

Health and Safety Quarterly Report Quarter 1 (April – June 2020) Event Reporting and Summary

1. Overview

In the period of April 2020 to June 2020 a total of **43** Health and Safety (H&S) events were reported. They fall into the categories of:

- 15 Personal Injury
- 5 Vehicle Collisions
- 4 Property or Equipment
- 11 Near Hits or Causes for Concern
- 2 Violence or Aggression
- 6 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 quarter 1 personal injuries and near hit / cause for concerns were the highest reported incidents. Personal injuries tend to occur during operational activities. It appears that the majority of the near hit / cause for concerns happened during routine activities. Events that occurred during training have significantly reduced during quarter 1, this correlates directly to the reduction in training activities performed as a result of Covid 19 restrictions.

	Total	Training	Operational Activities	Routine Activities	Non-Service Related Activities
Total H&S Events Q1	43	2	24	15	2
Personal Injury	15	1	12	1	1
Vehicle Collision	5	0	2	2	1
Property or Equipment Failure	4	1	1	2	0
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	11	0	5	6	0
Exposure or Contamination	6	0	2	4	0
Violence or Aggression	2	0	2	0	0

Table 1: Safety Event Breakdown Q1 2020-2021

By Injury Type

Table 2 identifies slips, trips and falls and 'other' as the predominant causes of personal injuries reported, usually where firefighters have lost their footing resulting in a form of injury. The 'Other' category covers various issues including sickness from water training courses, cuts and joint pain.

Total Personal Injuries	15
Manual Handling	1
Slips, Trips & Falls	6
Hit by Moving Object	0
Hit Stationary Object	2
Burns – Operational	0
Burns – Training	0
Other	6

Table 2: Personal Injury Breakdown Q1 2020-2021

By Vehicle Type

Table 3 highlights vehicle collisions. All vehicle collisions were of a minor nature, those involving fire engines occurred whilst carrying out non-blue light driving.

Vehicle Collisions	Fire Engines		Cars and Vans		Non-Service related
	On blue lights	Off blue lights	On blue lights	Off blue lights	
Total Collisions	0	4	0	1	0

Table 3: Vehicle Breakdown Q1 2020-2021

Vehicle Mileage Statistics

Vehicle mileage statistics for the year 2019-2020 have been provided by the Operational Logistics Fleet Department and have been used to predict vehicle mileage for 2020-21. These are summarised in Table 3A below. It can be seen that there was 1 white fleet safety event out of approximately 213,911 miles driven, which equates to 1 event for every 213,911 miles driven.

The 4 safety events by red fleet vehicles were out of approximately 52,024 miles driven, which equates to 1 event for every 13,006 miles driven.

Fleet	Total Mileage 2019-2020	Predicted Mileage Q1 2020-2021
White Fleet	855,645	213,911
Red Fleet	208,095	52,024
	Totalling 1,063,740 miles	Totalling 265,935 miles

Table 3A: Vehicle Mileage Statistics Q1 2020-2021

3. Events Requiring Investigation during Quarter 1 (Apr 20 – Jun 20)

Tier One Investigations

A Tier One standard investigation is required for all safety events reported during the reporting period, usually by the on-duty or line manager present at the time of the event, and is usually minor in nature (see Section 1).

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.

There were no safety events reported during quarter 1 that required a Tier Two Basic Specialist Investigation.

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.

There have been 4 safety events reported during quarter 1 that required a Full Specialist Investigation, all relating to Exposure.

Tier Three MERP Specialist Investigations

A Tier Three SI 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 on behalf of HWFRS.

There have been no safety events during quarter 1 that required a Tier Three SI.

RIDDOR Events for Quarter 1 (Apr 20 – Jun 20)

During quarter 1, 2 RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) reports were submitted to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Both of these reports were for personal injury events. Both fell under the time lost category of having over 7 calendar days absent from the start of the occurrence, and involved;

1. A firefighter slipped on some steps whilst attending a fire call, and later experienced lower back pain.
2. A firefighter suffered a stomach upset after coming into contact with contaminated water at an incident.

4. Comparison Between Quarters and Trend Analysis

Comparison of Events Reported Showing Differences Q1 2019-20 & Q1 2020-21

Table 4 below compares the number of events reported in Q1 2019-20 and Q1 2020-21 for the different categories. For events over the last 12 months, 4 of the categories experienced a decrease and 2 had an increase.

Overall, event reporting as a whole has decreased by 24 over the period with 43 reports in Q1 2020-21 compared to 67 in Q1 2019-20. This decrease is driven by Vehicle Collisions and Near Hits.

