



## **Briefing for the Amesbury; Devizes; Pewsey and Tidworth Community Area Boards - June 2015**

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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

Dorset and Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authorities have successfully gained the support of the Secretary of State to combine and now start their one year journey in bringing together the two Fire & Rescue Services.

The combined Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service officially came into being in shadow status on 1 April 2015 and will replace the two existing Authorities on 1 April 2016. This combination will help to secure the future of the two Services and the continued safety of the public in the two counties.

As the two Services start to come together, they will be focused on ensuring they maintain

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the professional emergency services for people living in, working in and travelling through Dorset and Wiltshire.

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](http://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.

Two displays took place during the Boat Safety Week where people were able to talk with Fire & Rescue Service personnel about keeping safe. These were held at :

- Tuesday 26 May – Foxhangers Marina, Devizes
- Wednesday 27 May – Pewsey Wharf (by the Waterfront bar/bistro)

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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/boatsafety) or just chat to any of the firefighters as they make their way along the towpath.

Michael FRANKLIN  
Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager  
June 2015

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