

## South East Wiltshire Station Managers Area Board Report – June 2019

### Safe storage of petrol



During the summer period as a fire service we can see a small increase in the number of fires that we attend caused by the fumes given off from plastic cans containing petrol. Due to the increased ambient temperatures (that seem to be on the increase season on season), the fumes can expand in these containers and if these are not placed in a well-ventilated area can create an explosive atmosphere where the slightest ignition source can easily cause a fire.

Because of these risks, storing petrol safely is covered by legislation.

#### What is the law on storing petrol safely?

**The Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014** [PCR] – which came into force on 1 October 2014 – apply to:

- workplaces that store petrol where petrol is dispensed directly into the tank of a vehicle with an internal combustion engine, ie retail and non-retail petrol filling stations;
- non-workplace premises storing petrol, for example at private homes, or at clubs/associations (or similar)

Local authorities are the Petroleum Enforcement Authorities (PEAs) and they are responsible for enforcing the regulations. Locally, this is:

- Wiltshire Council

Details of the relevant contacts at these authorities can be found at [www.apea.org.uk/contacts/2](http://www.apea.org.uk/contacts/2)

## Storing petrol at home

You can store up to 30 litres of petrol at home or at non-workplace premises without informing your local Petroleum Enforcement Authority (PEA).

You can store it in:

- suitable portable plastic containers of up to 10 litres
- suitable portable metal containers of up to 20 litres
- one demountable fuel tank of up to 30 litres; or
- a combination of the above as long as no more than 30 litres is kept.

If you wish to store more than 30 litres of petrol, and up to a maximum of 275 litres of petrol at your home, you must advise your local Petroleum Enforcement Authority in writing, giving your name and address as the occupier of the storage place or the address where the petrol is stored. This is not a new requirement but carries forward long standing requirements of the previous legislation.

If you are storing up to 275 litres of petrol, you should be aware of the common storage requirements, which are as follows:

- Petrol must not be stored in your living accommodation.
- Petrol must not be dispensed (i.e. it is not pumped either manually or electrically from a storage tank) at your storage place.
- If your storage place is not in the open air, you need a direct exit to the open air and ventilation to this exit.

You should take all reasonable precautions in your storage place to prevent any sources of ignition or heat that would be able to ignite the petrol or its vapour.

You should not use petrol in the storage place other than in the fuel tank of any internal combustion engine in quantities (not exceeding 150 millilitres at any one time), for cleaning or as a solvent for repair purposes.

### See also:

Safe storage and use of petrol in workplaces – [\*\*Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 \(DSEAR\)\*\*](#).

Further information on the Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 – [\*\*www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/petroleum-enforcement-authorities.htm\*\*](http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/petroleum-enforcement-authorities.htm)



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**

# Kitchen safety



More than half of accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen – it is far too easy to be distracted whilst cooking and then leave things unattended. [Click here for our downloadable advice leaflet Kitchen Safety.](#)

## Top tips for cooking safely

- 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.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep electrical leads and appliances away from water.
- Avoid cooking if you are tired, have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that leaves you drowsy.

## Chip pan safety

Our advice is not to use a chip pan at all! A thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer is far safer, as it can't overheat.

There are two main causes of chip pan fires:

- The oil or fat overheats and catches fire; or
- The oil or fat spills onto the cooker, either because the pan has been filled too high or because wet chips have been put into the hot oil, causing it to bubble up and overflow.

Some advice if you have to use a chip pan:

- Never fill the pan more than one third full of oil or fat.
- Never leave the pan unattended when the heat is switched on.
- Make sure the food is dried thoroughly before putting it into the hot oil – otherwise it might spit or bubble up.
- If the oil starts to smoke, it is too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool, otherwise it might catch fire.
- Never put food into the pan if the oil is smoking.

If your pan does catch fire:

- Turn off the heat under the pan (if it's safe to do so) and allow it to cool completely.
- Don't try and move the pan.
- NEVER throw water over the pan – the effects can be horrific.
- Don't try and tackle the fire yourself – leave the room, close the door, get everyone out of the property and call 999.

### **Toaster safety**

- Make sure toasters are clean and crumbs are emptied out regularly.
- Don't insert anything metal into the toaster.
- Toasters should be placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls, and should never be used directly underneath an overhanging cupboard.
- Make sure that your toaster is not placed up against another appliance, as the heat build-up can lead to a fire.

### **Microwave oven safety**

- Never put anything metal into the microwave.
- Don't try to sterilise dishcloths or sponges by heating them in the microwave.
- Ensure that the turntable is working properly.



# Hoarding



We all keep things we don't really need. Some of us have more possessions than we have storage for. But hoarding is a complex issue that goes far beyond untidiness or indecisiveness.

Hoarders can fill entire rooms from floor to ceiling, leaving themselves the minimum space in which to live. This retention of property presents a real fire risk, and makes it far harder for firefighters to be able to tackle any blaze.

The Fire and Rescue Service can't solve the problem of hoarding; however, where we know there is an issue, we can work with other agencies to try and reduce the risk of fire.

Evidence from across the country shows that:

- In 90% of all residential fires, the fire itself is contained to the room where it started. However, that figure drops to 40% where there is hoarding – as this additional material fuels the fire and makes it spread more quickly.
- When there is a fire in a hoarder's home, there is a far greater risk that the individual and/or family members will find it difficult or impossible to escape.
- Common materials kept by hoarders include newspapers, magazines, books and soft furnishings – all of which are highly combustible.
- The presence of vast amounts of hoarded material creates a risk to firefighters, both in getting to the fire and through increased heat and smoke.

By offering Safe and Well visits, and installing smoke alarms, we can work with hoarders to try and make their homes more fire safe. If they want help in dealing with their hoarding compulsion, then we can refer them to other agencies for that support. However, we know that not every hoarder is ready to take that step and we want to ensure that they are as fire safe as possible, whatever the circumstances of their home.



## **Safe and Well Visits- Home safety**

The Bradford on Avon 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 Salisbury, Wilton & Amesbury:** DWFRS have responded to a number of incidents in the reporting area but due to system upgrades are not currently available to report upon.

There have been no incidents of note that require reporting upon during this time.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Incidents Salisbury</b>	<b>Incidents Wilton</b>	<b>Incidents Amesbury</b>
False Alarm			
Fire			
Special Service			
Other			
<b>Total</b>			



## **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 need 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 2018-2022 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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