

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



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Front page photo: Blackbushe aircraft crash (Courtesy of Sky News)

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 30 September 2015 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 during this period. More details can be found in 1.4 on page five, 1.6 and 1.7 on page six.

The Service Management Team met in July to consider proposals about the way we are structured and how we deliver specialist and technical operations. They have agreed proposals which will move us into a new phase of redesigning Service Delivery. This includes moving from nine groups in Hampshire to a seven-group structure, while enhancing our specialist and technical capabilities such as USAR and Animal Rescue.

The Service continues to encourage staff and the public to have their say on the Risk Review proposals. While staff attendance at the internal forums hasn't been as high as expected, the Risk Review team have received a number of questions which have been raised from operational staff.

The Service is looking at a number of improved technologies surrounding new equipment and vehicles. These include battery operated positive pressure fans for the first response vehicle.

Our latest Service Plan is complete and has been widely circulated, a digital copy can be found on our website. This latest plan has our updated branding which we will carry through on all our corporate communications.

We were involved in two service exercises this quarter, one was Operation Durbar which was at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight and the other was Exercise Kestrel in conjunction with Southampton airport.



1 Responding to incidents

Incident Category (1 July - 30 September)	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
False alarm	532	566
Primary fire	528	539
RTC	206	221
Secondary fire	648	510
Special service	495	467
Unwanted fire signal	1043	924
Co-responder	2041	2934
Total	5493	6161

1.1 Dramatic rescue after man falls down well

A dramatic rescue took place on 21 July 2015 after a man, in his early 60s, fell 30 feet down a well in Linford, New Forest. Crews from Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire were mobilised to the scene.

The large well was situated inside a barn and measured 2.5 metres in diameter. The well contained water and the casualty was unable to swim. Firefighters lowered a life jacket down to aid the male casualty.



Firefighters then set up a rope rescue and lowered a firefighter down the well with assistance from an urban search and rescue specialist. The male casualty was assisted into a harness, lifted to safety and taken to hospital by the ambulance service.

1.2 Blackbushe plane crash

Three crews were mobilised to Blackbushe Airport on 31 July at 15:10 after reports of a plane down. A private jet had overshot the runway and collided with the British Car Auction.

30 firefighters were sent to the scene to battle a fierce fire involving the private jet and 15 cars. Crews wore 10 sets of breathing apparatus and used three compressed air foam jets and two hose reels to put the fire out.

Sadly the four people who were on board the jet died in the devastation.



1.3 Fire crews battle blaze at an Alton industrial estate

Crews battled a blaze which broke out on the Newman Industrial Estate in Alton at 4:55am on 5 August 2015.

Four industrial units were involved, including one being used to manufacture and store pesticide substances.

One of the units was 50 per cent damaged by fire and 100 per cent damaged by smoke. The other three units were 50 per cent damaged by smoke.



Crews wore 27 sets of breathing apparatus and used three jets to contain the fire, stopping it from spreading to neighbouring units, including an ambulance station.

There was no evidence of a criminal act and the most likely cause of the fire was an electrical fault.

1.4 Fatal car fire in Totton

Crews from Totton were mobilised to Asda car park after reports of a car fire.

Sadly, one male died from being in the car which was on fire. Crews wore two sets of breathing apparatus and used a jet and a hose reel to put the fire out.

This case is due to be heard in Coroners Court on 3 December 2015.

1.5 Coach crash on the M3

Crews were called to junction 4A on the M3 northbound carriageway at Farnborough just before 8.30am on 14 August 2015.

The coach had come to a halt in a ditch, but it was still upright and had not overturned.

Around 30 people were on board and 10 of them were treated for minor injuries while four were taken to hospital.

Two crews from Rushmoor and a crew from Yateley and Basingstoke were sent to the scene.



1.6 Fatal fire in Waterlooville

Two crews were mobilised to Woodsedge in Waterlooville on 7 September 2015 at 10:43 after reports of a fire in the ground floor of a property.

Firefighters wore two sets of breathing apparatus and used one hose reel to extinguish the fire. Sadly, one person died at the scene. Two dogs also died in the fire and were removed by firefighters.

Two community safety officers gave fire safety advice in the area to support the local residents after the incident.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation and an inquest will take place on 29 January 2016.

1.7 Tragic fatal in Andover

On 27 September 2015 Control were notified of an incident where an 80 year old man had become involved in fire.

The man was doing some grinding work in his shed when a spark ignited his trousers which were contaminated with fuel.

A fire investigator went to the scene and the case is due to be heard at the Coroners Court on 7 December 2015.

1.8 Firefighters return from exchange trip in Oregon

Five firefighters from Hampshire and Isle of Wight returned from an exchange trip to Oregon in the USA where they learned valuable skills in tackling wildfires.

Station Manager Glenn Bowyer, Crew Manager Robert Gazzard,



Station Manager David Hodge, Watch Manager Craig Sadler went from Hampshire and Firefighter Alan Jones went from Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. The firefighters took part in ground operations during a two week stay. A number of firefighters from the USA will visit us later in the year as part of the trip.

2 Community safety

2.1 Home safety - safeguarding

We have been working on ways to improve our safeguarding referral process and have produced literature to communicate to staff members referencing the correct procedure when reporting safeguarding incidents. We have produced a post incident protocol integrating safeguarding board procedures to ensure that we signpost and review all incidents involving people.

We are finalising the development of our medium term plans together with preparing for the launch of our Safe and Well visits that will replace and improve our existing Home Safety Visits into a more person centred approach.

2.2 Children and young people (CYP)

The Schools team have engaged with over 6,500 children and over 500 adults through their education programme and community events. They have delivered tailored fire, road safety and team building sessions to over 1,700 young people aged 16-17.

We are finalising the development of our medium term plans and exploring the development of CYP programmes to support the work in Health and Wellbeing.

All Princes Trust teams were completed successfully in July which has secured funding for 2015/16. We have successfully recruited for the next course delivery with a view to running further courses on the Isle of Wight.

2.3 Volunteers

We currently have a total of 77 volunteers with a potential of eight new volunteers starting in the coming weeks. The volunteers contributed 992 hours during this activity period.

2.4 Fire investigation

We have attended Coroners Court to give evidence for the fatal fires from the previous reporting period. In all cases the Coroner has complemented HFRS on the evidence provided and the support given to the process.

On 17 July 2015 following an act of arson in Northolt Gardens, Southampton in April 2015, the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to 32 months imprisonment.

On 10 August 2015 following an act of arson at Chestnut Road, Southampton in January 2015, the defendant was found guilty and sentenced to six months imprisonment.

A further five cases have been heard at pre-court hearings and are due to either go to a full trial or sentencing due to an early guilty plea.

There were two out of county fire investigation search dog deployments in this period. One was in Haslemere, Surrey and the other was on the Isle of Wight.

2 Community safety

2.5 Firesetter Intervention Scheme

This quarter saw the introduction of a Restorative Justice (RJ) module. Initially this was aimed at helping the offender understand the impact of their actions on the victim. Ultimately we hope to bring the two parties together for understanding and forgiveness. We have also joined forces with Portsmouth City Council to train four facilitators in order to deliver RJ not only in cases where arson is used but also wherever we can make a difference to both the victim and offender.

