

Health and Safety Quarterly Report
 Quarter 2 (July 21 – September 21) Event Reporting and Summary

1. Overview

In the period of July 2021 to September 2021 a total of **40** Health and Safety (H&S) events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

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

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 Q2, personal injuries and vehicle collisions were the most frequently reported incidents. The majority of vehicle collisions occurred during operational activities, all of which were during emergency response phase.

| | Total | Training | Operational Activities | Routine Activities | Non-Service Related Activities |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total H&S Events Q2 | 40 | 9 | 19 | 10 | 2 |
| Personal Injury | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Vehicle Collision | 11 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Property or Equipment Failure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Near Hit or Cause for Concern | 8 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| Exposure or Contamination | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Violence or Aggression | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q2 2021-2022

By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies slips, trips and falls, and the 'other' category as being the main cause of personal injuries. The incidents classified as 'other' related to staff feeling unwell, blisters following a major incident and aggravating an existing injury.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Personal Injuries | 14 |
| Manual Handling | 3 |
| Slips, Trips & Falls | 4 |
| Hit by Moving Object | 2 |
| Hit Stationary Object | 1 |
| Burns – Operational | 0 |
| Burns – Training | 0 |
| Other | 4 |

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q2 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 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 |

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q2 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 seven safety events involving red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 52,933 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 7,561 miles driven.

| Fleet | Total Mileage 2020-2021 | Predicted Mileage Q2 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 Q2 2021-2022

3. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 2 (July 21 – September 21)

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 safety events reported during Q2 required a Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigation:

- 1) 1361 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter slipped off a ledge into some shallow water, landing on their knee. Suspected fractured knee cap. **BASIC SI. Over 7 day injury**
- 2) 1398 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving on blue lights to an incident, the appliance was driven around a roundabout. The appliance was steered to the right but carried on going straight ahead, hit the kerb and travelled through a paved central reservation before coming to rest on the wrong side of the road. **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 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 Q2 required a Tier Three Specialist Investigation.

RIDDOR Events for Quarter 2 (July 21 – September 21)

During Q2, one RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) report was submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). One was an over 7 day injury, relating event 1361-1 a fall resulting in injury to their knee.

4. Comparison between Quarters and Trend Analysis

Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q2 2020-21 & Q2 2021-22

Table 4 below compares the number of events reported in Q2 2020-21 and Q2 2021-22 for the different categories. For events over the last 12 months, two of the categories experienced a decrease, while two reported slight increases.

Overall, event reporting as a whole decreased by four over the period, with 40 reports in Q2 2021-22 compared to 44 in Q2 2020-21. The decrease was driven by a significant fall in Near Hits.

| Event Type | Q2 2020-21 | Q2 2021-22 | Increase/Decrease |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Personal Injuries | 14 | 14 | +/- |
| Vehicle Collisions | 12 | 11 | -1 |
| Property or equipment | 0 | 0 | +/- |
| Violence & Aggression | 0 | 5 | +5 |
| Near Hits | 17 | 8 | -9 |
| Exposure / contamination | 1 | 2 | +1 |
| Overall | 44 | 40 | -4 |

Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q2 2020-21 and Q2 2021-22

Trend Analysis

In summary compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in the number of events reported during Q2 (-4).

The main decrease was Near Hits (-9). The main increase was Violence/Aggression (+5).

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 4 quarters by reported accident type. Q2 figures are below the previous Q1 and Q4 figures, but higher than Q3 20/21.

Near hits/cause for concerns continue to decrease, as have personal injuries and vehicle collisions.

| | Q3 20/21 | Q4 20/21 | Q1 21/22 | Q2 21/22 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total H&S Events | 34 | 55 | 46 | 40 |
| Personal Injury | 4 | 17 | 18 | 14 |
| Vehicle Collision | 12 | 13 | 14 | 11 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|---|---|
| Property or Equipment Failure | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Near Hit or Cause for Concern | 12 | 15 | 9 | 8 |
| Exposure or contamination | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Violence or Aggression | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 |

Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q3 2020 – 2021 to Q2 2021 – 2022

Brief Description of all Safety Events

A1. Personal Injury

Of the **40** H&S events reported, **14** relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

| Sub-Categories | Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category |
|---|---|
| 5 events were during routine activities | 1373 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst emptying a mop bucket full of water into a fixed sink the firefighter felt a muscle strain to their arm. |
| | 1379 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A member of staff did not arrive in their office for their shift. Another member of staff went to look for them and found them slumped over in their car. An ambulance was called for ill health. |
| | 1376 - 1 relates to a personal injury. The firefighter caught their left hand and wrist causing a slight strain in an appliance door chain, which wasn't locked in a secure place. |
| | 1381 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst checking above a false ceiling during a fire safety check, the firefighter felt their side and shoulder muscles pull. |
| | 1382 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst trying to open the appliance locker the firefighter found it to be jammed. They tried more force to open it and injured their right shoulder. |
| 4 events were during training activities | 1362 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter slipped during training and twisted their knee. |
| | 1361 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter slipped off a ledge into some shallow water, landing on their knee. Went to hospital to be checked no fracture. SI allocated |
| | 1368 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst trying to release a hose that had been tangled in an appliance axel the firefighter caught their hand between the vehicles suspension and wheel causing bruising and swelling to their hand. |
| | 1390 - 1 relates to a personal Injury. Whilst undertaking water training, a firefighter aggravated a pre-existing injury. |
| 5 events were during operational activities | 1378 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During an incident a casualty decided to flee the scene. A firefighter gave chase and felt a slight pull of their hamstring muscle. |
| | 1383 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During a major incident a firefighter from another service reported an injury to their left foot caused when dismounting the appliance. Other service notified by H&S advisor |
| | 1384 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During a major incident a firefighter from another service reported an injury to their left knee, caused by walking into a fork lift truck whilst carrying a hose. Other service notified by H&S advisor |
| | 1385 - 1 relates to a personal injury. During a major incident a firefighter spent 7 hours with wet feet which caused their boots to rub their feet and cause blisters. |
| | 1394 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Following an incident involving carbon monoxide fumes, a firefighter started to feel unwell with a headache, elevated heart rate and feeling spaced out. It was identified that the firefighter went into the property of a neighbour before being mobilised as On Call attendance at an operational incident. |
| | Totalling 14 personal injuries |
| | 76 Calendar Days / 76 Working days lost. (this includes modified duty days) |

