
COVID-19 Mini IRMP

Data last refreshed: September 30th 2020

This document aims to outline the changes to the usual risk profile during the COVID-19 pandemic and how this affects DSFRS and the communities it serves.

COVID-19 Pandemic Mini IRMP

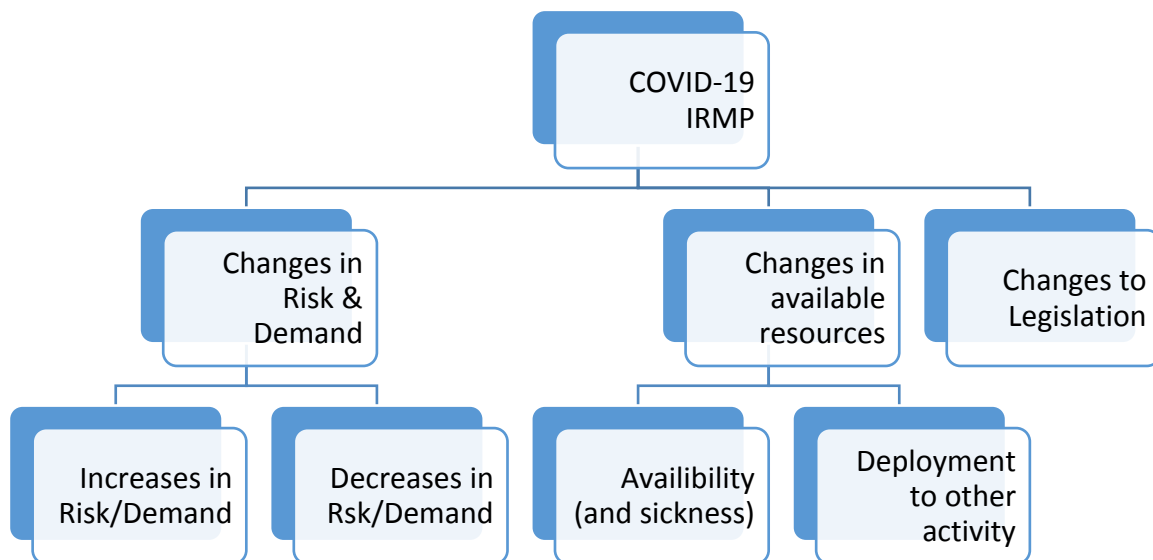
Data last refreshed: 30/09/2020

Next full refresh: 07/10/2020

Introduction

This document aims to outline the changes to the usual risk profile during the COVID-19 pandemic and how this affects DSFRS and the communities it serves. The report also includes statutory changes that could affect DSFRS's operations.

It is anticipated that as the pandemic and DSFRS's response to it develops these changes in risk, demand and resources will also change.



At a glance

Increases in Risk/Demand	Decreases in Risk/Demand	Availability (and sickness)	Deployment to other activity
Other special service calls attended (34) above seasonal average (31)	Total incidents fell to 286, a fall of 19% from week 38.	Overall availability below target but below target.	Ambulance drivers utilised by SWAST – project finished on 31/08.
RTC rose to three year average with twenty three attended.	All fires attended 44% lower than week 38, just 60 attended	Risk prioritised availability above seasonal average and target.	
Co-responder incidents above three year average for six of the past seven weeks. And were at their highest level since May 2018	Domestic fires slightly below three year seasonal average.	Covid-19 related absence whilst still low rose during mid-September, though it appears to have fallen in the past week	

Statutory Changes in the past week

For the week beginning 21st September, the following changes in legislation have occurred:

- 1) There are new regulations around the requirement to self-isolate, including:
 - a) Increases in the penalty fine for repeat offenders;
 - b) Rules around prohibiting employers from allowing workers to attend the workplace if the individual tests positive or comes into contact with an individual who tests positive with Covid-19; and
 - c) Employees are now obliged to inform their employer of any requirements to self-isolate.
- 2) Members of the public are now required to wear face masks in taxis and private hire vehicles;
- 3) Employees and other persons providing services in public houses will be required to wear face coverings when they are in close proximity to members of the public;
- 4) Member of the public are now require to wear face coverings in theatres, restaurants, pubs and public houses, except where it is necessary to eat food or drink;
- 5) Restrictions have been imposed on certain businesses to close at 10pm; and
- 6) Curaçao, Denmark, Iceland and Slovakia have been removed from the list of exempt countries and territories and so travellers are now required to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival into the UK.

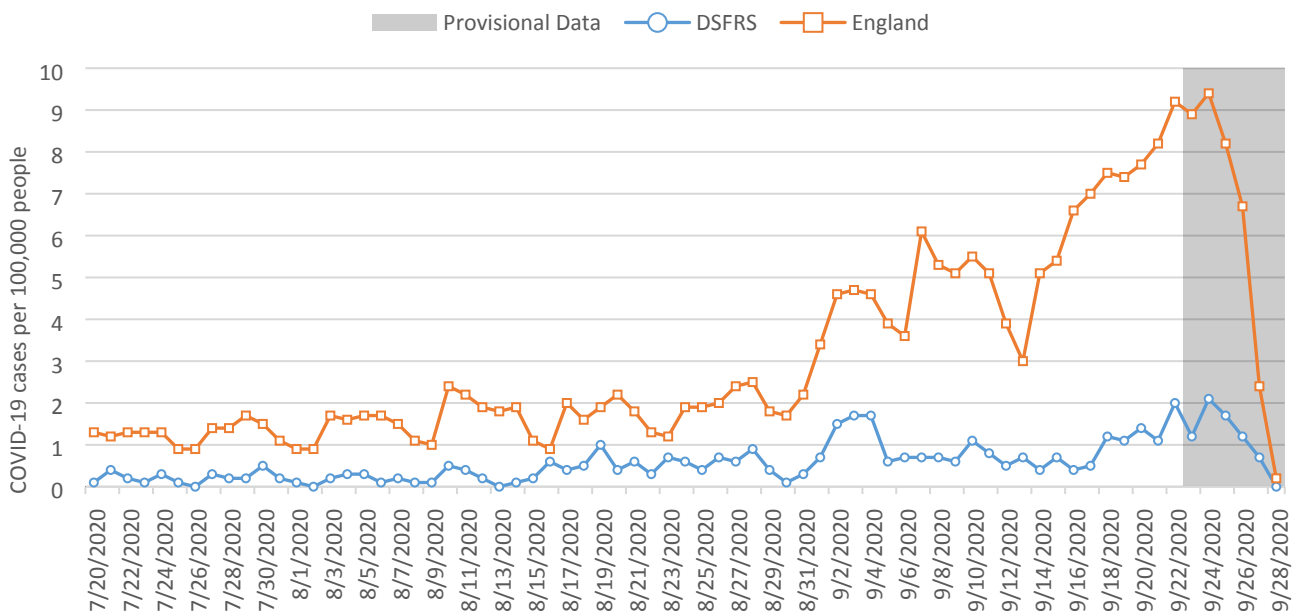
Latest Regional Statistics: COVID-19 Cases

The chart below presents statistics on the number of cases of COVID-19 for the Devon & Somerset Service area¹ and England as a whole. As can be seen, the DSFRS area has seen consistently lower rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases than that of England as a whole.

