

## **APPEAL FOR RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS AT NORTH DEVON FIRE STATIONS**

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is urgently seeking to recruit retained firefighters who will be available for calls during the daytime in South Molton, Chulmleigh, Woolacombe and Combe Martin.

In the event of additional firefighters not being found, there may be occasions in the future when appliances from other stations have to attend incidents in these areas.

Group Manager Pete Newman said: "Firefighters are normal people who live or work in the community. They are builders, housewives, postal workers, and shop keepers - in fact they come from all and every walk of life. The only thing that they have in common is that they have all decided to put something back into the community by becoming trained as firefighters.

"Now it is the firefighters themselves that need your help. There simply aren't enough of them and there is a real shortage of new volunteers. The number of firefighters at these stations is so short that there is a real danger that the fire engine may not be available at certain times of the day.

"Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service can provide the station, engines, equipment and training but the firefighters themselves have to come from the community.

"We know that there are many, many more women that are capable of becoming firefighters who are reluctant to put themselves forward. Most people believe that the physical strength required to be a firefighter is much greater than it actually is."

Applicants must be at least 18 and physically fit. They need to be available Monday-Friday, and in particular during the daytime. Successful applicants will have a chance to attend First Aid courses and LGV driving courses.

Anyone interested should contact their local fire station to discuss availability and suitability.

Contact:

South Molton, 01769 572647, Mondays, 7.15-9.15pm

Chulmleigh, 01769 580347, Mondays, 7.30-9.30pm

Woolacombe, 01271 871183, Tuesday, 7-9pm

Combe Martin, 01271 883241, Thursday, 7-9pm

For more information on retained recruitment telephone 01392 872331

**ENDS**