



ASTONLARK

FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety for business and premises owners should be a priority at this time, while following Government guidance to protect against the spread of Covid-19.

As businesses like yours start to recover their premises, there will be numerous fire safety related issues for you to consider.

REVIEW YOUR FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

- Ensure your Fire Risk Assessment has been reviewed and reflects the way your premises currently operates

FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Before the premises is reoccupied, make checks and conduct tests on the fire alarm system to ensure it is fully operational
- Check when the next fire alarm service is or was due and contact your fire engineering company to ensure they will have capacity to carry out the service
- If you have independent battery-powered smoke detectors, carry out a test to ensure they are working
- Make a visual inspection to ensure all fire extinguishers are still where they should be and that they are in good condition
- Carry out a test of any emergency lighting to ensure it is working

FIRE MARSHALS

- Review whether you will have an adequate number of trained Fire Marshals. With possible changes to staff, the business may have lost or furloughed some of those employees
- Check training qualifications are still in date
- Review the responsibilities of your Fire Marshals. Your business may need to change the way your premises are used and laid out to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Do these changes affect Fire Marshal duties?

FIRE EVACUATION

Review your fire evacuation procedures and ask:

- If staff numbers have increased, are there sufficient exits?
- Do any new staff members require assistance with evacuating the building?
- Do existing Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) need updating?
- Are all of your evacuation routes still available (including any routes shared with other businesses)?
- Is the assembly point still suitable with social distancing in mind?
- Should automatic evacuation when the alarm sounds still occur or should the alarm be investigated first?

FIRE TRAINING

- Ensure new staff are made aware of your fire evacuation procedures, what the fire alarm sounds like, where to assemble etc
- Ensure any changes are communicated to existing staff

FREE online fire awareness training is available to Aston Lark clients until 1st October 2020 by signing up to the Aston Lark Safety Solutions portal. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more.

FIRE DOORS

Some building users may be tempted to wedge open self-closing fire doors as a Covid-19 control measure, to reduce the need to touch locks and door handles. Fire & Rescue Services are strongly advising against this and would encourage other control measures such as automatic door release systems.

