

**Health and Safety Quarterly Report
Quarter 3 (October 2023 – December 2023) Event Reporting and Summary**

1. Overview

In the period of Q3 a total of **49** Health and Safety (H&S) events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

- 18 Personal Injury
- 15 Vehicle Collisions
- 13 Near Hits or Causes for Concern (**PLEASE NOTE, THIS NOW CONTAINS PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT REPORTING**)
- 0 Exposure or Contamination
- 3 Violence or Aggression

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

2. Breakdown of Events

By Activity

Table 1 shows that during Q3, **Personal injury** were the most frequently reported incidents. The majority occurred during training and operational activities.

	Total	Training	Operational Activities	Routine Activities	Other
Total H&S Events	49	18	19	6	6
Personal Injury	18	8	7	1	2
Vehicle Collision	15	1	7	4	3
Near Hit/Cause for Concern/Equipment	13	9	2	1	1
Exposure or Contamination	0	0	0	0	0
Violence or Aggression	3	0	3	0	0

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q3 2023-2024

By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies the area to be the main cause as Slips, Trips & Falls.

Total Personal Injuries	18
Manual Handling	4
Slips, Trips & Falls	5
Hit by Moving Object	3
Hit Stationary Object	1
Burns – Operational	0
Burns – Training	1
Other	4

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q3 2023-2024

By Vehicle Type

Table 3 highlights that vehicle collisions during this quarter has mostly involved appliances off 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	5	7	0	3	0

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q3 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. There were three white fleet safety events out of approximately 187,991 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 62,664 miles driven.

The twelve safety events involving red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 71,725 miles driven, which equates to one event for every 5,977 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 Q3 2023-2024

3. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 3 (October 2023 – December 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 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.

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.

Ten events reported during Q3 required a Tier Two Specialist Investigation. Please refer to the brief description section at the end of the document for details.

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 Q3 required a Tier Three Specialist Investigation.

RIDDOR Events for Quarter 3

During Q3, seven RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) reports were submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Please refer to the brief description section at the end of the document for details.

4. Comparison between Quarters and Trend Analysis

Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q3 2022-23 & Q3 2023-24

Event Type	Q3 2022-23	Q3 2023-24	Increase/Decrease
Personal Injuries	18	18	-
Vehicle Collisions	16	15	-1
Near Hit/Cause for Concern/ Equipment	8	13	+5
Exposure / contamination	0	0	-
Violence & Aggression	0	3	+3
Overall	42	49	+7

Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q3 2022-23 and Q3 2023-24

Trend Analysis

Table 4 above compares the number of events reported for the different categories. For events over the last 12 months, two of the categories experienced an increase, one reported a decrease and two stayed the same.

Overall, event reporting as a whole increased by seven driven by the near hits category.

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. Q3 figures show an increase in the number of events reported this quarter vs Q2.

	Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	Q2 23/24	Q3 23/24
Total H&S Events	26	45	40	49
Personal Injury	7	12	16	18
Vehicle Collision	7	14	9	15
Near Hit/Cause for Concern/ Equipment	8	18	14	13
Exposure or contamination	3	0	1	0
Violence or Aggression	1	1	0	3

Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q4 2022 – 2023 to Q3 2023 – 2024

Brief Description of all Safety Events

A1. Personal Injury

Of the **49** H&S events reported, **18** relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category
Events during Operational Work	PI1701 - Relates to an ankle injury. Soft tissue damage and a fracture to the bottom of the bone. BASIC SI. RIDDOR (Over 7 days off) .
	PI1702 - Relates to finger injury. BASIC SI. RIDDOR. (Over 7 days off)
	PI1707 - Relates to an injury caused to a firefighter's shoulder whilst dismounting the appliance at an incident. The injury was a pre-existing injury. RIDDOR. (Over 7 days off)
	SER-000003 - Relates to a wrist injury.
	SER-000018 - Relates to muscle injury while launching boat.
	SER-000044 - Relates to a BA wearer being injured due to falling debris within property whilst firefighting. BASIC SI. RIDDOR. (Dangerous occurrence)
	SER-000045 - Relates to the collapse of a second storey floor resulting in BA wearer falling. BASIC SI. RIDDOR. (Dangerous occurrence)
Events during Operational Training	PI1705 - Relates to a firefighter receiving burns on his shoulder after training at Defford, possibly due to slightly too tight kit.
	PI1708 - Relates to a firefighter causing the jack beam to raise off the floor resulting in an injury to another crew member
	PI1709 - Relates to a firefighter causing the jack beam to raise off the floor resulting in an injury to another crew member
	SER-000002 - Relates to a firefighter injuring his back during a confined ladder pitch whilst performing the tilt and turn.
	PI1706 - Relates to an injury to firefighter during water course where his knee hit a rock under the water.
	SER-000020 - Relates to an arm injury whilst extending the ladder.
	SER-000028 - Relates to subluxation of left shoulder during an initial WFR course. RIDDOR. (Over 7 days off)
PI1699 - Relates to a knee injury.	
Events during Routine Work	SER-000041 - Relates to a firefighter's leg being trapped between appliance door and appliance steps
Events classed as Other	PI1700 - Relates to a casualty feeling dizzy and light-headed following being rescued from an exercise.
	SER-000047 - Relates to a member of the public tripping over a chain fence between the Station and John Wood Tyres.
	Totalling 18 personal injuries
	36 Working days lost in total

