

December 2013

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

# Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE  
FIRE AND  
RESCUE  
SERVICE

# Contents

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## Introduction

### 1. Responding to incidents

- 1.1 Large blaze tackled in Verwood
- 1.2 Oil tank fire extinguished in Grateley
- 1.3 Eight people led to safety by fire crews
- 1.4 Two adults and two dogs rescued from house fire in Portsmouth
- 1.5 Horses rescued following A303 collision
- 1.6 Intense fire battled in Hatherley Road in Winchester
- 1.7 Gas leak dealt with by crews in Hedge End
- 1.8 Andover community academy in saved from fire

### 2. Community safety

- 2.1 Schools Education Team
- 2.2 Home safety – safeguarding
- 2.3 Volunteers
- 2.4 Prince's Trust
- 2.5 Fire investigation
- 2.6 Road safety
- 2.7 National resilience capability

### 3. Group activity

- 3.1 Basingstoke and Deane Group
- 3.2 Rushmoor and Hart Group
- 3.3 Havant and East Hampshire Group
- 3.4 Fareham and Gosport Group
- 3.5 Portsmouth Group
- 3.6 Winchester Group
- 3.7 Test Valley and Eastleigh Group
- 3.8 Southampton Group
- 3.9 New Forest Group
- 3.10 Out of county

### 4. Stop press

- 4.1 Smoke alarm saved Fareham mother and toddler
- 4.2 Crews tackled a roof fire in Shirrell Heath

### 5. Key to mosaic groups

**Front page photo:** Hatherley Road in Winchester on 22 August 2013

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# Introduction

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This activity report covers the period 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2013. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 30 September 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 that for the second consecutive quarter there have been no fatalities in fires, nor any serious injuries. However, the body of a vulnerable elderly man was discovered following a fire in Southampton on 27 September 2013. It was later confirmed by the coroner that he had died of natural causes and had subsequently dropped his cigarette, causing the fire.

During the reporting period, we dealt with a number of high-profile incidents, which exhibited the wide range of skills of our crews.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Animal rescue specialists assisted with a severe collision involving a horse trailer on 23 July 2013, with crews managing to save seven of the 10 horses. A building under construction in Winchester was severely damaged in a large fire on 22 August 2013. Our hazardous materials (hazmat) teams then helped deal with a refrigerant leak at Hedge End retail park on 17 September 2013, which left many shoppers in need of treatment by paramedics. Two days later, crews helped to safely evacuate 500 staff and students from Winton Community Academy in Andover during a fire in the roof of the sports hall.

The critical role played by our Control staff in keeping the public safe was once again highlighted during a house fire in Fratton on 15 July 2013. The occupants' route of escape was blocked by the fire so the operator gave vital fire survival advice, telling the couple to stay upstairs and block the bottom of the door to prevent smoke entering, until crews arrived.

This reporting period saw 18 young people from Basingstoke and 15 young people from Southampton complete their 12-week Prince's Trust course, with recipients presented with their awards by Cllr Royston Smith and John Denham MP at Southampton Football Club.

As part of its commitment to increasing road safety, the Service led a county-wide initiative on 7 September 2013. Road safety teams were stationed at the three major service stations in Hampshire – Fleet, Winchester and Rownhams – and gave advice to hundreds of drivers, in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire County Council.

# 1 Responding to incidents

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Incident category	July-September 2013
Primary fire	522
Secondary fire	940
RTC	242
Special service call	523
False alarm	666
Unwanted fire signal	1129
<b>Total</b>	<b>4022</b>

## 1.1 Large blaze tackled in Verwood

Crews were alerted to a large rubbish fire in the landfill site near Verwood at 19:44 on 8 July 2013.



The responding appliances were from Ringwood, Verwood and Ferndown, with supporting appliances from Beaulieu and Eastleigh.

Approximately 30,000 tonnes of rubbish was on fire and smouldering, four jets were used to extinguish the blaze. Around 50 firefighters were in attendance and some crews remained at the incident for some time after the stop

message. This was a joint operation with Dorset Fire and Rescue Service.

## 1.2 Oil tank fire extinguished in Grateley

Firefighters worked tirelessly to battle a fire that occurred on 9 July 2013 which had started in two garages and spread to two adjacent properties and a field.

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

Two oil tanks were involved in the fire and the two adjacent properties both suffered fire and smoke damage. There were 33 firefighters on scene and crews 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.

# 1 Responding to incidents

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## 1.3 Eight people led to safety by fire crews

**Control operators were alerted to a fire in the stairwell of a block of flats in Kingsland Place, Southampton on 12 July 2013.**

Control operators immediately sent three appliances from St Mary's Fire Station to deal with the incident. Upon arrival, the stairwell was on 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 used two jets and two high pressure hose reels to bring the blaze under control, and a positive pressure ventilation fan was also used to clear the smoke.

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

## 1.4 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 2013, after a fire started in the ground floor of their home.**

The residents 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, 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 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 and one of the dogs, by ladder from a first floor window. The other dog was then found and rescued from the back garden.

Crews used two breathing apparatus, one hose reel and a positive pressure ventilation fan at this incident. The couple were handed over to the care of South Central Ambulance Service. The two dogs were fine, and the family and dogs recently made an appearance on the BBC programme - Real Rescues.

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

# 1 Responding to incidents

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## 1.5 Horses rescued following A303 collision

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's animal rescue specialists and fire crews rescued seven horses following a serious collision on the A303 on 23 July 2013.**

The trailer, carrying 10 horses, collided 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.

Seven of the horses survived the collision and were taken to a 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 Constabulary investigated the incident and urged members of the public to come forward with information.

## 1.6 Intense Fire battled in Hatherley Road in Winchester

**At 04:32 on 22 August 2013 our Control operators dispatched appliances from Winchester to attend a building fire at Hatherley Road, Winchester.**

Upon arrival crews were met by a severe fire involving a building under construction approximately 10 metres by 10 metres comprising of two floors, fully engulfed by fire. They



immediately requested further assistance to tackle the blaze. Further appliances from Eastleigh and Southampton stations were sent to support the initial crews attending this incident. A total of approximately 40 firefighters from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service were in attendance at this incident.

The fire was contained to the building and fire crews worked hard

to ensure the fire did not spread to other properties. Four fire fighting jets and one fan spray were used to extinguish the fire and protect other buildings. The cause of the fire is not yet known, the police investigation is ongoing.

# 1 Responding to incidents

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## 1.7 Gas leak dealt with by crews in Hedge End

**On 17 September 2013 fire crews attended a refrigerant gas leak at the Hedge End Retail Park on Tollbar Way in Hedge End.**

Our Control operators mobilised four appliances from Hightown, St Mary's and Redbridge Fire Stations, together with our Hazardous Materials Detection Identification and Monitoring Team at 17:29.

We worked in partnership with the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and Hampshire Constabulary to make the scene safe. The stop message was received at 20:55.

Around six people were assessed by SCAS and one casualty was taken to hospital as a precautionary measure. The cause of this incident was a gas leak from one of the refrigerators.

## 1.8 Andover community academy saved from fire

**We attended a fire on 19 September 2013, at Winton Community Academy in Andover.**

Six crews were initially mobilised to a fire located in the boiler room at 11:11. The fire later spread to the roof space above the sports complex of the school, escalating our response to nine appliances.



