

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



Image captured by our Twitter follower @HannahLouV



HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

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Front page photo: Southampton high rise fire (see 'latest news' section for details)

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 31 March 2014 and before the report has been issued are listed at the back in the “Latest news” section.

Sadly, there have been two possible fire deaths in this period which are both awaiting reports from the Coroner. More details on these incidents are in the response section in Southampton Group and Fareham and Gosport Group.

Adverse weather and floods affected Hampshire for the majority of this quarter which meant that the whole Service was under immense pressure.

Fire crews, water rescue teams and officers did a great job attending incidents.

Fire Control did very well handling such a high volume of flood related calls.

Not forgetting the fabulous work of the Urban Search and Rescue team who dealt with flooding, assisted with unstable structures and fallen trees, and rescued people from floodwater.

Every member of staff did a sterling job to ensure the safety of Hampshire residents during this busy time.



The Service has been working in partnership with Hampshire County Council (HCC) for more than five years to review their building stock on a risk assessed basis.



HFRS and HCC have carried out extensive consultation and development of an alternative specification for sprinkler systems. With the assistance of a sprinkler engineer we designed an innovative, bespoke Asset Protection Sprinkler System which is being installed in Park Community School in Havant.

1 Responding to incidents

Incident category	Jan-Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014
False alarm	477	459
Primary fire	476	461
Road traffic collision	229	237
Secondary fire	396	287
Special service call	460	730
Unwanted fire signal	816	898
Total	2854	3072

1.1 Fire crews contained a fire in Portsmouth Dockyard

Hampshire fire crews quickly mobilised to a fire in Portsmouth's Naval Dockyard on 10 January 2014 at 21:49.



The fire was in the roof and the first floor of a two-storey building measuring 30 metres by 70 metres.

Fire crews were on scene quickly and set to work. Further resources were requested to keep the fire contained preventing the fire from spreading to other buildings. Crews worked together with the owners and other agencies which allowed them to swiftly contain and extinguish the fire.

A total of 10 fire appliances and two aerial ladder platforms were at the scene. A joint investigation with the police determined that the cause was accidental involving a blow torch.

1.2 Man rescued from second-floor balcony in Winchester

A man was rescued from a second-floor balcony by firefighters after a blaze broke out in a central Winchester flat on 13 January 2014.

Control operators mobilised crews to a terraced building on Jewry Street just after 14.45 when smoke was seen coming from the window. On arrival firefighters quickly pitched a ladder to reach the second-floor balcony and helped the man to safety. The crews speedy response, and their actions in reaching him undoubtedly helped to save this man's life.



Around 40 firefighters from Winchester, Eastleigh, Basingstoke, Havant and St Mary's then used breathing apparatus and jets to enter the building and prevent the fire spreading. The man was treated at the scene by South Central Ambulance Service but did not require hospital treatment. He had been asleep in his flat when the fire broke out but was awoken by his smoke alarm. The early warning provided by his smoke alarm also helped him to escape onto his balcony before the fire took hold. The fire was caused by an overheated laptop left charging on a bed.

1.3 Firefighters helped to rescue 32 people trapped in flooded beach café

Hampshire firefighters helped rescue more than 30 people trapped in a flooded beach cafe in Milford on Sea on 14 February 2014 as a major tidal surge breached a sea wall.

One quick thinking firefighter acted fast to get Valentine's night diners onto the first floor of the building.



Crew Manager Robin Bates said he had never seen sea conditions of this severity in his career as a firefighter, which included the, 1987 storms.

Having got diners upstairs, CM Bates then worked with the military to get them out of the restaurant, in knee high sea water, in two groups. By this time the first floor windows as well as those on the ground floor had been

smashed by beach pebbles propelled by a huge storm surge.

CM Bates, who is a member of the Urban Search and Rescue team, had to lead his own crew to safety after their fire appliance was battered by the sea.

The Water Rescue team from Brokenhurst also rescued a 92 year old Lymington resident after her house flooded within minutes, leaving her chest deep in water.

1.4 Fire crews battled a blaze at Fareham Retail Park



Firefighters attended an industrial building fire at the Collingwood Retail Park on Frankport Way, in Fareham after a fire broke out on 26 February 2014.

Control operators mobilised 15 appliances together with our Hazardous Materials Detection Identification and Monitoring team (HAZMAT).

More than 80 firefighters tackled the blaze which broke out at around 23:45.

Crews worked in partnership with South Central Ambulance Service, Hampshire Constabulary, Fareham Borough Council and the Environment Agency to make the scene safe.

The cause of the fire was accidental due to an electrical fault.

1.5 Fire crews tackled a church fire in Timsbury

Firefighters were mobilised to St Andrew's Church on 10 March at 07:27 where they were faced with a developed fire in the roof.



Crews worked incredibly hard to contain the fire and protect as much of the historic church as possible. They quickly put in a fire break and were able to tackle the fire by removing tiles from the roof.

Six crews from the surrounding area were sent to the scene to tackle the fire. The crews managed to bring the blaze under control and save as many historic artefacts as possible including a stained glass window. The tower was 100 per

cent damaged by fire, the roof was 60 per cent damaged by fire and the ground floor was 50 per cent damaged by fire. The cause of the fire was accidental.

Two people trapped after a lorry crashed into a house

Hampshire firefighters rescued two people from a house after a lorry crashed into it on 20 March 2014 in Brockhurst Road, Gosport. Control operators were called at 05:47 to reports of a 7.5 tonne lorry crashed into a house. Crews from Gosport and an aerial ladder platform were mobilised to the scene.

The lorry crashed into the property cutting off the staircase leaving two people trapped upstairs in the house. Firefighters used an aerial ladder platform to rescue the people from the first floor of the house. Our crews were on scene quickly and worked hard to reassure and rescue the two people who were trapped on the first floor of the property.



Our Urban Search and Rescue team attended to assess structural damage to the property.

2 Community safety

2.1 Schools Education team

This term has provided the Schools Education team with a number of new challenges. The recent flooding was one example where they were able to bring their expertise in working



with children and young people to support the whole Service in its response. Our most recent publication from the Susie the childminder series, 'The Flood', was put to use and delivered, as part of a package, to 35 flood affected schools. This meant that approximately 8,000 children received information on how to stay safe during the recent adverse weather conditions in the most affected areas in Hampshire.

The team has continued to support the recovery phase and long term planning for community resilience. They attended the Whitchurch resilience day where advice and guidance was given, and also presented at a Public Health England flood seminar in London.