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Q2 2021 – 2022

A2. Vehicle Collisions

Of the **40** H&S events, **11** relate to the category of Vehicle Collisions, which are further described in Table A2 below. A total of 10 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 |
|---|---|
| 3 events were during routine activities | 1364 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst pulling out of the bay, the appliance hit the bay doors that weren't fully open and caused damage to the ladder. |
| | 1386 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst reversing the fire engine, the foot of the 13.5m ladder went through a window on the station and broke the window. |
| | 1389 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. On returning to the parked vehicle the driver noticed a dent in the door and some chipped paint. |
| 4 events were during operational activities | 1365 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst attending an incident the appliance scuffed the bumper of a car that had pulled over to let them through. EMERGENCY RESPONSE |
| | 1372 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The appliance bay doors had not opened fully. The blue lights on top of the appliance came into contact with the bay doors. EMERGENCY RESPONSE |
| | 1397 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. When pulling up onto the verge at an incident the appliance clipped a resident's car. EMERGENCY RESPONSE |
| | 1398 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst driving on blue lights to an incident, the appliance was driven around a roundabout. The appliance was steered to the right but carried on going straight ahead, hit the kerb and travelled through a paved central reservation before coming to rest on the wrong side of the road. EMERGENCY RESPONSE |
| 1 event was non service related | 1380 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. The rear door of an officer's vehicle was opened onto another parked car. |
| 3 events were during training activities | 1370 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. On the Aerial ladder platform, the boom handrail was not made up correctly resulting in damage to the cab handrail and cage handle. |
| | 1396 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. During some very strong winds a marquee blew over and caused damage to a firefighter's personal car. |
| | 1395 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. When leaving the station, a firefighter accidentally reversed into the Station Commander's service vehicle causing damage to the driver's door. |
| | Totalling 11 vehicle collisions |

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Q2 2021 – 2022

A3. Property or Equipment Damage

Of the **40** H&S events, **0** relates to the category of Damage to Property or Equipment.

A4. Near Hits or Causes for Concern

Of the **40** H&S events, **8** 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 | 1366 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. During training a length of hose was found to be burst on the hose reel. |
| | 1392 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. During line access casualty evacuation training a firefighter experienced an uncontrolled decent. No injuries were sustained. |
| 5 events were during operational activities | 1355 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst the appliance was pulling off to drive away from an incident one of the locker doors opened and a tray of equipment fell out. |
| | 1367 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. During drill there was a hose left on the floor following an emergency call. Whilst reversing the appliance to attend the incident the hose became entangled in the appliance axel. |
| | 1371 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Crews had close contact with a patient who had tested positive for CV19. |
| | 1387 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst driving to an incident the driver noticed the WRV trailers lights were off centre. The vehicle was stopped and the trailer was checked. The trailer had detached itself from the towing ball and was only attached by the security chain. The trailer was reattached and the crew proceeded with caution. |
| 1 event was non service related | 1391 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. A firefighter who was on a return to work was utilised for an incident. |
| | 1374 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. A firefighter tested positive for CV19. Eight other staff members have to isolate and the station to be deep cleaned. |
| | Totalling 8 near hits or causes for concern |

Table A4: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Q2 2021/22

A5. Violence or Aggression

Of the **40** H&S events, **5** relate to the category of Violence or Aggression.

| Sub-Categories | Breakdown of Violence/Aggression in Each Sub-Category |
|---|--|
| 3 events were during operational activities | 1360 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. A member of the public became agitated and verbally aggressive following a road closure at an incident. |
| | 1369 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. Firefighters were subject to verbal abuse whilst attending a fire call. |
| | 1375 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. Whilst putting out a fire the occupier became verbally abusive and exhibited violent behaviour. |
| 2 events were during routine activities | 1357 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. A Watch Commander was verbally threatened when trying to stop a trespasser at the station yard. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | 1359 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. Whilst at station a trespasser demanded some water. When they were refused on health and safety grounds they started to swear and threatened to jump the station gates and stab the firefighter. |
| | Totalling 5 violence/aggression events. |

Table A5: Violence or Aggression Reported during Q2 2021/22

A6. **Exposure or Contamination**

Of the **40** H&S events, **2** 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.

| Sub-Categories | Breakdown of Exposure or Contamination in Each Sub-Category |
|---|---|
| 2 events were during operational activities | 1388 - 1 relates to exposure. Whilst investigating an AFA, 3 firefighters were exposed to low levels of asphyxiate. |
| | 1393 - 1 relates to an exposure. During an incident a firefighter was exposed to carbon monoxide fumes. |
| | Totalling 2 exposure or contamination event |

Table A6: Exposure or Contamination Reported during Q2 2021/22

There were no reports of skin reddening during 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.

22 potential exposure/contamination incidents were recorded during 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.