

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
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Item No. 10

REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF TRAINING AND ASSURANCE

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

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Background Papers: N/A

Implications (tick✓):

LEGAL		✓	FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES			EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	✓	OTHER (please specify)	
	New		HEALTH AND SAFETY	✓

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

For Members to consider the Service's Health and Safety Annual report for the year 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATION:

Those Members acknowledge the Health and Safety Annual Report for information and comment.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Health and Safety Annual Report (covering the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019) provides an overview of the work undertaken by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) in the management of health, safety and welfare within. The publication of the Health and Safety Annual Report is a requirement as laid down in the Service's Health and Safety at Work policy.
- 1.2 The Health and Safety Support Team (HSST) provide competent assistance to the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) in meeting its statutory health and safety obligations. Their day-to-day responsibility includes the provision of professional and independent advisory support to management, at all levels, and to all other employees ensuring their own health and safety obligations are always met.
- 1.3 As detailed in the body of the report, during 2018/19 considerable work has been undertaken in the management of health and safety throughout the Service and in particular the following areas:
- The issue and revision of health and safety and operational policies;
 - National Operational Guidance, safe systems of work and specific activity and specialist risk assessments;
 - Provision of safety critical information;
 - Provision of health and safety related information and training;
 - The procurement and provision of suitable work equipment;
 - Health and safety consultation;
 - The measurement of health and safety performance indicators;
 - Active monitoring and safety management systems audit;
 - Reactive monitoring and accident, near miss and vehicle collision investigation;

- Management of vehicle mounted CCTV Systems;
- Occupational health provision; and,
- The setting and completion of corporate health and safety objectives.

- 1.4 During the reporting period the Service has seen a marginal increase in the number of workplace accidents from **58** in 2017/18 to **65** in 2018/19. Days lost to injuries have also increased to **205** from the **104** in 2017/18. Data also shows that the number of vehicle collisions involving Service vehicles has also seen a marginal increase to **42** from the **38** in 2017/18.
- 1.5 It is worthy of note that in the reporting period BFRS achieved a level 5 award in a Quality Safety Audit carried out by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Level 5 is the highest award possible and shows a significant improvement in our health and safety management systems compared to previous audits. This demonstrated the positive safety culture at BFRS and ownership at all levels.
- 1.6 BFRS strive to improve further and the emphasis will continue to remain a sensible, risk-based balanced approach. It is important that the safety culture within BFRS remains a positive one, ensuring that health and safety is built into our normal way of working, and recognising that people are our key resource and that good health and safety management is vital to prevent injuries, ill health and unnecessary losses.
- 1.7 The Annual Health and Safety Report 2018/19 is attached for Members information and comment.

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