our themed inspections of life risks we visited a residential care home in Hayling Island. At the inspection it was found that although the general standard of management was good, there were some issues around the suitability of the fire risk assessment. Some issues regarding the means of escape and the management of evacuation had not been identified and the fire alarm system also needed upgrading. Following discussions with the responsible person an action plan was agreed and we are working with the management to ensure a satisfactory conclusion.

An inspection was carried out on a holiday hotel on Hayling Island, concerns were raised over the disabled evacuation from upper floors of the accommodation, owing to the demographic of the client base that the premises attract. The average age of their guests is 68 years old and their policy for identifying and providing a managed assisted evacuation was in need of reviewing. As a result of the inspection we are now working with the fire consultant to come up with a robust plan which caters for the clientele but still falls short of becoming a "holiday care home". Our discussions and support will continue until an agreed resolution is found that combines the safety of the guests with the needs of the premises.

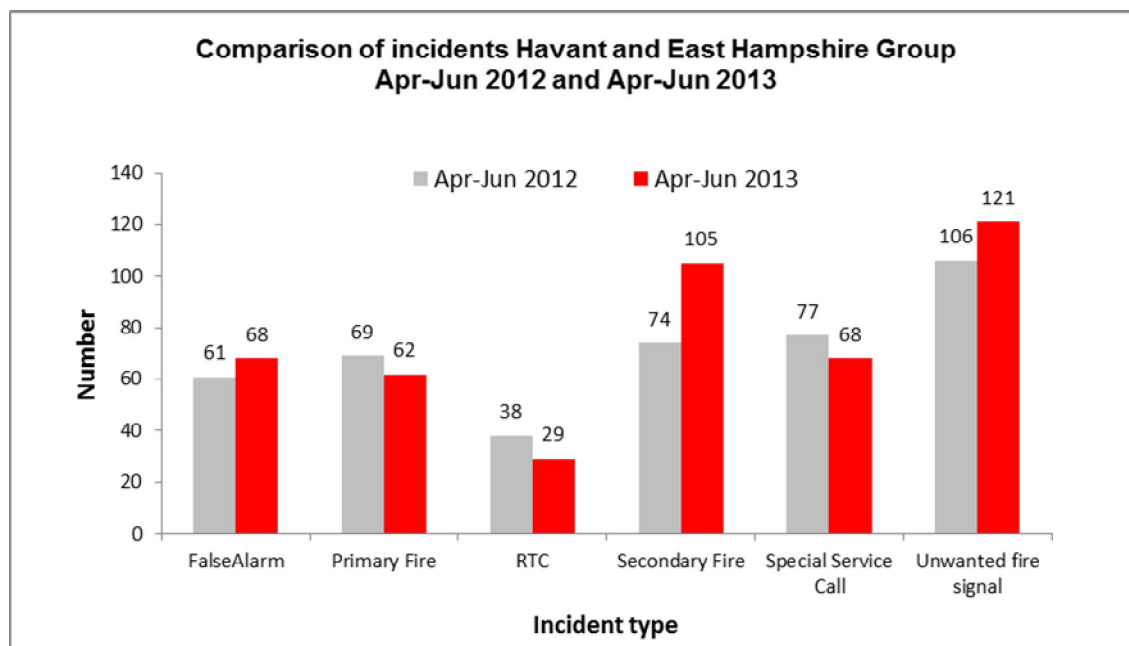
At a fire safety audit of a care home in Havant it was identified that the premises was a single staircase condition with single door protection. This means that in case of fire, if guests had to leave their room, there was no alternative but to come down the one staircase. We arranged meetings with the responsible persons and the fire consultants and agreed the way to protect the means of escape was to install sprinklers.

### 3.3 Group Activity - Havant and East Hampshire Group

This is in the process of happening and we will work with the responsible person to bring a successful conclusion and a safer premise.

