



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Report for Chippenham Area Board

Fires

WFRS attended 16 accidental fires within the Board's area during September and October, a decrease from the 21 we attended during July and August.

These incidents have involved a range of different items including several domestic waste incidents, a fence panel, a van, an industrial unit and pump, a bin, a tumble dryer, and electrical transfer unit, an electrical intake box, a wheelie bin, a car, a saucepan on a hob and the rear unit of a passenger train.

Unfortunately we saw an increase in the number of deliberate fires that we attended during the same period, from 4 to 8. These involved hay bales, grass, bushes, a skip, a van that was targeted twice, and a car. WFRS continues to work with Wiltshire Police and other agencies to identify persons who are responsible for deliberate fire setting.

Injuries

There were no fire related injuries reported during September and October 2010.

RTC'S

There have been on road traffic collisions for this period.

Community Safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is reminding people about the importance of getting chimneys swept after already being called to a chimney fire in August. The recent chilly weather at night has led to many homes having fires lit much earlier in the year than normal - which can be dangerous if the chimney has not been swept since the fire was last used.

The Service's advice is to ensure that chimneys for wood burning fires are swept every three months when in use. If you burn bituminous coal, the chimney should be cleaned at least twice a year, and at least once a year when burning smokeless coal. An annual clean is sufficient for oil and gas fires. Other tips include:

- Have the chimney properly swept – using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient.
- Make sure your fire receives enough air to allow the fuel to burn properly.
- Only burn suitable fuels.
- Do not overload the grate or appliance.
- Maintain your appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires.
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly in the roof space. Make sure that it is sound and that the sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.
- Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

A wide range of fire safety advice can be found on the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service website - www.wiltsfire.gov.uk