

Report of Head of Operational Support

Health and Safety Committee Update

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Audit and Standards Committee with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the following issues, in particular, be noted:

- (i) ***Health and Safety performance information recorded during January to March 2020 (Quarter 4); and***
- (ii) ***The involvement of the Service in Health and Safety initiatives.***

Introduction and Background

2. A key aim of Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority is to ensure the safety and well-being of its employees and to reduce and prevent accidents and injuries at work as outlined in the People Strategy 2020-2022.
3. The Health and Safety Committee is established to provide effective arrangements for the liaison and review of matters of a common interest in regards to Health and Safety (H&S). The Committee provides the opportunity for the Service to discuss general H&S matters and to consult with the workforce via employee representatives. It is chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and last met on 24 June 2020.
4. The Committee has the facility to task work to the Health & Safety Working Group, which sits beneath it and is chaired by the Area Commander Operational Support. The group meets as and when required but at least every six months.

Health & Safety Activities Update

5. Regional H&S Audit: Planning for the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service regional H&S audit was due to be undertaken by the HWFRS H&S Advisor and an HWFRS water training instructor (as a subject matter expert); however the audit has now been re-scheduled for 2021 due to the Covid19 pandemic.

HWFRS H&S Update – Local Initiatives

6. Covid19 H&S Overview Report: Due to the worldwide outbreak of Covid19 which evolved during the latter stages of Quarter 4 2019/2020, the Committee will be aware of ongoing widescale issues surrounding this pandemic.
7. In response to this major incident, declared by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), and in accordance with the business continuity plan, the Service established a Strategic Response Group (CovidSRG) that includes senior managers from across the organisation. This group primarily provides a forum to discuss and implement control measures to support the safety of staff and members of the public.
8. The CovidSRG has scrutinised, discussed and fully supported government, PHE, NHS, SAGE, LRF and NFCC guidance, which has included extensive changes to working practices across the organisation, providing additional PPE, and developing bespoke guidance for all staff. More recently a Covid19 Recovery Group was formed, which now reports into the CovidSRG.
9. The group consists of department leads and is tasked with formulating recovery planning and support to assist the organisation in returning to work in a safe and measured way also being mindful of the impact on mental health and wellbeing. This has led to the development and introduction of innovative new 'ways of working' as part of the post Covid19 environment.
10. Representative Bodies have been fully engaged as part of the Covid19 response and recovery arrangements, including the H&S elements. A regular weekly meeting has been established, to ensure that all health and safety actions and developments are understood and agreed upon with all Representative Bodies, in a timely manner that benefits all.
11. Water Rescue: Following feedback from the recent widescale and protracted flooding events in Quarter 4 2019/2020, the Water First Responders located at ten station locations will now be up-skilled to include the ability to carry out 'tethered wading' as part of their capability. This allows them to safely deploy into conditions that they may not otherwise be able to enter. This improves the safe systems of work for this group of trained personnel when they enter more dynamic water situations such as those experienced whilst wading (untethered) at flood incidents.
12. Operational Logistics are in the process of procuring appropriate equipment to enable this, and updates for HWFRS internal training instructors are being scheduled into the training programme. The training is being planned and will be held at the Cardiff International White Water Centre when it re-opens following the outbreak of Covid19.
13. Following information gained from the operational debrief system, Operational Logistics are also in the process of procuring LED lights for trial use by operational crews at water related incidents. If successful these will replace the snap glow-sticks that are currently utilised to identify personnel and different items of equipment and resources at incidents in the dark. These LED lights are not only brighter but they are also deemed better for the environment than the single use chemically filled glow-sticks.

14. Droitwich Road Hazard to Fire Crews: Following on from a number of near hits that have been reported, the Service has been working closely with Place Partnership Ltd and the Highways Agency to review the options to improve the safety of the roadway outside Droitwich Fire Station when the fire engine mobilises onto the road.
15. A feasibility study of options for potential improvements is being undertaken with completion expected Summer 2020. This will then allow the Service to review all the options and decide on the most appropriate way forward.
16. Risk Assessment Database: During Quarter 4 a total of 274 Risk Assessments were reviewed and 42 new ones were created.

