

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
SERVICE

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Front page photo: Hambledon floods

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Introduction

This activity report covers the period 1 October 2013 to 31 December 2013. Any notable incidents that have occurred after 31 December 2013 and before the report has been issued are listed in the back in the “Stop Press” section of the report.

There have been no fire deaths during this period but sadly one male died after entering a lake at Lakeside Country Park in Eastleigh on 9 December.

Hampshire was badly affected by strong winds, heavy rain and flooding on 23 December which caused much disruption to the county. The Service took 460 adverse weather related 999 calls and opened the Major Incident Room.

We have been working with the community of Hambledon for many months now to improve their resilience for the possibility of flooding. We are currently supporting the village during the current flooding further details will be included in the next report.

Due to the weather that has been affecting the east coast, we sent a water rescue response team to Suffolk on 4 December to assist with flooding caused by tidal surges. We also deployed our high volume pumping resources to Norfolk on 6 December. These actions were taken following a request from the National Coordinating Centre as part of national arrangements, (for more details see 2.8).

We had eight periods of industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union during this period. The Service managed to maintain around 50 per cent cover (for more details see 2.9).

Our staff awards event Celebrating Success was held on 11 December with over 200 attendees including the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire and the county’s Police and Crime



Commissioner. The Marketing and Communications team raised £4,500 in sponsorship to enable the event to go ahead in the appliance bay, which was transformed by the hire of a marquee and staging. Following a survey, 96 per cent of attendees rated the event as excellent or very good. Around 30 awards were presented on the night.

1 Responding to incidents

Incident category	Oct - Dec 12	Oct - Dec 13
False alarm	460	516
Primary fire	546	513
RTC	303	244
Secondary fire	320	296
Special service call	546	628
Unwanted fire signal	1066	1148
Total	3241	3345

1.1 Smoke alarm saved Fareham mother and toddler

A working smoke alarm came to the rescue of a mother and toddler after a fire broke out in their Fareham home on 7 October 2013.

Fareham fire crews were called to Hillson Drive in Hill Park just before 13:00 to a fire in a ground floor living room. The mother and her child, who had been upstairs in their home, had managed to escape through the front door thanks to the early warning from the smoke alarm downstairs. Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze in under an hour but there was significant damage to the living room and smoke damage to the rest of the house. Two crews from Fareham used two sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel to extinguish the blaze.

The mother heard the alarm activating downstairs and saw the fire in the living room. She then had time to dash back upstairs and get her child before escaping out of the front door.

The Red Cross's Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS) also attended to offer help and advice to the mother and her family. The cause of the fire was most likely careless disposal of smoking materials.

1.2 Crews tackled a roof fire in Shirrell Heath

Control operators received a call about a roof fire in Shirrell Heath on 22 October 2013 at 20:21.

Around 45 firefighters were mobilised from Wickham, Bishops Waltham, Droxford, Fareham and Hightown. The aerial ladder platform from Southsea and the special equipment unit from Cosham were also deployed.

On arrival firefighters were faced with a fire in the roof of a two storey house. Firefighters used two sets of breathing apparatus, three hose reels and three jets to extinguish the fire. The roof was 100 per cent damaged by fire and the first floor was 20 per cent damaged by fire. The stop message came in at 01:58 on 23 October 2013 and it is thought to have been caused by a lightning strike.

1 Responding to incidents

1.3 Severe fire in thatched cottage, Brockenhurst

Fire crews attended a major roof fire on 2 December 2013 at a private property in the village of Brockenhurst. Control operators were alerted to the fire at 19:10 and mobilised crews from stations in the New Forest and Southampton.



The response swiftly escalated to seven pumps, the multi-role vehicle and a water carrier for additional water supplies. Then a further five appliances due to the serious nature of this incident.

In total, more than 90 firefighters were at the scene and 10 sets of breathing apparatus, three main jets, three CAFS jets, and two hose reels were used.

Crews remained on scene until the early hours of 3 December 2013. The most likely cause of the fire was heat spread from chimney flue lining to thatch through poor pointing or brick work.

1.4 Roof fire in Midanbury, Southampton

Control operators were alerted to a property fire at 05:35 on 13 December 2013.

Fire appliances were dispatched immediately and the first appliances on scene were met by a significant roof fire in a detached bungalow. Further resources were quickly requested.

Appliances from St. Mary's, Hightown, Redbridge and Eastleigh Fire Stations were sent and they used three jets.

Approximately 45 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel

were at this incident. One male was treated for smoke inhalation by the ambulance service.



The most likely cause of this incident was accidental from radiated heat or a direct flame impingement from the chimney flue.

2 Community safety

2.1 Schools and Education Team

This quarter we have raised the number of primary aged children we have engaged with.

4,939 Key Stage 1 pupils during 80 school visits **(up 47 per cent on last year)**.

4,237 Key Stage 2 pupils during 71 school visits **(over double last year)**.



We have also spoken to a total of 932 adults from the extended school community during school assemblies **(up 78% on last year)**.

We are continuing to support secondary school staff with a selection of resources to deliver safety education topics. Being mindful of the economic climate, we are actively encouraging schools to consider signing up for our new accredited Fire Service Short Course. One school in Arnwood has already signed up.

We took part in and supported the following events, which brings

together partners to support children's learning, across the county:

Type of event	Working with	Location	No of children	Number of adults
Think Safe	East Hampshire District Council	Queen Elizabeth Country Park	807	86
Junior Citizen	Havant Borough Council	Fort Purbrook, Southampton	1092	150
Health Day	Southampton University School of Education	University Campus	0	26
SNAP (Say No and Phone) disco	Hampshire Constabulary	Fernham Hall, Fareham	600	30
Primary Newly Qualified Teachers Conference	Hampshire County Council (HCC) Children's Services	Guildhall, Winchester	0	200+
Junior Road Safety Officers Conferences	HCC Road Safety team	Botley Park Hotel and Hampshire Court Hotel.	160	40
Personal Development Learning - Teachers Conference	HCC Children's Services	Guildhall, Winchester	0	64

2 Community safety

2.2 Home safety - safeguarding

In the last report we introduced our new home safety project – A Safer Home, designed to improve our home safety activity by working with partners to identify those at most risk and offer a solution to reduce their risk of having a fire in the home.

One recent example demonstrating the value of this approach followed the identification of a 53 year old vulnerable female who is a heavy smoker with a high alcohol dependency and limited mobility. Working as a collective with our partner agencies we influenced the installation of a portable water mist sprinkler system. Additional protective measures have been provided including a telecare system which informs a central control room of urgent needs of the person and protective fire retardant bedding. This unified approach now means this person is much safer in her home.

2.3 Volunteers

At the end of this reporting period we had a total of 51 volunteers. We are currently advertising opportunities for volunteers to assist with community safety in the New Forest and Rushmoor Groups and for volunteers skilled in British Sign Language to carry out home safety visits in the south of the county.

