



R B F & R S

news release

20/04/2010

No: 14/F&R

YOUR OLD CAR COULD HELP TO SAVE LIVES

Missed out on the scrappage scheme but still want to get rid of your old car? You could help to save lives by donating it to Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS).

RBFRS firefighters now save more lives by cutting people free from the wreckage of road traffic collisions than they do from fires. As part of this vital work, they need to train regularly in the latest techniques. Old cars are used to give firefighters hands-on experience of working with as wide a range of vehicles as possible. The cars are kept for several different training sessions to get as much use as possible out of each one.

However, more vehicles are now needed for training and RBFRS is hoping members of the public can help. If you have an old car or van that you would like to get rid of, please consider donating it to RBFRS.

Donating your vehicle to RBFRS is a straightforward process. Vehicles are first assessed by an RBFRS technician, who will then arrange for suitable vehicles to be collected. All paperwork regarding the transfer of ownership is completed before the vehicle is removed. The vehicle is then prepared for use in training, including the removal of any potential pollutants, such as fuel and other fluids.

Group Manager Paul Maynard, a member of the RBFRS team which won the World Rescue Challenge in 2009, said: "We can use almost anything – vehicles can be damaged or non-runners. We are particularly looking for vehicles with modern features, such as air bags and electric windows, as these present more complex technical challenges for the crews but we would welcome donations of any type of car."

If you would like to donate your old vehicle to help firefighters train to save even more lives on Berkshire's roads, please call the co-ordinating team on 0118 932 2787 or email centralsupportteam@rbfrs.co.uk

ENDS.