

31 July 2010 – 22 Oct 2010

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Activity Report of the Chief Officer



HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY

We make life safer

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Front page photo:

Basingstoke blaze highlights timber frame fire threat
- Gershwin Road, Basingstoke

Introduction

This activity report covers the period of 31 July to 22 October 2010.

Any notable incidents that have occurred after 22 October 2010 and before the report has been issued are listed in the "Stop Press" section of the report.

Sadly we have to report two fire deaths within this reporting period. One female died in a residential caravan following a fire in the early hours of the morning.

Following the fire investigation the cause was determined as either carelessly discarded smoking material, a candle or an electrical fault. There was no evidence of a smoke detector in the caravan.

The second fire death involved a male who was rescued by firefighters but sadly died later. The cause of this fire was carelessly discarded smoking materials. The flat did have a hard wired smoke detector which had activated.

However we are pleased to confirm that several examples of fires where the occupants were alerted by smoke detectors early enough to escape safely are also contained within this report.

The fire at Gershwin Road Basingstoke was the largest fire attended by HFRS during this reporting period. It involved a timber framed building under construction. At the height of the blaze 16 appliances an aerial ladder platform and other support vehicles were at the incident.

Fires in these types of building develop extremely quickly during the construction phase and produce large amounts of burning debris and radiated heat that can cause the fire to spread to other buildings even though they are a considerable distance away.

Crews worked in very difficult conditions to not only extinguish the blaze but to successfully prevent fire spread to surrounding properties.

We continue to work both locally and nationally with the UK Timber Frame Association to reduce the risk of fire during the construction phase.

The problems associated with the fitting of faulty smoke detectors during Home Safety Visits was recently highlighted by a news report in the BBC South Today programme. During this reporting period we have refitted 318 faulty detectors in 242 properties. This continues to be a national problem and HFRS along with other fire and rescue services are currently negotiating with the original suppliers to agree a compensation package.

Finally, September saw two large events being hosted by HFRS. The international exercise 'Orion' which was designed to test the mobilisation of overseas assistance to the UK mainland and the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation's extrication challenge.

Both these events attracted large numbers of visitors to HFRS from across the world. It is a credit to all HFRS employees who worked extremely hard and displayed the high standards we have come to expect in Hampshire.

01 Responding to incidents

1.1

Trapped tree surgeon

Control operators were alerted to a request for assistance from South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) at just before 10am on Saturday 7 August 2010. Crews were immediately deployed to the scene to assist at Pearson Lane, Shawford near Winchester.

Crews arrived to find a casualty being treated by SCAS approximately 20 feet above ground as the injured tree surgeon had become stuck on the fork of a tree.

An appliance from Eastleigh and Winchester and the aerial ladder platform (ALP) from Redbridge Hill were mobilised and a total of 10 firefighters were in attendance along with a rope rescue specialist and one senior officer.

Firefighters worked with both ambulance paramedics on the ground and an ambulance specialist who was working up the tree. The ALP was used as a rescue platform and the Service's technical rope team member and a firefighter assisted in the rescue from height. The casualty reached the ground safely before being taken to hospital by ambulance.

1.2

Tragic caravan fire in North Warnborough

At 00:21 on Sunday 15 August, the Service was called to a fire in North Warnborough, off the A287, involving two domestic caravans and a shed that were completely destroyed by fire.

Crews from Odiham, Hartley Wintney and Basingstoke Fire Stations were mobilised to the incident and on arrival immediately began to tackle the fire, using two hose reels and one jet to extinguish the blaze.

Tragically, the body of female was discovered in one of the caravans. An investigation is still ongoing.

01 Responding to incidents

1.3

Cow rescued from bog in Bordon

At just after 7am on Sunday 15 August, the Service received an emergency call from two bird watchers who had discovered a cow stuck in a bog at Woolmer Common, Longmoor Ranges in Bordon.

Control Room Operators mobilised one fire appliance from Bordon Fire Station and two from Havant Fire Station, as well as one of the Animal Rescue Specialists to the scene.

On arrival crews discovered that the cow was stuck in a bog a considerable distance away from hard standing, meaning all rescue equipment had to be manually carried over wet peat bog/marsh land. It appeared that the animal's hind legs had sunk into the wet peat and it was unable to get out on its own.

Firefighters dug away some of the peat bog to remove clumps of grass and used strops to both pull and enable some movement which released the suction so the animal could be pulled free. After a short period of strenuous pulling the animal was removed from the bog and allowed to rest. It was then pulled further away from the bog to good ground.

The RSPCA and a vet were also in attendance, who administered some medication and analgesia to enable the animal to recover from its ordeal. The cow returned back to its herd later that day.

1.4

Vehicle and building collision

At just after 7pm on 18 August 2010, the Service was alerted to an incident on The Avenue, Southampton involving two private vehicles off the highway. One vehicle had crashed into the side of a property and two persons were trapped in the vehicle.



Three fire appliances and the special equipment unit from St Mary's Community Fire Station were mobilised and an Urban Search and Rescue specialist, as part of the structure had collapsed.

A total of 15 firefighters and two senior officers were in attendance to assist at the scene. The building was made safe and firefighters extricated two casualties from one of the vehicles. They were taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service.

01 Responding to incidents

1.5

Light aircraft accident

The Service received a call to assist South Central Ambulance Service at 14:15hrs on 9 September 2010 after a light aircraft had gone down in the garden of a private residential property in Woodlands Road, Woodlands near Totton.

Control operators mobilised one fire appliance from Totton, one fire appliance from Lyndhurst, and the special equipment unit from St Mary's Community Fire Station to the scene.

A total of nine firefighters and support staff were in attendance. Crews extricated two male casualties from the aircraft who were then taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance.



1.6

Basingstoke blaze highlights timber frame fire threat

At 18:21 control room operators were alerted to a serious fire involving a large timber framed building under construction in Gershwin Road, Basingstoke.

Firefighters at the scene swiftly expressed major concerns over the potential for the fire to spread due to the prevailing wind conditions and resources were mobilised from across Hampshire, Royal Berkshire, and Surrey to tackle the incident. Fire crews from Basingstoke, Overton, Tadley, Whitchurch, Hartley Wintney, Alton, Fleet, Stockbridge, Sutton Scotney, Alresford, Mortimer, Camberley, Guildford and Witley Wood were mobilised, along with the Service's Incident Command Unit, Command Support Unit, three water carriers, the specialist equipment unit, two aerial ladder platforms, and a multi-role vehicle.

Crews used jets and hose reels to bring the blaze under control over the four floors of the building under construction.

The incident highlighted the dangers of fire to timber framed buildings whilst under construction and the risk of rapid fire spread and early collapse of the structure.

01 Responding to incidents

1.7

Vulnerable resident rescued

At 23:20 on 13 September 2010, fire control operators received an emergency call to a third floor flat fire in Leigh Park. Crews from Havant Fire Station were swiftly mobilised to the scene and firefighters used four sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel to extinguish the blaze.

One 60 year old male casualty was rescued from the property and was taken to hospital by firefighters who carried him to safety. Firefighters administered oxygen to the casualty and he was then taken to hospital by South Central Ambulance Service after, suffering the effects of smoke inhalation.

The resident had been drinking and smoking in his home but thankfully a working smoke alarm alerted neighbours to the fire. There is no doubt that without working smoke alarms in this property, the fire could have had very tragic consequences, particularly as it took place late at night. Community safety messages were issued through the local media following the incident.

1.8

Arson attacks in Kempshott area

The Service and Hampshire Constabulary urged residents in Basingstoke to keep their bins secure after a number of bins were set on fire in the Kempshott area.

During the early hours of Tuesday 14 September, bins in Falcon Close, Homesteads Road, Thrush Close and Osprey Close were deliberately set on fire. A police investigation was undertaken and officers believed the incidents were linked.

