



Southern Rural Fire Health and Safety Update July 2015



Southern Rural Fire Authority

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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 any other stakeholder(s) on progress and activities relating to HSE within the District.

1.1 Overview

During the period there has been one reported near miss during July. This involved a 1974 Toyota Landcruiser rural fire appliance which was being driven back to the Beaumont VRFF depot following extensive repairs at a Lawrence garage to pass a Warrant of Fitness. Approximately half way between Lawrence and Beaumont the driver started to smell petrol vapour in the cab of the vehicle which rapidly became overpowering.

On stopping the vehicle it was found the fuel line had ruptured beneath the cab of the vehicle on the driver's side and a live wire was located in close proximity providing a potential ignition source. The driver, who was the Controller of the Beaumont VRFF has taken all the correct steps following the incident which has included reporting the incident - well done.

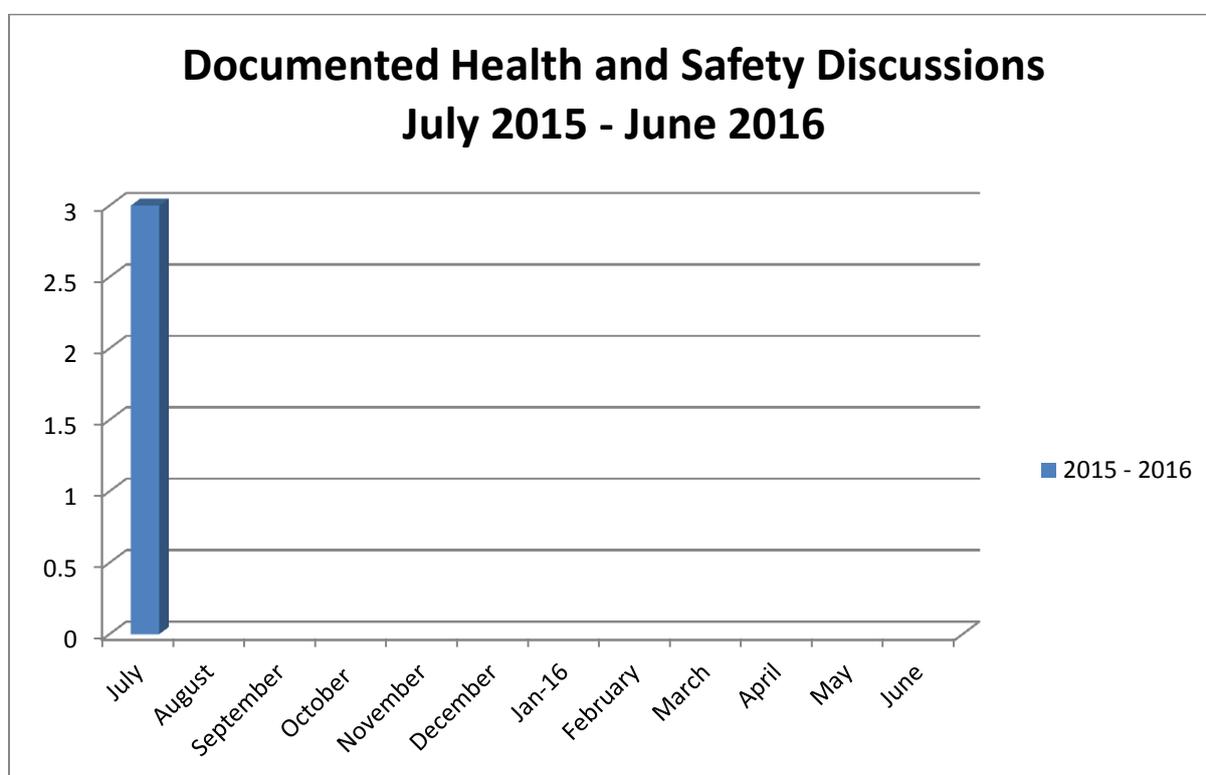
The vehicle had just passed a Warrant of Fitness, however like a proportion of the current SRFA fleet, ageing mechanical components will fail from time to time - in this case a 41 year old fuel line. SRFA relies on its mechanical service providers to detect these issues, however it is understood that at the time of the Warrant of Fitness inspection there was no defect detected with the fuel line. There have been no other instances where a similar event is known to have occurred.

Also during July a meeting was held with a number of Health and Safety representatives from Volunteer Rural Fire Forces. This was the first time such a meeting has taken place which resulted in positive discussion on a number of topics. Minutes of this meeting are attached to this update in the topical reading section.



Section 2 - Documented Health and Safety Discussions

Since July there have been three documented HSE discussions. These include SRFA staff meetings where identified hazards have required review, meetings relating to the HSE management system and training events where identified hazard controls contained in the HSE management system have been discussed and utilised.



