



**Wiltshire
Fire & Rescue
Service**

Briefing report for Tidworth Area Board



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has grouped together neighbouring fire stations into station hubs, to work more effectively and efficiently, supporting each other to improve the service we provide.

Responding to incidents:

Your Area Board's / Locality's communities immediate emergency response will be provided by staff at these stations and where necessary additional support from staff and specialist equipment from other stations.

Prevention work:

Staff from other departments also provide the community with specialist services giving fire safety and road safety advice and interventions such as talks and visits.

Protection work:

Specialist staff provide expert knowledge, give advice and undertake enforcement action working very closely with the planning authorities to keep communities safe from fire.

In an **emergency dial 999**, for other non urgent matters you can either visit our website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk or contact the following people:

	<u>Manager / Department</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>email</u>
Operational matters	Station Manager - Jason Underwood, Amesbury, Pewsey, Ludgershall Station Hub	07515 191951	jason.underwood@wiltshire.gov.uk
Partnership and community engagement issues	Michael Franklin (Wiltshire Council Area)	07919 306037	mike.franklin@wiltshire.gov.uk
Home fire safety visits and for talks and visits	Community safety department	0800 389 7849	www.wiltshire.gov.uk and then complete the on line request

Combination with Dorset approved by Fire Authority

At a special meeting of Wiltshire and Swindon Combined Fire Authority on 11 November, members voted unanimously in favour of combining with neighbouring Dorset.

Dorset Fire Authority had already unanimously agreed to the move at a meeting held in Dorchester on 4 November.

A 13 week public consultation showed an overwhelming preference from residents, businesses and partners across both counties for combination, not just for financial reasons but also for efficiency and resilience.

Combination with Dorset was also the strong recommendation of Chief Fire Officer Simon Routh-Jones, as professional advisor to the Fire Authority, as it would enable the organisation to maintain a safe, strong and sustainable Fire & Rescue Service that sits in the heart of local communities.

Support for combination was subject to assurance in writing from the Department of Communities and Local Government for equalisation of the fire precept element of the council tax – thus ensuring that residents in Wiltshire, Swindon, Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole will all pay the same.

Work will now start to develop a Combination Order, which will need to be laid before Parliament. The intention is that a new Combined Fire Authority would come in to existence on 1 April 2016.

See www.wiltshire.gov.uk/strengtheningourfrs for the business case, consultation results and other supporting documents.

Campaign to mark national Road Safety Week

Two Safe Drive Stay Alive presentations are being held in the coming days to correspond with National Road Safety Week (w/c 17 November). The theme of this year's national campaign, organised by the road safety charity Brake, is to 'look out for each other' on the roads.

The Safe Drive programme - which primarily targets Year 11 students across Wiltshire and Swindon - is very much focused on the behaviour of everyone in a vehicle, not just the driver. Our presentation is underpinned by a hard-hitting video, which sets out in graphic detail the consequences of irresponsible behaviour. It's far too easy to think that only drivers have to be careful when, actually, we all have to put safety first – whether we're a passenger, a cyclist or a pedestrian. It will be going to Wellington Academy in Tidworth on 19 November and shown to Army personnel during the first week in December.

Candle safety

Candles have become a staple decoration in many homes, scenting our rooms and offering an atmospheric glow on cold winter nights. But it's important to remember that a candle is not just another piece of furniture. Left unattended, the open flame scenting your home could leave a trail of devastation. Over fifty fires are started by candles every day - make sure you do not join the statistic. Place your lit candles with extra care, away from curtains, pets and children and always remember to put them out when you leave the room, even for a moment.

Warning given over portable heater safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is supporting a national campaign by Fire Kills and Electrical Safety First to highlight the potential dangers of portable heaters.

Research by Electrical Safety First has found that 78% of people surveyed were worried about the rising costs of energy bills, and over half would use portable heaters as a way of keeping warm this winter.

However, the research also found that 38% would leave a heater switched on and unattended, and 21% would leave one switched on overnight.

Evidence from across the country shows that portable heaters pose a real fire risk if not used properly, with vulnerable, elderly people most in danger. We would urge anyone wanting to warm their home in this way to take particular care of the type of heater used and to follow our advice on staying safe.”

Top tips include:

- Never leave portable heaters unattended or keep them on when you go to sleep.
- Ensure that heaters are positioned well away from anything that could knock them over.
- Keep heaters at least a metre away from combustible materials, such as curtains, soft furnishings or paper.
- Never buy second-hand halogen heaters.
- Never power a halogen heater from an extension lead, as these can easily be overloaded and cause a fire.
- Regularly inspect your heaters and don't use anything that appears to have been damaged.
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms and test them regularly.

Some households will qualify for a free home fire safety check from Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service. To find out more, call 0800 389 7849 or visit www.wiltsfire.gov.uk

Electrical Safety First is a charity dedicated to reducing deaths, injury and damage caused by electricity. For more information, visit www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

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