Although these fires may appear small, their effects spread much further. Apart from the inconvenience to homeowners who have to replace the bin, rubbish fires are also a drain on the Service, tying up resources which could be needed for life-saving emergency response.

01 Responding to incidents

1.9

Smoke alarm alerts householders

A 999 call was taken by fire control room operators at just before 11am on Friday 17 September to reports of a fire in a bedroom at a detached property in Hatchett Lane.

Fire crews attending the scene found the occupants already out of the property having shut the bedroom door, thereby containing the fire to the room of origin. The fire is thought to have started after the sun, reflecting off a mirror, caused curtains to catch light.

The people living in the property heard the smoke alarm sounding, went to investigate and found the curtains on fire in a bedroom. They shut the bedroom door to prevent fire spread and got everyone out of the house before calling the fire service. The Service praised them for taking the correct actions.

Two crews were in attendance from Andover and Whitchurch Fire Stations with 11 firefighters in total.

1.10

Residents evacuated in Whiteley

More than 30 people had to be evacuated after a fire broke out at a scrap yard containing acetylene cylinders on the early hours of the morning on Saturday 18 September.



Firefighters were called to the scrap yard in Whiteley Lane, Fareham to find a well developed fire affecting a large area containing around 100 vehicles – many of which were involved in the fire. Initial crews in attendance were from Fareham, Hightown, Cosham, Southsea and St Mary's Fire Stations with up to 50 firefighters in attendance at the incident.

Residents of the nearby Tynefield Caravan Park had to be evacuated and were moved to a local community centre. This was due primarily to a large number of cylinders involved in the fire, many of which were exploding as well as thick smoke dangerously close to the neighbouring properties.

01 Responding to incidents

1.11

Man suffers burns from bonfire

A man had to be taken to hospital with burns he suffered after adding petrol to a bonfire. The incident happened in Elizabeth Drive, Church Crookham on Sunday 19 September.

One crew from Rushmoor Fire Station attended at 18:42 and found a 29-year-old male with burns to his arms, chest and face. The crews administered first aid and oxygen therapy before he was taken to hospital.

1.12

Road traffic collision in Mortimer West End

Control operators were alerted to a road traffic collision in Chapel Road, Mortimer West End at 12.04 on 1 September 2010.

Fire crews from Tadley and Basingstoke were mobilised to the scene along with crews from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS).

On arrival crews were faced with a road traffic collision involving two private vehicles, one which was still on the highway and the other one had collided with a private property. One male casualty was extricated by HFRS and RBFRS and handed over to South Central Ambulance Service.

HFRS Urban Search and Rescue were deployed to the scene to make the building safe.



01 Responding to incidents

1.13

Fire destroys Southsea dinosaur

At 02:40 on Friday 1 October, fire control operators were alerted to a fire involving a life-size model of a dinosaur.

Firefighters from Southsea Fire Station were swiftly mobilised to the scene, but the metal and fibreglass model had been destroyed by the blaze. The 53ft (16m) high ultrasaurus was erected on Southsea Common at the start of the summer as part of an exhibition.

The fibreglass coating of the dinosaur caught alight and crews spent around 45 minutes tackling the fire and damping down the remains of the structure.

The model, called Luna Park by the artists, was due to stand on Southsea Common until 10 October 2010. Following fire investigation, cause was discovered to be an electrical fault

1.14

Smoke detection alerts residents to fire

Control room operators were alerted to a first floor flat fire in Kern Close, Maybush at just gone 11am on 6 October.

The flat was a traditional brick building consisting of three floors.

Fortunately, there was an early warning of this incident as the building was fitted with a working smoke detection system which raised the alarm.

Within minutes the crew from Redbridge Fire Station were in attendance at the scene where they managed to bring the fire under control. They were shortly joined by crews from St Mary's and Hightown Fire Stations who assisted with the evacuation of residents.

One female and several young families were lead to safety by firefighters on scene and they were looked after by Fire Emergency Support Service (FESS).

Firefighters on scene used one main jet, three hose reels and six sets of breathing apparatus and positive pressure ventilation.

01 Responding to incidents

1.15

Male fatality following property fire

On 30 October 2010, fire control room operators were alerted to a fire in a property in Stratfield Gardens, Leigh Park, Havant.

Two crews from Havant were immediately mobilised to the incident. On arrival, crews called for a third appliance to tackle the fire in the flat. One male occupier was rescued from the property by firefighters and was handed over to South Central Ambulance Services. Sadly he later died.

Firefighters used four sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels, one jet and a thermal imaging camera to extinguish the fire.

An investigation discovered the fire started as a result of discarded smoking materials. The property was fitted with a hard-wired smoke detector which had operated.

1.16

Urban Search and Rescue

Following an audit of the Hampshire Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team by the National Resilience Assurance Team on behalf of Communities and Local Government, the team were recognised as Notable (the highest level of achievement) in seven areas, Advanced in nine areas and Established in all remaining areas. No areas were recorded as Developing which is a reflection of the effort and support received in recent years.

Exercise Orion the EU funded exercise in September was a significant area of work for USAR in both planning, preparation and running the exercise over the three days. This also gave HFRS and its partner agencies a challenging and ultimately very successful large scale exercise, testing all levels of co-ordination and command.

The most recent addition to the USAR team's skill set is the Chainsaw Rescue Capability which can also be deployed for the protection and maintenance of critical infrastructure during spate conditions. HFRS is the only service providing this capability and we have trained other fire and rescue services who have identified this gap in rescue operations.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.1

Road Safety

Working with the Roads Policing Unit and Council Road Safety team, one seatbelt 'Education and Enforcement' (E&E) day was held in Lyndhurst Fire Station which was attended by 34 members of the public.

Advice and guidance on the correct fitting and size requirements for child restraints was given to members of the public attending child car seat checking events in Totton, Rushmoor and Winchester.

As we move into winter and evenings become darker, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils held 10 cycle safety events to promote high visibility clothing and lights. This was aimed at those who cycle to and from work.

In addition, station personnel across Hampshire have carried out engagement activities with young driver/offender programmes as well as to events for the general public such as Station Open Days and road safety events at Totton, Brockenhurst, Eastleigh and St Vincent's Colleges.

2.2

Home Safety Visits

During this reporting period we have conducted 2213 Home Safety Visits (HSVs) targeted at those we consider to be most at risk, and fitted 1832 smoke detectors.

The target for 2010/2011 is 10,000 HSVs. Vulnerable groups are identified through MOSAIC data, partnerships, post incident protocols and referrals through other agencies to HFRS.

The visits were being delivered by a combination of wholetime, retained duty system, green book personnel and on some occasion, other organisations that we are in partnership with who deliver the visits on our behalf.

318 detectors have been re-fitted to replace faulty detectors in 242 properties.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.3

Fire Investigations

There have been 49 fire investigations in this reporting period: 34 of which were deliberate fires, 11 accidental and four undetermined. There have been two fire related fatalities over the reporting period, one in the East Hants Group and one in the Rushmoor and Hart Group.

Overview of the Arson Task Force Activity

During this reporting period, the Arson Task Force has supported the investigation of all 34 arson offences resulting in eight arrests, two of whom are being charged and two are currently on bail.

The Arson Task Force and Fire Investigation team has also been actively involved in carrying out multi-agency fire investigations throughout Hampshire as well as continuing to maintain regional Fire Investigation search dog cover for the South East Region.

The same period has seen the successful conclusion of two court cases :-

- On 30 September 2010, the case in relation to a series of incidents in Locks Heath area concluded at Fareham Youth Court with the conviction for an offence of Arson, resulting in a referral to the Youth Offender Panel. The panel will agree a contract with the defendant which could involve promises about future behaviour, an apology for the offence or some unpaid work. The referral is for six months.
- On 17 September 2010, the case in relation to a flat in Gosport concluded at Portsmouth Crown Court with the conviction for an offence of Arson with Intent to Endanger Life. The defendant was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for Public Protection under Section 225 Criminal Justice Act 2003. The defendant was also sentenced on other matters and received a total of six years imprisonment and serve a minimum of three years.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.3 continued...

