

December 2014

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

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Front page photo: Marchwood industrial fire

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 30 September 2014 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Latest news” section of the report.

Sadly there have been three fire deaths in this quarter. More details can be found under 1.2 (page 4) and 1.4 (page 5) of the ‘Responding to incidents’ section, and under 3.3 (page 18) of the ‘Group activity’ section.

This quarter saw some large industrial fires such as one at Cracknore Hard in Marchwood (For more details see 1.5) and one at Solent Flour Mills in Southampton (for more details 1.3).

There has been one nine hour period of National industrial action during this period on 10 July 2014.

In August we took part in the Brighton Pride event this year, one of the biggest festivals of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender culture in the UK. We took part in the parade promoting safety messages to tens of thousands of people from across the south coast. The parade was led by Chief Officer John Bonney along with East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. AM Jason Avery along with Councillor Phil Smith and his partner also supported the event.



This quarter also saw Martyn Long become our first employee to reach 50 years service and be honoured with a special presentation from the Chief.

Martyn who first joined the Service at the old HQ building in Winchester in 1964, was presented with the historic long service Meritorious Medal at a ceremony at Eastleigh HQ in September. In his half-century stint, Martyn has served at stations in Farnborough, Lyndhurst, Aldershot and Basingstoke. He has also taken up roles in Training School, the Fire Service College and the old B and C Divisions.

1 Responding to incidents

Incident Category	July – September 2013	July September 2014
False alarm	666	532
Primary fire	522	528
RTC	242	206
Secondary fire	940	648
Special service	523	495
Unwanted fire signal	1129	1043
Total	4022	3452

1.1 Landfill site fire in Ringwood

Our crews along with colleagues from Dorset Fire and Rescue Service were called to a fire on the Blue Haze landfill site on Verwood Road, near Ringwood, at 03:30 on 26 July 2014.

The fire involved an area of non-hazardous waste approximately two acres in size, and around 35 firefighters worked to contain the fire and bring it under control. The crews worked with the site operator Veolia to create breaks in the material and prevent any further fire spread. The cause of the fire was not suspicious.

1.2 Firefighters battle house fire in Calmore

Control operators were alerted to a house fire in The Drove, Calmore just after 08:00 on 5 August 2014.

Six appliances were mobilised from Totton, Redbridge, Hythe, Eastleigh, Romsey and Hightown Fire Stations to attend this incident.

The fire started on the ground floor and spread to the first floor and roof space. Crews entered the property wearing breathing apparatus and used four jets and four hose reels to extinguish the fire. The ground and first floor were 100 per cent damaged by fire.

Sadly, a man in his 60s, was found deceased in the house. A woman was taken to Southampton General Hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation and shock.

The Coronor has ruled this incident as accidental and there is further investigation around an electrical fault.

1.3 Historic Southampton mill saved by sprinklers

One of Southampton's most historic and iconic buildings was saved from serious damage on 8 August 2014 thanks to its in-built sprinkler system.



Fire crews were called to the Solent Flour Mills, now operated by Rank Hovis, at Western Docks just before 10:00 to a fire on the second floor.

Firefighters in breathing apparatus entered the building and found the second floor heavily smoke-logged. They were able to locate and extinguish the fire, which had been contained to the milling machine it started in by the

sprinkler system.

All staff were safely evacuated from the building and the damage confined to the affected machine. The presence of sprinklers in the building prevented this fire from becoming a life-threatening incident and also saved the historic building and the business from serious damage.

The activation of the sprinklers meant the fire was kept under control and was stopped from spreading, which helped protect not only the staff in the building but also our firefighters who went into tackle the flames. The cause of the incident was accidental due to a machinery fault.

1.4 Car fire in Hursley

Crews from Eastleigh were mobilised to a very serious car fire in Merdon Castle Lane, Hursley on 11 August 2014 at 20:00. The car was well alight when crews arrived and three casualties were treated by HFRS, South Central Ambulance Service and Hampshire Constabulary.

As a result of the fire one female adult suffered approximately 40 per cent burns, one five year old boy suffered approximately 90 per cent burns and one six year old girl suffered approximately 70 per cent burns.

The five year old boy was taken to hospital by air ambulance and the 40 year old and six year old females were taken to hospital by ambulance. Sadly, the five year old boy died in hospital two weeks later.

Firefighters put the car fire out using two hose reels, one jet and two sets of breathing apparatus. A joint investigation is being carried out with the police to find out the cause.

1.5 Firefighters tackle large industrial fire in Marchwood

Six fire crews tackled a fire on an industrial estate in Cracknore Hard, Marchwood on 31 August 2014 at 19:26.

The fire caused cylinders to explode in the building and a large plume of smoke which could be seen for miles. Crews worked hard to control the fire using jets and an aerial ladder platform.

There were no injuries to the public but unfortunately the building was extremely damaged by the fire.

Five firefighters were assessed by South Central Ambulance Service on scene and one had to attend hospital for further treatment on a minor leg injury.

An investigation determined that the cause of the fire was due to an electrical fault.



2 Community safety

2.1 Home safety

The Home Safety Project has made great strides in creating home safety literature and products for the most vulnerable members of our community. For the first time, the Service will have its own bespoke home safety advice available in a format vulnerable groups can understand. This includes large text for those with sight impairments and pictorial information for anyone with learning disabilities. A three month 'older person's campaign' which seeks to make life safer for vulnerable people. Hampshire residents are being asked to consider if they know an older person (65+) and raise awareness of basic life-saving fire safety measures we could all help them to maintain, such as a working smoke alarm. This campaign launched on the 1 October (National Older Persons Day) and will run until the end of December 2014. An update about this campaign will feature in the next report.

The referral pathway is our new referral process for home safety visits that will ensure any individuals that are referred to us for a home safety visit will be risk assessed before we take appropriate action. This process allows us to use our resources more effectively and prepares our staff with key information about the individual before making a visit. We have peer assessed our progress and have worked with other fire and rescue services to prevent duplication. We held an event in London which was attended by over 30 participants from other fire and rescue services across the country, to peer assess our current direction within the Home Safety Project and to identify areas of development.

2.2 Volunteers

Our total number of volunteers at the end of this quarter is 59. We have continued to drive recruitment for home fire safety, event support for community safety activities, live casualties who will assist to make training exercises more realistic, and vehicle maintenance support assistants for the Training department. This has seen 20 new volunteers engaged contributing to over 650 hours of activities.

