

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority



Your Safety, Our Priority 2008/09
www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service



Your safety, our priority

During 2007, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service:

- Attended 13,856 emergencies, including 1,962 fires, 688 road traffic collisions and 309 flooding incidents
- Made 18 rope rescues and 30 water rescues

In 2006/07 we also:

- Targeted 7,724 students with the Safe Drive, Stay Alive roadshow
- Made 3,927 home safety checks
- Fitted 6,169 smoke alarms
- Provided counselling support to more than 50 young people referred to the Juvenile Fire Setters programme



Our aim is to "continue providing an efficient and effective Fire & Rescue Service, protecting the people in Wiltshire and Swindon, by working together with others to make our communities safer and stronger."

To help us achieve this, we carried out the biggest public consultation ever undertaken by the service. Firefighters from across Wiltshire and Swindon went out and about during December

2007 in their local communities to get the views of some 8,000 residents.

The findings will provide evidence of people's experiences of dealing with the service, and also gauge what local people see as priorities.

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service focuses on prevention, protection and response – further information can be found on our website, www.wiltshire.gov.uk



Prevention

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service works with all parts of the community to keep people safe from harm and prevent both fires and road traffic collisions.

The Salamander Project focuses on young people who are at risk of being involved in anti-social behaviour. The week-long course encourages team work and discipline through firefighting activities.

In 2007, nearly 8,000 young people attended a **Safe Drive, Stay Alive** roadshow. This hard-hitting presentation, created in collaboration with our community safety partners, uses real incidents and real victims to show the devastating effects of poor driving.



Junior Good Citizen is a life skills programme delivered to thousands of primary school children across Wiltshire and Swindon. This is a joint project with the other emergency services and local authorities. Young people who have been involved in deliberate or accidental fire setting can get help from **Juvenile Fire Setters**, an advisory service specially designed to deter re-offending.

We offer free **home fire safety checks** to those most in need of help and advice. These are carried out by our operational crews, with a focus on identifying potential fire risks, knowing how to reduce or prevent these risks, and putting together an escape plan.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home safety check, you can either visit our website at www.wiltfire.gov.uk or call our freephone number – 0800 389 7849.





Photo:Wiltshire Times

Protection

As a fire and rescue service, we need to know that the people of Wiltshire and Swindon are protected from fire. One way we do this is by making sure buildings meet required fire safety standards.

We will continue to campaign for the fitting of sprinklers where they can be shown to reduce the risk to life or significant property loss.

During 2007, we successfully negotiated with Wiltshire County Council to get sprinklers included in Melksham's new secondary school. Full risk assessments will be carried out at all future new builds within the county.

Extreme flooding – summer of 2007

In July 2007, severe flooding affected much of the country, including the Swindon area, leading to Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service receiving an unprecedented number of calls.

In one day alone, our specialist water rescue crews used boats to rescue more than 50 people trapped in their homes by the rising floodwaters. Between 21 and 24 July, the water rescue teams were deployed in Gloucestershire, where they helped dozens of people.

Response

There are 25 fire stations across Wiltshire and Swindon, supported by the joint control room in Devizes (shared with the police and ambulance services) and a training and development centre.

Within this, the Fire & Rescue Service employs 707 staff, of whom 248 are wholetime firefighters, 357 are retained (part-time) firefighters and 102 are non-uniformed support staff.

We do much more than fight fires – we also:

- Attend road traffic collisions, often using specialist equipment to free injured people from their vehicles
- Respond to chemical incidents
- Carry out water rescues
- Promote community safety
- Provide back-up to the other emergency services as required

Firefighters use more than fire engines to deal with incidents – the equipment that is available across Wiltshire and Swindon includes:

- 33 fire engines
- Four emergency support units
- Two aerial appliances
- Three water carriers
- Two incident command units
- Two damage control units
- Two Land Rover pumps
- Two chemical incident units
- Five water rescue units
- Two rope rescue units
- One foam unit



How the service is funded

The Combined Fire Authority acts as the overall governing body for the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service. It has 13 members, nine appointed by Wiltshire County Council and four by Swindon Borough Council. They have a statutory duty to provide the financial and other resources necessary to ensure an efficient and effective service. To this end they set an annual budget, which is met through:

- grant from central government;
- an allocation of national non-domestic rates;
- an annual precept on local taxpayers, raised as part of the council tax bill.

The amount you will pay for the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service through your council tax in 2008/09 will be as follows:



How much council tax you will pay:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£38.49	£44.91	£51.32	£57.74	£70.57	£83.40	£96.23	£115.48

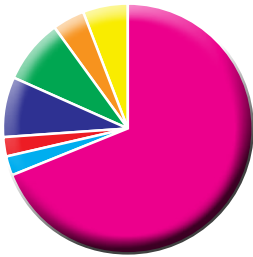
Capital expenditure on capital items, 2008/09

Capital programme 2008/09	£
Minor capital works	481,300
Information communication and technology strategy	420,100
Total capital programme 2008/09	901,400

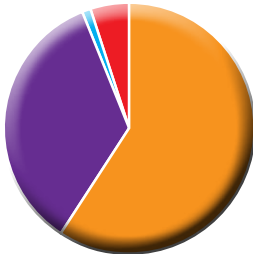
How do we perform?

	2006/07 actual	2007/08 target	2005/06 national average
Expenditure per head of population on the provision of fire and rescue services	£33.59	£35.93	£40.28
Number of primary fires per 10,000 population	19.49	19.8	27.26
Number of accidental fires per 10,000 dwellings	13.44	12.4	17.98

Budget 2007/08 – how the money was spent and where it came from (£)

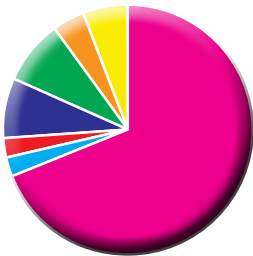


Employees	15,427,600 (68.1%)
Transport costs	616,000 (2.7%)
Specific projects	548,600 (2.4%)
Pensions	1,706,000 (7.5%)
Supplies and services	2,170,900 (9.6%)
Premises	981,400 (4.4%)
Capital financing charges	1,205,900 (5.3%)
Total	£22,656,400

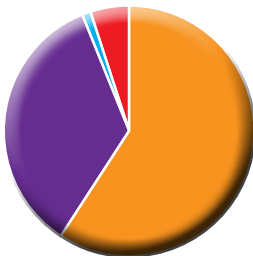


Council tax	13,370,814 (59.0%)
National non-domestic rates	7,836,669 (34.6%)
Collection fund surplus	133,762 (0.6%)
Revenue support grant	1,315,155 (5.8%)
Total	£22,656,400

Budget 2008/09 – how the money will be spent and where it will come from (£)



Employees	16,207,100 (68.9%)
Transport costs	639,000 (2.7%)
Specific projects	595,100 (2.5%)
Pensions	1,832,500 (7.8%)
Supplies and services	1,900,800 (8.1%)
Premises	1,004,800 (4.3%)
Capital financing charges	1,338,200 (5.7%)
Total	£23,518,100



Council tax	14,141,170 (60.1%)
National non-domestic rates	8,188,393 (34.8%)
Collection fund surplus	48,646 (0.2%)
Revenue support grant	1,139,891 (4.9%)
Total	£23,518,100