



## Southern Wiltshire Area Board December

In the lead up to the festive period we looked to ensure that our most vulnerable people within the community were cared for and Christmas Safety advice given out for the wider audience. Now into the New year we look to continue the good work of the previous year and will be aiming to improve as a Service by developing our staff, ensuring resilience and response by taking delivery of new appliances and developing existing and new partnerships.

The teams that form part of South Wiltshire continue to strive forward in making gains in their activities in and around their community. Some examples for you:

- Safe & Well-Being Visits remain as a primary focus and teams aim to increase visits on a monthly basis with the theme of **staying warm** in the winter months. Spreading the word through our partners will help us achieve getting the word to the wider audience.
- 2019 dates have been programmed in to host the NHS Blood Donation at the fire station in Salisbury.
- Continued working with local Parishes with their operational Flood Working Group should ensure effective response to flooding during the wet periods. Joint exercises are being planned for 2019.
- Amesbury Fire Station attended the annual Tree of Lights – article attached
- Emergency Christmas food boxes were kept at Salisbury & Amesbury over the Xmas period – supported by the Trussell Trust.

With Europe experiencing heavy snowfalls and dropping temperatures it is worth remembering our advice on staying safe and warm in your home over the Winter months. Please do not forget about those forgotten or vulnerable people, who, without support and care would struggle through these tough times.

## Amesbury Tree of Lights

The tree is filled with 100's of white & green lights, each white light representing a lost loved one or friend and each Green light honouring fallen service personnel. The Special Service was well attended with guest speakers.

The event was opened with music from **Shrewton Silver Band** and a choir made up of local schoolchildren. It was warmly supported by hot chocolate and mince pies.

As the tree was lit up, the lights were dedicated by Father Darren A'Court and Padre Nick Adley.



Each light has been sponsored, with the money raised going to the 1st Amesbury Scout Group, towards camping equipment and improvements to their hall.

### **GUESTS OF HONOUR AT THE AMESBURY SERVICE:**

Given the tough year that Amesbury has had in the wake of the nerve agent incident, there were specially invited guests at the event.

All three emergency services were represented, with speeches from:

**Wiltshire's Police Chief Constable Kier Pritchard &  
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (DWFRS) Station Manager Paul Webber**

## **Amesbury On-Call – Recruitment**



Firefighters in Amesbury are giving you the chance to ‘have a go’ at becoming an on-call firefighter at several events taking place next week. Fire crews will be on station on 16<sup>th</sup> January from 6:30pm-8:30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> January from 7pm-9pm to encourage local people to become on-call firefighters.

DWFRS needs new on-call recruits to provide fire cover at locations across Wiltshire, but particularly in Amesbury. Contracted hours can vary, but on-call personnel usually make

themselves available for between 90 and 120 hours per week. Between them, each fire station team will provide cover for weekdays, evenings, nights and weekends.

On-call Support Officer Vicki Brewis said: “The easiest way to see if being a firefighter is for you is to come along, have a chat with the crew and try your hand at different things. There will be opportunity try on breathing apparatus, climb a ladder and do the national firefighter selection test for carrying equipment.”

She added: “On-call firefighters receive the same training and development as wholetime colleagues, and we can be called to all manner of emergencies, including fires, road traffic collisions, animal rescues and flooding. The pay does vary, depending on how much cover you give, but it is fantastically rewarding to be a part of your community and to be in a position to help people.”

In order to be on-call, you will need to be able to respond to the fire station in around five minutes once your pager goes off. This can be from home or work, and employers can benefit from a firefighter’s training – such as first aid, manual handling, a greater understanding of health & safety in the workplace, and enhanced team spirit.

If you are interested in being an on-call firefighter but can’t attend this event, visit [www.dwfire.org.uk/be-one-of-us](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/be-one-of-us)

## Winter Warm Scheme



DWFRS is committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. We want to reduce the risk and harm to our communities by targeting those most at risk.

The impact of living in a cold home for older people is often significant and can shorten lives. National data suggests that most excess winter deaths occur among people aged 75 years and over.

Every winter, tens of thousands of older people die or become seriously ill in the UK because of the cold. Cold weather in winter months can affect or exacerbate a range of health problems, including respiratory and circulatory conditions, cardio vascular disease, mental health and accidental injury. In a bid to prevent excess winter deaths, we have just taken stock of 'Winter Warmth Packs'.

