

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

BUSINESS FIRE SAFETY



www.merseyfire.gov.uk

The current COVID-19 pandemic may adversely affect your business by reducing staffing levels and disrupting your normal working practice. But it is vital that the fire safety of your business and the safety of all the people working in or visiting your business are maintained.



COMPETENT PERSONS

You must ensure that you have an adequate amount of competent persons to help in the implementation of preventative and protective fire safety measures.

If you have absent staff you must ensure that there are adequately trained staff on-site at all times, to ensure the fire safety measures are not adversely affected.

PROTECTION FROM ARSON

If your building is closed for an extended period of time, ensure it is secure and continue with usual measures to prevent arson:

- Any combustible materials should be removed from site or stored securely
- Remove or store all rubbish securely away from premises
- Keep all entrances and exits of the building clear at all times
- Stock should not be kept in excessive amounts



FIRE SAFETY TESTING: During this time you should continue to maintain and regularly test your fire safety provisions onsite (eg. alarm test, fire drills).

FIRE DOORS: Do not prop open fire doors, even if this is intended to minimise contact between staff and door handles. We would advise businesses to follow Public Health advice around regularly washing your hands for 20 seconds or more to minimise the spread of coronavirus.

LONE WORKING: With a reduced workforce, there may be an increased likelihood of people working alone within buildings. You need to ensure that these people are provided with adequate warning in case of fire so they do not become trapped.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT: It may be necessary to review your fire risk assessment during this time to ensure suitable and sufficient measures are in place. Further information on fire risk assessments can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/workplace-fire-safety-your-responsibilities/fire-risk-assessments>

SECURE BUILDINGS: Try to ensure premises are regularly checked to ensure that the security of the building is not compromised and identify any attempts of arson. Any issues should be reported to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.



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