

1st Quarterly H&S Update

(April - June 2014)

H&S Report No: 020

07/07/2014

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HUMBERSIDE
Fire & Rescue Service

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Introduction

This update will give information into areas of Health and Safety (H&S) within Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) with an overall aim to provide a 'snap-shot' of performance within a given quarter; April - June 2014.

The data given within this report will be compared with the same quarter, but from the previous Year. The reason for this, is that similar environmental conditions are likely to be expected i.e. winter and cold spells will present a higher chance of 'slips' due to ice/snow.

The update will give focus on the following aspects:

1. Courses delivered
2. Incident statistics
3. On-going Health and Safety issues

2 Main body

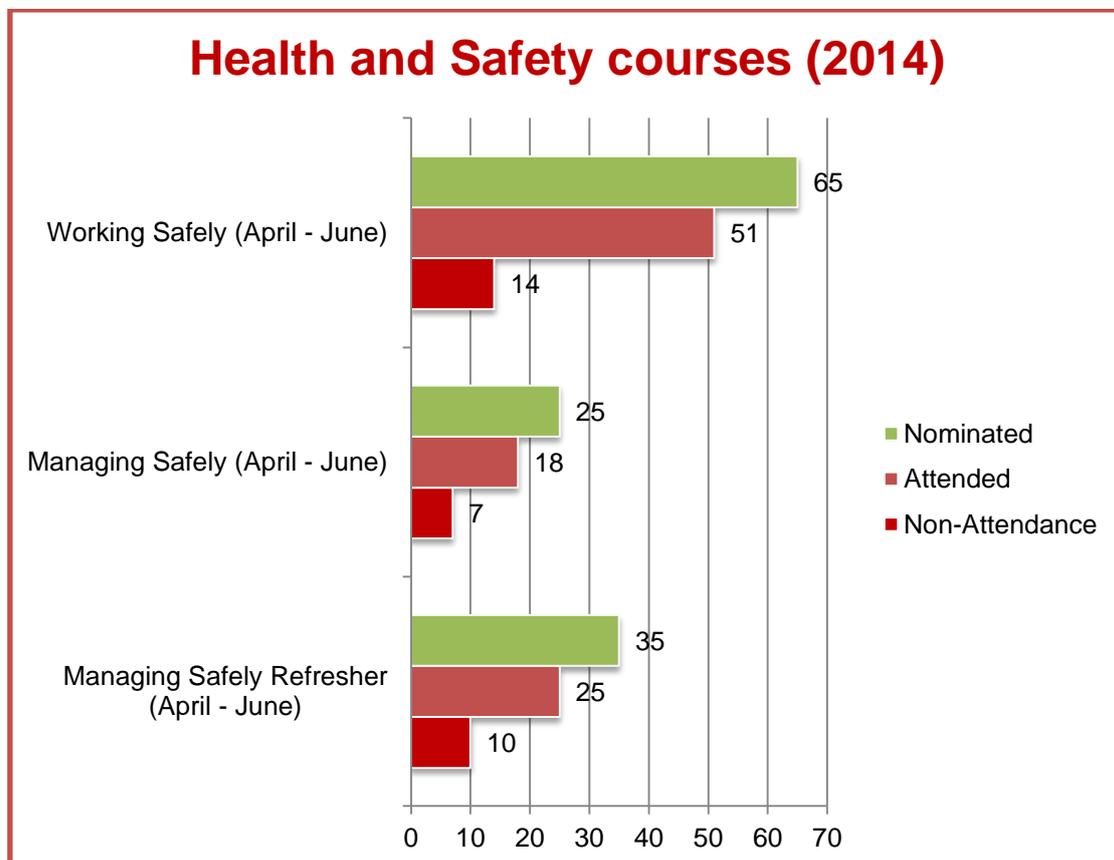
2.1 Courses

2.1.1 Attended by HFRS personnel

2.1.1.1 Internal

During the period of 01/04/2014 – 30/06/2014 the following courses were facilitated by the H&S Team:

