



LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Issued on: Wednesday 29 November 2017

LONG SERVICE, GOOD CONDUCT AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION CEREMONY

Monday 4 December, from 13:30 hours
Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse

On Monday 4 December, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service will be holding their prestigious annual awards ceremony at Beaumanor Hall, where they will be formally recognising the achievements of firefighters and support staff, for their service to the fire and rescue service and local community.

In total, an impressive 21 members of staff will receive an award on this special day. Eleven members of operational staff will receive Long Service, Good Conduct medals, presented by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Jennifer, Lady Gretton, in recognition of 20 years' service. Two members of staff will also receive Long Service Certificates in recognition of 30 years' loyal service to the fire and rescue service, and these will be presented by the Chair of the Combined Fire Authority, Nick Rushton.

Alongside these awards, also being presented for the first time, and in one of his last official duties as our Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Steve Lunn will present eight firefighters with the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer's Commendation, for displaying selfless bravery and commitment in the line of their duties.

Of these eight, Greg Ayres from Wigston Fire and Rescue Station will be recognised for his actions whilst dealing with a casualty at a fatal house fire on 19 March 2017 and his subsequent attendance at the Coroner's Court where he was commended for his professionalism, knowledge, and modesty.

Richard Smith of Eastern Fire and Rescue Station will be receiving his award for displaying courage and composure in the rescue of a man stuck on a

ferris wheel on 6 October 2016, putting the casualty's safety above his own in an extremely dangerous situation.

The remaining six receiving commendations, all from Southern Fire and Rescue Service's Red Watch, have all been awarded for showing ultimate professionalism and selflessness in a time of crisis, effecting a rescue from a car that had just crashed into their own fire appliance on 22 October 2017. Sarah Shepherd's award was for displaying quick thinking in the extrication of a casualty at the incident and subsequent CPR given on the scene, in the ambulance and at the hospital.

Steve Lunn, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, said: "I am very proud and honoured to celebrate the achievements of our staff at Beaumanor Hall."

"We hold this event to recognise the achievements of our staff, and commend individuals for their dedication to the Service and community - they have pledged their careers to serve the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and it's only fitting that we recognise this."

"I would like to thank our special guests, Jennifer, Lady Gretton, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Sir Laurence Howard, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland and Chair of the Combined Fire Authority Nick Rushton, for attending – they have helped make this day very special."

"This will be one of my final official ceremonies as Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, and I am glad I have been able to hand out so many awards to such fantastic, hardworking individuals who have helped protect our local communities for such a long time."

We are looking to both local and national media to raise the profile of this event and would welcome your attendance. If you could confirm your attendance, it'll be highly appreciated.

Where to find Beaumanor Hall:

Woodhouse, Leicestershire, LE12 8TX

If you are travelling to the event by car parking on site may be available but will be limited.

For more information about Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, visit www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk.

ENDS

Notes to editors: Interview and photo opportunities will be available on the day with prior arrangement via Corporate Communications. If you are unable to attend, photos will be available via Corporate Communications post event.

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 ten years, fire related incidents have reduced by 46 percent.

During 2015/16, the Service attended 666 road traffic collisions, of which 174 were extrications freeing 208 people trapped inside their vehicles and completed 5086 home fire safety checks, fitting almost 4481 smoke alarms. Staff organised or supported almost 1431 events aimed at promoting fire and road safety and arson prevention, whilst also visiting 332 schools to deliver fire and road safety education to pupils.

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