

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church



Fire Safety Policy

Date:.....

**Upper Hanover Street
Sheffield
S3 7RQ**



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Policy Statement

The issue of Fire Safety is taken extremely seriously and we will strive to ensure St Andrew's URC-Sheffield members, employees and facilities users comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

More importantly we will strive to ensure the safety of all persons who have a legitimate right to be in or in the vicinity of the premises from fire and its effects. These include members, visitors, employees and contractors but exclude fire fighters in pursuance of fire fighting.

Employees, members of the Church, Representatives of facilities user groups and contractors should be aware it is a criminal offence not to consider theirs and others' fire safety whilst at work/function and breaches will be dealt with in a robust manner by the Management Team.



Responsibilities

The Responsible Person

The responsible person retains overall responsibility for policy and management of fire safety and under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 designated as the “Responsible Person”.

The Responsible Person has delegated the following roles:

	Task	Position or name
1	Ensuring all exits are available and useable during all times people are in the premises. CHECKED DAILY	
2	Fire fighting equipment is in place and undamaged CHECKED WEEKLY	
3	Employees, members of the Church and representatives of user groups and contractors have received induction training	
4	Daily check of the fire alarm	
5	Weekly test of the fire alarm	
6	Monthly test of the emergency lighting	
7	Completion of the Fire Risk Assessment	
8	Ensuring the fire alarm, emergency lighting and fire fighting equipment (and other fire safety measures) are serviced by a competent person	
9	Ensuring appropriate cleaning of kitchen extract ducts	
10	Ensuring portable electrical appliances are maintained as required (PAT)	
11	Ensuring fixed electrics are inspected at least once every five years	
12	Completion of refresher training	



13	Completion of an annual fire evacuation drill	
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All Staff/Users

All employees, Church members, users or their appointed representatives and contractors have a responsibility for their own and others' fire safety. They should report any possible dangerous issues to the Chair of the Management Team for action.

Employees, Church members, facility users or contractors are forbidden from carrying out actions that could compromise their or others' fire safety and where members of these groups are found to carry out such actions they may be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Fire Strategy

The fire strategy is to ensure there is a suitable means of alerting all persons who have a legitimate right to be in the premises to a fire in the early stages and provide sufficient number of exits to allow the safe evacuation to a place of ultimate safety. The evacuation procedure is for all persons to evacuate immediately.

The type, number and level of fire safety measures will be decided by fire Risk Assessment carried out by a competent person.

Whilst the Management Team accepts there is a legal duty to ensure there some persons are trained in the use of fire fighting equipment they do not encourage the fighting of fires by employees, members of the Church or user groups and actively discourages the fighting of fires by any guests unless they have received training.

Employees/Representatives of each user group will receive fire safety training including the use of fire extinguishers but their overriding responsibility is to sound an alarm and initiate an evacuation of the immediate area.

St Andrew's URC's fire strategy concentrates on life safety and not property protection.

Fire Risk Assessment (FRA)

The Management Team will employ a competent person to assist them with their duties under Article 18 of the regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

A fire risk assessment will be completed for each work area. The FRA will be reviewed annually or when there is a major change in circumstance to the premises.

A hard copy of the FRA will be held on site in the vestry.



The fire risk assessment is a comprehensive assessment of the building, the processes taking place and the people expected to use it to ensure all relevant people are not at an unacceptable risk from fire or its effects. The assessment considers life safety and not property protection.

The assessment will provide a list of Significant Findings. These are items that are likely to present an unacceptable risk to people and will specify: what the problem is, what existing control measures are in place and what additional measures should be instigated.

Any Significant Finding will be prioritised as High (H), Medium (M), and Low (L) or as a Note. High Medium and Low are an identification of the risk the hazard presents to relevant people. St Andrew's URC will use this system as a way of prioritising the work to complete it.

Where a Significant finding is stated as a Note, there is unlikely to be any additional control measure. The Note is a way of informing the reader that an issue has been identified but due to the existing control measures requires no further attention.

The Responsible Person is responsible for ensuring the Significant Findings detailed in the FRA receive appropriate attention.

Testing and Maintenance

Fire Alarm and Detection

The level of coverage will be set by the FRA and serviced in accordance with the relevant British Standard (BS5839 Pt 1: 2013) by a competent person.

The alarm will be inspected daily by staff/members of the Church to ensure it is showing a healthy supply (green light on panel).

The call points will be tested weekly **by using a test key to operate a different call point each week on a rolling program**. Records of the tests will be maintained on site for inspection by St Andrew's personnel, fire risk assessors and enforcement officers.

Emergency Lighting

The level of emergency lighting will be dictated by the FRA.

The installed system will be tested monthly by House Staff by using a suitable test key or by isolating (using the local light circuit breaker) the lights.

