



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Report for Chippenham Area Board

Fires

WFRS attended 7 accidental fires within the Board's area during December 2010 and January 2011.

These incidents have involved a range of different items including 2 cars, a microwave and a light unit of a van. The remainder of these incidents involved chimney fires.

We have seen a decrease in the number of deliberate fires that we attended during the same period, from 10 to 5. These have involved an outbuilding, a car, sofa, refuse and a display trailer. 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

WFRS have attended 2 Road Traffic Collisions during December 2010 and January 2011.

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.wiltshire.gov.uk