

**HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2017/18**  
**April – June 2017**

## SUMMARY

1. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016/17 report on Health, Safety and Environment. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the statistical data.
2. During the reporting period there were 29 incidents recorded (Figs 2 & 3) that resulted in some form of personal injury compared to 27 for the same period last year. Due to the makeup of the workforce, the highest number of accidents were incurred by Wholetime and Control staff (19).
3. Despite the total number of reported accidents for the quarter increasing slightly (just over 7%) compared to the same quarter for last year (Fig 2), encouragingly this is still significantly below the five year rolling average figure for the same period (34). This shows the long term accident trend continues to fall. Activity areas showing an increase are Training, Special Service and Routine Activities. All other activity types show a reduction.
4. Four of the eleven reported injuries during training activities were sustained during water rescue training. Three were attributed to exposure to heat or steam during realistic fire training at Immingham West; this is an issue being addressed in consultation with the Training Section. Of the nine injuries sustained during Routine Activities, four were reported by operational personnel, with the rest made up of non-operational staff and one visiting contractor. Four of the five reported injuries sustained during Special Service activities were at medical response or related incidents.
5. “Injured while handling, lifting or carrying” and “Musculoskeletal” are the two biggest contributing causes of accidents with six injuries reported for each. (Fig 3).
6. During this quarter, there have been four RIDDOR events (Fig 4). The Service strives to reduce accidents and subsequent RIDDOR events to an aspirational target of zero. Two of these RIDDOR events occurred during central training and have been addressed in a range of measures jointly implemented with the Training Section following the accident investigations. The two remaining events occurred during routine activities are more difficult to mitigate; one involved a fall from a disabled seat which broke whilst being used to clean a toilet and the other being a fall whilst walking across an appliance room carrying a lightweight pump.
7. On a positive note; for the first time, near miss reports (Fig 5) are higher than reported injuries (34 compared to 29). They have increased by more than 260% in comparison with the same quarter for last year. This confirms the real progress being made by the H, S & E team in educating personnel and positively developing a safety culture.

8. The H, S & E team continue to undertake research in several areas reflecting the Services positive approach to H & S. These include:
- Occupational cancer risks – In conjunction with the FBU, the Service is looking into the potential risk posed by contaminated PPE. This complements national research being undertaken by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) of which the Service contributes.
  - Operational competency following on from fatalities in other FRSs – In light of a number of national reports/post-accident investigations received by the Service a review of current practices/procedures has been undertaken with a view to driving ongoing improvement.
  - The Blue Light Pledge for positive mental health – Members are aware that significant work has been undertaken to develop the pledge in conjunction with MIND. This was signed by the previous Chief Fire Officer, Dene Sanders and an action plan developed to raise awareness of mental health, reduce stigma and improve support mechanisms across the Service. This plan is monitored and managed by the Mental Health Steering Group.
  - Sticky Blood – following the research conducted by the University of Edinburgh, work is ongoing to reduce the risk of heart disease arising from exposure to extreme temperatures, with a number of control measures already in place.
  - Behavioural Safety training – A longer term aspiration of the Service is to develop a positive behavioural safety culture throughout the Service. Work to implement a change program is underway.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

9. That Members take assurance from the Service's proactive management of Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes.

#### BACKGROUND

10. Details of the Service's Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes for this Quarter 2016/17 are contained in Appendix 1.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

11. The monitoring of Health, Safety and Environmental information is a key part of the management of Strategic Objective 5 – “continuing to develop a committed, skilled and safe workforce.” This also links with the Service's vision of “Safer Firefighters, Safer Communities”.

#### FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

12. None.

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. None.

#### EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

14. None.

## CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15. None.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16. This report provides the opportunity for an additional level of scrutiny of Health and Safety information.

## COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

17. None.

## DETAILS OF CONSULTATION AND/OR COLLABORATION

18. None.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

19. Health and Safety Policy Statement SP 10\_1.

## RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

20. That Members take assurance from the Service's proactive management of Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes.

**S TOPHAM**

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