



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Fire safety log book

Premises Address:

Log to be kept in this location:

An introduction to your log book

This Fire Safety Log book has been prepared to assist the 'responsible person' in co-ordinating and maintaining a fire safety record keeping system.

There is no statutory requirement to maintain a Fire Safety Log Book, but Article 17 of the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005** requires the 'responsible person' for premises to ensure that all fire safety facilities, equipment and devices are maintained in efficient working order and in good repair.

Additionally, Article 21 states that where there are employees, they should be provided with adequate safety training.

The Order also requires that tests, maintenance and safety training are capable of being audited to ensure they are being carried out.

The most effective way of demonstrating compliance with these particular Articles is to keep records, and a Log Book is one way of doing it.

Whilst this book is not comprehensive it seeks to cover the main requirements for demonstrating compliance with current fire safety legislation.

The log book should be kept up to date* and readily available for inspection by the Fire and Rescue Service when required.

It is best practice to keep it with any records relating to your current Fire Safety Risk Assessment**

We strongly recommended that where necessary, maintenance contracts are taken out with competent persons (e.g. those registered with NICEIC or ECA for electrical maintenance or registered with BAFE for fire fighting equipment).

We recommend that this log book is kept in a loose leaf format, with new record keeping pages being printed, photocopied or downloaded when required.

**Information on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and how to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment can be found by visiting the communities' website:

www.communities.gov.uk/fire

Useful telephone numbers
In an emergency always dial 999

Fire fighting equipment maintenance and repairs.		Fire alarm maintenance and repairs.	
Emergency lighting maintenance and repairs.		Building maintenance	
Local Authority Environmental Health Department.		Health and Safety Executive.	
Local Fire and Rescue Authority.		Local Authority Building Control.	
Primary Authority Scheme lead.			

List of competent persons/fire wardens

Name Deputy	Dept.	Tel. Ext.

Safety training and drills

Safety training should be given to employees so that they are aware of the following:

- What to do if they discover a fire
- How to raise an alarm of fire
- What to do if they hear the fire alarm
- Where fire extinguishers are located and how to use them (if it safe to do so)
- Escape routes from the building
- The whereabouts of the evacuation assembly point(s)
- How to call the Fire and Rescue Service
- Arrangements for the evacuation of people with special needs
- The dangers associated with obstruction of fire exits and wedging open of fire resisting doors

Safety training should be given:

- At the time they are first employed,
- On their being exposed to new or increased risks, and,
- At periodic intervals as appropriate. (at least annually, depending upon the nature of the risk)

Safety drills should be carried out:

- At periodic intervals appropriate to the nature of the risk. (a minimum of one safety drill each year is recommended)
- All employees **MUST** evacuate the premises regardless of seniority or commitments

Fire alarm system

The fire alarm test should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the current British Standard.

It is important that any testing of the fire alarm should not result in a false signal of fire

Daily - Inspect the panel for normal operation of the system. Where provided, check that the connection to the monitoring centre is functioning correctly.

Weekly test by user – Carry out a test and examination to ensure that the system is capable of operating under alarm conditions, namely:-

Operate a manual call point at approximately the same time each week using a different call point for each successive test. Where appropriate inform the monitoring control centre prior to the test.

Periodic inspections and tests by a fire alarm engineer - These should be carried out by a competent person, e.g. a fire alarm engineer. Requirements for these inspections and tests will depend upon the type and design of the system.

Note: Where the weekly test proves onerous the Fire and Rescue Service may agree to it being carried out monthly. However, this only applies to certain modern fire alarm systems that are tested by a suitably competent person and where such a change of test frequency is supported by a risk-assessment. No agreement will be given where automatic door release mechanisms operated by the fire alarm system are installed. Where such devices are installed the fire alarm should continue to be tested for operation weekly.

Fire detectors

Carry out a regular visual inspection of each detector to check for damage, excessive accumulations of dirt, heavy deposits of paint and other conditions likely to interfere with correct operation.

Each detector should be checked and tested for correct operation and sensitivity in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the current British Standard*.

Measures to reduce unwanted alarms

False alarms will not only disrupt business operations but may also contribute to death or injury should Fire and Rescue Service resources be deployed answering false alarms when they should be attending incidents where life or property is in danger. To reduce the probability of false alarms on systems incorporating automatic fire detectors it is very important that a suitable system of testing and maintenance is in place. **The cause of any false alarm should be properly investigated** with measures being taken to avoid a repetition.

“Do not call the fire service if the fire alarm actuation is a confirmed False/Unwanted Alarm. If you have any doubts or there are signs of fire; call the fire service on 999 immediately”.

All premises should have an emergency plan which includes a strategy for fire alarm activations and procedures so the Fire Service is not called when there is a false alarm. Alternatively, a call back to the Fire Service to confirm a false alarm, as this will free our resources for confirmed fire and rescue emergencies.

Please contact your fire alarm maintenance and system monitoring providers for further advice.

You should discuss procedures with your alarm receiving centre to ensure that, where appropriate, they contact you to ascertain whether the actuation is caused by a fire, or a false alarm, before contacting the Fire Service. You should also consider a designated key-holder outside of your normal operating hours.

We strongly recommend that where your alarm monitoring company does pass a call to the Fire Service, designated key holders are also alerted, at the same time as the initial call, and are requested to attend the site within 20 minutes.