2.6 Road safety

We are finalising the development of our medium term plans with the focus being on younger people and the development of new initiatives. We continue to support our multi-agency partners in the delivery of road safety and have attended many educational events across the county.

The project pictogram is continuing to gather momentum with a number of main-stream large companies agreeing to brand their vehicles and we have started placing the logos onto our own fleet.

2.7 Co-responders

Our co-responders attended a total of **2934** medical incidents on behalf of our partners South Central Ambulance Service.

We provided 105 qualified co-responders that were on call and available for a total of **21,546 hours**. Approximately 50 per cent of the co-responder incidents were as a result of patients suffering from cardiac or breathing difficulties. We currently have 19 co-responder vehicles working out of 24 fire stations that are actively involved in co-responding duties.

2.8 National resilience capability

The USAR rope rescue team carried out a combined training exercise with Dorset Fire and Rescue's rope team to develop joint working.

Two USAR team members delivered training to the Polish State Fire Service in Krakow and Nowy Sacz as part of the existing partnership. This training was on timber shoring and trench rescue which was funded by the Polish Government. At the end of the course the two members were hosted at a reception by the Chief of the Polish State Fire Service which was recognised as a rare honour.

One USAR team member took part in the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group assessment of the Armenian USAR team. This was the Armenian External Classification to achieve their UN accreditation. This was funded by the Armenian authorities.

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 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	73
Smoke detectors fitted	81

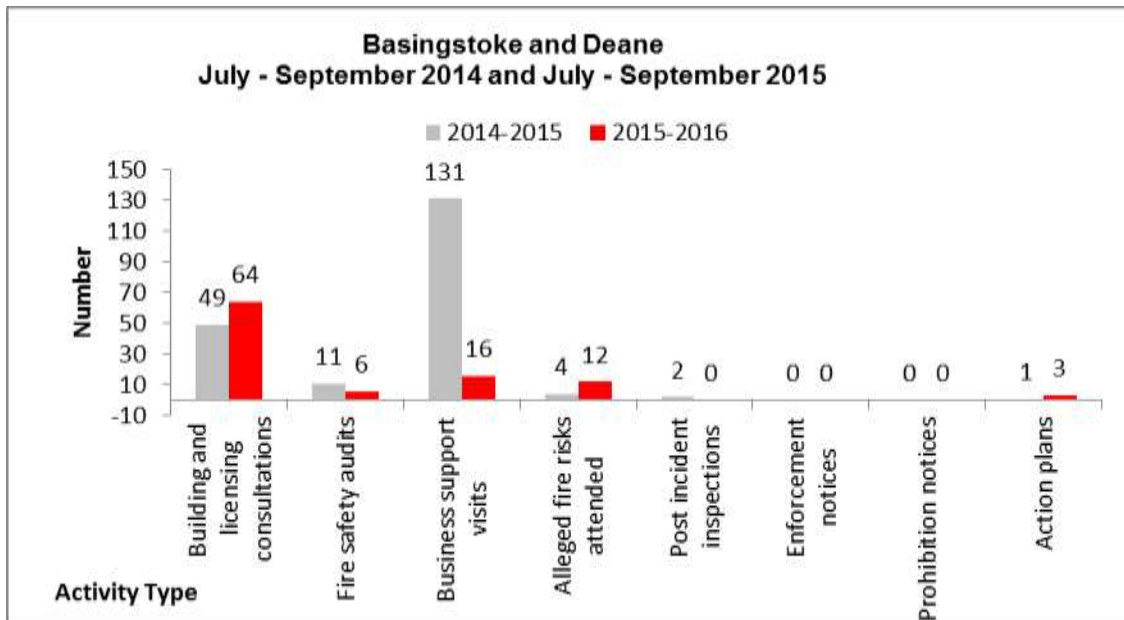
Fire investigations

There was one fire investigation involving a flat.

Arson and risk reduction

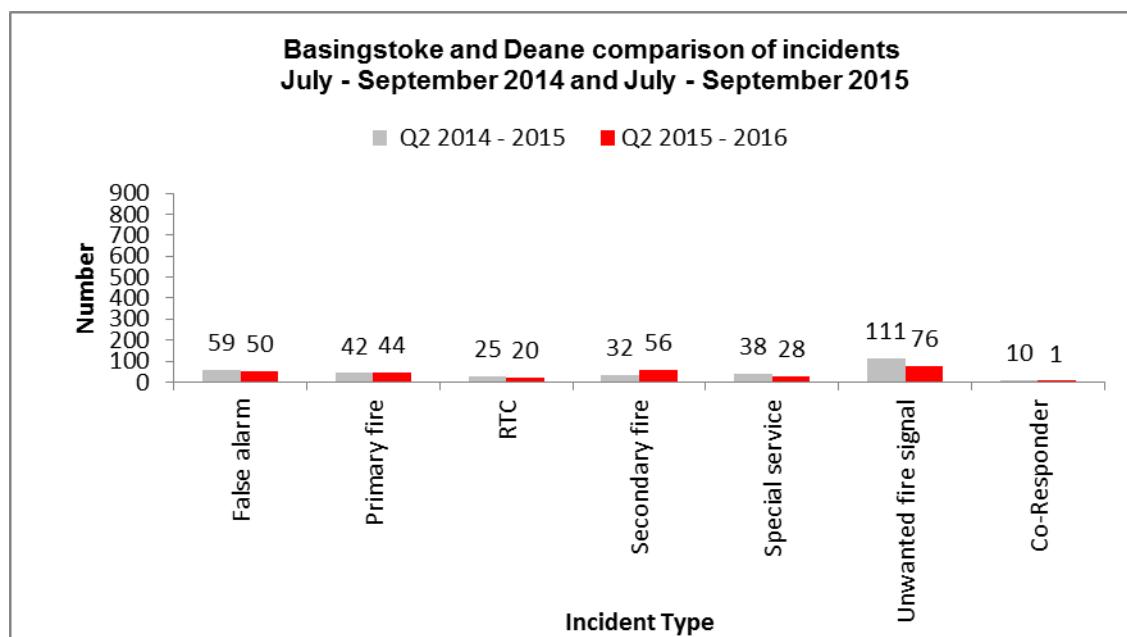
There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Business fire safety



3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane Group

Community response



Notable activity

Thatch fire in Baughurst

Around 50 firefighters dealt with a fire in a thatched cottage at 21:03 on 6 September in Baughurst.

The roof and first floor were 100 per cent involved in fire and the ground floor was affected by water.

Crews wore ten sets of breathing apparatus and used four jets and four hose reels to deal with the fire. Firefighters carried out salvage operations.

The emergency call came in at 21:03 and the stop came in at 08:27 the following morning.



