

Subject: CoronaVirus Update No20
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2020 at 15:21:59 British Summer Time
From: EHA Secretary
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Member

As part of our continuing relationship with the **Primary Authority**, please kindly see the following communication from them:

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Covid 19 Update

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) has well established contingency plans in place and is working closely with the Sussex Resilience Forum, health and local authority partners and following Government updates.

In line with national guidance, we have taken a number of decisions to help manage the current situation.

I have listed below a few things to think about with regards keeping your premises safe from fire in this uncertain time:

- If you are struggling to obtain external contractors to undertake maintenance in your buildings, provide advice to staff about keeping on top of internal checks and a procedures of staff being vigilant of reporting any defects.
- Even if buildings are not open to the public but are occupied by staff you still must make sure that your fire alarm and emergency lighting is being regularly tested, fire exits are still easily openable etc. to protect any person on site if a fire was to occur.
- Are there any issues with staffing that may affect your evacuation plan and or maintenance arrangements? You should provide an opportunity to talk about contingency arrangements / continuity plan with your staff.
- Will there be a greater reliance on agency staff? You should provide advice regarding a suitable briefing and training for these staff in matters relating to the fire risk assessment and fire safety arrangements in the premises.
- Are there likely to be any management / supervision issues in relation to contractors due to reduced staff? You should re-enforce the importance of hot work permit schemes, briefing of contractors, and sharing of fire risk assessments etc.
- Are there any supply issues with heating oil or gas? Consider the risks associated with other interim heating measures; this should be justified in your fire risk assessment.
- Are there any supply issues with laundry services? Consider the risks associated with emollient creams and the increased use of tumble dryers on site (fluff, hot, folded laundry etc).

- Is there an increase in the storage of waste onsite? Consider the risks associated with arson, make sure waste is not stored next to the building and if it can be secured in any way.
- Are there any supply issues with kitchen extract cleaning engineers? Consider the risks associated with the cooking of fatty foods. Advise on regular cleaning of filters and inspections where possible.
- Is there an increase in the likelihood of illicit smoking within the premises if people are not able to go outside? Consider the extra vigilance of staff and ensure all persons are suitably briefed.
- Is there a likelihood of increased use of electrical extension leads and adaptors and / or a greater demand placed on the electrical installation?
 - Advise on the overloading of sockets and the risk of trailing extension leads.
 - Consider additional inspections of portable electrical equipment.
 - Consider visual inspections of electrical installation.
 - Seek professional advice where necessary.
- Are there likely to be issues with the storage of stockpiled goods? Advise on the increased fire loading within the premises and the importance of maintaining clear escape routes with adequate protection.
- Any major changes of the use of your building should be reviewed in your fire risk assessment and any recommendations from your significant findings implemented.

Business recovery will obviously be very important to yourselves but it is also important to us too and we want to help and support you where we can in getting your business up and running once we are all through the other side of the Covid 19 pandemic. This link from our website gives you some information with regards business continuity which you may find useful: <https://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/business-continuity/>

This is a link to our Business Safety section on our website which will give you lots of useful information and guidance with regards fire safety: <https://www.esfrs.org/business-safety/>

ESFRS are committed to supporting you through your Primary Authority partnership, if you have any questions please contact your EHA office in the first instance.

Take care & kind regards

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Association Secretary

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