



**FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT
POLICY
AND
FIRE EMERGENCY PLAN
FOR**

**Patchway Town Council
Callicroft House
Rodway Road
Patchway
BS34 5DQ**

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FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Patchway Town Council believes that ensuring the health and safety of staff, visitors, service users and all relevant persons is essential to our success.

We are committed to:

1. Preventing accidents and work-related ill health.
2. Compliance with statutory requirements as a minimum.
3. Assessing and controlling the risks that arise from our work activities.
4. Providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment.
5. Ensuring safe working methods and providing safe working equipment.
6. Providing effective information, instruction and training.
7. Consulting with employees and their representatives on health and safety matters.
8. Monitoring and reviewing our systems and prevention measures to ensure their effectiveness.
9. Setting targets and objectives to develop a culture of continuous improvement.
10. Ensuring adequate welfare facilities exist throughout the department.
11. Ensuring adequate resources are made available for health and safety issues, so far as is reasonably practicable.

A Fire Safety Management System will be created to ensure the above commitments can be met. Employees throughout the department must play their part in the creation of a safe and healthy working environment for all.

Signed: _____
(Town Clerk)

Date: _____

1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

- 1.1 Fire is a hazard in any part of the premises. Its consequences include the threat to the lives or health and safety of relevant persons, damage to or loss of property and severe interruption to normal business activities or opportunities.
- 1.2 Managing the risk of fire demands fire safety precautions based on a combination of appropriate prevention and protection measures depending upon building use and occupancy, the inherent fire risks and the legal obligations laid Patchway Town Council as the employer, occupier / owner or *'responsible person'*.
- 1.3 This fire safety management and fire emergency plan applies to all premises which are to any extent under the control of the Patchway Town Council as the employer, owner or principal occupier. Its requirements extend to all persons at those premises including staff, visitors and contractors whether permanently or temporarily engaged.
- 1.4 Where premises are jointly occupied or shares control of premises with other employers then the arrangements for fire safety and maintenance will be coordinated, communicated and documented. In these premises the fire safety arrangements and procedures of the principal or host occupier shall apply, or local variations agreed by all relevant parties and relevant persons.
- 1.5 This fire safety management and fire emergency plan applies to all other staff working in premises employed by any other employer. In this respect other staff will comply with these relevant fire safety arrangements and policy.
- 1.6 Patchway Town Council will, so far as is reasonably practicable, and in accordance with legal obligations and standards, in respect of every premises to:
- provide and maintain passive and active fire prevention, protection and measures according to the purpose or use of the building, the numbers of occupants and the activities or processes undertaken therein;
 - provide comprehensible and relevant information to staff and others, through the provision and availability of emergency instructions or fire safety plans and the risks identified by relevant risk assessments;
 - provide a programme of fire safety training;
 - carry out and keep under review a fire risk assessment to analyse building and process fire risks, the existing preventive and protective measures and to identify areas for improvement;
 - have in place a programme of works to improve or maintain the existing fire safety specifications;

- identify a sufficient number of persons, whether staff, security or others, to be present at all times the building is occupied with responsibility for initiating the fire evacuation procedure and provide information and assistance to the fire service;
- where appropriate, to prepare and keep under review risk assessments in relation to the use, storage, handling, disposal and transportation of dangerous substances and ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the risks associated with dangerous substances are reduced or controlled.

2 PRACTICAL FIRE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 As part of a holistic fire safety management system, in addition to the management action outlined below, considerations of passive and active fire precautions are essential.

2.2 Passive fire precautions are concerned with the physical conditions in premises which are designed to facilitate containment of fire by design, construction and layout, effective communication and safe evacuation. In particular the:

- materials specification, design, construction and inspection of buildings, fire doors and escape routes taking into account the needs of pupils, service users, people with disabilities, contractors, the public, etc;
- appropriate safe and secure location of building services e.g. gas and electricity;
- provision of clear fire safety signage for escape routes and final exits in conformity with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- provision of prominently located fire action notices (e.g. by fire alarm manual break glass points) to inform people of the action to be taken in the event of fire; and
- education and training of staff in fire safety arrangements, in particular evacuation procedures and drills.

2.3 Active fire precautions are those features of the fire safety management system that detect and operate in the event of a fire, including fire alarm systems, emergency lighting systems and fire fighting equipment. In particular:

- the installation, maintenance, inspection and weekly testing of fire alarms;
- the appropriate design, location, operation, monthly inspection and annual testing of adequate (emergency) lighting systems for fire escape routes;
- the provision, use, appropriate type and location, and annual maintenance of portable fire extinguishers.
- A quarterly / six monthly / annual premises fire safety inspection will be carried out.

2.4 The fire safety arrangements will be based on HSG 65 *Successful Health and Safety Management*.. The main strands involve: -

- Effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of protective and preventative measures
- Fire safety risk assessments and building audits
- Fire safety systems and maintenance
- Fire warden and staff training
- Fire evacuation drills
- Building design, alterations and commissioning

3 PLANNING

3.1 Fire risk assessments are a requirement of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and are a structured approach to determining the risk of fire occurring in a premise or from a work activity, and identifying the precautions necessary to eliminate, reduce or manage the risk. The outcome of the risk assessment must be incorporated in the fire emergency plan (see Section 7).

3.2 Fire Risk Assessments must be carried and reviewed regularly out (recommended to be annually) or when there is any building alteration or change of occupation and use of the premises, or following a fire incident/emergency, etc.