The system will be serviced annually by a competent firm of engineers in accordance with BS 5266 Pt 1: 2005.



Records of the tests will be maintained on site for inspection by fire risk assessors and enforcement officers.

Portable Electrical Equipment

The portable electrical equipment within the building work areas will be tested annually to ensure they are fit for purpose and in a safe condition. St Andrew's URC will have equipment tested in accordance with HSE guidance. The tenant users and occasional or regular hirers will do the same on their own portable electrical equipment and provide certificates of the tests to the Management Team.

Records of tests will be held to be able to show due diligence.

Portable Fire Fighting Equipment

The portable fire fighting equipment will be inspected to ensure the equipment appears in good condition, all extinguishers have a safety pin and plastic tag fitted and all equipment is in its appropriate position.

The equipment will be serviced annually by a firm of competent engineers in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and BS 5306 Pt 3.

Means of Escape

The designated on-site staff/member of the Church/ Representative of user group/contractor will check daily that all corridors and stairs are kept clear of obstructions and combustible material.

Records of Testing & Maintenance

The Management Team will ensure that accurate and true records associated with testing and maintenance of fire safety measures as well as staff training and evacuation drills have been carried out.

Records must be kept on site and except for staff/user training a single file with the following information will be maintained:

- Date of test
- Item tested
- Result of test
- Action taken
- Person completing test

In the case of staff/user training records they should be retained on site for the period the employee working on site or in the case of facility users, for the period of their hiring the facility. The records should be kept confidential but may be shown to enforcing authorities for the purpose of showing due diligence to legislation.



Staff/Users Training

All staff and representatives of user groups will be given induction training when employed or have agreed to hire the facilities. The training will take place on their first day of employment or during their agreement to hire the facilities and will encompass:

- Action to take on discovering a fire or hearing the alarm
- Use of fire fighting equipment
- Location of exits
- Assembly points

Where necessary, nominated key staff will receive additional annual training providing detailed knowledge on the installed fire safety measures and use of fire fighting equipment.

Staff/Representatives of user groups will sign the Instruction and Training record to show they have completed the training.

Continuation training should be completed annually. All staff/Representatives of user groups are to sign the Instruction and Training record to show they have completed the training.

Evacuation Drills

It is anticipated this will take place without visitors. The drill should take place at least annually.

The Church, tenant and regular user groups will carry out the drill arranged by their own representatives separately and feed the record to the Management Team.

All staff and representatives of groups will sign the Instruction and Training record to show they have completed the drill.

Policy on Fire Fighting

Staff who have been trained in the use of portable fire fighting equipment may attempt to fight an uncontrolled fire where they feel confident it can be dealt with safely. However they must not do this where they would put themselves or others at risk of harm from the fire or its effects.

Visitors are actively discouraged from fighting fire unless they have received specific training. Any such fire fighting is carried out at their own risk.

Sufficient fire fighting equipment will be provided in the premises for the purpose of immediate first aid fire fighting. The level of equipment provided will be decided by the fire risk assessment or other competent persons.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP's)



All staff and Church members known to have a disability will have a PEEP completed on them. Each tenant/regular group will do the same on their members and keep a copy of the record with Management Team.

The PEEP should not disadvantage the employee in their job role or users in their activities but ultimately the purpose of the PEEP is to ensure the safety of the employee or users. If no reasonable solution can be found to ensuring the safety of the person a restriction in their location within or on the premises may have to be considered.

When completing a PEEP the Manager/Representative should speak to the person involved to discuss:

- What fire safety issues present problems?
- How serious are the problems?
- How can they be overcome?

Where it is recognized a resident has a disability that may affect their escape from the building the Responsible Person should consider discussing with them how they can be assisted. However as these are private buildings there is no legal requirement to formally provide outside assistance.

Contractors on Site

Any contractors invited to the site to carry out authorised repairs must provide St Andrew's Management Team with a method statement stating how the work is to be safely completed. This must include a section of fire safety.

Any contractor invited on site to complete "hot work" (work that could use open flame or heat producing equipment high enough to cause ignition to flammable material) must produce a risk assessment stating how the equipment is to be used and what precautions will be put into place to reduce the risk and deal with a fire. All such contractors must bring their own fire fighting equipment onsite suitable for the hazard they are introducing as specified in their risk assessment.

All such fire fighting equipment must be in service (within one year). When the contractors have set up to work, the Management Team must arrange to carry out an inspection on the fire fighting equipment they are working with to establish safely and meet their risk assessment/method statement.

St Andrew's URC Management Team has the right to stop any contractor from working in or on the premises where they feel there is an unacceptable risk to the contractors, staff, visitors and/or facility users.

Relevant Legislation



Regulatory Reform Fire Safety) Order 2005

Date to review 16.10 2019