There has been a steady rise in confirmed cases since the middle of August, although this appears to be less significant than in other areas of the country. The number of positive tests in the DSFRS area remains very low (e.g. 22 confirmed cases on the 23/09/2020) however, there have been well documented issues over lack of testing capacity which could be artificially keeping down the number of confirmed cases²

As the infection rises nationally and locally, both increased national restrictions and localised lockdowns continue to be a very real possibility.

Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service



¹ Source: https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/view/lga-research/covid-19-case-tracker-area-quick-view-1?mod-area=E31000011&mod-group=AllCountiesInCountry_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup

² <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/covid-rate-hugely-underestimated-south-4517520>

Tourism

Forecasting the impact of tourism on COVID-19 cases is challenging. Visit Britain estimates a 49% reduction³ in the year on year domestic spend on tourism (day trips and overnight stays). How this reduction translates regionally is unclear however it would indicate that overall levels of domestic tourism are likely to be lower than previous year. We have seen greater numbers of day trips and an increase in “wild camping” as more people camp than in a usual year and the summer peak has been very busy for region so far (see mobility data below). This is certainly an area to continue to monitor over the coming weeks.

Additionally the longer term impacts on the industry need to be monitored given the importance of the leisure/tourism sector within in the economy of Devon & Somerset.

Mobility (Google data)

Data unavailable – Google have temporarily suspended updates to prepare for an improvement to how they compute retail, recreation and other categories. The upcoming update will ensure consistency in the way that the data is being reported. They are working to resume updates as soon as possible.

Social Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic

ONS produce a weekly report “Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain⁴” which analyses data gathered through their Opinions and Lifestyle Surveys. The main points within the last report published on the 25th September 2020 are detailed below:

- More than 9 in 10 (96%) adults who had left their homes said they had worn a face covering to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once in the past seven days; this has been at a similar level since the end of July.
- There was a further small increase in the proportion of working adults travelling to work this week, with over 6 in 10 (64%) doing so (either exclusively or in combination with working from home), compared with 62% last week.
- Nearly 3 in 10 (29%) working adults said they had changed their work location during the pandemic and were planning on continuing to work from home at least some of the time.
- Among those planning to work from home all or part of the time, 12% said they have considered moving to a different location in the UK, most commonly to rural or coastal areas.
- More than 6 in 10 adults (63%) said they had socialised with between one and five other people from outside their household at the same time and a further 11% said they had socialised with six or more; this was similar for those in local lockdown areas (54% and 8% respectively).

NB Responses to this survey were taken before the UK Government and devolved administrations announced changes to national measures in response to the coronavirus on 22 September 2020.

With the tightening of restrictions which have come into force during September it will be interesting to see whether there is a reduction in incident types such as RTCs, as people are encouraged to work from home.

³<https://www.visitbritain.org/2020-tourism-forecast>

⁴<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/25september2020>

COVID-19 Impact on DSFRS (sickness absence)

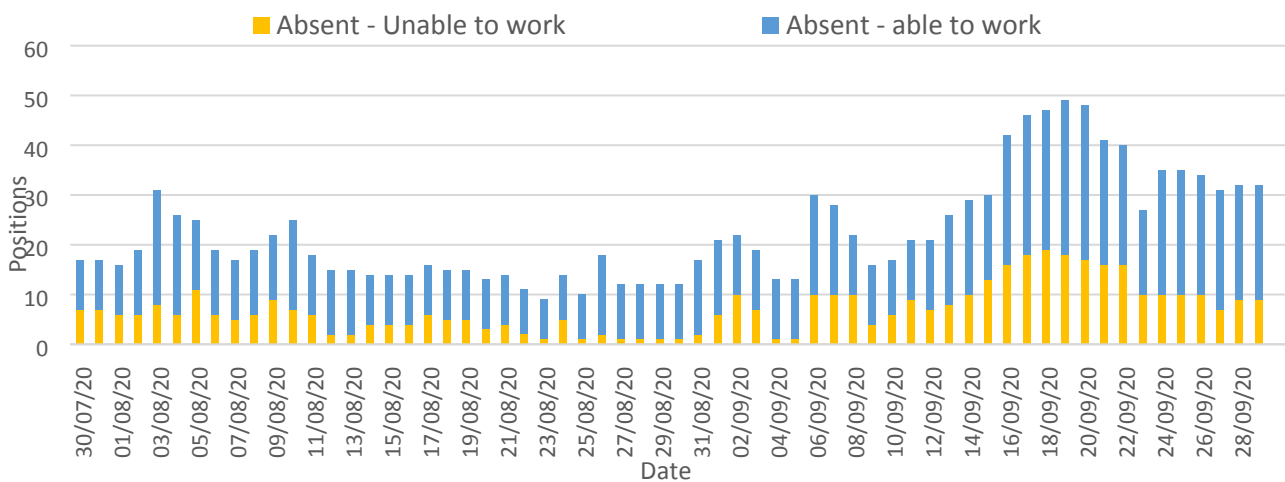
The charts below show the day-by-day and rolling seven day average for COVID-19 related positions absent within DSFRS.

Since the start of April, we have seen a reduction in COVID-19 absence within DSFRS, and a subsequent slowing in the rate of cumulative absence, coinciding with the end of the second week following the introduction of restrictions or “lock down”. There has been a slight increase in absence since the start of September (note the positions absent and unable to work number is still quite small) although absence seems to be falling again.

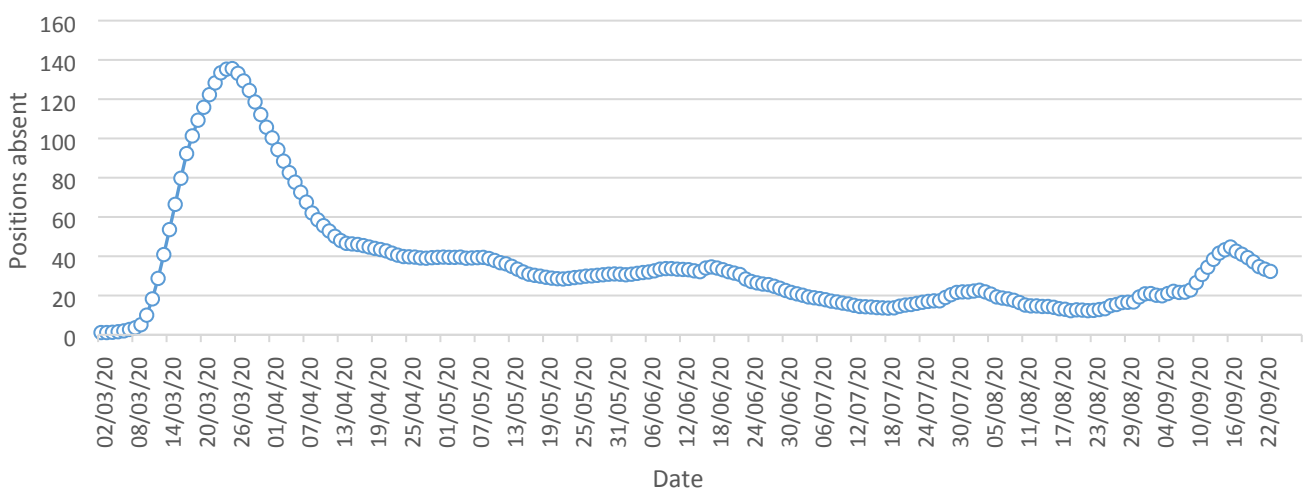
The implications of the Government’s test & trace scheme could have an impact on DSFRS COVID-19 related absence. While there is little evidence of a significant detrimental effect at this time, there remains concern that it could be considerable if a significant number of staff are required to self-isolate at the same time.

