

23 November 2010

Press Release

FIREFIGHTERS DRIVE HOME THE SAFETY MESSAGE WITH 'RESCUE' AT CRC

Students at Cambridge Regional College discovered just what it's like to be in a road traffic collision today.

Firefighters from Cambridge Fire Station visited the College and performed a road traffic collision demonstration using an old car which had been donated by the College.



Firefighters stage a 'rescue' of trapped CRC students

Two Motor Vehicle students, Antoinette Rich and Will Archer, sat in the car and about 150 other students watched while firefighters used specialist cutting equipment to take off the doors, boot, central door posts and then the roof – the real-life technique used to gain access to trapped casualties after an accident.

While this was taking place, other firefighters talked the students through the process and also explained the dangers of driving.

The event was staged as part of Road Safety Week (Nov 22-28), an initiative by Brake, a road safety charity.

Kevin Napier, Watch Manager from Cambridge Fire Station said: "The event was held to give the students a realistic impression of what it's like to be trapped in a car following a road traffic collision.

"While we don't want to scare them, we do want them to realise that it is a frightening experience and that they should appreciate just how dangerous driving can be.

"Statistically, these students are in the age range for the highest rates of road traffic collisions - 16 to 24 year-olds - so they are the key people to get the road safety message across to."

Between January 1 to October 31 this year (2010), firefighters in Cambridgeshire have attended 470 road traffic collisions, resulting in 281 casualties and 20 fatalities. Firefighters have rescued a total of 168 people from their vehicles using specialist cutting equipment.

Lisa Pollitt, Safeguarding Coordinator for Cambridge Regional College, who has organised a number of safety events throughout November for the College's first Safeguarding Month, said: "This was a very hard-hitting demonstration which affected students strongly and we hope it has an impact on the way they drive in the future.

"It gave students first hand experience of what it's like to be in a road traffic collision where they have to be cut free either as a driver or passenger.

"Many of our students are learning to drive while they are at college, or have only just started driving, and some of them travel long distances. They were also able to ask the fire crew about how to drive safely in ice and snow - because they've never done it before - and were given lots of information on how to stay safe in bad weather conditions.

"We are very grateful for the fire service's continued support and help in safeguarding our students. Today was a great piece of partnership work and together we can raise awareness of the dangers and try to get students to look after themselves and their friends."

Firefighters also had a road safety stand at the college throughout the day and gave road safety advice to many of the students at the other departments at the College.

Advice on how to [drive safely in winter](#).

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.