

Melksham Area Board Report – 6th June 2018.

Arson prevention



A significant number of the fires attended by the Fire and Rescue Service every year are started deliberately.

Most are small, such as bin, rubbish or grass fires, but even these can escalate quickly and become life-threatening. On more than one occasion, someone setting fire to a bin has led to an entire building being destroyed after the blaze spread.

We work with partners, including the Police and the local authorities, to tackle arson in areas where a particular problem has been identified.

Top tips

To reduce the risk of your property being affected by arson, you should:

- Only put your wheelie bin to the front of your property on the morning of collection. Store it out of sight the rest of the time.
- Don't overfill your wheelie bin and make sure the lid will close.
- Store rubbish away from any building, while keeping it within the boundaries of your property.
- Make sure your doors, windows, gates, walls and fences are effectively secured, especially at night and if you're away from the property.
- Park vehicles in a well-lit place and off the road where possible. Always keep your car locked.

How you can help

If you know of someone who sets fires deliberately, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Bonfires and garden safety



Bonfires are very common in the summer, but they can get out of control very easily. If you want to burn off garden waste, here's some safety advice:

- Site any bonfire well away from buildings, fences, trees and garden structures.
- Have a garden hose to hand in case the fire starts to get out of control.
- Don't light a bonfire on a windy day, as it could flare up more than you expect.
- Be courteous to your neighbours – if you're planning a substantial bonfire, let them know, and stay with it at all times to ensure that it remains safe.
- If you're intending to have a large bonfire, please advise Fire Control on 0306 799 0019 or use our [on-line form](#) – we often receive emergency calls from people who can see lots of smoke, and it helps us to know where this could be a controlled burn.
- Never use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to start a bonfire.

Garden equipment

- Refill garden heaters, petrol mowers etc in the open air and don't smoke while doing so.
- Deal with any fuel spillage by allowing it to evaporate, soak into the ground, or cover with an absorbent material.
- Take care when lighting garden heaters and never move when lit. Keep away from flammable materials, such as awnings or laundry lines.
- When using candles or flares, make sure they are firmly packed into the ground.
- Keep children and pets away from naked flames and hot lanterns.
- Make sure any candles, flares and lanterns are fully extinguished when you have finished with them.

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; 22/02/18 – 21/05/18.

DWFRS have responded to 40 incidents in the Melksham area between the dates above.

Melksham Fire Station Responded to a total of 75 calls 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	13	4	17
Fire	12	12	24
Special Service/Other	3	31	34
Total	28	47	75
Pump Availability	78.9%		



Recent Notable Incidents

Four pump factory fire which was extinguished before our arrival by the onsite sprinkler system.

12 pump fire at a landfill site.

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 2017-2021 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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