



R B F & R S

news release

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EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS – SAFETY ADVICE

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is urging people to take extra care to stay safe during the current extreme weather conditions.

With road conditions remaining treacherous in many parts of Berkshire, particularly in outlying areas, people are being advised to stay home in the warm rather than risk driving. If your journey is absolutely essential, allow plenty of extra time for the journey, drive carefully and steadily and remember to allow extra space when manoeuvring your vehicle in slippery conditions. Ensure your windscreen, rear screen and mirrors are clear and give other drivers plenty of room as well.

Owing to the extreme weather conditions, RBFRS is currently only able to attend incidents where there is a danger to life. You can reduce the risk of a fire starting in your home by following this advice:

- Ensure your chimney is swept and clear. Always use a fireguard with an open fire.
- Never leave lit candles unattended or on flammable surfaces.
- Switch off Christmas tree lights and other electrical appliances before you go out or go to bed.
- If you or anyone in your family smokes, make sure you extinguish cigarettes properly.
- Most house fires start in the kitchen – never leave cooking unattended.

Andy Mancey, Area Manager for Response at RBFRS, said: “The best thing people can do while we are still experiencing large amounts of snow and ice on the roads is to stay at home and keep warm. You can also help us by taking extra care to avoid an accidental fire starting in the home, and only calling 999 if there is a danger to life.”

RBFRS has placed its off-road capability vehicles across the county to assist with incidents where needed and these are also being used to support South Central Ambulance Service at life-critical incidents. RBFRS is still currently running its Operations Support Room which will remain in place throughout the heavy snow conditions.

ENDS.