Section 3 - Reported Events

As detailed in the overview a near miss event was reported which involved the Beaumont VRRF appliance following the fuel line rupturing. This has been recorded in the SRFA system with no further issues resulting.

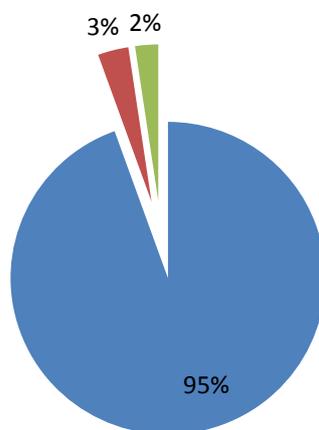


Beaumont Landcruiser

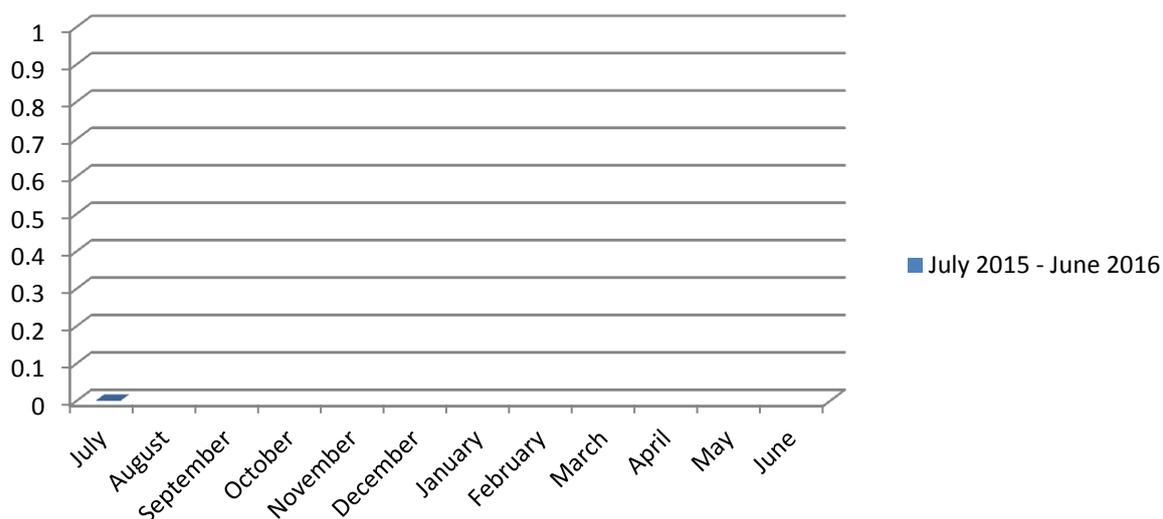


Percentage of man-hours July 2015 - June 2016

■ Training ■ Prescribed burning ■ Fires & Emergencies

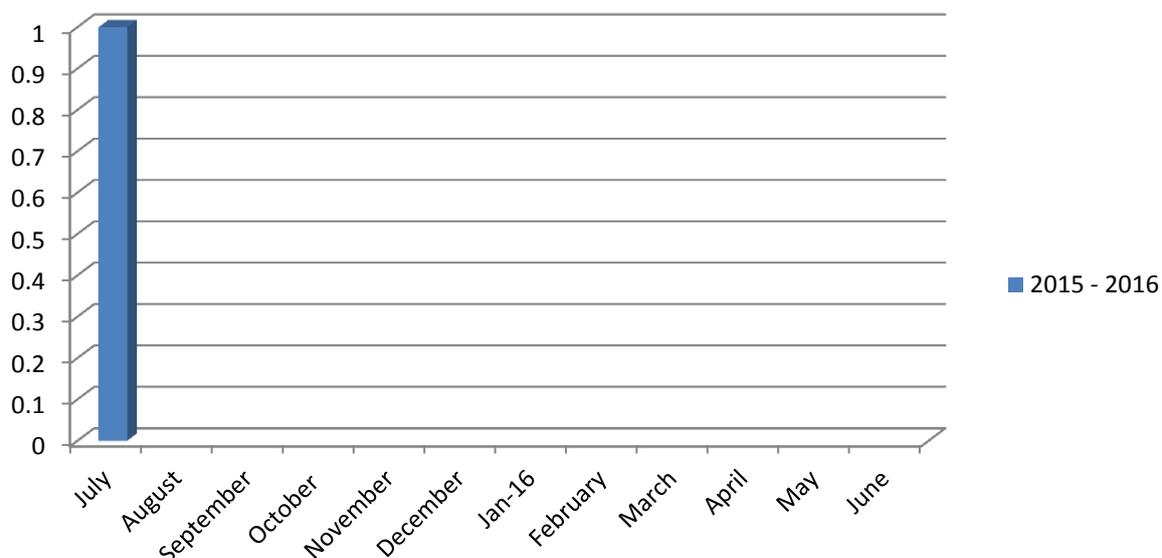


Number of injury accidents reported July 2015 - June 2016

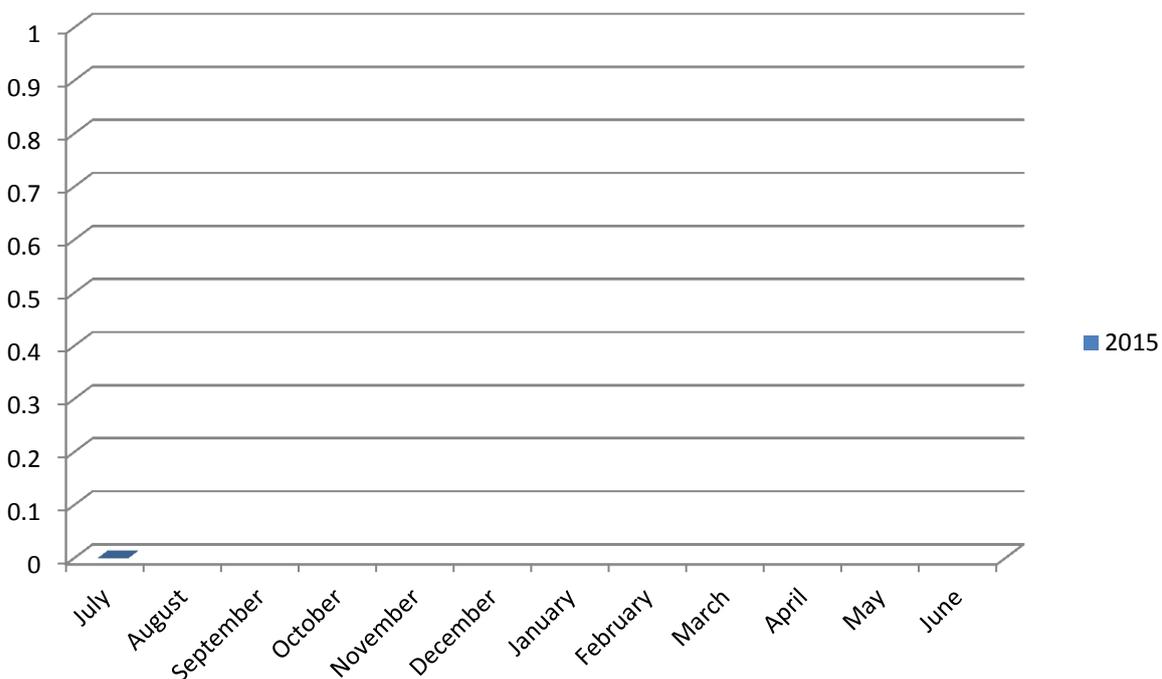




Number of near miss incidents July 2015 - June 2016

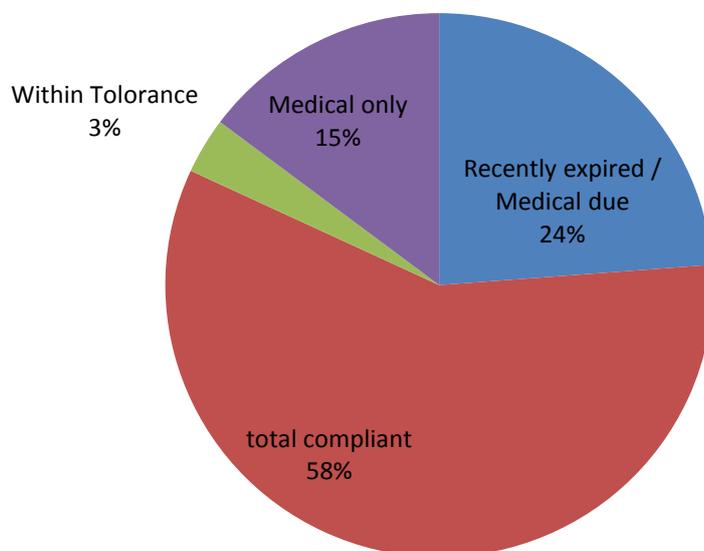


Accidents causing property damage (including vehicles) July 2015 - June 2016



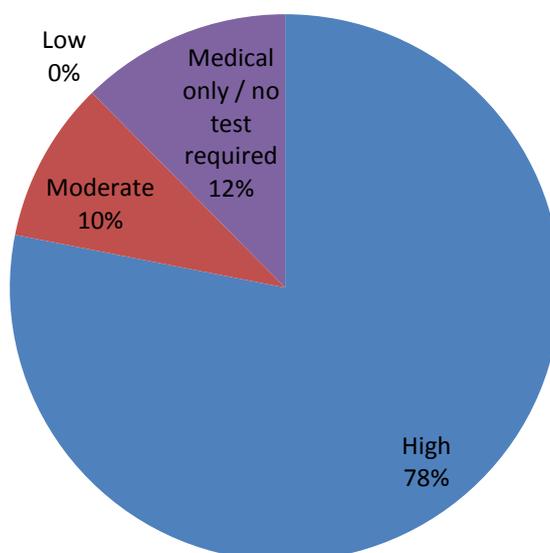


Current Pack Test Status



Note: Subject to consistent change. "Within tolerance" relates to personnel who have gone overtime in their pack test but within tolerance set in SRFA Health & Fitness Policy.

Type of pack test personnel require



Note: Data above provides an overview of the total pack test requirements for all personnel involved with SRFA and is subject to change.



Section 4 - Topical Reading

Record of Safety Discussions

Southern Rural Fire Authority: VRFF Health and Safety Representatives

Date of Discussion: 29 July 2015

People Present:

Elton Smith (SRFA), **Mike Grant** (SRFA), **David Coveney** (Blackmount VRFF Deputy), **Neil Robertson** (Blackmount VRFF Controller), **Vicki Marie Coveney** (Blackmount VRFF Health and Safety Rep), **Allen Jones** (Hedgehope VRFF Health and Safety Rep), **Ken Keenan** (Hedgehope VRFF Controller), **Jim Ford** (Drummond VRFF Controller), **Michael Marron** (Drummond VRFF Health and Safety Rep)

It is a good idea to note down informal and formal workplace health and safety discussions

