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South West Wiltshire Area Board Report – 19th September 2018.



Is your business safe from fire? Get help and advice.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is offering businesses fire safety advice as part of the National Fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC's) Business Safety campaign 2018

The campaign aims to provide those who are responsible for businesses and public buildings with information and advice to reduce the number of fire incidents and false alarms in the workplace, both of which impact business safety and productivity.

Group Manager Tim Gray, Head of Fire Safety at Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "Business Fire Safety week aims to encourage all businesses to double check they have taken the steps required by law to protect their business and employees from fire. As part of our support for this week we will be out and about giving advice on preventing arson attacks, reducing false alarms, and if needed fire safety advice for premises with sleeping accommodation."

The lead up to Christmas can be a busy time for businesses as they may take on extra stock and new or seasonal staff. The NFCC ask people to take the opportunity now to review risk assessments and escape plans as they prepare. Statistics show that in 2016-17 there were 19,410 fires in UK businesses with about 30% (5,518) being deliberately set.

Chair of NFCC's Protection and Business Safety Committee, Mark Hardingham said: "Fire can have a devastating effect on small and medium businesses. That is why the NFCC is committed to making them aware that fire services can help and advise them on reducing their fire risk.

"We encourage them to get in touch with their local fire service and find out about the help that is available, so they can continue to make a valued contribution to the UK economy and local community in a safe and sustainable way "

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Safety reminder about Chinese lanterns

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding people to take care with Chinese lanterns.

Although there has been some rain in recent weeks, local heathland and vegetation is still very dry.

Chinese lanterns, also known as wish or flying lanterns, carry a significant risk of fire or injury if not used wisely. The lanterns are generally made from paper, supported by a wire frame that incorporates a holder at the base for a solid fuel heat source.

Group Manager Richard Coleman said: "With Chinese lanterns, you're basically throwing a naked flame into the sky with no control over the direction it will take or where it will land - in addition, there is no guarantee that the fuel source will be fully extinguished and cooled when the lantern eventually descends."

He added: "The long, hot summer has left heathland and vegetation extremely dry, even with the recent rain. Chinese lanterns do look lovely, but they are a real hazard, so we would urge people to think twice about using them."

Further advice on the use of Chinese lanterns can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/chinese-lanterns

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Spate of kitchen fires trigger firefighters to issue safety warning

Poole firefighters have issued a safety warning after attending a number of kitchen fires in the area recently.

In the first quarter of 2018/19 crews from Poole attended eight fires in the kitchen, compared with two in the same quarter of 2017/18. Several of the recent fires started after oil or other items including clothing had been left on the hob, or appliances had been turned on and left unattended.

Poole Fire Station Manager Charlie Pack said: “We might be talking relatively small numbers here, but fires in the kitchen can be very dangerous. At any time of year, cooking related fires are a common cause of accidental fires in the home. They are often caused because the occupier becomes distracted by other things. Whatever happens elsewhere in the house, it is important to have one eye on the hob or oven when they are in use.

“It is important to check your smoke alarms weekly, so that you know they are working to give early warning to get out if the worst happens.”

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has the following advice to prevent a fire occurring in your kitchen:

- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking. Take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk
- If a pan catches fire, don't take any risks – Get out, stay out, and call 999
- Double check the hob is off when you've finished cooking
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob
- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking and keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe
- Hot oil can catch fire easily - be careful that it doesn't overheat

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- Get a smoke alarm and test it weekly.

For further fire safety advice go to www.dwfire.org.uk

Safe and Well Visits- Home safety

Natasha Viljoen is the Safe and Well Advisor that covers Mere and Tisbury and Martyn Jones is the Safe and Well Advisor that covers Wilton. Please contact, natasha.viljoen@dwfire.org.uk or martyn.jones@dwfire.org.uk to arrange for a talk to your group or an individual visit.

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 <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/> to book one.

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Your local stations are recruiting

On-call (retained) firefighters are ordinary people doing extraordinary work – they are men and women who may have other jobs or responsibilities as well as their vital role with the Fire & Rescue Service.

On-call firefighters are part-time staff who make themselves available for emergency call-outs depending on their other commitments. They are usually contracted for between 48 and 120 hours per week, but this can vary. Between them, each fire station team will provide cover for weekdays, evenings, nights and weekends.

How many firefighters are on-call?

Some 60% of firefighters in Dorset and Wiltshire work on an on-call basis, making them hugely important to both the Service and the communities that they serve. Of our 50 stations, the majority are crewed only by on-call firefighters and on-call staff work alongside their wholetime colleagues at many of our other stations.

Who can be an on-call firefighter?

Our on-call staff come from all walks of life: they may be employed, self-employed, parents at home or students. Some work in building or allied trades, whilst others are shop assistants, farmers, typists, factory workers or managers.

What they all have in common is self-reliance, confidence, respect, enthusiasm, team spirit and a willingness to be ready for anything when they are alerted to an emergency.

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On-call and wholetime firefighters are expected to meet the same entry standards and they receive the same training and development to enable them to work to common standards.

Who can apply?

You can find out more about the role and current vacancies through these pages, but key requirements for applicants are:

- You must be at least 18 years old when you join us (you can apply once you are 17½)
- You must be able to respond and attend the fire station within five minutes (this can vary slightly dependant on location)
- You must have a good standard of physical fitness
- You must have the right to work in the UK

If you are unsure if you can apply, please contact our HR team on 01722 691444 or email recruitment@dwfire.org.uk

Response

Incidents

July 2018

Category	Wilton	Tisbury	Mere
False alarm	2	1	2
Fire	1	1	5
Co-responding	0	2	2
Special service	2	0	2
Total	5	4	11

August 2018

Category	Wilton	Tisbury	Mere
False alarm	1	2	2
Fire	2	0	1
Co-responding	0	0	2
Special Service	3	1	3
Total	6	3	8

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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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