

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June a serious car accident occurred in the Borough at Downton when a car went out of control and crashed into a house punching a large hole through the wall of the building. Fordingbridge and Salisbury crews released three casualties from the wreckage.

Another unfortunate horse rider required the services of Fordingbridge firefighters on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2005 when she was thrown from her horse whilst out riding in the forest at Latchmore Bottom near Ogdens. The casualty was some considerable distance from the road and had to be carried back across the forest by Fordingbridge personnel before being taken to hospital with shoulder injuries.

The roof of Appletree Cottage at Godshill was extensively damaged in a fire on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005. On arrival large volumes of smoke coming from the building confronted Fordingbridge crews. With assistance from Ringwood and Lyndhurst firefighters the fire was extinguished with the majority of damage being restricted to the roof area.



***Roof fire at Appletree Cottage, Godshill – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005***

A barn full of straw bales caught alight early in the morning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005. Firefighters from Fordingbridge remained at the scene all day until the fire was completely extinguished.

The Leyland Water Carrier (D624 DTR) was replaced on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and was subsequently purchased by Esso Fawley's Fire Department for use at the large oil terminal. The new Volvo Water Carrier (P914 KPX), which had originally been at Fareham, was a smart addition to the station.



***Fordingbridge's Water Carrier (P914 KPX)***

Fordingbridge firefighters were once again in action rescuing an injured horse rider in the New Forest on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The unlucky man had been thrown from his mount and ended up in a World War Two bomb crater just off Ashley Walk in Godshill. After being treated on scene for a broken leg the crew assisted in getting him out of the crater and into a waiting ambulance.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2005 a fire broke out in the disused Moon Pub on Woodside Road, Bemerton Heath, Salisbury. It took six pumps to extinguish the fire which caused damage to the roof and ground floor of the property.

Another six pump incident occurred at Malmesbury House, The Close, Salisbury on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 with a crew from Fordingbridge attending. Decorators, using a blowlamp to remove old paintwork, had caused a fire to start in a large bay window on the ground floor. The fire spread to the first floor and roof before it was brought under control. Fortunately the property, overlooking Salisbury Cathedral, was not badly damaged.

An unfortunate accident occurred in Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005 after a car collided with the rear of a stationary Bus. The impact resulted in a large amount of engine oil leaking from the Bus all over the road causing a considerable hazard. Fordingbridge firefighters attended the scene to assist with clearing up the spillage and making the scene safe.

In the early hours of the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2005 a blaze broke out in a barn and an adjoining workshop at North Charford Manor Farm, North Charford. The fire was burning furiously when Fordingbridge crews first arrived. The workshop contained several Landrovers which were all totally destroyed. Due to the discovery of an Acetylene Cylinder within the building all firefighting operations had to be withdrawn to a safe distance and a 200 metre exclusion zone was put in place. A total of six pumps and a Water Carrier attended the incident and crews remained on site for twenty four hours.



***A barn and workshop well alight at North Charford Manor Farm  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2005***

The thatched roof of Thyme Cottage at Blissford was saved from serious damage following a fire on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006. A total of six appliances assisted Fordingbridge crews with stripping the thatched roof and preventing the blaze, which had started near the chimney, from spreading to the remainder of the building.



***Fordingbridge crews battling to save the thatched roof  
of Thyme Cottage in Blissford – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2006***

Another thatched property was damaged after a chimney fire spread to the roof of Rosemary Cottage in Hamptworth, Wiltshire. The fire broke out late in the evening on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and Fordingbridge firefighters assisted crews from Salisbury, Wilton, Lyndhurst, Romsey and Amesbury at the incident.



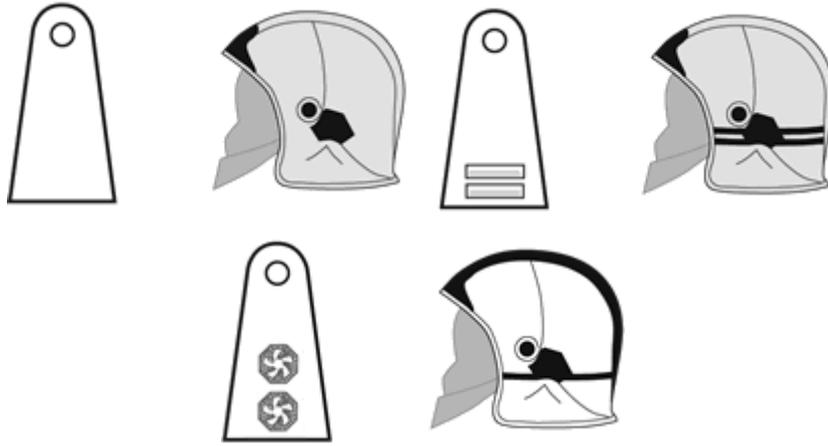
*Thatch roof fire at Rosemary Cottage, Hamptworth – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2006*

