

PROTECT



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Tidworth Area Board Report

May 2018

Staying safe in and near water

Cooling off in rivers, canals, ponds, quarries and lakes can have deadly consequences.

Every year, firefighters are called to incidents where residents (particularly children and young people) get into difficulty when swimming in open water.

Dangers of cooling off in open water

The water may look calm on the surface, but there may still be strong undercurrents that could pull even a strong swimmer under.

The water may also feel relatively warm on the surface, but just a few feet below can be icy cold – even in the hot weather – and can very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia.

Young people often misjudge their swimming ability – they may view a river or lake as a tempting means of cooling off during a hot spell of weather, but fail to appreciate the harmful effects that the cold water can have on their stamina and strength.

Key safety tips for staying safe near water

The following are some key safety tips for staying safe near water:

Alcohol and swimming do not mix – stay out of the water if you've been drinking.

Always watch your child while at the beach, lake or other natural bodies of water.

Never let older children swim in unsupervised areas like quarries, canals or ponds.

Don't swim near motor boats, jet skis or other power vehicles.

Never interfere with lifesaving equipment – you might need it yourself.

Learn to spot and keep away from dangerous water.

Take safety advice – heed notices which warn you of the danger. See national water safety signs for guidance.

Children should always visit open water sites with a grown-up.

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Swimming anywhere other than at purpose built and supervised swimming pools is highly dangerous and is not recommended, unless as part of an organised club.

Safe and Well Visits- Home safety

The Pewsey 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 last 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.

Controlled Burning

DWFRS are regularly called to fires which members of the public believe to be emergencies but, on attendance, are found to be bonfires or land clearance.

Such calls cause a drain on our resources and put both the public and firefighters at risk when we respond under 'blue light' conditions.

If you are going to have a bonfire, or another type of controlled burning that will be visible to passers-by, you can let our Fire Control know by calling 0306 799 0019 – you can also complete an online notification.

Fire Control will want to know the exact location of your fire, the times you are planning on letting the fire burn, and a contact number for you, or whoever will be responsible for the site. This will help us to avoid mobilising crews to you unnecessarily.

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Please let us know if you are planning:

A sizeable bonfire in your garden or on other land

Any sort of fire on farmland

Stubble burning

Want to become an On-Call firefighter ?

Or know someone who does?

On-call Firefighters provide a part-time service around other commitments. They let us know when they are available and respond to emergency call outs.

To find out more about the role please visit the 'Working for us' pages of our website or drop into the station on a Monday evening for a chat.

We also have opportunities for **Volunteers**. If you are interested please see the Service Web-site, contact Neil Chamberlain or speak to me. My contact details are at the end of this report.

'Safe and Well' and 'Health and Well-Being'

The Service is keen to maintain a link between our **Safe and Well advisors** and **Health and Wellbeing** activities across the Pewsey area.

The Service is looking to work with any local groups to exchange information on vulnerable households. We have a software programme '**Pinpoint**' which will identify the high risk premises, within the Pewsey Community Area, and allow both the Service and local groups to engage in joint working and information sharing in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. Helping people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, living safely and leading a more fulfilling life is an admirable objective for all of us.

Incidents of note.

- 1 Dwelling fire within bedroom
- 2 Agricultural fires, 1 involving 3 tonnes of straw, 1 involving a storage barn
- 2 small vehicle fires
- 1 unattended Bonfire

Special Service Calls

- 1 Road traffic collision- Scene safety only- Fuel/Oil spill
- 1 incidents of domestic flooding
- 2 Assistance to ambulance to gain entry

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Community Safety Plan

The Service 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 our website

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

- Helping you make Safer and Heathier choices
- Protecting you and the Environment from Harm
- Being there when you need us
- Making every penny count
- Supporting and developing our People

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