



# LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

## NEWS RELEASE

Issued on: Monday 18 December 2017

### CELEBRATE SAFELY THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Residents in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are being urged to take extra care this Christmas and New Year in order to help keep themselves, their friends, family and their homes and valuables safe over the festive period.

To help, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and a number of district and borough councils across the county have been working together on the Celebrate Safely campaign to share important safety messages and advice with members of the public, as well as reminding people how to celebrate safely during the festive period.

There are a number of key messages that the Celebrate Safely campaign focuses on during this festive period, and these are based on:

- Keeping warm and safe
- Distractions whilst cooking
- The use of candles
- Decorative lights and fireworks
- Driving
- How to protect yourself burglary

All information and advice on the above is listed on the Celebrate Safely website, so make sure you visit the page – [www.celebratesafely.com](http://www.celebratesafely.com)

Andrew Brodie, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, said: "December is a time of year when our local communities like to join in with festive celebrations."

"The Celebrate Safely campaign helps the public stay safe during these periods by offering useful safety tips and advice, put together by all local public-sector agencies."

“We want everyone to have fun but, we urge people to keep themselves, their families and friends safe, as well as their property and belongings.”

“On behalf of everyone at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, I would like to wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and New Year.”

Local Policing Superintendent Shane O’Neill, added: “December is always a busy time and people may be a little more absent minded due to the amount that they have going on.”

“This can lead to people taking more risks than normal, leaving their purchases on display, or forgetting to lock their doors or vehicles.”

“Taking a few extra minutes to check you’ve locked up and not left purchases on show can help you and your family enjoy Christmas.”

“On behalf of Leicestershire Police, I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.”

Ivan Ould, cabinet member for community safety at Leicestershire County Council, added: “Christmas is a time to celebrate with friends and family, but it is important to keep the Celebrate Safely messaging in mind. You will then be able to have a fun and enjoyable festive period.”

For more information about the Celebrate Safely campaign and to download our Celebrate Safely leaflet, visit [www.celebratesafely.com](http://www.celebratesafely.com).

## ENDS

**Notes to editors:** Interviews are available at request via Corporate Communications using the details shown 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.

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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