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 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	75
Smoke detectors fitted	82

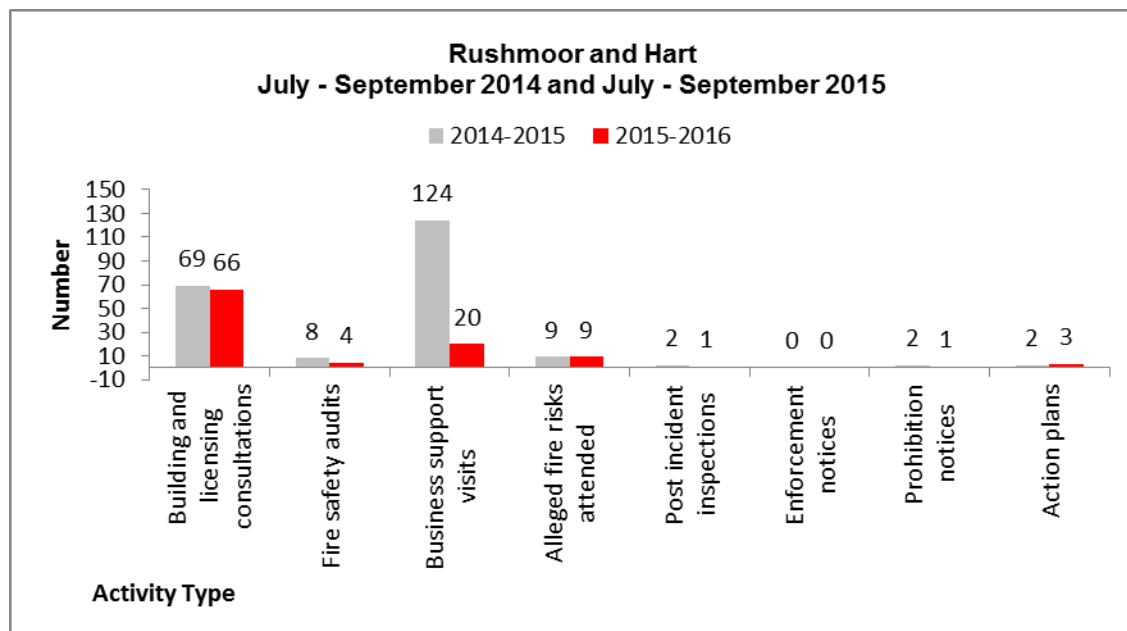
Fire investigations

There have been no fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

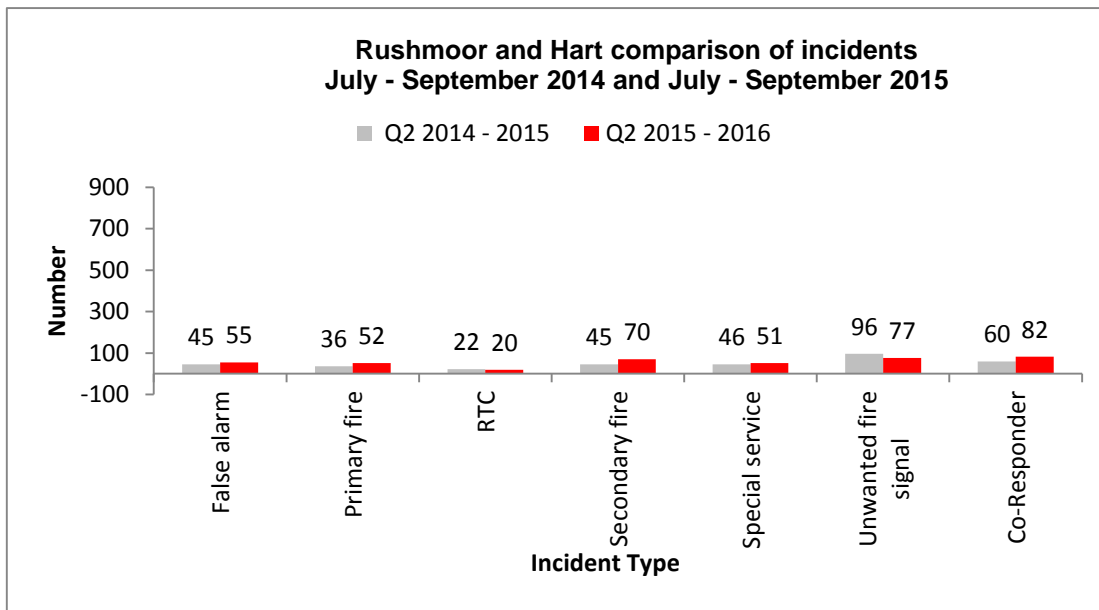
One statement was taken.

Business fire safety



3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Community response



Notable activity

Three crews were mobilised to Blackbushe Airport on 31 July 2015 at 15:10 after reports of a plane down.

A private jet had overshoot the runway and collided with the British Car Auction site. (For more details see 1.2).



Photo courtesy of Sky News

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 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	145
Smoke detectors fitted	148

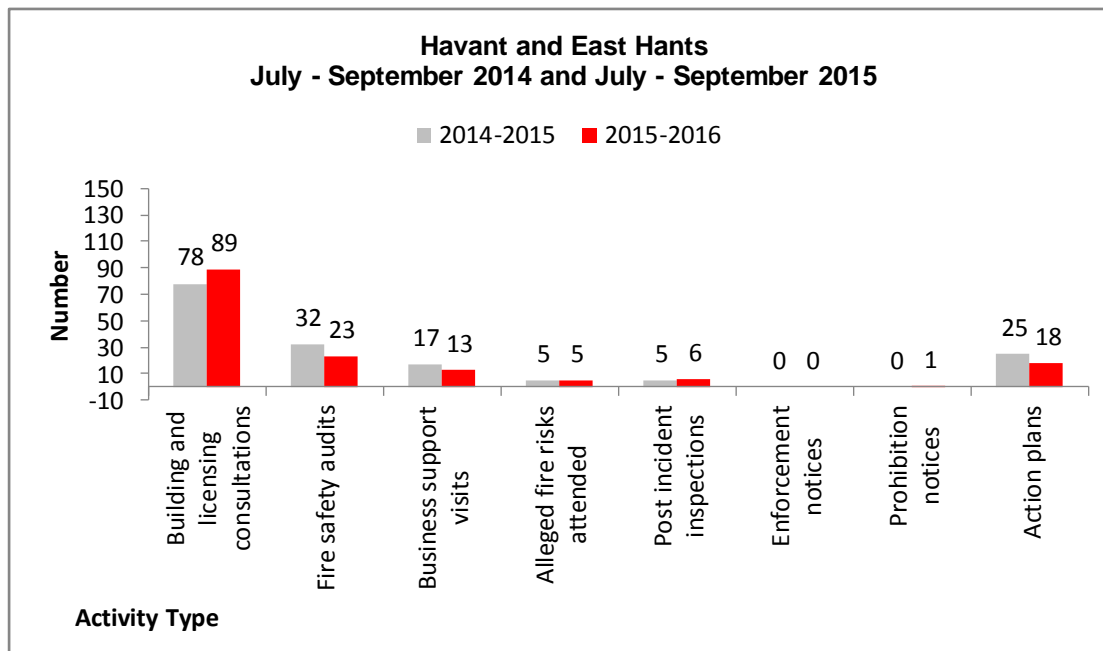
Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations involving an industrial unit and two houses. There was also a fatality.

