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# Fire Safety in Licensed Premises

Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service

Summer 2024



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Why are we doing this?

# Purpose of the session

- Duties of the Responsible Person under the Fire Safety Order
- Who is “responsible” for Fire Safety in licensed premises
- Recent changes to the FSO and how they affect you
- Provide details on what fire safety measures are required in licensed premises
- Recent incidents in Licensed Premises

# A common theme

- Increase of fires in licensed premises here in Greater Manchester
- Rapid fire spread involving decorations leading to major damage and injuries to staff & customers
- Post incident follow-up shows a lack of fire safety arrangements and fire safety measures
- High levels of enforcement nationally against licensed premises

# Significant Incidents

- There have been many fires in licensed premises, here in the UK and elsewhere
- Some have resulted in loss of life with serious injuries
- Often these could have been avoided
- Subsequent legal action took place

- Bar – Manchester (1<sup>st</sup> January 2022) - 170 people evacuated, 0 fatalities.
- Shisha Bar - Manchester (27<sup>th</sup> May 2022) – full evacuation of bar, 0 fatalities, 2 people hospitalised.
- Burro Canaglia Bar and Resto, Madrid (21<sup>st</sup> April 2023) - 2 fatalities, 12 injured – 1 critical.
- Fonda Milagros nightclub, Murcia (1<sup>st</sup> October 2023) – 13 fatalities.
- Wedding Fire – Mosul, Iraq (27<sup>th</sup> September 2023) – 90 fatalities, 500 injured.

**The  
Guardian**



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# The Fire Safety Order

# The Fire Safety Order

- Places requirements on the “Responsible Person” for the premises.
  - The employer
  - Manager
  - Designated Premises Supervisor - DPS
- Must make a suitable and sufficient Fire Risk Assessment – if they have not done the risk assessment, they should have an understanding of its contents.

# The Responsible Person

- In most licensed premises, the responsible person will be the employer
- Some responsibilities may also sit with the manager, supervisor or the DPS – those with responsibilities must ensure they are aware of those responsibilities and have received sufficient fire safety training.
- Responsibility may be shared between several stakeholders. Some responsibilities may depend on any lease or agreement between parties (e.g. between the owners of a premises and any tenant or between landlords of a public house and the brewery).

# Fire Safety Duties

- Reduce risk of fire and fire spread
- Ensure means of escape is available in case it is needed
- Firefighting equipment is ready for use
- Detection and warning is correct and works
- Training so staff know what to do to prevent and in case of fire
- Safe occupancy numbers are planned for and included in FRA – the license does not supersede the FSO – the FRA gives this

# Changes to FSO since October 2023

- Requirement to record fire risk assessment
- Requirements to record fire safety arrangements
- Requirements for co-operation and co-ordination
- Access to fire safety information for residents

# Fire Risk Assessment *(From 01/10/23)*

- Requirement to complete a “suitable & sufficient” fire risk assessment remains the same
- No requirement for person carrying out the fire risk assessment to be “competent” (this will be introduced at a later date)
- Person making or reviewing FRA must be identified
- Requirement to record FRA, not just significant findings, expanded to all regulated premises.

# Fire Safety Arrangements *(From 01/10/23)*

- All regulated premises must have a written record of fire safety arrangements
- The arrangements should cover how the fire safety will be managed on an ongoing basis
- May take form of a fire safety policy.

# Fire Safety in mixed use buildings

- Many buildings in Greater Manchester have more than one Responsible Person specifically in multi-occupied buildings.
- Examples: -
  - The Corn Exchange, Trafford Centre, Great Northern
  - Large buildings – different occupiers on different floors with shared escape routes
- FSO already requires co-operation and co-ordination
- Audits and experience show, this doesn't always happen
- Difficulties in determining who has responsibility for Fire Safety



# Co-operation & Co-ordination (From 01/10/23)

- Requirement to share information with other Responsible Persons
- Must keep a record of the information
- Must inform other Responsible Persons of:-
  - Name
  - UK Address
  - The parts of the premises they are responsible for.

