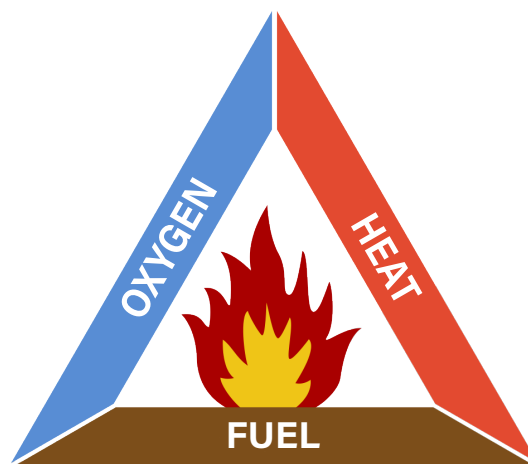


Fire safety

Sites are all different in size and complexity. It is essential to know the fire risk that can develop from site activities, as well as from the materials and substances that are stored and used on site, should they make contact with a source of ignition.

The fire risk assessments undertaken must comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, or equivalent legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland (refs 3-7), and other applicable legislation. It must address the fire prevention and protection measures that must be observed.

If you are working within a higher-risk building, you need to confirm and co-ordinate all works with the responsible person for that building and their fire risk assessment, as your works may require them to review that assessment.



Before work starts on site

- Appoint a suitably qualified and trained responsible person for the site. They must carry out a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment, which is regularly reviewed as the project develops.
- Liaise with the fire and rescue service and third parties, and consider any existing arrangements as well as others who may be put at risk by a fire. Implement control measures that eliminate the risk of fire or reduce it to an acceptable level.
- Consider the age of the building and the construction type: for example, are there concealed voids or incomplete compartmentation that would assist fire spread? Consider work methods to reduce the impact of any tasks that may alter or damage areas of compartmentation.

When work has started on site

- Duty holders under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 must co-ordinate and co-operate on fire safety precautions with the responsible person(s) when construction work is taking place on an occupied high-rise residential building.
- Appoint people with fire-specific duties, such as fire wardens, and provide suitable training so that they can carry out the role. Provide training on the selection and use of fire extinguishers for staff carrying out activities that could start a fire, as well as for a proportion of other site staff.
- Make sure that escape and evacuation routes have suitable signage, adequate lighting and suitable and working fire doors, and make sure that these routes are kept clear of obstructions to minimise the risk of slips, trips and falls during a site evacuation.
- Ensure that all flammable materials are appropriately stored, and reduce the amount of hazardous materials on site to minimise the amount of noxious fumes that may be released into the environment in the event of a fire occurring.
- Store materials to reduce the risk of ground contamination from products of combustion in the event of a fire, and to reduce the risk of firefighting water run-off entering the watercourses.
- Make sure that the site is kept secure and that unauthorised access is prevented, and ensure that the fire risks have been assessed, that effective control measures are in place and that a site-specific fire action plan is prepared.
- Communicate the significant fire risks and preventative measures to all on site. Ensure that everyone on site has had a fire safety briefing and have been made aware of the fire evacuation procedures, as well as that all workers are made aware of their own fire safety responsibilities while on site.

Further information

- HSG168 *Fire Safety in Construction* (free online Health and Safety Executive publication)
- The Fire Protection Association's website: www.thefpa.co.uk
- Construction fire safety: Responsibility and competence matrix (free online Construction Industry Advisory Committee publication)

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