

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT



FOR SIMPLE PREMISES v4

www.ddfire.gov.uk

Introduction

Fire Safety Risk Assessment

This form is intended to assist small businesses in carrying out the fire safety risk safety assessment. It is suitable for use in simple premises, with a simple internal layout and small numbers of people present, e.g. small offices, shops or industrial units and where people can escape unaided. In buildings with complicated escape arrangements, large numbers of people or high fire safety risk processes a more comprehensive fire safety risk assessment may be necessary.

The enclosed information follows a simple [5 step guide](#) to completing a suitable assessment. The fire safety risk assessment does not need to be complicated, it should be a common sense review to identify the hazards (what could start a fire and what could burn), followed by consideration of the possible effects of a fire on people using the building. The important thing is that the fire safety risk assessment is systematic to ensure that every part of the premises is assessed. Every room, space or area, especially those not often used, should be included.

If you identify any significant risks you should consider if they can be reduced: first by removing the hazards and secondly by providing fire protection measures (e.g. automatic fire detection). These points should be addressed within the *'What needs to be done to make each situation safe?'* section. If your premises are located within a larger building and if a fire in your business could affect your neighbours, you should share the findings of your fire safety risk assessment with your neighbours.

Your fire safety risk assessment must be kept up to date. It is important to update the assessment if anything is changed that might affect the risk (e.g. new ignition sources or use of flammable liquids etc.). If you identify that either the likelihood of a fire occurring or there is a risk to people you may want to consider seeking further assistance.

Emergency Plan

The findings of the fire safety risk assessment should be used to prepare an emergency plan. The plan should set out, what to do in case of fire, identify the escape routes, where to assemble and how to contact the Fire and Rescue Service. The fire safety equipment and any equipment that provides a possible ignition source (e.g. cooking, electrical appliances, etc.) should be regularly maintained to reduce the chance of fire and the risk to people. Frequent checks should also be made to make sure that the storage of materials, especially flammable materials, does not increase the risk of fire or prevent the use of escape routes. It is important that all members of staff know how to prevent fires and what to do if a fire does occur. To make sure that the emergency plan works regular fire drills should be carried out. For further guidance on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and for information and guidance on carrying out your fire safety risk assessment visit www.ddfire.gov.uk and following the links in fire safety then legislative fire safety.

The 5 Step Guide to Fire Safety Risk Assessment

- 1 Identify the fire hazards**
- 2 Identify people at risk**
- 3 Evaluate, remove, reduce and protect from risk**
- 4 Record, plan, inform, instruct and train**
- 5 Review**

FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

DETAILS

Company Name:	
Premises Name:	
Address:	
Responsible Person:	
Position:	
Date of Assessment:	
Carried out by:	
Position:	
Use of the Premises:	

OCCUPANCY

Times in Use:	Weekdays:		Weekends:	
Total Numbers of Staff:	Weekdays:		Weekends:	
Total of all Persons Present:	Weekdays:		Weekends:	

SIZE

Total Size of Premises (M ²):	
Number of Storeys:	
Number of Basements:	

INDEMNITY

This document has been produced as a tool to assist you in completing a fire safety risk assessment of your premises. It is used entirely at your own risk to identify what you consider are your significant findings, and also whether you consider the information therein to be suitable and sufficient. It is in no way exhaustive and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service accepts no liability whatsoever for any circumstances which may arise as a result of using this tool.

Step 1 - Identify Fire Hazards (Sources of Ignition)

<i>Type</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Are existing control measures suitable?</i>	
Naked Flames		YES	NO
Portable Heaters and Heating Equipment		YES	NO
Electrical Equipment		YES	NO
Cooking Equipment		YES	NO
Work Process Risk(s)		YES	NO
Arson		YES	NO
Smoking Materials		YES	NO
Other Sources (including Contractors)		YES	NO



If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -

<i>What needs to be done to make each situation safe?</i>	<i>Action required by whom</i>	<i>Date due</i>	<i>Date complete</i>
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			

Step 1 – Identify Fire Hazards (Sources of Fuel and Oxygen)

Type	Location	Are existing control measures suitable?	
Wood / Paper /Cardboard		YES	NO
Plastics / Rubber / Foam		YES	NO
Retail Stock		YES	NO
Furniture and Fixings (curtains, blinds etc)		YES	NO
Flammable Material (gases / liquids / paints / thinners / glues)		YES	NO
Display Materials or Decorations		YES	NO
Waste Materials (refuse, packaging)		YES	NO
Building Structure		YES	NO
Oxygen Supplies (air conditioning units / bottles / piped supply)		YES	NO



If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -

What needs to be done to make each situation safe?	Action required by whom	Date due	Date complete
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			

