



# ECFRS News



March 2022

## Thank you from Joanna



Joanna Lisowska-Dyer, Fire Safety Officer at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, started a collection at Great Baddow Fire Station on Monday, 28 February for refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. Joanna got in touch with contacts she has in the Polish Fire Service who are distributing donations at the Polish border.

In just under two weeks, the Service collected 750 boxes of donations of essential supplies including tinned food, nappies, wet wipes, first aid kits and pet food at Great Baddow Fire Station.

All donations that could not be sent like clothing and food was donated locally.

Joanna said: "We are truly grateful for every donation we have received and have been overwhelmed by the public's generosity.

"I'd like to say a big big thank you to everyone who has taken the time to help us with this appeal. Thank you to our staff who kindly volunteered to sort through donations and have given their time and donations generously.

"And a BIG thank you to our public and local businesses who have been so generous. Every single donation will make such a difference to people whose lives have been turned upside down."

The Service has also been working with the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) to identify any spare and ready to use equipment that can be sent to firefighters in Ukraine.

A number of charity car washes have been and are being held at fire stations across Essex to raise funds for the Red Cross and the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to provide humanitarian aid in Ukraine and at its borders. So far, these have raised more than £1,500.

[Learn more](#)



## Storm Eunice - An exceptional day for our Service

During the peak of Storm Eunice, we took a record number of calls from people needing our help.

Between 10am and 9pm, the control room and crews dealt with around 500 calls, with up to 100 calls an hour during the peak of Storm Eunice.

Area Manager Neil Fenwick said: “It was an exceptional day for our Service. On an average day we receive between 40 and 50 calls - we dealt with around 500 in one day during the peak of Storm Eunice. We were well prepared and our teams did an excellent job to keep our residents safe. I would like to say a huge thank you to all our firefighters and staff, our emergency service, local authority and utility company partners as well as the people of Essex, who listened to our advice and messages. It was a real team effort and shows once again how Essex unites when faced with challenges.”

Click 'learn more' to read our top tips for staying safe in severe weather.

[Learn more](#)



## Crews from Epping and Billericay guests at Royal Visit

Crews from Epping and Billericay fire stations were guests at a visit by Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance's (EHAAT) airbase at North Weald on Tuesday March 1.

EHAAT is a local life-saving charity and works alongside the hospitals, emergency services and supporting organisations across the region. The visit was an opportunity to bring everyone together at EHAAT's new airbase at North Weald, enabling The Earl and Countess to say thank you to some of these organisations for their outstanding hard work during the pandemic.

Representatives from the emergency services were invited to attend the event along with Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Jane Gardner.

Station Manager Dave Bond said: “Seeing everyone together really highlighted just how many agencies work together at incidents. It was a good opportunity to catch up outside of a live incident, share learning and build relationships. We got to speak to the HRH The Countess of Wessex and she thanked us all for our work, especially during the pandemic.”

[Learn more](#)

## **And lastly, have you seen the national #FireKills campaign?**

“It only takes one accident to start a fire.”

That’s the message we’re promoting following the launch of a national #FireKills campaign from the National Fire Chiefs Council and the Home Office.

We’re urging Essex residents to be aware of known fire risks including candles and leaving cooking unattended using visuals demonstrating that it only takes one accident to start a fire.

Will Newman, Head of Prevention at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, said: “People are still unaware of just how easily fires in the home can start. We have put together a top 10 list of things you can do to keep you, your loved ones and your property safe from harm. The best way to stay safe from fire is to understand common risks of fire and how to reduce them in your home.”

Read our top 10 safety tips: [https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Essex\\_supports\\_national\\_FireKills\\_campaign/](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Essex_supports_national_FireKills_campaign/).



**IT ONLY TAKES  
ONE ACCIDENT  
TO START A FIRE.**



**ARE YOU  
SURE YOUR  
SMOKE  
ALARMS ARE  
WORKING?**



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