



Melksham Area Board Report – 11th April 2018.

Driving in adverse conditions



The best way to be safe in extremely bad weather is to avoid driving at all. However, that's not always possible. In addition, bad weather can be unpredictable and it's common to get caught out while on the road.

These basic safe driving principles apply in all adverse conditions:

- Slow right down – if visibility is poor or the road is wet or icy, it will take you longer to react to hazards and your speed should be reduced accordingly. If you have a temperature gauge in your vehicle that is showing zero degrees or below, then presume that the roads will be icy.
- Maintain a safe gap behind the vehicle in front – stopping distances are double in the wet and ten times greater in icy weather. The gap between you and the vehicle in front is your braking space in a crisis.
- Look out for vulnerable road users – be aware that people on foot, bicycles, motorbikes and horses are harder to spot in adverse weather and in the dark. Drive as though someone could step out in front of you at any time.
- Look out for signs warning of adverse conditions – including fixed signs, such as those warning of exposure to high winds, and variable message signs on motorways that warn of fog, snow and which may display temporary slower speed limits.
- Stay in control – avoid harsh braking and acceleration, and carry out manoeuvres slowly and with extra care.
- Use lights – put lights on in gloomy weather or when visibility is reduced. Only use front and rear fog lights in dense fog.
- Listen to travel news on local radio so you know where problem areas are.



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

What to do in a road traffic collision



Many people are unsure of what to do when they are involved in a road traffic collision. Here are the essential details to remember should you experience a road traffic collision.

If you are involved in a crash or stop to give assistance

- Use your hazard lights to warn other drivers.
- Ask drivers to switch off their engines and stop smoking.
- Arrange for the emergency services to be called immediately with full details of incident location and casualties (see below on how to identify your location on a motorway).
- Move uninjured people away from vehicles to safety. On a motorway, this should, if possible, be well away from traffic, the hard shoulder and the central reservation.
- Do not move injured people from their vehicles unless they are in immediate danger from fire or explosion.
- Never remove a motorcyclist's helmet unless it is essential to do so.
- Be prepared to give first aid if possible.
- Stay at the scene until the emergency services arrive.

When calling the emergency services, R.E.A.C.T.

- **R**- Ring 999
- **E**- Exact location
- **A**- All vehicles involved
- **C**- Casualty numbers
- **T**- Anybody trapped

Safe and Well Visits- Home safety

The Melksham area has a dedicated Fire Service '**Safe and Well**' advisor who can visit people, within their own homes, advising on home safety and wellbeing.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts 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 the occupier may need

If you have 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.

Response

Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Melksham area; 01/01/18 – 21/02/18.

Melksham Fire Station Responded to a total of 69 incidents in and out of station ground in the mentioned time period. Details are listed in the table below.

Category	Incidents in Melksham	Out of Station Ground incidents	Total
False Alarm	15	3	18
Fire	4	6	10
Special Service	7	34	41
Total	26	43	69
Pump Availability	77.9%		



Significant incidents

None in the Melksham area but the crew were sent to Salisbury to assist other agencies with the high profile response to the Nerve Agent incident.

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 require 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 2017-2021 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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