Fire Investigations

Group	Number of investigations	Number resulting in arrest	Number of suspects arrested	Number of suspects charged	Number on bail	Number cautioned
Basingstoke & Deane	3					
East Hants	3					
Fareham & Gosport	3	2	3			
Havant	2					
New Forest	2					
Portsmouth	9	2	2	1		
Rushmoor & Hart	6					
Southampton	14	4	4	1	2	
Test Valley & Eastleigh	4					
Winchester	2					
Out of county	1					

Additionally, the team have been proactively involved in establishing a Regional Fire Investigation Training package/DVD working in partnership with Southampton Solent University.

02 Community Safety

(incorporating Prevention and Protection)

2.4

Firesetter Intervention Scheme and Safeguarding

Within this reporting period, the team took on 48 new referrals (six adults and 42 juveniles).

The adult cases are still ongoing however, 12 juvenile cases have been completed and 30 cases are still ongoing.

2.5

Schools Education Team

The following pupils were seen as part of our targeted delivery of the Schools Safety Education Programme across Hampshire (during Summer Holidays - 26 July to 6 September there were no visits):

Key Stage 1

3317 pupils during 57 visits

Key Stage 2

3246 pupils during 55 visits

Key Stages 3/4

5562 pupils during 71 visits

In addition the following activity was undertaken across the county:

- An interagency Think Safe Event with Winchester City Council at Worthy Down army camp delivering our Fire Safety scenario
- Two Junior Road Safety Conferences, supporting workshops in Hedge End and Basingstoke organised by the Hampshire Road Safety Team
- A media education event with the Firefighter's Charity at a Basingstoke School as part of the National Schools Fire Safety Week
- A networking event with the Blue Lamp Trust at Netley Police Training Centre showing the new Arson Awareness Vehicle and giving an explanation of the targeted strategy for working across Hampshire Schools
- An Emergency Services Day using the hazard house at Noadswood School for the local community

Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 212
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 47

Group F: 9

Group G: 6

Smoke Detectors fitted: 262

Fire Investigations

Basingstoke and Deane Group have had three fire investigations for the reporting period, including a car, a house and a timber framed building under construction.

Arson Task Force

- No statements taken
- Two Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Prince's Trust

The Basingstoke team completed on 31 July with all team members achieving the British Safety Council qualification consisting of five units, one of which is fire safety/education.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The Basingstoke office audited 53 premises. This included higher risk sleeping accommodation including care and nursing homes, educational establishments, hotels and licensed premises offering sleeping accommodation.

We investigated a total of 18 calls following complaints regarding the fire safety standards of premises. These calls are from both internal and external stakeholders and on many occasions are the highest risk premises visited.

Seven premises have been visited to achieve the corporate objective of reducing impact of acetylene at incidents.

Working with local authority partners in Licensing and the Police, six 'During Performance Inspections' were undertaken.

Enforcement

One formal Enforcement Notice was issued during this period to a licensed premises, to increase the fire safety standards of the sleeping accommodation.

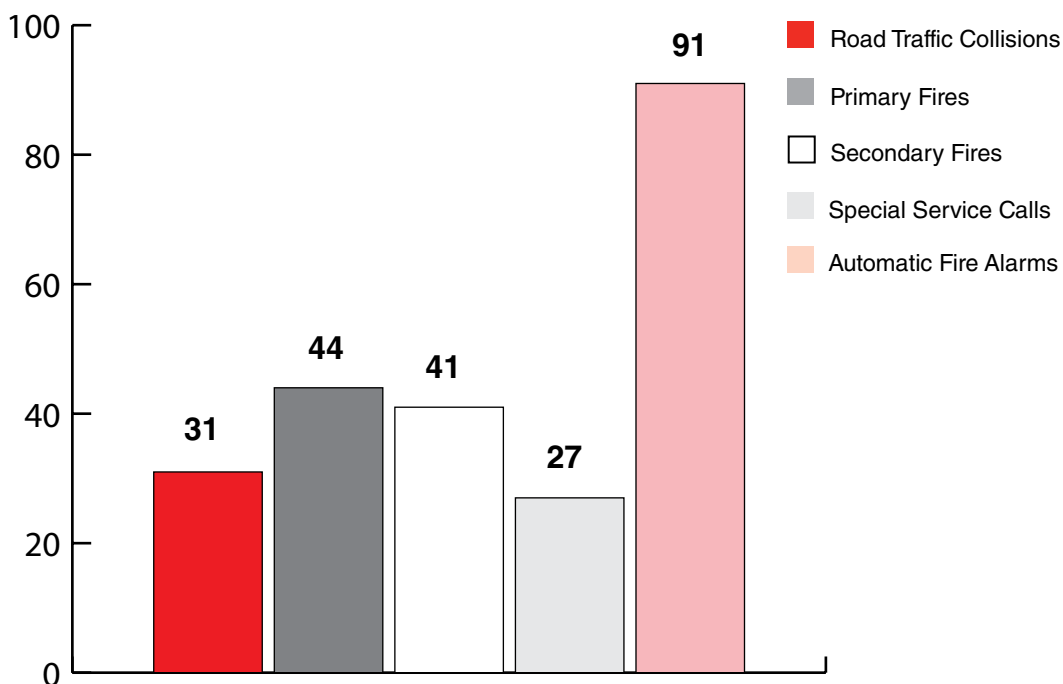
Prosecution/Prohibitions

One Prohibition Notice was served on a premises identified by Local Response crews. This was designated as office accommodation, where sleeping for 12 persons was being provided on the second and third floors.

Community Response

At 18:21 on 10 September 2010, the Service was called to a fire in a timber framed building under construction in Gershwin Road, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke. In total 16 appliances were mobilised from Hampshire and surrounding counties to tackle the fire. Two tower cranes and assorted plant equipment was damaged by fire and approximately 50 surrounding dwellings and a college were affected by smoke.

For more information please see 1.6.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 108
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 79

Group F: 19

Group G: 39

Smoke Detectors fitted: 175

Fire Investigations

Rushmoor and Hart Group have had six fire investigations for the reporting period including a caravan, two mobile homes, bonfire involving a casualty, a disused pub, arson attempt on a domestic premise and a coffee machine in a café of a large supermarket where there were 17 casualties.

Arson Task Force

- Three statements taken
- One Fire Investigation Search Dog deployment

Prince's Trust

In September a 15 member team started in Rushmoor. Currently the team is undertaking community projects at Samuel Cody sports school for learning disabilities in Rushmoor.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period 59 audits were carried out on high risk premises. These included residential care homes, boarding schools, hotels and identified operational risk premises.

We continue to work with internal and external stakeholders responding to complaints regarding the standard of fire safety within premises. During this reporting period, nine complaints were handled.

Following the fatal fire in North Warnborough, we continue to actively work with the owners to ensure that further fire safety precautions are taken. This has assisted in identifying similar sites in and the around the Rushmoor and Hart area, with a view to offering best practice advice and fire safety guidance where required.

