

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



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Front page photo: Otterbourne garage fire

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 31 December 2015 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Latest news” section of the report.

We are pleased to say that there have been no fire deaths during this period. However. There have been seven fatalities in road traffic collisions that we have attended.

Celebrating Success took place on 3 December 2015 and, for the first time, was held at The Police Training HQ in Netley.

The life-saving intervention by off-duty firefighter, Watch Manager Stu Godwin, saving a grandfather’s life, and the commitment of the Portchester Co-responder team were just two of the actions to be rewarded at the ceremony.



These awards recognised the incredible contributions made by our staff and partners.

The 12-week consultation on Risk Review proposals ended on the 4 December 2015. This gave Hampshire residents, employees, local businesses and neighbouring fire and rescue services the chance to have their say on the way the Service will operate in the future. More than 650 residents attended public meetings and forums across the county, and almost 30,000 people visited our website to find out what is proposed in their area, with hundreds going on to complete the consultation survey.

On 10 November 2015 we took part in an exercise designed to test emergency response procedures and processes in Portsmouth International Port. As well as testing our own response we tested multi agency operations as we worked alongside Hampshire Constabulary; The Maritime and Coastguard Agency; South Central Ambulance Service; Brittany Ferries and; ship owners Whitaker.



1 Responding to incidents

Incident Category	1 Oct - 31 Dec 2014	1 Oct - 31 Dec 2015
False alarm	474	526
Primary fire	526	472
RTC	258	199
Secondary fire	272	242
Special service	414	593
Unwanted fire signal	1063	1060
Co-Responder	2669	3134
Total	5670	6241

1.1 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 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 were 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.



1.2 Fire at Badi Mirchi

Crews were called to an Indian restaurant Badi Mirchi in Eastleigh on 22 October 2015.



The fire, which started in the ground floor kitchen, spread to the first floor and roof space.

Whilst there was smoke damage throughout the property, crews were able to save 70 per cent of building from direct damage by fire spread. Crews wore 22 sets of breathing apparatus and used two jets and two hose reels and an aerial ladder platform to bring the fire under control.

The fire started after an electrical/mechanical fault within the ventilation fan fitted in the extraction system.

1.3 Garage fire in Otterbourne

Around 51 firefighters were called to a garage fire in Main Road, Otterbourne at 03:36 on 30 November 2015. Around 80% of the building, which was used as a garage and workshop, was involved in fire.

Crews wore 36 sets of breathing apparatus and used one aerial ladder platform, seven jets and one compressed air foam jet to put the fire out.

The incident concluded at 08:43 and the most likely cause of the fire was an electrical fault.



2 Community safety

2.1 Home safety

We continue to target our home safety activity through a risk based approach, focusing on those most vulnerable in our communities. Numbers of Home Safety visits are detailed in Group Activity in Section 3. The move towards Safe and Well visits, which will replace our existing Home Safety visits, continues to build momentum and we will start delivery from 1 April 2016. Working in partnership with health and social care colleagues we have developed training and a referral mechanism aimed at reducing winter deaths through the identification of fuel poverty and the risks that cold weather pose to older persons. With these same partners we are introducing falls assessments within our future visits.

We have now acquired NHS data of all the over 65s registered with GPs. This will help to further target those at risk of fire via direct engagement, enabling staff to access people not known to, or using, other agencies.

This quarter we have made 59 safeguarding referrals to the local councils.

2.2 Children and young people

Our work with Children and Young People (CYP) is primarily delivered through two teams.

Schools Education Team - Fire Education 0-14 age group

The team has engaged with over 5980 children at Key Stage 1 and 2 and over 2578 children at Key Stage 3 and 4. They have also engaged with over 2280 children through Think Safe and theme day event.

FireWise working within this team has worked with 21 families on a one to one basis delivering fire and risk behaviour education. Referrals for these come from various routes including schools, social workers, parents and the police.

Princes Trust and other CYP delivery - Fire Education Age group 14+

We have delivered two Prince's Trust Team (PTT) programmes in Rushmoor and Southampton, which saw 26 young people start the programmes and 24 achieve the programme qualification – this is a 92 per cent retention and success rate. We have now embedded health and wellbeing in to all our PTT programmes and on initial feedback, this has been well received by all participants and supports our work on fire as a health asset.

The CYP Team successfully achieved the International Quality Matrix Standard – this rates us for the information, advice and guidance we offer young people.

2 Community safety

2.3 Volunteers

We now have a total of 85 Volunteers committed to volunteering for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. We have three students assigned to our Arson Investigation team and another four students from Highbury College assigned to Portsmouth and Havant.

We trained 12 Village Agents in December to carry out home safety visits to the rural community in partnership with Age Concern.

Our volunteers delivered an impressive 1079 hours during this last quarter, undertaking a variety of events and conducting 57 HSVs. Six volunteers assisted the Risk Review team by undertaking work across the county to encourage greater awareness and engagement with the Risk Review consultation.

Three volunteers gave 288 hours of support to CYP events, such as Prince's Trust; Phoenix Courses; Safe Drive, Stay Alive and; Road Safety initiatives in conjunction with Portsmouth stations and in partnership with Highbury College.

We continue to develop the roles for volunteers. In the last quarter, in addition to home safety advisers, we appointed a station gardener, an animal rescue team member and Training Centre assistants.

2.4 Fire investigation

A number of investigations this quarter have resulted in full evidence packs being produced for prosecution purposes.

We attended Coroners Court on 7 Dec 2015 to give evidence for the fatal fire in the Test Valley and Eastleigh Group from the previous reporting period. The Coroner ruled Mr John Webb died as a result of an accident and it was a fire death.

On 8 December 2015, following an act of arson involving a vehicle at Chopin Road, Basingstoke on 11 October 2015, the defendant was found guilty and sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 24 months imprisonment.

On 23 December 2015, following an act of arson at Cosy Glen, Bartley in April 2015, the defendant was found guilty of attempted murder and fraud, and was sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 25 years imprisonment. This highlighted the multi-agency investigations we conduct with Hampshire Constabulary. Our employees performed to a high standard in the witness box which has resulted in Lady Portal, High Sheriff of Hampshire, requesting a visit to the team. Fire Investigation Search Dog Ruby was instrumental in uncovering evidence in this case and it was her first court case.

There were three out of county fire investigation search dog deployments which were all in Surrey.

2.5 Firesetter Intervention Scheme

Adult Firesetters Intervention Programme

HFRS partnered up with two organisations, Portsmouth City Council and Restorative Solutions, in the recent bidding process held by the OPCC for delivering restorative justice (RJ) in Hampshire. We were invited to interview with Restorative Solutions and following a review by OPCC the outcome was somewhat unexpected. Restorative Solutions in partnership with HFRS was offered four areas in Hampshire to deliver level 2 RJ. These areas are Portsmouth, Southampton, Test Valley and New Forest. We will be providing volunteers and use of premises for this new initiative. Restorative Solutions will provide us with training, accreditation and £25k for a case manager to help deliver RJ in Hampshire.

2.6 Road safety

We have commenced our planning for the road safety campaign due to launch in March 2016. This will be heavily focused and aimed at young drivers, using social media and embedding the Project Pictogram work on the fatal four.

In November, we worked with Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council to put on the two 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' events in Hampshire. We engaged with over 4000 16-19 during the two events.

2.7 Fire as a health asset

Co-responding

Our co-responders attended a total of **3134** medical incidents on behalf of our partner South Central Ambulance Service.

