



**BUSINESS FIRE SAFETY ADVICE:
SUMMER 2024**



Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is committed to ensuring the safety of people and businesses in Greater Manchester through our prevention, protection, and response activity and we are proud to serve our communities. With the busy Summer Season and European Cup Finals quickly approaching we are taking this opportunity to provide pubs, bars and clubs some general safety advice.

GMFRS wants to support businesses across Greater Manchester to comply with the Fire Safety Order 2005 by providing advice and guidance as well as through our inspection programmes. This year we have provided a Fire Safety Checklist you can use as part of your preparations and to help keep you, your business and your customers safe during what we know will be one of the busier times of the year.

Please consider the advice in the checklist below as part of your preparations.

Fire Safety Checklist



Review your fire risk assessment - Your fire risk assessment is the starting point for keeping your premises safe from fire. It will identify how a fire might start and what should happen if a fire does start. Your fire risk assessment should identify the maximum number of people you can have safely in the premises based on how big your premises is and how many emergency exits you have.

If you have made any changes to your premises since you made the fire risk assessment, check that this hasn't affected your fire safety arrangements. If you are making changes to the premises, like installing temporary stages, decorations including flags, football shirts and bunting or blocking off parts of the premises, update your fire risk assessment and emergency procedures.



Check the numbers of customers you can have - This should be detailed in your fire risk assessment. We know that the Euros attracts more people into licensed venues and this is great for businesses but you need to be sure that if you do have a fire everyone can get out safely.

Make sure that your employees, including any door staff, know the maximum number of people you can have in the premises and the systems you have in place to monitor the numbers.



Test the fire alarm - If you have an automatic fire alarm, make sure it is working and can be heard in all parts of the premises and there are no faults on the system.

Ideally, any music system should be connected to your fire alarm, meaning if the alarm goes off the music will automatically stop playing.

If you are going to be using a new sound system or have live music which is not connected to your fire alarm system, make sure you implement a temporary management procedure to stop the music if there is a fire.



Keep escape routes and exits clear - If you do have a fire in your premises you need to be sure that everyone can evacuate quickly and safely. This means keeping escape routes clear and making sure emergency exit doors can be easily opened.

Walk around the premises and check that nothing is obstructing the exits and that doors can be opened quickly and easily by anyone in an emergency such as a fire.

We hope that you will be busy and you may have ordered extra stock. Make sure this is stored properly and isn't in corridors or escape routes, even those not accessible to customers.



Refresh your training - All employees should have had fire safety training so they know what to do in the event of a fire. A quick refresher will help to make sure they have the knowledge and confidence to deal with an emergency if it happens.

If you have new employees or have taken on temporary staff you must ensure they have received fire safety training.



Finally...check your decs! - We wrote to all licensed premises across Greater Manchester last year following two serious fires that spread quickly after decorations were ignited by indoor sparklers or 'ice fountains'. In both cases, the fires led to major damage and business disruption but fortunately did not result in any serious injuries. In April 2023, a Madrid restaurant had a fire involving artificial flowers which tragically killed 2 people and injured 12 others.

If you do have decorative wall and ceiling linings including fabrics, artificial flowers and paper decorations, you should ensure that these are fire resistant or have been treated appropriately to make them fire retardant. This may require a specialist contractor to 'treat' the materials.

You should also ensure that the risk from any naked flames or indoor fireworks has been considered as part of your fire risk assessment. If you are using or allowing indoor fireworks, blow torches or igniting drinks, ensure that you take steps to ensure that this will not start a fire and make sure all employees are aware of the risks.

We hope this information is useful and helps you prepare for a successful and safe Summer season! If you want more information on your fire safety responsibilities scan the QR Code.

You can also contact us on 0800 555 815 or email us at FireSafetySupport@manchesterfire.gov.uk