A large heath fire broke out the following day at Canford Heath in Poole, Dorset. The Water Carrier from Fordingbridge attended along with a total of twenty five pumps and twelve Landrovers. It took several hours to bring the blaze, which was visible up to twenty miles away, under control.

A serious fire occurred at Hatchett Cottage in Hale late in the evening on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2006. The blaze, which had started in the garage, unfortunately caused the resident to be overcome by smoke and suffer some serious burns. He was rescued from inside the premises by Fordingbridge firefighters and despite being resuscitated at the scene the gentleman sadly passed away several days later in hospital.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service moved from the long standing rank based structure to a new role based one. This brought about a change in names and rank markings for both the Sub Officer and the Leading Firefighters at Fordingbridge.

Sub Officer Steve Coles became a Watch Manager and received a white helmet whilst the three Leading Firefighters became Crew Managers and received two black bands on their yellow helmets in place of just one black band.



***The roles and associated insignia within the HFRS structure that were introduced at Fordingbridge Fire Station from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006  
L-R: Firefighter, Crew Manager & Watch Manager***

Fordingbridge attended a serious fire which broke out at 33 Trinity Street in Salisbury early in the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The blaze, which started in a flat, spread to the roof area of the property and required the attendance of eight pumps to extinguish the flames with the Fordingbridge crew assisting with salvage.

A serious road accident occurred on the A338 Road at Downton on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006. A crew from Fordingbridge, along with Salisbury firefighters, released a casualty from one of the vehicles.

Early in the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006 a fire broke out in a scrapyards at Riverside Car Spares, Southampton Road, Salisbury. The blaze caused extensive damage to a large number of vehicles and other property within the yard. A total of eight pumps attended this incident including both the Water Tender Ladder and the Water Carrier from Fordingbridge.





***A large number of cars were damaged at Riverside Car Spares in Salisbury with Fordingbridge crews supplying water to the fireground from the Water Carrier – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006***

Fordingbridge firefighters were called out to assist the Ambulance Service on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 when a cyclist came off his mountain bike on a forest track near Ashley Walk in Godshill. The crew carried the injured rider, on a stretcher, across the uneven forest ground back to the waiting ambulance.

A large fire at Parley Common in Ferndown, Dorset on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006 saw both Fordingbridge's Water Carrier and Landrover in action. Another heath fire at Backley Holmes on the A31 Road at Picket Post near Ringwood, on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2006, saw the same two appliances from Fordingbridge assisting at this five pump incident.



***Fordingbridge Fire Station – August 2006***

A heath fire at St. Stephens Castle in Verwood, Dorset on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006 saw four pumps and eight Landrovers extinguishing the blaze with Fordingbridge crews at the scene for the best part of two days assisting with damping down the scorched area.



***Damping down at St. Stephens Castle, Verwood***

A serious road traffic collision on the A338 at Hucklesbrook on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 required Fordingbridge firefighters to attend and release a casualty from one of the vehicles involved.

An unattended bonfire left smouldering in the disused yard of C. Coles & Son at Stuckton on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 caused two sheds, a lorry and an area of grass and undergrowth to be destroyed when the fire spread quickly through the site. The Fordingbridge crew were initially called out to a tree on fire but on their arrival the buildings and lorry were found to be well alight and it took several hours to extinguish the blaze.



***Fire at the old C. Coles & Sons yard in Stuckton – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006***

An elderly lady required the services of Fordingbridge firefighters and the Coastguard helicopter after being thrown out of her horse drawn trap on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006. The accident happened on a forest track at Hampton Ridge near Frogham and the casualty was airlifted to hospital for treatment after the Fordingbridge crew had cleared an area of gorse to allow the helicopter to land safely.



***All part of the service! Towing the injured lady's horse drawn trap out of the Forest & back to a safe place using the fire engine – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006***

A large fire involving 100 tonnes of disused tyres broke out in the early hours of the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at Matchams Park Stadium in Matchams, Dorset. The Water Carrier from Fordingbridge assisted at this eight pump incident supplying water to the fireground.

