



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Report for Devizes Area Board - November 2010

Fires

WFRS attended 7 accidental fires in the Boards area during the months of September and October 2010. These incidents have included beams inside a chimney, a van, a car, an oven and grill pan as a result of unattended cooking, hay bales, and two chimney fires.

We were also called to attend 5 deliberate fire over the same period involving a 1 ton hay bale, a car, a plastic tub, a park bench and rubbish. WFRS continues to liaise with other agencies to reduce deliberate fire setting.

Injuries

No individuals have been injured through any fire related incident that we have attended during September and October 2010.

RTC'S

We have attended 4 Road Traffic Collisions within the Boards area. One of these occurred on the A360 West Lavington. No injuries were reported.

Community Safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is reminding people about the importance of getting chimneys swept after already being called to two chimney fires this period. 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 safety 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.wiltshire.gov.uk