For the calendar year to December 2015 HFRS attended in excess of 11000 medical incidents from 24 locations across the county. Co-responding continues to be a growth area for the Service demonstrating a 10 per cent increase in call demand over the year.

Medical Response

We have finalised the details of further medical skills for our personnel, working closely with our clinical governors, we will be rolling out Immediate Emergency Care (IEC) training to all our front line personnel this will enable us to provide a wider range of skills to the general public in the future.

We have entered into a pilot partnership with our police and ambulance colleagues to gain entry to people at risk. Early feedback has been positive with our crews attending 325 incidents across the Service.

2.8 National resilience capability

We assisted in the rescue of a casualty who had fallen down a well. In addition to the rescue itself the USAR team also assisted with sampling the well water after the rescue.

In October Hampshire ran a three day canine course for the national USAR team at Eastleigh. This course for both qualified canine teams and those in training, it was run from Service HQ and used various other locations around Hampshire including Fort Widley.

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 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	58
Smoke detectors fitted	70

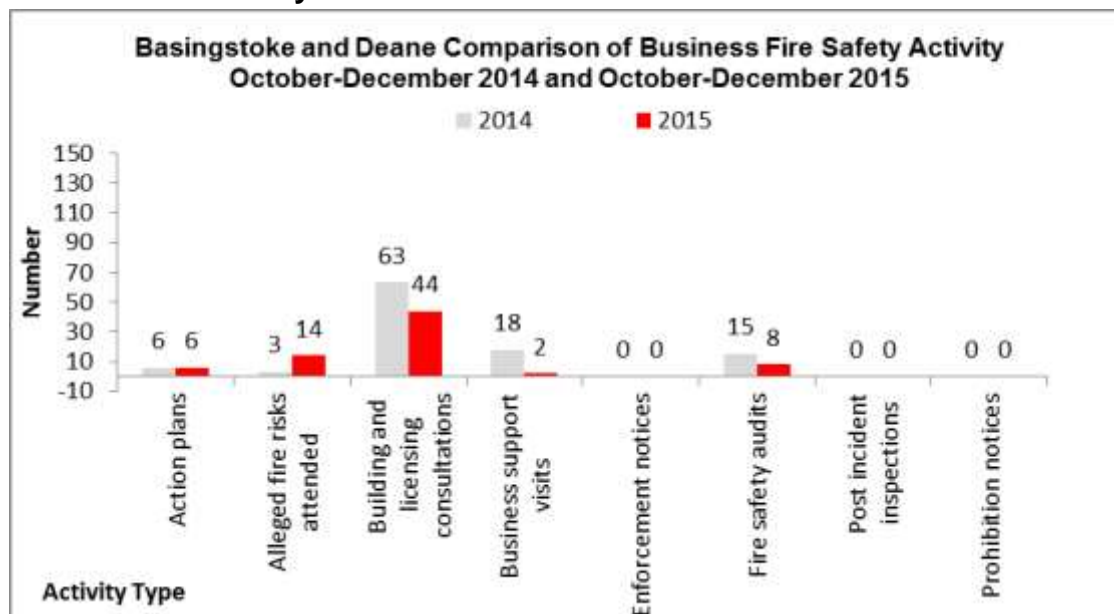
Fire investigations

There were six fire investigations involving three houses, a house in multiple occupancy, a car and a commercial property.

Arson and risk reduction

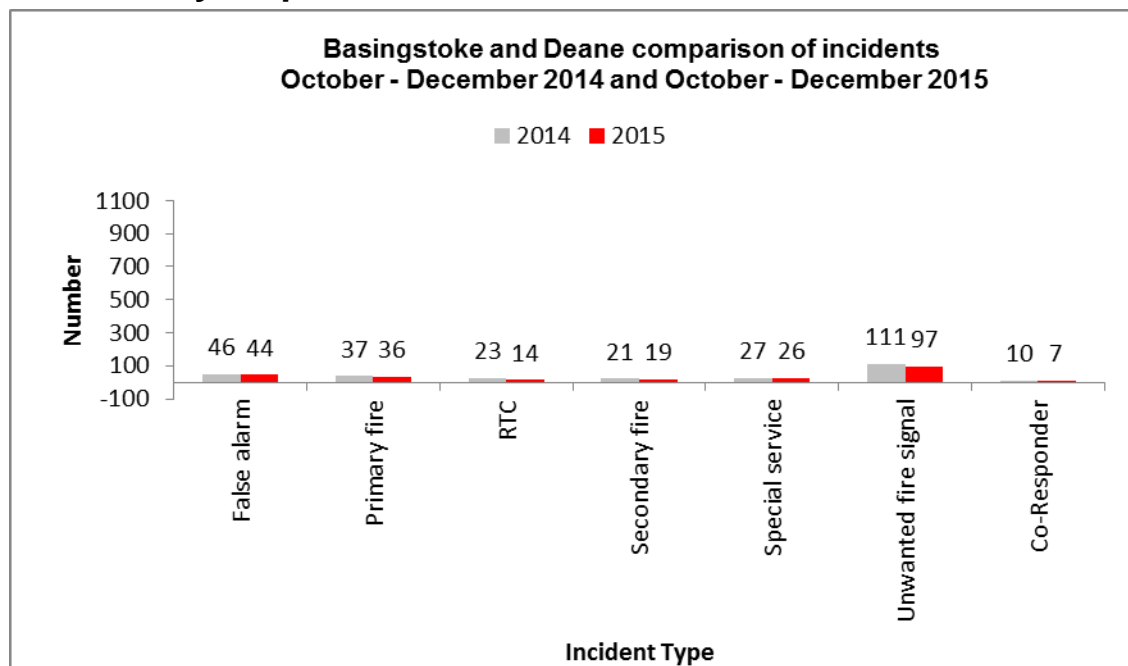
There was one fire investigation search dog deployment and one court case which concluded with a 24 month imprisonment.

Business fire safety



3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane Group

Community response



Motorbike fatal

Crews were mobilised to a collision between a car and a motorbike in Basingstoke on 1 November 2015 at 14:24. Sadly, one male died in the crash.

Car into building

On 11 November 2015 crews were called to Belle Vue Road in Old Basing after reports of a car which had crashed into a residential property. One elderly male was trapped in the car and extricated by crews. Two residents were led to safety using a short extension ladder.

