



Briefing report for Bradford on Avon; Trowbridge, Warminster & Westbury Community Area Boards June 2015

Fire & Rescue Service to hold Senior Wellbeing Event in Trowbridge.

Following a request from the Trowbridge CAB; Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is working with partners to deliver a Senior Wellbeing Day to be held at the Town Hall, Market Street between 10am – 2pm on Wednesday 7th October. The event is open to anyone over the age of 50 can. Information and practical advice on how to keep safe at home will be available from a wide and diverse number of partner agencies. The event will be in the form of a 'market place', with stalls and displays set out so that visitors can easily see what is available.

New Legislation – Private Landlords

Wilts FRS have commenced a new project involving private landlords. New laws will require the fitting of smoke alarms on every level in the rental property. If there is a solid fuel appliance in the property then a CO alarm must also be fitted.

This new legislation comes into place on the 1st of October 2015 and the Government has provided funding to every Fire & Rescue Service to enable restricted numbers of smoke and CO alarms to be issued on a 'first come' basis free to Private landlords who meet the requirements. The alarms can be collected from Swindon; Trowbridge and Salisbury Fire Stations. Landlords will need to complete the form on our website where other information regarding collection can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk. The forms need to be completed prior to collecting the alarms.

Wiltshire FRS and Dorset FRS - Combination News

This month will see another significant step on the road to combination, with the first full meeting of the new Shadow Fire Authority on 23 June. With just nine months before the new Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service comes into being, staff at both existing FRSs are busy developing structures, policies, procedures and systems.

Six work streams have been established to direct this work, focusing on:

- Governance
- Strategic and organisational development
- Safety centre, strategic hub and Joint Command and Control Centre (JCCC)
- Service delivery and operational assets
- People and organisational design
- ICT and information management

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One of the outcomes from the combination will be the construction of a safety centre in Swindon on a site yet to be decided by the Fire Authority. The resources for this project have come from the Government transformation fund and will provide a Safety Centre for the people of Wiltshire. This will be a long term project and at the moment I cannot give any more detail but if you wish to look at the educational and community facilities offered by these types of premises in Dorset please take a look at www.Streetwise.org.uk.

Keeping canal users safe

Boat Safety Week took place in May and local firefighters visited boaters along the Kennet & Avon Canal to offer free safety advice.

Crews used bicycles to travel up and down the towpath, offering safety advice and free smoke detectors to people who live, work or were holidaying on the water. Crews also highlighted the specific dangers to boat users from carbon monoxide. Displays took place during the Boat Safety Week on long the canal at various locations where people were able to talk with Fire & Rescue Service personnel about keeping safe.

Although boat fires on inland waters are less common than fires on land, when they do occur, they can have devastating consequences – just last year, a man lost his life in a boat fire on the Kennet & Avon Canal in Hilperton.

To arrange a boat safety visit, call 0800 789 3849, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/boatsafety or just chat to any of the firefighters as they make their way along the towpath.

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