Daily COVID-19 related absence; DSFRS past 60 days

Absent and unable to work vs self-isolating able to work



Rolling seven day average, COVID-19 related absence; DSFRS



Changes in Risk and Demand

Incident Trends in 2020

Since April DSFRS has attended 16.8% fewer incidents than forecast (approx. 1300 incidents), although in August overall incident numbers were back at normal levels.

All fires attended have been below the forecast levels but the biggest factor in this is probably the cooler, wetter weather in July and August than in previous summers.

Vehicle fires are well below the forecast (23.5% for April – August) reflective of the reduction in motor vehicle use.

Dwelling fires attended are consistent with the forecast suggesting that the pandemic has not changed people's behaviour in the home

False Alarms attended are actually slightly above the number forecast (but not significantly so) since April 2020.

Special Service Calls are where DSFRS has seen the biggest fall in incidents attended, these are 37% below forecast since April although these incident levels are now returning to normal levels.

Within this incident category **RTCs attended** by DSFRS are well down; 45% below the forecast since April. Like vehicle fires this is reflective of the reduction in motor vehicle use. However we can see that by the end of August incident numbers were returning to normal levels.

Other Impacts

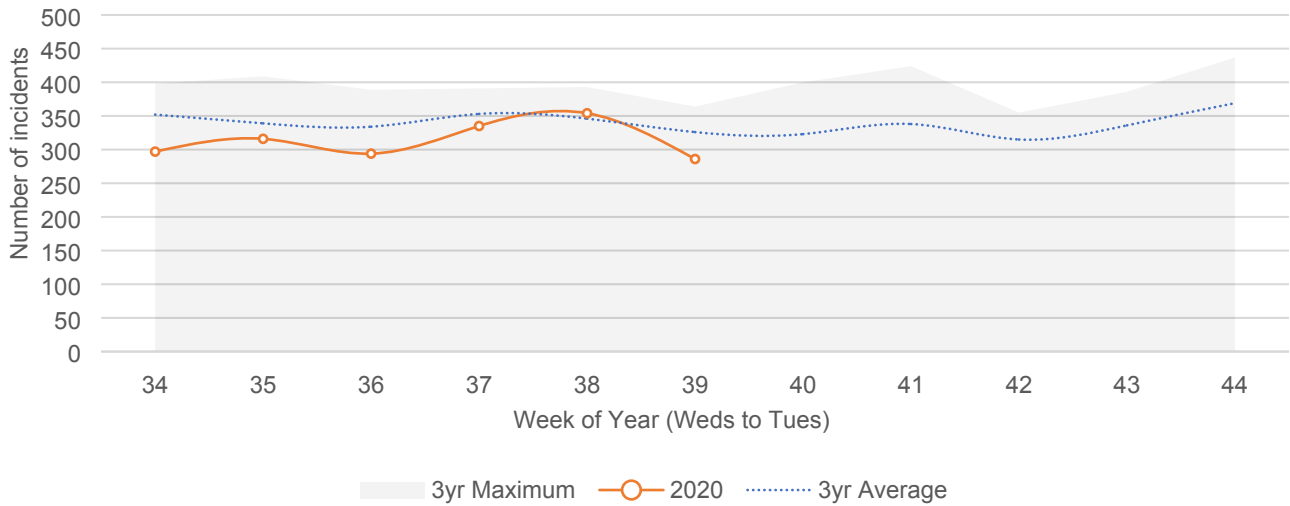
Impact Type	Likely Impact	Why?	Observed?
On-call availability	Improvement in short term, medium term could see problems	Primary Employment for many on-call staff has reduced/stopped increase availability. If sickness rates increase due to the virus however this could negatively impact availability	Yes – Increase observed The initial beneficial effect is now fading as people return to work.
Performance against ERS	Improvement in short term, medium term could see problems	Improvement in availability (above) has seen improvement in ERS performance. If sickness rates increase, ERS is likely to be negatively affected.	Initially some improvements noted, however low numbers of incidents per week so large degrees of variation in performance.
Pressure on Health Service	Increase in co-responder calls Increase in delays in ambulance attendance at incidents. Further need for staff redeployment (see below)	As pandemic reaches its peak it is possible the national health service will be operating beyond its capacity.	Although there was considerable pressure on the NHS during the spring this was not as bad as feared.
Redeployment of staff to other roles	DSFRS staff could be redeployed to other roles with partners which could impact on availability of DSFRS appliances	As demands increase on partners DSFRS will deploy and spare capacity to support the wider response to the pandemic	Work with ambulance trust ended on 31/08/20

All incident demand

Week 39 saw total incidents attended fell to 286 (from 346 last week), below the three year average (326).

Total incidents by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type

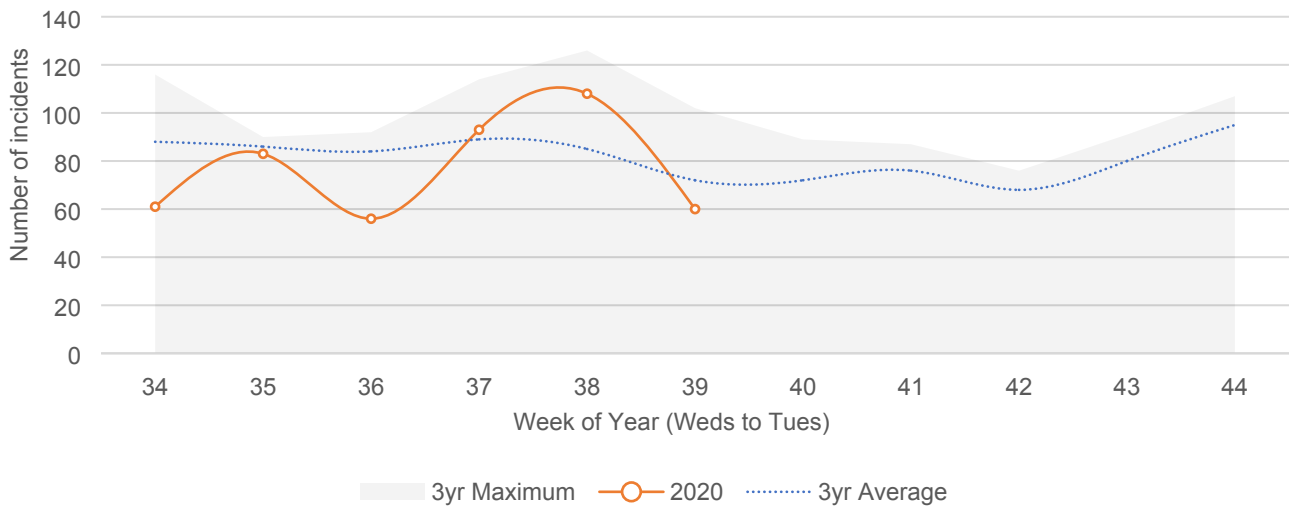


All fires demand

The number of fires attended fell in week 39 with the Service attending 60 incidents, compared to 108 in week 38. It is likely that this is linked to the warm, dry weather in week 38 and the cooler wetter weather in week 39.

