



## DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

### WILTSHIRE 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/>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/) or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.



## **Recent News & Events**

Total Fire Calls for Salisbury Fire Station for period 1<sup>st</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> August

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Incidents</b>
No. of False Alarms	146
No. of Fires	157
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>394</b>

### **Heatwave and dry weather lead to increase in incidents**

July was an incredibly busy month for incidents, in no small part due to the continued hot and dry weather.

There was an increase of 182% in fires in the open over the same period last year, with 339 incidents attended compared to 120 in 2021. There was also a 30% increase in calls received by Fire Control.

For more than a week, we had resources committed to various parts of Salisbury Plain, where live firing had led to numerous fires. Due to these being mostly in the impact area, there were limits to what our crews could do safely, due to the risk of unexploded ordnance. As the flames approached the 'safe' areas, firefighters worked alongside military personnel, with approx. 800 hectares of land affected.

Due to local concerns about the smoke rising from the fires, Defence Infrastructure Organisation – which is responsible for Salisbury Plain's firing ranges – agreed to bring in helicopter support, as used at Wareham Forest in 2020. On just one day, the helicopter dropped 60,000 litres of water, provided by DWFRS resources.



## Student accommodation



#WelcomeToLifeAtUni

There are things you can do to improve your safety and security as a student, especially if you're moving into new accommodation.

Every year, around 350 18-24 year olds are injured in accidental house fires started by cigarettes, smoking materials and cooking. Therefore, you need to make sure that you're familiar with the basics of fire and gas safety, as well as home and personal security.

By taking a few sensible precautions, you can help protect yourself from injury – or worse:

- Ensure that smoke alarms are installed on every level of your home – and test them weekly.
- Never smoke in bed.
- When you finish a cigarette, put it out completely – and make sure all cigarette ends are cold before emptying ashtrays into bins.
- Don't leave electrical appliances, such as mobile phones, laptops or e-cigarette chargers, charging overnight. Never place your phone under your pillow while it is on charge.
- Be careful not to leave portable appliances such as laptops on the bed or piles of laundry, as the heat from the battery can start a fire.
- Don't leave cooking unattended, and don't cook when you have been drinking.
- Check your furniture has the fire-resistant permanent label.
- Be aware of where fire alarms are located and fire equipment is kept.
- Be careful when using candles, tea lights and incense burners, and always extinguish before you leave the room or go to bed.

For further information, whether you live in halls of residence, privately rented accommodation, or for information regarding gas and carbon monoxide safety, please visit: -

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safer-housing/student-accomodation/>



## **Before you hit the road... top tips from road safety team**



“During August, we’ll be focusing our comms on drug driving, in line with the NFCC/NPCC national roads partnership calendar,” says Chris. “Driving under the influence of drugs is becoming an increasing danger on our roads. Did you know that drugs play a factor in one in 20 fatal crashes in the UK? Here’s the team with some more information and some suggested conversation starters to help raise awareness with family and friends.”



“So in the same way various types of alcohol affects people differently, the same goes for drugs,” reminds Mandy. “We know that cannabis slows reaction times and affects concentration. Most of us are also aware that MDMA (or ecstasy) causes a surge in adrenaline, leading to over confidence and increased risk-taking. There is no single way in which either illegal or medicinal drugs affect the body. Essentially all drugs (and alcohol) impair our awareness and judgment, putting ourselves and all other road users at risk. It’s an important subject to discuss, so find out who knows what and share stories – you’ll be surprised how much people know and it could save someone’s life.”



“Exploring the consequences of drug driving is also a powerful exercise, particularly with young people,” says Hannah. “A driver may be lucky enough to complete their journey unscathed, or not cause anyone else harm, but what if they’re caught? A drug-driving conviction may incur a minimum 12 month driving ban, a criminal record, an unlimited fine, up to six months in prison, and endorsements for 11 years. Causing death by driving under the influence of drugs carries a prison sentence of up to 14 years. So have those chats! We’re pretty confident no-one wants to lose their job, have an increase in their car insurance or be restricted on where they can travel.”

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