Type of event	Working with	Location	Number of children	Number of adults
Schools Safety Education Programme	Pupils in Key Stage 1	Hampshire	6,330	584
Schools Safety Education Programme	Pupils in Key Stage 2	Hampshire	3,668	386
Motiv8 Fire Education	Troubled young people	Havant	4	3
Citizenship Day	Pupils in Key Stage 3	Hounslow School	200	10
Community Resilience Flood Workshop	Key Stage 1 pupils and staff	Hambledon School	75	5
Firesetting Response Workshop	Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and staff	Ampfield Primary School	44	5
Parent and child community visit	Young parents and carers	Pilands Estate, Bursledon	50	35
Young Carers Safety Session	Eastleigh young carers	Eastleigh	6	7
Think Safe	Eastleigh Borough Council schools	Manor Farm Country Park	751	46
Science Fair	Portsmouth Education Business Partnership	St Vincent College	119	13
Teacher training	PSHE leads in school	Twyford	N/A	48

2 Community safety

2.2 Home safety - safeguarding

To continue to improve delivery of home safety, the home safety project has achieved a major milestone through the creation of the fire safety development group. We are aware the vast majority of fire deaths present similar characteristics regarding their health and care; most of them are also known to other agencies. We have therefore brought together key professionals from Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight adult social care and safeguarding teams. Working together with these key organisations will allow the project to devise risk management processes for all agencies to use when managing fire risks. Ultimately, this will reduce the risk of fire for our most vulnerable groups. The inaugural meeting took place on 13 March 2014 and is set to take place on a bi-monthly basis.

The project continues to target delivery of our activities to those most vulnerable to fire. A recent case was identified because of a number of vulnerable characteristics being present. Due to the seriousness of the situation the local HFRS community safety officer organised a "MARAC" (multi-agency risk assessment conference) approach. Partner agencies attended a professionals meeting to collectively discuss and address the risks presented by this particular person. This approach then allowed the project to develop a comprehensive care package.

2.3 Volunteers

Regrettably, during this period an Eastleigh volunteer, Richard Swann, passed away suddenly in February. You may recall that Richard received a Volunteer Award in December 2013 at our Celebrating Success event for his contribution and he will be sadly missed.

Our total number of volunteers at the end of this quarter is 49. We continue to recruit for a variety of roles and have recently been successful in recruiting a dog trainer, formerly with the MOD Police. He now assists with training our Arson Task Force dogs and handlers one morning a week.

Volunteers have been involved in assisting to clear hoarders properties, participating at animal rescue training sessions, delivering leaflets in Winchester for retained recruitment, helping at The Fire Fighters Charity car washes and helping to fill sandbags to protect vulnerable fire stations during the recent floods. Our volunteers activities are detailed overleaf.

2 Community safety

Activity	Number of volunteers supporting
1 January - 31 March 2014	
Home safety visits	Eight volunteers conducted 102 home safety visits
Young people engagement	Four volunteers engaged with young people at colleges and schools promoting road and fire safety
Young Firefighters Association	Three volunteers assisted with the Young Firefighters Association groups in Basingstoke and Gosport
Home Safety Week 2014	Seven volunteers attended 10 community events including the Home Safety Week events
Deaf awareness sessions	One of our British Sign Language volunteers delivered deaf awareness sessions to the watches at Basingstoke Fire Station. It is planned that these will be rolled out to all stations

2.4 Children and young people (CYP) educational programmes

Prince's Trust Team programme

We have had three teams running during this period, Basingstoke, Redbridge (Southampton), and Andover. All the teams have been supported by secondments and have been working to maximise the opportunities for the young people. The highlight of the team's projects would be working closely with Hampshire Constabulary making a community Crime Watch video.

Children and young people

As part of the supporting troubled families agenda, Havant Fire Station delivered a one day Family Enrichment Day on 7 March 2014. The day helped to build positive links with the community and cemented relationships between workers and parents. We are now exploring the possibility of delivering these enrichment days throughout Hampshire.

We have recently been successful in securing funding for a team leader – fire for 12 months. This role will focus on engaging and working with families, and in particular children and young people who are on the supporting troubled families programme.

Rushmoor Fire Station has recently completed a one week Fire and Rescue Service Short Course (FRSSC), which saw 12 children aged 14 and 15 undertake a challenging course of discipline, drills, fire service and tactical advisory group aviation activities. All the young people achieved three modules of the FRSSC accreditation. We are continuing

2 Community safety

to support and provide FRSSC Module 4 - Anti-social Behaviour, to a group of children on the Challenge and Change course in Rushmoor. This is delivered by the Safer North Hants Partnership and funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2.5 Fire investigation

There have been 55 fire investigations in this reporting period, 28 deliberate fires, 24 non-suspicious, one undetermined and two fatalities. (See Fareham and Gosport Group and Southampton Group for more details)

Fire Investigation (FI) and Arson Task Force (ATF) have supported the investigation of 36 arson offences, with eight arrests made in relations to eight offences committed.

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

- Following an act of arson in St James Street, Southsea on Friday 8 March 2013, Kenneth John Brett was found guilty of committing 'arson reckless'. At the hearing on Monday 6 January 2014 at Southampton Crown Court, Mr Brett was given a prison term of 36 months.
- Following an act of arson to a vehicle in Bitterne Road East, Southampton on Saturday 30 December 2012, Michael James Magraw was sentenced at a hearing in January 2014 at Southampton Crown Court. Mr Magraw was given a prison sentence of 42 months for the charge of 'arson with intent'.
- Following an act of criminal damage in Park House Farm Way, Leigh Park, Havant on Saturday 11 January 2014, Sharon Jane Ansell was given a conditional caution for criminal damage at Portsmouth Crown Court and ordered to pay Portsmouth City Council £100.27 for damage.
- Following an act of arson in Middle Park Way, Havant on Sunday 22 December 2013, Ryan Trenoweth was sentenced at the hearing on 25 February 2014 at Fareham Magistrates Court. Mr Trenoweth was given a 12 month referral order.

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

Additionally the team has deployed the fire investigation search dogs throughout Hampshire to assist with six fire investigations.

2 Community safety



Our fire investigation dogs were invited to Crufts 2014 at the NEC in Birmingham by Harringtons Pet Foods. They wanted to have the dogs on their stand doing demonstrations of the great work they do for the Service.

Millie and handler Andy Earl, Harvey and handler Sean White and Saxon and Inca with handler Graham Howlett had the pleasure of attending the prestigious dog show.

Harringtons is a sister company of Waggy foods and they are the food sponsor of the Service's fire investigation dogs.

People were taking 'selfies' with Millie and Harvey and retweeting their pictures on the fire dogs twitter feed @HantsFireDogs.