Total fires by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



Points of interest - Risk & Demand

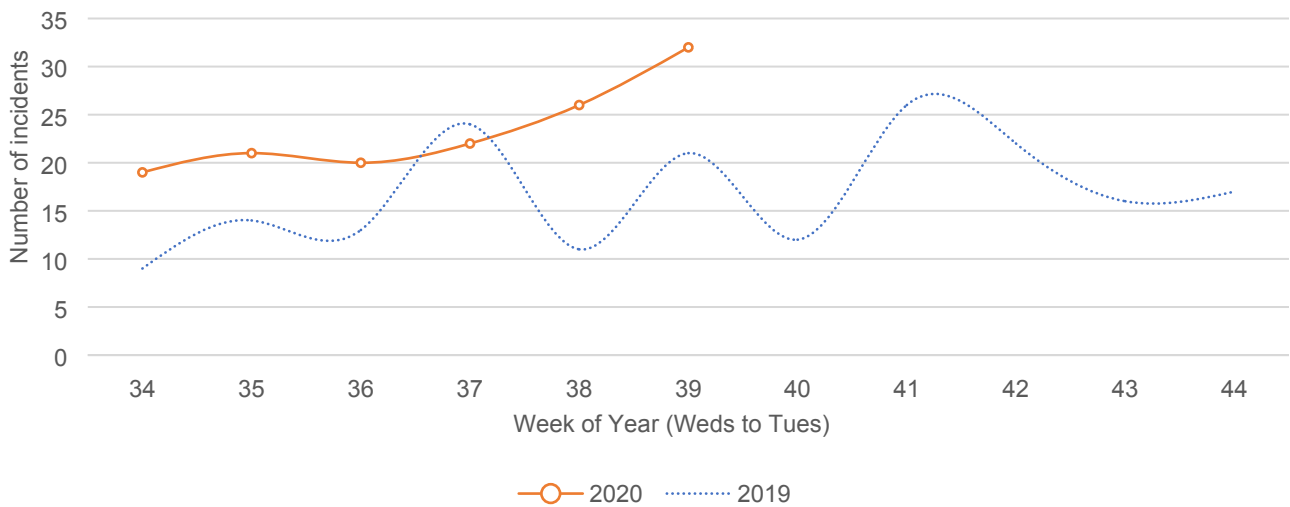
The following incident types are assessed as being of particular interest this week.

Co-responder incidents attended

Co-responder incidents attended again saw a rise with DSFRS attending 32 such incidents in week 39. This is the highest weekly figure since May 2018 (when the number of calls fell sharply to the levels we have seen for the last couple of years).

Co-responder by week; 2020 vs 2019

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



Gaining entry incidents attended

The number of gaining entry incidents fell again during week 39 with the Service attending only 13 incidents, below the three year average of 20.

Gaining entry incidents by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type

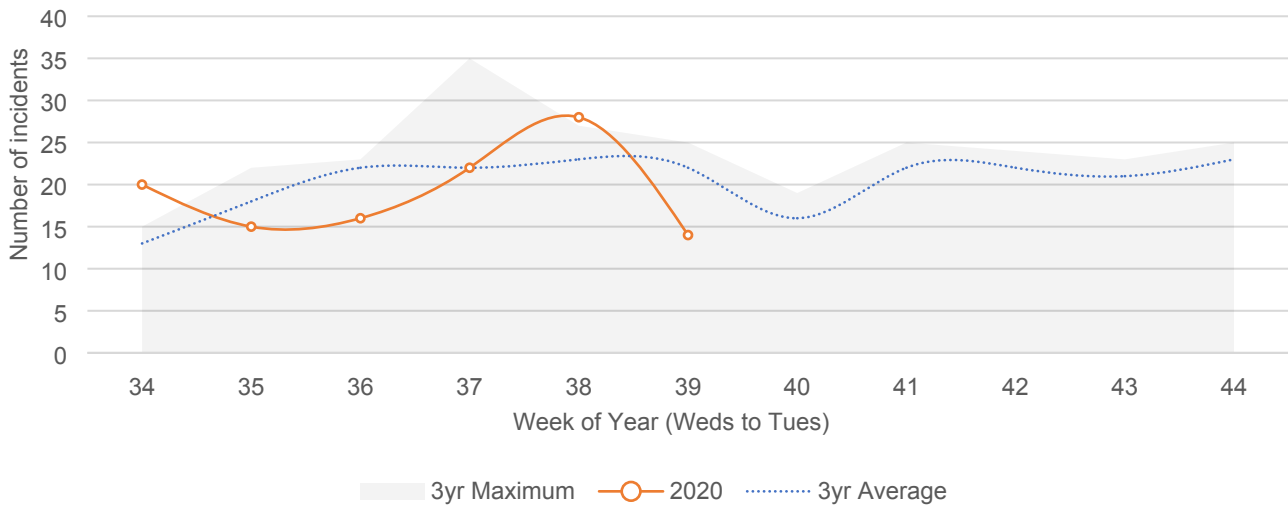


Domestic fires attended

Fires attended in domestic premises fell in week 39 with 14 incidents recorded. This is below the three year average of 22 incidents for the corresponding week. This is the lowest weekly number of domestic fires for 12 weeks.

Domestic fires by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type

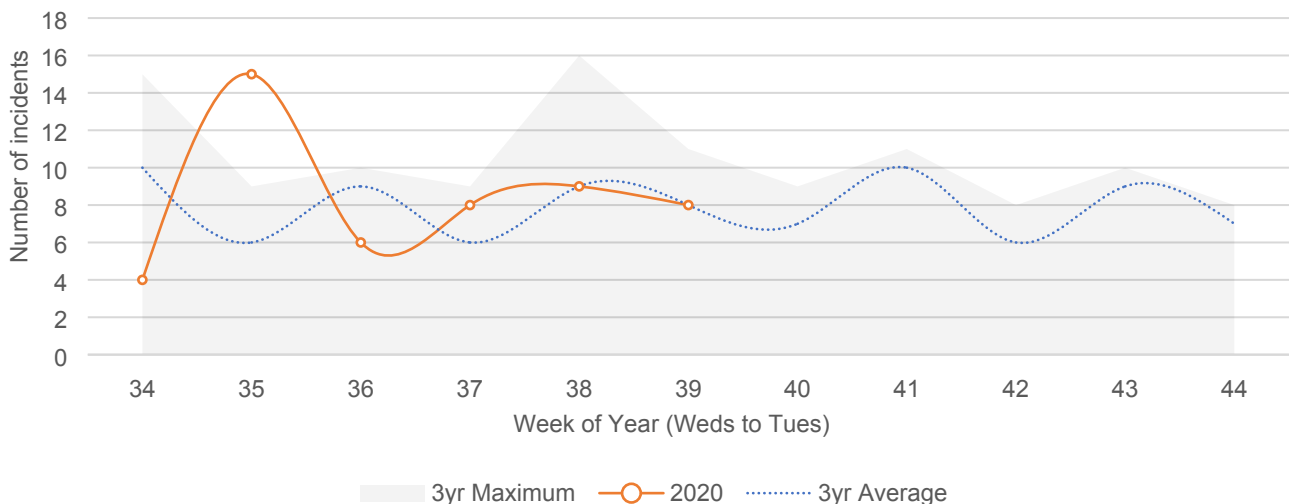


Non-domestic fires attended

DSFRS attended eight non-domestic fires in week 38 which, for the second successive week is equal to the three year average for the corresponding week.

