



CMH/039
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**Dorset Fire & Rescue Service joins with Bournemouth Primary Care Trust to promote
new Smoke Free Homes Initiative.**

Dorset Fire & Rescue Service is teaming up with Bournemouth Primary Care Trust (PCT) in order to promote a new initiative aimed at reducing the risks from passive smoking in the home.

The 'Smoke Free Homes Initiative' will be launched on the 8 March 2006 (national no smoking day) and will be held at the Sure Start Centre, Cunningham Crescent, West Howe between 1300 and 1530

Steve Mant, group coordinator for the Service said: "The aim is to sign up residents from 150 homes in the West Howe and Townsend communities which are areas that have been identified as having a higher than normal risk of accidental dwelling fires. We have recognised an opportunity to team up with health visitors to get firstly a safety message across regarding the dangers of smoking in relation to fires in the home and also an avenue in which to engage with people in our target areas in order to carry out home safety checks. Our crews will also be able to sign up homes to the scheme if they are carrying out a home safety check.

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"When a home signs up for the scheme they complete a questionnaire, part of which asks fire safety related questions. After six months a further questionnaire is completed and the answers will be a tool for evaluating the success of the fire safety education. One of the questions on the first questionnaire asks if the occupier would like a free home safety check by DFRS. If they take up the offer the health visitor will send us a referral form and we take it from there."

Steve will be attending the launch alongside crews from Redhill Park. The PCT have also invited the Mayor to the launch.

Ends

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