3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	74
Smoke detectors fitted	139

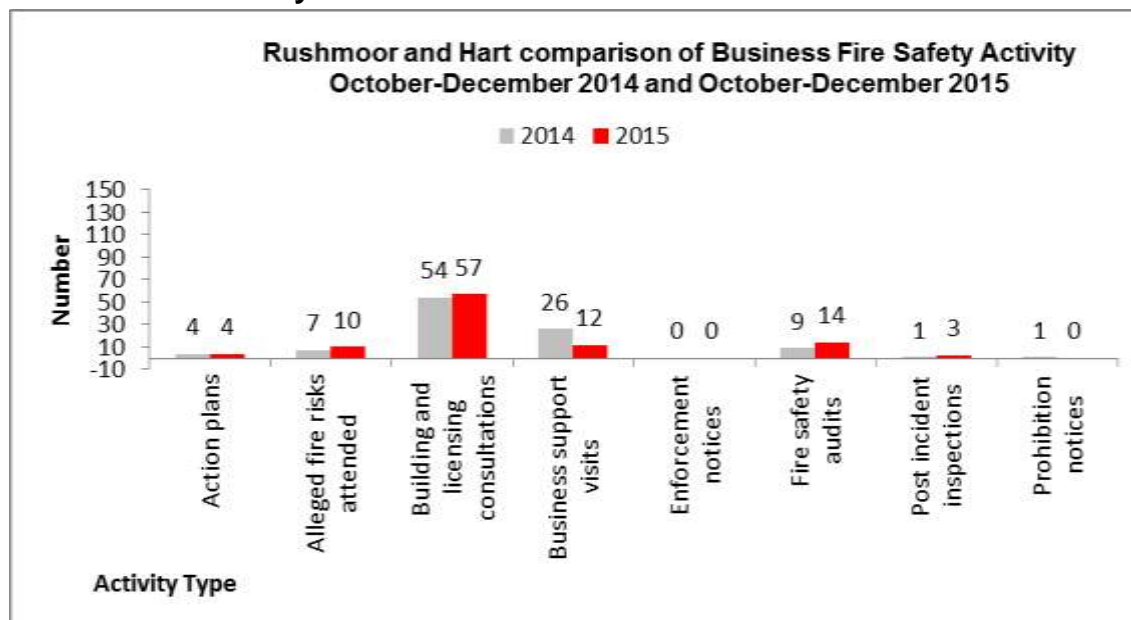
Fire investigations

There were two fire investigations involving a restaurant and a public house.

Arson and risk reduction

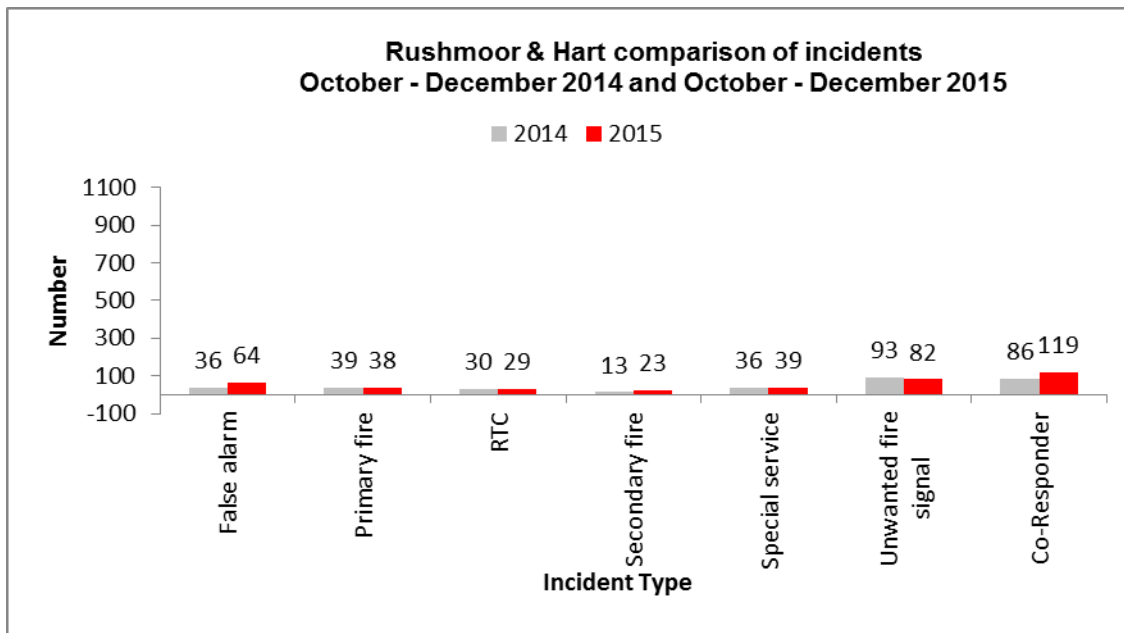
None

Business fire safety



3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Community response



Road traffic collision

On 30 October 2015 crews from Rushmoor Fire Station, returning from an earlier road traffic collision, came across a second incident on the A331 southbound, between Colfort Bridge Road and Lynchford Road. This was a collision involving three cars. One person was released by fire personnel and there were three further casualties. All casualties were left with South East Central Ambulance Service. The time of stop was 21:13 hours.

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 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	154
Smoke detectors fitted	192

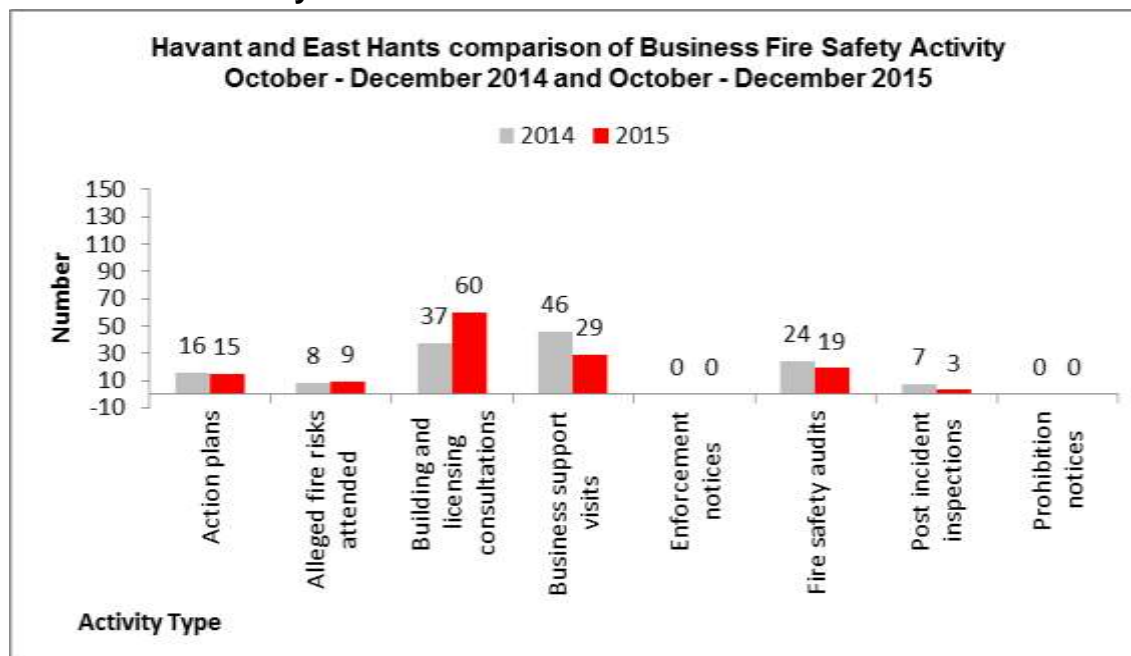
Fire investigations

There have been three fire investigations all involving houses.