Arson and risk reduction

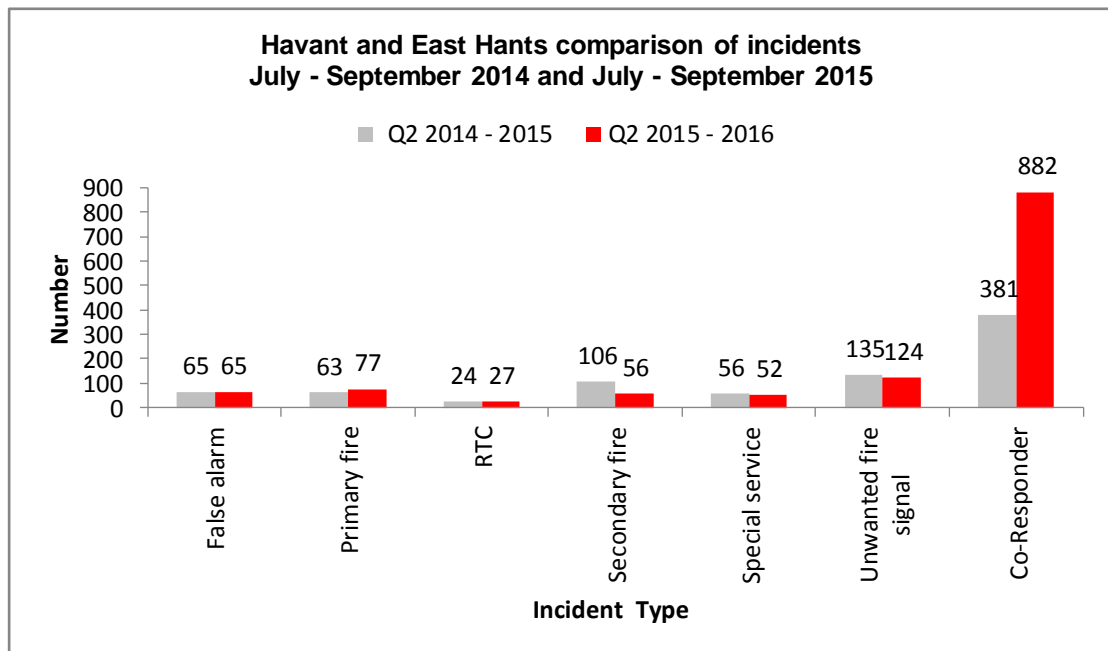
There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Business fire safety



3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

Community response



Notable activity

Fire crews battle blaze at an Alton industrial estate

Crews battled a blaze which broke out on the Newman Industrial Estate in Alton at 4:55am on 5 August 2015. (For more details see 1.3)



Fatal fire in Waterlooville

Crews were sent to Woodsedge in Waterlooville on 7 September 2015 after reports of a house fire.

The fire was in the ground floor lounge in an end of terrace house. Sadly, one female died in the fire.

Crews wore two sets of breathing apparatus and used a hose reel to put the fire out. (For more details please see 1.6)

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 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	132
Smoke detectors fitted	185

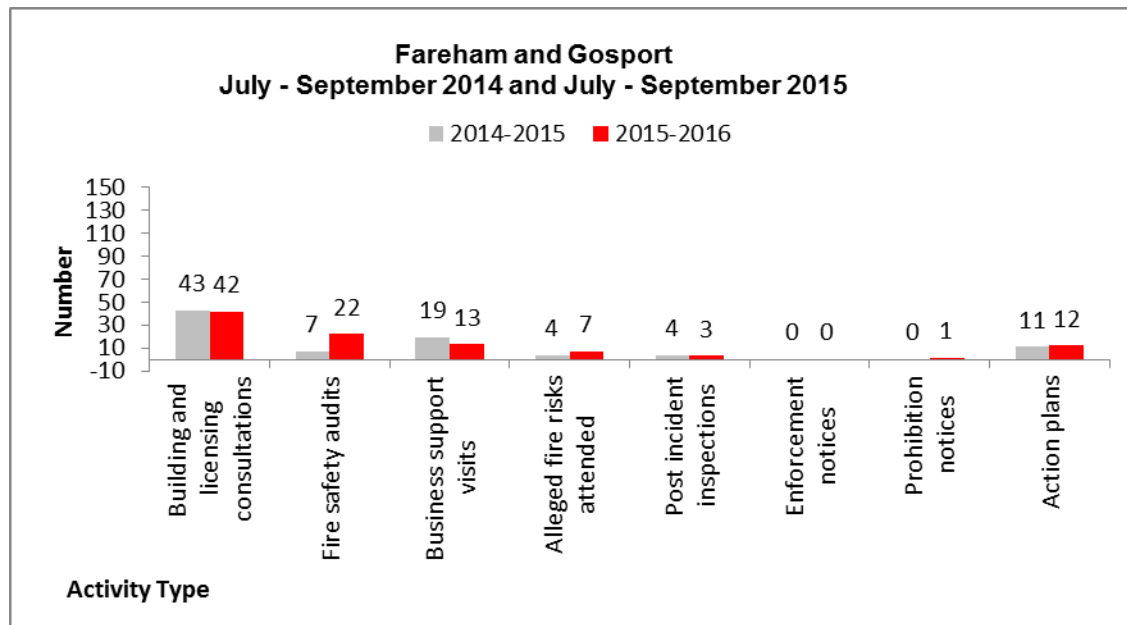
Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations involving two flats and one vehicle.

Arson and risk reduction

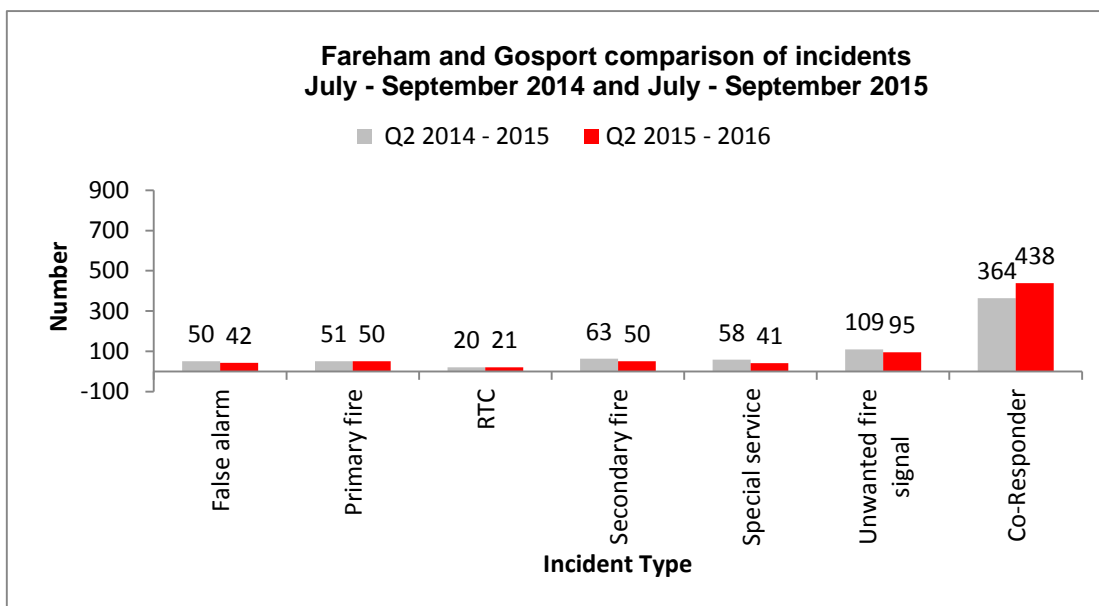
There were no fire investigation search dog deployments.