# Co-operation & Co-ordination (From 01/10/23)

- Business changes hands / stops trading / replaced / sold to another owner
  - Fire risk assessment must be shared with the new responsible person
  - Contact details for other responsible person(s) for the premises must be shared
  - Information on any works carried out under Building Regulations must be shared
- In licensed premises within high rise residential buildings there must also be co-operation with the 'Accountable Person' for the high rise building

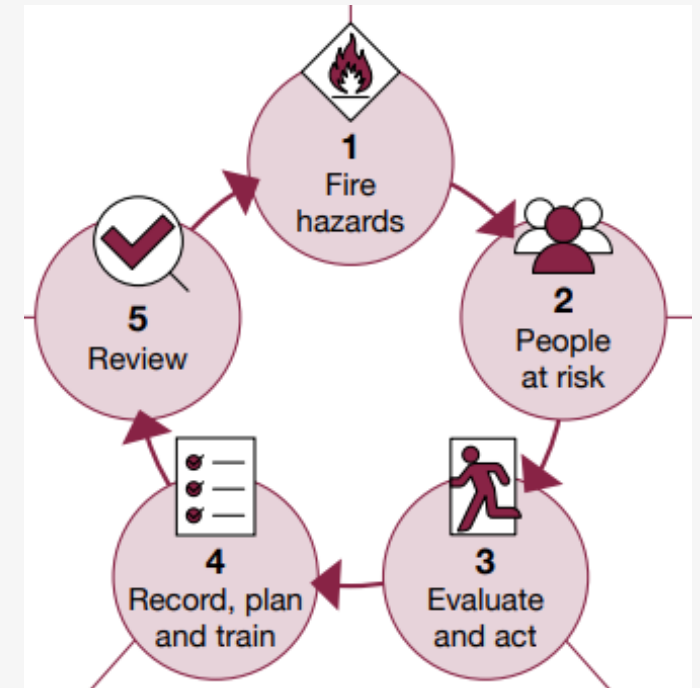


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# Fire Risk Assessment

# Fire Risk Assessment

- A suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks
- Requirement of the Licensing Authority to ensure public safety is considered
- Identify hazards and risks
- Identify people at risk
- Implement safety measures
- Action plan for residual risks / significant findings
- Review frequently to ensure it is current and up-to-date. After a near miss, incident or fire, or changes to the premises or how you operate. EG, wet only to wet and food led.
- Can be done by the RP or they should consult a competent person to complete this on their behalf.



# What was missed in the example we saw earlier

Decorations - Flammable – risk of spread of fire

Pyrotechnics - Ignition source

Staff training - Could ignition have been avoided?  
- Use of extinguisher?

Emergency procedures - did everyone know what to do?



