

# News Release

Issued on: 4 September 2020

## Staff Survey Raises Over £1,000 For Charity

Money raised from this years' staff survey at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service has amounted to over £1,080 donated to The Fire Fighters Charity, with help from generous sponsors.



**(L-R) Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Callum Faint, Managing Director at RiVR Brad Woodward, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Richard Hall, Director of De-Wipe Jo Taylor MBE, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Rick Taylor, and Group Manager Karl Anderson – who is also Service Co-Ordinator for the Fire Fighters Charity – at Birstall Fire Station on 3 September.**

The staff survey was launched in June 2020, and was used to gather feedback from all employees of the service on several areas, including employee satisfaction, training and development, communication and wellbeing.

As part of the promotion of the survey, Rick Taylor, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, and Assistant Chief Fire Officers, Callum Faint and Richard Hall, pledged to donate £1 from their pockets for each survey returned.

360 returns were received, which meant a fantastic £360 donation from Rick, Callum and Richard.

This was generously matched by two sponsors who work closely with the service, De-Wipe and RiVR, bringing the grand total up to £1,080.

This means that during the financial year of 2019/20, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service have raised a huge £67,694.44 for the Fire Fighters Charity.



De-Wipe are a company who create the De-Wipe, a UK After Fire Wipe – a simple solution to First Responders on Scene. The wipe fights contaminants and helps to remove the risk of carcinogens, and is 100% biodegradable. De-Wipe is scientifically proven to remove harmful dioxins and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from the skin.

They also co-own Reach and Rescue, manufacturers of long-reach telescopic rescue poles that boost casualty survival chances whilst keeping rescue operatives safe.

Director of De-Wipe, Jo Taylor MBE, said: "We are official partners of The Fire Fighters Charity, and have worked closely with them for many years. When Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service approached us asking if we could be sponsors to boost their donation to the charity, we were more than happy to be involved."

Reality in Virtual Reality Limited (RiVR) is a global brand which specialises in content creation and software development in virtual reality applications. RiVR operate across all sectors, but have a particular interest in supporting emergency services to improve training in an innovative way.

Bradley Woodward, Managing Director said: "We have achieved much over a short space of time, and a lot of our success has been achieved through our relationship with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service who have a reputation for taking the lead in new technology.

"They have supported our joint desire to improve fire investigation training and were the first Fire Service to adopt RiVR Link synchronised virtual reality training. We are delighted to support the fantastic work that The Fire Fighters Charity carries out in making a real difference."

The Fire Fighters Charity offers specialist, lifelong support for members of the UK fire services community, empowering individuals to achieve mental, physical and social wellbeing throughout their lives.

They have launched an urgent appeal to help them through the Coronavirus pandemic, which hugely impacted their finances. For more information or to support the charity, visit <https://www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/>

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

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

For more information about De-Wipe, please visit <https://dewipe.com/>

For more information about RiVR, please visit <https://rivr.uk/>

**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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