	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
Location	Reviewed	Created	Reviewed	Created	Reviewed	Created	Reviewed	Created
North District	122	11	116	19	70	9	59	7
South District	122	14	104	13	67	10	62	12
West District	155	29	87	13	84	18	86	13
Training Centre	47	0	47	0	43	2	65	3
Others	22	24	36	2	12	8	2	7
Total	468	78	390	47	276	47	274	42

17. The database is now being maintained by the owners of the Risk Assessments, automatic email prompts are sent when the Risk Assessments are due to be reviewed, if they are no longer applicable they will be archived from the database.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Contained within H&S budgets and departmental capacity.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	Corporate strategy – ensuring firefighter safety People Strategy - maximising the health, wellbeing & fitness of our staff
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	Reduces the overall impact for health and safety management in the areas identified and safeguards the Services legal requirements
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Representative Bodies attend H&S Committee and are fully consulted on H&S matters.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact	N/A

Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	
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Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Quarter 4 Event Reporting (January – March 2020)

Quarter 4 (January – March 2020) Event Reporting

Executive Summary

This statistical report provides details relating to all safety events that have been reported and investigated during Quarter 4 of the 2019/20 reporting year.

The total number of safety events reported in quarter 4 has increased by 15 compared to the previous quarter, though these have been relatively minor in nature with no significant implications.

The key drivers in the increase in accident reporting is vehicle collisions (+7) and personal injuries (+6). There are no obvious key trends for these increases.

The majority of the personal injuries happened during operational training, and are relatively minor in nature. Vehicle accidents were mainly whilst responding to calls, and were relatively minor in nature.

There were 3 events reported to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) under the RIDDOR regulations these were both reported under the time lost requirements. These involved two back injuries and a fall.

1. Events Reported During Quarter 4 (January – March 2020)

1.1 Overview

In the period of January to March 2020 a total of 54 Health and Safety events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

- 21 Personal Injury
- 18 Vehicle Collisions
- 3 Property or Equipment
- 7 Near Hits or Causes for Concern
- 3 Violence or Aggression
- 2 Exposure or Contamination

Individual detailed summaries of reporting in the key areas above are outlined in Appendix A.

1.2 Breakdown of Events

By Activity

Table 1 shows that during quarter 4 personal injuries and vehicle accidents were the highest reported incidents. Personal injuries tend to occur during training activities. It appears that the majority of the vehicle collisions happened during operational activities, generally during a collision with another vehicle (Service and public vehicles).

	Total	Training	Operational Activities	Routine Activities	Non-Service Related Activities
Total H&S Events Q4	54	14	24	13	2
Personal Injury	21	9	5	6	1
Vehicle Collision	18	3	10	5	0
Property or Equipment Failure	3	2	1	0	0
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	7	0	5	1	1
Exposure	3	0	2	1	0
Violence or Aggression	2	0	1	0	0

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q4 2019-2020

By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies slips, trips and falls and manual handling as the predominant causes of personal injuries reported, usually where firefighters have lost their footing resulting in a form of injury. The 'Others' category covers various issues from sickness from water training courses to an infected blister.

Total Personal Injuries	21
Manual Handling	6
Slips, Trips & Falls	6
Hit by Moving Object	3
Hit Stationary Object	4
Burns – Operational	0
Burns – Training	0
Other	2

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q4 2019-2020

By Vehicle Type

Table 3 highlights that whilst at low numbers and on the whole of a minor nature, the vehicle collisions involving fire engines are mainly whilst non blue light driving.

Car and van accidents have generally occurred during normal road driving.

Vehicle Collisions	Fire Engines		Cars and Vans		Non-Service related
	On blue lights	Off blue lights	On blue lights	Off blue lights	
Total Collisions	4	9	0	5	0

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q4 2019-2020

Vehicle Mileage Statistics

Vehicle mileage statistics for the year 2018-2019 have been provided by the Operational Logistics Fleet Department and have been used to predict vehicle mileage for 2019-20. These are summarised in Table 3A below. It can be seen that there were 5 white fleet safety events out of approximately 186,306 miles driven, which equates to 1 event for every 37,261 miles driven.

The 13 safety events by red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 57,787 miles driven, which equates to 1 event for every 4,445 miles driven.

