

Agenda Item No.6b

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has launched a new thatch information pack, in a bid to reduce the risk and consequences of fires in thatched properties.

Although fires in thatched roofs are fairly rare, the devastation caused can be immense and such incidents are also very resource intensive for the fire and rescue service.

Over recent weeks, the Service has been building up a database of thatched properties and it has now started to contact these homeowners to offer the new information pack. This covers everything from how to prevent a fire in a thatched roof, to what to do in the unlikely event of a fire starting. We will also be offering a Home Safety Check , a personal visit from a fire fighter (free of charge) to discuss fire safety in peoples thatched homes and business'

This new initiative is aimed at protecting our communities and heritage from what are some of the most difficult fires that Fire fighters in Wiltshire have to deal with

The Service is also working with a master thatcher, who has been running awareness sessions for firefighters to help them better understand how to remove thatch from a building affected by fire. A training DVD will also be produced to ensure all crews are fully informed.

If you have a thatched property, you should hear from Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service over the coming weeks. However, if you would like to know more about the information pack, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk or call 0800 389 7849.