Activity 1 July - 30 September 2014	Number of volunteers supporting
Training sessions	123 hours has been spent on training volunteers in various roles.
Home safety visits	Six volunteers conducted 45 home safety visits.
Young people engagement	One volunteer engaged with students at Southdown College promoting road and fire safety.
National Fire Cadets	One volunteer assisted with the Gosport Fire Cadets group. Two new volunteers have joined the Basingstoke Group.
Community engagement	Four volunteers assisted the Children and Young People's team at a family fun day at Paultons Park and one volunteer assisted at the Health and Wellbeing Fair at the Havant Plaza promoting fire safety. Five volunteers helped to run a community

	safety stand at the Basingstoke Roadshow held at Festival Place. Five volunteers also assisted at the Tadley and Hightown Fire Station open days.
Deaf awareness sessions	Our British Sign Language (BSL) volunteer has now delivered deaf awareness sessions to the crews at Winchester Fire Station and will now be focussing on the Southampton stations. We have recruited another BSL volunteer to assist.
Other activities	Conducting wildfire patrols in Rushmoor, acting as live casualties for training exercises, assisting the Business Intelligence team, training dogs and their handlers in the Fire Investigation team, delivering thatch packs, cleaning and carrying out inventory checks on training vehicles and pastoral visits.
Total	37 engaged volunteers contributing to a total of 686 hours.

2.3 Children and young people

Prince's Trust

This quarter HFRS's Prince's Trust provision has seen 49 young people enrolled on to our 12 week Team Programmes and Get Started short course. HFRS's Prince's Trust team has a consistently high standard of delivery (which is recognised in the Trust's national statistics as one of the top deliveries in the country) has enabled us to continue to deliver this massively supportive youth engagement work and secure funding contracts for 2014/15.

HFRS has successfully completed it's second Prince's Trust Get Started course. This short, one week course had the support of St Mary's Fire Station, and proved so successful with retention and engagement that Prince's Trust has secured funding to commission a further three courses in 2015.

Schools Education team

The Schools Education team moved its base to Winchester Fire Station prior to the school summer holidays. One of our continual successes, which is in its third year is the Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) Champion of Champions event. The children who attended the event at Winchester Fire Station all gave us really positive comments and the teachers said that the day greatly contributed to the PSHE curriculum, especially the hands-on investigation activity. Valuing and raising awareness of the role of JRSO and the importance of road safety - Long Sutton Primary was this year's champion!



2 Community safety



National Fire Cadets

Our two new units at Ringwood and Gosport have used their start up grants to secure their new uniforms and kit. Ringwood's cadets have completed their first sections of the Fire and Rescue Short Course qualification and are awaiting verification. Ringwood has also found support from local businesses.

During 2015 we will continue to roll out the National Fire Cadets model, which

comes complete with lesson plans, schemes of work and generic risk assessments.

Supporting Hampshire Families

This period sees our six month milestone working with Hampshire County Council on the above programme. We have really engaged with families and lead support workers to establish our role within the project.

We have piloted our scheme in the Havant area, in conjunction with the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). To date we have supported a number of families by:

- carrying out 64 home safety visits (HSV)
- installing 25 smoke alarms
- making three referrals to our Fire Setters Intervention teams over concerns of fire behaviour.
- issuing three sets of fire retardant bedding to families/occupiers.

Half of the above HSVs had occupants that smoked. This underpins our plans to focus for the next six months on reviewing of our home safety visits for the families supported in this programme, to provide a universal, specific and targeted offering to families. This will be piloted in January 2015 and then launched in April 2015. This will support our current plans for an accidental dwelling fires campaign.

We are at the early stages of establishing a joint working project in Havant. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a high profile project making a significant difference to the lives of families and communities in Havant and developing a strategic approach to working with other similar Hampshire communities.

National Citizen Service (NCS)

We have been approached by all Hampshire NCS groups to deliver fire and road safety education days to their 16/17 year olds who are undertaking this government programme. All of this work was planned in this quarter but was carried out during the October half term, the view is for this to continue in 2015. All of this work is delivered on a cost recovery basis.

2 Community safety

2.4 Fire Investigation

We have had 62 level 2 and 3 fire investigations in this reporting period:

- 39 arson
- 15 non-suspicious
- 8 undetermined

Five evidential packages were requested by the police for prosecutions and further investigations are still ongoing.

There were three fatalities during the period of which two are still to be heard at Coroners court. Further information will be made available when we are able to release it. Following a trial at Winchester Crown Court in August, Michael Phillipson was sentenced to 120 months imprisonment following a fire at Pamper Heath on 26 May 2014. HFRS fire investigation evidence played an important part in securing this conviction.

2.5 Adult Firesetter Intervention Scheme, MARAC and MAPPA

We have previously reported on the successful implementation of the Adult Firesetter Intervention Programme (AFIP) and the pilot course run at HMP Winchester, Ravenswood and Rufus Lodge. This programme is aimed at the rehabilitation of offenders irrespective of whether they have received a custodial sentence. This is partly funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

On 19 September 2014 a presentation was made to the Hampshire and IOW Criminal Justice Board on the AFIP with a recommendation to adopt it as a sentencing option in the criminal justice system. During the presentation strong support was offered by the board and by the Chief Constable and Judge Pearson in particular. Judge Pearson remarked on the unique nature of the course. Following a round table discussion the proposal was unanimously supported and therefore was adopted as a sentencing option. Work has now started with the Probation Service to ensure that the AFIP is presented to the courts in suitable cases. This step into the criminal justice system is unique in England and shows how we lead on these activities. It has also been recognised in our industry through our nomination in the Security and Fire Excellence Awards 2014.

2.6 Road safety

Staying Safe is an annual event held at Portchester Community School. This year there was a large road safety element and we engaged with about 1600 pupils. The New Forest Show also presented a real opportunity to engage with rural road users. We were able to secure a high profile pitch next to the BBC with a display including our crash car.

We organised to have all the Road Safety Leads from HFRS, HCC and the Police to attend the CFOA Road Safety Conference in Nottingham for two days. It provided a perfect platform for us to showcase our joint initiatives, as well as cementing our partnership. This joint working is best shown by the Safe Drive Stay Alive event held on 13 November 2014 in Hedge End. It is a hard hitting professional production that targets 16-25 year olds. We used a survivor from an RTC in Wickham to explain how her life has changed since the accident, as well as the parents of children and young people who have died in RTC's. This is a very emotionally challenging event and was actively promoted at

all sixth forms and colleges within Hampshire. We will report on this further in the next activity report.

2.8 National resilience capability

We have continued to support the College of Policing in the delivery of both the POLSA (Police Search Advisor) and the SERM (Scene Evidence Recovery Manager) courses. Also the USAR team have continued to work with the HART team.

30 June 2014 – 2 July 2014

Two USAR team members delivered Airline training to Northern Ireland Fire Service (NIFRS) as part of the existing partnership between HFRS USAR and NIFRS USAR. This course and all expenditures were funded by NIFRS.

