



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD REPORT

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website;
<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

Prevention

We are committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. Our aim is to reduce the level of risk and harm to our communities from fire, targeting those most at risk. We do this primarily through our Safe and Well visits.

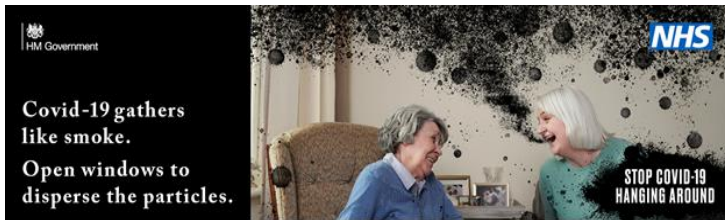
A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts about one hour covering topics such as:

- 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

Are you or anyone you know:-

- Over the age of 65?
- Need a smoke detector?
- Have a long-term health condition?
- Suffer from poor hearing or sight loss?
- Would you struggle to escape in the event of a fire?

If you can answer yes to more than one of these questions, then please call us on 0800 038 2323 or visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



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Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

On Call Recruitment

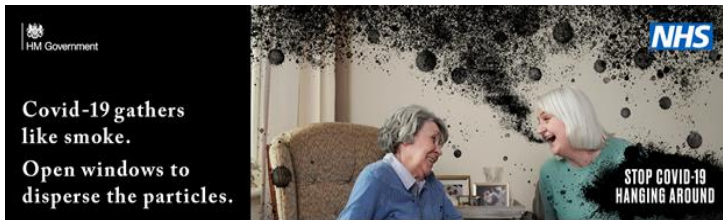
Have you always wondered if you could join the fire service, but haven't had the opportunity to find out more? Have you found yourself seeking your next challenge, keen to give back to the local community or wanting to learn new skills including leadership and teamwork? Then becoming an on-call firefighter is for you.

As a paid position, on-call firefighters commit anywhere between 40 to 120 hours per week, during which time they must be able to respond to the station immediately.

Many have 'normal' jobs during the day, then upon their return home make themselves available overnight or during the weekends. Some of our crew respond from their workplaces during the day, and we are very grateful to their employers for releasing them to perform their vital duties.

Anyone over 18 years old can apply (although you can also apply once you are 17½) you must be able to respond and attend the fire station within 5-8 minutes, you have a good standard of physical fitness (i.e. you are generally active), and you must have the right to work in the UK.

Further information on becoming an On Call Firefighter can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/ or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.



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Recent News & Events

Fire services to continue vital role in supporting ambulance crews to save lives



Since the early stages of the pandemic, firefighters have been working with ambulance crews from South Western Ambulance Service to assist during medical emergencies. The partnership has led to countless lives being saved and received praise from government and royalty.

With the current winter pressures on the NHS and surge in Omicron cases, this arrangement has been extended and will now continue until April 2022.

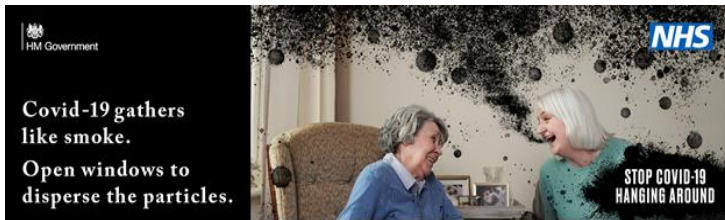
For more information please visit:-

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/news/frs-continue-supporting-ambulance-crews/>

Electric blanket safety

With colder weather now kicking in, we've been reminding people about the best ways to stay safe and warm. The recent cold snap will have led people to get heaters and electric blankets out of storage. However, there has already been at least one fire involving an electric blanket this winter, so please follow this advice if you're intending to warm your bed this way:

- Folding up electric blankets damages the internal wiring, so store them flat or rolled up instead.
- Check the wiring and plug on your blanket before using it, to make sure there is no fraying or damage.
- Unplug blankets before you get into bed, unless they have a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Never use hot water bottles in the same bed as an electric blanket, even if the blanket is switched off.
- Make sure you have smoke alarms fitted on every level of your home, and test them regularly.



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More home safety advice is on our website, www.dwfire.org.uk



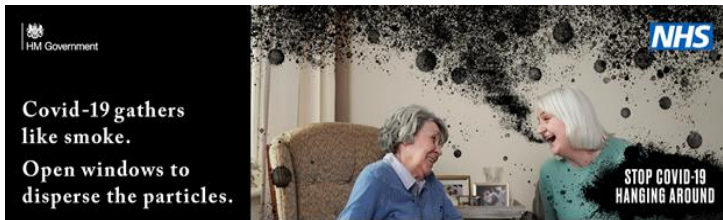
Waste site fire near Devizes

It took more than two and a half days to extinguish a fire involving some 300 tonnes of residual waste at a recycling centre on the outskirts of Devizes, which started on 17 November.

Firefighters worked through the night to contain the fire, supported by on-site staff who used loading shovel machinery to create fire breaks in the pile of waste.

Because of the size of the waste heap affected, the cause of the fire remains unknown.





Motorcycle safety focus of fire station display

Firefighters at Stratton fire station are again supporting the Christmas road safety campaign with a dramatic visual display.

This year's road traffic collision reconstruction, at the fire station in Highworth Road, involves a car and a motorbike, kindly provided by Grist Environmental. There is also a banner that says: "Don't get smashed – don't drink and drive".



Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service runs Biker Down Wiltshire, which is a free course available to motorcyclists and motorcycle clubs in Wiltshire and Swindon. A similar programme is available in the Dorset area, organised by the DocBike project.

Whether you ride your motorbike with a group of friends or on your own, there may be a time when you are the first person at the scene of a fallen biker. Injured motorcyclists need to be dealt with in a specific manner as it can be easy to cause them further injury, particularly by removing a crash helmet unnecessarily, or in the wrong way.

For further information, visit www.dwfire.org.uk/biker-down



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Demand

Total Fire Calls for Melksham Fire Station for period 1/12/21 – 26/02/22:-

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	24
No. of Fires	Chimney – 1 Fire in the open – 2 Car fire – 1 Kitchen fire - 1
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	RTC – 2 Bariatric rescue – 1 Minor release – 1 Dangerous structure – 1 Person locked in – 1 Gain entry - 1
Total	36

Local Incidents of Note

There have been no incidents of note within the Melksham Fire Station response area for the reporting period.

A local recruitment campaign has been conducted and as a result 5 people are currently going undertaking selection tests to become firefighters at Melksham Fire Station.

David Geddes

Station Manager

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