



**Wiltshire
Fire & Rescue
Service**

Briefing report for Amesbury; Pewsey & Tidworth Area Boards



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has grouped together neighbouring fire stations into station hubs, to work more effectively and efficiently, supporting each other to improve the service we provide.

Responding to incidents:

Your Area Board's / Locality's communities immediate emergency response will be provided by staff at these stations and where necessary additional support from staff and specialist equipment from other stations.

Prevention work:

Staff from other departments also provide the community with specialist services giving fire safety and road safety advice and interventions such as talks and visits.

Protection work:

Specialist staff provide expert knowledge, give advice and undertake enforcement action working very closely with the planning authorities to keep communities safe from fire.

In an **emergency dial 999**, for other non urgent matters you can either visit our website: www.wiltsfire.gov.uk or contact the following people:

	<u>Manager / Department</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>email</u>
Operational matters	Station Manager - Jason Underwood, Amesbury, Pewsey, Ludgershall Station Hub	07515 191951	jason.underwood@wiltsfire.gov.uk
Partnership and community engagement issues	Michael Franklin (Wiltshire Council Area)	07919 306037	mike.franklin@wiltsfire.gov.uk
Home fire safety visits and for talks and visits	Community safety department	0800 389 7849	www.wiltsfire.gov.uk and then complete the on line request

Message from Station Manager Jason UNDERWOOD

Operational Response

During November and December 2014 there were no significant incidents to report in which an emergency response was required.

Community Partnership Working

Throughout the reporting period fire fighting staff has been very involved with the Environment Agency (EA) with particular regard to Flood Prevention. Having taken into account the particular flooding issues that affected many communities a proactive approach was taken towards the risk. Following meetings with representatives from the Environment Agency Wilts FRS staff under took the following interventions:

3rd December 2014 - Community Safety Day (Flooding information) to the Tilshead/Chitterne/Shrewton area.

5th December 2014 - Flood working Day in Pewsey/Upavon/Netheravon/Durrington. EA leaflets handed out whilst visiting affected areas properties including; *Flooding from groundwater; practical Advice to help reduce the impact from groundwater, Practical guides to prepare your business from flooding, Personal Flood/Emergency Plan.*(River Avon)

10th December 2014 - Flood Working Day in Tilshead/Chitterne/Shrewton involving EA. EA leaflets handed out whilst visiting affected areas properties including; *Flooding from groundwater; practical Advice to help reduce the impact from groundwater, Practical guides to prepare your business from flooding, Personal Flood/* (River Till)]

Whilst visiting these communities fire crews also visited thatched properties to talk/give advice to owners/occupiers/tenants with particular regard Fire Safety.

On the 15th December Watch Manager Rattigan, representing the Wilts FRS attended a Community Area Local Youth Network Meeting at Bouverie Hall, Pewsey working with the Community Youth Officer/Integrated Youth Service.

School Liaison

Crews and members of the Wilts FRS School Education team have carried out visits to various local schools and playgroups within the community during the November/December period;

17th November 2014 - Larkhill Primary School – Key Stage (KS)1&2 Year (Yr)

20th November 2014 - Fighledean St. Michaels Primary School – KS 1 Yr 2 ‘ The Great

Fire of London’ 24th November 2014 - Visit to Kiwi Playgroup, Bulford Garrison – KS 1&2

Army Liaison

On 8 th December the Partnerships & Community Engagement manager attended a Health Fair hosted by 6 REME, Delhi Barracks, Tidworth where fire safety amongst army personnel was promoted.

Significant step taken on road to combination

The Combination Order to bring together Wiltshire & Swindon Combined Fire Authority and Dorset Fire Authority has been submitted to the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP. Subject to a period of consultation, and the Secretary of State finding no need for an enquiry into the merits of merger, it is expected that the Combination Order will be made in February 2015. The required legislation will then be passed by the end of March 2015, allowing the new

Fire Authority to come into being on 1 April 2016.

At meetings of the two existing Fire Authorities earlier this month, 'Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority' was adopted as the name of the new administrative body.

A key concern raised during the public consultation process was that there should be parity in the number of Elected Members representing Wiltshire and Swindon, and those representing Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, and this has been resolved quite amicably. The new Fire & Rescue Authority will have 30 members, with 15 from each geographical county – although this can be reviewed by the new body in the future.

Shadow governance arrangements for the transition to the new Authority have also been agreed, with defined Terms of Reference adopted by Elected Members in both Wiltshire and Dorset.

At the heart of the new combined Fire & Rescue Authority will be a purpose-built community safety centre, which will also act as a 'virtual headquarters'.

The Government has granted £5.54 million from its Fire Transformation Fund to support the construction of this facility, with money also available to align ICT between the existing Services and support other transition costs.

A project team is now scoping potential sites and we are also liaising with partners, including other emergency services and local authorities, to see what additional benefits can be realised through this scheme.

Michael Franklin

Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager(Wiltshire Council area)

January 2015

