



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

North West Wiltshire Station Managers Area Board Report – January 2020

Are you Safe & Well?



**IT ONLY TAKES
ONE ACCIDENT
TO START A FIRE.**

ARE YOU SURE YOUR
SMOKE ALARMS ARE
WORKING?

TEST YOURS NOW.



The key messages for a safer home

- **Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed on all levels of your home.** Working alarms can give you the vital time needed to escape in a fire. Test your smoke alarms regularly and never remove batteries!
- **Never leave cooking unattended.** The majority of fires start in the kitchen so this is a high-risk area. Many of us enjoy a merry tippie over the festive season but be sure to avoid cooking whilst under the influence of alcohol. Always turn off kitchen appliances when you have finished cooking.
- **Never leave burning candles unattended.** Keep candles out of the reach of children, and away from decorations, cards and wrapping paper, fires, lights and heaters.
- **Put your cigarette out, right out.** Make sure your cigarette is fully extinguished and take care when under the influence of alcohol or tired. It's very easy to fall asleep while your cigarette is still burning and set furniture alight.
- **Never use heaters to dry clothes.** Heaters can start fires when things are placed too close to them. Keep them well away from curtains, clothing and furniture.



- **Don't overload sockets.** Ensure only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, except those that are designed to be left on, like freezers.
- **Ensure you switch off fairy lights** and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598) and are in good working order before use.
- **Always use an RCD (residual current device)** on outdoor electrical equipment. This safety device can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault and can be found in any DIY store.
- Make sure that everyone in your home knows what to do in a fire – **in the event of fire you should get out, stay out and call 999**

Our dedicated team of Safe & Well advisors can (at request) come to your home and discuss with you and your family how to maintain and regularly test you smoke alarms. They will also assist you in establishing a fire plan which will enable you to make a safe exit or go to a place of safety in the event of a fire in the home.

But this is not all the advisors do, they are also able provide you with information on how to make simple changes to enable us all to live a healthier life style. They can assist in organising support from organisations such as Age UK to assist our older relatives, arranging mental health support for those who maybe finding things just a little bit harder to deal with and, can also signpost with Safeguarding issues. All of which can bring together our partner agencies within the NHS, Council, Police and volunteer services who's aim is to enable those most vulnerable in our communities to be able to live in their own homes with the correct support.

DO YOU KNOW A CHARLIE

More than 6.5 million people in the UK are currently caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is older, disabled or seriously ill. Yet many people don't identify themselves as carers, they simply see themselves as spouses, partners, parents, children or friends.

A CHARLIE is a person whom meets at least one of the following criteria:

- **Care and support needs**
- **Hoarding and/or mental health issues**
- **Alcohol and medication use**
- **Reduced mobility**
- **Lives alone**
- **Inappropriate smoking**
- **Elderly and would benefit from support**

It only takes a few minutes to email or call us but can save a lifetime of heart ache for those who may suffer in silence, especially when they are cold in winter months or do not have the correct means to alert them to a fire in their home or to the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.



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Hoarding



We all keep things we don't really need. Some of us have more possessions than we have storage for. But hoarding is a complex issue that goes far beyond untidiness or indecisiveness.

Hoarders can fill entire rooms from floor to ceiling, leaving themselves the minimum space in which to live. This retention of property presents a real fire risk and makes it far harder for firefighters to be able to tackle any blaze.

The Fire and Rescue Service can't solve the problem of hoarding; however, where we know there is an issue, we can work with other agencies to try and reduce the risk of fire.

Evidence from across the country shows that:

- In 90% of all residential fires, the fire itself is contained to the room where it started. However, that figure drops to 40% where there is hoarding – as this additional material fuels the fire and makes it spread more quickly.
- When there is a fire in a hoarder's home, there is a far greater risk that the individual and/or family members will find it difficult or impossible to escape.
- Common materials kept by hoarders include newspapers, magazines, books and soft furnishings – all of which are highly combustible.
- The presence of vast amounts of hoarded material creates a risk to firefighters, both in getting to the fire and through increased heat and smoke.

By offering Safe and Well visits, and installing smoke alarms, we can work with hoarders to try and make their homes more fire safe. If they want help in dealing with their hoarding compulsion, then we can refer them to other agencies for that support. However, we know that not every hoarder is ready to take that step and we want to ensure that they are as fire safe as possible, whatever the circumstances of their home.

Contact us on either:

Email: <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

Phone: 0800 038 2323



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Recruitment



As a predominately rural service, we are hugely reliant on those who live and work in the local community to support us by becoming an 'On Call Firefighter'. Some of our local stations often struggle to provide a fire appliance during the day and this is due to a lack of available crew members at the station who are able to provide us with cover during working daytime hours.

Are you or do you know someone who lives or works within 5 minutes of your local fire station and would like to become an On-Call firefighter? Are you an employer that is willing to release a member of your staff to join us? Without the willingness of those in the community to join us then we will continue to struggle to turn fire appliances out for emergencies.

We will provide full training which includes firefighting skills, first aid, driving skills for Cat C vehicles (if required) and fire prevention and protection skills. All these skills that we provide can assist in an individual's normal workplace making that a safer environment within which to work. We provide all the uniform and fire kit and can help with travelling so there should be no expense to an individual once they manage to get in.

Payment / salary is based on the number of hours an individual can provide us and we provide holiday leave entitlement and a pension.

Our appliances and stations are based in the community and we need you as the community to help staff them.

Contact us on our recruitment hotline on 01722 691444 or email recruitment@dwfire.org.uk or pop into any one of our stations to find out more.



Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

Community Safety Plan

DWFRS Community Safety Plan 2018-2022 outlines our plans for the future. It explains the diverse services we provide and how we plan to improve and deliver them over the four-year period. The plan can be found on the DWFRS website <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>



Response

Total Incidents attended by DWFRS for Chippenham, Corsham, Calne & Malmesbury:

DWFRS have responded to a number of incidents in since the last report and the tables below provide a breakdown of these, by station, for the period 1st October 2019 until 31st December 2019.

There have been no incidents of note that require reporting upon during this time.

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Chippenham Fire Station P1 & P2 Appliance

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	40
No. of Fires	15
No. of Road Traffic Collisions, other Emergencies and Stand by's	44
Total	99

Corsham Fire Station P1 & P2 Appliance

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	26
No. of Fires	8
No. of Road Traffic Collisions, other Emergencies and Stand by's	12
Total	46

Calne Fire Station P1 Appliance

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	32
No. of Fires	3
No. of Road Traffic Collisions, other Emergencies and Stand by's	11
Total	46



Malmesbury Fire Station P1 Appliance

Category	Total Incidents
No. of False Alarms	21
No. of Fires	8
No. of Road Traffic Collisions, other Emergencies and Stand by's	7
Total	36

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