



# Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

## Report for Malmesbury Area Board – March 2011

### Fires

WFRS attended 15 accidental fires during the months of January and February 2011 involving a car, a roof, boxes of paper, a chip pan and an oven fire. The remaining incidents were chimney fires.

It is pleasing to report that we were not called to attend any deliberate fires during the same period. WFRS continue to work closely with the police and other partners to try and identify persons responsible for deliberate fire setting.

### Injuries

There have been no fire related injuries during this period.

### RTC'S

WFRS were not called to attend any Road Traffic Collisions within the Boards area during January or February 2011.

### Co-Responder Calls

WFRS have responded to 13 co-responder calls over this period.

### Community Safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service continues to remind people about the importance of getting chimneys swept after being called to several chimney fires during the winter period.

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.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)