

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

September 2016

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

Contents

Introduction

1 Responding to incidents

- 1.1 Southampton fatal fire, 28/04/16
- 1.2 Southampton fireworks fire, 13/05/16
- 1.3 New Milton fatal fire, 05/06/16
- 1.4 Hangersley domestic fire, 21/06/16

2 Community safety

- 2.1 Children and young people
- 2.2 Road safety
- 2.3 Safe & Well visits
- 2.4 Volunteers
- 2.5 Safeguarding
- 2.6 Fire investigation, Arson Task Force, Firesetters and enforcement support

3 Group activity

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

4 Latest news

- 4.1 Oakley domestic fire, 05/07/16
- 4.2 Farnborough hazmat incident, 19/07/16
- 4.3 Basingstoke church fire, 27/07/16
- 4.4 Biffa waste facility fire, 08/08/16
- 4.5 Boomtown vehicle fire, 12/08/16

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Front page photo: Hangersley Hill domestic fire

Introduction

This Activity Report covers the period 01 April 2016 to 30 June 2016. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 30 June 2016 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the 'Latest news' section of the report.

There have been two fire-related deaths this quarter, a garage fire in Southampton (1.1, P4) and a domestic fire in New Milton (1.3, P4).



Thursday 26 May marked the ground-breaking ceremony for the £6 million rebuild of Basingstoke Fire Station. The new bespoke facility is on the existing West Ham Close site and has comprehensive road links, enabling vehicles to attend incidents as quickly as possible.

Early June saw the return visit by a team of US firefighters to Hampshire after four HFRS and one Isle of Wight firefighter went to Oregon to further their wildfire tackling skills in 2015.

The US firefighters took part in training across many incident types, trialling of the new ultra-high pressure lance systems, studying of new search methods and looking at different means of fire ventilation.

This trans-Atlantic partnership allows both services to benefit from the expertise of the other in areas we both have to tackle, but have very different levels of experience doing so. It is hoped the ongoing relationship will share further learning and develop new skills.



A huge opportunity for training was secured at the end of June when we signed a lease for the site of the Prince Philip Barracks, Bordon, ahead of its demolition and rebuild.

The dream training venue, contains 95 buildings which will give firefighters the chance to practice live burns, rescue operations and disaster scenarios.

We will also be able to trial new concepts and procedures, and buildings will be used for training involving wall-piercing ultra-high pressure lances, new approaches and tactical ventilation.

A base on the site has been leased by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service for five years in agreement with Whitehill and Bordon Regeneration Company. We will also be able to use other buildings depending on the redevelopment schedule.

1 Responding to incidents

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
False alarm	490	749
Primary fire	473	479
RTC	165	217
Secondary fire	615	434
Special service	356	613
Unwanted fire signal	665	665
Co-response	2900	2692
TOTAL	5664	5849

1.1 Southampton fatal fire, 28/04/16

Crews were called to garages on fire on Northumberland Road, Southampton on Thursday 28 April 2016. On arrival crews were informed that there may be someone living in the garage and immediately made up to three pumps and committed firefighters in breathing apparatus to find any casualties.

It was discovered that the double garage had been converted to makeshift living accommodation and one middle aged male was discovered deceased in the fire compartment.

Investigation of the fire later found the cause to be accidental.

1.2 Southampton fireworks fire, 13/05/16

Crews were called on the morning of Friday 13 May 2016 to a fire in a garden centre on Bitterne Road West, Southampton which involved a large quantity of fireworks.

13 pumps, two aerial ladder platforms, two command vehicles and multiple other support vehicles managed to contain the significant fire to the initial property and one adjoining building, saving local businesses and homes.

The fire generated a large amount of local and national news, video, pictures and social content.



1.3 New Milton fatal fire, 05/06/16

Two pumps from New Milton and one from Cosham alongside support vehicles attended a fire in a domestic property on Otters Walk, Ashley, New Milton at 10:24 on Sunday 05 June 2016.