Fordingbridge firefighters were called out to assist the Ambulance Service and the Fordingbridge Co-Responders on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006. A workman had collapsed in the confined space of an attic room at a property called Fir View in Blissford Hill. The injured male had to be carried down two flights of narrow stairs on a stretcher before he could be taken away to hospital.

A serious fire broke out in a Fish & Chip shop in Devizes Road, Salisbury on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006 with Fordingbridge's appliance assisting Wiltshire crews at this incident. The property was badly damaged by the blaze.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 Fordingbridge firefighters had to come to the aid of a black cat called Gizmo. The unfortunate moggy had been stuck twenty feet up a tree, apparently for about two weeks, at Woodlands House in Sandheath. As a ladder was being placed up against the tree Gizmo sensed that his rescue was imminent so quickly climbed even higher before jumping across into an even bigger tree! Despite some prolonged encouragement, from a steady stream of water from a jet, this hardy feline appeared to be happy up in his new found abode and at one point was perched, precariously, on the highest limb about seventy feet up. After more gentle persuasion Gizmo arrived at a much safer height within the tree and shortly afterwards was successfully 'flushed' out of his hiding place. The following morning Gizmo returned to his owner for a well earned breakfast!

The roof of a property called Mellow Thatch in Rockbourne caught alight just before 5pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007. A successful break was quickly made into the thatched roof by crews from Fordingbridge, Cranborne & Ringwood which meant that about half the property was able to be saved from damage. The blaze had started around the chimney area but within two hours it had been successfully brought under control. A total of six pumps attended this incident.



***Thatch roof fire at Mellow Thatch, Rockbourne – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007***

A fire in a large garage at the Old Vicarage in Church Lane, Britford broke out on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007. A total of eight pumps, including one from Fordingbridge, dealt with this blaze which for a while involved some fireworks that had been stored within the building.

On the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007 Fordingbridge were called to assist at a four pump fire in Ringwood. A caravan caught alight on the driveway of a property in Hightown Road, Ringwood and the fire quickly spread to an adjacent caravan and a 4 x 4 vehicle as well as damaging the side of the house and an adjoining shed. Several gas cylinders also exploded during the blaze.



***The Fordingbridge crew pictured damping down the remains of two caravans and a 4 x 4 vehicle in Hightown Road, Ringwood – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007***

A fire broke out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007 in a plantation of trees on the Somerley Estate near Ringwood. The incident required six pumps, four landrovers and two water carriers to bring the blaze under control. Crews from Fordingbridge assisted at the scene for several hours damping down about one acre of forest and undergrowth.



***Fordingbridge's Landrover damping down at Somerley – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007***

A waste disposal lorry was badly damaged when it suddenly burst into flames outside The Fighting Cocks public house in Godshill on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Crews from Fordingbridge and Ringwood extinguished the fire.



*The burnt out refuse lorry at Godshill – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007*

A collision between a Volvo car and a Landrover on the A338 at Charlton All Saints on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2007 saw Fordingbridge assisting Salisbury crews to extricate the male driver of the Volvo. Following his successful release from the vehicle he was taken to hospital by the Air Ambulance helicopter.

A severe fire broke out in the early hours of the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in the High Street at Downton. The Mace Shop was severely damaged in the blaze which required the attendance of seven pumps before it was eventually brought under control. The fire originally started in the flat above the shop but the entire property, including the roof, was affected. A Fordingbridge crew were at the scene for several hours assisting Wiltshire firefighters.



***Fire seriously damaged the Mace Shop in Downton – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007***

On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 a Fordingbridge crew had to assist the ambulance service by carrying an injured female down a steep flight of stairs on a stretcher. The lady had hurt her head following a fall at her home in the grounds of Breamore House.

A deer had a lucky escape after it got its hindquarters wedged in a metal gate near the allotments in Alderholt Road, Sandleheath on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2007. Fordingbridge firefighters used hydraulic spreading equipment to bend the bars on the gate which then allowed the animal to escape to freedom.

An interesting exercise was held at the Rockbourne Monument on West Park Estate in Rockbourne on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Fordingbridge crews simulated having to rescue two casualties from the top of the 100 foot tower. Although the drill was fairly complex the climb up the narrow internal staircase of the tower in the pitch dark was possibly more challenging!! The stunning views from the top though made all the puffing worthwhile.



