



# LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **PUBLIC WARNED AFTER FIREWORKS LET OFF IN PUBLIC**

People are being warned of the dangers of setting fireworks off in public places following a recent spate of incidents in which Leicestershire Police have had to respond to.

The serious concern is that these incidents are taking place in the densely populated area of student accommodation around Filbert Village, Leicester. It has been reported that people have been discharging fireworks from student accommodation in the early hours of the morning. On other occasions, fireworks have been discharged and aimed towards people's property, including their windows, and reports have been received that fireworks have been aimed at parked cars.

The actions of these people are unacceptable and there is a risk that they will not only cause substantial damage to property but there is a real risk of serious injury.

Members of the public need to be aware that it is an offence to throw or discharge a firework in any highway, street, or public space. It is also an offence to discharge fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on Bonfire Night which is extended to 12 midnight and Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year where it is extended to 1am.

Leicestershire Police will take robust and positive action against all suspects identified of committing such offences. They are supported by all blue light agencies at this already busy time of year.

Anyone found to be responsible for activities of this nature, and therefore breaking the law, can expect to face substantial penalties including a large fine of £5,000 or more and/or a prison sentence.

The best advice to help you enjoy this period around Halloween and Bonfire Night is to attend an organised event.

For more information on how to celebrate safely on Bonfire Night with fireworks, visit [www.celebratesafely.com](http://www.celebratesafely.com)

## ENDS

### **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.

The Service's prevention, education, enforcement and inspection programmes have resulted in significant reductions in the number of incidents. In the last five years, fire related incidents have reduced by 32.6 percent.

During 2014/15, the Service attended 619 road traffic collisions, of which 155 were extrications freeing 194 people trapped inside their vehicles and completed 4316 home fire safety checks, fitting almost 4339 smoke alarms. Staff organised or supported almost 1590 events aimed at promoting fire and road safety and arson prevention, whilst also visiting 314 schools to deliver fire and road safety education to pupils.

### **Contact:**

Corporate Communications

[corporate.communications@lfrs.org](mailto:corporate.communications@lfrs.org)

0116 229 2178