#### Community Response

Three pumps were mobilised to a fire at Copse Lane, Hayling Island on 26 June at 22:27. This was a mobile home fire and involved persons reported. Crews used two jets, one compressed air foam jet and four breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire. One casualty was taken to hospital and was subsequently detained under the mental health act.



## 3.4 Group Activity - Fareham and Gosport Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	218
Smoke detectors fitted	294

### Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group have had five investigations involving three flats, a house and a bedsit.

### Arson and Risk Reduction

There have been five fire investigation search dog deployments.

### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

As part of an initiative to have plans available for high rise incidents, fire safety audits were made on the high rise residential blocks in Gosport. At the inspections it was identified that because the premises were built to an older standard, the refuse chutes were within the means of escape of the premises. Further to this the windows within the staircases were locked shut. Following the inspection arrangements were made to meet with the managing agents for all the premises. It was agreed not only to install a sprinkler system to cover the bins at the base of the refuse chutes where there is no lobby to the chutes, but to also install sprinklers to cover the bins at the base of the chutes in all the high rise premises. In addition, the venting of the stairs is being achieved by marking the windows with a sign stating 'for fire service use'. These windows will be unlocked but with a security cable to prevent the windows being opened to far. HFRS breathing apparatus crews now carry wire cutters, the thickness of this cable will be that of the cutters, therefore allowing the window to be opened fully, which is an excellent result for the residents and the Service.

Following a complaint from a member of the public an inspection was made of a clothes shop in Gosport. The complaint was regarding an excessive amount of fire loading on the premise. At the inspection our officer discussed with the responsible person the requirement to comply with the Fire Safety Order (FSO). Time was taken to explain the requirements and give a solution to the issues to the responsible person.

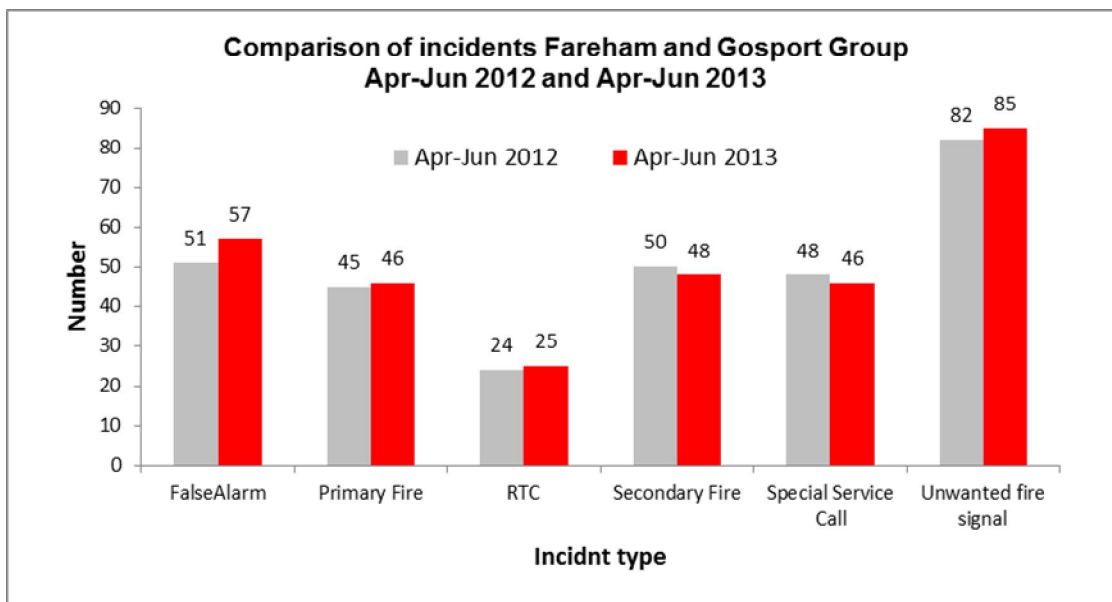
### 3.4 Group Activity - Fareham and Gosport Group

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It was found that some issues were for the landlord to deal with (fire separation between residential and commercial) and the responsible person understood what was required to keep his employees safe and comply with the Fire Safety Order. The responsible person has three premises and is going to copy the Gosport model to his other two premises.

