

# PROTECT



## Tidworth area Board Report

July 2018

### Recruitment Campaign

Dorset & Wiltshire FRS is now started a process of whole-time recruitment. This began in November and is still on-going. Prior to this the Service has run six “have-a-go-sessions” so that under-represented groups in our community can see what it is like to be a firefighter.

Three of these have been in the Wiltshire area, Swindon, Salisbury & Trowbridge. Despite numerous campaigns in the past, female and BME groups are still under-represented in the Fire Service and we are hoping that this positive action will help destroy some of the myths about the job.

### Want to become an On-Call firefighter ? Or know someone who does?

On-call Firefighters provide a part-time service around other commitments. They let us know when they are available and respond to emergency call outs.

To find out more about the role please visit the ‘Working for us’ pages of our website or drop into the station on a Wednesday evening for a chat.

We also have opportunities for **Volunteers**. If you are interested please see the Service Web-site, contact Neil Chamberlain or speak to me. My contact details are at the end of this report.

### ‘Safe and Well’ and ‘Health and Well-Being’

The Service is keen to maintain a link between our **Safe and Well advisors** and **Health and Wellbeing** activities across the Tidworth area. I am always happy to discuss Service activities in terms of working together in this area.

The Service is looking to work with the Group to supply information on vulnerable households through our software programme ‘**Pinpoint**’. This will identify the high risk premises, within our Community Area, and allow both the Service and local groups to engage in joint working and information sharing in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

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### **Safe and Well Visits- Home safety**

The Community 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 last 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.

### **Camping and Caravanning Safety Awareness**

Whether you're out and about in a camper van, towing your caravan or sleeping under canvas for your holidays, venturing into the great outdoors can carry risks.

When you're on a campsite, make sure there's at least six metres (20ft) between caravans and/or tents and that you're away from parked cars – this will reduce the risk of any fire spreading. If mobile phone signal is poor, make sure you know where the nearest payphone is.

Never use barbecues inside or near the entrance to your tent or caravan, either for cooking or as a heat source – the carbon monoxide they produce is lethal.

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### Camping

A fire can destroy a tent in just a minute, so make sure you:

Never use candles in or near the tent – torches are safer.

Keep cooking stoves and barbecues away from the tent walls, as they can catch light very easily.

Know how to escape by cutting your way out of the tent, should there be a fire.

Don't smoke inside your tent.

### Caravans

Take special care when cooking and don't leave pans unattended.

Turn off all appliances when you go to bed.

Never dry clothes over the stove.

Remove any litter and rubbish near the caravan to reduce the risk of fire spreading.

Make sure the caravan is well ventilated and never block air vents.

If there is a fire extinguisher or fire blanket within the caravan, read the instructions so you know what to do in the event of fire.

Keep flammable liquids, such as petrol and gas cylinders, outside and away from children.

Make sure the gas pipe connection is secure. If you suspect a leak, turn off the main cylinder valve.

### Heath fires and countryside safety

When you are out and about enjoying the countryside, there are some things you can do in order to protect our beautiful surroundings and keep you safe.

Large wildfires are thankfully rare but, when they do occur, they can be very serious and affect large areas of the countryside. They also take a great deal of resources to bring under control, which impacts the availability of appliances for property fires and other emergencies.

The Upton Heath fire in Dorset in 2011, for example, damaged approximately 250 acres of the heath and required the mobilisation of 30 fire engines and 11 Land Rovers.

Wildfires can ravish the local wildlife, destroying ecosystems in a matter of hours that have taken years to build up. If a wildfire encroaches upon farmland, then crops and farm buildings can be consumed, and homes that border heathland can also be at risk.

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At their worst, wildfires can cause death or injury to people. A developed wildfire creates its own wind, which drives it at speeds faster than people can get out of its way.

### Steps you can take to avoid starting a wildfire:

- Avoid open fires in the countryside. If you must have a fire, make sure that you're in a designated safe area.
- Put out cigarettes and other smoking materials properly before you leave your vehicle.
- Do not throw cigarette ends out of your vehicle. They could start a fire and destroy surrounding countryside.
- Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands, as sunlight shining through the glass can cause a fire to start. Take the items home, or put them in a waste or recycling bin.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately. Do not try to tackle a fire yourself; usually they can't be put out with a bucket of water. Please call the fire service and leave the area as soon as possible.

### Advice for landowners

Through controlled management of planting schemes and firebreaks, the risk of a wildfire starting can be reduced and the effects of a 'going' wildfire can be restricted.

Fire spreads at different rates through different vegetation so, by managing the planting, the rate of fire spread can be slowed to give fire crews extra time to get resources in place.

A best practice guide has been produced by the Forestry Commission, giving further information about the causes of wildfires, their behaviours and the steps that landowners can take to prevent or mitigate them.

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### Incidents of note.

- Bonfire that spread to nearby property
- Approximately 60 tonnes of woodchip extinguished by crews
- Believed malicious ignition of hay bales

### Special Service Calls

- 2 Road traffic collision- Persons injured, first aid rendered by Fire Service
- 2 Assist Ambulance staff- Persons collapsed/gain entry
- 1 Release of person locked in premises
- Spillage containment of fuel

### New Fire & Rescue Service Community Safety Plan

The Service 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 our website

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

### Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

- Helping you make Safer and Healthier choices
- Protecting you and the Environment from Harm
- Being there when you need us
- Making every penny count
- Supporting and developing our People

James Plumley

**Station Manager, Marlborough, Ramsbury, Pewsey and Ludgershall**

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