

Debenham Community First Responders.

2013 Summary

2013 was our busiest year ever, we responded to 99 calls in total, nearly 8% more than last year!

Calls by month

jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	Total
12	4	10	3	9	7	13	10	10	5	7	9	99

Calls by complaint

Abdominal Pain	1
Allergies (reactions)	3
Back pain (non traumatic)	1
Breathing problems	18
Cardiac / Resp Arrest	3
Chest Pain	16
Convulsion / Fitting	4
Diabetic Problem	3
Falls	10
Heart Problems	8
Haemorrhage / Laceration	2
Sick Person	8
Stroke	8
Unconscious / Fainting	5
Unknown Problem	9
Total	99

News

During the course of the year two of our team left: one moved out of the area and another left due to other commitments. In December our latest recruit, Don Jackson, passed her assessment and became an active member of the team.

In May founding member Karen Cook passed on the role of coordinator to long time team member, John Feeney-Howells. Karen is still an active member of the team.

During June/July/August several member of the team enjoyed the opportunity of spending a 12 hour day shift with an Ambulance crew. Each of us had a very enlightening experience - a useful addition to our ongoing monthly training sessions. As a group we also visited the Ambulance Control Centre, known as the HEOC (Health Emergency Operations centre) in Norwich on the evening of the August bank holiday and were able to sit with call takers and call despatchers. Again we found this a hugely enlightening and useful opportunity. These events gave us a better insight into the day-to-day work of our ambulance service colleagues and help us develop our working relationships.

In September we held an open evening in lieu of our usual training meeting. Several member of the community came along to see us and we were able to use our training kit to provide hands-on demonstrations of life saving techniques. Although the number of attendees was less than expected the evening was still a great success and we are planning to do this as an annual event in future.

Jan-May 2014

Calls by month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
7	7	2	17	14	45

Calls by complaint

Cardiac/Chest pains	12
Breathing problems	9
Fitting/Stroke/Unconscious	9
Falls	7
Other	7
Total	45

More skills

After continuous lobbying the EEAS Trust have recognised that the training of CFRs in additional skills will bring benefits to the community we server. 2014 will see us trained in:

- EpiPen / Jext
- Paediatrics - breathing & cardiac problems 2yrs and up.
- Revised Oxygen therapy to British Thoracic Guidelines
- Temperature & Blood pressure measurement

Better deployment

In mid-March the Health Emergency Control Centre (located in Norwich) updated their computer aided despatch system so that First Responders now log in and log out of the system. As a result we are now far more 'visible' on the Dispatcher's screens and accordingly we are being called to more incidents. Our April attendance was 17 calls and May, so far has been 14. This is considerably more than our monthly average for the preceding 12 months at 8.3 and at this level we therefore expect to attend in excess of 140 emergency calls this year; an increase of 40% over last year.

We aim to provide cover 24 hour cover 365 days a year and with only six active members we still manage to exceed 97% of that target, however the quite dramatic rise in the number of calls we are attending is going to put more strain on us; we simply need more recruits.

Finances

We currently operate 3 sets of kit each includes resuscitation equipment including a Defibrillator; Oxygen therapy equipment and numerous other 'tools of the trade'. Each kit costs in excess of £2500. Capital and running costs are all financed through charitable donations and we are grateful to the generosity of individuals, organisations and, of course, Parish Councils in the area we cover for their generosity. We are purely voluntary; we don't get paid at all and even when attending incidents use our vehicles at our own expense.

According to our treasurer, Chris Bishop, who is currently on holiday, our current financial balance is approximately £600.

John Feeney-Howells
Coordinator

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