

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

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Fire Brigades Union members meet at Stroud to oppose cuts to Specialist Rescue Appliance

Gloucestershire newsdesks:

Fire crews from Stroud met at Stroud Fire Station last night to discuss how they were going to react over proposals from the Chief Fire Officer, Chris Griffin, to cut the Specialist Rescue Appliance (SRA) based at Stroud.

It was agreed unanimously to vigorously oppose these cuts as they would directly impact on the ability of fire crews to carry out vital life saving operations not only in Stroud but also as far afield as Cirencester and Berkeley.

The Specialist Rescue Appliance is the only permanently crewed vehicle of its type in Gloucestershire. The other two, at Gloucester and Cheltenham, are "jump crewed" which means two firefighters will alternate between this Specialist Rescue Appliance and an Aerial appliance dependant upon which is required for any incident in the area. The SRA at Stroud is crewed 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Local firefighter, FBU Rep and Stroud resident Karen Gobey said "This disgraceful plan will mean that the communities in and around Stroud will be getting a reduced service from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service. This is about saving a few pounds when crews know that it will cost lives. We are dedicated professionals who pride ourselves on serving our communities but we need the tools to do so, cutting this life saving appliance would severely hamper our ability to do this"

FBU Rep Nigel Morley said "Fire crews are angry that management and local politicians see no further than pounds shillings and pence, it isn't the CFO or Councilors that have to cut people out of cars, or attend specialist rescues it is firefighters. Robbing the communities of Stroud of this vital appliance is dangerous and we will work with the people of the 5 Valleys to protect their fire service"

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