



R B F & R S

news release

06/11/2008

No: 57/F&R

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Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) has confirmed that it does not undertake doorstep collections following an incident in West Berkshire last week.

An alert couple in Hungerford became suspicious when a man posing as a firefighter tried to obtain money from them. The couple, who do not wish to be named, heard a knock at the door of their home in Chantry Mead, at about 10 to nine on the evening of 29 October.

They opened the door to find a man with a clipboard, wearing a 'dark uniform' and a jacket, with 'fire brigade' written on the back. He asked them if they would like to make a donation for the fire brigade.

The couple were immediately suspicious as they did not recognise the uniform as being the same as that worn by Berkshire firefighters and so declined. The man offered to return later and wrote something down on his clipboard when they again said they did not wish to hand over any money.

The man was reported to have been seen in nearby Chiltern Way earlier that afternoon.

RBFRS spokeswoman Nicole Targett said: "This incident has been reported to police. We would like people to be aware that, as a publicly-funded service, we do not carry out door to door fundraising.

"Our staff carry out a great deal of work in the community but this is on a prearranged basis, for safety advice, education and information purposes, not to collect money. Our staff will be in uniform and/or carry official identification and will be in a fire appliance or using a Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service vehicle. Fire safety inspecting officers may not be in uniform but will carry official identification.

"If you are contacted in this way by someone asking you for money and claiming to be a member of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service staff, please inform the police, using the non-emergency number, 0845 850 5505."

ENDS.