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Q3 2023 – 2024

A2. Vehicle Collisions

Of the **49** H&S events, **15** 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 **EMERGENCY** 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
Events during Operational Work	VA1693 - Relates to vehicle accident with appliance hitting a stone wall whilst the driver reversed down a narrow lane. Two banksmen were in place.
	VA1695 - Relates to a collision whilst responding to an incident. EMERGENCY .
	VA1696 - Relates to vehicle accident where appliance reversed into a concrete planter.
	VA1701 - Relates to damage caused to vehicle whilst appliances were on route to an incident. EMERGENCY .
	VSE-000003 - Relates to attending a building fire where the wing mirror of the fire engine struck a tree branch. EMERGENCY .
	VSE-000004 - Relates to the nearside mirror being broken. EMERGENCY .
Events during Operational Training	VSE-000005 - Relates to the appliance colliding with another car whilst going around a bend whilst responding to a potential house fire. EMERGENCY .
Events during Operational Training	VA1698 - Relates to vehicle slow maneuvering into a car park, came into contact with a closed gate.
Events during Routine Work	VA1692 - Relates to vehicle accident whilst driving along M50. Stone chipped up and hit windscreen, causing a crack in it.
	VA1694 - Relates to vehicle accident whilst slow maneuvering around a corner with parked cars.
	VA1702 - Relates to vehicle colliding with street furniture whilst slowly reversing (with banks person)
	VA1703 - Relates to collision with fallen branch off tree on road. BASIC SI .
Events classed as Other	VSE-000002 - Relates to small chip to service vehicle from other non-service vehicle door
	VA1699 - Relates to a vehicle catching a wall when the road narrowed.
	VA1700 - Vehicle reversed upside of station, collided with wall.
	Totalling 15 vehicle collisions

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Q3 2023 – 2024

A3. Near Hits (including Causes for Concern, Property or Equipment)

Of the **49** H&S events, **13** relate to the category of Near Hits - these are further described in Table A3 below.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Near Hits or Causes for Concern in Each Sub-Category
Events during Operational Work	PE1659 - Relates to charging lead for appliance snapping after being caught in the window after being unplugged.
	SER-000043 - Relates to equipment moving around whilst appliance in transit.
Events during Operational Training	NHCC1688 - Relates to Holmatro airbag on/off valve button being faulty and allowing air through even though the button is in a neutral position. BASIC SI .
	NHCC1690 - Relates to BA mask melting during the second exercise

	at Defford. It melted due to 'hot loading.' BASIC SI.
	NHCC1691 - Relates to LDV failure on a set being worn during training at Defford. BASIC SI. RIDDOR (Dangerous occurrence).
	NHCC1692 - Relates to visor beginning to deform due to heat. BASIC SI.
	NHCC1693 - Relates to a BA mask melting during CFBT. BASIC SI.
	PE1658 - Relates to GP line being used to change the direction of a vehicle wheel during training. The GP line snapped.
	VA1697 - Relates to puncture to boat during SRT water rescue training.
	NHCC1694 - Relates to service vehicle bumping bins but no damage caused.
	SER-000027 - Relates to BA wearer being led out of the training facility feeling dizzy.
Events during Routine Work	SER-000058 - Relates to a main delivery failure.
Events classed as Other	PE1657 - Relates to appliance bay door not latching properly whilst crew left for an incident. They came back to find door open.
	Totalling 13 near hits or causes for concern

Table A3: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Q3 2023 – 2024

A4. Violence or Aggression

Of the **49** H&S events, **3** relate to the category of Violence or Aggression.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Violence or Aggression in Each Sub-Category
Events classed as Other	AV1645 - Relates to abuse from occupant of flat whilst assisting ambulance crews to gain entry.
	AV1646 - Relates to targeted fireworks from youths whilst crew put out fire in the open
	AV1647 - Relates to occupier being aggressive to crews whilst trying to get into house.
	Totalling 3 Violence

Table A4: Violence or Aggression Reported during Q3 2023 – 2024

A5. Exposure or Contamination

Of the **49** H&S events, **none** relate to the category of Exposure or Contamination.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Violence or Aggression in Each Sub-Category

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 1 report of skin reddening during Q3. 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.

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.

11 potential exposure/contamination events/incidents were recorded during Q3, involving firefighters. None of which became a safety event.