Fleet	Total Mileage 2018-2019	Predicted Mileage Q4 2019-2020
White Fleet	745,223	186,306
Red Fleet	231,149	57,787
	Totalling 976,372 miles	Totalling 244,093 miles

Table 3A: Vehicle Mileage Statistics Q4 2019-2020

2. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 4 (January – March 2020)

2.1 Tier One Investigations

A Tier One standard investigation is required for all safety events reported during the reporting period, usually by the on-duty or line manager present at the time of the event, and is usually minor in nature (see Section 1 above).

2.2 Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigations

In addition to the standard investigation required for Tier One, a Basic Specialist Investigation (SI) is required for:

- Rare, unusual or unlikely events resulting in either a serious injuries or losses, or with the potential to incur such injuries or losses.
- Events involving Breathing Apparatus (BA).

- Near Hits resulting from unusual conditions or with the potential to cause serious injury or loss that are rare or unlikely to reoccur.

There have been 7 safety events reported during quarter 4 that required a Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigation.

These events are as follows:

- 1) Whilst taking part in a group swimming activity a firefighter hit their back on a rock. This resulted in a lower back injury. RIDDOR
- 2) Whilst using a ladder in a training exercise a strong gust of wind blew the ladder over. This resulted in the ladder hitting the ground and becoming dented and twisted.
- 3) Whilst manoeuvring a boat during an evacuation the firefighter sustained a back injury. RIDDOR
- 4) Member of public turning vehicle on a fire service property - a member of the public reversed into his partner and resulted in a dislocated shoulder and cut above left eye.
- 5) The fire engine was involved in a collision whilst responding to an emergency call. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- 6) Whilst attending a flood related incident, three firefighters were aboard the fire service boat, where the engine on the boat failed and the boat was carried with the river current. Two firefighters got out of the boat and entered the water. They were able to self rescue themselves and get onto dry land. The third firefighter remained in the boat and managed to restart the engine.
- 7) During a training exercise a part of a BA set being used failed (not a breathing part), due to an electronic error. The 'bodyguard' system that displays key data relating to the amount of air used, had a frozen screen image. This has been inspected by an engineer who couldn't replicate the occurrence and has been sent back to the manufacturer for further investigation.

2.3 Tier Two Full Specialist Investigations

A full SI may be assigned immediately or following a Basic SI and is required for:

- Possible or likely events resulting in serious injuries or losses.
- All significant events involving Breathing Apparatus (BA).
- Near Hits resulting from unusual conditions or with the potential to cause serious injury or loss that are possible or likely to reoccur.

There has been no safety events reported during Quarter 4 that required a Full Specialist Investigation.

2.4 Tier Three MERP Specialist Investigations

A Tier Three specialist investigation is conducted as required by Major Event Response Protocol (MERP) SPI. These are for the most serious events such as death or potentially life threatening injury to a member of HWFRS whilst on duty, or a third party either occurring on Service property or as a result of an act or omission on behalf of HWFRS.

There have been no safety events during Quarter 4 that required a Tier Three specialist investigation.

2.5 RIDDOR Events for Quarter 4 (January – March 2020)

During Quarter 4, 3 RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) reports were submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). All of these reports were for personal injury events which fell under the time lost category.

- 1) Whilst taking part in a group swimming activity a firefighter hit their back on a rock. This resulted in a lower back injury.
- 2) The fire fighter tripped over a wooden timber which was surrounding a garden border. The firefighter fell over on concrete, using their hand to break their fall.
- 3) Whilst manoeuvring a boat during an evacuation the firefighter sustained a back injury.

3. Comparison Between Quarters and Trend Analysis

3.1 Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q4 2018-19 and Q4 2019-20

Table 4 below compares the number of events reported in Q4 2018-19 and Q4 2019-20 for the different categories. For events over the last 12 months, 2 of the categories experienced a decrease and 3 with an increase.

Overall, event reporting as a whole has increased by 5 over the period with 54 reports in Q4 2019-20 compared to 49 in Q4 2018-19. This is driven by Vehicle Collisions and Near Hits

Event Type	Q4 2018-19	Q4 2019-20	Increase/Decrease
Personal Injuries	22	21	-1
Vehicle Collisions	15	18	+3
Property or equipment	3	3	-/+
Violence & Aggression	8	7	-1
Near Hits	0	3	+3

Exposure / contamination	1	2	+1
Overall	49	54	+5

Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q4 2018-2019 and Q4 2019-2020

3.2 Trend Analysis

In summary compared with the previous year, there has been an increase in the number of events reported during Quarter 4 (+5).