Activity 1 October - 31 December 2013	Quantity	No. of active volunteers
Home safety visits	120	7
Young Firefighters Association	30	4
Community events	29	10
Meetings/admin	51	9
Training	19	11
Total voluntary hours	741	27

The decrease in hours compared to the previous quarter is partly due to there being no RideSMART activity (11 volunteers) during this period, together with a number of volunteers taking a break from volunteering in December.

We continue to work with Age Concern who are managing the Village Agent initiative on behalf of Hampshire County Council. The number of Village Agents (VAs) is continuing to grow and they are forming positive links with our community safety officers across the county.

A new Volunteer Award was introduced at this year's Celebrating Success event and three volunteers were awarded for their significant contribution to the Service; Richard Swann who supports the Test Valley and Eastleigh Group with their prevention agenda, Anny Warren who provides home safety visits across the county in Sign Language and Karen Wood who supports Cosham Fire Station with their youth engagement and road safety strategy.

2 Community safety

2.4 Children and Young People (CYP) Educational programmes

Prince's Trust teams

Southampton team 34 completed with 11 out of 11 young people with a retention and success rate of 100 per cent.

Eastleigh team 3 completed with 13 out of 15 young people with a retention and success rate of 87 per cent.

Rushmoor team 6 completed with 21 out of 21 young people with a retention and success rate of 100 per cent.

All young people who completed a team achieved the Prince's Trust qualification in employment, team work and community skills at either entry level 1, 2 or 3. They also all achieved modules of our accredited Fire and Rescue Short Course.

Children and young people

In November we combined our Community Safety team at Rushmoor with our local partners TAG Farnborough Airport. We delivered an accredited Fire Service Short Course to a group of 13-16 year olds, designed to give young adults the chance to develop and learn new skills through strict boundaries and close teamwork. During the 30 hours spent at the fire station and airport site the students qualified for two modules, with a 100 per cent retention and success rate.

The Safer North Hampshire Partnership launched a Basingstoke Challenge and Change programme pilot course. This course designed for children aged 13-16, seeks to challenge behaviour and through a multi agency approach change the way these people act. HFRS are supporting this programme and delivered an accredited short course to the children, which provided formal recognition and achievement.

2 Community safety

2.5 Fire Investigation

There have been 53 fire investigations in this reporting period, 39 deliberate fires, 11 non-suspicious and three undetermined.

Fire Investigation (FI) and Arson Task Force (ATF) have supported the investigation of 41 arson offences, with 21 arrests made in relation to 13 offences committed in Basingstoke and Deane, Rushmoor and Hart, Fareham and Gosport, New Forest, Portsmouth, Winchester and Eastleigh Groups.

Additional case results have been received in relation to four investigations and two Coroners Inquests in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary.

- Following an act of arson to 5 Stubbs Court, Artist Way, Andover on Wednesday 26 June 2013, Thomas Ramage was found guilty of committing arson, grievous bodily harm (GBH), false imprisonment and robbery. At the hearing on Thursday 31 October 2013 at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Ramage was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.
- Following an act of arson at Forrest Education Centre, Cabot Drive, Dibden on Tuesday 29 October 2013, Ben Timothy Sharpe was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on Thursday 7 November 2013 at Southampton Youth Court, Mr Sharpe was given a 12 months Referral Order.
- Following an act of arson at 2 Howard Road, Basingstoke on Wednesday 24 April 2013, Allan Jason Pyne was found guilty of committing arson being reckless. At the hearing on Tuesday 5 December 2013 at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Pyne was sentenced 24 months imprisonment.
- Following an act of arson at Portsmouth Magistrates Court, Portsmouth on Wednesday 31 July 2013, Michael John Brains was found guilty of committing arson. At the hearing on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at Southampton Crown Court, Mr Brains was fined £115.

Evidence found at the scenes by HFRS fire investigators, HFRS fire crews and Hampshire Constabulary crime scene investigators was instrumental in securing the convictions.



2 Community safety

The FI and ATF teams have, over the last three months, been actively involved in carrying out multi agency fire investigations throughout the county. They have also continued to maintain regional fire investigation search dog cover for the South East Region. The FI and ATF have undertaken the following work in this reporting period:

1. Police community support officers FI training at Hampshire Police HQ, Netley.
2. Continuous South East Regional Fire Investigation Group Joint Working/shared services and project work.
3. Presentations and demonstrations at HFRS market places.
4. Setting up and delivery of theory and practical sessions of Supervisory Managers Managing Incidents (SMMI) course FI module.
5. Delivered a total of six FI search dog presentations and demonstrations including Odyssey Youth Centre in Portchester, Tri Service event for vulnerable adults, one to one with children with physical and/or learning difficulties and one at a multi partner agency training day.
6. Creation of three case studies for National Candle Safety Week, creation of three case studies at Westminster Hall debate and one case study published on the Black Museum website.

Additionally the team has deployed the fire investigation search dogs throughout Hampshire and the South East Region to assist with 21 fire investigations.

2.6 Firesetter Intervention Scheme

Our Firesetter Intervention team continue to respond to partner agency referrals to educate people who have been identified as being at greater risk of being involved in or setting fires. The team has responded to 23 such referrals in this period for children and six for adults.

To ensure our team are equipped with the best skills and up to date techniques we facilitate regular training events. During this period Microsoft UK kindly hosted us where the theme was mental health and juvenile fire setting.

We continue to attend Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings. These meetings across the county highlight and discuss high risk individuals seeking a multi agency solution to resolve the issues.

2 Community safety

2.7 Road safety

Christmas 'Operation Holly' campaign – at nine locations across the county, working in partnership with the police and local authority road safety teams, we delivered a campaign that focussed on reducing incidents of drink and drug impaired driving. The message was targeted towards members of the public frequenting evening entertainment venues.

The innovative theatre education project 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' was held at Winchester Guildhall on 18 and 19 November. Approximately 1,500 young people attended this powerful and emotional event which explored the circumstances and consequences of a road traffic collision.

We have continued to run a programme of young person driver awareness education events, providing resources at Sparsholt College, Winchester University, Sixth Form College in Farnborough, Portsmouth College, Highbury College, Eastleigh College, Bohunt Community School, and a week long event of education at South Downs College.

In addition we were able to support, jointly with police, the military drink drive campaign to 300 Army young drivers in Aldershot, demonstrations in Aldershot to raise awareness of effects of drink driving, and organise a joint emergency services road safety day in Bordon.

2.8 National resilience capability

Exercise Modex Falck in Venice 9 –12 December 2013

As part of the UK-ISAR team taking part in this exercise Hampshire provided a base of operations team of four, a search and rescue team of six and a canine search team of one dog and one handler. The exercise was located at various challenging locations around the Venetian lagoon. This exercise was part of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism aimed at testing and providing realistic multi national interoperability. Initial feedback from the EU evaluators on the team's performance has been extremely positive.

