

## Health and Safety Quarterly Report Quarter 1 (April – June 2022) Event Reporting and Summary

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### 1. Overview

In the period of April to June 2022 a total of **37** Health and Safety (H&S) events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

- 11 Personal Injury
- 12 Vehicle Collisions
- 1 Property or Equipment
- 11 Near Hits or Causes for Concern
- 0 Exposure or Contamination
- 2 Violence or Aggression

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

### 2. Breakdown of Events

#### By Activity

Table 1 shows that during Q1, personal injuries, near misses and vehicle collisions were the most frequently reported incidents. The majority of vehicle collisions and personal injuries occurred during operational activities.

	Total	Training	Operational Activities	Routine Activities	Non-Service Related Activities
<b>Total H&amp;S Events Q4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Personal Injury	11	3	5	3	0
Vehicle Collision	12	1	6	5	0
Property or Equipment Failure	1	0	1	0	0
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	11	4	4	3	0
Exposure or Contamination	0	0	0	0	0
Violence or Aggression	2	0	2	0	0

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q1 2022-2023

### By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies three areas to be the main cause of personal injuries; Manual handling, slips, trips and falls and being hit by a stationary object.

<b>Total Personal Injuries</b>	11
Manual Handling	3
Slips, Trips & Falls	3
Hit by Moving Object	1
Hit Stationary Object	3
Burns – Operational	0
Burns – Training	0
Other	1

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q1 2022-2023

### By Vehicle Type

Table 3 highlights that vehicle collisions during this quarter have mostly involved appliances in emergency response, on blue lights.

<b>Vehicle Collisions</b>	<b>Fire Engines</b>		<b>Cars and Vans</b>		<b>Non-Service related</b>
	On blue lights	Off blue lights	On blue lights	Off blue lights	
<b>Total Collisions</b>	6	4	0	2	0

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q1 2022-2023

### Vehicle Mileage Statistics

Vehicle mileage statistics for the year 2021-2022 were provided by the Operational Logistics Fleet Department and have been used to predict vehicle mileage for 2022-23. These are summarised in Table 3A below. It can be seen that there were two white fleet safety events out of approximately 175,894 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 87,947 miles driven.

The 10 safety events involving red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 67,202 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 6,720 miles driven.

<b>Fleet</b>	<b>Total Mileage 2021-2022</b>	<b>Predicted Mileage Q1 2022-2023</b>
White Fleet	703,576	175,894
Red Fleet	268,808	67,202
	<b>Totalling 972,384 miles</b>	<b>Totalling 243,096 miles</b>

Table 3A: Vehicle Mileage Statistics Q1 2022-2023

### **3. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 1 (April – June 2022)**

#### **Tier One Investigations**

A Tier One standard investigation is required for all safety events and is usually conducted by the on-duty / line manager present at the time of the event. Events that are minor in nature usually remain at this tier.

#### **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 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.

**Two events reported during Q1 required a Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigation:**

1510 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. During training a firefighter felt faint and shaky. Oxygen therapy administered, water given and clothes loosened. BASIC SI

1511 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During RTC training a firefighter got their hand caught between the cutting equipment and the vehicle. Hospital visit due to possible break. BASIC SI. RIDDOR

#### **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.

**No safety events were reported during Q1 that required a full Specialist Investigation.**

#### **Tier Three MERP Specialist Investigations**

A Tier Three Specialist Investigation is conducted as required by the 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 by HWFRS.

**No safety events during Q1 required a Tier Three Specialist Investigation.**

#### **RIDDOR Events for Quarter 1 (April 2022 – June 2022)**

During Q1, one RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) report was submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as a dangerous occurrence.

1511 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During RTC training a firefighter got their hand caught between the cutting equipment and the vehicle. Hospital visit due to possible break. BASIC SI. RIDDOR

#### 4. Comparison between Quarters and Trend Analysis

##### Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q1 2021-22 & Q1 2022-23

Table 4 below compares the number of events reported in Q1 2021-22 and Q1 2022-23 for the different categories. For events over the last 12 months, four of the categories experienced a decrease, while one reported an increase.