Non-domestic fires by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type

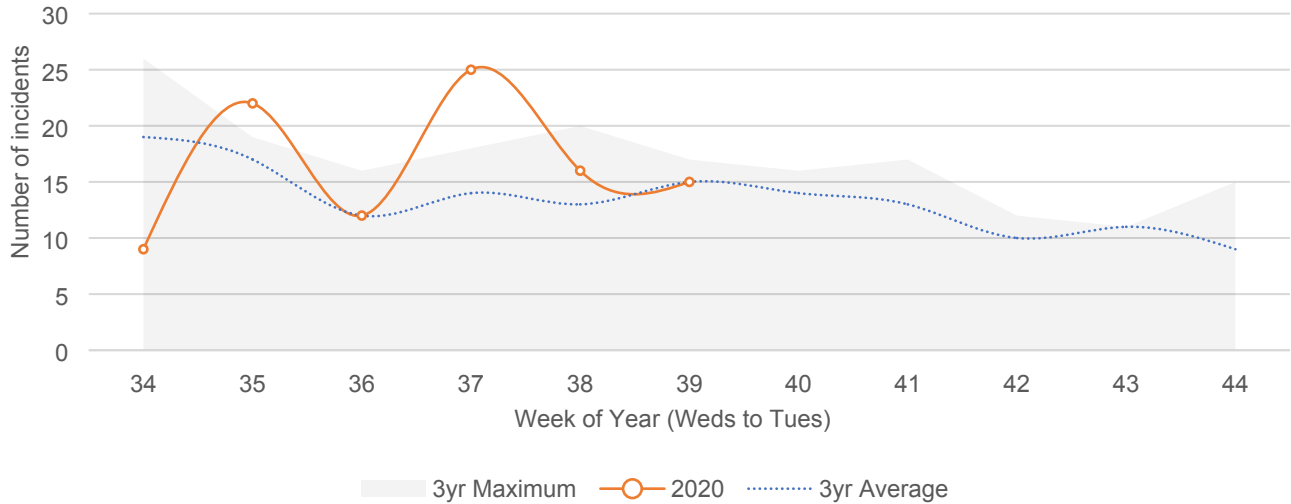


Vehicle fires attended

The number of vehicle fires attended has fell to 15 in week 39 following a peak in incidents in week 37 (25). The number of incidents is equal to the three year average.

Vehicle fires by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type

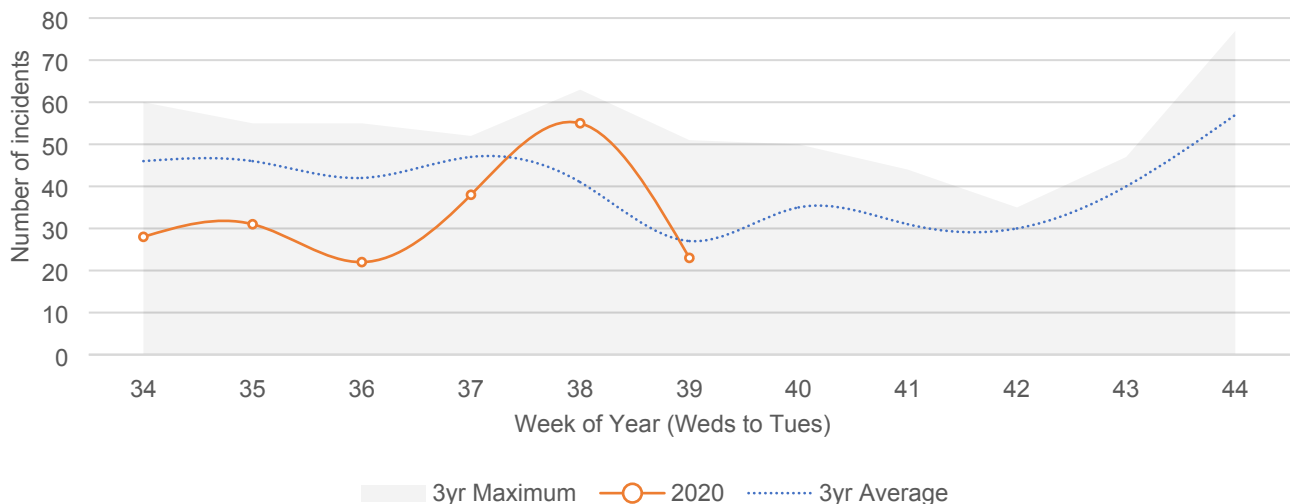


Other fires attended

The number of other fires attended fell back after a peak in week 38. Week 39 saw 23 incidents attended, below the seasonal average of 27. Again, it is probable that this is related to the warm, dry weather experienced in weeks 37 & 38 and the cooler, wetter weather in week 39.

