



Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Report for Melksham Area Board - October 2010

Fires

WFRS attended 6 accidental fires during the months of July and August 2010 including a kitchen fire where plastic items were left on the hotplate, a shed, the hallway of a house because a dog chewed through some wiring, hedgerow and fencing, and 2 refuse bins.

We were also called to 6 deliberate fires over the same period involving refuse fires, a farm building, hay bales and a fence. WFRS continues to liaise with other agencies to reduce deliberate fire setting.

Injuries

No injuries through any fire related incidents have occurred during July and August 2010.

RTC'S

We have attended 2 Road Traffic Collisions within the Boards area. One of these occurred at Bollands hill. One injury was reported.

Co-Responder Calls

WFRS have responded to 57 co-responder calls over this period.

Community Safety

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is reminding people about the importance of getting chimneys swept after already being called to a chimney fire in August. The recent chilly weather at night has led to many homes having fires lit much earlier in the year than normal - which can be dangerous if the chimney has not been swept since the fire was last used.

The Service's advice is to ensure that chimneys for wood burning fires are swept every three months when in use. If you burn bituminous coal, the chimney should be cleaned at least twice a year, and at least once a year when burning smokeless coal. An annual clean is sufficient for oil and gas fires. Other tips include:

- Have the chimney properly swept – using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient.
- Make sure your fire receives enough air to allow the fuel to burn properly.
- Only burn suitable fuels.
- Do not overload the grate or appliance.
- Maintain your appliance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires.
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly in the roof space. Make sure that it is sound and that the sparks or fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.
- Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air bricks, vents or flues.
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

A wide range of fire safety advice can be found on the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service website - www.wiltsfire.gov.uk