The main increase was near hits (+3) and vehicle accidents (+3).

All events that occurred during the quarter have had a minimum of a Tier One local level investigation to identify preventative control measures, to help in reducing the likelihood of similar occurrences.

3.3 12 Month Trend Analysis

Table 5 below breaks down the latest 4 quarters by reported accident type. There has been a sizeable increase in reported events this quarter vs quarter 3 (+15) with six additional personal injuries, mainly relatively minor in nature. Quarter 4 did include a period of days of intense spate weather conditions and widescale flooding which significantly increased operational activity, it is therefore not surprising that this will account for some for the additional reports received.

Near hits has a significant drop in reporting (from Quarter 1 2019/20). There is a long standing historic issue with crews mobilising from Droitwich fire station and members of the public appearing to be ignoring the wig-wag lighting system. A risk assessment has been created and all fire service drivers are aware of the control measures to use the roadway as a give way zone. In addition to this a local media campaign was issued to promote awareness of the requirements of the Highway Code to members of public. The H&S Advisor has also advised Place Partnership Ltd to produce an options paper to give HWFRS the opportunity to provide a solution and reduce the risk as much as possible.

The majority of categories have seen an increase this quarter vs the previous quarter. Violence is in line with previous numbers.

	Q1 19/20	Q2 19/20	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20
Total H&S Events	67	53	39	54
Personal Injury	18	19	15	21
Vehicle Collision	21	17	11	18
Property or Equipment Failure	3	4	1	3
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	20	9	8	7
Exposure or contamination	1	1	1	3
Violence or Aggression	4	3	3	2

Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q1 2019 – 2020 to Q4 2019 – 2020

Brief Description of all Safety Events

Personal Injury

Of the 54 H&S events reported, 21 relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category
9 events/injuries were during training	1044 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst putting a piece of equipment back on the fire engine the end of the piece of equipment came off and hit the Firefighter on the forehead, resulting in a cut and bruising to their forehead.
	1055 - 1 relates to a personal injury during training. The firefighter was attached to a throw line, with a person attached to the other end of the throw line. The firefighter hurt their lower back.
	1060 - 1 relates to a Personal Injury. Whilst taking part in a group swimming activity a fire fighter hit their back on a rock. This resulted in a lower back injury.. RIDDOR
	1062 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst stowing the ladder back on the fire engine, the fire fighter caught their chin on the ladder. This resulted in them biting their tongue, which then bled.
	1072 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst pitching a ladder the fire fighter strained the muscle in their right bicep.
	1075 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst running out a hose the fire fighter aggravated a pre-existing shoulder injury, resulting in muscular pain to the shoulder.
	1074 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst under running a ladder the fire fighter experienced strain to their left bicep muscle.
	1102 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst undertaking a river training exercise a firefighter ingested some river water and became ill.
	1104 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst performing a training exercise in water, the firefighter struck a rock in the river.
5 events/injuries were at or during operational incidents	1057 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst attending an incident the firefighter opened the locker of the fire engine to deploy the hose reel. On opening the locker a piece of equipment fell out and hit the firefighters ankle causing bruising.
	1071 - 1 relates to a Personal Injury. The firefighter tripped

	over a timber which was surrounding a garden border. The firefighter fell over on concrete, using their hand to break their fall. RIDDOR
	1069 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst collecting firefighting equipment in dark conditions the firefighter tripped in a deep puddle, ending up ingesting dirty water.
	1079 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst manoeuvring a boat during an evacuation the firefighter sustained a back injury. RIDDOR
	1087 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst attending a flood related incident the firefighter's drysuit leaked, allowing flood water to come into contact with a blister on their foot. This resulted in the blister becoming infected.
7 events/injuries were during routine activities	1046 - 1 relates to a personal Injury. Whilst removing a piece of equipment from the fire engine the firefighter twisted their leg and pulled his calf muscle.
	1056 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst sweeping dust from the corner of the kit room, the firefighter bent down. On standing up again they hit their head on the corner of a key safe that was affixed to the wall.
	1064 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A staff member tripped over an extension lead cable cover whilst getting up from their chair.
	1081 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst parking at the fire station a member of the public reversed into his partner. This resulted in a dislocated shoulder and cut above the left eye.
	1088 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst coming down a flight of stairs the member of staff slipped. They managed to steady themselves by grabbing the hand rail but this resulted in an injury to their left shoulder and wrist.
	1093 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst walking outside, a member of support staff slipped on the pavement and fell over resulting in injuries to their hip, head and face. They also sustained a minor cut to their hand. The member of staff went to hospital for a precautionary check up.
	1094 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst taking part in parade at drill night a firefighter fainted. They were caught by the firefighter standing next to them and did not get injured. This is believed to have been due to an illness.
Totalling 21 personal injuries	
Totalling 3 RIDDOR events	
Totalling 28 calendar days lost. 14 working days lost.	

