

## **NATIONAL AWARD FOR FIRE AND RESCUE DATA SPECIALISTS**

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service has won a national award for its work to compile data which gives firefighters valuable information when they respond to emergency incidents.

Detailed and accurate information about commercial buildings, residential properties and geographical features is essential to firefighters when they receive a 999 call, and Fire Control operators use this data to liaise effectively with crews at the scene.

Gazetteer specialists draw this information together and make sure it is kept up-to-date. They use data held by the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) which applies a unique identification number to every residential, business and non-mailing address in the country. The information can be applied and shared between other local government agencies consistently, which means that high standards of accuracy can be maintained.

Lincolnshire staff, in conjunction with a company called Intelligent Addressing, have developed a process for highlighting inconsistencies in the information held and notifying the NLPG, so that it can be checked and verified. This process has been so successful that it is to be adopted by all fire and rescue services across the country, and will support the implementation of the national FiReControl project.

It is this work which has secured the Exemplar Award from the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Intelligent Addressing, designed to recognise innovation, commitment and achievement through the use of the NLPG and National Street Gazetteer (NSG).

Jo Beresford-Robinson, who co-ordinates the FiReControl project at Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "This is valuable work which takes place behind the scenes in every fire and rescue service across the country, to build up a comprehensive, consistent and up-to-date picture of the area it serves. Without it, firefighters would be relying solely on their own local knowledge, which could leave them vulnerable in an emergency.

"The information compiled by our gazetteers is essential to the smooth and efficient running of the new regional fire and rescue control centre and it is important that we can trust the data. The work carried out in Lincolnshire will be extremely useful to other fire and rescue services across the country and will help to standardise and achieve some consistency in our approach."

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