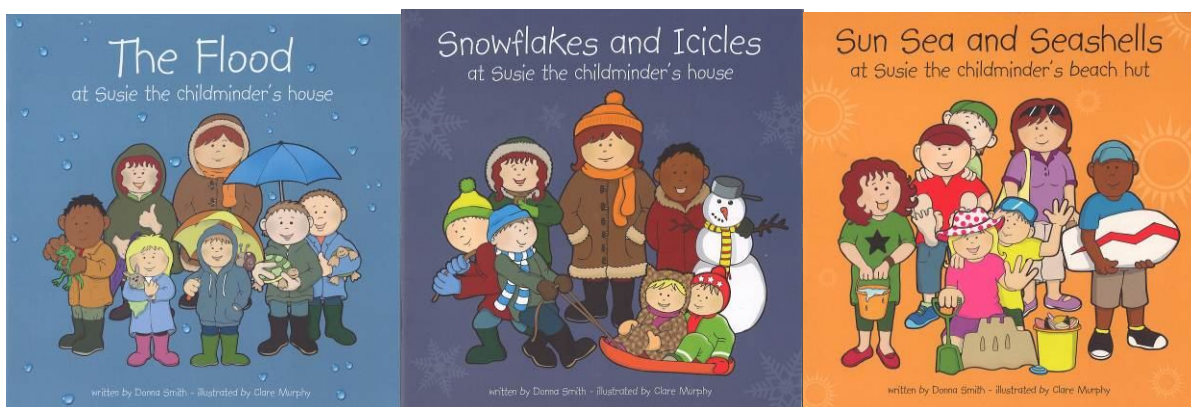
Crews used 10 breathing apparatus, two hose reels, two jets, two compressed air foam jets and an aerial ladder platform to bring the fire under control. All staff and 500 students were accounted for and evacuated safely.

The cause of the fire was accidental due to sparks from blow torches whilst builders were working on the roof.

## 2 Community safety

### 2.1 Schools Education Team

This reporting quarter includes a six week school summer break. Since we started the new academic year in September, we have included community resilience as a workshop option for teachers to select as part of our core delivery. This is in response to our latest Service Plan 2013 – 2018 and includes topics of flood, ice and snow and heatwaves. We have written three new Susie the Childminder story books, with key messages to support this work and Hampshire County Council have set up a children’s website dedicated to Susie the Childminder. The website is being developed further as a joint project.



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

2,608 Key Stage 1 pupils during 45 school visits

3,841 Key Stage 2 pupils during 62 school visits

At present, we are supporting Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils by providing resources to schools for teachers to deliver. However, we have worked directly with nine of our most vulnerable pupils in this age range at children’s homes and referral units.

We also encouraged 204 parents and carers to join us to hear our community safety messages during school assemblies.

We took part in the following safety events which bring together partners to support children’s learning, across the county:

Type of event	Working with	Location	Children	Adults
Think Safe	Aster Communities	Andover Vineyard	384	67
Summer Play Day	Southampton Children’s Play Association	Hoglands Park Southampton	400	75
Knightwood Fair	Test Valley	Chandlers Ford	50	50
SNAP (Say no and phone) disco	Hampshire Constabulary	Fareham Fernham Hall	200	30

## 2 Community safety

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### 2.2 Home safety – Safeguarding

Home safety visits (HSV) carried out between 1 July and 30 September 2013 – **1,250**

Smoke alarms fitted between 1 July and 30 September 2013 – **1,309**

We are pleased to announce the start of a new 18 month home safety project that has been put in place to improve the delivery capability of our home safety activity and support the commitment made in the Service Plan 2013-18.

This project will assist us to target our resources more accurately and effectively, reducing fires and other incidents in the home and their associated injuries and fatalities amongst vulnerable people. An update about the progress of this project will be included in the next quarter's report.

Our HSV programme is closely aligned with our safeguarding procedure which enables us to pass on the risks/issues identified to the most relevant and appropriate agency.



Our referral mechanisms and partnerships combined with local knowledge and product development continues to identify and protect the most vulnerable within our communities.

We do this by working with other agencies/departments to reduce risk to the most vulnerable people. Reduce risk through not only fire but risk through other social needs such as mental

health, hoarding, physical disabilities, alcohol, drugs and lack of basic necessities such as heating and food.

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

#### Referrals by month

Month	Number
July	35
August	19
September	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

The table below highlights which authority we have passed our safeguarding concerns onto. Internally we have dealt with 64 safeguarding referrals which have all been identified for high fire risk.

### Action taken on internal referrals

Action taken	Number
Passed to Community Safety team	49
Passed to Hampshire County Council Adult Services	24
Passed to Southampton City Council Adult Services	6
Other	5
Passed to Portsmouth City Council Children and Family Services	5
Passed to Hampshire County Council Children and Family Services	3
Passed to community safety manager	3
Passed to Hampshire County Council NHS Mental Health Services	2
Passed to Portsmouth City Council Adult Services	2
Passed to Portsmouth City Council NHS Mental Health Services	1
Passed to Southampton City Council Children and Family Services	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</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 on referrals made by other agencies

Action taken	Number
Passed to Community Safety team	19
Other	5
Passed to Hampshire County Council Adult Services	5
Passed to community safety manager	1
Passed to Southampton City Council Adult Services	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

## 2 Community safety

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### 2.3 Volunteers

**At the end of this reporting period, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service had a total of 42 volunteers, an increase of 11 over the last period.**

Our volunteers are a great asset to the Service and they bring numerous skills to the Service which are being used to good effect. For example, we have a volunteer helping on the Basingstoke Young Firefighters Association (YFA) course who has served in the Portuguese Navy and worked in mountain rescue. The volunteer has brought a lot to the course and took the lead on the recent camping trip in the New Forest.

During this reporting period, four volunteers completed 115 home safety visits. Three referrals were made to the Sensory Loss Team, three volunteers engaged with young people on 49 occasions (YFA and Gosport Summer Passport Scheme) and 32 community events were attended. This amounts to a total of 999 voluntary hours and has an economic value of £12,607 (calculated at a wage equivalent of £12.62/hour – the national average full-time hourly rate as at April 2011 – Office of National Statistics).

The Village Agents (Age Concern volunteers) have undertaken two home safety visits on our behalf, made two referrals and invited us to attend three community events to promote fire safety. They have also been actively advertising the Trading Standards electric blanket testing scheme in their local areas and taking blankets to stations for testing for elderly residents who have no transport.

A Volunteers Forum was held at HFRS Headquarters on 20 September 2013 to thank the volunteers for their contribution and it gave them an opportunity to discuss their



volunteering experience. Yvette Christian, Assistant Director at Age Concern Hampshire assisted in facilitating a very successful morning. A small presentation was made by ACO Neil Odin to five volunteers in appreciation of their contribution over the last year.

The next stage of the volunteers programme is to raise the awareness and accessibility of volunteers to all HFRS staff

through face to face meetings and via our intranet. To ensure the best delivery of the programme, the volunteer coordinator is undertaking an ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) qualification in the Management of Volunteers.

## 2.4 Prince's Trust

Basingstoke Team 17 was completed on the 26 July 2013 and 16 out of 18 young people achieved a Prince's Trust qualification. Southampton Team 32 was completed and 15 out of 16 young people achieved a Prince's Trust qualification. The final presentation was held at Southampton Football Club and attended by Cllr Royston Smith and John Denham MP, Southampton. Team 33 also saw 11 out of 11 achieve the qualification.

During August the team worked on developing the programme to meet the 'Raise of Participation Agenda' and to meet the 16-19 study principles. In doing this, during September we have now started to deliver the ASDAN Fire and Rescue Service Short Course. The ASDAN Course is a module course which consists of eight modules, of which a maximum of six can be accredited.

Southampton Team 34 started on 27 September 2013 with 11 young people and is based at Redbridge Fire Station. Eastleigh Team 3 started on the 27 September 2013 with 14 young people and is based at Eastleigh Fire Station. Rushmoor Team 6 started on the 27 September 2013 with 21 young people and is based at Rushmoor Fire Station.