#### Community Response

On 2 August four pumps and the special equipment unit were mobilised to a fire at a farm in Fareham, involving a metal clad single storey building at 18:45. Crews used five jets, thirty-four breathing apparatus, two ground monitors and three fan sprays to bring the fire under control. Three relief pumps were later dispatched together with a fire investigation officer and the stop message was received at 00:55. The police investigation is on going.



## 3.5 Group Activity - Portsmouth Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

### Fire Investigations

The Portsmouth Group have had five investigations involving a house, two flats, a static caravan and a vehicle.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	276
Smoke detectors fitted	275

### Arson and Risk Reduction

There have been five fire investigation search dog deployments.

### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

During this period our business fire safety officers have been working hard to reduce the risk from fire to the public. A post incident audit following a fire in a 13th storey block of flats in Portsmouth led to a meeting with the relevant persons including the Portsmouth City Council (PCC) health and safety manager and the fire safety advisor to PCC. The fire risk assessment was suitable and the fire precautions in place. The living room was badly damaged by fire but very little smoke damage to other rooms within the flat due to the well fitting fire doors being closed at the time of the fire. An automatic fire detector in the lobby area of flat alerted sleeping resident and enabled safe egress from the premise. In addition, the excellent standard maintained by the council meant that there was no damage to the common areas. The inspection highlighted the good partnership working with PCC (Operational plans of flats available and used; these are kept in the ground floor inlet to the dry riser). There is metal trunking within the common areas containing all service wiring, however there was wiring within the living room that had fallen from the ceiling height. PCC have previously agreed to fasten all plastic conduits with metal clips in the short term and replacing the whole conduit in the long term.

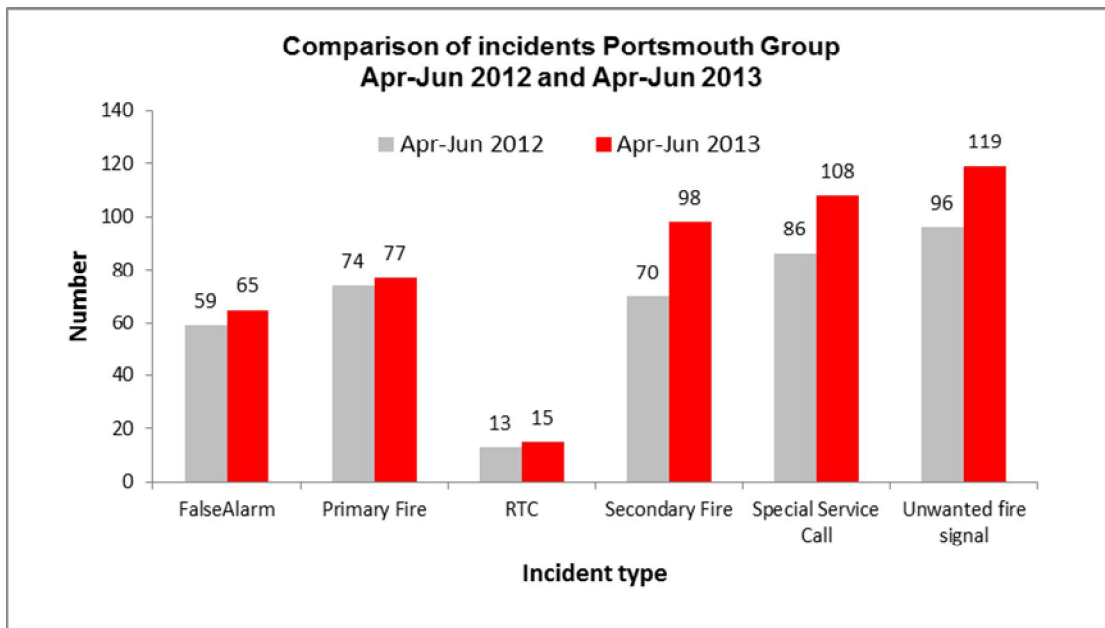
We continue to give on going fire safety advice assistance to Queen Alexandra Hospital. We are looking at the improvement of the compartmentation in the old part of the hospital to ensure that it is adequate and compliments the hospitals evacuation strategy. In addition we are auditing their methods of fire awareness training to their staff. We enjoy a good relationship with all of the providers of the hospital (Carillion, the Hospital Trust and The Hospital Company) and continue to work together towards continued improvement.