Other fires by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type

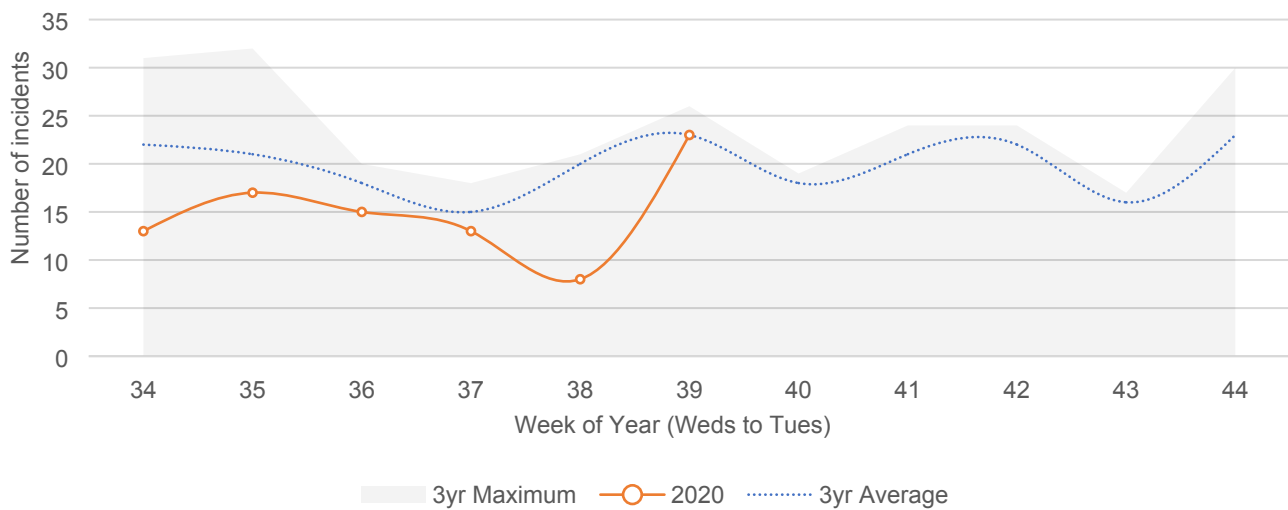


RTC incidents

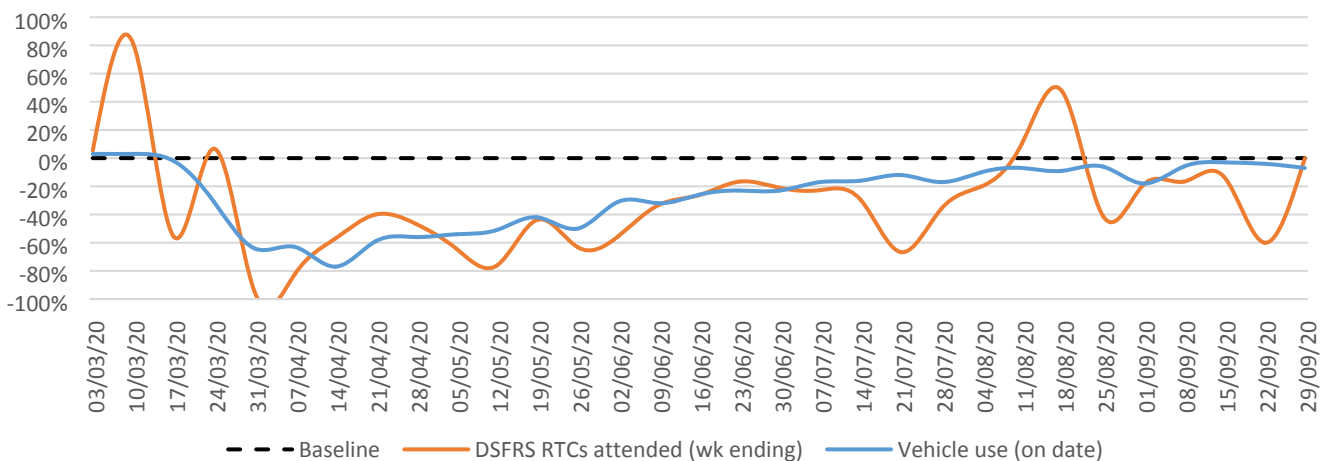
Week 39 saw a rise to 23 RTCs attended from 8 in week 38, this level is now equal to the seasonal average. This could be due in part to the wetter weather seen in the past week. This is despite motor vehicle use falling nationally to 93% of normal levels.

We normally see a rise in RTC incidents towards at end of September and beginning of October however this may be offset by the tightening of COVID-19 restrictions and people being encouraged to work from home again.

RTC incidents by week; 2020 vs three year average
Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



RTC incidents attended vs vehicle use during COVID-19

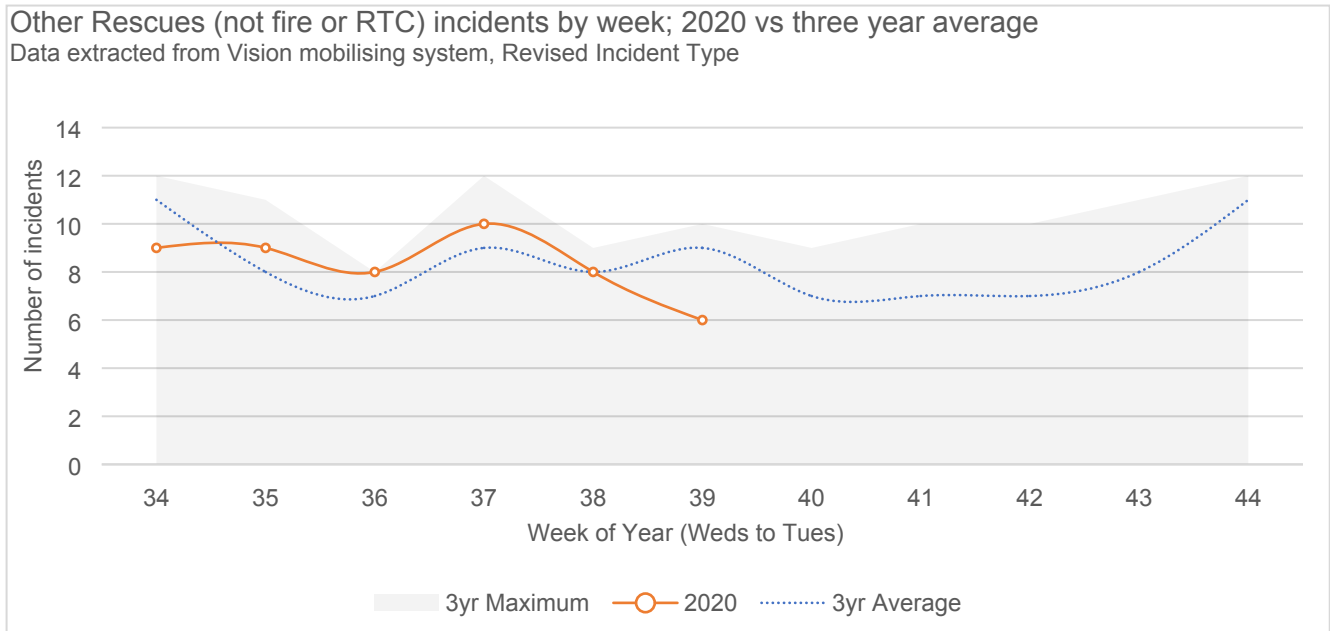


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⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-use-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

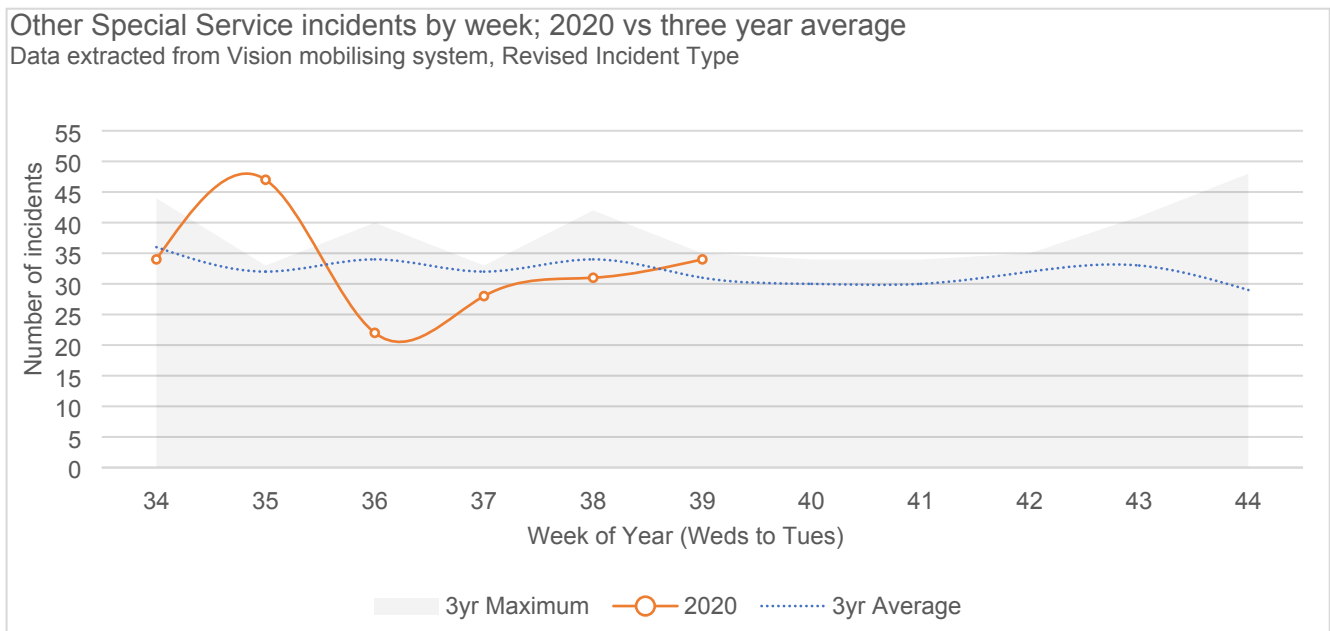
Other rescue incidents attended (not fire or RTC)

The number of other rescue incidents has been relatively stable for the past six weeks. Week 39 saw DSFRS attend six incidents, below the seasonal three year average.



