



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WESTBURY AREA BOARD REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;
<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

Prevention

We are committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. Our aim is to reduce the level of risk and harm to our communities from fire, targeting those most at risk. We do this primarily through our Safe and Well visits.

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

Are you or anyone you know:-

- Over the age of 65?
- Need a smoke detector?
- Have a long-term health condition?
- Suffer from poor hearing or sight loss?
- Would you struggle to escape in the event of a fire?

If you can answer yes to more than one of these questions, then please call us on 0800 038 2323 or visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



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FIRE AND RESCUE**

Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

On Call Recruitment

Have you always wondered if you could join the fire service, but haven't had the opportunity to find out more? Have you found yourself seeking your next challenge, keen to give back to the local community or wanting to learn new skills including leadership and teamwork? Then becoming an on-call firefighter is for you.

As a paid position, on-call firefighters commit anywhere between 40 to 120 hours per week, during which time they must be able to respond to the station immediately.

Many have 'normal' jobs during the day, then upon their return home make themselves available overnight or during the weekends. Some of our crew respond from their workplaces during the day, and we are very grateful to their employers for releasing them to perform their vital duties.

Anyone over 18 years old can apply (although you can also apply once you are 17½) you must be able to respond and attend the fire station within 5-8 minutes, you have a good standard of physical fitness (i.e. you are generally active), and you must have the right to work in the UK.

Further information on becoming an On Call Firefighter can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/ or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.



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Recent News & Events

Businesses urged not to overlook fire safety by National Fire Chiefs Council

Businesses across the UK which have had to make changes due to COVID-19 are being urged to make sure fire safety remains a top priority.

The call comes from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) as many have had to implement new ways of working due to the current pandemic. The NFCC is reminding businesses about the everyday fire risks in the workplace – and there is both a legal and moral responsibility to ensure premises are safe from fire.

Many businesses had to respond quickly to the pandemic once they were allowed to reopen and while revisiting risk assessments, fire safety may not have been at the forefront of planning.

As part of NFCC's Business Safety Week – which runs from 7th- 13th September – Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service are encouraging business owners and Responsible Persons (RPs) to ensure they review Fire Risk Assessments. They should also seek guidance and advice to help them keep their premises and occupants safe from fire.

Businesses must consider the potential risks that the COVID secure measures – which are required to open some premises – may in some cases, compromise fire safety measures:

- New screens must not obstruct smoke detection or sprinkler heads
- Business must have enough trained staff to support evacuation procedures
- Ensure measures to support social distancing do not impact evacuation procedures, exit doors or the ability of emergency service to help you
- Protect your business from arson
- Help your fire service by reducing false alarms – which currently accounts for about 40% of all emergency calls

Group Manager Tim Gray, said: “The last few months have undoubtedly been difficult and challenging for many people and businesses. As such, we want to make sure that whilst businesses address the changes needed in response to Covid-19, they remain fire safe in doing so. Fire can have a devastating impact on businesses, with many never recovering after an incident.”

He added: “We are encouraging businesses to firstly review their Fire Risk Assessments, and to contact us for advice should they need any support. Our goal is to keep all businesses working safely.”

The campaign can be followed on social media using the #BusinessSafety2020. Additional advice from Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service can be found at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/business-fire-safety/>



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FIRE AND RESCUE

New digital approach for Safe Drive Stay Alive

SAFE DRIVE STAY ALIVE



How are we delivering one of our most important education schemes in the 'new normal'? Road safety manager Christine Sharma reports: With the new academic year came the challenge of delivering our flagship educational roadshow Safe Drive Stay Alive. As we are still unable to deliver our shows in schools, we considered how we could ensure this next cohort didn't miss out on this life-changing education.

When we first entered lockdown, we realised Covid 19 would affect delivery for some time. We therefore considered using Microsoft Teams to run live shows, asking our speakers to deliver their accounts in real time. Whilst this would have mimicked the usual presentation, internet connectivity and technical expertise were factors that would be out of our control – so we decided against it. We were also concerned that a digital show would not be as impactful as a live performance, where you can feel the emotion of the speakers in the room. After we wrote our nationally acclaimed road safety education modules, we realised that 'business as usual' was still some time away, so we returned to our initial idea.

We chose to use prerecorded talking heads instead of live speakers to avoid the issue with connectivity. We also considered ways that we could make the presentation more impactful digitally to compensate for not having live speakers. We have therefore created some bespoke media and used some existing public media to create a powerful digital show. Over the past few weeks, we have conducted several trials with our road safety partners, our sponsors and you, our supportive colleagues. The feedback has been phenomenal - we are still refining the show, and we are ready to begin delivery with schools.

Around a dozen schools have already booked their time slots and they've only been back a few days! In addition, the Ministry of Defence loved our show so much, they want us to deliver our military equivalent, Survive the Drive, in the same way.

Looking ahead, we envisage shorter, interactive lessons to be delivered in schools before or after the show as part of a suite of education and part of the PSHE programme. For behaviour change to happen, more regular intervention is necessary, so we're currently undertaking some research - we hope to have an update for you soon.

Face fit testing... what is it?



Since the start of Covid 19, a team of HSE accredited face fit testers have been carrying out qualitative face fit testing in both Dorset and Wiltshire as part of the tri-services agreement. The team included Service personnel from Prevention and Protection - Gareth Baker, Natasha Campbell-Bell, Martyn Jones, Gaynor Mant, Steve Mant, and previously Simon Carter, Kim Armstrong and Josh Williams. To date, the team has completed over 800 tests on staff from various agencies including paramedics; ambulance staff; doctors, nurses and practitioners from doctors' surgeries; care staff looking after the old, young and vulnerable; and even our own DWFRS personnel. Risk assessments had to be carried out at all 13 different premise locations - including care homes, a hospice and ambulance stations - before any testing was able to take place.

Facemasks are worn in various categories of medical intervention requiring a protection level of FFP3. These include Aerosol Generated Procedures such as CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure), minor surgical procedures to any part of the body above the clavicle, and general treatments to patients suspected of having Covid 19 infection. The FFP3 facemask provides the highest level of protection from a disposable facemask and is a two-way barrier to protect both wearer and patient. If the mask does not seal sufficiently on the face, both the wearer and patient will be at risk.

During the months of testing, the team have met, tested and made safer some incredibly selfless and caring people who have been so appreciative of our work, which we have found so humbling and rewarding. If you would like to find out any further information about face fit testing, please don't hesitate to talk to one of the team.





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Demand

Total Fire Calls for Westbury Fire Station for period September 2020

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	5
No. of Fires	7
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	4
Total	16

**Richard Humphrey
Station Manager**

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