



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

Item 26/24 Appendix H

Fire Station Review

Appendix H: Flooding Analysis

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Introduction

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) play a vital role in responding to flooding incidents, prioritising the preservation of life, protection of vulnerable communities, and effective contribution to multi-agency operations. However, there is no explicit statutory duty for fire and rescue services in England to attend flooding incidents under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. As a result, all response activity, training, and capability in relation to flooding are delivered within existing resources, without dedicated funding.

Flooding

This report examines flooding incidents attended by stations currently under review as part of the Station Review Programme. These incidents include:

- Flooding from an external source
- Rescue from open water
- Rescue from vehicle in water
- Assist from vehicle in water

Number of Flooding Incidents by Station Area

The number of flooding incidents which occurred within each station area, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, can be seen in Table 1. During this period there were 446 flooding incidents within DWFRS.

Number of Flooding Incidents in Station Area over Five Years		
Station	Number of Incidents in Station Area	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	5	1.12%
Charmouth	11	2.47%
Cranborne	0	0.00%
Hamworthy	11	2.47%
Maiden Newton	5	1.12%
Mere	0	0.00%
Ramsbury	0	0.00%
Wilton	4	0.90%
Total All Eight Stations	36	8.07%
Service Total	446	

Table 1: Number of flooding incidents between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 within each station area

Of the 446 number of incidents across our Service area, 36 incidents occurred within the station grounds of the stations under review. This is a total of 8.07% of all flooding incidents, across the five-year period.

The annual number of flooding incidents within DWFRS, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026 is shown in Figure 1. This consisted of 145 flooding from external sources, 132 rescues from open

water, 45 rescues from vehicles in water and 124 assists from vehicles in water over the five-year period.

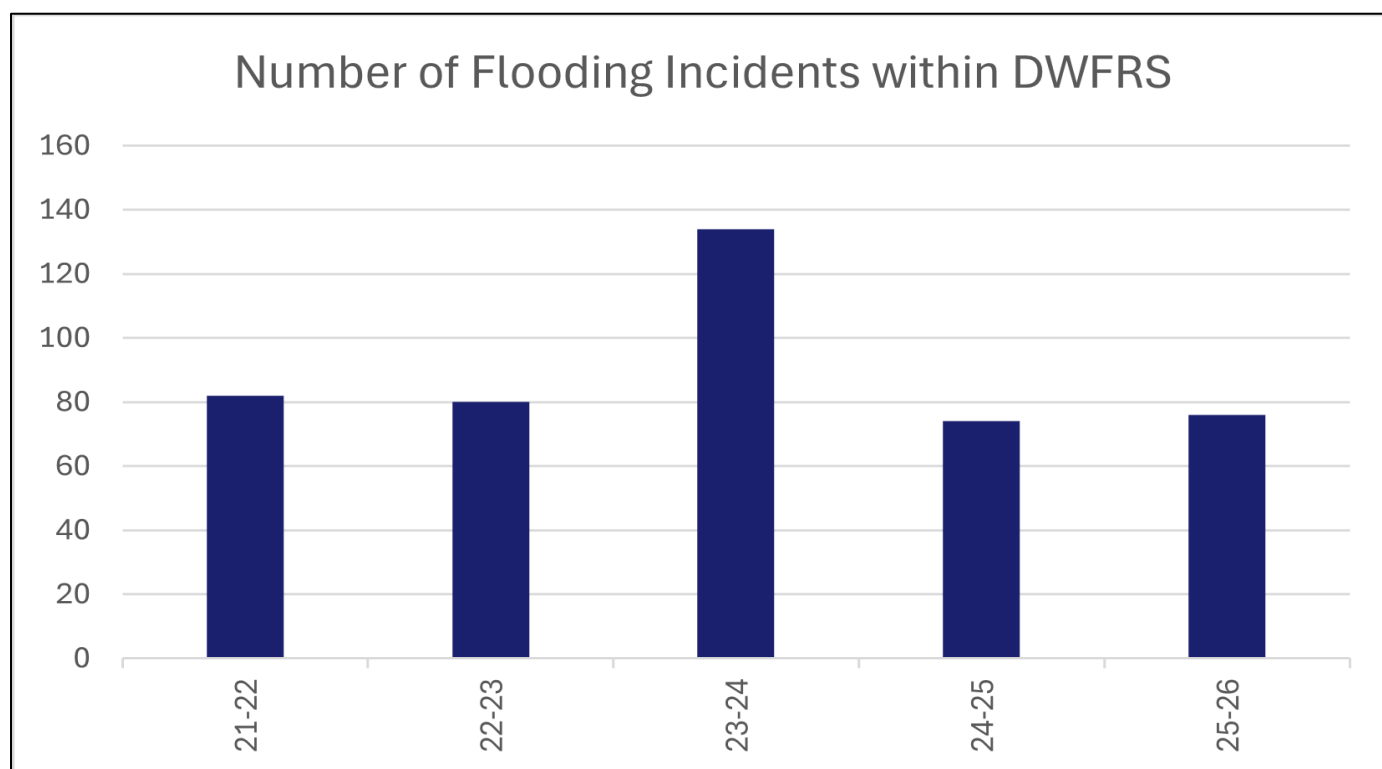


Figure 1: Annual number of flooding incidents within DWFRS, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026

Number of Flooding Incidents Attended by Stations

The number of mobilisations to flooding incidents within DWFRS by each station's pumping appliance, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026, can be seen in Table 2. During this period there were 784 pumping appliance mobilisations to flooding incidents within DWFRS.

Number of Pumping Appliance Mobilisations to Flooding Incidents in DWFRS over Five Years		
Station	Number of Appliance Mobilisations	Percentage of Service Total
Bradford on Avon	4	0.51%
Charmouth	14	1.79%
Cranborne	0	0.00%
Hamworthy	5	0.64%
Maiden Newton	7	0.89%
Mere	2	0.26%
Ramsbury	1	0.13%
Wilton	11	1.40%
Total All Eight Stations	44	5.61%
Service Total	784	

Table 2: Number of pumping appliance mobilisations to flooding incidents in DWFRS between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2026

Across the five-year period a total of 44 flooding incidents had appliances mobilised from the eight stations under review. This is a total of 5.61% of the 784 mobilisations to flooding incidents over the five-year period. Please note this is the total number of pumping appliances mobilised to incidents across the five-year period and have been recorded regardless of whether crews actually attended the incident or were stood down before arriving at the incident.

Summary

As can be seen, the levels of flooding incidents both on station areas and mobilisations of crews are low. With no response times to these activities DWFRS would not see any reduction in key targets with these instances being resourced by other appliances. Resilience in spate conditions impacting the entire Service area or region may see an initial decrease, however this incident type often provides the Service time to pre plan for any large-scale anticipated incidents. The information above would suggest that removal of one or more stations would not have a strategic impact to incidents of this nature.

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