6 July 2014 – 13 July 2014

Two USAR team members travelled to Nowy Sącz, Poland to deliver training on trench rescue techniques. The Polish USAR team funded all travel and accommodation costs. This is an ongoing support partnership that is greatly appreciated by the Polish authorities. The Polish team have subsequently cascaded this training to the Slovakian authorities under the EU Exchange of Experts Programme.

21 July 2014 – 25 July 2014

Four members of the Italian USAR team visited HFRS USAR under the EU Exchange of Experts Programme with EU funding to receive USAR development training and carry out research on new techniques and ways of operating. The EU Exchange of Experts Programme provides funding for all travel and accommodation for the duration of the visit.

29 September 2014 – 3 October 2014

A team from Jersey: five fire service personnel and a paramedic attended a USAR Initial Response course at Service HQ. This was at the request of the State of Jersey who would call on HFRS USAR should they have a USAR incident beyond capacity of their existing operational provision. This course was fully funded by the State of Jersey.

The team have attended a number of group and station exercises supporting operational crews with rope rescue advice.

2.9 Marketing and Communications

Communication support

The Marketing and Communications team has been supporting teams and initiatives across the Service such as promoting open days, thatch safety talks and fire safety presentations.

We beat the world record for the largest naan bread which took place at the Eastleigh Mela on 6 July 2014. The final record breaking naan bread measured 3.79 metres by 1.4 metres and weighed a hefty 26 kilograms. The target was to cook a naan bread at least 3 metres by 1.2 metres. There was a great deal of media coverage from this story and it showed the Service supporting the local community.



Safety messages

The team has used incidents in this quarter to get several important safety messages out to the public via the media. Warnings about the dangers of mud were sent out following three mud rescues in three days. We raised the national issue of dangerous chargers after an incident in Ringwood. We also showed the importance of having sprinklers in the business community through the fire at Solent Mills (for more details see 1.3).

Social media



You may have seen in the news, Redbridge and St Mary's crews rescued 100 pets from a Maybush home in September.

The story was a big hit with our followers on social media and was seen by more than 50,000 people on Facebook, with more than 1,300 likes and 150 shares.

A number of very positive and 'thank you' comments were received by the public through our Facebook page.

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 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	75
Smoke detectors fitted	97

Fire investigations

Basingstoke and Deane had three fire investigations

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

Our business support officers have been working in rural and urban areas to advise on business continuity and resilience.

Following information received from the Immigration Department, we visited a Chinese food outlet in Basingstoke. There were concerns over the fire safety standards in the staff sleeping accommodation. The premises had previously had a prohibition notice served. The issues were quickly rectified and we agreed an action plan for longer term improvements.

We visited an elderly gentleman living alone in Whitchurch who had a pendant alarm which was producing a number of false alarms. We contacted the alarm company and arranged for them to visit the premises and rectify the problem.

We have attended 50 building and licensing consultations, 10 fire safety audits and undertaken 114 business support visits. We have also responded to 11 alleged fire risks and carried out nine other inspections.

3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane Group

Enforcement

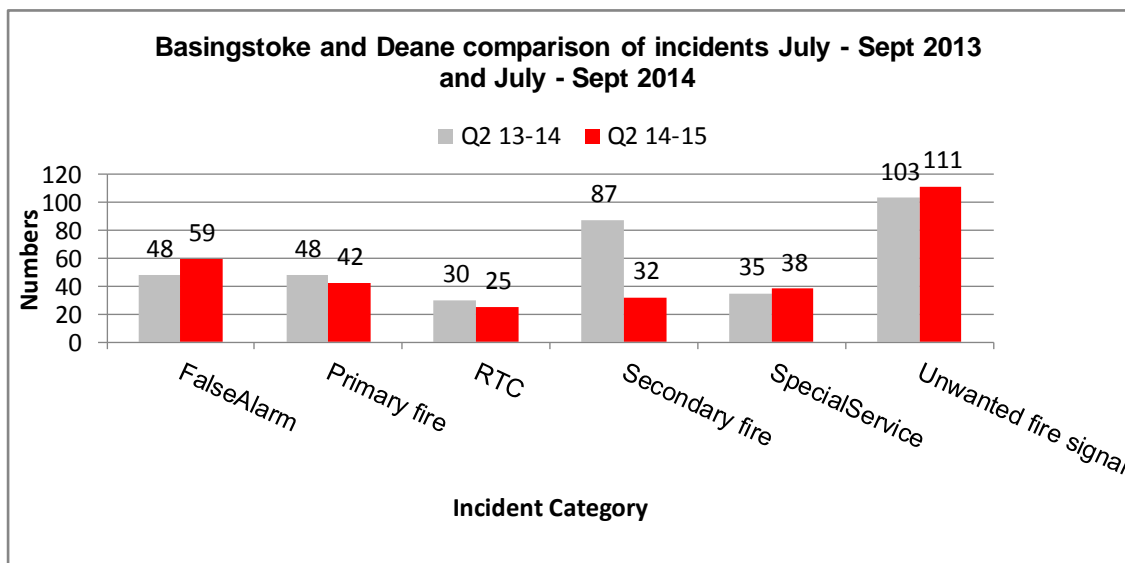
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 10 July 2014 four crews were mobilised to Sutton Road, Basingstoke after reports of a fire. The fire was in a semi detached house with a garage attached. The property was 100 per cent damaged by fire. Crews wore eight sets of breathing apparatus and used two jets and one hose reel to extinguish the fire. The cause was either an electrical fault or careless disposal of smoking materials.



3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	92
Smoke detectors fitted	115

Fire investigations

Rushmoor and Hart had three fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment and one evidence pack was supplied to the police.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 73 building and licensing consultations, 11 fire safety audits and undertaken 118 business support visits. We have also responded to 10 alleged fire risks and carried out 54 other inspections.

We received information about a new nursing home in Church Crookham. Our officer identified that the premises had not been built to the agreed design and this resulted in some non compliant areas. Our officer worked with the occupier, architect and the approved inspector to ensure a safe building.

Following information received from Rushmoor Borough Council we visited a food factory in Yateley. Staff were using two caravans on the site for sleeping accommodation. Because of the condition of the caravans and the lack of any fire safety measures a prohibition notice was served. This resulted in the caravans being removed. The responsible person is now under investigation by our Enforcement Support team.

Our Business Safety Officers (BSOs) have been working in both urban and rural areas of the north of the county to give advice on risk reduction and business continuity.

The fire safety provision at Farnborough Air Show continues to improve year on year. Once again the East Hampshire Business Fire Safety department worked with Farnborough International Limited (FIL), local agencies and commercial companies to improve fire safety standards at this major international high profile event both during the construction and occupation phase. Our inspectors worked with the FIL Health and Safety Team to provide advice, met with responsible persons and agreed courses of action against various scenarios. Then, during the show, we ensured a safe environment for the show to successfully operate.

