



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Report for Malmesbury Area Board - October 2010

Fires

WFRS attended 8 accidental fires during the months of July and August 2010 including a microwave, a pile of logs, 2 unattended bonfires, a tractor, vegetation on the forest floor, recycling machinery and wood chippings, and a field fire on farm land.

We were also called to 11 deliberate fires over the same period involving bonfires, a 4x4 vehicle, fencing, several unattended bonfires and a spate of wheelie bin fires. There seems to be an increase in unattended bonfires which are marked as deliberate and the Wheelie bin fires occurred on the same night. We continue to try and identify those responsible in conjunction with the police.

Injuries

No injuries through any fire related incidents have occurred during July and August 2010.

RTC'S

WFRS attended 5 Road Traffic Collisions within the Boards area - 2 injuries were reported.

Co-Responder Calls

WFRS have responded to 21 co-responder calls over this period.

Community Safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is reminding people about the importance of getting chimneys swept after already being called to a chimney fire in August. The recent chilly weather at night has led to many homes having fires lit much earlier in the year than normal - which can be dangerous if the chimney has not been swept since the fire was last used.

The Service's advice is to ensure that chimneys for wood burning fires are swept every three months when in use. If you burn bituminous coal, the chimney should be cleaned at least twice a year, and at least once a year when burning smokeless coal. An annual clean is sufficient for oil and gas fires. Other tips include:

- Have the chimney properly swept – using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient.
- Make sure your fire receives enough air to allow the fuel to burn properly.
- Only burn suitable fuels.
- Do not overload the grate or appliance.
- Maintain your appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires.
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly in the roof space. Make sure that it is sound and that the sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.
- Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

A wide range of fire safety advice can be found on the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service website - www.wiltsfire.gov.uk