## 3.5 Group Activity - Portsmouth Group

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### Community Response

On 26 April crews were mobilised at 13:52 to a fire at a tower block in Buckland. The fire was on the tenth floor of the sixteen floor building The living room was one hundred per cent by fire with the rest of the property one hundred per cent damaged by smoke. Crews used six breathing apparatus and three jets to extinguish the fire and there was seventy per cent smoke damage to the external corridor. A salvage operation took place with the stop message coming in at 15:35. A police investigation is currently on going.



## 3.6 Group Activity - Winchester Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	64
Smoke detectors fitted	84

### Fire Investigations

Winchester Group has had two investigations involving a thatched property and a house in multiple occupancy.

### Arson and Risk Reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

Our business support officers are continuing to develop their good links with local businesses and have provided direct support and advice to 31 businesses during this reporting period.

They have taken part in two business breakfast meetings to increase business awareness of the support available with regards to fire safety, business continuity and community resilience.

We are working with the Winchester Business Improvement District to explore ways of supporting economic growth. One idea is to provide a pre-lease consultation to ensure prospective leasers are considering suitable premises from a fire safety aspect.

We carried out 19 fire safety audits and this resulted in six action plans being developed with business owners to support them to be safer from fire and to improve business continuity and resilience.

We conducted 53 building consultations to assist businesses to be compliant with fire safety law.

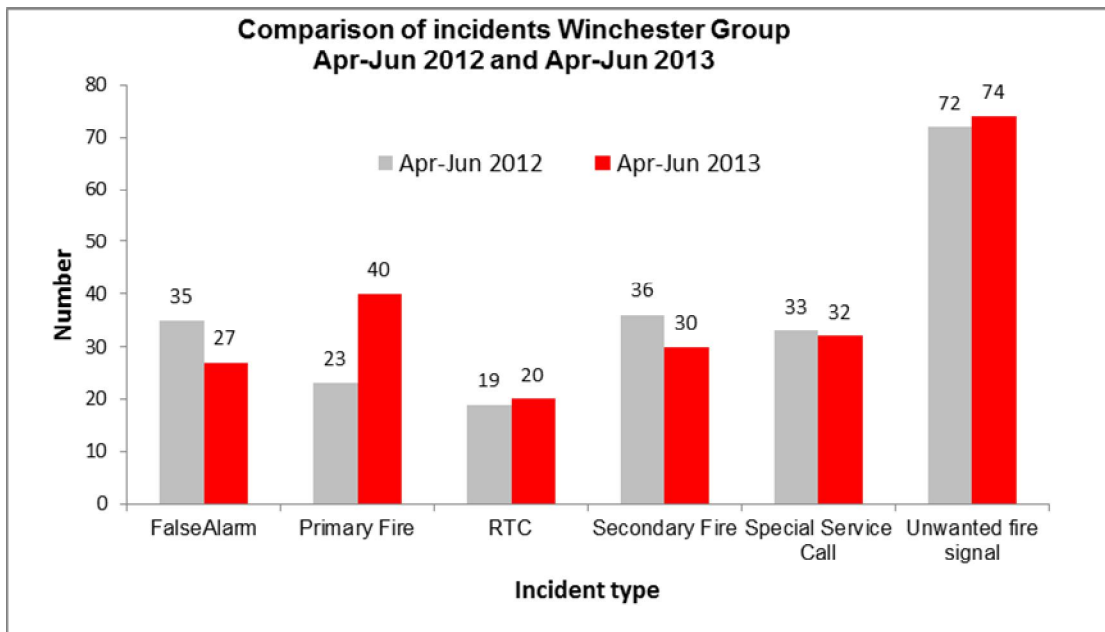
Three 'post fire incident' visits have been carried out to businesses to identify if any assistance can be provided to aid recovery and to identify any legal implications.

