



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**

## **Chippenham Area Board - Report 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

### **Fire Service raises concerns over bioethanol fires**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) is asking owners of bioethanol real flame fires to ensure that they are fully aware of the fire risks they present.

Bioethanol real flame fires are becoming a popular feature in the home, especially at this time of year. They are easily affordable, provide the visual attraction of a real flame but don't require the installation of a flue or chimney.

There are two types of bioethanol real flame fires – those fuelled by bioethanol gel, and those that take liquid bioethanol fuel. Despite creating a homely atmosphere, these open flame heaters present a serious fire risk, despite only putting out a moderate amount of heat.

To ensure that owners remain safe while using their bioethanol fires, the Service is offering these top tips:

- Beware of cheap sub-standard products.
- Follow manufacturer's safety advice.
- Remember that bioethanol fuel is highly flammable.
- Flame can be almost invisible, especially when the fuel level becomes low.
- Refuel only when the fire has been extinguished and is cold.
- Use approved small containers to refuel.
- Wipe up any spillages before igniting the bioethanol. Keep fuel away from clothes. Don't refuel when under the influence of alcohol – spillages of fuel could more easily happen and go unnoticed.
- Light with a manual or electric taper. Don't use a lighter, match or lit rolled-up paper.
- Keep children and pets away from the fire.
- Don't move the appliance with the fuel lit.
- Store bioethanol in appropriate containers away from any naked flame and carefully consider where to keep fuel safely.
- Do not use fires in a room with poor ventilation.
- Installing a CO detector in room is recommended.
- Make sure the fire is out before leaving the room or going to sleep.

For more information on maintaining fire safety in your home and the use of bioethanol fires, visit [www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-at-home](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-at-home) or, to see if you are eligible for a FREE Safe and Well visit, please call 0800 038 2323.



## **Response**

### **Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Chippenham Area; 01/011/17 – 31/12/17.**

DWFRS have responded to 77 incidents on Chippenham's station ground between the dates above categorised in the table below.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Incidents</b>
False Alarm	32
Fire	17
Special Service	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>

## **Incidents of note**

On 30<sup>th</sup> Nov crews were alerted to a fire in a flat in Chippenham and were confronted with a fire on the ground floor with the occupier reportedly still inside the property. The crew quickly gained entry and effected a rescue of the female occupant before extinguishing the fire.

The Service were called to deal with a fire in Chippenham's cinema on Boxing Day. The fire involved batteries in the projection room. The fire was quickly dealt with and nobody was hurt.

## **Community Engagement**

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service provides a free service called a Safe and Well visit. We will visit a person's home by appointment and discuss any safety issues in the home. We will also have a conversation about improving an individual's health and well-being.

If you or someone you know need a smoke alarm, some advice or are worried about what to do in an emergency, contact us for a free Safe and Well visit;

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

## **Community Safety Plan**

DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2016 – 2020 outlines our plans for the future. It explains the diverse services we provide and how we plan to improve and deliver them over the four-year period. The plan can be found on the DWFRS website <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

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