Business fire safety



3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Community response



Notable activity

House fire in Gosport

Gosport firefighters were mobilised to a house fire in Lee-on-Solent at lunchtime on 2 July 2015. The fire had started in the bedroom and was extinguished by two firefighters, wearing breathing apparatus, using a jet. No one was injured in the fire.

3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	121
Smoke detectors fitted	121

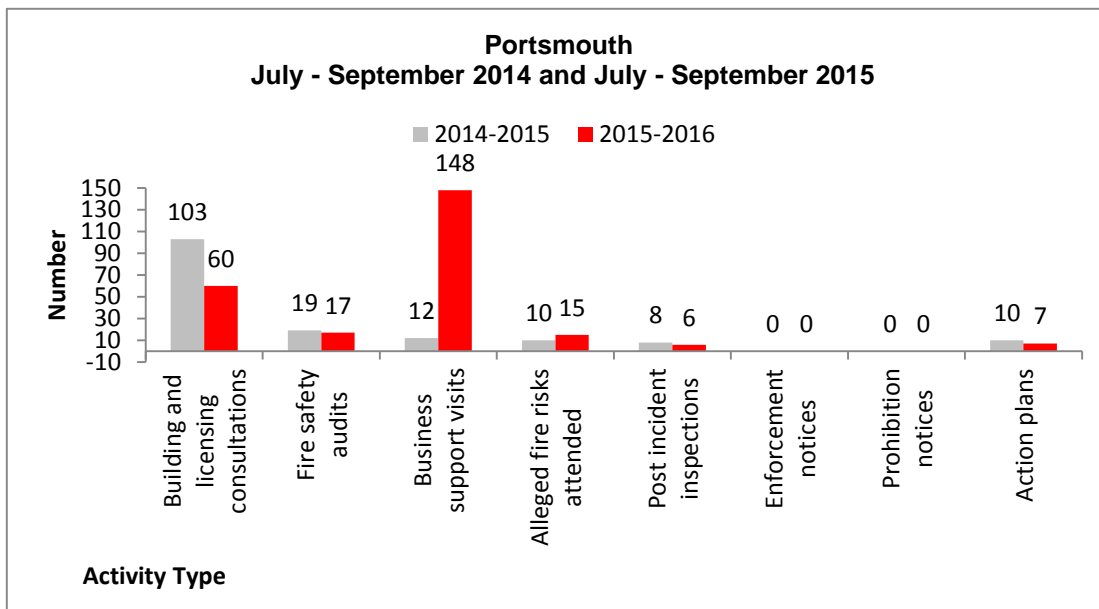
Fire investigations

There were four fire investigations including two flats, a warehouse and an industrial unit.

Arson and risk reduction

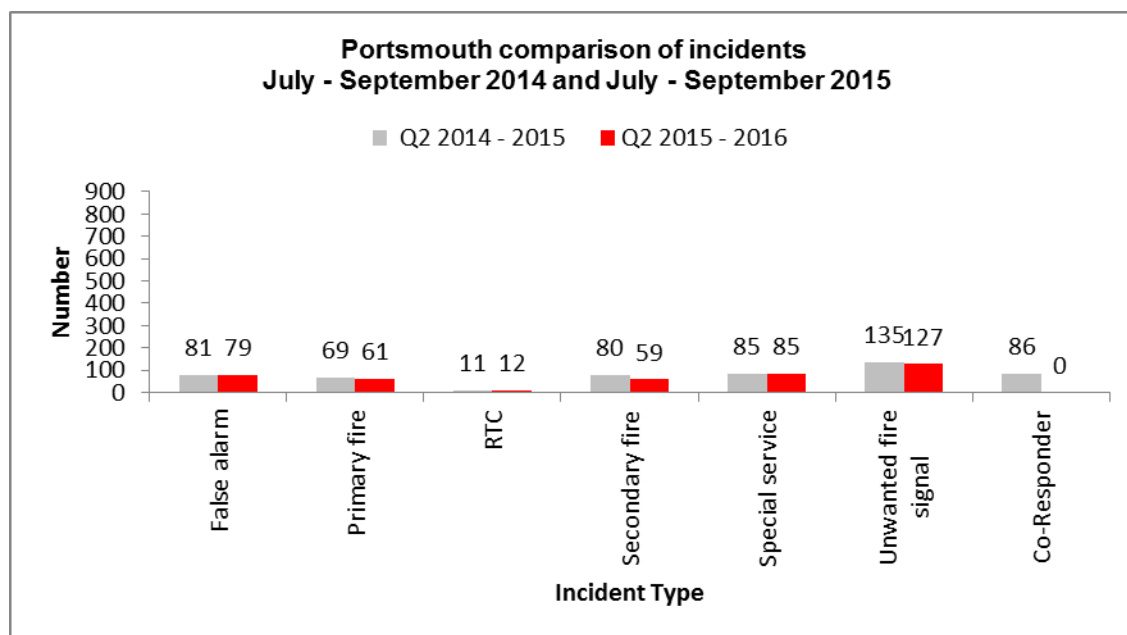
There were no fire investigation search dog deployments.

Business fire safety



3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community response



Notable activity

Bedroom fire in Portsmouth

Around 15 firefighters dealt with a flat fire on 5 July 2015 at 19:01 in Fratton, Portsmouth.

The fire had started in a rear bedroom which was subsequently 100 per cent destroyed by fire. The remainder of the flat was 100 per cent damaged by smoke.

Lounge fire in Cosham

Crews from Cosham, Havant and Southsea were called to a property fire in Cosham on 30 August 2015 at 21:55.

The property was 80 per cent destroyed by fire and 20 per cent damaged by smoke. Firefighters wore four sets of breathing apparatus and used two jets and two hose reels to extinguish the fire. This was an accidental fire caused by candles.