## 3.6 Group Activity - Winchester Group

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### Community Response

Two water carriers, 12 pumps, a special equipment unit and a multi role vehicle were mobilised to a fire at a thatched property in Durley on 19 April at 10:50. Six relief pumps were later mobilised to the property that consisted of two floors, with the roof one hundred per cent damaged by fire. The first and ground floors were damaged seventy-five per cent by smoke and water. Crews used 46 breathing apparatus, two compressed air foam jet, six jets and four hose reels to put the fire out. (For more details see 1.4)



## 3.7 Group Activity - Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

### Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group has had seven investigations involving a house, two thatched premises, a bungalow, a commercial building, an agricultural building and a flat.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	100
Smoke detectors fitted	116

### Arson and Risk Reduction

There have been three fire investigation search dog deployments.

### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

Our business support officers continue to develop good links with local businesses. They have provided direct support and advice to 61 businesses during this reporting period. They have taken part in a business breakfast meeting to increase business awareness of the support available with regards to fire safety, business continuity and community resilience.

We carried out 18 fire safety audits which resulted in 10 action plans being developed with business owners to support them to be more fire safety aware and to improve business continuity and resilience.

We conducted 49 building consultations to assist businesses to be compliant with fire safety law.

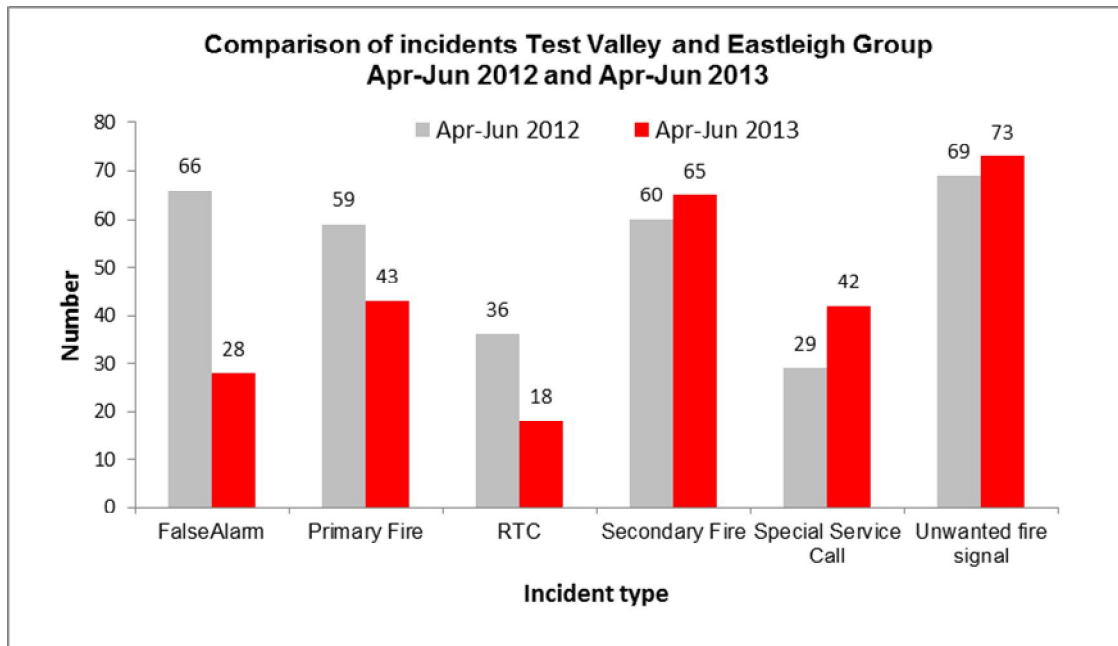
Six 'post fire incident' visits have been carried out to businesses to identify if any assistance can be provided to aid recovery and to identify any legal implications.