Other special service incidents attended

This category of incident includes flooding, helping people that are locked in or out of places (not including collapsed behind closed doors), hazmat incidents and other non-rescue incidents. After three weeks where incidents attended were below the three year average week 39 saw DSFRS attend 34 incidents which was above the three year average but below the three year maximum for the week.

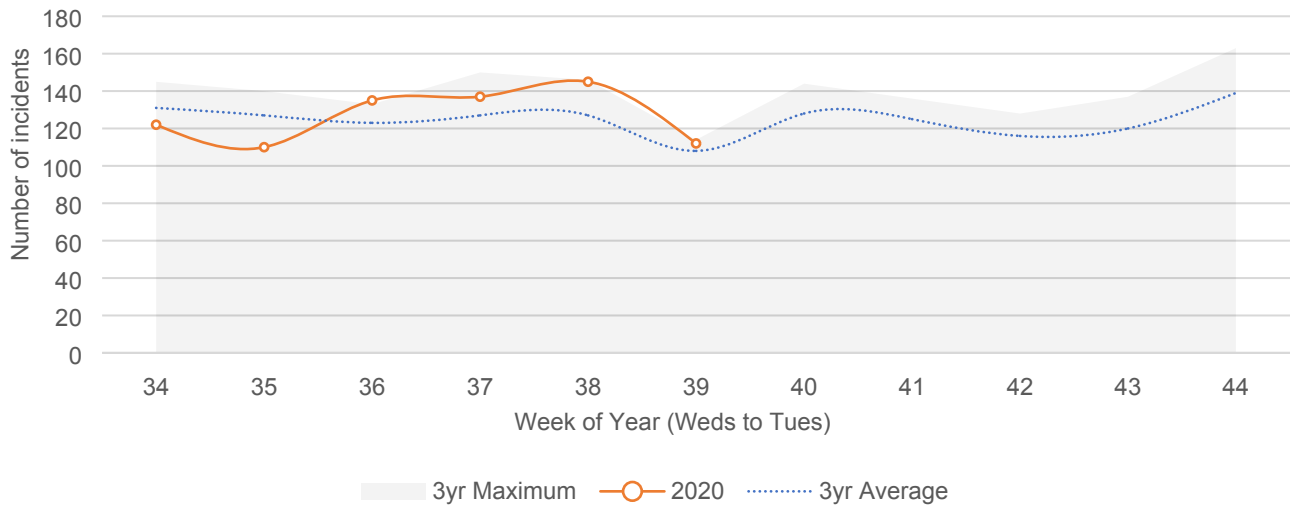


False Alarm Good Intent & Automatic Fire Alarms attended

FAGI/AFAs now appear to have been at a level similar to the three year average for the past couple of months, week 39 has seen the fourth consecutive week above the seasonal average and the third week in the last four at the three year maximum. This is despite a decrease in incidents in week 39, which seems to be a usual feature.

AFA and FAGI incidents by week; 2020 vs three year average

Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



Availability of Resources

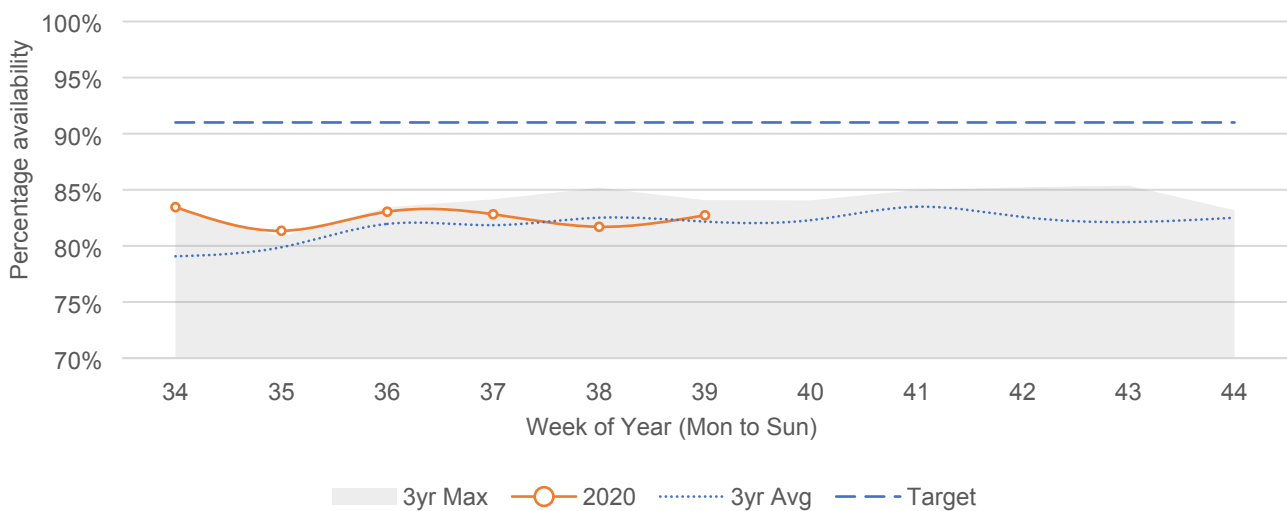
Availability

Week 38 saw overall appliance availability of 83%, slightly above the seasonal average (82%) and below the target of 85% for the tenth consecutive week.

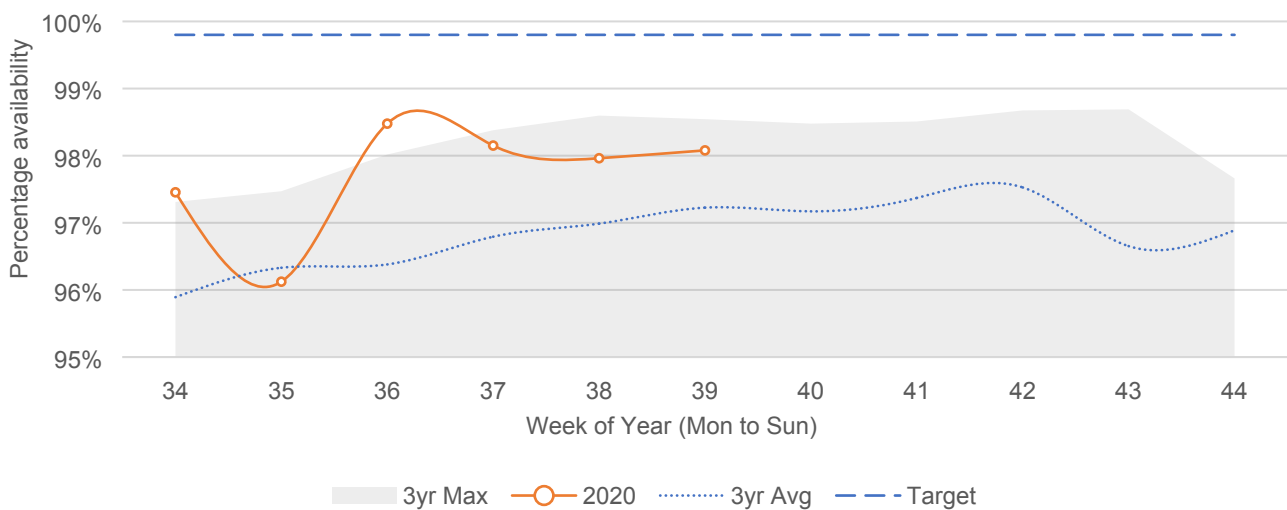
Risk prioritised appliance availability in week 38 rose slightly to 98.1% which is above the seasonal average and on target for a fourth successive week.