The property was occupied by an elderly couple, and their carer alerted HFRS to the fire before helping the elderly female resident from the house. Crews wearing BA entered the

property on arrival and recovered one unconscious male, who was later pronounced deceased at the scene.

Initial reports of the fire investigation found the cause to be human act through ignition of bedding using a naked flame. The police investigation is ongoing and a Coroners date is yet to be set.

1.4 Hangersley domestic fire, 21/06/16

Eight pumps from St Marys, Burley, Fordingbridge, Brockenhurst, Beaulieu and Ringwood were called to a detached house on Hangersley Hill, Hangersley from 06:37 on the morning of Tuesday 21 June 2016 after reports of a fire.

A member of the public walking their dog nearby reported the fire and on arrival crews found the building fully involved across the ground and first floors and roof. There was no-one in the property at the time of the fire, which caused severe damage and collapse within all areas of the home.



A full level two joint police and fire investigation is underway into the cause of the fire, but the preliminary report indicates that the cause was an electrical fault within the kitchen of the property.

2 Community safety

2.1 Children and Young People (CYP)

FireEd 0-14 – The Schools Education Team

The team has engaged with 7,209 children at Key Stages 1 and 2. They have also engaged with 2,007 children through the Think Safe Event in the Basingstoke, Rushmoor and Andover areas.

Prince's Trust Team programmes

- Teams in Totton, Winchester and Fareham successfully completed on 15 April
- An Eastleigh team ran March - May 2016 for 19 young people
- Three new teams started in May consisting of 37 young people in Rushmoor, Basingstoke and Southampton, who will finish the programme at the end of July

Prince's Trust – Get started with motor vehicles

- This one week introduction and engagement week was held at St Mary's Fire Station and aimed to motivate and engage with diverse young people aged 16 to 25 years old, through various motor vehicle and mechanic activities
- The funded programme started with 13 young people and 12 of these completed the course and are now on their three month post progression journey

FireWise (0-18 1:1 Fire Education)

- Worked with 14 families on a 1-2-1 basis delivering fire and risk behaviour education
- A further 17 families have been engaged with

Phoenix

- We have completed a course in Rushmoor, funded by Rushmoor and Hart Borough Council. A total of 10 children between 11 and 16 completed the five day intensive course and eight the full three month programme
- We also completed a course in Gosport funded by Supporting Troubled Families. Nine children between 11 and 16 completed the three month programme

2.2 Road Safety

We worked with Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth councils, the police and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service to provide a visual presence at all ferry terminals / ports across the county on the Thursday before the Isle of Wight Festival, to actively engage with festival goers around the risk of driving after drinking the night before. This was well received by the public and showed what can be achieved by working together on a joint agency initiative.

This quarter included our Champion of Champions, Junior Road Safety Officers event, held at Winchester Fire Station with 64 children attending from eight different schools across the county – an event we've hosted since 2012. The event included showcasing each school's proactive road safety work, a crash scene investigation, spot the hazard and concluded with each school receiving an award for their commitment.

2.3 Safe & Well visits

Our Safe & Well visits are underway and to date we have completed over 1,745 visits from our priority one category and high risk referrals from our partner agencies. From this we have referred 140 individuals to their GP following a score of three or more on our Falls Risk Assessment Tool.

Across the county stations have been adapting to the new person focused visits and have been working directly with us to adjust messaging and create awareness in their communities.

We are continually seeking feedback from our stations and groups to adjust our support in certain areas or for target audiences, working closely with the new Community Safety management structure within the groups. Our CSOs have been supporting high risk visits and several volunteers have been trained and have also been carrying out visits.

Our Safe & Well video has been adopted by CFA for use at a national level.

2.4 Volunteers

We currently have a total of 88 volunteers. In addition, we have four students from Highbury College supporting Portsmouth initiatives and three students assigned to our Fire Investigation team. We have lost two volunteers during the last quarter but have two awaiting induction and four at various stages of recruitment.

