

Health and Safety Quarterly Report Quarter 1 & 2 (April 2023 – September 2023) Event Reporting and Summary

1. Overview

In the period of April 2023 to September 2023 a total of 85 Health and Safety (H&S) events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

- 28 Personal Injury
- 23 Vehicle Collisions
- 10 Property or Equipment
- 22 Near Hits or Causes for Concern
- 1 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 Q1 & Q2, **Personal injury** were the most frequently reported incidents. The majority occurring during training.

	Total	Training	Operational Activities	Routine Activities	Other
Total H&S Events	85	20	34	19	12
Personal Injury	28	13	9	3	3
Vehicle Collision	23	1	13	9	0
Property or Equipment Failure	10	2	2	3	3
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	22	4	8	4	6
Exposure or Contamination	1	0	1	0	0
Violence or Aggression	1	0	1	0	0

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q1 & Q2 2023-2024

By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies the areas to be the main causes as Other and Manual Handling.

Total Personal Injuries	28
Manual Handling	6
Slips, Trips & Falls	5
Hit by Moving Object	2
Hit Stationary Object	3
Burns – Operational	1
Burns – Training	2
Other	9

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q1 & Q2 2023-2024

By Vehicle Type

Table 3 highlights that vehicle collisions during these quarters have mostly involved appliances 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	11	9	0	2	1

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q1 & Q2 2023-2024

Vehicle Mileage Statistics

Vehicle mileage statistics for the year 2022-2023 were provided by the Operational Logistics Fleet Department and have been used to predict vehicle mileage for 2023-24. These are summarised in Table 3A below. It can be seen that there were two white fleet safety events out of approximately 375,982 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 187,991 miles driven.

The twenty safety events involving red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 143,450 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 7,173 miles driven.

Fleet	Total Mileage 2022-2023	Predicted Mileage per quarter 2023-2024
White Fleet	751,964	187,991
Red Fleet	286,900	71,725
	Totalling 1,038,864 miles	Totalling 259,716 miles

Table 3A: Vehicle Mileage Statistics Q1 & Q2 2023-2024

3. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 1 & 2 (April 2023 – September 2023)

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.

Nine events reported during Q1 & Q2 required a Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigation:

1634	-	SRT Mud Lance Hose failure during training.
1638	-	SRT Ankle injury
1639	-	BA Wearer Distress
1640	-	Vehicle Collision
1643	-	BA Burns
1649	-	FF fainted after CFBT Training
1651	-	BA Set Malfunction
PI1698	-	Shoulder injury
NHCC1689	-	BA mask damage

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 & Q2 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 & Q2 required a Tier Three Specialist Investigation.

RIDDOR Events for Quarter 1 & 2 (April 2023 – September 2023)

During Q1 & Q2, seven RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) reports were submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as a dangerous occurrence/over a seven-day injury.

1638	-	FF Twisted knee climbing over the fence
1643	-	FF received minor burn during training
1651	-	BA set Malfunction
1656	-	FF twisted knee at incident
1665	-	FF received minor injury during Water Rescue Training
1671	-	SC injured shoulder attending an incident.
PI1685	-	Burn to right arm

4. Comparison between Quarters and Trend Analysis

Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q1 & Q2 2022-23 & Q1 & Q2 2023-24

Event Type	Q1 & Q2 2022-23	Q1 & Q2 2023-24	Increase/Decrease
Personal Injuries	35	28	-7
Vehicle Collisions	24	23	-1
Property or equipment	2	10	+8
Violence & Aggression	2	1	-1
Near Hits	18	22	+4
Exposure / contamination	1	1	-
Overall	82	85	+3

Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q1 & Q2 2022-23 and Q1 & Q2 2023-24

Trend Analysis

Table 4 above compares the number of events reported for the different categories. For events over the last 16 months, two of the categories experienced an increase, and three reported a decrease.

Overall, event reporting as a whole increased by three. The increase was driven by property/equipment.

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. Q2 figures show a decrease in the number of events reported this quarter which are generally in line with previous quarters.

