



Warminster Area Board Report, 29th June 2017

Statement Regarding Fire at Grenfell Tower

Seth Why, the Head of Fire Safety for Dorset & Wiltshire FRS issued the following:

Following the tragic incident at Grenfell Tower in London it was thought appropriate to provide clarity on some key areas where questions may be asked from our communities, so that we can ensure that we are delivering a consistent message.

Importantly we must also make sure that we do not pre-judge any issues that may arise out of the public enquiry.

Stay Put Strategy

We continue to work with local authorities, developers, and tenants to help ensure that the fire safety arrangements in high rise accommodation is safe and appropriate.

The advice provided is based on effective fire safety arrangements that are required, proposed, and then provided in the building – these will include effective compartmentation of the building and suitably protected means of escape.

If there is a fire inside a flat or maisonette our advice is to alert all the people in the flat and leave, closing all doors on the way out. If there is lots of smoke within the flat, residents should crawl along the floor where the air should be clearer. The pre-planned escape plan should then be followed. The stairs rather than the lift should always be used and 999 called as soon as the individual is in a safe place.

If there is a fire elsewhere in the building then the structure of flats – walls, floors and doors– are designed to give appropriate protection. If there is a fire in the another part of the, then it is usually safer to stay in the flat unless the heat or smoke from the fire is having an effect. If someone stays put, they should still immediately call 999 for advice and to ensure that FRS crews have been notified.

This generic evacuation strategy means that the majority of purpose built blocks of flats will not be designed with a common alarm system within the building. Each flat will have their own stand-alone detection and alarm which will not normally be linked to any other area of the block. There are other areas such as undercover car parks which may have a detection and alarm system, but again, will not normally be linked to any other part of the block. Any detectors within the common corridors or staircases are likely to be there to activate any ventilation system but will not be designed to sound an audible warning.

The advice in this statement is part of a preventative approach to helping tenants develop an initial and safe escape plan. Of course, once a 999 call is made and firefighters arrive at the fire, then the advice may be reinforced or changed depending on the nature of the fire and the performance of the particular building.

Response

Incidents

April 2017

Category	Warminster
False Alarm	8
Fire	3
Special Service	1
Other	3
Total	15

May 2017

Category	Warminster
False Alarm	12
Fire	10
Special Service	1
Other	2
Total	25

Availability of RDS appliances %

April 2017	Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
% Available	KT45P1	100%	100%	100%
% Available	KT45P2	66.73%	71.91%	69.32%

May 2017	Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
% Available	KT45P1	100%	99.72%	99.86%
% Available	KT45P2	65.69%	68.89%	67.29%



On-Call Recruitment

We are continually trying to improve the availability of our appliances at Warminster by reviewing hours and contracts and numbers of personnel, and currently have two individuals who will be attending the next recruits course at West Moors. It is hoped that they will be available as part of our crew towards the end of the summer period.

Community Engagement Work

Natasha Viljoen is the Safe and Well Advisor that covers the Warminster area. Please contact her, natasha.viljoen@dwfire.org.uk to arrange for her to talk to your group or an individual visit.

A Safe and Well visit is available and 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 you may need if necessary

If you own/occupy a 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.

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