In April 2016, Safe & Well visits were introduced and we have trained our volunteers to undertake the visits. Awareness sessions have also been delivered to our partners Age Concern (Hampshire), who support our community initiatives.

HFRS Volunteers have contributed just under 750 hours for this reporting period including 90 Safe & Well visits.

2.5 Safeguarding

Adult Services Safeguarding Referrals	130
Children Services Safeguarding Referrals	9

Safeguarding Advocates (station based)

A Safeguarding Advocate trial has been launched within three stations (two wholetime and one retained). This should provide an enhanced level of understanding and training to the advocate (one per watch) on safeguarding themes, creating the ability for them to lead and cascade their awareness to station based colleagues.

We plan to evaluate the trial in December 2016 and if deemed successful, a proposal will be drafted for the initiative to be rolled out across the Service, with the development of the HFRS Safeguarding Advocate Network.

Safeguarding Workplace Assessment 1.1.1

To enhance current training a bank of scenario based questions have been developed. The questions consist of various situations with safeguarding considerations that HFRS personnel are likely to encounter whilst undertaking their role.

All personnel are required to achieve the required pass mark, before being deemed competent within HFRS Safeguarding practices.

2.6 Fire investigation, Arson Task Force, Firesetters and enforcement support

Arson Task Force

The Arson Task Force has supported 36 investigations in this reporting period with 24 deliberate fires, 11 accidental fires and one not known.

This quarter has also seen the successful conclusion of two cases at court:

- 04/04/16 – Gemma Keefe was given a 12 month community service order by Portsmouth Crown Court for an offence of arson at 2 Patchway Drive, Fareham
- 08/06/16 – Leon Wayne was given six years imprisonment for reckless arson at 30 Lambdens Walk, Tadley

During this period there were two fatalities involving fire:

- 02/04/2016 – Garages on Northumberland Road, Southampton with the Coroners ruling on 13/07/16 this was mostly likely to have been caused by a discarded cigarette or flame from a candle
- 05/06/16 – Domestic property on Otters Walk, New Milton with one 89 year old male deceased at the scene. Currently awaiting Coroners date

Firesetters

During this period we have taken on six arson offenders and are currently working with them through our Adult Firesetter Intervention Programme.

The four currently trained Restorative Justice Practitioners have been involved in assisting with the Sycamore Tree Project (www.sycamoretree.org.uk), run within HMP/YOI Winchester.

3 Group Activity

3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	4
Safe & Well visits	46
Smoke detectors fitted	37

Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	6	3
Alleged fire risks attended	8	9
Building and licensing consultations	66	71
Business support visits	11	5
Enforcement notices	0	0
Fire safety audits	20	14
Post incident inspections	0	1
Prohibition notices	0	0

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	45	64
Primary fire	31	29
RTC	19	30
Secondary fire	51	37
Special service	26	36
Unwanted fire signal	59	66
Co-response	12	4
TOTAL	243	266

Significant incidents

- *28/04/16, thatch fire, Farleigh Road, Nutley*
Fire involving detached two-storey dwelling with thatched roof. 75% of roof damaged by fire, 100% of first floor damaged by fire, smoke and water and 100% of ground floor damaged by smoke and water. 18 pumps plus support vehicles attended over the course of the incident and 42 breathing apparatus, two jets, two hose reels and two CAFS jets were used
- *02/06/16, high rise fire, Normandy House, Alencon Link, Basingstoke*
Fire on sixth floor of disused office block. Six pumps, one ALP and support vehicles attended, 17 breathing apparatus, three internal jets, one external jet and aerial ladder platform used

3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	8
Safe & Well visits	46
Smoke detectors fitted	37

Fire investigations

There were six fire investigations, two resulting in arrests, two people arrested and one charged and bailed, along with two statements taken in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	6	9
Alleged fire risks attended	9	6
Building and licensing consultations	37	75
Business support visits	85	5
Enforcement notices	0	0
Fire safety audits	12	16
Post incident inspections	0	2
Prohibition notices	0	2

