

Fire Precautions and Emergency Procedures

1. General Fire Precautions

The Company will exercise its responsibilities to assess and minimise the risk of fire at all work locations in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Adequate fire prevention and emergency procedures together with suitable means of fire detection, raising the alarm and fire suppression will be put into place at all work locations.

All potential fire hazards must be identified in risk assessments and steps must be taken to remove the hazards from site or to minimise the risks. No smoking areas will be established in any area where there is a significant risk of fire.

2. Maintenance of Fire Equipment at All Work Locations

The Director Responsible for Health and Safety will ensure that fire appliances are provided in all workplaces, and that contracts for the maintenance, testing and inspection of the various fire systems and fire extinguishers are operational. He will also be responsible for ensuring that appropriate fire/evacuation drills are carried out and any necessary records updated. The Director Responsible for Health and Safety will review the emergency equipment and procedures on a regular basis.

3. Site Operations

Fire fighting equipment will be provided for specific locations or operations where the risk assessment identifies a need; for example, where work is carried out that increases the risk of fire (e.g. hot cutting, soldering, grinding or burning), portable fire extinguishers will be required adjacent to the specific work location.

The person undertaking such work must ensure that all loose, combustible or flammable material is moved away from the working area, and that the fire extinguisher remains close-by and available for immediate use should the need arise. Restricted "permit to work" procedures may be required on certain sites for hot work activities. All "hot work" should cease an hour before leaving any workplace. Certain operations may require specific types of extinguishers relevant to the risk and additional extinguishers/hoses will be provided if required.

On larger sites, accommodation will be provided with adequate fire extinguishers. These extinguishers should be used only in emergency. The equipment provided in site accommodation must not be removed for task use.

All fire equipment will be maintained/serviced at least annually. Discharged extinguishers must be immediately withdrawn from site and returned to the Company's head office for re-charging.

All sub-contractors must have their own fire prevention measures in place before they will be allowed to start work.

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4. Emergency Procedures

If the Company is appointed Principal Contractor, it will produce emergency procedures for the project and these will be detailed in the project Health and Safety Plan and contractor inductions. All employees and contractors will be advised of these procedures on induction and at later toolbox briefings.

If the Company is working as a contractor on a site under the control of a Principal Contractor or client, then the Company will follow the emergency procedures laid down for that particular site.

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