

Sleeping accommodation

2023 University of Oxford fire risk assessment - Supporting notes

| Report overview | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| a. | <p>Select the most appropriate from the list below or enter your own description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offices and teaching space - Clinical space - Clinical space with in-patient care - Sleeping accommodation - Laboratories - Access to view books and/or artefacts, and is open to members of the public. - A small to medium-sized place of assembly, and is open to members of the public. | | |
| b. | <p>Select the most appropriate from the list below or enter your own description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stone - Brick - Timber - Steel - Concrete | | |
| c. | <p>Select any that apply from the list below, or enter your own description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employees familiar with the premises - Visitors that may be unfamiliar with the premises - Students - Researchers - Members of the public - Patients - Children - Those with limited mobility - Those with a hearing or sight impairment - Contractors working on site - Occupants for whom English is not their first language - Sleeping occupants | | |
| d. | <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant rooms - Laboratories - Kitchens - Workshops - Server rooms </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hot works - Cooking - Welding - Soldering - Use of lasers - Grinding - Firing - Incineration / use of autoclaves </td> </tr> </table> | <p>1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant rooms - Laboratories - Kitchens - Workshops - Server rooms | <p>2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hot works - Cooking - Welding - Soldering - Use of lasers - Grinding - Firing - Incineration / use of autoclaves |
| <p>1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant rooms - Laboratories - Kitchens - Workshops - Server rooms | <p>2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hot works - Cooking - Welding - Soldering - Use of lasers - Grinding - Firing - Incineration / use of autoclaves | | |
| e. | <p>Select a maximum of five, beginning from the top of the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sprinkler system - A water mist suppression system - A gaseous suppression system - Automatic fire detection - Automatic smoke extraction - An evacuation lift - Emergency lighting - Fire extinguishers - Evac-chairs - [other – add your own description] | | |

Action plan – risk assessment tools

Tool 1 – Risk matrix

| Likelihood / Severity | Negligible | Slight harm | Moderate harm | Extreme harm | Fatal |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Highly unlikely | Trivial | Trivial | Tolerable | Moderate | Moderate |
| Unlikely | Trivial | Tolerable | Moderate | Moderate | Substantial |
| Likely | Tolerable | Moderate | Moderate | Substantial | Intolerable |
| Very Likely | Moderate | Moderate | Substantial | Intolerable | Intolerable |
| Almost certain | Moderate | Substantial | Intolerable | Intolerable | Intolerable |


Tool 2 – Examples

| Risk level | Action and timescale | Examples (not exhaustive) |
|-------------|---|---|
| Trivial | Limited action is required and no detailed records need be kept. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corridor is temporarily blocked by a delivery - Chair is placed across a fire exit route |
| Tolerable | No major additional fire precautions required. However, there might be a need for reasonably practicable improvements that involve minor or limited cost. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A single fire action notice is missing or not filled in - A directional exit sign is missing - A single fire door is being wedged open - The staircase has non-combustible storage at the base - Poor housekeeping |
| Moderate | <p>It is essential that efforts are made to reduce the risk.</p> <p>Risk reduction measures, which should take cost into account, should be implemented within a defined time period.</p> <p>Where moderate risk is associated with consequences that constitute extreme harm, further assessment might be required to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the priority for improved control measures.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple fire doors are wedged open - Fire alarm panel has a fault light showing - Electrical sockets are commonly overloaded - Exit routes not clearly signed - Exit routes not kept free from obstruction - Exit capacity being exceeded (too many people in building) - Exit doors stiff to open or fire doors not fitting squarely in frame - Stair has storage of combustibles at the base - No provision for evacuating those with limited mobility - Very poor housekeeping |
| Substantial | <p>Considerable resources might have to be allocated to reduce the risk.</p> <p>If the premises are unoccupied, it should not be occupied until the risk has been reduced.</p> <p>If the premises are occupied, urgent action should be taken.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The fire alarm system does not work (non-sleeping accommodation) - A single fire exit door is jammed shut - Combustible storage in stair of single staircase building - Hazardous operations at the escape end of a dead-end condition |
| Intolerable | Premises (or relevant area) should not be occupied until the risk is reduced. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None of the fire exit doors will open in an emergency - Suspected gas or flammables leak - The fire alarm system does not work (sleeping accommodation) |

Although the purpose of this section is to place the fire risk in context, the two approaches to fire risk assessment detailed above are subjective and for guidance only, and a mixture of both can and should be used.

All hazards and deficiencies identified in this report should be addressed by implementing all recommendations contained in the following summary of findings and action plan.