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Quarter 4

Vehicle Collisions

Of the **54** H&S events **18** relate to the category of Vehicle Collisions which are further described in Table A2 below. **17** of these events could be attributed to the FRS driver, and were relatively minor in nature; these events are highlighted in grey. If these collisions occurred whilst on response to an operational incident the category of response has been provided in bold.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Vehicle Collisions in Each Sub-Category
10 events were responding to operational incidents	1049 - 1 relates to a vehicle incident. Whilst manoeuvring out of a gateway with a very small turning circle, the front mirror was knocked off by a tree.
	1053 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst the Fire Engine was manoeuvring into a parking space outside an incident, the Fire Engine clipped a parked vehicle.
	1063 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst responding to a fire call, the fire engine drove through a barrier which was coming down. The driver had already committed to the manoeuvre, and ended up hitting the barrier. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
	1077 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst attending to an emergency response the fire engine hit a low hanging branch resulting in damage to the plastic casing on the near side wing mirror. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
	1080 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst reversing the fire engine collided with a telegraph pole resulting in damage to the wing mirror.
	1085 - 1 related to a vehicle accident. The fire engine was involved in a collision whilst responding to an emergency call. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
	1083 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving through flood waters the crew heard a bang. On leaving the water they inspected the vehicle and noticed the off-side spot and fog light had popped out and that the off-side rear wheel arch had come off the fire engine.
	1084 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving down a lane the fire engine hit some low hanging branches. This resulted in damage to the near side downward facing pedestrian mirror.
	1092 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst responding to an incident the fire engine was driven through flood waters resulting in a break down. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

	1095 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst responding to an incident the fire engine was driven through flood water. The fire engine suffered a flat tyre and a trailer board was broken.
5 events were during routine activities	1059 - 1 relates to a Vehicle accident. Whilst parking the fire engine in the bay the driver realised that the ladder was not stowed away correctly. This resulted in the ladder making contact with the wall and becoming damaged.
	1078 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. A service vehicle was parked at a property during a visit. On returning to the van the member of staff noticed the side door had been scraped.
	1091 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst responding to an incident the fire engine was driven through flood waters resulting in engine failure.
	1096 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst reversing the car to leave the driver hit a dry stone wall. This resulted in a section of the wall being knocked over, and a scratch to the rear bumper of the car.
	1097 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst pulling out of a parking space the driver hit the rear bumper of the car parked next to it. This resulted in a scrape and dent to the rear drivers side panel of our service car, and a scrape to the other cars bumper.
3 events were during training	1073 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. A member of staff parked the work vehicle and then attended a training course. On returning to the vehicle the staff member noticed a series of scratches on the nearside rear wheel.
	1090 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst manoeuvring the ALP the ALP got damaged.
	1099 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst testing the jacks during a drill one of the lights on the jack hit a cable and shattered.
	Totalling 18 vehicle collisions

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Quarter 4

Property or Equipment Damage

Of the 54 H&S events 3 relate to the category of Damage to Property or Equipment; these are further described in Table A3 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Property or Equipment Damage in Each Sub-Category
1 event was responding to operational incidents	1098 - 1 relates to an Equipment failure. Whilst in use at a missing persons search incident, the Drone stopped working

	and dropped from the sky into an open field. Official report showed operator error.
2 events were during training	1076 - 1 relates to property or equipment. Whilst using a ladder a strong gust of wind blew the ladder over. This resulted in the ladder hitting the ground and becoming dented and twisted.
	1103 - 1 relates to an equipment failure. During a training exercise part of a BA set failed (non breathing part) due to an electronic error. The bodyguard that displays key data relating to safe use had a frozen screen image. This has been inspected by an engineer who couldn't replicate the occurrence and has been sent back to the manufacturer for further investigation.
	Totalling 3 property or equipment damage

Table A3: Damage to Property or Equipment Reported during Quarter 4

Near Hits or Causes for Concern

Of the 54 H&S events 7 relate to the category of Near Hits or Causes for Concern - these are further described in Table A4 below.