Step 2 – Identifying People at Risk

<i>Type</i>	<i>Findings</i>
a) Sensory Risk: People with visual and / or hearing impairment(s)	
b) Mobility Risk: People with physical impairments	
c) Familiarity Risk: People who may be new to the premises and not familiar to its layout, seasonal workers, contractors, visitors or customers	
d) Numbers Risk: Large numbers of people, small numbers of disabled people	
e) Lone Workers / People Working in Isolation / Others	

Additional Information:

Step 3 ~ Evaluate, Remove, Reduce and Protect From Risk

Are ignition sources controlled to reduce the chances of fire?	YES	NO
Are combustible materials kept away from ignition sources?	YES	NO
Are all windows and openings closed last thing at night?	YES	NO
Is your fire alarm system adequate for your premises?	YES	NO
Will everybody be warned if the fire alarm operates?	YES	NO
Can everyone escape without assistance?	YES	NO
Is escape from fire available in more than one direction?	YES	NO
Are all fire exits easily identified by the correct signs?	YES	NO
Are escape routes free from obstruction and storage?	YES	NO
Are all doors on escape routes easily opened without a key?	YES	NO
Do all doors on escape routes open in the direction of escape?	YES	NO
Can everyone escape in a reasonable time?	YES	NO
Do you have emergency lighting?	YES	NO
Is the lighting adequate to illuminate circulation routes?	YES	NO
Do you have fire fighting equipment?	YES	NO
Is the fire fighting equipment adequate for the risks present?	YES	NO
Are housekeeping and general waste management adequate?	YES	NO
Are security arrangements sufficient to prevent access?	YES	NO
Are measures adequate to prevent the incidents of arson?	YES	NO
Are there any large open roof spaces or concealed ceiling voids?	YES	NO
Could a fire in your premise spread to another?	YES	NO
Can the fire service easily get to your premises?	YES	NO



If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -

<i>What needs to be done to make each situation safe?</i>	<i>Action required by whom</i>	<i>Date due</i>	<i>Date complete</i>
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			

Step 4 ~ Record, Plan, Inform, Instruct and Train

You must record your fire safety arrangements – this includes:

Have you made an emergency plan?	YES	NO
Have you provided fire instruction and staff training?	YES	NO
Are there records of fire drills to test your training and emergency plan?	YES	NO
Are there records of maintenance on all fire safety measures?	YES	NO
Have you recorded the significant findings of this assessment on Page 9?	YES	NO

If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -

<i>What needs to be done to make each situation safe?</i>	<i>Action required by whom</i>	<i>Date due</i>	<i>Date complete</i>
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			
✓			

Step 5 ~ Review

Your fire safety risk assessment must be kept up to date

Date of next review

It is recommended that you review your fire safety risk assessment regularly (recommended every 12 months) **OR** if you make changes to the layout of your premises, any changes to work processes, significantly increase the amount of combustible materials stored or displayed or sources of ignition, change your opening hours (e.g. to include night time opening etc) or any failures in your fire safety precautions then you should review your fire safety risk assessment.

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For further information visit the website – www.ddfire.gov.uk/business-fire-safety or contact the Fire Safety Section of County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service on 0191 3755675.

A copy of this form can be downloaded from www.ddfire.gov.uk and follow the links from fire safety at work then guidance documents.

SIMPLE PREMISES FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

LEVEL OF FIRE RISK

In premises where there is a likelihood of a fire starting and spreading quickly, or a fire could start and grow undetected, and affecting the escape routes before people can use them, then the level of risk should normally be regarded as 'higher'. Such premises might include those where significant quantities of flammable materials are used or stored; ready sources of ignition are present, e.g. heat producing machinery and processes; premises where significant numbers of the people are present and might move slowly or be unable to move without assistance; and premises where the construction provides hidden voids or flues through which a fire could quickly spread.

In premises where there is a low occupancy level and all the occupants are able bodied and capable of using the means of escape without assistance; very little chance of a fire starting; few if any highly combustible or flammable materials or other fuels for a fire; fire is unlikely to spread quickly; and will be quickly detected so that all people will quickly know that a fire has occurred and can make their escape, then the risk can usually be regarded as 'lower'.

In most cases however, the risk will usually be 'normal'.

Taking into account both the active and passive fire prevention measures and general fire precautions observed at the time of this fire safety risk assessment, it is considered that the hazard from fire (likelihood of fire) at these premises is:

Low

Normal

High

In this context, a definition of the above terms is as follows: -

Low: Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.

Normal: Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls.

High: Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in the likelihood of fire.

Note that, although the purpose of the above is to place the risk fire in context, the approach to fire safety risk assessment is subjective and for guidance only. All hazards and deficiencies identified in this fire safety risk assessment should be addressed by implementing all the recommendations contained in the following action plan.

The fire risk assessment should be reviewed regularly (recommended to be annually).