ASDAN Courses have been offered to all stations and groups across the Service and the delivery partner manager is actively engaging and working with Ringwood Young Firefighters Association (YFA) and Gosport YFA to implement all six modules. The delivery manager is also working with Andover Walking Tall programme to implement module three and Rushmoor Life course to implement module two and are working towards another module for the course in 2014.

Rushmoor/Basingstoke Challenge and Change programme (Safer North Hampshire partnership) is exploring implementation and accreditation of module five.

Havant (various children and young people initiatives) are exploring several modules across initiatives, including the feasibility of delivering a Parenting Day, to link into the "Families Matter" project.

## 2.5 Fire investigation

There have been 44 fire investigations in the reporting period, 25 deliberate fires, 16 non-suspicious and three undetermined. There has been one fatality over this reporting period.

Fire Investigation (FI) and Arson Task Force (ATF) have supported the investigation of 25 arson offences, with five arrests made in relation to four of the offences committed in Fareham and Gosport, Portsmouth and Southampton Groups.

## 2 Community safety

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Additional case results being received in relation to three investigations and one Coroners Inquest during this reporting period in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary:

- Following an act of arson to 14 Brighton Road, Southampton on 17 September 2012, Calvin Lawrence was found guilty of committing arson with intent to endanger life and Christy Flaherty was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on the 18 July 2013 at Southampton Crown Court, Mr Lawrence was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment and Christy Flaherty to eight years in a young offender's institute.
- Following an act of arson at Flat 6, 115 Clarendon Road, Southsea on 31 December 2012, Helen Watson was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on 14 August 2013 at Portsmouth Magistrates Court, Ms Watson was sentenced to six months imprisonment.
- Following an act of arson to 13 Elm Road, Ridgemoor, Bishops Waltham on 3 November 2012, a youth defendant was found guilty of committing arson being reckless. At the hearing on 21 August 2013 at Basingstoke Magistrates Court the youth defendant was sentenced to 12 months Youth Rehabilitation Order and to pay victim surcharge of £15.00.

Evidence found at the scenes by HFRS fire investigators, HFRS fire crews and Hampshire Constabulary crime scene investigators was instrumental in securing these convictions.

The ATF and FI teams have over the last three months been actively involved in the carrying out of multi agency 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 have undertaken the following work in this reporting period:

1. Police Community Support Officers FI training at Hampshire Police HQ, Netley for two days.
2. Continuous South East Regional Fire Investigation Group Joint Working/ Shared Services and project work.
3. FI search dog presentation and events in colleges and schools across Hampshire.
4. FI search dog presentations and demonstrations at Eastleigh dog show open day, Ashurst Fete, Newbury Show, King's Somborne Fete and Dorset Military Show.
5. Presentations and demonstrations at HFRS Market Places.
6. Setting up and delivery of theory and practical sessions of Supervisory Managers Managing Incidents (SMMI) course FI Module.
7. Presentation and FI search dog demonstration at HFRS Community Safety Day, Cosham Open Day, Redbridge Open Day and Andover Community Safety Day.
8. Fixture of falling cable hazard testing for British Approval Service for Cables.

Additionally the team has deployed the fire investigation search dogs throughout Hampshire and the South East Region to assist with 32 fire investigations.

## 2 Community safety

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### 2.6 Road safety

During this period many stations had road traffic collision (RTC) demonstrations at their open days, charity car washes and other community events where they interacted with many members of the public from different station grounds.

The Service took part in a joint agency motorway safety event on 7 September 2013. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire County Council interacted with visitors of the county at six service stations. Each organisation had a big presence at Fleet, Winchester and Rowhams Service Stations. All agencies agree that this was a really worth while event which allowed interaction with hundreds of drivers.

The Service took part at the Carfest which was a 'Children in Need' event at Laverstoke Park on 23-25 August near Overton. This was an ideal opportunity to promote road safety messages to thousands of people. Various safety messages were promoted including motorcycle safety (protective clothing) and speed reduction.



National Road Safety Week also happened during this reporting period on 6-12 May. Several stations supported the week. We also ran a campaign around road safety and used social media channels to engage with the public of Hampshire.

Southampton group manager took part in a business continuity exercise with the University of Southampton on 18 July 2013.

Redbridge Fire Station staged an event to support the Older Drivers Day on 25 September 2013 which was a great opportunity to engage with and give safety messages to older drivers.

## **2.7 National resilience capability**

### **Search Dog Training Course 31 July 2013 – 3 August 2013**

Hampshire ran a search dog training course attended by 10 handlers and their dogs. This involved a number of exercises including one with Royal Air Force (RAF) Chinook flights from Odiham to Longmoor for a search exercise and then back to Odiham. This adds a great deal of realism to the dog training and enables the dogs to cope with unusual forms of transport which are used in the deployment dog teams.

The Saturday was devoted to a Canine First Aid and Trauma course delivered by a vet. While this was a UK-ISAR event it does add to the training and resilience of the search dog team as a whole.

### **Trench Rescue Master Class – 16/17 September 2013**

In partnership with Paratech, an internationally recognised manufacturer of rescue equipment, the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team ran a two day master class on trench rescue. Paratech funded the event which kept it at zero cost to Hampshire. Three live trenches were dug at Service Head Quarters and over the two days fire services from the UK attended an event dealing with the reality of a live trench. The use of live trenches in training is a rare event in the UK and all 20 who attended were very impressed with Hampshire's facilities and desire to run realistic training events. Requests have already been received for invitations to future events covering trench and other practical subjects.

### **CFOA National Resilience Subject Matter Advisor CPD Event - 18 September 2013**

As part of the Continual Professional Development (CPD) programme for USAR Subject Matter Advisors, Hampshire delivered a one day event covering disaster victim identification. It involved working at height while constructing timber shores and recent developments within rescue operations. Hampshire has national technical leads in all of these areas and as such has the expertise to push these subjects forward to the wider USAR community. The day was attended by representatives from Wales, Devon and Somerset, Essex and London.

## 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 between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	76
Smoke detectors fitted	82

#### Fire investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group has had one investigation involving a house fire.

#### Arson and risk reduction

CCTV evidence was collected from one appliance.

#### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

#### Business fire safety

Following a serious fire in the kitchen of a public house in the centre of Basingstoke a fire safety officer was called because the crews were concerned about the means of escape and the fire alarm system. The premises provided sleeping accommodation on the second floor. As a result, a prohibition notice was issued on the use of the second floor. As the premises is a listed building, an inspection was carried out with the local authority conservation officer. All parties have agreed the best way forward and agreed an action plan to bring the premises up to standard.

A fire safety audit was carried out on a Grade II listed public house in Whitchurch. The public house also provided sleeping accommodation on the upper floors. During the inspection the officer became concerned that the fire safety provisions were poor. An officer was called in to consider a prohibition notice. The decision was for the responsible person to put in radio linked smoke detectors to reduced risk and the prohibition was not issued. An agreed action plan has been issued to improve the fire safety provisions.

The inspectors from the Basingstoke office have been consulting with architects, developers and building control officers on a number of projects in the area. These include, North Hampshire Hospital (diagnostic treatment centre), and John Lewis partnership pre-panning consultation for new Waitrose/John Lewis at Home and Kingfisher Sovereign Housing (advice on the longest continuous thatched premises in Britain).

