

South West Wiltshire Area Board Report – August and September 2019

Are you Safe & Well?



With a rural county such as Wiltshire with its rolling hills to the South of Wilton and Salisbury to the Plains north of Amesbury, it certainly does its fair share to attract more and more people to come and live in the area. However, being a rural county and with no major truck roads to service some of our towns and villages, as a Fire & Rescue Service trying to get to the more remote areas in an emergency can take us up to 15 or even 20 minutes to get to. Due to the travel times for our fire appliances we need to ensure that we can do as much as we can to ensure that our communities which we serve are a fully protected from fire as possible.

Having a fully serviced and working smoke alarm can give an occupier the early warning they need of a fire in the home and can give the valuable seconds needed to get out to a place of safety. Ask yourself, when did I last check my smoke alarm? Am I checking them at least once a week and cleaning it with the end of a Hoover regularly to prevent dust build up? Are they in the right place and do I have the correct number?



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

Do you have enough smoke alarms?



Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home to make sure smoke can reach them quickly in a fire.

#FireKills



Our dedicated team of Safe & Well advisors can (at request) come to your home and discuss with you and your family just what you need to do with a smoke alarm to maintain it and how to preplant for a fire within the home. But that is not all the advisors can advise on, they can also give information relating to healthier living and life style changes, they can assist in getting help from organisations such as Age Concern for our older relatives, arrange mental health support for those who require it and can also deal with Safeguarding issues which can bring together our partner agencies within the NHS, Council, Police and volunteer services.

Do you look in on your older relatives and neighbours on a regular basis and do you know if they are protected from fire with working smoke alarms, do they have a safe and serviceable heater to keep them warm in the winter and are they eating enough?

If your answer to these is NO, then all these concerns can be addressed by our Safe & Well teams BUT, we do need to be made aware of these concerns to be able to do something about them. By you contacting Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service through our website or using our phone messaging service and leaving some basic contact details, we can arrange a visit and give some practical advice to the occupier.

We can provide (to those who fall into our required categories) free smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide detectors.

DO YOU KNOW A CHARLIE

More than 6.5 million people in the UK are currently caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is older, disabled or seriously ill. Yet many people don't identify themselves as carers, they simply see themselves as spouses, partners, parents, children or friends.

To be a CHARLIE, a person needs to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- **Care and support needs**
- **Hoarding and/or mental health issues**
- **Alcohol and medication use**
- **Reduced mobility**
- **Lives alone**
- **Inappropriate smoking**
- **Elderly – 65+**

It only takes a few minutes to email or call us but can save a lifetime of heart ache for those who suffer in silence in the summer and winter months or do not have the correct equipment to alert them to a fire in their home or to the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Contact us on:

Email: <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

Phone: **0800 038 2323**

Wildfires & bonfires, Summer's not gone yet!!



Wildfires are not just confined to the warmer climates of America and Southern Europe. In the UK we have had our fair share of wildfires that have started by out of control bonfires or unattended Barbeques and the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire are no exception to these incidents.

This type of fire can get out of hand very quickly and they can generate their own winds which increases the speed, height and length of the fire making it even more difficult for fire crews to tackle, not to mention the difficulty faced by crews in trying to get water onto the fire when it is in the middle of heathland or a field.

Here are some key wildfire messages from South East England Wildfire group to use during the warmer times.

- Extinguish cigarettes properly, don't throw cigarette ends on the ground or out of car windows – take your litter home.
- Avoid open fires in the countryside. Always have them in safe designated areas.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately to the Fire & Rescue Service. Early detection can prevent it from developing into a large wildfire incident.
- When calling the Fire and Rescue Service:
 - Get to a safe place,
 - Note the fires locations,
 - Call 999,
 - Meet the Fire and Rescue Service at the entrance.
- Don't attempt to tackle fires that can't be put out with a bucket of water – leave the area as quickly as possible.

If you must have an open fire:

- Only use barbeques in suitable and safe areas; never leave them unattended.
- Never use petrol, it can ignite quickly and soon get out of control. Only use approved lighting fuels.
- Make sure it is downwind and at least 10 metres away from any buildings or structures.
- Clear dry vegetation, such as leaves, to form a circle of earth around the fire.
- Never leave fires unattended and make sure they are fully extinguished after use.
- If you have to burn vegetation or have a bonfire, please contact Fire Control on [0306 799 0019] first.
- During this period it is advised not to undertake controlled or prescribed burning.