	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 & Q4 22-23	Q1 & Q2 23/24
Total H&S Events	42	26	45	40	68	85
Personal Injury	18	7	12	16	25	28
Vehicle Collision	16	7	14	9	23	23
Property or Equipment Failure	2	5	5	5	7	10
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	6	3	13	9	9	22
Exposure or contamination	0	3	0	1	3	1
Violence or Aggression	0	1	1	0	1	1

Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q3 2022 – 2023 to Q2 2023 – 2024

Brief Description of all Safety Events

A1. Personal Injury

Of the **85** H&S events reported, **28** relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category
13 events were during operational training	PI1692 - Relates to a blister forming overnight for a FF who attended CFBT training.
	PI1686 - Relates to FF injuring their nose whilst putting the ladder back on the gantry as the ladder jammed.
	PI1689 - Relates to a previous injury being exasperated by using heavy USAR breaking and breaching equipment.
	PI1694 - Relates to back injury caused by underrunning the ladder with poor manual handling techniques
	PI1697 - Relates to a strained right ham string whilst preparing to lift a casualty.
	PI1698 - Relates to a shoulder injury although waiting on clarification if this was an existing injury. BASIC SI.
	1638- FF Twisted knee climbing over the fence. BASIC SI. RIDDOR.
	1639- BA wearer distress. BASIC SI.
	1643- FF received blistering in live fire training. BASIC SI. RIDDOR.
	1649 - FF fainted following BA wear at Peterchurch STF. BASIC SI.
	1665- FF injured shoulder when collided with submerged rock during WFH training. RIDDOR.
	1666 - FF injured Knee when collided with submerged rock during WFH training
	1682 - Relates to FF overheating whilst in fire compartment.
9 events were during operational work	PI1690 - Relates to plasterboard and debris falling from ceiling and hitting FF on the top of back / neck.
	PI1683 - Relates to FF injury to back whilst twisting and trying to connect a hose to the pump.
	PI1685 - Relates to injury to a CC whilst fighting a fire in the open. He slipped on the embankment and cut and burnt his right arm. RIDDOR.
	PI1680 - Relates to injury to FF following breaking a window and lacerating finger
	PI1684 - Relates to an injury to a CC following stepping on a charged hose and twisting his ankle.
	1668 - Relates to personal injury where WC hurt his back whilst bending down to place a door wedge
	1671 - Injured shoulder whilst putting on PPE. RIDDOR.
	1674 - Relates to a property house fire where 3 firefighters had heat exhaustion symptoms. BASIC SI.
	PI1693 - Relates to lower back injury to FF whilst helping elderly male get out of bath.
3 events were during routine work	PI687 - Relates to a crew member slipping off the step due to the appliance's height being altered.
	PI1691 - Relates to a slip off a kerb whilst exiting the parked car
	1656 - Relates to FF hurting his knee after coming off a kerb. RIDDOR.
3 events were classed as 'other'	PI1695 - Relates to a young girl having skin reddening on her left arm after spilling hot chocolate during an open day.
	PI1696 - Cleaner burned her finger on the socket in Bedroom 1 after hoovering.
	1642 - U18 received injury to head on station visit. BASIC SI.
	Totalling 28 personal injuries
	93 Calendar Days / 44 Working days lost.

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Q1 & Q2 2023 – 2024

A2. Vehicle Collisions

Of the **85** H&S events, **23** relate to the category of Vehicle Collisions, which are further described in Table A2 below. Events highlighted in grey are attributed to the FRS driver. 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
1 event was during operational training	VA1691 - Relates to damage to a fire appliance and gateway of a property.
9 events were during routine work	VA1686 - Relates to vehicle damage caused by truck wallowing in narrow lane and hitting a low branch
	VA1687 - Relates to vehicle accident in Workshop yard as driver was manoeuvring and reversing one appliance, he hit another.
	1636 - Relates to hydrant van being damaged by an unknown vehicle when driver was carrying out hydrant inspections.
	1637-Vehicle accident that occurred while driving today in Lower Strensham while going around a sharp bend.
	1640 - Vehicle collision involving 282 at Station 28. BASIC SI.
	1670 - Relates to vehicle damage by unknown person, date unknown
	1675 - Relates to damage to appliance from another car whilst parked in a car park
	1680 - Relates to a vehicle accident where it hit Station 49 bay doors.
13 events were during operational activities	1681 - Relates to damage caused to appliance whilst moving it around Station 46
	VA1688 - Relates to damage caused to two properties after appliance couldn't manoeuvre in drive due to fences, overhanging shrubs, cars and being dark.
	VA1682 - Relates to damage caused to appliance whilst pulling over for another vehicle on a narrow lane. Damage caused by hidden branch in hedge to mirror.
	VA1684 - Relates to vehicle damage caused by hitting a branch whilst travelling down a narrow lane on route to an incident.
	VA1690 - Relates to vehicle accident whilst on route to an incident. Didn't know they had hit another car until they returned to the station after the incident
	VA1683 - Relates to damage caused to vehicle and garden wall whilst responding to an incident. EMERGENCY PROMPT RESPONSE
	VA1689 - Relates to damage caused to Appliance 262 rear nearside door after driving out the bay door with the door open. Locker sensor alarm was actuating but it was silenced as there is a known fault with the sensor. EMERGENCY PROMPT RESPONSE
	1652 - Relates to vehicle accident on the way to an incident. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.
	1655 - Vehicle accident whilst responding to incident (other party fault). EMERGENCY RESPONSE.
	1657 - Relates to damage caused to a parked car whilst appliance passed by on the way to a house fire. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.
	1669 - Relates to vehicle damage caused on the way to an incident. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.
	1672 - Relates to Volvo accident whilst SC was responding to an incident. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.
	1677 - Relates to damage caused by tractor and trailer which didn't stop
1679 - Relates to vehicle accident whilst responding to an incident. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.	
	Totalling 23 vehicle collisions