Enforcement

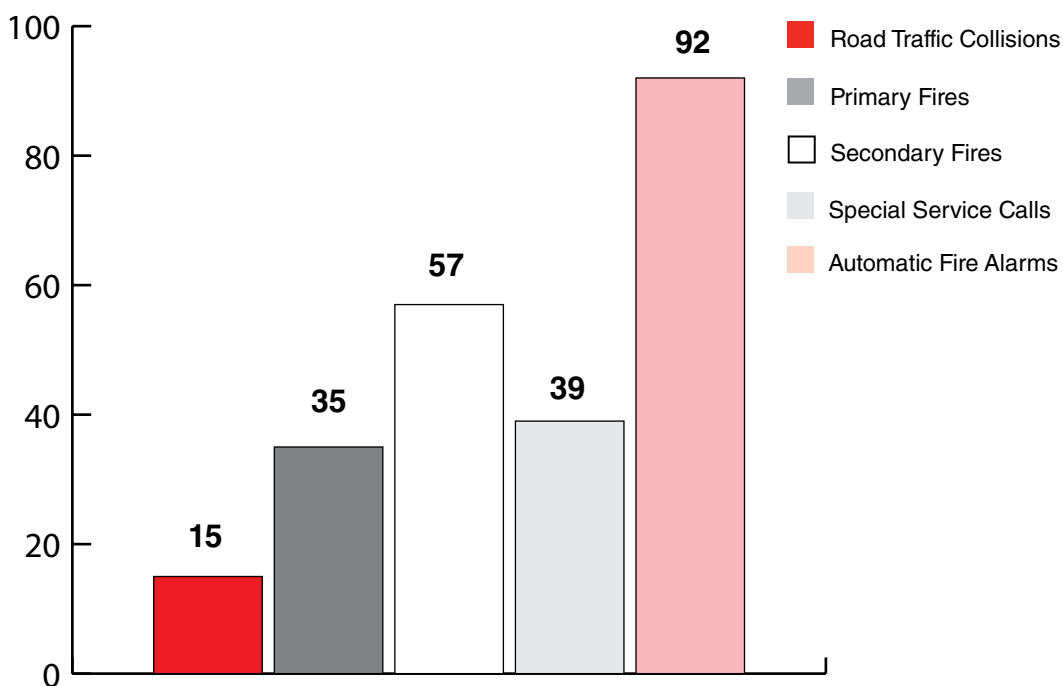
Eight Enforcement Notices were issued. These premises included HMO accommodation and licensed and shop premises with sleeping accommodation provided above.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

Three Prohibition Notices were issued. One to a public house which was being used as a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO), another three-story office block being used as an unlicensed HMO, and a complex of seven flats being used during major construction work.

Community Response

In the early hours of 15 August, control room operators received a call to a fire at Lodge Farm, Hook Road, North Warnborough. The fire involved two mobile homes and one domestic shed on the farm site. Sadly one person died in the fire. Three appliances and a Land Rover attended the incident. A joint investigation was carried out by both Fire Investigation and the Service's Protection Department.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 35
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 0

Group F: 0

Group G: 1

Smoke Detectors fitted: 34

Fire Investigations

East Hampshire Group have had three fire investigations for the reporting period including a shed containing garden machinery, a car and domestic premise.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements taken
- No Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period 17 Fire Safety Audits were completed on the highest risk premises using the Service's internal risk database, Community Fire Management Information System (CFRMIS).

We actively worked with Local Authority partners in delivering a safe Jalsa Salana festival which attracted around 45 000 people, with no fire related incidents.

Enforcement

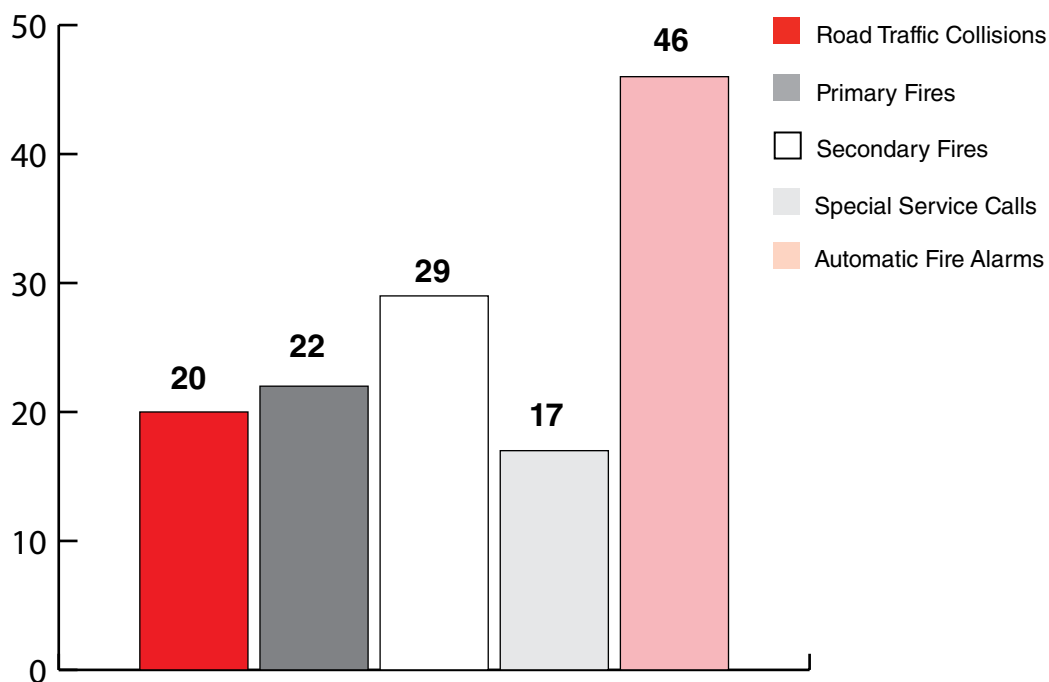
No Enforcement Notices were served during this period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

No Prohibition Notices were served during this period.

Community Response

At just after 6pm on 3 October, the Service was called to a fire involving a car on Coniston Road, Pinewood Village, Bordon. The fire was spreading to garage doors, the roof and a fence. Two appliances and the Arson Task Force were in attendance. The investigation found the fire had been started through arson with intent to endanger life.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 193
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 47

Group F: 22

Group G: 9

Smoke Detectors fitted: 291

Fire Investigations

Fareham and Gosport Group had three fire investigations for the reporting period including a derelict building, a domestic premise and a car.

Arson Task Force

- No statements taken
- No Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

A total of 43 fire safety audits were completed in this period. This included listed buildings and commercial/industrial buildings, including a number of churches.

A number of premises within the ex HMS Daedalus site, which may present issues such as hazardous processes and materials, were identified and visited. We have worked with these businesses to highlight the dangers of fire.

We have continued to promote the use of sprinklers in numerous developments and buildings across this area. We are currently still working with two residential care home providers to promote the benefits of sprinklers in reducing the risk to occupants and also their business, of fire.

Enforcement

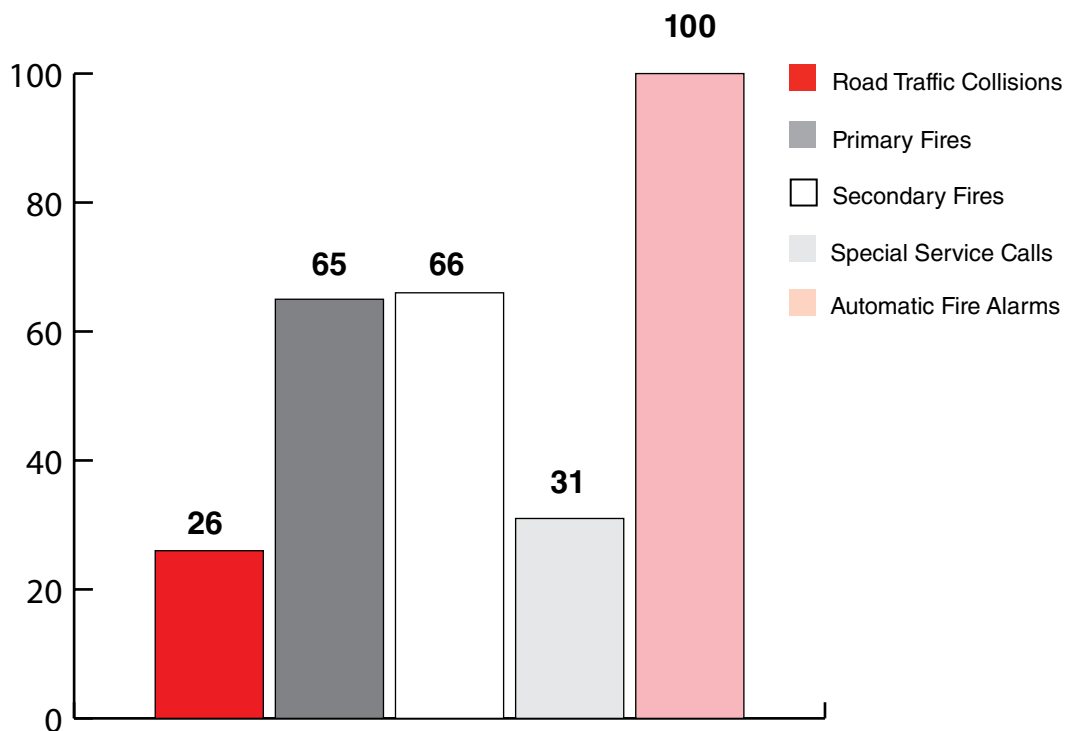
No Enforcement Notices were served during this period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

No Prohibition Notices were served during this period.