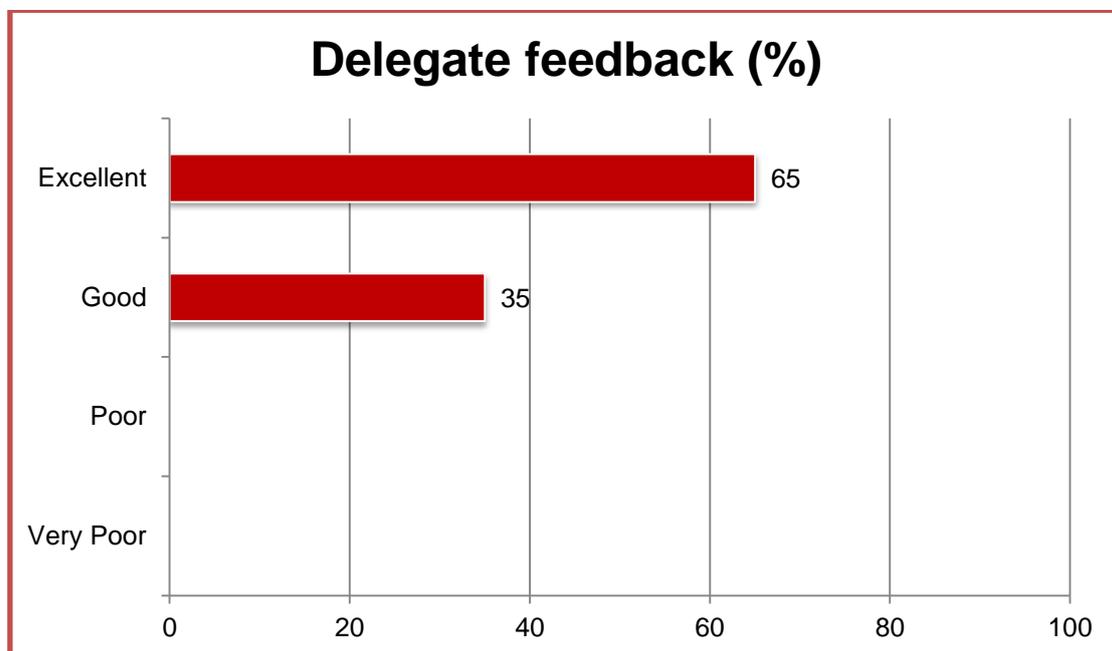
- The 1 day IOSH Working Safely course;
 - 5 courses were scheduled and 1 was cancelled due to a lack of nominations
- The IOSH Managing Safely course;
 - The Service facilitated one course for its employees and another on behalf of HFR Solutions
- The 1 day Managing Safely Refresher course;
 - 11 courses were scheduled and one was cancelled due to a lack of nominations. The Service also ran one course over two days to allow personnel within the Service to attend who have other work commitments



The HFRS H&S Team was able to support HFR Solutions and facilitated an IOSH Managing Safely course. Whilst the Customer was restricted on the number of people it could send due to their availability, of those that did, their feedback was very positive and it was well received. The ideal number of attendees is 12; only four people were nominated for this particular course.

The majority of the personnel who failed to attend their nominate course were 'early recalled' via the Course Management System (CMS). The reasons given were; on leave, previously attended the course and change of Watch/Shift.

Future non-attendance will be reported the Director of Operations (South) to allow for closer scrutiny to improve efficiency.



The H&S Section is receiving encouraging feedback from the in-house developed Managing Safely Refresher.

Previous comments have been taken into consideration and changes have been made to ensure that the learning experience is a good one and that the topic of health and safety is more enjoyable with a better understanding by those involved.

2.1.1.2 External attended by Health and Safety personnel

Two members of the Health and Safety Team attended the BTEC *Advanced Professional Award in Expert Witness Evidence (level 7)*.