We are also supporting our local authority colleagues within the housing department by carrying out joint visits to reduce the risk within shared domestic accommodation.

## 3.7 Group Activity - Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

### Community Response

Five pumps were mobilised to a fire on 19 May at 17:35 at a disused building in Andover. The fire was confined to the roof, which was eighty per cent damaged by fire. The building was constructed of part brick with a flat tiled roof that measured 85 metres by 35 metres. Asbestos was located in the walls but was not affected by the fire. Crews used 40 breathing apparatus, four jets and two hose reels to bring the fire under control. The cause of the fire was determined as arson.



## 3.8 Group Activity – Southampton Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	223
Smoke detectors fitted	171

### Fire Investigations

Southampton Group has had 16 investigations involving two halls of residences, a bed and breakfast, four houses, commercial bins, a domestic garage, a commercial garage, four flats, a shop and a mobile home.

### Arson and Risk Reduction

There have been ten fire investigation search dog deployments.

### Mosaic Risk Groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

Hampshire Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Teams have now moved into the Business Fire Safety building at Redbridge Fire Station and are settling in to the new shared building and closer working relationship.

During this reporting period we have been working closely with Southampton hospital staff to improve procedures should they have a fire incident.

We have advised all of the bars and clubs involved in this year's Fresher's event regarding safe maximum occupancies and effective evacuation procedures. We have also advised the developers of the new Southampton University student building with regards to sprinklers and other fire engineered options.

We have issued two enforcement notices on licensed businesses and supported them to bring standards up to an acceptable level.

We have trained all of the wardens within Southampton City Council high rise buildings to improve incident response procedures.

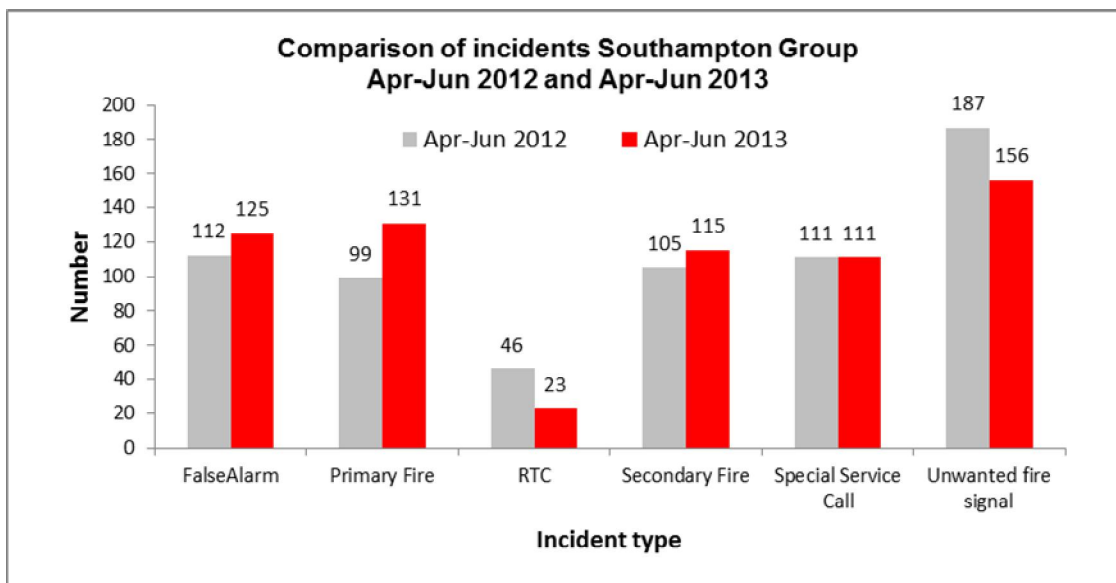
We have also presented three community hour shows on Unity 101 radio station aimed at providing fire safety advice to our black and ethnic minority communities in and around Southampton.