Hoarding



We all keep things we don't really need. Some of us have more possessions than we have storage for. But hoarding is a complex issue that goes far beyond untidiness or indecisiveness.

Hoarders can fill entire rooms from floor to ceiling, leaving themselves the minimum space in which to live. This retention of property presents a real fire risk and makes it far harder for firefighters to be able to tackle any blaze.

The Fire and Rescue Service can't solve the problem of hoarding; however, where we know there is an issue, we can work with other agencies to try and reduce the risk of fire.

Evidence from across the country shows that:

- In 90% of all residential fires, the fire itself is contained to the room where it started. However, that figure drops to 40% where there is hoarding – as this additional material fuels the fire and makes it spread more quickly.
- When there is a fire in a hoarder's home, there is a far greater risk that the individual and/or family members will find it difficult or impossible to escape.
- Common materials kept by hoarders include newspapers, magazines, books and soft furnishings – all of which are highly combustible.
- The presence of vast amounts of hoarded material creates a risk to firefighters, both in getting to the fire and through increased heat and smoke.

By offering Safe and Well visits, and installing smoke alarms, we can work with hoarders to try and make their homes more fire safe. If they want help in dealing with their hoarding compulsion, then we can refer them to other agencies for that support. However, we know that not every hoarder is ready to take that step and we want to ensure that they are as fire safe as possible, whatever the circumstances of their home.

Again we can assist in this area using our Safe & Well contact details as above.

Recruitment





As a predominately rural service, we are very reliant on those who live and work in the local community to support us by becoming an 'On Call Firefighter'. Some of our local stations often struggle to provide a fire appliance during the day due to lack of numbers at the station or who can provide us cover during working daytime hours.

Are you or do you know someone who lives or works within 5 minutes of your local fire station and would want to become an On-Call firefighter? Are you an employer that is willing to release a member of your staff to join us? Then please contact us now.

We will provide full training which includes firefighting skills, first aid, driving skills for Cat C vehicles (if required) and fire prevention and protection skills. All these skills that we provide can assist in an individual's normal workplace making that a safer environment within which to work. We provide all the uniform and fire kit and can help with travelling so there should be no expense to an individual once they manage to get in.

Payment / salary is based on the number of hours an individual can provide us and we provide holiday leave entitlement and a pension.

Our appliances and stations are based in the community and we need you as the community to staff them

Contact us on our recruitment hotline on 01722 691444 or email recruitment@dwfire.org.uk or pop into any one of our stations to find out more.

Getting the right location



What3words is a fairly new mobile phone app that has been adopted by many emergency services of England and Wales with Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service being one of these services. We travel through many areas on foot, in the car or by cycle. If we were to have or come across an accident not many of us would really know where we were.

When you open the app, it uses GPS to identify your location enabling you to zoom in on the map, once you have a close location you will be given 3 specific words. Provided you have the app, when asked by a member of the emergency services control room staff to give them the 3 words, they can use these to pinpoint your exact location enabling the emergency's services to find you quicker.

The app has already proved its worth locally when a parachutist got into difficulty and landed in some trees near to Great Bedwyn. By using the app, the parachutist was able to give the



Fire Service his 3 words from the app and our control room staff were quickly able to dispatch crews to a confirmed location, even some 40 foot up a tree!!

You can download the App via the Apple or the Android stores.

Response

Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Tisbury Mere & Wilton: DWFRS have responded to a number of incidents in since 1st July and the table below shows the full number of incident related vehicle movements undertaken by each station up to and including the 30th August.

There have been no incidents of note that require reporting upon during this time.

Tisbury

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	3
No. of Fires	2
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	2
Total	7

Mere

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	3
No. of Fires	4
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	13
Total	20

Wilton

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	10
No. of Fires	7
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	12
Total	29



Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2018-2022 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/>

Richard Humphrey

District Commander, South West Wiltshire. (Westbury, Warminster, Tisbury & Mere)

Email: richard.humphrey@dwfire.org.uk

Tel: 07850299990/01722 691271

www.dwfire.org.uk