



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Arson
Title	Prisoner Release Actions
Service	Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
Region	South West
Date	2nd August 2010

Issue

When a prisoner is due to be released who has served time for violent behaviour involving arson or where threats have been made to any person who was party to the conviction, the Station Manager of Swindon Fire Station is informed.

Regular partnership working between the community safety department at Wiltshire Police and our own department here at WFRS identified a need for closer liaison between the two organisations.

We are also able to inform other FRS's should any action be required in another location to ensure the safety of someone who has had a threat levelled against them. This can be nationwide and a HFSC can be carried out locally.

Actions Taken

To assist the police, WFRS carry out a Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) usually on the same day as the release notification occurs.

The HFSC will take into account all of the normal checks and principles. However the exterior of the property will be surveyed by the CST and depending on its access extra smoke alarms will be fitted to cover areas considered vulnerable.

If windows are considered to be at risk from a projectile then a plastic film can be fitted across the pane to help prevent the shattering of glass and can also protect the property from incoming objects. Self extinguishing letterboxes are also recommended, or in most cases the box may be sealed and an outside box fitted. This is usually carried out in partnership with the Bobby Van Trust.

WFRS are able to provide window and door alarms financed from Swindon Borough Council through their domestic violence department. These alarms are relatively economical and provide a cost effective security system that will raise the alarm if a door or window is opened in the normal way.

Summary of Benefits Realised

These actions will enable the person under threat to feel that their situation is being taken seriously and hopefully ease their own security concerns, making them feel safer in their own homes.

Pre determined attendance can be amended to ensure a fire investigation officer is mobilized at first call to assist with any investigation should one be required. The address can be flagged by control and when a call is received information can be passed to the appliance en-route which will help access to the property and make working conditions safer for crews as they will have any information they need that may help them to formulate a fire attack plan.

This means a holistic response can be put in place throughout the emergency services.

Contact

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