2. Identified sources of ignition:

| | |
|----|--|
| a. | Safe systems could include a fire watch / additional fire extinguishers / permits to work |
| b. | Lockable bins / bins and combustibles >6m away from buildings / CCTV / security |
| c. | <p>Generally found on taller buildings.</p> <p>Estates Services Mechanical and Electrical Design Philosophy 9 states:</p> <p>All new and refurbished buildings shall have lightning protection systems which comply with the requirements of BSEN 62305:2006.</p>  |
| d. | Smoking indoors is prohibited / The site is a non-smoking site / There designated areas outside the building |
| e. | Metal bins / ash trays / buckets of sand |
| f. | Smell of cigarette smoke inside the building / ashtrays inside / cigarette butts / smoking materials |
| g. | Commercial kitchens? Domestic kitchens? Tea points with microwave/fridge/kettle etc? |
| h. | PAT for domestic units / commercial equipment subject to regular servicing |
| i. | Mainly found in commercial kitchens |
| j. | Consider use in accommodation / kitchens / labs. Note if there is a policy prohibiting the use of candles, for example. Alternatives could include battery operated candles / electric hot plates... |
| k. | Lanterns, heatproof surface, not used unattended. |
| l. | What control measures are in place? Guidance to residents regarding safe charging? Prohibition of charging EVs in basement car parks? See further guidance here . |
| m. | Extension leads being 'daisy-chained' (plugged-into each other), long extension leads that are being used whilst still wound on their drum, overloading of the socket – 1x wall mounted plug socket can safely power a max of 13amps. |
| n. | Check under desks and in bedrooms, and if there are heaters stored away in the warmer months. Note if they are oil-filled radiators or fan / convection heaters etc. |
| o. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

3. Identified work processes:

This section is concerned with contractor and maintenance work taking place on the premises...

| | |
|----|---|
| a. | Is there a safer alternative to any identified higher risk processes taking place? |
| b. | List any relevant additional qualifications / courses attended / additional training provided. |
| c. | Is there a specific risk assessment in place for the higher risk activity and have those working in the area / involved with the process have an understanding of its contents? Is there signage displayed offering further guidance / warnings etc.? |
| d. | Estates have a hot works permit system but only for works undertaken by University staff or contractors directly employed by Estates (this is the same form for both). Check if your department has a HWP system in place and include a copy of the form. |
| e. | Controlled access to plant rooms / contractors signing-in and/or being accompanied / preferred suppliers & contractors / method statements. |
| f. | Are there other tenants in the building (over which the University has no control) that may have higher risk activities taking place? A restaurant with a commercial kitchen, or a work shop etc.? |
| g. | This doesn't apply to batteries present in laptops, mobile phones etc. More for areas where are large bank of batteries may be present (UPS systems, emergency lighting inverters and central battery systems etc.). Is there a pre-determined procedure for their safe containment if they should become involved in fire? Adequate ventilation to prevent overheating and thermal runaway? |

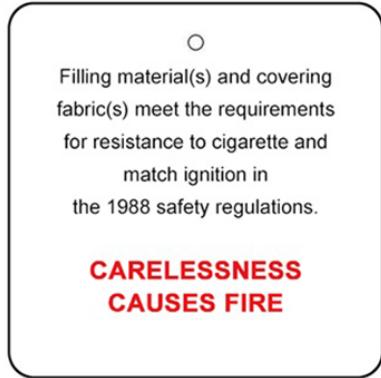
4. Identified sources of fuel:

a. Consider wooden panelling / artificial foliage / polystyrene tiles / flock wall paper etc.

b. Restricted access to plant rooms / store rooms etc.? Regular inspections?

c. Record signs of continued build-up of combustibles / storage of combustibles in inappropriate areas.

Compliant furnishing should display a label confirming compliance with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988



d.

e. Consider haphazard accumulation of combustibles / storage of combustibles in inappropriate areas / obstructions to escape routes. Consider external areas (if <6m from the building or in escape routes) as well as internal.

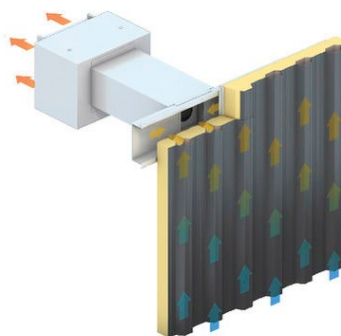
f. Overflowing bins / baled cardboard / waste packaging, especially in IT rooms and plant rooms. Consider internal and external areas. Junk mail in accommodation.

g. Combustibles stored in plant rooms / risers / electrical cupboards should also be considered.

h. Stacked safely / avoiding high-level and/or in corners wherever possible. In dedicated areas / shelving? Note instances of combustibles in plant rooms / electrical cupboards etc.