2 Community safety

2.6 Firesetter Intervention Scheme

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

- 14 referrals to the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programme
- 6 referrals to the Adult Firesetter Intervention Programme

We have attended:

- 1 Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meeting
- 41 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings
- 1 South East Regional CFOA meetings hosted by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

We have recently been successful in an application for funding for the Adult Firesetters Intervention Programme (AFIP) from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This allows us to engage with offenders whilst still in custody for arson and work with the prison service in a secure environment to address arson and firesetting behaviour, which includes those inmates who have set fire to their cells.

The prison service within HMP Winchester have already adopted the HFRS Adult Firesetters Programme as a recognised standalone rehabilitation course for offenders to complete as part of their offending behaviour before being released back in to the community. For those inmates with a conviction for arson, this course is now also listed for offender managers to use when planning for release programmes.

2.7 Road safety

Our success with making road users safer hinges on the arrangements with partners, particularly local authority road safety departments and the Road Policing Unit. With the continuing financial difficulties there are increasing pressures to maintain the successful partnership working.

We continue to further develop partnership arrangements which will allow us to concentrate road safety interventions on the high risk group; young drivers. This capitalises on the organisations strengths in developing programmes and information in this area, whilst offering continued support to our partners' other activities.

We supported the local authority "Young driver and rider" programme. We assisted with road safety days at colleges in Andover, Basingstoke, Sparsholt, Fareham, Eastleigh, Ringwood, Farnborough, Gosport, Alton, Havant and South Downs. An education and enforcement event was run at Southsea and child car seat checks were completed in Southampton.

2 Community safety

2.8 Co-responders

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel attended 2702 medical incidents on behalf of South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust during this period.



Month	Calls
January	963
February	745
March	994
Total	2702

Our Portchester trial continues to be a success attending more than 450 calls during the initial trial period. The trial has been extended pending an assessment of call rates from South Central Ambulance's new station in North Harbour and its impact on cover in the local area.

2.9 National resilience capability

The USAR team were heavily involved in HFRS's response to the flooding across the county.

USAR provided transport for sandbags that were moved around the county in the USAR HGV carrying nine tonnes at a time. The USAR Manitou was used to move pallets of sand bags dramatically reducing the time in deploying them and therefore reducing the impact of flooding on the community as a whole.

Support was given to the Military in construction of the temporary weir above Romsey on the Test. In order to enable night time working USAR provided seven stand alone lighting units to illuminate the river for scene safety. This enabled lighting to be maintained on fire appliances keeping them fully operational for front line response.

The USAR team have delivered three 'fallen tree on car' courses in the New Forest with the support of the Forestry Commission in Lyndhurst. This support enables a very realistic training course with large fallen trees. After the severe weather in late 2013 these courses have proved to be very popular with other services throughout the UK.

The USAR team have assisted Hampshire Constabulary with two complex searches as part of on going investigation where the joint working between USAR and the police has led to safe and efficient joint operations. As these are on going investigations there are no further details available at this time.

2.10 Marketing and Communications

Flooding

During the main flooding period in January and February, we formed part of a large multi-agency approach to communicating vital flooding information to the public.

We helped chair daily teleconferences with all responding agencies and shared information and updates that were distributed via our social media channels, traditional media and website.

During the January/February flooding period, there were almost 300 mentions of our work in relation to the floods in the media, representing an advertising value equivalent (AVE) of around £500,000.

On social media, each message reached an average of more than 20,000 people with some posts reaching almost 200,000 people.

We also supported our community safety teams' work in informing the public over the dangers of carbon monoxide from fuel-powered pumps being used to remove flood water. Information leaflets were produced and the messages promoted through the media and social media.

Dedicated internet pages were also established and promoted throughout the flooding period to provide safety-critical information and contacts for flood-hit residents.

Our work continued into March and beyond, communicating details on flood recovery, including access to grants, health issues and sandbag removal.

Tick, Tock, Test

We supported the Government's Tick Tock Test campaign, which encourages people to test their smoke alarms while changing their clocks in March.

All local press and community contacts were issued with a press release and interviews with local radio stations were carried out. The activity leading up to and during the clock change weekend was also supported by material on the Service website and social media messages.

Chimney safety

Following a number of chimney fires in spring 2013, we carried out a media campaign to highlight the importance of 'spring cleaning' chimneys that have been used over the winter.

Coverage appeared in local press across the county and was profiled on Hampshire's radio stations.

3 Group Activity

3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	177
Smoke detectors fitted	185

Fire investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group had one fire investigation involving a flat.

Arson and risk reduction

One statement was taken.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

Our business support officers (BSOs) have been working in the rural areas to advise on business continuity and resilience. The theme for this quarter has been to re-visit residential care premises that we either visited more than three years ago, or those that are new.

In total 22 fire safety audits were carried out with eight culminating in agreed action plans. We are continuing to liaise with the local authority safeguarding team and Care Quality Commission in order to ensure the safety of the residents in one residential care home in Woolton Hill. The concerns regard the general need to update the fire precautions within the home. We are working with the responsible person to ensure a satisfactory outcome. Two premises were identified as having sleeping accommodation with unsuitable fire safety arrangements resulting in inspectors auditing both and then passing back to BSOs for continued support.

Over the last period BSOs diversified from the usual 'core business'. We used our contacts within communities to support the community resilience plan operated by the Service whilst some areas were affected by flooding. We operated in rural communities utilising the Landrover to report on flooding issues (particularly surrounding critical infrastructure such as substations) as well as reassuring the public. The BSOs reported back to the Reassurance Cell which enabled them to distribute their resources more effectively.

3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane Group

Enforcement

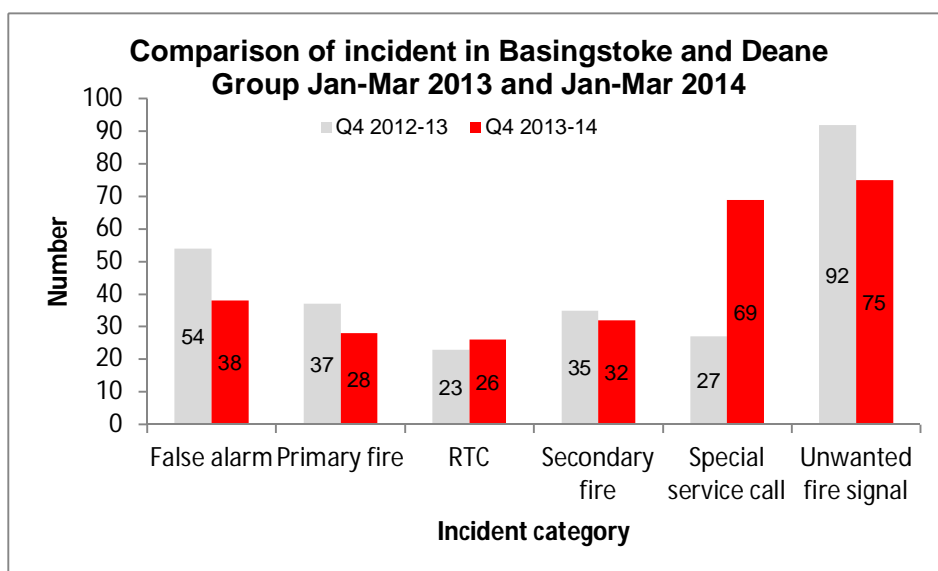
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

One prohibition notice was issued.

