



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WESTBURY AREA BOARD REPORT

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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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**.



Recent News & Events

Service supports National Road Safety Week

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is working in partnership with several other organisations to support National Road Safety Week, which is running between 16 and 22 November.

The Service is actively involved in both the Wiltshire & Swindon Road Safety Partnership and Dorset Road Safe, and leads on the delivery of the Safe Drive Stay Alive and Survive the Drive roadshows.

The first round of Covid 19 restrictions saw an increase in speed nationally. The Road Safety Team at DWFRS attribute this to a number of factors including quieter roads and stressed drivers. Anticipating a repeat of this trend throughout the second lockdown, the team are asking everyone to embrace Brake's 2020 Road Safety Week theme of "No need to speed." This is even more vital now that the seasons have changed, the roads are wet and sometimes icy, and the daylight hours are much shorter.

The Safe Drive team will be running three Survive the Drive roadshows during the week for military audiences across the country, as well as hosting a virtual event aimed at businesses interested in commissioning a Safe Drive event for their staff. The corporate preview will be held on 19 November and details of how to book can be found here: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/road-safety-week/>

Road Safety Manager Christine Sharma said: "Alongside our partners, we always take an active part in Brake's Road Safety Week. This year's theme is 'No need to speed'".

"Someone is injured on a UK road every four minutes, and vehicle speed plays a part in every collision. We're asking everyone to think before they hit the road and help us spread this life-saving message. Everyone has a responsibility for road safety, whether they are a driver or a passenger, and our education programmes are designed to bring that home as effectively as possible."

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue's Road Safety Team have had a busy year creating new ways of getting their road safety messages out, due to social distancing restrictions. This includes several interactive workbooks aimed at KS3, KS4 and KS5, and can be found at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/road-safety/road-safety-education/>

For more about the road safety charity Brake and National Road Safety Week, visit www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk

For more about the road safety work carried out by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/education/road-safety/>



New report highlights south west fire services' COVID-19 support

A new report highlights the impact of multi-agency pandemic working undertaken by fire and rescue services (FRSs) across the south west of England – including frontline assistance provided to the ambulance service and the fitting of personal protective equipment.

From the end of January, the international spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus has changed the way people live their lives, but fire and rescue services have stepped forward to support their communities and partner agencies through a nationally agreed Tripartite Agreement.

With our NHS and community care heroes facing unprecedented challenges from COVID-19 on the frontline, south west FRS chiefs are immensely proud of the contribution made by their staff across the region.

Not only have FRSs maintained a strong and resilient service to local communities and looked after their own staff affected by the coronavirus, they have also used their skills, resources and 'can-do' attitude to support the wider combined response.

Across the south west, the activities of all six fire and rescue services were carefully co-ordinated to ensure that the collective response was as effective and efficient as possible.

Staff worked together to develop consistent approaches and made sure that the health, safety and wellbeing of staff and communities was always at the top of the agenda.

Now, this new report showcases some of the work undertaken by fire and rescue services across the region to support their communities through such challenging times.

It demonstrates why fire service chiefs are so proud of every single member of their fantastic staff and how they remain ready, willing and able to step up during times of national need.

Some key highlights from the report covering the period between 24 March to 21 May, during the first national lockdown, include:

- More than 200 volunteers supported the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- 15 ambulances crewed by FRS staff
- 2.5% weekly increase in ambulance capacity
- 75 immediately life-threatening (or 'Category 1') calls attended
- More than 1,200 calls allocated to FRS-crewed ambulances
- Two babies delivered
- Nine million items of PPE delivered by FRS staff
- One non-COVID-19 major incident dealt with



Ben Ansell, Chief Fire Officer at Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: “This report highlights how my staff from across Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, Dorset, Wiltshire and Swindon supported our partners in 2020. Collaboration between our fire and rescue service and the ambulance service helped residents to get emergency medical care quickly when they needed it.”

“Many of our firefighters are highly trained emergency response drivers, accustomed to dealing with emergency situations and I know they wanted to help in any way they could during this crisis. Our staff have also worked with other partners across our Service area to provide food for those in need, face fit testing for those needing to wear masks and mortuary support roles when this was sadly needed.

This has all been in addition to our prevention, protection and emergency response roles, which saw the Service respond to, and deal with, one of the largest major incident wildfires in living memory in Wareham Forest. I am extremely grateful for the commitment and professionalism of all my staff in working in partnership to keep our communities safe.”

For the full report, visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Covid-19-Collaboration-and-Multi-Agency-Working.pdf>

Flooding



Over recent years, we have seen more and more properties affected by flooding during periods of significant rain.

Flooding can be caused by rivers and watercourses overflowing; it can also be caused by drains and culverts being unable to cope with excess surface water on the roads.



Everyone whose home is at risk of flooding should have a plan of what to do if the worst happens. The fire and rescue service can only assist if there is risk to life, or water is affecting electrics, leading to a risk of fire. Please only call 999 if these risks exist. More often than not, we can't pump water away as this will only then be displaced to other properties.

For information on Preparing for a flood, When flooding starts, Travelling in flooded areas, After the flood, Flooding and your electrics, please visit: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/flooding/>

Driving in adverse conditions



The best way to be safe in extremely bad weather is to avoid driving at all. However, that's not always possible. In addition, bad weather can be unpredictable and it's common to get caught out while on the road.

These basic safe driving principles apply in all adverse conditions:

- Slow right down – if visibility is poor or the road is wet or icy, it will take you longer to react to hazards and your speed should be reduced accordingly. If you have a temperature gauge in your vehicle that is showing zero degrees or below, then presume that the roads will be icy.
- Maintain a safe gap behind the vehicle in front – stopping distances are double in the wet and ten times greater in icy weather. The gap between you and the vehicle in front is your braking space in a crisis.
- Look out for vulnerable road users – be aware that people on foot, bicycles, motorbikes and horses are harder to spot in adverse weather and in the dark. Drive as though someone could step out in front of you at any time.
- Look out for signs warning of adverse conditions – including fixed signs, such as those warning of exposure to high winds, and variable message signs on motorways that warn of fog, snow and which may display temporary slower speed limits.
- Stay in control – avoid harsh braking and acceleration, and carry out manoeuvres slowly and with extra care.
- Use lights – put lights on in gloomy weather or when visibility is reduced. Only use front and rear fog lights in dense fog.
- Listen to travel news on local radio so you know where problem areas are.



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Total Fire Calls for Westbury Fire Station for period 1st Nov-9th Dec:-

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	8
No. of Fires	5
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	5
Total	18

Richard Humphrey Station Manager

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