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Near Hits or Causes for Concern in Each Sub-Category
5 events were during operational activities	1051 - 1 relates to a near hit. Whilst leaving the fire station to respond to a call another car, travelling in the opposite direction, drove through a red light outside the fire station. This resulted in a near miss.
	1054 - 1 relates to a cause for concern. Whilst responding to an incident there was a loss of water to the BA crew. This was due to a faulty handbrake on the appliance causing the pump to stop working.
	1058 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst exiting the station to respond to an incident the fire engine had to swerve to avoid hitting another vehicle that had ignored the hazard warning lights.
	1086 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst attending a flood related incident, three firefighters were aboard the fire service boat. During an incident the engine on the boat failed and the boat was carried away with the river current. Two firefighters got out of the boat and entered the water. They were able to self rescue themselves and get onto dry land. The third firefighter remained in the boat and managed to restart the engine.
	1101 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst responding to a fire call the fire engine had to swerve and brake to avoid a traffic collision with a private car who ignored the warning lights outside Droitwich fire station.
2 event was during routine activities	1061 - 1 relates to a Near hit. The locker on the fire engine had not been properly secured. This resulted in the contents falling out of the locker when opened, nearly hitting the firefighter.
	1089 - 1 relates to a near miss. A portable toilet was placed near to a heater to enable drying. The toilet was noticed as being hot, and moved away from the heater.
	Totalling 7 near hits or causes for concern

Table A4: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Quarter 4

Violence or Aggression

Of the 54 H&S events 2 relate to the category of Violence or Aggression, these are further described in Table A5 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Violence or Aggression in Each Sub-Category
2 were during operational activities	1048 - 1 relates to verbal and physical abuse towards firefighters. Whilst attending to an out of control bonfire the occupant of the premises kicked a football at the Watch Commander and also pushed their helmet and slammed a gate on them. The occupant obstructed firefighting by trying to drag the hose away from the bonfire. The police were called to the incident.
	1070 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. A member of fire control answered an emergency call. The caller became aggressive during the call and ended up shouting and swearing at the member of Fire Control.
	Totalling 2 violence or aggression

Table A5: Violence or Aggression Reported during Quarter 4

Exposure or Contamination

Of the **54** H&S events **3** relates to the category of Exposure or Contamination. These are further described in Table A6 below.

An exposure event will be investigated where a harmful substance has entered the body through a route e.g. by inhalation, ingestion, absorption, by injection or when the body is irradiated. Where there is uncertainty as to whether any exposure has taken place, or this is negligible, then this would be recorded as a potential exposure and an investigation would not normally be instigated, unless related symptoms develop.

A contamination event occurs where a substance has adhered to or is deposited on people, equipment or the environment, creating a risk of exposure and possible injury or harm.

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Exposure or Contamination in Each Sub-Category
2 were during operational activities	1082 - 1 relates to exposure. Firefighter was involved in multiple water rescues during flooding, resulting in being exposed to a lot of flood water.
	1100 - 1 relates to an exposure. Whilst attending an incident a firefighter came into contact with some asbestos cement roof tiles.
1 was during routine activities	1050 - Contaminated PPE only.
	Totalling 3 exposure or contamination

Table A6: Exposure or Contamination Reported during Quarter 4

There was 1 report of skin reddening during Quarter 4. Skin reddening is recorded following training or incidents where immediately following exposure to high temperatures there is some skin discolouration which may be a result of this exposure. These occurrences are recorded and if they continue past 24 hours these are reported as a Personal Injury Safety Event.

50 potential exposure/contamination incidents were recorded during Quarter 4, involving firefighters. Potential exposure/contaminations are where personnel have been exposed (during training or incidents) to hazardous environments but where appropriate control measures were implemented.