



**Wiltshire
Fire & Rescue
Service**

Briefing report for Bradford on Avon; Trowbridge and Westbury 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.wiltfire.gov.uk or contact the following people:

	<u>Manager / Department</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>email</u>
Operational matters	Station Manager – Andy GREEN Trowbridge, Bradford-on_Avon, Westbury Station Hub		andy.green@wiltfire.gov.uk
Partnership and community engagement issues	Michael Franklin (Wiltshire Council Area)	07919 306037	mike.franklin@wiltfire.gov.uk
Home fire safety visits and for talks and visits	Community safety department	0800 389 7849	www.wiltfire.gov.uk and then complete the on line request

During November and December the following activity was carried out across the three Area Boards by fire fighters.

Trowbridge.

There were 82 calls for assistance including 7 into neighbouring counties.

At Hilperton there was a significant canal boat fire resulting in a fatality.

Crews attended 3 fatal Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) in support crews from Westbury; Salisbury and Frome.

An adult male was rescued from a river in Frome by the Trowbridge swift water rescue team. Firefighters also rescued the driver of an Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) that had collided with the Rising Sun Public House in North Bradley. The damaged building also made safe.

The Wilts FRS's new Heavy Rescue Vehicle is now operational and is based at Trowbridge fire station. It will attend serious incidents involving heavy transport, LGV and Buses for example; it may also attend any trench/building collapse incidents. It is the only vehicle of its type within the county.

Trowbridge crews will be getting on their pedal cycles delivering safety advice to boat dwellers on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Anyone needing boat safety advice can contact the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service via our web site www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Bradford on Avon

There were no significant fires or Road Traffic Collisions.

Crews responded to 37 calls including 3 into neighbouring counties and 9 co-responder calls in support of the Ambulance Service.

Firefighters attended a serious flood caused by a faulty pipe connection at Rope Walk on Christmas Eve, over 30 properties lost mains water. The situation was promptly resolved with the attending crew working with residents and the water authority.

A new firefighter has joined the team having successfully completed his initial training at our Training and Development Centre in Devizes.

Westbury

During the reporting period crews attended 17 calls including 1 into a neighbouring county.

There was 1 serious Road Traffic Collision (RTC) resulting in 3 fatalities.

Two potential new firefighters are due to be interviewed in the New Year.

Station Manager Andy GREEN
Trowbridge Fire Station

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