Arson and risk reduction

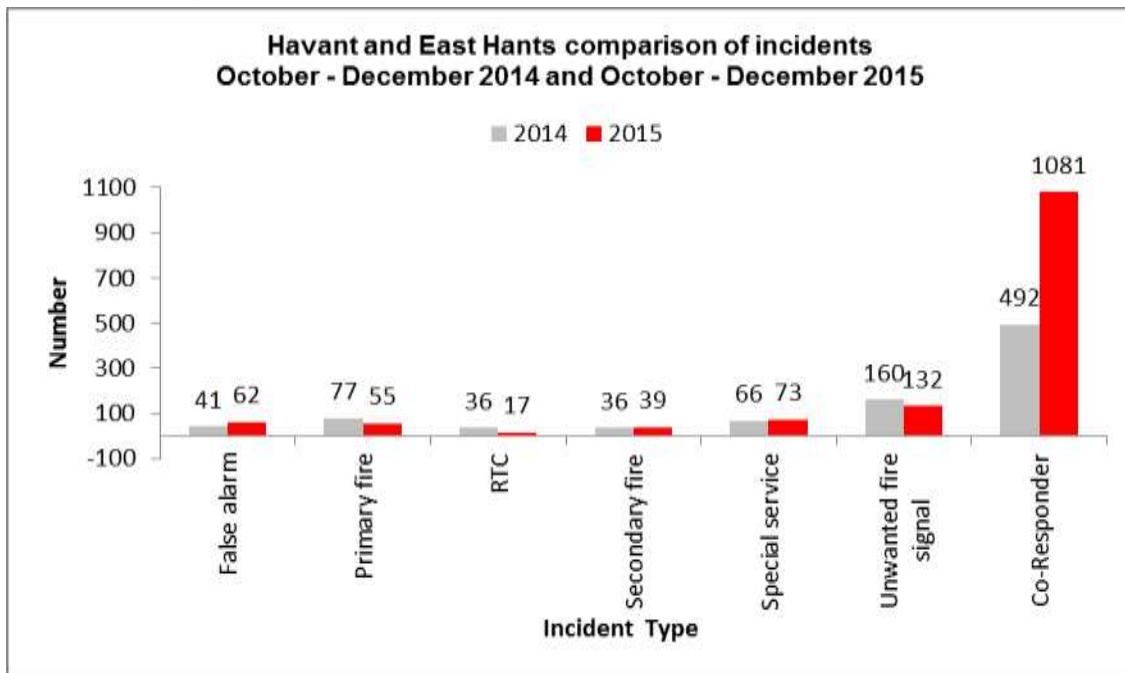
There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Business fire safety



3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

Community response



Fatal crash

On 6 November 2015 at 07:30 crews were called to Lynchborough Road in Liphook after reports of an RTC. Crews arrived to find one car which had hit a tree and sadly one male died at the scene. Another male was extricated by the crews and they were later sent back to remove the body of the 22 year old male.

Fatal caused by heart attack

Crews were mobilised to Petersfield Road in Bordon on 4 November 2015 after reports of a road traffic collision. One male had a heart attack at the wheel of the car, crashed into another vehicle and sadly died at the scene.

Rescue from a trench

On 24 November 2015 crews were mobilised to Downhouse Road in Catherington where a 51 year old male had fallen in a deep trench. Crews rescued the man from the trench which measured 10ft by 10ft by 8ft deep trench. Crews handed the casualty to the Hart medical team who administered first aid at scene.

3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	105
Smoke detectors fitted	196

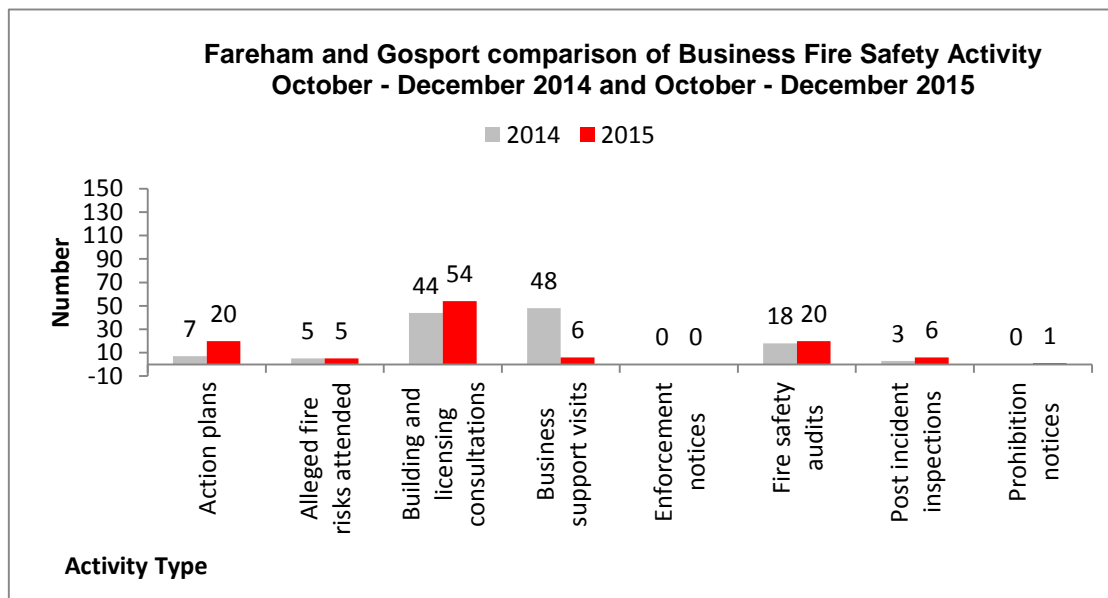
Fire investigations

There were two fire investigations involving a house and a flat.

Arson and risk reduction

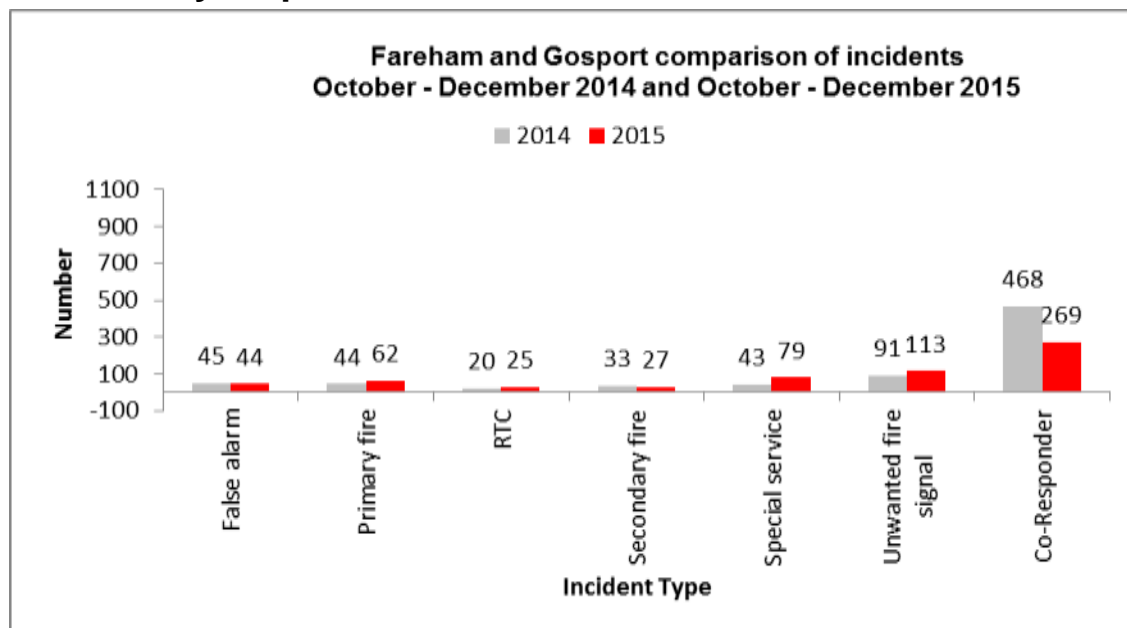
None

Business fire safety



3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Community response



Flat fire

On 11 October 2015 Control received a call reporting a fire in Beach Road, Lee-on-the-Solent. The fire had started in a flat which was 100 per cent damaged by fire. The building was being used as a care home for the elderly. Crews wore six sets of breathing apparatus and used one hose reel and two jets to put the fire out. One male was led to safety by firefighters and taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service.