USAR deployment to severe weather incidents 23-24 December 2013

With the advance warning of severe weather for the night of the 23-24 December it was decided to stand up the USAR chainsaw team in preparation of the high probability of damage caused by falling trees. By 9pm it became clear that the local authority chainsaw teams had become overwhelmed by the number of trees blocking the road network. With a USAR manager in the major incident room, three teams of two chainsaw trained personnel were deployed to nine identified wind blown trees blocking transport routes in Hampshire. In travelling from one location to another, additional trees were cleared including the release of a police unit which had become trapped between two fallen trees. In all, over 30 trees were cleared from Hampshire Highways maintaining transport links for the emergency services and the public in very challenging conditions.

On the 24 December 2013, two members of the USAR rope team attended Southampton Civic Centre Clock Tower where the storm had severely damaged the copper roof sheeting. Due to the danger of large flying copper sheets in central Southampton the remaining sheets were removed. One of the loose sheets had already landed a considerable distance away in a public street and this danger was negated by the team's actions.

Flooding support

On 4 December we sent a crew of six and two RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats) with highly trained (Level 4) personnel from our water rescue team to Suffolk in anticipation of a tidal surge. The request for our water rescue team came from the National Coordinating Centre and was part of national arrangements.

We opened up the Major Incident Room (MIR) which was running overnight to coordinate resources nationally and locally.

Our water rescue resources were deployed to Norfolk on 6 December 2013 after a call came in at 13:07. Crews attended from Hardley, Hythe and Ringwood with a high volume pump vehicle and two support vehicles. Crews remained in Norfolk until the evening of 7 December 2013.



2.9 Co-responders

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel attended 2,329 medical incidents on behalf of South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust during this period.

Month	Calls
October	723
November	780
December	826
Total	2329



The Service has seen an expansion of its Co-responder stations from 18 to 19 adding Portchester as the new station. Portchester alone attended 123 calls during its first month in service.

2.10 Marketing and Communications

Industrial action

Between October and December, there were eight periods of industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union. The communication strategy was to provide clear, simple advice and safety information to the public to help reduce 999 calls during these periods.

A dedicated page on industrial action was created on the Service's website. This contained the latest updates on industrial action dates and durations, a video safety message from the Chief Officer John Bonney, a frequently asked questions section and safety advice for homes and businesses. Regular press releases were issued to all mainstream and community publications providing updates on industrial action dates and relevant safety advice. Adverts were also produced for key local newspapers and radio stations highlighting the dates and safety advice.

Tick, Tock, Test

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

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

Candle Safety Week

The national Candle Safety Week was supported with a media campaign that involved interviews with local radio stations. This was supported with articles in local newspapers and also a social media campaign.

Christmas campaign



The team designed a 12 Days of Christmas campaign with original artwork produced by the in-house design team. This campaign highlighted the importance of safety over the festive period. It featured seasonal jokes disseminated via social media to create and engage with a fun set of safety messages. Total social media reach was 86,932. This drove 203 unique visitors to the HFRS website.

Social Media

A trial of Control staff regularly updating the Recent Incidents page of the HFRS website to feed the corporate Twitter account took place from September to December 2013 and has now successfully concluded. Control staff tweeted 165 incidents, an average of 1.35 a day and there are now 1,492 more Twitter followers of HFRS – a 15% rise since September. The rise for the previous four month period was 12%. Visits to the Recent Incidents pages have doubled since September (to 24,000). Control staff updating regular incidents in this way will now continue on a business as usual basis. This represents a great example of innovation and working practice, and the Marketing and Communications team would like to thank Control staff for their fantastic response to this trial and for agreeing to take on this work on an on going basis.

In December the Marketing and Communications team proactively distributed 18 news releases which led to 189 media hits across print, web, radio and TV with an Advertising Value Equivalency (AVE) of £112,891. The most popular was the Brockenhurst thatch fire on 4 December (for more details see 1.3).

3 Group activity

3.1 Group activity– Basingstoke and Dean Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	133
Smoke detectors fitted	140

Fire investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group had five investigations involving two flats, two houses and a public house.

Arson and risk reduction

Seven statements were taken.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

The business support officers (BSOs) continue to work with the communities to give advice on reducing the risk of fire and minimising the consequences especially in rural areas.

Example of activities of the BSOs.

- Partnership working with the police to reduce the risk to people and fire on farms
- Identification and risk reduction of premises which store and use acetylene
- Attendance at Festival Place shopping centre for a pre Christmas initiative where the BSO's engaged with approximately 20 shops within the centre, including 'Pop Up' shops. These temporary shops had some issues around means of escape which were resolved at the time.
- Attending premises with poor records in unwanted fire alarm activations and giving advice.

An inspector carried out a fire safety audit of a seventeenth century listed public house in Sherfield on Loddon (The White Hart) which had sleeping accommodation on the first floor. The fire safety provisions were poor, the risk assessment was not suitable and the means of escape was not protected. Advice was given so that the premises could remain open. An agreed action plan has now been issued to improve the fire safety provision and we will continue to work with the management of the premises.

3.1 Group activity – Basingstoke and Deane Group

The inspectors continue to work in partnership with the Stoneham Group to keep vulnerable families safe through the Sanctuary scheme. During this period five premises were assessed and advice was given.

Enforcement

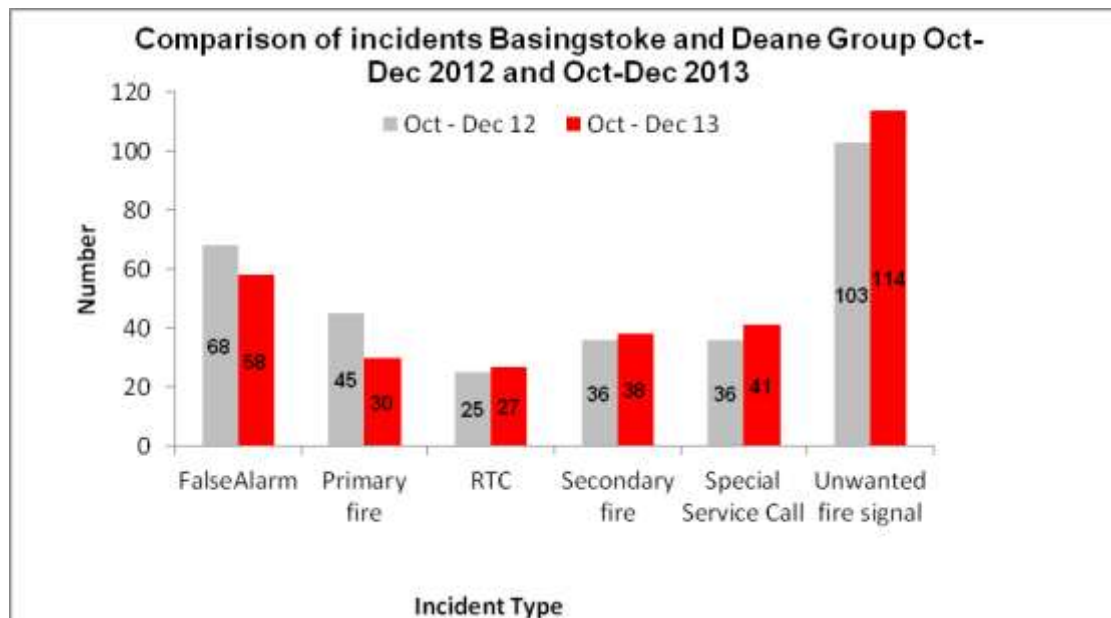
No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 16 October 2013 at 22:41 crews were called to Neville Close in Basingstoke where a fire broke out in the front bedroom. The bedroom was severely damaged by fire and there was smoke logging on the first floor. Crews used four sets of breathing apparatus and two hose reels to put the fire out.