Community response

During the floods in Basingstoke the Service worked closely with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and all other partner agencies to alleviate the impact of groundwater flooding. We successfully used the high volume pump to lower the water level around the threatened electricity substation on Worting Road by pumping water a considerable distance into the river Loddon. The Service also supported the planning process relating to the pumping of contaminated flood water in the Buckskin area.



3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	91
Smoke detectors fitted	114

Fire investigations

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

Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

A member of the public reported that there were people sleeping above a tailor's shop in Aldershot. A joint inspection was made with the local immigration officer where four people were found to be sleeping in the premises, two of which were taken into custody. Due to the poor standard of fire precautions within the premises, a prohibition notice was served preventing people sleeping on the upper floors. We will continue to provide support for the owner to bring the premises up to standard.

We continue to focus our inspections on risk to life and have been visiting residential care homes. Two of these premises have been issued with agreed action plans. The general themes for improvement in older care homes is to improve the separation between floors, the protection to the means of escape and an upgrade of the fire alarm to present day standards.

As we move closer to the Farnborough Airshow, the business safety officers (BSOs) from Rushmoor have started to attend more meetings with the health and safety advisors for the show. We will also be attending the strategic meetings as the show moves closer to opening. The next stage will be to sample the risk assessments, then as the stalls start to be erected we will have a physical presence on site to ensure the safety of all those who attend.

3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

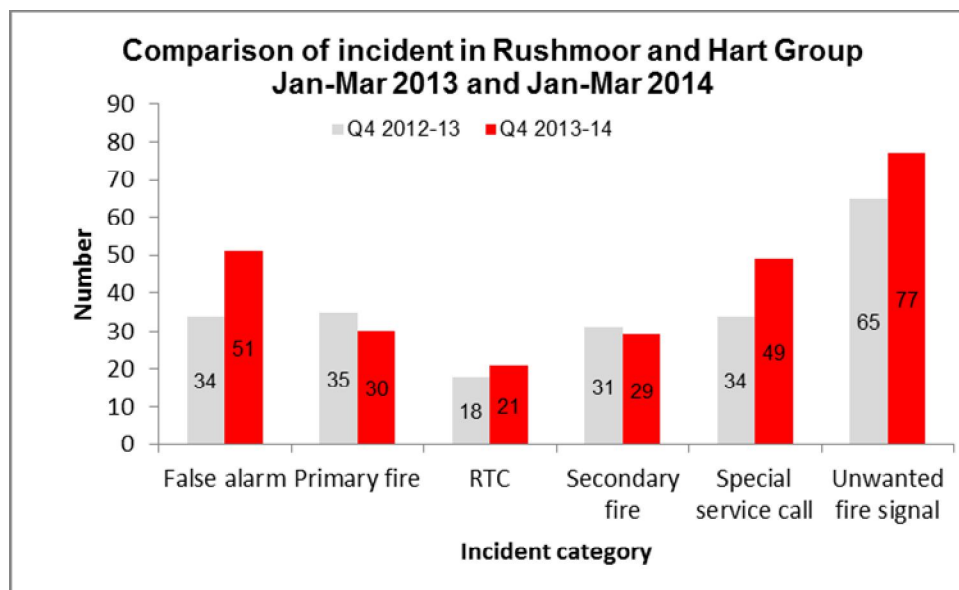
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 30 March 2014 crews were mobilised to Tongham Road, Heron Wood in Aldershot following reports of a fire. This fire involved unattended cooking on a hob in the kitchen. One 76 year old man had suffered a hypo-glycaemic attack and fell unconscious in the bathroom, prior to having a bath. The unattended cooking had set off the smoke alarm and a neighbour heard the alarm and called 999.

The man was treated at the scene by South Central Ambulance Service and then taken to hospital. Crews used two breathing apparatus and one hose reel to put the fire out.



3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	197
Smoke detectors fitted	218

Fire investigations

Havant and East Hampshire Group had six fire investigations involving two houses, one flat, one hotel, one laundrette and one beach hut.

Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

As part of our continued review on life premises, inspectors have been carrying out visits to residential care homes. Agreed action plans have been issued on a nursing home and a residential care home for people with mental health issues. We are working with the responsible people to improve the safety of these premises.

Our Business Fire Safety department together with our response colleagues from Havant Fire Station assisted in a full evacuation exercise for Portsmouth Water company headquarters. We also gave fire safety advice as well as practical demonstrations. Approximately 150 employees including the managing director attended all theory and practical sessions.

We have been working closely with the responsible persons for Chawton House Library, a Grade II listed building and Jane Austen's House Museum near Alton. They were brought to our attention because of an application for a marriage licence for Chawton House. We took into consideration the need for sympathetic fire precautions and the requirement for a safe place of work. An agreed action plan has been issued for both premises to improve the means of escape, fire safety policies, maintenance and training.

We carried out a post-incident inspection after a fire in a large hotel in Alton. The premises is part of a multi-occupied building including a major national building society that was subject to the Primary Authority Scheme with West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service (WMFRS). Improvements were required, through an agreed action plan, to improve the safety of the premises. Interestingly, the premises had another fire shortly afterwards and the processes put in place following our advice worked well. We received a letter of thanks from WMFRS regarding the support given to the building society.