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	38	68
Primary fire	41	48
RTC	12	21
Secondary fire	79	41
Special service	22	52
Unwanted fire signal	65	64
Co-response	91	86
TOTAL	348	380

Significant incidents

- 10/04/16, domestic fire, Florence Road, Fleet*
 Fire in lounge at rear of bungalow. One 82 year old woman treated for smoke inhalation at scene but refused to go to hospital. Lounge 100% damaged by fire, conservatory 50% with smoke damage throughout the rest of the property. Four pumps attended, two breathing apparatus, one jet and two hose reels used
- 17/05/16, commercial / industrial fire, Mount Pleasant, Hartley Wintney*
 Fire involving roof of church, 100% damaged by fire. Seven pumps, one ALP and support units attended. Eight breathing apparatus, three hose reels and three jets used

3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	28
Safe & Well visits	146
Smoke detectors fitted	129

Fire investigations

There were six fire investigations, one resulting in the arrest of a single individual in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	15	11
Alleged fire risks attended	11	9
Building and licensing consultations	69	65
Business support visits	9	15
Enforcement notices	0	0
Fire safety audits	19	24
Post incident inspections	2	5
Prohibition notices	1	1

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	61	79
Primary fire	53	72
RTC	25	29
Secondary fire	92	52
Special service	46	59
Unwanted fire signal	82	60
Co-response	792	827
TOTAL	1151	1178

Significant incidents

- *01/05/16, thatch fire, East Meon Road, Petersfield*
Fire in roof of detached thatched cottage. Roof, first and ground floor all severely damaged by fire and building structurally unstable. 22 pumps plus support vehicles attended over the length of the incident. 28 breathing apparatus, four CAFS jets and two jets used

3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	17
Safe & Well visits	90
Smoke detectors fitted	104

Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations, one resulting in the arrest of three people and one person charged and bailed, along with three statements taken in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	9	17
Alleged fire risks attended	2	6
Building and licensing consultations	50	60
Business support visits	25	19
Enforcement notices	0	0
Fire safety audits	8	17
Post incident inspections	3	1
Prohibition notices	0	0

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	45	93
Primary fire	48	43
RTC	12	21
Secondary fire	66	58
Special service	48	77
Unwanted fire signal	68	73
Co-response	272	248
TOTAL	559	613

Significant incidents

- *08/06/16, domestic fire, Tintern Road, Gosport*
Fire in first floor bedroom of two-storey mid-terrace property. Bedroom 100% damaged by fire and remainder of the first floor damaged by smoke, rear of kitchen slightly damaged by water and slight fire damage to roof of neighbouring property. Four pumps attended, using six breathing apparatus, two hose reels and one jet

3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	36
Safe & Well visits	122
Smoke detectors fitted	108

Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations, one resulting in the arrest of three people and one person charged and bailed, along with one statement taken in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	13	20
Alleged fire risks attended	24	30
Building and licensing consultations	90	71
Business support visits	64	9
Enforcement notices	1	1
Fire safety audits	39	33
Post incident inspections	19	12
Prohibition notices	1	3

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	74	115
Primary fire	65	56
RTC	12	24
Secondary fire	63	74
Special service	64	126
Unwanted fire signal	100	75
Co-response	294	259
TOTAL	672	729

Significant incidents

- 13/05/16, domestic fire, Adair Road, Southsea*
 Fire involving first floor bedroom of two-storey dwelling. First floor 40% damaged by fire with remainder damaged by heat and smoke. Seven pumps plus support vehicles attended. Fourteen breathing apparatus, three hose reels and two jets used
- 20/05/16, domestic fire, Montgomerie Road, Southsea*
 Fire in front bedroom of mid-terrace two-storey house. First floor 100% damaged by fire and one female casualty treated by ambulance service for smoke inhalation and anxiety. Four pumps plus support vehicles attended. Two breathing apparatus, one jet and one hose reel used

3.6 Group activity – Winchester

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	10
Safe & Well visits	127
Smoke detectors fitted	100

