



# Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

## Report for Calne Area Board

### Fires

WFRS attended 10 accidental fires within the Board's area during November and December 2010.

These incidents have involved a range of different items including 4 chimney fires, 1 tractor, a kitchen, a chip pan, an industrial light fitting, a small fire during a science experiment and an electricity pole.

It is pleasing to report that we saw a decrease in the number of deliberate fires that we attended during the same period, from 3 to 1. This involved a fire in a wheelie bin. WFRS continues to work with Wiltshire Police and other agencies to identify persons who are responsible for deliberate fire setting.

### Injuries

There were no fire related injuries reported during this period.

### RTC'S

Unfortunately there have been 3 incidents for November and December, occurring on the A4 between Chippenham and Calne, the A342 at Derry Hill and on the road at Blacklands.

### Community Safety

**Stay Safe and Warm this winter.** With winter weather well and truly here, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is keen to warn people to stay warm but safe as the colder weather continues to take hold.

The following advice will help you reduce your fire risk this winter:

**Fires and heaters** - open fires can provide a relaxing and atmospheric way to keep warm, whereas portable heaters are handy to move around - but it's important to use them safely:

- Always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks and hot embers from an open fire and make sure embers are under control and properly put out before you go out or go to bed.
- Keep portable heaters away from curtains and furniture and never use them for drying clothes. Always unplug electric heaters when you go out or go to bed.

### Electric blankets

Electric blankets can help you keep warm during the cold nights, but they can be a danger if not used properly - 440 injuries result from every 1,000 fires started by an electric blanket.

- Never use hot water bottles in the same bed as an electric blanket, even if the blanket is switched off.
- Unplug blankets before you get into bed, unless they have a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Don't leave electric blankets folded as this damages the internal wiring. Store them flat or rolled up instead.

### Candles

Darker evenings can be made brighter by lighting candles but, as with open fires, a naked flame brings risks if not treated carefully.

- Candles should be secured in a proper holder, and away from materials that may catch fire - like curtains.
- It is also very important that candles are put out completely when you leave the room or go to bed.

For a full range of home fire safety advice, visit [www.wiltsfire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltsfire.gov.uk)