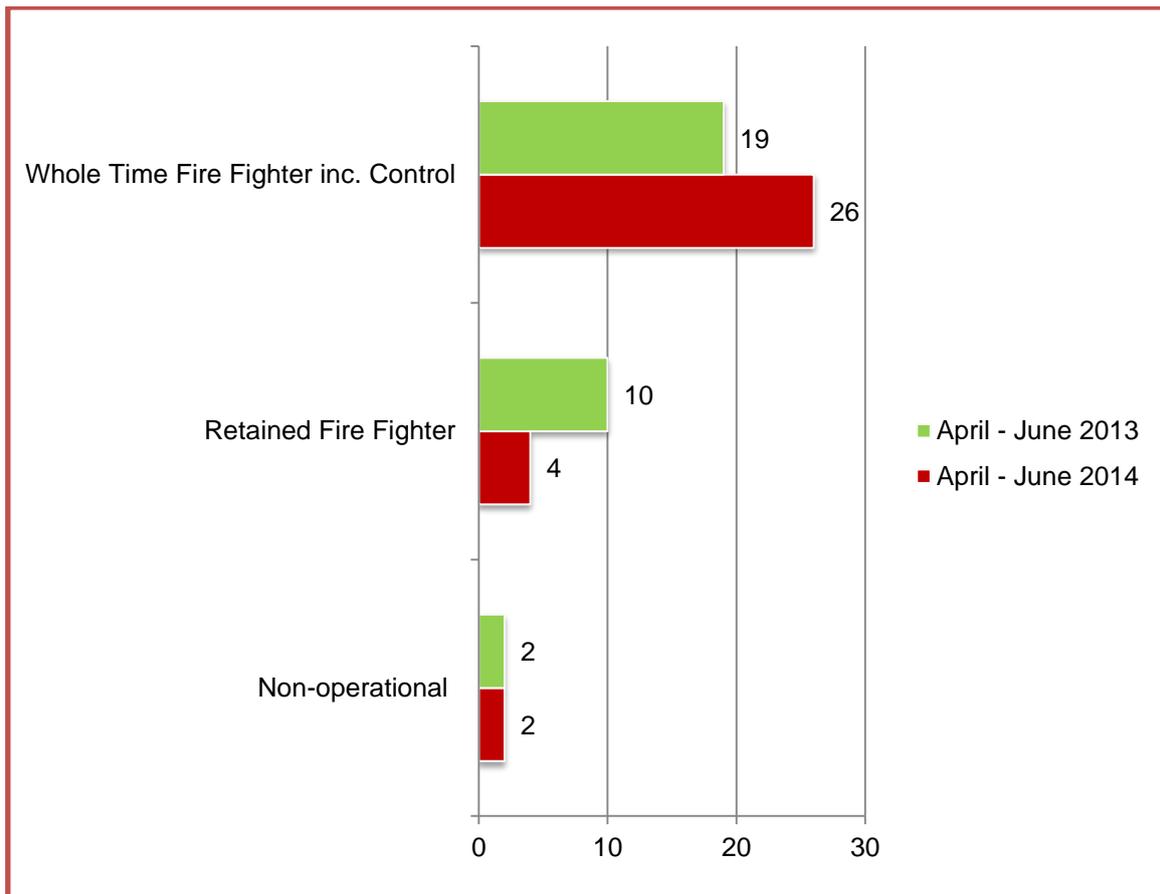
Confirmation has now been received that both candidates passed the assessment held in February 2014.

2.2 Incident statistics

The incident statistics are compared to the relevant quarter from the previous year. This will allow for variables over a specific quarter i.e. weather conditions which may have a more prolific effect in winter months with regards to slips than one would expect during the summer period.

