

Fire Safety in Residential Care Premises Workshop 3



Community Protection Directorate
Fire Protection Team



Introductions





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?



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

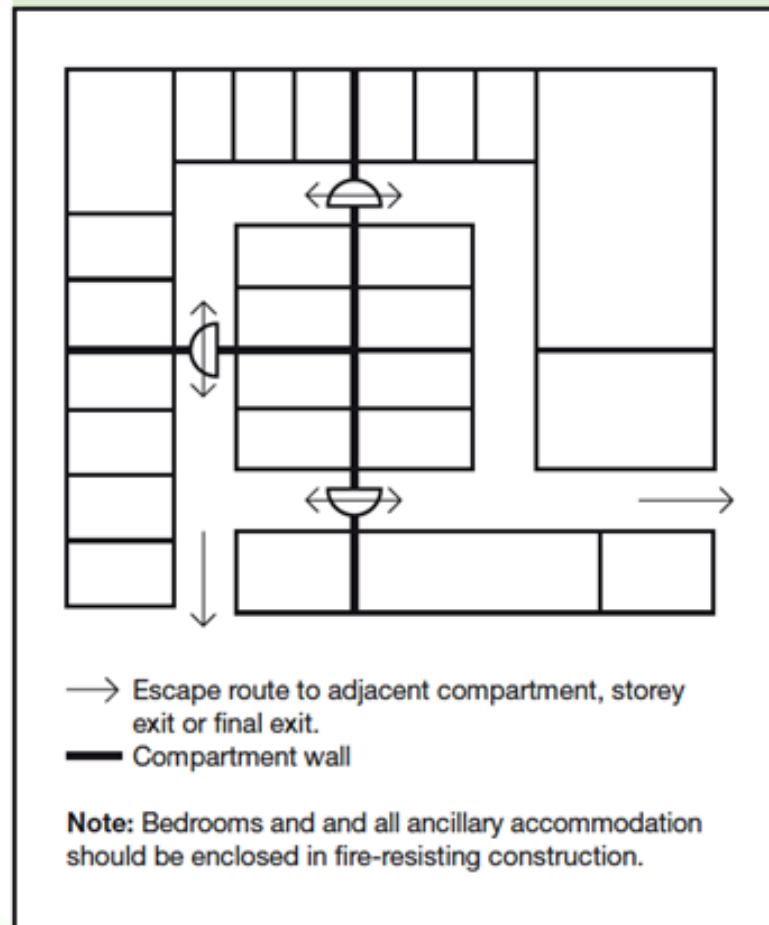
“Everyone reacts to the warning signal given when a fire is discovered, then make their way, by the means of escape, to a place of safety away from the premises”.

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

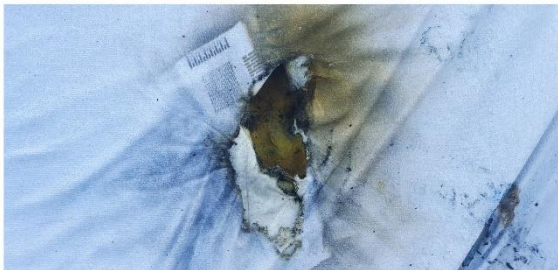
Mains Electrical Installation

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).





Managing Contractors

Hot Works

Hot work can create significant hazards that put workers, those around them, and the premises itself in danger. In particular, it can pose a major fire risk. A stray spark from certain hot work, such as welding or soldering, can easily ignite combustible materials and cause serious harm to the building and people involved.

Compartmentation

Breaches in compartmentation, shared roof voids and air bricks may allow the spread of fire or smoke. The effectiveness of fire compartmentation relies on the quality of installation and a good state of repair





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 1 – Rose Park

The deaths of 14 elderly residents in a care home blaze could have been prevented by a "suitable" fire safety plan, an inquiry has concluded.



Case Study 1 – Rose Park

Leading the 141-day probe into the tragedy Sheriff principal Brian Lockhart identified the following failings on the care home's part:

“Some or all” of the deaths could have been prevented if the home had a “suitable and sufficient” fire-safety plan

“Inadequate arrangements” were made for calling the fire brigade. The care home's procedures dictated that a member of staff find the source of the blaze before dialling 999. Staff waited nine minutes before contacting the fire service

A “critical failing” to identify high-risk residents or consider contingency plans in the “worst-case scenario” of a fire beginning at night

“Limited attention” paid to evacuation procedure (particularly egregious given the mobility issues of residents). Too many people were housed in one corridor to evacuate effectively. The electrical distribution board sat alongside flammable materials in a cupboard that opened to a “critical escape route“

Staff not given adequate fire-safety training

A lack of fire dampeners

The risk assessment was “obtained in good faith” but contained a “serious error”



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



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!

