



Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board Report

This report is for the period 010911- 311011

Activities:

FIRES	
Accidental Fires attended	8
Deliberate Fires attended	3
Total Fires	11
No of Co-responding calls(for ambulance service)	29
No of Road Traffic Collisions attended	5
No of fire related deaths	NIL
No of fire related injuries	1
No of Home Fire Safety visits	19

Use Candles Safely.

Fires happen when candles are in use because:

- They are left unattended.
- We fall asleep without putting them out.
- We don't use the right kind of holders.
- We put them too close to clothing and furnishings.

These simple tips will help you to use candles safely:

- Tealights and nightlights in foil containers need to be placed in another suitable holder as they can melt through plastic materials. Tealights burn for four hours, nightlights for about eight hours, increasing the amount of heat given out. Be careful not to use nightlights in oil aromatherapy burners.
- Never leave a burning candle or oil burner in a child's bedroom.
- Keep candles out of draughts and away from furnishings and clothing.

- Keep candles and matches or lighters out of the reach of children.
- When re-lighting candles trim the wick and extinguish it if it starts to smoke.
- If using more than one candle allow 100mm between each one.
- Never burn a candle right down into the holder.
- You increase the risk of fire or injury if you move a candle while it is lit.
- Always put votive and scented candles in a glass or metal holder as they liquefy to release their fragrance.
- Be aware of the risk to clothing when celebration candles are in use.
- In the garden, keep children and pets away from garden candles and lanterns.

Whatever the occasion, whatever the time of year, enjoy using candles safely.

Chimney Fires:

With the onset of Autumn and the colder weather those with open fires; solid fuel or wood burning stoves should start making arrangement for chimneys and flues to be cleaned.

Chimneys for wood burning fires should be swept every three months when in use. If you burn smokeless fuels or bituminous coal, the chimney should be cleaned at least once a year. An annual clean is sufficient for oil and gas fires.

Other safety tips include:

- Have the chimney properly swept – using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient.
- Make sure your fire receives enough air to allow the fuel to burn properly.
- Only burn suitable fuels.
- Do not overload the grate or appliance.
- Maintain your appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires.
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly in the roof space. Make sure that it is sound and that the sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.
- Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house

For further information on home fire safety, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Michael R Franklin

Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager

November 2011