

Southern Rural Fire Health and Safety Dec 2013 Update No. 1



Southern Rural Fire Authority
January 2014

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SECTION 1 - Introduction

The Southern Rural Fire Authority (SRFA) is responsible for all types of fires in the rural area which occur within the District and is committed to taking all practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of all personnel when training or working for the Authority.

This Health and Safety (HSE) report is to update the SRFA Committee and any other stakeholder(s) on progress and activities relating to HSE within the District.

1.1 Overview

2013 saw one minor injury sustained by one of our VRFF members, received while putting a portable pump away on a fire appliance following a training event which was properly reported. Additional to this there has been one near miss reported on 20 December 2013 where a native vine scratched across the face of a rural fire officer while moving through bush at a vegetation fire. Had eye protection not been worn it would likely have resulted in an eye injury.

Also on the 20th December 2013, it is known that one injury accident occurred at a vegetation fire being attended by New Zealand Fire Service personnel. This was an eye injury from a stick to the eye while undertaking suppression operations and necessitated a visit to the local doctor that night. This injury will be recorded against SRFA statistics as the fire occurred within SRFA jurisdiction, although the personnel were not working under SRFA control at the time.

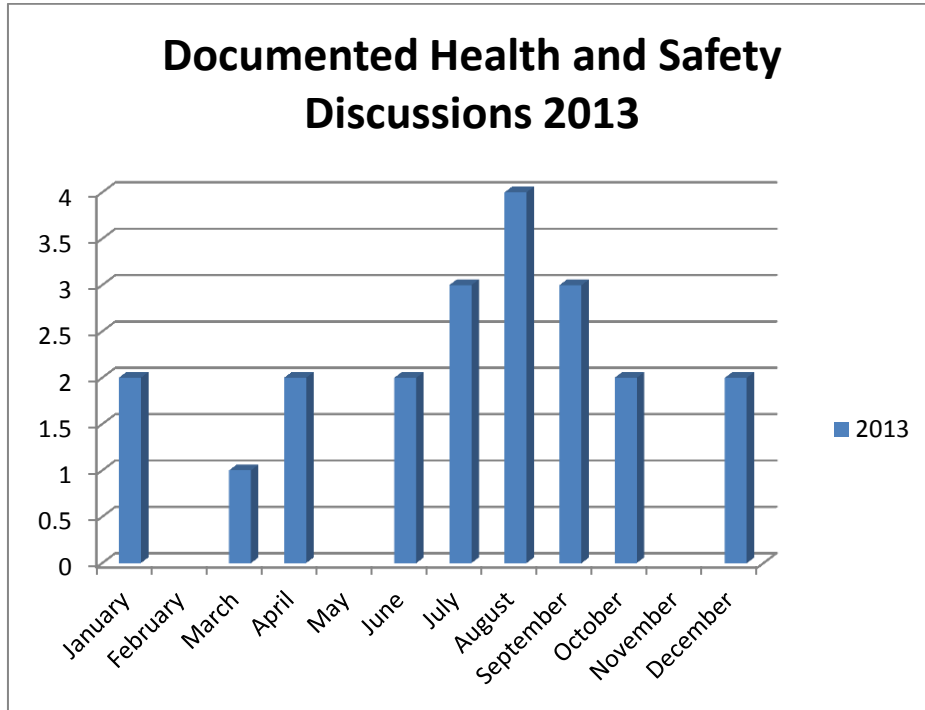
A total of three separate vehicle accidents involving five SRFA vehicles were reported during 2013. The first two involved tankers making contact with one another at incidents, the third the result of a vehicle hitting a SRFA staff vehicle from behind. The offending vehicle was written off as a result due to frontal impact damage. All vehicle accidents resulted in minor damage to SRFA vehicles concerned and no injuries resulted.

Medical assessments are continuing at a number of locations with Southroads Lumsden and Blackmount VRFF completing their pack tests in December. Guidelines for personnel management of those that are unable to complete medicals and/or pack tests will be developed and formalised in the near future.

