

Report for Trowbridge Area Board – June 2011

Fires

WFRS attended 6 accidental fires during the months of April and May 2011, These incidents have involved unattended cooking, a cushion against a heater, 3 bonfires and grass.

We were also called to 10 deliberate fires over the same period involving a bush, 5 refuse fires, 3 cars, household waste, grass and a shed. WFRS continues to liaise with other agencies to identify persons involved in deliberate fire setting.

Injuries

No injuries through any fire related incidents have occurred during April and May.

RTC'S

There have been no incidents.

Community Safety

Warning given on aerosol canisters

On Friday 27th May a property was badly damaged when an aerosol canister exploded. The deodorant can was on a shelf in the bathroom directly under a fan heater. When the heater was switched on, the canister also heated up and eventually exploded, causing a flash fire in the bathroom. Group Manager Julian Parsons, from Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, said: "The occupiers were extremely lucky - the force of the blast lifted the ceilings, displaced walls and damaged the conservatory roof. I never cease to be amazed at the amount of damage a standard can of deodorant can cause. They can be very dangerous if allowed to heat up, so we want to warn people to be careful."

Since the banning of CFCs as propellants in aerosol containers, butane and propane gasses are widely used instead. These and other similar products are extremely flammable. Many aerosol spray containers subjected to higher temperatures can give rise to an explosion and significantly increase the severity of a fire.

Advice on storing and using aerosol sprays

- Ensure you are aware of the contents of your aerosols.
- Read and follow the instructions printed on the containers.
- Dispose of spent aerosols by recycling where possible.
- Do not store quantities of aerosols indefinitely in sheds and garages or under sink cupboards etc.
- Use only as directed.
- Protect from sunlight and do not expose to temperatures in excess of 500C.
- Do not pierce or burn, even after use.
- Do not spray onto a naked flame or any incandescent material.
- Keep away from sources of ignition - don't smoke during or shortly after use.
- Use in well ventilated places.
- Do not store or display in areas affected by direct sunlight. When appropriate, keep products in their transit packaging.

For more information on safety in the home, please visit www.wiltshirefire.gov.uk