



Westbury Community Area Board Report, 1st February 2018

A resolution worth keeping: test your smoke alarms every month

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is asking local people to make monthly testing of their smoke alarms one of their New Year's resolutions.

Many of us see January as an opportunity for a fresh start, and safety should be top of the list. As such, the Service is encouraging everyone to make sure they have enough smoke alarms in the home and that they work - it only takes a few seconds and can save lives.

Smoke alarms can give you the few extra seconds you need to escape in a fire. While the majority of homes across the country now have an alarm fitted, most people are not aware that the average alarm has a lifespan of just ten years and then needs replacing.

If you live in a larger property, a single smoke alarm is simply not enough, with the recommendation being at least one at every level. Last year, in nearly half of all fires in the home where the smoke alarm did not give a warning, the reason was that the alarm was not close enough to detect the fire. Missing or flat batteries were another major cause.

To keep your alarms in working order:

- Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms by pushing the button every month.
- Check that your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- Fit smoke alarms on landings and hallways and near bedrooms as a minimum; if you have rooms with a specific fire risk, such as open fires, heaters or lots of electrical chargers, install here as well.
- Take a moment to check on your loved ones who may need help to ensure they're fully protected.

Safe & Well Manager Vikki Thomas said: "At this time of year, many people will be thinking of what they can do – big or small – to make a fresh start and improve their lives, homes and wellbeing. Smoke alarms can offer vital protection for you and your loved ones, but most people simply fit and forget – they don't know if the unit might be coming to the end of its lifespan or not working at all.

"For most of us, there is nothing more important than keeping our loved ones safe and secure. So, if your alarm is getting past its best or your top floor is missing an alarm of its own, make your New Year's resolution to fit new ones, test them on the first of every month and protect your loved ones in 2018."

For more information on maintaining fire safety in your home, visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-at-home



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Are we getting through?



Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has launched an awareness campaign across its area, targeting poor or inconsiderate parking.

The Service is asking all drivers “Are we getting through?” as, when responding to a 999 call, every second that the emergency services are delayed could have serious, life-threatening consequences.

The smallest fire engine needs a minimum of three metres, or the width of two cars, to pass safely. If you called for help, you would want to know firefighters could get through.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jim Mahoney said: “Inconsiderate and dangerous parking has long been an issue across the Service and, as more households have more than one car, the problem will only grow. If we can’t get to a fire or an accident because we can’t get our fire engines through, it greatly restricts our effectiveness. I’m asking everybody to think before they park; yes, it may be less convenient for you at the time, but what if it was your house or your loved one we needed to get to? You would want to know that we are getting through.”

One particular area of concern is parking on roads near schools, as these are often difficult to pass through safely, especially when cars are dropping off or picking up children. Drivers may not be parking illegally, but the Service is urging everyone to see whether a smarter option, maybe a bit further away, is available.

Poor or inconsiderate parking can also affect high streets and the roads by fire stations. On-call firefighters have to be at their station within five minutes of their pagers going off, so any delay in arriving has a negative effect on the emergency response.

The Service is therefore asking drivers to think before they park, with the following advice to drivers to help keep narrow streets clear:

- When parked, pull in your wing mirrors (don’t forget to flip them out before driving off).
- Don’t park too close to corners – fire engines are larger than cars and need more room to turn.
- If you’re parking opposite someone, remember that a fire engine needs three metres, or two car widths, to pass safely.
- Make sure your wheels are straight and are not sticking out.
- Park as close to the kerb as you can.

- Always follow the Highway Code and obey road markings such as yellow lines and box junctions.
- In narrow streets, only park on one side of the road where possible.
- Make sure you leave enough space for pedestrians on the pavement.
- Don't block driveways.

For more information about the challenges caused by poor or inconsiderate parking, please visit www.dwfire.org.uk/education/road-safety-education/are-we-getting-through

Response

Incidents

November 2017

DW FRS were called to 14 incidents in the Westbury area.

Category	Westbury (44P1)
False Alarm	1
Fire	2
Special Service	6
Total	9

December 2017

DW FRS were called to 15 incidents in the Westbury area.

Category	Westbury (44P1)
False Alarm	6
Fire	1
Special Service	2
Total	9

Availability of RDS appliance %

November 2017	Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
% Available	KT44P1 Westbury	63.6%	80.0%	71.8%

December 2017	Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
% Available	KT44P1 Westbury	56.5%	59.7%	58.1%

On-Call Recruitment

The “Difficult Hours” for On Call cover tend to be 0700 to 1800hrs weekdays, and weekends from 1800hrs Friday until 1800 hours Sunday.

Community Engagement Work

Jon MacDonald is the Safe and Well Advisor that covers the Westbury area. Please contact him, Jon.MacDonald@dwfire.org.uk, to arrange for a to talk to your group or an individual visit.

A Safe and Well visit is available and is **FREE** and normally last 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 you may need if necessary

If you own/occupy a 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.

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