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IHMC Incident Report October 2020

The IHMC responded to 69 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in October, covering 22 week days. This is the highest figure over the last six months, and is not far short of this time last year. Please see the table below which illustrates the number of incidents over the last 6 months, compared to the same period last year.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
2019	84	73	58	75	74	74
2020	17	30	29	47	47	69

We use the term 'incident' to describe something that has happened on the County's road network which has an impact (of varying degrees) on usual traffic flows. This could include, for example, a Road Traffic Collision, a burst water main or temporary traffic lights for roadworks.

Our @Cambs_Traffic Twitter account is our quickest engagement tool with the public and the interaction gives a good indication of how effective the messages are getting out to people.

In October we saw another drop in follower numbers, although the number of profile visits is again the highest it has been over the last six months. The number of Tweet impressions is the highest it has been for the last six months, as well as the number of Tweets sent out.

Twitter Analytics	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20
Number of Followers	15,269	15,213	15,224	15,234	15,222	15,216
Increase in followers from previous month	-31	-56	11	10	-12	-6
Number of Tweets sent	183	256	293	155	230	265
Number of profile visits	2,722	1,382	2,284	2,361	3,007	3,363
Number of Tweet impressions	443,000	455,000	529,000	389,000	436,000	538,000

Table 1: Twitter Analytics for @Cambs_Traffic

Note: The number of Tweets sent includes advance notice road works and event Tweets alongside live incident Tweets.

The number of incidents recorded peaked at 10am and midday. Many schools across the County were on Half Term throughout the last week of October, which could explain the peak at these times due to no school drop off / pick up.

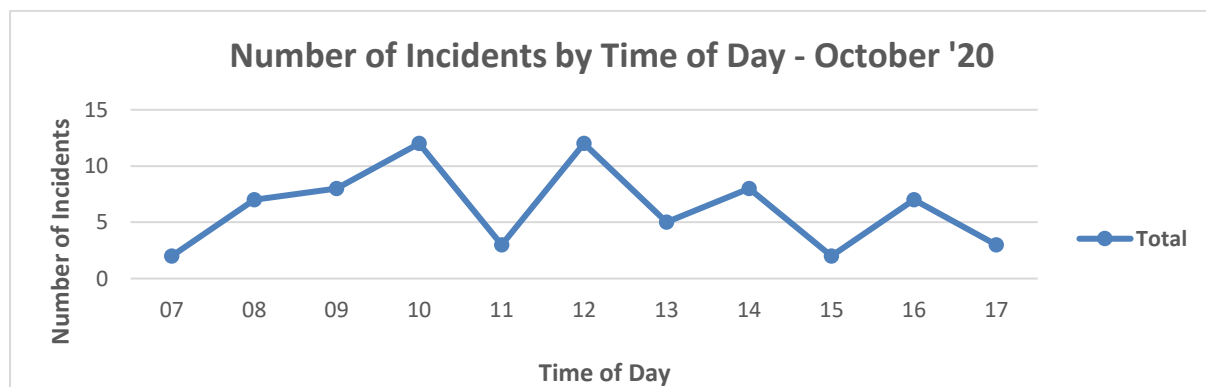


Figure 1: Number of incidents recorded by time of day – October 2020



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Of the incidents recorded during October, 16% were due to Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) and 47% were due to road works (both planned and unplanned). A further 14% were due to an obstruction in the carriageway and 3% was due to a vehicle breakdown. A further 4% was due to a traffic signal fault and 16% were classed as 'Other' which includes incidents where the cause could not be confirmed. See Figure 2 below.

Type of incident - October '20

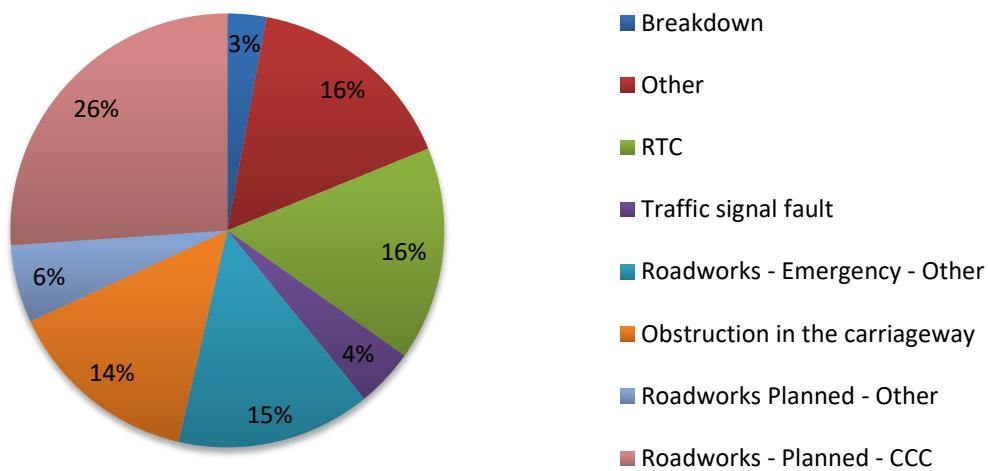


Figure 2: Type of Incident - October 2020

Of those incidents recorded 14% had a road closure, 39% temporary traffic lights, and 28% had congestion which was not considered normal for the location and time of day. (See Figure 3). A further 13% had a lane closure, 3% resulted in the road being partially blocked and 3% had a signal fault where all the lights were out.