We believe that helping people keep themselves and their homes warm is key to reducing the number of those who die or become seriously ill because of living in a cold home.

Studies show that long term exposure to a cold home can affect weight gain in babies and young children, increase in hospital admissions and increase the severity and frequency of asthmatic symptoms.

Safe & Well Visits (SWVs), are carried out and in a bid to prevent excess winter deaths, DWFRS will promote simple things older people can all do to keep warm and well in winter. A trained Safe and Well Advisor or Operational Crew use the 'Winter Warmth Risk Matrix' to determine what action to take when they identify someone who may be living in a cold home.



All 'High Risk' cases, identified using the Winter Warmth Matrix, are given a 'Winter Warmth Pack' and at least one heater is installed •

All 'Medium Risk' cases receive a 'Winter Warmth Pack'.

Partner Agencies are able to refer 'high risk' cases to DWFRS for a heater to be on loan until the occupiers primary heating source is fixed. The referring Partner Agency are the contact point for DWFRS, if there are any issues during

the loan or collecting the heater once the loan has finished.

Heaters are loaned out for a short-term period, if the problem is not quickly resolved, a longer period of loan can be negotiated.

## A Reminder from last Report

### Chimney Safety

A clean chimney can help prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Regular cleaning of your chimney or flue will eliminate the build-up of soot and clear obstructions such as bird or animal nests, leaves and debris.

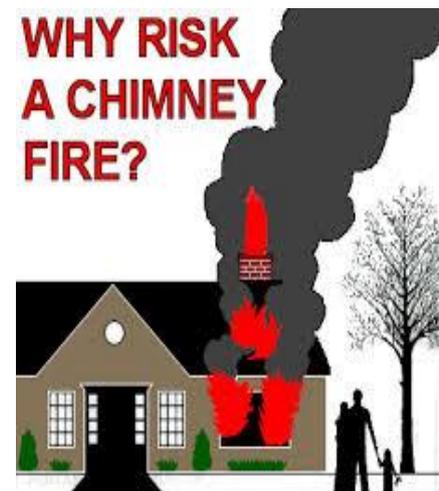
Chimneys should be swept:

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

#### See also:

Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps  
– [www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk)

National Association of Chimney Sweeps – [www.nacs.org.uk](http://www.nacs.org.uk)



## Keeping Warm in the Winter

Keeping warm in the winter means using portable heaters, electric blankets or wheatbags – but all of these carry a fire risk.

### Portable heaters



- Keep heaters at least one metre (3ft) away from curtains and furniture.
- Never use portable heaters for drying clothes.
- Always unplug portable heaters before going to bed or leaving the property.
- Only use gas and paraffin heaters in well ventilated areas.

### Open fires



- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained, ensuring that they are swept at least once a year.
- Make sure you always use a fireguard to protect against sparks and hot embers.
- Don't hang laundry too close to the fire in case of sparks.
- Ensure that the fire is fully out before you go to bed or leave the property.

### Gas fires

- A Gas Safe registered engineer should carry out installation and maintenance.
- Ventilation is essential – vents should never be blocked or obstructed.
- Do not turn any electrical switches on or off if you can smell gas.



- If you can smell gas, get out of the property and call 999.

## Electric blankets

- When buying an electric blanket, go to a reputable retailer and make sure the product meets the current UK and European safety standards – for example, BEAB Approved.



- Always read the manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Never use a hot water bottle 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.
- When storing an electric blanket, don't fold it as this may damage the internal wiring. Store flat or rolled up.
- Examine the blanket regularly for signs of wear and tear – for example, worn or frayed fabric, scorch marks, wires poking through the material, any damage to the flex. If you find an issue, get the blanket replaced.
- Get your blanket tested by a qualified electrician at least every three years and replace blankets every ten years.

## Thatched Properties



The counties of Dorset and Wiltshire have thousands of thatched homes – although there is no increased risk of fire within thatched properties, the impact of a fire is far greater.

Thatch fires are typically attended by in excess of 50 firefighters, at least eight appliances and often for over 24 hours. The National Society of Master Thatchers estimate that the average cost of a thatch fire is in excess of £45,000.

A range of fire prevention tips can be found in our free downloadable advice leaflet, [Your Thatched Home](#).

There is also a useful downloadable leaflet from the [Thatch Advice Centre](#).

