

What happens if I don't do a fire risk assessment?

Put simply, you are more likely to have a fire and less likely to recover from one. It is also a legal requirement designed to keep everyone safe from fire.

By carrying out a fire risk assessment and making any necessary improvements, you could save the lives of your employees, customers or family members and keep your business open.

Did you know the Fire Service may inspect your premises as part of our responsibility to enforce the law?

If we feel you need to improve your fire safety we would first offer advice, but in serious cases we may take enforcement action and, in some cases, close your business until it is safe to open again.



Don't let this happen to you!

A South West restaurant owner was ordered to pay nearly £20,000 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to six breaches of fire safety legislation.

The local Magistrates' Court fined the owner £3,000 per offence, which was reduced to £2,000 for his guilty plea, and also ordered him to pay full costs of £7,282.

He was unable to pay and served some time in prison.

Use this QR code to access information from the Gov.uk website about your legal responsibilities.



Safer People,
Safer Places



DW Fire
Protection

Contact details:

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Business Fire Safety: 01722 691717

Enquiries: businessfiresafety@dwfire.org.uk

Do you own a restaurant, fast food outlet or takeaway?



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE



A majority of businesses never re-open after a fire...

fire safety law applies to you and you must take action

How to avoid the onset of fire

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is the fire safety law that applies to you.

This means you are responsible for carrying out a fire risk assessment. You will need to take steps to protect the people using your premises from the risk of fire.

What is a fire risk assessment?

A fire risk assessment is a thorough look at your premises and the people who are likely to use it. It considers the risk of fire breaking out and what measures you need to put in place to keep people safe should a fire occur.

Protecting people from fire

The people who may be affected by a fire on your premises include:

- Customers
- Employees
- People who live in the building
- People in or around the premises

The law applies at all times whether your business is open or closed.

Follow the five key steps

Premises like fast food outlets and restaurants often have a high risk of fire due to cooking processes and present a risk to people living above the shop who may be trapped by fire.

Does anyone sleep at or above the premises?

If necessary, you must improve your fire safety measures and/or construction to ensure all exit routes are safe for people to use in the event of a fire.

Follow the five steps of a fire risk assessment:

Step 1 - Identify the hazards – sources of ignition and sources of fuel

Step 2 - Identify people at risk

Step 3 - Remove or reduce the risk and protect people from harm

Step 4 - Record, plan, inform, instruct and train (record your findings, prepare an emergency plan and provide employees with training)

Step 5 - Review and update the fire risk assessment regularly

What you must do

- Consider whether you need a fire alarm. Detection and warning is always needed in places where people sleep.
- Keep escape routes clear of obstructions and things that can burn.
- keep fire exits unlocked when required for emergency use.
- NEVER wedge open a fire door or remove a door closing device.
- Enclose staircases and corridors from sleeping areas in fire resisting construction to ensure all exit routes are safe.

Building Safety Act 2022 - Section 156

From 1 October 2023, new fire safety legislation came into effect which imposes new duties on businesses and buildings owners.

- You **MUST** have a written fire risk assessment and fire safety arrangements, regardless of the size or purpose of the business or premises.
- Enhanced requirements for cooperation and coordination.
- Provision of information to residents.