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Cambridgeshire
County Council

IHMC Incident Report August 2020

The IHMC responded to 47 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in August, covering 20 week days. This is the largest figure since March, although compared to August last year it does still look relatively low. Please see the table below which illustrates the number of incidents over the last 6 months, compared to the same period last year.

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
2019	78	71	84	73	58	75
2020	60	11	17	30	29	47

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 August we saw a similar increase in follower number compared to July. We also saw an increase in the number of profile visits compared to last month. The number of Tweet impressions is the lowest it has been since April. The number of Tweets sent out was 155, which is lower than July, June and May.

Twitter Analytics	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Number of Followers	15,318	15,300	15,269	15,213	15,224	15,234
Increase in followers from previous month	20	-18	-31	-56	11	10
Number of Tweets sent	347	73	183	256	293	155
Number of profile visits	9,301	2,957	2,722	1,382	2,284	2,361
Number of Tweet impressions	926,000	219,000	443,000	455,000	529,000	389,000

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 was busiest at midday, closely followed by 4pm. There are many reasons to explain why this could be the case. Typically, under 'normal' circumstances we used to see a peak in the morning and evening to coincide with 'rush hour' at the beginning and end of a work / school day. Interestingly the peak times in August not only represent the shift in vehicle use during the Summer holidays, but also coincides with the Government's eat out to help out scheme that ran throughout the month.

Throughout August, the Government implemented the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme in a bid to boost the economy where diners can get food and non-alcoholic drinks with 50% off (up to £10 off per person) at participating venues.



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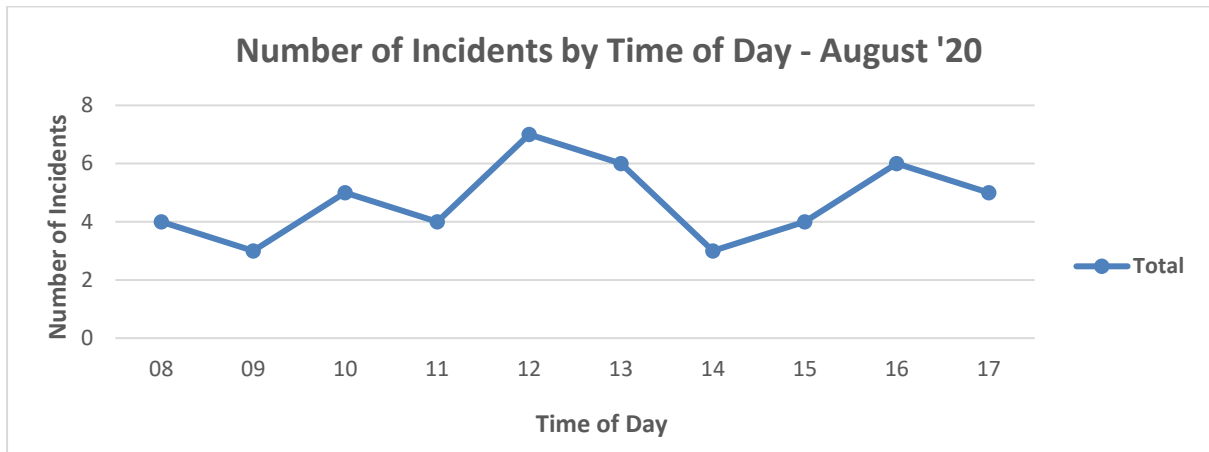


Figure 1: Number of incidents recorded by time of day – August 2020

Of the incidents recorded during August, 32% were due to Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) and 32% were due to road works (both planned and unplanned). A further 8% were due to an obstruction in the carriageway, 11% was due to a vehicle breakdown and 2% was due to a vehicle fire. 15% were classed as 'Other' which includes incidents where the cause could not be confirmed. See Figure 2 below.