Event Type	Q1 2019-20	Q1 2020-21	Increase/Decrease
Personal Injuries	18	15	-3
Vehicle Collisions	21	5	-16
Property or equipment	3	4	+1
Violence & Aggression	4	2	-2
Near Hits	20	11	-9
Exposure / contamination	1	6	+5
Overall	67	43	-24

Table 4: Quarterly Events Reported Q1 2019-20 and Q1 2020-21

Trend Analysis

In summary compared with the previous year, there has been a decrease in the number of events reported during quarter 1 (-24).

The main decrease was vehicle collisions (-16) and near hits (-9). The main increase is Exposure / Contamination (+5).

All events that occurred during the quarter have had a minimum of a Tier One local level investigation to identify preventative control measures, to help in reducing the likelihood of similar occurrences.

12 Month Trend Analysis

Table 5 below breaks down the latest 4 quarters by reported accident type. There has been a sizeable decrease in reported accidents this quarter vs quarter 4 (-11).

This is driven by a significant decrease in the number of vehicle collisions (-13) and a decrease in Personal Injuries (-6). This would be reflective of the reduced activities undertaken during quarter 1 as a result of the Covid 19 restrictions.

Half of the categories have seen an increase this quarter vs the previous quarter, with Near Hit/Cause for Concern seeing the biggest increase (+4).

Violence or Aggression is in line with previous numbers.

	Q2 19/20	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21
Total H&S Events	53	39	54	43
Personal Injury	19	15	21	15
Vehicle Collision	17	11	18	5
Property or Equipment Failure	4	1	3	4
Near Hit or Cause for Concern	9	8	7	11
Exposure or contamination	1	1	3	6
Violence or Aggression	3	3	2	2

Table 5: 12 Month Trend Analysis Q2 2019 – 2020 to Q1 2020 – 2021

Brief Description of all Safety Events

A1. Personal Injury

Of the **43** H&S events reported, **15** relate to the category of Personal Injury. These are described in Table A1 below:

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Injuries in Each Sub-Category
1 event/injury was during training	1154 - 1 relates to a Personal Injury. During Breathing Apparatus training the fire fighter experienced stiffness in their shoulder. The cause is unknown.
12 events/injuries were at or during operational incidents	1105 - 1 relates to a Personal Injury. Whilst gaining entry through a window the Firefighter hit their right knee on the inner window sill, causing some pain.
	1106 - 1 relates to a Personal Injury. Whilst working in a cellar the Firefighter banged their head on a low roof. This caused a cut to their head and bleeding.
	1108 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst clearing up some glass a firefighter cut their finger. First aid was given on site.
	1109 - 1 relates to a personal injury. The firefighter slipped on some steps whilst attending a fire call. RIDDOR
	1117 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst inspecting an incident ground the fire fighter twisted their ankle.
	1124 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst gaining entry at an incident the firefighter cut their finger on the glass of a broken window.
	1131 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst responding to an incident the firefighter slipped on a wet patch of floor resulting in a fall. The firefighter sustained a bump to the right elbow and cut to the left knee.
	1134 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst walking to attach a hose reel to the hydrant the firefighter twisted their ankle.
	1140 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst using the wrecking hammer to gain entry to a property, the firefighter experienced pain in his right wrist.
	1141 - 1 relates to a personal injury. A firefighter suffered a stomach upset after coming into contact with contaminated water at an incident. RIDDOR
	1144 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst manoeuvring a trailer the fire fighter fell over and landed on their right shoulder causing some discomfort.
	1152 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst attending an incident involving an electricity pole, oil/coolant dripped from the transformer and into the firefighter's eye.
2 events/injuries were during routine activities	1120 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst exiting the showers after a training session the fire fighter slipped on the wet floor. This resulting in bruising to the wrist and forearm.
	1132 - 1 relates to a personal injury. Whilst walking up a flight of stairs the firefighter's knee gave way, causing pain and injury.
	Totalling 15 personal injuries
	Totalling 2 RIDDOR events

Table A1: Personal Injuries Reported during Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

A2. Vehicle Collisions

Of the **43** H&S events **5** relate to the category of Vehicle Collisions which are further described in Table A2 below. **3** of these events could be attributed to the FRS driver; these events are highlighted in grey. If these collisions occurred whilst on response to an operational incident the category of response has been provided in bold.