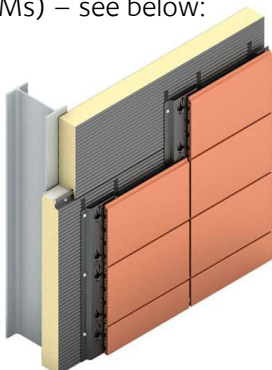
i. Combustibles such as bins, pallets etc. should be at least 6m away from the building. Note any flammable gas cylinders, but these will be detailed later in the report...

These are the metal-skinned panels with an insulating core, often used in industrial buildings:



j.

Is the building thatched / timber-clad / timber-framed / possibly clad with Aluminium Containing Materials (ACMs) – see below:



k.

4. Identified sources of fuel (continued):

| | |
|----|---|
| l. | These items can help fuel a fire. Crisps in particular must not be stored close to sources of ignition such as electrical equipment / plant rooms / boiler rooms etc. |
| m. | These are highly combustible if involved in fire and produce copious amounts of toxic smoke. They should be stored appropriately, out of escape routes, and away from sources of ignition. Consider ways to reduce the quantity if possible. |
| n. | Promotional materials / artwork / seasonal decorations. If they are a permanent feature, are they fire retardant? If they are temporary, ensure they are away from sources of ignition. |
| o. | Cardboard / foam / polystyrene / plastic wrap. |
| p. | If so, are they in good condition? Exposed foam increases the risk of fire. Mats should be stacked flat, not stored on their ends wherever possible, and away from ignition sources. |
| q. | These are highly combustible if involved in fire and produce copious amounts of toxic smoke. They should be stored appropriately, out of escape routes, and away from sources of ignition. Consider ways to reduce the quantity if possible. If a large quantity has accumulated awaiting recycling, this should be arranged as a priority and a more frequent arrangement for collection put in place. |
| r. | Are there gas detectors in plant rooms? Is the gas shut off automatically or manually in an emergency? |
| s. | All kitchen extraction systems must be cleaned professionally at least annually. |
| t. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

5. Hazardous substances present:

| | |
|----|--|
| a. | Provide details of any flammables stored in significant quantities: name of substance / quantity / storage arrangements / location of specific COSHH risk assessment if available. |
| b. | Note if these controls appear to be ineffective / are being ignored. |
| c. | Specific risk assessments in place? Authorised, competent personnel only? |
| d. | Solvent-free paints, for example? |
| e. | Only the smallest amount necessary should be stored. |
| f. | Any evidence of stock-piling? |
| g. | Banded COSHH cabinets? Correctly labelled? More advice can be found here: COSHH Essentials - COSHH e-tool (hse.gov.uk) |
| h. | Further guidance on the safe storage of LPG can be found here: Liquefied Petroleum Gas health and safety guidance (hse.gov.uk) |

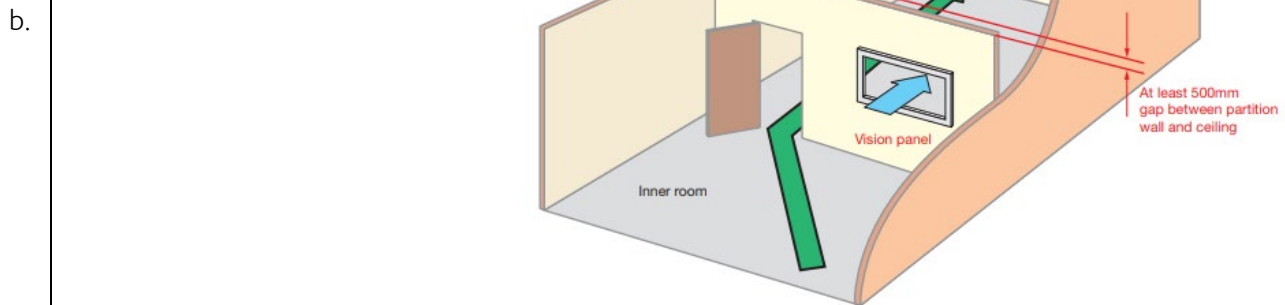
6. Additional sources of oxygen present:

Provide any relevant details including quantity, location, storage arrangements, and note any concerns. More information can be found here: [Oxygen use in the workplace Fire and explosion hazards: Fire and explosion hazards \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/oxygen-use-in-the-workplace)

7. Structural fire hazards:

a. Suspended ceilings / floor voids / roof voids etc.

