

Report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer

10. Health and Safety Committee Update

Purpose of report

1. To provide an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee note that the Health and Safety statistics indicate the Service has robust Health and Safety arrangements in place.

Introduction

1. Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority's aim is ensure the safety and well-being of its employees and to reduce and prevent accidents and injuries at work.
2. The Health & Safety Committee (the Committee) is established to provide effective arrangements for the liaison and review of matters of a common interest in regards to health & safety (H&S), and to act as a forum for liaison on all matters relating to health & safety for key stakeholders and departments. The Committee provides the opportunity for the Service to discuss the general H&S matters on which it must consult the workforce with employee representatives.
3. The membership of the Committee has been recently reviewed and meetings are chaired by a Principal Officer (the Deputy Chief Fire Officer).
4. The Committee has the facility to task work to the Health & Safety Working Group (H&SWG), which sits beneath it and is chaired by the Area Commander Operations Support. The group meets as and when required but at least 6 monthly.
5. The Committee is due to meet again on 25 February 2015. An update of significant issues discussed will be provided in the next report.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	Removal of Y piece
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Quarter 3 Health & Safety Performance Report Summary

Contact Officer

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Quarter 3 Health & Safety Performance Report Summary (Oct – Dec 2014)

A total of 30 H&S events were reported this quarter:

- 2 Cause for concerns (detail over page).
- 15 Vehicle accidents, none of which occurred whilst responding to incidents. All incidents caused minor damage to FRS vehicles only.
- 1 Safety critical equipment failures (detail over page)
- 2 Near hits
- 8 Personal injuries occurred:
 - 2 during training
 - 2 during operational activity
 - 1 non operational activity

Quarter 3 Total Reported H&S Events

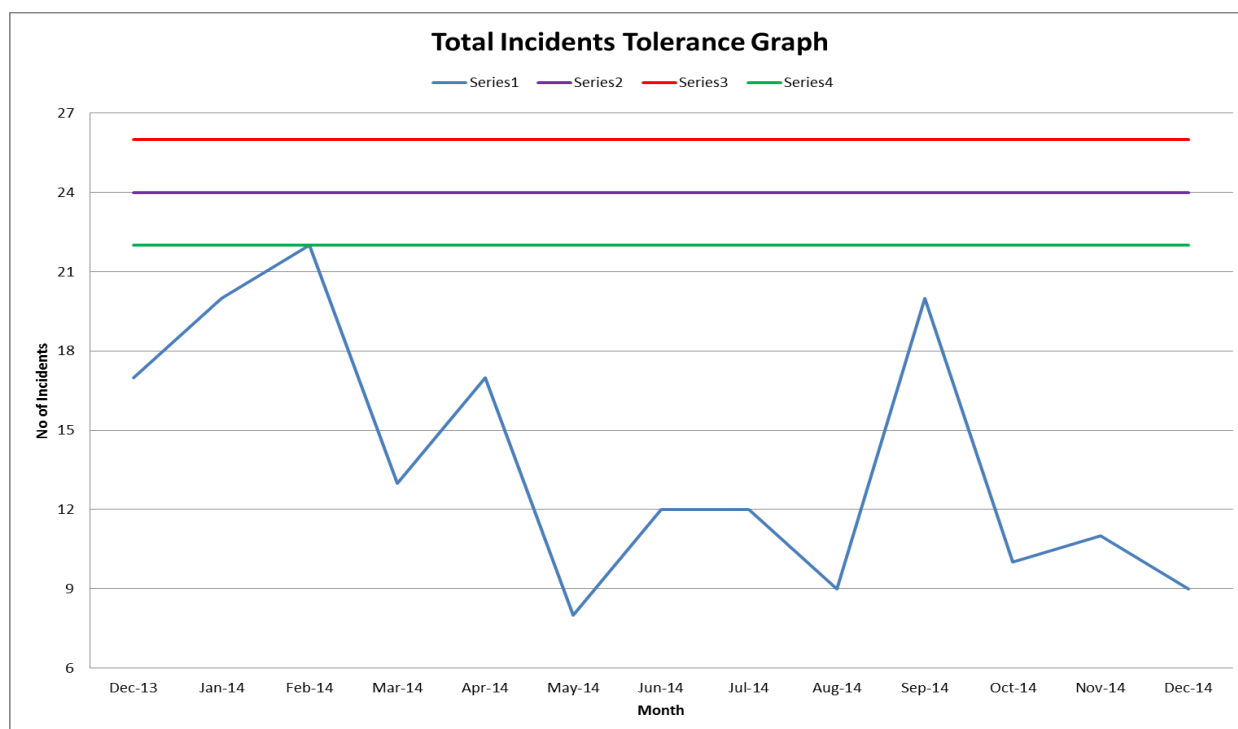


Figure 1 – Total events per month Dec 2013 to Dec 2014

Summary Total H&S events for this quarter show a downward trend.

