



Westbury Area Board 13th December



Thatch Properties

The counties of Dorset and Wiltshire have thousands of thatched homes – although there is no increased risk of fire within thatched properties, the impact of a fire is far greater.

Thatch fires are typically attended by in excess of 50 firefighters, at least eight appliances and often for over 24 hours. The National Society of Master Thatcher's estimate that the average cost of a thatch fire is in excess of £45,000.

Your maintenance checklist

- Is a working smoke alarm fitted on every level of your home?
- Do you test your smoke alarm works once a week?
- Have you regularly inspected your chimney or paid someone to inspect it for you?
- Do you only burn seasoned wood?
- Do you check all tradespeople are registered engineers and are aware of potential fire risks?
- Do you regularly sweep your chimney?
- Do you use fireguards with open fires?
- Is a bird guard fitted to prevent nests blocking your flue?
- Have you had problems with pest control in your thatch?

Driving in adverse conditions



The best way to be safe in extremely bad weather is to avoid driving at all. However, that's not always possible. In addition, bad weather can be unpredictable and it's common to get caught out while on the road.

These basic safe driving principles apply in all adverse conditions:

- Slow right down – if visibility is poor or the road is wet or icy, it will take you longer to react to hazards and your speed should be reduced accordingly. If you have a temperature gauge in your vehicle that is showing zero degrees or below, then presume that the roads will be icy.
- Maintain a safe gap behind the vehicle in front – stopping distances are double in the wet and ten times greater in icy weather. The gap between you and the vehicle in front is your braking space in a crisis.
- Look out for vulnerable road users – be aware that people on foot, bicycles, motorbikes and horses are harder to spot in adverse weather and in the dark. Drive as though someone could step out in front of you at any time.
- Look out for signs warning of adverse conditions – including fixed signs, such as those warning of exposure to high winds, and variable message signs on motorways that warn of fog, snow and which may display temporary slower speed limits.
- Stay in control – avoid harsh braking and acceleration, and carry out manoeuvres slowly and with extra care.
- Use lights – put lights on in gloomy weather or when visibility is reduced. Only use front and rear fog lights in dense fog.
- Listen to travel news on local radio so you know where problem areas are.

What to do in a road traffic collision



Many people are unsure of what to do when they are involved in a road traffic collision. Here are the essential details to remember should you experience a road traffic collision.

If you are involved in a crash or stop to give assistance

- Use your hazard lights to warn other drivers.
- Ask drivers to switch off their engines and stop smoking.
- Arrange for the emergency services to be called immediately with full details of incident location and casualties (see below on how to identify your location on a motorway).
- Move uninjured people away from vehicles to safety. On a motorway, this should, if possible, be well away from traffic, the hard shoulder and the central reservation.
- Do not move injured people from their vehicles unless they are in immediate danger from fire or explosion.
- Never remove a motorcyclist's helmet unless it is essential to do so.
- Be prepared to give first aid if possible.
- Stay at the scene until the emergency services arrive.
- When calling the emergency services, **R.E.A.C.T.**

R Ring 999

E Exact location

A All vehicles involved

C Casualty numbers

T Anybody trapped





Your local station is recruiting

On-call (retained) firefighters are ordinary people doing extraordinary work – they are men and women who may have other jobs or responsibilities as well as their vital role with the Fire & Rescue Service.

On-call firefighters are part-time staff who make themselves available for emergency call-outs depending on their other commitments. They are usually contracted for between 48 and 120 hours per week, but this can vary. Between them, each fire station team will provide cover for weekdays, evenings, nights and weekends.

How many firefighters are on-call?

Some 60% of firefighters in Dorset and Wiltshire work on an on-call basis, making them hugely important to both the Service and the communities that they serve. Of our 50 stations, the majority are crewed only by on-call firefighters and on-call staff work alongside their wholetime colleagues at many of our other stations.

Who can be an on-call firefighter?

Our on-call staff come from all walks of life: they may be employed, self-employed, parents at home or students. Some work in building or allied trades, whilst others are shop assistants, farmers, typists, factory workers or managers.

What they all have in common is self-reliance, confidence, respect, enthusiasm, team spirit and a willingness to be ready for anything when they are alerted to an emergency.

On-call and wholetime firefighters are expected to meet the same entry standards and they receive the same training and development to enable them to work to common standards.

Who can apply?

You can find out more about the role and current vacancies through these pages, but key requirements for applicants are:

- You must be at least 18 years old when you join us (you can apply once you are 17½)
- You must be able to respond and attend the fire station within five minutes (this can vary slightly dependant on location)
- You must have a good standard of physical fitness
- You must have the right to work in the UK



If you are unsure if you can apply, please contact our HR team on 01722 691444 or email recruitment@dwfire.org.uk

Response

Incidents

October 2018

| Category | Westbury |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| False alarm's | 5 |
| Fire's | 6 |
| Special Service's | 2 |
| Total | 13 |

November 2018

| Category | Westbury |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| False alarm's | 4 |
| Fire's | 0 |
| Special service's | 3 |
| Total | 7 |

Community Safety Plan DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2017-2021

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/>

James Plumley

Station Manager, Warminster, Tisbury, Mere and Westbury

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Telephone: 01722 691 743

Mob. 07825 927 829

Email: james.plumley@dwfire.org.uk

Web: www.dwfire.org.uk