3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	115
Smoke detectors fitted	137

Fire investigations

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

Arson and risk reduction

CCTV evidence was collected from one appliance and there were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

Following a request from Rushmoor Borough Council one of our officers visited a domestic premises with a community safety officer and Rushmoor family services. There were means of escape issues due to the medical condition of one of the children in the house. A way forward was agreed jointly with the agencies and the family to ensure the safety of the child.

Following a complaint from a member of the public, we visited a children's activity centre in Farnborough. The fire alarm was not working effectively, the fire risk assessment was unsuitable and there was lack of training for the staff. The responsible person decided, following consultation with our inspector, to close the premises until the issues were rectified. The failures were soon put right and the centre was able to open again.

In addition to the above, pre Christmas inspections took place at the shopping centres in Aldershot and Farnborough to look at the effect of means of escape and housekeeping from the higher levels of stock at this time. All issues were dealt with in liaison with the responsible person.

We continue to engage advocates within the Nepalese community and are taking positive steps to work with Rushmoor Borough Council and the Nepalese landlord forum to ensure families are safe in the properties. We are also members of the Nepalese focus group with the fire station personnel taking a joint approach to fire safety in the home.

3.2 Group activity – Rushmoor and Hart Group

Working with the Accent Group who manages high rise residential premises in Aldershot, we have carried out visits to the premises with the crews from Rushmoor, explaining the fire safety provisions within high rise residential properties. This has included placing plans in the dry riser inlet boxes for on coming crews at incidents.

Enforcement

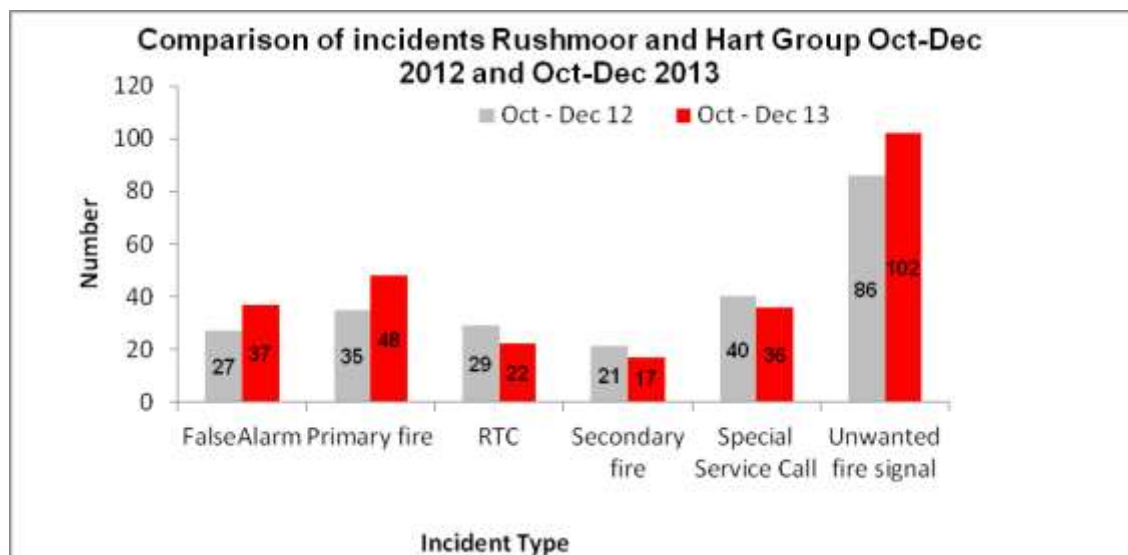
No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

Crews were call to Giffard Drive, Cove, Farnborough on 13 December 2013 at 10:01. The call came in about a fire in a house with a garage attached. 20 per cent of the house was damaged with fire and heat damage to the ground and first floor. The garage was 100 per cent damaged by fire. There was also radiated damage to the house next door. Crews used three jets, one hose reel, one compressed air foam (CAFs) jet and six sets of breathing apparatus.



3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	258
Smoke detectors fitted	303

Fire investigations

Havant and East Hampshire Group had four investigations involving one flat, two vehicles and one shed.

Arson and risk reduction

CCTV was collected from one appliance and there was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We visited a block of flats in Havant following a complaint from a resident. The complaint was that the common areas at the base of the stairs were being used for storage and this was compromising the means of escape. Officers made contact with Portsmouth City Council who took prompt action and arranged for the storage to be removed. They now have a process of tagging the items and disposing of them if they are not removed by the owners.

Following a fire in a high voltage generator at Southern Water in Havant a post incident inspection was carried out. As part of the counties major infrastructure (water treatment waste/sewage for large area of Hampshire/Sussex industrial and domestic) it was especially important to ensure compliance. Following the visit and after working with the responsible person an action plan was agreed to improve the means of escape within the premises.

As part of our themed inspections one of our officers from the Alton office made a visit to a pub with sleeping accommodation above. The responsible person was very aware of his responsibilities under the Fire Safety Order. The fire risk assessment was not suitable, so the fire safety provision within the building was poor. As a result of the inspection, an action plan was agreed and gave business continuity advice.

3.3 Group activity – Havant and East Hampshire Group

Following an alert from East Hampshire District Council and an unwanted fire alarm activation attended by the crews, we visited an Abbey in Alton. The Abbey is the home to nine monks and has the capacity to house up to 22 guests, both for ecclesiastical studies and general accommodation. Some work had been carried out over time but the premises was in need of upgrading. Advice was given on fire safety especially with regards to the fire alarm and means of escape, as well as advice on managing the risks.

Following the serious fire at Lasham, a lot of work has been carried out with the local authority, the environment agency and the response crews to improve the safety and management of the industrial estate. This has included improvements to the site specific risk information, mapping of the premises for our risk information and improvement to the waste care of the site.

