



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Report for Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board - Oct 2010

Fires

WFRS attended 10 accidental fires in the Boards area during the months of July and August 2010. These incidents have included a rayburn cooker, grill pan, cooker, partially constructed bungalow, bin fire spreading to fencing, an outbuilding, barn, a manure heap, a hedgerow and farm waste.

We were also called to attend 5 deliberate fires over the same period involving rubbish at the side of the road, bin refuse, a tree and a car. A building was also damaged when waste materials stored up against the exterior wall was deliberately set fire to - this highlights the need to keep waste bins/skips, etc away from main buildings if possible. WFRS continues to liaise with other agencies to reduce deliberate fire setting.

Injuries

No individuals have been injured through any fire related incident that we have attended during July and August 2010.

RTCs

We have attended 8 Road Traffic Collisions within the Boards area. Two on the A419 and one on the A3102. Injuries were reported in four of the incidents.

Co-Responder Calls

WFRS attended 24 co-responder calls during July and August 2010.

Community Safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is reminding people about the importance of getting chimneys swept. The recent chilly weather at night has led to many homes having fires lit much earlier in the year than normal - which can be dangerous if the chimney has not been swept since the fire was last used.

The Service's advice is to ensure that chimneys for wood burning fires are swept every three months when in use. If you burn bituminous coal, the chimney should be cleaned at least twice a year, and at least once a year when burning smokeless coal. 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.

A wide range of fire safety advice can be found on the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service website - www.wiltshire.gov.uk