3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

Enforcement

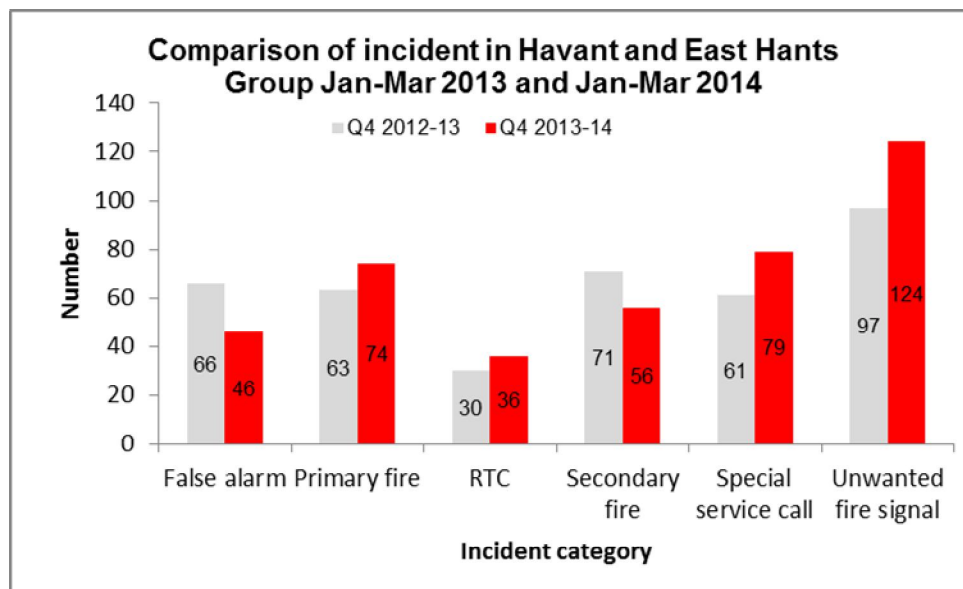
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 28 February 2014 crews were called to a fire in Ferney Close, Chawton. The incident was a domestic property consisting of three floors including a roof conversion, with a fire in the bathroom and roof void. Four crews used four breathing apparatus, two jets and one hose reel to put the fire out.



3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	165
Smoke detectors fitted	255

Fire investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group had six fire investigations involving one hostel, two flats, one thatched cottage, one factory and one mental health unit.

Arson and risk reduction

Four statements were taken and CCTV evidence was collected from three appliances.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We were requested to attend a meeting with Fareham Borough Council (FBC) regarding a sheltered housing project in Fareham. We had previously been unsuccessful in persuading the authority to install sprinklers in a previous sheltered housing scheme due to the effect it would have on them financing the project. Due to our constant lobbying and promotion of sprinklers FBC have confirmed that they are proposing to install sprinklers in the next sheltered housing scheme at Cold East Close. We will be working with FBC throughout the project to ensure a safe building.

Following a fire in a building to the rear of a shop with sleeping above in Gosport, the Arson Task Force alerted us of concerns about the means of escape from the upper floors. The officers found that the premises was a house of multiple occupation. A prohibition notice was issued preventing people from sleeping upstairs. The fire alarm was installed the same day and a restriction was put on the use of the kitchen until an appropriate means of escape had been created. The owner subsequently changed the tenancy agreement to joint tenancy which took the premises outside of the Fire Safety Order so the notice was withdrawn. A letter was sent to Gosport Borough Council advising them that in our opinion the fire precautions within the premises were still inadequate.

We have been conducting a programme of agreed joint licensing inspections with the licensing authority and police. We noticed a common problem of licensed premises not having identified maximum occupancy figures, and people sleeping above. As part of the joint inspection programme inspectors are carrying out business fire safety visits in the first instance. This quickly identifies need for further action and should reduce the burden on businesses. An audit will be carried out where there are major issues.

3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

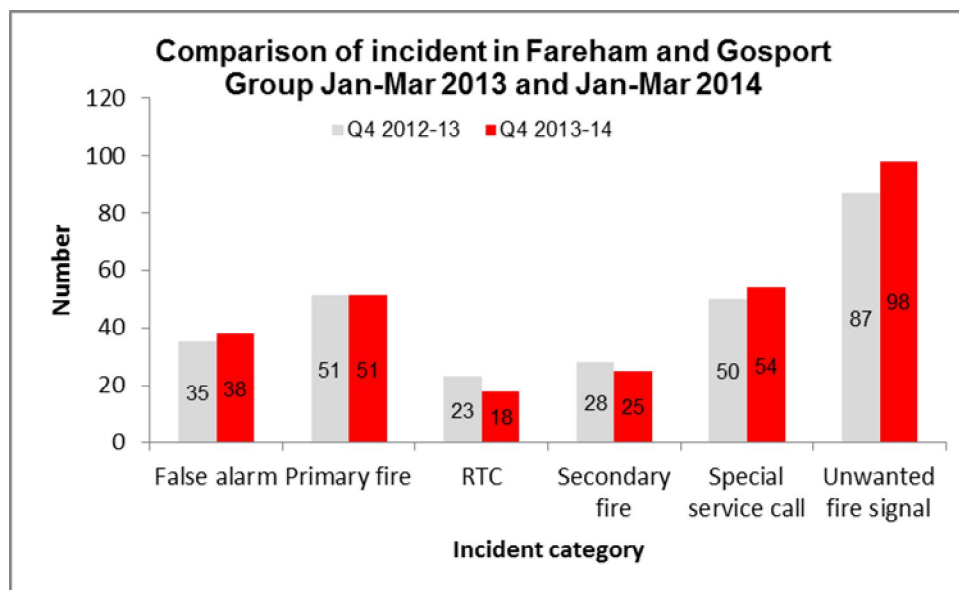
Prohibitions

One prohibition notice was issued.

Community response

Crews were mobilised to Arismore Court in Lee-on-Solent on 29 January after reports of a fire on the fourth floor of a block of flats. Sadly one elderly male died before the arrival of the emergency services. It is not yet clear if the death of the man was caused by fire or a medical episode. We are awaiting a report from the Coroner. A crew from Gosport and a crew from Fareham attended the incident.

On 20 March 2014 crews were mobilised to a road traffic collision in Brockhurst Road, Gosport. The incident involved a 7.5 tonne lorry which had crashed into a building. Two people were rescued from the first floor of the building using an aerial ladder platform. The building was made safe following structural advice from our Urban Search and Rescue team.



3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	259
Smoke detectors fitted	236

Fire investigations

Portsmouth Group had six fire investigations involving one building on HM Naval Base, one workshop, one school, one laundry and two houses in multiple occupancy (HMO).

Arson and risk reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments, CCTV evidence collected from eight appliances and one community safety presentation.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We carried out an inspection of a Chinese restaurant in Southsea following reports from other agencies. We found that the first floor was being used as unlicensed karaoke booths. In the loft there was evidence of sleeping accommodation. A prohibition notice was issued preventing sleeping taking place on the second floor. As part of our support, one of our business fire safety advocates is working with the manager.

One of our officers attended the annual Halabja memorial ceremony along with two of our Kurdish fire safety advocates. This is an important annual event for the local Kurdish community. The Kurdish community is the second largest BME group in Portsmouth. We are building a good relationship with the Portsmouth Kurdish Community.