Chemical incident

Crews were called to Abbey Park in Titchfield on 22 October 2015 to a chemical incident. This was an unknown amount of hydrochloric acid which had leaked in a bunded area of a building. Crews surveyed and ventilated the building and handed it over to a specialist cleaning company. Crews wore four gas tight suits and two sets of breathing apparatus. There were 30 on site personnel with varying symptoms all checked by ambulance crews and released with no further action.

3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	117
Smoke detectors fitted	170

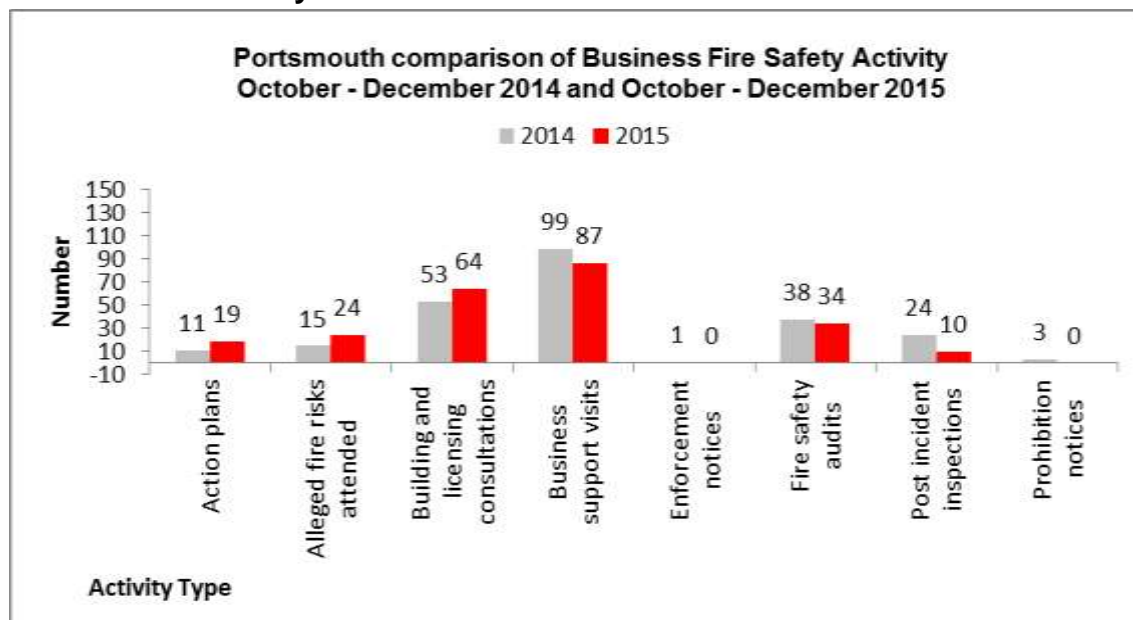
Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations involving two houses and a common area in flats.

Arson and risk reduction

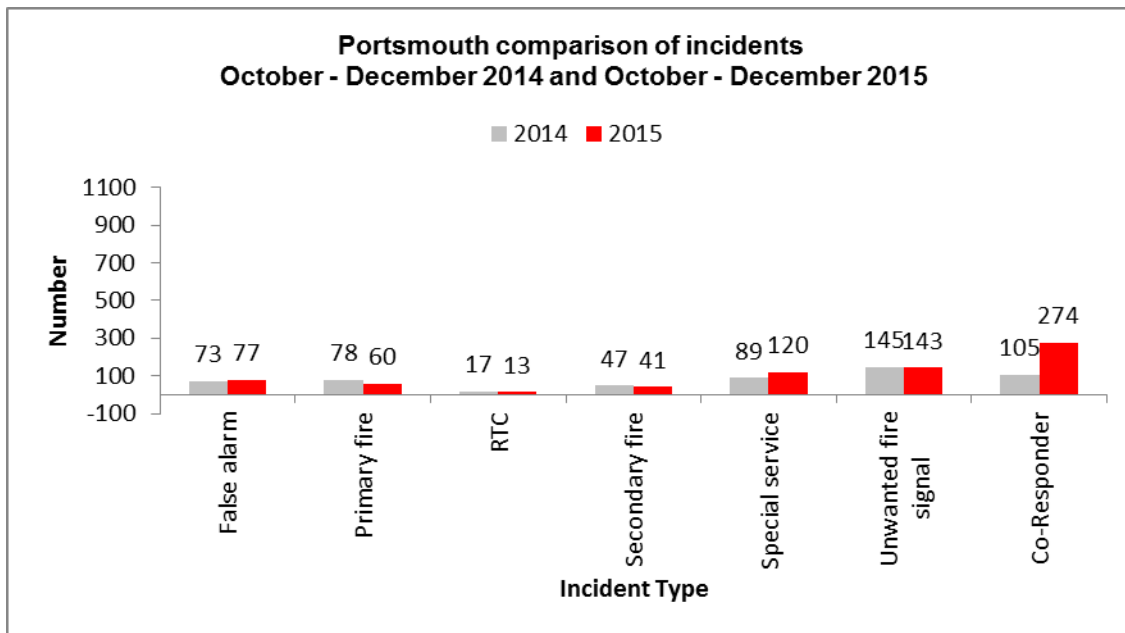
None

Business fire safety



3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community response



Kitchen fire

On 15 October 2015 at 00:26 crews were called to St Andrews Road in Southsea after reports of a fire. The fire had started in the kitchen of a flat and crews rescued one person. Crews wore four sets of breathing apparatus and used two jets and two hose reels to put the fire out. The casualty was left in the hands of the ambulance at 01:10.

3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out in the between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	50
Smoke detectors fitted	63

