

10. Health and Safety Liaison Panel Update

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Liaison Panel.

Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Policy and Resources Committee note the content of this report.

Introduction

2. The Health and Safety Liaison Panel last met on 29 October 2012.

Significant Issues Discussed

3. In light of the recent Service re-structure, a discussion was held to review the Terms of Reference for this group. This included the purpose and objectives, membership, meeting arrangements and the arrangements for communicating the meeting outcomes to employees.
4. A review of the previous quarter's Health and Safety performance was discussed in detail (Appendix 1), followed by a review of the recent Health and Safety investigations. It was considered very positive that both reporting levels and awareness of staff were good and that, in general, any injuries reported were mostly minor in nature.
5. Training within the Service has focussed on risk critical areas and this year 12 operational commanders and non-uniformed equivalents will have been trained to The National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) level and 90 Watch Commanders and Crew Commanders to The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Managing Safely level.
6. It was noted that, for next year, Health and Safety training will be co-ordinated and managed by the Training and Development Centre.
7. Feedback is being sought from users of the Occupational Health provider to ensure that the service being delivered meets the user requirements and to identify any areas for improvement.
8. An update from the Health and Safety Working Group confirmed that a review is currently underway to ensure that the recommendations from last year's incident involving breathing apparatus cylinders have been implemented sufficiently and are still fit for purpose. The Working Group will report back to the next Liaison Panel.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	No	

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	No	

Additional Considerations

9. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	No	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	Entire Report
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	Yes	Entire Report
Consultation with Representative Bodies	Yes	Part of H&SLP

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Health & Safety Report to FRA, July – September 2012

Contact Officer

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INCIDENTS AND INJURIES

A total of 56¹ Health and Safety related incidents were reported this quarter.

- 2 were/had potential to be 'serious incidents'²;
- 3 were incidents of sexual harassment (by telephone): one to a female firefighter on station from a member of the press and two from the same person to two fire control operators.

	Jul	Aug	Sep	This ¼ Total	Prev.¼ Total
Serious Incidents ²	0	0	2	2	2
Near Hit/Cause for Concern ³	2	6	3	11	14
Specialist Investigations ⁴	2	0	2	4	1

ANALYSIS

The serious or potentially serious incidents this quarter comprised of the following:

1. Issue with the tolerances on the RTC gear tray on the new Scania appliances leading to manual handling injuries.
2. Contamination of external cylinder lockers with water, dirt and debris.

FLEET INCIDENTS

Station	Total	Response
24 Kidderminster	2	1
25 Bromsgrove	2	1
26 Droitwich	1	0
27 Redditch	1	1
28 Evesham	2	1
41 Malvern	1	0
42 Ledbury	1	1

Station	Total	Response
45 Whitchurch	1	1
46 Hereford	3	1
52 Leominster	2	2
Headquarters	2	0
Training Centre	1	0
West District	1	0
Total	20	9

Of the total of 20 driving-related incidents reported this period:

- 18 were as a result of our driver error;
- 9 whilst responding to incidents;
- 9 occurred during slow speed manoeuvres;
- 4 occurred during reversing manoeuvres;
- 16 incidents involved front-line appliances; and
- 1 incidents involved non-operational support vehicles.

¹ Serious injuries, minor injuries, vehicle collisions, potential hazards, near hits.

² Incidents either actually resulting in, or having the potential to result in a fatality, serious personal injury or significant loss or damage.

³ Incidents that almost resulted in an injury or conditions identified that have the potential to cause injury, loss or a near hit but have not done so up to the time of reporting – e.g. items falling but not injuring anyone.

⁴ Of incidents either actually resulting in, or having the potential to result in serious injuries or losses.