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Amesbury Area Board Report

Antrobus House, Amesbury

30th November 2017

Be one of us campaign

Last month the Service launched its 'Be one of us' campaign, in which we are encouraging women and underrepresented parts of the community to 'have a go' at becoming a firefighter, ahead of the wholetime recruitment campaign in November. Six events were organised at fire stations across the Service area during October, to give hands on experience to those who might otherwise think that being a firefighter is not for them.

Nationally, the fire and rescue service is 95% male and 96% white and we are trying to remove any barriers that might deter women and ethnic minorities from applying to become a firefighter.

To ease the worries of those who believe that becoming a firefighter is a physical role, the Service have introduced 'Have a go' days to show exactly what we do and what is needed to pursue this profession as a career.

We have also designed a 12-week fitness programme to help people achieve the required level whilst they are going through the application process.

More information on the 12-week fitness programme and details of the application process, can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/be-one-of-us

Chimney Fires

As Winter approaches our focus moves to Chimney Fires.

A clean chimney can help prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Regular cleaning of your chimney or flue will eliminate the build-up of soot and clear obstructions such as bird or animal nests, leaves and debris.

It is not enough to use a vacuum cleaner and you should make sure that your chimney or flue is inspected regularly.

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Chimneys should be swept:

- At least once a year when using smokeless fuels
- At least once a year when using bituminous coal
- Every three months when burning wood
- Once a year when using oil
- Once a year when using gas

The following safety advice should always be followed when lighting an open fire or wood burning stove:

- Don't use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire.
- Don't burn excessive amounts of paper or rubbish.
- Don't overload the fire with fuel.

When the fire is alight, check the loft space occasionally to make sure there is no smoke leaking from cracks, defective brickwork or mortar joints.

Fireworks

Moving into November/December we turn our attention to the safe use of Fireworks. If you are putting on a home display you should follow some simple steps to make sure that everyone has a good time without getting hurt:

- Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary
- Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
- Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

UK law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places. You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for: Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am.

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Community Engagement

Staff at Amesbury are collecting and carrying out Safe & Well visits in Amesbury and the surrounding areas, along with our safe & well advisors and the new District Support Officers.

The station and its' staff are supporting several educational events at local primary schools, run by DWFRS Education Advisors.

The importance of fire safety is a message that can't be delivered too soon, which is why we have a team of education advisors who work with young people across Wiltshire, Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole, Swindon.

At primary school level, education advisors visit classes with structured lesson plans that focus on issues such as the work of the Fire & Rescue Service, the dangers of playing with matches, the importance of smoke alarms, having a fire plan, and dialling 999 in an emergency. Older children are also taught why you should never make hoax calls.

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

We are also available to attend flu clinics at local Practices to give out home safety advice and collect referrals for Safe & Well visits.

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/>

Smoke alarm saves family

A Swindon family were saved by working smoke alarms on 24 September after fire broke out in their house. The Service was called to the property on Crombey Street at 1.54am, with two crews from Swindon fire station being mobilised. The fire was located in the ground floor kitchen, having started when cooking was left unattended. The smoke triggered the property's smoke alarm, allowing the five occupants to escape without injury – four children were led to safety by firefighters. Seth Why, Head of Fire Safety, said: "The attending crews reported that the house had working battery operated smoke detectors, which activated and raised the alarm. There was already a lot of smoke from the fire and that could have been a serious risk to life had the family not been woken up." To keep your smoke alarms in good working order, you should:

- Test them once a week, by pressing the test button until the alarm sounds.
- Change the batteries once a year (unless mains powered or fitted with a ten-year battery).
- Replace the whole unit every ten years.
- Clean your smoke alarms every three months by using the soft brush of your vacuum cleaner to remove any excess dust.

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Response

Total number of calls for Amesbury Fire Station: 01st September – 15th November 17

Category	Callsign	Total Incidents
False Alarm	35P1	4
Fire	35P1	10
Other	35P1	2
Special Service	35P1	7
Total	35P1	23

On-Call Recruitment

Following successful recruitment evenings that was held at various stations around the County last year, Amesbury Fire Station have hosted their own recruitment evening and now have two recruits in development. A further two potential recruits are also in the process and maybe available to start their training early next year.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming an on call Firefighter, please ask them to come along on a Wednesday evening and speak to the crew.

Alternatively, if you know of anyone who 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 any Mon evening between 7pm and 9pm.

Recent Notable Incidents

Numerous fires – Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth
Domestic garage fire – Bulford
Domestic garage fire – Amesbury
Armoured Mastiff fire – Salisbury Plain
Fatal road traffic accident (RTC) - Tilshead

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**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

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