***Fordingbridge firefighters at Rockbourne Monument – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007***  
***Back Row L-R: Jim Hesford, Ross Freeman, John Mouland, Shaun Lincoln, Steve White, Colin Dedman, Des Smith***  
***Front Row L-R: Dave Stone, Mark West, Pete White, Lee Dorrington, Dean Palmer, Dan Palmer, Paul Dorrington***

Shortly after midnight on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007 Fordingbridge were mobilised to a thatch roof fire at Cherry Tree Cottage, The Common, Woodgreen. On arrival the crew discovered that about one third of the roof was already involved in fire. With the assistance of Ringwood and Salisbury firefighters extreme efforts were quickly made to save the building by removing the burning thatch. The blaze, which had been ignited by a spark from the chimney, was successfully contained to the roof area and the inside of the building sustained no damage at all. A total of ten pumps from Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire attended.



***Fordingbridge firefighters reflecting on their hard work in saving the thatched roof of Cherry Tree Cottage in Woodgreen – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007***

The Water Carrier from Fordingbridge was called to assist with water supplies at a large fire involving an Abattoir at Randall Parker Food in Ragged Appleshaw near Andover on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The blaze, which broke out in the early hours, required ten pumps and six water carriers to bring under control.

A thatched cottage was seriously damaged by fire on Boxing Day 2007. The roof of Bryants Cottage in Fryern Court Road, Burgate caught alight just before nine 'o'clock in the evening. A total of ten pumps from Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire fought the blaze throughout the night but were unable to save the property.



***Fordingbridge's Water Tender Ladder (P960 JTR) pictured in front of the burning roof of Bryants Cottage, Burgate – 26<sup>th</sup> December 2007***

An elderly couple stranded inside their car in a swollen ford at Blissford Road, Blissford required the services of Fordingbridge firefighters on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The fast moving water had started to enter the car, which had stopped in the middle of the ford, when the Fordingbridge crew arrived. The car and its occupants were successfully pulled out of the floodwater and after some emergency repairs to the vehicle the couple continued on their journey home.

A fire broke out in an office at the New Forest Nursing Home in Fritham on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The lunchtime blaze started in an electrical fuse box and quickly spread to the ceiling area of the office. As smoke from the fire started to fill the premises a total of 44 residents had to be evacuated by the staff and fire crews. Appliances from Fordingbridge, Lyndhurst, Totton and Romsey successfully contained the fire to the ground floor area.

Fordingbridge were back in action the following evening, on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008, assisting Wiltshire firefighters with a thatch roof fire at a property called 'Tinkers' in the village of Burcombe near Wilton. A total of ten pumps and an aerial appliance attended the blaze which severely damaged the property.



***Thatch roof fire at Burcombe & Fordingbridge firefighters  
in action at the scene – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008***

A fire broke out in a two storey barn, containing around 300 hay bales, in the early evening on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The blaze at East Mills Farm, Southampton Road, Fordingbridge was the result of a bonfire that had been lit nearby. It took the hard efforts of Fordingbridge firefighters assisted by crews from Ringwood, Cranborne, Burley, Beaulieu and New Milton to successfully bring the incident under control after several hours.



***Barn fire at East Mills Farm, Fordingbridge – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008***



***Firefighters wearing Breathing Apparatus worked hard to remove all the hay bales from inside the barn and prevented the building being seriously damaged***

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 Fordingbridge received a new Volvo 'Emergency One' Water Tender Ladder (HX03 WSF).



***Fordingbridge's new Water Tender Ladder (HX03 WSF) – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008***

Fordingbridge firefighters were the first on the scene of a road traffic accident in Timberley Lane, Redlynch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008. A young female motorist had come off this country road and collided with a tree causing her to be trapped in her vehicle with a nasty head injury. With the assistance of two appliances from Salisbury Fire Station the Fordingbridge crew successfully released the casualty from the car and she was airlifted to hospital by helicopter.

Early the following morning, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008, another road traffic accident occurred on the A338 Road at Burgate Cross. A car aqua-planed in heavy floodwater causing it to hit a wooden telegraph pole at the side of the road. The impact snapped the pole in two bringing it down over the roof of the vehicle and trapping the driver inside. It took Fordingbridge and Ringwood firefighters an hour to release the injured person before he could be taken to hospital to be treated for a broken arm. This was quite a complex extrication due to the live electric wires in close proximity to the vehicle that had come down with the pole.