## 3.1 Group activity - Basingstoke and Deane Group

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Business support officers (BSO's) are engaging with small and medium enterprises (SME's) to encourage compliance with fire safety regulations and give advice on business continuity and community resilience. They have been working with the police and have identified a considerable number of rural businesses converted from farming properties. The BSO's have "Touched" over 100 SME's. Group initiatives in Whitchurch continue to highlight the role of the business fire safety department to local businesses and the advice and support that can be offered. We are looking at thatched properties, salvage plans for heritage sites, places of special interest and reduction in unwanted fire signals

### Enforcement

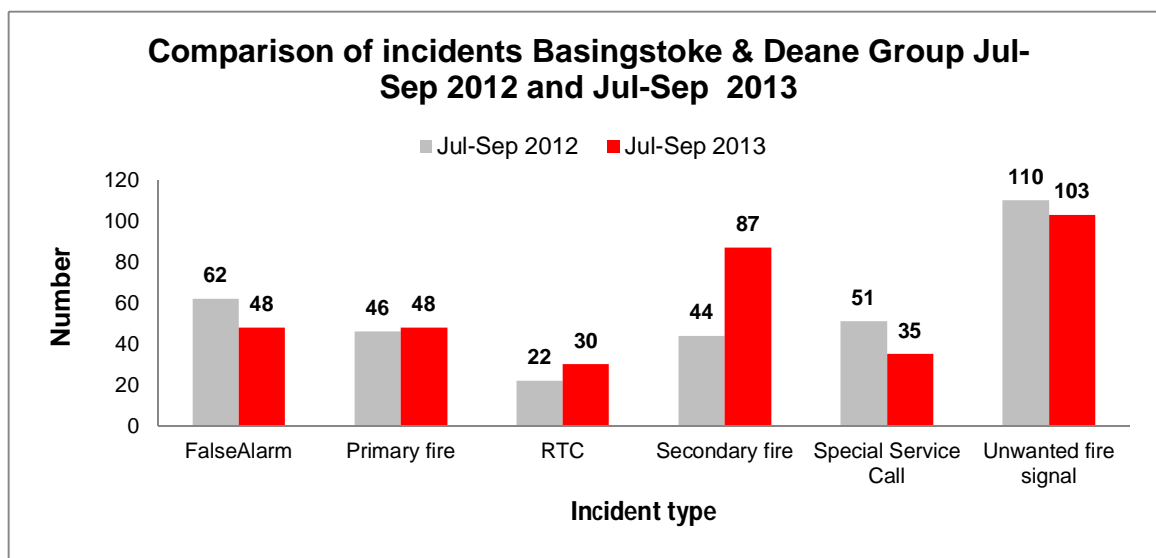
One enforcement notice has been served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

One prohibition notice has been served during this reporting period.

### Community response

On 5 September 2013 at 08:57 three crews were called to A303 Bullington Cross. There had been an RTC involving a large vehicle and one private car. One male person sadly died at the scene. Firefighters remained at the scene during the police investigation and then extricated the body.



## 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 between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	101
Smoke detectors fitted	130

### Fire investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group had one investigation involving a house fire.

### 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

During this period the inspectors have continued to work hard to reduce the risk from fire to the public. This has included visits to carry out investigations of complaints, audits under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, consultations, presentations and business support visits as well as dealing with premises that generate unwanted automatic fire alarms and lift incidents.

Following information from Rushmoor Borough Council inspectors we visited a Gurkha jeweller in Aldershot. The jeweller was using oxy acetylene as part of his processes inside the premises. The building provided sleeping accommodation above the working area. In addition to this there were issues with the means of escape through a kitchen and the standard of the fire alarm. As a result of the inspection a prohibition notice was issued prohibiting the use of the kitchen at night, preventing the acetylene being stored indoors and improving the fire alarm system. In addition to this, smoke detectors were installed. This allowed the business to carry on trading and reduced the risk to the occupants. An action plan is being agreed to bring the premises up to standard.

Officers from the Rushmoor office have been working with the leaders of the Nepalese community to create a cadre of business fire safety advocates for the Aldershot area. They had initial meetings with the community and have agreed to set up a team. We are now waiting for a list of volunteers so the training can commence. The training packages are complete and are expected to be completed before the end of the current group plan in March next year.

## 3.2 Group activity - Rushmoor and Hart Group

We are working with Farnborough Town Football Club to help towards their sports ground safety certificate. We attended a match day inspection with Hampshire County Council Emergency Planning and Hampshire Constabulary, as there was a risk of them playing behind closed doors because of safety issues. This was following a reassessment of their occupancy figures after changes to the stands.

In addition we continue to work with and be a sitting member on the safety advisory groups for both Hart and Rushmoor.

We have been carrying out joint inspections with officers from Rushmoor Borough Council environmental health department. The inspections have been following concerns regarding the storage and use of liquid petroleum gas products in convenience stores. Visits were made to the premises and advice given.

### Enforcement

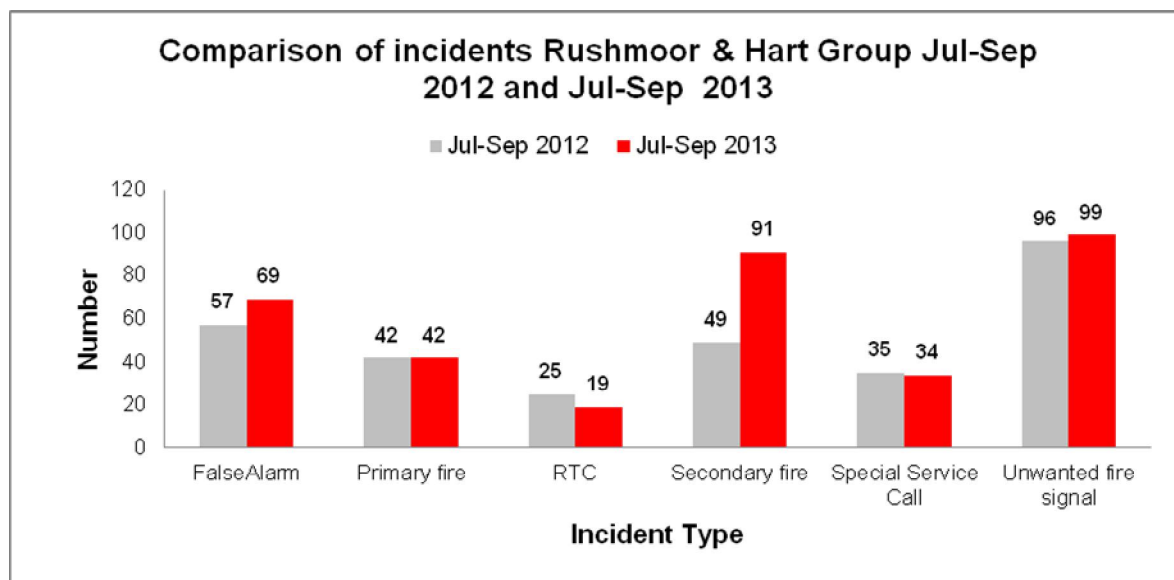
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

One prohibition notice has been served during this reporting period.

### Community response

On 21 August 2013 at 16:02 crews were mobilised to William Hitchcock House, Fairfax Road in Farnborough. The incident was a small fire in a chip pan and three elderly casualties were led to safety by HFRS and taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service.



## 3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire

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### Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	159
Smoke detectors fitted	160

### Fire investigations

Havant and East Hants Group had four investigations involving two vehicles and two houses.

### Arson and risk reduction

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

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business fire safety

Business fire safety inspectors carried out a post incident inspection following a suspected arson attack on a taxi operator's premises. At the audit the responsible person was very cooperative. The audit was carried out very tactfully due to the circumstances. The focus was on making sure all individuals working in the premises were safe. The audit identified a number of deficiencies which will be resolved by way of an agreed action plan.