This is the scenario where a room is within a room, and not accessed directly off a corridor. In such an arrangement, any **one** of the control measure detailed in red should be in place to mitigate the risk. This should be noted in the FRA.



c. Note if the building is listed. If known, note any additional requirements of Building Control, such as suppression system due to inaccessibility by the fire and rescue service.

d. Raised/timber floors, voids behind panelling, roof voids etc.

e. Is the building thatched? Have a timber frame? Is there combustible cladding?

f. This is relevant to note as poorly-maintained lath and plaster walls and ceilings can contribute to unseen fire spread in the event of a fire.

g. Just a yes / no / n/a is sufficient here – tick the applicable box once you have completed 11e

h. Note if the premises is in a remote location that would take the fire and rescue service an extended period of time to attend. Is the access to the premises such that a fire engine can not get closer than 45m from the building?

i. Note any parts of the building that are classified as 'Void' areas with Estate Services.

j. Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered.

8. Details of those at risk from fire:

This list is not exhaustive so include details of any other occupants you feel may be at greater risk if faced with a fire situation, and why.

Tick all that apply, and detail below the number of occupants likely to be on the premises. This could be on a day-to-day basis but also add if there is the potential for special events that could see the numbers of occupants rise significantly.






If applicable, you may wish to record how the number and type of occupants may change throughout the day; for example:

- 0800-1700 – 120 Staff members, 30 residents
- 1700-0800 – 60 Residents

There are sections further on to record what control measures are in place, such as PEEPs and adjustments to the fire alarm system that are in place, for example.

This section is simply to consider and record all types and scenarios of occupants that could be at risk of fire.

9. Means of escape:

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|----|--|
| a. | <p>Fire Exit checks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire Exits should be clear of obstructions – remember to check outside as well for parked cars, skips, scaffold, rough sleepers etc. - They must not require a key to open them. Keys in boxes are not acceptable. - Thumb-turn locks are acceptable in staff-only areas, and must be signed. - Note if there is a ceramic / 'Redlam' bolt in place. - If the doors are access-controlled, check that in the event of the fire alarm sounding the FINAL EXIT DOORS REMAIN LOCKED - Access-controlled doors must have a green emergency break-glass button next to them to enable escape should the day-to-day push-button fail. - Are the Fire Exits signed as such? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">   </div> |
| b. | <p>An enclosed balcony or light well would be considered a place of relative safety. A place of ultimate safety is one where occupants can get away from the building to a distance at least the height of the building. For example, if the building is 12m high, occupants should be able to escape to an area at least 12m away.</p> <p>Consider gates if fire exits disperse occupants into gardens or secure yards. Are these easily and immediately openable without the use of a key or code?</p> |
| c. | <p>Basic rules to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any room with only one door can accommodate a maximum of 60 people. - Any floor with only one staircase (storey exit) or final exit can accommodate a maximum of 60 people. - Any door that is inward-opening can accommodate a maximum of 60 people. <p>If the building you are assessing has rooms or storeys that accommodate more than 60 people, but have one or more of the features listed above, this must be noted and further advice sought from the University Fire Officer.</p> |
| d. | <p>Basic rules to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A route in a single direction of escape should be no greater than 18m in a normal risk area. This is reduced to 12m in an area of higher fire risk (plant rooms, labs, kitchens etc.) - Where more than one direction of escape is available, a route can be extended to 45m in a normal risk area. This is reduced to 25m in an area of higher fire risk. <p>Escape routes should be measured from the furthest point of a room to the nearest final exit (or storey exit in the case of an upper or basement level) and should be the actual route taken; not 'as the crow flies')</p> |

