NEWS RELEASE

17/09/2013

FIRE BRIGADES’ UNION ANNOUNCES STRIKE ACTION

The Fire Brigades’ Union (FBU) has announced today (Tuesday 17 September) that its operational firefighter members (not including Control staff) will be taking discontinuous strike action on Wednesday 25 September between 12noon and 4pm over a pensions’ dispute with government.

Humberside Fire and Rescue Service’s Chief Fire Officer, Richard Hannigan, said: “I fully appreciate the concerns the Union has over the proposed changes to pensions and hope that it is able to come to a satisfactory agreement through further discussions with government. We understand how important pensions are to our staff, however the safety of our communities must come first and I am disappointed that members of the Union have chosen to take this route.

“We have confidence in our robust plans that will enable us to provide an emergency response service. However this will be greatly reduced from what we can ordinarily provide and what the public expect,” CFO Hannigan added.

There will be no assistance available from Ministry of Defence sources in respect of staff or equipment. However, not all firefighters in the Humberside area will take part in the strike action as not all are members of the Union.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Director of Safety, Chris Blacksell, said: “As there will be fewer fire engines available to attend incidents during periods of industrial action it is even more important that people take extra care to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

“I would urge everyone to ensure their homes have smoke detectors and to test them each week; by having working smoke alarms fitted in your home, you will be alerted quickly should a fire break out. A bedtime check is a quick and simple task to help make sure a fire doesn’t start when you go to bed. I would also urge drivers to take extra care on the roads and businesses to take extra precautions,” ACO Blacksell said.

Safety information and updates on the industrial action is available on the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service website at www.humbersidefire.gov.uk. Follow the Service on Twitter @humbersidefire or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/humbersidefireandrescue.