

Fire Safety in Residential Care Premises Workshop 4



Community Protection Directorate
Fire Protection Team



Introductions



Why are we here?

- Year 21/22 – 500 fires in UK care homes
- 2 fatalities
- 125 injuries





Legislation

What piece of legislation is used in the UK to ensure fire safety in residential care premises?

- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

What does 'The Order' require from you?

As the responsible person you must:

- carry out a fire risk assessment of the premises and review it regularly
- tell staff or their representatives about the risks you've identified
- put in place, and maintain, appropriate fire safety measures
- plan for an emergency
- provide staff information, fire safety instruction and training

The Fire Safety Order is a Fire Risk Assessment based approach



Fire Risk Assessment

“If you are the *‘Responsible Person’*, you must ensure that a fire risk assessment has been carried out that must focus on the safety of all *‘Relevant Persons’* in the case of fire.

It should pay particular attention to those at special risk, such as the disabled and those with special needs”



Person Centred Risk Assessment

The person-centred fire risk assessment will help identify residents who are at higher risk from fire in their own accommodation – whether this is due to their behaviours or their ability to respond and escape from a fire.

The risk assessment should include an action plan that specifies what steps will be taken to improve the safety of the vulnerable resident.



Person Centred Risk Assessment

- Step 1: The characteristics, behaviours and capabilities of the resident that may lead to fire risk.
- Step 2: Determine the potential causes of fire and the existing measures to prevent fire.
- Step 3: Identify any circumstances that could lead to the rapid development of fire.
- Step 4: Identify existing measures to protect the resident if fire occurs.
- Step 5: Consider capacity of resident to respond appropriately to fire alarm signals or signs of fire.
- Step 6: Consider ability of resident to make their way to safety.
- Step 7: Determine the level of risk to the resident from fire.
- Step 8: Prepare action plan.
- Step 9: Determine period for review of the assessment.



Staffing Numbers


It's your responsibility to decide how many staff you need to deliver a safe, effective and responsive service and ensure you plan your staffing to maintain this.

Do staff receive effective training in safety related policies and procedures and how to apply them in practice?





Guide to safe staffing



Part of our 'Good and outstanding care' range

A black and white photograph of a woman with glasses and a denim shirt, smiling. In the background, a young boy is visible, looking down. The photo is framed by a thin grey border.

Introduction

- What is safe staffing?
- What are the warning signs of inadequate staffing?
- What are CQC standards around safe staffing?
- Other resources to help

1

Safe staffing levels – how many staff do you need?

- Decide how many staff you need
- Plan your staffing rota
- Put contingencies in place
- Review your staffing levels
- Using technology to support safe staffing

2

Safe recruitment practices – recruit the right staff to deliver safe care and support

- Plan your recruitment
- Attract and select the right people
- Review your recruitment and retention activities

3

Safe and competent staff – ensure staff are competent to deliver safe care and support

- Give new staff a thorough induction
- Provide learning and development opportunities for staff
- Support your staff

Evacuation

Evacuation plans must be fully risk assessed, understood & practiced

- Simultaneous or Single Stage
 - Phased or Progressive
 - Delayed or 'Stay Put'



