



Derbyshire  
Fire & Rescue Service  
Making Derbyshire Safer Together

# COVID-19 PROTECTION

## Advice to Businesses when Returning to Work

Now that your business is starting to operate again there are some key Fire Safety matters for you to consider. This leaflet is designed to provide some helpful assistance.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 relates to fire safety in non- domestic premises. During the COVID-19 pandemic there has not been any relaxation of fire safety legislation. It is the responsibility of the responsible person and/or duty holder to ensure they are testing and maintaining all fire safety measures to maintain a safe premises especially if you have made any changes.

## **Fire Risk Assessments**

On your return to work it may be necessary to review your Fire Risk Assessment to ensure that it is current and reflects the way your business now operates. Consider changes such as working practices, stock levels, alterations made to the premises and staff numbers. It is essential that assessments are undertaken and reviewed where there are significant changes in ways of working, processes or building layout. You have a responsibility to undertake a Fire Risk Assessment under the Fire Safety Order as a Responsible Person.

## **Means of Escape**

Ensure that your escape routes remain available, unblocked and any escape doors open correctly. This should be supported with adequate escape signage and if you have it, emergency lighting to identify the escape routes to be used in the event of fire. If you share an escape route remember that those other businesses may not be open. You may need to use different escape routes or restrict access to areas of the premises.

## **Arson**

Consider the security of your business as extra waste can increase the risk of arson. You may need to set up some additional waste collections to deal with extra waste generated. Remote or dark areas of your business could attract arson attempts, consider general security around the premises when closed.

## **Training**

If you haven't undertaken staff training for some time, on your return ensure that all staff know what to do in a fire situation. If those people with specific tasks have not returned to work, ensure that other suitably trained staff are available. You must consider those who lone work and their fire safety.

## **Maintaining Fire Safety Measures**

During the Covid-19 crisis you may not have needed to carry out the usual testing and maintenance of your fire safety equipment. If you are returning to work you should consider re-instating this, or reviewing the requirements as part of your Fire Risk Assessment.

## **Further Information**

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us, our Business Safety Advisors are here to help you.



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