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 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	64
Smoke detectors fitted	61

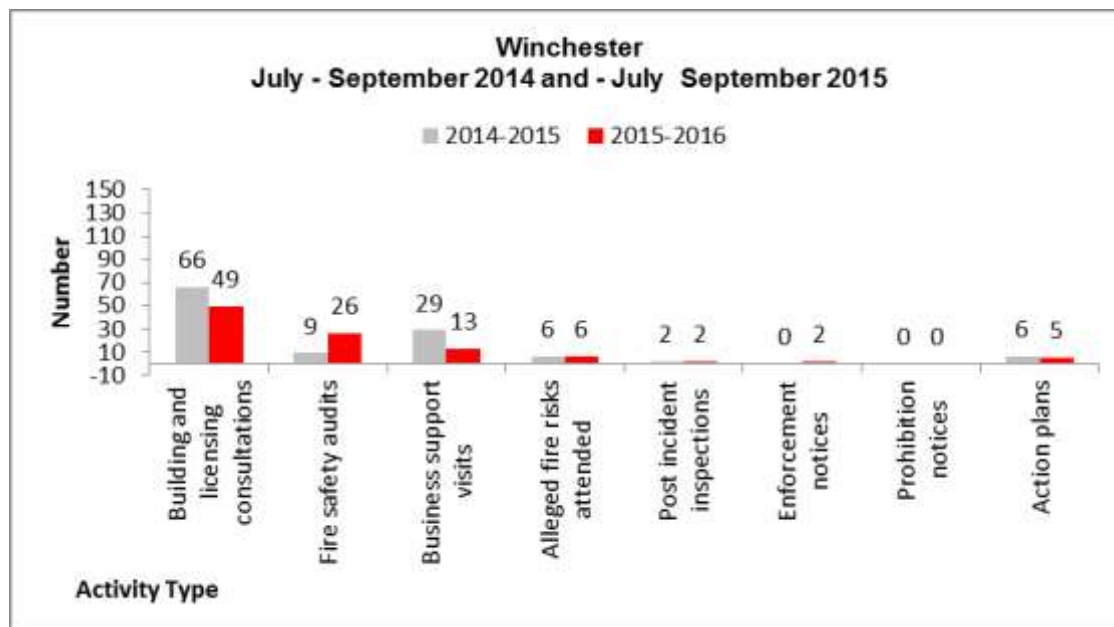
Fire investigations

There were two fire investigations involving prison cells.

Arson and risk reduction

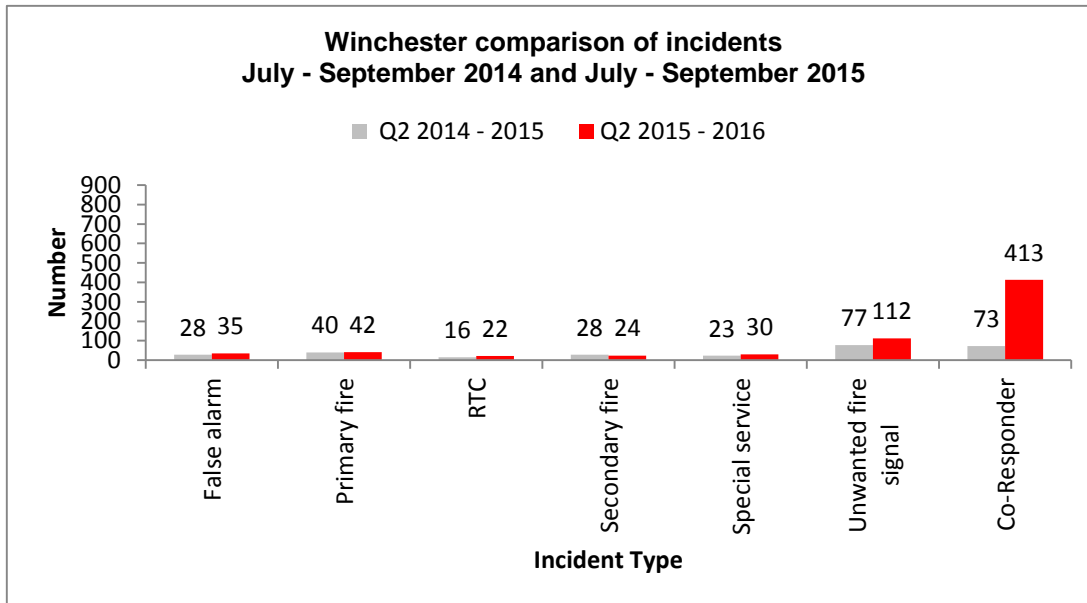
None

Business fire safety



3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Community response



Notable activity

House fire in Winchester

On 6 September 2015 crews were sent to Badgers Farm in Winchester after reports of a fire in a semi-detached house.

The ground floor was 100 per cent destroyed by fire, the first floor and the roof were 90 per cent destroyed by fire.

Crews wore eight sets of breathing apparatus and used four jets to put the fire out. The aerial ladder platform was also used to assist fire fighting operations.

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 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	87
Smoke detectors fitted	104

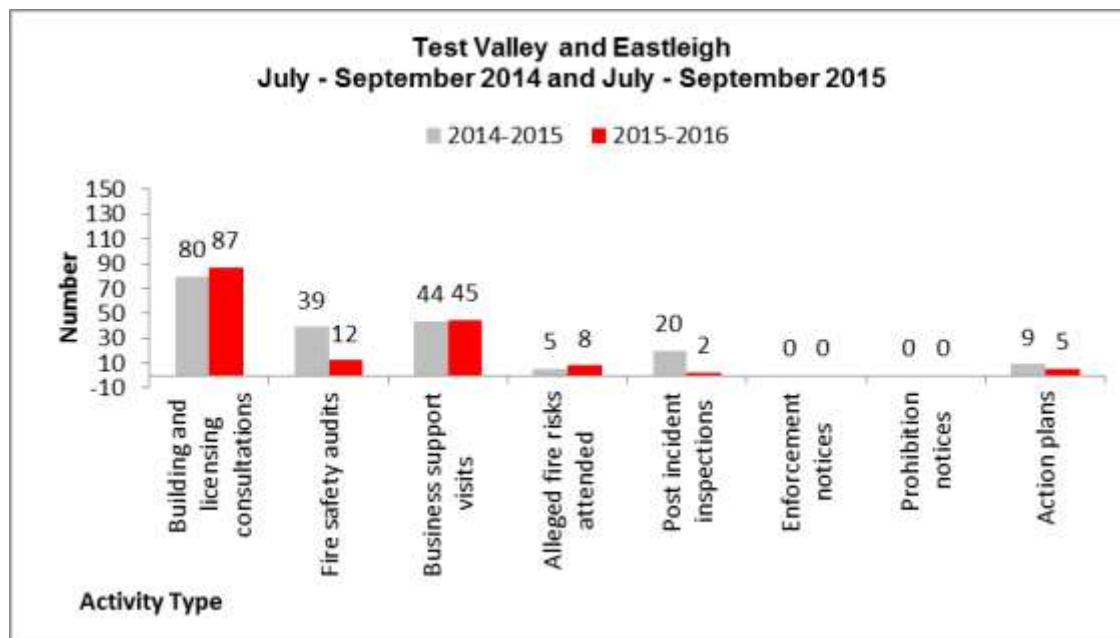
Fire investigations

There were four fire investigations involving two flats, a vehicle and a fatality.