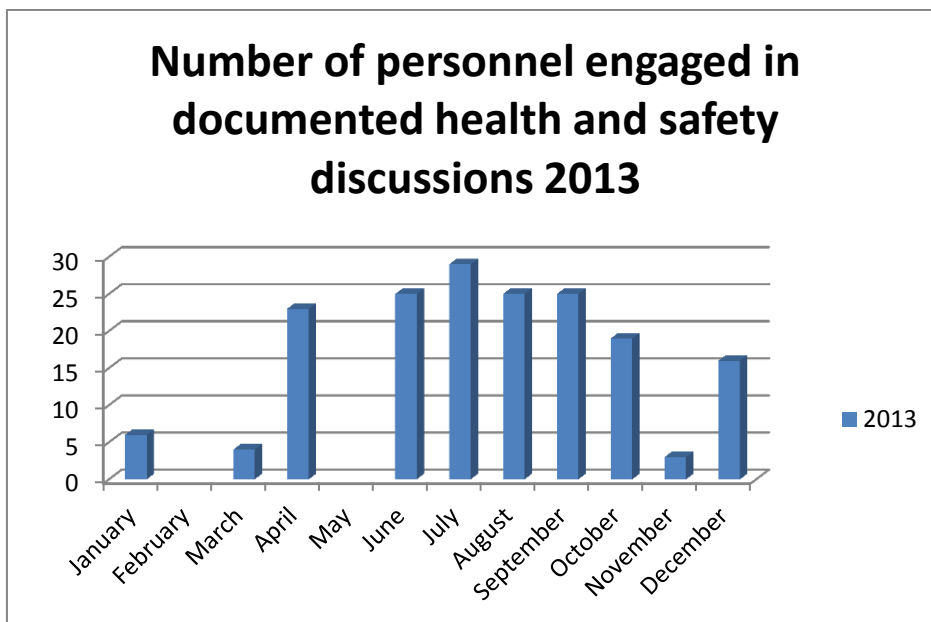


SECTION 2 - Documented Health and Safety Discussions

In 2013 there were 21 documented HSE discussions. These include SRFA staff meetings where identified hazards have required review, meetings relating to the roll out and introduction of the HSE management system and training events where identified hazard controls contained in the HSE management system have been discussed and utilised.