9. Means of escape (continued):

| | |
|----|---|
| e. | <p>Basic rules to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stretches of corridor that lead from a dead-end should be protected by fire doors. - Unless it is an open 'accommodation stair', stairwells should be protected routes with fire doors at each level and are free from combustibles and sources of ignition – 'fire sterile'. - Escape routes should not lead occupants through high-risk areas such as plant room, labs, or kitchens. - If external escape routes pass in close proximity to windows and doors (<1.8m), i.e. down an external fire escape stair, or along a narrow alleyway along the side of the building in one direction, then these windows and doors should be fire resisting. (See point 7g) |
| f. | Use your answer from 7b. |
| g. | Evacuation lift? / Evac-Chair (Ibex-Chair for basements)? / Trained Fire Wardens to act as 'Buddies' / PEEPs? / Disabled refuge areas? |
| h. | <p>Emergency lighting provision? / Basements / un-fenestrated areas? / External areas / assembly point?</p> <p>Hours of occupation – consider shorter periods of daylight over the winter, special events happening in the evenings.</p> <p>What 'borrowed' lighting is available (street lights etc.?)</p> |
| i. | Junk mail / deliveries / stock / rubbish awaiting collection / trailing cables / leaves / moss / algae etc. |
| j. | <p>Would an occupant who is unfamiliar with the layout of the building be able to find their way out using the signage displayed? Is there enough? Can it be clearly seen?</p> <p>Check the signage is pointing in the right direction!</p> <p>Signage should direct occupants to the nearest fire escape route out of the building.</p> |
| k. | In instances where a neighbouring building / occupancy needs to pass through the building (or vice versa) or a stretch of escape route is shared, is this being managed and if kept secure on a day-to-day basis, will it be easily and immediately available for use in the event of a fire? Give details. |
| l. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

10. Means of detecting and giving warning of fire:

| | |
|----|---|
| a. | If a fire is discovered, an alarm must be raised in such a way that everyone occupying all parts of the building can hear it or can be made aware the alarm has been raised. |
| b. | A simple shout of 'FIRE FIRE FIRE' / an air horn, gong, or manually operated bell / an electronic fire alarm system with manual break-glass call points linked to bells or sounders located throughout the building. |
| c. | Consider sleeping occupants / areas with loud noise levels / remote areas of the building / occupants with hearing impairment / occupants wearing ear protection or headphones / acoustically insulated pods or rooms. |
| d. | Consider different occupants – visitors / children / new staff members / contractors etc. |
| e. | As a rule, manual break-glass call points should be located on each floor of a building / no more than 30m from any point in the building / next to each final exit leading to fresh air, and in areas identified as high-risk (i.e. a plant room or kitchen) |
| f. | Manual break-glass call points are red and should be no higher than 1.4 metres above the floor and in a visible and accessible location. Check they are not hidden from view by blinds or curtains. If this is the case, additional signage may be required. |
| g. | Consider where such equipment is located? Is it away from the likely risk area? |

10. Means of detecting and giving warning of fire (continued):

Estates Services Mechanical and Electrical Design Philosophy 9 states:
 The fire alarm system shall be designed, installed, tested and commissioned to all requirements as detailed in BS5839 and BS7671.
 The Fire Alarm Systems shall be designed for buildings as follows:

- Buildings with no sleeping risk – L2 as defined by BS5839-1 [this is along all escape routes, rooms immediately off of escape routes, and areas of higher fire risk such as plant rooms ,labs and kitchens]
- Buildings with sleeping risk – L1 ad defined by BS5839-1 [this is all rooms and voids including cupboards greater than 1m² in area]

There are a number of ways in which a fire can be detected:

- By a person seeing / smelling / hearing the fire occurring
- Smoke detection – no circle:



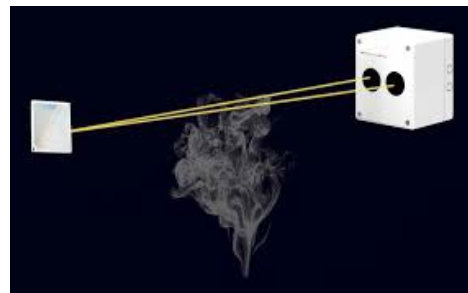
- Aspirating system:



- Heat detection – one circle:



- Beam detection system:



- Multi-sensors – 2 circles:



- Bedrooms and flats may be fitted with a 'domestic' fire alarm and detection system. Smoke detectors are flat, heat detectors will have a protruding element.



Please record an overview of what method of detection is in place; i.e. 'Smoke detection in all rooms and corridors with heat detectors in the kitchen and plant room.' Or 'Smoke detection in the office areas, heat detection in the plant room and kitchen, and an aspirating system in the book stack'.

All University buildings are monitored by Oxford University Security Services. The level of their response will depend on the nature of the building and the time of day – more information can be found [here](#)

11. Means of separating areas of higher fire risk and restricting fire spread:

- a. Automatic fire detection should be installed in voids in the following scenarios:
- In buildings with sleeping accommodation
 - In historic / listed buildings / museums
 - In any voids above escape routes that are between 800-15mm deep.

Large voids such as roof spaces should be divided by fire curtains

Check for holes and gaps around cables and services passing through walls, in particular walls protecting escape routes. Pink foam **is not acceptable** as a means of filling holes.



b.

