

Grass Fire Prevention Campaign 2010

Most of us have seen grass or forest fires, which tend to be more common during the spring and summer months. The majority of these fires are set deliberately. Over the last couple of years in the Swansea and Neath and Port Talbot areas, Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service have carried out various initiatives to try to reduce the number of incidents occurring every year.

This year, Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service in conjunction with Swansea Bay radio, are running a 'Slogan' competition, which will be open to secondary schools in the Swansea / Neath Port Talbot areas. The winning slogan will be used as part of our campaign for 2010.

To assist the entrants for the competition it is important to consider the impact these fire have on the environment, communities and emergency services, in particular, the Fire and Rescue Service.

When producing the slogan for the 2010 campaign, the following points may be of use:-

- Deliberate fire setting – ARSON – is a crime. If caught, this could lead to a heavy fine or imprisonment
- Fires can get out of control and spread with great speed
- If the wind changes direction the so will the fire, causing major problems for fire fighters and residents in the area
- Water supply may be scarce in some areas. Fire engines carry 1800 litres of water which can be used up very quickly
- Fire fighters often use beaters to extinguish grass fires. They will be using these in temperatures of up to 800°. This can cause unpleasant and sometimes dangerous physical effects on fire fighters, such as, exhaustion, dehydration, injuries
- It can take anything from an hour up to a few weeks to extinguish these fires, they can easily re-ignite.
- The cost to TAXPAYERS is huge – this affects all of us. It costs £500 each time a fire engine leaves the station!!
- These fires destroy the landscape within our communities, they become black & charred – not a pleasant sight, or smell...

- People can't enjoy damaged countryside which is popular for walking, cycling, driving, picnics, children playing etc.
- Smoke from the fire affects the environment – pollutes the air and water, causing animals, plants, insects, fish and other wildlife
- Smoke can also affect people living in these areas and can cause poor visibility to road users sometimes resulting in accidents
- As well as the Fire & Rescue Service, other emergency services may be called to assist and have to wait around which is a waste of their resources
- Fire and Rescue Service use their resources for these fires when they could be needed elsewhere e.g. House fires, Road Traffic Collisions...
 - Where do you think the Fire and Rescue Service should be?
 - What if someone in your family needs help?

We all have a responsibility to OUR community and we need to raise awareness of the consequences of grass and forestry fires!!

Thank you for your time