A brief agenda was drawn up prior to meeting. Mike Grant and Elton Smith provided an overview to representatives upcoming changes to health and safety legislation, current SRFA health and safety systems, recent events and the needs and expectations of VRFF representatives moving into the future.

Open forum discussions were facilitated where several key points were addressed including:

- Is the current format of SRFA health and safety updates appropriate?
- Are representatives being sent links to SRFA health and safety updates?
- Is the content of the SRFA health and safety updates being discussed on VRFF training nights?
- Are there too many forms associated with SRFA activities including health and safety?
- How can SRFA better assist VRFF health and safety representatives?

Overall positive discussion resulted:

- All present believed current health and safety updates were appropriate to their needs
- All present are receiving links to current health and safety updates
- Applicable content of health and safety updates are being discussed on VRFF training nights
- Forms currently used by SRFA meet the end user requirements. Some discussion was made on how best to make these available (on line) and where possible electronic with the ability to email completed any applicable forms rather than double or triple handle documents as currently takes place

Discussion were held around the current SRFA hazard register and the fact that day-to-day hazards that may be encountered within VRFF stations are not currently included being predominantly operational/fire based hazards. VRFF representatives will work to identify any applicable hazards within their stations and advise the Operations Coordinator.

Some discussion was held around the currency of skill sets required of individuals performing operational tasks as a fire fighter and above. When asked if there is a problem with currency of some VRFF personnel, most responded that they did believe there was a potential problem, however did not want to have a policy or guideline imposed for minimum attendance at VRFF trainings. There was a suggestion that better training was the answer such as recent emergency response driver training which was different to the normal training undertaken, provided health competition and actively engaged all participants.

VRFF health and safety representatives felt that having a person within their VRFF responsible for health and safety has improved the safety culture by making health and safety more visible and personnel now have a "go to person" within the VRFF other than the Controller or Deputy should the need arise.



ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMPLETED (Sign and Date)
Pricing of computers and landline installation at each VRFF station	Mike Grant	1 October 2015	
PPE Checklist form - enquire with NRFA if practice suggested by Drummond VRFF meets NRFA PPE standard and amend form if appropriate	Elton Smith	1 October 2015	
Develop hazard and associated controls for VRFF vehicles and appliances backing into VRFF fire stations	Elton Smith	1 October 2015	
Identify hazards at VRFF stations	All VRFF Reps	1 October 2015	
Provide Operations Coordinator with hazard list from Hedgehope VRFF	Hedgehope VRFF	1 October 2015	
Set date for next VRFF Health and Safety Representatives meeting	Elton Smith	1 October 2015	

Keep this completed form with your Hazard Management System

Please note - completing the form does not guarantee compliance with the Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992.

However, completing the form provides you with steps towards managing health and safety within your workplace.