As part of a programme audits to high risk premises an inspection was made on a care home in Havant. The fire alarm for the premises needed upgrading to the current standard. The premises had an unprotected staircase to the first and second floors. Following discussions with the management it has been proposed to install a water suppression system to compensate for the protection issues. We are now working with the owner to agree the details of the design of system.

We received a complaint from a member of the public who raised concerns about the fire precautions at a fitness studio in Havant. A fire safety audit was carried out and issues were found regarding the means of escape, fire detection and general fire safety within the premises. Inspectors have been working with the responsible persons to rectify the deficiencies without the need of formal enforcement. Following a fire at a premise on Lasham airfield, a post incident inspection was carried out. There were a number of deficiencies including an inadequate fire risk assessment, poor fire detection and poor management. An action plan was agreed to rectify the failures.

### 3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Group

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As part of a building regulations consultation a site meeting was requested by the local authority building control to view an extension to a nursing home. The new building has been completed and is now occupied by residents. There was a poor standard of fire safety, excessive travel distance in the new extension and means of escape work was not completed in the new extension. It was agreed to move the residents to the ground floor to reduce the risk. A full inspection of the premises was carried out which resulted in the issue of an action plan to resolve the issues. We will be working with the management to ensure a satisfactory result.

#### Enforcement

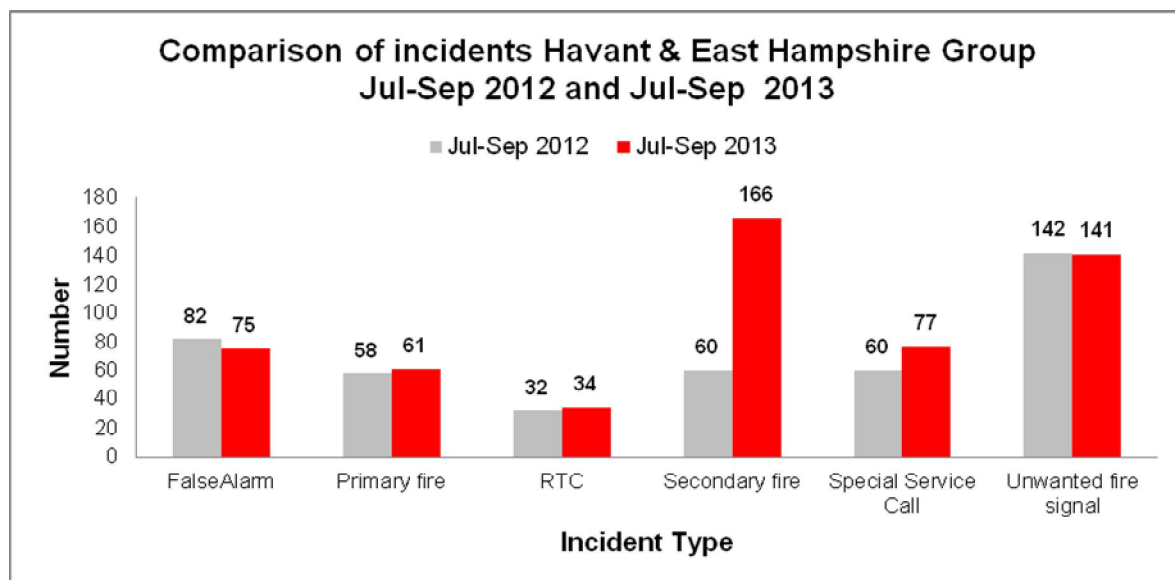
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

#### Prohibitions

There was one prohibition notice served during this reporting period.

#### Community response

On 19 August 2013 at 14:29 firefighters were mobilised to Sinah Warren, Ferry Road, West Town in Hayling Island. Chlorine leak was found in the pool plant room, one person was taken to hospital by ambulance. Crews used breathing apparatus and fire kit to check inside the plant room and assess the situation. The incident was then handed over to the site management.



## 3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport

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### Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	150
Smoke detectors fitted	225

### Fire investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group had seven investigations involving three houses, two vehicles, a port cabin and barn and a hospital.

### Arson and risk reduction

There were three fire investigation search dog deployments.

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business fire safety

Inspectors from the Fareham office visited a night club in Gosport where the occupancy was greater than the means of escape from the premises. In the event of an emergency all of the people may not be able to leave safely. A prohibition notice was served restricting the number of people allowed to enter the premises. Inspectors gave advice to the responsible person on what can be done to increase capacity.

As members of the Gosport Safety Advisory Group we were notified of the Gosfest (a festival for up to 5000 members of the public during August 2013). The organisers had difficulties with applying current guidance. Our regular interaction with the organisers enabled us to provide relevant business fire safety advice to bring the event organisations standard of management up to current accepted standards. This will enable future events to be more effectively and efficiently set up.

As part of our current group plan we have started a joint licensed premises inspection programme. This initiative involves three authorities, Fareham Borough Council (FBC), Hampshire Constabulary and HFRS. The initiative is aimed at highlighting regulatory compliance issues for which the three authorities have responsibility. A presentation was given to over 100 licensees at Fernham Hall as well as a separate joint presentation to FBC Licensing Committee to explain our aims and principles. The presentation covered advice on changing the conditions of the licence, noise break out and advice on drafting a fire risk assessment including occupancy numbers.

### 3.4 Group activity - Fareham and Gosport Group

We are working with Gosport Borough Council (GBC) on the new developments at Haslar Hospital. This is a large 24 acre site which has been listed as an important historical site. It has now been bought by developers and the planning application proposes a continuing care retirement community including 60 bed care home, conversion of main hospital building into 214 sheltered housing/flats, two new hotels, a health centre, offices, entertainment premises, a church, a public hall and a heritage centre. A joint meeting took place and we proposed sprinklers for some or the entire development.

We have been in discussion with FBC regarding a new sheltered housing development which a Fareham Councillor highlighted. He asked us to investigate the feasibility of having sprinklers installed. The current design did not include sprinklers so we put forward a proposal. Due to time constraints on the project and the advanced stage of the project it was impossible to redesign with sprinklers. However, they are very interested in our proposals and will consider them in the further two sheltered housing schemes.

The young firefighters association is now a core part of our community safety activity. Four of the first intake have stayed on and the summer holidays have allowed the team to review the activities and work on future sessions and needs. There will be another 10 places available which will be allocated from nominations from partner agencies.

#### Enforcement

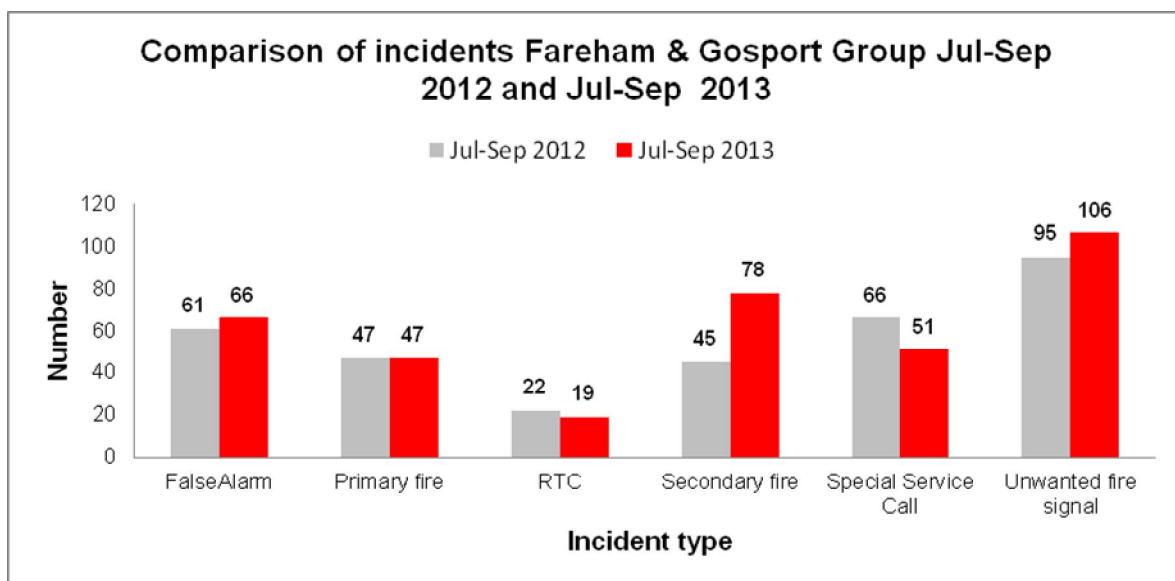
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

#### Prohibitions

One prohibition notice has been served during this reporting period.

