



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service briefing for Community Area Boards January /February 2016

Responsibility for fire and rescue policy has moved from the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Home Office.

The Government has a manifesto commitment to deliver greater joint working between the police and fire service, and it recently consulted on proposals to enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on greater responsibility for fire services at local level.

Mike Penning has assumed responsibility for the portfolio, becoming Minister for Policing, Fire, Criminal Justice and Victims. He said: "As a former firefighter and now Minister for Policing, I know from first-hand experience how well the police and fire service can work together. We believe that better joint working can strengthen the emergency services and deliver significant savings and benefits for the public. This is about smarter working, reducing the cost of back office functions and freeing up the time of front-line staff."

"This move will have benefits for both services. Fire authorities can learn from the journey that police forces have undertaken on reform over the last five years. Equally, the success of fire and rescue services in prevention holds important lessons for the police."

Fire Service asks drivers to 'mind the gap'

Would a fire engine be able to get to your house in an emergency? That's the question Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is asking local people.

A fire engine needs clearance of 10ft (three metres) to pass safely. Streets congested with parked cars can delay fire engines and other emergency service vehicles attending an incident.

With more and more households having more than one car, the Service is becoming increasingly concerned that fire crews could be seriously delayed getting to an emergency incident because of inconsiderate parking.

Anyone parking on the roadside is asked to:

- Park tightly to the kerb
- Leave enough space for a fire engine or an ambulance to pass
- Leave extra room near tight corners – and never park right on a junction
- Observe double yellow lines – they are often there to ensure turning space for larger vehicles
- Fold in your wing mirrors

The Service is now running 'Mind The Gap', an awareness campaign into the dangers of inappropriate parking, with fire crews carrying out leaflet drops in areas where problems are frequently reported.

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Road Safety news

The Wiltshire & Swindon Road Safety Partnership comprises of Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police, Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service.

They are working towards the following locally agreed targets.

*KSI – Killed or Serious Injuries

40% reduction in all KSI's*

50% reduction in Child KSI's*

10% reduction in Slight Injuries

These are to be achieved by 2020 and are based against the base averages between 2004-2009.

For the last full year of published statistics in 2014 there were 1574 recorded collisions which resulted in 2157 casualties of which 31 were fatal. The overall cost of these casualties to the community is estimated to be £125 million (*Department for Transport*)

2015 statistics Published statistics for 2015 currently up until the end of July show 18 fatalities and a total of 884 casualties

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jun	Jul	Totals
Fatal	2	1	1	2	2	3	7	18
Serious	18	20	15	21	30	23	24	151
Slight	188	128	94	129	128	150	185	1002
Total:	208	149	110	152	160	176	216	884

Killed and seriously injured stats for vulnerable road users

	Fatal	Serious	Slight
Motorcycle	6	36	81
Pedestrian	1	26	91
Pedal Cycle	2	21	73
Horse Riders	0	0	1
Children <15	1	8	74

Wiltshire & Swindon Road Safety Partnership Activities

The Partnership uses the police statistics above to set their campaigns and education priorities over the following 12 months. They also follow and support the national campaigns.

The Partnership receives no direct funding and works because of the commitment of each agency to reduce casualties through prevention work.

Michael FRANKLIN

Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager (Wiltshire Council area)

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