



**Wiltshire
Fire & Rescue
Service**

Briefing report for Chippenham; Corsham and Malmesbury Community Area Boards



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	Kit WATSON Chippenham, Corsham, Malmesbury Station Hub		kit.watson@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

Chief Fire Officer Designate appointed for new combined Fire Authority

Following a comprehensive selection process on Thursday 26 February involving Members from both Dorset and Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authorities together with independent specialist advisers, CFO Darran Gunter of Dorset Fire and Rescue Service has been appointed as CFO Designate for the new Dorset and Wiltshire FRS and will be the substantive CFO following the establishment of a new combined Service on 1 April 2016.

Cllr Chris Devine, Chairman of Wiltshire & Swindon Combined Fire Authority, and Cllr Rebecca Knox, Chairman of Dorset Fire Authority, said: "Darran will continue working closely with Elected Members on the Joint Committee overseeing the combination, and staff in both Wiltshire and Dorset Fire & Rescue Services to create a new organisation, its vision, and its future strategies and priorities.

"We are very grateful to Simon Routh-Jones, Chief Fire Officer of Wiltshire FRS, who has been instrumental in the combination strategy and we would like to thank him for all he has done in getting the project to this stage. He will continue to work with Darran to support the process to its conclusion.

"We look forward to continuing our work with Darran, Simon and both Fire & Rescue Services to build and develop a new, unified and successful Fire Authority."

Darran said "Our combination is by far the most complex and challenging change programme that both Services have embarked on. We are determined to protect and where possible strengthen frontline Services and I feel privileged and very proud to work with two such fire and rescue services. I am extremely grateful for the continued support from Simon Routh-Jones of Wiltshire and the professional team of Members and staff from both Services."

Message from Station Manager Watson

In the Chippenham, Corsham & Malmesbury area February was busier than last year. There was an increase in False Alarms and Fires which outweighed a reduction in non fire & rescue calls.

A lot of progress has been made in recent years to reduce the impact of false alarms. The majority of False alarms are caused by faulty equipment or incorrect use. Seasonal effects such as water leaks and dust or insects can also have an impact. Wilts F&RS operates a call challenging policy for reports of fire alarms operating to ensure that emergency responses are only made where needed, as much as possible.

We continue to respond where our control operators cannot confirm the call is a false alarm. Since February 2014 we have responded to over 200 Automatic Fire Alarms from Chippenham, Corsham & Malmesbury stations alone. 6 of which proved to be fires of some kind.

One of the most common causes of fire in the home is carelessness in the kitchen.

Last year, over half of all accidental fires in the home in England were linked to cooking with over 3,000 people injured in these kinds of fires each year.

Crews from Corsham, Chippenham and Bath attended one such fire in Box in February.

On-call firefighters needed in Malmesbury

If you live or work in Malmesbury, and are interested in becoming an on-call firefighter, then Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service wants to hear from you!

More people are needed to provide fire cover for Malmesbury and the surrounding communities. On-call firefighters respond to a pager when a 999 call is made locally, and cover is needed at all times.

Contracted hours can vary, but on-call personnel usually make themselves available for between 48 and 120 hours per week. Between them, each fire station team will provide cover for weekdays, evenings, nights and weekends.

Malmesbury firefighters drill at the town's fire station in Gloucester Road every Monday evening. In order to be on-call, you will need to be able to respond to the fire station in around five minutes once your pager goes off. This can be from home or work, and employers can benefit from a firefighter's training – such as first aid, manual handling, a greater understanding of health & safety in the workplace, and enhanced team spirit.

If you are interested in being a firefighter in Malmesbury, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/workingforus

Warning given over dangers of chip pans

Last year, over half of all accidental fires in the home in England were linked to cooking. Many of these were caused by deep fat frying, and over 3,000 people are injured in these kinds of fires each year.

Deep frying requires heating a large volume of oil to extremely high temperatures. The oil can cause terrible burns, and it can go up in flames. In fact, it's an ideal fuel for a fire and, as such, it's difficult to put out. Homemade chips are great, but the safest way to deep fry is to use a thermostat controlled deep fat fryer rather than a chip pan, as the thermostat stops it from overheating - or, even better, use oven chips!"

Top tips for cooking are:

- Never fill a chip pan more than a third full of oil.
- Take care when cooking with oil - it sets alight easily.
- If the oil starts to smoke, it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- Ideally, use a thermostat controlled deep fat fryer, which can't overheat.
- Don't leave cooking unattended - a forgotten pan can lead to disaster.
- If you've consumed alcohol, don't be tempted to cook with a chip pan.
- Avoid children being in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob.

If a pan does catch fire:

- Don't take any risks. Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so but don't try and move the pan.
- NEVER throw water over the fire - that will cause a fireball.
Don't tackle the fire yourself - get out, stay out, call 999.

Michael Franklin
Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager(Wiltshire Council area)
March 2015