

## Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

### Media release

#### Employers asked to support 'on call' firefighters

Employers in the south of Wiltshire are being urged to consider allowing their staff to be retained firefighters.

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service relies on 'on-call' firefighters to provide 24 hour cover in areas including Amesbury, Tisbury, Mere, Westbury and Ludgershall.

However, it is proving increasingly difficult to maintain day cover at these stations - retained firefighters need to be able to respond to a pager and arrive at their fire station within four minutes.

Group Manager Ian Rennie, who manages the southern part of the county, said: "When we don't have sufficient crew available in a location, we have to move resources from other parts of Wiltshire. Being 'on call' is a big commitment, and we do understand the reticence of employers to allow their staff to respond from the workplace, but there are advantages to them of having people who are trained firefighters."

He explained: "From manual handling to first aid, the skills we give our firefighters can be of benefit in the workplace. In addition, letting your staff be 'on call' is real community engagement."

Being a retained firefighter may also suit at-home mums and dads, who can fit their day cover hours around school and childcare arrangements.

To find out more about either being a retained firefighter or supporting your employees in their firefighting career, visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call 01380 731144.

#### **ENDS**

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