2.2.1 Role specific

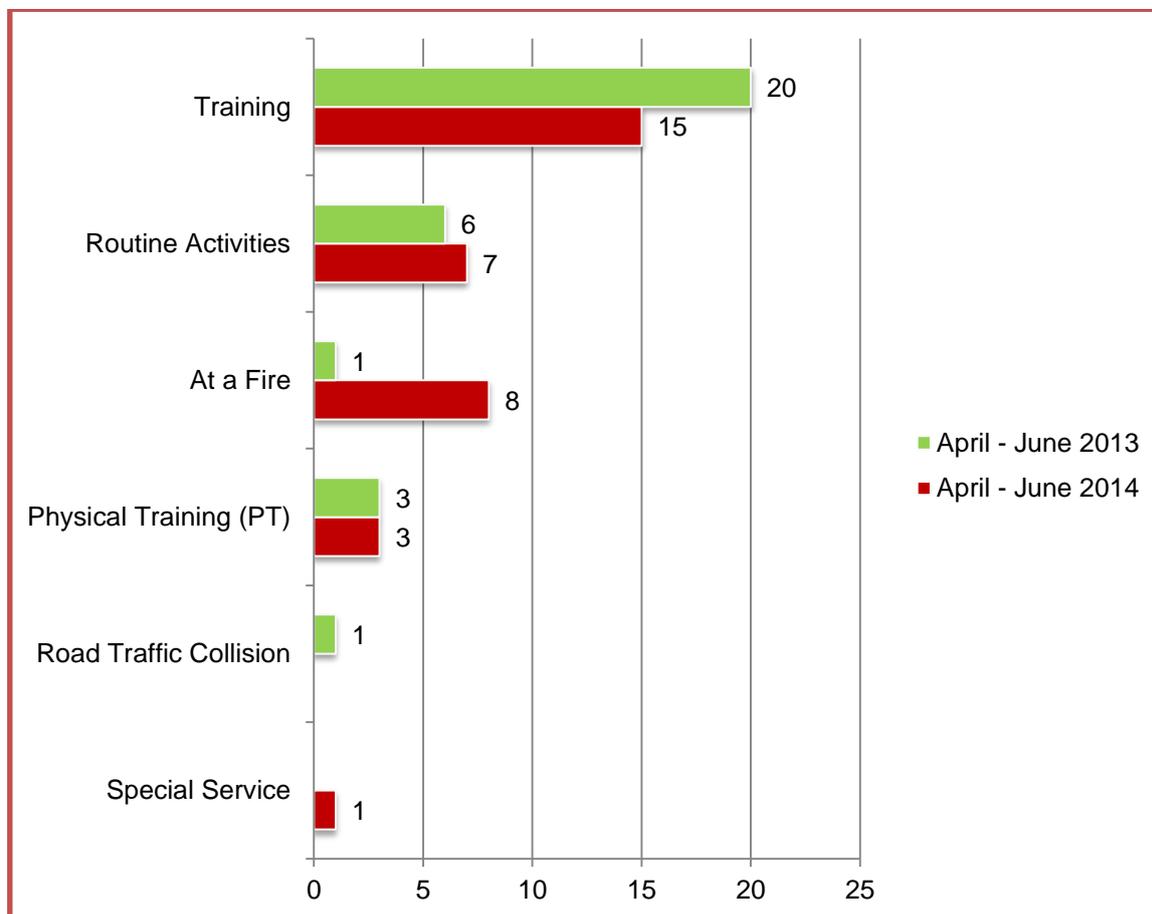
The graph below gives details of the role of personnel within HFRS who sustained an injury.



The Service is still seeing Whole Time Fire Fighters (including Control) having more accidents whilst at work, the majority of which are incurred during training activities.

2.2.2 Activity

The graph identifies the activity where personal injury has occurred for all members of the Service.



The Service has seen a significant increase in injuries whilst at a fire; this is attributed to an incident involving four personnel who were dealing with a hazardous material zinc concentrate (oxide) and the likely ignition of hydrogen. The accident investigation is still ongoing.