3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Enforcement

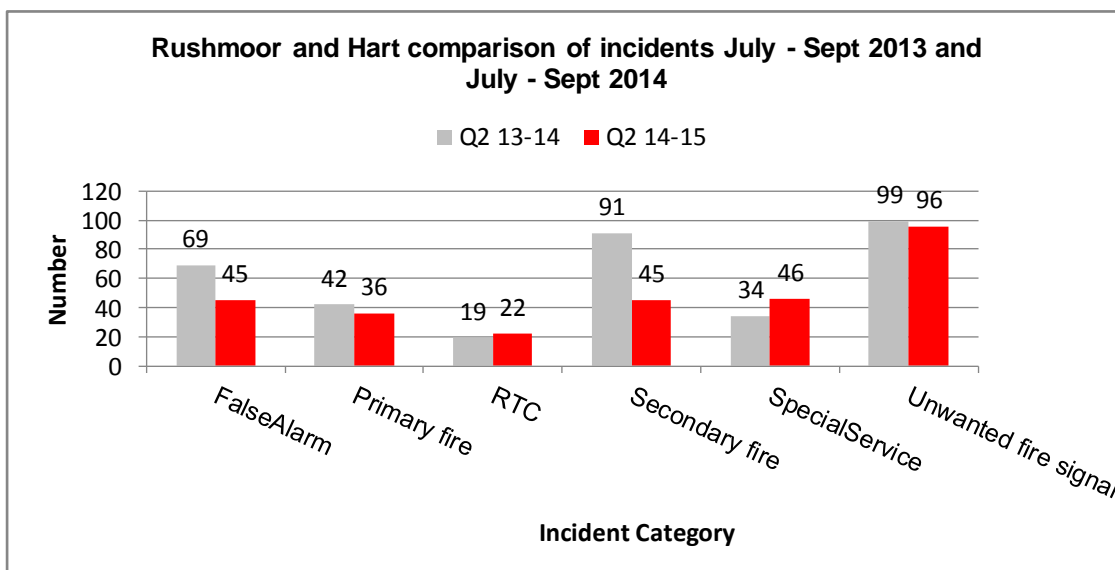
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 27 July 2014 four crews were mobilised to Brick House Hill in Eversley and were faced with a fire involving a wood chipping machine. The machine was 100 per cent damaged by fire along with 500 tonnes of wood chippings. Crews used four jets, two earth movers and a bulldozer for damping down.



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 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	100
Smoke detectors fitted	107

Fire investigations

Havant and East Hampshire had six fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

Three evidence packs were supplied to the police.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 90 building and licensing consultations, 30 fire safety audits and undertaken 28 business support visits. We have also responded to five alleged fire risks and carried out 30 other inspections.

Two examples for this year were the National Water Sports Festival and the Virgin Kite Surfing Armada. Prior to the event taking place we gave advice at the safety advisory group and whilst the marquees were being set up. Our officer also spent time with third year students from Havant College who are attending public events course and gave some input on our expectations. With regard to the kite festival, the main issues were around access for fire appliances and spacing between vehicles and tents. Any issues highlighted during the events will be fed back into the safety advisory group and the responsible persons to ensure continuous improvement.

We had a fire in a large multi-national company's factory in Havant. During the fire and at post incident visit it became clear that although the factory was well run there were some improvements to the information they can provide to the fire service on arrival. Our officer has been working with crews from Havant Fire Station and the responsible persons at the factory.

Jalsa Salana took place at the end of August in Alton which is an English convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and is attended by 60,000 people during the three days. We work with the responsible persons and the local authority to produce a safe event seeking continuous improvement year on year. Issues resolved included ensuring access and water supplies for emergencies, tents sleeping up to 100 people, 12,000 people wanting to be in a tent meant for 6000 and evacuation plans.

3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

We attended a hotel in Bordon after a premises license review from the local authority. The condition of the fire safety provisions was generally poor including the fire alarm, fire risk assessment and protection to the means of escape. A prohibition notice was considered but with working with the responsible person, the risk was reduced below that of a prohibition.

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

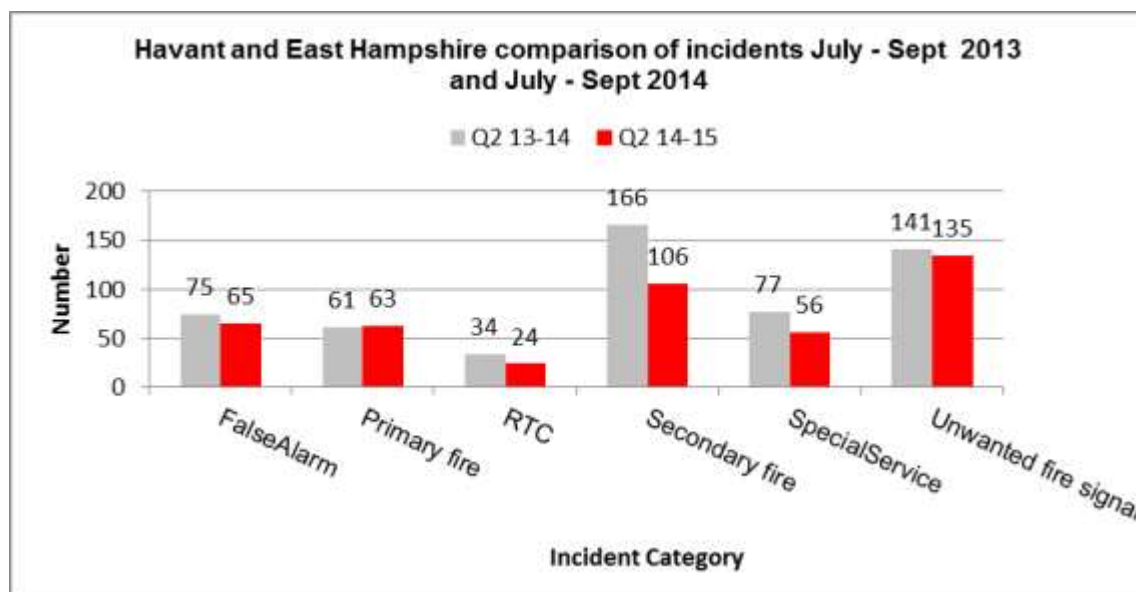
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

Five crews were mobilised to Haslar Crescent in Waterlooville on 14 August 2014. This was a fire involving two semi detached bungalows with a purpose built conversion. The ground floor and roof of one of the properties was 100 per cent damaged by fire and the other property had 20 per cent fire damage to roof and was 100 per cent damage by smoke. Crews used six sets of breathing apparatus, four jets and three hose reels. One adult male sadly lost his life in the fire. The investigation into what happened is still ongoing.