Impact of incident - October '20

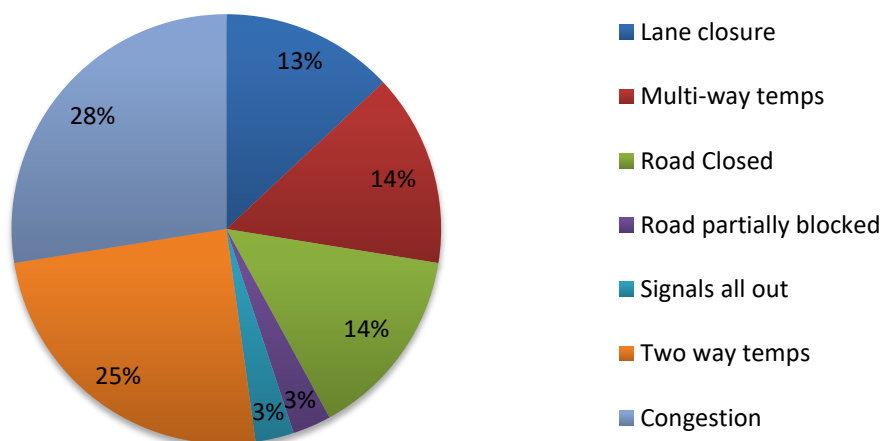


Figure 3: Impact of Incident on the network - October 2020



This month the highest number of incidents were recorded in South Cambridgeshire, closely followed by Huntingdonshire, Cambridge City and Fenland (Figure 4, below). East Cambridgeshire had the lowest number of incidents recorded throughout October.

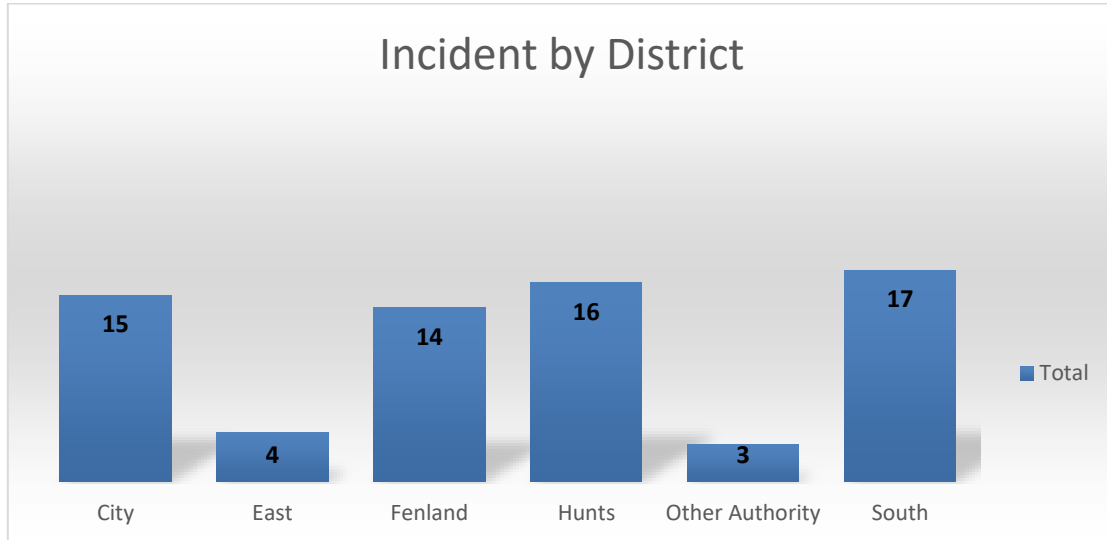


Figure 4: Incident location by District area - October 2020

During the month we responded to 22 minor incidents, 38 medium incidents, 8 major and 1 critical incident (See Figure 5).