Also be mindful of un-stopped gaps above suspended ceilings

- c. Think about where the risk from fire is highest:
- On an upper (or basement) level of a building.
 - If people are asleep.
 - Areas with higher-risk activities or equipment.
 - Areas from which the means of escape is limited.

- d. Fire doors are required wherever a doorway passes through a compartment wall, usually in the scenarios listed in c. above.
- As a rule, the door should offer the same minimum level of fire resistance as the wall in which it is fitted.
 - Fire doors are categorised by their level of fire resistance in minutes – FD30, FD60.
 - An FD30s provides 30mins fire resistance and is also fitted with cold smoke seals (a requirement in most instances).
 - If a wall or ceiling is of masonry construction, or a plastered stud wall, it is considered to be fire resisting.
 - Lath and plaster walls and ceilings will provide 30mins fire resistance, unless damaged.

11. Means of separating areas of higher fire risk and restricting fire spread (continued):

Items to check when assessing a fire door include:

Gaps:

- The door should fit squarely within its frame.
- The gaps at the top and both sides should be less than 4mm. Use a £1 coin to give a feel for scale, this is about 3mm thick.
- The gap at the bottom of the door can be larger, up to 15mm to cope with sloping floors.

Seals:

- Are there intumescent (plastic-looking) strips either along the edges of the door leafs or set into the door frame?
- If so, are they in good condition or are they missing in some places?
- Some doors may have cold smoke seals. These could be fuzzy brushes or rubber blades. Note if these have become damaged.
- Check the smoke seals fill the gaps.
- Also note if the intumescent strips and smoke seals have been excessively painted-over.
- If the doors appear to be fire doors but have no intumescent strips or seals, do they have a 1" stop? This is a chunky piece of door frame that the door will close onto.

Hinges:

- All hinges should be firmly fixed with no missing or broken screws.
- The hinges should be undamaged and not showing signs of excessive wear.
- If the door is not square in the frame push the latch edge to see if the top hinge is loose.

Self-closers:

- Does the door have a functioning self-closer?
- Does the door close fully, without assistance, into its frame? It may be warped, twisted, or the self-closer may not have enough pull to overcome the latch.
- Open the door about halfway and then let it go to make sure it self closes effectively.
- Check auto doors close on fire alarm activation (this should happen during the weekly fire alarm test).

Hold-open devices:

- Check the device releases by pressing the button, and that the door closes fully into its frame

General:

- Is there any damage to the face of the door? Holes from locks being removed, for example.
- Is there a blue 'Fire Door Keep Shut' (or similar) sign displayed?
- Are any glazed elements intact, and are either Pyro glass, or are Georgian wired glass?
- If they are pyro glass there will be a British Standard stamp in the corner of the glazing with the word PYRO mentioned somewhere.
- **The diagram on the following page shows each of these features. Don't worry about the door furniture or hinges needing to comply with the British Standard, or the presence of a drop-down seal at the foot of the door. These items are only relevant if the door is brand new. To expect existing doors to meet the BS in these areas is unrealistic.**

f. Where LEV and other extract systems are in use, a change in air pressure can be responsible for preventing fire doors from closing which could mean an adjustment to the extract is required.

g. Record instances of **fire doors** being wedged or propped open, disengaged/removed self-closers.

11. Means of separating areas of higher fire risk and restricting fire spread (continued):

Door Hinges
All hinges should comply with BS EN 1935 and be Certifire approved. Intumescent hinge pads must be used for compliance.

Intumescent Strips
Intumescent strips and cold smoke seals to resist the passage of smoke and fire should be tested to BS 476 Part 22 and Part 31.1 or EN 1634-3.

Intumescent Fire Grilles
Complete with air transfer face plates should comply to: BS EN 1634-2 & BS 476 Pt 22.

Door Closers
Fire resistant doors should be fitted with a door closer that is successfully tested to BS EN 1154 or BS EN 1155. Certifire is an additional reassurance of a quality product.

Fire Door Signage
Should comply to BS EN 1634-1.

Door Handles
Should comply with BS EN 1906 and if tested as part of door set to BS EN 1634-1.

Locks and Latches
Should comply to BS EN 12209 and be Certifire approved. Intumescent lock or latch kits must be used for compliance.

Automatic Drop Down Seals
These can help in the reduction of contaminants & passage of smoke. They should comply to BS 476 Pt 20 & 22.

Operate hold-open devices to assess functionality. Also check they operate automatically and that this is recorded in a log book.



