

News Release

Issued on: Tuesday 07 January 2025

Major Incident Update – Tuesday 07 January 2025

Yesterday, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) became the first fire and rescue service to declare a major incident during the current spate of severe weather conditions. The decision was made in response to widespread flooding that has significantly impacted communities across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. Our teams have been working tirelessly to provide crucial support and assistance during this challenging time.

Over the last 24 hours, we have responded to 380 calls and attended 56 flooding incidents. Many residents have been evacuated or self-evacuated from houses, boats and caravans. Following the National Emergency Alert issued by the Environment Agency due to risk to life (21:00 Monday 6 January), crews have been visiting affected areas to give advice and support to residents at risk.

The scale and impact of this major incident has drawn national attention. In a statement to the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs praised the efforts of emergency services across the country, with several MPs also drawing attention to the incident. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer also acknowledged the situation, expressing his thoughts for those affected and his thanks to responders working to protect communities.

Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Judi Beresford, said; “We are incredibly proud of our crews, Control and staff for all their outstanding work and efforts during this major incident. We also want to thank the public for their support so far and urge them to continue following safety advice, such as avoiding flooded areas, not driving through floodwater, and checking on vulnerable neighbours. These small actions can make a big difference in keeping everyone safe.”

In emergencies, always call 999. For further advice and updates on staying safe during severe weather, visit leics-fire.gov.uk/adverse-weather-conditions.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Interviews can be arranged through prior arrangement with Corporate Communications on the details below.

About the Service

Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service provides emergency response, prevention and protection services from 20 stations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Its headquarters is based in Birstall, Leicester.

During 2022/23, we attended a total of 9,440 emergency incidents, including 2,650 fires and 710 road traffic collisions. A total of 13,660 Home Safety Checks were completed and we fitted 4,767 smoke alarms. 238 schools were visited as part of the Service's schools programme, delivering fire and road safety education to 21,033 pupils.

The Service's prevention, education, enforcement and inspection programmes have resulted in significant reductions in the number of incidents attended.

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