

## South East Wiltshire Managers report for May 2019

### Thatched Property Fires



This has been a busy 1<sup>st</sup> quarter so far for the Service again seeing us attend a significant number of fires in thatched properties with 4 more properties being severely affected by fire since our last report. This type of fire can have a significant impact on the Service requiring in excess of 20 vehicle movements and 80 personnel for each incident. Through the Network Fire Shared Partnership where we work closely with our neighbouring services, we are able to minimise the impact to our day to day work.

The National Society of Master Thatcher's estimate that the average cost of a thatch fire is in excess of £45,000 to the home owner.

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 and can affect those whom live in the community.

A range of fire prevention tips can be found in our free downloadable advice leaflet, [Your Thatched Home](#).

There is also a useful downloadable leaflet from the [Thatch Advice Centre](#).

Further advice can also be found on the [National Society of Master Thatchers website](#).

## On-Call – Recruitment



DWFRS needs new On-call Firefighters to provide fire cover at most of our locations across Dorset & Wiltshire. Contracted hours can vary, but On-call personnel usually make themselves available for between 90 and 120 hours per week, although we understand that some people can only give a limited amount of hours due to where they work and these can be discussed with the Manager in charge of the station upon enquiry. Our appliances at the On-call stations are crewed solely by those who live and work in the community and

without the support and dedication of those individuals these vehicles would not be available to attend incidents.

In order to become an On-call Firefighter, you will need to be able to respond to the fire station in around five minutes once your pager goes off. This can be from home or work, and employers can benefit from a firefighter's training – such as first aid, manual handling, a greater understanding of health & safety in the workplace, and enhanced team spirit.

If you are interested in joining our team, you can either visit [www.dwfire.org.uk/be-one-of-us](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/be-one-of-us) or pop into your local On-call station. Both Amesbury and Wilton train on a Wednesday evening and Salisbury on a Monday. They will be at the stations from approximately 7pm onwards for 2 hours.

## Safe & Well Visits



**A Safer  
Home** 

We continue to provide a totally free service and are looking for opportunities from our partners to help us plan visits to our most vulnerable people within our community

In addition to fitting smoke detectors we now offer heat detectors, all of which are free. This will be done whilst giving valuable advice to occupants on how to make them and their family safer and healthier in the home. The appointment normally lasts about one hour and covers 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

A selection of free leaflets containing useful information on Safety in and around the home can be found on our Website below:

### **How to register for a S&W Visit**

**To request a free Safe and Well Visit, please call 0800 038 2323 or alternatively you can enter your postcode below and follow the instructions to see if you match our criteria for a Safe and Well Visit.**

**Visit** <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/> to book a visit, leaflet advice and watch a short video that introduces Safe and Well visits.

## **Community Engagement**



Salisbury Fire Station continues to proactively use our Pinpoint programme or our Community Map which allows us to see the risks to our community geographically and therefore target specific properties for High Risk Safe and Well (S&W) visits. Following incidents at

domestic properties any possible concerns that we may have are discussed with the occupier and a S&W visit arranged or referred through the Safe-Guarding process. This is covered in the Salisbury, Amesbury and Wilton areas by dedicated Safe & Well advisors who will attend a home at the request of the owner or carer. Visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/> for more information.

We can also arrange visits to our fire stations or one of our safety centres. For more information or to make a booking for your school or pre-school, please visit our webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/school-visits/> or email [enquiries@dwfire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dwfire.org.uk)

### **Community Safety Plan**

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

## **Response**



We have responded to a large number of calls in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year and this mirrors the national trend even though there is a large amount of time invested in reducing the number of calls we deal with through education and S&W visits.

Crews from all three local stations attended a significant and challenging fire near Shaftesbury recently when 3 tonnes of magnesium and other chemicals caught fire. Unfortunately due to the nature of the fire the premises and a number of small units were totally destroyed in the fire. The magnesium fire could be seen for many miles away as it light up the night sky with flashes of brilliant white. While an exclusion zone was put in place, fortunately this had a limited impact on the public as the fire was a few miles away from residential areas.

We have also attended a number agricultural fires which although can be resource intensive also have a major impact on the farming community who have to deal with the rebuild of a barn as well as trying to source feed for their animals.

**Total Fire Calls:**

**March**

Category	Incidents Salisbury	Incidents Wilton	Incidents Amesbury
False Alarm			
Fire			
Special Service			
Other			
<b>Total</b>			

**Data currently unavailable**

**April**

Category	Incidents Salisbury	Incidents Wilton	Incidents Amesbury
False Alarm			
Fire			
Special Service			
Other			
<b>Total</b>			

**Data currently unavailable**



**Points of Interest for Salisbury, Wilton & Amesbury Stations**

- The works for a Command Training Suite at Salisbury has now been completed and our crews and operational managers are now utilising this suite to upskill themselves and can also be assessed for competence. This suite see's a significant investment into the safety of our personnel by allowing incidents to be dealt with in a state-of-the-art without putting them in harm's way.



- Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) progress update - This new appliance has seen a number of setbacks, but it is anticipated training will fully commence on the vehicle in the coming weeks and will soon be operational in the Salisbury Area.



- Crews in Salisbury are well into the training phase of water rescue and by the end of June will see this part of the combined Animal and Water Technical Rescue go live. The animal rescue training will take place later in the year which will give an enhanced capability in dealing with such incidents over and above of what our standard crews are able to achieve.





**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**



This June will see Salisbury host the National Armed Forces Day Event with the Fire Service being a proud supporter of this weekend. We are heavily involved with our partners working to ensure that this event runs as smoothly and as safely as possible. We are taking part in the main parade through the city streets on Saturday morning as well as having a fire engine and static displays at Hudson's Field for the 3 days.

Tickets are free for this event and can be bid for on the Wiltshire Council Web site: <http://wiltshire.gov.uk/salisbury-afd>



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