

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

PERFORMANCE REPORT TO THE

PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 MAY 2015

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF INJURIES SUSTAINED AS A RESULT OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 2015

REPORT NUMBER: CFO/031/15

APPENDICES: NONE

REPORTING OFFICER: JOHN MCNEILL

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DAVE MOTTRAM

OFFICERS CONSULTED:

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members review the performance data relating to operational staff injuries; resulting from an attendance at operational incidents and those as a result of training.

Introduction and Background

2. This report is submitted in response to a request from the Performance and Scrutiny Committee for a breakdown of Operational Staff injuries.
3. The Health and Safety Department in line with the Health and Safety Management principles detailed within HS(g) 65 which is the Health & Safety Executives guidance for managing for health and safety in the workplace have in place robust arrangements for the re-active monitoring of H&S performance.
4. These arrangements include the collation of all accident and injury statistics which are reported quarterly to the Health Safety & Welfare Committee, annually to the Performance & Scrutiny Committee and then to the full Authority.
5. A wide range of statistical data is collated about health and safety issues however this report concentrates on the areas of injuries sustained by

operational staff whilst engaged in activities either directly or indirectly associated with operational response:

6. During the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 a total of 67 on duty injuries were recorded by the Health & Safety team. Of these, 27 (40%) fell into the categories covered by this report:

Operational Incidents					
Activity		No of Injuries	Cause	Type	Duty days lost
Fire	Gaining entry	1	Struck by object	Bruising (head)	4
Fire	Hose	3	Contact with hot material	Burns (head)	4
			Slip	Bruising (knee)	0
			Lifting	Sprain (groin)	0
Fire	Ladders	4	Lifting	Strain (back)	0
			Lifting	Pain only (knee)	0
			Slip	Sprain (ankle)	0
			Struck by Object	Sprain (arm)	10
Fire	S&R	1	Lifting	Sprain (Arm)	0
Fire	Other	8	Lifting	Sprain (wrist & ankle)	17
			Struck by object	Irritation (eye)	0
			Lifting	Strain (back)	0
			Slip	Sprain (ankle)	0
			Lifting	Strain (shoulder)	0
			Struck by object	Irritation (eye)	0
			Lifting	Strain (shoulder)	0
Hit by Object	Pain only (foot)	7			
S / Service		1	Lifting	Strain (back)	2
Responding*		3	Slip	Abrasion (leg)	0
			Slip	Strain (back)	0
			Electricity	Shock (hand)	0
Working on boat	Animal Rescue	1	Animal Bite	Puncture (hand)	0
Training					
On Station	Using Hose	1	Trapped	Pain only (finger)	0
On Station	Ladders	3	Lifting	Strain (back)	11
			Lifting	Pain Only(back)	0
			Lifting	Strain (shoulder)	0
On Station	Equipment	1	Struck by object	Bruising (foot)	3
Off Station	Equipment	1	Slip	Bruising	0

*Responding includes getting to and mounting the appliance, when mobilised to an incident and whilst traveling to the incident.

7. As can be seen from the table above 22 injuries occurred as a result of attendance at operational incidents; 6 injuries occurred during training activities.
8. Worthy of additional note is that of these 28 events, 8 resulted in lost time with a total of 57 shifts being lost due to injuries sustained at operational incidents or training. This should be viewed in light of their being in excess of 100,000 shifts worked during the same period.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. This report informs on the Authority's performance under its Health, Safety & Welfare Policy and supporting procedures, all of which are subject to current Equality Impact Assessments.

Staff Implications

10. Health, Safety & Welfare is integral to the management of all members of staff.

Legal Implications

11. This report contributes to the requirement to review Health & Safety performance as part of the arrangements to ensure implementation of the Health & Safety Policy, a statutory duty under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. There are no direct costs associated with this report, however there are indirect savings of reducing lost time due to injuries.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

13. Risk Management and Health and Safety are the subject of this report

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

14. Integral to Safe effective firefighters is the notion of reducing risk in the operational context to as low as is reasonably practicable.

Recommendation

15. That Members scrutinise performance in relation to this report concerning Health & Safety performance in the operational environment.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

HS&W Health Safety & Welfare