Community Response

At just after 1am on 18 September, crews were called to a fire in Solent Scrap Yard, Whiteley Lane, Titchfield. The fire, which started in a car, was spreading to other areas of the scrap yard and involved 66 cars and out-buildings. Six pumps, a special equipment unit, aerial ladder platform (ALP) and the fire emergency support vehicle were in attendance. Two sets of breathing apparatus, two jets, an ALP monitor and one hose reel jet were used to tackle the fire.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 394
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 46

Group F: 69

Group G: 46

Smoke Detectors fitted: 466

Fire Investigations

Portsmouth Group had nine fire investigations for the reporting period including four domestic premises, two unoccupied domestic properties, one commercial premise, the halls of residence at Portsmouth University and an outdoor sculpture.

Arson Task Force

- Five statements taken
- One Fire Investigation Search Dog deployment

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The number of Fire safety Audits completed in the Portsmouth and Havant area for this period was 94. These high risk premises include licensed premises, other commercial premises with sleeping accommodation and blocks of flats with common areas.

We have previously given advice to a particular block of flats within the Southsea area, regarding the maintenance of escape routes and fire doors. We are working with the occupiers to resolve issues uncovered following their reluctance to act on this advice. This may lead to formal enforcement.

A number of high risk buildings, previously served with Enforcement Notices, have successfully elevated their fire safety standards to allow HFRS to lift these notices. A large public school and a large care home are two of these premises.

Enforcement

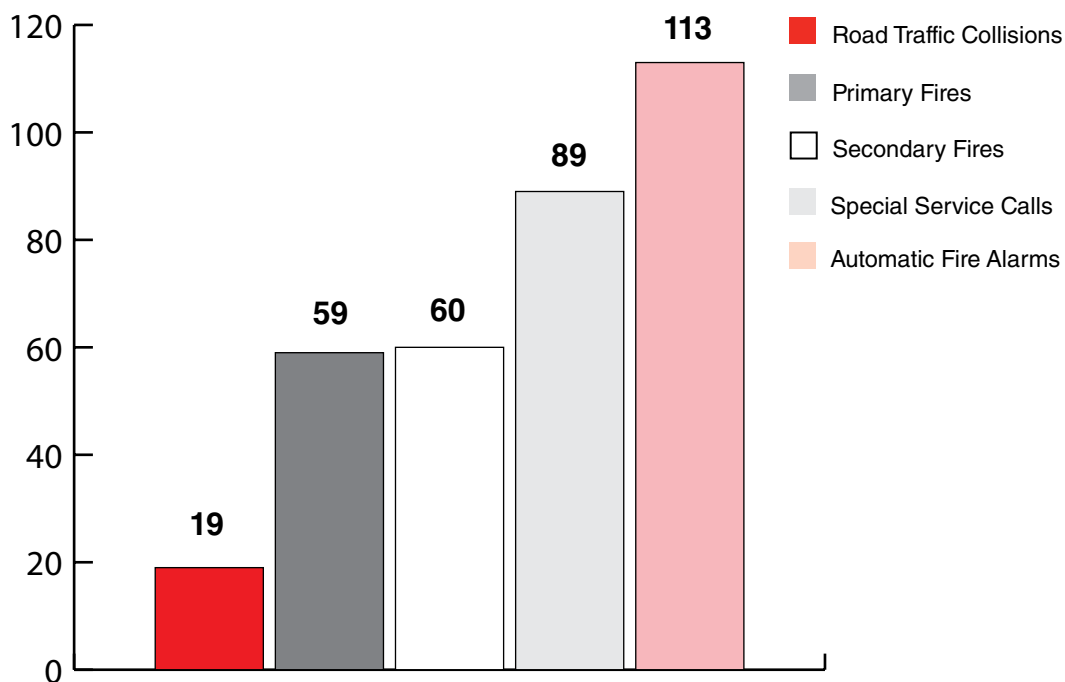
No Enforcement Notices were served in this period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

There were no Prohibition Notices served in this period.

Community Response

At 5pm on 2 October, control room operators received an emergency call to a fire in a second floor flat in purpose built block in Clarendon Road, Southsea. One male was rescued by firefighters and taken to hospital. Four appliances, the aerial ladder platform, special equipment unit and fire emergency support vehicle were in attendance.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 95
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 2

Group F: 6

Group G: 3

Smoke Detectors fitted: 122

Fire Investigations

Havant Group had two fire investigations for the reporting period including a car fire and fire spread from a garden bonfire to a motorcycle.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements taken
- No Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

The number of Fire safety Audits completed by the Fire Safety Officers for the Portsmouth and Havant area for this period was 94.

Enforcement

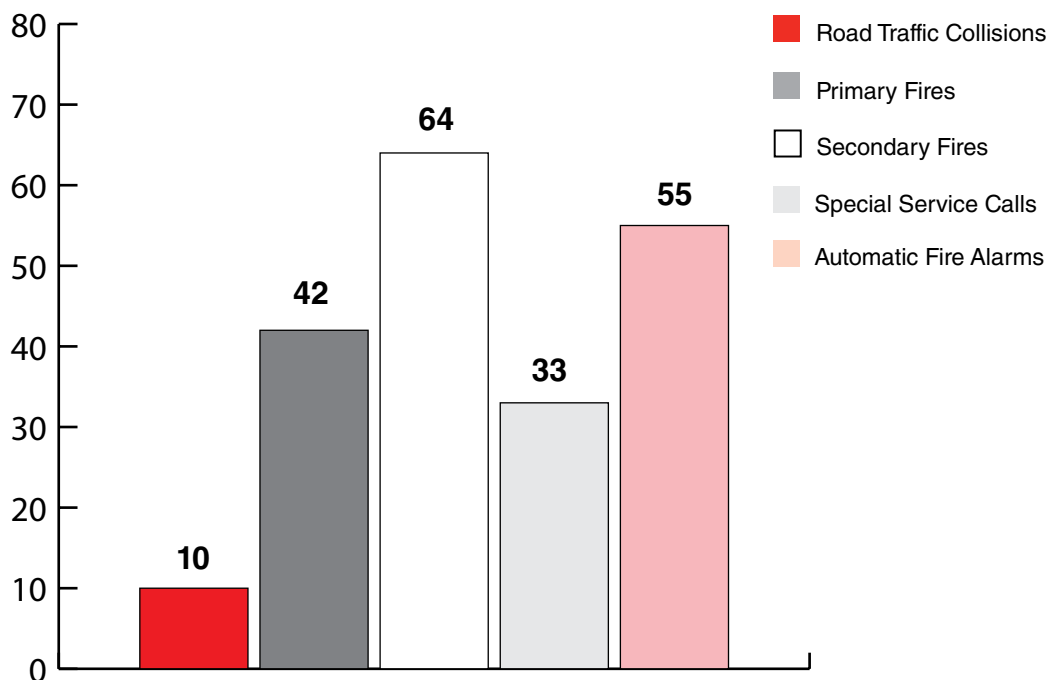
There were no Enforcement Notices served in this period.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

One Prohibition Notice was served on a licensed premises with sleeping accommodation.

