

Review of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue technical capabilities

The key changes are:

Technical rope rescue

The service is proposing to stop offering technical rope rescue as a bespoke service. The training is based predominantly on mountain rescue, of which rescues are not common in Lincolnshire, and rescues from height are now predominantly carried out using an Aerial Ladder Platform. All crews will be trained in rescues from height and will continue to carry out regular exercises at sites such as tall heritage structures and fairground attractions.

Command support

Another proposal is to increase the availability of command support from being offered at one station, to three. These are hugely important, especially at larger incidents, providing a base for senior officers to control activity and review what response is needed.

Bariatric rescue

To allow Grantham to provide Command Support, the team would no longer carry out bariatric rescue. Over a five year period, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue has attended 120 bariatric incidents across the county, with Grantham only attending 10 of these.

Swift water rescue

To enable an appliance from Louth to provide Command Support, the crew will no longer carry out water rescues – the crew has only attended seven incidents in the five year period out of 286 incidents in total.

Large transport/heavy rescue

The service is suggesting that in two areas, to reduce the reliance on the service's Urban Search and Rescue team, that crews from Boston, Grantham and Louth attend these types of incident.

Large animal rescue

Although we're not required to carry out large animal rescues, in Lincolnshire we feel this is a valuable service to our rural communities, working alongside the RSPCA. We are proposing to keep this expertise at our busiest three stations where 84% of the large animal rescues have taken place in five years.

Other proposed changes

Sleaford station is home to our Urban Search and Rescue team. As the Sleaford crew has only carried out one water rescue and two large animal rescues over the five years, the proposal would be to stop this activity to enable the crew to focus on their USAR activity, both in Lincolnshire, and as a national asset.

Similarly, Lincoln North fire station has had some limited capacity to carry out large transport and heavy rescues. The proposal is to stop this activity to allow the crew to be more focused on bariatric rescue, large animal rescue and water rescue.

Consultation

We would like to hear your views on these proposals by completing a short survey, accessed through the following link <https://snaps.lincolnshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=161588900718>. This should take no longer than fifteen minutes to complete. You can also find attached more detailed documents on the changes being considered.

We will use any feedback to finalise our plans as we look to deliver an even better service to Lincolnshire residents and communities.

Should you require any further information, please contact Area Manager Spencer Creek, spencer.creek@lincoln.fire-uk.org.