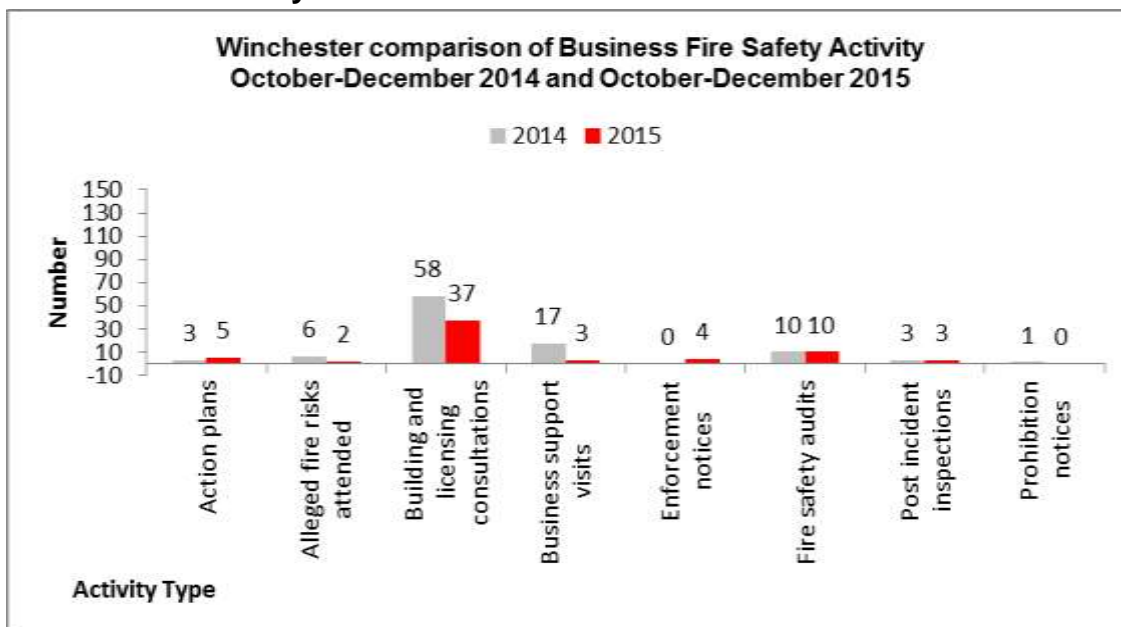
Fire investigations

There were four fire investigations involving two prison cells, a garage and a warehouse.

Arson and risk reduction

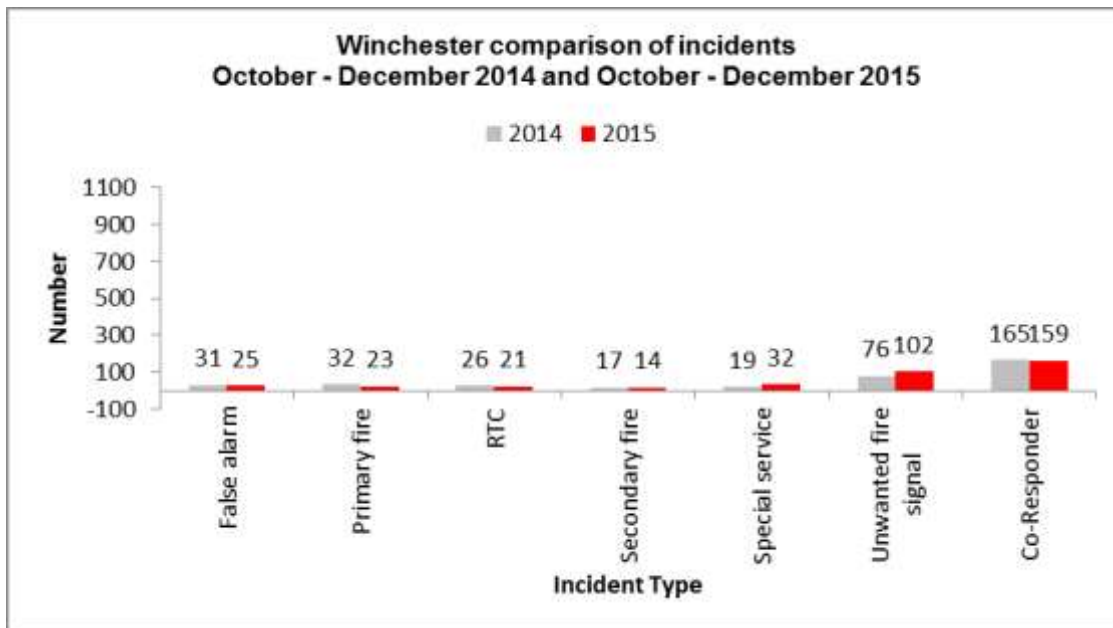
None

Business fire safety



3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Community response



Road collision on the A34

On 28 November 2015 crews were called to the A34 south at Bullington Cross – Three Maids Hill following a road traffic collision. There were three cars and a trailer involved in this incident. Three adults and one child were taken to hospital.

Family taken to hospital after crash

Crews were called to Jacklyns Lane in Alresford on 22 October 2015 after reports of a road traffic collision. The incident involved two vehicles and two people were medically trapped. Crews extricated the casualties and the ambulance service took them to hospital.

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 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	65
Smoke detectors fitted	104

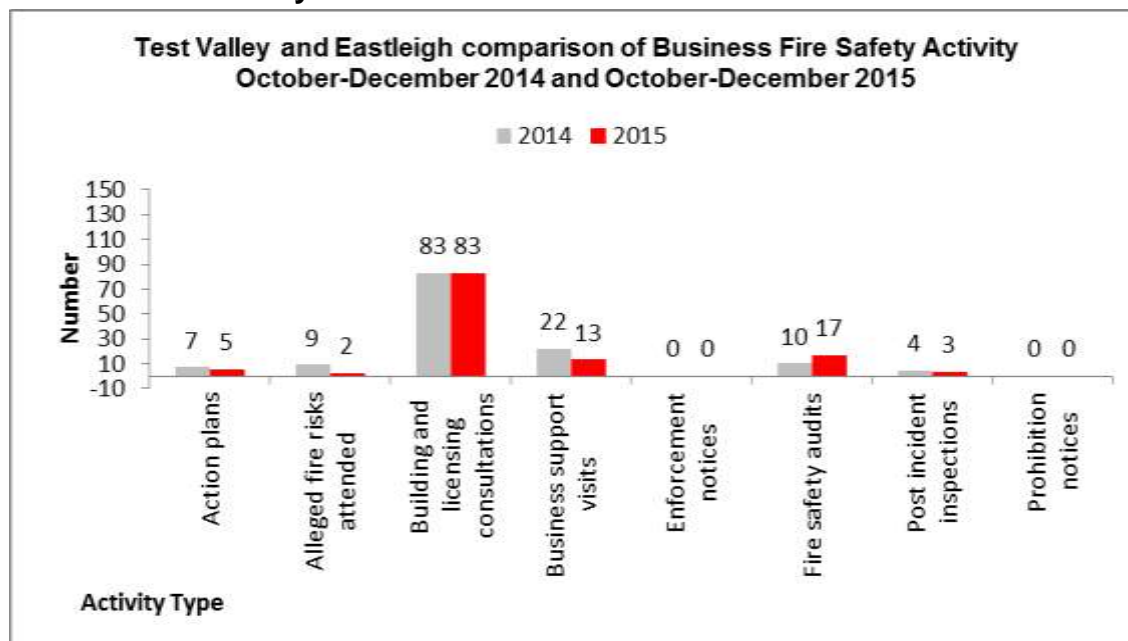
Fire investigations

There were four fire investigations involving three flats and a bungalow.