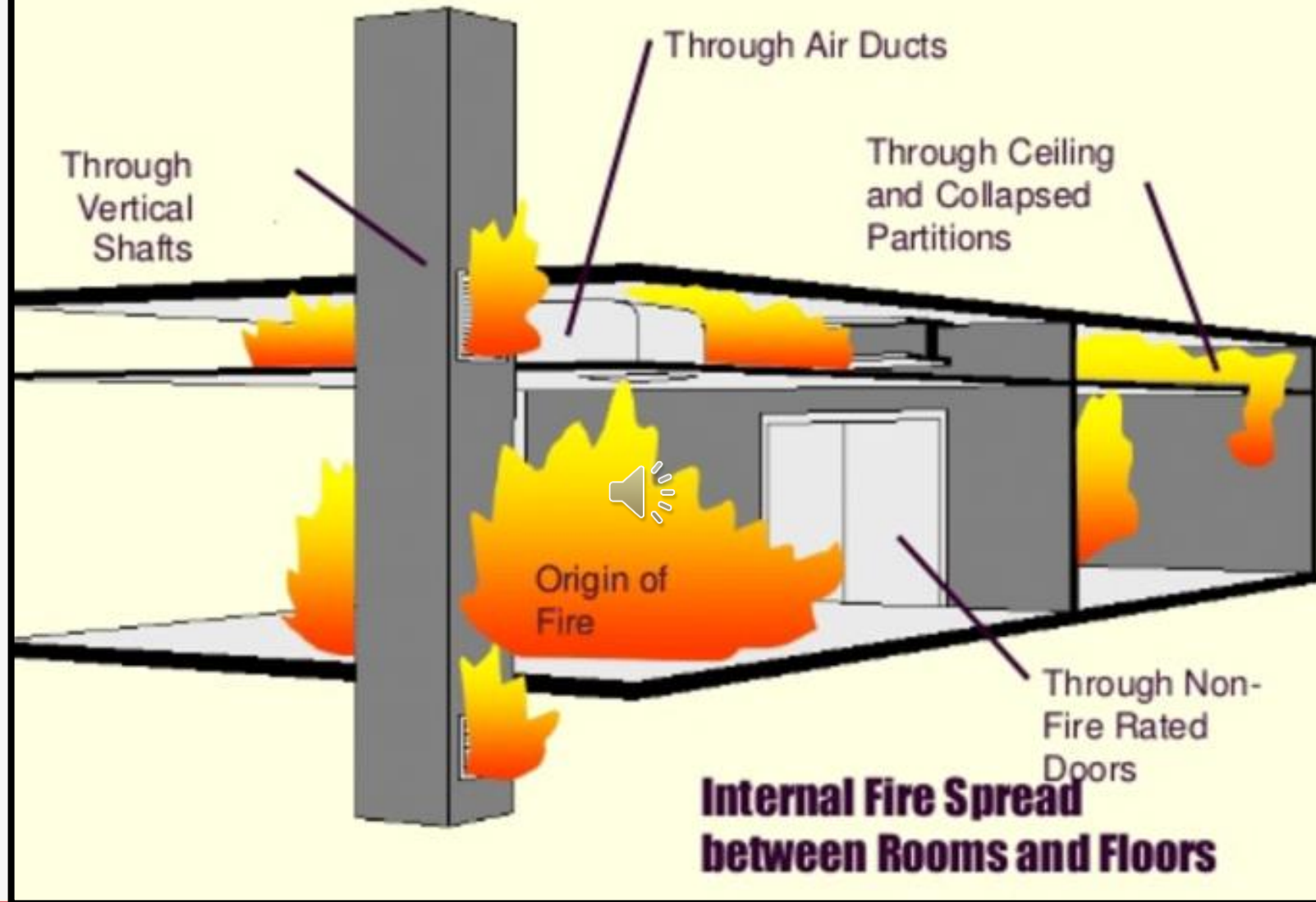
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# Risk of fire and spread of fire

# Reducing the risk of fire spread

- Physical separation and protection between different areas to reduce the impact of fire, heat and smoke
- May include walls, floors, doors, glazing
- Consider service penetrations, ductwork, linear gaps.
- Serving hatches, open kitchens, hold open devices on doors
- Seasonal decorations and displays

# Internal Fire Spread due to:





# Be aware of PU foam fillers limitations

The size of gaps where fire rated foam is applied must be considered as there are limitations of gap size and other fire stopping products may be more suitable.



When doors are left in the open position it is important to have a management procedure in place to close them immediately if a fire alarm goes off or when the premises is not in use.

This may be removing a wedge or by installing a door hold open devices which allows a door to close when the fire alarm sounds. Some operate from the noise of the alarm and others are linked to a fire alarm system.



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# Decorations:

- Flammability
- Additional fire loading
- Obstructing other fire safety measures (e.g. signage, lighting, escape routes, fire detection)



