

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board – Report for November 2018

Community Engagement

Remembrance Day Parades



Marking the Fire Service's history and close affiliation to the Royal Navy, both Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade stations attended acts of Remembrance to those who gave their lives in conflicts and this was especially poignant as it marked the ending of the WW1 hostilities 100 years ago. Over 900 Firefighters lost their lives during WW2 whilst fighting fires and rescuing those injured or killed during the bombing of our major cities.

Crews at Cricklade and RWB Fire stations carried out a number of events recently including:

Royal Wootton Bassett Academy supporting their careers and safety event
Charity car wash in aid of The Wiltshire Air Ambulance and the Firefighters Charity

BBC's Children in Need Rikshaw Challenge also paid a pit stop visit to Royal Wootton Bassett recently. The station turned out in force to support his great cause and provided the team with much needed hot drinks



Safety Messages

- In the last six years, over 250 recall notices have been issued for electrical products, mostly due to a risk of electric shock or fire. Use Electrical Safety First's online product checker to make sure the appliances in your home are safe: www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/recall
- Make sure you register your electrical appliances so that you are the first to know of any safety repairs or recalls. You can do this through the manufacturers' websites, or through the register my appliance website: www.registermyappliance.org.uk
- Don't overload plug sockets. An extension lead or adaptor will have a limit to how many amps it can take so, to help reduce the risk of fire, be careful not to overload them. Try to keep to one plug per socket
- Many imported chargers do not satisfy UK safety regulations and can cause serious electric shock, injury or fire. Don't be tempted to buy the cheap ones. Never use water on an electrical fire and don't take any risks with your safety. Pull the plug out or switch the power off if it is safe to do so. Get out, stay out and call 999.
- Switch off appliances at the socket when not in use. This helps to reduce the risk of fire. Switch off appliances when you go to bed or when you go out unless they are designed to be left on, like freezers.



The Fire Service continue to offer Safe & Well visits to residents and if you or someone you know is in need a working smoke alarm to be fitted or needs some fire safety advice in the home or are just worried about what to do in an emergency then you can contact us at; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>

We will arrange for one of our trained advisors or fire crews to pop round and discuss your requirements and needs, give you some top tips for fire safety within the home and if you meet our criteria for free smoke alarm installation we will also do that during the visit.

Chimney Fires

Chimney fires can develop into roof fires in the right conditions with devastating effects. This is especially true with thatched roof properties.

To reduce your risk of a chimney fire we recommend:

- Ensuring any works carried out are by a registered professional



- Sweep your chimney at least twice a year – in autumn and early spring
- Keep your chimney in good working order, for example by fitting a bird guard to prevent birds nesting in the flue.

Chimneys should be swept:

- At least once a year when using smokeless fuels or bituminous coal
- Every three months when burning wood
- Once a year when using oil or gas.

When your fire is alight, check the loft space occasionally to make sure no smoke is leaking into the roof space from cracked joints or defective brickwork.



<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safety-at-home/chimney-safety>

<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DWFire-Thatched-Living.pdf>

Response

Total Emergency Calls for Cricklade Fire station; 20/08/2018 – 12/11/2018

Category	Callsign	Total Incidents
False Alarm	52P1	6
Fire	52P1	8
Other	52P1	7
Special Service	52P1	5
Medical Calls	52V1	3
Total		29

Other – This can be a movement to another fire station to provide fire cover during an ongoing incident.

Due to IT access at the time of writing, only the figures for the specified date range are shown, September figures will be shown in the next Area Board report.

Availability of On-Call appliance 52P1 Cricklade; 20/08/18 – 12/11/2018

Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
52P1	27.83%	85.19%	56.51%

The reduced figures during the day are attributed to possible course attendance as part of a Firefighters requirement to maintain competence, personnel taking annual leave or due to fulltime work commitments where individuals work outside of the town and cannot supply us cover.

Total Emergency Calls for RWB Fire station; 20/08/2018 – 12/11/2018

Category	Callsign	Total Incidents
False Alarm	56P1	9
Fire	56P1	15
Other	56P1	12
Special Service	56P1	8
Medical Calls	56V1	16
Water Carrier	56W1	7
Total		67

Other – This can be a movement to another fire station to provide fire cover during an ongoing incident.

Due to IT access at the time of writing, only the figures for the specified date range are shown, September figures will be shown in the next Area Board report.

Availability of On-Call appliance 56P1 RWB; 20/08/18 – 12/11/2018

Appliance	Day (06:00 - 18:00)	Night (18:00 - 06:00)	Total
56P1	60.37%	90.53%	75.45%

The reduced figures during the day are attributed to possible course attendance as part of a Firefighters requirement to maintain competence, personnel taking annual leave or due to fulltime work commitments where individuals work outside of the town and cannot supply us cover.

On-Call Recruitment

As the Availability tables show, crewing of appliances during the day falls below our ideal expectation of 100%. We continue to strive and improve on the number of personnel at each station through our recruitment process so as we can increase the number of hours our



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appliances are available for emergency calls. The local appliances are only available to attend calls due to the commitment given by those who live and work within your community, without those in the community coming forward your appliance will not be available. If you are able to give some of your time or know someone who may be interested in joining our 'On-call' teams then why not pop into one of the stations on a. Crews are not volunteers but are paid a salary to train and respond to emergency calls. If you are (or do know a person) who may be interested in joining our team why not pop in for a chat on a Monday evening between 7pm and 9pm with the local crew members or, you can get details of how to join our team on our website www.dwfire.org.uk . Alternatively, you can contact us on our Recruitment hotline 01722 691444



Recent Notable Incidents

There has been a number of incidents attended since the last Area Board report including a commercial fire in Swindon and thatched property fire near to Marlborough. These calls (on top of the normal incidents attended) have kept the stations busy during this recent period.

Cricklade attended a fire in Minety where over 60 tonnes of straw and manure were alight. A local farmer came to the assistance of the crews and removed unburnt material away from the main body of fire. Crews were grateful for the farmers assistance as this greatly reduced the amount of time the Fire Service were required to spend at the incident.

Community Safety Plan

Our Community Safety Plan is our vision until 2020 and can be found on the DWFRS website; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

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