Check for gaps between and around door leaves



11. Means of separating areas of higher fire risk and restricting fire spread (continued):

| | |
|----|--|
| h. | Consider combustible cladding, barbeques on balconies etc. |
| i. | Is the building sprinklered? Is there a water mist suppression system? Is there a gaseous suppression system? Provide details. |
| j. | If there is smoke ventilation, how is this actuated? Automatically if the fire alarm sounds, or manually by pressing a switch/turning a key? How many air changes per hour? |
| k. | Is there adequate fire separation (fire resisting walls, fire doors) between labs and the rest of the building? |
| l. | Is there adequate fire separation (fire resisting walls, fire doors) between kitchens, workshops etc. and the rest of the building? |
| m. | Is there adequate fire separation (fire resisting walls, fire doors) between plant rooms, service risers etc. and the rest of the building? |
| n. | Corridors serving areas of sleeping accommodation must have fire doors and be of fire resisting construction. |
| o. | Fire dampers can be difficult to see, but should be in place wherever ductwork passes through a compartment wall protecting a means of escape. Seek advice from the Safety Office if you identify or suspect ductwork passing through such walls, and would like further advice. |
| p. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

12. Means of fighting fire:

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| a. | <p>Correct provision of fire extinguishers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A minimum of 1x 6l water and 1x 2kg CO² must be provided on any floor up to 200m² - Above 200m² a set of 1x6l water (or foam if that is what has been provided) and 1x 2kg CO² must be accessible within 30m of all areas of the floor - These would usually be found on escape routes (next to fire exits / storey exits) <p>Specific additional extinguishers are required in higher risk areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CO² in plant rooms, server rooms - Wet chemical in kitchens with deep fat fryers - If a specific high-risk activity (with regards fire) is known to take place in labs, there should be appropriate firefighting media – check safety data sheets. - All kitchens and labs should have a fire blanket provided |
| b. | Departments are expected to have nominated fire wardens who will have received training in the use of fire extinguishers. Students / graduates / residents are not expected to use fire extinguishers. |
| c. | Fire extinguishers should be either wall-mounted or stood on a red plastic stand. They should be signed – this way, if one goes missing, it is easy to identify what needs to be found / replaced. |
| d. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extinguishers should be conspicuous, in a well-lit area, and accessible. - Keep an eye out for extinguishers and fire blankets too close to the likely location of a fire (fire blankets on the wall behind the hob, for example.) - Check they're not hidden behind curtains or furniture etc. - A weekly check should be taking place to ensure they are in their designated location, and the tamper tags are in place, and the needle is in the green on the gauge (if applicable) |
| e. | Fire extinguishers should be serviced on an annual basis. This tends to be carried out by Abbott Fire. The DLO manage this contract. |
| f. | If hose reels are provided, these will have been condemned and are not to be used. Cabinets containing them must be locked shut and signage removed. |

12. Means of fighting fire (continued):

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| g. | Sprinkler and suppression systems should be inspected and serviced at least annually. |
| h. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Your building may have dry risers – these are pipes with outlets on each level of the building for use by the fire and rescue service.- These should be inspected and serviced at least annually. The contract for this is held by Abbott Fire.- An in-house weekly inspection should be taking place and recorded to ensure they haven't been tampered with. |
| i. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

13. Emergency plan:

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| a. | The University Fire Safety Management Policy states: 'Suitable evacuation procedures will be documented and in place for every building, including laboratory teaching space, residential accommodation, embedded space, office, store or any other building, or part of a building managed by the University.' |
| b. | The University Fire Safety Management Policy states: 'Everyone working in a building will be provided with a suitable induction to ensure they understand the evacuation procedures.' and 'Everyone working in a building will be expected to respond in accordance with the building's evacuation procedures. Those who have yet to receive induction training will be supervised by others to ensure they respond appropriately.' Also note the information provided to residents in the Tenants Handbook. |
| c. | The University Fire Safety Management Policy states: 'Personal Emergency Evacuation Procedures (PEEPS) will be produced and documented for any mobility-impaired individual or person requiring assistance during an emergency evacuation.' |
| d. | The University Fire Safety Management Policy states: 'A suitable number of individuals will be appointed by each department to assist in the evacuation of a building, including departmental fire officers, fire wardens, and dedicated escorts.' |
| e. | The University Fire Safety Management Policy states: 'All those assisting in the evacuation of a building will have attended a suitable level of training, provided either by the University Safety Office, area or divisional safety officers or the departmental fire officer. Individuals will undertake refresher training every five years.' |
| f. | 'Fire Action' notices should be displayed next to each fire alarm manual call point. |
| g. | 'Fire Action' notices should be displayed on the back of any bedroom/flat doors and be consistent with others displayed around the building. |
| h. | Ensure the notices contain relevant information; i.e. do they mention lifts when buildings don't have lifts provided? Check the location of the assembly point is still correct. Check that anything written in pen hasn't faded. |
| i. | Points to consider when assessing the location of assembly points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is it at least the height of the building away in terms of distance from the building? I.e., if the building is 9m high, the assembly point should be at least 9m away.- Is there room for people to gather safely? Narrow pathways in busy city-centre locations, next to the road may not be ideal.- Do people need to cross a busy road to reach the assembly point?- Is the route to the assembly point adequately lit? Borrowed light is acceptable. |
| j. | An adequate provision of fire wardens to sweep the building should be in place as a default. |
| k. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

