



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD REPORT (May 2021)

Community Safety Plan

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

Prevention

We are committed to making a real difference to the lives of people in Dorset and Wiltshire. Our aim is to reduce the level of risk and harm to our communities from fire, targeting those most at risk. We do this primarily through our Safe and Well visits.

A Safe and Well visit is **FREE** and normally lasts about one hour covering 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 the occupier may need

Are you or anyone you know:-

- Over the age of 65?
- Need a smoke detector?
- Have a long-term health condition?
- Suffer from poor hearing or sight loss?
- Would you struggle to escape in the event of a fire?

If you can answer yes to more than one of these questions, then please call us on 0800 038 2323 or visit <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/>



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Protection

On-going interaction by Protection Team members with Local Authorities, Private landlords and tenants regarding fire safety-related matters: external cladding systems; fire detection and warning systems; fire resisting doors (& self-closers); combustibility/fire resistance of construction materials; commercial and residential sprinklers systems and water-mist suppression systems

General Enquiries

If you have a general fire safety enquiry regarding commercial property, please email fire.safety@dwfire.org.uk and the Fire Safety Team will respond in office hours.

Fire Safety Complaint

If you wish to tell us about fire safety risks in commercial premises, such as locked or blocked fire exits, you have three options:

- You can email the fire safety department at enforcement@dwfire.org.uk
- Call 01722 69 1717 during office hours (9am-5pm).
- Call our Service Control Centre on 0306 799 0019 out of office hours (5pm-9am)

On Call Recruitment

Have you always wondered if you could join the fire service, but haven't had the opportunity to find out more? Have you found yourself seeking your next challenge, keen to give back to the local community or wanting to learn new skills including leadership and teamwork? Then becoming an on-call firefighter is for you.

As a paid position, on-call firefighters commit anywhere between 40 to 120 hours per week, during which time they must be able to respond to the station immediately.

Many have 'normal' jobs during the day, then upon their return home make themselves available overnight or during the weekends. Some of our crew respond from their workplaces during the day, and we are very grateful to their employers for releasing them to perform their vital duties.

Anyone over 18 years old can apply (although you can also apply once you are 17½) you must be able to respond and attend the fire station within 5-8 minutes, you have a good standard of physical fitness (i.e. you are generally active), and you must have the right to work in the UK.

Further information on becoming an On Call Firefighter can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters/ or should you have any questions, you can call **01722 691444**.



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Recent News & Events

Fire escape hoods used at incident for first time

Life-saving equipment, brought in following recommendations from the Phase 1 report of the Grenfell Tower public inquiry, has been used for the first time by the Service. Fire escape hoods, which help to protect the wearer from toxic fire-related gases, vapours and particles for at least 15 minutes, are currently being rolled out. They are used when people need to be evacuated from or through a smoke-filled location, and other exits – such as using a ladder or a smoke-free staircase – are not available. A procurement for the fire escape hoods started last September, with a training package made available to firefighters in February and the first supplies being delivered to fire stations last month. All fire engines within DWFRS will carry the hoods by the end of April. SM Adam Martin, who led the project to bring in the hoods, said: “We have allowed four hoods per appliance, and BA wearers can clip a pouch to their set when they enter a location where people may need to be rescued or brought to safety. The pouch can be restowed if the hood isn’t needed; if used, it should be disposed of and replaced. An e-learning package has been added to Grow, and procedure AEQ 3.6 provides all the relevant information to operational crews.”

CFO Ben Ansell said: “The provision of fire escape hoods was a recommendation within the Phase 1 report of the Grenfell Tower public inquiry and we worked with other fire and rescue services within the South West to agree a common approach. Although prompted by the Grenfell Tower fire, these hoods are not limited to use in high-rise buildings; they are suitable for any situation where a member of the public has to be moved to safety through a smoke-filled area.” He added: “Fifteen minutes of protection against toxic smoke can make the difference between life and death. We would always prefer an escape route away from smoke, but that isn’t always possible. At a recent fire in Bournemouth, we brought 11 people to safety from a three-storey block of flats; nine of those people were evacuated using a ladder, but two wore our new fire escape hoods and were led safely through the building.” The hoods were tested by firefighters in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area during four high-rise exercises held in November and December. A video showing how the hoods are fitted can be found here:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WEO48Bv3H0>



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Safe and Well Visits



During the coronavirus pandemic we are still able to offer support to you in your home, albeit with a slightly different approach to help prevent the inadvertent spread of the virus.

Your safety is really important to us, so to help us before we visit your home we will telephone you to provide you with home fire safety advice and to identify if any additional equipment may be required, such as smoke, heat or CO alarms.

We will then arrange to visit you at a convenient time to install any equipment and briefly look around your home to identify any fire risks.

To help us keep you safe we will wear appropriate PPE whilst in your home and will ask you to remain at a safe distance away from us, as well as wear a face covering, if possible.

Business safety during coronavirus outbreak



While we all deal with the implications of the coronavirus pandemic, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to support the owners and managers of buildings and businesses.



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The Service is not carrying out routine fire safety visits during this period; however, please be aware that enforcement and prohibition work will continue.

Further guidance on carrying out a risk assessment is available here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-your-premises-safe-from-fire>

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Demand

Total Fire Calls for Chippenham Fire Station for period 1st January to 31st March 2021:-

Category	Number of Incidents
No. of False Alarms	32
No. of Fires	21
No. of Road Traffic Collisions and other Emergencies	21
Total	74

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