Sub-Categories	Breakdown of Vehicle Collisions in Each Sub-Category
2 events were responding to operational incidents	1138 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst manoeuvring the fire engine between some parked cars the ladder got caught on a low hanging tree. This resulted in damage to the ladder gantry.
	1155 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst manoeuvring through a narrow street the driver caught the wing mirror of the fire engine, cracking the plastic outer casing.
3 events were during routine activities	1111 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. A scuff was noticed on the locker of the fire engine when leaving an incident.
	1112 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Slight damage was noticed to side of the fire engine when leaving an incident.
	1149 - 1 relates to a vehicle accident. Whilst parking their car the driver misjudged the size of the space resulting in the car scratching the nearside front wheel arch of the car parked next to it.
	Totalling 5 vehicle collisions

Table A2: Vehicle Collisions Reported during Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

A3. Property or Equipment Damage

Of the **43** H&S events **4** relate to the category of Damage to Property or Equipment, this is further described in Table A3 below.

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Property or Equipment Damage in Each Sub-Category
1 event was to responding equipment	1119 - 1 relates to property damage. There was an attempted break in to a Service vehicle parked at a station. Two dents found on car with the alarm operating.
2 events were during routine work	1125 - 1 relates to an Equipment failure. Air was found in the outboard motor fuel bladder preventing it from reaching full capacity during refuelling.
	1145 - 1 relates to property or equipment failure. Whilst lowering a ladder following a drill exercise the line slipped out of the firefighter's hand causing the ladder to hit the floor.
1 event was during operational training	1145 - 1 relates to property or equipment failure. Whilst lowering a ladder following a drill exercise the line slipped out of the firefighter's hand causing the ladder to hit the floor.
	Totalling 4 property or equipment damage

Table A3: Damage to Property or Equipment Reported during Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

A4. Near Hits or Causes for Concern

Of the **43** H&S events **11** relate to the category of Near Hits or Causes for Concern - these are further described in Table A4 below.

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Near Hits or Causes for Concern in Each Sub-Category
5 events were during operational activities	1107 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst attending a fire call, there was loss of water to the hose reel whilst being used. This lasted about 5 seconds then came back on.
	1114 - 1 relates to a cause for concern. Fire fighters used a piece of equipment that the Service had issue a guidance note to not to use.
	1136 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. One of the rear doors opened on a fire engine
	1151 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst turning out of the station with sirens and blue lights activated, the driver had to brake and swerve to avoid a collision with an oncoming vehicle.
	1153 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst pulling out of the station, 2 oncoming vehicles did not stop, resulting in the fire engines having to brake and sound their horn.
6 events were during routine activities	1110 - 1 relates to a near hit. Whilst putting their PPE away in a locker a dry powder fire extinguisher fell out of the locker. The extinguisher was set off and damage was caused to its handle.
	1116 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst returning from an incident the Firefighter noticed a locker door was open. No kit had fallen out but the locker door had become warped during the drive home.
	1118 - 1 related to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst wearing a helmet the glow sticks on the top of the helmet leaked causing the helmet to melt. As a result LED lights have been procured as a safer alternative.
	1126 - 1 relates to a cause for concern. Failure of the boat fuel bladder resulted in failure to fill to capacity.
	1142 - 1 relates to a near hit/cause for concern. Whilst using a table, one of the legs gave way, causing damage to the floor and almost hitting the firefighter's feet.
	1150 - 1 relates to a near hit / cause for concern. Whilst returning to station from an incident, an oncoming car entered into the wrong carriageway causing the driver of the appliance to swerve out of the way of the oncoming vehicle.
Totalling 11 near hits or causes for concern	

Table A4: Near Hits or Causes for Concern Reported during Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

A5. Violence or Aggression

Of the **43** H&S events **2** relate to the category of Violence or Aggression, this is further described in Table A5 below.

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Violence or Aggression in Each Sub-Category
2 were during operational activities	1135 - 1 relates to violence and aggression. Fire crews were subject to verbal abuse while attending an incident.
	1143 - 1 relates to violence/aggression. Whilst attempting to make contact with a caller who reported a fire, the firefighter was subjected to verbal aggression.
	Totalling 2 violence or aggression

Table A5: Violence or Aggression Reported during Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

A6. Exposure or Contamination

Of the **43** H&S events **6** 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, see Table A6 below.

Sub-Categories	Break-down of Exposure or Contamination in Each Sub-Category
2 were during operational activities	1133 - 1 relates to an exposure. Whilst cutting away the roof of a shed at an incident the firefighters may have been exposed to asbestos.
	1139 - 1 relates to an exposure. The firefighter had suspected Covid 19 symptoms. The Dr diagnosed gastroenteritis following a negative CV19 test result.
4 were during routine activities	1127 - 1 relates to an exposure of CV19
	1128 - 1 relates to an exposure of CV19
	1129 - 1 relates to an exposure of CV19
	1130 - 1 relates to an exposure of CV19
	Totalling 6 exposure or contamination

Table A6: Exposure or Contamination Reported during Quarter 1 2020 - 2021

39 potential exposure / contamination incidents were recorded during Q1, 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.