

# Fire Safety in Residential Care Premises Workshop 2



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”



# Electrical Safety

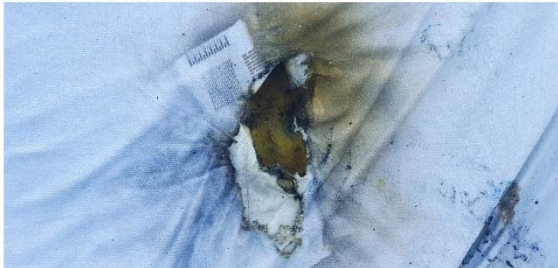
## Mains Electrical Installation

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







# Automatic Fire Suppression

Automatic fire suppression systems control and extinguish fires without human intervention. Examples of automatic systems include fire sprinkler system, water misting systems, gaseous fire suppression, and condensed aerosol fire suppression

Automatic fire suppression systems can reduce your risk of loss of life by 82 percent and loss of property by 71 percent in any type of commercial fire.





# PEEP's

There are two essential aspects to consider when planning the safe evacuation of residents in the event of a fire; these are:

- 1) PEEPs (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans)
- 2) The overall Fire Evacuation Strategy for the Home

A bespoke 'escape plan' for individuals who may not be able to reach an ultimate place of safety unaided or within a satisfactory period of time in the event of any emergency

Managers must draw up **PEEPs** for anyone they are responsible for who will require assistance to evacuate

A PEEP should cover:

**Awareness of Procedure**  
**Designated Assistance**  
**Methods of Assistance**  
**Equipment Provided**  
**Evacuation Procedure**  
**Safe Route(s)**



# 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

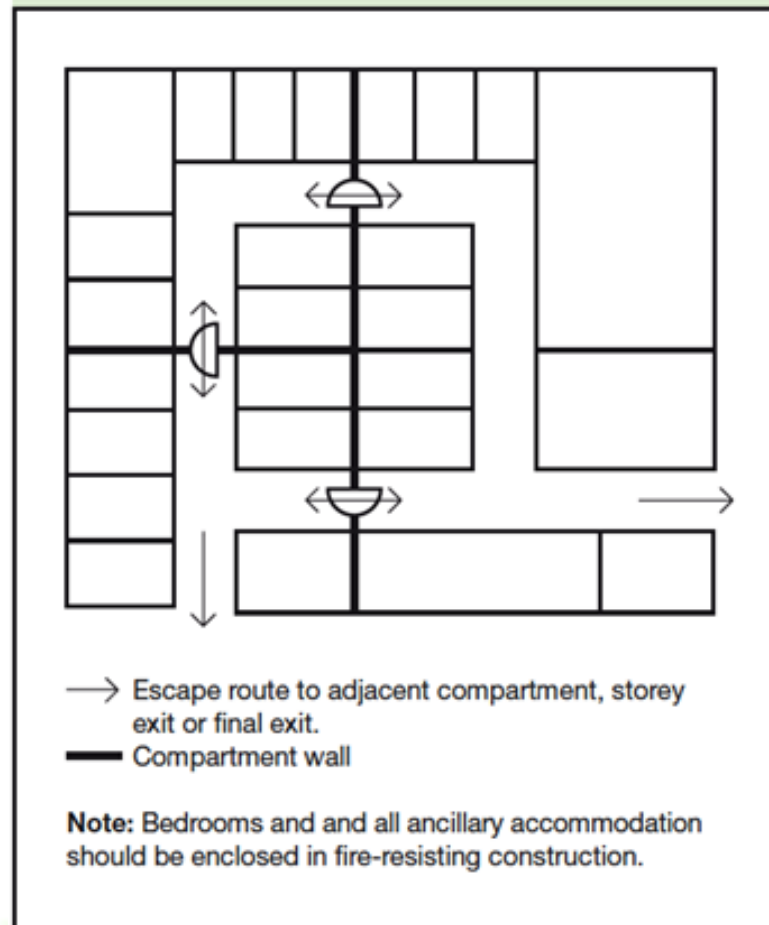
*“Everyone reacts to the warning signal given when a fire is discovered, then make their way, by the means of escape, to a place of safety away from the premises”.*

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?



# 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

	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>6 Monthly</b>	<b>Annually</b>
<b>Fire Alarm &amp; Detection</b>	Test		Service	Full Service
<b>Emergency Lighting</b>	Check	Test	Service	Full Service
<b>Firefighting Equipment</b>	Check			Full Service
<b>Fire Doors</b>	Check			



# NEWGRANGE CORONERS INQUEST

## Regulation 28 Report

To prevent future deaths

***‘Accidental fire contributed to by inadequate compartmentation in the roof space at Newgrange Residential Home’***



**Any Questions?**

**Workplace Learning Session:**  
**AE to Enter web link for delegates to**  
**access**

***“We are always here to help you”***

**[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)**



# 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](mailto:administration.cfs@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**Please have the address of the property**



Sharon Davies CEO HCPA

Your Homework:

Deliver a Worktime Learning Session

Fire Safety – Residential Care: for  
unit managers, shift and team leaders



# Aim

- To provide residential and support settings with a short 'light bite awareness session' to help embed key themes around Fire awareness in the leadership team:

Your staff presentation will cover

- Electrical Safety
- Managing Contractors
- PEEP's Review



# What is a 'worktime learning session'?

- It is a time to **refresh** what should be happening day to day
- A **reflective** time for leaders to **discuss** potential issues
- Will include some learning but is based around **practicalities at your site**





# How can this be used to keep leadership practice up to date?

- Within leadership team meetings
- 1:1 sessions with new leadership starters
- Following an incident to review situations
- As leadership refresher training



# What support will I have to do this?

- Powerpoint presentation with content specific to residential/supported living care fire safety: [Link on HCPA website in Member Zone under event resources.](#)
- A guide on how to complete a sufficient risk assessment
- Support from Herts Fire & Rescue Service for any queries and further training



Thank you for attending today

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