Community Response

At almost 5.30pm on 18 October, three appliances attended a fire involving a two-storey workshop in Havant Road, North Hayling. The workshop, of traditional construction, also had an asbestos roof. Six sets of breathing apparatus and two jets were used to extinguish the fire.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 133
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 16

Group F: 2

Group G: 1

Smoke Detectors fitted: 118

Fire Investigations

Winchester Group had two fire investigations for the reporting period including a hotel and a prison.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- No statements taken
- No Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 66 Fire Safety Audits were completed.

In this quarter we have responded to 14 reports from staff, members of the public and our partner agencies regarding fire safety concerns.

We have responded to information from our response crews with the continued success of the Acetylene initiative in reducing disruption to businesses and the public from fires involving these cylinders.

Enforcement

No Enforcement Notices were issued during this period.

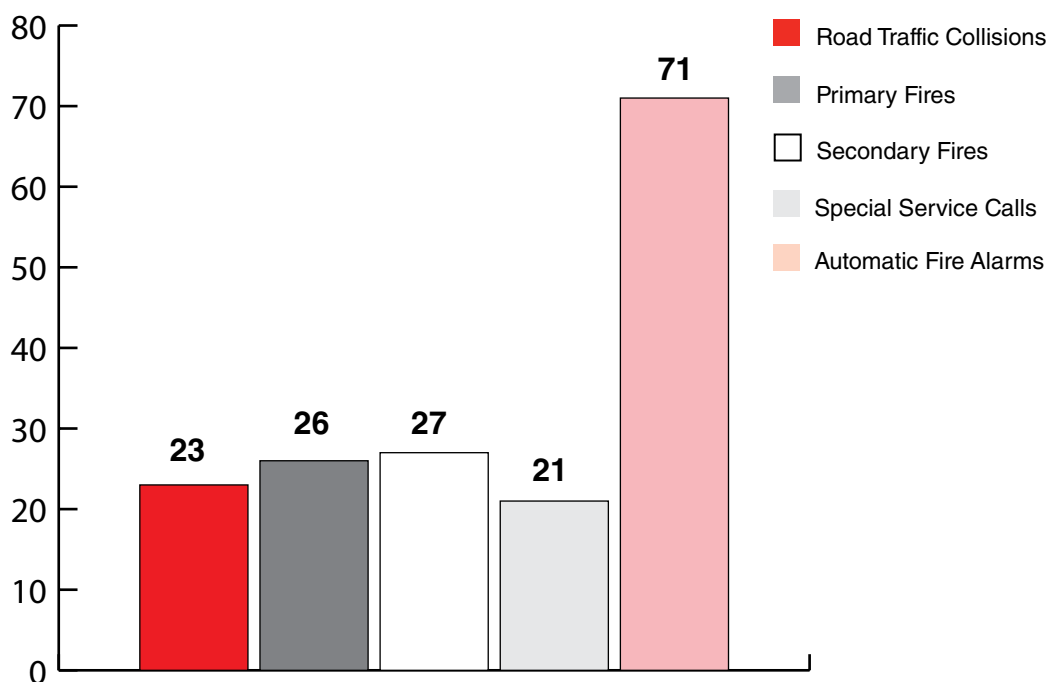
Prosecution / Prohibitions

There were no prosecutions or prohibitions issued.

Community Response

The Service was called to assist a man trapped in a tree in Pearson Lane, Shawford at 09:50 on 7 August 2010. The man, who was trapped in the fork of the tree had leg and hip injuries and was rescued using the aerial ladder platform.

For more information see 1.1.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 86
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 67

Group F: 7

Group G: 35

Smoke Detectors fitted: 133

Fire Investigations

Test Valley and Eastleigh Group had four fire investigations for the reporting period including a public toilet, a shop, a Dutch barn and a domestic premise.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- Two statements taken
- No Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period a total of 65 Fire Safety Audits were completed, these were identified using community risk analysis and information from our response crews.

With new building projects such as the Rose Bowl Hotel and a new auditorium at Kings Church Hedge End, we are working with our local authority partners to ensure both buildings are constructed and that a safe environment is maintained during construction.

Enforcement

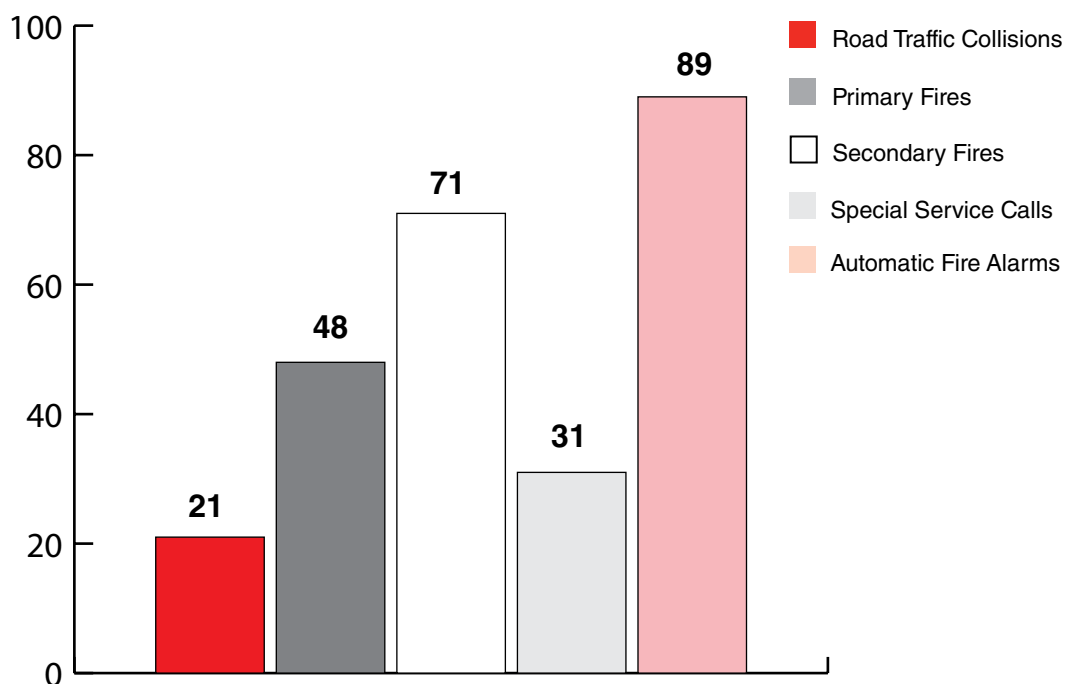
During this period 2 Enforcement Notices were issued. These included licensed premises with sleeping accommodation.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

One Prohibition Notice was served to a licensed premises in the Bursledon area.

Community Response

At 19:36 on 25 August, the Service was called to a fire involving a building used for storage on the Jewson site, Mylen Road, Andover. Three appliances attended the incident and six sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reel jets and two jets were used to extinguish the fire.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 165
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 43

Group F: 95

Group G: 18

Smoke Detectors fitted: 192

Fire Investigations

Southampton Group had 14 fire investigations for the reporting period including seven domestic premises, one shed, two cars, one caravan, a restaurant, wheelie bins and pallets.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- Five statements were taken
- Two Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Princes Trust

In September, one team started in Southampton with staff from HFRS and the army and 12 team members. Currently the team is undertaking community projects at NHS Millbrook Hospital.

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

During this period, 34 fire safety audits were completed, as we continue to target the highest risk premises within Southampton.

We recently took part in a High Rise Southampton group initiative. Inspectors from Protection provided information to residents.

We continue to support the Southampton Boat Show through multi-agency planning and offering advice.