Enforcement

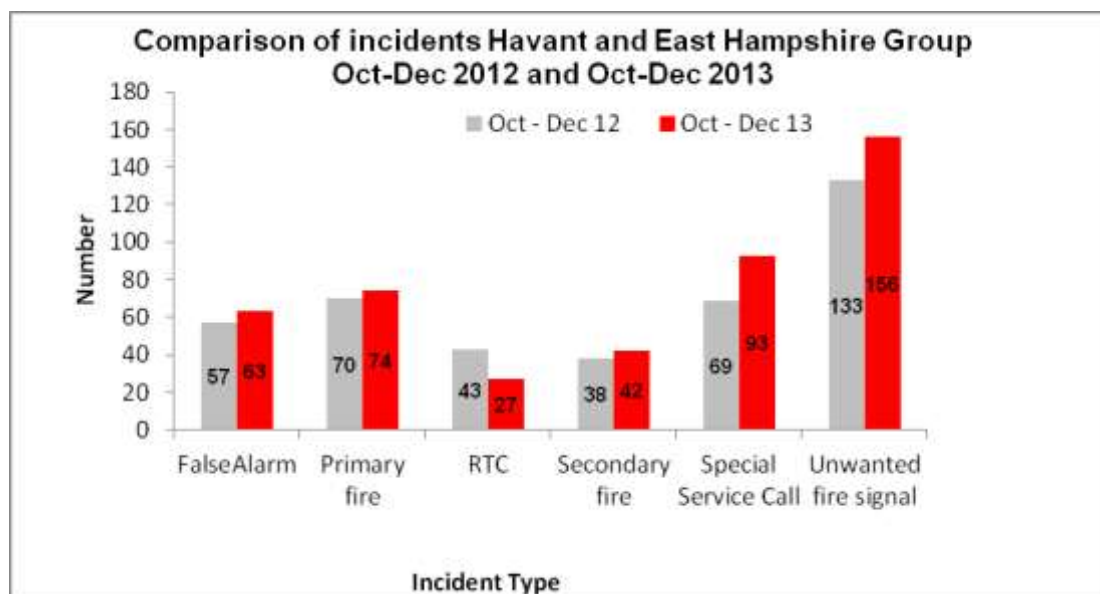
No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

One prohibition notices was served during this reporting period.

Community response

On 19 October 2013 six crews attended a fire in a detached dorma bungalow in Haslar Crescent, Waterlooville. The fire was in the dorma, roof and ground floor. Crews used four jets, three hose reels and eight sets of breathing apparatus to put the fire out and prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining properties. The most likely cause was accidental with an overloaded plug socket.



3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	265
Smoke detectors fitted	385

Fire investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group had two investigations involving a storage area and a derelict building.

Arson and risk reduction

Two statements were taken and there was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

Following a fire at the rear of a shop in Gosport High Street the Arson Task Force became concerned about the means of escape from the sleeping accommodation above. The premises was a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) with no fire alarm and poor means of escape. Following discussions with the responsible person, a fire alarm was fitted the same day. Subsequently a prohibition notice was issued to restrict cooking on the premises whilst the occupants were sleeping. This reduced the risk to the occupants but allowed them to remain in their home.

We visited a tattoo artist shop in Gosport following a complaint from South Coast Ambulance Service reporting that people were sleeping on the premises. People were sleeping in the shop and in the flat above which was accessed through the shop. The premises was of poor construction and had no fire alarm system. In order to allow people to remain in their homes and because the premises was small it was agreed that with the installation of fire detection a prohibition notice would not be issued. The interim works were carried out immediately to reduce the risk.

We have been working with the local authority and a theatre in Titchfield. The theatre which is a tithe barn has been subject to an agreed action plan in the past and work required as part of a building regulations application which had not been carried out. A prohibition notice was served by Fareham Borough Council restricting the seating within the theatre. Through good partnership working we were able to quickly agree a joint approach, communicate all relevant information to the right people and be aware of all issues affecting public safety albeit enforced by different authorities.

3.4 Group activity – Fareham and Gosport Group

As part of our licensing initiative we have been making joint licensing inspections with Fareham Borough Council Environmental Health department and Hampshire Constabulary. The process is to carry out a business support visit where each authority looks at the part of the premises for which they are responsible. One such example was a hotel in Titchfield where advice was given on the occupancy allowed for licensed events and the benefits of the sprinkler system installed in the premises both for life safety and business continuity.

Enforcement

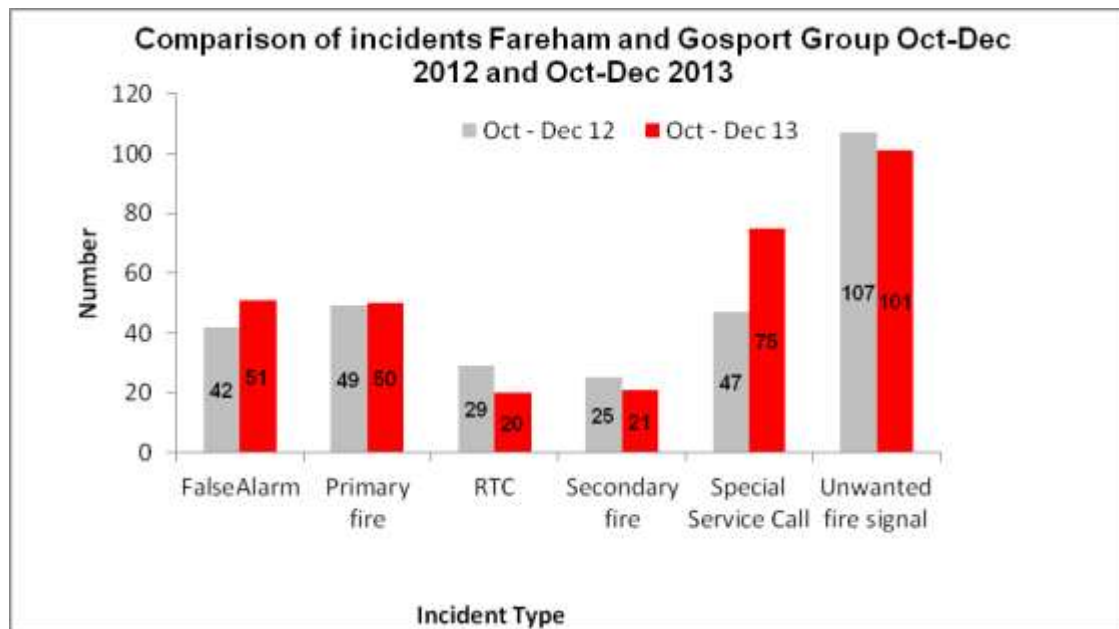
One enforcement notice was issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

One prohibition notice was issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 29 December 2013 at 17:31 Control operators mobilised seven crews to Grange Lane in Gosport. The incident was a fire in a single story derelict building. The building was 100 per cent damaged by fire. The crews using five jets, two sets of breathing apparatus and an aerial ladder platform to tackle the blaze.



