

Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer

11. Health and Safety Committee Update

Purpose of report

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

Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the following issues, in particular, be noted:

- (i) ***the involvement of the Service in a number of Health and Safety initiatives at national level;***
- (ii) ***Health and Safety performance for Quarter 2 (July – September 2014)***

Introduction

2. 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.
3. The Health and 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 and Safety (H&S), and to act as a forum for liaison on all matters relating to H&S 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.
4. The Committee has the facility to task work to the Health & Safety Working Group, which sits beneath it and is chaired by the Area Commander Operations Support. The group meets as and when required but at least every six months.

Update

5. The Committee last met on 1 September 2014 and is due to meet next on 1 December 2014. An update of significant issues discussed will be provided in the next report.
6. The review of performance for quarter 2 (July – September 2014) will be discussed in detail at the next H&S Committee meeting in December. An outline summary report is included at Appendix 1.

National Activities

7. The Service is currently involved in a number of initiatives at national level. Key areas of activity include:
 - Performing rescues national guidance.
 - Fires in the Built Environment national guidance
 - Fires and Firefighting national guidance
 - Initial Operational Response national guidance
 - Development of a bespoke Fire Service audit system.

Regional Inter-Fire Service Health and safety management audit

8. The Service has entered into an agreement with West Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire Fire and rescue Services to carryout joint Health and Safety audits to provide internal and inter- FRS comparison compliance against Health, safety and Welfare legislation.
9. The audit will take place in January 2015 and HWFRS will be the first within the region to test not only the system but also the agreed protocol. This particular workstream has attracted national interest and is likely to be adopted as a method of best practice by other regions throughout UK FRSs.

Conclusion

10. This report provides Members with an update on health and safety issues discussed at the previous Health and Safety Committee and draws Members' attention to key areas of work currently being undertaken by the Service. In addition the report provides information on health and safety performance during quarter 2, which overall show a slight increase in incidents reported against the previous quarter.

Corporate Considerations

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

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Quarter 2 Health & Safety Performance Report

Contact Officer

John Hodges, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
(01905 368256)

jhodges@hwfire.org.uk