Fire investigations

There were two fire investigations in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	5	4
Alleged fire risks attended	4	8
Building and licensing consultations	55	45
Business support visits	34	28
Enforcement notices	0	0
Fire safety audits	14	9
Post incident inspections	2	1
Prohibition notices	0	1

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	21	43
Primary fire	23	32
RTC	21	14
Secondary fire	22	15
Special service	21	33
Unwanted fire signal	51	77
Co-response	148	86
TOTAL	307	300

Significant incidents

- *24/04/16, domestic fire, Alresford Road, Winchester*
Fire in roof space of detached timber-built single-storey building with slate roof. Three pumps plus support vehicles attended. Six breathing apparatus, two hose reels and one jet used
- *25/04/16, RTC, A33, Micheldever*
RTC between a car and tree (vehicle swerved to avoid deer). One female casualty deceased at the scene. Media interest due to casualty being 24 year old nurse at Winchester Hospital on her way to work. One pump attended.

3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	16
Safe & Well visits	125
Smoke detectors fitted	87

Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	6	2
Alleged fire risks attended	11	11
Building and licensing consultations	76	101
Business support visits	33	22
Enforcement notices	0	0
Fire safety audits	15	9
Post incident inspections	1	1
Prohibition notices	0	1

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	43	76
Primary fire	53	47
RTC	17	24
Secondary fire	48	29
Special service	35	58
Unwanted fire signal	64	63
Co-response	365	305
TOTAL	625	602

Significant incidents

- *13/04/16, RTC, Stockbridge Road, Leckford*
RTC involving two motorcyclists and one HGV. One male deceased at the scene and one in care of ambulance service. A single pump attended
- *28/04/16, domestic fire, Romsey Road, East Wellow*
Fire in kitchen extension of two-storey house. 25% fire damage to ground floor with 100% smoke damage to ground and first floor. Three pumps attended. Eight breathing apparatus, two jets and one hose reel used

3.8 Group activity – Southampton

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	17
Safe & Well visits	353
Smoke detectors fitted	206

Fire investigations

There were seven fire investigations, two resulting in arrests, one person arrested, charged and bailed, along with three statements taken in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	16	12
Alleged fire risks attended	14	7
Building and licensing consultations	71	94
Business support visits	11	53
Enforcement notices	4	0
Fire safety audits	32	12
Post incident inspections	11	7
Prohibition notices	0	0

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	132	145
Primary fire	107	106
RTC	29	27
Secondary fire	131	88
Special service	63	137
Unwanted fire signal	109	108
Co-response	189	201
TOTAL	760	812

Significant incidents

- *02/04/16, fatal fire, Northumberland Road, Southampton*
Fire in garages, one male deceased. More information in section 1.1, P4
- *06/05/16, large hazmat, Test Lane, Nursling*
Small leak of vinyltoluenes contained by on site staff ahead of monitoring and cordoning off by HFRS. Incident handed over to specialists to make safe and arrange removal. Six pumps plus support units attended
- *13/05/16, large hazmat, Bitterne Road West, Southampton*
Fire in a fireworks shop. More information in section 1.2, P4

3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits and Safe & Well visits carried out and smoke detectors fitted between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016.

Home Safety visits	17
Safe & Well visits	72
Smoke detectors fitted	53

Fire investigations

There were three fire investigations, one resulting in an arrest with one person arrested, charged and cautioned, along with four statements taken in this reporting period.

Business fire safety

	Q1 2015-16	Q1 2016-17
Action plans	10	1
Alleged fire risks attended	4	2
Building and licensing consultations	56	77
Business support visits	19	21
Enforcement notices	1	0
Fire safety audits	39	6
Post incident inspections	3	2
Prohibition notices	0	0

Community response

	Q1 2015-16	Q4 2016-17
False alarm	31	66
Primary fire	52	46
RTC	18	27
Secondary fire	63	40
Special service	31	35
Unwanted fire signal	67	79
Co-response	737	676
TOTAL	999	969

