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IHMC Incident Report September 2020

The IHMC responded to 47 incidents on the road network throughout Cambridgeshire in September, covering 22 week days. This is exactly the same number of incidents as August and remains the largest figure since March. Please see the table below which illustrates the number of incidents over the last 6 months, compared to the same period last year.

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
2019	71	84	73	58	75	74
2020	11	17	30	29	47	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 September we saw a drop in follower numbers compared to August, although the number of profile visits is the highest it has been over the last six months. The number of Tweet impressions increased since August, as well as the number of Tweets sent out.

Twitter Analytics	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
Number of Followers	15,300	15,269	15,213	15,224	15,234	15,222
Increase in followers from previous month	-18	-31	-56	11	10	-12
Number of Tweets sent	73	183	256	293	155	230
Number of profile visits	2,957	2,722	1,382	2,284	2,361	3,007
Number of Tweet impressions	219,000	443,000	455,000	529,000	389,000	436,000

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 just after 8am, with another peak between 3pm and 4pm. This coincides with the fact that we saw schools across the County re-open to all students again since lockdown began in March.

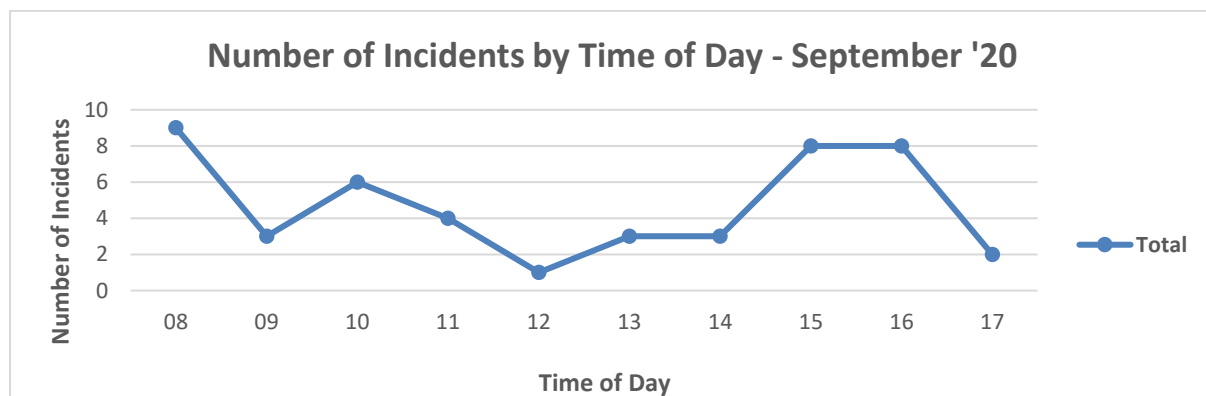


Figure 1: Number of incidents recorded by time of day – September 2020



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Of the incidents recorded during September, 26% were due to Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) and 12% were due to road works (both planned and unplanned). A further 23% were due to an obstruction in the carriageway and 11% was due to a vehicle breakdown. 28% were classed as 'Other' which includes incidents where the cause could not be confirmed. See Figure 2 below.

Type of incident - September '20

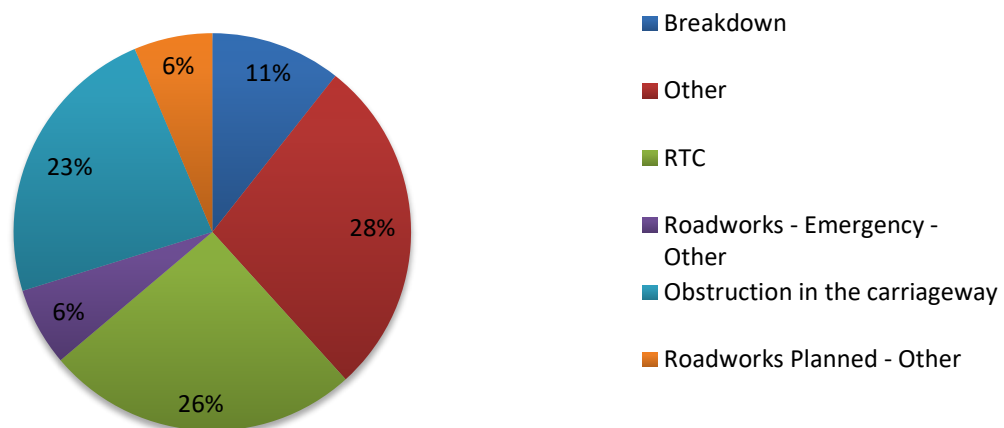


Figure 2: Type of Incident - September 2020

Of those incidents recorded 9% had a road closure, 10% temporary traffic lights, and 53% had congestion which was not considered normal for the location and time of day. (See Figure 3). A further 11% had a lane closure, 15% resulted in the road being partially blocked and 2% had a signal fault.