***Road Traffic Accident A338 Road, Burgate Cross – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008***

A large horse, called George, required the services of Fordingbridge firefighters on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008. Just after one in the morning George had broken out of his paddock, at the rear of Touchwood in Hale Purlieu, and had managed to get his back leg trapped between the metal bars of the cattle grid at the front of the property. On arrival the crew were faced with the animal on his side with the metal section of the cattle grid upright in the air as it had been pulled out of the ground by the force of the horse attempting to free himself. A vet had already sedated the horse so the simple task of releasing the leg was carried out by using the hydraulic spreaders. However now the fun really started. To get George back on his feet took several hours and was only finally accomplished by the use of a special animal sling that was carried on the Multi Role Vehicle from Eastleigh fire station.



***George finally being got back on to his feet after his lengthy ordeal – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008***

On the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 Fordingbridge were called to the scene of a serious road accident outside North Allenford Farm on the Martin Road near Damerham. An elderly couple, returning from a lunch time picnic, had been hit by another car coming the opposite way and the female passenger was trapped in the wreckage with serious injuries. With assistance from a crew from Salisbury fire station the casualty was cut from the car and flown to hospital by the air ambulance helicopter.

A few days later, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008, a Fordingbridge crew again met up with Salisbury firefighters when they were called to a shed alight at Morgans Vale School near Redlynch. The shed and its contents were severely damaged in the blaze which started late in the afternoon.

A six pump fire in a derelict house in Wilton Road, Salisbury saw Fordingbridge assisting their Wiltshire colleagues once more in the early hours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008. The roof of the property was badly damaged by the fire.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008 a group of Fordingbridge firefighters carried out a road safety demonstration at a Vintage Car Show at Breamore House. The demonstration showed the simulated rescue of a person from a crashed car & it sought to highlight to the spectators the dangers of driving too fast and without due regard for other road users. During the exercise a running commentary was provided so that the public could totally appreciate what was happening. The display was very effective and the casualty was successfully rescued to the delight of the crowd!

The following pictures detail the demonstration:



***Casualty Care being carried out on the 'trapped' driver as soon as the crew arrive***



***Glass removal from all the vehicle windows being carried out to prevent further injuries***



*Firefighter Steve White giving a fantastic commentary*



*The drivers door being removed using the hydraulic Combi-Tool*



*Starting the removal of the car roof by cutting through the 'A' posts and windscreen using a Makita Electric saw*



***Cutting through the rear 'C' posts using the hydraulic Combi-Tool***



***The hydraulic Combi-Tool being used to cut through the remaining middle 'B' posts***



***The vehicle's roof has now been completely removed providing much more space to allow for the casualty to be removed from inside the car far more easily***



***A hydraulic extending ram is used to push the dashboard and foot pedals away from the casualty***



*Preparing to place a stretcher down behind the casualty to commence their release*



*The stretcher being manoeuvred into the correct position between the drivers seat & the casualty*



*The casualty is slowly lifted out of their folded down seat and slid up on to the stretcher*



*Now safely secured on the stretcher the casualty is slowly carried out from the rear of the vehicle*



***The casualty is lifted clear of the vehicle & another rescue is completed by Station 47!***

The team at this demonstration included:

Watch Manager Steve Coles, Crew Manager Pete White, Crew Manager Ross Freeman, Firefighter Dave Stone, Firefighter Paul Dorrington, Firefighter Steve White, Firefighter Colin Dedman and Firefighter Shaun Lincoln.

A little girl had to be rescued by Fordingbridge firefighters on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 when she got her head stuck between the railings of some caravan steps at Hillbury Park Mobile Home Site in Alderholt. Luckily she was released quickly and suffered no ill effects from her ordeal.

A rare opportunity was offered to the station on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008 when we were invited to take part in some live fire training at Bournemouth International Airport. The exercise consisted of a simulated fuselage fire on a 737/767 aircraft training rig. The Fordingbridge crew were shown how to extinguish the fire by working in two teams and using fan sprays to fight the flames. After this the crew took part in a breathing apparatus drill inside the mock up aircraft. The entire evening was extremely interesting for all those that attended.



***Fordingbridge firefighters experiencing 'live' fire training at  
Bournemouth International Airport – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008***

During October 2008 Fordingbridge Fire Station was twice featured on a BBC1 documentary programme called 'Real Rescues'. The programme covered a thatch fire at Burgate Cross in December 2007 with film footage taken at the incident and also an interview with Watch Manager Steve Coles. Fordingbridge were also shown rescuing a lady from the New Forest after an accident with her horse and trap in 2006.



*BBC Real Rescues which featured Fordingbridge in 2008*