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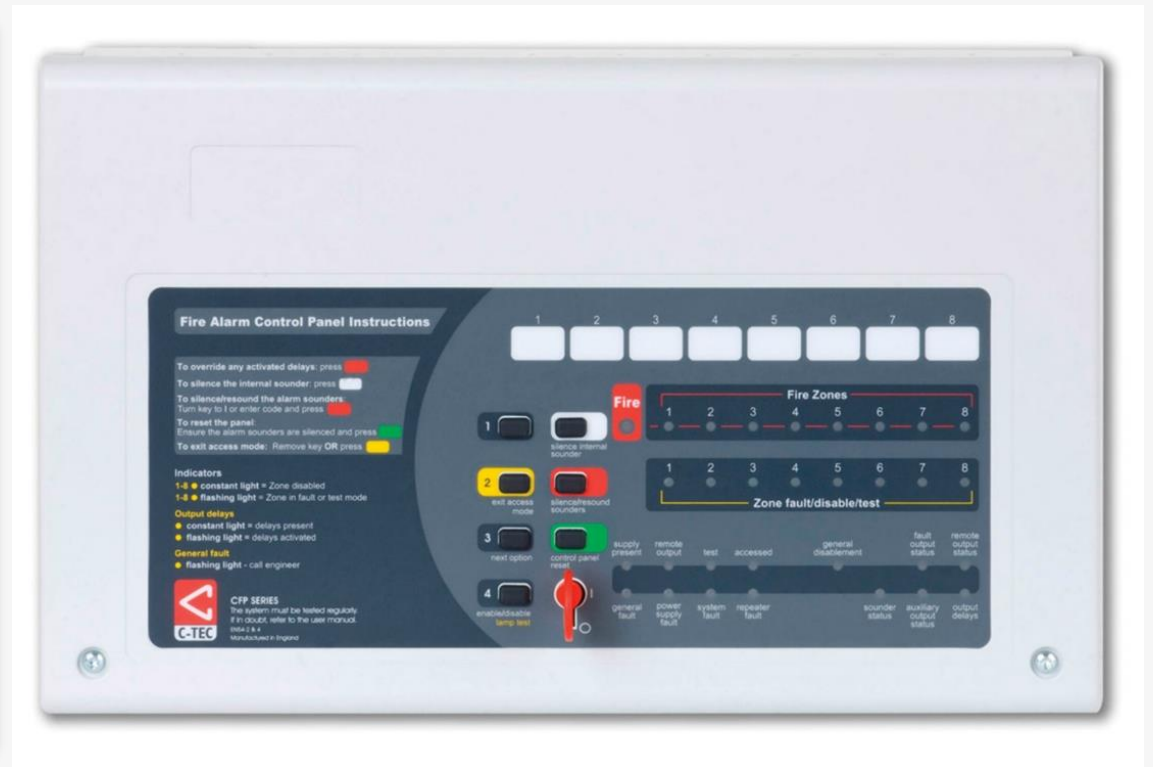


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# Fire-fighting and Fire Detection



# Fire Detection and Alarms



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# Fire Detection and Alarms

- Detect a fire and provide an alert so staff and customers can escape
- Most licensed premises will require an automatic fire alarm
- Appropriate to the size and layout of the premises
- Type of system determined by fire risk assessment
- Once installed, must be maintained.
- Is it linked to other premises – FRA will reflect this
- Silence PA if required? If does not silence PA can it be heard or is there a flashing light which can be seen and recognised by DJ?
- Does it turn the **HOUSE** Lights on?


















# Fire Extinguishers

- Type of extinguisher suitable for the risk, this includes fire blankets and inbuilt Ansul type systems
- Number - depends on size and layout the premises
- Location – in staff-controlled areas.



# Staff training should be provided

## Using The Correct Fire Extinguisher

Water	Dry Powder	Foam	CO2	Wet Chemical
<b>For use on</b>  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc	<b>For use on</b>  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc	<b>For use on</b>  Wood, Paper, Textiles etc	<b>For use on</b>  Flammable liquids	<b>For use on</b>  Cooking oil fires
<b>Do not use on</b>  Flammable liquid	 Flammable liquids	 Flammable liquids	 Live electrical equipment	 Wood, Paper, Textiles etc.
 Live electrical equipment	 Gaseous fires	<b>Do not use on</b>  Live electrical equipment	<b>Do not use on</b>  Wood, paper and textiles	Discharge entire contents on to fire from at least 1 metre distance
	 Live electrical equipment	 Live electrical equipment	 Flammable metal fires	
			Do not use in a confined space	



**Fire blanket**  
Use for smothering fires

**Kitchen fires**

- Cover burning material completely by placing centrally on fire.
- Switch off heat.
- Leave covered until cool.

**Clothing fires**

- Smother flames.