Unity 101 is a local radio channel specifically targeted at the areas of our community with high levels of black and minority ethnic residents. The Service's Business Education team have secured dedicated time once a month where Protection can raise the profile of HFRS whilst promoting fire safety. Two prominent local business owners have joined HFRS in supporting the events.

Enforcement

A total of six Enforcement Notices were served during this period. Including two public houses, two blocks of flats, a shop and restaurant.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

Two Prohibition Notices were served during this period to a restaurant and a shop.

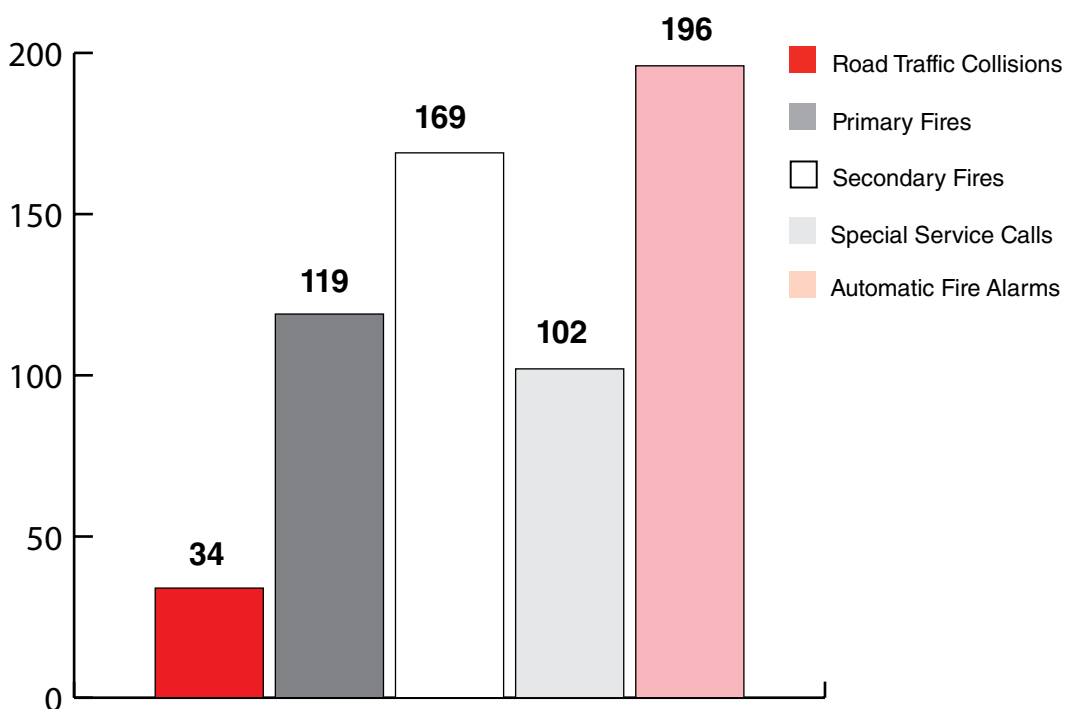
Community Response

Restaurant fire

At 08:33 on 2 October 2010, the Service operators received a call to a fire involving the roof of Chiquitos restaurant in Canute Road, Southampton. On arrival, firefighters were presented with a fire at the restaurant with the roof well alight. Crews managed to contain the fire to the roof space. Five pumps, an aerial ladder platform and a special equipment unit were in attendance. 12 sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reel jets, four jets and an ALP monitor were used to extinguish the fire.

Rescue from fire in Rotterdam Towers, Southampton

At 2220 hours on 1 October 2010, the Service attended a fire at Rotterdam Towers in Southampton. Using four sets of breathing apparatus and two main jets, firefighters extinguished the fire. One person was rescued by the Service. A total of 28 firefighters from Redbridge, St Marys, Hamble and Hightown Fire Stations were in attendance.



Community Safety

Home Safety Visits

Number of Home Safety Visits: 56
(other vulnerable people)

Number of HSVs within Mosaic Groups

Group I: 2

Group F: 0

Group G: 0

Smoke Detectors fitted: 39

Fire Investigations

New Forest Group had two fire investigations for the reporting period including a domestic premise and a boiler house.

Arson and Risk Reduction

- One statement was taken
- No Fire Investigation Search Dog deployments

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

We carried out 54 fire safety audits during this period. Our main focus has been hotels, guest houses and B&Bs within the New Forest.

Enforcement

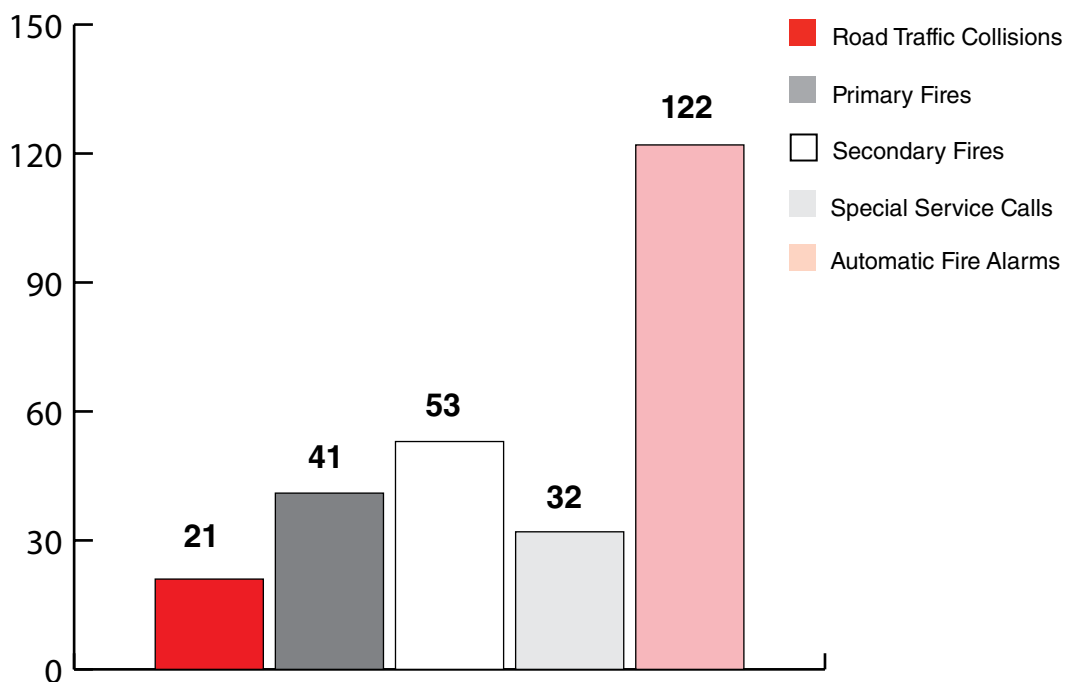
We served two Enforcement Notices during this period on a shop and a licensed premises.

Prosecution / Prohibitions

We served one Prohibition Notice to one licensed premises with sleeping accommodation provided above.

Community Response

Crews were called to tackle a fire in a derelict building of traditional construction at 22:40 on 30 August 2010. The roof was completely damaged by fire and the first and ground floors were severely damaged. Six appliances were in attendance and five jets and an ALP Monitor were used to bring the fire under control.



4.1

Fire fatality in Waterlooville

At 10:52 on Sunday, 24 October 2010, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service control operators were alerted to a serious incident in Waterlooville, following reports that a person had attempted suicide.

Two fire engines from Waterlooville were immediately dispatched to the incident in Harkness Drive, Cowplain. On arrival at the scene, firefighters administered oxygen therapy to a male casualty, who was still conscious and breathing.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, South Central Ambulance Service, and doctors from The British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS) were also dispatched. The 63-year old man, a victim of self immolation (suicide by fire), suffered serious burns to his whole body and had also sustained self-inflicted blows to his head.

