



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **POLISH FIRE SAFETY EVENT**

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is holding a fire safety event for the Polish community in Reading on Sunday 27 September. The event will take place outside Gospoda, the Polish pub on the Oxford Road, from 12pm-4pm.

The aim of the event is to communicate fire safety issues to Polish people in their native language, as many Polish people who come to live in the UK do not have a high level of fire safety awareness.

As part of a growing volunteers programme, RBFRS has recently recruited three volunteer Polish advocates to help deliver fire safety messages to the Polish community in Reading. Two of these advocates, Mariusz Rapa and Sandra Milek, will be on hand at the event to talk to the community, translating fire safety information into Polish if required.

In addition to finding out about how to prevent accidental fires in the home and learning about the different careers available within the fire service, people will also be able to sign up for a free Home Fire Safety Check at the event. During a Home Fire Safety Check, RBFRS firefighters or community safety staff visit people in their own homes at a pre-arranged time, check the home thoroughly and advise people on how to keep themselves safe from fire and other hazards. Free ten-year battery smoke alarms will also be installed where necessary. RBFRS will also be distributing free EU conversion plugs at the event (while stocks last), which have fuses that make standard Polish plugs safer to use in the UK.

Matt Taylor, RBFRS Community Development Worker, said: "This event is a great opportunity for Polish people living in Reading to find out about how to keep themselves and their families safe from fire. We are thrilled to have Sandra and Mariusz working with us as volunteer advocates, as it means that important safety messages can now be delivered in Polish, which ensures that they are fully understood.

"We hope lots of people come and see us on the day. There's no need to make an appointment, just pop down and see us anytime between 12pm and 4pm."

**ENDS.**

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