Quarter 3 Serious Events Reported

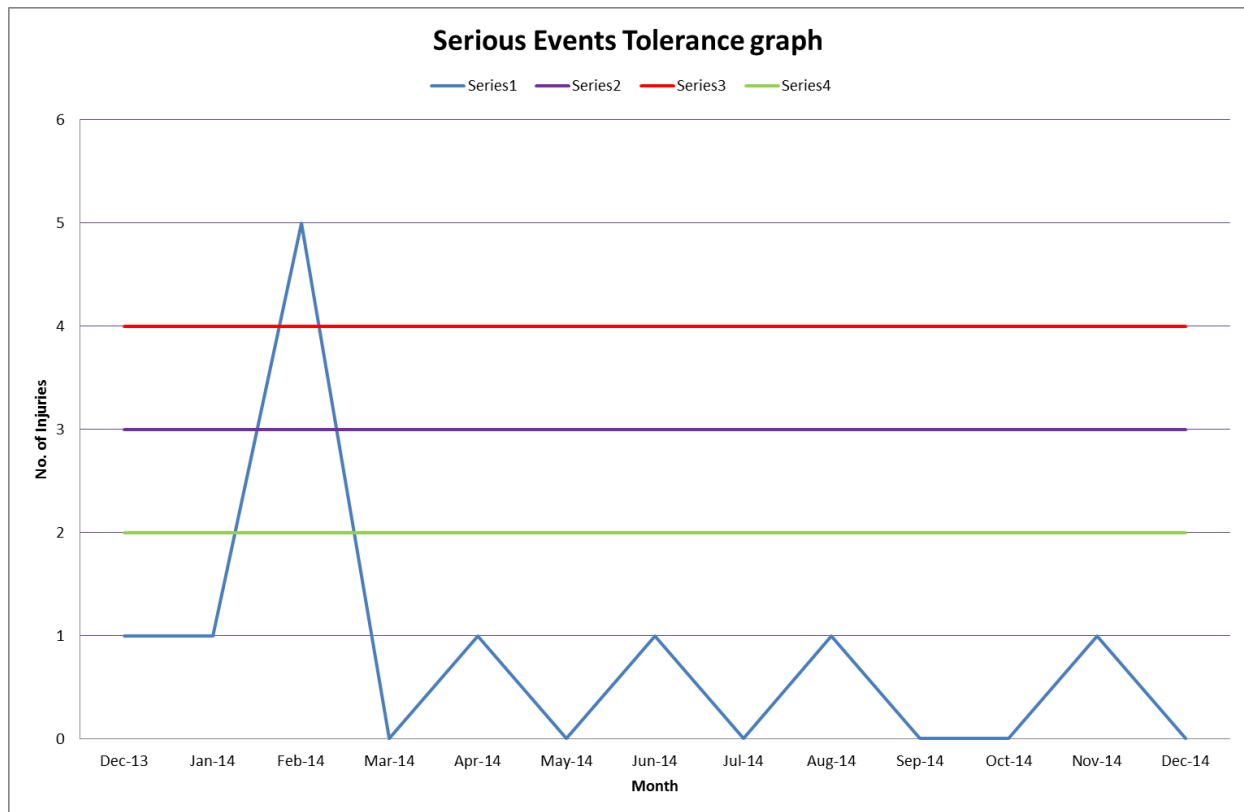


Figure 2 – Total events per month Dec 2013 to Dec 2014

Summary one potentially serious event this quarter (see below for details)

Significant/Serious Events

(Cause for concern)

1. During a training event the Y piece that allows an additional mask to be fitted to a breathing apparatus set was used by a second wearer and on removal the valve remained in the open position. This resulted in an uncontrolled release of air.

Action – Removal of Y piece has been approved by SMB members

Potentially Serious Events

(Safety critical equipment failures)

1. BA set 4AA1217 developed a leak from the first stage reducer. The set was impounded as per procedure and on investigation was found to have a small amount of wear on the “O” ring.

Action – Operational Logistics have checked all BA sets to check for similar wear and tear. The result of which was that this was a single event – no further action required.