## 3.8 Group Activity – Southampton Group

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### Community Response

On 10 June nine pumps were mobilised with the special equipment unit and two water carriers, to a fire at a residential building in Bursledon. The building was divided into three residential properties, each with three floors of a traditional construction. The fire was situated in the roof of the property which was part flat and part pitch and was one hundred per cent damaged by fire and had collapsed. The fire spread to the first and second floors and also the roof of an adjacent building. Crews used two jets, four breathing apparatus and the aerial ladder platform to extinguish the fire. (For more details see 1.7)



## 3 Group Activity – New Forest Group

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### Community Safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the group area between 1 April and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

### Fire Investigations

New Forest Group has had three investigations involving a flat and two vehicles.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	130
Smoke detectors fitted	142

### Arson and risk reduction

There were no search dog deployments and no statements were taken.

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business Fire Safety

We have a dedicated business fire safety officer working with the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu to reduce the risk of fire and to create a workable salvage plan for if a fire occurs. Part of this work has been advising them of options for a bespoke sprinkler system for higher risk areas.

We are working with Expro North in Ringwood who manufacture components for lithium batteries. We are advising on a risk assessed sprinkler system to reduce risk and provide improved business continuity and resilience.

We are also in talks with Autism Wessex about installing domestic sprinklers in risk areas in property conversions for sheltered housing.

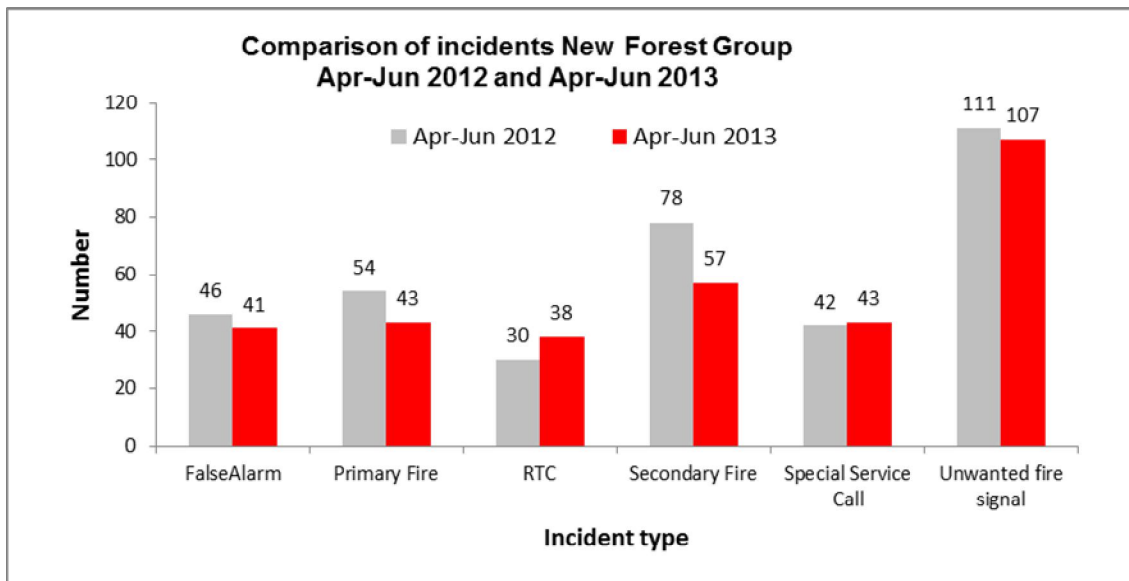
Our business-centric enforcement ethos has resulted in a marked decrease in formal notices and we have only issued two enforcement notices during this period, which have both been on licensed premises in Fordingbridge.

