

Contact us

If you have any problems or questions you can contact us in a number of ways. We would prefer email, purely because, like you we have 'other jobs' and emails allow us to fit your enquiries in more efficiently. Contact us at info@hrfu.org.uk.

Of course, if your enquiry is more urgent you can phone us as follows:
Rikki Noble (Chairman)
01489 893980 or 0798 555 9243 or write care of

Bishops Waltham Fire Station
Lower Lane
Bishops Waltham
Hampshire
SO32 1AS

Andy Needham (Secretary)
01962 723020 or write care of
Romsey Fire Station
Alma Road
Romsey
Hampshire

And Finally.....

First they came for the Communists but I was not a Communist so I did not speak out.

Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists but I was not one of them, so I did not speak out.

Then they came for the Jews but I was not Jewish so I did not speak out. And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me.

Martin Niemoeller

How to join the HRFU?

Joining Hampshire's Retained Firefighter Union could not be simpler, just complete the following details and we shall forward the correct documentation. Or you can download the details from our website here: www.hrfu.org.uk

Your name	
Your station	
Your address:	

Forward these details to:

The Secretary
Hampshire Retained Firefighters Union
Romsey Fire Station
Alma Road
Romsey
Hampshire

So you have just become a retained Firefighter, Welcome...



....to an almost secret group of people who quietly go about their daily existence unnoticed - until their alerters go off. They then become fully qualified, competent firefighters saving lives, property and looking after the local community. This small pamphlet is aimed to inform you more about the Hampshire's Retained Firefighters Union - designed for Hampshire Firefighters on the Retained Duty System.

RU HRFU? RU HRFU? RU HRFU? RU HRFU?

What is a union?

A union is a strange thing. Once seen as the domain for a cloth hat and mild drinking working class with political overtones, it is now seen as a cross between an independent HR department and insurance policy. This of course can make it harder for us to sell to you - unless employed within it nobody really knows what a HR department really does in a company and nobody likes buying insurance policies!

However, you can consider that we work for you in a number of main ways. With every change and adaptation in HFRS which affects you, we will be consulted and our opinions sought to ensure that the introduction is both useful and legal and do not conflict with other agreements. Secondly, if you do have a problem in your employment with HFRS we are there. We do not aim to be the banner waving union official, but find it usually more useful to quietly help and advise you and solve your problem with the minimum of fuss.

RFU

We are part of a nationwide union—the Retained Firefighters Union or RFU and would first like to introduce to their main tenets;

1) We are non-striking

We strongly believe and experience supports the fact that RDS firefighters serve their local community and do not want to withdraw this service under any circumstances. Many say that as non-striking we are toothless. This is not true; history shows that the national strike action undertaken has only gained unpopularity and loss of respect from the general public. This has led to Government Ministers now being more determined not to let this heavy-handed industrial action succeed. We find intelligent discussion, correct research and mutual agreements ensure we maintain a good relationship with HFRS.



2) We are non political

We strongly believe that the service you provide and HFRS itself should operate independently of any political arena. Therefore every penny of your union subscriptions are ploughed back into maintaining an exemplary service for our members - we have enough to do ensuring the best service for you without overlaying a political emphasis.



3) We accept change

No Fire Service can exist without change. Due to population and conurbation dynamics, finances, technology and fire knowledge things will always change. We look to work with HFRS to manage this change smoothly and ensure that this change is for the best of all RDS firefighters and the communities they serve and not have our head in the clouds and think that the status quo must exist for ever.

Why Join ANY Fire fighting Union?

Currently HFRS is undergoing probably the most major changes of its life. With the implementation of IRMP and other major governmental strategies they are being forced to be more cost effective and more efficient. The government has said that the retained fire fighting service is an underrated and underused force and must be integrated into the main fire service more.

This is great news although being more cost effective and efficient can work against us. Consequently, almost daily changes are being introduced often hurriedly and without full thought and it is us which is trying to maintain your standards. We sit on committees with HFRS covering Health and Safety, Diversity, Working Time Regulations and many, many more.



It is important that you ensure that your views are supported and heard.

Why join the RFU?

Like you, all of the HRFU committee either have been or are Retained Firefighters. We hold down full time jobs and serve our local communities and know what it means when the alerter's go off. We also look after only one group of employees - the Retained Fire fighter. Consequently we have no conflicts of interest between groups of our employees.

We are backed by a central body, the RFU which provides guidance and advice when required and ensures that we are aware of governmental advice which may affect either us or the Fire Service. Receiving funds from you they will also shortly be initiating a 'life insurance' which is second to none. It is fair to say that the RFU is not as big and wealthy as other unions but in our compactness we have the ability to act and react quickly and specialise in just one area of the Fire Service - The Retained Duty System. The RFU themselves have an excellent website that can be found at www.rfuonline.co.uk/

More locally, Hampshire RFU have a dynamic and well visited website at hrfu.org.uk which attempts to replace rumour with fact and is constantly being updated to be a one stop information resource for all your RDS firefighter needs.



SHOUT is our monthly newsletter designed to educate, inform and entertain seems to be, from the feedback we are getting, becoming the most wide spread publication within HFRS.



Finally, we are here to help when you have any question within your employment as an RDS firefighter. We do not promise to offer miracles if you have a problem but we do promise to offer you frank, honest unbiased advice quickly!