3.3 The risk evaluation and appropriate control measures to be taken into account will include those practical fire safety arrangements outlined above. The methodology adopted will be:

High Risk	=	Work to be completed within 4 to 8 weeks
Medium Risk	=	Work to be completed within 6 months
Low Risk	=	Work to be completed within 1 year

3.4 Risk assessments must take into account those who could be affected, e.g. numbers involved, their location, physical and mental capabilities and employees of organisations with whom a workplace is shared. The significant findings of the fire safety risk assessment will be made known to all other responsible persons as appropriate.

3.5 Where appropriate, an individual Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) must be developed for staff, members or service users who have known disabilities that will impact on their ability to evacuate the particular premises.

4 ORGANISATION AND CONTROL

4.1 Specific named individual responsibility for overall responsibility for Fire Safety, maintenance, Emergency Plans and Staff Training.

4.2 Town Clerk will:

- ensure that this Policy and/or any departmental fire safety policies/codes of practice that complement this Policy are in place, properly implemented and reviewed.
- ensure that a Responsible Person is appointed for all of their premises to oversee and implement fire safety arrangements, and ensure that they are competent and appropriately trained to undertake their duties;
- ensure that arrangements are in place for the completion of fire risk assessments, including, where appropriate, technical surveys in respect of fire protection;

- ensure that fire, security, and health and safety arrangements at each premises are complementary.

4.3 Councillors and Office Staff will:

- ensure that fire risk assessments are carried out for all their workplaces, and for specific activities such as hot working involving welding, cutting, work with bitumen, etc;
- ensure, in conjunction with the outcome of the fire risk assessment that the optimum number and type of fire extinguishers are installed in appropriate locations;
- ensure that fire alarm and detection systems, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers are appropriately located and properly maintained;
- ensure that a robust and effective emergency plan is in place at each location to safely evacuate all persons, whether employees, visitors or service users. this emergency plan must take into account people with mobility, some sensory and some learning impairments, including those with temporary impairments, which will affect their ability to use stairs or otherwise evacuate premises promptly. the plan must be internally deliverable and not reliant on the Fire and Rescue Service to complete the evacuation;
- arrange for the emergency plan to be issued to their employees, visitors, etc. to inform them what to do in the event of fire, particularly safe evacuation;
- arrange for a competent responsible person (who may also be the premises coordinator) to be nominated to oversee and implement fire safety arrangements at their workplace(s) on their behalf;
- ensure that if there is any doubt about the provision of new or replacement fire extinguishers;
- ensure that staff are appropriately trained in fire safety procedures to reflect the requirements of the fire risk assessment;
- ensure that a copy of the current fire risk assessment for their premises is readily accessible, its provisions complied with;
- ensure that fire risk assessments are reviewed at least annually or whenever there is any building alteration, change of occupation or use of the premises or following an incident involving fire;
- ensure that effective arrangements are in place for contacting the emergency services;
- ensure that the Fire and Rescue Service are aware of any significant hazards associated with the premises e.g. oxygen cylinders, storage of petrol, etc;
- confirm that their quarterly premises fire safety inspections address fire safety arrangements; and
- liaise with the local trade union safety representative, where appointed, on all aspects of the above arrangements.

4.4 Employees must:

- ensure they are familiar with the emergency plan for their workplace and co-operate by participating in fire evacuation/drill procedures and by observing practical fire safety arrangements;
- know, and co-operate with, the responsible person for their workplace;
- report to their manager or supervisor any concerns about fire safety;
- be familiar with all escape routes;
- not wedge fire doors open, nor block or obstruct them;
- be aware of the action to be taken on discovering a fire, hearing a fire alarm, for raising the alarm (including the location of fire alarm call points) and calling the fire and rescue service;
- promptly evacuate the premises, in accordance with the emergency plan, to a place of safety without putting themselves and others at risk, and NOT attempt to extinguish a fire unless they have been specifically trained; and
- comply with the No Smoking legislation.

6 REVIEW

- 6.1 Annual audit of all fire systems by the Town Council to ascertain compliance with not only statutory provisions but with this Fire Safety Management Plan.
- 6.2 Active reviews will take place quarterly prior to any likely accident or event
- 6.3 Reactive reviews will take place following a fire safety event occurring
- 6.4 A review will also be undertaken following a fire, changes to the premise's construction and facilities, new procedures, new equipment, new materials and changes in staff numbers and role

7 Visitors and / or Contractors

In many buildings, visitors will be present on a regular basis. Other people, such as contractors, cleaners, etc. may be present on a regular, or ad-hoc basis. Any of these people could require assistance to evacuate the building and they all need to be taken into account when defining emergency procedures and responsibilities.

In buildings do not open to the public, arrangements should be made to ensure that visitors are logged in and out of a building, using a visitor's book or similar. The person hosting the visitor should ensure that they are made aware of fire evacuation procedures for the premises. In the event of a fire evacuation, the person hosting the visitor(s) is responsible for escorting them to the fire assembly point.

Contractors should also be logged in and out of premises. Unless they are to be constantly supervised by staff or nominated personnel, they should also be given information about the site's fire evacuation procedures that they should then follow in the event of a fire evacuation.

This should include the following: -

- *Visitors on site for all occasions.*
- *A method of ensuring that all visitors are evacuated and accounted for.*
- *Methods of control for example: using ushers / fire marshals, registers / head count, buddy system for personnel with disabilities etc.)*