



Briefing report for Chippenham; Corsham, Calne & Melksham Community Area Boards May 2015

Countdown to Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service combination began on 1st April

Wiltshire & Swindon and Dorset Fire Authorities started the one year countdown to their combination after successfully securing the support of the public, constituent authorities and the Secretary of State. The new Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority officially came into being in shadow status on 1 April 2015 and will replace the two existing Authorities on 1 April 2016.

This combination is the first of its kind in the fire sector and will help to secure the future direction and development of both Wiltshire and Dorset Fire & Rescue Services as well as the continued safety of the public in the two counties.

The combination will make substantial savings of between £4-6 million per year, which will help us to protect frontline services as much as possible and continue to develop the services we provide to the community in the most efficient way. The combination will allow the two authorities to come together to build a safe, strong and resilient combined Fire & Rescue Service fit for the future.

Warning over mirror danger

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is again warning against the dangers of sunlight reflecting off mirrors and glass ornaments.

There have been a number of incidents where fires have broken out in homes as a result of the sun's rays being reflected onto fabric or other flammable material.

A wooden cabinet within a property in Trowbridge was badly scorched when sunlight refracted through a glass paperweight. A crew from Salisbury was called to commercial premises in Catherine Street, where carpet within a window display had been set alight by sunlight refracting through a round glass ornament.

A mirror or any other glass object - such as an ornament - that is curved, allows the glass to act as a lens. When the sunlight hits it, it becomes concentrated and, if the rays are bounced onto something flammable - such as curtains or soft furnishings - then a fire can start.

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has a wealth of home fire safety advice on its website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/safetyinthehome

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In addition, the Service offers free home fire safety checks where householders are given bespoke advice on how best to keep themselves safe from the risk of fire. To see if you qualify for a visit, call 0800 389 7849 or visit www.wiltsfire.gov.uk

Businesses or organisations providing services to older people are being invited to sign up for a number of free events.

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is working with partners to deliver a series of Senior Wellbeing Days, where anyone over the age of 50 can source information and practical advice on how to keep safe at home. Each event will be in the form of a 'market place', with stalls and displays set out so that visitors can easily see what is available.

The planned dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 22 September at Swindon
- Wednesday 23 September at Calne
- Thursday 24 September at Devizes
- Tuesday 29 September at Salisbury
- Wednesday 30 September at Westbury
- Thursday 1 October at Ludgershall
- Tuesday 6 October at Mere

All of the events are scheduled to run from 10am to 2pm, apart from Devizes, which will be from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

Anyone interested in taking a stall is asked to contact: Mike Franklin at Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service no later than 30 May by emailing michael.franklin@wiltsfire.gov.uk

New firefighters needed

On-call firefighters are still needed for Marlborough; Malmesbury, Pewsey, Royal Wotton Bassett and Tisbury fire stations.

If you live or work in any of these towns and are interested in becoming an on-call firefighter, then Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service wants to hear from you!

The crews in these towns need more people to provide fire cover. On-call firefighters make themselves available to respond to a pager when a 999 call is made, and cover is needed at all times.

Contracted hours can vary, but on-call personnel usually make themselves available for between 48 and 120 hours per week. Between them, each fire station team will provide cover for weekdays, evenings, nights and weekends.

If you are interested in being an On Call firefighter, visit www.wiltsfire.gov.uk/workingforus

Michael FRANKLIN Partnerships & Community Engagement Manager

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