Type of incident - August '20

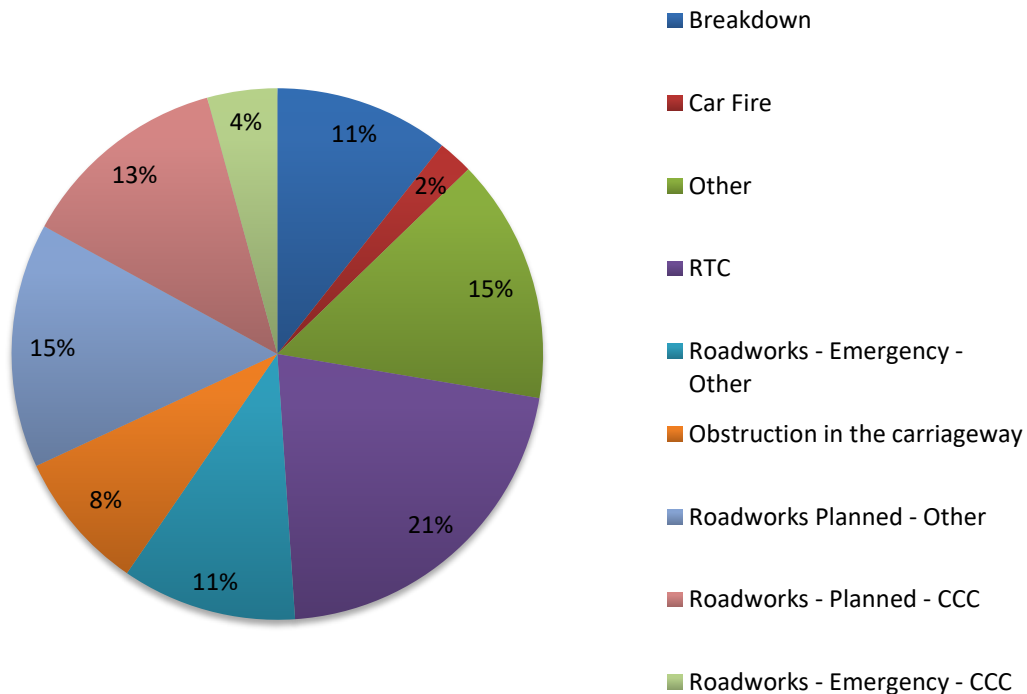


Figure 2: Type of Incident - August 2020



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Of those incidents recorded 8% had a road closure, 35% temporary traffic lights, and 38% had congestion which was not considered normal for the location and time of day. (See Figure 3). A further 15% had a lane closure and 4% resulted in the road being partially blocked.

Impact of incident - August '20

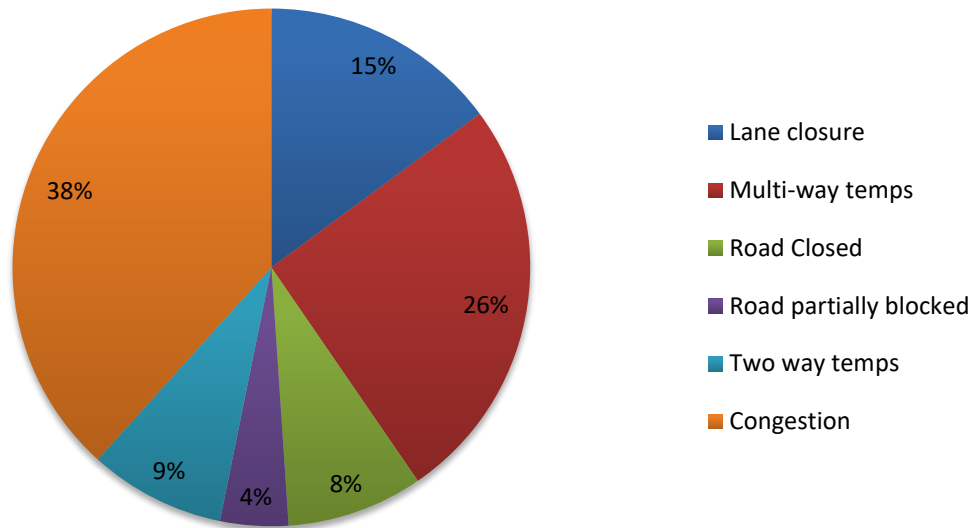


Figure 3: Impact of Incident on the network - August 2020

This month the highest number of incidents were recorded in Huntingdonshire, followed by South Cambridgeshire (Figure 4, below). Fenland had the lowest number of incidents recorded throughout August with Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire not far behind.

