

**Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
The Knowle, Clyst St George, Exeter, EX3 0NW**

NEWS RELEASE - 20 September 2007

Issued by: Paul Slaven, PR Officer, 01392 872259

**APPEAL FOR RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS
AT GLASTONBURY, WELLS, SHEPTON MALLET & CHEDDAR
FIRE STATIONS**

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is seeking to recruit retained firefighters in Glastonbury, Wells, Shepton Mallet and Cheddar.

Group Commander Philip Martin said: "We are now looking to employ additional Firefighters from the community. The role of the Fire and Rescue Service is varied and our Firefighters do so much more than just attending fires. Retained Firefighters are people who live or work in the community and are able to respond to the fire station when required for an emergency. Full training is provided and Firefighters are paid an annual retaining fee as well as receiving payment for emergency call outs, pre-planned community safety work and weekly training."

Applicants must be at least 18 and physically fit. They need to be available Monday-Friday; however different contracts are available at all four stations. Successful applicants will have a chance to attend First Aid courses and LGV driving courses.

Group Commander Philip Martin added "We believe that there are many people that might want to be firefighters but who are reluctant to put themselves forward because of their perception of what they have to achieve in terms of entry requirements. We do have some basic but essential standards but I would appeal to anyone who would be interested in what can be an extremely rewarding and essential role in the community to contact us to find out more. We welcome applications from all sections of the community - particularly those from groups who are under-represented in our Service. We are keen to increase the numbers of female and black and minority ethnic candidates. Also, age (as long as you are over 18), nor living with particular disabilities, are not barriers to applying to DSFRS as a retained fire-fighter."

There will be an open evening at Glastonbury Fire Station, George Street, Glastonbury, BA6 9JH at 7.30pm on Monday 8th October 2007 where potential applicants to the service can meet with other Firefighters and find out more about this extremely worthwhile role.

Essential requirements for potential Firefighters are:

- live and/or work within 5 minutes travel time of the fire station
- at least 18 years of age
- physically fit

Anyone interested can get more information on the recruitment hotline
telephone 01392 872331

ENDS

Note to newsdesks

For more information contact Phil Martin on 01823 364501