Impact of incident - September '20

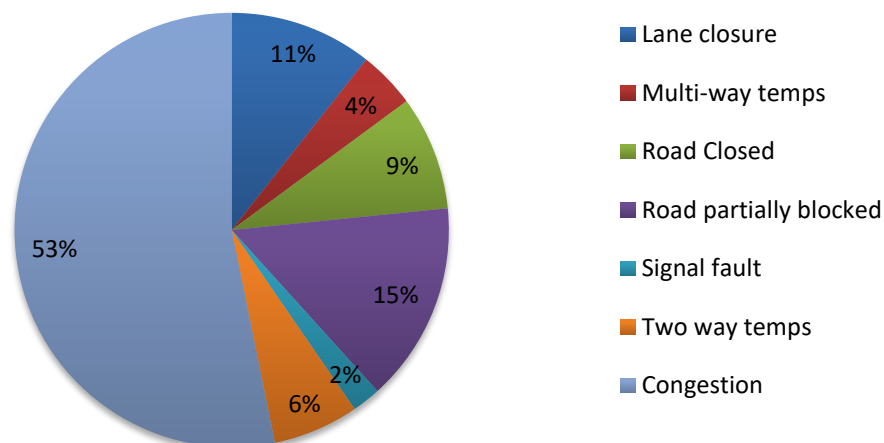


Figure 3: Impact of Incident on the network - September 2020



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

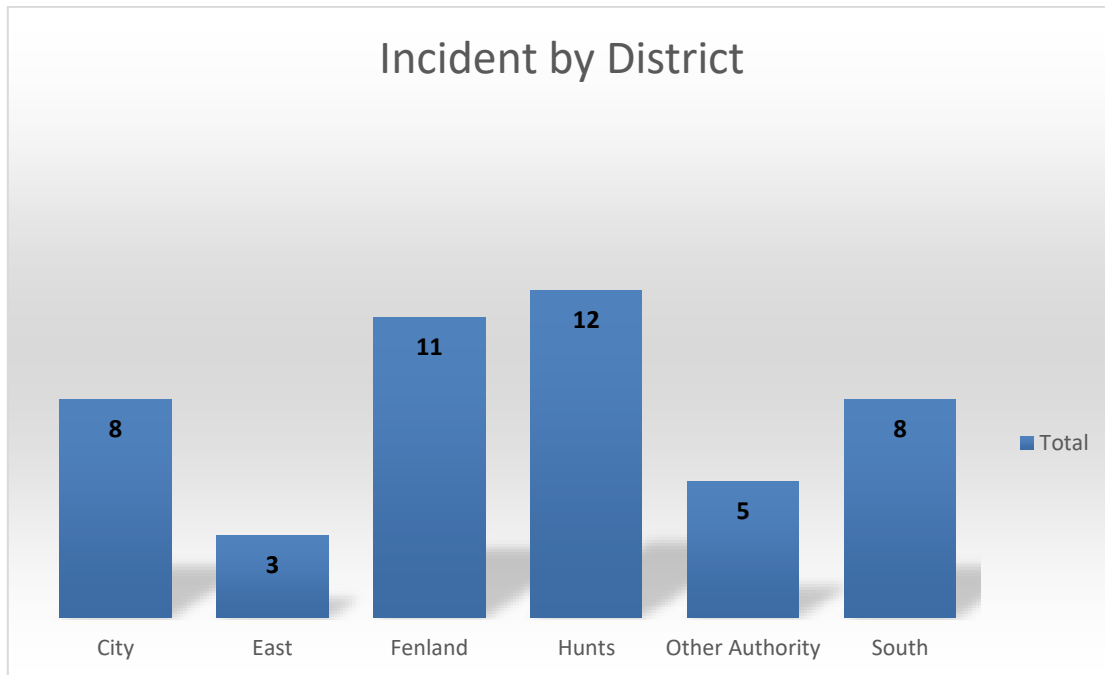


Figure 4: Incident location by District area - September 2020

During the month we responded to 11 minor incidents, 29 medium incidents and 76 major. We did not record any critical incidents (See Figure 5).

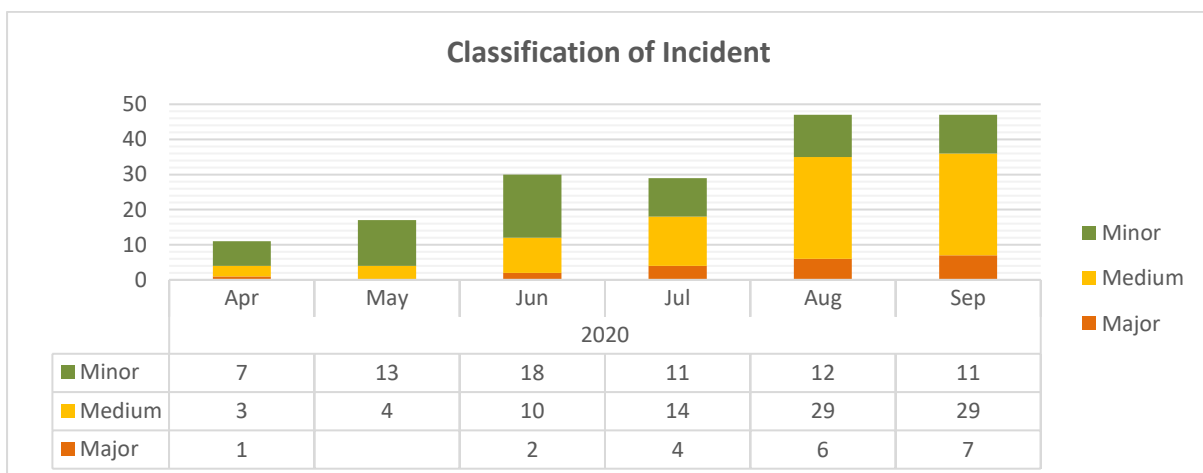


Figure 5: Classification of incident

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.



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Although the number of incidents we have dealt with has risen, we are still not seeing 'normal' levels of congestion quite yet. We have noticed increasing congestion, in particular around school drop off and pick up times around the County this month. We also saw traffic delays around Huntingdon increase, which could be explained by a number of roadworks being carried out at vital inbound / outbound routes - Brampton Road and Ermine Street. Ermine Street was closed for several weeks under the Iron Bridge due to emergency works by Cadent Gas. This road re-opened near to the end of September.

The longest delay we recorded throughout September was 50 minutes due to a Road Traffic collision on the A14 westbound between Catworth and Bythorn.

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/>



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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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