We are in the early stages of working with Tesco on their proposed new superstore in Portsmouth. We have responded to the planning application under the Town and Country Planning Act. We are now arranging initial pre-consultation meetings with the architects and fire engineers to agree the fire safety provision and access and facilities for firefighters. We have recognised the need to establish an early relationship with the developers of complex buildings. We can then ensure any potential issues around current best practice are recognised and discussed promptly to achieve acceptable fire safety standards.

3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Enforcement

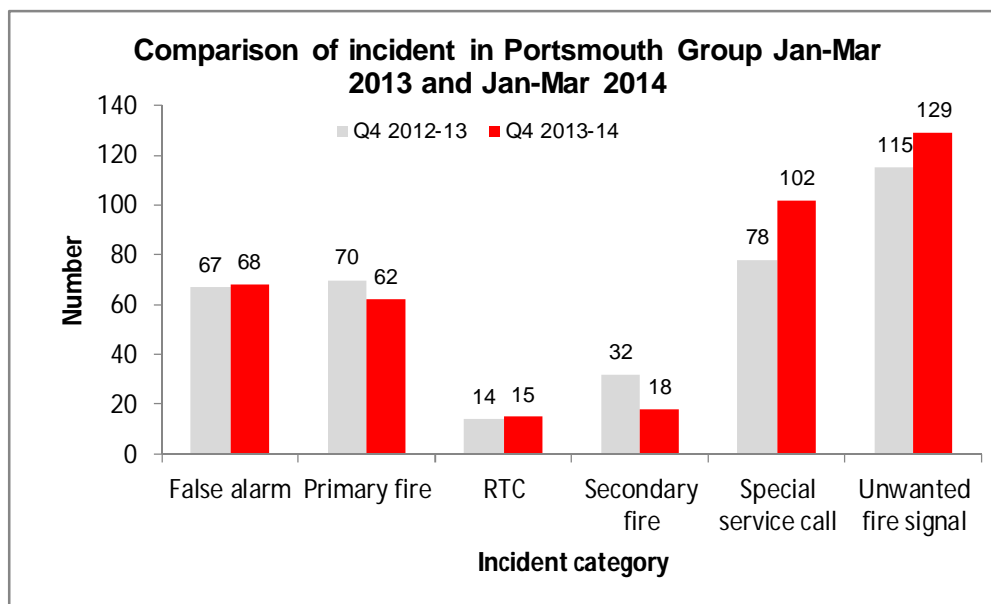
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

Four crews were mobilised to Ophir Road in Portsmouth on 29 March 2014 following reports of a fire. This was a fire in a domestic dwelling consisting of three floors. The fire was in the ground floor front room which was severely damaged by fire. Firefighters used six breathing apparatus, two hose reels and one jet to put the fire out.



3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	100
Smoke detectors fitted	104

Fire investigations

Winchester Group had three investigations involving one flat, one house and a horse box.

Arson and risk reduction

There was one community safety presentation.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have been focussing on identified risk within licensed businesses that provide sleeping facilities. We have also been looking at businesses that continue to produce an large amount of false alarms or who call out our emergency resources to free people trapped in lifts. Unless it is an emergency, we expect lift incidents to be resolved by the business without the need for fire service involvement. Following a series of fires involving tumble driers in laundrettes, our business support officers visited all commercial laundrettes to provide fire prevention and business continuity advice.

We carried out 16 business fire safety audits and 71 business support visits. We have also attended 31 building consultations and 12 licensing consultations.

Our officers have responded to three alleged fire risks and carried out six post fire incident inspections.

We have conducted 12 joint visits with local authority partners to provide support and guidance on reducing the risk of fire in shared housing, particularly where it is situated above a business.

We provided training to our operational fire crews on building construction and fire safety issues to enable them to be more operationally effective and to improve their personal safety.

3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Enforcement

One enforcement notice was issued on a furniture store and the business is currently being considered for prosecution.

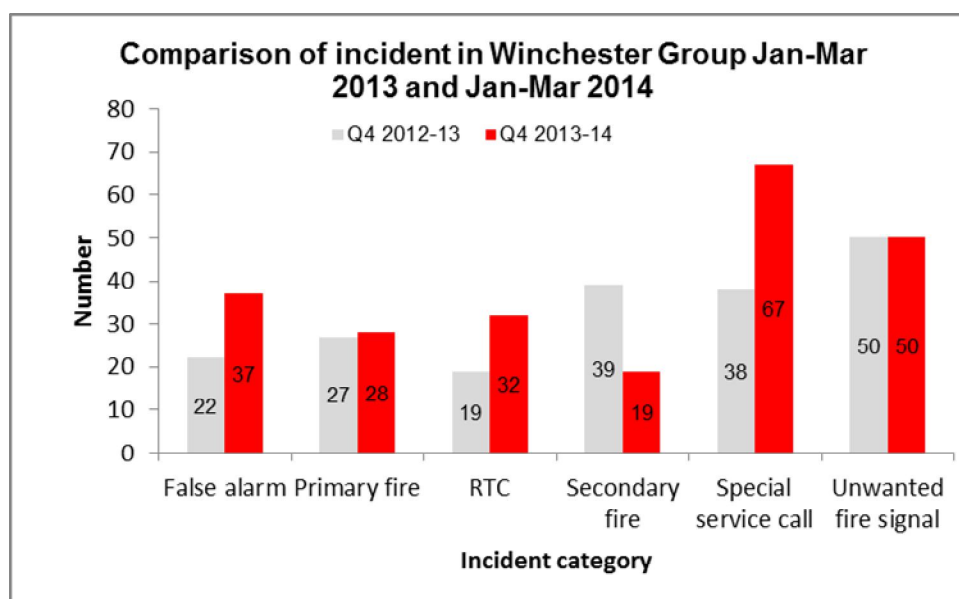
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 13 January 2014 crews were mobilised to Jewry Street in Winchester after reports of a fire. The fire was in the roof of a terraced building consisting of three floors and a pitched roof. One person was rescued by ladder and two people were treated for smoke inhalation (for more details see 1.2).

The HFRS and Isle of Wight high volume pumps were deployed to Winchester to help with the flood situation. HFRS undertook a key role in the multi agency response to dam Park Avenue to reduce the risk of city centre flooding from the River Itchen. Crews from Winchester and Eastleigh assisted with filling hundreds of sandbags at Winchester's Bar End depot. They also helped to lay out the sandbags to help protect properties along Water Lane from the rising water of the River Itchen.



3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	122
Smoke detectors fitted	122

Fire investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group had three fire investigations involving two flats and one church.