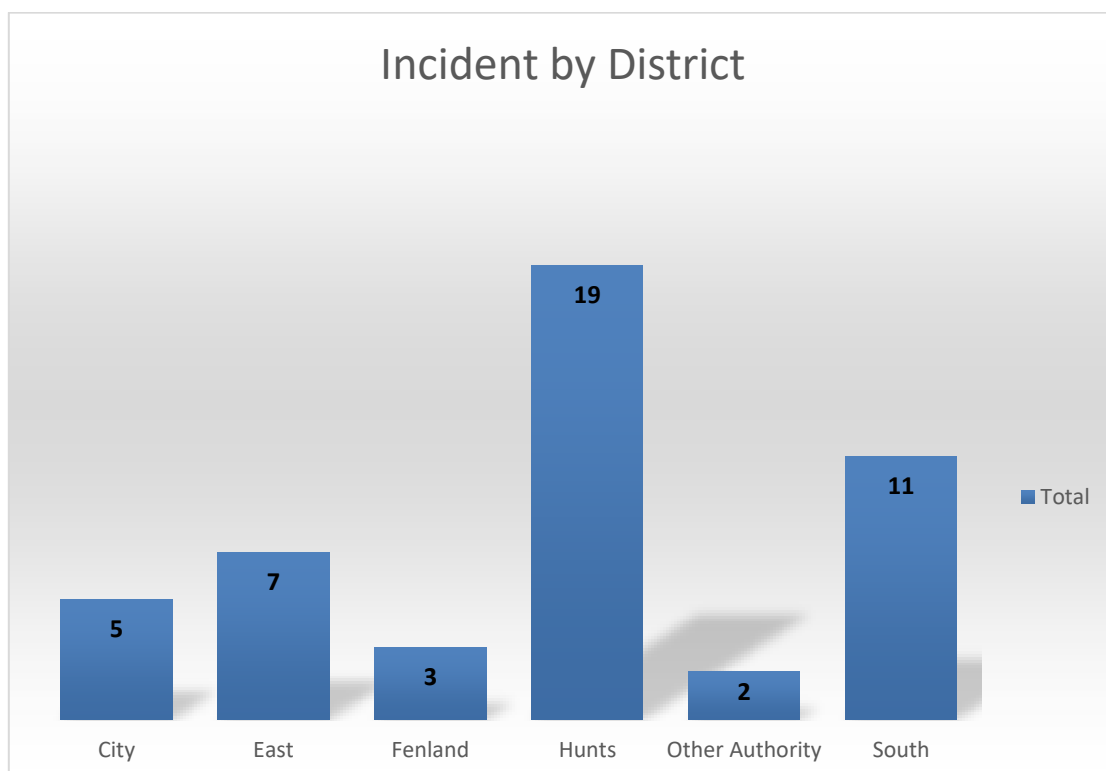


Figure 4: Incident location by District area - August 2020



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During the month we responded to 12 minor incidents, 29 medium incidents and 6 major. We did not record any critical incidents (See Figure 5).

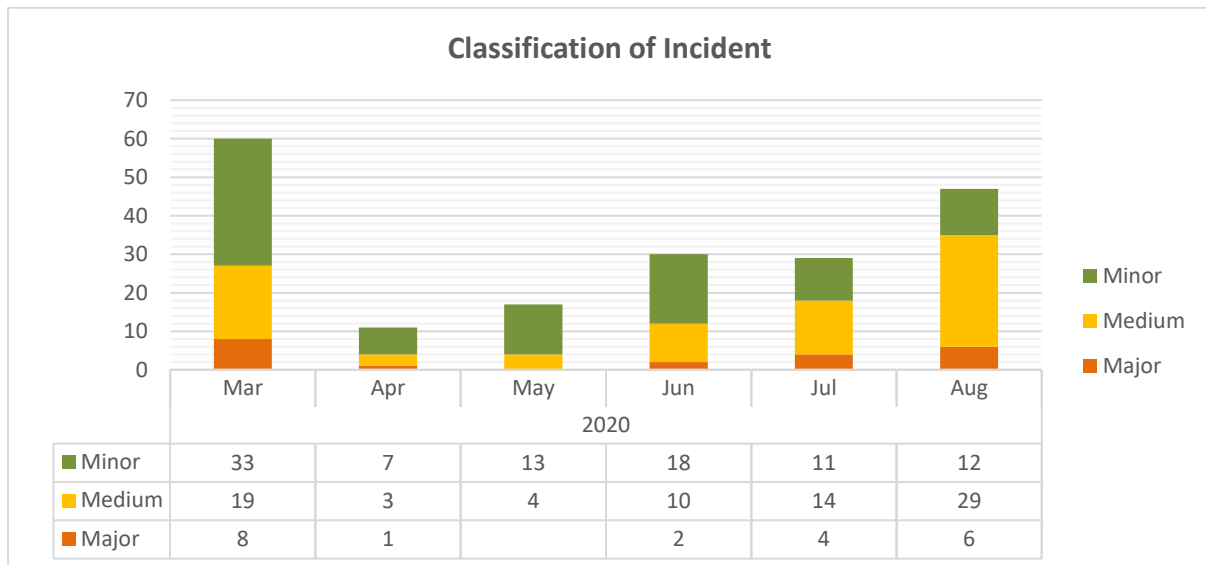


Figure 5: Classification of incident

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.

Although the number of incidents we have dealt with has risen, we are still not seeing 'normal' levels of congestion quite yet.

The longest delay we recorded throughout August was 45 minutes, recorded twice, both for RTCs.

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.



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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