Simultaneous or Single Stage Evacuation

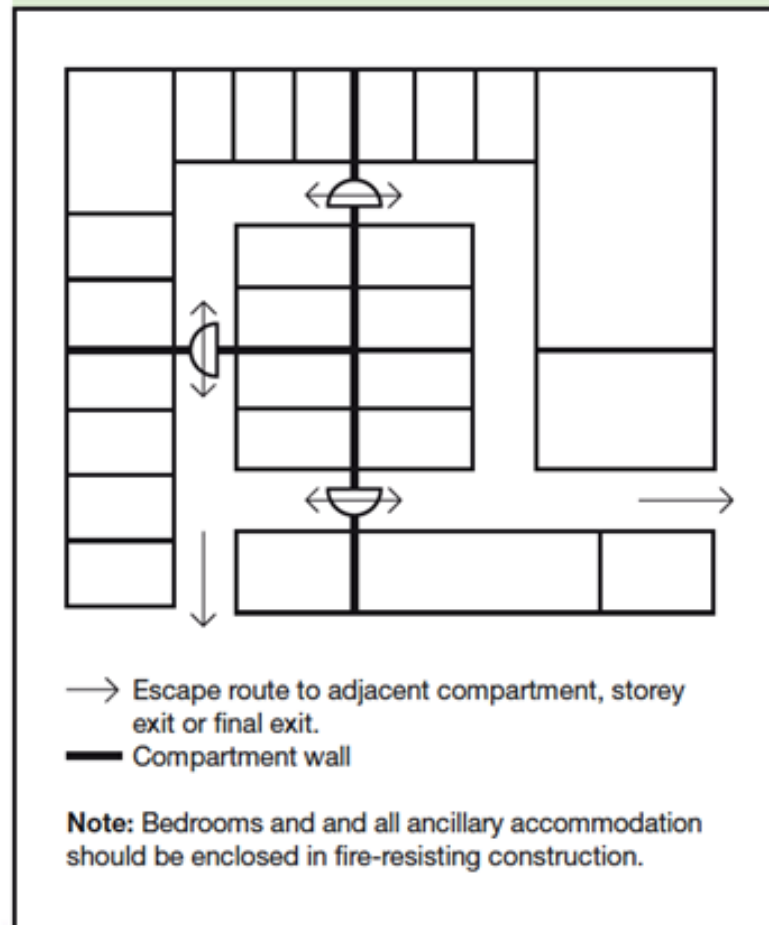
“Everyone reacts to the warning signal given when a fire is discovered, then make their way, by the means of escape, to a place of safety away from the premises”.

May be required due to flooding, gas leaks etc.

Should be able to conduct this without the assistance of the fire service – is this realistic?



Phased or Progressive Horizontal Evacuation



Delayed Evacuation

“Stay Put” is only safe where:

- Compartmentation is adequate
 - Fire is detected early
- Fire Service are called and attend as early as possible
 - Evacuation is carried out in relation to risk
- Where persons are left in place they should be accompanied – is this possible?



Electrical Safety

Mains Electrical Installation

Electrical installations should be tested often enough that there is little chance of deterioration leading to danger. The best way to find out if your electrical installation is safe is to have it inspected and tested by a person who has the competence to do so.

PAT testing

The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require that any electrical equipment that has the potential to cause injury is maintained in a safe condition. However, the Regulations do not specify what needs to be done, by whom or how frequently (i.e. they don't make inspection or testing of electrical appliances a legal requirement, nor do they make it a legal requirement to undertake this annually).





video.efireservice.com/video/12806/12806.mp4



Mobility Scooters

The lack of space and the layout of the corridors, lifts and stairways in communal areas mean that individuals will often leave scooters adjacent to their front entrance doors on protected escape routes or within protected stairways.

When a mobility scooter is involved in fire, the risk of harm is significant. In care settings, mobility scooter fires can pose a significant life safety risk to vulnerable persons.





Case Study

It is 11:45 on a Thursday and
your fire alarm actuates

What would you do?



Case Study

The fire alarm panel shows:

**‘FIRE – FIRST FLOOR
CORRIDOR’**

What would you do now?



Case Study

Staff that went to investigate have reported that there is wispy smoke and a smell of burning on the 1st floor around the WC marked on your plan.

What would you do now?



