

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

25TH SEPTEMBER 2006

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the contents of this report be noted.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to inform the Authority of the health and safety performance of the Brigade for the year April 2005 – March 2006.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Over the last 15 years the Brigade has dramatically reduced the number of workplace injuries, culminating in the best ever year for accident prevention.

3.2 The total number of injuries has fallen by 55% in the last 15 years.

	Year	
	1990/1991	2005/2006
Total number of injuries	829	370

3.3 The more serious injuries (those reportable to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) have fallen by 78%.

	Year	
	1990/1991	2005/2006
Total number of RIDDOR injuries	184	41

These include two dislocations, the rest were over 3 day absence injuries.

There were no fatalities in 2005/06.

- 3.4 The lowest number of injuries ever recorded was for last year (2005/2006). A graph showing the progress over the last 15 years can be seen in Appendix 1. The reduction far exceeds the Government's Revitalising Health and Safety Targets set in 1999/2000 (a 10% reduction in major injuries by 2010).
- 3.5 The knock on effect of this, is that there were fewer days lost (sickness) due to injury. There was a 25% reduction in days lost through injury compared to the previous year (2004/2005). Last year only 1707 days (approximately) were lost through injury.
- 3.6 For the first time ever, the number of near hits (427) exceeded the number of injuries (370). This is the correct proactive trend. A near hit is something that almost resulted in an injury. It is an unsafe act or condition.
- 3.7 Last year, the Health and Safety Team analysed injuries for trends and then targeted their work to help reduce injury potential. This involved supporting Stations/Departments that reported a large number of injuries. The team carried out 11 health and safety audits of Stations and Departments. Manual handling injuries, slips and trips and injuries from dismounting the fire appliance were all investigated further and campaigns carried out.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment was carried out. The initial Equality Impact Assessment did not raise issues which required a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Health and Safety Section Records

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX 1