3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	254
Smoke detectors fitted	283

Fire investigations

Portsmouth Group had eight fire investigations involving two houses, one garage, two sheds and three vehicles.

Arson and risk reduction

CCTV evidence was taken from one appliance and there were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

Following a fire in the Cascades Centre, Portsmouth involving the lighting system, a post incident inspection was carried out. There was an excellent response from management towards fire safety and it had a very well run behind house operation. All expected precautions were in place, testing and maintenance records kept by the on site engineer were all in date (very good record/file keeping etc). The centre was an excellent example of how a large complex should be run.

Following a flood in a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) in Portsmouth a joint inspection of the property was carried out with Portsmouth City Council. The HMO was of a reasonable standard and the responsible person took fire safety seriously. At the end of the visit the responsible person invited both authorities to inspect all of his 60 properties in the area.

During the festive period we carried out pre Christmas inspections of Cascades and Gunwharf Quays. The purpose of the visits was to check for overstocking and whether it compromised the safety and the means of escape from the premises. Any issues identified were dealt with at the time of the visit. We then reported our findings to the management of the centres and gave business support advice on housekeeping and maintaining the means of escape.

3.5 Group activity – Portsmouth Group

Following work with Portsmouth Football Club and the safety advisory group to come up with a solution regarding the safety of the wooden stands, it was great news to see that the club have agreed to pay for the installation of sprinklers in the north and south stand. The installation will not only massively reduce the risk from fire in the stadium and so safeguard the life of the fans but also from a business continuity position, protect the club as far as attendances are concerned for the medium term. We welcome the installation and look forward to continuing our good relationship with them.

We continue to work with Portsmouth City Council on the sprinkler retrofit project. We are in negotiations with the Council regarding the installation of sprinkler systems in a number of their high rise sleeping properties and sheltered housing schemes.

Enforcement

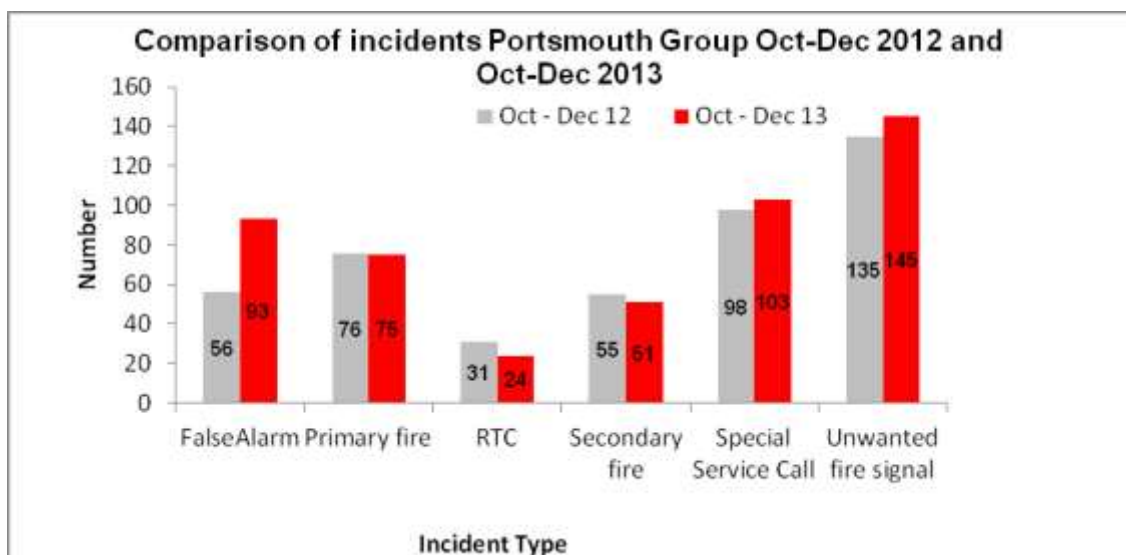
Two enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 21 October 2013 four crews responded to a ship fire in the HM Naval Base, Unicorn Road, Portsmouth. The 300 tonne silage barge berthed at Sheer Jetty had a fire in the vacuum pump room. Crews used 10 sets of breathing apparatus and one jet to bring the fire under control.



3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out in the between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	93
Smoke detectors fitted	114

Fire investigations

Winchester had five fire investigations involving two vehicles, one house and two at a prison.

Arson and risk reduction

There were two fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We conducted 43 visits to small and medium sized local businesses in and around Winchester to provide free advice, guidance and support on fire safety and business continuity. These visits have been welcomed by local business owners and have helped to ensure that they reduce the risk of fire to a reasonable level, without incurring unnecessary expense as a result.

We also carried out 13 audits of higher risk local premises, where a greater degree of technical support was required. As a result of these audits, five businesses were provided with action plans to give advice and guidance on the steps necessary to reduce fire risks in a timely and cost effective way.

Building development continues to show signs of recovery in the city and our officers have carried out 45 building consultations to provide fire safety advice to developers and architects. This will help ensure the suitability of building stock within Winchester for the future.

We continue to support our local authority partners by providing advice and assistance where required. As a result of these good working relationships, we carried out fourteen licensing consultations and joint visits with the housing team to reduce risk within shared housing and flats above commercial premises.

3.6 Group activity – Winchester Group

Enforcement

No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 22 October 2013 five crews responded to a house fire in Winters Road, Shirrell Heath. The fire was on the first floor and roof space. The roof was 100 per cent damaged by fire, the first floor was 20 per cent damaged by fire and water and the ground floor was 100 per cent damaged by water. Crews used three jets, three hose reels and four sets of breathing apparatus to bring the blaze under control. (For more details see 1.2)



3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	116
Smoke detectors fitted	132

Fire investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group had three fire investigations involving two cars and one shed.

Arson and risk reduction

CCTV evidence was taken from two appliances and there was one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We conducted 82 visits to small and medium sized local businesses to provide free advice, guidance and support on fire safety and business continuity. These visits have been welcomed by local business owners and have helped to ensure that they reduce the risk of fire to a reasonable level, without incurring unnecessary expense as a result.

We have also carried out 33 audits of higher risk local premises, where a greater degree of technical support was required. As a result of these audits, 10 businesses were provided with action plans to give advice and guidance on the steps necessary to reduce fire risks in a timely and cost effective way.

We have received good intelligence from our response crews and local authority partners and as a result of this and our targeted audit regime, we identified three businesses where the risk from fire was so serious that we issued three prohibition notices to prevent sleeping within the buildings. We worked with the owners to ensure that their businesses were unaffected and thereby maintained their economic viability while the necessary works were carried out.

Building development continues to show signs of recovery and our officers have carried out 34 building consultations to provide fire safety advice to developers and architects in order to help ensure the suitability of building stock.