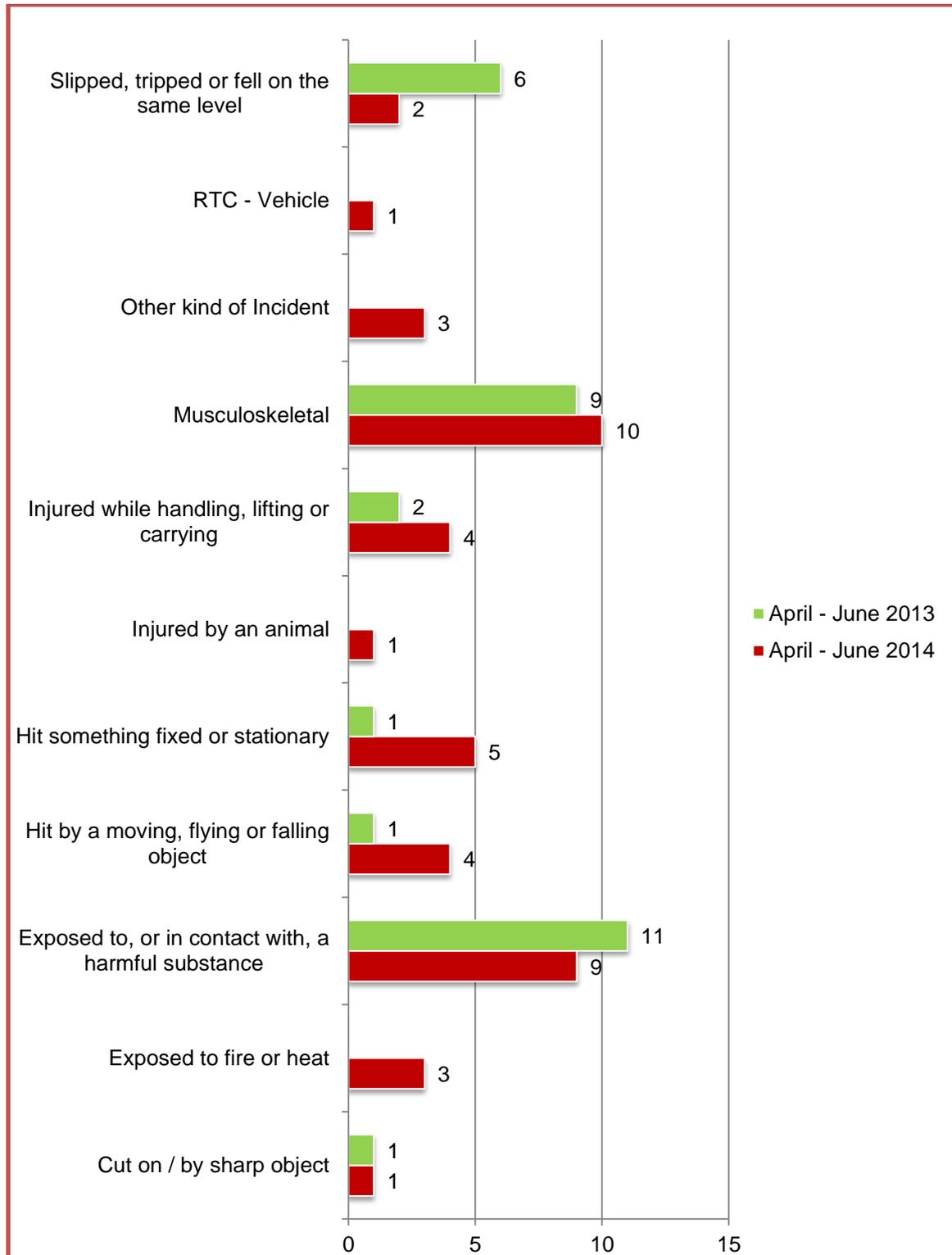
Training still remains the activity when personnel are most likely to encounter a personal injury. Of the fifteen reported cases, ten were water related but not of the same nature or at the same venue. Two were ladder related, again not at the same venue. The remainder were isolated cases.

