



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**

## **Southern Area Board - Report, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) has pledged its support for Gas Safety Week (18-24 September 2017) and will be raising awareness of gas safety and urging the public to keep themselves safe from dangerous gas appliances.

The seventh annual Gas Safety Week will see organisations from across the UK work together, to encourage all gas consumers to make sure they have their gas appliances checked annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer and protect against the dangers of unsafe gas appliances, such as fires, leaks, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

With 21 deaths and over 800 gas-related injuries in the last three years<sup>1</sup>, it's crucial that people have their appliances checked each year to be assured they are working safely and efficiently. People should also 'Trust the Triangle' and check that their engineer is Gas Safe registered. Anyone working on gas appliances while not being registered is working illegally.

Safe & Well Manager, Vikki Thomas said: "The importance of a having safe gas appliances in the home, cannot be overstated. With cooler months on the horizon, the demand on our appliances will be higher and without checking they are working correctly, the level of risk increases as well."

Jonathan Samuel, managing director for Gas Safe Register, said: "It's great to have the support of DWFRS this Gas Safety Week. By working together we can reach more people and help to reduce the number of dangerous gas appliances that could be lurking in the homes of the UK's 23 million gas consumers. We know from our own investigations data that one in six gas appliances in the UK are unsafe<sup>2</sup> meaning far too many people are victims of preventable gas related incidents."

Stay Gas Safe at home this Gas Safety Week by following these top tips:

- Sign up to a free annual gas safety check reminder service at [staygassafe.co.uk](http://staygassafe.co.uk).
- Be aware of the signs that an unsafe gas appliance may cause such as a lazy yellow flame instead of a crisp blue flame; soot or staining on or around the appliance; excess condensation in the room
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO gas is known as the 'silent killer' as it has no smell, taste or colour. The symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness, which can easily be mistaken for something else
- 'Trust the Triangle' and always ask to see an engineer's Gas Safe ID card and check it to make sure the engineer is qualified to check or fit the appliance in question.

For more information on the potential dangers of using gas in the home, or to arrange a Safe & Well visit please, visit [www.dwfire.org.uk/safety](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety) or call **0800 038 2323**.



Alternatively, visit [www.StayGasSafe.co.uk](http://www.StayGasSafe.co.uk) and to find a Gas Safe registered engineer call 0800 408 5500 or visit [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk).

### **Community Engagement**

We can also arrange visits to our fire stations or one of our safety centres. For more information or to make a booking for your school or pre-school, please visit our webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/school-visits/> or email [enquiries@dwfire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dwfire.org.uk)

If you need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what you would do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

### **Response**

**Total Fire Calls for Salisbury Fire station; 01/07/17-31/08/17**

#### **July**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Incidents</b>
False Alarm	25
Fire	9
Special Service	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

#### **August**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Incidents</b>
False Alarm	37
Fire	20
Special Service	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>

The variety of incidents includes the following:

Fire Control received a call of tree alight, when crew arrived it was a furniture workshop on fire.

A domestic fire where the resident was notified by the 'lifeline' system. This is a monitored alarm system utilised in sheltered accommodation.

A small fire in a coach, only the driver on board at the time.



A child locked in a car.

Assist ambulance to recover an individual who had fallen off a ladder and potentially broken both their legs.

An aircraft crash on the airfield.

Worryingly there were also 3 hoax calls. I shall be closely monitoring this situation to ensure that if a pattern starts to appear then the service will act upon it at the earliest opportunity.

### **Availability of Wholetime (1<sup>st</sup>) appliance;**

100%

### **Availability of On-Call (2<sup>nd</sup>) appliance;**

July %

Appliance	Day	Night	Average
31P2	75.2	90.26	82.73

August %

Appliance	Day	Night	Average
31P2	73.66	89.11	81.38

### **On-Call Recruitment**

Recruitment is an ongoing issue. Currently the on-call part of Salisbury have had 1 member of their team resign to take up employment away from Salisbury. Despite this they are still maintaining a very good availability of the appliance. There are 2 potential recruits working their way through the recruitment system. The station are working hard to maintain contact with them whilst they go through this process.

The service will be moving to new method of payment for its on-call staff. This will be a salary based scheme rather than utilising a retaining fee. This means on call staff will be rewarded for the cover they give rather than the incidents they attend. It will cost the service more money, but it is believed that it will result in better appliance availability.

Recruitment campaign

If anyone is interested in becoming an On Call Firefighter, visit the webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/> or pop in the station for a chat on Monday evenings between 7pm and 9pm (Salisbury) or Wednesday evenings 7pm – 9pm (Wilton).

### **Community Safety Plan**



DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;  
<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

### **Calls to Fire Alarms**

Responding to automatic fire alarm (AFA) activations that subsequently turn out to be unwanted fire signals has been identified as a major draw on our resources, resulting in an inappropriate use of emergency crews and equipment.

Last year the service has received over **5,800** alarm calls, however we did not necessarily attend all of these.

Jason Moncrieff

District Commander, Salisbury and Wilton.

Email: Jason.moncrieff@dwfire.org.uk

Tel: 01722 691249 | Mobile: 077774413935