

**Health and Safety Quarterly Report
Quarter 4 (January 2022 – March 2022) Event Reporting and Summary**

1. Overview

In the period of January 2022 to March 2022 a total of **40** Health and Safety (H&S) events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

- 10 Personal Injury
- 17 Vehicle Collisions
- 3 Property or Equipment
- 6 Near Hits or Causes for Concern
- 3 Exposure or Contamination
- 1 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 Q4, personal injuries 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
Total H&S Events Q4	40	7	19	12	2
Personal Injury	10	1	6	3	0
Vehicle Collision	17	2	8	6	1
Property or Equipment Failure	3	1	0	1	1
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	6	2	2	2	0
Exposure or Contamination	3	1	2	0	0
Violence or Aggression	1	0	1	0	0

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q4 2021-2022

By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies the manual handling category as being the main cause of personal injuries.

Total Personal Injuries	10
Manual Handling	5
Slips, Trips & Falls	3
Hit by Moving Object	2
Hit Stationary Object	0
Burns – Operational	0
Burns – Training	0
Other	0

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q4 2021-2022

By Vehicle Type

Table 3 highlights that vehicle collisions during this quarter have mostly involved appliances not on blue lights.

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	1	3	0

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q4 2021-2022

Vehicle Mileage Statistics

Vehicle mileage statistics for the year 2020-2021 were provided by the Operational Logistics Fleet Department and have been used to predict vehicle mileage for 2021-22. These are summarised in Table 3A below. It can be seen that there were four white fleet safety events out of approximately 74,095 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 18,523 miles driven.

The 13 safety events involving red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 52,933 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 4,071 miles driven.

Fleet	Total Mileage 2020-2021	Predicted Mileage Q4 2021-2022
White Fleet	296,381	74,095
Red Fleet	211,732	52,933
	Totalling 508,113 miles	Totalling 127,028 miles

Table 3A: Vehicle Mileage Statistics Q4 2021-2022

3. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 4 (January 2022 – March 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.

Three events reported during Q4 required a Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigation:

1465 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst responding to a fire call, the appliance locker handle caught another vehicle causing some scuffs. **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

1458 - 1 relates to property/equipment damage. The Halmatro cutter failed on a RTC drill. **BASIC SI**

1453 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst in an in-expirable atmosphere the LDV on the BA set went into free flow. **BASIC SI**

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 Q4 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 Q4 required a Tier Three Specialist Investigation.

RIDDOR Events for Quarter 4 (January 2022 – March 2022)

During Q4, one RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) report was submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as an over 7 day injury.

1447 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst taking down a ladder the firefighter sustained a left bicep injury.

4. Comparison between Quarters and Trend Analysis

Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q4 2020-21 & Q4 2021-22

Table 4 below compares the number of events reported in Q4 2020-21 and Q4 2021-22 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 15 over the period, with 40 reports in Q4 2021-22 compared to 55 in Q4 2020-21. The decrease was driven by a significant fall in Near Hits and personal injuries.

Event Type	Q4 2020-21	Q4 2021-22	Increase/Decrease
Personal Injuries	17	10	-7
Vehicle Collisions	13	17	+4
Property or equipment	4	3	-1
Violence & Aggression	3	1	-2
Near Hits	15	6	-9
Exposure / contamination	3	3	+/-
Overall	55	40	-15

Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q4 2020-21 and Q4 2021-22

Trend Analysis

In summary compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in the number of events reported during Q4 (-15).

The main decrease was Near Hits (-9) and personal injuries (-7). The only increase was vehicle collisions (+4).

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. Q4 figures show an increase in the number of event reported.

Exposures and vehicle collisions have the highest increases, with violence reports decreasing.

	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22
Total H&S Events	46	40	30	40
Personal Injury	18	14	8	10
Vehicle Collision	14	11	12	17
Property or Equipment Failure	2	0	2	3
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	9	8	6	6
Exposure or contamination	1	2	0	3
Violence or Aggression	2	5	2	1

Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q1 2021 – 2022 to Q4 2021 – 2022

Brief Description of all Safety Events

A1. Personal Injury

Of the **40** H&S events reported, **10** relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category
3 events were during routine activities	1443 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A member of staff caught their finger in their locker door.
	1447 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst taking down a ladder the firefighter sustained a left bicep injury.
	1471 - 1 relates to a personal injury. The hand sanitiser tap had dried up causing the gel to squirt out at an angle into a member of staffs face/eye.
6 events were during operational activities	1334 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst carrying the animal rescue kit across a muddy field the firefighter fell and twisted their lower back.
	1445 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst opening the bonnet of a vehicle the firefighter felt pain in their back.
	1451 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter hit their ankle whilst getting out of their vehicle.
	1456 - 1 relates to a personal injury. On opening the appliance locker a powder fire extinguisher fell out and hit their firefighter on the foot.
	1461 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter cut their wrist on the open fracture of an RTC fatality.
1469 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst running out a hose reel, the firefighter twisted their ankle on uneven ground.	
1 event was during operational training	1474 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst responding and securing the Mod 4 the locking lever jerked away from the firefighter causing injury to their back and shoulder.
	Totalling 10 personal injuries
	21.5 Calendar Days / 16 Working days lost.