Routine Activities injuries include a report made on behalf of a contractor undertaking works at Calvert Lane Fire Station. The incident was recorded and investigated, which identified the immediate cause being a steel plate striking the individual and cutting their head. The

underlying causes were identified as 1) PPE not being donned (worn) and 2) a person in the work area (underneath the ladders) when not necessary.

2.2.3 Incident/injury type

The graph below shows personal injuries by the type of injury suffered.

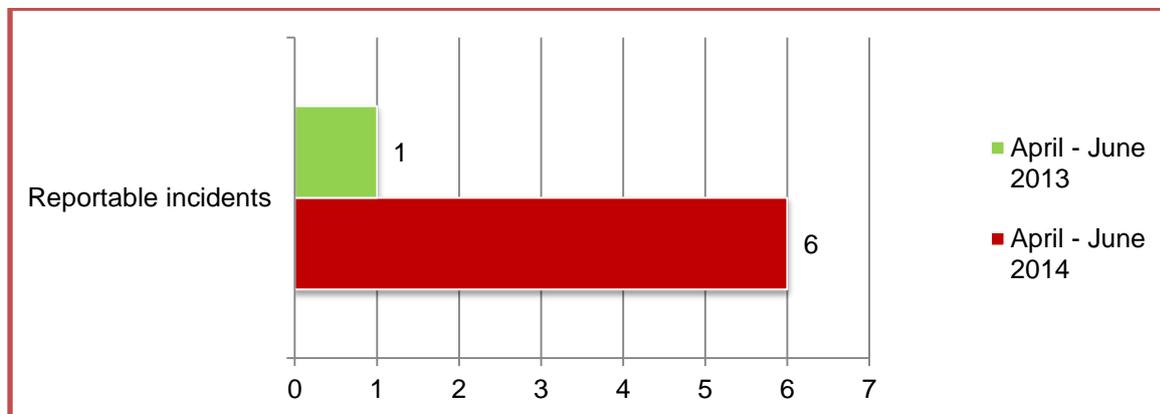


Some of the incidents which have been recorded have had multiple causal factors attributed to them (reported in two categories) e.g. *exposure to fire or heat* and *exposed to, or in contact with, a harmful substance*. One such incident is the one involving the hazardous material zinc concentrate (oxide).

Musculoskeletal accounts for the greatest cause of injury, but the activities where the injury occurred are varied i.e. sprains and strains whilst walking through a door to an injury sustained when a fire appliance travelled over a speed bump.

There is no specific activity within the data that indicates any link between the injuries that have been reported.

