



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Chippenham Area Board - Report 4th June 2018

Award for Chippenham Fire fighters

A team of firefighters from Chippenham Fire Station have been awarded the “Making a Difference” award at the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service annual awards ceremony this month.

The team, led by Watch Manager Steve Lodge, initiated a programme of visits to the Station by residents of Unity House, a charitable organisation aimed at helping the homeless get back on their feet. Steve designed a day of activities at the station aimed at raising the residents’ confidence and feeling of self-worth. The days have been a great success; comments from the participants included “This is the best thing I have ever done” and “Today has stopped me from thinking about wanting to score.” A member of Unity House staff reported that “the residents are still on “Cloud 9” today. They really did enjoy it.”

Be a good neighbour

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging local people to consider the safety of friends and neighbours, following a recent episode of the Channel 4 programme ‘999 What’s Your Emergency’ #999WYE.

The episode highlighted isolation issues and the Service is renewing its request to the public to look in on friends and neighbours they feel might be at risk, and not just from fire.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue offers free Safe and Well visits to those most at risk within our communities. We can visit you in your home, at a convenient time, to see what we can do together to make you safer. We can also have a conversation with you around improving your health and well-being. The Service will fit free smoke alarms where required and offer advice to make you and your family safer and healthier in your home.

The appointment normally lasts about one hour and covers topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping your family safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support you may need if necessary

You can apply for a Safe and Well visit online at www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits or call free on 0800 038 2323.



Kitchen Safety

North Wiltshire residents are being reminded to take care when cooking, due to the high percentage of accidental fires in the area starting in the kitchen.

Within North Wiltshire, the Fire & Rescue Service attended **43** accidental fires in the home during 2017-18, **23** of these were directly attributed to cooking. The percentage for the Chippenham area is 7 out of 17 accidental fires in the home last year being caused by cooking.

Amongst the top tips for kitchen safety are:

- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean as a build-up of fat or grease can catch fire when hot.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob, and take care if you're wearing loose clothing.
- Make sure children are never left alone in the kitchen when you're cooking.
- Saucepan handles left sticking out create a danger – there's a risk they could be caught, leading to the pans being knocked off the hob.
- Use spark devices to light gas cookers as they are safer than matches and lighters.
- Wherever possible, never leave cooking unattended. If you do have to leave, set a timer – on the cooker or through your phone or watch – so that you don't lose track of time.
- Keep electrical leads and appliances away from water.
- Rather than use a chip pan, use a thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer, which can't overheat.
- Avoid cooking if you are tired, have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that leaves you drowsy.
- If you're going to the pub and think you'll want something to eat afterwards, get a takeaway!
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms and test them weekly. If you do have a fire, get out, stay out, and call 999.

Fly tipping

The Fire Service has raised its concerns about fly tipping in the Thingley area. Last year the Service attended a number of fires involving garden waste material that had been fly tipped then set alight as a means of disposal causing a nuisance to local residents due to the smoke generated from these fires. Recently we have attended 3 such fires as well as an incident where drums of hazardous waste had been left in a field entrance on Easton Lane.

The FRS is working with Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency to identify ways of controlling this problem.



Response

Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Chippenham Area; 01/03/18 – 20/05/18.

DWFRS have responded to 81 incidents on Chippenham's station ground between the dates above categorised in the table below.

Category	Total Incidents
False Alarm	33
Fire	19
Special Service	29
Total	81

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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