On 29 July 2014 five crews were mobilised to Blendworth Lith Farm, London Road in Horndean after reports of a fire. The fire was in a barn with 150 tonnes of baled hay. The barn and hay were 75 per cent damaged by fire. Crews wore four sets of breathing apparatus and used four jets to extinguish the fire.



3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	140
Smoke detectors fitted	190

Fire investigations

Fareham and Gosport had five fire investigations.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 47 building and licensing consultations, 17 fire safety audits and undertaken 20 business support visits. We have also responded to six alleged fire risks and carried out 34 other inspections.

An inspector from the Fareham office received information that a Gosport nursery had altered their building without permission. An inspector found that the alterations had left some major deficiencies. So much so that meetings had to be arranged with an architect, the owner and a building control officer to agree internal changes to ensure a safe environment that satisfied the building regulations and the Fire Safety Order.

We attended an HMO in Gosport at the request of Gosport Borough Council (GBC) due to sub standard conditions in the property. There was no fire alarm found within the premises. There was an option to close the whole premises, however, working with GBC and our response crews, we installed a number of smoke detectors in the rooms and corridors and GBC served a prohibition notice so that only the ground and first floor could be used.

We regularly deal with the local authority conservation officers and the responsible persons for listed buildings in the county. We endeavour to ensure the best level of fire safety whilst remaining sympathetic to the heritage. We visited Wykeham Boys School in Fareham following a building regulations submission. This is a Grade 2 listed building and there were issues in achieving the requirements for fire safety without damaging the overall aesthetics. Following meetings with the responsible persons and the local authority building control we agreed to upgrade the fire alarm system and accept the existing sturdy but non standard doors.

3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Once again the Gosport waterfront festival took place at Walpole Park. We worked with the management of the festival and all other agencies to ensure that the event, enjoyed by approximately 15000 people passed without incident.

Enforcement

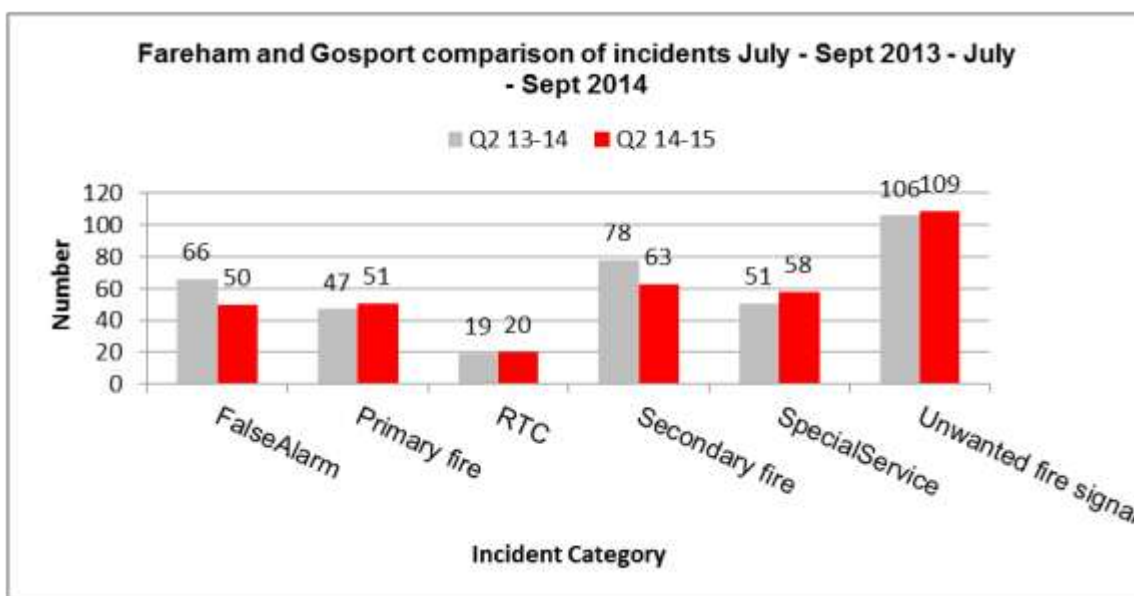
No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 3 August 2014 four crews were mobilised to Wilmott Close in Gosport. The fire was in a first floor maisonette. The lounge was 100 per cent damaged by fire and the remainder of the flat was 100 per cent damaged by smoke. Crews wore four sets of breathing apparatus and used two jets, two high pressure hose reels and one covering jet to extinguish the fire. One casualty went to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.



3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	161
Smoke detectors fitted	161

Fire investigations

Portsmouth had four fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 94 building and licensing consultations, 14 fire safety audits and undertaken 13 business support visits. We have also responded to 12 alleged fire risks and carried out 57 other inspections.

We are pleased to inform you that following a consultation process and great work between the HFRS, Portsmouth Football Club, Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth Water and the installer, a sprinkler system has now been fitted to protect the wooden north and south stands at Fratton Park. This brings the risk to the supporters in case of fire to a lower level. This allows for a longer evacuation time and eventually an increase in the capacity of the north and south stands. Our thanks go to all those who helped to achieve this positive outcome

Ben Ainslie Racing – We have been involved in the preliminary discussions and the consultations for the building which will be used to construct and hold the boat to be used in the next Americas Cup race. We have assisted and made recommendations to improve the fire safety but not impact on the proposed state of the art building. The proposals include the installation of a sprinkler system. We will continue to support this venture from the Southsea office.

There were a number of festivals and events that were dealt with by the safety advisory group (SAG); the comedy festival, the Southsea Show, Mutiny in the Park and Victorious Festival. We attended all of the events before they opened to ensure that they would proceed safely. Issues were identified at all of the events and were dealt with at the time and fed back to the organisers and the SAG.