3.7 Group activity – Test Valley and Eastleigh Group

We continue to support our local authority partners by providing advice and assistance where required. As a result of these good working relationships, we carried out four licensing consultations and joint visits with the housing team to reduce risk within shared housing and flats above commercial premises.

We conducted seven visits to businesses that had experienced a fire to ensure that no lives were put at risk through a failing of the owner. We also offered advice and guidance on business recovery.

Enforcement

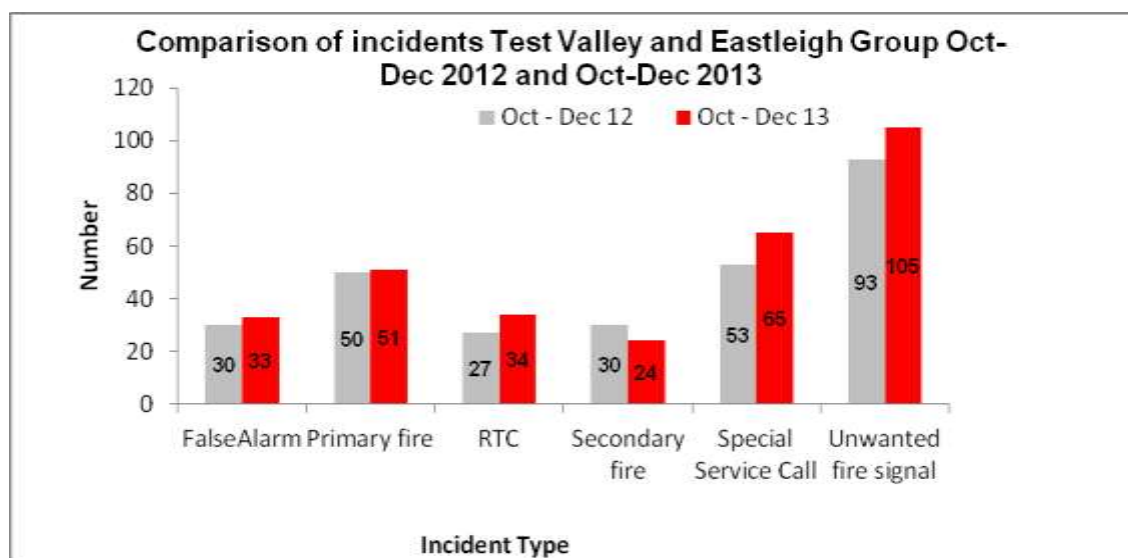
No enforcement notices were served during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 9 December 2013 firefighters attended Lakeside Country Park in Wide Lane, Eastleigh after receiving reports of a man in the water. One male was rescued from the water and taken to hospital by ambulance. The male was sadly confirmed dead after attempts to resuscitate him. Four level 2 water rescue teams, one level 3 boat, three police level 3 teams and three HART teams were in attendance.



3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	156
Smoke detectors fitted	159

Fire investigations

Southampton Group had five fire investigations involving a psychiatric ward, one bin, one bungalow and two vehicles.

Arson and risk reduction

Two statements were taken and there were three fire investigation search dog deployments.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have conducted 40 targeted visits to businesses during this period, mostly as a result of intelligence received from our Response crews or local authority partners.

As a result of these visits, two restrictions were put in place to prevent sleeping in unsafe conditions whilst keeping the business open and viable. We issued 13 action plans as guidance to improve fire safety within a variety of buildings and one enforcement notice was served where the owner had not shown sufficient progress or commitment to their action plan.

Due to the considerable levels of building development within the city, we have conducted 45 consultations to ensure the fire safety measures proposed are suitable. There has been a significant increase in fire engineering submissions, particularly around multi storey residential accommodation, primarily aimed at the student population. The Centenary Quay development has necessitated design review meetings with the developers, architect, fire engineer and construction company representatives. These meetings have helped to ensure that the development is constructed in a safe and considered way, whilst supporting the on-going regeneration of the city.

3.8 Group activity – Southampton Group

We are currently in discussion with the fire engineers for the re-development of Richmond House regarding the provision of sprinklers and ensuring that the building meets the future needs of the city's students in terms of fire safety.

We continue to support Southampton City Council with their plans to retro fit sprinklers within some of the city's tall residential buildings.

We have also supported our Response crews with improving risk information for buildings and by working with Southampton General Hospital to help them reduce the incidence of unwanted fire signals.

Enforcement

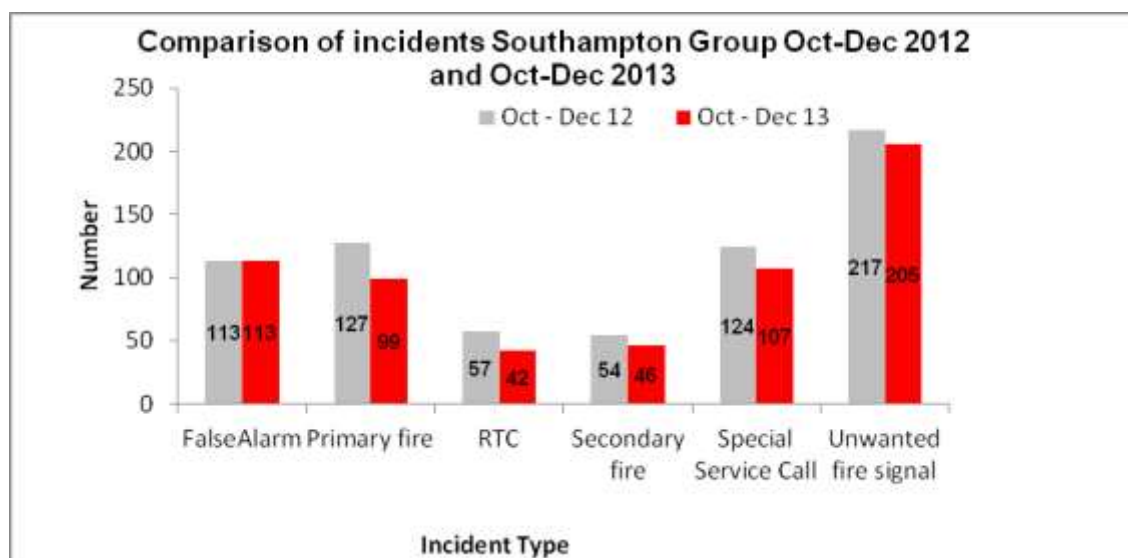
No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

Two prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 19 October 2013 six crews attended a fire in Manor Farm Business Park, Allington Lane, Fair Oak. One vehicle maintenance unit was 100 per cent damaged by fire and adjacent units had slight smoke and heat damage. An acetylene cylinder had exploded in the early stages of the incident. Crews used three jets and eight sets of breathing apparatus to bring the blaze under control.



3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

Community safety

The table below shows the number of home safety visits (HSVs) carried out between 1 October and 31 December 2013 and the number of smoke alarms fitted.