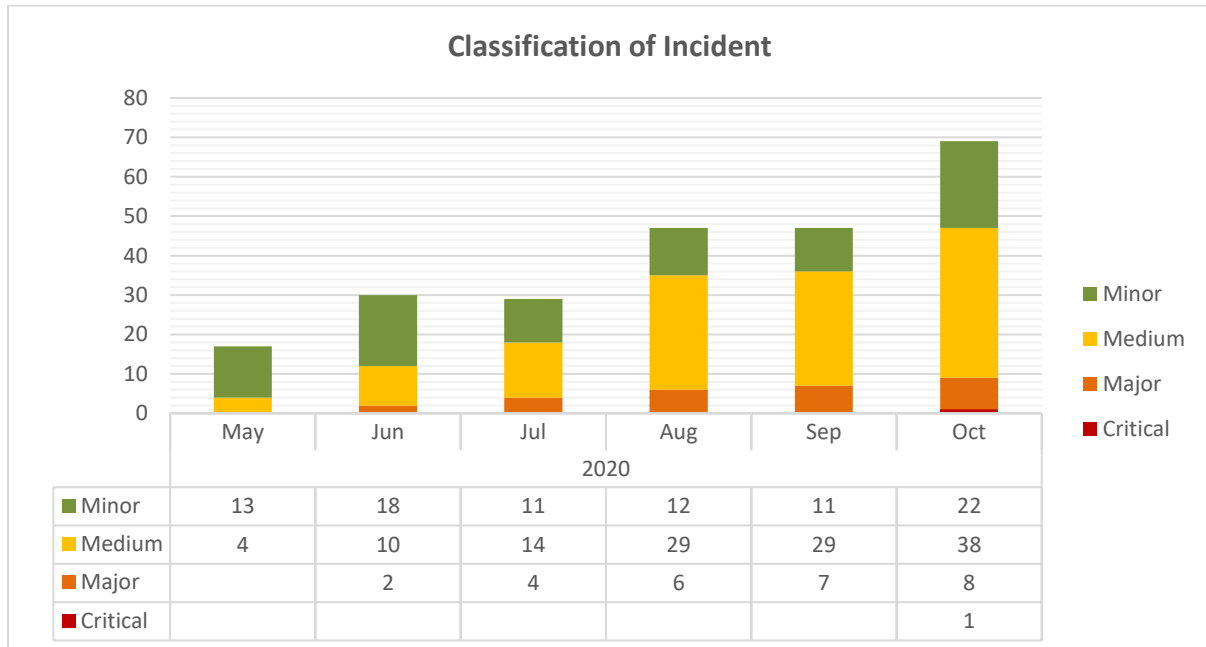


Figure 5: Classification of incident

Notes: Classification of Incidents

Minor: Delays less than 15 minutes. Low levels of congestion which are not normal conditions.

Medium: Delays of up to 30 minutes. Significant congestion which is not normal conditions.

Major: Delays of up to one hour. Severe congestion that has started to spread to neighbouring roads which is not normal conditions.

CRITICAL: Delays of over 1 hour. Congestion that has spread to numerous roads over a wide area. e.g. whole of central Cambridge.



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Throughout October we had two incidents involving traffic signals. One was on the 7th October where a pedestrian crossing on Hills Road, Cambridge was not working. Although this did not necessarily affect traffic flows, we sent an advisory tweet with the nearest alternative crossing. The tweet also gave information that an engineer had been called, meaning that our followers local to the area were reassured that the fault was being dealt with. The other incident was on the 28th October where the signals on the junction of the A15 London Road and Broadway in Yaxley were severely damaged following a Road Traffic Collision the previous evening. In this instance, temporary lights were in place whilst the extensive repairs were undertaken. Because of our close working relationship with the Signals Team, we were able to send out Tweets for both faults, including updates on the repairs of the one in Yaxley.

The afternoon of the 20th October was a particularly busy one. At around 2pm we received a call advising us that Histon Road will be fully closed due to workers finding an unexploded bomb on site within the inbound closure. The bomb squad were called, however they were coming from a neighbouring County. The road was re-opened at just after 4pm. Luckily, there were no major delays on the surrounding routes. At around 2:30pm on the same afternoon we were made aware of another closure, this time on Huntingdon ring road due to a serious Road Traffic Collision. Unfortunately the surrounding area quickly became gridlocked and we recorded delays of around 45 minutes. In both cases we sent out regular Tweets and used the Variable Messaging Signs to give information to road users near to the affected areas. We also liaised with the local bus companies in order to make them aware of the closures and put messages on the electronic boards at the affected stops.

We recorded the first Critical incident for 6 months on the 12th October between 9:23am and 12:40pm on the A14 westbound at J15 (Keyston). Delays peaked at 1 hour 11 minutes due to an obstruction in the carriageway.

Whilst there is still less traffic on the roads, we have continued operating under reduced monitoring hours, which are 08:30 - 17:30. This is being regularly assessed.

For more information on roadworks across the County, please take a look at <https://one.network/>



Download the app now. For more information visit: covid19.nhs.uk



Integrated Highways Management Centre (IHMC) – Monitors Cambridgeshire’s Highways in order to warn and advise of disruptions on the network.

Operating Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm Mon-Fri.

Contact us: 01223 507176 ihmc@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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