

News Release

Issued on: Thursday 19 March 2020

We Are Still Here for All Our Communities

We continue to closely monitor the Government response to coronavirus and the impact it has on us. As a result, we are making some changes to the way we do things to protect you and our frontline services.

We are continually monitoring and managing the impact of coronavirus on our staff and communities, and we have contingency plans in place that allow us to change the way we operate so we can continue to provide our vital services.

Regrettably, we need to stop doing a few things to keep our staff and communities safe during this time, and to ensure we can continue to respond to emergencies. We will continue with prevention and protection activities on a risk based approach, asking health related questions about the people we plan to visit as part of this approach.

Rick Taylor, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, said: "We want to assure communities that we are taking the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic very seriously.

"We have been working closely with our partners in the emergency services and local authorities, and we continue to monitor the latest government advice to ensure we can continue to provide the service that our community deserve and expect.

"We are doing this because we need to protect our frontline staff and prioritise responding to incidents.

"We would like to reassure everyone that we are still here for you, should you need us in an emergency – call us on 999 and crews will respond as normal. For safety advice and other information I would urge you to visit our website or follow us via social media on Facebook and Twitter."

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 2018/19, the Service attended 762 road traffic collisions, of which 125 were extrications from vehicles, in addition to 2,569 fires. We carried out 6,746 home safety checks and fitted 4,790 smoke alarms. 279 schools were visited as part of the Service's schools programme, delivering fire and road safety education to pupils. Staff organised or took part in 1,068 community safety events, promoting fire and road safety and arson prevention, and 134 Virtual Fatal Four (VF4) events as part of the Service's young drivers' road safety project.

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 over 30 percent.

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