Discard after use



# Ansul system available but not used – staff training is essential



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# Emergency Routes & Exits

# Emergency Routes & Exits

- To be kept clear at all times
- Lead as directly as possible to a place of safety
- Ready for use quickly and safely
- Be sufficient for the number of occupants (number, position and size)
- Open in the direction of escape (unless small numbers).



# Fire Exits

Fire exits must be kept clear at all times. This could be stock, customers moving tables and chairs, also consider outside exit routes, no bins, or other items to block route to safe place.

Signs must remain visible and clearly visible.



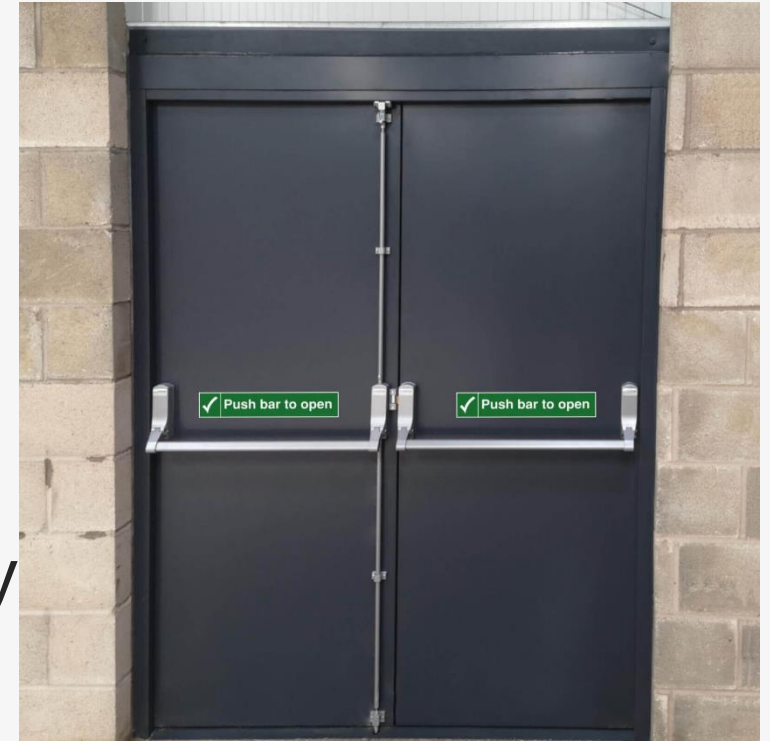
# Furniture

- Must not obstruct escape routes
- Furniture regulations
- Flammability
- Exposed foam
- Approved supplier



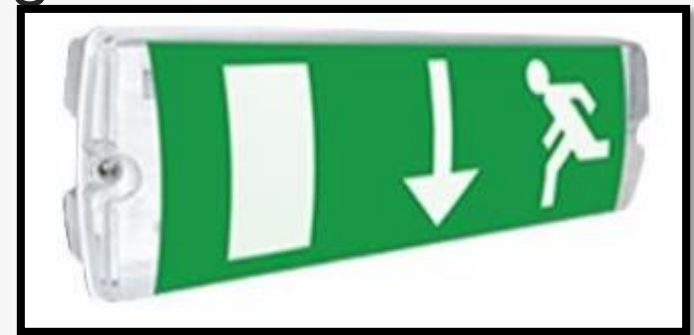
# Emergency Routes & Exits cont.

- Not have revolving / sliding doors
- Emergency doors must be able to be opened easily and immediately - Push bar opening
- Indicated by signs
- Provided with emergency lighting
- Clear outside the building, not blocked by bins etc.



# Emergency Lighting

- Provided in case of failure of normal lighting
- All areas should be considered including basements, dark areas and external escape routes
- Coverage of system determined by fire risk assessment
- Exit lights must be switched on when low lighting conditions are used.