Arson and risk reduction

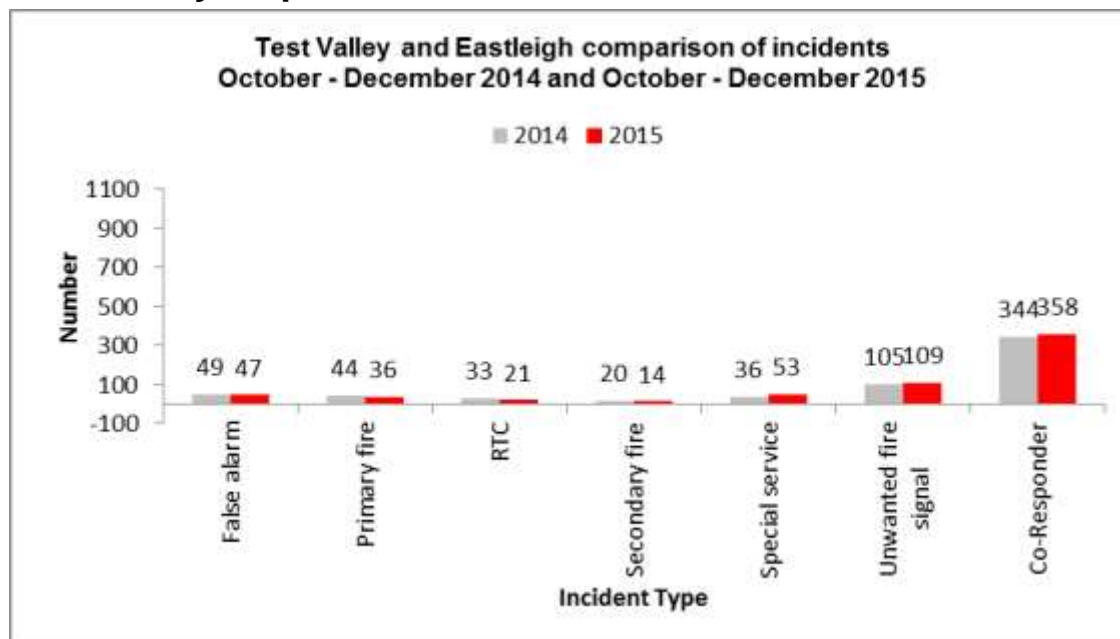
There was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Business fire safety



3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Community response



Fatal crash

On 14 October 2015 crews were requested by police to attend a RTC on the B3049 (Whitehall Road – Folly Road) in Stockbridge. A casualty had possible trapped legs after the car rolled. Crews extricated the casualty and another casualty received treatment. Sadly, the extricated casualty died at the scene.

Dog rescued from a well

On 29 November 2015 crews pulled a four-year-old labradoodle from a well in Eastleigh. Lily had gone missing while being walked in woods off Chestnut Avenue the previous day.

Lily was spotted 2m down the well and a Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service animal rescue specialist was called.



An extendable pole was lowered down to the desperate dog and a noose carefully looped around her shoulders, before she was pulled to the surface and reunited with her grateful owners.

3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits carried out between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	112
Smoke detectors fitted	152

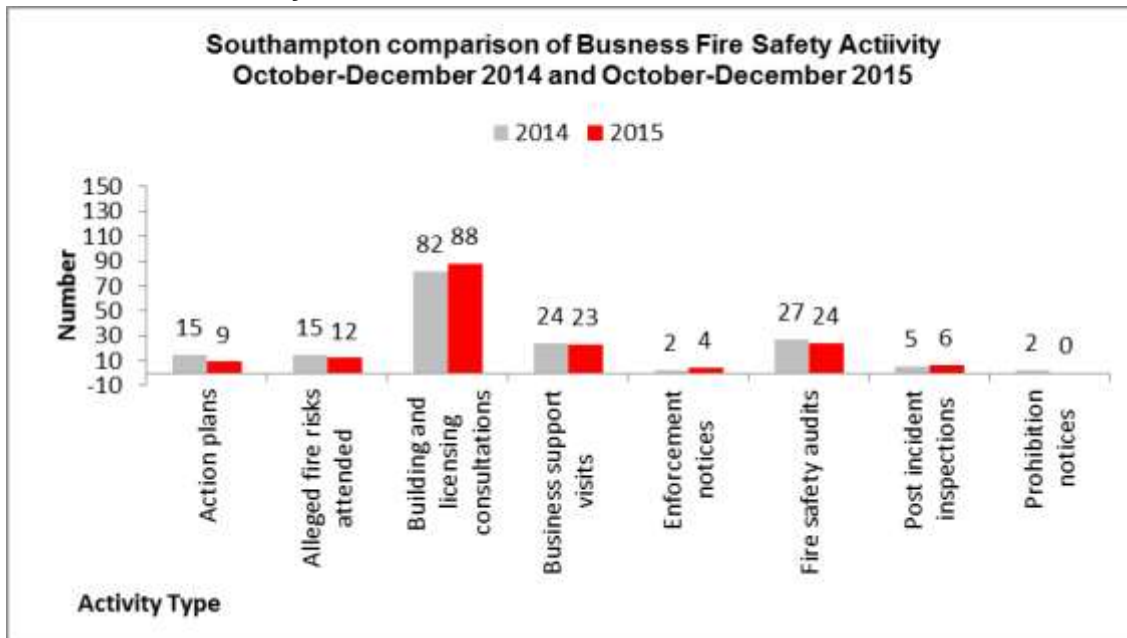
Fire investigations

There were ten fire investigations involving flats, two houses, three houses in multiple occupancy, a sheltered housing property and a public house.

Arson and risk reduction

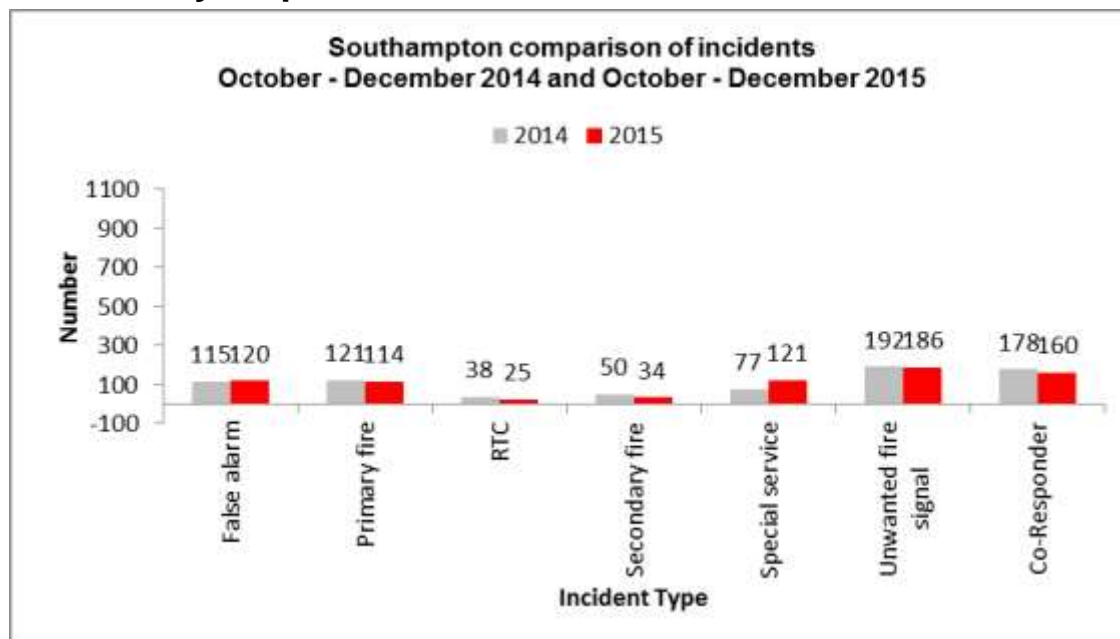
There were two fire investigation search dog deployments and one suspect was charged with arson.

Business fire safety



3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community response



Fatal crash on M271

On 1 December 2015 at 17:17 crews were mobilised to the M271 south between Lordshill and Redbridge roundabout. This was a RTC involving two LGV container lorries and one car. Crews extricated two people from the lorries and they were taken to hospital. Sadly, two people had died in the car and crews assisted with the body retrieval.