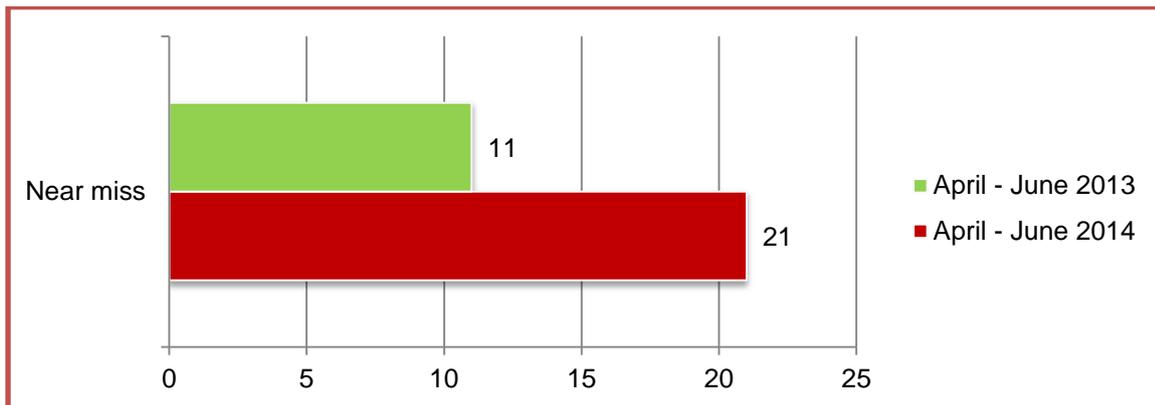
2.2.4 RIDDOR reportable



There has been an increase in RIDDOR reportable incidents and this is predominately attributable to a single incident at which three operational personnel were exposed to a hazardous material zinc concentrate (oxide); this was reportable as a *Dangerous Occurrence*.

The other RIDDOR reportable incidents were due to personnel injuring themselves; 1) coming into contact with a submerged object whilst undertaking swift water rescue training, 2) undertaking routine duties and a door swung onto an individual's arm, 3) musculoskeletal injury whilst closing a water tank valve on a fire appliance. These incidents were reportable due to the person being away from work for more than 7 days.

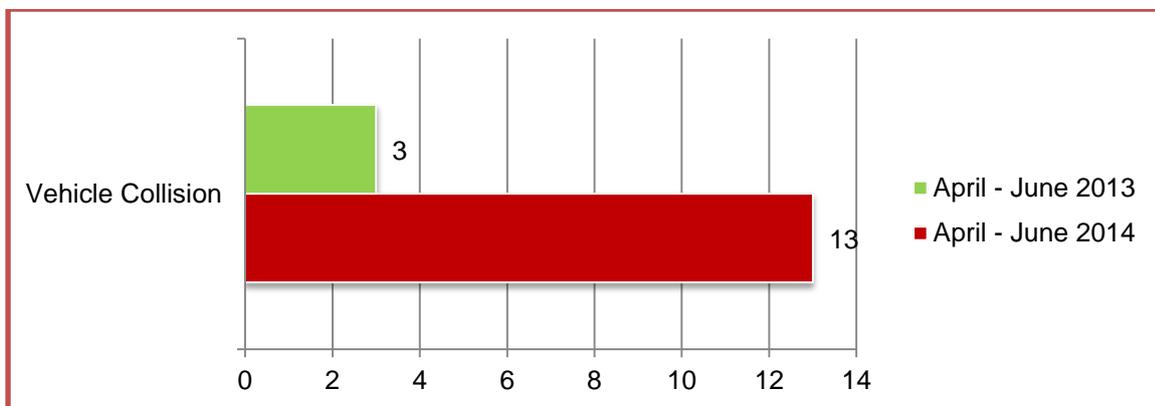
2.2.5 Near miss reporting



Near miss reporting has increased significantly in comparison to the same period last year. It is envisaged that the reporting of near miss events will increase further following the input being given by the Health and Safety Section to all operational crews (Whole-time and Retained).

The Section will then be delivering the same input to support personnel to ensure that the Service has a unified understanding of the importance of such reporting.

2.2.6 Vehicle Collision



Vehicle collisions have increased significantly from the same period last year. This increase may be down to the fact that all vehicle collisions are now to be recorded on the health & safety electronic reporting system regardless of any damage. The H&S Team have also established closer working relationships with the Technical Services Team so that any vehicle collisions that appear on 'Tranman' generates an e-mail to the H&S Section so that nothing is missed.

2.2.7 Trends

After analysing the data from the same period last year, no trends have been identified linking the two.

2.3 On-going Health and Safety issues

2.3.1 Control of Asbestos Regulations

The Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) was recently amended and required the Service to apply for exemption from the licensing aspect of the regulations.

The Service has utilised the standard response as drafted by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) which includes specific elements which are required to enable the exemptions to take place.

The Service has identified that its current control measures regarding asbestos are suitable and sufficient; the additional controls identified within the exemption requirements will further strengthen current measures already in place.