Arson and risk reduction

There was one community safety presentation.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have been focussing on identified risks within licensed businesses that provide sleeping facilities. We have also been looking at businesses that continue to produce an unreasonable amount of false alarms from their fire alarm systems, or who call out our emergency resources to free people trapped in lifts. Unless it is an emergency, we expect lift incidents to be resolved by the business without the need for fire service involvement.

Following a series of fires involving tumble driers in laundrettes our business support officers visited all commercial laundrettes to provide fire prevention and business continuity advice.

We carried out 14 business fire safety audits as well as 47 business support visits within the group.

Officers responded to five alleged fire risks and visited four premises for post fire inspections.

We have conducted four joint visits with local authority partners to provide support and guidance on reducing the risk of fire in shared housing, particularly where it is situated above a business.

We provided training to operational fire crews on building construction and fire safety issues to enable them to be more operationally effective and to improve their personal safety.

Officers have also attended 33 building consultations and 10 licensing consultations.

3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Enforcement

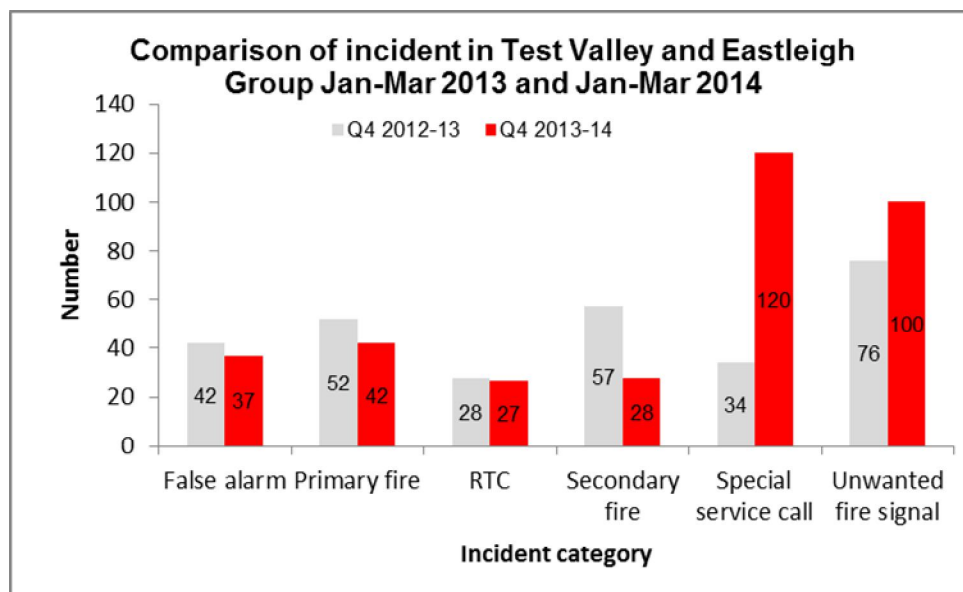
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 9 March 2014 crews were mobilised to Manor Lane in Timsbury after reports of a fire in the tower of a church. The tower was 100 per cent damaged by fire, the roof was 60 per cent damaged by fire and the ground floor was 50 per cent damaged by fire and 80 per cent damaged by heat, smoke and water. Multiple artefacts were salvaged from the building (for more details see 1.5).



3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	231
Smoke detectors fitted	209

Fire investigations

Southampton Group had 11 fire investigations, involving four houses, three bedsits, one vehicle and three flats.

Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment, five statements were taken and there were two community safety presentations.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

Major building work continues within the city and we have had several significant consultation meetings regarding the proposed fire safety measures and fire engineering submissions. These meetings have helped to ensure that the development is constructed in a safe and considered way, whilst supporting the ongoing regeneration of the city.

We carried out 25 business fire safety audits as well as a fire safety workshop for members of the Chinese business community, where a relatively low level of fire safety awareness has been identified. This was attended by 27 business owners and managers from Southampton. They were provided with specific information relating to their businesses and also had the opportunity to ask questions and receive bespoke advice.

We continue to promote firefighter safety in all of our work, particularly during building consultations. This helps to ensure a safer environment for firefighters and residents.

Our officers provided detailed information relating to the construction and layout of the accommodation block that was involved in a fire whilst under construction (see 4.1 for more details). This information supported the attending crews enabling them to resolve the incident effectively.

We continue to work with Southampton General Hospital to further reduce unwanted automatic fire alarm calls and to improve staff training.

3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Enforcement

One enforcement notice was issued.

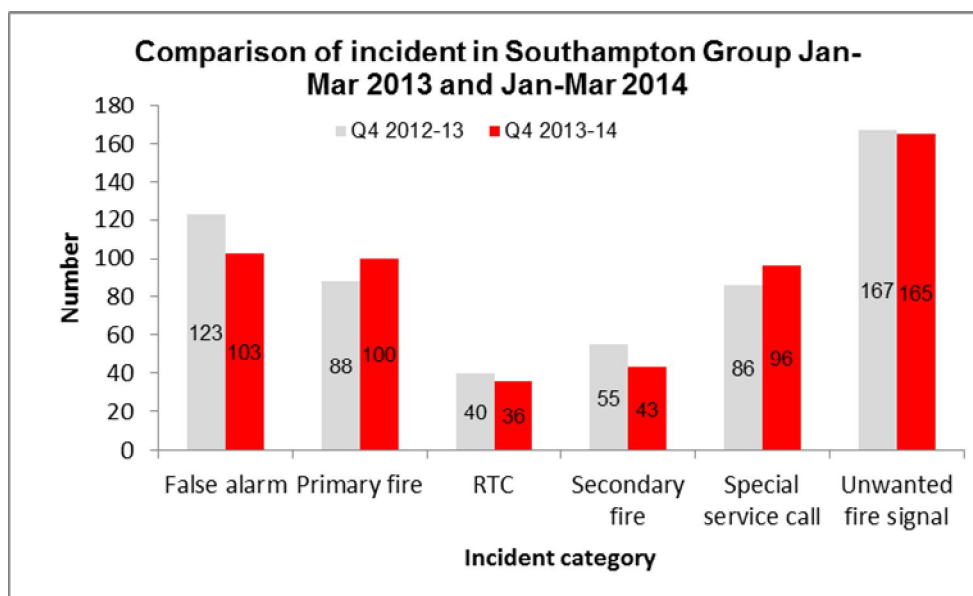
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

Three crews were mobilised to converted flats in Languard Road, Shirley on 3 January at 19:39 after reports of a fire. The fire was in the kitchen of the ground floor flat. One female was rescued suffering a cardiac arrest and handed over to South Central Ambulance Service, sadly she died in hospital. It is not clear if her death was as a result of fire or a medical episode. We are awaiting a report from the Coroner.