Arson and risk reduction

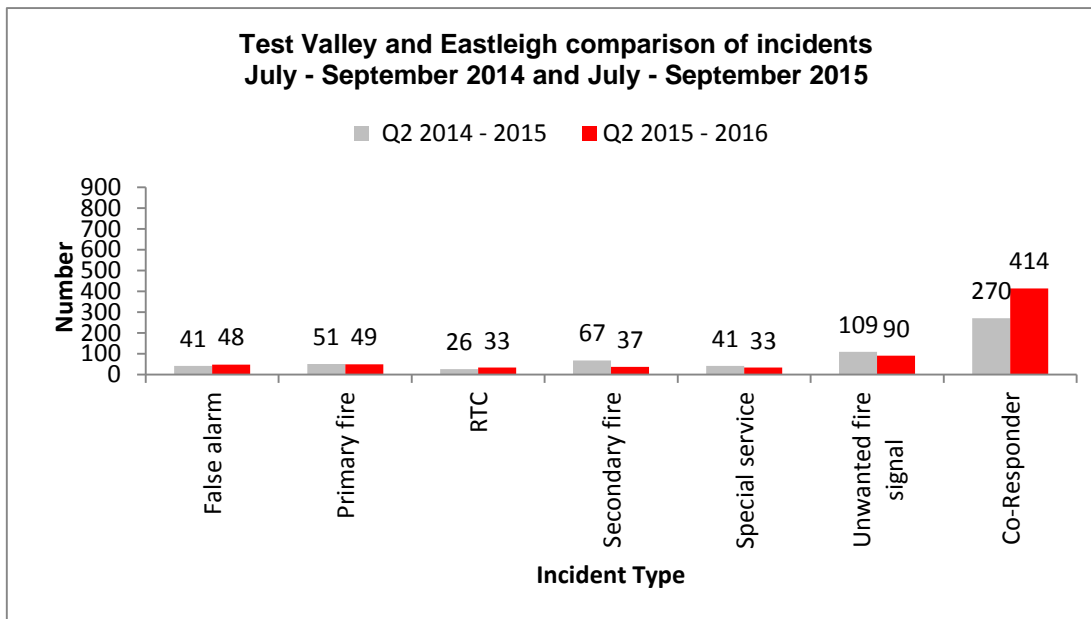
None

Business fire safety



3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Community response



Notable activity

Tragic fatal in Andover

On 27 September 2015 an 80 year old man died when he caught fire whilst using a grinder in his shed. (For more details please see 1.7)

Industrial fire in Lockerley

On 28 September 2015 crews were mobilised to Romsey Road in Lockerley after reports of a fire.

On arrival crews were faced with a large fire in a building used as outdoor storage. The steel construction and two large containers were well alight.

Crews wore eight sets of breathing apparatus and used two hose reels and one jet to put the fire out.

3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	112
Smoke detectors fitted	133

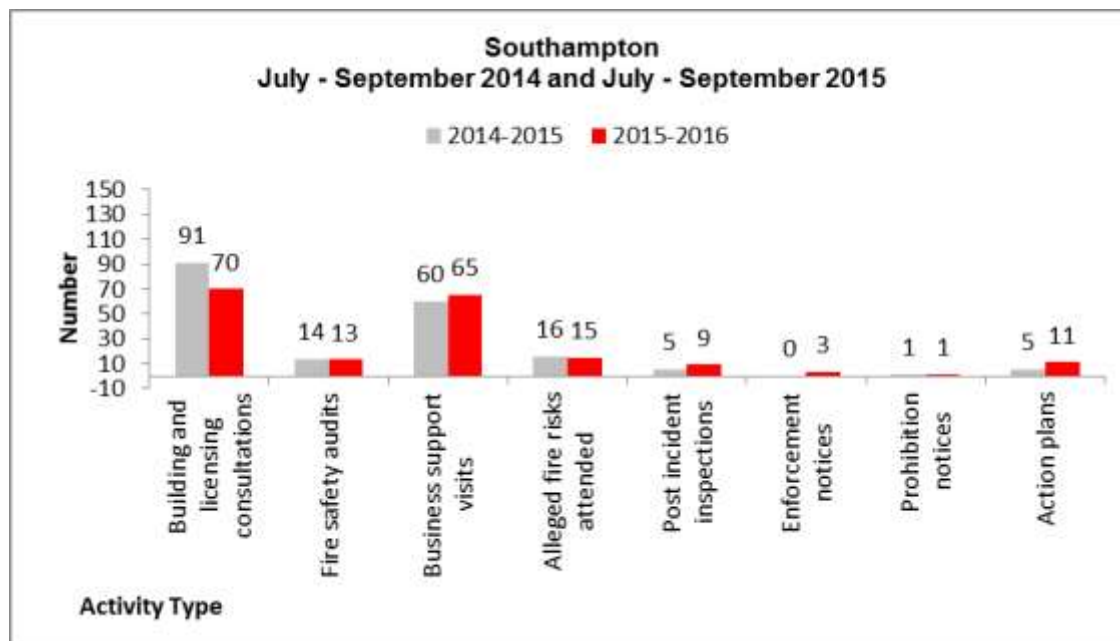
Fire investigations

There were five fire investigations involving a flat, a bungalow, a derelict building, a launderette and a house.

Arson and risk reduction

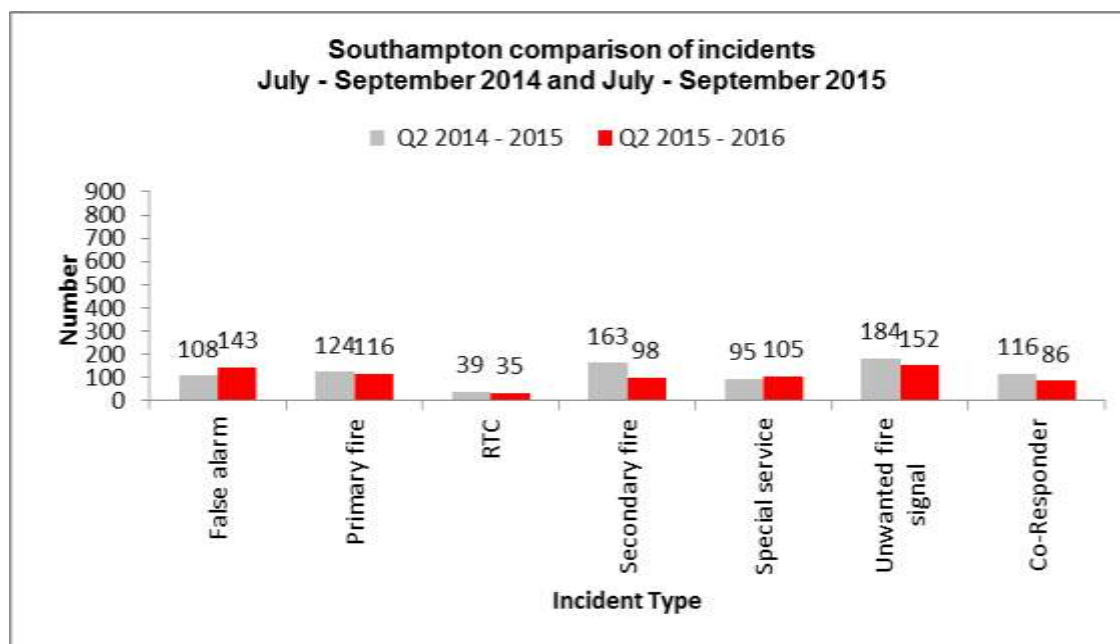
None

Business fire safety



3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community response



Notable activity

Fire involving a bird aviary

On 9 August 2015 Control took an emergency call about a fire in Beech Road, Southampton.