### 3 Group Activity – New Forest Group

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#### Community Response

Six pumps and a special equipment unit were mobilised to a fire behind a service station in Mockbeggar on 13 May at 09:34. Control received a call about a fire involving a bonfire that had spread to a single storey unit used for storage. The construction, which was one hundred per cent damaged by fire, consisted of corrugated iron, contained one 15 kg propane and one 15kg butane cylinders which were removed from the fire. Crews use two breathing apparatus, two jets and two hose reels to bring the fire under control.



## **4 Stop Press**

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### **4.1 Fire crews attend oil tank fire in Grateley**

**Firefighters worked tirelessly to battle a fire that occurred on 9 July, that started in two garages and spread to two adjacent properties and a field.**

Control operators mobilised four crews from Andover, Stockbridge and Basingstoke. Support crews also attended from Winchester and across the border from Salisbury and Amesbury.

Two oil tanks exploded in the fire and the two adjacent properties both suffered fire and smoke damage. Thirty three firefighters used four jets, two hose reels and eight breathing apparatus to bring the fire under control.

No-one was injured in this incident and the cause of the fire was most likely an electrical fault.

### **4.2 Fire crews led eight people to safety**

**Control were alerted to a fire in the stairwell of a block of flats in Kingsland Place, Southampton on 12 July.**

Control immediately sent three appliances from St Mary's Fire Station to deal with the incident. Upon arrival, the stairwell was involved in a fire and the first and second floors were heavily smoke logged.

As crews dealt with the fire, they also led eight people to safety, three people had suffered minor effects due to smoke inhalation. All eight were assessed by the South Central Ambulance Service.

Four firefighters wearing breathing apparatus using two jets and two high pressure hose reels were used to bring the blaze under control and positive pressure ventilation fan was also used to clear the smoke.

The investigation into the cause of this incident is on going but is thought to have been started deliberately.

## **4 Stop Press**

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### **4.3 Two adults and two dogs rescued from house fire in Portsmouth**

**One woman, one man and two dogs were rescued from a house fire in Walmere Road, Fratton, Portsmouth on 15 July, after a fire started in the ground floor of their home.**

A call was made by the two residents who had been alerted to the fire by a sounding smoke detector. The couple's route of escape was blocked by the fire so Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's Control Operator Lisa Hepplestone, stayed on the phone giving vital fire survival advice until the fire appliances arrived at the property.

The couple were told to stay upstairs, in a room where they could shut the door and told to block the bottom of the door to stop smoke getting into the room and to open all windows.

Three appliances from Southsea attended the incident and rescued the couple, by ladder, from a first floor window. The two dogs were then found and rescued from the back garden. Crews used two breathing apparatus, one hose reel and positive pressure ventilation at this incident. They were handed over to the care of South Central Ambulance Service.

The cause of the fire is thought to have been an electrical fault.

### **4.4 Horses rescued following A303 collision**

**Hampshire animal rescue specialists and fire crews rescue seven horses following a serious collision on the A303 on 23 July.**

The trailer, carrying 10 horses, was in collision with another lorry on the eastbound carriageway near Thruxton. The trailer containing the animals was on its side. Three animal rescue specialists worked with vets to first sedate the animals and then remove them one by one from the overturned vehicle.

Seven of the horses survived the collision and were taken to veterinary hospital. Sadly one horse was killed in the collision while two more had to be put down at the scene. The drivers of the two lorries were not seriously harmed in the incident.

Crews from Andover, Winchester, Brockenhurst, Eastleigh and Lyndhurst assisted with the rescue of the animals.

Hampshire Police investigated the incident and urged members of the public to come forward with information.

## 5 Key to mosaic groups

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### **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 neighbours

### **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  
**FIRE AND  
RESCUE**  
AUTHORITY

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