Further advice can also be found on the [National Society of Master Thatchers website](#).

## Community Safety Delivery



The Service is about to sign up to an MOU with the Environment Agency, supporting our joint approach to managing risk associated with pop-up and licensed waste sites, to help us better target our inspection programme. Training will be delivered in terms of awareness of the risks associated with these sites and the good management of these.

- Following the red fleet review, procurement will take place for new fire appliances and specials. A timeline and plan will be issued shortly.
- A review of our estates requirements will help us understand longer term requirements of our estates.
- A large focus has been spent recently reviewing financial issues, value for money, capital/revenue budgets and procurement. The Finance team advised that training will be delivered in the New Year for all budget holders to help further improve budget management.
- We have good cyber security arrangements in place but, with increased and changing cyber threats nationally, and following further guidance from the Local Resilience Forum, we will be looking to raise this risk to strategic level to ensure that emerging threats are well managed and actions put in place to build on our existing arrangements.

• In support of the Local Resilience Forum, work is currently underway to understand what a 'no deal' Brexit means for us in terms of resilience. This will enable us to effectively prepare and plan for potential impacts with a multiagency approach.

## Safe & Well Visits



We continue to provide a totally free service and are looking for opportunities from our partners to help us plan visits to our most

vulnerable people within our community

In addition to fitting smoke detectors we now offer heat detectors, all of which are free. This will be done whilst giving valuable advice to occupants on how to make them and their family safer and healthier in the home. The appointment normally lasts about one hour and covers topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you
- Identifying and discussing any further support you may need if necessary

A selection of free leaflets containing useful information on Safety in and around the home can be found on our Website below:

### How to register for a S&W Visit

**To request a free Safe and Well Visit, please call 0800 038 2323 or alternatively you can enter your postcode below and follow the instructions to see if you match our criteria for a Safe and Well Visit.**

**Visit** <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/> to book a visit, leaflet advice and watch a short video that introduces Safe and Well visits.

## **Community Engagement**



Salisbury Fire Station continues to proactively use our Pinpoint programme or our Community Map which allows us to see the risks to our community geographically and therefore target specific properties for High Risk Safe and Well (S&W) visits. Following incidents at

domestic properties any serious concerns are dealt with through a S&W visit or referred through the Safe-Guarding process.

We can also arrange visits to our fire stations or one of our safety centres. For more information or to make a booking for your school or pre-school, please visit our webpage; <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/school-visits/> or email [enquiries@dwfire.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dwfire.org.uk)

### **Community Safety Plan**

DWFRS Community Safety Plan can be found on the DWFRS website; <http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>



## Response



### Total Fire Calls:

#### October

| Category        | Incidents Salisbury | Incidents Wilton | Incidents Amesbury |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| False Alarm     | 9                   | 0                | 1                  |
| Fire            | 7                   | 2                | 1                  |
| Special Service | 7                   | 3                | 1                  |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>23</b>           | <b>5</b>         | <b>3</b>           |

#### November

| Category        | Incidents Salisbury | Incidents Wilton | Incidents Amesbury |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| False Alarm     | 9                   | 1                | 1                  |
| Fire            | 15                  | 2                | 6                  |
| Special Service | 22                  | 2                | 3                  |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>46</b>           | <b>5</b>         | <b>10</b>          |

#### December

| Category        | Incidents Salisbury | Incidents Wilton | Incidents Amesbury |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| False Alarm     | 11                  | 0                | 2                  |
| Fire            | 10                  | 1                | 4                  |
| Special Service | 21                  | 2                | 4                  |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>42</b>           | <b>3</b>         | <b>10</b>          |



### **Points of Interest for the Salisbury Station and neighbouring stations Wilton & Amesbury**

- Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) progress update - Salisbury crew are undertaking additional training at Westbourne Fire Station, Dorset to prepare for the imminent arrival of the new ALP.
- Technical Rescue training in Large Animal Rescue and Water Rescue will commence soon.
- Wilton will start their Wading Response training soon and multi-agency exercises are being planned for 2019.
- The works for a Command Training Suite at Salisbury is complete. This will ensure that Operational Commanders are trained and assessed so that they meet the demands of an Incident.
- Salisbury & Amesbury worked with The Trussell Trust and supplied emergency food boxes over the Christmas Period. - [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

### **Community Safety Plan**

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<http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/>

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