There were five garden sheds, fencing and a bird aviary, containing approximately 30 birds, involved in the fire which were all completely destroyed. Three propane cylinders were also involved which were quickly removed and cooled.

Firefighters wore two sets of breathing apparatus and used one ground monitor and three hose reels to put the fire out.

House fire in Crofton Close

Fire crews were mobilised to Crofton Close in Southampton on 21 September 2015 after reports of a fire in a domestic house. The fire had started in first floor airing cupboard and there was heat and smoke damage to the first floor and roof space.

Crews wore eight sets of breathing apparatus and used three jets and one hose reel to put the fire out. The aerial ladder platform was also used.

3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 July 2015 and 30 September 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	78
Smoke detectors fitted	69

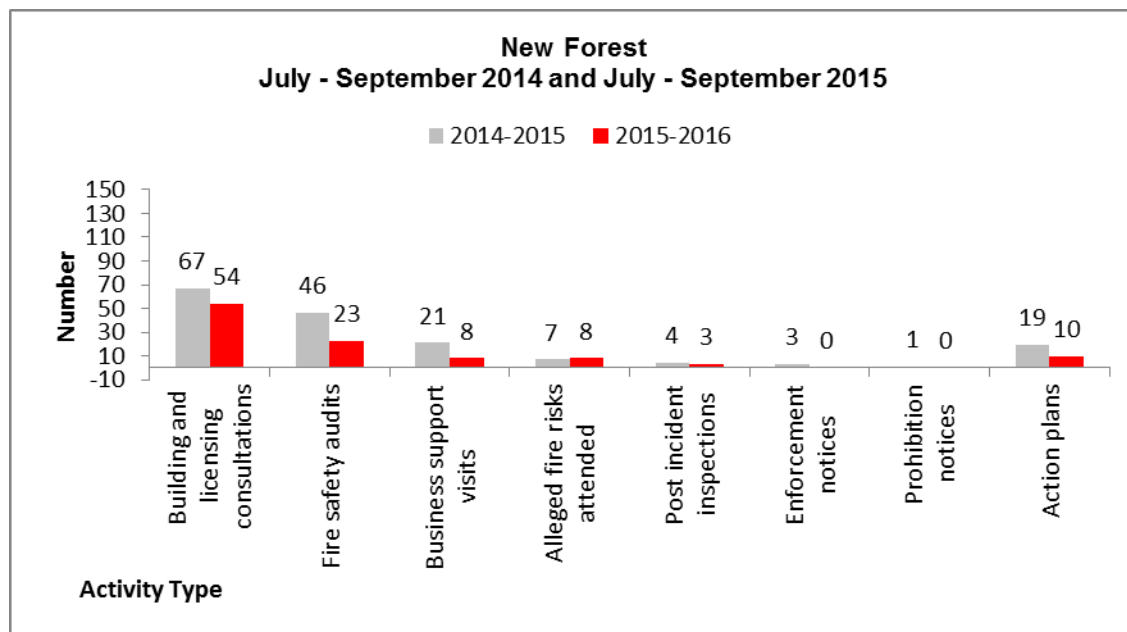
Fire investigations

There were six fire investigations involving a flat, a derelict building and four vehicles including one fatality.

Arson and risk reduction

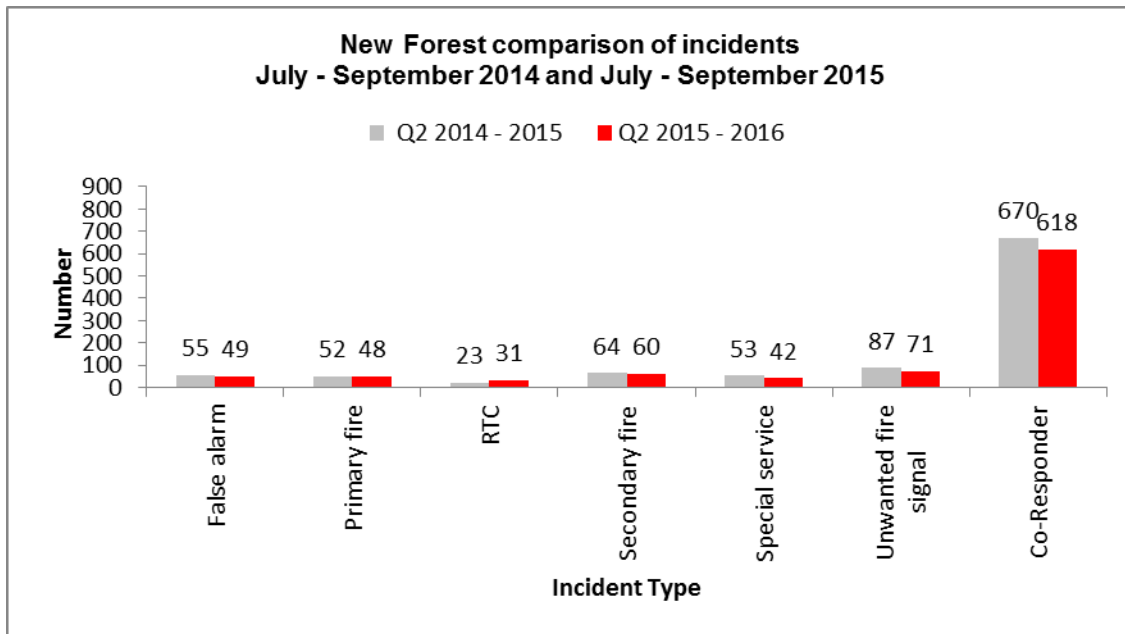
There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Business fire safety



3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community response



Notable activity

Fatal car fire in Totton

One male sadly died in a car fire in Totton. (Please see 1.4 for more details)

Car collision at Pace Garage

At 08:28 on 6 August 2015 a crew from Lyndhurst were sent to a road accident where a car was upside down on the forecourt of Pace Petrol Station on the A31. Nobody was trapped inside and the crew made the scene safe.



4 Latest news

4.1 Southampton Burger King fire

Firefighters were mobilised to Burger King in Southampton on 12 October after reports of a fire.

On arrival the first crews were faced with with a difficult fire in the ventilation system which spread to the wall cavity and ceiling void.

Thanks to the swift action of Burger King staff in evacuating the building all customers and staff are safe and accounted for.

Crews from St Mary's, Redbridge, Totton and Romsey were at the scene along with the aerial ladder platform from St Mary's. The cause of the fire was accidental.





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