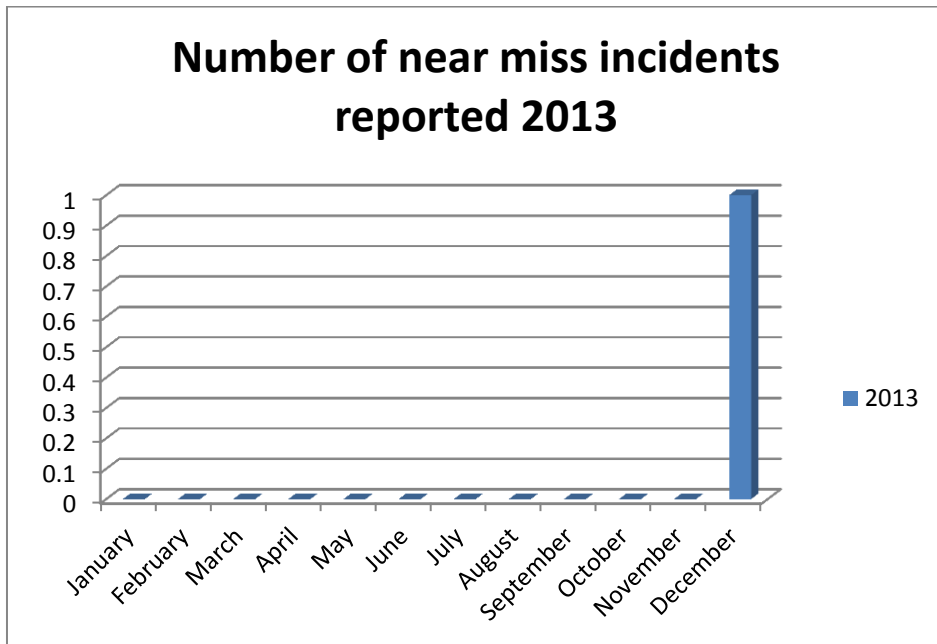
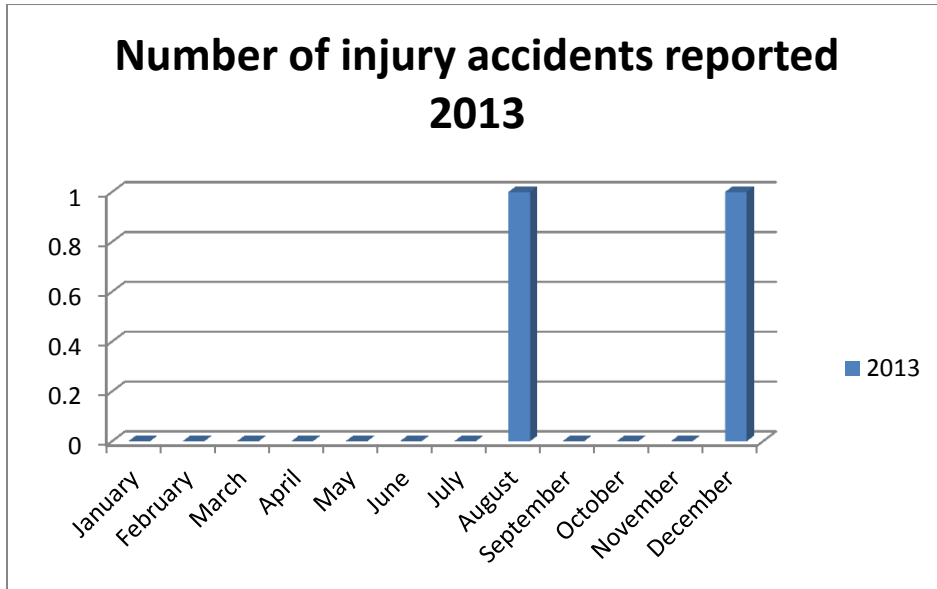
A total of 175 personnel have been present at these documented health and safety discussions to date this year.



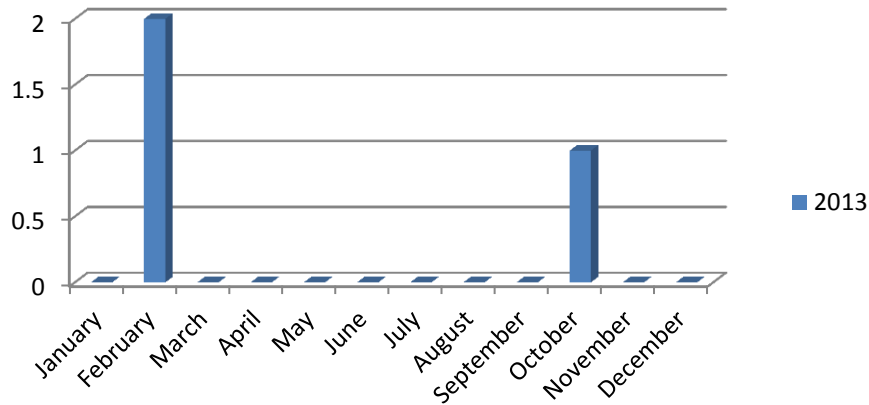
SECTION 3 - Reported Events

The last injury accident occurred on 20 December 2013 involving a New Zealand Fire Service volunteer working at a vegetation fire between Riverton and Thornbury. As of 7 January 2014 SRFA has achieved 17 days since the last recorded injury event.

There was one near miss incident reported for 2013 which also occurred on 20 December and involved a vine being caught across and scratching face and lenses of eye protection being worn while moving through scrub at a vegetation fire on Papatotara Coast.



Number of minor vehicle accidents reported 2013



Number of Accidents investigated 2013