Typical Causes

The following typical causes of false alarms can usually be avoided by improved awareness and by taking preventative measures.

General – including human factors

- Cooking fumes
- Steam
- Aerosol sprays
- Dust, small insects and thrips in detectors
- Smoking near detectors
- Controlled processes that produce smoke and fumes
- Water ingress
- Contractors including involved in hot works
- Mechanical damage/disruption
- Testing or maintenance of fire alarm systems without prior warning to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC)

Environmental

- Electrical storms
- Extreme fluctuation in temperature
- Pressure surges on water mains serving automatic sprinkler systems
- External smoke or fumes
- High air velocities

Technical

- Detector or alarm system equipment faults
- Testing or maintenance of fire alarm systems without prior warning to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC)
- Change of use of building, processes or occupants

A large proportion of the causes listed could easily be identified as false alarms by persons on or in the premises and hence not require a call to the Fire Service. This approach has proven successful where it has been implemented.

Therefore, dependent upon a suitable risk assessment of the premises, false alarm clarification prior to calling the Fire Service should be implemented. This approach should also be incorporated into the premises fire training programme.

The use of a predetermined time delay to allow fire marshals/responsible persons to identify and confirm obvious false alarms is to be strongly encouraged, subject to the premises risk assessment. It is no longer acceptable for premises to call the Fire Service, whether by 999 or by Alarm Receiving Centres (ARC) just because the alarm has activated without trying to implement management procedures (where possible) to identify false alarms.

If the premises are connected to an ARC, then a call back to confirm the cause of the activation prior to calling the Fire Service should be implemented.

Automatic door release mechanisms activated by the fire alarm system

Weekly All hold-open devices should be checked for correct operation, as part of the routine testing of the fire alarm system. A competent person should undertake any necessary maintenance. The manufacturer's instructions should be closely followed, and an adequate record of testing and maintenance be kept. The batteries of devices with an integral power supply should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or every 12 months, whichever is most frequent.

Hold-open devices fitted to doors at either high or low level may, if used extensively, result in the doors becoming warped. **Doors should not, therefore, be kept open more than necessary; preferably being kept closed at night or when the premises are unoccupied.** Doors fitted with hold-open devices should be kept free from potential obstructions and be equipped with appropriate safety signs. Doors should be inspected frequently for signs of warping.

Note: All checks, tests and maintenance including faults and remedial action taken, should be recorded. The date on which each fault is rectified should also be recorded.

*Further information on British Standards can be found by visiting the British Standards website

www.bsi-global.com

Emergency lighting

Emergency lighting tests should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the current British Standard*.

Daily - Where there is a central power supply, carry out a visual inspection of indicators to ensure the system is in a ready condition.

Monthly – Simulate a failure of the normal lighting supply for sufficient time to allow all luminaires to be checked for correct operation.
Check each luminaire for any obvious signs of damage or deterioration, including the cleanliness and general condition of lenses and diffusers.

Annually - Simulate a failure of the normal lighting supply for the full duration of the battery and carry out a check of the charging arrangements to ensure proper functioning.

Note: Regular servicing is essential. The occupier/owner of the premises shall appoint a competent person to supervise servicing of the system. This person shall be given sufficient authority to ensure the carrying out of any work necessary to maintain the system in correct operation.

All checks, tests and maintenance including faults and remedial action taken, should be recorded. The date on which each fault is rectified should also be recorded.

*Further information on British Standards can be found by visiting the British Standards website
www.bsi-global.com

Firefighting equipment

Portable Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguisher tests should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the current British Standard*.

Daily – Check that the each extinguisher is in place and is clearly visible with its label facing outwards. Daily checks are not normally recorded.

Weekly - Carry out the daily check but also check that each extinguisher is in good condition.

Monthly - Check to ensure each extinguisher is in position, accessible, not discharged, damaged or lost pressure (if fitted with a pressure indicator) and that operating instructions are clean, legible and face outwards. Where circumstances require, e.g. where extinguishers are in exposed locations or particularly susceptible to theft or damage, the checks should be carried out more frequently.

Annually - Portable fire fighting equipment should be inspected by a competent person in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and the British Standard*.

Note: All checks, tests and maintenance including faults and remedial action taken, should be recorded. The date on which each fault is rectified should also be recorded.

*Further information on British Standards can be found by visiting the British Standards website

www.bsi-global.com

Firefighting equipment

Hose-reels

The hose-reel test should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the current British Standard*.

Annually – Each hose-reel should be completely run out and subjected to operational water pressure to ensure the hose is in good condition and that all couplings are water tight.

Note: All checks, tests and maintenance including faults and remedial action taken, should be recorded. The date each fault is rectified should also be recorded.

*Further information on British Standards can be found by visiting the British Standards website
www.bsi-global.com

Miscellaneous tests and checks

Means of escape, together with the measures provided for the protection of means of escape, should be inspected at periodic intervals.

The inspections should ensure all internal and external exit routes are unobstructed and that exit door furniture and fire-door self-closing devices operate efficiently.

Additionally, fire resisting doors and partitions should be in satisfactory repair and all safety signs and notices should be legible and properly displayed.

Note: All checks, tests and maintenance including faults and remedial action taken, should be recorded. The date on which each fault is rectified should also be recorded.