Overall, event reporting as a whole decreased by nine over the period, with 37 reports in Q1 2022-23 compared to 46 in Q1 2022-23. The decrease was driven by a significant fall in personal injuries.

Event Type	Q1 2021-22	Q1 2022-23	Increase/Decrease
Personal Injuries	18	11	-7
Vehicle Collisions	14	12	-2
Property or equipment	2	1	-1
Violence & Aggression	2	2	+/-
Near Hits	9	11	+2
Exposure / contamination	1	0	-1
<b>Overall</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>-9</b>

*Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q1 2021-22 and Q1 2022-23*

##### Trend Analysis

In summary compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in the number of events reported during Q1 (-9).

The main decrease was personal injuries (-7). The only increase was near hits (+2).

All events that occurred during the quarter were investigated at a minimum of Tier One local level investigation to identify preventative control measures and help to reduce the likelihood of similar occurrences.

## **12 Month Trend Analysis**

Table 5 below breaks down the latest four quarters by reported accident type. Q1 figures show a decrease in the number of events reported.

Near hits have the highest increases, with vehicle collisions, property/equipment failure and exposures all decreasing.

	<b>Q2 21/22</b>	<b>Q3 21/22</b>	<b>Q4 21/22</b>	<b>Q1 22/23</b>
<b>Total H&amp;S Events</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>
Personal Injury	14	8	10	11
Vehicle Collision	11	12	17	12
Property or Equipment Failure	0	2	3	1
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	8	6	6	11
Exposure or contamination	2	0	3	0
Violence or Aggression	5	2	1	2

*Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q2 2021 – 2022 to Q1 2022 – 2023*

**Brief Description of all Safety Events**

**A1. Personal Injury**

Of the **37** H&S events reported, **11** relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

<b>Sub-Categories</b>	<b>Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category</b>
3 events were during routine activities	1497 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst reaching up into the appliance the firefighter misplaced their foot and banged their knee.
	1505 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst working on a vehicle a member of support staff hurt their neck.
	1506 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A member of support staff trapped their finger whilst manufacturing new brackets for a door.
5 events were during operational activities	1481 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst beating uneven ground at an incident the firefighter lost their footing and fell forwards down an incline resulting in a sprained left arm.
	1496 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A crew member cut their hand at an RTC incident
	1500 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter had to step over the hose whilst ascending a flight of stairs. This resulting in over stretching of the knee.
	1501 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst rescuing a dog the firefighter was bitten on their hand resulting in a puncture wound.
3 events were during operational training	1504 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Firefighter got thumb trapped between two gates.
	1478 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst providing casualty care during a training exercise the firefighter had pain in their lower back.
	1508 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst undertaking WFR training a fire fighter sustained a knee injury.
	1511 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During RTC training a firefighter got their hand caught between the cutting equipment and the vehicle. Hospital visit due to possible finger break. <b>BASIC SI. RIDDOR</b>
	Totalling <b>11</b> personal injuries
	25 Calendar Days / 17 Working days lost.