There remains a risk that the track and trace process may have a negative impact on availability should a number of personnel be required to self-isolate.

Total Availability by week; 2020 vs three year average
Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



Risk Prioritised Availability by week; 2020 vs three year average
Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



ERS to Dwellings and RTCs

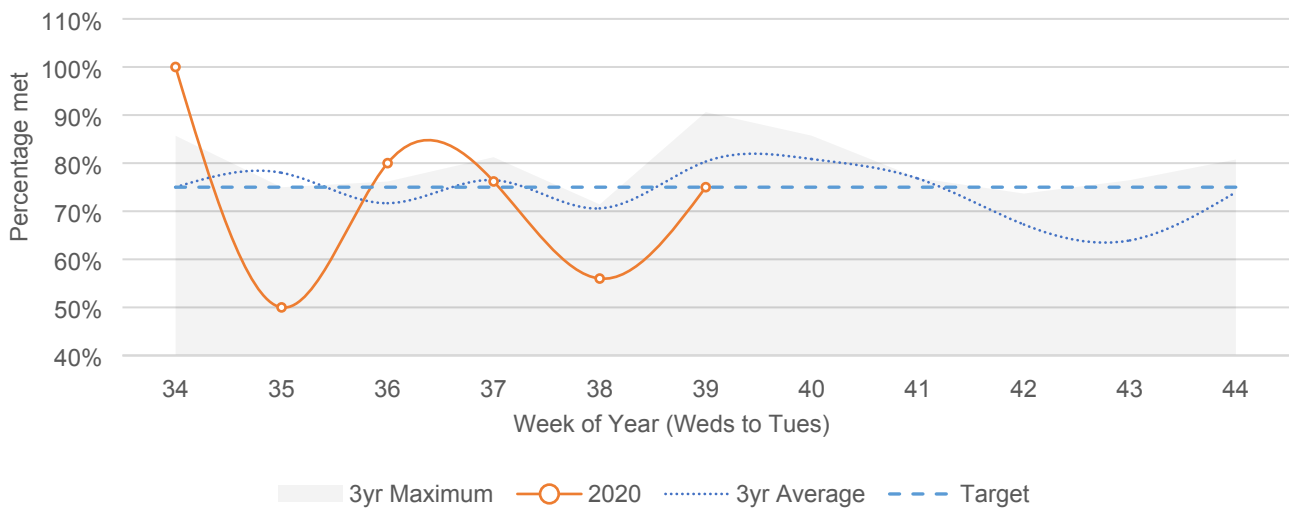
Monitoring ERS on a weekly basis needs to be undertaken with a degree of caution the relatively low numbers of incidents attended can cause greater levels of variation within the percentages.

While it may be assumed that the good availability we saw earlier in the year would also lead to a jump in ERS attainment, this may not be as significant as anticipated. This is because the locations where risk levels and incident frequency are highest are already either served by wholtime resources or priority on-call appliances.

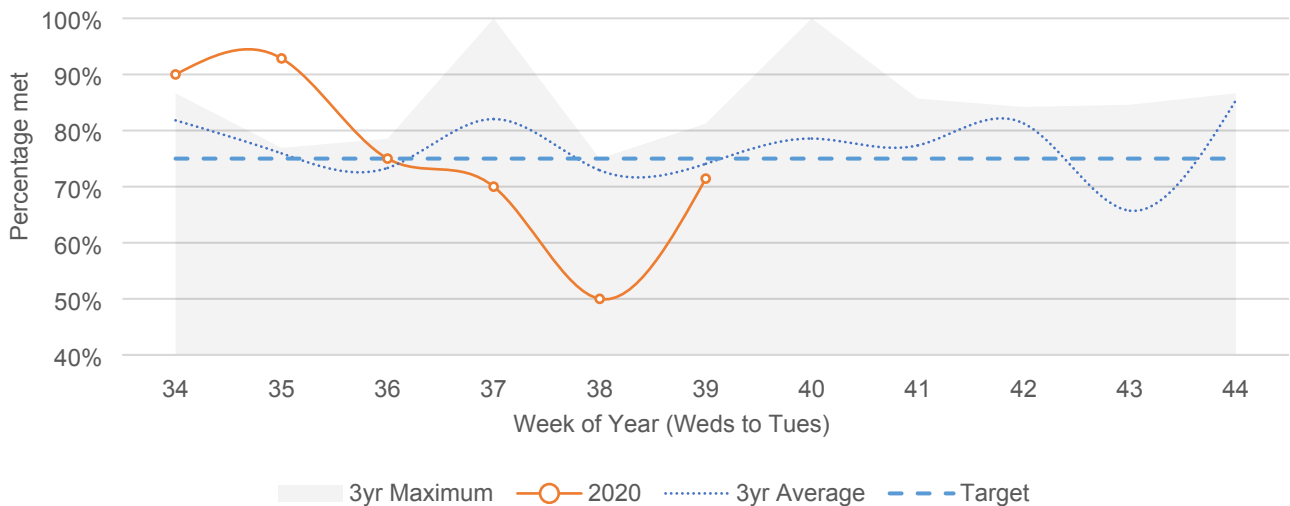
Undoubtedly, better availability will result in a quicker response to some incidents however it is unlikely that it will significantly improve the attainment of ERS.

In week 38 Dwelling Fire ERS was achieved on 75% of occasions (12 of 16 incidents), equal to the target of 75%. RTC ERS performance was below target for the third successive week, with 15 of 21 incidents (71%) meeting the aim of first attendance within 15 minutes of time of call.

Dwelling ERS by week; 2020 vs three year average
Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



RTC ERS by week; 2020 vs three year average
Data extracted from Vision mobilising system, Revised Incident Type



Turnout Times

Monitoring turnout on a weekly basis needs to be undertaken with a degree of caution the relatively low numbers of incidents attended can cause greater levels of variation.

Generally since the 'lockdown' restrictions began to be introduced in March the median turnout time across all on-call appliances (for all incidents) was consistently below the median for 2017-19 suggesting that less traffic on the roads and firefighters being less likely to respond from primary employment had an effect on our response times. This improvement in on-call turnout will have only had limited improvement on ERS due to the nature of the ERS measures (For more detail see ERS section).

Week 38 saw a slight fall in the median turnout time for the On-call appliances, with it now above the three year median turnout time again. This is consistent with the variation we have seen in recent weeks.

Median Turnout Times (On-call appliances)