Southampton Burger King fire

On 2 October 2015 crews were called to Burger King in West Bargate, Southampton. The building consisted of three floors and the fire involved the ducting which then spread to first floor and roof. Crews wore 20 sets of breathing apparatus and used three hose reels and two jets to put the fire out. An 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 October 2015 and 31 December 2015 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	55
Smoke detectors fitted	71

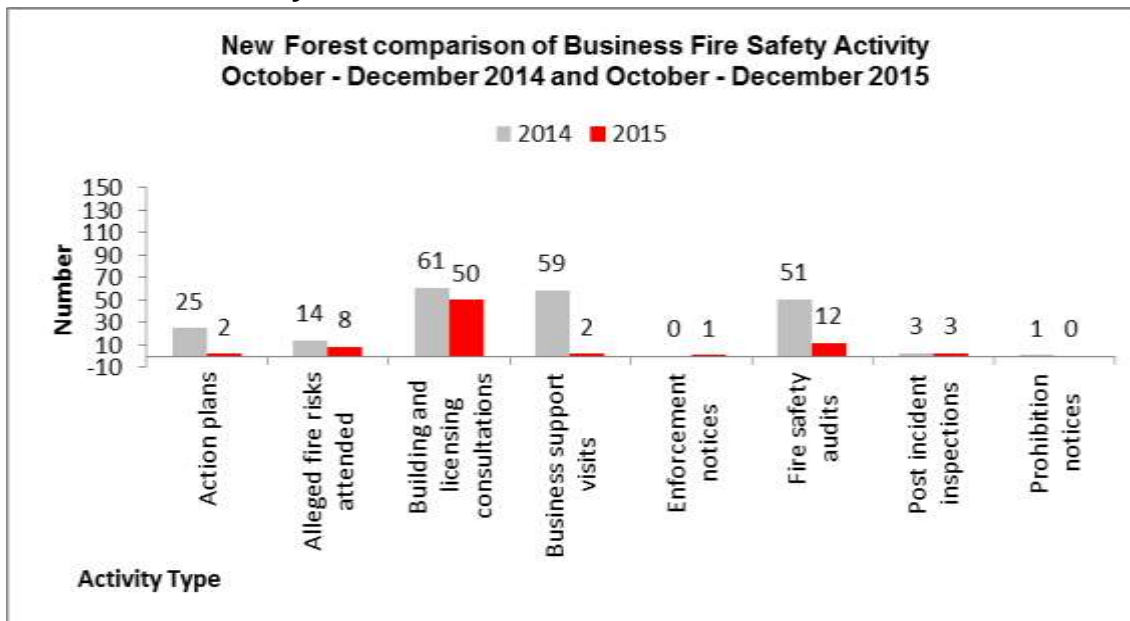
Fire investigations

There were no fire investigations.

Arson and risk reduction

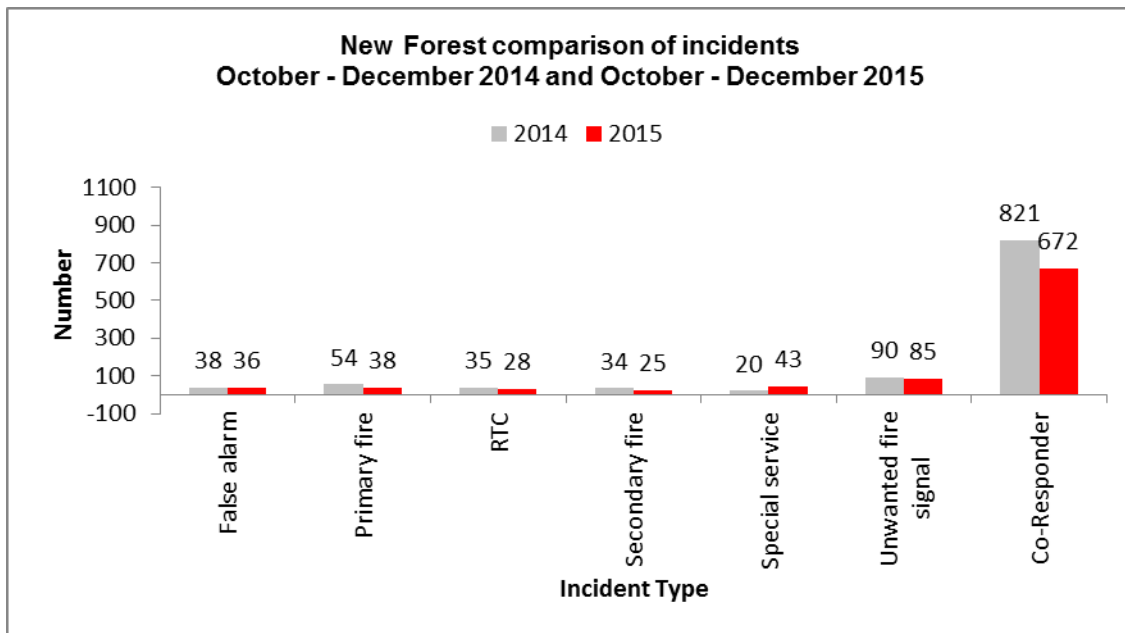
None

Business fire safety



3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community response



Fatal crash in Brockenhurst

On 31 October 2015 at 01:41 crews were called to the B3055 in Brockenhurst. A 20 year old female sadly died when she collided with a tree at speed.

Fatal crash in Minstead

On 17 December 2015 at 00:01 crews were called to Toms Lane Corner in Minstead after a car had left the road. Sadly one female died at the scene and crews assisted the police with the body recovery.

4 Latest news

4.1 Barn fire near Alresford

Crews were called to Abbotstone near Alresford, on 6 February 2016 at 04:05, after reports of a fire in a barn which was used to store hay. There was a storage tank next to the barn which contained approximately 8,000 litres of liquid nitrogen fertilizer.

Crews established a 200 metre hazard zone and took steps to keep the tank cool and prevent it becoming involved whilst using two jets to extinguish the fire. The incident concluded at 12:21 on 7 February 2016.



4.2 High rise fire in Southampton

On 6 February 2016 at 19:57 crews were called to Millbank House in Southampton after reports of a fire. The fire had started in an electrical consumer unit in a flat on the ninth floor.

Crews wore six sets of breathing apparatus and used three jets to put the fire out. They did a great job in stopping the spread of fire in what could have been a more devastating incident.

The flat was 20 per cent damaged by fire and 70 per cent damaged by heat and smoke. Southampton City Council arranged for the family to be rehomed.



4.3 Fire on the Isle of Wight

A large blaze broke out in Cowes on the Isle of Wight on Monday 25 January 2016 involving a workshop at Medina Yard.

We deployed four crews from Hampshire in support of Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue. The crews came from Emsworth, Waterlooville, Portchester and Havant.

Crews wore 10 sets of breathing apparatus and used eight jets and six hose reels to extinguish the fire.

The fire was caused by welding sparks.



4.4 Fire in West Sussex

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service was called to the property in Maybush Drive, Chidham, West Sussex, at 08.35 on 6 February 2016.

We mobilised a crew from Emsworth and a crew from Havant to assist with the incident. We also deployed one of our fire investigators with a fire investigation dog.

Sussex Police confirmed the couple, in their 90s, had died in the fire and they are treating the cause as 'unexplained'.





HAMPSHIRE
**FIRE AND
RESCUE**
AUTHORITY

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