



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer Together



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Press Release

Press release from **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service** and **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority**
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15 APRIL 2020

DERBYSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE IS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO SUPPORT ITS COMMUNITIES

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service is taking part in the National Fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC) "Ready Willing and Able" campaign which launches today, to show how Fire and Rescue Services in the UK are going the extra mile to protect and support their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the coming weeks, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service will be sharing stories on its website and across social media channels, to show how staff from across the Service are coming together to provide community reassurance and help in response to the national crisis.

As well as continuing to respond to emergency calls, the NFCC has agreed with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), and Fire and Rescue Employers that Fire and Rescue Services will work with partners in Local Resilience Forums, local health partners and voluntary groups to help with the transport and delivery of food and medicines.

Derbyshire's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Rick Roberts said:

"We are Ready, Willing and Able to do all we can to minimise the impact of COVID-19 and help and support our communities in Derbyshire.

"Working closely with our local resilience partners, we have Firefighters out in the community, delivering vital medicines to vulnerable people who can't collect their own prescriptions, and who have no one to do this for them.

"To date we have delivered over 2,500 prescriptions and are on course for delivering 10,000 prescriptions in April alone.

email: enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk
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Gavin Tomlinson MBA MIFireE
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



“In addition to delivering prescriptions, we are also providing a telephone befriending service for vulnerable members of the community who are isolated and have no one else to talk to. The idea came from a member of our staff who recognised that many of the people who are already known to the Service, would be isolated, alone and with little or no contact from the outside world.

“Over 30 members of staff from across the Service have signed up to take part in this initiative, making 15 minute calls to people to have a friendly chat and to assist the individual if they need other services.

“We are also working with our colleagues from East Midlands Ambulance Service and the FBU to see what help we could provide to support them with the increase in demand on their services.

“We will continue to work closely with our partners in the Local Resilience Forum and the Fire Brigades Union to ensure we are doing all we can to support the community, while still providing an emergency response should our communities need us.”

Speaking about the national campaign, Roy Wilsher, Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council, said:

“Fire and Rescue services across the UK are renowned for responding professionally to the unexpected and this national crisis is no different.

“We are very proud of crews for stepping forward, using their wide-range of capabilities and skills to ensure community reassurance and support, while continuing to respond to emergencies, during COVID-19.

“The commitment to their communities during this critical time is a reflection of their continued humanity and care.”

The additional work taken on by Firefighters will be a temporary arrangement to help tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, initially this will be for a period of two months.

The NFCC’s “Ready Willing Able” campaign is being rolled out nationally – you can follow the campaign using #ReadyWillingAble

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