On 1 January 2014 five crews were mobilised to Botley Road in West End after reports of a fire in a bungalow with a roof conversion. The first floor was 100 per cent damaged by fire and the roof was 50 per cent by fire. The ground floor was damaged by water. There was one leaking liquid petroleum gas cylinder which was removed by firefighters. Crews used eight sets of breathing apparatus, four jets and two hose reels to put the fire out.



3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	115
Smoke detectors fitted	109

Fire investigations

New Forest Group had 15 fire investigations involving one shed, four vehicles, one Chinese takeaway, one health centre, one methodist church, three houses, one derelict stable block, one laundrette and two yachts.

Arson and risk reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments, one statement taken, CCTV evidence collected from four appliances and one community safety presentation.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We are trialling a shortened audit method to minimise the administrative burden for inspectors and businesses. This has improved our efficiency in conducting 37 audits.

Three action plans have been agreed as a way to improve safety. The officers have responded to eight alleged fire risks, three of which have culminated in action plans. Our business support officers have also conducted a further 48 business support visits.

We continue to work with the National Motor Museum and have agreed a design package for the installation of a suppression system. We are awaiting a funding solution for this project. The office has also been working with Wessex Autism to implement suppression systems into their care facilities to improve their business continuity, particularly where the premises are located more remotely from our fire stations.

We have allocated resources to help the response group manager to identify and assess buildings outside of our eight minute target. Where buildings have been identified as being of significant risk we will work with the owner/occupier to build extra resilience into their infrastructure, procedures and policies.

We are working with New Forest District Council (NFDC) to drive down unwanted fire calls and lift rescues and proactively improve fire safety standards within their building stock, through an on going agreed strategy. We have supported NFDC with establishing appropriate standards aimed at reducing the risk of fire within the many caravan sites within the forest.

3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Enforcement

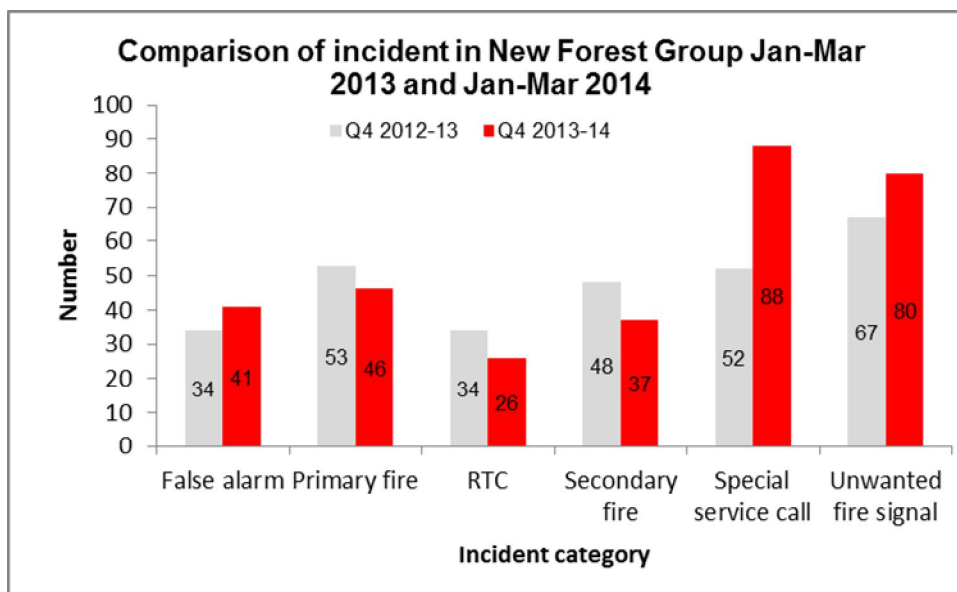
One enforcement notice was issued.

Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were issued to licensed businesses. We worked with the owners to ensure that the impact on their business was minimised. By supporting and guiding one of the businesses, we were able to withdraw the notice after only three days. The other notice was issued because of a fire that resulted in two members of staff being rescued by HFRS. We are currently pursuing a prosecution of this business, whilst working with them to ensure that the building is made safe for the future.

Community response

Three crews were mobilised to South Street in Hythe on 12 January 2014 after reports of a fire in a single storey end of terrace building. The fire was in the rear store room and involved a mattress. Three people were rescued from the building by firefighters. Crews used three sets of breathing apparatus, two jets and one hose reel to put the fire out and a positive pressure ventilation fan to clear the smoke.



4 Latest news

4.1 Southampton high rise fire

Fire crews dealt with a large fire on top of a high rise structure in the centre of Southampton on 3 April 2014. The 17-floor building on Portland Terrace was reported as well alight to our Control room at 11:39.

Around 85 firefighters were mobilised to the scene to deal with the fire, which involved the roof and part of the sixteenth floor. Firefighters were able to reach the roof of the building through the structure and use jets to extinguish the flames.

The fire was extinguished by around 12:50pm. Crews remained on the scene cutting away to ensure there was no reignition.

We worked closely with Hampshire Constabulary, South Central Ambulance Service and Southampton City Council to manage road closures and keep the public safe. The cause of the fire was accidental involving the use of a propane torch.

4.2 Firefighters attended an incident at Emsworth Sailing Club

Firefighters were mobilised to Emsworth Sailing Club at 06.36 on Tuesday 22 April to reports of a car which had crashed into a building.

One male was out of the vehicle when crews arrived and was being dealt with by South Central Ambulance Service. Unfortunately, fire from the car had spread to the building at the sailing club.

Crews from Emsworth, Havant, Horndean and Hayling Island attended the scene along with the special equipment unit from Cosham and a water carrier from Eastleigh.

Firefighters used 16 sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels and two jets to bring the blaze under control.

The car was 100 per cent damaged by fire and the building was approximately 30 per cent damaged by fire.

A joint investigation between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary is being conducted.

5 Key to mosaic groups

A

Residents of isolated rural communities

B

Residents of small and mid-sized towns with strong local roots

C

Wealthy people living in the most sought-after neighbourhoods

D

Successful professionals living in suburban or semi-rural homes

E

Middle income families living in moderate suburban semis

F

Couples with young children in comfortable modern housing

G

Young, well-educated city dwellers

H

Couples and young singles in small modern starter homes

I

Lower income workers in urban terraces in often diverse areas

J

Owner occupiers in older-style housing, typically in ex-industrial areas

K

Residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social housing

L

Active elderly people living in pleasant retirement locations

M

Elderly people reliant on state support

N

Young people renting flats in high density social housing

O

Families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need



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