#### Community response

On 29 August 2013 at 19:29 eight fire crews were mobilised to a heathland fire in Portsmouth Road in Lee-on-Solent. The fire involved a large area of heathland and firefighters used three jets, two hose reels and two breathing apparatus and numerous beaters to put the fire out.



## 3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

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### Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	261
Smoke detectors fitted	209

### Fire investigations

Portsmouth Group had four investigations involving two houses, a flat and a Magistrates Court.

### 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 drive to reduce the number of unwanted automatic fire alarm activations, inspectors from the Southsea office carried out a fire safety audit of a large independent living scheme (sheltered housing). The premises had reached the trigger point of six unwanted calls in a 12 month period. During the inspection it was identified that some of the occupants suffer from conditions such as dementia, although in the early stages the condition is likely to progress over time. We recognise the problems with these types of premises and are working with the management to come up with the best solutions to overcome the problems of unwanted fire alarm activation and ensuring, as best as possible, the safety of the residents.

We continue to work closely with Portsmouth City Council (PCC) on all aspects of fire safety with Council owned and operated premises. Working with the Health and Safety team run by Ian Slade we have secured the use of premises information boxes in all of the high rise residential and sheltered housing premises. These boxes will be able to be accessed using the Gerda key held on all fire appliances. We will now work with PCC to populate the boxes with relevant information needed at an incident. For example, plans, keys, information on residents in need of additional support, O<sub>2</sub> cylinders, etc.

Preliminary discussions have taken place on the use of No 4 Boathouse, Historic Dockyard Portsmouth. Developers, English Heritage and Portsmouth City Council Building Control were all involved. This is a grade II listed building and it is proposed to make it accessible for members of the public to view small boat building and repairs in progress. There is a proposed viewing gallery with disabled access to the mezzanine floor which will also incorporate a café. Discussions were around how to improve the means of escape to comply with current standards whilst taking into account the heritage fabric of the building.

Alternative solutions were offered, these are to be considered and an application will follow in due course.

The Southsea officers have a good working relationship with the Portsmouth Muslim Academy in Old Commercial Road. The mosque leader in particular has been very helpful in promoting contacts with BME businesses. During Ramadan the inspectors from the Southsea office were invited to break the fast after sunset with the members of the mosque.

A site visit was made to a restaurant in Southsea at the request of one of our fire safety advocates, Mr Don Tang. The owner of the restaurant spoke English as a second language but her main language is Mandarin. This is a small business and the owner had a bad experience with previous fire risk assessors, in particular high pressure sales, threats about law breaking and an expensive document she did not understand. Based on the training we have given him, Don has worked with her to produce a suitable document and procedures based on the HFRS online fire risk assessment template. We were asked to attend to explain some of the detail and we were pleased to assist. This shows the benefit of advocates and volunteers in the community. As a volunteer, Don has received no payment

### Enforcement

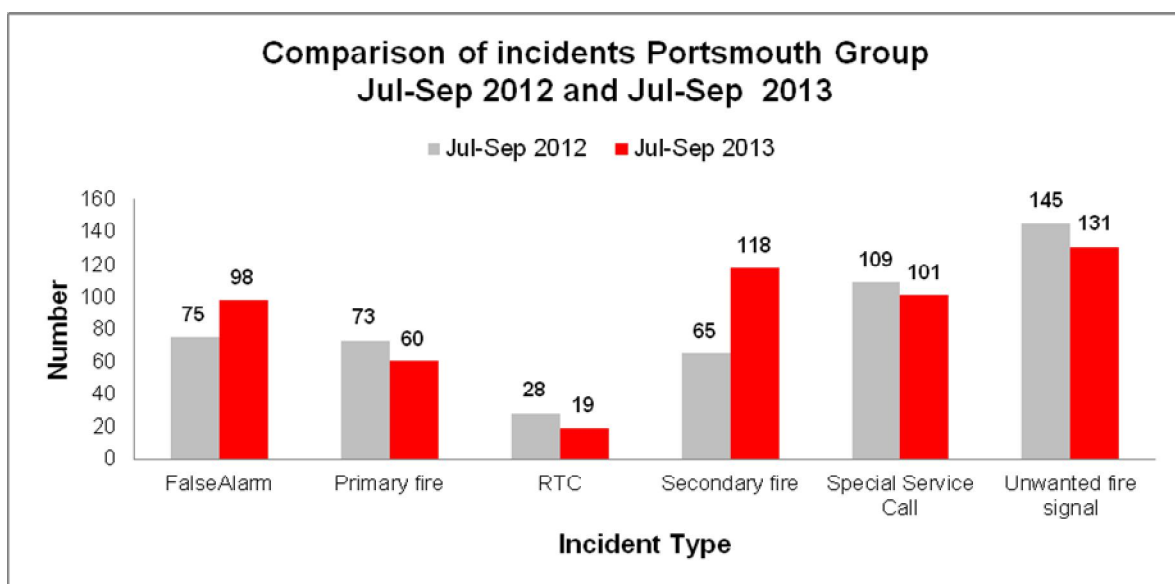
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

There were no prohibition notices served during this reporting period.

### Community response

On 29 August 2013 at 17:13 four crews were sent to an incident in Harbour Way in Tipner, Portsmouth. This was a hazardous materials incident which included multiple seats of fire in brush land measuring 100 metres by 35 metres. Three hose reels, two jets and four knapsack sets and beater were used to bring the fire under control.



## 3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

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### Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	83
Smoke detectors fitted	85

### Fire investigations

Winchester Group had three investigations involving a bungalow, a domestic shed and a HM Prison cell.

### Arson and risk reduction

There were six fire investigation search dog deployments.

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business fire safety

Business support officers (BSOs) have carried out over 100 business support visits in Winchester. They have also been networking within the business improvement district to raise awareness.

The BSOs have attended business seminars and other similar events to raise business awareness regarding the support we can offer and to provide advice and information.

We have been working closely with the fire safety officer responsible for the Royal Hampshire County Hospital to provide business continuity support and staff training advice.

We have been assisting the Winchester housing team by carrying out joint visits as and when required in houses of multiple occupancy (HMO's).

We have been working closely with the Winchester Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) for all outdoor events, including the Boomtown festival, which is one of the largest events in Hampshire. Business fire safety staff carried out numerous visits before the official opening and assisted outlets with their fire safety arrangements to ensure a safe and fun event.