Fire crews used one hose reel jet for cooling purposes and the casualty was taken to Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth by South Central Ambulance. Sadly, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service received notification from the police that the gentleman passed away as a result of his injuries on the morning of Monday, 25 October.

4.2

Man suffers severe burns in trading estate fire

At 18:18 on Tuesday, 26 October 2010, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service control operators were alerted to a small fire outside an industrial unit in Broxhead Trading Estate in Lindford, following reports that a man had suffered severe face and upper body burns.

The 47 year old male casualty suffered full thickness burns to his face, both hands, both arms, and his chest. The man was treated at the scene by South Central Ambulance Service and taken to Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford.

Fire crews from Bordon and Grayshott used two sets of breathing apparatus and one jet to tackle the fire. Time of stop 19:11.

A fire investigation revealed that the male casualty suffered the injuries following a flammable liquid vapour explosion. It was believed that the casualty poured five litres of highly flammable paint thinners "Naphtha Petroleum" into a lit 45 gallon drum. HSE, Police, and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Protection officers were all notified of the incident.

4.3

Rescued man dies of a heart attack

A 47-year-old Leigh Park resident suffered a fatal heart attack just minutes after he was rescued from a flat fire.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service control operators received a 999 call at 22:10 on Saturday, 30 October 2010, alerting them to the fire. Two fire engines from Havant and a crew from Emsworth fire station were swiftly mobilised to the fire at a purpose-built flat in Swanmore Road, Leigh Park.

On arrival, firefighters rescued two male casualties from the building and tackled the blaze using four sets of breathing apparatus, two hose reels, and one jet.

Tragically, the first rescued male casualty suffered a cardiac arrest minutes later and was pronounced dead at the scene. A second male casualty that was rescued by firefighters was treated at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham for smoke inhalation.

The flat, approximately 10m x 8m, was 100% damaged by the blaze. A joint fire and police investigation was carried out and early indications were that the fire was caused by accidental ignition due to smoking materials or unprovoked use of matches.

4.4

Sixty firefighters tackle blaze in Southampton restaurant

More than 60 firefighters tackled a blaze in Southampton city centre on Sunday, 31 October after reports of a loud bang in the early hours.

The alarm was raised at 03:04 and HFRS control operators mobilised fire crews from St Mary's, Hightown, Redbridge, Hamble, Eastleigh, Botley, and Romsey to tackle the blaze.

Flats above and next door to the Aleha Restaurant, opposite the Mayflower Theatre in Commercial Road, were evacuated after a gas leak ignited.

Firefighters used 10 sets of breathing apparatus, three jets, and two hose reels to tackle the fire in the building, which was used for commercial and residential purposes. Southern Gas Networks engineers were called out to cap the leak and make the area safe. Fire investigation officers believe the most likely cause to be deliberate ignition by person/s unknown, however the incident is subject to an ongoing Police investigation.

4.5

Fire at property in West Wellow

Hampshire firefighters spent Bonfire Night tackling a fire at a mid-terrace property in West Wellow, near Romsey. Control Room operators received a 999 emergency call at 15:29 on Friday 5 November to reports of a fire in a mid terraced property in Gurnays Mead, West Wellow.

Fire crews arrived to find the property well alight with the fire spreading to the roof space and affecting two neighbouring properties. Firefighters and six appliances from Romsey, Eastleigh, Totton, Redbridge and Lyndhurst fire stations were in attendance., as well as additional specialist vehicles including St Mary's special equipment Unit, Redbridge's aerial ladder and a multi role vehicle from Eastleigh. The property had a lot of material inside and as a result we were faced with a very active fire. Due to the intensity of this fire the stairwell collapsed as well as parts of the first floor. As a result the fire was tackled from the outside due to difficulties with access.

The British Red Cross Fire and Emergency Support Service was also dispatched to the scene. Hampshire Constabulary and Test Valley Borough Council opened a nearby community centre as neighbouring residents were evacuated from their properties. Fire crews remained at the scene overnight as part of a watching brief.

4.6

Firefighters attend flooding calls across the county

Due to heavy rainfall overnight and on the morning of 9 November 2010, the Service received a high number of flood related calls from across the county.

Serious flooding affected the Bridge Road area of Emsworth along a stretch of approximately 200 metres. Around 50 domestic premises were affected and occupiers were evacuated by police boat and the Service's water support unit.

St. James Church in Emsworth was established as a community rest centre for householders who had been evacuated from homes affected by the floodwater.

Further flooding incidents were also reported in Denmead, Hayling Island, Milton, and Selangor Avenue in Emsworth.

4.7

Firefighters from three counties join forces to tackle thatch fire

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service attended a serious fire at a thatched cottage in Woodgreen near Fordingbridge. The alarm was raised at 00:41 on Thursday, 11 November 2010 and Control operators swiftly mobilised crews from across the New Forest to tackle the blaze. Firefighters from Fordingbridge, Ringwood, New Milton and Burley attended the incident and assistance was also provided from across the Wiltshire and Dorset borders, with both Salisbury and Cranbourne fire crews in attendance.

Ancillary appliances included water carriers from Fordingbridge and Lyndhurst, the Multi-Role Vehicle from Eastleigh, St Mary's Special Equipment Unit, as well as the Incident Command Unit, Command Support provided by Beaulieu, and the Fire and Emergency Support Service (FESS), which is delivered by trained British Red Cross volunteers.

The fire investigation revealed that the fire started in the cottage's utility room lobby, containing a fridge freezer appliance. The fire spread to the underside and rear of fridge/freezer, then travelled up between tiled roof and plaster board cladding of ground floor extension to involve thatched main roof of the cottage. The same property was also involved in an unrelated 10 pump fire in 2007.

4.8

Gosport man lucky to be alive after fire in block of flats

At 09:29 on Saturday, 13 November 2010, the Service was alerted to an incident on the 4th floor of a block of flats in Gosport.

In line with the Service's high rise procedures, crews were swiftly mobilised from Gosport, Fareham, and Porchester after reports of smoke logging in one of the flats, along with the special equipment unit from Cosham Fire Station and Southsea's aerial ladder platform.

Firefighters quickly investigated the scene and all persons were accounted for after crews made a forced entry and rescued one male casualty. South Central Ambulance Service treated the man at the scene for smoke inhalation.

The casualty was very lucky to have escaped without more serious injuries. The smoke alarm in the flat had been disconnected and the alarm was only raised when a neighbour called 999 to report smoke in the corridor of the block of flats. The fire was started in the grill pan.

4.9

Serious industrial estate fire in Eastleigh

Firefighters from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service tackled a major blaze at a unit on the Brookwood Industrial Estate in Eastleigh. The alarm was raised at 19:37 on Tuesday, 23 November 2010 and crews were mobilised from Eastleigh, St Mary's, Hightown, Romsey, and Bishop's Waltham fire stations.

Crews arrived at the scene to find a well-developed fire involving an industrial unit of brick and clad construction, used for catering purposes. Due to the rapid response of Hampshire Fire and Rescue's crews, the fire was contained to the unit of origin and did not spread to any of the neighbouring units - nor the residential properties within close proximity.

Fire crews used four jets, one hose reel, and 24 sets of breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze. Unfortunately the unit was 75% destroyed by fire during the incident and an investigation is underway to determine the cause.

4.10

Barn fire in St Mary Bourne

Control room operators were alerted to a fire at a barn in St Mary Bourne at 04:02 on 30 October 2010.

Crews from Andover, Whitchurch, Overton, Sutton Scotney and Kingsclere were mobilised to the scene. The special equipment unit from Basingstoke and the multi role vehicle from Eastleigh were also mobilised to the scene along with water carriers from Basingstoke and Eastleigh.

Firefighters were presented with a fire at the barn which was well alight. The building was single storey of traditional construction and the fire spread to three adjoining buildings.

The barn was completely damaged by fire along with two of the other buildings. Fire crews managed to bring the blaze under control and saved the third building, which had slight smoke damage.



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