Significant incidents

- 11/04/16, roof fire, Warrys Close, Hythe*
Two-storey building used as a domestic dwelling with fire located in roof space. Roof 100% damaged by fire and first floor damaged by water. Four pumps attended. Four breathing apparatus, one jet and three hose reels used
- 13/05/16, boat rescue, Prospect Place, Hythe*
15-tonne passenger ferry Uriah Heep ran into Hythe Pier and two people were injured on board. HFRS personnel assisted other agencies. Four pumps plus support vehicles attended

4 Latest news

4.1 Oakley domestic fire, 05/07/16

Three Basingstoke pumps attended a semi-detached property on Lightsfield, Oakley at 22:57 on Tuesday 05 July 2016 after reports of a fire.

One 60 year old female casualty was rescued from the property unconscious and received life-saving resuscitation from crews on scene before the arrival of colleagues from South Central Ambulance Service.

The fire investigation concluded that the most likely cause of fire was an electrical / mechanical fault within a heat pad causing a fire which spread to surrounding combustible materials.

4.2 Farnborough hazmat incident, 19/07/16



Four pumps, a hazmat vehicle, a response support vehicle and an environmental protection unit attended Tiscis Limited on Invincible Road, Farnborough at 10:44 on Tuesday 19 July 2016 after reports of a gas chemical leak.

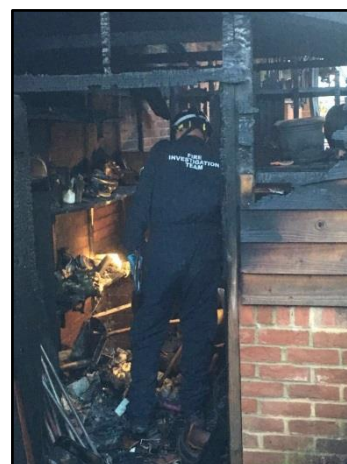
Two firefighters in breathing apparatus and gauntlets were committed to the risk area to prevent chemical vapour entering the drain systems. The chemical was identified as Methylchlorosilane. Two further firefighters in breathing apparatus were committed to assess the storage cupboard housing the chemical to allow the briefing of a specialist advisor ahead of incident being handed back to occupier.

4.3 Basingstoke church fire, 27/07/16

Six pumps, an aerial ladder platform and two command vehicles attended St Joseph's Church, St Michaels Road, Basingstoke at 19:06 on Wednesday 27 July 2016 after reports of a fire.

The fire started in a small adjacent shed before spreading into a garage and roof space of the church. Crews used three hose reels, two jets and 12 breathing apparatus to handle the incident. The majority of the church was saved with only minor fire damage to the interior of the building.

A joint investigation found the most likely cause to be human act, and two young people were arrested by police. The investigation is ongoing.



4.4 Biffa waste facility fire, 08/08/16



23 pumps, two aerial ladder platforms and multiple support vehicles attended the Biffa Waste Services site on the Marchwood Industrial Park over the course of a 26-hour incident from 12:28 on Monday 08 August 2016.

150 tonnes of household waste were well alight within the facility, 100 tonnes of which were removed and extinguished by crews. In total 50 breathing apparatus and eight jets were used.

The site was handed back to owners at 13:44 on Tuesday 09 August 2016 once the site had been fully extinguished and damped down.

4.5 Boomtown vehicle fire, 12/08/16

Nine pumps plus support vehicles attended a significant fire involving nearly 100 cars at the Boomtown music festival on Alresford Road, Winchester at 16:15 on Friday 12 August 2016.

Crews were confronted with a swiftly moving fire in one of the festival's car parks, in close proximity to numerous other vehicles as well as the 'Boomtique' camp site for the festival, which was evacuated as a precaution.

Using eight breathing apparatus, three jets and two hose reels, crews extinguished the fire which fully destroyed 80 cars and damaged 12 more. The incident generated huge media interest due to the location at a music festival as well as video and images tweeted from the scene.



The cause was found to be a discarded cigarette setting light to stubble around the vehicles.