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Q4 2021 – 2022

A2. Vehicle Collisions

Of the **40** H&S events, **17** 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
6 events were during routine activities	1433 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst manovering the appliance struck a traffic bollard.
	1439 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst pulling up to park the appliance caught a wooden kerb, breaking the kerb.
	1446 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving along a muddy track the vehicle stuck a large pothole causing damage to the sill, bumper and wheel arch.
	1452 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst reversing into the pump bay the wing mirror got broken.
	1460 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. When stopping at a red light, the car behind drove into the back of the service vehicle.
	1467 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Damage was caused to the top corner of the appliance roof.
8 events were during operational activities	1444 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst manovering around a tight bend the appliance locker handle caught a tree root causing damage to the locker hinges and door rail. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
	1449 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst returning from an incident a low hanging tree caught the ladder on the appliance resulting in a twisted runner on the ladder.
	1459 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The appliance entered water that was deeper than expected, resulting in the engine cutting out.
	1463 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst manovering the appliance between a parked car and tree, the tree caught the wing mirror and knocked it off the appliance. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
	1464 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst enlisting the help of a farmer and his tractor to get over a muddy area the metal chins used to tow the appliance got caught on the hydrant fill, shearing it off, and bending the towing eye.
	1465 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst responding to a fire call, the appliance locker handle caught another vehicle causing some scuffs. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
	1473 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. When exiting the appliance the driver's side door scrapped the bonnet of a parked vehicle. EMERGENCY RESPONSE
1470 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving up a driveway to an incident the appliance wheel caught a tree, denting the wheel trim and fuel tank. EMERGENCY RESPONSE	
1 event was non service related	1448 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst reversing their car a member of staff came into contact with a low wall.
2 events were during training activities	1440 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving along a dual carriageway a van pulled out of a driveway to join the main carriageway. The appliance signalled to move over to avoid a collision; however the van then decided to turn right in front of the appliance. The appliance hit the van side on and pushed it along the road before coming to a stop.
	1466 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. When pulling out of the appliance bay too sharply the appliance made contact with the wall.
	Totalling 17 vehicle collisions

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Q4 2021 – 2022

A3. Property or Equipment Damage

Of the **40** H&S events, **3** relate 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 training activities	1458 - 1 relates to property/equipment damage. The Halmatro cutter failed on a RTC drill. BASIC SI
1 event was during routine activities	1457 - 1 relates to property/equipment damage. The secondary glazing fell out of a window but did not break.
1 event was non service related	1468 - 1 relates to property/equipment damage. The keep of the entrance barrier arm was broken following a delivery.
	Totalling 3 property or equipment damage

Table A3: Property or equipment damage during Q4 2021 – 2022

A4. Near Hits or Causes for Concern

Of the **40** H&S events, **6** 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
2 events were during training activities	1442 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst using a rope control device it was noticed that the line didn't pay through correctly, creating a slack line.
	1453 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst in an in-expirable atmosphere the LDV on the BA set went into free flow. BASIC SI
2 events were during operational activities	1431 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst attending a gaining entry incident after being requested by the ambulance service, the firefighter was put at risk due to the occupant being in possession of a knife.
	1472 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst using the WRV the boat hit an area of shallow water causing a prop strike. The propeller clip was in the insecure position which allowed it to ride over the rocks with no damage to the boat and without ejecting the crew.
2 events were during routine activities	1441 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst removing a GTS board from where it was stored, it got caught and then nearly hit a crew member.
	1462 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. The temperature in the OCC became excessive resulting in staff being unable to work satisfactorily.
	Totalling 6 near hits or causes for concern

Table A4: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Q4 2021/22

A5. Violence or Aggression

Of the **40** H&S events, **1** relates to the category of Violence or Aggression.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Violence/Aggression in Each Sub-Category
1 event was during operational activities	1454/55 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. The firefighter asked a member of public to move out of the way whilst he was running out a length of hose. The person shouted at the FF, refused to move and the slapped the FF in the face.
	Totalling 1 violence/aggression event.

Table A5: Violence or Aggression Reported during Q4 2021/22

A6. Exposure or Contamination

Of the **40** H&S events, **3** relate to the category of Exposure or Contamination.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Exposures in Each Sub-Category
1 event was during training activities	1450 - 1 relates to an exposure. A firefighter became ill after exposure to river water during training.
2 events were during operational activities	1437 - 1 relates to an exposure. Following the explosion of a gas cylinder, firefighters may have been exposed to asbestos particles in the air.
	1438 - 1 relates to an exposure. Whilst carrying out tasks inside a building, crews may have been exposed to asbestos
	Totalling 3 Exposure events.

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 were no reports of skin reddening during Q4. 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.

17 potential exposure/contamination incidents were recorded during Q4, 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.