SIMPLE PREMISES

FIRE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Each item should be allocated a priority as follows: -

Priority 1:	Needs attention immediately
Priority 2:	Needs attention within 1 month
Priority 3:	Needs attention within the next 6 months
Priority 4:	Needs attention within the next 12 months


Ref:	Action Required	Priority	Action by Whom	Completion Date

PLAN DRAWING


Complete a simple line drawing of the premises and identify your fire safety provisions including escape routes, portable fire extinguishers, smoke and / or heat detectors, emergency lighting and fire alarm call points.


KEY

Escape Routes 

Fire Extinguishers 

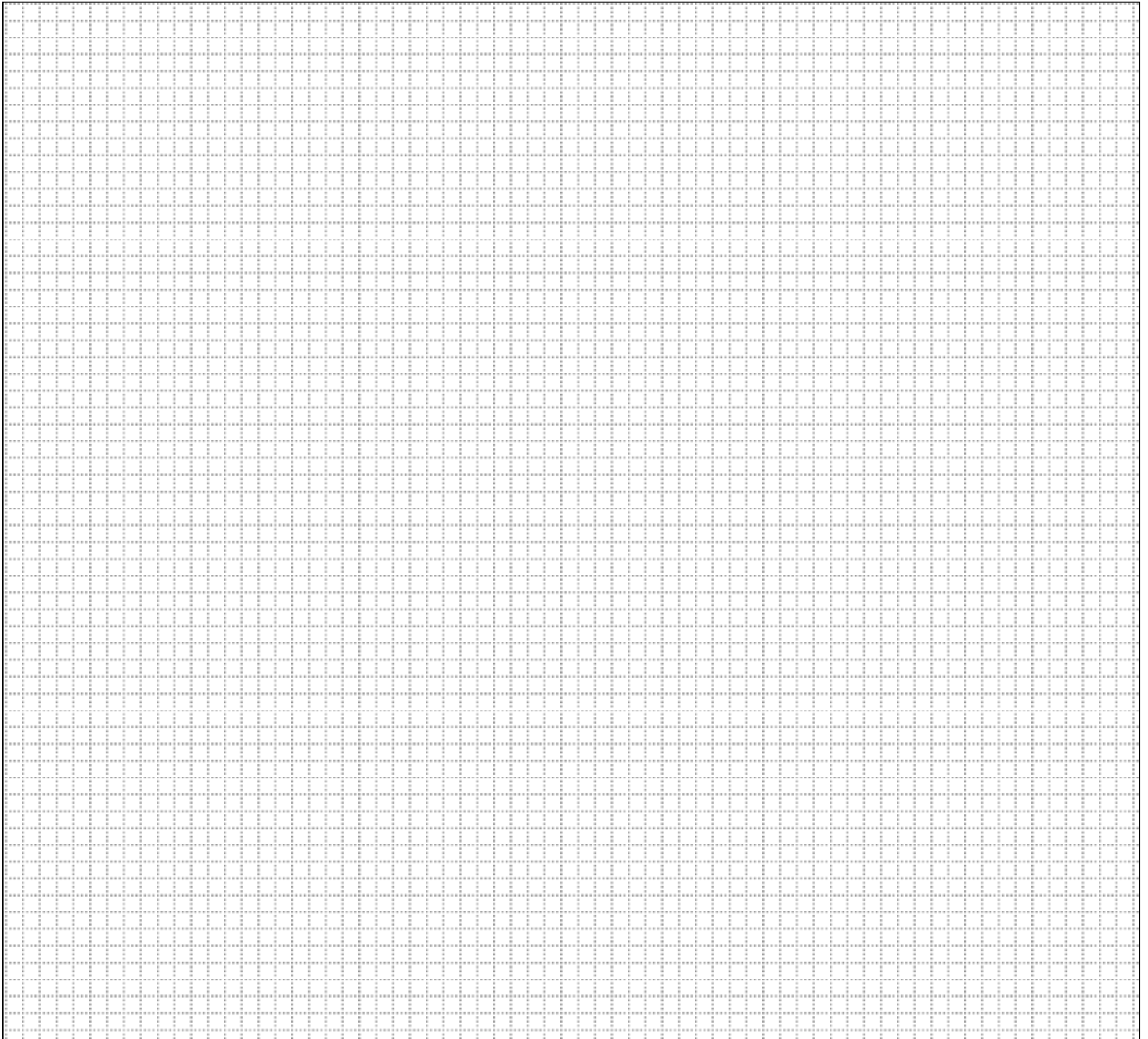
Smoke Detectors 

Heat Detectors 

Fire Alarm Sounders 

Emergency Lighting 

Manual Break Glass Point 



Identifying Ignition and Fuel Sources

As an aid to identifying the hazards within your premises it's possible to use a system of noughts and crosses, using an **X** to mark **ignition sources** and an **O** for **fuel sources**.