3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

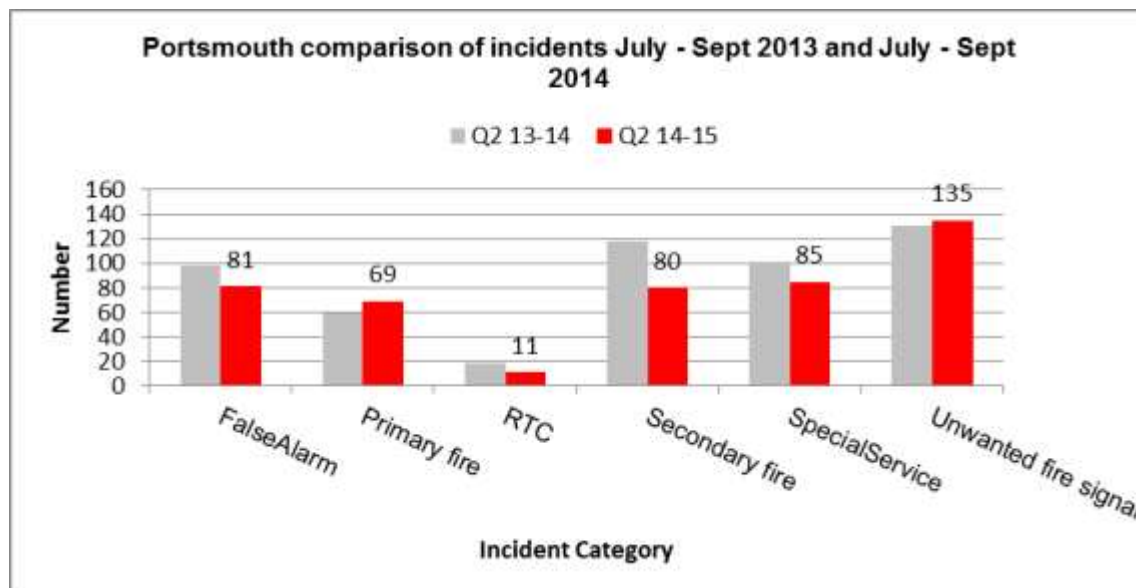
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 21 September 2014 five crews were mobilised to South Parade in Portsmouth. This was a fire in the roof space of a five storey block of flats. Crews used two sets of breathing apparatus, an aerial ladder platform, three hose reels and one jet to extinguish the fire.

On 12 August 2014 crews were mobilised to a lorry fire on the A27. This was a road traffic collision involving one articulated lorry which was 100% damaged by fire on the flyover at Eastern Road. Approximately 150 litres of diesel spilt into the gully which was emptied by The Highways Agency. Crews used 220 litres of foam concentrate, 10 breathing apparatus and two hose reels.



3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	55
Smoke detectors fitted	66

Fire investigations

Winchester had 11 fire investigations.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 53 building and licensing consultations, seven fire safety audits and undertaken 26 business support visits. We have also responded to six alleged fire risks and carried out one post fire incident inspection.

We have been focussed on reducing the demand on operational resources by visiting premises that create false alarms and non-emergency lift incidents. We have also supported operational crews by identifying site specific risk information to improve operational effectiveness in the event of an incident.

We have been targeting our audit activity at premises that have sleeping accommodation above takeaway businesses, as our intelligence data indicates that there are high levels on non-compliance in this type of business.

We have worked with small business advisors in local banks to provide better information to start up businesses in the Winchester area.

3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

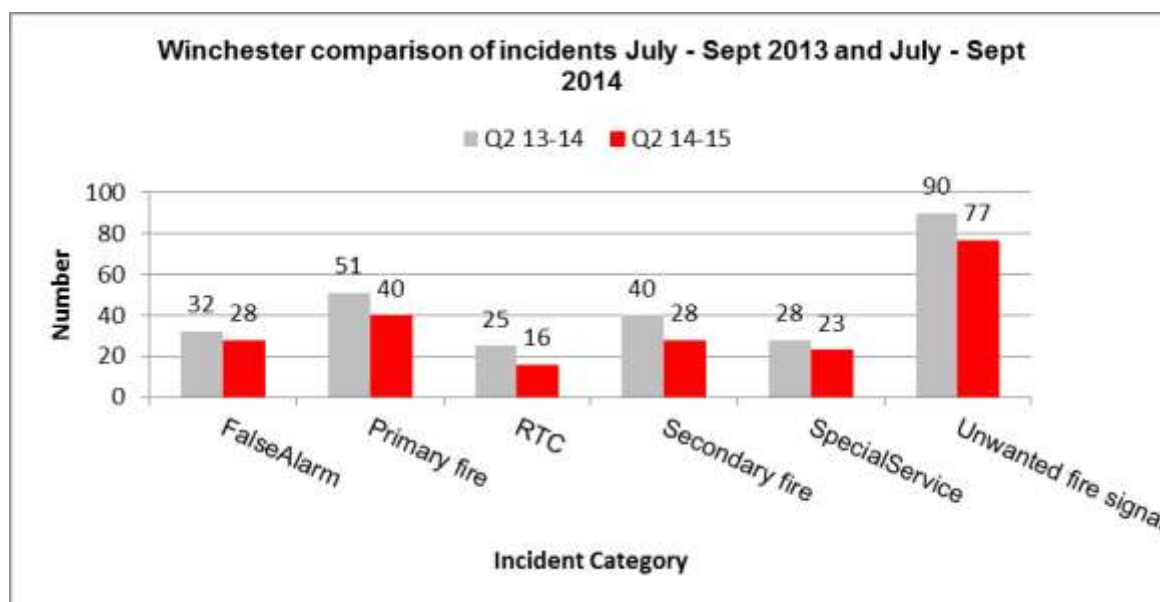
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

On 13 July 2014 six crews were mobilised to Dradfield Lane in Soberton Heath. There was a fire including industrial buildings used as workshops. Approximately 25 propane and LPG cylinders of various sizes were on site and seven were involved in the fire. There were also approximately nine argon cylinders and five acetylene cylinders on site and all five acetylene cylinders were involved in the fire. Crews used 11 jets, two hose reels, six sets of breathing apparatus and environmental dams. The fire investigation determined that the cause was most likely accidental due to slow smouldering inside the unit which caused the fire to spread to the camper van.

On 4 July 2014 four crews were mobilised to Belmore Lane in Owslebury after reports of a fire. The fire was in a building used as a shooting lodge and was 100 per cent involved in fire. Crews used five jets, one fan spray and two compressed air foam (CAFS) jets to extinguish the fire. The fire investigation determined that the cause was accidental but undetermined.



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 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	144
Smoke detectors fitted	149

Fire investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh had five fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

One evidence pack was supplied to the police.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 59 building and licensing consultations, 14 fire safety audits and undertaken 36 business support visits. We have also responded to five alleged fire risks and carried out eight post fire incident inspection.

We have been focussed on reducing the demand on operational resources by visiting premises that create false alarms and non-emergency lift incidents. We are currently working with Aster Communities to help them reduce the number of false alarms in one of their homes in Stockbridge.

We have also supported operational crews by identifying site specific risk information to improve operational effectiveness in the event of an incident.

We are making better use of statistical data to reduce risk, for instance the two recent fires in historic churches have led us to contact and/or visit every church in the area to provide guidance and advice on fire prevention, salvage plans and business continuity.

