
From: Geraldine Tunney [mailto:geraldine.tunney@cfoa.org.uk]
Sent: 01 March 2007 09:51
To: CFOA - Members
Subject: Lincolnshire FRS Unsuccessful with Co-Responding Appeal (also Notts)

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Unsuccessful with Co-Responding Appeal

28 FEBRUARY 2007

Firefighters in Lincolnshire will be able to continue volunteering to join the life-saving 'co-responding' scheme, but it will not be regarded as part of their contractual duties, following a judgment reached today Wednesday, 28 February 2007 in the Court of Appeal.

At the end of a one-day hearing, the court upheld an earlier ruling that co-responding was not part of a firefighter's contractual duty. However, the judges did reaffirm that this was fundamentally important and urged the employers and unions to reach an agreement for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Today's ruling means that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service will only be able to introduce co-responding where fire crews choose to take part in the initiative.

Co-responding is working successfully at twenty-one stations in Lincolnshire, with firefighters working alongside East Midlands Ambulance Service to attend selected 999 calls. They responded to 2287 calls during 2006 and a further 384 in the first eight weeks of 2007, providing a first response in advance of an ambulance arriving.

"This is a very disappointing decision," said Mike Thomas, Chief Fire Officer. "Co-responding makes such good sense to me when the service we provide is so firmly focused on saving people's lives. We are trained to respond to emergencies and rescue members of the public when they are in trouble, and co-responding is a natural extension of that role.

"We attended 2287 calls during last year. I hope that firefighters will continue volunteering to take part in this vital life-saving work, and that we will be able to continue working with LIVES and the ambulance service to develop co-responding in the future." END

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?docId=52670>

Landmark ruling for firefighters Mansfield Today

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Fire Authority has failed in a landmark appeal case in which it argued firefighters must attend medical emergencies ahead of ambulances.

The Court of Appeal has backed an earlier ruling that Fire Brigades Union members are under no contractual obligation to participate in 'co-responding' schemes.

END

<http://www.mansfieldtoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=722&ArticleID=2088480>

Regards,
Geraldine