



## Craven Safety Services - November 2019 Newsletter

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### Fire Emergency Plans & Procedures

By Chris McGrath

Health and Safety Law require workplaces to plan for emergencies.

Workplaces should carry out risk assessments that should identify foreseeable emergency events, the main risk as regards emergency situations is that of fire, but some workplaces may identify spills, gas leaks as foreseeable events.

Workplaces will then need to develop appropriate procedures for serious and imminent danger including danger areas.

People are more likely to respond reliably if they:

- Are well trained and competent
- Take part in regular and realistic practice, like a practice drill
- Have clearly agreed, recorded and rehearsed plans, actions and responsibilities

Planning for an emergency helps you to:

- Minimise the time taken for the emergency services to reach you
- Minimise the risk to people if there is an emergency

- Include environmental and other emergencies in your plan.

#### Points to include in emergency procedures

- Consider what might happen and how the alarm will be raised. Don't forget night and shift working, weekends and times when the premises are closed, eg holidays
- Plan what to do, including how to call the emergency services.
- Decide where to go to reach a place of safety or to get rescue equipment.
- Are there enough emergency exits for everyone to escape quickly, keep emergency doors and escape routes unobstructed and clearly marked
- Nominate competent people to take control
- You must train everyone in emergency procedures
- Don't forget people with disabilities, physical or mental impairments they may need assistance to respond to an emergency
- Where you share your workplace with another employer you should consider whether your emergency plans and procedures should be co-ordinated.

## Fire Risk Assessment

If you're an employer, landlord or owner of a commercial premises, then you have a legal duty to ensure fire safety within your business. If your business has 5 or more people employed, legally you must have a written Fire Risk Assessment (FRA).

#### The Aim of a Fire Risk Assessment

The aim of a fire risk assessment is to identify the fire hazards in a building, assess the risk to life of those who occupy the building and make recommendations to eliminate or mitigate the identified risks by identifying suitable control measures.

Read the full article [here](#).

## Watch our Video on Fire Risk Assessments



## Is your Emergency Lighting up to standard?

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, Article 14, states that “emergency routes and exits must be indicated by signs and emergency routes and exits requiring illumination must be provided with emergency lighting of adequate intensity in the case of failure of their normal lighting.” All non-domestic buildings must have emergency lighting installed in case of fire.

But what does emergency lighting actually do? And how does it work?

In simple terms, emergency lighting is designed to withstand power outage and can activate even if the source of the fire is electrical. Escape routes need to be clearly signed, kept clear and lead out of the building to a safe area.

Escape routes and the positioning and type of signs and lighting should be done by a competent company and it is recommended that you choose one with the FIA (Fire Industry Association) logo as they have been independently certified.

## Petroleum Regulations

Read an article we created in 2014 when the new Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations were released about the safe storage of petroleum. Read the full article [here](#).