



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

ITEM 6 ii

Report for Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board - Nov 2010

Fires

WFRS attended 11 accidental fires in the Boards area during the months of September and October 2010. These incidents have included stubble, three straw fires, a fire in a first floor bedroom where clothes hanging on the back of a door came into contact with a candle, kitchen fire with unattended cooking, a BBQ propane cylinder, a car, a diesel generator and two chimney fires.

We were also called to attend 3 deliberate fires over the same period involving derelict caravans and a small refuse fire. WFRS continues to liaise with other agencies to reduce deliberate fire setting.

Injuries

No individuals have been injured through any fire related incident for this period.

RTC'S

We have attended 5 Road Traffic Collisions within the Boards area.

Co-Responder Calls

WFRS attended 26 co-responder calls.

Community Safety

The long winter evenings and the approach of Christmas mean that more and more people are lighting candles in their homes.

In previous years, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has been called to numerous fires caused by candles that have been left unattended and an incident that occurred in the Boards Area in September highlights the risks associated with candles. The following advice will help you to reduce these risks.

- Put your candles on a heat-resistant surface, and be especially careful with night lights and tea lights, which get hot enough to melt plastic - TVs are not fire-resistant objects.
- Make sure candles are held firmly upright by the holder so they won't fall over; the holder needs to be stable too, so it won't fall over either.
- Don't put candles near curtains, or other fabrics or furniture - and keep them out of draughts.
- Don't put candles under shelves - make sure there's at least one metre (three feet) between the flame and any surface above it.
- Keep clothes and hair away from the naked flame - if there's any chance you could forget a candle is there and lean across or brush past it, put it somewhere else.
- Candles should always be sited out of the reach of children and away from areas that pets can get into.
- Leave at least four inches (10cms) between any two candles.
- Extinguish candles before moving them and don't let anything fall into the hot wax, like matchsticks.

- Don't leave candles burning – you should extinguish candles before you leave a room; never go to sleep with a candle still burning, and never leave a burning candle or oil burner in a child's bedroom.
- Use a snuffer or a spoon to put out candles, as blowing them can send sparks and hot wax flying, and double-check that they're completely out and not still smouldering.
- Don't drop any match used to light a tea light into or onto the holder. This can produce an increase in the effect of the wick, increasing the burning and temperature of the tea light beyond that which it was designed to take.

Group Manager Perry Payne, from Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service's community safety department, said: "Candles seem like harmless fun, something that will brighten up a room or create an atmosphere, but if you don't take the proper care, they can destroy your home. It only takes a few seconds to be absolutely sure that a candle is safe, so please do follow our advice."

For a range of home fire safety tips, visit www.wiltsfire.gov.uk