# Occupancy Numbers & Types

- Safe occupancy is based on door capacity & floor capacity
  - Fire Safety guidance discounts the largest exit available, and the width of doors limits the number of people who can safely use it
  - Floor capacity is determined by use - standing / sitting etc – there is a table which is accessible in Approved Document B
- Your fire risk assessment should have determined the safe occupancy number for your premises.
- Managing your occupancy – ensure numbers are limited and any door staff know the maximum number of customers
- Travel distances must be considered – how far is it to a place of safety

# Evacuating people safely

- Customers may be under the influence of alcohol
- Delayed reaction times – photo / videos opportunity for some
- Impaired judgement
- People gravitate towards main entrance / exit
- Bottle necks and pinch points, toilet queues
- Are all occupants able to self-evacuate?
  - Persons with disabilities
  - Evac-chairs
  - Staff training to assist





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# Other Actions Required

# Emergency Plan

- How to warn occupants
- Staff actions
- How to evacuate the premises
- Assembly point
- How to mobilise an emergency response
- Site plan for Fire and Rescue Service
- Any other arrangements in place at your premises



# Maintenance

- Any fire safety equipment in the premises must be maintained
  - Fire alarm system, Fire Extinguishers, Emergency Lighting, Emergency Exit Signs, Fire Doors etc.
- Identify a suitable schedule
- Records must be kept as part of fire safety arrangements
- Have arrangements in place to rectify any issues.



# Staff Training

Should be provided:-

- When first employed
- On being exposed to new / increased risks
- Regular intervals – usually annually
- Training records must be kept as part of your fire safety arrangements

Must include suitable and sufficient instruction and training. Consider:-

- How to prevent a fire
- What to do in the event of a fire
- How to raise the alarm
- Appropriate level of fire extinguisher training
- Additional responsibilities (supporting evacuation, clearing areas, role call, calling 999)
- Opening up/closing down procedure.



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# Further Considerations



# Special Events:

- Music
- Sport – Football, Boxing, Darts
- Public holidays
- Special events
- Different layout
- Changes to occupancy
- Higher risk activities, this can include candles, pyrotechnics



# Living or Staff Accommodation

- Casual arrangements for resting and sleeping in licensed premises by employees share the same principles as for permanent living.
- Adequate fire separation
- Suitable escape routes
- Understanding fire alarm, it may be a common fire alarm.
- **Risk Assessment – using the appropriate guidance**

# Preventing Fires

- Reduce ignition sources
  - Ignited drinks
  - Ice fountains
  - Sparklers
  - Candles



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# Preventing Fires

- Reduce ignition sources
  - Kitchen Safety
  - Electrical Safety
  - Good housekeeping – mainly back of house
  - Smoking policy / designated area.



# New licensed premises

- Not all premises are suitable for use as a licensed premises
- A suitable FRA will allow you to decide if a new premises is suitable to be used for licensable activities
- Prior use as a licensed premises does not ensure the building complies with relevant legislation
- Before committing:-
  - Check suitability of the premises
  - Check leases & contracts
  - Confirm costs for work to make the premises safe





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# The Role of GMFRS



# GMFRS inspections of premises

- Carry out inspections by applying a risk based approach (RBIP)
- In most cases we will give advance notice
- An inspection may be carried out without notice where there is information of non-compliance or as a Themed Visit
- Audit involves reviewing – Fire risk assessment, fire safety arrangements plus other relevant plans and documents
- Inspection – Physical walk around the premises/Check passive and active fire protection
- Fire Safety Visit will produce an outcome, this can be BC, NOD, PN, EN. We can then also ask for a license review if we consider public safety is not being considered adequately.



# Changes to Premises

- Engagement with local authority Building Control Offices
- Changes to internal and some external layout
- Statutory consultee for Building Regulation applications
- Statutory consultee for licensing applications
- Statutory consultee for variations to license

# 5 Takeaways

- Review your fire risk assessment
- Test the fire alarm
- Keep escape routes and exits clear
- Refresh your training
- Finally...check your decs!

# UK Government Fire Safety Guidance

- [Fire safety risk assessment: small and medium places of assembly - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fire-safety-risk-assessment-small-and-medium-places-of-assembly)
- [Fire safety risk assessment: large places of assembly - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fire-safety-risk-assessment-large-places-of-assembly)
- [Fire safety risk assessment: 5-step checklist - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fire-safety-risk-assessment-5-step-checklist)



# Contact us

GMFRS Contact Centre for enquires and complaints

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Write to us at,

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