## 3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

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### Enforcement

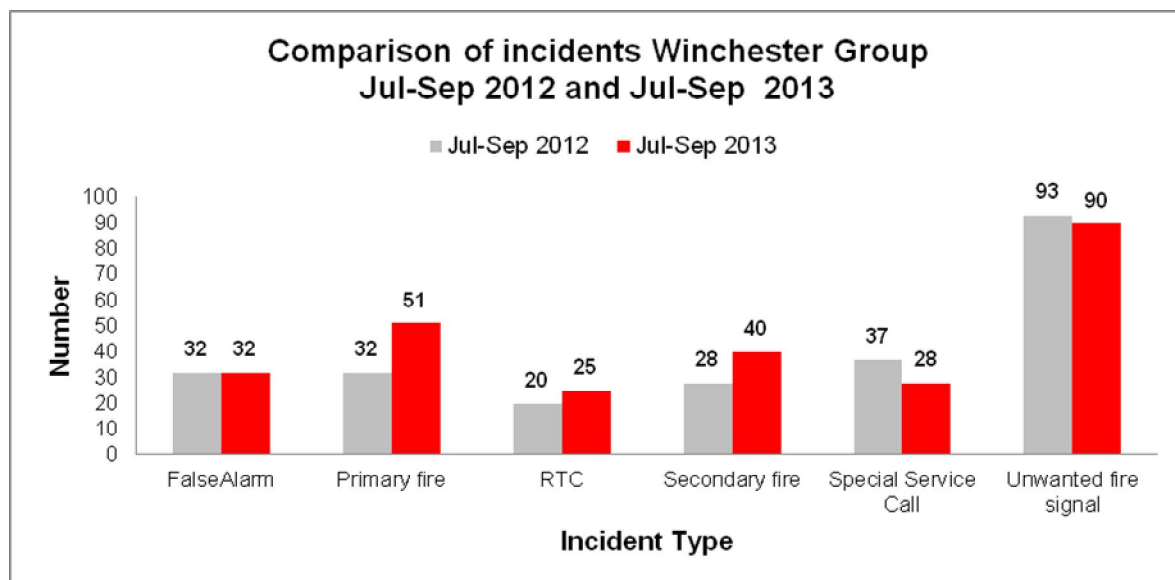
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

There were no prohibition notices served during this reporting period.

### Community response

On 16 September 2013 at 11:21 six fire crews were mobilised to a fire in Winchester Road in Lower Upham. The fire was in a detached two storey house. The ground floor was 60 per cent damaged by fire, the first floor was 80 per cent damaged and the roof was 50 per cent damaged. Crews used four jets, three hose reels and 14 breathing apparatus to put the fire out.



## 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 between 1 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	116
Smoke detectors fitted	136

### Fire investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group had 11 investigations involving a school, a shop, a flat, four vehicles, three houses and an industrial unit.

### Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment and five sets of CCTV evidence collected from appliances.

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business fire safety

Business safety officers (BSOs) have carried out over 100 business support visits in the Test Valley and Eastleigh areas. They have also attended networking events and business seminars to raise awareness about their supporting role and to provide advice and information.

We have been working closely with the fire safety officer responsible for Andover War Memorial Hospital, to improve the fire safety arrangements and to assist with business continuity and staff training.

Our business fire safety staff have conducted 16 fire safety audits, 45 building consultations and four post fire audits to advise on business recovery.

We have been supporting Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) throughout the group, including the Aegis bowl and Thruxton to ensure that events are safe, enjoyable and profitable.

We have been assisting the Eastleigh and Test Valley Housing teams by carrying out joint visits as and when required in houses of multiple occupation (HMOs).

## 3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

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### Enforcement

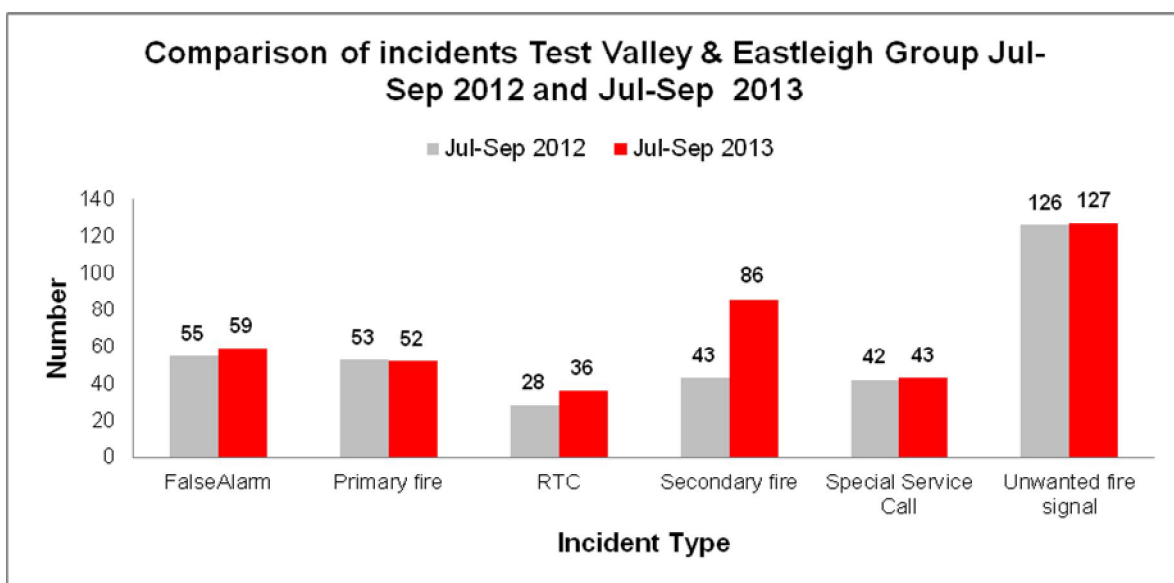
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

One prohibition notice has been served during this reporting period.

### Community response

On 19 September 2013 at 11:11 Control operators received a call about a fire in a sports hall of Winton Community Academy in Andover. Fire crews were mobilised to the scene and used five jets, two hose reels and 30 breathing apparatus to bring the blaze under control. (For more details see 1.8).



## 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 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	171
Smoke detectors fitted	150

### Fire investigations

Southampton Group had 11 investigations involving two houses, an office, a vehicle and seven flats with one involving a fatality.

### Arson and risk reduction

There were three fire investigation search dog deployments and three statements taken.

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business fire safety

We have continued to target higher risk premises through office initiatives, post incident audits and reported alleged fire risks (AFRs). This has generally resulted in agreed action plans.

Our partnership agreement with Southampton City Council has seen us assist in the training of their staff including head teachers, to help reduce the risk of fire within these buildings.

Due to a recent restructuring of private sector housing, we are working closer with their management to help them identify fire safety issues in houses in multiple occupancy (HMOs). A joint training day was organised in early October so as to better understand each other's roles.

We continue to promote sprinklers at the earliest stage possible within any pre-planning applications and are currently consulting on two large projects for the inclusion of sprinklers. These are the City Gateway and Richmond House developments both of which are student accommodation.