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Q1 2022 – 2023

## A2. Vehicle Collisions

Of the **37** H&S events, **12** relate to the category of Vehicle Collisions, which are further described in Table A2 below. All of these events could be attributed to the FRS driver; these events are highlighted in grey. If these collisions occurred whilst responding to an operational incident the category of response has been provided in bold. Driver training have sent out a Bulletin item for crews to familiarise themselves with the 'Banks person' CTR technical knowledge package and requesting that when contact is made with tree branches, crews should contact the local highways team to get the hazard removed.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Vehicle Collisions in Each Sub-Category
5 events were during routine activities	1476 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The fire appliance hit a wall and knocked the corner of the wall over.
	1482 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. On returning to station the crew noticed that the plastic casing and glass on the side mirror was broken.
	1487 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst the station car was stopped at traffic lights, the vehicle behind drove into the back of it.
	1509 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving down a country lane the appliance caught a low hanging branch, resulting in a smashed mirror.
	1512 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The appliance caught a parked vehicle whilst driving down a narrow road.
6 events were during operational activities	1477 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving under a canal bridge the ladder on top of the appliance got caught and snapped off. <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE.</b>
	1479 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst reversing at an incident the appliance struck a stack of bricks and cracked a side light. <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>
	1483 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving around a corner the wheel of the appliance struck a metal bollard causing damage to the wheel. <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>
	1484 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The appliance drove down a narrowing road. The wing mirrors had to be pulled in and there were scratches to the appliance. <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>
	1486 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst traveling to an incident the appliance struck an overhanging branch which caused the wing mirror to break. <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>
1502 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The appliance came into contact with a concrete post. <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>	
1 event was during training activities	1492 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving down a narrow road the appliance caught a parked car causing damage to the parked car and appliance.
	Totalling <b>12</b> vehicle collisions

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Q1 2022 – 2023

### A3. Property or Equipment Damage

Of the **37** H&S events, **1** relates to the category of Damage to Property or Equipment. These are further described in Table A3 below.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Property or Equipment Damage in Each Sub-Category
1 event was during operational activities	1499 - 1 relates to a property/equipment failure. The auto eject facility on the charging lead failed to eject the charging cable correctly resulting in damage to the plug.
	Totalling <b>1</b> property or equipment damage

Table A3: Property or equipment damage during Q1 2022 – 2023

### A4. Near Hits or Causes for Concern

Of the **37** H&S events, **11** relate to the category of Near Hits or Causes for Concern - these are further described in Table A4 below.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Near Hits or Causes for Concern in Each Sub-Category
4 events were during training activities	1490 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. During training the throw bag became detached from the throw line.
	1493 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst using the RTC spreaders during training, the spreaders cut out and the battery unit fell off due to four bolts on the battery failing.
	1495 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst using the spreaders during RTC training they weren't working correctly as the battery unit was not connected properly. The battery had come out of its housing compartment.
	1510 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. During training a firefighter felt faint and shaky. Oxygen therapy administered, water given and clothes loosened. <b>BASIC SI</b>
4 events were during operational activities	1489 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Mobilisation was delayed to a life critical incident when all call information was lost from the incident log.
	1498 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst operating CAFS the coupling attached to the appliance came away.
	1503 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. All systems on CRS failed. Transferred to fall-back phones and san j radios.
	1507 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst turning out of the station a car from the right failed to stop. The driver managed to slow down enough to avoid a collision.
3 events were during routine activities	1480 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. There were only two officers on duty in fire control when the minimum staffing level is three.
	1488 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. A portable light fell out of a locker, narrowly missing the firefighter's legs.
	1494 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. During an incident all radio channels cut out. An appliance had to contact control via telephone to find out why they were getting no response from control.
	Totalling <b>11</b> near hits or causes for concern

Table A4: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Q1 2022/23



## A5. Violence or Aggression

Of the 37 H&S events, 2 relate to the category of Violence or Aggression.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Violence/Aggression in Each Sub-Category
2 events were during operational activities	1485 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. Whilst extinguishing a fire a group of youths threw a glass bottle against the appliance.
	1491 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. Whilst attending a fire call the crew was subjected to verbal abuse and being threatened with stabbing
	Totalling <u>2</u> violence/aggression events.

Table A5: Violence or Aggression Reported during Q1 2022/23

## A6. Exposure or Contamination

Of the 37 H&S events, 0 relate to the category of Exposure or Contamination.

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.

There was one report of skin reddening during Q1. 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.

25 potential exposure/contamination incidents were recorded during Q1, 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. For example, when entering open water during training.