3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

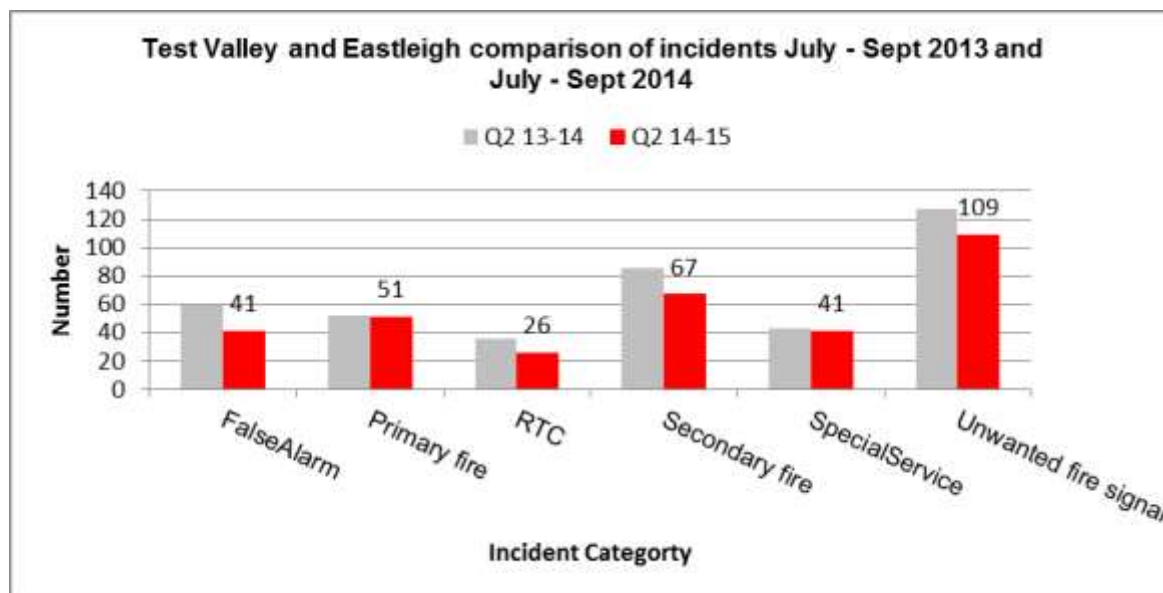
Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued.

Community response

Four crews were mobilised to Waterworks Road in Otterbourne on 6 August 2014 to a fire in a two storey detached property. The fire was in the ground floor kitchen and one person was led to safety. Crews wore six sets of breathing apparatus and used three jets and one hose reel to extinguish the fire. A fire investigation determined that the most likely cause was a toaster being left on.

On 19 September 2014 eight crews were mobilised to Longstock Road in Goodworth Clatford after reports of a fire. The fire was at a premises with a range of agricultural buildings used as a paintball activity centre. The fire involved 40 per cent of the buildings and they were 35 per cent damaged by fire and five per cent damaged by smoke. Crews wore six sets of breathing apparatus and used four jets and one hose reel to put the fire out. The cause of the fire was electrical due to a lightning strike.



3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	128
Smoke detectors fitted	148

Fire investigations

Southampton had 18 fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

There were three fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 83 building and licensing consultations, 11 fire safety audits and undertaken 56 business support visits. We have also responded to 16 alleged fire risks and carried out two post fire incident inspections.

The return of students to Southampton for the new academic year has triggered several events which have allowed the inspectors to engage with students and local businesses. The premises involved in the Big Night Out event have each been visited and supported by an inspector which has complemented the work already carried out by the Licensing Action Group. During Licensing Action Week HFRS and Hampshire Constabulary carried out joint visits to a number of premises.

The Watermark development and new student halls of residence have continued to consult with HFRS during their construction phases and have involved meetings on site with developers and architects to ensure effective communication to resolve issues.

3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued.

Prohibitions

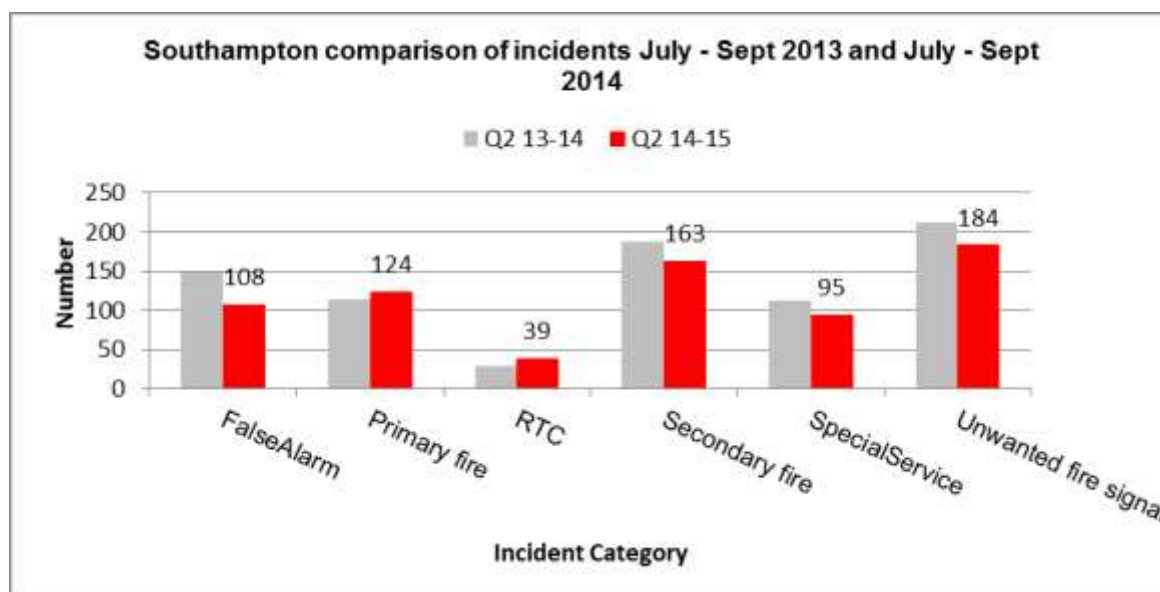
One prohibition notice was issued and we are working with private sector housing to make the premises safe for occupation.

Community response

Over 100 animals were saved by firefighters attending a house fire in Redbridge on 27 September 2014. Crews were called to Seafield Road in Maybush after reports of a fire in the kitchen of a house.

Crews made a rapid entry and went in to check for anyone in the house. They were faced with over 100 different animals of various breeds. In the property firefighters managed to put some of the animals in a safe place in the house so they could continue their search.

One person was led to safety suffering with smoke inhalation and was handed over to South Central Ambulance Service. Many of the animals were saved including two dogs that were resuscitated by firefighters. Other dogs were led out by the owner. Unfortunately four animals sadly died in the fire. An investigation has confirmed that the cause of the fire was electrical.



3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	104
Smoke detectors fitted	133

Fire investigations

New Forest had 16 fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

One evidence pack was supplied to the police.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have attended 47 building and licensing consultations, 43 fire safety audits and undertaken 30 business support visits. We have also responded to six alleged fire risks and carried out three post fire incident inspection as well as 14 site specific risk inspections.