## 3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

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### Enforcement

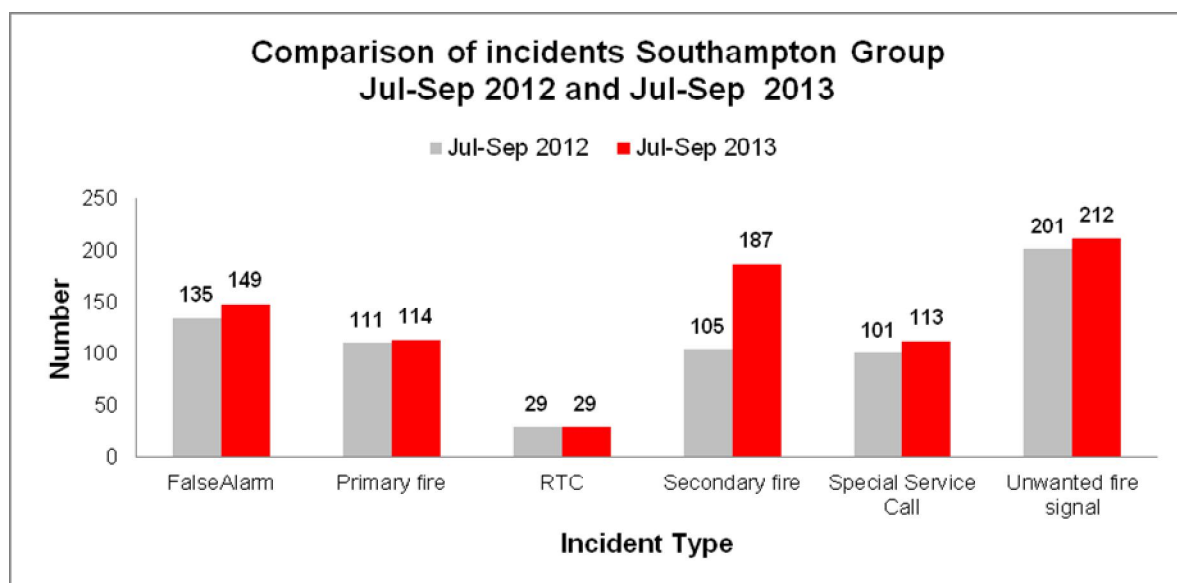
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

There were no prohibition notices served during this reporting period.

### Community response

Four fire crews were mobilised to a fire in Redbridge on 27 August 2013 at 00:47. This was a kitchen fire on the first floor of a five floor building. The flat was 80 per cent damaged by fire and one female adult was rescued by HFRS and taken to hospital by SCAS.



## 3.9 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 July 2013 and 30 September 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	133
Smoke detectors fitted	132

### Fire investigations

New Forest Group had two investigations involving a shed and a boat shed.

### Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

### Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

### Business fire safety

Our dedicated Business Fire Safety Officer arranged a meeting between the operators of the National Motor Museum and the industry leaders in the provision of high fog suppression systems. The meeting was very positive and a further appointment was agreed to design a suitable system. The insurers of the museum have said that the installation of any water based system would lead to an increase in premiums. This is clearly counter intuitive and has been picked up by this office and we are currently making representation on behalf of the museum.

We are continuing to work closely with New Forest District Council and have made significant progress both in the reduction of unwanted fire alarms and with the improvement of compliance across their building stock.

We have introduced the idea of suppression as a compensatory feature during two pre consultation meetings, both of which have been adopted and accepted by building control.

We have continued to support the economic growth agenda and educate local business by offering 23 agreed action plans, and as a result of our supportive approach have only issued one enforcement notice.

As a result of our network of fire safety advocates and other referrals, we have attended in excess of 30 alleged fire risks.

## 3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

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### Enforcement

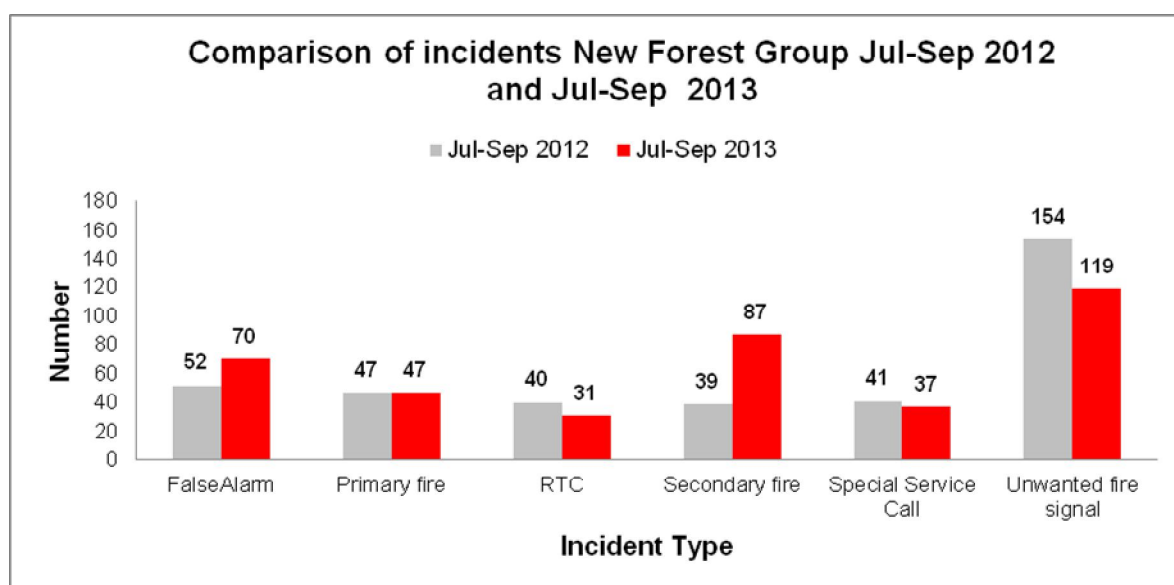
There were no enforcement notices served during this reporting period.

### Prohibitions

There were no prohibition notices served during this reporting period.

### Community response

On 16 August 2013 at 09:36 fire crews were mobilised to a hazardous materials incident at Hartwood House Nursing Home in Bournemouth Road, Lyndhurst. An employee poured 10 litres of hydrogen peroxide bleach down the sink. The substance was diluted with copious amounts of water. One male suffered with breathing difficulties and was assessed by SCAS Hazardous Area Response Team (HART).



## 3.10 Out of County

There were three fire investigation search dog deployments during this period.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has had one investigation involving a fatal flat fire.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has had two investigations involving an accidental house fire and an attempted arson on a house fire resulting in a guilty plea.

## 4 Stop press

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### 4.1 Smoke alarm saved Fareham mother and toddler

**A working smoke alarm came to the rescue of a mother and toddler after fire broke out in their Fareham home on 7 October 2013.**

Fareham fire crews were called to Hillson Drive in Hill Park just before 13:00 to a fire in a ground floor living room. The mother and her child, who had been upstairs in their home, had managed to escape through the front door thanks to the early warning from the smoke alarm downstairs.

Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze in under an hour but there was significant damage to the living room and smoke damage to the rest of the house. Two crews from Fareham used two sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel to extinguish the blaze.

The mother heard the alarm activating downstairs and saw the fire in the living room. She then had time to dash back upstairs and get her child before escaping out of the front door.

Considering how quickly the fire developed, had she not had the warning from the smoke alarm she could have been trapped upstairs and firefighters could have been dealing with a far more serious situation.

The Red Cross's Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS) also attended to offer help and advice to the mother and her family.

The cause of the fire was most likely careless disposal of smoking materials.

### 4.2 Crews tackled a roof fire in Shirrell Heath

**Control operators received a call about a roof fire in Shirrell Heath on 22 October at 20:21.**

Around 45 firefighters were mobilised from Wickham, Bishops Waltham, Droxford, Fareham and Hightown. The aerial ladder platform from Southsea and the special equipment unit from Cosham were also deployed.

On arrival firefighters were faced with a fire in the roof of a two storey house. Firefighters used two breathing apparatus, three hose reels and three jets to extinguish the fire. The roof was 100 per cent damaged by fire and the first floor was 20 per cent damaged by fire. The stop message came in at 01:58 and it is thought to have been caused by a lightning strike.

## 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 neighbourhood

### **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  
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