14. Fire safety policy:

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| a. | Yes; the policy can be found here: UAS Mosaic Document Hub - 01 Fire safety management v1.0 - March 2021.pdf - All Documents (sharepoint.com) |
| b. | It is available to view on the University Safety Office website. |
| c. | Yes, the current version was issued in 2021. |
| d. | New starters will be sign-posted to the Safety Office website. |
| e. | Yes; all of this is contained within the University Fire Safety Management policy. |
| f. | |
| g. | |
| h. | |
| i. | Sign-posting of the Fire Safety Management Policy forms part of the staff induction process. |
| j. | University Estates Services have an induction document for contractors to sign. This sets out the control measures required in order to undertake hot works. |
| k. | Yes; all fire alarm signals are received by OUSS and handled accordingly. A report is generated for each which is used to identify trends and to action any remedial works required. |
| l. | Use this box to note anything not previously listed or considered. |

15. Fire safety training:

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| a. | Yes, the iHASCO Fire Awareness e-learning package is available online for completion by all new starters |
| b. | Yes, the iHASCO Fire Awareness e-learning package is available online for completion by all staff every five years |
| c. | <p>Yes, the University Fire Safety Management Policy states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'All those assisting in the evacuation of a building will have attended a suitable level of training, provided either by the University Safety Office, area or divisional safety officers or the departmental fire officer. Individuals will undertake refresher training every five years,' and - 'All responsible persons, departmental fire officers, and competent persons will attend a suitable training course provided by the University Safety Office. Individuals will undertake refresher training every five years.' |
| d. | |
| e. | University Estates Services have an induction document for contractors to sign. This requires that any employees undertaking hot works must be competent to do so. |
| f. | <p>The University Fire Safety Management Policy states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evacuation procedures will be tested on a termly basis. Appropriate actions will be taken to ensure people respond accordingly and the outcome of any evacuation will be documented. |
| g. | Record the key details, or include the report following the last evacuation drill. |

16. Maintenance programme and record keeping for preventative and protective measures:

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| a. | General daily inspections / opening-up / closing-down procedures that may include walking escape routes, checking final exit door are unlocked and unobstructed, making sure open fires, candles etc. are extinguished after use, checking fire doors are closed at night etc. These do not need to be recorded, but should be taking place where necessary. |
| b. | Should be taking place on a weekly basis, with a record kept. |
| c. | Should be taking place on a monthly basis, with a record kept. |
| d. | Should be taking place on an annual basis, with a record kept. |
| e. | Should be taking place on a six-monthly basis, with a record kept. |
| f. | Should be taking place on a three-monthly basis, with a record kept. |
| g. | Should be taking place on an annual basis, with a record kept. |
| h. | Should be taking place on a six-monthly basis, with a record kept. |
| i. | Dry risers should have a visual inspection every six months, tested under pressure on an annual basis, and fully serviced every two years, all by a qualified engineer. Sprinkler and suppression systems should be inspected at least once a year by a qualified engineer. |
| j. | No set recommended frequency of testing, but for appliances used and moved around daily (such as a vacuum cleaner or power tools) you might consider at least annually. For appliances that are plugged in and then remain in place such as freezers or desktop PCs, a 3-yearly test may be adequate, but with an annual visual inspection carried out to check for scorch marks, frayed cables etc. |
| k. | Evacuation lifts should be serviced on an annual basis by a qualified lift engineer. |
| l. | Should be taking place on an annual basis, with a record kept. |
| m. | Should be taking place on a six-monthly basis (more frequently if a commercial kitchen) |
| n. | Should be carried out on a five-yearly basis, with a record kept. |
| o. | A Gas-Safe certificate should be issued on an annual basis. |
| p. | Should be taking place on a termly basis, with a record kept. |
| q. | Should be carried out upon induction, and on a five-yearly basis thereafter, with a record kept. |