

Westbury Area Board - Report 12th October 2017

Fire Cadets

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has selected 15 young people from the local area to join their new Fire Cadet program.

The aim of Fire Cadets is to support the development of young people by providing a positive role model and giving them opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities.

The Service has recruited young people between the ages of 12 and 18 to take part in this rewarding training scheme, which will not only be fun and enjoyable but will also give the cadets the chance to learn new personal and social skills, and also obtain a BTEC qualification.

Christine Sharma, who will oversee the scheme, said: “The programme, which is linked to the National Fire Cadet model, will be delivered by firefighters and volunteers and will last for 38 weeks within the academic year of 2017/18. Drills will take place one evening a week at a local fire station and will involve practical and theory elements along with community based social action projects.”

The course is designed to be fun, but it also challenges and develops the participants by getting them to:

- Work co-operatively within a team environment;
- Gain self-esteem and self-confidence, and improve communication skills;
- Adopt a new set of personal values;
- Understand the importance of safety issues and the consequences of anti-social behaviour; and
- See the advantages of improving their learning and performance.

Benefits to the participants include:

- Team building skills
- Portfolio of achievements
- BTEC accreditation
- Increased fire and safety awareness
- Development of practical skills
- Community awareness
- Increased levels of fitness

Chimney Fires

As autumn and Winter approaches our focus moves to Chimney Fires. Westbury Fire Station attended 4 of these incidents in 2016.

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 wood burning 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.

Fireworks

Moving into November we turn our attention to the safe use of Fireworks. If you're putting on a home display, you should follow some simple steps to make sure that everyone has a good time without getting hurt:

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary.
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.



UK law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places. You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for: Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am.

Pinpoint

'Safe and Well' and 'Health and Well-Being'

The Service is looking to work with the Group to supply information on vulnerable households through our software programme '**Pinpoint**'. This will identify the high risk premises, within the Westbury Community Area, and allow both the Service and local groups to engage in joint working and information sharing in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Safe and Well Visits- Home safety

The Westbury area has a dedicated Fire Service '**Safe and Well**' advisor who can visit people, within their own homes, advising on home safety and wellbeing.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts about one hour covering topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support the occupier may need

If you have thatch property, are living alone, have a young family, are over 65 or a smoker please get in contact with us. We want to help make you safer in your own home. If you or someone you know has mobility or sight and hearing impairments, please suggest a Safe and Well visit.

Visit <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/news/new-name-new-contact-details-same-service/> to book one.

Response

Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Westbury Area; 01/07/17 – 01/09/17.

DWFRS have responded to 27 incidents on Westbury station ground between the dates detailed above.

Westbury Fire Station Responded to a total of 33 incidents County wide in the mentioned time period. Details are listed in the table below.

Category	Incidents in Westbury	Out of Station Ground incidents	Total
False Alarm	9	2	11
Fire	9	2	11
Special Service	9	2	11
Total	27	6	33
Pump Availability	1st Pump 71.3%		

Recent Notable Incidents

There were no incidents that attracted a larger than standard response from DWFRS within Westbury's station ground

Community Engagement

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service provides a free service called a Safe and Well visit. We will visit a person's home by appointment and discuss any safety issues in the home. We will also have a conversation about improving an individual's health and well-being.

If you or someone you know need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what to do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit;

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2016 – 2020 outlines our plans for the future. It explains the diverse services we provide and how we plan to improve and deliver them over the four-year period. The plan can be found on the DWFRS website <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

On-Call Recruitment

Westbury Fire Station is staffed by a compliment of part time “On-Call” Fire fighters.

To maintain the availability of the Fire engine at the station we are recruiting for On-Call Fire fighters. We are particularly interested in people who could provide availability on week days and at weekends. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please visit our website (check the link below) or contact our HR team on 01722 691444.

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/>

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