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Q1 & Q2 2023 – 2024

A3. Property or Equipment Damage

Of the **85** H&S events, **10** 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
2 events were during Operational Training	1634 - SRT Mud Lance Hose failure during training. BASIC SI.
	1651 - Relates to a set malfunction during live training as LDV fell out of mask. BASIC SI.
2 events were during Operational activities	PE1654 - Relates to Holmatro cutters being damaged having been used on a metal chain to access a building fire with persons reported.

	PE1655 - Relates to the boat hull being damaged whilst rescuing people beached on a barge.
3 events were during Routine work	PE1652 - Relates to damage caused to an office door. After investigation, it was a Police officer who got locked out of the room and no-one was on station. 1633 - Relates to weather damage to brickwork on station wall. 1673 - Relates to fob access post damaged due to LGV driver reversing. BASIC SI.
3 events were classed as Other	PE1653 - Relates to wall at Fire Station being knocked over by member of the public and them driving off. PE1656 - Relates to damage caused to fascia board by contractor who was reversing down the side of Station 47. 1647 - Appliance could not mobilise due to technical fault
	Totalling 10 property or equipment damage

Table A3: Property or equipment damage during Q1 & Q2 2023 – 2024

A4. Near Hits or Causes for Concern

Of the **85** H&S events, **22** 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 Operational Training	1641 - FF removes BA mask STF training (Due to hay fever / medication) 1635- Relates to FF received minor injury to knee when suction coupling failed during quarterly test. NHCC1680 - Relates to BA set malfunction found during check following use at Defford. NHCC1689 - Relates to a faulty BA mask. BASIC SI.
8 events were during Operational Activities	1648 - Appliance turned out for incident from station, motorist ignored Wig Wag lights potential collision between appliance and motorist. 1650 - Relates to a near hit due to other driver ignoring flashing wigwags outside station 1653 - Relates to a near hit due to other driver ignoring flashing wigwags outside station 1654 - Relates to a near hit due to other driver ignoring flashing wigwags outside station 1664 - Relates to a near hit with a SC responding to an incident 1678 - Relates to over border appliance not being competent to attend house fire NHCC1682 - Relates to Holmatro cutters being damaged having been used on a metal chain to access a building fire with persons reported. NHCC1679 - Relates to airbag deploying from vehicle whilst spreaders were being used.
4 events were during Routine Work	1667 - Relates to a near hit whilst appliance was leaving Station 26 due to driver approaching from right and ignoring wigwags. 1676 - Relates to a used needle being found in the hydrant pit. 1655 - relates to near hit whilst exiting Station 26 as a van driver ignored the wigwags NHCC1687 - Relates to faulty appliance bay doors.
6 events were classed as other	1645 - No showering facilities available after possible exposure 1646 - No showering facilities available after possible exposure NHCC1683 - An external company had left a ladder up against Station 32 without safety guards on. NHCC1684 - Relates to damage caused to tunic after being left in the back of a Land Rover for around 8 months, possible rodent damage NHCC1685 - Relates to Control operators having issues with taking calls. NHCC1686 - Relates to FF losing her ID card whilst transferring stations. Current investigations at Station 21 due to some items going astray.
	Totalling 22 near hits or causes for concern

Table A4: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Q2 2023 – 2024

A5. Violence or Aggression

Of the **85** H&S events, **1** relates to the category of Violence or Aggression.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Violence or Aggression in Each Sub-Category
1 event was during Operational Activities	1644- FF subjected to verbal abuse by motorist.

A6. Exposure or Contamination

Of the **85** H&S events, **1** relates to the category of Exposure or Contamination.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Violence or Aggression in Each Sub-Category
1 event was during Operational Activities	SE02 – Relates to illness from contamination during a water rescue.

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 ten reports of skin reddening during Q1 & Q2. 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.

45 potential exposure/contamination events/incidents were recorded during Q1 & Q2, 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.