We have been focussed on reducing the demand on operational resources by visiting premises that create false alarms and non-emergency lift incidents. We are also working with New Forest District Council to reduce the number of unwanted fire signals within their premises.

We are continuing to work closely and support operational crews with identifying risk premises that require site specific risk information, in order to improve operational effectiveness in the event of an incident. This information is invaluable to the business, as we also provide business continuity advice while on site.

We attended the New Forest and Hampshire County Show as part of a contingency from HFRS in order to provide fire safety information on an informal basis.

3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Enforcement

One enforcement notice was issued after lack of progress following an action plan and the other following a complaint from a member of the public.

Prohibitions

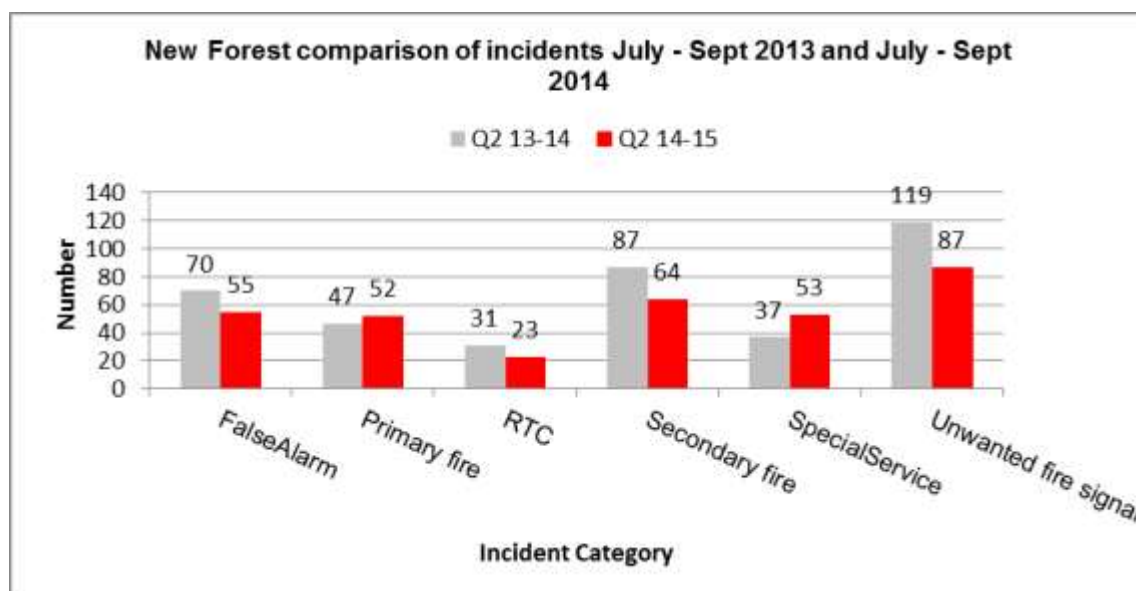
One prohibition notice was issued relating to sleeping accommodation above a commercial building.

Community response

On 5 August 2014 six crews were mobilised to The Drove in Totton after reports of a fire. The fire was in a domestic building of two storeys and the ground floor and first floor were 100 per cent damaged by fire. Sadly one male died. (For more details see 1.2)

On 31 August 2014 six crews were mobilised to Cracknore Hard Lane in Marchwood. This was a range of industrial buildings within a single storey building used for vehicle maintenance. The building was 100 per cent involved in fire and there was unknown quantity of cylinders involved including acetylene, propane, argon, nitrogen and oxygen. (For more details see 1.5)

Six crews and an aerial ladder platform were mobilised to Elm Crescent in Hythe on 30 July 2014 after reports of a house fire. This was a terrace of eight houses each of two floors with a tiled roof. The roof and first floor of one property were severely damaged by fire. The first floor of another property was 55 per cent damaged by fire and the roof was 75 per cent damaged by fire. The roof of a third property was 25 per cent damaged by fire and the first floor was 40 per cent damaged by water from a burst pipe. Crews used 20 sets of breathing apparatus, five jets and one hose reel. The cause was established as accidental.



4 Latest news

4.1 Firefighters battle blaze at Portsmouth scrap metal fire

A fire involving 500 tonnes of scrap metal broke out at European Metal Recycling LTD, Portsmouth at 8:41 on 5 October 2014.

The fire caused a smoke plume reaching heights of over 100 feet which could be seen for miles. More than 50 firefighters were on scene tackling the blaze and worked with on site staff to make fire breaks to stop the fire spreading.

Metal, when involved in a fire, gets intensely hot. The intensely hot metal created a difficult environment to work in and so the incident continued for several hours.

The cause of this incident was accidental but undetermined.

4.2 Three rescued from Gosport house fire

Firefighters rescued one female and two children from a house fire in Gosport on 22 October 2014 at 04:08. Working smoke alarms alerted them to the fire which was blocking the front door and their escape route.

The female dialled 999 and HFRS Control Operators gave the female fire survival advice over the phone to help keep them safe until crews arrived. The advice given was to get herself and the children into one room, close the door, open the windows, and hang something out of the window so that crews could locate them quickly.

On arrival, firefighters from Gosport and Fareham pitched ladders to rescue the two children whilst a breathing apparatus team rapidly entered into the building to rescue the female who was then carried out.

The stop message for this incident was received at 04:56. Both the female and the children were taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation. They are all making a good recovery. The cause of the fire was undetermined.

4.3 Firefighters called to a gas explosion in Southampton

A father and daughter had a "miracle escape" after a suspected gas explosion reduced their Shirley home to rubble in the early hours of 18 November.

Neighbours helped pull the man, 36, and girl, 4, from the debris, but both suffered only minor injuries.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's Control room received around a dozen calls reporting a loud explosion on Howards Grove, Shirley, shortly after 1.30am.

Crews from St Mary's and Redbridge arrived to find the two-storey, end-of-terrace property completely collapsed but with the residents thankfully safely out.

The father and daughter were taken to hospital as a precaution but are not thought to have been seriously injured.

The other houses in the terrace were evacuated as a precaution as the crews, assisted by HFRS's Urban Search and Rescue team, worked to ensure there was no further collapse of the building.

Engineers from the gas board and Southampton City Council were also called to further investigate the cause of the explosion.



4.4 Crews battle a fire in Aldermaston

Fire crews from Hampshire and Berkshire were mobilised to Ravenswing Caravan Park, Aldermaston after reports of a fire on Saturday 1 November 2014. The fire involved a mobile home and the crews rescued a lady in her 60s. Sadly the lady died in hospital the next day. A joint investigation into the cause of the fire is being undertaken by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police.

This incident happened during industrial action and was over the border on Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's ground.

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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