Case Study

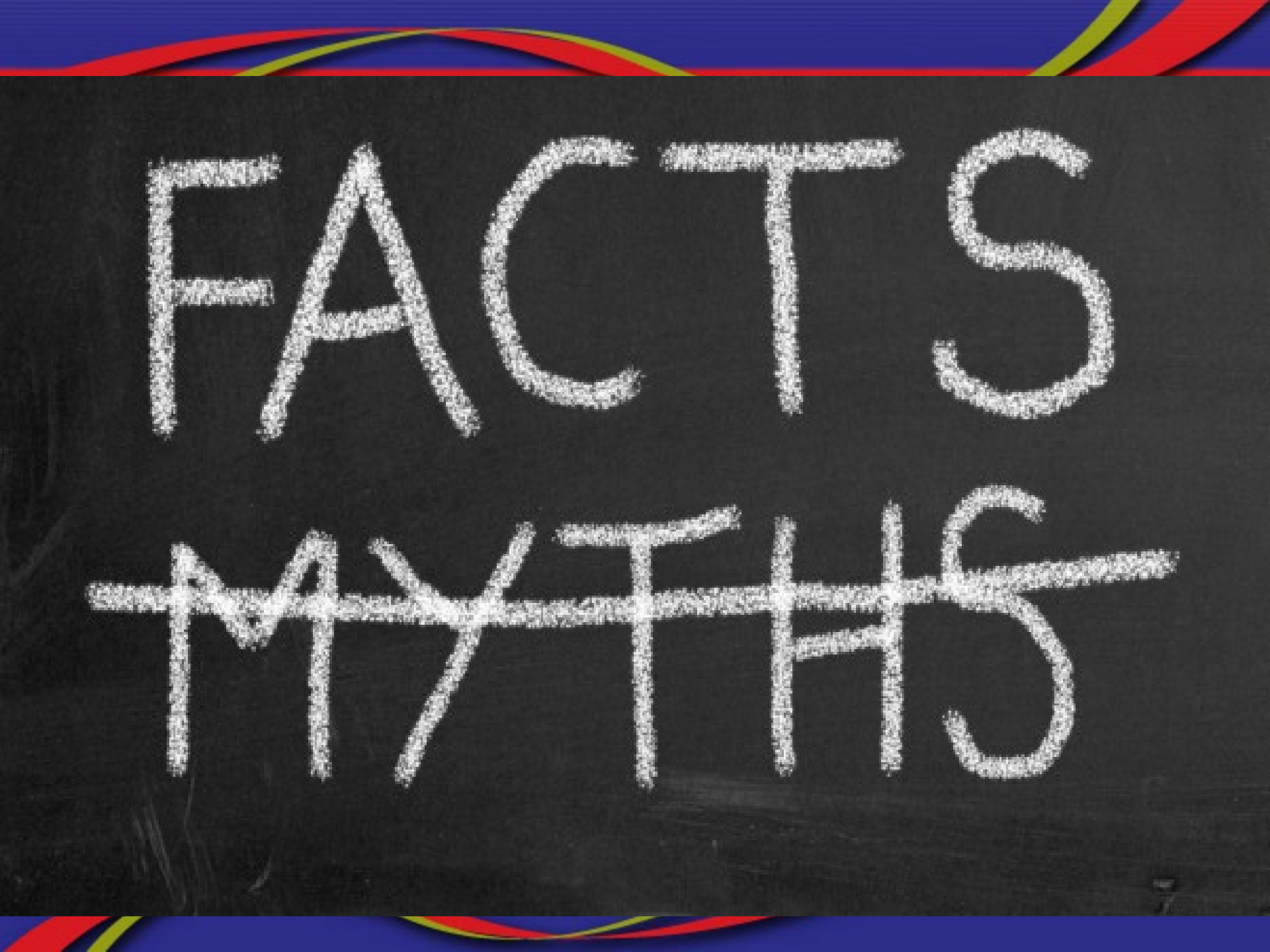
- Investigate
- Call the Fire Service
- Commence horizontal evacuation
- Close doors as you go
- Prepare for arrival of Fire Service



Fire Safety Testing Programme

	Weekly	Monthly	6 Monthly	Annually
Fire Alarm & Detection	Test		Service	Full Service
Emergency Lighting	Check	Test	Service	Full Service
Firefighting Equipment	Check			Full Service
Fire Doors	Check			





FACTS

~~MYTHS~~

What do I do if I am worried about the premises?

Call us on **01707 292 310**

or email us at:

administration.cfs@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Please have the address of the property



Home Fire Safety Visits

Request a home fire safety visit

If you or someone you know is elderly, has a disability, or is vulnerable, you can request a home fire safety visit from us. Professionals can also use the form to submit a referral.

[Request a home fire safety visit >](#)

[Book a Home Fire Safety Visit](#)



Thank you

- Thank you for your time – lets work together to prevent fire incidents and minimise harm to individuals within our care.



Thank you for attending today

Certificates to be emailed to you.
Don't forget to add these to your Care
Academy portal!

