



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Melksham Area Board Report – 7th February 2018.



The Government has launched its 'Get Ready for Winter' campaign, including advice, guidance and links for health, travel, homes, power, communications, severe weather, and flooding risk.

The site is being hosted on the Met Office website and can be found at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/barometer/advice>

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

Safe and Well Visits- Home safety

The Melksham area has a dedicated Fire Service ‘**Safe and Well**’ advisor who can visit people, within their own homes, advising on home safety and wellbeing.



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

If you have 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.

Response

Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Melksham Area; 01/11/17 – 31/12/17.

DWFRS have responded to 24 incidents in Melksham area between the dates above.

Melksham Fire Station Responded to a total of 49 calls, 17 in their own ground and 32 County wide, in the mentioned time period. Details are listed in the table below.

Category	Incidents in Melksham	Off of Station Ground incidents	Total
False Alarm	15	2	17
Fire	6	9	15
Special Service	3	21(17)	24(17)
Total	24	32	56
Appliance Availability	65%		



Recent Notable Incidents

None in Melksham area within reporting period

Station Profile

Eight on call personnel

There is one operational appliance, in total the station responded 362 times in 2017.

P1 Traditional fire engine

Community Engagement

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service provides a free service called a Safe and Well visit. We will visit a person's home by appointment and discuss any safety issues in the home. We will also have a conversation about improving an individual's health and well-being.

If you or someone you know need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what to do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit;

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

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2016-2020 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/>

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