	Number
HSVs undertaken	136
Smoke detectors fitted	153

Fire investigations

New Forest Group had five fire investigations involving one school, one vehicle, two stable blocks and one shed.

Arson and risk reduction

Two statements were taken and had one fire investigation search dog deployment.

Mosaic risk groups

D, H and K

Business fire safety

We have continued to work with the National Motor Museum and Marrioff Water Mist Ltd to provide the museum with a suitable and bespoke suppression system. We envisage an agreement to a concept design very soon with an installation programme being introduced by Spring 2014.

Our good working partnership with New Forest District Council has allowed us to support them with the decommissioning of their sheltered housing building stock. We have been able to negotiate the removal of inappropriate fire alarm systems for these buildings and their replacement with systems that will virtually negate unwanted fire alarms, whilst continuing to provide safety for residents. So far, five schemes have been converted with three being completed during this reporting period. The single remaining scheme will be addressed in the coming months.

We have successfully advised and supported a local business to satisfy conservation and fire safety concerns with the installation of an automatic water suppression system within a holiday accommodation property.

We have introduced a business support officer to engage with some of our smaller businesses who may need help to reduce the risk from fire. The officer visited 64 businesses where he also provided business continuity advice.

3.9 Group activity – New Forest Group

We have audited a further 27 higher risk premises and continue to support the economic growth agenda by educating local businesses to reduce the risk of fire and by offering 11 agreed action plans to provide a structured and time-lined way of doing this in an economically viable manner.

As a result of our network of fire safety advocates and other referrals, we received reports of six alleged fire risks, which resulted in immediate improvements and action plans.

Following a serious fire in Hythe we have been working with the owner to provide guidance regarding the most suitable fire safety measures and procedures to prevent a recurrence, whilst considering whether any legal action is appropriate due to the potential serious risks to people involved in the fire.

Enforcement

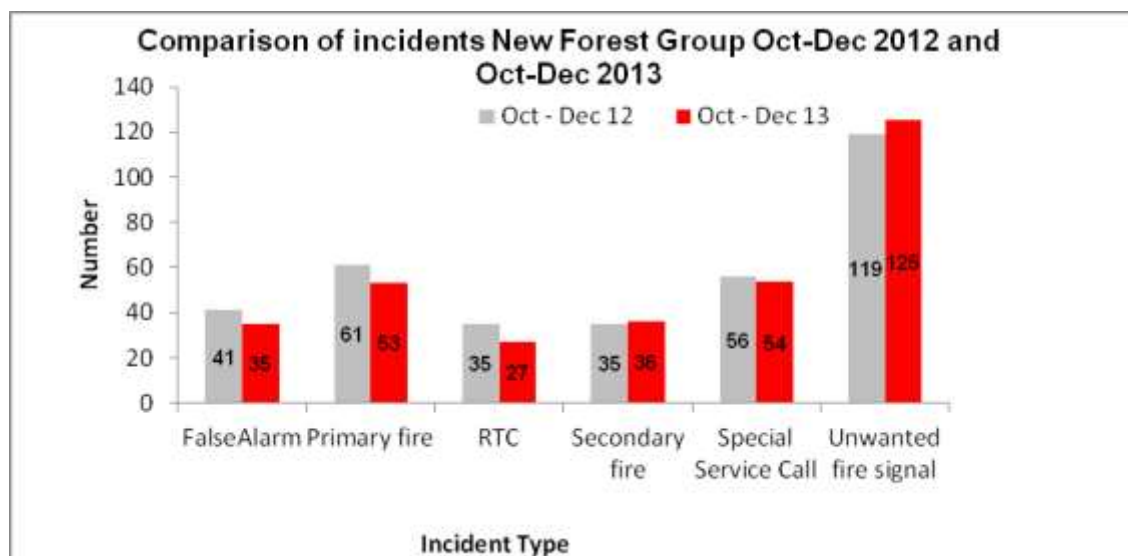
No enforcement notices were issued during this reporting period.

Prohibitions

No prohibition notices were issued during this reporting period.

Community response

On 2 December 2013 12 crews attended a serious thatch fire in North Weirs, Brockenhurst. This was a two storey thatched cottage measuring 20 metres by 10 metres. The roof and first floor were 100 per cent damaged by fire. Crews used 10 sets of breathing apparatus, five jets, one compressed air foam jet and four hose reels to fight the fire. (For more details see 1.3)



4 Stop press

4.1 Fire crews contained a fire in Portsmouth Dockyard

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

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

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

A total of 10 fire appliances and two aerial ladder platforms were at the scene. A joint investigation showed that the fire was accidental after hot works.

4.2 Man pulled to safety from second-floor balcony in Winchester

A man was pulled to safety from a second-floor balcony by firefighters after a blaze broke out in a central Winchester flat on 13 January 2014. Control operators mobilised crews to the terraced building on Jewry Street just after 14:45 after smoke was seen coming from the window.

Firefighters arriving at the scene quickly pitched a ladder to reach the second-floor balcony and helped the man to safety. The man was treated at the scene by South Central Ambulance Service but did not require hospital treatment. He had been asleep in his flat when the fire broke out in a neighbouring flat but was awoken by his smoke alarm.

The speed of the response by the crews and their actions in reaching him undoubtedly helped to save this man's life. The early warning provided by his smoke alarm also helped him to escape onto his balcony before the fire took hold.

More than 40 firefighters from Winchester, Eastleigh, Basingstoke, Havant and St Mary's used breathing apparatus and jets to enter the building and prevent the fire spreading to neighbouring properties. The crews work not only saved the resident's life but also the historic listed buildings on Jewry Street.

An investigation determined that the most likely cause was an overheating laptop computer on the bed in a neighbouring flat.

4.3 Fire Fatality in Lee-on-the-Solent

On 29 January 2013 at 13:07 fire crews were mobilised to a flat at Marine Parade, Lee-on-the-Solent. On entering the property crews sadly found one deceased elderly male in the kitchen area.

In line with the joint operating agreement Hampshire Constabulary and HFRS undertook a level 3 investigation into the cause of the fire. The investigation showed that the most likely cause of the fire was unattended cooking.

4.4 Deployment to Somerset

As part of the national response to the weather situation in Somerset, Hampshire deployed resources to the West Country.

Requests for assistance were sent to several fire and rescue services on 29 January by the Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre under national resilience arrangements.

Hampshire's high volume pumping unit and enhanced logistics support vehicle, along with eight personnel, travelled overnight to Taunton.

The resources returned the next day to Hampshire, apart from the high volume pump (HVP) which is still assisting in Somerset at the current time.

The High Volume Pumping Unit moves 7000 litres per minute.

Next report

We are currently doing a lot of work around sprinklers including an asset protection system which is being installed in a school in Havant. There is also continuous work around the flooding of Hambledon Village. Look out for more details on this in the next report.

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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