

# Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

## Fire and water important safety advice during heatwave

Dear parents and carers,

With the current heatwave and amber weather warning it is important that we stay safe whilst enjoying the sunny weather.

Please consider this safety information and share with your family as appropriate.

### Outdoor fire safety:

- Avoid having open fires and BBQs in the countryside. In many areas these are banned so make sure you check what is and is not allowed.
- If you are having a BBQ at home, please make sure you:
  - Never leave a barbecue unattended.
  - Always position the barbecue on a level site, away from wooden fencing, sheds, hedges, dry grass and vegetation.
  - Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area. [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Barbecues](#)
- Dispose of smoking materials responsibly
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children
- Most children do not play with fire, however boredom and peer pressure can lead to fire setting when in a group with friends. Talk to your child about the dangers of playing with fire, and help them with strategies to make positive choices and if needed remove themselves from the situation.
- If you see a fire, call 999 and report it immediately

### Indoor fire safety:

- If you are using electric fans, make sure they are on flat surfaces and switch them off when not in use
- Keep the electric fans out of the reach of young children
- Have working smoke alarms and make sure everyone knows how to escape if there is a fire

### Water safety:

Make sure everyone knows how to **Float to live** [Float To Live – What To Do In An Emergency – RNLI](#)

1. Tilt your head back and submerge your ears
2. Relax and try to breathe normally
3. Use your hands to help you stay afloat
4. It's OK if your legs sink, everyone floats differently
5. Spread your arms and legs to improve stability

If you see someone in trouble in the water:

- Call for help: Call 999 or 112. Ask for the coastguard at the coast or Fire and Rescue Service if inland
- Tell them to float
- Throw them a line: Have something that floats or that they can hold on to? Throw it to them.
- Stay safe: Do not enter the water yourself. Too many people drown trying to save others.

Remind children to stay with an adult, or if your child is old enough to be out independently, remind them to never go into the water alone and remember the safety advice below.

Before going into the water:

- Know your limits and don't take risks. Do the conditions exceed your ability? Swimming in the sea, river or lake is very different to swimming in a pool.
- It is safer to go to a lifeguarded beach. [Find Your Nearest RNLI Lifeguarded Beaches](#)
- It is safer to only swim between the red and yellow flags, make sure everyone knows what the flags and signs mean [RNLI Beach Safety – Know Your Flags And Signs](#)
- Be aware of the dangers such as under water hazards, tides and currents
- Go with others and look out for each other

- Make sure your phone is charged so you can call for help if you come across anyone who needs it
- Please look at the safety advice on the RNLI website if someone is considering other water activities such as paddleboarding, surfing, angling etc [Choose your activity - Safety advice](#)

When you enter the water:

- Take a moment to acclimatise to the water temperature. Understand the risks of cold water shock [RNLI Water Safety - The Dangers Of Cold Water Shock](#)
- Never jump into unknown water, there could be hazards under the water, or currents you are not aware of.

While you're in the water:

- Make sure you have someone watching from the land. Make sure they have a way to call for help.
- Understand the different risks in water such as rip currents and tides [RNLI sea safety: Know the risks in and beside the water](#)

#### **At the coast:**

The Jurassic coastline is prone to erosion and cliff falls.

- Never go under the cliffs, if there is a cliff fall, the debris can reach beyond the low tide
- Never go near the edge of cliffs
- Keep dogs on leads if you are walking on top of the cliffs

#### **Road Safety**

In warm weather there could be an increase of vulnerable road users.

- As a driver be alert to an increase of pedestrians in some areas, especially children playing outside, cyclists, motorbikes, and horse riders.
- If you are a cyclist, biker, or horse rider, make sure you wear the correct safety gear and take care on the roads.

#### **Vulnerable people**

Children and older people can be at a greater risk during a heatwave, make sure everyone stays hydrated, stays cool and wears sun protection, for further advice from the NHS

[Heatwave: how to cope in hot weather - NHS](#)

#### **In case of emergency:**

- Make sure at least one person in the group has a charged mobile phone.
- Download **what3words** so you can give an accurate location to the emergency service, this is a free app which will help locate you.
- In an emergency; call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service (or coastguard if a water safety incident at the coast)
- If you have older children who are out independently, suggest they make sure they have their own charged mobile phone with **what3words** downloaded.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service want everyone to have a lovely but safe summer, for further safety advice please visit [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service](#) and [Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks](#)