



Malmesbury Area Board Report

This report is for the period 010913- 300913

Activities:

FIRES	
Accidental Fires attended	4
Deliberate Fires attended	0
Total Fires	4
No of Co-responding calls(for ambulance service)	3
No of Road Traffic Collisions attended	0
No of fire related deaths or injuries	0
No of Home Fire Safety visits	7
No of fire alarms attended	1

Local managers report:

The 4 accidental fires attended in September involved a BBQ, garden shed, a field and farm machinery and a tea towel. The incident with the tea towel could have so easily caused significantly more damage to the house if it hadn't had been for the smoke alarm providing early warning. The 3 co-responder calls demonstrate our diversity in training and response to the local community, fire crews provided early medical intervention to 3 members of our community who were suffering from chest pains and problems with their breathing.

Home fire safety visits have been carried out across the area for those people identified through our prevention work or referred to us by our partner organisations. These visits continue to ensure the most vulnerable members of our community are provided with essential fire prevention advice in addition to ensuring a working smoke alarm is fitted in their property.

Our proactive work in reducing false alarms continues to drive down our need to respond to properties where the fire alarms have activated due to reasons other than fire. This reduces costs both in the running and maintenance of vehicles and reduces the risk of unnecessary blue light responses.

The profile of each station in Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is displayed on our web page, here you can look at fire statistics, station crewing and establishment, response times and a timeline of incidents attended by that station.

Damien BENCE Station Manager Chippenham; Corsham & Malmesbury

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

October 2013.