



R B F & R S

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HOUSEHOLDERS WARNED ABOUT BOGUS FIREFIGHTER

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is warning people to be on their guard after receiving reports of a man posing as a firefighter in the Langley area.

In one incident, a man dressed as a firefighter knocked on a door in Blunden Drive, Sutton Lane, Langley, on the evening of Tuesday 24 March, claiming that he needed to come into the property to “check the electrics”. The householder, who does not wish to be named, became suspicious as she had not requested a visit from the Fire Service and asked him to come back later when her friend would be there. The man did not return and the householder reported the incident to the police.

Community Safety Manager, Paul Jacques, said: “Fortunately, this lady was very alert and did not give this impostor the opportunity to enter her property. We would like people to be aware that, although we do carry out a great deal of work in the community, this is only on a pre-arranged basis.

“Our Home Fire Safety Check scheme does involve firefighters or RBFRS Community Safety staff checking people’s homes for fire hazards and installing smoke alarms. However, householders will be sent a leaflet in advance to let them know that we are carrying out this activity in their area and offering them the opportunity to book a visit.

“In addition, RBFRS 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. If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from the Fire Service but who does not appear to be genuine, do not let them into your home and inform the police using the non-emergency number: 0845 850 5505.”

ENDS.