

Southern Wiltshire Area Board - Report, 29th September 2016

Community Engagement

The station and its' staff continue to attend events and schools to give input, advice and education.

A Salamander course of 8 young people was held at Salisbury fire station from 15th – 19th August. The primary aim of Salamander is to work with young people in Wiltshire and provide them with experiences that will help them to learn new life skills and gain confidence. However, in recent years, we have expanded our remit and now work with a variety of organisations across the public, voluntary and private sectors.

More courses are programmed for the remainder of the financial year, both at Salisbury and other locations.

Dementia Awareness

All staff at Salisbury fire station have undergone Dementia Awareness training. The feedback from staff was very positive.

Home Safety

Staff at Salisbury are currently undergoing training for new Safe & Well visits which are being rolled out in the Autumn.

If you need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what you would do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

Response

Total Fire Calls for Salisbury Fire station; 01/04/16 – 31/08/16.

Category	Callsign	Total Incidents	Category	Callsign	Total Incidents
False Alarm	31P1	124	False Alarm	31P2	18
Fire	31P1	70	Fire	31P2	16
Other	31P1	11	Other	31P2	55
Special Service	31P1	42	Special Service	31P2	2
Total	31P1	247	Total	31P2	91

Availability of Wholtime (1st) appliance;

100%

Availability of On-Call (2nd) appliance (August 2016);



Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
On –Call (2 nd appliance)	78.36%	98.92%	88.64%

On-Call Recruitment

Recruitment Evening at Salisbury fire station on **Monday 26th September 2016, 7-9pm.**

DWFRS currently have 5 vacancies for On-Call (retained) Firefighters at Salisbury fire station.

- Do you live or work near the fire station?
- Are you able to work in a team?
- Do you have a basic level of physical fitness?
- Are you at least 18 years old?
- Do you know anyone who would be interested in a career as an On-Call firefighter?

No need to book, just pop in to the fire station on Ashley Road, Salisbury on **Monday 26th September between 7pm and 9pm.** We'll talk you through what the job is actually about and you can try some of the practical tests.

Calls to Fire Alarms

This item is by request of the CAB;

Responding to automatic fire alarm (AFA) activations that subsequently turn out to be unwanted fire signals has been identified as a major draw on our resources, resulting in an inappropriate use of emergency crews and equipment.

So far this year we have **returned** from 2000 false alarms in Wiltshire alone, however it is important to state that DWFRS are never mobilised to a false alarm, that is just the end outcome.

Such activations cause resources to be diverted away from other, more important, activities, making them potentially unavailable to respond to genuine emergency calls.

Unwanted fire signals have a major impact on the Service and cause concern, as they:

- Render crews unavailable, creating the possibility of delayed attendance to genuine emergency calls.
- Create unnecessary risk to fire crews and members of the public when fire appliances respond under emergency conditions.
- Are disruptive to planned work, particularly training and community fire safety activities.
- Impose significant financial burdens on the Service.
- Have a negative impact on employers who release on-call firefighters working the retained duty system (On-Call).



- Cause problems for the occupiers of affected premises through lost production and general disruption to business continuity.
- Cause complacency among employees, reducing the effectiveness of automatic fire alarms by delaying the initiation of emergency procedures.
- Indicate other failings may exist within the premises' fire safety management.

A properly designed and maintained automatic fire detection system provides early warning of fire. However, a badly designed or poorly maintained system can become a potential hazard due to inappropriate or unwanted activations.

Management procedures should be set in place as part of an emergency plan. Suitably trained personnel should investigate the cause of the alarm activation before calling the fire and rescue service (with the notable exception of residential care providers who should not allow these procedures to cause undue delay in calling 999).

Staff at the Service Control Centre will always question the caller on what the incident actually is. This is to ensure we use our resources appropriately.

Alarm Calls are challenged from premises that include; commercial, industrial, retail, public assembly, agricultural and domestic low battery actuations. This is because the above mentioned Management Procedures should be in place. The call challenge will not slow down any response from the service as this is done concurrently as the call is taken, but it will help identify the right resources to send.

Seasonal Safety Message

A clean chimney can help prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Regular cleaning of your chimney or flue will eliminate the build-up of soot and clear obstructions such as bird or animal nests, leaves and debris. It is not enough to use a vacuum cleaner and you should make sure that your chimney or flue is inspected regularly.

Chimneys should be swept:

- At least once a year when using smokeless fuels
- At least once a year when using bituminous coal
- Every three months when burning wood
- Once a year when using oil
- Once a year when using gas

The following safety advice should always be followed when lighting an open fire or woodburning stove:

- Don't use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire.
- Don't burn excessive amounts of paper or rubbish.
- Don't overload the fire with fuel.



When the fire is alight, check the loft space occasionally to make sure there is no smoke leaking from cracks, defective brickwork or mortar joints.

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;
<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

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