2.3.2 Institute of Safety and Health (IOSH) Conference 2014

Two members of the Section attended the National IOSH conference at London Excel. The number and variety of the presentations was good, with various 'tracks' that could be selected. The main emphasis of this Year's theme was "don't just focus on health & safety, but remember the welfare element".

At the same time as the conference, the Health & Safety Expo was at the same venue. This opportunity allowed discussions to take place with suppliers and providers of H&S equipment and training.

2.3.3 Near miss reporting research

Philip Smith has been collating information from all Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) nationally to establish base line data which will allow each Service to bench mark their performance against a national average.

The data has been grouped together and some interesting results have been identified.

As a consequence of the data received, ten FRSs have been contacted to discuss their data that they submitted, since it reflected the profile that HFRS is aspiring to.

A full report is being drafted and will be published at the end of the next quarter following which it will be circulated both internally and externally.

2.3.4 Near Miss Toolbox Talks

As part of the Service's on-going commitment to reducing accidents the H&S Section are visiting each Station to discuss with all operational personnel the importance of near miss reporting.

So far the input has been positively received and has provided the opportunity for personnel to raise other concerns or questions; the H&S Section is capturing this information and will respond in due course.

This work will be covered in greater detail in the next quarterly report.

2.3.5 Risk Assessment and Audit Update

A part of the Station visits, the H&S Team have used the opportunity to provide C/Ms and W/Ms with an update on the H&S software system.

Following this training Watches/Stations will be able upload future risk assessments and complete the audits that form part of the Health, Safety & Environmental Plan for their site directly onto the electronic recording system which can then be shared and centrally monitored.

2.3.6 Health and Safety Cultural Climate Survey

The Health and Safety Section in conjunction with the Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL) have developed a cultural survey for all staff to complete between July and August.

The survey is totally anonymous and consists of 40 multiple choice questions and two open questions. The outcome of the survey will allow the H&S Team to evaluate the attitudes of the workforce and then implement ideas to make improvements.

A report will be published detailing the findings of the report and any actions which are required to further improve the health and safety culture of the Service.

2.3.7 Lighting levels within SHQ and stair nosing's

Following a discussion regarding the lighting levels and treads on the staircases at SHQ, the H&S Team carried out some testing and an inspection; the results of which identified improvements must be made.

Since the improvements have been made the H&S Section have received a number of positive e-mails.

Thank you for making the stairs safer to use.

I would like to thank you for the improvements that have been made to the stairs in SHQ.

I found the stores stairs especially dangerous when descending them as it was very difficult for me to see the last step of each run as it arrived at the landing area...Thanks again keep up the good work.

2.3.8 Clough Road project

The Service was requested to attend the Clough Road construction site following a minor accident involving a sub-contractor. The site is not under control of the Service, it is controlled by the principal contractor and as such the H&S Section attended only to offer advice and assistance if required.

Upon arrival the sub-contractor had been conveyed to Accident & Emergency and preliminary investigations had been undertaken by the principal contractor.

The H&S Section deemed that input by the Service would not be necessary and that the investigation which was undertaken by the principal contractor would be sufficient.

Since then, the H&S Section has received the investigation and is happy with the outcome.

2.3.9 East Riding of Yorkshire CPU exercise – Operation Barmy Army

A member of the H&S Section attended the Leconfield Army base to observe the exercise organised by the ERY CPU called 'Operation Barmy Army'. The theme of the exercise was based on a road traffic collision (RTC).

The purpose of the visit was to quality assure the exercise in relation to any health and safety issues.

The outcome of the visit did not identify any areas for concern and the standard of the risk assessments produced were satisfactory. Also, the level safety supervision during the exercise was good. A hot debrief was completed immediately after the exercise and it was positive to note that personnel were given the opportunity to report any accidents or near misses, as well as been encouraged to make suggestions for improvements to current practises.

It was noted that the exercise was well received by the crews in attendance; in that afforded them a realistic training environment.

