

## Warminster Community Area Board Report, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

### 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](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/road-safety-education/are-we-getting-through)

## Response

### Incidents

#### December 2017

DW FRS were called to 24 incidents in the Warminster area.

Category	Warminster 45P1
False Alarm	11
Fire	7
Special Service	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

#### January 2018

DW FRS were called to 18 incidents in the Warminster area.

Category	Warminster 45P1
False Alarm	6
Fire	4
Special Service	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

## Availability of RDS appliances

December 2017	Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
% Available	KT45P1 Warminster	99.7%	100.0%	<b>99.9%</b>
% Available	KT45P2 Warminster	47.3%	65.3%	<b>56.3%</b>

January 2018	Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
% Available	KT45P1 Warminster	100.0%	100.0%	<b>100.0%</b>
% Available	KT45P2 Warminster	64.9%	84.6%	<b>74.5%</b>

## 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.

## Incidents of Note

18/12/17 – Three appliances from Warminster, Westbury and Trowbridge attended a fire in a property in Southleigh View, Warminster, which mainly affected the ground floor. A female occupant and dog were rescued by DW FRS, both were treated for smoke inhalation but had no significant injuries.

## Community Engagement Work

Jon MacDonald is the Safe and Well Advisor that covers the Warminster area. Please contact him, [Jon.MacDonald@dwfire.org.uk](mailto: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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